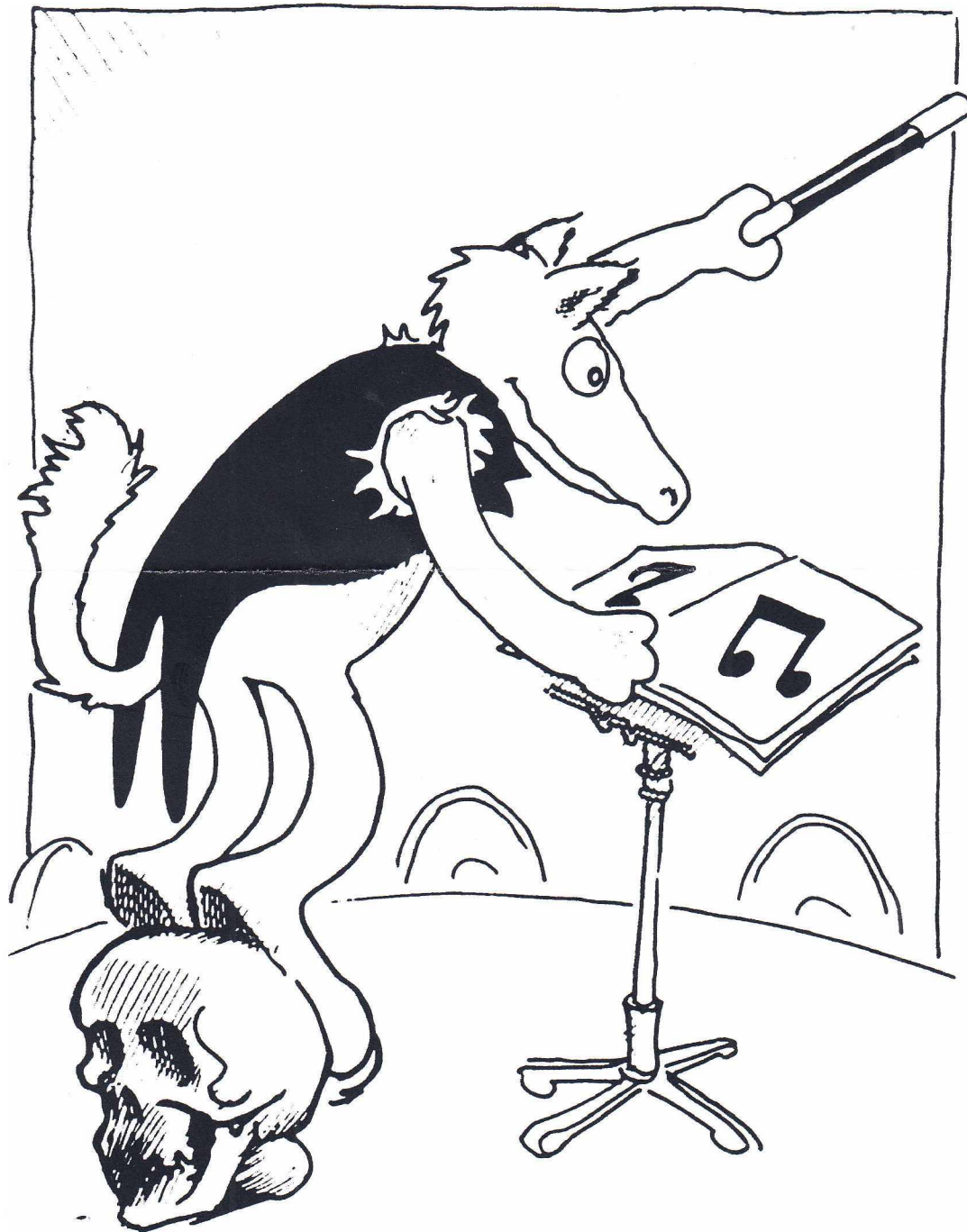


HoboFox directs the 279<sup>th</sup> Symphony - The Skull Props Up

MEMPHEN May 2002 -



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# MEMPHEN 279

JUNE 2002

is an unofficial publication of the Memphis Science Fiction Association. All MSFA mail should go to MSFA at PO Box 820534, Memphis, TN 38182-0534. Editor is Greg Bridges - 141 Stonehaven Circle, Jackson, TN 38305. Current editorship may vary but please send your mail submissions to the PO Box altho my home address above would be fine, too. I may be reached telephonically at (901)664- 6730. Modemic submissions are encouraged as pure text or jpeg (I use Wordperfect9)and I retrieve those via 3bridges@charter.net (NOTICE NEW EMAIL!). I would LOVE submissions and will be contacting those who have been so kind as to send us something in the past. All MSFA mail should go to PO Box 820534 Memphis, TN 381820534. Our good Treas. is Sylvia Cox but the checks should be made out to MSFA. The current dues are \$12/yr. This gets you 12 Memphen and the good will of those in the club. It also makes us infinitesimally happier to see you but not much (I should append that means that we so glad to see you already we can't be much happier). All are welcome at the meetings. It does help us pay our bills which are not inconsiderable as printing Memphen at a copy shop does add up. Does anyone out there still use Mimeo, or have a scanner to sell? How many people do you know can say their reproductive device is in storage?

Artwork - **Teddy Harvia(p3) & TOM FOSTER**, copyright 2001

MSFA Officers are as below - altho our usual elections are in Dec.

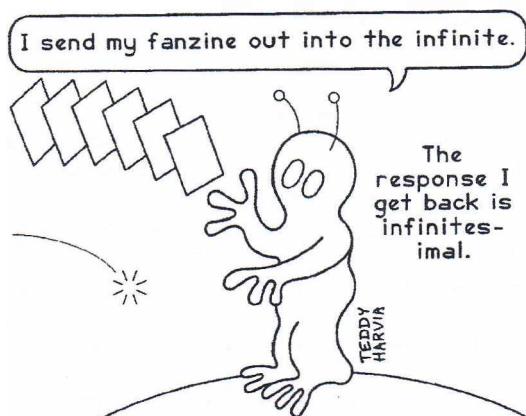
Chairbeing - Greg Bridges 274-7355 (Memphis)	Meetings for the rest of the year will be
Veeb - Michael Kingsley 276-2086	at the Germantown Library, 1925 Exeter
Treas. - Sylvia Cox 761-7716	Rd. (754-3702) on the SECOND
Secretary - Renee Stuart	THURSDAYS - 7pm
MEMPHEN archives - memphen.org (thanks to Tim Gatewood's efforts!)	
Darrell Awards - darrellawards.org (ditto for Tim!)   MSFA URL - <a href="http://pseudoworld.net/msfa/">http://pseudoworld.net/msfa/</a>	

## Memphis SF Association Meetings

**SECOND THURSDAY In Gtown Lib. - Science Fiction Fan Art and TOM FOSTER.** As above with Tom's presentation at 7:30pm. DON'T miss this one if you can help it! Tom should have a very good representation of his art plus a peek at a new presentation of his set in Memphis! See why we think Tom Foster should be on the Hugo Nomination Ballot next year!

**HOUSE MEETING THIS MONTH** is at Randall Pass's - 1429 Whitten Rd. Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Randall will have his trampoline and the grill set up for cooking. Please coordinate with Randall any food you bring by calling 381-3986. These things are meant to be a club effort, not all left up to our hosts so PLEASE do help out with the food, drink, etc.OK?

**FOURTH OF JULY** - for those of you that can't make the Thursday meeting, Dal and Greta Coger are again having us over for a Fourth of July cookout and swim. All are welcome but as before this is not something our hosts should completely supply everything - bring sodas, some sort of dish, dessert, etc. Please call the Cogers first to coordinate, OK? Also, clean after yourselves and if you have some time prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> offer to help Dal do some clean up, OK? Call first at 682-7046. How many years has this been that Dal's done this - THIRTY at least!



## WITHAL MEMFEN

This last month was the thirty-second anniversary of the Memphis Science Fiction Association. Our first few years we were the Mid-South Fantasy Association as at the first few meetings we had several Arkansan's in attendance (including Tom Foster who was still in High School (where ARE all those budding High School Fanartist of today?!)).

Tom has graced the pages of Memphen for most of those years in its various incarnations. I'll have to admit his art is better than this fanzine deserves. Even Teddy Harvia when I introduced myself last year as the ed. of Memphen said "You're the one that has all the Tom Foster art!" Teddy did the nice fillo above from my comments in the colophon. Thanks Teddy. Now we have Hugo Winning fanartist on our pages. Maybe Tom some day!

You will notice that this months Program at the G'town Library is Fan Art and Tom Foster by himself, I might add! Please do go if you can make it as Tom doesn't make too many of our meetings due to his work and just plain shyness. It should be fun. I just realized a few days ago that I won't be able to make it either! Drats and double drats (somewhat like a game you play called Droits but one in which you just foul up what your doing all by yourself! I seemed to manage Drats quite well, it seems). As co-chairbeing of Midsouthcon and bidding for DeepSouthcon 42 in 2004 we're going to Huntsville a day early on Thursday. Oh, well.

## DEEPSOUTHCON 42 BID

Yes that's what I said, Memphis is bidding on DeepSouthcon 42 in 2004. Memphis has only bid twice before on DeepSouthcon in the 1980's. The first time was disastrous for various reasons. We did a better representation of Memphis Fandom for the next bid and won the bid for DeepSouthcon 27 in 1989. After 15 years its about time. The word is that Charlotte is bidding for the first time, too. After their losing bid for Worldcon last year they could be a contender altho they don't have a regular con or committee locally.

So, if you're going to this year's DeepSouthcon 40 in Huntsville come to our Bid Parties and vote for us at the Sunday Business meeting. See you there!

+\*+\*+\*+\*+\*

### Blytheville Signings

Margaret Weiss and Tracy Hickman will be at That Bookstore in Blytheville on June 27, Thursday. I don't know if they will be in Memphis also or not. Orson Scott Card will be there on August 28, Wednesday. My info says he will leave there and go to Nashville, bypassing Memphis. Thought you might want to know.

From ROGER LEE

*((Funny how the local bookstores miss out these things or don't seem to care - geb))*

\*+\*+\*+\*+\*+\*

### I Was A Zombie for the FBI

"Great!" - Dennis Hopper

"A movie I wished I'd been in." - Bob Dylan

"Lots of fun..." - Michael Medved, Film Critic  
Sneak Previews"

This is what the reviewers said, but then we all knew that with our own Dal Coger in it! Made in Memphis, too. Its now available on VHS for \$14.95 plus \$5 shipping from Flashframe Films

38 East 32nd St 6th fl

New York NY 10016

Allow 2-4 weeks for Delivery

or email

[Info@Flashframe.com](mailto:Info@Flashframe.com)

Flashframe Films

This fun film is finally available after being on USA Network some years ago. It never got a real theatrical release. Has some nice stop motion animation, too.

Geb

+\*+\*+\*+\*+\*+\*

### Jeffrey C. Hogue

A former MSFAn, he not long ago bought the rights to the Charles Atlas name! So for all those that had sand kicked in their faces they can look to Jeff for help now! Check out Jeff's film - ALIENATOR. too, sometime.



## The First Memphis Con

Till now Memphis first con was considered to be the 1977 Stvn & Don's Halfacon, done locally by P.L. Caruthers, with a bit of help from the rest of us, etc. Altho intended to be a relaxacon it had a bit more than that just being a big party with a dealers room and video, etc.

Recently I was thinking about something I did in 1972. That fall I started at Memphis State University with something going thru my head from something Harry Warner, Jr. had written. This was that if you enjoy Science Fiction and fandom, you should do something once in awhile to help the field get more recognition (altho that's my gist of what Harry wrote, its probably not exactly what he said).

I had done a fanzine or two by this time with MSFA and with Jim Harris, '*diversity*' but with only a print run of 300 or so it didn't reach many people (someone it had some impact on was Morris & Margaret Middleton who as it turns out were at MSU at the same time as Morris finished his PHD. They went on to Little Rock, started the club there and ROCKon). How could I do something to reach a wider audience, I thought?

Being a normal male in at least a few respects, I noticed a girl leaving the building and walking the same general direction I went every day as I left my English class - dark hair, dark eyes, very attractive I thought. After a couple days of that but with her usually somewhat in advance of me, about all I was able to do was follow along behind her. We went to the University Center but she'd walk up the stairs further than I did (I went to the study carrell's on 2). Being curious I decided to follow her a bit further. She went up and went into a student office - University Center Program Board (now called the Student Activity Council). I went in, too, where I talked to the receptionist and found out it was a student organization for those wanting to work to bring in films, speakers, put on concerts, etc. I got some info.

That night I thought about it and decided that what I could do was bring in some SF writers (and perhaps get better acquainted with the girl!). I went the next day, joined the Speakers Committee. The chairman was a fellow by the name of Mike Rutherford, very nice guy. Mike was very happy to have someone who

actually wanted to work on the events. It seems that most of the people just wanted something they could put on their resume to get a job when they got out of college, not actually DO something!. I went to the first meeting, expressed my thoughts on what I wanted once I was asked. There were other people that showed up for these meetings but as it later turned out the only people that actually WORKED on the events or could be relied on were Mike, his very nice wife and I.

One of the curious things about the funding fro UCPB was that the money was allotted one semester at a time. That meant that you couldn't plan something from semester to the next - especially from the Spring Semester to the Fall Semester. You might tentatively schedule something from the Fall to the Spring but that was frowned on. The money came in that semester, you spent it that semester. It made it hard to bring in really big names as the funding wasn't what I'd call robust since the years budget was split between the Fall and Spring semester (and nothing for Summers).

The nice thing for me, at it turns out, was that they had not made any plans for the Fall Semester yet and I was there from just about the first meeting for that semester. I realized to an extent I had carte blanche. I sat down with the various booklets from the agents and went thru them. I quickly found Fred Pohl was represented by one agent. Then later I found that James Gunn was by another. Ummm.....

I thought why not bring them both - Pohl one day and Gunn the next! I was excited by the idea and Mike Rutherford thought it was a great idea too; if I thought they were good speakers (Mike read some SF). I had seen Pohl at a Worldcon and knew he was a good speaker. We contacted the two agents and began the arrangements. Pohls fee was \$500 and Gunn was \$300 - plus expenses for both of them (vast sums for me at the time but, what the heck, it wasn't my money was it?!).

Shortly after we made the arrangements, I got a call from James Gunn. It seems that John Brunner was writer in residence at the University of Kansas (where James Gunn teaches English) but that was for only one half semester. Brunner would be going back to England the middle of Nov. Would we like to have him speak too? Would we?! His fee was only \$150, by the way, plus expenses. For Brunner that was air fare from Lawrence, KS then to NYC from Memphis. I suppose we saved the University Of Kansas a few dollars, too.

We set it up for Nov. 22 and 23, 1972. Pohl would come in on one night speak the next day, then Gunn and Brunner would come in that afternoon, the three of them would speak that night, Pohl would fly out the next morning then Gunn and Brunner would speak again that night, then leave the next day. For not much more than \$1000 we had a SF Writers Conference!

I told Tom Foster about this arrangement. He did a nice little fanart flyer for the Conference which I plastered all over campus (Tom even printed them for me where he worked at QuickPrint (next to what was later on the Antenna Club). I think Tom's flyer was instrumental in getting pretty good crowds to the speeches - several hundred ( I found later that was very good for MSU!). After Fred Pohl's first speech he was interviewed by Gregg Williams on a reel to reel tape recorder. When Fred found out that his speech had been taped he asked that Gregg not publish the names of the Soviet writers he mentioned as they would be prosecuted in the USSR for what he said about them. Gregg never published the speech.

An aside about Gregg Williams, he was a double major - Drama and Mathematics, later got his Master in Math. Last I heard he was on the staff of Apple Computers In House publications. Gregg had a couple stories published in Fantasy & Science Fiction about that time - farcical short shorts that apparently just hit the spot with Ed Ferman. Last I saw Gregg Williams was at Dan Henderson's funeral in 1991.

All of the speeches were well attended which made me happy, altho there was not much notice of them - in the Memphis papers or even the MSU student paper (was it still the Tiger Rag, then?). We did bring out several people who joined MSFA, tho, including Gregg Williams and thru him Dan Henderson, later on.

Altho that 1972 SF Writers Conference was not your usual SF Con I would like to contend it was Memphis first Con. We had fanart by Tom Foster and three (count them, three!) SF writers! It happened over 2 days, too! So what if those days were Wed. and Thursday. The attendance was way into the hundreds. Oh, and by the way, it was FREE!

Later on, I became Speakers Chairman after Mike Rutherford and for the next two years I tried to bring in more SF writers as well as other interesting people

such as Anton LaVey's daughter, etc. I soon learned that the speakers had to be OK'd by the other chairman of the other committees and it seems the people were not what you would call all that aware of the rest of the world much less SF writers! I had to fight tooth and nail to get George Gallup. It seems I was the only person on the Chairman's board that knew what the Gallup Poll was! They took my word on that one but I was never able to get another SF writer altho I tried.

The semester after I stepped down as Speakers Chairman in 1975, the woman that took my place, Marilyn Carr (voted Best Dressed that year and additionally a very pretty redhead) brought in Gene Roddenberry. Marilyn had worked with Speakers for several years and been helpful but also knew that I wanted to bring in SF writers. Her first Speaker was Gene Roddenberry. Unfortunately for me the speech was the night before a Midterm in Calculus, so I only went to the reception for Roddenberry and then studied in the 3rd floor carrell's where I could look out over the entrance to the Ballroom where he spoke. There was a very nice crowd to see him but I missed his actual speech. Wonder if anyone taped that? From the grade I got on that midterm I might have just as well gone!

I'll try to scan Tom Foster's flyer for that 1972 event and put it up on the Yahoo Groups site. It was his usual high standard of fanart.

*Greg Bridges*

+++++

## 2002 Darrell Award Winner

I thought all of you might be interested in the following message from Walter Ellis. Dr. Ellis' plaque was sent via Priority Mail on March 27, and delivered on Saturday, March 30, 2002.

*Mike Kingsley*

"Walter Ellis" <[walter\\_ellis@und.nodak.edu](mailto:walter_ellis@und.nodak.edu)>

Thank you so much for the beautiful plaque. I will treasure it always. If >I could ever be of service to the association, please don't hesitate to >ask.

Sincerely,

Walter Ellis

+++++

FYI

Today, I submitted a qualifying petition to stand for election to the TN House of Representatives from District 93. That District is roughly defined as kidney bean shaped. It extends from Lamar and Pendleton, to Galloway and the U of M, the South of Park, North of I-240 all the way east to MUS.

The Cogers and Sylvia signed my petition. Their support is appreciated, as is the support of all those who want to make a difference.

If I am elected, I guarantee that a bill creating a regional space port authority with a volunteer board and research committee, will be introduced in the TN House of Representatives.

Ad Astra

Bill

\*\*\*\*\*

## LETTERS OF COMMENT

Dear Greg:

Well, I think it was you, Greg...thank you very much for sending me issues 272 to 276 of Memphen. In fact, you sent these issues to me twice! I will attempt to distribute the duplicates to interested parties I know of. In the meantime, here's a letter of comment, as best as I can grasp from something new.

272...As I read through, I am reminded that I receive club zines from Ottawa, Montréal, Vancouver and Melbourne, Australia, and while there are cultural differences, the clubs remain the same. Only the names are changed... Good to keep track of who your own local talents are. Our own include Robert J. Sawyer, Nalo Hopkinson, Andrew Weiner, Terence Green, Cory Doctorow, Ed Greenwood, Robert Charles Wilson and many more.

There's mention of the obituaries of L. Sprague deCamp and Gordon R. Dickson (and they appear in 273). You know you're getting old when the familiar names of your childhood and adulthood start to die. Since this, there's been Poul Anderson, Jack Haldeman, Meade Frierson, and outside of the written genre, Milton Berle, Dudley Moore, and this very morning, the Queen Mother at the age of 101.

A short mention...a friend of mine, Antoinette Penney (possibly a distant relation, we're not sure) was living in Toronto up to a short time ago. She's now married to a Toby Woods, and is living (in her words) somewhere in eastern Tennessee. I don't know if she's approached you...if I can find out her exact location in Tennessee, I'll pass on your club information to her.

273...was this a double issue with 272? These two issues came stapled together. My wife Yvonne and I were at Millennium Philcon in Philadelphia, and we had a great time. The greatest surprise for me was the fact that if I'd had six more nominations for Best Fan Writer, I would have made the final ballot. As it was, I tied for six place with Guy Lillian III. I still have hopes...

274...I'm enjoying Tom Foster's work here, and in the other issues, too. I've been unaware of his work. I see you've had problems with finding good places to hold meetings. Libraries are ideal for literary meetings, but you may have to consider hotel rooms, or church halls. The club in Melbourne actually rents a portion of a subdivided church hall, and stores its extensive fanzine and book libraries there.

275...I have seen a few episodes of Enterprise...well, I liked what I saw, but this is not you father's Star Trek. It's quiet, and a little too politically correct, and I had a lot of trouble believing this took place before the original series. A lot of work has gone into fitting this show into the Star Fleet/Federation timeline, but it just hasn't caught my fancy, Suleiban and time-base cold war notwithstanding. It will run the full seven years, as has its predecessors, but it's just not enough to get me to tune in on a regular basis. I hope those who are catching it are enjoying it. Perhaps I'm all Trekked out; I watched the original series in the late 60s with my parents, and I was enough of a Trekfan to join the good old Star Trek

Welcommittee...who remembers that group? I compiled the booklist for the STW for 15 years, and Yvonne held a number of varied positions in that same time. Shirley Maiewski, the chairman for most of the STW's life is retired, and still with us.

276...I only met Meade Frierson once, for geography often gets in the way of meeting all the fans you'd like to meet. Again, we are losing the best-known among us, and we're losing them fast.

277...Good interviews with two excellent SF writers. And Tom, if I hadn't already sent in my nominations for the Hugos this year...

Well, Greg, I've generated all the comments I can on the issues you've sent to me. Are you planning to expand Memphen to be a zine with a lettercolumn? I find that while it may cost me for printing, having such a column opens up the membership to the greater fandom out there. I hope others will also send in letters of comment, and this should get some discussions going, and bring in fannish news from outside. It certainly works for the other clubzines I receive, and it should work for Memphen, too. Who's coming to Torcon next year? Come up to my neighbourhood, and you'll have a good time. Many thanks for something new to look at; I hope you'll send more.

Yours,

Lloyd Penney.

1706-24 Eva Rd.

Etobicoke, ON

CANADA M9C 2B2

((No real plans to enlarge Memphen, had just tried to beef up some support for Tom Foster, so it goes. geb))

March 12, 2002

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Hi Memphen

Have you ever noticed how the name of your clubzine sounds like a drug that helps you lose weight? Cornball comments on "devouring" every issue left out of this letter out of respect for my long acquaintance with its editor.

No kidding, 'long acquaintance'. My wife Rose-Marie showed me a photo her mother took at the 1972 DeepSouthCon, featuring Greg in the foreground and me in the back. Bridges hasn't aged thirty minutes in the thirty years since. Neither have I, of course. That I now have half as much hair and twice as much flab is an illusion.



*I wanted to thank you for the several issues of Memphen that were recently sent my way, and to salute Greg's campaign to win a Hugo nomination for your local genius, Tom Foster. His covers for Memphen have always impressed me; readers of my zine reviews in Challenger will recall that I have faunched after his art myself, and repeat that, should he find time away from his Memphen duties, CHall would love to feature such charming, funny, well-turned art. But in any event, we'll make sure to list his name on our short list for teh ConJose honor.*

*It's important for members of local clubs to get involved in the national fannish lunacy, by joining the worldcon, nominating favorites for Hugos, and so forth. The reason is simple: fandom is fun at any level, rewarding in any number of social ways -- the big annual show no less than the weekly club meets. Hooray for you for encouraging this.*

*Also hooray for being so consistent with Memphen. Thanks, and I hope enjoy Challenger.*

*Oh - almost forgot - when are you guys going to try for another DeepSouthCon?*

*Bestest  
Guy*

*Guy Lillian  
P.O.Box 53092  
New Orleans, LA 70153-3092  
GHLIII@yahoo.com*

~~~~~

MEMPHIS SF ASSOCIATION  
P.O.BOX 820534  
Memphis, TN 38182-0534

*((Guy, guess we go back a ways. Always liked your writing and encourage all to read Challenger and vote their conscience on the Fan Hugos. About DeepSouthcon, how about 2004? geb))*

Greg:

I meant to respond to your earlier letter about Tom Foster but I misplaced it somewhere in my briefcase (I'll find it next fall and wonder if I did respond). I applaud your effort to get new names on the Hugo ballot in the Fan Artist category. I've pushed a few fan artists myself over the years: Peggy Ranson, Ian Gunn, Sue Mason. The key is to encourage the artists to contribute to as many fan publications as they can. Fans are more inclined to nominate an artist if they have the impression that his art is everywhere. Your letter and email arrived after I'd already mailed in my nominating ballot, but I did include a couple of new names: Kurt Erichsen and Julia Morgan-Scott. If Tom is willing to draw a few sharks, beavers, and spacemen, I know some WorldCon pubs that desperately need fillos.

Beast wishes, Teddy Harvia

"Thayer, David" <[David.Thayer@compaq.com](mailto:David.Thayer@compaq.com)>

CC: "Teddy Harvia" <[tharvia@airmail.net](mailto:tharvia@airmail.net)>

~~~~~



Mimosa  
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED