

round.

Shorts:

The Computer, A Trip  
of the Arabian Nights

erience

Mr., John Steakley, Joseph Delaney,  
ox Roberts, Dean Ing. On being a

ng in Texas

or's Forum — Scott E. Green

oomsayers Tell All! Near-Future Dystopias!  
Edward Bryant, Charles Platt, Mike McQuay,  
Warren Norwood, R.A. Lafferty. Are we really

in for it? Ask these authors.

2:00 Autographing — Ben Bova, Jack Vance

3:00 Art — Multi Media Workshop I (Monochrome).  
Dell Harris, Val Lakey Lindahn, Ron Lindahn, Jan  
Sherrel Gephardt, Joan Hanke-Wood, Freff. ... Mez. 2E

1:00 — 2:00 Artist's Show and Tell Tables —  
Bob Eggleton, David Dietrick

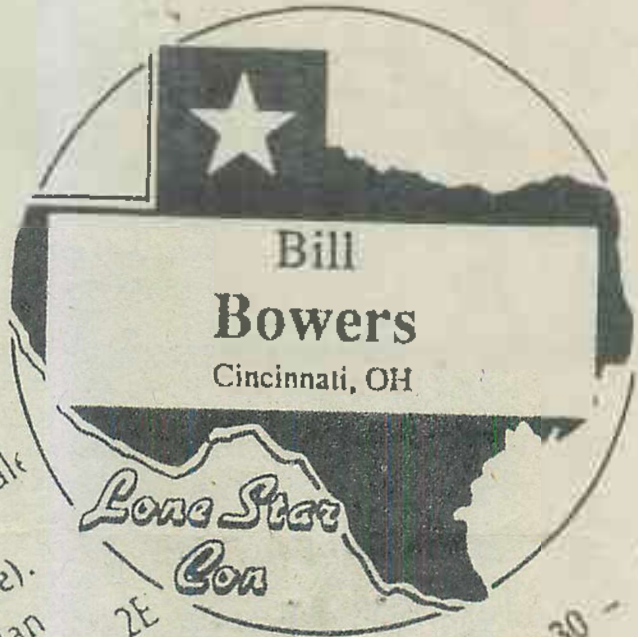
1:00 — 2:00 Fan Programming — Bill Bowers' Second  
Sequential Post-IguanaCon NASFiC Speech:  
"Still Practicing After All These Years" ... Mez. 4W (P)

1:00 — 3:00 Gaming — Toon. (Warren Spector)

1:00 — 4:00 Battledroids/Robotech, Doctor Who (RPG)

3:00 SIG: STARFLEET — Fran Booth.  
The positive impact of television on  
racial tensions

1:45 — 3:00 Film: Animal Farm  
Look What They've Done!  
Misconnection. Alan Dea  
Ed Andrews, Rory Har  
erilee Heitetz. Who  
turned into  
of li



2:30 - 3:00

# Outworlds

47



THE FIRST  
OCCASIONAL  
LONE STAR  
SCIENCE FICTION  
CONVENTION  
AND  
CHILI COOK-OFF

AUG. 30 - SEPT. 2  
1985

PROGRAM  
PARTICIPANT

What we have here, now, is basically a transcript of 37 pages of Notes [plus 11-B thru 11-E]. The Originals are on Display in the Archives (at the moment that pile...over there in that corner) -- so you'll just have to accept that, other than massaging scrawled lines into vaguely-paragraph format, and cleaning up typos (while surely creating new ones) -- this is a more-or-less accurate recounting of what I 'said' in Palmer Auditorium, Friday afternoon, August 30, 1985.

...there was no audio record; there will be no Videos of this one ... and the memories of those in attendance are suspect, unless they agree with what I write here...

Trust me.

[8/22/85; 7:40pm]

I thought I'd asked for an afternoon slot ... but obviously I forgot to specify "Fannish Time". I mean this 'thirteen hundred' nonsense is fine for devotees of all-night fandom ... but for the rest of us it's just a shade past breakfast ... and only neofans and hucksters are about, I fear.

I also recall asking for Saturday afternoon ... but this is probably just as well: 11/64A/11/641/61/146/44/6411...err...it gives us a chance at a Golden Opportunity -- convention programming that actually starts on time...

...but if I didn't complain, my name wouldn't be Bill Bowers.

...and if I were to start at the beginning ... but no, I NEVER do that!

It is tempting to start with the End ... but that would be non-sequential, unfair, and self-defeating ... and I am rarely more than any two of those three at a given time.

...and so, for the sake of simplicity (that, and a sudden lack of opening gambits), let's start right about here with, uniquely, the title:

"BILL BOWERS' SECOND SEQUENTIAL POST-IGUANACON NASFIC SPEECH"

subtitled:

"Still Practicing, After All These Years"

and further modified:

"A Tradition"

That last part, now was not in the version I furnished for the program listing, but rather a last-minute add-on...

And that, in itself, may be traditional: I can't even type out my name twice in a row...without adding a different descriptor each time.

Traditions...

...so, what's a 'tradition'?



The Dictionary At Hand — WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD DICTIONARY OF THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE: Second College Edition — says that the word means:

1. orig., a surrender or betrayal.
2. a) the handing down orally of stories, beliefs, customs, etc. from generation to generation.  
b) a story, belief, custom, proverb, etc. handed down this way.
3. a long-established custom or practice that has the effect of an unwritten law; specif., any of the usages of a school of art or literature handed down through the generations and generally observed.

...as well as a 4th and 5th assembling of words that have no relevance to anything in the Known Universe except, just porribly, white mice and the Rosicrucians.

Now this is all very fine, and possibly educational—but never having been one to let the facts get in the way of what I'm trying to say...

...in other words, I grabbed the word out of thin air without bothering to look it up first...

...what we are going with today is Option #6:

"A Tradition—a Fannish Tradition—is what I point at when I say the word."

Now I'm not at all certain whether fannish traditions are "created" ... "predetermined" ... or simply the out-takes of fans too creative to Snoff.

I do know that some attempts at 'creating' traditions simply haven't worked:

For instance, at AUTOCLAVE One (the first convention for fanzine fans: an obligatory, de rigueur; pointing with Wimpy Zone Pride) — in the course of events, it was discovered that the doors to the Art Show could not be locked for overnight security.

Innovatively—instead of simply grounding a gopher or two there all night—the committee simply kept the Art Show open...all night; both nights—and virtually everyone at the con wandered in, at one time or another...and made NAMEBADGES!!!

...not me; I was too busy keeping Mike Glicksohn out of his own room—but the fans kept on making up more badges...and, furthermore...kept buying the bloody things at the art auctions...

But when "BADGECON" was programmed at the following AUTOCLAVE (and, I believe, attempted at at least one other convention) ...well, it just wasn't the same...

It was an event, a happening...and it was definitely fannish: but it didn't become a Tradition...

So, do acceptable "traditions" require a certain degree of spontaneity both in the conception and the maintenance phases...?

Not necessarily.

Take for example the way I could—without an undue amount of egotism—append to the title of this QUOTE speech UNQUOTE...the descriptor: "A Tradition".

Flashback: This weekend, 1976...

[8/25; 10:30 pm]

...but Saturday night; late: ...and as I wandered into the Phoenix bidding suite, Diane Drutowski said to me: "We won ... congratulations...!"

...slightly confused—for the first time in my life—I responded: "That's nice... (pause) ...for what?"

"You mean..." she said, "they didn't ask you...?"

For those of you who haven't been around forever...Phoenix had just won the 1978 Worldcon...

...and had announced that I was to be their Fan Guest of Honor.

...which was nice, flattering, and, well—well deserved—except... no one had gotten around to asking me if I'd like to do this little thing...

I should point out right about here that this is a prime example of non-traditional fannish behaviour: to the best of my knowledge, every other Worldcon Guest of Honor—fan or pro—(as well as those at most other cons) since the beginning of Time, or Tucker...has been ASKED before having their name announced in a thousand flyers...

...probably my sole claim to fannish uniqueness: but just as well, that... Had Greg & Curt gotten around to asking before hand...just think, over the past nine years I'd had nothing to write, or speak, about—except, oh, skiffy, my days as a keypuncher for the U.S. Air Force...or my relationships with nameless femmefans. ...how boring...and how potentially embarrassing!

Speaking of my "speaking"...

Shortly after Big MAC...realizing that in two short years I would have to make a speech in front of Harlan, God, and who-knows-else...my friend, Leah Zeldes (as she was known in those days) arbitrarily decided that my speechifying needed some ...err... "work".

Leah made this presumptuous presumption on the sole basis of my One (count 'em) and only previous Public

Appearance...

...that the previous January at ConFusion where I thought things had gone rather well: I ascended the stage, sat on a chair...and descended the stage 45 minutes later...without remembering a thing in between...

Leah decided that my Technique needed work, and initiated the Bill Bowers Practice Speeches...booking me into conventions Far and Wide...

As I recall now, this consisted of the following two Marcons, one Autoclave, and a repeat of the second Marcon speech at the 1978 MidWestCon.

Well-practiced, Labor Day Sunday, 1978...I stood in front of Harlan, God, and twelve hundred to two thousand (depending on who you talk to) and made quote "The Best Worldcon Fan Guest of Honor Speech Made By A Tall Person In A Caftan" unquote & Copyright © by Ro Lutz-Nagey...

...and if anyone has any idea at all of where I can obtain copies of the video and/or audio recordings of the Moment In My Life... ..I'd be most appreciative.

(After all, as George R.R. Martin & Mike Glicksohn [five weeks ago at Rivercon] said, endlessly, of their mutually favorite Pro Guest of Honor...there's no use having a Public Forum...if you don't Use It. Endlessly.)

[Had to do that: After all, George did mention me in his Rivercon speech.]

Sequeing back to the conclusion of this introductory portion -- Hey! Don't yell at me ... THEY gave me an hour-slot! ---

...and having realized a long time ago that Fannish Perfection is something attainable ONLY in my fan-zines...

...I kept right on Practicing my Speeches: Mostly at Marcons and ConFusions...

I even did one at the last Nasfic—God, that was six years ago: no wonder the furriners have been getting restless...!

...and when there weren't enough conventions ... I titled my column for Denise Parsley Leigh's *Graymalkin* — "Bill Bowers' 'This Is Not A Speech'" ... and kept on going...

(Say ... mother-of-Megen ... just when is the next installment due...?)

...slow though I am to pick up on hints—I specialize in dismissing the obvious as being relevant—I still can't help noticing that ... while it hasn't been quite as long as the last *Graymalkin* ... it HAS been 19 months since my last ... public ... Speech.

Furthermore...and this is a subject of somewhat greater concern...do you realize that I've had to pay my own way to every convention [well, there was that thing in Toronto, 1980, but...] I've attended since Iggy? That was in 1978 ... and 77 conventions ago....

Hey, guys...just because I'm Incredibly Important...and have been a Guest of Honor at a Worldcon ... doesn't mean that I wouldn't be willing to stoop to being Fan Guest of Honor at YOUR convention...

...rates are reasonable ... and I can be.

...and, if you twist my arm, I'll even make a speech.

...or, if you'd rather I didn't—:

But that'll cost you slightly more.

What the Hell ... this too is Fannish Traditional—after all, it worked for Asimov 's first Hugo....

Having thus firmly established that Bill Bowers Speeches are indeed Traditional (without appending any pejorative 'good' or 'bad' labels to same) ... and Should Be Continued ... let's ... just for fun ... and to tweak a few presumptions ... let's briefly tilt at some five or six fannish 'traditions' ... at least as seen from a slightly 'askew' point of view---

THE IMPETUS FOR THE "TRADITIONAL" thrust of this—I needed something to peg it on...came about at this year's MidWestCon:

On Saturday afternoon, the Chairman—a certain Mr. Wimpy Cave-In—approached me and said that it had been pointed out to him that a Certain Individual had not paid the registration fee...

...and What Should We Do About It?

I made Inquiries ... being a Member of The Committee (at least I think I am) and was eventually told that the fan had been given a ride to the convention, would not have been there otherwise ... and was too Poor & Poverty Stricken to pay the \$10.00.

...but, but..., I said to the fan's apologist's ... you just don't go to cons you can't afford to pay at least the membership fee at...

"...it's.....it's....traditional!" I sputtered.

I really did.

...say that.

...but perhaps I didn't actually sputter; just in-articulated....

Hey, I can relate, you know: I used to be Poor & Poverty-stricken...before I became middle-income & thoroughly debt-ridden....

I mean, like, this here is the 142nd skiffy convention I've attended...and I have always paid my way... even though I've received a few rebates for Having Spoken here & having Panned there (except from Maroons).

...well, Truth In Advertising, Part Two...says that statement is not entirely true:

I did not pay to attend Fan Fair III, in 1975—I stayed at Glickson's apartment, we commuted...and never went to the Con Suite or any Official Function...

...and at Conclave a few years back [what year was it, Denise, when she turned 18...?]<sup>1</sup> we arrived late Friday night, I was sick, and by the time I got Up & About Saturday afternoon, registration was closed... Nevertheless, I sought out & Offered...

The Chair said: "Registration is closed, we have enough to make a go & so have a happy...."

Steve Simmons is a Nice Person...even if I did vote against his bid & for this Faraway Place two years ago this weekend.

I also didn't pay memberships at the Confusion I Guested at, nor the two cons I was Toastmaster at... and didn't 'master anything. (Of course, the second one I didn't even attend...but let's not quibble...)

And, come to think of it, I guess I didn't pay a membership fee—in cash—for Iguanicon.

...so, are you going to call me a liar for five conventions ... 5 out of 142...?

It is my belief that most cons are not LAcon II—most conventions do need your membership fees. Most cons are run...and risked...by fans no more well-off than you; many times, less...

Nothing terribly heavy here... There are Circumstances, and if you can cut-a-deal with the con-comm by offering to gopher, run registration, whatever, before you show up...fine... Whatever works: I've done it—as an attendee...and as a con co-chairman. [...I have it...written here in red flair on yellow paper earlier this month: "After all, what is clout for, anyway?"]

Just remember: Most conventions are run...and financed....by fans just as strapped for cash as you or I... I know you're going to find that hard to believe, but in this one instance, you are just going to have to Trust Me.

Somewhat later the Individual-Who-Did-Not-Pay-The-MidWestcon-Membership approached me.

"I understand you've been questioning my not paying the registration fee...?"

"Not me...", I said—and pointed the fan (he said, non-gender-specifically) in the Direction of Mr. Cave-in.

The Second Topic—according to my 'outline', is the subject of "Fan Funds". However, valor being slightly akin to discretion...I've decided to save that 'til last. This way you can leave...or wait it out: we'll see who of you are Wise...and those of you who are simply here for the Cheap Thrills...

Names will be taken.

In the meantime, let's have at something slightly safer, and certainly non-relevant here, this weekend. ...the throwing of Cons against one another...

[8/26; 10:45pm]

NOW AS I UNDERSTAND IT—I much too young to remember myself, you know—this is a relatively recent state....

...in that not so very long ago, we were lucky to have as much as ONE convention a weekend ... and some months ... now this is not fantasy ... there were NONE...!

I can't help but wonder what fans did with all their discretionary income in those days of yore...

...maybe ... do you suppose? ... they did the unpardonable—and published ...shudder... fanzines...? But that's the next & Third Tradition ... and so back to the Conventional Scene...

Given the odds—no matter what weekend you pick—there is likely to be another convention the same weekend—somewhere in the world.

...trouble is ... sometimes the world seems to have shrunk:

...as in 1984 when Rivercon ended up opposite Spacecon ... I was less than thrilled ... we are tied to a specific date ... and it required a number of people to Make Choices...

<sup>1</sup> ...well, I wrote the parenthetical remark---but I didn't say it; must be getting chicken in me old age.

<sup>2</sup> There was a quibble; naturally. Not five minutes after I'd finished, Leah said: "...but you didn't pay memberships at the Confusions you were at after being GoH." I had thought of this when rereading what I'd written, before 'speaking'---but it seemed a minor point. Also: for several years the CFG 'assessed' members a \$15.00 annual fee...the only visible benefit of which was we got to attend MidWestCon & Octocon 'free'... Then there is the matter of 7 Spacecons at which I've not paid a formal membership ... but, hey!, who's counting...?



...though a couple of fans stretched reason to the breaking point:

The Thursday before that two-con conflict, Bill Cavin drove the two hours from Cincinnati to Louisville to attend Rivercon's pre-con party; Friday—he drove Joel Zakem the two hours back to Cincinnati...picked up the pony keg of beer ... and drove the two hours on to Spacecon....

Sunday, Bill & Joel drove the four hours back to Louisville for their dead dog party...

Now this type of behaviour hasn't been seen in the Midwest since Michael Harper was in his heyday; but ... say, do you think this is the reason Cavin is getting to be Fan Guest of Honor at all these conventions ... and nobody asks me anymore...? Truly, something to ponder on....

These things do happen; in our case there's no hard feelings, and most of "us" went to Rivercon this year ...and some of them may come to Spacecon next year...

...but there's always been one weekend a year that's...well...sort of 'sacred'.

I was, again, less than thrilled—I was perturbed—when at LAcon Two a year ago, 4 or 5 fans came up to me and asked why I was there (obviously they don't read my fanzine) instead of at my convention back in Wapakoneta.

...and at least two of them were kidding.

Now, my Good & Dear Friend—Mr. Michael Glicksohn—will not attend Nasfics because he will not QUOTE "...attend a convention scheduled opposite a worldcon." UNQUOTE.

The next time you see Mr. Glicksohn, you might ask him where he was last year, the very same weekend I was attending the Worldcon for Mysterious Reasons. He might tell you that he was at a party...but that "party" charged a membership fee and, for at least a portion of the weekend, displayed a "WELCOME SPACECON" legend on the marquee of a small Holiday Inn...

...my bloody hotel!

I have never attended a convention scheduled opposite a Worldcon. Last weekend I was home, running off a silly fanzine...and belatedly starting on this silly speech.

I suppose those people putting on that thing in Milwaukee this weekend have their good reasons...I mean, I read File 770, too...but I can't help but wonder...

[8/28; a.m.]

Still—this isn't what prompted me to tackle this sub-topic...

Most of you will have heard of a convention called Corflu—the Convention for Fanzine Fans...

Well, I went to the second one earlier this year—and enjoyed myself very much...

And, since it is my intention to bid for the 4th Corflu—I made some inquiries: into the Rules & Regulations...and the developing traditions of Corflu's...

Now the reason I, and a number of others, didn't attend the first Corflu...is that it was scheduled the same weekend as one of the largest [and at time, most popular] Midwestern conventions—

Among others, I talked to Ted White—who was there representing the unopposed Falls Church bid for Corflu 3. Ted told me that they hadn't finalized a date at that time—but they were thinking of March...and, they would Quote "Make every effort not to go up against any other regularly scheduled con." Unquote—

In June I received Corflu 3's initial 'fanzine'—noted the February 1986 date...and said that I'd send in the membership fee real soon now...

...and then, a week or two later, at Midwestcon, I overheard someone talking about Corflu—and its being scheduled against Boskone...

I dunno... It's not likely to present any conflict for me: I enjoyed the one Boskone I attended—as much as any East Coast con I've been to—and I'd probably go to more...but only if I could afford to fly... But it may make some of those located between the D.C. area and Boston Make A Choice...

Baring major life changes, I'm going to Corflu 3—I'm still bidding for #4, you know—and will enjoy myself with some Good People who at least nominally share one of my major interests—

...but I can't help but notice that I haven't been "promoting" Corflu 3 quite as much as I'd planned.

I'm sure that Ted and rich brown had just as good a reason as the people in Milwaukee—but I haven't read it in File 770 yet.

Still—if I do get Corflu 4, in 1987—I guess it behooves me to be very, very careful in picking out a weekend for it!

I tell you, it wasn't like this in the old days...

...the Traditions ... they are crumbling about us.

...DID I SAY A NASTY WORD up there?

3 After returning home, I reread DESK SET GAZETTE One for the first time since its arrival in June...and I see they do "explain" their choice of weekends...but Bill Cavin is the only person around here who gets 'holidays' like President's Day. And they say they're not opposite "...any other con a fanzine fan might want to attend." Gee, you mean there are NO fanzine fans left in NESFA-land? I still think it was a bad move...

Fanzines...?

You know what a fanzine is, don't you? It's what I point at when I say...

They were my entry into fandom...and I'm still practicing at them, too, after all these years...

I'll put 'em down, skim most of the ones that come in...and once a decade write a letter of comment.

But they are one of the things that I do and, rumor has it, one of the two things I do best.

Speechmaking, I hate to disillusion you, is not the second. [Quite possibly, procrastination is...]

...but there's one thing that's burned me for as long as I've been doing the things, and it is a few fans who will say:

"Fanzines should be available to fans for free...; I've NEVER paid for a fanzine!"

Well, I have, off and on, for almost 25 years... It wasn't that long ago that I subscribed to a number of fanzines. And even now, I still pay for *File 770*... [Tho I'm getting my money's worth today...]

It is true, as it should be, that most fanzines—including my own—are readily available for means other than cash...

I've traded with Dick Geis' little thing for almost twenty years, and while I used to pay for *Yandro*, I haven't for a decade ... and still get every issue hot-off-the-press.

The trade/barter/favor/whatever system that makes up fandom is wonderful...and it works...

...but saying that you've NEVER PAID for a fanzine is not traditional...and it does not mean that you are a Trufan...

All it means is that you are cheap...

...and probably go to conventions without paying the membership fee...

NOW THAT'S A RATHER HARSH STATEMENT...

[8/27; 1pm]

...but it's one I'll sign my name to...both here, and when it appears in print.

You know...I wonder about some things—

Things like...at what juncture in history and for what reason—generals stopped leading their armies...and began sending them into battle?

Little ironies like: How can someone be against abortion...but in favor of capital punishment?

...or vice-versa?

Things like why Lyndon Johnson ended up doing precisely what Barry Goldwater campaigned on... Things like how Ronald Reagan has freed exactly the same number of hostages Jimmy Carter did...

I wonder about some things...

Like just when it became fashionable in fandom to do things in the name of fanac...and then forget to sign your name to them...

Hoaxes are a 'Tradition'—in every sense of the word—in fandom. And that's as it should be: they are a form of creative expression, and can be a lot of fun...

But some things are not hoaxes: some things are someone (or someones) beating-off to, it appears, even a score. ...or perhaps a lack of a 'score'.

When you are an opinionated person—and express your opinions—you have to assume that others will express their opinions of your opinions in return.

This holds true whether your name is Harlan Ellison — or Leah Zeldes Smith...

.....and the catch is that you're going to get some of that response in the form of ridicule and abuse. You don't have to like it — you will wonder how someone can so completely misunderstand your intentions — but you're going to have to expect it. Ridicule and abuse are as 'fannish'—and as traditional—as egoboo and accolades...

...as long as the source of the ridicule and abuse is acknowledged.

Now, Leah, I've thought about this for some time...and have come to the conclusion that your wedding was a Quote "Fannish Event" Unquote.

In my opinion.

Not because some fans were in it—but for the simple fact that you sent Mike Glycer an invitation to it...

Now some of us in the Midwest who were around when Glycer went to school in Ohio are quite aware of certain of Mike's prejudices—and how they are reflected in his pages. They are not subtle.

Be that as it may...until someone in the Midwest has the gumption and get-up-and-go to do something similar—or until someone in Texas uninvolves herself enough from Nasfic—saving so she can pub her ish—*File 770* is the only regularly scheduled game we've got—and in spite of its known shortcomings and foibles...it's a lot better than nothing...

...but one thing is traditional, Leah...and you should have known: when you send anything to a faneditor—and in particular to a newzine editor...

...not to mention a newzine editor you had provoked on another matter—

...anything...

...and you do not "DNO/DNP" it—it is fair game.

Fannish traditionally, speaking.

[8/28; 9:50am]

Yes, I thought Mike's "Report" on the wedding was a bit much—two pages—but it must have been a slow news month...or perhaps he hadn't gotten any phone calls from Columbusites [past or present] for awhile...

But in the end, Mike didn't do anything you shouldn't have expected him to do. You may not like what he does—but he is consistent...in itself a rarity in fandom.

...but as for his "sources"—unnamed—well, we've determined what I think of that practice. ...but in this case, it wasn't that hard to figure out who they were, was it now?

I mean, when the 'report' contained a direct quote—something about traditionalism, now that I think of it—and that quote was heard in the original context by four fans, and—

Well, I didn't write or call Mike—and you know who the other three were... So...

The fact that the Quote was entirely mis-attributed as to the source—when printed—is, in retrospect, ironically the most amusing part of the entire thing...

...but then—I've never said *File 770* was accurate...just regular.

...as for the other thing—which I will not dignify by naming: I can only say that it made the entire "Topic A" brouhaha seem like a benchmark in fannish behaviour & fellowship...

Your wedding had its problems...but none insurmountable—I was there—and neither it, nor you & Dick—deserved this.

...my contempt for those who generated that piece of crap...words of more syllable fail me... I guess I'd be just as happy ~~in my laboratory~~ if I never know who did it...

I'd really hate to be disillusioned.

You see—I've know Harlan for over 20 years—and I've known Leah for over ten...

They are two people—and here comes the understatement of my—and possibly yours—life...who are very firm in their convictions...

...but the one thing I can't help but having noticed over the course of my acquaintanceship with Harlan, and my friendship with Leah—is this:

No matter how unpopular their stances...; no matter how, at times, wrong-headed they were (believe me, I know!)...; —neither has ever, to my knowledge, failed to state what they believe, nor to acknowledge whatever it is they have done to impliment those beliefs.

They have accepted the responsibility for what they do—

...and have been willing to sign their name to their lives...

—and that is something I admire in people. ...and try to emulate in my own imperfect way.

The Practice Sessions are not restricted to speeches.

[Leah—Ireally didn't mean to get into your personal life to this extent...

...but then, you are the one who gave me an hour to fill...]

ACCORDING TO THE "OUTLINE", the next topic is, simply: —naming "names".

I wonder what perverse urge was in its ascendancy when I wrote that...?

It is a topic on which I have had things to say— ...but some things are, I guess, better restricted to fanzines.

...don't you just hate it...when people do things like that?

BE THAT AS IT MAY—

It's Showtime:

The first topic on the outline, but the last for today—

...gee, there's this many of you left? Vultures! —is again two words:

Fan Funds.

(deep breath) [it sez here in parentheses]—

[8/28; 7pm/Delta]

The past year has not been fandom's finest hour.

I chose to sit it out...as much as possible for someone who knew most of the principals (on both sides); ...as much as possible for someone who had friends on all sides.

I sat it out for a variety of reasons:

a) I had other things to do.

b) I had been through something all to similar in the mid-sixties.. (Perhaps this is what caused Eric Lindsay to refer to it as my "world-weary" bypassing of the melee.

c) I'm basically chicken. I saw early on that while indeed there were issues to be raised & points to be



made—that the stakes were too high and the points too blunt—to be worth risking any friendship over...

And—

d) The longer I go this fannish road, the more I have to peg my fanatic—at least the public portion of it—to the words of the immortal Buck Coulson: "If it ain't fun...fuck it!".

...and none of Topic A was fun. For me.

Oh, changes have been wrought: as a former TAFF winner, I received a phone call last week from Teresa Nielsen Hayden...to discuss the consensus that she, Patrick, and a large number of previous TAFF winners were coming to. We talked, I made a few suggestions...and soon enough we'll see the results in printed form...

And some will like them ... and some will not ... this is the Tradition of fandom ... and this is the way it should be: as long as the likes & dislikes are confined to the issues—and not the likers or dislikers....  
...silly me!

I dunno...maybe it will be a better world by having a more efficient...a more codified TAFF.

But at the cost of what has wrought it? I remain unconvinced.

At one point...after discussing and while simply chatting, Teresa broke in and said: "My God! ...you actually talk with ellipses!"

I like that.

I'm only sorry that it took all of what went into prompting Teresa's call...for her to find that out.

We each have our own fandom; this is a given.

My fandom is a total anarchy...in which things gets done...and goals are achieved...but not terribly efficiently.

[As I write these words, the plane is in its descent to Dallas/Ft. Worth—and at this particular time the last thing I need is a rational reason for being in this space at this time...or a written-out set of instructions for getting here.]

My fandom is not terribly tidy—and it has more than a few bugs in the system.

—but if I want "organization", I'll go elsewhere.

End of Sermon—

Beginning of Fan Funds: Part Two:

[8/29; noon]

...where it gets personal.

There are traditions where fan funds are concerned—but such traditions, as with life-forms and con comms, are mutable.

One of the traditions used to be that when someone stood for a fan fund—they were asked to do so.

This is one tradition that, to my knowledge—is still about 50% valid; or am I being optimistic?

Another tradition...I suppose unwritten—is that once one has won a fan fund, one doesn't run again...

...you probably see where I'm going...but how to get there...?

One assumption: That Britain did indeed win the 1987 Worldcon last weekend. [It did.]

Now I've subtly mentioned that I did "win" TAFF once: in actuality it was a co-win, I did not go...but a TAFF-delegate did go to Britain that year.

My reasons for not going seemed, at the time, valid—but if anyone has a problem with that...I have no problem with them. Really... (I'll just never speak to them again.)

...and I was prepared to be cool: But when I've already read—again, in the most recent *File 770* (I think I should get a free sub from Mike, after all this positive publicity)—that 3 or 4 fans are already standing for the 1987 TAFF race...

Well.

The 1987 Worldcon—wherever it is—will mark the 25th anniversary of my first SF convention...and I'd sort of like to go to it. ...wherever it is.

In otherwords, if someone really twisted my arm...oh, about this far...

I could probably be persuaded to stand for TAFF. Again.

We'll see.

And if all of this should come about, well, I understand that the candidate is to provide a platform...

Mine...if only to prove indicitive of the seriousness with which I am approaching all of this—will probably include a brief listing of my fannish credits and, as a tag line, the clincher that no other known candidate could match...

And that is that I'm the only one who has shared convention rooms—albeit not at the same time—with both Avedon Carol and Jackie Causgrove, survived...and count both as friends.

I suppose there will be a Nasfic in 1987 also [there will be; in Phoenix, of all places!] —and if I don't go to England...or possibly even if I do—

But, even if no one there asks for THE THIRD SEQUENTIAL...

...well, should the Columnaritti bid succeed [given that Cincinnati is a separate City-State] — it is my present intention to bid for the 1988 Nasfic. ...to be held in Columbus, Ohio.

In any event, you'll probably be hearing from me again—in this context or another...even if you do manage to avoid my fanzines!

Thank you...

[BILL BOWERS § Austin, Texas § 8/29/85]

...if for no other reason than to simply follow the bouncing ball, you really should be getting FILE 770. It is \$4. for 5 issues, from MIKE GLYER, at 5828 Woodman Ave. #2, Van Nuys, CA 91401.

CORFLU III will be held Feb. 14-17, 1986, in McLean, VA. Attending memberships [including the banquet] are: \$25.25. Write: CORFLU III, c/o New Decade Productions, Box 409, Falls Church, VA 22046. § Despite my carping earlier on, you should—if you consider yourself any sort of a fanzine fan at all--seriously consider doing this little thing! I'll be there...and I promise not to make a speech... ~~WILLIAM HAYDEN~~

...and, if you are at all interested in another of the topics 'discussed' above: TAFFLUVIA #2. "This issue free to those North Americans who voted in the last TAFF race, and available to anyone else for an SASE..." from PATRICK & TERESA NIELSEN HAYDEN at 75 Fairview #28, New York, NY 10040. § The one thing that I found "interesting" is that it has already been decided that the winner of the 1987 TAFF race will go to Eastercon rather than the Worldcon. Since the entire reason for my 'proposed' candidacy was to celebrate my 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary...this leaves me in a slight quandry. § Who knows...? Maybe I'll stand for DUFF...and TAFF...win the Lottery & Discover Fiscal Responsibility--and 'do' all three...plus Phoenix & CORFLU IV... \*sigh\*

I don't accept phone calls from Jackie Causgrove anymore.

...everytime I do, it ends up costing me a hundred bucks. Or more.

Usually it's because something's On Sale at Quill. Usually. This issue was to have been out for Contradiction, last weekend. On Friday, 27 Sept., Jackie called to tell me that the mimeo we'd acquired earlier this year had...blown up. We are now the proud owners of a 'newer' used Gestetner--for only \$200. I'll see it for the first time this afternoon. Meanwhile, Dave is wondering what to do with the two former mimeos...

But Jackie's crowning achievement is this: On my return from Austin, she presented me with a clipped newspaper advert. ...to keep it short:

Leah Zeldes Smith has a Sears Electronic Communicator. Dave & Jackie: a Communicator 2. ...and now, for \$20. less than the '2<sup>o</sup> cost last fall--I sit in front of my tv/vcr (ala Don D'Amassa) with an Electronic Communicator 3...with full-line correction ~~READY ON/ALREADY~~...centering...Right Margin Flush...computer compatible (for only \$200. more)...and with six print wheels...but--DAMNIT!...no italics...

The Selectric--and its 14 elements--remains in the bedroom.

...future issues will probably be typographically B\*U\*S\*Y; but I'll have fun!

It was arguably the most foolish thing I've done ~~so far~~ in 1985. But I was overdue: the Selectric was purchased in the Summer of 1969...

Interestingly enough, in the interim between ordering this machine...and picking it up, I received a postcard from someone who was instrumental in that 1969 purchase:

"Please remove me from your mailing list. I am no longer interested in receiving your fanzine."

Despite this, and Everything Else this year, late one night in a modest house in Niagara Falls, I stated, with some firmness that, no, I do not believe in predetermination...

...but I must admit that my evidence for this thesis is less than empirical.

...I have between here...and the delta fence...to finish up:

At the moment...I have no 'plans' for a con before Corflu. If, however, you should see me at Conclave, or at Chabanacon...or Confusion--for some odd reason, do be kind. You know how these things go...!

Next Issue...? Well, I have a nice pile of letters... Somehow, I expect more.

---Bill Bowers

OUTWORLDS 47 -- Published and [this time] Written by:

BILL BOWERS § 2468 Harrison Ave. § Cincinnati § OH § 45211 § {513} 481-3826

Available by Editorial Whim. Dr: This Issue & #48--\$1. ea. OW49 (the Annish): \$2. pre-publication/1-15-86. [A Listing of available back issues was run in OW46; it, also, is \$1.] § My Publication #144 § [10-13-85]

✓ Test Pattern 101: Pages 1580, 1584, 1587 & 1589--backing plate & carbon. § Pages 1582 & 1585--backing plate only. § Pages 1581, 1583, 1586 & this page--carbon only. § Front & Back 'covers': Electrostencilled. § Endtest.

# A FAN POSAL

...if someone came up to you, and offered you a slot on a future space shuttle mission... would you be at all interested?

...if so--if you had a chance at something you'd only dreamed about/never thought possible in your lifetime--added to it the factors of getting to spend a week in relative luxury and with your friends, all for a rather staggering initial outlay (until you get around to considering what it will get you) on your part...would you go for it?

Okay, now that we've established just what kind of a fan you are--let's not dicker over the price: Would you work for something like this...?

There's been a dearth of innocuous f\*u\*n things in fandom recently. ...at least from where I perceive.

...and just when I run across something that I think is neat-keen, if a bit outlandish, 'they' go and try and take it away from me. Not the actuality (that is iffy, and a ways off in any event)...but some seem reluctant to grant me even the possibility that at last there exists a worldcon bid...the mere concept of which is crazy enough to appeal to the flights of whimsy and imagination that drew me to science fiction in the first place.

You know me: I always take the easy way out, and these days I'll retreat and sidestep simultaneously to avoid \*shudder\* Fan Politics---but in this case I think I'll have to register A Protest. [Probably not logical, but hopefully mild; unless/until one 1988 bid is forced off the Atlanta ballot.]

According to File 770:55: "Two of the four publicized 1988 bidders filed their official papers through Aussiecon 2, St. Louis and 'Bermuda Triangle in '88'." I heard at Lone Star Con that the New Orleans folks got their papers in 'late' but they'd been 'accepted' anyways...~~never mind~~... No word here on the status of the misnamed Cincinnati in '88 bid...but then, can you really expect a bid that can't get it together enough to bridge the hundred miles between their committee and their reluctant 'host' city capable of dealing with mere paperwork...? (An unnecessary Editorial Intrusion, perhaps...they do seem to be trying...)

DATELINE AUSTIN, Labor Day Weekend, 1985: ...which 1988 Worldcon bidders stopped the...err...'leader' of an SF club, and reputedly offered him, if they won, a 'free' suite for his club at the 1988 Worldcon --if, in the meantime he would urge some of the more vocal critics in his club opposing their bid to, in effect... 'Cool It'. [No Namas Were Offered...but in the meantime, if Mike & Carol Resnick and Dave Locke could kindly control their laughter...]

Hey gang...it's only fanac. We all Do Our Thing, and I suppose it's only inevitable that there is a segment of fandom that will cream at the drop of a Site Selection Ballot, but then I do some pretty strange things with my Labor Day Weekends myself: of the past '24, I spent one-&-a-half in the Phillipines, one here in Cincinnati, one at a Wilcon, two at Nasfics...and fourteen at Worldcons; the remaining four were Long Ago...unremembered...

As far as I now know, I'll be in Atlanta next year...and I'd really like to go to Britain in 1987. I have no objection to going to Boston in 1989...and I retain the hope that someone ~~anyone~~ in the Pacific Northwest will bid for 1990--but if not, I suppose I can find my way back to L.A. one more time...

As for 1988...I've been to St. Louis in the Summer. Thank you, very much.

I live in Cincinnati in the Summer. Thank you very much.

...and my conception of New Orleans in the Summer is the same...only moister. \*sigh\* Sounds like a good time of the year for a cruise to me...!

I am not on the Bermuda Triangle In '88 bid committee; I was not asked. Had I been, they would have gotten the same answer someone else got just last weekend (concerning a later year): "I don't do those things anymore..." (Tho, perhaps, in the 90s...when Cincinnati's Convention Center might finally be completed...)

None of this is Official, nor has it been cleared/checked with anyone else. Just me...

I spent a fair amount of time, two nights in Austin, at the Cruisecon party ~~across~~ ~~the river~~. I stationed myself next to the punch bowl: the punch and the company were both pleasant.

...and, as fans wandered in, either because they'd heard about the punch, or simply because it was "a party", asked what it was All About...and had it explained:

...it's been too long since I've seen that many pairs of eyes literally light up at an idea...and the merest possibility that it might come to pass.

...who back there mentioned Sense of Wonder? ...you? Come on aboard!



...it was about this point in the proceedings that I began hearing, there and about, that even though the appropriate paperwork had been filed and accepted by the required time...the Powers That Be decided the Bermuda bid should be removed from Atlanta's ballot. ...some little thing about Rules & Regulations.

Little in the way of names were attached to these "Powers", but it was inferred that they were mainly Nesfans and...

Well, a couple of names were put forth: Bruce Pelz and Craig Miller had, I was told, declared the Bermuda bid to be "elitest".

Now while Bruce might call me that, I have time-in-grade on Craig. Nevertheless, I am an elitest--even if the bid isn't--pure and simple: I've paid my dues.

...now I don't know from Rules & Regulations. Well, I do...and, yes, I do understand that when dealing with the Big Bucks that Worldcons have become, certain parameters do have to be established. But when someone Plays The Game, incorporates & fills out the Forms...and then is prejudged invalid on the basis of a technicality...

I don't know of anyone asking for preferential treatment for the Bermuda bid...just, at this stage it be allowed on the ballot. ...and let the bid that the fans want most win.

...and as for the carnard that the cruise would be out of the range of the average fan: as near as I can figure, it'll be remarkably close to what it cost me, in 1984, to spend a week in southern California...and attend LAcon Two. Nevertheless, since Nesfa is known for its organizational prowess, and the LAcon folks have all this leftover cash to distribute "for the good of fandom"...and should the Bermuda bid win in a fair test of the fan ballot box--perhaps the two groups could get together...and make the cruise affordable to "the average fan". All it'd take is a little positive thinking. ~~For a chance~~

I don't know about you, but I'd like the chance to take that boat ride! ...Bill; 10/13

<b>RECEIPT</b>		Date	June 29	1985	No.	7646
Received From		Bill Bowers				
Address		2468 Harrison Ave Cincinnati, OH 45211				
For		Bermuda in 88 - pre-supporting membership #30				
AMT. OF ACCOUNT		CASH		20 00		
AMT. PAID		CHECK				
BALANCE DUE		MONEY ORDER				
		By: <i>[Signature]</i>				

Bill Bowers  
2468 Harrison Ave.  
Cincinnati  
OH 45211



NIEKAS  
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F I R S T C L A S S

Larry Todd

