

# The Proper Boskonian

October 31, 1967

Vol I Number 0



THE PROPER BOSKONIAN

& O

The Great Pumpkin Lives!

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Editor: Cory Seidman      The Publications Committee hasn't  
Ditto coolie: Tony Lewis      done anything yet worth mentioning.

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for the Eddoreans by

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#1 will be out some time in December or January. All other  
relevant colophonyism is contained in the editorial.

YOU ARE GETTING THIS ISSUE BECAUSE

- ✓ We know your address.
- ✓ We thought you might review us.
- ✓ We thought you might contribute Articles.
- ✓ Art.
- ✓ We will even electrocuss you if.
- ✓ You are an important fan historian.
- ✓ You are an important fan gossip.
- ✓ You are mentioned in myth.
- ✓ You are an imperfect biological unit.
- ✓ You are not an important biological unit.
- ✓ You are a member of the Eddoreans.
- ✓ You are a member of Camp Hater London.
- ✓ You are a native informant.
- ✓ You have big feet.
- ✓ You alone possess the secret.
- ✓ You are wonderful.
- ✓ You can call spirits from the very deep.
- ✓ You are a spirit from the very deep.
- ✓ You are our colleague.
- ✓ You are our competitor.
- ✓ We thought you would have great ideas.

Coverillo by Bruce Horowitz

## EDITORIAL

Being that this is a shiny new fanzine and all, I suppose I'd better start by doing some ramblings about editorial policy and suchlike. But I'd just as soon hurry on to more interesting stuff, so keep your ears open and don't interrupt.

The proper Bosconian is the official organ of the Rhode Island/New England Science Fiction Association. It has no set schedule, but will attempt to be quarterly. Future issues will probably be mimeographed. We welcome contributions of artwork, but will, at least for a while, be accepting only covers and acknowledged illustrations by mail traceable.

We would also love contributions of articles. If you are familiar with FZ you know my prejudices: pro-humor, especially of the pseudo-scholarly sort, anti-fan fiction, and anything else depends on the level of the writing. We are looking for various review columns and would particularly welcome one-shot articles on various special interests. Anything from the author you feel has been unjustly neglected or the inside story on what it is like to be a collector of such and such.

As to how to receive this rag, what we would really like is for you to join in for a subscribing membership, which entitles you to all publications of the Association (except the bibliography - we have not yet gotten over the sting of the constitution.) For those in a less affluent section of society, contributions and loans will be beautiful, and even gross material transactions involving your name will be acceptable. If you are receiving this issue, you will probably receive the next whether you deserve it or not. If you aren't, let us know, just your address will be good for our issue. (Of course, we could appreciate loans, if you see that something to comment on, or even just a few words of encouragement.)

Having not told you everything you could possibly want to know, we will resume at the next issue.

## NOT A CONTRIBUTION

As one of you who have been told of the past issues will have noticed, I have not had any sort of contribution or inspire or faintly witty correspondence. I will therefore, not even attempt to cope with such down side issues, but will instead continue to publish as usual.

## FROM THE

All my thanks to all of you who have been (in various chronological order) to.

Thursday:

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CHARLIE AND MARSHA BROWN for their unflagging hospitality to a seemingly ineradicable houseguest;

AL LEWIS, but for whose minibus I would never fully have grokked the inner being of the West Side Highway;

NORMAN SPINRAD, who really would have fixed my sandal if I only hadn't been so inconsiderate as not to have thought to bring any cobbling tool with me;

THE PAN-FACIFICON COMMITTEE, whose fiendishly designed non-safety clasp buttons did not prove to have been coated with any slow-acting poisons to which only they possessed the antidote;

Friday:

ALEX PANSWIN for his beard;

CINDY VAN ARNAM, without whom there would not have been a fashion show, and JO MEISNER, without whose seamstresary(?) I could not have been in it;

EARL THOMSON, who was as incredible as advertised (even if his conreport is full of lies, inaccuracies, and misrepresentations);

Saturday:

GEORGETTE HEYER FANDOR, which makes better tea than the Hyborean Legion;

ED MESKYS, who likes wide penpoints;

THE BAYCON COMMITTEE, who at least put on a good show; everyone from Boston, but especially Fuzzy Pink;

JKKLEIN, who has a good nose for parties;

JOHN BRUNDA, whose scenic are very scenic when you're sitting on the floor;

JOCK BOOT, RON ELLIK, and EARL THOMSON for providing a running sociological and physiological commentary on what must surely be the most spectacular fight of the decade fought by two random non-fans at 42<sup>nd</sup> in front of a bank of elevators that only run every half-hour,

Sunday:

FRED HOLLANDER, who is sure to be going to be in the costume show even when we aren't;



SHEILA ELKIN for letting herself be persuaded that of course she really wanted to be in the costume show, didn't she?

MR. SPOCK, all nine of them;

JERRY JACKS, with whom I trod on Earl Thompson's supine form;

DON AND GRACE LUNDY for providing a magical land on the other side of the closet when we wanted to escape from our own party;

MARSHA BROWN for not being infectious with mono anymore;

RON ELLIK, whose feet were wider, if not longer;

Monday:

SAM MOSCOWITZ for his exemplary brevity;

all the wonderful people who left me and Sheila to starve with Earl Thompson in a corridor outside the artshow room while they went out to dinner, to risk food poisoning at a local coffee show while they drove up to the Bronx, and to stagger through lonely, midnight subways, tempting unknown fates, while they sat safe at home discussing Georgette Heyer books (since most of them seemed to be small Trimblees, I suppose they deserved it more than we did, but);

all the people who bought FIGHT ENTROPY buttons;

all the people who bought me food;

all the people I almost ran down with my hoop (except Charles Ellison);

THE NYCON COMMITTEE, because it's only common politeness;

ELIOT SHORTER for keeping the wolf from our door (?);

and ISAAC ASIMOV, because it wouldn't be even a pale shadow of a conreport without him.

#### PUZZLE DEPARTMENT

We will now take a break and quote, for the benefit of the word-game nuts, a paragraph from a recent letter from my mother:

Last night I drove myself crazy. I found a new word game to put me to sleep and it kept me up until five this morning. However, one can make a parlor game of it and drive others crazy too. Your answer must be in three words consisting of one name repeated twice.

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so if I ask you to give me a television producer, an ex-President, and a French painter, you say DAVID DAVID DAVID (in case you're sleepy, that's David Suskind, Dwight David Eisenhower, and Jean-Louis David). Or combine a Secretary of State, a 19th Century American writer, and a deceased movie actor for DEAN DEAN DEAN. Or a living poet, a dead poet, and an American patriot for ALLEN ALLAN ALLEN. The more I tried to put it out of my mind to go to sleep the more examples kept popping up. Like the star of a television series, an Abolitionist, and a leading comedian of the silent screen -- LLOYD LLOYD LLOYD. How would it work as a filler in a fan zine? You could promise answers in the following issues and lose hundreds of friends in one fell swoop.

#### AFTER THE CON WAS OVER...

After NYCon, I spent about a week unwinding slowly, displaying my ~~1960s/70s~~ fashion show outfit on television and seeing the first photos from the convention -- never go to the costume show in groups larger than two, you'll never get a good photo of all of you. Then I flew up to Cambridge (only the ice would keep forming on my wing-feathers) and attempted to set up some sort of reasonable habitation (slaneshack?) with Leslie in "Suite 4" of a lovely, modern apartment building called the Warren, the extent of the modernity of which may be judged by the fact that the adjoining one is called the Harding. We have two bedrooms of sufficiently equal size, a living room that we are trying to do up psychedelic, only we keep losing our nerve (and why must everything psychedelic come in that excruciating shade of pink?), and a stove that really goes to the temperature you set it for.

While Leslie runs off in the mornings to work at computer programming at Lincoln Labs (they are trying to tell earthquakes from atomic explosions), I continue my life as a lowly (Harvard) student. As a linguist, I get to take such fun things as Sanskrit and Old Irish. I also have to take a phonetics course, which is guaranteed to drive anyone batty. I finally managed to get Ed Meskys to promise to play native informant for my term paper, only to discover that Lithuanian grammars come in three flavors: Lithuanian, Russian, and German. Come visit me in Cambridge some time -- I will be the person in the nethermost of the Widener stacks, triumphantly exhuming some mottled volume which hasn't been checked out since 1638. (Probably an early Georgette Heyer novel.)

Or, on the other hand, you might prefer to come to a meeting of the Eldoreans. Second and fourth Sunday afternoons of each month, except occasional Saturday evening parties when we got tired of business meetings. Try phoning me (868 9390) or Tony Lewis (7008 NIB).

## HISTORY

-- Anthony R. Lewis

### EARLY STIRRINGS AND THE BOSKONES

It had long been clear that the need existed for a fan-oriented organization in the New England area which was neither based upon nor embedded within a collegiate matrix. A college sf organization per se has a transitory and inexperienced membership; in addition, the restraints on a college group (at least at M.I.T. ) preclude certain desirable activities, such as holding conventions. During the last few years, fan activity had been gradually increasing in the New England area, especially in Boston, centered around the M.I.T. Science Fiction Society. The first major external evidence of this activity, other than the change in orientation of the subject matter in "Twilight Zine," was Boskone I, put on by the Boston Science Fiction Society (BoSFS), formed for that purpose, in 1965. The major initiator in this project was Dave Vanderwerf. However, BoSFS had no permanent structure nor, indeed, any planned activity other than the Boskone. This prevented the transformation of what was essentially the Boskone I committee into a truly permanent broad-based sf organization. In the spring of 1966 these same people, with a few minor changes, presented Boskone II.

After that convention, interpersonal relationships between a number of BoSFS members became somewhat less than completely cordial, and the organization per se was let die a lingering death by neglect.

In October of 1966, Erwin (Filthy Pierre) Strauss, of whom more will be said later, organized and ran Boskone III, a purely local affair, on the M.I.T. campus under the aegis of MITSFS. The purpose of Boskone III was to acquaint local people with the fan activity already extant in the area. Unfortunately, this was not the case; however, it did have the side effect of yielding a reasonable profit which was turned over to the Boskone IV committee.

The Boskone IV committee consisted, in the main, of Paul Galvin, Dave Vanderwerf, Leslie Turek, Cory Seidman, and Dick Barter. They put on the well-programmed Boskone IV in the beginning of April of 1967.

### TAPA AND WHAT CAME AFTER

Early in 1966, Mike Ford had started TAPA, the Technology Amateur Press Association, in an attempt to encourage fan activity among people connected with the MITSFS. Although TAPA died after only ten distributions, it had the result of



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bringing into active fandom a number of people, including Anthony Lewis (STROON), Sue Hereford, Dick Harter, and Ed Meyer (QRM). Mike had already been active in fandom and had been publishing Infinite Fanac. As an indirect result of TAPA, Andy Whyte began publishing Bibliographica Fantastica/Futurica, which lists (or attempts to do so) all sf, fantasy, and related books scheduled to be published.

#### "THE LIBRARIAN SMIRKS IN THE CENTER OF HIS WEB"

-- Old MITSFS Saying

During the last three years, the important operational positions in MITSFS had become occupied by people who were not undergraduates at MIT. Since 1959 the Librarian had been Tony Lewis; the MITSFS fanzine -- Twilight Zine -- had been produced by two Radcliffe students, Cory Seidman and Leslie Turek; and the Pinkdex -- the inventory of the Library books -- was maintained by Marilyn (Fuzzy Pink) Wisowaty (class of '62). The MITSFS had been formed in 1950, and this early start, coupled with the enormous growth of its library to 10,000 volumes (under A.R. Lewis, ahem), had precluded and discouraged the formation of any other sf clubs in the area. Other than the New England Mensa SF Special Interest Group organized by Alma Hill, the nearest sf club is the University of Massachusetts SF Club at Amherst, which was started about two years ago by Joe Reas (not connected with Ultimate Publishing). Of course, with the arrival of Ed Meskys at Belknap College, New Hampshire, a science fiction society has been organized there. This, then, was the New England club picture pre NYCon III, insofar as I have knowledge thereof.

#### THE INDEX

Back in the days when MITSFS was in the basement of building 50 and had not yet moved to W20, Erwin Strauss produced a mimeographed index to the then-published sf magazines as a partial supplement to Don Day's Index. Loundes Magazine of Horror was not included, since none of us knew of its existence at that time. (In fact, issue 10 was the first to appear in the area). Response to this partial listing was so promising, that a complete index, covering all English-language sf magazines 1951-65 was proposed. Later in the project, the Australian magazines were removed, when it was discovered that an Index to Australian SF had been published. A few of the British sf magazines were left out, as information about their contents did not become available. The financial and legal problems between Mr. Strauss, MITSFS, and MIT and their final resolution are not germane here and, in any case, would be of little interest except to those who lived through those times. ((And not even to most of us. -- GBS)) The Index was photo-offset printed and bound professionally. In addition to a title and author listing, it contained a chronological listing of magazine



contents and a checklist of magazines indexed. Seven hundred copies of this have been sold already. In 1967 Erwin brought out a supplement to cover 1966. Like the first small index it was mimeographed but it followed the format of the printed Index.

## CONVENTIONS AND ORGANIZATION OF NESFA

The unsuccessful Boston bid at the Tricon in 1966 convinced a number of older people in MITSFS that in order to compete, Boston fans would have to be more widely known throughout the country.

The PhilCon of 1966 was the first con attended en masse by Boston fandom and, as the year progressed, we went to other Eastcoast and Midwest regional cons. Finally, we descended like unto a plague of locusts on the World Convention in New York.

Discussions held with many fans in New York convinced us that a new organization was needed for New England. Accordingly, I called as many people as I thought would be interested to meet at my apartment the weekend following EXCon III. Fourteen of us showed up and discussed diverse topics anent organization. This meeting was reported on in "Instant Message #1" which was sent to all people thought to be interested, in addition to all people who registered at Boskone IV with a New England address. Two weeks after that first meeting, twenty-three people gathered at Bill Desmond's apartment to begin the formal process of organization. After deciding what was wanted in a constitution and by-laws, a committee consisting of Gerald Clarke, Tony Lewis, Dick Harter, Greg Mironchuk, and Cory Seidman was appointed to write such for consideration and approval at the next meeting. ((Watch out for those dangling participles. --GJS)) Also was adopted here the name of the organization, which is the New England Science Fiction Association, also known as NESFA or the Eddoreans. "Instant Message #2" reported on the details of this meeting.

The 8 October meeting convened in Bob Nelson's apartment. The Constitution and ByLaws, worded in the main by Gerry Clarke, were adopted, dues were collected, officers elected, and committees appointed.

## THE PAST IS PROLOGUE

These are the officers of NESFA elected after the Constitution and ByLaws:

President	Anthony Lewis
Vice-President	David Vanderwerf
Treasurer	Linda Rosenstein
Clerk	Susan Herford
Editor	Cory Seidman

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Committee chairmen are:

Convention	Paul Galvin
Membership	Truman Brown
Rules	Richard Harter

NESFA will be running the Boskones; Boskone V will take place 23-4 March 1968 with Larry Niven as guest of honor. More news about the Boskone will appear in subsequent issues of the NESFA fanzine "The Proper Boskonian" (name suggested by Dainis Bisenieks at the party), the Con committee publication "Helmuth," and the Clerk's newsletter "Instant Message."

These are the classes of membership in the Association:

Regular -- the only class of membership holding voting rights. Essentially for active fans living in the Boston area who will be attending most of the meetings. There is the understanding that Regular members will take an active role in the operations of the Association.

Associate -- has all the rights of a Regular member save voting and holding certain offices. This is designed for people in the area who are interested in attending meetings but who do not wish to be very active in the affairs of the Association.

Subscribing -- open only to people not in the Greater Boston area. These people receive all club publications. They also get the right to attend a certain number of meetings of the Association.

Affiliate -- similar to a subscribing membership but is open to organizations only. There are no geographical restrictions imposed.

Family dependency -- open to immediate members of the families of Regular members.

All members, except family dependency, receive all publications of the Association. Certain advertising privileges in the fanzine will also be available when they have been definitely formulated. Regular, Associate, and Family Dependency members may attend all meetings of the Association; Subscribing members may attend meetings with the proviso that they may not attend more than half the meetings in a three-month period; non-members may attend only open meetings of the Association and they may not attend more than three meetings in any three-month period. Any or all of the membership requirements and/or restrictions may be waived by the Association at the recommendation of the Membership Committee.

If you wish to join, drop a note to the Clerk, Susan Hereford at 67 Tuxton Street, Brookline MA 02146 giving name, address, etc and what class of membership you think you are eligible for. If you think we don't know you, tell us a bit more about yourself and your experience in fandom.

If the Membership Committee approves the application, it will so report at the next business meeting of the Association. Approval there confirms eligibility and you will be sent a letter apprising you of this fact. Dues for the several classes of membership are:

Regular	\$10	p.a.
Associate	\$ 5	p.a.
Subscribing	\$ 2.50	p.a.
Affiliate	\$ 5	p.a.
Family dependency	\$2.50	p.a.

In the event you feel you have been done dirt by the Membership Committee, presentation of a petition for membership, signed by three members of the Association of ANY grade, to the Clerk will place that item upon the agenda for the next business meeting. It is not expected that the Membership Committee will frequently reject people; the process of acceptance should essentially be automatic for Subscribing and Affiliate memberships.

Welcome! NESFA welcomes you! We know that you will enjoy our publications, activities, and the Boskonian. Those of you who live far from Boston, become Subscribing members; find out about fan activities in the New England area. The Editors welcome you!

#### A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR TO SUBSCRIBERS TO THE TWILIGHT ZINE

Bessie and I have long realized how unusual it was for two non-MIT undergraduates to be editing an MIT fanzine. Now that we are non-MIT non-undergraduates, the situation is nearly unendurable, giving rise to constant pangs of alienation, Angst, anomie, and what have you. We have therefore decided to let TZ Revert To The MITSES. It will therefore, unless he can find some other sucker, be put out for the nonce by Skinner George Phillies instead.

Meanwhile, I have cleverly stolen most of the TZ mailing list and have high hopes of being able to estrange your affections. If you haven't yet gotten around to writing that LoC or the latest TZ, write it to the Proper Boskonian instead. Or send us contributions; since we no longer have a sense of obligation to encourage the development of literary talent among the undergraduates of MIT, our xenophilia grows apace. Whatever you do, do something. You may have been carried on the TZ mailing list for the last five years out of sentiment, but the Editors are young and ruthless and will start pruning ruthlessly after the next issue.

(Note to collectors: If you don't like our numbering system, come up to Boston and look at some street addresses some time. Around here, that sort of thing is very proper.)