

R U N E





Beyond the Twiltone Event Horizon ♦ Jeff Schalles	1
Nattertorial or Off The Cuff ♦ Garth Edmond Danielson	2
I'm Glad I Don't Have A Pick-up Truck ♦ Garth Edmond Danielson	4
The Parcon Room Party Connection ♦ Neil Rest	8
LoonVention ♦ Joe Wesson	9
Microprogramming: The Lost Episodes ♦ David E Romm	10
Some Thoughts On Collecting ♦ Rick Gellman	12
Hello Again ♦ Jeanne Mealy	16
A Barbarian Guide To House Buying ♦ Sue Grandys	18
RuneLocs	19
Fanzine and Faanzine Reviews	21
Minn-Stf Minutes - April 1991 - January 1992	26

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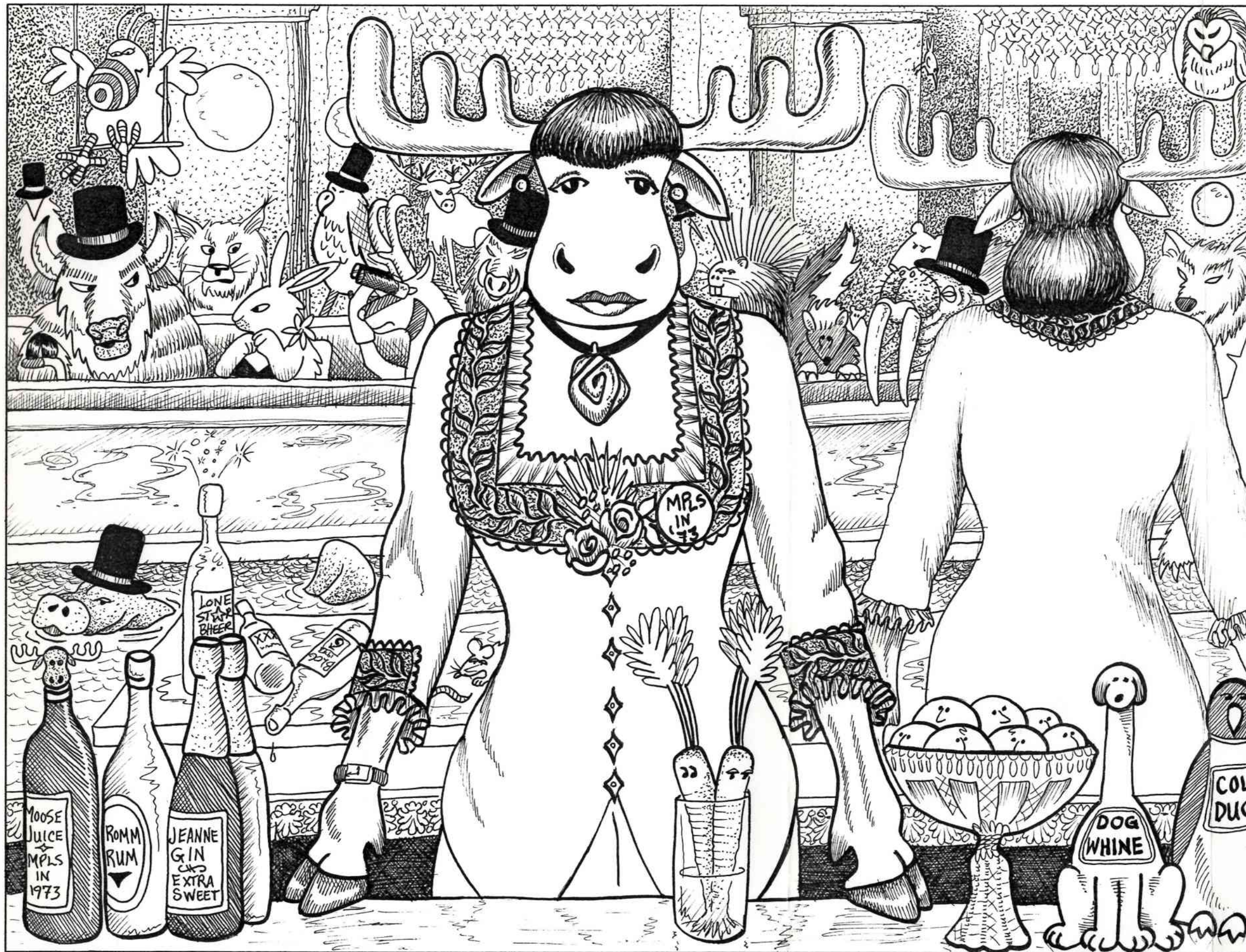
These people helped stick and stuff the last (December 1989) Rune. Sharon Kahn, Rosalind Nelson, Karen Johnson, Kay Drache, M. K. Digre, Erik Biever, Paula Rice Biever, Dean C. Gahlon, David Cummer, Margo Bratton, Eric C. Heideman, Karen Cooper, Amber Tatge (that tape is still safe), Geri F. Sullivan, Jeff Schalles.

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The Twiltone Event Horizon

by Jeff Schalles

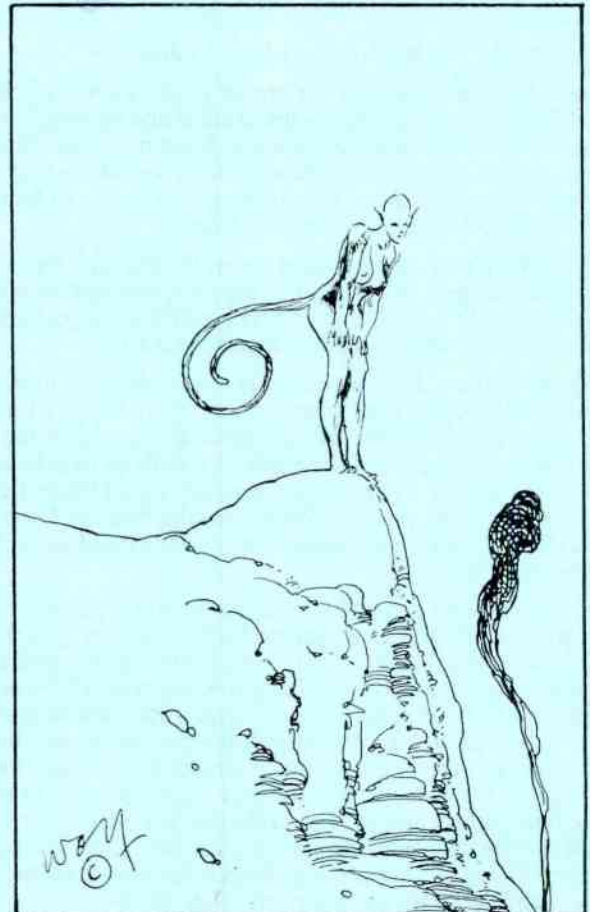
I was tempted to start this with a "first-time-I-met-Rune . . ." story even though my fannish literary advisors would caution against it. But I won't. It would mean having to do that massive, all inclusive midlife fanzine sort that I keep putting off in order to find Rune's from the 1970's that might contain letters or maybe even cartoons of mine. I think I remember something about that. I know I've been on the Rune mailing list on and off from the beginning.

So I finally escaped up here to Minnesota from New York City in 1989. Moving to Minneapolis is one of those inevitable fannish things, even if it takes you 20 years. When I joined APA-45 in 1970 it seemed that half the members lived up here. The heady sense of a Minneapolis fannish community beamed radiantly from their apazines. Some were even true fanzine fans! I thought of moving up here even back then. Fanzines always were more important to me than the many other aspects of fandom. I got active in fanzines my junior year of high school, but didn't start going to Woopsfa (Western Pennsylvania Science Fiction Association) meetings until my junior year of college.

That fall I bought a 1964 VW bus and began driving the seventy miles from Grove City College to the Sunday afternoon meetings at Carnegie Mellon's Skibo hall. Ginjer Buchanan, Suzle, Linda Bushyager, Topher Cooper: They were an interesting core group, and the club had attracted a lot of good people. Even better, Linda and Suzle were publishing a major genzine, Granfalloon. I had a summer job painting houses, and that year bought my own mimeograph, a 30-year-old A.B. Dick. I ran off a lot of apa zines, and five or six issues of my genzine, Cover. I also remember helping Marvin Kilmer mimeo his first and last issue of Pghoenix, one of many ill-fated Pittsburgh clubzines. That was my earliest clubzine experience, in 1971. But it wasn't Rune, as Mike Glicksohn may attest to. He and Marvin entered into an escalatingly nasty round of correspondence debating the merits of the admittedly crude fanzine until poor Marvin finally gafiated.

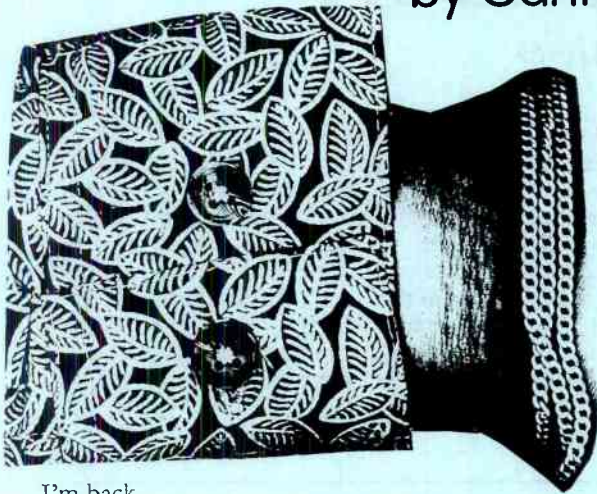
So now I am an editor of Rune. This is different from publishing my own fanzine, Cover. The 8th, 9th, and 10th issues of Cover came out in 1974, 1976, and 1982. The 11th will be along Real Soon Now. Its on a logarithmic schedule. Rune comes out regularly, 4 times a year. It has good material. It has a large and loyal readership. It has a club willing to pay for postage and printing. It's these absurdly inflated printing and postage costs that are the bane of 1990's fan-pubbers. Even if you still run mimeos, which I do, postage is completely out of hand unless you're active enough to invest in a bulk mail permit.

Finally, I hope to take what I've learned over the years, inside fandom and out, and apply it here. I have made my living for quite a while as a typesetter, working in high pressure ad shops, meeting obnoxious instantaneous deadlines. Rune, though close to my fannish heart in a spiritual context, has enough physical, institutional mass that I can easily visualize the deadlines as they interconnect through cosmic strings to realms of higher authority. Therefore, not only do I intend to see that the Rune of the next several years continues to forge ahead as a quality voice in the shrinking fanzine arena, I plan to see that it comes out on time.



Nattertorial OR OFF THE CUFF

by Garth Edmond Danielson



I'm back.

It wasn't like I didn't have anything to do.

I was talking to Ken Fletcher on the phone a few months ago. "They're talking nominations for Rune editors," he said. "Oh," I said, a shiver running down my spine. "Just what I need, another job." Sometimes I feel like one of the Hedley's from *In Living Colour*, they're a family of Jamaicans who all have fifteen to twenty jobs.

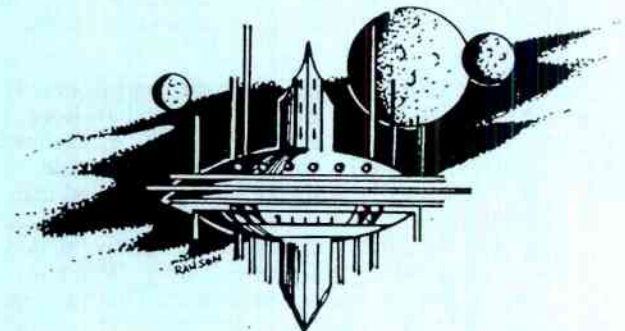
The topic of new Rune editors seems to crop up all too often. I had been talking to Jeff Schalles, amongst others, about the very same thing. Jeff had confided his secret ambition to edit an issue of *Rune*, since he was a pup.

"You know Ken, I bet we could get up a consortium of editors, Jeff Schalles expressed an interest in being a Rune editor only recently. Maybe the three of us could be the new Rune editors." I paused for effect. A couple of days later I broke the silence. "Are you interested?" I could hear Ken sweating over the phone. "Well," he said, "maybe I could do that all cartoon issue of *Rune* I've always wanted to do." "Now your talking," I said.

I'm one of those guys who tends to let things get right to the wire and then with an insane burst of energy gets the job done. Earlier in January I told Jeff that we really needed a deadline so that I had something to work toward. I was supposed to have this issue out in December. Turns out that December was not a good month for me. Too many things going on and certainly not much ambition to do anything. I had not finished my article, nor had anything come in on the deadline. Jeff commented recently that people just weren't sure that the zine actually would come out. I can see that. Jeanne Mealy got her piece in a week past the deadline, she called and asked for an extension. That was nice.

Rick Gellman was the only person to send in a contribution that was asked for. I talked to a lot of people who I thought might want to contribute, and asked them if they had anything to say about collecting. Most of them did, in person. Getting them to write something was a lot tougher. It was tough for me to get going on my own article. I've been thinking about this for a long time. Have you seen the Rubbermaid commercial about stuff? A woman grows up collecting (accumulating) stuff, collects a husband and a family, all of whom collect more stuff. **TOO MUCH STUFF.** Her family organizes their stuff, neatly, with Rubbermaid organizers for stuff, and find that they have lots of room for more stuff. They run off screen to get more. What is this preoccupation with stuff. You know I got it. Bad. I walked out of work one day, beside a fellow co-worker. As we passed a huge pile of steel bits, from the old cooling system for a rather large office building, he pointed out a huge steel wheel. It was one of the pulley wheels for the compressor. It was about 30 inches. "That's pretty neat," he said. "It is," I said, "it would go good in my yard." I was envisioning it under the birch tree in my front yard. I couldn't tell whether or not it or the huge boulder I faunch after would look better. Everyone has a huge boulder, not everyone has a huge piece of steel in their yard. I stumbled over a rough spot in the cement and brought back to reality was glad that I don't have a pick-up truck.

I had forgotten the difficulty of doing a genzine, not having done one since the days when I was part of the "Rune Boys". I actually only edited one issue of *Rune* in those days. Number 68. I am moderately interested in opening that kettle of fish. The "Rune Boys" certainly published their ish, as Rob Ihnger likes to say. We were amazingly prolific. The collected "Rune Boys" is almost an inch and a half thick. I bound all my copies of those issues, #62-71, ten issues in just over two years. Our goal for *Rune* is quarterly. We shall see.



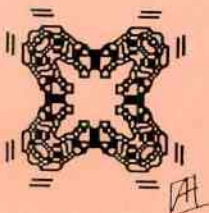
It's January 23, 1992 and the bulk of the issue is typed. Most of it has been taken over to Jeff's and proofs printed out. They are being studied and layout has commenced. Pieces were still trickling in last weekend. I was worried earlier on that there wouldn't be much stuff to put in and now it seems that's not a problem. Neil Rest came to town to visit and dashed off a short piece about teaching people to party. Who would have thought anyone would need lessons. Then Jeff found Dave Romm's article about microprogramming, forgotten, buried on a disk, we figured that should go in.

There were a lot of fanzine reviews by Dave Romm and Peter Hentges. I filled in some of the gaps that occurred since Dave stopped updating his column. Geri Sullivan, the first lady of Minneapolis fandom, edited the hell out of it. There were ten pages of reviews. That was too long. We have a lot of material that we really wanted to get in. Same thing with the letters, there were quite a few and they were pretty old. They got edited pretty dramatically.

The Minutes, ah, well. It's like this see. Some of them appear later in the issue. The last 9 or 10 months worth. There is a gap of about a year when apparently the tapes were erased. Or something.

I believe that Rune will be a fluxuating beast, and with four editors it should be.

I have a big personal thanks to Jeff S. for all the work he's done on this issue, and the fine job that he did with the type. Thanks Pal.



Are you crazy? Napoleon never invaded Minneapolis.

4th Annual Hug-A-Thon

What can one person do to make a difference in the world? With the help of Gerri Balter and Herman Schouten and their furry children (2,005 and multiplying even as I speak) David Cummer has solicited pledges (per hug) and raised \$3,000 for the Minnesota Aids Project Emergency Financial Assistance Fund over the last three years.

This year's *Fourth Annual Hug-A-Thon* will be held on Saturday July 25, 1992 at 2 pm, again at the home of Gerri and Herman, 1381 N. Pascal Street, in St. Paul. You are invited to come and cheer David on and pledge money for this important cause. Your furry friends are welcome, too! Every hug counts.



Art: Jeanne Mealy

HUG-A-THON '92 PLEDGE FORM

Your Pledge

name _____ phone _____

¢ per hug _____

Address _____

city _____ State/Prov. _____ zip/postal code _____

Please make checks payable to **Minnesota AIDS Project**, c/o David Charles Cummer, 3511 Lyndale Ave S., Minneapolis, MN, 55408.

Thank you. Your contribution is tax deductible.

I'm Glad I Don't Have A Pick-Up Truck

by GARTH EDMOND DANIELSON

Collecting!

I think it's in your blood, as much as anything like that can be in your blood.

Collecting!

I've always done it. Nearly as far back as I can remember. I saved my toys, although the earliest ones are gone. Where are the stuffed toys I used to play make believe television detective with when I was five or six?

I got my first books of fiction when my family was living in Churchill, Manitoba, right next door to Hudson's Bay. Actually, it was a few streets and some sand dunes away. I got six volumes from the Scholastic Book Services. It was in 1963, I was nine years old. I nearly died there, in Churchill, in a Military run hospital, of a ruptured appendix. I was in the hospital twenty-four days, the longest I've ever been away from home, then and now. My mother would bring me comics everyday. There weren't nearly enough comics in a small town like Churchill for a stay of that duration, luckily I was comatose for nearly four days so we managed. It was after leaving that I discovered I had neglected to corral all my comics. I had left some with another kid in the ward. I started then an, at first, unconscious desire to own and kept things.

Those comics are gone. I still have some of the SBS books, albeit dog-eared and dog-chewed. Perhaps that same dog ate my fellow actors from the earlier make believe detective series. Me and the panda were detectives, the yellow poodle was our secretary. I hadn't seen the Avengers, I didn't know about strong female leads. If you had cast this yellow poodle, you'd cast her as a secretary. This is TV circa 1959.

I remember walking to junior high school with the guys on my block and excitedly telling them I now had over 100 books in my collection. They were more impressed by the guy who could actually inhale cigarette smoke, fill his air sacks, and exhale it without tossing a lung into the street. these were the same guys who had originally taken me to the local library. I got some books, went home, read'em and was ready to go again the next day. This was in grade 5 or 6, so the books weren't too complex, or long. Of course, no one else had finished their books, most hadn't even started them.

As you could probably guess our paths were destined to separate. I often wonder where those guys are. Perhaps they've got my stuffed toys. In reality, I'm pretty sure my mother threw them out. I remember the panda going into the toilet a couple of times too many. Did I mention the panda had only one eye. He never let that handicap affect his work, nor did I let it influence our relationship.

I've been thinking about this collecting business for several months. I made a lot of notes. I talked to a lot of people. Here is a segment from an unfinished look at accumulating, written as indicated after Spangler #1 came out. Spangler is my personal zine, number one came out May 4th, 1991 and number two came out June 28, last year.

Boy, trying to put a fanzine together when your house is a mess sure it tough. Somehow I got it in my head after I finished Spangler #1 that I should work on some of the accumulated stuff that wanders bidden into my dominion. I hauled up several boxes of mixed goods that were hurriedly packed in April and May of 1990. That was just before I moved. The boxes had been languishing, like the rest of their ilk, in the basement, waiting patiently, like only cardboard boxes full of stuff can.

I found seven of the most mixed up boxes and brought them upstairs into the living room to inspect and sort. Now I've got several boxes and piles of stuff lying about the dining room floor, partly spilling into the living room, waiting patiently for me to continue my sorting. After I got all these piles started, I paused in that pursuit to get involved with some other projects. One was reading and responding to some of the locs that came in for Spangler #1. Then I hauled some records into the dining room to see if I wanted to tape anything off of them before I trade them in. Somehow several boxes of video tapes made their way into the dining room to be sorted and left there.

All this stuff is still there. I've got no place to put it right now. I hadn't thought that far ahead when I started. Ever noticed how that can be a problem? Probably Andy Rooney has spoken on this. I've learned to live with this kind of lifestyle after all these years. I've got some shelves out in the garage and more in the basement. I've been planning to put them together real soon now.

That evolved into this paragraph reprinted from Spangler #2.

I think I'll try alternating article and letter issues. That sounds like a good game plan. I started some stuff but wound up being nearly overwhelmed by the flood of trade goods collecting in my dining room. I've been busy with the various projects involving all the stuff I collect. My dining room has been under a sea of paper. I finally got around to putting up some more shelves, mostly out of desperation and involving perspiration, and some of it got put away and I was in a better frame of mind to get back to work.

Sound familiar? Sure it does.

October 7, 1991 this appeared in the Minneapolis Star-Tribune:

CLUTTERERS ANONYMOUS WARNING SIGNS

Are you a pack rat in need of help? According to Clutterers Anonymous, a self-help support group, answering yes to any of the following questions is a warning sign.

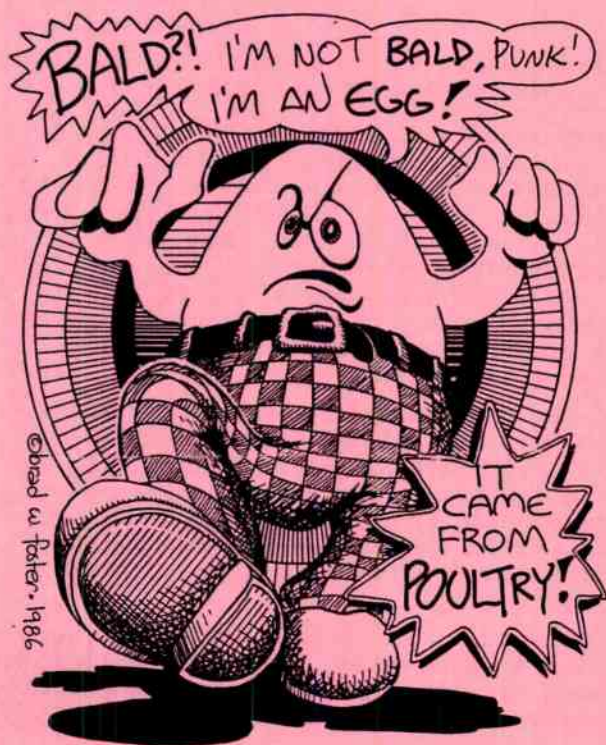
Do you have more possessions than you can keep track of?

Do you have trouble discarding something even when you realize there is no reason to keep it?

Do you rent additional space to store useless items?

Do you waste time, miss deadlines or fail to complete obligations because you can't find important material that has been carelessly stashed?

Are you embarrassed to invite guests to your home because it is never presentable?



Are you easily sidetracked in your tasks? Do you find yourself starting a new project before an old one is completed?

Do you have trouble talking about cluttering?

Do you set deadlines to clean up your clutter that are never met?

Do you want to change, but don't know where to begin?

For further information, call Clutterers Anonymous at 1-818-882-0828 or 1-805-527-3582, or the National Self-Help Clearinghouse at 1-212-642-2944.

(Los Angeles Daily News)

There was a longer article that mostly talked about garbage houses and clutter addicts. There is a very fine line here. Sometimes I feel I'm straddling that line, and others I feel it's not a fine line but a wedge working it's way up my anal cleft.

Steve George wrote one of my favorite pieces on book collecting. From *Zozma* 12, Dec. 1978

"I've never really considered myself to be a collector of science fiction — though over the years I have built up what I suppose to be a substantial batch of SF&F books and magazines. Definitely not as large as most other SF fans in Winnipeg, but still big enough. Lately I've been wondering if it wouldn't be a good idea to get rid of all the books I've read. What purpose are they serving? Books are made to be read, not stored away behind rows and rows and rows of other books, never showing their faces to the world. If I sold the books I've read, it would come to a substantial amount of money — I could give them to one of the local book stores on credit and use the credit to get new books as they appear on the racks, thus keeping up a continuous flow of new and fresh material. Of course there would be some cash expenditure in the long run, but if I kept on trading in books after I'd read them it would be much smaller than what it is at present. Practical, yes, but — well hell, I can't make myself give up all the books I've already got. I've become attached to them. All those Burroughs books, the Zelazny's, Moorcock's and all the others — they're part of me. So I've had to make up an excuse for keeping those books. I can always claim that I might want to read them again. True. I've done that with a lot of them already. They could be invaluable to me for research if I ever decided to write a comprehensive history of all the paperbacks that have passed through my hands. Well, maybe. But here's the real reason I haven't already traded in all my books. The energy crisis. What happens if there's a power out and the house starts getting cold. I could always lay down and die, I suppose. But I won't. I'll burn my books. And they'll save my life."

Back to Garth.

The nice thing about collecting is that you really don't need an excuse. It's its own excuse.

A lot of people collect things, not just SF fans and their ilk. Book and art collectors are probably the most common.

I decided to look up some material at the library. Perhaps some layman's psychological study explaining why we do it, other than to kill time between meals. That's why they invented television, and it worked too. I now collect TV shows.

I went down to the library with two goals; the obvious one, to look up some material on collecting, and one you'd never guess, to look up how long it takes for food to pass through your digestive system. This has been bugging me for years. Our printer, at work, had been under the impression that you eat and pass your eaten food right away. "How come I have to go to the bathroom right after lunch?" This guy is a fount of misinformation.

If I would have just concentrated on looking up material on collecting I would have gotten out in time. Instead I spent too much time looking up the totally disgusting digestive tract. Be glad you're not being eaten alive, yuck, I wouldn't wish that on anyone. By the time the librarian at the sociology desk got to me, the meter had rung out on my car and while I was talking to the guy who couldn't help me with collecting my car was collecting a \$10 parking ticket. I can't tell you how much I hate it when my car spends my money. The librarian looked all through his computer files and found zilch. I found next to zilch in the books handy in the department. There were some distant possibilities in the stacks but it was near closing. There wouldn't be time to call the stuff up from the subterranean collection.

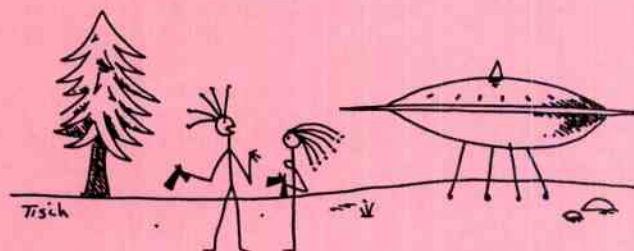
On one hand I was successful and disgusted and on the other I was unsuccessful and disgusted, and I got a parking ticket.

Figuring to take the easy way out, I called up Denny Lien, a librarian, and asked him where I might look in the future. He offered to look in the Journal Indexes when he was at work and report back.

Denny is a collector, and I sought out his opinion. We talked about some of the aspects of collecting and collectors. There is the thrill of the hunt, joys of completing a set, or the indescribable ecstasy of finding some rare item. I myself have had first hand experience in all these feelings. I've been buying and selling stuff for over twenty years and I still react like a little kid when some unique item comes cross my path. I've been known to giggle excitedly. Not out loud, but to myself. After finding some extra neat item, I have been given to uncontrolled hoots when home alone. Every collector has a story about finding that item and it's effect on them. You'd think that with that much emotion invested there would be lots of material available, close at hand. Denny's search turned up nearly zilch. There was a good possibility but it was in french, I think, I can't find the printout he sent. I could look I guess, but mostly I'll just hope it turns up before I type this up.



Stick figure aliens.



"Remember on this planet keep away from fire."

I figured I'd have to search through the popular magazine indexes next, or the newspapers index. That seemed like too much trouble and I didn't want to get another parking ticket. I think that the digestive track thing really jinxed this theme. I'm still trying to forget the accompanying pictures. I have forgotten the amount of saliva your mouth produces in a day, one or two pints. Yuck, eh.

"(Henry) James' novels often portray collectors using art to beautify their lives and distance themselves from reality. These men and women live through their collections, trying to create an ideal that will enable them to ignore the flaws in their situation or character. James, like (Carl) Barks, had uncovered a bizarre truth: People will often build identities for themselves with objects. Writers of commercials know this, and try to impress us with the power of a certain car or perfume to shape our personality. A man is no longer known by the company he keeps, but by his property."

The Romance of Wealth
Geoffrey Blum
Carl Barks Library Set.3
Uncle Scrooge VOL. 1

Owning as status was carefully covered in Carl Bark's great story *The Status Seeker* from Uncle Scrooge 41, March 1963.

In the story Scrooge checking the lights in his hotel ballroom runs into a party of IMPORTANT PEOPLE. They are IMPORTANT because they "OWN things — the SORT of things that give them STATUS!" The women are wearing "GIOR" and "GASSINI" gowns, someone has the "FAITH DIAMOND" in a wheelbarrow, a seedy looking bum turns out to have spent all his money on the "THE PINK FAKASSO" which gives him the status that entitles him to be invited to all the parties, where we find him chowing down at the buffet table.

Uncle Scrooge, feeling left out, plans to find the top status item, the "CANDY-STRIPED RUBY" lost fifty years ago during the BAZOOKISTAN REBELLION. Scrooge remembers once owning the Ruby but traded it to a native in the south seas. A fine adventure ensues involving immoral status seekers, Beagle Boys, submarines, sharks, peppermint candy, magnetic fish and a giant, peppermint-candy-loving jellyfish.

In the end Uncle Scrooge returns victorious in possession of that tip top status symbol - The Candy-Striped Ruby. He's now invited to all the parties, but people still find him boring because all he can talk about is money.

I don't see the value of the articles I collect in dollars, but in intellectual, or emotional value. A collector rarely gets the value of anything he resells unless he's had it a very long time or the item has an unusually fast and inflated raise in collectors value. There are dozens of examples of this, out of hundreds of thousands of items. Everything has a potential value, but the real value is in here. If you could see me, I'm tapping my forehead. It's a nice enjoyable hobby. It's relaxing to be surrounded by the things you like. People who collect strictly for the monetary gain or as an investment ruin these hobbies for the rest of us collectors who want the material for the sake of the material. The coin business and, I believe, the stamp business both suffered huge devaluations in the last year or two, for reasons similar to the problems in the art business. Over inflated value drove prices way up and when the market fell apart the prices often drop to below the original starting point. One investor-collector, who nearly single-handedly ruined the baseball and sports card market said he didn't "think he did anything wrong. That was the American way."

There are so many people now, collecting something or another. I have some questions. Why does it seem that most record collectors are men? They are the ones who buy the

stereo gear with such great seriousness. Men in general collect a lot of electronic and electric gear. Power tools are a fine example. "Gonna use that someday." It's a guy thing. Like starting fires and playing with fireworks, but that's another story.

What do women collect? Usually smaller, more discreet things. Toothpick holders, ceramic geegaws, glass bits, etc. My mother has a spoon collection. She's not very serious in her collecting. Not like her boy. Men collect the weird stuff. Can anyone explain the difference? More men in general collect things. Is this some sort of farflung tribal memory? "Ug has thirty rocks!" "Ohh. Ohh."

Terry Garey said she had come to the conclusion that she collects material. She spots a favorable bit of cloth, picks up a rad and bungs it in the closet for a later use that never seems to come. God, I know that situation, but it's nice to have it, just in case. I don't even want to begin to talk about my styrofoam collection.

On that happy note I'll wrap this up and I think I'll go out and buy something. Something to keep.

Oh, on average it takes about 24 hours.



LEFT TO RIGHT, TOP Row: Zok, Veep, Bom Zom Kōbie, Flom Bach, Zzōkem Sslōkem, Ak, Plid Plod. BOTTOM Row: Slug McGlug, Plōtō Tharp Gooohingkin, Oon, Creem Dreth, FrodoX, Tie and Grammm, Indoh Van Condolupenssontionsmith.

THE PARCON ROOM PARTY CONNECTION

by Neil Rest

At Confiction, I found out that the Czechoslovakian national convention, Parcon, was two weekends later. I had planned to go to Prague and Budapest after the Netherlands, and Parcon was to be in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, right on the way! I had already made contact with Czech fandom (namely Eva Hauser), and had a place to stay in Prague.

When I got to Prague, I found out that I had an entire apartment to myself, two blocks from the subway station at the end of the line. Eva's family had recently moved, and hadn't gotten rid of the old place yet. Actually, half the week or so I was there, I was sharing the place with Frank, a Belgian fan who goes to a different national capital each year for vacation. Friday morning, I packed up, took the tram to the other side of town, and waited in the cluster of fens for the bus they'd chartered to take us to Bratislava.

Friday night, by 11 p.m., there were six people awake. That was not right.

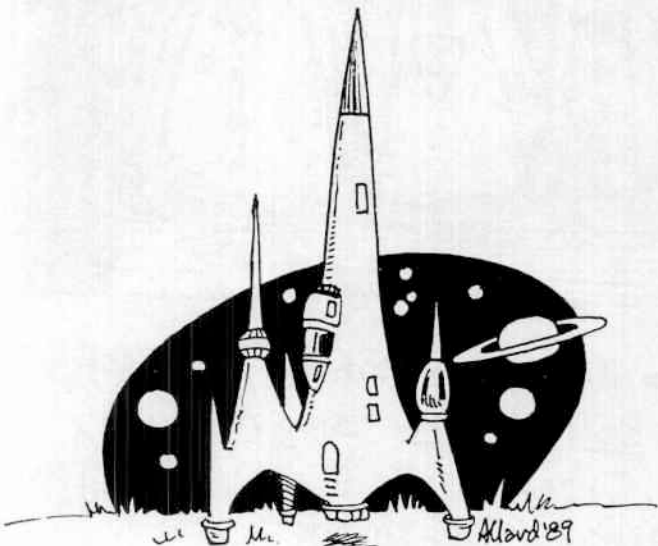
It seems that East European fandom is severely sercon. Science fiction is difficult to come by (there was so little sf in the huckster room that customers waited in line, and filed past the books and magazines single file). People go to the movies (something I usually consider a bad prioritization of time at a con) because there's no other chance to see them. *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* at 8:30 Saturday morning had a good hundred fifty people.

I had lucked out, somehow, in having a dorm room entirely to myself (three beds to a room and two rooms to a bath). So I decided to have a room party Saturday. Except that all the stores in Czechoslovakia close at noon on Saturday.

At Worldcon, one of the Czechoslovakians I'd met was Yuri, I think the only Slovak in the group and the only party animal, a fan artist who did the poster for the Parcon I was at. He was enlisted as native guide, since I certainly couldn't find what I needed easily. Frank had the room two up the hall from me, and not only volunteered his room for supply storage, but also kicked in some money. And there was a guy I think was German and had rented a car in Austria, who would drive me and Yuri...

We found a grocery store, and had to decide what to get. The beer bottles are a half liter, and cases hold 20. We got five cases of beer, eight bottles of wine, three smaller bottles of boroviča (which I am sure I've spelled wrong — transparent and high proof), several liters of soft drinks, and some bags of crispy crunchy things. The total cost came to fifty dollars, U.S.!

Fitting it all into the car with ourselves too took some doing. The real headache was getting it all into our rooms. We were in a college dormitory with a sort of gatekeeper. One of the remnants of "the old system" is "full employment". This means that there are substantial numbers of people who, with luck, do nothing, or, usually, seriously get in other people's way, so that they can collect their check like everyone else. Off the lobby of the dorm was a small apartment, inhabited by a little old lady whose job was to sit at the lobby desk and handle the keys and little pieces of paper and things. When the bus had gotten there Friday evening, after we'd registered at the con, it took an hour and a half for forty people to get their rooms and keys. If the phone rang, everyone in the lobby had to shut up so she could hear herself talk. I pointed out to the people I was talking with that if she makes forty people wait for an hour, then in just one hour, she's taking an entire week's labor out of the economy. Now, these were fens, well and widely read, in a cultured and educated country. They were taken by the novelty of such a style of analysis. I am convinced that the only real success the Russians had in East Europe was eradicating elementary economic and organizational concepts, like 'cost.'



But I digress. After finding out that it wouldn't be possible to just sling a rope out my window and haul everything up, we ended schlepping it all in boxes and making repeated trips — except that if you stack a bunch of bottles, they'll break against each other, so we wrapped a hundred bottles, each in old newspaper, first.

Yuri had to leave us in the middle to get the empty cases back to the store before it closed for the day at noon.

There were a couple of other things I didn't know enough to know how to do right. What time do I schedule the party for? Who are the notables, what are the groupings, how do I go about circulating the invitation widely enough? It took care of itself, fortunately. I invited the people I knew and had met, and it didn't matter that I guessed the time wrong, because they all came when they were done with everything else for the evening. The big Saturday night event was the presentation of the fan-voted awards for year's best. I was slightly acquainted with a couple of the winners, and found out that I was sitting next to a couple more.

One of the best measures of the party itself was that six weeks later, I got a letter from Britain mentioning it. A good fraction of the convention was there, and I'm pretty sure every one of the notables except Forry. (There were four Americans at the con: myself, Forry Ackerman, and Norman Spinrad and his wife, Lee, whose last name I don't know. I'd run into Norman and Lee touring in Prague two or three times.) I know the president of the Hungarian fan organization and a Russian publisher were there. There was a young Russian fan who had his own bottle of vodka. Not only did the party go out into the hall, and up the hall, it even extended onto the stairs next to the elevators. It went until 4 a.m! Yuri said it was:

"The best party in the history of Slovakia!"

Where people are still putting up graffiti about Dubcek, the hero of '68, since he's a Slovak and Vlaslav Havel is a Czech.

LoonVention

by Joe Wesson

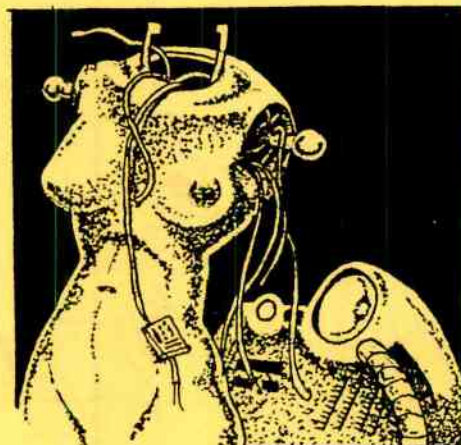
LOONVENTION, what is it? LOONVENTION began as the deranged brainchild of two Saint Paul fans, David Stever and Joe Wesson. Anyone acquainted with these two gentlemen know that nothing good could come of it all. There are only two necessary events for a World Science Fiction Convention, Hugo Awards and a business meeting. And that defines the LOONVENTION concept. A worldcon where the only scheduled events are these two things. A joke? Of course.

LOONVENTION, are they serious? Mr. Stever, of course, is not. He has retired from active fanac and now functions as only an icon for the present committee. However, unfortunately, the LOONVENTION committee is serious. Mr. Wesson remains on the committee in the capacity of Co-Chair. This is not good. Mr. Wesson thinks the only operative criteria for choosing the hotel is to pick the hotel with the best bar. That is one of his saner ideas. Fortunately the committee's other two Co-Chairs, John Bartelt and Lucy Huntzinger, are armed with a stun gun and a cattle prod, respectively. The committee thinks this Worldcon business has gotten out of hand. It has become far too much like the real world. They mean to put an end to the intrusion of reality into fandom. They function much like a cult. Ms. Huntzinger is routinely addressed as, "your sacred highness," by committee members crawling towards her on their stomachs. Live chickens are often sacrificed to celebrate Mr. Bartelt's birthday. Mr. Wesson's presence on the committee is tolerated because the members are mesmerized by his accuracy with a starsight equipped .308 rifle. These people are not to be trusted to maintain the Worldcon status quo.

LOONVENTION, where and when? Labor day weekend, 1997, in Minneapolis, at a hotel of Mr. Wesson's choosing. However, no one who lives in the Twin Cities metropolitan area is allowed to be an official member of the committee. No one knows why, but Mr. Stever likes it that way.

LOONVENTION, how can I join? Pre-supporting memberships are at present available only for cash donations made in person to one of the three Co-Chairs. If you wish to become a committee member, I fear that there are several initiation rituals involved that will certainly change your mind.

((Minn-Stf has absolutely, positively nothing to do with this. Just to be absolutely, positively clear about that. — ed.))



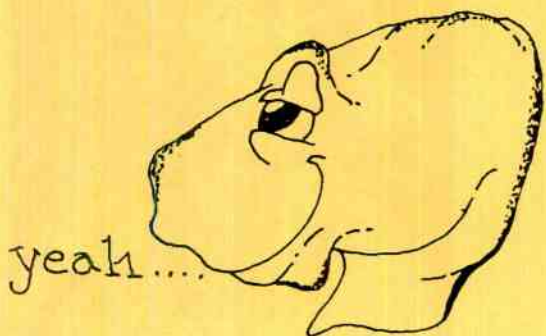
28

Microprogramming: The Lost Episodes

by David E Romm

Microprogramming is an idea which was sparked by Gary Farber and Patrick Then Hayden at Suncon; if I remember correctly, they came up with the name and the concept of doing little bits between panels. But everyone was too busy and nothing materialized. In 1979, when I moved to Mpls and got involved with Programming at Minicon under David Emerson, the idea really took off. I was also inspired by the idea in Chip Delany's *Triton* of Micro Theatre: Elaborate productions designed to affect one person. Encouraged by Rick Gellman (for a long time Mpls' only true smof), Microprogramming evolved quickly into many oddities. I like to call it, "The re-creation of vaudeville", but it is much more (and much less!) than that. It is, among other things, conceptual art in it's purest form; what is now called performance art. As such, almost any Microprogramming event tends to get performed once, and then forgotten in the swirl of Minicon. I generally define 'conceptual art' as "Something more fun to describe afterward than to live through". Being Fan GoH at the 1990 Minicon set me to recollecting some of my favorite Microprogramming events, and this article is a continuation of my editorial in *Rune* 80.

The Theme for the 1983 Minicon was "Backward Into The Future". (I ordered lollipops with the stick emblazoned with the theme.) We ran the convention backwards: Thursday night was the Dead Dog Party, Closing Ceremonies started things off on Friday, we went through the con until Opening Ceremonies on Sunday, and then had the Pre-Con Parties on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. I knew it was going to be too conceptual to get a big laugh, but at the very first Microprogramming event of the 1984 Minicon, I held the Organizational Meeting for the previous Minicon. (Fortunately, we decided to go ahead with it.)



One of the more elaborate productions occurred during an Art Auction. I asked Joan Hanke Woods if I could auction off the rights to all her future works. "No!!!" was her initial response before I explained it was all in fun and she agreed. Rick Gellman then took over the auctioneering from Rusty Hevelin, and gave a long introductory speech about auctioning Joan's work, with the proceeds going to the Mid-Atlantic Fan Fund so that we could send one deserving fan halfway across the Atlantic Ocean. While Rick was talking, Rusty (who had seen Rick and I conspiring) came back to where I had planted myself at the edge of the crowd and whispered, ("What's going on?")

At this point, Rick finished his speech and started the auction. "All right, how much do I hear for the rights to the future works of Joan Hanke Woods. C'mon folks, let's hear it." The audience sat in stunned silence. I had no time to explain to Rusty.

"\$100,000!" I yelled. To Rusty I whispered, ("Bid against me").

("What?")

("Bid against me!")

"Um, \$110,000."

"\$120,000!!!"

Minicon audiences are quick and smart. This was all the incentive needed to incite a wild, fun-filled bidding spree. I eventually won (because it was rigged) at seven years worth of the Gross National Product of the U.S. (Theoretically, If I ever come up with the cash, I could give it to Joan [minus Minicon's 10%] and own the rights to all her works from that time on. Of course, then I would be the prime candidate for MAFF...)

While I like to repeat the best events, some Microprogramming is topical, and therefore I can't use them for too many years. This one went over well for quite a while:

Between panels, Rick and I went to the front table and talked to each other. (Dialog re-created as best I can.)

"How is your future looking?"

"Not so good. My psychohistorian isn't sure about many future timelines, and the ones he *is* sure about don't look so good for me.

"Well, my psychohistorian is Hari Seldon, and Seldon says..."

The first time we did it, I had a few shills leap up and cup their hands to their ears. The audience caught on and did likewise almost immediately. I never used shills after the first time.

"Consult Hari Seldon for all your future history needs. Hari Seldon is mulish on the Galaxy."

The first time I tried this topical event was the most conceptually pure. During 1979-81, Minicon's consuite was one floor above the last elevator stop. You'd have to get out into the hallway on the 20th floor and walk up to the party.

On the first floor, the elevator filled up with fans. When the doors closed, I announced, "Ok, this is an Official Microprogramming Event. See, here's my Department Head Badge. When the doors open, we're going to say, in unison, 'We are the elevator that says "NIH!"'. Let's try it..." We had time for a rehearsal or two before the elevator stopped on one of the middle floors. As the doors opened, the entire elevator full of fans exclaimed, "We are the elevator that says 'NIH!'" There was no one there. A fan got off.

"Ok, that was good, but at the next stop, let's really hear it!" A few floors up we stopped and we cheered, "We are the elevator that says 'NIH!'" There was no one there. Another fan got off.

As we approached the top floor, I said, "This time for sure!" Together we shouted, "WE ARE THE ELEVATOR THAT SAYS "NIH!" There was, alas, no one there. In later years, however, I've heard from fans who were in the consuit who heard us, that lonely day, and wondered...

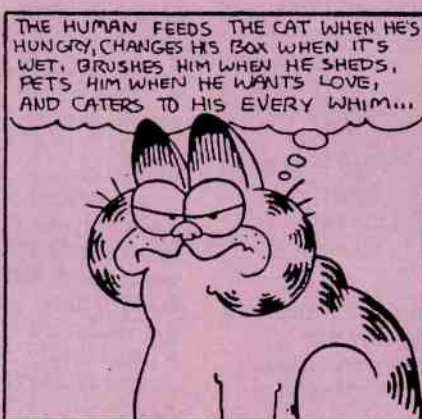
In general, I regard Opening and Closing Ceremonies as Microprogramming events. Opening Ceremonies included the introduction of the notables, announcements, and other stuff. The first couple of years the 'other stuff' was general mayhem, with a Mardi Gras parade and flash paper and other festive things welcoming fans to Minicon. Starting in 1981, the 'other stuff' became a SHOCKWAVE live performance. SHOCKWAVE is the science fiction radio show I have produced with various other radio people and/or fans since 1979 and we really go all out for Minicon. The last three have been broadcast live (simulcast!) on KFAI 90.3 FM. The most recent one was our tenth, and something of a retro-

spective, "Amongst The Best Of SHOCKWAVE Live!: Vol. III". We have tapes of all of them, and even sold scripts for the last one! My favorite introduction of notables had Alice Phoenix translate the Toastmaster, Robert Bloch, into sign language.

Closing Ceremonies is generally an excuse for the Assassination of the MN-STF president, a tradition established by Denny Lien. I usually don't have to do an awful lot for that, except to make sure that it gets done and make sure the stage is set up properly. In recent years the event has gotten larger and larger, with the various GoH's showing up and occasionally speaking and us performing bits of leftover SHOCKWAVE bits (when you're doing a live broadcast, you always write extra material Just In Case).

Well, there's lots more to write about: helium fish balloons, throwing 25 lbs. of dry ice in the jacuzzi, Brian Westley hanging upside down in the elevator, Nostradamus predictions about Minicon, retroactively declaring other people's events to have been Microprogramming, the drum jam in the elevator, the Thought Police, the world's longest back-rub line, etc., etc. But I won't. Let me end with one of the first, and one of the purest examples of, Microprogramming events.

Theodore Sturgeon was our Pro GoH in 1979, and he was scheduled to do a reading. The panel before the reading was a faannish one, with Jerry Kaufman (co-Fan GoH for the 1991 Minicon) and others. I discussed an idea with the panelists and Ted beforehand and we went ahead with it. As the time for the panel to end was coming up, David Emerson played a song on the piano. The panelists got up and started going around the table. I took one chair away, and David stopped playing. The panelists scrambled to sit down. Minus one disappointed member, they continued to talk for a minute or two. David started playing again, the panelists went around the table, I took another chair away... When only two panelists were left, Ted joined the line marching around the table. I took two chairs away and carefully timed when David should stop. The closest person to the one chair left, Ted, scrambled to the chair and calmly started his reading. He was interrupted only by the wild applause from the audience.



Some Thoughts On Collecting

by Rick Gellman

Garth asked me to write something about collecting since he wanted to collect articles about collecting for an issue of RUNE that people could collect if they wanted to collect them. So far I've been collecting bad starts for this article. This is my fifth try at making a start on this — and my best start yet. Trust me, you don't want to see the earlier four starts. Very not interesting. Nothing that grabbed you by the pleasure center and says "HEY! I WANT TO READ THIS! IT LOOKS ENTERTAINING," or maybe; "HMMM, POSSIBLY THIS WILL ENERVATE THE ENNUI," or, (stroke, stroke) "THIS MIGHT BE DIVERTING OR ENJOYABLE. TRACK ON, TRACK ON, O ORBS OF SIGHT!" Alright, so maybe, maybe more than maybe, this start doesn't elicit those paeans of praise either. Still, it comes a helluva lot closer. (Those earlier openings were ghastly dull.)

Well, where to start . . . and for that matter, where to middle, and where to end? I seem to have switched to collecting questions.

You know, collecting is easier than thinking and writing about collecting. Now I seem to be collecting bushes to beat around while I'm waiting for some brilliant insights to miraculously burst into my consciousness with a flash of genius — thereby convincing myself that I have the capacity to be the recipient of those bursting flashes . . . or, at least, for some artful and expressive gaggle of words to appear and thus delight and intrigue the passing photons that are reflected into the rods and cones of the eye, and then transmitted to the optic nerve, relayed to the brain, and processed electrochemically so that the memory can match the squiggles to the concept abstractions that words represent and that these particular squiggles represent as visual correspondents to word abstractions, and thereby render them understandable, and hopefully, meaningful, takes more time, space and energy than is warranted or desirable . . . as well as leaving scant shelter for any poetic allusions — should any happen to wander by anywhere (which I admit is not too likely here) — but, one doesn't want to, exclude hope — how would Pandora feel? — or Robert McNamara?; who as Kennedy and Johnson's Secretary of Defense, in the early and mid-60's taught us to try to leave options open as long as possible. Next sentence, please, Maestro.

And here it is, Ladies and Gentlemen, right on cue . . . the next sentence . . . and, it is also . . . Yes! I can see by the cultural clue for written American English at the start of this sentence, it is also the start of a new paragraph! What syntax!

What grammar! What . . . huh, . . . oh, uh, sure. Excuse me, folks. I've just been reminded that this is supposed to be an article on collecting, and the self-editor thinks this is enough cutesy and word play . . . and a long enough introduction (he said the bushes I've collecting to beat around need pruning) and I should get on with the body of the article. I culpate abashed. So please forgive my excesses and proceed to the next paragraph which will actually talk about the topic — that is . . . collecting. Thank you for your indulgence and patience. (Ok, ok, so I took an extra few words . . . no, NO, listen I was just trying to be polite and apologize. Jeez!)

I'm not a collector of the formal kind. I am a collector of the lazy, packrat, and least resistance kind. Sort of I don't so much fly as plummet — if I may steal a line from Monty Python's Flying Circus — and I have, but, at least, I credit my source. What I mean is I'm not an organized collector who knows what he has and what he needs to complete the collection. I do not believe that one has to be a completist to be a collector. A collector is one who collects. Many, perhaps most, collectors collect one or only a few things. It could be stamps, Mickey Mouse memorabilia, baseball cards, dead smurfs . . . whatever.

In contrast, I sporadically collect anything that crosses my path that I need or want or feel is interesting, or get again because I don't know where the one, or more, of something I have is . . . and feel it is not worth the effort or expense to find out where it is. Let me explain. I have a collection of old kitchen gear. I don't know how many pots and pans and other such stuff I have, nor exactly where they are. I know generally where they are — in my storage room at a commercial self-storage warehouse. It has gotten full. Literally full — top to bottom, side to side, and front to back. There is only a little room in the front to get me into the storage area. It is not worth the time, effort, or expense (since I now have to hire someone to climb around and shift boxes in the upper reaches), to find something when I can get another of whatever kitchen item I want easier by buying another, preferably used. So whatever I have from previous moves gets collected. I don't want to throw it out since I expect to use it again. Often it seems my moves, or usage, gets delayed. Things get shifted around, new stuff comes in, things get straightened up . . . and boxes get lost track of, and when I finally look for something, frequently I can't find it. So the cycle gets repeated.

I am now having friends go through storage and give stuff to friends to hold, use . . . and have a lot of it thrown out and close down my storage area. I was only supposed to have things in storage for a short while in 1986 while I relocated to the West Coast. I was thinking of the Pacific Northwest. Well, life happened to me and now five years later I'm still in Minnesota.

I think people start collecting for a variety of reasons, including, I believe, in my case, such diverse motivations as joy and fear. There is a sense of satisfaction in having, and showing to others, the things one collects. The pots and pans and other kitchen paraphernalia are excluded from this part of the discussion. They were collected out of neither joy nor fear but out of laziness and practicality. These are two more motivations for collecting, or, at least, accumulating.

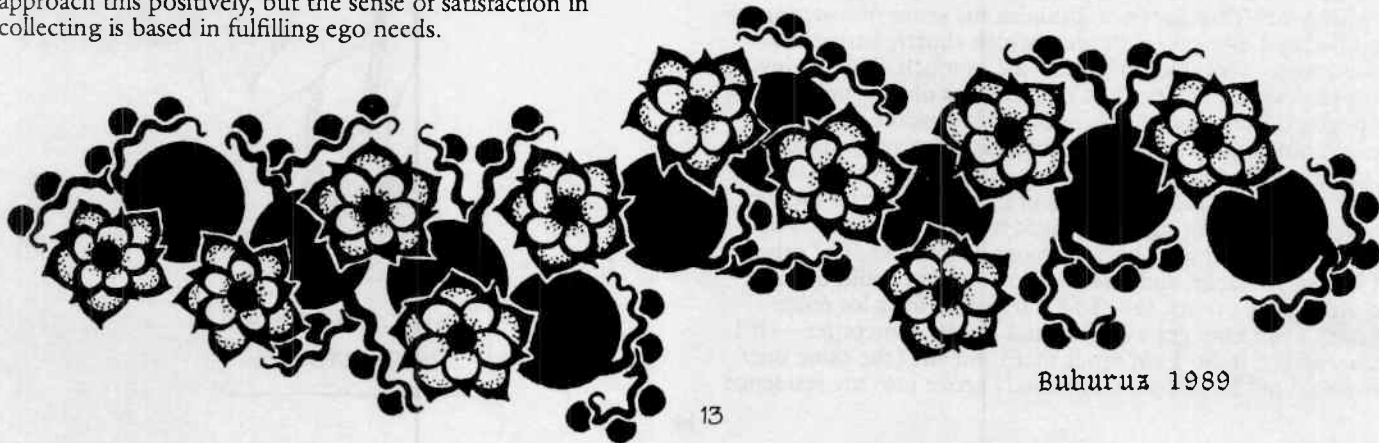
There is a joy, a sense of satisfaction and well-being, from looking at, or otherwise experiencing one's collection. I find I, and I expect others also, get those feelings from sharing a collection with others. Then too, these can be feelings of pride, smugness, and superiority from showing off one's collections. Come come my friends . . . are we not fen? Is not this the "real world"? Can we deny that even such as we (or, at least, some of we), let alone the less slinish, can experience those emotions that we connotatively relegate to less worthy reflections of the human need towards self-aggrandizement in defense, and support, of our innate inner image? (I personally attempt to eschew these base motivations.) So while we may slightly suffer the sensations of shabby callowness . . . if we are reflective enough . . . bolstering our ego needs not be evil. So let us not rehash further restive ruminations of these sly conceits and concentrate instead on reconnoitering restorative raconteuring of internal affirmations of our positive motives. For if we do that then these negalings and sharings become repositories for positive instead of negative ego-tripping. Ego-boo be thou not proud.

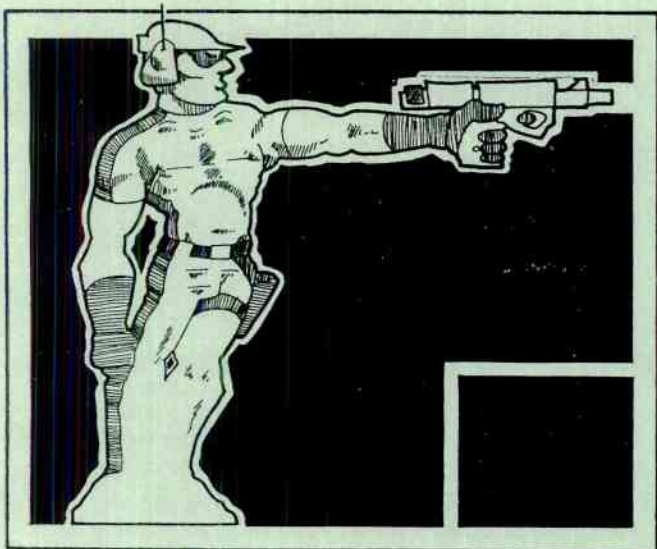
Let me clarify what I mean about positive and negative ego-tripping . . . in English — in case it got lost in the spoofery above. Positive ego-tripping is when we find a way to feel good about ourself in a positive fashion. It says, "I'm ok, because I've done something good." In terms of collecting, one says to one's self, "I'm ok, because I've put time, energy, and resources into gathering this collection — and this is what I have to show for my efforts." Negative ego-tripping is when one feels good about oneself by tearing down others in one's mind, or in actions, so as to seem better in comparison. Someone seduced by the dark side of the collection (use the forceps, Luke) thinks, "I'm ok because I have this collection, and you're shit because you don't." Hopefully we approach this positively, but the sense of satisfaction in collecting is based in fulfilling ego needs.



The aspect of fear alludes to hanging on to something one has acquired because if you don't hang on to it, if you don't collect it, you won't have it when you want or need it. Maybe you'll want to use it again. Maybe you won't find another. Maybe your collection won't be big enough.

As I work on this article, Angie Barry is trying to reduce what I have in storage, finding friends to store some items, and to throw out, give away, or otherwise dispose of things so I can eventually close my storage area that was only supposed to be temporary in the first place — remember? The other day she asked me a really good question. Do I want to hang on to my National Geographics? I . . . don't know. Well, yes . . . and no. I mean I'd like to keep them because they're informational, the pictures are wonderful — that's an average between some that are ok, some that aren't particularly interesting to me even if well shot . . . and some that are breathtakingly spectacular, and I found National Geographic useful when I performed "Dr. Knowledge" before. I would probably find them useful again if I decided to revive Dr. K. in the future. Also, I'd love to keep the maps. I've collected the last 5 or 6 years worth. Todd Levitt got me started when he gifted me with a subscription (actually a membership to the National Geographic Society). But, I also know that otherwise I'm unlikely to look at them again . . . and they're dead weight and take up space. So I should get rid of them because I need to get rid of stuff in storage and they mean less to me than some other things do. But I'm afraid I won't have them if I need them again. Even libraries get rid of old Nat. Geos. — altho I suppose they keep them on microfilm. While I want the maps, I think it's unfair to ask Angie or anyone to go through them to save the maps. So I'm still dithering. No, that's no longer true. It's old information. I've stopped dithering since I first drafted this. Garth has decided he'd like to have them to look through. Bless you. Enjoy. Hey, can you pull out the maps and put them together in a pile while you're looking? Thanks.





Collecting things even when they're stored in a warehouse, can have psychological benefits if one has the appropriate mind-set to appreciate it that way. Maybe this is no more than a security blanket effect. I get warm fuzzies just from knowing I have books, records, etc. Especially books. So I got the cool unfuzzies? the cold smoothies? the heat-loss rigidities? . . . damned pissed! When I found out a (now-ex) "friend" was taking boxes, whole boxes, 10-12 boxes, of my books that he was being hired to transport from storage to Garth's, (and didn't — Garth had to go get them) and selling them — as his, at Uncle Hugo's. They accepted 6 boxes of them. I have no idea if, or where, he might have sold off the boxes they didn't take. I no longer have 600? 1000? 1200? books I've been collecting for years. Books I wanted . . . for themselves, and because they were among my most valued, and valuable, assets. He got \$160 from Uncle Hugo's and ? from elsewhere? for books I could have sold, if I chose to, for \$2000?, \$3000?, more? This gives me a unique, and unwanted, opportunity to test my "security blanket" hypothesis.

Did this make me feel a sense of loss that was psychological, and beyond the actual physical — and fiscal loss? Yes, I think so. Having books to read is, for me, a form of security. I'll amend that. Having books, SF books, that I want to read, enough books to last me the rest of my life . . . even if I go broke and can't afford to buy more, is a form of security. I still have a lot of boxes of books left. Most of them are probably SF. This does not diminish my sense of loss, anger, and betrayal. My two vcr's were stolen shortly before my books were. This doesn't bother me as much. They're just property. Valuable, yes. One of them was old enough to have copyguard over-ride built in, making it possible to copy rented movies, if I so chose. Some years ago manufacturers discontinued adding this feature, which I believe was intended as a stabilizer to help insure getting a better picture from the incoming signal, because it upset the industry as video rentals and sales became more prominent. The other vcr was a portable, and attached to a camera could be used to record live events. OK, so it's true that for a lot more money I can now get a smaller and lighter camcorder — if I could afford it. So I am upset that someone (the same thief who sold my books? someone else?) broke into my residence

and stole them. I can't afford to replace the vcrs, and I've lost capabilities I may not be able to replace. I definitely feel a sense of loss and anger. Psychologically, however, it feels somewhat different to me. Books mean more to me. They are the heart of my collecting.

I should mention that the person who took my books is not a fan, nor an SF reader, and none of you know him (except for Garth, Angie, and folks at Uncle Hugo's — unless he also went to Dreamhaven), or are likely to meet him. He just had a chance to steal from me because he was trusted (I've known him for years) and I wasn't there to keep him honest.

Before I sidetracked myself with these events of this Fall of 1991, I was saying I felt good about having collected various things. I am a packrat, which I imagine relates to the security blanket effect. As such, I probably have a compulsive need to accumulate stuff. Perhaps I should differentiate between collecting and accumulating . . . which I haven't done in this article. I wonder if there is a significant difference, if they fulfill the same psychological needs? Sometimes I think I am consciously collecting and sometimes I feel I am just acquiring and keeping.

Does collecting, to some extent, act as a deterrent to loneliness? I think it might. As I reflect on this, I believe it does make me feel less alone. So does a TV that's turned on. So this may not say much. Then again, isn't fighting loneliness, for animals as social as humans, as important as feeling secure? Just another psychological benefit of collecting brought to you by your better brain bureau.

Another couple of reasons for collecting are for investment or for preservation. These are not among my motivations. Well, occasionally peripherally. I've collected a few items in part because I thought they'd accrue in value or were relatively rare. Those who truly collect for those reasons take better care and are more likely, where their investment is concerned, to have it insured, indexed, etc.

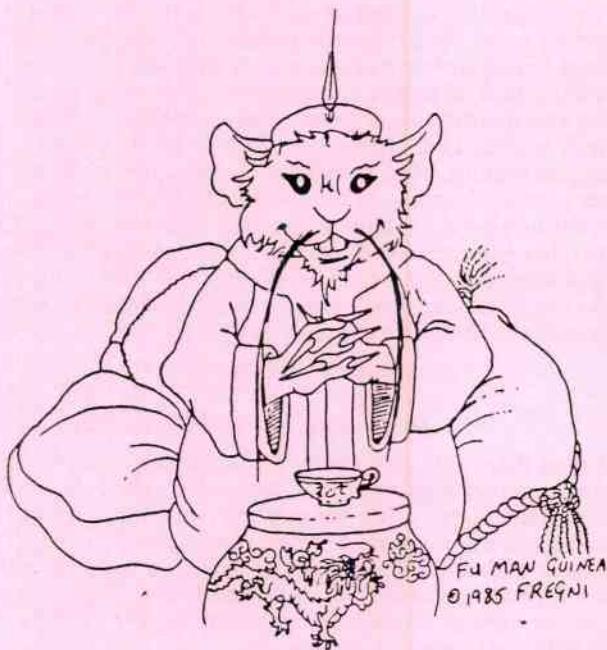


FANAC NOW COMES
IN SPRAYCANS

I was thinking of art collections specifically when I mentioned that someone might collect something for preservation. It need not be art — or even artificial. Seeds are being collected of plants that are in danger of extinction, for example. Private efforts to collect for preservation are relatively rare, I imagine, without being too uncommon. The collector might be keenly interested in something that he or she recognizes might be lost or destroyed because it's worth or intrinsic value or importance is not generally recognized. I suppose someone might have a humanitarian impulse and collect something the collector doesn't otherwise personally care about because that person has a sense of history that compels saving whatever it is. It is more likely that the collector notices the importance or value of something because of already being interested in that subject.

The only things I've collected that come to mind as being items of some real monetary value are books, maybe a few records, and a couple of pieces of artwork. Nothing I collect is worth a lot of money compared to what really valuable things of that type would go for.

Since Garth wants me to turn this in soon, I'll mention one last, and certainly not least, aspect of collecting — it's fun and interesting . . . for those who collect. It's true for me. I usually enjoy going off to places to look for things I'm interested in. Sometimes I feel I have to do it when I'm more interested in doing something else, or in doing nothing. So I imagine others may also feel driven on occasions. I like stopping at yard sales and flea markets, and book stores and record shops . . . when I'm in the mood. Some people may pursue additional entries for their collections systematically, and occasionally I've done that for a particular item. Usually I just wing it.



Finally I should mention those things I've collected that come to mind immediately. These are material things I've collected as opposed to immaterial things I collect — like words and information. I've collected books, records, audio tapes (most recently, ie., the last few years, "new-age" music and songs I like from the radio — specifically from KTCZ-97.1 FM here in Minneapolis-St. Paul. This is so I have radio I like when I travel. I currently enjoy the variety of radio more than albums . . . most of the time), video tapes (mostly PBS shows on nature, science, politics, history, culture, etc), calendars (I cut them up and put the pictures up around my home mostly), turtles (turtle items and pictures, altho I've had live turtles as pets — my friends decided 20 years ago that the turtle was my totem), kitchen stuff (for use, not show) National Geographics and some other magazines at various times), postcards, maps, matchbooks, and kitsch. Yard sales and flea markets, but especially yard/house/garage sales are great for kitschy stuff. I love finding things that are silly and stupid and campy and sharing them with my friends because I am constantly amazed at the variety and quantity of useless, or gaudy, or tasteless things that some manufacturer thought he could make a profit on, using up valuable resources, because some people with no sense or taste, would spend money on it. And he was right! I can tell because here it is at somebody's yard sale and the buyer is now getting rid of it for 25 or 50 cents . . . and sometimes for free! And maybe, just maybe, it might end up in my collection. So many things have.

HELLO AGAIN

by JEANNE MEALY

Well, hi. * blush * Long time no hear, I know. Yes, I was a guilty part of the editorial team that dropped the Rune ball, lo these several years (ACK!) ago. Please accept my personal apology — I never thought it would happen, as it has to previous fanzine editors. (“We’re different!”) I’m sure you’re wondering how and why it happened. If you’re interested, read on . . .

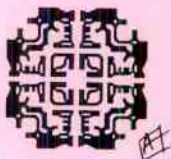
As I see it, perfectionism is one of the things that caused the weird and wacky team of Romm and Mealy to let Rune slip out of our fingers. We’re both perfectionists, and that’s dangerous. Perfectionists like to get everything PERFECT, and are rarely satisfied with letting anything less go by. As the pile of work grew, we became discouraged at ever being able to handle it all as we prefer. I apply this attitude to my other written fanac as well — apas (amateur press associations) and fanzines. This means approaching every apazine, every loc (letter of comment), with the attitude that I will give my all. I figure each person (or editorial team) deserves a personal letter at the very least. As you might imagine, this takes a lot of time. I’m shamefully behind on writing locs, and have every intention of whittling that pile down — so don’t be too surprised if you get a loc on a two-year-old zine!

“I DON’T want to think about Gilligan as God!”

I’m going to wimp out on a technical angle, too. For nearly five years, I’ve been using an Amstrad with very outdated software and a slow printer for my home writing. When I bought the package (monitor, keyboard and printer for \$500) from Sears, it was a good deal. Unfortunately, this machine was not compatible with anything we were using to do Rune and many of its actions were unbelievably slow. My non-Rune material took unduly long to process and left insufficient time for you-know-what. I’m going to upgrade to something better RSN. Wish me luck. I enjoy many features of word processors/computers, but have a touch of technophobia that makes it hard to understand and retain enough information to make rational decisions on What I Need.

“Heaven is a roomful of Rubik’s Cubes
and a sledgehammer.”

—Attributed to Joe’s mother by Joe.



Dave tried to help, offering to share the secrets of the Macintosh. We’d fallen into a bad pattern, though, of working too hard for too long to get an issue out. Then I’d want to back off for awhile to recoup. Coming over to play with the Mac and learn what it could do seemed too much like work. And, when the next issue came along, I didn’t feel right taking the time to learn more about the Mac. Just wanted to Get It Done, y’know? I’d occasionally type in some material — but more often spent hours sitting with the resident Mac wizard, watching in impatient ignorance as he communed with the electronic marvel to produce the layouts. This was Boring and No Fun.

“He’s got putrid, putrid jokes . . . He’s funny.”

—(Lori Purcell about ?)

Another reason for what happened is the distraction factor. This area has a number of very enjoyable diversions. Contrary to popular opinion, our recreation is hardly limited to shoveling snow. We have many restaurants, two flavors of theaters (some with live talent, others with talent on film), shows (musical, dramatic, comedy, etc.), shopping, sight-seeing and recreational opportunities, many special events, festivals and the like. My interests include cross-country skiing, ice skating, biking, watching an antique sleigh and cutter parade, shopping at the World’s Largest Rummage Sale, sitting elbow to elbow with a half-dozen other fans for dinner, braving the crowds and toeing the geek/kitsch line for amusement at the State Fair, oohing and aahing at fireworks (many times a year), and — I could easily fill the entire page with the things there are to do!

“I can make it rain Cheezies.”

— Bob Webber

(not a local, but this WAS said at Minicon)

And then there’s the fannish fun, with dozens of active fans getting together regularly for an incredible variety of reasons. For instance, there’s a Mn-Stf meeting every other weekend, at least three or four annual conventions, special parties (like New Year’s) that qualify as small conventions, apa collations, group expeditions to see movies and bands, moving parties (when the mouths move as fast as the hands, the job gets done with fun!), writer’s groups, etc.

“I’ve never had a fudge rabbit — but I’ve
seen the insides of one.”

— Terry Garey, at the consuite
Easter candy orgy table

While I don't think most of us are the crazy Minneapolis fans of lore any more, I do believe there's enough genuinely interesting, friendly people to keep things lively. I've scattered some quotes throughout this article overheard at various gatherings. These will give you a hint of what our conversations and thinking patterns can produce. A good sense of humor is nearly a universal characteristic here – or am I being a regionalist, appropriating a common fannishness quality for the Minnesota branch? Naaahhh. From what I've heard of other fan groups, there IS something unique about people here. We aren't always as smooth as we'd like to be, and there are tensions and screw-ups more than occasionally – yet there's an attitude of "Let's pull together" when necessary. Even disagreements are handled with civility, in general. ("Puns at 10 paces. The one left standing obviously has no taste and must leave the Mn-Stf meeting – or become club president.")

At Giovanna's kosher wine tasting (kedem? kosher champagne):

"A little dry firewater, but amusing" – John Stanley

"That was really weird." – Dave Romm

"Flirty and fresh . . . not bad." – Val Lies

"I thought it was champagne – with a little bit of chlorine in it." – David Cummer

"All the calories, half the taste." – John Stanley

"It's confusing rather than offensive to the palette."
– David Schlosser

"Smoooooooooth." – Fred Levy Haskell and the Music Party

Do I need to mention the out-of-town distractions of families, conventions and friends from all over the U.S. – and the world?

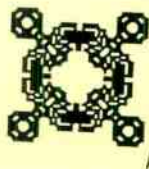
Work demands also made an impact on our available time. Dave, became employed full-time and found himself unthrilled about doing computer stuff at home when he did it for hours at work. Understandable!

And then there are the miscellaneous addictions and responsibilities at home which all take time and energy: Reading, TV, playing with cats, maintaining a household, and trying not to lose each other in the shuffle.

Well. That's my version of What Happened to Rune – a combination of factors ranging from schedule and workstyle mismatches, being financially responsible, and the lure of fun things (other than Rune) to do. I'm not proud of it all, but finally had to accept that things weren't working. What's ahead for Rune? Some very creative folks are planning some very special things (with your help), that's all I know for sure. I greatly appreciate Garth allowing me to have my say this time, and hope to contribute in the future.

"I have one of those (indicating a mammoth wearing a propeller beanie)".

– female fan whose identity I've forgotten.
(Did she mean the mammoth, the beanie, or both?)



Here are some personal updates since I last wrote in Rune.

I struggled with a job I hated (word processing for two nitpicky bosses in the sales department of the Greater Minneapolis Convention & Visitors Association), and finally resolved that I had to leave. I'd been job-hunting and doing temp work for several years, so this was a very difficult decision. When I mentioned my resolve to several people, they were shocked – and told me about a job opening.

"Burping by proxy" – to show appreciation of supper, hire a surrogate to handle the talk for everyone at the table.

(Marianne)

While I didn't get that job, I did become a Tourism/Promotion Assistant! This involves helping the PR, Tourism and Membership departments with clerical stuff, managing the media library (slides, photos, videos) and sending information to people writing articles or doing brochures to promote conventions. This includes a number of promotional articles about this area that I greatly enjoyed writing! I also help with the publications we produce – typing and proofing copy, that sort of thing. Three times a year I produce the calendar of events. And yes, there are some unpleasant aspects. Everyone dresses well, which isn't easy for me to do. Another dislike (to put it mildly) is being one of the support staff who must help out the person who does the switchboard/reception job. This is usually just for breaks and lunch, sometimes more.

In summary: I have two personable, talented bosses who are happy with my efforts, and a job with mostly-positive aspects. Yay!

"The time Mark and I huddled under Victor's kilt . . ."

– Giovanna

It's true, I've been a bit fafiated (forced away from it all). Even so, fandom holds strong appeals for me. I'm toying with the thought of dropping an apazine or two and doing a personalzine. I look forward to attending conventions and local activities, and contributing to fandom's written network of apazines and fanzines (including Rune). *Viva fanac!*



A Barbarian Guide To House Buying

or

Don't Bother To Wrap The Village, I'll Eat It Here

by Sue Grandys

Part-Time Homeowner/Part-Time Trying-To-Pay-For-It

The Barbarian bought a HOUSE? How utterly civilized! Well, it was an accident.. I really didn't mean to...I'll never do it again...It was so, so PRETTY!

After all, one does need someplace to stash the piles o' loot, the mooses, bears, penguins, the furs, booty, plunder, and stacks of men. The whole idea of Barbarianism is to acquire things, after all, and you can't very well haul all that stuff around.

Take my advice, a Barbarian should not go through normal channels to buy a house. It's awful, unwieldy, complex, and downright no fun. In the good old days you could get a home simply by starting a little war, or storming the castle walls, or by having a nice long siege. Simple.

If you MUST get a house the newfangled way (making an offer, real estate agents, loan officers, mortgage companies, lawyers, points, addendums, closings, taxes, fees, filing costs — WHO THOUGHT OF ALL THIS NONSENSE!!!) then here are some simple tips to get you through without killing EVERYONE!

1. First make a list of your needs. Castle, Hovel, or Something else? (Now ignore your needs and just go for the Hovel. It's easier. They figure out what you can afford by dividing your age into your licence plate number and multiplying it by 3 — or something like that.)

2. The loan officer is NOT your friend, no matter what he says. He is devil spawn from Hell, and is here to torture you mercilessly.

3. Get a very nice real estate agent. They are really there to babysit you (and to keep you from killing people). You WILL behave like an insane 4 year old through the whole home buying process. Don't worry about it, everyone does.

4. Practice a really sarcastic, scornful laugh. You will need it whenever someone tells you how much the house costs.

5. Now, go forth and look at houses. This is the only fun part of the whole process, so prolong it as much as possible. Better get a wimpy agent though, especially if you plan to look at a couple of billion houses or more.

6. Don't believe that crap that you will "know" when you have found THE HOUSE. That you will feel a "special something" in the RIGHT ONE. What you actually buy is the very next house you see after you become completely disgusted with the whole process, and so exhausted that you'd rather barf than look at one more house, and your real estate agent threatens to kill you....

7. Just make sure it has the basics: walls, floor, ceiling, jacuzzi, huge fireplace for roasting oxen, built-in men, vault, decks, stables, armory, gymnasium...MWUPHW! (Sorry, my agent just hit me up the side of the head.)

8. You will have plenty of time to sack England while the mortgage company is deciding to approve your loan.

9. Park your army on the front lawn of the new house so the sellers get the work orders done in time, and don't delay closing.

10. At the closing, they will give you 20 million pieces of paper and expect you to sign them ALL! I ate them.

Now for the home buyers recipes:

BUYERS NIGHTCAP

Alka Seltzer, Tums, Roloids, Maalox

Teddy Bear

Blankie

Some water.

Chew, Drink or Hug all of the above. If you get them mixed up you won't notice. Take some Valium and go to bed.



Runelocs

There is a nice pile of locs here. Time, space and age considerations force me to limit the amount of space devoted to letters. I'm just going to dip into the pile and see what I can come up with.

[Comments in brackets and italics are mine — Garth]

TOM DIGBY: Mention of possible hecto covers on Rune points up one advantage of computer technology: If you have a dot-matrix printer that will do hecto masters you can create the design in the computer and make as many identical masters of it as you need. I would think that any printer that claims to handle multiple-part forms and has a sheet feed option could handle hecto or ditto masters.

[Sure sounds good to me, anyone want to give it a try? I sure as hell don't. I am thinking about learning how to marbelize paper for a fanzine cover, but lordy I would not want to have to do 600 of the buggers, woo, killer. Think of all the pieces of paper lying about the house drying. Our plan is to do the zine photocopied because I can get really cheap copying at the place where I work. We can do 4 issues of 30-odd pages for the cost of two all offset issues. Makes sense to me. Unfortunately, the method of production chosen does not lend itself to wrap around covers. See next letter.]

DAVID THAYER (Teddy Harvia): The detail Kathy (Marschall) was putting into the inking of our RUNE cover left me agog. It was hilarious how each of us was trying to give the other all the credit. Ook, ook.

[The cover is 11 by 17 inches. Rather than not use the cover because of the format change we decided to have two covers. Shep's cover will be on the front and the cover by Kathy Marschall and Teddy Harvia will be underneath. I didn't want the folded cover to be on the top. It's too hard on the cover. I know from experience. The last time I did Rune, David had submitted a nice cover to Rune 62, at Lee Pelton and Carol Kennedy's request, and we went out and commissioned our own cover, the infamous Larry Becker cover. We used David's cover on the back. I later found out that this caused Teddy some bad feelings. I couldn't blame him, I'd probably feel the same way. I'm sure not interested in anything like that now. Is this too serious? Let me know.]

LAURIE D. T. MANN: I applaud your attempt to publish a portfolio of Ken Fletcher's work. In late December, I needed to reach artists in a HURRY to get some art for the Boskone Program Book, and he was the second artist whose phone number I looked for. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to reach him in time. I'm a big fan of his, and I hope something comes of your idea. And, Dave, if you want to write an article on Minicon Microprogramming for Proper Boskonian, I'd be pleased to snap it up!

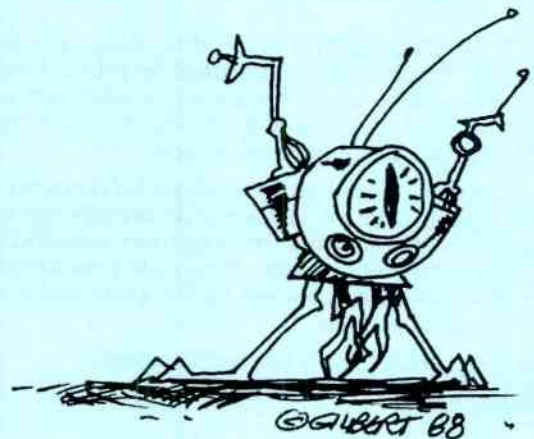
[Sorry, Laurie, we got the Dave article. As for Ken Fletch and the continuing portfolio saga, Ken's cool pal, Tom Foster has been publishing a series of portfolios. BRIXOI. Write Ken and find out the availability of them.]

WALT WILLIS: The moving article was the sort of thing that makes us Europeans nod in appreciation of Americans behaving the right and proper way they are supposed to. This cultural phenomenon, of moving house being treated as a communal activity, is exactly the same as the community housebuilding we have all seen in Westerns. This sort of thing never seems to happen in Europe. The specialty here seems to be demolition.

[Fueled by being a Canadian living in a foreign country, I'm always interested in the difference's of other people. As I occasionally talk about in my own zines, I miss some Canadian food. Cheesenips and certain candy bars mostly. I'd sure like to hear more about this sort of thing from some of our foreign recipients. Lets get some dialogue going.]

DON FITCH: I'm firmly convinced that publishing was far more practical for the impecunious neofan of the past than it is today. 50 to 100 copies would be enough to reach everybody who was anybody, postage was 5 cents each, use of a mimeograph or ditto machine could be scrounged by almost everyone, most could afford paper at a dollar a ream, and the resultant product (if done with reasonable care and attention) could at least look like some of the best fanzines going, and would be taken seriously. The neofan of that era could look at a typical/average fanzine and say, "Gee, I could do something like this" ... and come pretty close to making that true, within a year or so.

[I'll never believe that publishing is ever practical. It's back breaking, mind crushing, spirit deflating hell. Why is it that I love it so? I used to do some of the worst crudzines. Bad mimeo, bad grammar, sloppy and careless layout. Some people said some not nice things. There was this David Emerson piece in an old Rune, "Crudnet", a Dragnet parody. I was in it. Luckily, by the time that was written, I had gotten over some pretty big rejections and was hardened. Also luckily, there were many people who really supported me. Thanks guys and gals.]



MIKE GLICKSOHN: The Guide for Movers was solid advice, eminently sensible, and rather dull. At one time I might have been tempted to say something stupid like "Fans don't need that sort of advice" but after once trying to help Mike Wallis move I know that some of them do. "Fanzine fans don't need to read such advice."? At least not in the pages of a fanzine.

[I don't know Mike, I helped Rick Gellman move a couple of times and he could have used this article. I managed to move all my stuff into my new house, which was the first house that I looked at and I did know it was the place for me, and did a good job without the help of the aforementioned article.]

KAREN SCHAFFER: I'm sending a copy of this letter and a copy of my original Minn-Stf movers article to both of you. (Jeanne and Dave). I finally got around to comparing my copy to what actually got printed, and, as I had suspected, there were quite a number of additions throughout the article. It should be easy to spot them yourselves.

Now, most of the additional points were well-taken and well-incorporated into the text, so I'm not upset. I certainly don't want you to make any big deal out of this. But since you had both told me that my article hadn't been edited much at all, I thought I should bring this to your attention. It would have been nice, for instance, if I had been asked about the additions beforehand. We could even have given Lee (or whoever) co-authoring credit. (I'm mildly embarrassed by the "If you need help in packing/transporting plants..." line, but I'll live.) But if your assistants are routinely editing the articles they're typing, you could have a lot of irate authors someday. Just thought you should know.

[When I compared the two versions there seemed to be about a third more material. The original version reads better. Karen covered sensible material with economy, sense and style. The current version plods along, suffering from overwriting and unnecessary padding.]

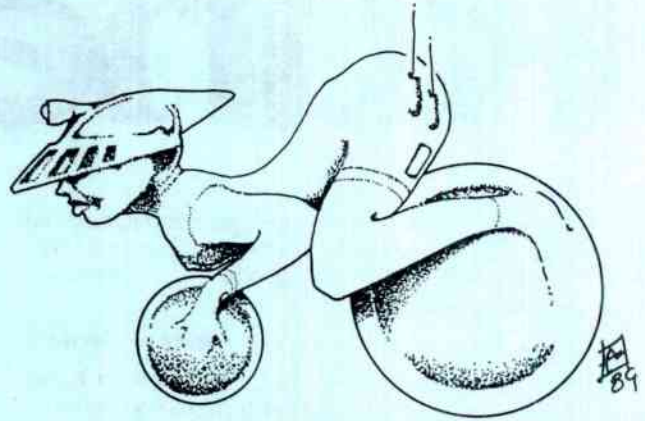
I bring this up not to knock the previous editorial policy, you can't please everyone, lord, don't I know, but to touch on my own personal philosophy. I plan to rewrite very little. I'll do some minor editing, and I did some to Rick's piece. I'll bet even he couldn't find what I did. Ha. My plan concerning rewriting is to have the author do it, and resubmit the article, etc. I think that this is a fair policy. Constructive criticism and rewriting on the part of the writer is the only way for that writer to get the practice to be a better writer.]

CHESTER CUTHBERT: One of my daughters-in-law has shared the "Temp Trauma" described by Jeanne Mealy, and I must remember to show her the article when she next visits us. Each issue of Rune is notable for one reason or another, and I thank you again for sending them.

[Chester was one of those guys that supported me in my early publishing career. He was responsible for introducing me to fandom. We hope to continue making Rune a fanzine with something notable in each issue. Sort of like Crackerjack, only better. After you read it, you can read it again and you still have the prize to play with.]

LISA THOMAS: ...isn't Egoboo wonderful?

[Yeah.]



RUTH ANDERSON: It's a busy life being a part-time barbarian and part-time insufferably beautiful thing. I am glad that Sue has allotted the time to share her barbarian wisdom with us. We are much enlightened and entertained.

[I liked Sue's house buying piece. This is the kind of thing that I would like to see more of in Rune. I see Rune as a fannish genzine, pretending to be a clubzine. Talk to one of us editors about doing something for the zine, especially some of you club members.]

ANDIE DUNN: The covers had some rilly neat art on them. I particularly liked the back cover. My compliments to Mr. Pasternak.

[I've always felt that the front cover would have looked better without any of the black ink.]

MARC, CATH & MICHAEL ORTLIEB: Damn. I knew I should have read Rune 79. Had I done so, I could have passed on a delightful bit of Metaphorical Invective that Mandy Herriot recounted. Mandy works in a Royal Women's Hospital in Carlson and, one day, she was surprised to see a neurologist rush out of his room, only to burst into a fit of hysterical laughter. Once she'd calmed him down, he explained his actions. A patient had been referred to him by her General Practitioner and, when he'd asked her what her G.P. thought her problem was, she replied — straight-faced — "He says that I only have two neurons and that the synapse between them isn't working very well."

Of course, Australians have their own variants — "Two chops short of a barbie". "Not the full quid." and "thick as two short planks".

[What's this about those barbie's anyway?]

These other fine people wrote: Richard A. Larson, Rick Sneary, Anthony D. Blokzyl, Bill Ware, Bess Didymus, Greg Ketter, Judy Buffrey, Jean Lamb, Anatoly A. Stegalin, Dave Szurek, Steve Sneyd, Ben Indick, Christine Kylea Fulton, Mog DeCarnin, John Purcell, Edward E. Ness, Tisch, Harry Andruschak, Denny Lien, Ed Rom, Algernon S. Stewart, Rick Gellman, Glenn Tenhoff, Kimm "Shepp" J. Stahl, E. V. Angelesque-Wild, Susan Dorne, Amy Anderson, Karl Schmidt, Nola Frame-Gray, and Mr. & Ms. Undecipherable Handwriting.

Fanzine and faanzine Reviews

Minn-stf received nearly 200 fanzines since the last issue of *Rune*. We'll try to catch up with fanzine listings, and short reviews, then take things from there. Reviewers this issue are Dave Romm [DR], Peter Hentges [PH], Garth Danielson [GD], and Jeff Schalles [JS]. Hatchet job by Geri Sullivan. (We wanted room in *Rune* for more than the reviews.) Dave Romm also provided a few excerpts we think you'll enjoy.

The listings show the first and last issues received since last time around; the odds are we received most or all of the issues in between, too. Availability by "The Usual" means loc (letter of comment), contribution, trade and/or editorial whim. Fanzines can also be borrowed from the Minn-stf Library; current fanzines are usually available for reading at Minn-stf meetings.

Anvil 49 – 50 (Birmingham SFS, c/o Charlotte Proctor, 8325 7th Ave S., Birmingham, AL 35026): 49: More a genzine than a clubzine. Short articles, faannish art. The Usual. [DR]

Atrocity Vol. 13 No. 11 (Hank Roll, 2419 Greensburg Pike, Pittsburg, PA 15221): The Usual (?) or \$8/12 (yr).

Ben's Beat 15 (Ben Indick, 429 Sagamore Ave., Teaneck, NJ 07666)

Brixoi (Tom Foster, 55 S. Alicia, Memphis, TN 38112 and Ken Fletcher, 2808 Harriet Ave. S, Mpls, MN 55408): A large, sprawling, well produced collection of cartoons and drawings from two of fandom's best; both on their own and in collaboration. \$10. [DR]

Cartouche 2 (Lucy Huntzinger and Bryan Barrett, 2523 Sunset Place, Nashville, TN 37212): Wow, an article from D. Potter! The Usual. [DR]

The Comicist 2 (Rocket Graphics, 1112 Bellwood Dr., Loveland, OH 45140): a "small press comic" not really an sf fanzine. The Usual (I think) or \$1. [DR]

The Corresponder 23 – 25 (MSU Box 109, Mankato State University, Mankato, MN 56002): "A Fan Letter on Minnesota Writers," not a fanzine. Probably free for the asking, but send some money. [DR]

From The Corresponder 23 (p 6):

"We need poems that are, as Donald Hall says, the inside of one human being talking to the inside of another. But we also need poems like these that challenge our habit of reading. We need poems that could never have been if two persons hadn't been brought together."

Cube 45 – 46 (SF3, Box 1624, Madison, WI 53701-1624): One of the most varied and entertaining clubzines we get. The Usual. [DR]

De Profundis 210 – 227 (LASFS, 11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601): Club stuff, highlighted by Mike Glycer's minutes. 210 contained the Hogu (not the Hugo) ballot. 217 had an Ackerman Collection update and the first of Matthew Tepper's minutes. Matthew does a good job filling Mike's shoes. The Usual. [DR]

Delineator 7 (Alan White, 455 E. 7th St. #4, San Jacinto, CA 92383): The last issue of an extremely ambitious project. "152 Pages, Over 200 Photos, Over 100 illos", four-color cover, three color interior. Fiction, humor, fanzine reviews, Chapter 5 of the editor's autobiography covering 1976 to the present, 43 pages of locs (with many pictures of loccers). And, most especially, long comments about, many pictures of, and a long interview with Forrest J. Ackerman. Available for \$10 — which probably barely covers production costs. [DR]

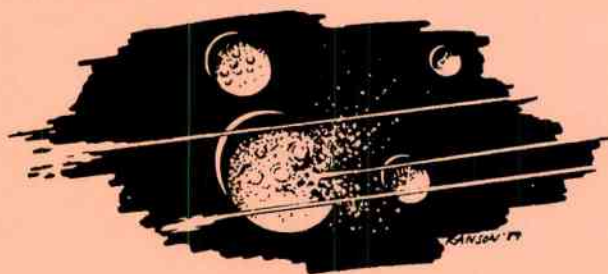
Forrest J. Ackerman in an interview in Delineator 7 (page 82):

"I'm a member of the Los Angeles Science Fiction Society. I was at the first meeting, I've been the director, the secretary, the treasurer, the publisher, the editor, the garbage man, everything you can think of. I've poured thousands of dollars into that club, I've been to over 1500 meetings of it. I have never once heard any suggestion that they raise a dime to help me out."

The Dilinger Relic 62 – *Derogatory Reference* 66 (Arthur D. Hlavaty, PO Box 52028, Durham, NC 27717): The Usual or \$1 (\$2 outside US). [PH]

Doxa (Roman Orzanski, P.O. Box 131, Marden, South Australia 5070, AUSTRALIA)

Doxy 5 – 6 (John Foyster, PO Box 3086, Grenfall Street, Adelaide, South Australia, 5000, AUSTRALIA): The Usual.



Ethel the Aardvark 23 – 32 (Melbourne Science Fiction Club, PO Box 212, World Trade Centre, Melbourne, 3005, Victoria, AUSTRALIA): They have book, record and movie reviews; club stuff; index to media zine *Starburst*; fanfic; locs. All have good covers, especially Ian Gunn's for 23. [DR] Con reports. Explanation of SF Olympics games and a rating of how well they have been pulled off at various cons. (Collatio, Ditmar Bobbing and Egoboo II receive high marks). Available for membership (Aus\$10), trade or subscription (Aus\$12/6 issues overseas). [PH]

Erg 107 – 111 (Terry Jeeves, 56 Red Scar Drive, Scarborough, YO12 5RQ, UNITED KINGDOM): A superior example of the what the average fanzine used to be like, and why that form continues. Available by loc, arranged trade (not of fanzines) or \$1 US (in cash). [DR]

Factsheet Five 31 – 35 (Mike Gunderloy, 6 Arizona Ave., Rensselaer, NY 12144-4502): \$2 or \$11/yr (6). [DR]

The Fantasy Collector 213 (Camille "Caz" Cazedessus, Jr., 7080 Highland Road, Bayou Fountain, Baton Rouge, LA 70808): Somewhere between a fanzine and a catalog of books for sale. \$2 or \$18/yr (12). [DR]

FOSFAX 141 – 153 (c/o FOSFA, PO Box 37281, Louisville, KY 40233-7821): Book reviews, convention reviews, humor, art, fanzine reviews and locs (26 out of 50 pp). They generate (or at least print) more interesting letters than most on a wide variety of topics. The Usual or \$2. [DR]

File 770: 80– 91 (Mike Glyer, 5828 Woodman Ave #2, Van Nuys, CA 91401): The indispensable newszine of fandom, complete with gossip. Conreports and con listings, faannish news. News, \$2 or \$8/5. [DR]

Folly 1-10 (Arnie Katz, 330 S. Decatur, Suite 152, Las Vegas, NV 89107): A long dormant fan returns. #9 is faanfic from Arnie entitled *Willis Plays Vegas*. The Usual. [DR]

FIT7 – 10 (Judith Hanna & Joseph Nicholas, 5A Frinton Road, Stamford Hill, London, N15 6NH, UK): Chatty left-wing humorzine. The Usual. [JS]

Gradient 1 (Robert Sabella, 2 Natalie Dr., Budd Lake, NJ 07828): Dated 9/88, we got it a year later, presumably for a trade, and they'll get the trade even later... Probably The Usual. [DR]

Gegenschein 57 – 59 (Eric Lindsay, 7 Nicoll Ave, Ryde, NSW 2112, AUSTRALIA): Natter, book reviews and locs. The Usual. Little art but nice DP. [DR]

Good Night, Sweet Prince, Bruce Gillespie's memorial zine for his father, Frank Richard Gillespie (25 October 1919 – 25 May 1989). No review, just our condolences. [PH]

Idea 3 (Geri Sullivan, Toad Hall, 3444 Blaisdell Ave S, Mpls, MN 55408): Yet another fine effort! New Mpls fan Jeff Schalles on his move here, Elise Krueger humor, recipes from David Emerson, music party con report by Jack Targonskis, Rob Hansen's book recommendations, editorial and locs. Art from Bill Rotsler, Ken Fletcher, Reed Waller, Glenn Tenhoff, Jeff Schalles (not for his article!) with a nifty cover by Tom Grewe. The Usual. [DR]



From Idea 3 editorial:

"While I confess to being over-whelmed at times, I mostly focus on enjoying whatever is it that I'm doing at the moment. For example, I've discovered that housepainting can be a Zen experience. Instead of rushing through it, frantic at how much trim there is to paint and how few hours of good weather remain, I pick up the paint brush, dip in in the pail, and watch the paint flow onto the wood. I learned how to do a decent straight line around windows, holding the brush at the very edge of the wood and letting the bristles glide off the end of the brush. The afternoon sun, friends stopping by for a chat, looking at the work accomplished, lowering the brim on the genuine painter's cap as it sits on my head... it all feels good."

Insects Are People Too (H.R. Felgenhauer, P.O. Pox 146486, Chicago, IL 60614): Poetry about insects, baseball and other subjects amid lots of clip art. \$3.00. [DR]

The Insider 151– 161B (St. Louis SFS, P.O. Box 1058, St. Louis, MO 63188): Clubzine full of club announcements, con listings and the like. The Usual or \$7/yr (9 issues). [DR]

Instant Message 461 – 506 (NESFA, Box G, MIT Branch Post Office, Cambridge, MA 02139): Detailed club stuff and Boskone planning. With 476 it switches to *Insistent Message: The Newszine of SF Fandom Fact and Fantasy*, with more readable layout and typography. The Usual. [DR]

Krax 26 – 27 (Andy Robson, 63 Dixon Lane, Leeds LS12 4RR, Yorkshire, UNITED KINGDOM): Mostly poetry with some short stories, reviews (he likes *Rune*) and comic strips. Goes for clever ideas before tight imagery; you'll probably find something to like in 76 digest-sized pages. \$2.50 [DR]

Lans's Lantern 33 – 34 (George Laskowski Jr., 55 Valley Way, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304): 33 is a special issue on Robert A. Heinlein, 34 on Isaac Asimov. The Usual. [DR]

The Last Ripples (John D. Owen, 4 Highfield Close, Newport Pagnell, Bucks, MK16 9AZ, UNITED KINGDOM): Only available to readers of *The Crystal Ship*. (See: *Shipyard Blues*) [DR]

Life of a Star Astronomical Tales (Andy Robson 63 Dixon Lande, Leeds, LS12 4RR UK) 50 page magazine, long story about the sun. [GD]

Life With Gallagher 11 – 15 (Kathleen Gallagher, PO Box 42, Worthington, OH 43085): Thoughts on her marriage and new life sprinkled with comic strips from newspapers. Dispassionate yet engaging. The Usual. [DR]

Little Free Press 63 – 82 (Ernest Mann, COA: Rt. 1, Box 102, Cushing, MN 56443): "Food for thought since 1969". Short, individualistic musings from a committed anarchist. Not a fanzine. Available for postage (25¢). [DR]

The Mad 3 Party 35 – 38 (Massachusetts Convention Fandom, Inc., Box 46, MIT Branch PO, Cambridge, MA 02139): "More than you ever wanted to know about running a worldcon." Incredible amounts of information in a readable form. Now that Noreascon 3 is over, they've stopped publishing. Winner of the 1990 Best Fanzine Hugo. [DR]



The Mentor 65 – 67 (Ron and Susan Clarke, 6 Bellevue Road, Faulconbridge, NSW 2776, AUSTRALIA): Fan fiction and poetry. Generally good but definitely of an amateur level. Intelligent LoCCol and very good reviews of books. Available for contribution, LoC or \$2 for a sample copy. [PH]

The Metaphysical Review No. 14 (Bruce Gillespie, GPO Box 5195AA, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, AUSTRALIA): An interesting mix of articles about music and the people who listen to it. Covering the gamut of styles from Roy Orbison to Fairport Convention to DIO and Cindy Lauper to John Cage to Shostakovich. Contributions from a good range of Australian fans; Marc Ortlieb, Leigh Edmonds, John Bangsund. Available for the Usual or \$30US/6. [PH]

Midterms (Victor Raymond 1017 Raymond Ave. #7, St. Paul, MN 55114): Victor, President of Minn-stf, has been publishing *Pomp and Silliness* monthly and halfway through his term has collected and republished the first few with a Giovanna Fregni cover and explanatory colophon. The short zines cover a wide range of topics from questions about and of the club (and survey results), Minicon, *Rune*, fanzine and movie reviews, locs and other natter. Available at Minn-stf meetings or by request. [DR]

Mimosa 7 – 11 (Dick & Nicki Lynch, P.O. Box 1350, Germantown, MD 20875): 7: Dave Kyle on finding out he counts as a Hugo Gernsbach author, more Sharon Farber medical stories, Skel disparing about the lack of importance of fanzines in modern fandom, reprint of a double interview with Robert Bloch and Bob Tucker (my favorite bit), Tucker on “lez-ettes”, long article on Dick & Nicki’s Chattanooga clubzine Chat (including a Teddy Harvia reprint), locs. Nifty Ranson/Harvia cover/bacover collaboration, good fillos, nice mimeography. The Usual or \$2. [DR]

The National Fantasy Fan Vol. 50 No. 4 (Donald Franson, editor, 6543 Babcock Ave., North Hollywood, CA 91696): The Usual.

Neology Vol. 67 – 71 (ESFCAS, Box 4071, Postal Station South Edmonton, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 4S8 CANADA): “Once again, *Neology* is seized by a New Regime.” Fortunately, it retains much of the creative silliness of previous regimes. The Usual. [DR]

From Neology 71 (p9):

“I had a look doon the breakfast cereal isle at a store near the Norewescon 10 hotel (March 90). There was a whole raft of new stuff there, including Mario Brothers cereal, Ninja Turtles cereal (of course), Cabbage Patch Kids cereal, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Apple something Delight and Rocky Road cereal (?what some people will eat? Ed.) My stomach threatened to put a brand new hole in my duodenum if I even thought of trying any of the cereals, so I left them alone.”

Neophyte 1 (Jeffrey W. Behrnes, 769 Bret Dr., Denham Springs, LA 70726): Fanfic. Looks awful. \$5/6. [DR]

Notes From Oblivion 23 (Jay Harber, 626 Paddock, Libertyville, IL 60048): Available for “correspondence (esp. by tape).”

Novoid 7 (Colin Hinz, 3-344 West Street N, Orillia, Ontario, L3V 5E1, CANADA. \$3 or some Usual and Unusual.

OtherRealms 26 (Chuq von Rospach, 35111-F Newark Blvd., Suite 255, Newark, CA 94560): \$2.85 or \$11/4

Piers Anthony Personal Newsletter Vol. 1 No. 2 (Valet Publishg Co., P.O. Box 1568, Clayton GA 30525): Mainly a Xanth catalog, but it does have two columns by Anthony himself and some pre-release information. \$7.50 for a year (4). [DR]

Pirate Jenny 4 (Pat Mueller, 618 Westbridge, Duncanville, TX 57116): The Usual [DR]

Probe 77 – 78 (Niel van Niekerk, PO Box 11801, Johannesburg 2000, SOUTH AFRICA): 78: Entertaining conreport of SFSA Con ’89 told in snippets of comments. Sf crossword puzzle. They photocopied my letter; this might be the first time the Minn-stf logo has been seen in the entire continent of Africa. I was fascinated by Neil’s answer to my question of whether the club allows blacks: The club itself is open to all, but apartheid means “Blacks in this country have been previously excluded from contact with a lot of European cultural interests — this includes SF”. The zine was published 11/89 before many of the dramatic events in that country, notably the release of Nelson Mandela, but I think this gives fans one more reason to despise the pernicious system of apartheid. Locs, fanfic, comic strip, book and zine reviews and 13 pages of a listing of the books in the club library. 100 digest-sized pages; clear repro and layout but little art. The Usual. [DR]

Proper Boskonian 27 (NESFA, Box. G, MIT Branch PO, Cambridge, MA 02139): The new, Laurie D.T. Mann-edited PB is back and looking good! Laurie’s fanpubbing philosophy, an article on sushi chefs by Jon Singer, reviews of ‘neglected authors’ James H. Schmitz and John W. Campbell, Noreascon III and Boskone XXVII conreports, eclectic book reviews, and other bits. Most has been seen before (many on BBS’s), and the style of crediting the artist immediately below the art (as well as on page 3) interrupts the flow of the layout. Still, the writing, art and layout is consistently good and will probably get better. The Usual, \$2 or NESFA membership. [DR]



Pulp 14 – 17 (Vinç Clarke, 16 Wendover Way, Welling, Kent, DA16 2BM, UNITED KINGDOM): 14: There's a very funny, rambling, Chuch Harris article on being in the hospital and preparing to come to America for Corflu. However, 20 of the 30 pages are taken up by an Avedon Carol-edited loccol consisting mainly of fans bickering which I found tedious and boring. Nice ATom art. The Usual (trades to all three editors, they ask — Avedon Carol & Rob Hansen, 144 Plashet Grove, East Ham, LONDON E6 1 AB U.K.; and John Harvey, 8 The Orchard, Tonwell, HERTS SG12 0HR U.K.). [DR]

Pulsar #16 (Tony Ubelhor, P.O. Box 886, Evansville, IN 47706-0886): Nicely packaged zine that is better than many semi-prozines. Short interview/history with Isaac Asimov, longer interview/bibliography with L. Sprague and Catherine Crook de Camp, superb interview/portfolio with Peggy Ranson, long article/bibliography on Robert A. Heinlein, lots of fanfic, fanzine reviews. Black and white, but looks professional and reads well. \$3.50 (semi-annual) or The Usual. [DR]

Rabbitears (Mog Decarnin, 2020 Portland Ave S #3, Mpls, MN 55404): "A Fanzine of Television Commentary". Long comments by Mog on watching television after 20 years without, and long reviews of tv shows ranging from *This Old House* (from Terry Garey) to *The A Team* to *21 Jump Street* and more. The Usual. [DR]

Radio Free Thulcandra 27 (Marty Helgesen, 11 Lawrence Ave., Malverne, NY 11565-1406) Christian fanzine. Interesting article about RA Heinlein inventing the New Age. The Usual. [GD]

The Reluctant Famulus 6 – 14 (Thomas Sadler, 422 Maple Ave, Adrian, MI 49221): The Usual. [DR]

Renaissance Fan 6 (Rosalind Malin and Dick Pilz, 2214 SE 53rd Ave, Portland, OR 97215): Even yet another beautiful issue. From the watercolored cover to the stickers and hand-tinted illos to the nifty DP layout this is not a zine you have

to read to appreciate, though the writing — sercon not faannish — is strong. This issue is about Worldbuilding, a subject which doesn't interest me much but the articles cover everything from the solar system to botany. I didn't read the fiction, but I did read the poetry. The Usual. [DR]

Riverside Quarterly Vol. 8 No. 3 (Leland Sapiro, 807 Walters #107, Lake Charles, LA 70605): \$6/4.

Robots and Roadrunners Vol. 5, No. 2 – 3 (Ursa Major, PO Box 691448, San Antonio, TX 78269-1448): The Usual.

Sglodion 2 (Dave Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berkshire, England, RG1 5AU, UK): The Usual.

Shipyard Blues 1 – 4 (John D. Owen, 4 Highfield Close, Newport Pagnell, Bucks, MK16 9AZ, UNITED KINGDOM): Follow-up to *Crystal Ship*. John's comments on Reality Programming on tv, opera, a British water scam and cars; Chuck Connor rambles on about why fanzines aren't as good anymore; Terry Broome explains why fanzines are good still (and contains the first British mention of TOTU I've seen); more. 4: Shep's cover is a poignant homage to ATom. The writing quality varies, but overall consistency is good. 28 & 32 digest-sized DP pages with excellent art. The Usual. [DR]

Smart-Ash 44 – 46 (Chimneyville SFS, c/o Tom Fuller, Box 13626, Jaskson, MS 39236): Club stuff, conreports, movie reviews and locs. The Usual or \$5/yr (4) [DR]

Spanish Armadillo 2 (Chuck Connor, Sildan Hse., Chediston Rd, Wissett, Nr Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 ONF, UK): The Usual.

Spirits In The Night 1-4, (Leah and Dick Smith, 17 Kerry Lane, Wheeling, IL 60090-6415): The Progress Report/fanzine of the fanzine convention Ditto put on in 1990 by Dick and Leah. The Usual. [DR]

Stet 2 – 4 (Leah and Dick Smith, 17 Kerry Lane, Wheeling, IL 60090-6415) Nice mimeo by Dick and good words by Leah, lots of art. The Usual. [GD]

Sticky Quarters 19 – 20 (Brian Earl Brown, 11675 Beaconsfield, Detroit, MI 48224): The Usual or \$3.

Summa Nulla 2 (Tony Libechor, P.O. Box 886, Evansville, IN 47706-0886. Nice genzine, lots of nice art, articles, and book reviews. \$2 or The Usual. [GD]

Tales of the Unanticipated 6 – 9. (Eric M. Heideman, Minn-stf, P.O. Box 8297, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis, MN 55408) TOTU is Minn-stf's fiction magazine. Lots of fiction. \$4 or 3/\$10.00. [GD]

The Texas SF Inquirer 30 – 35 (FACT, Box 9612, Austin, TX 78766): 32: Oh, how the mighty have fallen! 32 came before 30 or 31 and has the worst repro of any zine which has come into our mailbox. I could barely read the Fred Pohl profile (which was good) an Arkon 13 report (which was ok) and so didn't bother to wade through the book reviews or FACT member profile or anything else. 31: Clear, justified repro (yay!). An article on recycling, conreport, article on the future of sf art, fanzine reviews, book reviews, "sci-fi" radio schedule, locs. Good cover and fillo art, nice repro on some good pictures. 33: Short but nicely done. The Usual. [DR]

Transmissions 283/284 – 311/312, Vol. 14 No. 1 (Nova Odysseus, PO Box 1534, Panama City, FL 32402-1534)

Complete editorial in Transmissions 287/288:

"I don't believe in magic, ESP, astral projection, telepathy, reincarnation, ghosts, spirits, UFO's, numerology, astrology, witchcraft, god, goddess, scientology, life after death, crystal power, pyramid power, deja vu, auras, psychokinesis, telekinesis, palm reading, tarot card reading, speaking in tongues, voodoo, easter, western, northern or souther mysticism, faith healing, clairvoyance, precognition or any variance of the above.

"I do however think that all this stuff makes pretty good fiction. Imagination does not require belief."

Trash Barrel (Don Franson, 6543 Babcock Ave., North Hollywood, CA 91606. Zine reviews. [GD])

Virgin Meat 10 (Steven Blum, 2325 West Ave., K-15, Lancaster, CA 93536): The Usual?

Weber Woman's Wrevenge 39 (Jean Weber, 7 Nicoll Ave, Ryde, NSW 2112, AUSTRALIA): Personal natter, personal articles, book reviews, locs. The Usual. [DR]

Wondering and Wondering 1 (Don Fitch, 3908 Frijol, Covina, CA 91722): Successor genzine to his longstanding *From Sunday to Saturday* apazine, though this is run through FAPA also. Engaging natter on his retirement, the new zine title, fandom then & now, a lively and fun loccol and, yes, even FAPA mailing comments. No art, but good repro. The Usual? [DR]

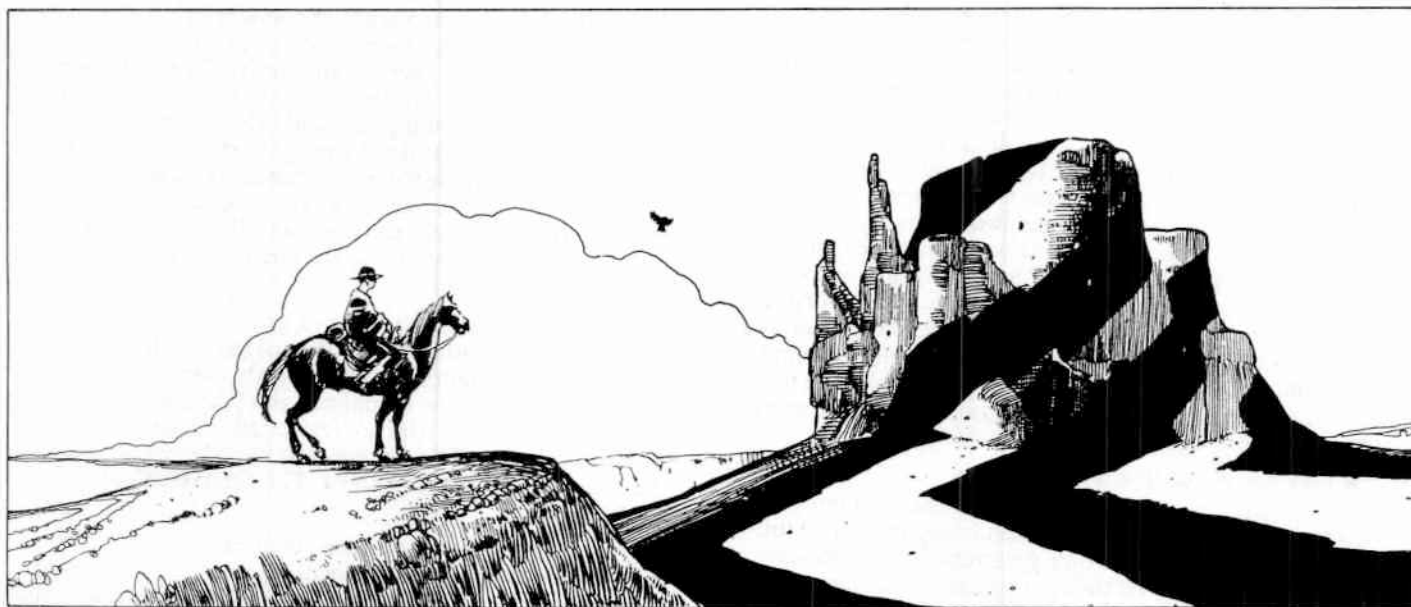
From Wondering and Wondering 1 (p91):

"Like so many people so Read A Lot, I didn't develop a high degree of Social Skill; acquiring this is much easier, for a shy person, from behind a typewriter. Unlike many (most?) fans, I do not think rapidly (reasonably well, I like to think, but not fast)), and use of the written word permits a depth and intensity of communication rarely possible in conversation. And I derive a particular pleasure from (as Jodie Offut once put it) getting to know what people are like in their heads and their hearts before being influenced by their physical appearance."

The Whole Fanzine Catalog 29 (Brian Earl Brown, 11675 Beaconsfield, Detroit, MI 48224): 48 quarter-legal sized pages of zine reviews. Mostly just addresses with a quick comment or two. Trade or \$2. [DR]

YHOS 48 – 49 (Art Widner, PO Box 677, Gualala, CA 95445): 48: FAPAazine with comments on F. Tower Laney (by rich brown) and Sam Moskowitz (by Ray Nelson), but the main feature is an active and interesting loccol with a wide variety of fans old and new debating aspects of fandom itself. [DR] 49: Horror film review/article. Covers the reviewer's reasons for seeing a splatter film very well. Well thought out but a bit rough (turns out this is a first draft that Art didn't have time to get re-written before the pub date). Interesting essay by Ray Nelson on time and nostalgia. The Usual. [PH]

Zinkiezine 2 (Lucy Zinkiewicz, 2 Tillbush Close, Hoppers Crossing, Victoria 3030, AUSTRALIA): The Usual or \$2 (Aus).



Minn-Stf Minutes — April 1991-January 1992

Polly Jo Peterson, Recording Secretary

Tuesday, April 23, 1991

7: 30 pm (or thereabouts) at Toad Hall

Persons present: Martin Schafer, Dean Gahlon, Geri Sullivan, Rob Ihinger, Don Bailey, (board members), Polly Jo Peterson (recording secretary), Dave E Romm and Fred A. Levy Haskell.

Agenda

- 1) Update on Officers
- 2) Dave E Romm tells you about editorships
- 3) Fred A. Levy Haskell gives you the Classic Minicon Proposal
- 4) Whither Minicon in 1992?

Update on Officers

The following is a list of Minn-Stf officers as we know them as of this moment:

President: Victor Raymond
Vice President: Kate Worley
Executive VP in Charge of Executions: Steven KZ Brust
Recording Secretary: Polly Jo Peterson
Quartermaster: Rebecca Chesin
Assistant Treasurer: pending
Corresponding Secretary: Karen Cooper
Lib: Karen Johnson
In Charge of the Minicon Book Rar: Rob Ihinger
Ian: pending
Ambassador w/o Portfolio but w/Portmanteau: Jack Wickwire
Official Happy Deadwood: Fred A. Levy Haskell
Membership Secretary: Margo Bratton
VPDP: Scott Raun

Dave Romm on Editorships

Rune: Rune is unforgivably late (per Dave) but he and Jeannne would like to do at least one more issue — one covering the last two Minicons and a Ken Fletcher portfolio. He would like two issues worth of money as a cushion and would expect to publish within 4-6 weeks. He expects that this would not be sent to the entire Minicon membership but the smaller list. There was some discussion of making the Ken Fletcher portfolio a separate budget and not a part of the Rune and whether or not it was time to print the Minicon log again. The consensus of the Board was that they should come back to the board with some more specific sense of what they want to do and details of printing costs and size of print run. One the question of future editorship of Rune, Dave said that he would be willing to continue as a member of a team, but his sense was that Jeannne was interested in only the above, final issue. The board told him to plan on the next issue and are putting out the discreet word of the availability of the editorship.

Fred A. Levy Haskell and Minicon Classic

Fred found that he was not getting the satisfaction out of Minicon that he once did, and is considering the Split Minicon proposal that the Task Force presented. After considering various people who he thought to have the ability to create the classic Minicon, he found himself in danger of

Committing Fanac and proposed himself as the chairperson of a small Con to be run at the same time as the other Minicon. In talking to people he has found that people who said that they would never work on Minicon again would be willing to help with this proposal.

Details:

- He has a slate of potential guest who he thinks would reflect the feeling he wants the con to have.
- The con would have a buck-stopping Chair rather than an exec.
- The con gives every one a place to go (even those who don't like the Big Minicon).
- The con would only work if it is opposite the Big Minicon.

(Here follows a discussion of whether or not ReinCONation is trying to occupy the same ecological niche as Fred's proposal and whether having both would sabotage the chances of either to succeed.)

There was discussion of whether the board would be justified to go against the plebiscite of the people saying by their votes that they would prefer the Big Minicon. They decided to leave the discussion of Fred's proposal until they saw more nearly the direction that Minicon is taking.

This segues nicely into . . .

Whither Minicon?

The vote on the LRTF proposals was clear that people want to have a Minicon in 1992 and the winner among the proposals was the Big Minicon. The board discussed the need to honor the choice of the people unless there is a very good reason to go against it. There is a need, however to get going because time is short and nothing has been done for 1992. How can the board generate enthusiasm for doing Minicon this year? Don mentioned a letter sent by Dave Wixon (in response to the LRTF package one presumes) discussing the need for a sense of community on the Con committee. The board did not see any one person who could be a strong chair and have the support of the whole community and the concomm. On the other hand, they felt that the Exec should have strong policy authority and not have to have their decisions ratified by the general committee (ie., The exec has the right to decide that relationship). The board agreed that they need to have input into the organizational meeting to give it the direction that they would like it to go. Dave suggested that the board run the meeting on May 4. Don will chair.

The board decided that as time to get Minicon up and running is short and as the traditional (ie., the last several years) exec selection process is relatively slow, the board will act as an exec selection committee this year and accept bids by person or persons who are interested in trying to make a Minicon this year. Their intent is to build community within the concomm from the top down. The parameters for these exec bids are:

- It should be a multiple interest convention
- It should foster a sense of openness
- This process is for 1992 only

- Volunteer sheets will be made available for viewing by anyone interested in building an exec or the beginnings of a committee (to see who has expressed an interest in various jobs). Polly will have them and people can call/see her.
- The board's bias is to follow the will of the people to the Big Minicon, so there would have to be a major reason why they would accept a different model (but you are welcome to try)

A brief discussion of whether a committee for Minicon in 1993 should be formed soon decided that this was neither necessary or relevant to the May 4 meeting.

The next monthly meeting of the board will be Tuesday, May 14 at Toad Hall, 7: 30pm. Possible agenda items include:

- A project to document the History of Minn-Stf
- Other ways of spending money
- The financial report for 1990
- A TOTU report
- A Timeframes report

Tuesday, May 14, 1991

DavE and Rune

In a word DavE thinks that the cost of producing an issue of Rune has gone up 20%. Postage is ridiculous and printing costs went from about \$1,200 to \$1,340 for a 52 page Rune. Dave would like to do a Rune and the Ken Fletcher Portfolio at about \$1,500 each.

Asked what is our current financial status after Minicon, Don reported :

Current Account \$2,087
TOTU deposits to go in \$300-400
Art Show deposits \$3,500
Savings \$1,325
IDS account \$6,700

(The bank statement says that we have \$6,000 in the account but the checks for the computer and ReinCONation have not been cashed)

We have maybe \$16,000 in assets and expect to get the \$1,000 back from ReinCONation. (But there are no guarantees)

How much do we want left a year from now? We can hope that next year's Minicon will make more money.

Carol Kennedy has agreed to become Minn-Stf treasurer. Rob had not talked to Jonathan about our dealings with the IRS.

A Proposed Budget

For Minn Stf Meetings (@ \$40 per meeting) \$1,000
The Minn-Stf Hotline (@ \$21 per month) 250
Einblatt (@ \$40 per month) 500
TOTU out of pocket 1,500
Rune #1 for 1991-92 1,200
Potential Lecture Series 300
Mpls in 73 events at Worldcon or other 200
Rune #2 for 1991-92 1,000

Seed money for Minicon can still be \$3,000 if we use \$3,000 for other club activities.

We still may have to pay the IRS penalty of \$2,300. Martin thinks we may be able to avoid the penalty, Margo doesn't. Don may send them half to let them know that we are listening. Rob called Johnathan who said that he will look into it for Minn-Stf.

Martin is unhappy at the thought of doing only one Rune this year and would like to consider doing smaller issues in order to have enough cash to do two issues. Suggested options for saving money included paring down the number of excess copies that we would have to just hand out or trade and save foreign postage (which is the really big expense) by handing out as many copies to our foreign friends at Chicon and getting agents within the countries to mail the copies at domestic postage rates instead of international ones. Geri would also prefer two smaller issues to one big one.

Polly would like to do a lecture series again. Adding up the numbers it seems that maybe \$300 will be available to do something for the lecture series this year. They need to come back to the board with a specific proposal.

Maybe if the receipts from Time Frames come in we could do the Ken Fletcher Portfolio (or perhaps it could be done as a for profit venture, charging for copies.)

So to DavE regarding Rune:

He doesn't get the requested 20% raise.

He should try to save foreign postage by handing out foreign subscribers' Runes at Chicon.

Geri suggested cutting 4 or 8 or 12 pages to save printing costs.

Polly's suggestion that we save envelopes by putting the labels directly on the zine was rejected because the covers would get damaged.

He will mostly just list fanzines received rather than reviewing them.

"You have \$1,200. Go and commit a Rune."

Terry Garey, the Czarina of SF Poetry, arrived and reported on Time Frames. (Her report appended). She got nice letters from the poets saying that they were not ashamed to be in the anthology. The debut at Minicon was fun and successful. Other pertinent info:

60 free copies given out
50 copies sold so far
6 copies were printed upside down
\$12 is the cover price
\$8 is our profit from bookstore sales

In the fullness of time we should end up with about \$1,000 profit. (all copies sold)

People are impressed by the quality of the book and the fact that the club did this good thing.

Victor (President for Life)'s Memo

We seem to be less and less tolerant of each other:

- the size of the meetings
- feelings of loss of control
- ambivalence about children
- lack of personal hygiene and social skills among members

Victor would like to explore what standard operating procedures do we have in place and how can people get their munchies checks as hosts in a timely fashion.



There was a feeling that the board would rather discuss the issues when Victor is there to give feedback, so the discussion was postponed except for the observation that Radisson Pool Party type parties are tremendously more expensive and Martin's suggestion that perhaps we could institute a nominal fee (say \$1-2) for these parties.

The major agenda item for the June 5 meeting is Minicon exec proposals.

Wednesday, June 5, 1991

The meeting began at 8:20 pm after the members of the board spent a while reading the proposals for Minicon 1992. (See three paragraphs down.)

Don says that he found an extra \$6,000 bringing our current balance to around \$22,000. When Polly asked if this meant that they could come in with a more flush proposal for the lecture series there was a general nodding of heads.

Don has talked to Jonathan about dealing with the IRS. That is in progress. The IRS sent a certified letter saying that they are going to attach our account but Johnathan says that because we don't have a permanent staff they will hold off until things get more straightened out. There are several reasons that the fine should be reduced. It may be best to pay the fine first and argue later.

The main agenda item of the meeting was a discussion of proposals to run Minicon in 1992. Polly and Margo, in a fit of lethargy, did not submit a (rumored) proposal, leaving two proposals on the table: One by David Dyer-Bennet and one by Eric M. Heideman. After asking the two proposers questions and getting explanations about their respective proposals the board sent the proposers on their respective ways. They would make a decision by June 15 after meeting in executive session on June 11.

The board then discussed Rebecca Chesin's duties as Quartermaster (with Rebecca). Their suggestions included calling the entire Minn-Stf list to see what people have that they forgot they had (or anyone else forgot they had.), talking to people who have already started lists such as Victor and Scott. [We discussed whether the camel really (or virtually) existed since most of the board has never seen it.] Maybe it would be useful to also have a list of resources owned by Minn-Stf members (but not Minn-Stf) that they would be willing to share with people. The discussion evolved into a discussion of whether Rebecca's shirt could be in the Minicon art show. . .

Thursday, July 25, 1991

QUOTE OF THE MEETING:

Some are born editors, some are made editors and some have editorships thrust upon them

—Eric M. Heideman

... And Taxes

Jonathan reported on our woes with the IRS. He has written to them to ask them to hold off on the penalty (for sending in incomplete forms) while we work it out. They have levied several of our accounts but apparently none of the active ones. We need to find out where all of our accounts are.

Jonathan says that the IRS is like a hotel: Any employee who talks to any other employee gets immediately fired. He suggests that we pay the fine and then haggle over whether or not we owe it. This is not admitting that we owe it and will show that we did try to do the right thing. We are asking them to be nice (Nice = Reasonable). A good next step if they won't be nice is to write to Congressman Sabo.

Next steps are:

Find out whether they have already gotten their penalty out of our account and send them the good faith amount (as opposed to what they say we owe) if they haven't gotten it.

Jonathan will put a check for \$1,500 into a trust fund to pay them and they won't then know where we hide our mattress.

We discussed that we need to know about the gray areas such as sales tax on non clothes items. This ends up being some extra tax forms but not much cash and it is easier just to pay it.

Lacking any other pointless or annoying questions for Jonathan, he went home.

Tales Of The Unanticipated Report

Eric reported on the spacing of future issues. People like the eight month interval but the board is concerned about the delay in recovering the seed money for each issue. Eric talked about various promotional ideas including a 5th Anniversary Issue party (like an album release party) or an auction at Minicon. (This became a discussion of what kinds of auctions the board feels comfortable allowing and which feel like Minn-Stf fundraising at its own fundraiser.) Geri suggested a pre-ordered, limited bound edition of TOTU 1-10 as a potential fundraiser. Final agreement was reached to try to continue the 8 month interval of TOTU barring a disastrous return from Minicon next spring.

Rune Report

Where are they? Geri called Jeanne and found that the current issue is not ready as promised and the board agreed that they are in the market for new editors. An announcement will be put in the August Einblatt and they would like to hear from would be editors at the August board meeting, and would like to make a decision at the September meeting.

Minn-Stf Lecture Series

Polly says they would like to have a lecture series this year but have not done much on it yet. They would like a little more money than they had last year. They will hold a meeting this month.

Good Deeds Czar

Polly (again) suggested that Minn-stf create an office, the GDC, which would offer members of the club opportunities to be nice to other people as a group (ie, volunteer opportunities). Discussion included stating that this should be a facilitator position, not lets dump everything on that person and that it should happen only if the person is enthusiastic and not just because it "should" be done. It might be as simple as being a contact person who then sees that the ideas get posted on Einblatt and announced at meetings. There was general agreement that this is a good idea, but the board decided to let it float out there for awhile to see how it matures.

Books For Bulgaria

Mark Richards and Mark Digre would like to respond to an appeal for SF books to be sent to Bulgaria, where they have trouble getting such material. After discussion the board thought that we could give them \$100 towards postage and copies of Minn-stf publications (TOTU and Maturity, Rune, etc.) and to encourage people donating books to also donate money for postage since even with surface mail you can't send many books for \$100.

Library Report

The LibRaRy went to see their domain and began sorting. They need a clipboard for posting checked out materials.

MPLS In 73 Report

Geri gave advanced warning that she would like to have a Mpls in 73 event at Magicon that will knock their socks off, and will require more money than the amount that they have been giving to other worldcon Mpls in 73 hosts.

Nobody has come forward to ask to host the Mpls in 73 party at Chicon. (Doug, where are you?) They have traditionally given \$200 for this purpose. Receipts are strongly encouraged.

Sometime in August, 1991

Rune:

The board has a resignation from DavE Romm and Jeanne Mealy in hand. (*"The spirit was willing, but the schedules were weak."* -Jeanne) The most formulated rumors of bids to take it over include: Tom Juntenen is interested but doesn't know yet what the Board wants in a bid. Jeanne Mealy, Lee Pelton and Peter Hentges are interested, and Garth Danielson (one of the original "Rune Boys") would like to make sure it got out but with different editors each issue, including at a minimum Ken Fletcher and Jeff Schalles. He has legitimate cheap copying.

There followed a discussion of what the various bidders in the room had to offer and what questions the Board was going to use to gather information about their proposals. (Details, What do you want? Who? How do you involve the club more?, What do you mean cheaper repro?) They will make a decision at the next meeting.

LiBraRy:

With the help of Stippleapa the Minn-Stf Library at Don and Margo's was cleaned up. Books were put out of boxes on to the shelves (except mysteries and non-genre) and there is some system to the way the anthologies are shelved, although no one is quite sure what it is. . . They are trying to decide whether they want some like of paper card catalogue or an on-line one or both.

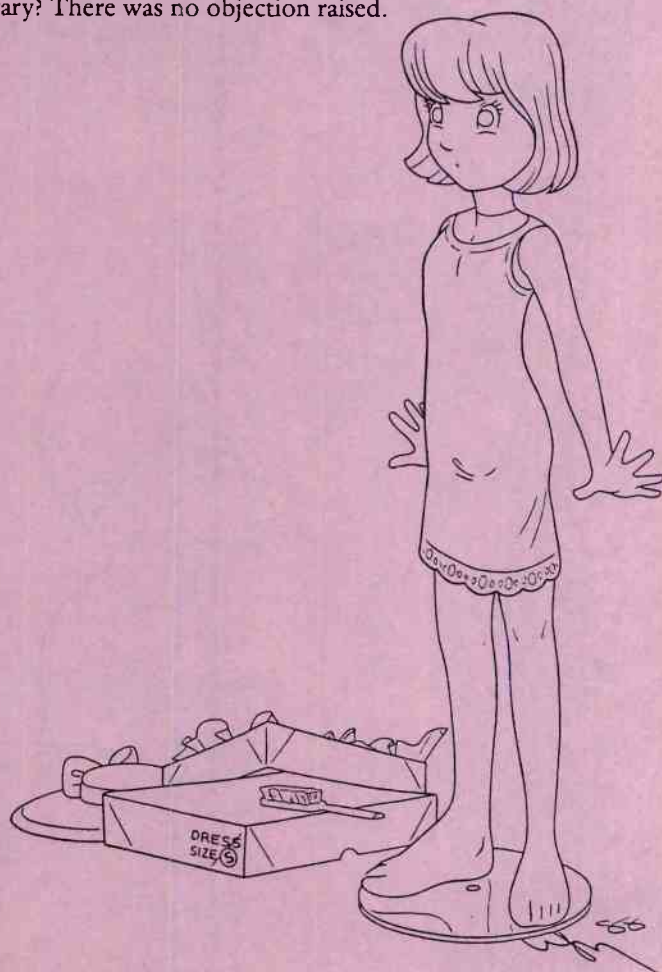
Other:

Doug Friauf will host the Minneapolis in 73 party at Chicon. The Board had previously authorized \$200 for this.

Joyce Scrivner wanted to know if Minn-Stf would be interested in publishing a history of the Minnesota Fantasy Society being written by Red Boggs. Since the Board has no extra money this year and only 4 of 7 parts are completed, they suggest that she check back next year.

The Lecture Series seems to be on hold. . .

The SF Oral History Association is looking for tapes of SF radio shows or interviews or anything. Would Minn-Stf be agreeable to their using any such tapes that we have in the library? There was no objection raised.



Thursday, September 19, 1991

Peter brought up the *Beyond the Enchanted Duplicator*. . . (s) that he had not used up at Reinconation and what to do with them, also reporting some damaged due to an accident. He was told that they belong to Minicon and he should consult them. Perhaps they can sell them at the sales table.

Victor gave a state of the club address (sort of). He is creating a database of Minn-stf houses and stuff. He would like help executing his duties since Kate seems to be less able to help than he had hoped. Help! Help! He would like to have a cabinet meeting of Minn-stf officers but hasn't set this up yet. Pomp and Silliness will be anthologized (is this a new verb?) in *Midterms* (#1-6) and *Finals* (#7-12). He has talked to lots of people about what Minn-Stf is, was and should be and he would like to see us try to do more community building.

LiBraRy:

They found a card catalogue that Denny had typed up (murmurs of approval and appreciation). All the books are out and accessible but there is still a lot of stuff and fanzines that are in the closet for which they would like to have a file cabinet. After discussion, they were authorized to spend up to \$100 for the cabinet and supplies and everyone agreed to check out their sources of cheap (but not crummy) file cabinets.

Rune:

Two proposals were put on the table: one from Jeanne Mealy, Lee Pelton and Peter Hentges and one from Garth Danielson, Ken Fletcher, Jeff Schalles and Tom Juntunen. The Board "interviewed" each of these proposals and put them through deep scrutiny and promised to let them know of their decision.



Minicon 93:

The board decided that it needs to decide what to do with Minicon and beyond as far as how the committee will be chosen. Polly (as a concerned citizen) was concerned that we would fall into a *de facto* bid process if we did not make a real decision. Martin suggested that we do a bid process for 93 and then look at our "experiment" for 92 and 93 and then decide on a more or less permanent process. Polly was concerned about the perception of lack of democracy that some people have about the bid process and she volunteered to solicit comments and publish a one shot zine about this issue.

The Board decided to put out a call for bids for Minicon 93 in the October Einblatt. Bids will be due December 1 (or they can be brought to the November meeting) and need to be presented at the December meeting. The Board will have a decision by the end of the January meeting. They will look at the Request for Proposals from last year and tweak it. "Don gets first tweak."

ReinConation Report:

They had 186 members, which was less than they hoped for, but respectable. The only problem was that \$800 worth of Giovanna's jewelry was stolen and the issues of responsibility have not yet been resolved. (*in the opinion of some members the primary responsibility was the Radisson's*) Nevertheless they made back the seed money and some beyond. For the future we may want to discuss electronic security equipment for our smaller conventions

Anywhere But Minneapolis: SuperCon

Victor and Charles would like to have a con on Superbowl weekend in Duluth for the sole purpose of getting out of town that weekend. So far their committee consists of Charles: Treasurer pro tem and Major Domo, Victor: Chair Token, and Lynn: Registration. The Board authorized \$250 for publicity to seed this con.

Thursday, October 17, 1991

Treasury Reports

The meeting began with several Treasury issues sent from Carol Kennedy.

- 1) Carol reports that Jan says that we have about \$3,000 left from Minicon 1990 and \$8000 from Minicon 1991. She was not sure if this included \$2,000 to \$2500 for seed money for future Minicons, but the board members suspected that it did include the seed money. Jan will give Carol a check for \$5000 to begin with and will finish up the books for Minicon 1991 by Thanksgiving.
- 2) The Minn-stf Board was asked to sponsor grade school teams at the science museum of Minnesota at \$44 per team. The board voted to sponsor two teams (\$88).
- 3) Carol would like to change the rules for signing checks so that for small checks, say less than \$300, the treasurer could sign without a second, board signature. The board discussed it and after discussing ways to keep track such as audits and ways to make it easier for the treasurer to get the second signature, they decided that they did not want to make the change. They did decide, however to look into the cost of getting a regular audit to know where we are financially. Don and Martin will ask some people they know.

IRS Report

We have received a letter from the IRS saying that they will waive the penalty that we owe them if we can give them a reasonable cause why we could not give them the information that was missing (for which we got the penalty). [whooshes of relief were heard]

Lecture Series Report

Polly reports that due to way too busy schedules and some burnout, the Lecture Series will take a sabbatical until Fall 1992, when we will pursue the Samuel R. Delaney idea that we started last year.

OTML Report

Sympathy was extended in absentia to Scott on the crash of his computer and Don said he would discuss with Scott how we can ensure that people who need mailing labels can get the ones that they need in a timely fashion.

The Request for Proposals for Minicon was tweaked.

ReiCONation Report

The board discussed Reinconation and Minn-Stf's responsibility for the jewelry and goods stolen out of the Huckster and Art Show Room at the convention. After much discussion including feeling that the hotel was responsible for leaving the door unlocked and whether we have an unspoken agreement with hucksters on the one hand and artist on the other and whether this is a board decision or a Con chair decision, the board decided to pay the loss to Giovanna as a loan pending the Hotel's insurance paying off the claim. The board also decided that we need to get clear on what we think we are agreeing to as far as security is concerned at our conventions (stated and merely expected) and we should talk about getting some security equipment for our cons at some future meeting.

Thursday, November 21, 1991

AT&T

Dean reports that AT&T will pay us \$20 to change our long distance phone to them and Dean would like to do this since he doesn't much like AT&T and we never make long distance calls on the Hotline. He will do this unless he has to also change their personal phone lines, which he does not wish to do.

The Camel

Rebecca, who has recently gotten the Minn-Stf Computer (the Camel) from Scott, reports that one of the disk drives does not seem to be functioning. She was advised to consult with Scott as to whether it is still under warranty and in any case it will have to be fixed. She would also like a cart on which to put it, as the camel has taken over her dining room table and she can't eat. The board authorized her to do research and then spend up to \$50 on a cart after consulting them. At this point Geri came in and said that she may have a desk which she would be willing to donate ("Do you have the dimensions of the curmudgeon?") and they will consult on the issue.

Inventory

Rebecca passed around the current inventory as she knows it for the entertainment and edification of all who saw it.



ReinCONation

Polly apologizes for misspelling it last minutes.

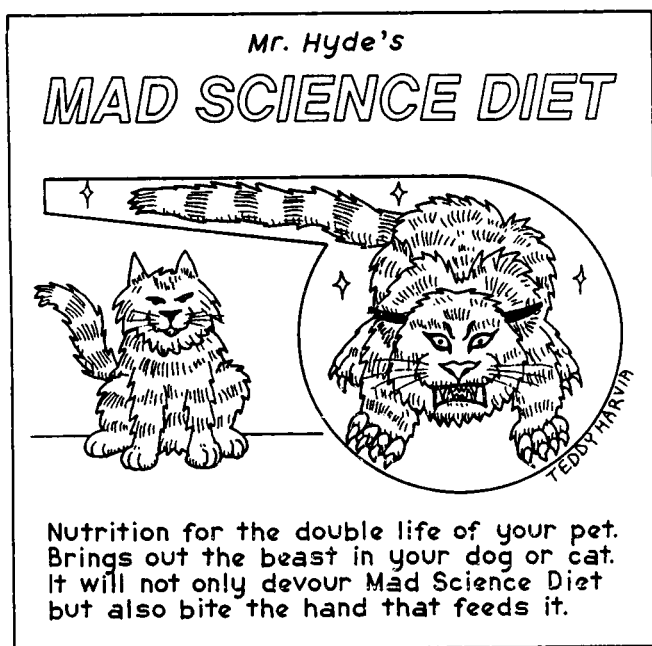
Martin reports that the Insurance company called and said that they were not liable for the loss at ReinCONation because all proper caution was taken. Martin put them straight on the issue (the Hotel left the door unlocked.) The security people "lost" the report on the incident for over a month which may explain why the insurance company was misinformed. Rob will also bend Jolene (Minicon's contact at the Rad) 's ear about it.

Even if ReinCONation has to pay the loss, the convention still made a small profit (\$200) over the seed money. There is sentiment out there to do another ReinCONation, but Martin has been real busy and has not had time to get out a proposal. He will do so in December or January.

Finance Report

Don checked with a friend who said that if we asked him at a slow season (like late summer) he would be willing to put in a few hours doing the lowest level of audit at half of his usual fee. This would be \$50 per hour and he would not charge us for over 4 hours.

Martin's friend would be willing to donate a little time to look at the books and give us advice about what we need to do.



Minicon Proposal

Some discussion was given to the two proposals for Minicon 28 (1993) which were turned in at the meeting. These are from Eric Heideman, Joe Agee and Rebecca Chesin on the one hand and Margo Bratton, Polly Peterson and Victor Raymond on the other. Don announced that he hoped not to have to vote (ie, only if there was a tie) since Margo is in one of the proposals. Questions were asked and answered by the two committees. The proposals will be studied and the two committees will be back at the December 12th meeting to answer more questions. Geri complained that these were two workable bids and that they need one really awful one to be able to reject outright. Charles said that he would see what he could do . . .

Treasury

Carol would like to rationalize all of the checking accounts that Minn-Stf has/had so that we know where they all are.

Rune

Garth is editing the mailing list. . . (*I think this means that progress is being made.*)

Thursday, December 12, 1991

Don would like to buy a software display board program for Minicon (\$250-300) and wish to check with the board about whether this is an extraordinary expense. Board okayed it and observed that it is good to keep track of what software the club and con have.

Rebecca was unable to find a suitable cart or desk at Goodwill for the camel, and brought pictures of one on sale at Bismart for \$70. The board approved its purchase.

Karen Cooper officially quit as corresponding secretary and the club needs a new one. Carol Kennedy is willing to pick up the mail for the time being as she has to worry about Minicon registrations. The board is looking for one good person. . . Lynn who needs to get Supercon registrations might be willing to do it for one month before that event.

The rest of the meeting was taken up with interviewing the Minicon bids. The board will make a decision before the next board meeting. Minn-Stf Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 14, 1992

"At 7:30, Rob Ihinger was the only non-living board member present"—Margo (who wasn't there.)

Jumping right into business:

Pool Party

The board decided (as in the past) to give the pool party \$100 for supplies.

Board Elections

The board decided to hold the 1992 Board of Directors election on March 21 in order to give the new board time to select Minn-Stf officers for the year by Minicon. This means that the February 22 and March 7 Minn-Stf meetings are nominating meetings.

Corresponding Secretary

Several people showed an interest in becoming (or being drafted for) Corresponding secretary. The Board decided to ask Jerry Corwin first since he lives within blocks of the Post Office where the Minn-Stf box is. Getting mail to its proper recipients in a timely manner (ie, pick it up at least once a week) and answering general inquiries about the club were important parts of the job description. Dean will talk to him.

ReinCONation (on further reflection) lost a few hundred dollars if the hotel insurance does not pay the claim on the loss of items at last fall's con. (If they do pay, the con made money). Martin says that they would like to have a con again this year. Timing will depend on the availability of guests that they would like to invite, but would be either the week after Magicon or a few weeks later. As there are no known Fall con bids out there, the board authorized ReinCONation to have another con this fall.

This brought up the topic of getting some kind of perimeter security system for small cons that Minn-Stf sponsors. It was agreed that up to \$250 could be spent on this and the board will start a price search. Don will check at Honeywell (although their systems are probably of a grander scale than we can afford). Thinking about Supercon, the board authorized the con committee to spend \$50 to get some security system if they so desired, but that there needed to be more research before more money is spent.

The meeting ended at a phenomenally early 8:19 pm, but then Jonathan Adams arrived and said that the IRS has waived the fine they had imposed upon Minn-Stf after understanding what happened.





Staff Photo by Duane Braley

VFW hall burns

About 45 Minneapolis firefighters battled a fire Monday night that threatened to destroy a VFW social hall in south Minneapolis. The fire, at 2902 Chicago Av. S., was reported at 9 p.m., said Assistant Chief Rocco Forte. He said it apparently began in the basement and was fed

by a gas meter, but its cause was unknown. The building, called Gopher Hall, apparently was vacant, he said. Firefighters were able to keep the fire from spreading to an adjacent building that houses two bookstores