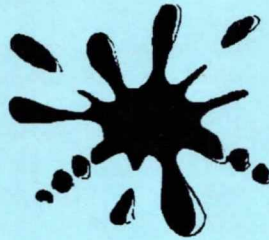


Slow Dinn #80



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For JCAP #80 of February 1993. Second Coming Pub #195.

Here we go with that white stuff in the air again. It's pretty to look at, but I feel a draft so please close the drapes. Thank you. I think I've got a photograph of snow around here somewhere. I'll look at that.

Actually, I have quite a few photographs with snow in them. That's pretty difficult to avoid if you spent twenty four years in upstate New York. Snow might not have been the primary focus of the snapshots, but it was in a few instances. I've got one photograph of a white tunnel. The tunnel was made by starting with a forest and a road and a snowplow, then adding enough snowfall to keep the plow busy until it creates banks high enough to hide the forest.

As a kid in the city I remember building snow forts in the back yard as basic preparation for snowball fights. After the fight, I remember lying spreadeagled in the snow and waving my arms and legs to create snow angels, just in case there was some square inch of my winterwear which didn't already have snow attached to it. As a kid in the country I remember leaning against a tree, vibrating it enough to shake off all the snow and suddenly get buried in it.

My next twelve years, there was no snow. Sometimes I'd catch a glimpse of it on one of the San Gabriel mountain peaks while I was in California. This was sort of like seeing it in a photograph. Yeah, that's snow, but you have to point at it. When you're hip-deep in it, that's when you can say this is snow.

My next twelve years, here in Cincinnati, snow could come fast and furious and deep, but most often it's a sometime thing that spits a little and disappears before arriving. This is sort of like living on the borderline of the snow season. You seldom see it and it doesn't amount to much but you feel vaguely threatened.

Idle thoughts while sitting here officially in Autumn and awaiting the official coming of Winter.

What follows on the next page is my third rendition of The Records, which elsewhere would more commonly be known by a name such as The Box Scores. I tell you this in advance so you don't turn the page and scream or anything, which is quite decent of me. A few minutes spent with it will make all the numbers become clear, if they're not already clear, or if you want them to become clear. This climbing of the statistical mountain is done because it's there, it's fun, and it satisfies my hidden math urge to diddle with numbers.

What does not follow the stats is the six pages of mailing comments I wrote. They got electronically zapped through a disk storage error on my part. One of the hazards of word processor usage. Ah well: What does follow is the four pages of mailing comments I was able to reconstruct by browsing both the mailing and my dusty memory lobes. Obviously, given the practice, I get less wordy.

We'll see you in April.

THE RECORDS
for Mailings #1 thru #79
"The First 13 Years"

This is a mathematical exercise based on volume and frequency of participation, and is not to be viewed as an indicator of value or quality.

	<u>Intl</u>	<u>Hits/Mlgs</u>	<u>% Hits/Mlgs</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Pgs/Mlg</u>	<u>Pgs/Hit</u>
Bruce Arthurs	2	50/78	64.1 [20]	346 [12]	4.4 [18]	6.9 [12]
Lon Atkins	1	64/79	81.0 [12]	390 [10]	4.93 [14]	6.1 [16]
Bill Bowers	12	31/38	81.6 [11]	169 [16]	4.5 [17]	5.5 [17]
Richard Brandt	79	1/1	100.0 [1]	2 [22]	2.0 [21]	2.0 [22]
Jackie Causgrove	1	69/79	87.3 [6]	787 [4]	9.9 [4]	11.4 [4]
D. Gary Grady	38	29/42	69.0 [18]	312 [13]	7.4 [8]	10.8 [7]
Dean Grennell	1	56/79	70.9 [17]	151 [18]	1.9 [22]	2.7 [21]
Marty Helgesen	2	78/78	100.0 [1]	534 [7]	6.8 [10]	6.85 [14]
Lynn Hickman	40	20/40	50.0 [22]	227 [14]	5.7 [12]	11.35 [6]
Arthur Hlavaty	1	69/79	87.3 [6]	934 [2]	11.8 [2]	13.5 [2]
David Hulan	1	49/79	62.0 [21]	792 [3]	10.0 [3]	16.2 [1]
Eric Lindsey/Jean Weber	2	72/78	92.3 [4]	935 [1]	12.0 [1]	13.0 [3]
Dave Locke	1	79/79	100.0 [1]	721 [5]	9.1 [5]	9.1 [9]
Danny MacCallum	69	10/11	90.9 [5]	54 [20]	4.91 [15]	5.4 [18]
Jodie Offutt	23	47/57	82.5 [10]	204 [15]	3.6 [19]	4.3 [20]
Dave Rowe/Carolyn Doyle	57	19/23	82.6 [9]	161 [17]	7.0 [9]	8.5 [11]
Mike Shoemaker	1	57/79	72.2 [13]	379 [11]	4.8 [16]	6.6 [15]
Roger Sims	74	5/6	83.3 [8]	46 [21]	7.7 [7]	9.2 [8]
Suzi Stefl	1	57/79	72.2 [13]	392 [9]	5.0 [13]	6.88 [13]
Roy Tackett	1	57/79	72.2 [13]	648 [6]	8.2 [6]	11.37 [5]
Bob Tucker	42	25/38	65.8 [19]	122 [19]	3.2 [20]	4.9 [19]
Dave Wixon	1	52/73	71.2 [16]	473 [8]	6.5 [11]	9.0 [10]

"Intl" is the initial mailing where the member contributed. ** Figures within parens represent ranking within the category. ** Stats represent active members only and include past incarnations. ** Multiple-party oneshots have been ignored. ** OOs and covers have been credited to the person who was primarily responsible. ** One mlg, one membership, one set of stats (apac from Bernadette and Marcia have been folded into these stats) (if Jackie & Dave shared one mailing, you guys wouldn't stand a chance...). ** No adjustment has been made for relative pagecount (i.e.: typesize, margins, inclusion of letters or articles, etc.).

THE TOP TEN

% of Hits Per Mailing		Total Pages		Pages per Mailing	
1. Dave Locke	100.0	1. Lindsey/Weber	935	1. Lindsey/Weber	12.0
Marty Helgesen	100.0	2. Arthur Hlavaty	934	2. Arthur Hlavaty	11.8
Richard Brandt	100.0	3. David Hulan	792	3. David Hulan	10.0
Lindsey/Weber	92.3	4. Jackie Causgrove	787	4. Jackie Causgrove	9.9
5. Danny MacCallum	90.9	5. Dave Locke	721	5. Dave Locke	9.1
6. Jackie Causgrove	87.3	6. Roy Tackett	648	6. Roy Tackett	8.2
Arthur Hlavaty	87.3	7. Marty Helgesen	534	7. Roger Sims	7.7
8. Roger Sims	83.3	8. Dave Wixon	473	8. D. Gary Grady	7.4
9. Rowe/Doyle	82.6	9. Suzi Stefl	392	9. Rowe/Doyle	7.0
10. Jodie Offutt	82.5	10. Lon Atkins	390	10. Marty Helgesen	6.8

Pages per Hit		Longest Unbroken String		Current String	
1. David Hulan	16.2	1. Dave Locke	79 [1-79]	1. Dave Locke	79
2. Arthur Hlavaty	13.5	2. Marty Helgesen	78 [2-79]	2. Marty Helgesen	78
3. Lindsey/Weber	13.0	3. Jackie Causgrove	66 [1-66]	3. Roy Tackett	18
4. Jackie Causgrove	11.4	4. Lindsey/Weber	37 [15-51]	4. Bill Bowers	14
5. Roy Tackett	11.37	5. Arthur Hlavaty	33 [14-46]	5. Arthur Hlavaty	4
6. Lynn Hickman	11.35	6. Suzi Stefl	21 [16-36]		
7. D. Gary Grady	10.8	7. Mike Shoemaker	19 [1-19]	Produced by Dave	
8. Roger Sims	9.2	8. Roy Tackett	18 [62-79]	Locke for the fun of	
9. Dave Locke	9.1	9. Lon Atkins	15 [1-15]	it, and dedicated to	
10. Dave Wixon	9.0	10. Bill Bowers	14 [66-79]	Lon and David.	



Mailing Comments on the 79th mailing

Lon Atkins

Go read my last paragraph.

I think what I said to you was that, yes, you have turned up an excellent novelist in Joseph Wambaugh. My favorite author who has never turned out a clunker, or anything below the level of very damn good. If you haven't yet encountered them, read his *THE UNION FIELD* [one of my three favorite novels] and his latest, *FUGITIVE NIGHTS*.

YELLOW BIRD, by Rick Boyer, is being saved for a rainy day. Right now, when it wants to rain it snows.

I miss your mailing comments. Actually what I miss the most is living within visiting distance of you. I'll bet you could even talk me into jogging with you, but until I got up to speed you'd have to promise to drag me off the beach before high tide came in.

Jodie Offutt

We switched from a 1st Thursday deadline, which is somewhat nebulous and crept up on people, to a deadline of "the 5th", which sounds ominous and final and is easy to keep in mind, effective the October '91 mailing. At least, that's the current theory.

Really and truly enjoyed the foodfest we had with the Hulans and DGary at Octocon/Ditto that one evening. Even if we did need a shoehorn afterward to get everybody back into your car. We should have rented a bus.

"How anyone could watch that game and say that baseball isn't exciting is beyond me." You don't want to hear this, but I have a hot news flash for you: baseball is boring. Well, I find it boring. I used to play it, and that was really boring, but fortunately I was able to escape. It's true that if you know the players the game is more interesting, but that's a push with all sports. With baseball, what action it has is too little, too far inbetween, and too much the same. Golf is a close rival, but the scenery is a bit nicer. Among the big-time truly sedate sports, only bowling has the saving grace of being somewhat interesting to play, if not to watch.

Bob Tucker

David Hulan cites April '61 as his entry into fandom, as do I, though likely we both received fanzines as early as the mid-'50s. So reference Harry Warner's "new history of the 1950s, *A WEALTH OF FABLE*", and divulge what it says about David.

You're one up on me, having met Danny. Jean and Danny are the only two FLAPans I haven't yet met. She called us once, from the east coast, but then escaped.

Peter Edick lived in South Pasadena when Jackie and I lived in LA in the late '70s. Something in Jean Weber's zine made me think he might still be there. Jean?

No, no, it wasn't poetic license. Listen, I once had a pilot sitting next to me on a bus, too, and none of the four wheels ever left the ground. Tsk, you have such a distrustful nature...

Dave Wixon

"Read Shift". An interesting concept. Just today, 12/15, I received via sea mail a fanzine which was among those which Jean had mailed in time for the last mailing. Read shift. Must we pay you whenever this occurs?

Hey, you're right. The roads are longer, the cars more uncomfortable, and the days longer every time we take our act on the road. Can't possibly be that we find such long trips to be less fun as we get older.

Eric S Jean

I enjoyed this, and had a whole bunch of comment. Now I read it again and can't remember all that I had to say. One thing for sure: Irish John Berry has always been one of my top favorite fanwriters. At his best, no one could match him. This piece isn't his best, but it's great stuff and I really enjoyed reading it. No one has done better in anything I read in '92.

I like the photosection. Fans I knew then and now. How come Bowers looks like he's just been stabbed by something?

All right, cut it out. Our buses don't have stewardesses, either, unless they're riding as passengers, as this one was. Have to watch every @!%?@%?! word I write...

This urge you had to write down Dave Wixon's name. You mention it immediately after Dave's zine where he discusses his "read shift" theory and says that you should mention his name in your next zine. Hmmm. You don't suppose he's been hanging around that skiffy author to the point where he has developed some manner of telepathic skills?

Roy Tackett

Nice Freas illos. Yours doesn't look like you, however. Whether Eleen looks like Eleen I don't know. I only know that I agree with her about voting for Clinton. However, if you had, you wouldn't be able to bitch. I suspect that this is more valuable to you.

Say, how come Danny thinks you're married to someone named "Eileen"?

Agent of the devil. I had someone call me that once. Right here in fandom. Well, not right here, but in fandom. No one seemed to have any opinions pro or con on the remark, though one person did note that I tended to smoke a lot.

Bill Bowers

I'm more up-to-date than your zine in this mailing would allow, which is one of the hazards of living near you, but despite misgivings I'm happy that you at least got something back, even if the bitch or her delegates put scratch marks on everything that wasn't gutted. And need I tell you again about staying away from crazy women? Yes, I know they're fun. Stay away from them.

David Hulan

Something you already know: I loved seeing you and Marcia out here again, and I will do my best to get back there for a vacation real soon now. Yes I will. Ah, promises.

I don't think I've ever purchased as many books all at one time as you did when we raided Barnes & Noble. If you'll fly out here every other month or so I'd be happy to take you over there again. It's a big store and they still have titles you haven't yet purchased.

Richard Brandt

Aha! Another MST-3K fan. Is there any better way to spend a Saturday morning with a pot of coffee? No, I say, there isn't.

Good deliberately or inadvertently bad skiffy movies. I recommend THE BORROWER, 1991 with Rae Dawn Chong and Don Gordon. Maltin gave it ***½ out of a possible **** and reviewed it this way: "An alien criminal is 'devolved' to human shape and exiled on Earth; when his head explodes, he starts ripping the heads off human beings (and others) and donning them until they go bad, too. Understandably confused cops Chong and Gordon are on his trail. Gleeefully outrageous horror premise supported by strong, stylish direction and a well-written script." I've got a copy if you're interested.

I think that legalizing freedom will promote too many idiots. Don't you? Well, I'm in favor of it anyway. With the sole exception that I think mimes should be outlawed. I'm certain that everyone will agree with me on this.

Arthur Hlavaty

I'm sorry, but I just don't quite fathom how two signs could fall together in such a manner that "Frozen Turkey Breasts" reads "Zen Breasts". Please diagram this for me.

"DickHeads' Guide". See my page #1, last ¶. In my lost M/Cs I listed all of my favorite Phil Dick novels, which turned out to be almost all the ones you didn't list when doing your lineup of favorites. How can this be? Actually, don't you agree that his shorter works were his best writing?

Marty Helgesen

It's easy to say "I told you so", especially if we look back 12 years to the first Reagan election. Today, though, it's easy to see why we voted for someone who promised to fix things instead of someone who couldn't see that things needed fixing and openly admitted so. Thus, the nation is in a position of hope as opposed to no chance at all. Now tell me you think that's wrong, despite your easy bet that "I told you so"...

D. Gary Grady

Very much enjoyed your company at Octocon/Ditto, and hope you'll make Midwestcon and/or Octocon in '93. Maybe I can scrounge up another brown bag of Westlake novels. I see we both felt moved to tell that story in the last mailing.

One of the problems of trying to list everybody is that you're bound to leave someone out. In this instance, trying to list all the FLAPpans at Octocon/Ditto, you left out Roger Sims. On the other hand, maybe you didn't see him. I almost didn't, myself. You may, however, remember an occasional blur of motion caught out of the corner of your eye. That was Roger. Two or three times he skidded to a stop in front of me just to say howdy, and if it weren't for that and my talking with Pat Sims I might not have known that he was there, either.

Yeah, I was awoken by a stewardess on a bus. She was a passenger, probably because a flight across town wouldn't have been practical. It was all a good excuse to create the line: "I was woken by a stewardess once, but it wasn't on an airplane." At least I didn't leave it at that, and not mention that we were on a bus...

Danny MacCallum

There can't, in my opinion, be too many bookstores. I was tickled when Barnes and Noble located one of their superstores just a mile away, but sorry that it soon drove the area's second largest bookstore, located nearby, out of business.

Dean Grennell

This typeface [Tempo 10, printed in elite spacing], and the typeface I used on the electronic typer [Cubic Pica, printed in elite spacing] are basically the same and I've long thought of them as 'my voice' in print. The closest thing on Jackie's computer is Eurotype, which is what I'll use when next I use it at all. She does have some great typefaces on there: DomCasual, Camberic, Caligula, Black Chancery, and Paint Brush are fonts I'm particularly fond of.

Here's a title for you: Coquecigrue [imaginary creature regarded as absolute absurdity]. Obviously the worst kind of grue...

Jackie Causgrove

I can remember when we squeezed ourselves into the kitchen 'nook' and rarely used the living room at all. That was silly. Now we live in the living room, literalists that we are, and all the other rooms seem to be mainly storage. However, I think our kipple is catching up with us again, and our names may soon be associated with those of the Collier brothers.

You lost your shorts to Richard Brandt at Octocon/Ditto? Tough game. Wouldn't he take Visa?

Time to put my Chief Statistician hat on. If we don't count Richard, who wasn't yet in FLAP at the time of Octocon/Ditto, we had 9 of 20 membership slots present, or 45%. Of 22 members, we had 11, or 50%. Ah, well, the Chief Statistician is just a nitpicker, anyway.

Too embarrassed to explain about that two-person computer game we play, called Gorilla? Well, that's two of us...

Roger Sims

You never heard the expression "same old, same old" before? It's generally a response to "how you doing?" when the two people involved see each other regularly.

Yeah, it takes all kinds. Things like the Marge Schott Affair bring them out of the woodwork, from anonymous callers who say "Marge Schott has said nothing that is not true!" all the way up or down to Jessie "Hymietown" Jackson.

Marge Schott is a major news item lately. I have a very strong suspicion that racism is an excuse, and not the issue here. If it were the issue, it would have been brought up back in 1988 when it allegedly occurred. The movers and shakers don't like many of her decisions and actions with regard to the Reds, and this whole racism business smells like an excuse they latched upon in an effort to move her out of the picture. I don't give a damn about baseball, the Reds, Marge Schott, or her dumb dog, but I strongly dislike the notion that race consciousness could be used as nothing more than a red herring to execute a hidden agenda. We'll see what develops.

Finally, someone who tells worse jokes than I do. I knew there was some reason I liked you.

All right, why was it a "hateful" campus where that Westercon was held?

Yeah, Roy is married. Before that happened I acquired a copy of an Albuquerque Journal article of 12/13/91 ["'Trek' Fans Beaming Over New Movie"], which included a picture of Eleen and this paragraph: "But after screening the film this week, Eleen Haas, chief of staff of Alpha Centura, a 'Star Trek' and media-oriented science-fiction club, and Roy Tackett, a founding member of the Albuquerque Science Fiction Society, both say Capt. Kirk and crew haven't beamed down to the planet's surface for good."