



Slow Djin #85 is brought to you by Dave Locke, 6828 Alpine Avenue #4, Silverton, Ohio 45236. 513/984-1447. Produced for the 85th mailing of FLAP, December 1993. Diabolologic Pub #4.



In retrospect it was an inauspicious beginning when the alien landed at Graceland and said "Take me to your leader."

No, wait a minute. Wrong scenario.

85 mailings. Holy mackerel, Andy! 14 years of this stuff. Now, there's a scenario.

And here's another one: the 84th mailing of FLAP.

#### *Mailing Comments on Mailing #84*

##### **Arthur Hlavaty** *Discordia Revisited*

A reprint zine from a 16 year publishing run. Well, the cover certainly fits, though I don't see any credit given for it [not a fan illo?]. All nice stuff. Enjoyed reading it again. In particular I liked your theory on the JFK assassination, that various agencies destroyed evidence because of the possibility that they might have been involved. Makes more sense than anything else I've heard. Of course, anything makes more sense on the subject than this Oswald The Lone Gunman tall tale which so many seem to believe because they've heard it on the television so many times.

##### **Jean Weber** *Weber Woman's Wrevenge*

Began to think the second parcel of this zine would never arrive. Unfortunately there were 22 instead of 24 copies, the packets having wallowed so long in the stasis field of sea mail. So I shorted you a copy and shorted myself one, since we had both already read it and the spares are needed for recruiting purposes.

There was one thing 'alien' about your birthday party invitation which you reprinted on your cover. Besides asking for a contribution of \$15 towards expenses, that is, which I'd never heard of before outside the scope of politics. Though heard of before, it's very infrequently I've seen a party invite which called for people to bring their own chairs. Their own bottles, yes. A food item, yes. Prepared material on stencil as part of your contribution to a oneshot, yes. Thoughts to contribute to the discussion of a 'topic', yes. Chairs, no, not unless it was a CFG invite to a picnic in a local park. When there wasn't enough furniture to go around, people would usually sit on the floor or on the arms of various pieces of furniture. To quote Jerry Seinfeld: "Not that there's anything wrong with that."

Paukert on kipple reminds me that we don't need a bigger place, we need less kipple. To think otherwise means we'd regularly be needing a still larger place. Sooner or later Hearst Castle wouldn't be big enough.

As for not throwing out plastic containers because "you never know when they'll come in handy", I think Jackie still has the very first plastic container she ever

decided to save. At least, I judge that I've spotted the right one simply by rummaging back through the collection until I spotted the most decrepit one which had not started out being yellow. This expedition also served to make me disbelieve the story that plastics aren't biodegradable, and there's a complete archaeological record in this apartment to prove it. I don't know why scientists keep digging this stuff up from landfills to look at when they could simply come visit us.

Almost any cat manual will tell you that a cat in a new home will often initially spend a day to a week hiding under a piece of furniture. That and a few other things in McConchie's story leads me to the conclusion that people should really learn a little bit about an animal before acquiring one. A little less time rereading the *Cat Who* books and a little more reading such things as Desmond Morris's *Catwatching* and the Eckstein's *How To Get Your Cat To Do What You Want* might help. Besides she and the cat being better off for it, we'd be better off for not reading such things as her attributing the cat's behavior to a deprived childhood. Overall, though I enjoyed her writing, I think she displays a little too much innocence regarding the farm animals around her, too.

##### **Lon Atkins** *fan ordinaire*

*Crazy In Alabama* has gotten some good reviews and sounds like the kind of kinky story I'd go for. Will have to watch for it in paperback.

*The Bridges Of Madison County* is interesting in another way, though I don't intend reading it. A first novel by a former folk singer who sang at JFK's campaign rallies, it was given no advertising dollars and hit the best seller lists through word-of-mouth sales alone. That's highly unusual. Now the man is back to folk singing again and is doing well at it. He's gotten a lot of publicity since *Bridges* made it big, including a major profile on *Sunday Today* which showed him to be a very interesting person and not a bad singer at all. An overnight success story.

Haven't read Cormac McCarthy yet, but if you think he's a candidate for the finest living American writer then I guess I should. I think the finest living American writer is Edward Whittemore, who wrote three absolutely fascinating fantasy novels [*Sinai Tapestry*, *Quin's Shanghai Circus*, and *Jerusalem Poker*] and one unreadable one [couldn't finish it and don't remember the title; far as I know it was the last thing he wrote]. Oddly enough I'm not the only one to think Whittemore is the best; I've read Mike Resnick making that statement, too.

##### **Eric Lindsay** *Missed Mailings*

To determine the average zip code I include your 2776 code twice. It's your mailing address of record, so

that's the one I use. Just like I use the zip code attached to a P.O. Box address, even where we know a different zip code for the home itself. And in any dual membership the zip gets included twice because I'm talking about the theoretical location of the average member, not the average membership. You indicate that you could argue for a phantom prefix. Yes, you could. U.S. zip numbers run low to high from east to west, and your low number throws the average toward the east when by rights it should throw it west. All right, next time I'll give your code a phantom prefix of "10". 102776, to show that you're west of the 9XXXX numbers given in Hawaii and Alaska. The next time is now: As of the 83rd mailing the average FLAP member lived in Dundee, Minnesota. There's something appropriate about massaging the Aussie "zip codes" and winding up with a town named Dundee... As of the 84th mailing, the average zip code was an unassigned expansion number earmarked for use in South Dakota.

New Years, not Xmas, is a party season in Cinsanity. The Annual Floating New Years' Party. Floats from house to house from night to night and works itself into the closest weekend before or after. This year, with New Year's day on a Saturday, I'd guess there would probably be parties on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and possibly on Wednesday as well. Traditionally the weather in Cincinnati at that time is cold without snow. When we get snow, it usually comes later in January. And traditionally it doesn't amount to much. But, not always. It occurs to me that this mailing comment would be too late for any potential good, so I'll paste it into a letter and mail it to you...

We have "lots of different sorts of files" on computer, too. Which means it would take longer to get into one without an icon [even longer if, because of having lots of files, you can't offhand remember the name of the one you're looking for]. I'll stick with the icons. Presently I have 18 of them that I use regularly, not often in sequence, and have grouped together. There are probably 30 others that I use less frequently and which are part of other groupings.

Will think happy thoughts about the possibility of seeing you guys on your year-end visit. If you consider including Florida in your plans, make it the state you hit last before returning home. So far we're only murdering overseas tourists who initially arrive in Florida.

#### **HORT** *If It Wasn't For Long John Silver... #44*

You noted many of your Travelling Giant misadventures by letter, but it was interesting to read an expanded version of them. Retirement seems to be fitting you like a glove.

Beer. Tried a Pete's Wicked Ale at Lon's LArea party back in '89, and it was definitely okay. Have a photo of me holding a can of it. However, I have to agree that Anchor has long been one of the world's best beers, and for a long time the only beer worth drinking in this country. Now, with the mini and micro and pub breweries, good beer is most everywhere. Still, Anchor remains the only steam beer, excellent and unique. Have you ever tried the Anchor Steam Porter?

Wow, what a save by Sal DiMaria with the last line of his book review ["...recommended for a sleepless night or for breaks in between something more profound, like the Albuquerque Journal"]...

Mooncon. That wasn't Dave Jenrette, was it?

Yes, there are disadvantages to owning a truck or, like us, a high-wagon. People want you to help them move

things. Art show flats. Possessions to a new home. Whatever. We got the wagon because of the ease of getting in & out for Jackie, and though she's seldom in the vehicle that's still the prime advantage. Lesser advantages include the ease of loading & unloading groceries and the high road visibility. Somewhere about three feet below the sheet of paper this list is printed on is the advantage that fortunately we get to help those who know that we have a large vehicle.

Didn't read the items that got Green Slimed, but saw *Journey To The Center Of The Earth* [all five minutes before I gave up] and a couple episodes of *Space Rangers*. Now, I've sat through the first two episodes of *seaQuest DSV* and found it much worse than *Space Rangers*. Felt very sorry for Roy Scheider, a fine actor whose work I've enjoyed. The show is worse than anything skiffy I've seen on the tube in years, including *Quantum Leap* whose appeal totally escapes me.

Overall not a bad arkle on Bubonicon in the Albuquerque Journal. As you know, these write-ups can definitely be much worse.

I note that you have exactly the same opinion about Worldcons that I expressed a few mailings back. People here were telling me that I have a bad attitude. People are always telling me that I have a bad attitude. Never quite so much as the time I wrote Buck Coulson that I'd seen the initial set of Faan Awards trophies, opining that they looked like the end result of a robot horsefucking five pounds of Playdough, and he printed the comment [he had a bad attitude], but saying that I didn't like Worldcons brought its fair share. You must have a bad attitude.

#### **Nicki Lynch** *Duck's Foot In The Mud*

Well, congratulations on getting another Hugo for Best Fanzine. You have that other bookend now. Will look nice on your mantle. Between the two you can have bound volumes of *Mimosa*, the program books for the two Worldcons where you won, the complete works of Hugo Gernsback, and a complete run of all the Hugo owner's manuals. It will be very impressive. Well, that's what I'd do, anyway.

From your and HORT's con reports I tend to think that I'll avoid cable cars if I ever find myself in Frisco. Not that I likely ever will; I lived in the LArea for 12 years and never had the slightest urge to travel quite that far north. San Luis Obispo was as north as I got, and was nice, though technically I guess that Bakersfield [which is not nice] is further north. Remember erstwhile actor Victor Buono describing his dislike of Rome? "Take away the art," he said, "and it is Bakersfield with tomato sauce."

Dead guests of honor. I see. Well, Mark Twain sort of fits in with skiffy. *Connecticut Yankee* and all that. Speaking of Hugo Gernsback, as I was, we could bring him back for some future Worldcon. Having dead guests of honor is a practical idea, actually, and a good example of the forward thinking of skiffy fans. I mean, should one of the announced GoHs expire before the convention, it wouldn't even give us pause. "Yes, he was our Professional Guest Of Honor, but now he's our Dead Guest Of Honor. As a bonus, he now doesn't drink and won't be passing out in the hallway every night."

"I ♥ SF" pins. Oh, please... What's next, little signs in the back window of your car reading "Skiffy Fan On Board"? Excuse me, I have to go take a hit of Dramamine right now...

A garlic restaurant called The Stinking Rose with the



motto that "We season our garlic with food". I love it. But, then, I love garlic. Definitely a place I would enjoy.

Yeah, we thought *Lois and Clark* was quite amusing and fun, too. *seaQuest DSV* was a dead bore to start with and didn't get any better in the next two episodes, and I felt sorry for Roy Scheider finding himself in the middle of this turkey. The two new shows that I like best are *N.Y.P.D. Blue* and *It Had To Be You*. If they hang in there they might stay amongst my favorites, which currently are *Mad About You*, *Seinfeld*, *The Larry Sanders Show*, *Politically Incorrect*, and *Law and Order*.

Yeah, I lived in Schenectady back in '65, and went to Syracuse University - briefly - in '62. Also lived in Gloversville, Indian Lake, Troy, Green Island, and Ballston Spa. Altogether I lived 24 years in NYok state. Then 12 in Califunny, 7 months in Louisville KY, and so far 13 years in Ohio. I ♥ the Adirondacks, too. Beautiful area.

You took a tour of underground crypts while in Cracow? Do they advertise this in the tourist brochures?

I save my zines to disk, but only for the possibility that I might need to crank out extra copies. My file copies, as always, are printed and saved to three-ring binders, and those are what I go to if I need to reference something. It's not a fanzine until it's on paper...

#### D. Gary Grady *No Theory! Facts!!*

Don't send me no steinking Westlake books, unless of course you acquire a copy of his latest Dortmund, *Don't Ask*, which underemployed guys like me can't afford to purchase in hardcover. Or, if you tumble across them, there are a few others on the Want List that I haven't yet acquired [I think that, between them, Westlake and John D. MacDonald have written half of the books currently published in the English speaking world; I've been through all the JDMs, but a very few Westlakes have eluded me]. *Pity Him Afterwards*, as J. Morgan Cunningham *Comfort Station*, as Tucker Coe everything except *Wax Apple* [*Kinds Of Love*, *Kinds Of Death*; *Murder Among Children*; *A Jade In Aries*, and *Don't Lie To Me*]. Now the big question: Have you gotten to the stuff he wrote under the Richard Stark byline? Two series, one about a guy named Parker, and a spin-off series about a guy named Alan Grofield. These are my favorites of all the zillion things he's written, and I keep rereading them.

Agreed with everything you wrote about the subject of health insurance. After a decade with an HMO I'm convinced that we're better off following a good example than in going for the major retooling that's really needed. Because, you can't do a major retooling by consensus and wind up with anything that's really worth a damn.

I busted a gut reading *The Shining II: Into Darkest Glen Burnie*. Great stuff. I've got a few hotel stories myself, but they would pale in comparison.

I saw *The Shining* in the theater and didn't really care for it all that much, though it definitely had polish and many strengths. *Maximum Overdrive* was just plain pitiful. The best movie from a King story was *Stand By Me*, from his story *The Body*, and wasn't science fiction or horror or fantasy at all, and was done by Rob Reiner and featured excellent actors. After that ... the final segment of the three-story *Cat's Eye*, and *Dead Zone*. *Misery* was a decent movie. A few others were watchable. Many weren't. *Needful Things* was one of King's better novels, and I've hopes for the movie, but...

What gets me about quantum mechanics is the idea that a particle has no spin or polarization until you

measure it, let alone that once measured the particle would instantaneously communicate its state to its twin no matter what the distance. It's not there until we take a hard look at it. Sounds to me like the tree in the forest, the bear in the woods, and the light in the refrigerator. If we can't see it, smell it, touch it, measure it, or goose it, it ain't there. I think Nancy Reagan should make a drug raid on these people.

Thanks for the recommendation on the Forward book. I'll be sure to avoid it. Not, I hasten to add, because you recommended it. I'll avoid it because you stated that if I "missed good old Doc Smith style hard sf, you'll love *Timemaster*." At age 12 I had letters in the prozines bitching about the poor quality of this guy's writing. And if I thought it was bad then...

Depending, it's Gamera or Gammara, not Gimera.

Actually, Oswald was a lousy marksman, which makes the problem even worse. Belzer, on CNBC, recently interviewed someone who also recently had a book published on all this Assassination Anniversary nonsense, and he logically pointed out all the flaws in the Posner book. I have no vague notion of who might have killed Kennedy, but I smell a big rat in the idea that poor little Lee Harvey did it all hisself. A big rat that left droppings all over the place before, during, and after the incident.

"Still don't understand your objection to Reagan's calling the USSR an 'evil empire.'" I see. It's not so much that you disagree, but that you don't understand. I tried long and hard enough, but maybe a fanzine wasn't the best medium for this communication. If I get the time I'll try writing it out on cue cards. I could use the blank backs of the ones that Reagan used.

We're both right, according to Desmond Morris in *Catwatching* ["Why cats purr and everything else you ever wanted to know"]. Obviously a cat isn't going to rub up against you if there isn't any affection, and yes the cat is marking you with it's scent. Morris writes "Why does a cat rub up against your leg when it greets you? Partly to make friendly physical contact with you ... your cat has marked you with its scent ... it is important that friendly members of the cat's family should be scent-sharing in this way. This makes the cat feel more at home with its human companions."

Yes, some dogs will die trying to protect their masters. Dogs are real big on loyalty. If that's the prime criterion for having a pet then I guess fish and birds and cats and gerbils and all the usual pet-types are pretty much scratched from consideration. I think what I'll do is see if I can't find a lion with a thorn in its paw.

Jackie had a cat which attacked and turned back an older kid who was attacking one of her boys. My parents had a bulldog who attacked and repelled any animal that messed with the little kitten they'd just gotten; when the dog got old and the cat got big, the cat would attack and repel any animal that tried picking on the old bull. So now, Old Shoe, you've "heard of a feline risking its obnoxious cat ass to protect someone or something besides itself". Let me know if I should send you any of these books about cats or any of Scamper's old cat toys, okay?

Yup, it was me who was called an agent of the devil. At one point I even got a promotion and was referred to as the Antichrist. This was all during the heat and fire of TAFKgate where I believed that non-fanzine fans had the right to vote and to run and not simply to donate money, just like the ballot stated. Such heresy. It is wicked to jerk down the pants of the Chosen.

**Bill Bowers** *Xenolith*

I live a little more closely to your predicaments than the average Flappan, so I won't comment as though this were an initial response to the news that God is unhappy with you. I've spoken to Her about this, but She is an agnostic and doesn't know whether or not I really exist. If I do, She says, She's unhappy with the people in this household, too. Probably has something to do with that Antichrist business.

"...a light, frothy, un-angst-ridden fanzine" is sometimes difficult to do if your fanwriting is a mirror to what's going on in your life. It's relatively easy to do if your fanwriting is a vehicle to take your intellect and your sense of humor for a ride in the country. Compartmentalization is the key. Give everything its turn instead of letting a few bad or good turns color your interaction with everything. Wild highs and dark lows can either give you the world or take it all away, or they can merely be the status in one area of your life. Or two, or three. But not all...

Interesting that you feel on the potential brink of writing for entertainment purposes. When do I get to read the first Bill Bowers fanarkle?

**Jodie Offutt** *Whistle Post*

What is "an I-search paper"? You lost me there.

"I'm using the salami method: working on one step at a time". What? Salami has steps? Hey, what kind of English are you teaching down there? Does Kentucky have certain State mandates which impinge on your teaching of the language?

Say, you got really emotional there in Washington, D.C., didn't you, rubbing up against all that history. I was definitely too jaded when I toured the city. The only times I was at all impressed it was with some of the architecture. I was 17 at the time...

Well-done article in the N.Y. Times by your son. Chris is right that the media has abandoned the Midwestern flood story now that the water is receding and the hard work has to begin. At least, the national media. I doubt the local media have eased up even a bit.

**Marty Helgesen** *A Sick Mind Is A Wonderful Thing To Watch*

You'd think convention management would have more brains than to preprint name tags using a fan's name as printed on their checks. But then, are Worldcons still run by what we think of as "fans"?

Had planned on going to Yosemite on vacation, but never made it there. You made it there, but didn't say anything about it or your reaction.

**Dick Lynch** *All This And More!*

WP6.0, as you describe the differences from WP5.1 [which I'm familiar with], sounds like an effort to emulate Microsoft Word or Microsoft Publisher. Good to hear they're trying to make a better product out of it. I'd rather learn the new version than go back to using the old, which I like less every time I use it. Did they make any improvements in that crappy filing system?

David Hulan was also at Worldcon, but didn't join the convention because his primary interest was to see the Apanage members in attendance and not to use convention facilities or functions. Dave Wixon was there, also. That's 9 of 24 members, which isn't bad for an apa where the average member lives in South Dakota.

*Doomsday Book*, set in the time of the Black Death. "And yes, it's a bit depressing". Really? Jackie just

finished taping a series called *Death: The Trip Of A Lifetime* which is about rituals for the dead. I think I'll pass on the both of them. I mean, it was so difficult even to get through *Bambi*...

**Dave Wixon** *The Astrochelonian Diaries*

Was that you who just rushed past with this one-pager? By the time I focused my eyes, you were gone.

Glad that, despite all, things have turned out okay.

**Richard Brandt** *Deadwood Dick*

Bela Lugosi was a formaldehyde junkie? I didn't know that. Does it explain why he was so stiff in *Plan 9 From Outer Space*? Did the undertaker give a discount on processing him, I wonder? And they use the stuff in San Miguel and other Filipino beers? Hell, I didn't know that either. If I were still drinking beer this knowledge would be enough that I'd go through my refrigerator to make sure there wasn't any San Miguel in there. Probably I'd even tend to blame the stuff for my joints feeling so creaky at times.

**Roger Sims** *Bheer Is Best*

Let's see, you started this 4-pager at 9:55 am and got it here just before 10:00 pm on deadline day. It's a good thing you're semi-retired, or you'd probably be asking us to move the deadline to weekends.

Fanac. Short for fan activity. Pronounced just like "fan activity" without the "tivity". See how simple it is?

On "the least interesting of the four panels I attended, at least the panel members spent the entire period talking about the subject." See? If they hadn't, maybe it would have been more interesting.

*Fantasy-Scope*. "...in the hands of the editor who is my wife." So, when is the next issue of Pat Sims' fanzine coming out?

I've seen *Talk Soup* on the Entertainment cable channel, and some of the items are interesting or amusing. At least, if you don't like an item, it goes by quickly. Don't much care for the host, though.

The show I find most interesting on cable is on the Comedy channel. *Politically Incorrect*, hosted by Bill Maher. That one I tape, and don't miss.

Never really cared for the art or the cartoon humor of David Thayer ["Teddy Harvia"]. Not my cuppa.

Flappans, Roger. Not Flappers. Maybe Flap, but never Flappettes.

I liked the American Indian Jewish joke, but then I have a high ability to achieve a willing suspension of disbelief.

Bob ran the plans for the Tucker hotel in an earlier FLAP mailing, and we returned the original to him. You can borrow a copy of that mailing, provided I can find it.

Patsy Cline is my favorite female vocalist. She may be long dead, but her music lives on, particularly the timeless numbers that Willie Nelson wrote for her [like, *Crazy*]. There's not much music played in this apartment because Jackie has the television on most all the time, but Patsy, and Roy Orbison, are the two I play the most when I'm in the car.

The bar at Prime & Wine, just down the street from the Harley where Octocon is held, has a nice selection of good beers you don't usually see in the average bar.

Having talked about this recently, we know that the both of us make lousy fantasy fans, which is probably why we both like Heinlein's *Glory Road* so much.