

The Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin

Volume 7, Number 1
September, 1998



THE FACE ON MARS

Southern Fandom Confederation

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Art Credits

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Policies

The Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin Vol. 7, No. 1, September 1998, is the official publication of the Southern Fandom Confederation (SFC), a not-for-profit literary organization and information clearinghouse dedicated to the service of Southern Science Fiction and Fantasy Fandom. The SFC Bulletin is edited by Julie Wall and is published four times per year. Membership in the SFC is \$10 annually, running from DeepSouthCon to DeepSouthCon. A club or convention membership is \$50 annually. Donations are welcome. All checks should be made payable to the Southern Fandom Confederation.

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The Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin is also available for trades, published contributions, and letters of comment.

The editor encourages submission of lengthy written material and art - covers and illos. Contributions and LoCs via electronic means are highly desirable. If you wish to use the Internet, you may send the article as electronic mail or an attachment. If you wish to send the editor computer media, 3.5" floppies, Zip disk, 88/200 MB Syquest, JAZ and CD-ROMs are acceptable. Virtually any file format, IBM compatible or Macintosh, is acceptable. Media will be returned. The Bulletin is laid out in QuarkXPress on a Macintosh. Ink and typewritten submissions also graciously accepted, of course. If you're not sure what all this means, get in touch to work out a solution.

Ad Rates

Type	Full-Page	Half-Page	1/4 Page
Fan	\$25.00	\$12.50	\$7.50
Pro	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$12.50

SFC Handbooks

This amazing 196 page tome of Southern Fannish lore, edited by Toni Weisskopf, is now available to all comers for \$5, plus a \$2 handling and shipping charge if we have to mail it. The Handbook is also available online, thanks to the efforts of Sam Smith, at <http://www.hsv.tis.net/~ssmith/sfc/index.html>

T-Shirts

Size	S to XL	2X	3X
Price	\$15.00	\$17.00	\$18.00

Plus \$3 shipping and handling fee if we have to mail it. These are the newer design, on a white shirt. A few of the old "map" shirts have surfaced, the ones on pink and green shirts. Sizes are limited and tend to be small, so contact Julie for details. These are only \$5 plus shipping and handling.

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Off the Wall

by Julie Wall

An introduction...

Welcome to Volume 7 of the Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin. Some of you may remember that I helped Charlotte Proctor with the final few issues of the late, lamented *Anvil*. This, however, is my first "solo" attempt at fanzine editorship. I have locced various zines from time to time, but as you will see below, I have mainly been a convention/club fan until now. On the one hand, how lucky can I be, to have such an established mailing list, and the whole thing paid for? On the other hand, it is going to be a big job to fill the shoes of Tom Feller and all the other previous fine editors.

How did I get here? I have been reading Science Fiction for as long as I can remember. For this I must credit my parents. My mother is a voracious reader and has always had all kinds of fiction around the house all the time. My father is a biologist and so gave me an interest in science. I was very fond of Heinlein and I wrote to him when I was about 12 to ask about the L5 Society. One of my prized possessions is the L5 magazine that he sent to me (which was addressed to his wife), along with a short note. *Star Wars* also came out that same year. I saw it 31 times during its initial release. My best friend and I would pack a picnic lunch and go see it 5 times in a row during that summer. Later, we amassed over 1500 hand-written pages of an epic novel with amazing similarities to that screen classic.

I discovered fandom while in high school. A creative writing major at the Alabama School of Fine Arts, I somehow I heard about the Birmingham Science Fiction Club and arranged to interview then-president Jim Gilpatrick for a journalism class. So, even though Jim has long since moved to Atlanta and subsequently gafiated, I suppose it's all his fault. The first fannish event I attended was the BSFC Christmas party in 1980 at Jim's house. I was 15 and it was a blast. There was a showing of *Hardware Wars*, music, conversation, and shenanigans with gingerbread men. It ended with a crew of us going to see a midnight showing of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. I was thrilled.

I turned 16 at my first convention, Chattacon in 1981. Then I was a B'hamster at DSC that summer. I believe it was 1984, when I was 19, that I chaired my first con – BACHCon. I probably was one of the youngest con chairs ever. The BACH stood for Birmingham, Atlanta, Chattanooga and Huntsville and it

was a relaxicon in the mold of the the old ABCCons.

In 1985, I moved to Williamsburg, Virginia with my then-husband. It wasn't long before I discovered the Hampton Roads Science Fiction Association, and its convention, Sci-Con. I was Secretary of HaRoSFA for a while, and introduced the Saturday night dance to Sci-Con. I also ran the consuite at a few Sci-Cons. Because I stole the recipes for Bill Zielke's popular frozen blender drinks, and started serving them at HaRoSFA parties, I was dubbed "Blender Bunny."

I returned to Birmingham in 1991, sans husband, and was immediately elected President of BSFC, a position I held for two years. I chaired the DSC in 1994 (which was also the year I married Elliott Davis, a fan I had met at a convention in Virginia) and the most recent DSC this past June. It was at this year's DSC, of course, that I was elected President after Tom declined to run for another term. I thought long and hard about running, and decided that I was ready for a new era in my fannish career. Since I was the only one who expressed an interest in the job, I hope this turns out to have been a good idea.

Besides fandom, my other passion is ice hockey. Birmingham has a minor league team, the Bulls, which has been here since 1992, but which I didn't know about until Elliott moved here in 1994. Growing up in Indiana, he has always been a fan. He took me to a couple of games and I've been hooked ever since. We're really excited about the new NHL teams starting in Nashville this year and Atlanta next.

In the mundane world of work, I am currently a Network Systems Administrator for a printing company. I work with Novell, NT and Win95, UNIX, and my favorite, Macintosh. Despite this, I am really not that big a tech head, it's just that my particular job requires me to be a jack of all protocols, master of none. It does give me access to a lot of cool technology, which could come in handy while putting out the *Bulletin*.

A plea...

Even though it already says so on the contents page, I want to encourage submissions from both fan writers and artists all over who receive the *Bulletin*. I don't know that I'll be able to sustain Tom's level of personal contribution. He's not editor anymore, but Tom graciously agreed to do the fanzine reviews and also sent the club

listings and a con report this time, so he'll still have more bylines than me in this issue. For that I am grateful, but I do want as many fans as possible to be a part of the zine. A quick perusal will also reveal next to no interior art in this issue. Please, please, fan artists take pity on me and send art.

I am also open to suggestions on articles/regular features to include and to ideas for changes to the layout. I have pretty much stuck with Tom's tried and true format in this issue, but I may experiment in the future and welcome all comments.

A RiverCon Report...

Elliott and I went to RiverCon with our friends Gary and Debbie Rowan. Since Steve and Sue Francis and their staff do such a great job with RiverCon and there are only going to be a few more, we definitely wanted to be there. Gary is thinking about buying an SUV next time he gets a vehicle, so he rented a Jeep Grand Cherokee to drive up in, and that was good because I had to schlep all the SFC stuff with me. We left about 9 AM Central Time, and got there in the late afternoon. Almost as soon as we got there, we loaded up Sam Smith and Bill and Linda Zielke and went to the Liquor Outlet. I love the Liquor Outlet. We go there every time we go to Louisville. Grand Cherokees are pretty spacious, but we did have to put Bill in the cargo space, and I had to sit on Elliott's lap. Linda asked, "Where are Elliott's hands?" After stocking up on booze, we dropped the Zielkes back at the hotel because they had already eaten and went to get some dinner at Fazioli's, the one fast food you can't yet get in B'ham.

Back at the con, during Opening Ceremonies, Elliott presented Bill and Linda with their plaque for Best Room Party at DSC. Bill was very leery of coming up to accept. Especially since they had been planning on having a party at RiverCon, but the Executive West didn't give them the room they requested. After the Opening Ceremonies, there was a very well attended ice cream social. Next came the dance and parties! Elliott and I love to dance, and the DJ was very accommodating with requests, but there wasn't a whole lot of participation while we were there. Tom and Anita Feller were out on the floor for a while, and I even got Bill and Linda to dance by requesting "Lady in Red." It was reported that Elliott and Tom also danced a session. Frank and Millie (from Indianapolis) had a great Skippy party. I still had glitter on me the next day AFTER I showered. I understand the filking was excellent and went on until the wee hours.

Saturday we had brunch at the hotel buffet – the Golden Targe. That's the name of the restaurant. If I ever do a perzine, I am going to call it the Golden Targe. Then, I had to man the SFC table for the rest of the afternoon. I think I did pretty well, for my first time. Sold some T-shirts and memberships. Completely forgot to pack any *Handbooks* – argh! Chatted with passersby. Read the entirety of Tom Feller's new *Freethinker*. Judy Bemis spelled me for a while so I could go look at the Dealer's Room, and Tom sat there for an hour and I went to Charles Dickens' Parthecon party – mimosas, yum! I'm not much for programming anyway, and it looks like this is going to be a good thing during my tenure as SFC President.

In the evening, I looked at the very nice art show with Debbie, and then it was back to the Targe with Ell and the Rowans for the all-you-can-eat steak buffet. I only ate one, but it was really good, for a buffet. Then we went to parties again. Naomi Fisher catered the OrlandoWorldCon bid party, so I was sorry I had eaten supper at all. I nibbled and was glad that at least I had burned some calories dancing the night before.

The masquerade was at 11 PM, and was pretty small, as masquerades tend to be these days. There was one really good costume – well there were two of them in the presentation – made by Kit Matulich and worn by her and her husband. I went to bed after one more tour of the parties, but Elliott stayed up until 5 AM playing Magic.

Sunday we drove home. All in all very enjoyable, but it is kind of a long way to drive for just a weekend. Many times before we have flown and we may do that again for the last two.☹

Convention Facts

Name:	RiverCon	LibertyCon
Date:	July 31 - August 2	May 22-24
Site:	Executive West	Ramada Inn South
City:	Louisville, KY	East Ridge, TN
Attendance:	843	400
Guests:	Harry Turtledove Kevin Ward Hal Clement Julee Johnson-Tate Chris Tate	Lois McMaster Bujold James P. Hogan Wilson 'Bob' Tucker Lubov Mark Fufts

LibertyCon Report

by Tom Feller

Anita left work a little early on Friday afternoon and met me at home. She was a little irritated with me because I was still downloading some files from the computer at my office in Jackson, MS. Nonetheless, we were on the road to Knoxville 15 minutes later. We encountered some construction, but no major holdups compared to our trip for Chattacon four months earlier. We went down Monteagle Mountain during daylight, so Anita was more relaxed.

The Ramada Inn was a little small for the convention. For instance, there was no dealer's room. Instead, almost all the dealers had rooms on one corridor. On the other hand, there was a nice outdoor courtyard area that was conducive for socializing. The consuite occupied the hotel's lounge. The pool had signs saying it was closed, but Uncle Timmy persuaded the management to unlock the gates. Anita and I found the water a little slimy, but did not suffer any rashes or other ailments afterward.

The only programming I attended was the "Non Banquet" where the Lois McMaster-Bujold, the guest of honor, gave a speech. She first spoke about the different between plot and theme. Plot, said Ms. Bujold, is what the story is about. Theme is what the story is REALLY about. She then spoke about what happens when the writer and reader encounter each other's worldview. The first possibility is that their worldviews agree with each other. The second is that they conflict with each other. The third is that the reader finds the writer's worldview incomprehensible. The fourth, and this is what the writer hopes will occur, is that the reader's worldview expands. She admitted that the last instance is more likely to occur when the reader is 12 years old than when the reader is 60.

Saturday night I helped Judy Bemis with the Boston for Orlando in 2001 bid party. We decorated her room in the afternoon, went to dinner, and opened about 9 PM. I worked the door and placed flamingo stickers on people's badges. We had a steady flow of people who ate heartily. Anita liked the chocolate items.

There was no space available for club tables, so I focused on relaxing. There were dances in the consuite on both Friday and Saturday night, which Anita and I enjoyed. ☺

Worldcon Facts

The 56th World Science Fiction Convention (code-name Bucconeer) was held in Baltimore July 5-9th. The following is just a few dry details, I have promises for more personal accounts from a few people for the next issue (you know who you are).

Guests: C.J. Cherryh
Milton A. Rothman
Stanley Schmidt
Michael Whelan
Charles Sheffield

J. Michael Straczynski was supposed to have attended as the Special Guest, but had to cancel due to illness.

Hugo Awards

*Best Semiprozine **Locus**
edited by Charles N. Brown*
*Best Fanzine **Mimosa**
edited by Dick and Nicki Lynch**
Best Professional Artist Bob Eggleton
Best Professional Editor Gardner Dozois
*Best Related Book **The Encyclopedia of Fantasy**
edited by John Clute and John Grant*
Best Fan Artist Joe Mayhew
Best Fan Writer Dave Langford
*Best Dramatic Presentation **Contact***
*Best Short Story ... "The 43 Antarean Dynasties"
by Mike Resnick*
*Best Novelette .. "We Will Drink A Fish Together"
by Bill Johnson*
*Best Novella "...Where Angels Fear to Tread"
by Allen Steele**
*Best Novel **Forever Peace**
by Joe Haldeman**
*John W. Campbell Award for Best New SF Writer
(Not a Hugo, presented by **Analog**)
..... Mary Doria Russell*

**Denotes Southerners (at least part-time)*

Philadelphia won the right to host the 2001 Worldcon - more info in the con listings elsewhere in this issue.

DeepSouthCon Report

by Julie Wall and members of SFPA

Toni Weisskopf said I should write a DeepSouthCon report. I didn't really want to because mostly I am just glad that it ended up going reasonably well, that we didn't lose much money, and that it is over. The problem is two-fold. One, being Chairman, I didn't actually see that much of the convention, if I wasn't directly involved. Two, being Chairman, the whole thing was very close to my heart and I didn't feel I could be very objective. Toni said she had received many SFPA zines with reports and that I could use excerpts from them. So that is what I have done, after receiving the OK from the SFPAs.

First, I don't think I have to tell anyone in fandom that, while it can be fun, it is very hard to put on a convention. With very few exceptions, the cons that we in the SFC all go to are run strictly by volunteers, with limited budgets. It is a lot of work. In my opinion, it is even worse if you don't put on conventions on a regular basis, which is the case here in Birmingham. Frankly, the Birmingham Science Fiction Club, which has sponsored the last four Birmingham DSCs, just doesn't have the fan base or the desire to do an annual convention. For a while another set of fans put on Continuity here, but they lost a lot of money a few years ago and stopped doing it. A startup con, Temporal Disturbance, was put on here recently by another fan group but, at least this year, it was more of a gaming, comics, anime, and media con. The organizers are trying for an annual event, and indications are that it will go on next year. I wish them a lot of luck. Jeff Roe, the Chairman, says he would like to include more traditional SF con elements, like artists and literary guests as time goes on. If an annual convention is done, however, things do get easier. People know what has to be done and how much it costs to do it. Relationships can be built with hotels, suppliers and guests. Attendees know about the con and can plan to go on a regular basis. If you only do a convention every once in a while, none of this is true.

That being said, this year's DSC put a strain on the committee members. That last Board meeting before the con was something I would never like to repeat. There are always differences of opinion and clashing personalities in fandom, of course, but it's different when these will affect 300+ people coming to your city to have a good time as your guests. And when thousands of dollars are involved.

The convention started for me on Thursday night. (Well, it really started at a BSFC Christmas party in

1995, but I digress.) We had borrowed the art show hangings from the Continuity folks and went to set up around 5 PM. Those hangings were a pain in the butt. Carolyn Morgan, our fabulous first-time Art Show Director, led me, Elliott, Gary & Debbie Rowan, Don Reynolds, Rebecca Brayman and Erin Barton in the festivities. Cindy Riley had helped transport the hangings in her old giant orange pickup, but she had also been spurred by one of her roosters that day, and went off to the clinic for a tetanus shot. Elliott was also putting together the Inertiagraph, which was something of a problem, because even though he and Gary had letter-keyed it when originally building the thing, it turned out to be possible to put it together incorrectly. There was a lot of cussing, all around. We were there until midnight, and both my feet and back ached.

Up early the next morning, I packed for the weekend and was off to the airport to pick up Mary Gray from Newport News. I took her back to my house for a quick Hardee's biscuit and then to the mall to buy me some good athletic shoes. That was my single best purchase for the con.

We arrived at the hotel mid-morning. Many things are a blur after that. I ran around a lot, answering questions, putting out fires, running to the hardware store for more hooks for the art show, and generally pitching in where I could.

The Ramada Inn and Suites (ex-Parliament House) was, in a word, awful. To be honest, I knew it was going to be, from a personnel point of view. It had been from the start. There were no fewer, and possibly more, than four sales managers at the hotel from the time I started talking to them in early 1996 until the con. It took several weeks back in the beginning to get anyone to respond to my request for information. When the convention got closer and members started trying to make reservations, I got several reports of people having trouble getting through, and/or having their reservation messed up.

Why did we have it there? Because there was no other space we could afford. The Sheraton downtown is outrageously expensive and badly located as regards places nearby to eat. The Wynfrey, out at the Galleria, wouldn't even talk to us. The Radisson, site of the 1981 and 1994 DSCs, wanted too much money. The only reason, in fact, that we got the Radisson in 1994 was because we were booked for the Parliament House and it was closed down, believe it or not, for renovations. We

found out about this in 1994 by reading it in the newspaper. Panic-stricken, I called and discovered that we had been farmed out to the Radisson. Still, we paid more for function space in 1994, and lost a lot more money, than we did this year. I understand that many conventions get function space for free, in exchange for filling the hotel sleeping rooms, but it is very difficult for a one-shot SF con to get enough room-renting attendees to do that. Or, at least it was impossible for me.

The hotel was very poorly managed. There was not enough staff at the hotel for anything. To their credit, the Sales Manager and her husband, the Banquet Manager, worked very hard, but there was only so much they could do without any help. We never got enough tablecloths to cover the tables we used (many of which we had to rent because the hotel didn't have enough). There evidently weren't enough bed linens or towels, or enough staff to launder them. The trash that inevitably piles up in public spaces was never collected by anyone employed by the hotel except the Sales Manager, and most often by our own

Treasurer, Debbie Rowan. The public restrooms were never cleaned or restocked. Despite repeated requests, we were never able to get ice water for the panelists, and I ended up borrowing pitchers from Merlin in the ConSuite and Paulette Baker in the Dealer's Room for this. It never occurred to me to ask about the hotel's sound system, which was bad because it

turned out that there wasn't one. During the 1994 renovation it had been ripped out and never replaced. Luckily, Robert Neagle helped us out a great deal in this area, by setting up for the belly dancing on Friday night and the masquerade/awards on Saturday, in addition to the dance, which is what he had originally signed up to do. But local author Caitlin Kiernan said she couldn't read without a microphone on Friday and evidently this miffed her so badly that she blew us off for the rest of the weekend, not showing even for her signing the next day.

Checking in and out of the hotel was a dicey proposition; many people ended up being billed incorrectly – including David Weber. Thank goodness the Treasurer and I were standing right there when that happened. There were several people who got keys that either

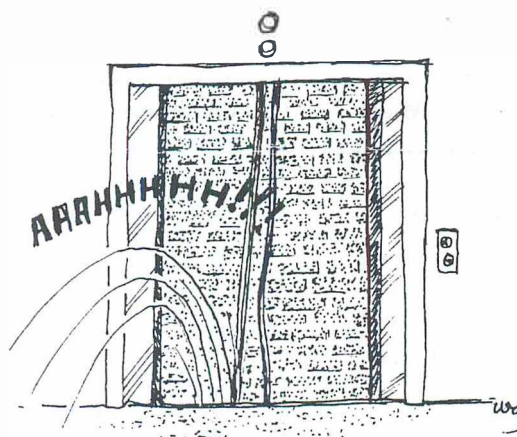
didn't work or were to a room that was already occupied. On Saturday afternoon, I spoke to someone at the front desk about getting a late checkout of 1 PM for the convention members. The two people there said that would be fine, people just needed to call and request it. At the Masquerade/Awards Ceremony later that evening, I made an announcement to that effect. Sunday morning, I had several people tell me that the front desk was refusing to allow them the late checkout. I went to speak to the front desk. The Manager on Duty told me it was impossible, that the people who had told me that it was okay (one of whom was standing right next to this guy as he spoke) had no authority to issue late checkouts, especially the day before. He said they had another group coming in and we had to check out on time, which I believe was 11 AM, the time the Year 2000 DSC Site Selection was scheduled to be held. After arguing this for a while, I went to see the Sales Manager, who eventually called the General Manager at home. He overruled whatever Manager was at the front desk and gave us

what we had already once been granted.

Always the bane of convention-goers, the elevators were slow; one of the three didn't work at all that I saw. One elevator got stuck between floors on Friday night for an hour and a half with 17 people on it. Two of those people – including our own Liz Malcolm-Little – were members of the belly dance troupe, who had been trying to get upstairs for a costume change. This marred their otherwise fabulous presentation, because the audience was kept waiting for quite a while until it was

figured out that the other women were stuck. After that, we put signs on the elevators asking people to limit the occupants to 10. While they were waiting to be rescued, which didn't happen until George Little called the fire department, Liz and her friend Sherry heard something interesting from one of the other people trapped. It seems this woman was the hotel engineer's girlfriend and she said that a) the elevators got stuck all the time and b) the hotel owners were trying to sell the hotel to another group, possibly Holiday Inn, who would then close it for renovation, yet again. I must say that this would probably be the best thing for the old Parliament House, but it also partially explained why the workers, whose jobs would no doubt be in jeopardy if the hotel closes for any length of time, just didn't care.

The maraschino cherry on the top of *all this was the*



air conditioning. Or, rather, the lack of air conditioning. It was, of course, June in Birmingham. We had the classic combo of 95°F and 95% humidity the whole con. While the Art Show was always cool, the other function space was incredibly hot and nothing was really ever done about it. The hotel staff, when I could locate them, kept mumbling stuff about blown fuses. Local fans brought in fans of the cooling variety, and the Bakers had one blowing over a bucket of ice to keep the Dealer's Rooms bearable.

All of that aside, most everyone seemed to have a really good time. I think we are lucky that DSC is the one con that many far flung fans try to make every year. Everyone is so happy to see everyone else that other irritations tend to fall by the wayside.

Carrie James, an intern reporter from the *Birmingham Post Herald*, was covering the convention for us. She talked to several fans and took pictures. She had done a short blurb for the Thursday paper before the con and a very nice article appeared in the Monday edition of the paper, along with a photo of Liz in full belly dance regalia.

Our guests were wonderful. I didn't get to much programming, as I said, but I heard bits and pieces. Michael Bishop's Guest of Honor presentation was on poetry, his first literary love. Charlotte Proctor, the Rowans and I went out to a casual dinner with most of the guests on Saturday evening. This caused us to miss the art and charity auctions, but we did raise about \$500 for the American Cancer Society, which we have donated in the memory of Bob Shaw. I sat near David and Lori Deitrick at dinner and they were delightful, just as nice as Jeff Barnes' bio for the program book portrayed them. Luckily, the Coulsons and David Weber stayed over Sunday night so I got to talk with them at dinner that evening and Tucker stayed over at Toni's until Tuesday, so we got to visit with him after the con.

Registration, under the guidance of Toni Weisskopf, went smoothly for most folks. Hard workers here included Richard and Patricia Powell, Elise Bodenheimer and Fred van Hartesveldt. We ended up with an attendance of 340, very respectable for a DSC these days.

Arthur and Paulette Baker ran a great Dealer's Room, with a good variety of dealers. They provided a lot of extra amenities that were appreciated by the dealers and most of those present were able to at least make their expenses.

Carolyn Morgan, as I have said, did a fantastic job with the art show. Especially since she lives on St. Simon's Island and had to do all of her advance prepara-

tion from there. She was helped at the con by several folks, most notable to me was Ruth Anderson, a local attending her first con. We had a lot of artists that you don't see all the time and we sent out over \$2,800 in artist payments after it was all over.

Merlin Odom put on a wonderful Consuite, with all kind of delicious offerings all the time, it seemed. In addition, the local Klingon group had a spread on Saturday night and the Constellation crowd from Huntsville treated us to brunch on Sunday morning.

Many folks enjoyed the Video Room program, put together by George Little. One comment from Mary Gray, "Tell your video crew, though, that *Vampyr* is a masterpiece of German expressionism, not a 'bad' vampire film."

The Masquerade, ably run by Don Reynolds, was small but entertaining and featured some good (and funny) costumes. While the judges were out, we presented the Rebel and Phoenix awards. MC Bob Tucker tried to leave with the judges, but I grabbed him and yelled, "No!" because I knew we had to give him one of the Rebels, along with one to the carpetbagger himself, Tom Feller. Vice-Chair Gary Rowan and I gave Tom his (reproduction) Confederate sword, then Jerry Page gave a speech about Tucker and we presented a sword to that gentleman. Thanks again to Hank Reinhardt for help with the swords. Toni came up to present David Weber with a painting commissioned by Jim Baen and done by Russell Ingler in honor of David's recent marriage. We kept him up there to present him with the Phoenix, a lovely stained glass piece done by BSFC and DSC Treasurer, Debbie Rowan. The Rubble was also, er, bestowed, a tale I'll leave others to tell.

Robert Neagle and the crew from New Orleans, the hosts of next year's DSC, put on a great dance. With a lot of the con behind me, I was pretty relaxed and had a great time dancing and drinking some bourbon Toni gave me. I want to thank Robert and also Joe Grillot who helped us out all during the convention, setting up the main function room.

It was a good thing that I had fun late Saturday, because Sunday morning brought the news that we had a security crisis in the wee hours. I'm not going to go into details; suffice it to say that the hotel was disappointing on yet another front. I'm grateful to Frank Brayman and Greg Phillips for handling things and protecting our members from a potentially life-threatening situation. Then there was the flap about the late checkout.

By the time the SFC Meeting came about, I was pretty stressed out and glad it and the subsequent Site

Selection went well. Being president of the SFC must be easier than chairing a convention, right? That's what I was thinking during the election of officers. Bidding unopposed, Jekyll Island was awarded the 2000 DSC with a chorus of ayes.

Frank Love gave a slide show of some of his old photos and it was so well received that it was run twice before Closing Ceremonies. We thanked everyone and gave out prizes to various gamers and to the best room parties - Bill and Linda Zielke and the Chattacon folks got those.

Then it was all over. Thank Ghod. Charlotte was wonderful and made several trips ferrying folks to the airport, which is how she had begun her convention. While we were packing up, the Temporal Disturbance people came and took away the art hangings, for which I remain immensely grateful. I think the most colorful comment was from Ken Moore, "Great Bash, Bitch!"

Excerpts from Janice's Gelb's SFPazine, Trivial Pursuits #78:

BAKING IN BIRMINGHAM (or, Do You Know Where Your Towel Is?)

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

...We spent the afternoon hanging around in the bar area, wondering whether the air conditioning was going to kick in. It also became family hour, as both Steve Hughes and former (SFPA) member Stven Carlberg arrived with wives in tow. I managed to convince everyone to lend me moral support as I went off to moderate a 6 PM panel on Southern fandom anecdotes featuring Tucker, Buck Coulson, and Guy. I had thought that I'd have to be grabbing the mike away from Buck and Tucker but they were unwontedly subdued being as neither one of them are truly Southern fans, so they didn't have a lot of anecdotes to contribute! Several members of the audience helped out, and Guy managed to convulse the crowd with a tasteless anecdote about a road trip featuring Ned Brooks. The SFPA amoeba then went down to Shoney's for dinner.

At 9, it was time for the first round of the Hearts tournament. Miraculously, I managed to squeak out a tied-victory at my table (helped by only having the bitch in my hand once the entire night). Then it was off to the Zielke's Blender Party, where I had a variety of wonderful margaritas (strawberry and passion fruit).

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

Most of the morning consisted of wandering in and

out of various conversations in the Con Suite and the gathering point in front of the dealers room/programming room. The second round of the Hearts tournament at 11 was very confused, as organizer Pat Gibbs had asked everyone to start playing at 11 and be finished at 1, but some players for assigned tables couldn't be found, and so after waiting around for a while, we just got two tables together of whatever qualified players showed up. I was ignominiously defeated in this round, partly because of bad play and partly because I had the bitch in my hand, either by deal or pass, no fewer than four times!

...On walking in (to Liz and Jeff Copeland's official SFPA party) a little later than the crowd, I was gleefully handed a copy of the one-shot people had worked on earlier in the day: its title? "Janice and Tucker's Night of Passion in St Louis" with a cover, commissioned by Toni, of a couple embracing in front of the Arch. Gee, thanks, guys!

A bunch of us left the party to go out to the pool deck to hear dramatic readings of Really Bad Science Fiction picked out by our own George Wells and read with feeling by Hank Reinhardt. The stars were *Galaxy 666*, *The Clones*, and that famous feature run through SFPA, *Werewolf vs. the Vampire Women*, plus a hilarious song ditty read by George from *Queen Kong*. A passerby decided to give us small statuettes of "Kicking Dwarf With Sword," perhaps as a reward for listening to such dreck. The dinner expedition that evening was to a fish market we'd discovered at the previous DSC in Birmingham: cafeteria style ordering and crowded seating but great food!

Back at the hotel, the masquerade was a quick nine entries, with the highlight of the judging interlude being the presentation of the Phoenix, Rebel and Rubble awards, the latter going to its eminently deserving founder, our own Gary Robe. After the masquerade, it was off to the few parties being held: the Philadelphia worldcon bid party featured authentic cheesecake imported from the city.

...We went down to the rock dance but I gave up sooner than JoAnn (Montalban) on the techno stuff being played for the twentysomethings. I decided to go off to bed, but I checked the con suite one more time and found Binker (Hughes) outside on the balcony, so I stopped for a bit to chat with her until the smoke in the con suite drove me back out. I passed by the dance on the way upstairs: big mistake as far as my sleep plans were concerned since they had finally gotten to the Good Stuff and were playing "Mony Mony." I stayed and

danced until about 2 AM, and it was worth it just to see Dennis (Dolbear) do ecstatic knee-drops to "Born to Be Wild."®

Excerpts from Steve Hughes' SFPazine, Spider Pie #12:

The Hotel

Let's get the only bad part of the convention out of the way right up front and talk about the hotel. The location was great, easy to get to from the expressway, with lots of places to eat within walking distance. The meeting rooms were a decent size and well arranged. Then we come to the air conditioning or, to be more precise, the lack thereof. The rooms were cool, the public part of the hotel was extremely hot! Which is more than I could say for the food at the coffee shop / bar. It was either too greasy to eat or cold.

The rooms themselves were fine as long as you didn't need towels. For some reason they were in very short supply. I will give the hotel points for having quiet rooms, we were right across the hall from the Boston WorldCon bid party and could barely hear them. I would guess the hotel was probably very nice at one point but badly in need of total renovation today. Then there were the reservations. I reserved a room about three months before the con. When Suzanne called to check a week before the convention, the hotel had never heard of my reservation so she made another one. Surprise, when we got there they had no record of a reservation in our name. Fortunately there were plenty of rooms available.

Registration

We found the hotel on the first pass and got checked in. Then it was down to registration where it took all of two minutes to get our badges. I will have to give the convention staff points for an efficient organization. I was impressed with the way meetings ran on time and the schedule actually matched the program.

The Con Suite

There's no doubt this was the best-stocked con-suite I've ever seen at a DSC. We're talking real food served at the right times to make meals. True it was non-alcoholic but I think that makes a lot of sense these days. They had a separate room, not stocked with food, for smokers. I ended up spending a lot of time there because it was one of the few places where I could find a place to sit.

The terrace outside the con suite would have been a

great place to hang out but most of the time it was just too hot. We were treated to a reading of the "world's worst SF" by Hank Reinhardt and George Wells on the terrace. Isn't it amazing how the real classics like *Galaxy 666* just never lose their appeal?

The Oneshot

At the last DSC Toni ran a panel on fannish one shots. The idea behind the session was not to talk about one shots but to actually produce one during the panel. It was a lot of fun so she decided to do another panel at DSC 36. Last time the technology used to produce the one shot was a mixture of Guy's portable typewriter and my notebook. This time we had three notebooks and no primitive mechanical imprinting devices. Toni got Wade Gilbreath and Randy Cleary to do art for the zine.

We lost a lot of participants to the hearts tournament. Ned, Janice and George were all playing hearts during the one shot panel. Actually we probably couldn't have gotten much more material without having more notebooks. If Toni does this next year, we'll have to round up more notebooks and try to make sure the panel is timed a little better.

When the hour was up, Suzanne and I collected the files from all three notebooks and the art and took it all up to our room to combine into a zine. It was a little harder to do than it should have been because we had a *Word* file, a *Word Perfect* file and a Mac file. Toni complained loudly last time because the notebook part of the one shot was laid out in *PageMaker* like a real zine. So this time I just combined the three files without making any changes or doing any layout. Suzanne shot the two pieces of art for the one shot with her digital camera. Then it was off to Kinko's to get it printed.

That was fun since I had to get my *PageMaker* file onto their PC to print the originals for them to copy. I had all the usual problems: they didn't have the fonts I'd used loaded on their PC and it hung up when I exited out of *PageMaker*. Once we had the zine printed, they ran off the copies in a few minutes. The tab, almost \$70, reminded me why I print all my zines at home! Still the look on Janice's face when she saw the cover was well worth the price. I only wish Suzanne had gotten a picture.

Hopefully, having done this at two DSCs in a row, we now have a tradition and will do this again next year. I've even thought we might be able to set up an Internet link so that SFFA members who aren't at the convention can participate in the one shot panel.

The Art Auction

Did you ever bid on having someone kill you? I missed most of the art auction, we were at dinner, but got there in time for the last few pieces and the charity auction that followed. They auctioned off several items to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Two of them were contributions from David Weber.

The first was an original manuscript, the second an IOU for "one glorious death" as a character in a future book. I bid on and won the fictional death because it seemed like a cool idea. Now I've got to pick up a couple of Weber's books and see what kind of universe I'm going to get killed in. Oh, I did pick up a couple of things from the art show: an old Ron Beasley pen and ink and a nice Richard Ryan acrylic piece. The last reminds me strongly of a lot of Kelly Freas' work. I'm going to try and get permission to print it as a cover.

The Phoenix

David Weber was awarded the Phoenix. It was a beautiful stained glassed wall hanging. David seemed both surprised and pleased to receive the award. I didn't get to talk to David much but he seemed like a real nice guy. I was particularly impressed with his attitude toward the cover art for his books. A lot of authors do nothing but whine about how bad the covers are and all the things wrong with them. David was very up front about the primary importance of covers as marketing tools. ☛

*Excerpts from Guy Lillian's SFPazine,
Spiritus Mundi 166:*

DSC: A Hot Time in the Old Town

...I had my one and only panel that Friday, but the company continued to be heady. Janice Gelb moderated Bob Tucker, Buck Coulson and I on the subject of Southern Fandom, which neither Tucker nor Buck knew anything about. Still, Janice managed to keep me from dominating matters with my tales of DSC history and Ned Brooks making water by the side of the highway (as Al Fitzpatrick and I hid our faces in shame)-and so forth; Gelbo simply tapped my shoulder when she wanted me to shut up. She didn't swat me in the chops - for our relationship, *progress*.

Mentioning DSC history reminds me of the cute lady reporter from the Birmingham Post Herald whom Charlotte Proctor - stand, men - sent to me. Past my leers I hope I got across how ineffably *boss* it is that an event that began as five guys reading pulp magazines in

a garage in 1962 - then *six* guys in the same garage in 1963 - then *19* guys in a Birmingham motel in 1964, four of whom were at this year's convention - could survive 36 years to become the gleeful mess that surrounded us. I think it's a great story. Wonder how she wrote it up.

...Rubble Award bizness. At the SFPA party the day before, it was noted that, Gary Robe being under the weather, it had fallen to we former winners to select the 1998 winner of Southern Fandom's most odious honor. Various names were tossed hither and thither, and it was Naomi Fisher who came up with the prize proposal. We would fool Robe into thinking we had chosen some apt target, then present the award, instead, to *him*, to *Gary*, as reprisal for his having given the award to *us*.

...On came the masquerade, a parade of pretty girls in pretty Renaissance dresses, and then the awards. Julie Wall presented the first of two Rebels to Tom Feller, finishing out his third solid year as SFC President. Cool trophy: a Confederate sword, which Tom wielded swash-bucklingly. Then Jerry Page took the stage to give another Rebel to the magnificent Bob Tucker - true, a citizen of Illinois, but ol'Pong, he belong to us all.

Following; huge, genial Dave Weber was brought forward to receive a special painting from Baen Books - one of his Honor Harrington spaceships, depicted as it was *supposed* to look. The delighted author was taking the piece back to his seat when he was stopped in his tracks. He was given something else to carry: the 1998 Phoenix Award.

Dave was truly a nice guy, and it was truly a well-deserved honor. He echoed my only regret when I voiced it: that brother mike wasn't there.

Then it was time for the Rubble. Jittery but grinning, Gary took the mike, attended by Naomi, who carried a "prize envelope" and a secretive smile. True to our plan, Gary had been tipped off that Page was the alleged winner, but was asked to read his name from the paper within the envelope...well, you get the idea. Robe went on and on about how this year's winner - Page, he thought - would be Southern fandom's first "Triple Crown" winner, with Rebel and Phoenix and Rubble to his credit, took the envelope from Naomi and laboriously began to tear it open. The conspirators agonized as he ripped and flailed and the stubborn paper, fearful he'd say to hell with it and announce Page, but no, he got the thing open, spread the sheet wide, and with dawning comprehension read his *own* name as 1998 Rubble Award ~~victim~~ recipient.

It was this DeepSouthCon's Great Moment.

I brought Jerry to the stage in the happy pandemonium that ensued, to thank him publically for serving as decoy and to promise that someday he would indeed receive Southern fandom's affectionate spear. If it takes as long to win the Rubble as it did the Rebel, then he can expect it around 2023.☘

Excerpts from Toni Weisskopf's SFPazine, YNGVI Is A Louse, Issue #54:

Earning the Rubble: Another B'ham DSC

...Which brings me to the title of this article. The last time the DSC was in Birmingham (1994), my "friends" and fellow SFPAns decided in their infinite wisdom that good ol' T.K.F. Weisskopf with all her high falutin' initials was the obvious candidate for the Rubble Award, given to a person who has done the most to Southern Fandom. This, I should point out, is not a DSC convention committee award, as are the Rebel and Phoenix (given respectively to the fan and pro who in the eyes of the committee have done a great deal for Southern Fandom). The honor of winning the Rubble was somewhat diluted by also winning the Phoenix that year (not that my friends knew I was getting it, I should stress). Guy Lillian in his article about the awards in the SFC Handbook has mentioned that Rebel winners, while

always richly deserving of the award, don't just stop serving fandom, but continue helping out after winning. I realized that year the same was true of the Rubble. So immediately upon winning, I, with the help of JoAnn and Ruth and Alan Hutchinson and all attending, cooked up a hoax to play on Gary Brown, then the OE of SFPA, who hadn't shown up at the con to defend himself. And, I am proud to say, I have gone on earning my Rubble, sinking to new lows at this convention.

The look on Janice's face as she walked into the SFPA party Saturday afternoon and inquired about the oneshot was fabulous. Randy Cleary had outdone himself with the artwork, an Art Deco-ish illo showing a woman and man clutched together under St. Louis' giant arch with lightning striking. That will teach Janice to shun the oneshot!

...I think Janice has learned the error of her ways, however, and will give oneshots all the respect they are due in the future. At least we didn't conspire to give her the Rubble.

That conspiracy was also launched at the SFPA party Saturday afternoon, hosted by our lovely OE Liz Copeland and her blushing "Strapping Dad" husband Jeff. As it happened, we had a quorum of Rubble winners at the party: Irvin Koch, Guy Lillian, Naomi Fisher and myself. We were pretty sure the other winners at the con (Hank Reinhardt, Ned Brooks, and Ken Moore) would go along with our selection. There was much eyeing of Jerry Page, who has for years been a prime contender to win the Triple Crown of Southern fannish awards. But when Corlis Robe came into the party, and we realized Gary was trapped with his young 'uns we knew we couldn't blow the golden opportunity. An elaborate scheme was hatched amidst the clamor of the party. Jerry Page was enlisted into the cabal and Gary was told that Jerry was the selected ~~poodle~~ goat. Guy & Naomi left the con in search of the ritual Krystal meal and ash-tray (to be inscribed). Corlis would tell Gary to make the presentation like at an Oscar and would hand Gary an envelope with the winners name in it—so that he would present himself with the award. I coordinated things with con chair Julie Wall to make sure the awards ceremony would come off properly. And, amazingly, this incredibly complicated, secret plot, conceived of & executed by a bunch of drunken fans, came off! ☘



*Cover by Randy Cleary
from the DSC36 oneshot*

*SFPA - OE Liz Copeland
1085 Albion Way, Boulder, CO 80303*

Fanzine Reviews

by Tom Feller

Please send zines for review to me at PO Box 68203, Nashville, TN 37206, and I will put you on the mailing list for my own zine, *The Freethinker*. ((You'll also get the *SFC Bulletin*.) Unless otherwise specified, when writing for a sample issue, send \$1 to cover postage. A SASE is likely to be too small.

ASFA Future Times #2, 3, & 4, the official newsletter of the Atlanta Science Fiction Society, PO Box 98308, Atlanta, GA 30359-2008. Edited by Ian Letendre. All three issues have a Randy Cleary illustration on the front cover and club and convention news. #2 has an articles on *Sliders* and *Lost in Space*; #3 a *Babylon 5* piece; and #4 a LibertyCon report and a review of *The Truman Show*.

CAR-PGa Newsletter Vol. 7, No. 7, official newsletter for the Committee for the Advancement of Role-Playing Games, 1127 Cedar, Bonham, TX 75418. Edited by Paul Cardwell, Jr. This issue contains an article on gender in gaming, other articles on various aspects of the hobby, and a convention calendar.

Con-Temporal, May July 1998. Published by Pegasus Publishing, PO Box 151601, Arlington, TX 76015-7601. Edited by Scott Merritt. Available for monthly (\$30 annually) or bi-monthly (\$20 annually) subscriptions. This is the most comprehensive listing of conventions around the world that I aware of.

De Profundis #s 312 & 313, the official newsletter of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, 11513 Burbank Blvd, North Hollywood, CA 91601. Edited by Tim Merrigan. Available for LASFS membership (\$10) or zine in trade. Both issues contain an event calendar, a list of fanzines received, Worldcon bid listings, meeting minutes, and a list of Los Angeles-area bookstores. #313 contains obituaries on T. Bruce Yerke and Jerome Bixby.

Ethel The Aardvark #s 78 & 79, official newsletter of the Melbourne Science Fiction Club, PO Box 212, World Trade Center, Melbourne, Victoria, 3005 Australia. Edited by Ian Gunn. Available for membership or zine in trade. #78 contains part two of an article by Samanda b Jeude on her and husband Don Cook's visit to the *Babylon 5* set. #79 has a Swancon and Unconvention

reports. Both issues contain club news, movie and game reviews, and letters from people such as Harry Warner, Sheryl Birkhead, Teddy Harvia, Harry Andruschak, and Lloyd Penney.

File 770 #s 123 & 124, edited and published by Mike Glycer, PO Box 1056, Sierra Madre, CA 91025. This newszine is a perennial Hugo nominee and occasional winner. #123 is Mike's 20th anniversary issue. It includes the results of a poll on various questions, Worldcon news, an article on the cancellation of Disclave, obituary for Jo Clayton, and letters from Joe Major, Teddy Harvia, Buck Coulson, and others. #124 includes a summary of my e-mail reports on Nashville's tornado; TAFF, DUFF, FFANZ, and CUFF news; comparisons of the WorldCon bids; medical updates on Elliott Shorter, Vincent Clarke, Lan Laskowski, and Gary Anderson; obituaries for Monty Wells, Jackie Causgrove, Alex Schomburg, Crystal Marvig, and Alan Bray, reports on Con*Dor and Intuition (Eastercon), and letters from people such as Gregory Benford, Joe Major, Buck Coulson, Joy Smith, and others.

The Floating Fan, #3, published by Pamela J. Boal, 4 Westfield Way, Wantage, Oxon., OX12 7EW, UK. This is a personal zine she uses as a letter substitute. She and her husband are retired and spend six months of the year boating on England's rivers. Her main article is the difference in attitudes toward consumer goods between her generation and mine, the baby boomers.

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The Geis Letter #46 edited and published by Richard Geis, PO Box 11408, Portland, OR 97211-0408. Dick is like the Mel Gibson character in *Conspiracy Theory*, except that Dick has better writing and editing skills and is a science fiction fan. This issue comments on an incident with the FBI arrest involving possession of anthrax which Dick says was "to further condition the American people to accept drastic future limits on their freedoms" and TWA Flight 800. There are also book reviews, obituaries on Jo Clayton and Sean Moore, and letters including ones from Buck Coulson, Joe Major, and others.

Hits, Cons, and Errors, published by George Flynn, P.O. Box 426069, Kendall Sq. Stn., Cambridge, MA 02142. George has gotten so far behind in his letter writing (I have the same problem) that he, like Pamela Boal, is doing this zine as a substitute. Of course, he has an excuse. He describes how a car hit him when he was crossing the street a couple months ago. George also reports on this year's Corflu in Leeds, England, describes some inaccuracies in other publications, and explains how the Boston for Orlando in 2001 bid adopted the flamingo as its symbol.

Instant Message #s 625-629, newsletter of the New England Science Fiction Association, PO Box 809, Framingham, MA 01701-0203. #627 was edited by Priscilla Olson and #s 625, 626, 628 & 629 by Pam Fremon. (By the way, I went to college with Pam.) Available for NESFA membership or trade. Club and Boskone news. #629 has obituaries for Ann Layman Chancellor (Chance) and Robert A. W. "Doc" Lowndes.

Jackie Causgrove, special tribute zine to the late fan included with *The Reluctant Famulus*. It contains remembrances by Tom Sadler, Jodie Offutt, and D. Gary Grady.

The Knarley Knews, #70, published by Henry "Knarley" Welch, 1526 15th Avenue, Grafton, WI 53024-2017. Available for trade or \$1.50 per issue. #70 contains an editorial by Knarley, columns by Alexander Bouchard and Charlotte Proctor, an alphabetical discussion (A is for Australia, etc.) by Ian Gunn, an installment of Don Pattenden's tour of Australia via bicycle, and letters by Bill Bridget, Joe Major, Harry Warner, and others.

Memphen, #243 & #244, semi-official publication of the Memphis Science Fiction Association, 3125 South Mendenhall Rd, #353, Memphis, TN 38115. Edited by

Tim and Barbara Gatewood. Both issues have club news. #243 contains remembrances of the late Claude Saxon and locs from people such as George "Lan" Laskowski. #244 has an editorial by Tim on the pros and cons of switching over to an electronic zine.

MimeMeow, #7, published by Bill Bridget, 4126 Mountain Creek #6, Chattanooga, TN 37415. Bill recaps his recent fan feud with Andy Hooper, Victor Gonzales, Ted White, and other fans, although he never explains what started the feud or why he continues with it. (I also receive zines from Hooper and Gonzales, but they've never mentioned Bill.)

Mimosa #22, published by Nicki and Richard Lynch, PO Box 3120, Gaithersburg, MD 20885. Available for \$4 for one issue, zine in trade, contribution, or letter of comment to previous issue. This is one of the best zines available today and has won the Hugo Award several times. Their emphasis is on fan history. #22 contains articles by Dave Kyle, Mike Resnick, Richard Brandt, Lowell Cunningham (creator of Men in Black), Ian Gunn, Walt Willis, Ron Bennett, Dal Coger of Memphis, Curt Phillips, Forrest Ackerman, and Greg Benford. The cover is a collaboration between Teddy Harvia and Peggy Ranson. Other illustrators include Sheryl Birkhead, Brad Foster, Alexis Gilliland, Diana Harlan Stein, and Charlie Williams of Knoxville. The cartoons in the letter sections are salutes to the late Bill Rotsler by other artists. The loccers include Robert Lichtman, Dave Langford, Harry Warner, Buck Coulson, Mike Glicksohn, Joe Major, Marty Cantor, and Ruth Shields of Jackson, MS.

MSFire Vol. 4, No. 3, published by Milwaukee Science Fiction Services, PO Box 1637, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1637. Edited by Lloyd G. Daub. Available for trade, contributions, or \$5 annual membership. This issue contains an article on Fu Manchu by Joseph T. Major, a review of the recent Arthur C. Clarke controversy, a piece on treasure hunting on Lake Michigan, zine reviews, and letters. Loccers include Joe Major, Harry Warner, Bill Bridget, Buck Coulson, Teddy Harvia, and Sheryl Birkhead.

The NASFA Shuttle, June and July, 1998, published by the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, 7907 Charlotte Drive Sw, Huntsville, AL 35802-2841. Edited by Mike Kennedy. Available for membership (\$15), subscription (\$10 per year or \$1.50 per issue), contribution, and locs. This is one of the best monthly clubzines being

published today. The June issue contains club and Constellation news, book reviews, reports on the Nebula Awards weekend, LibertyCon, and DeepSouthCon (less than a week after the event!), and an article by Mike on the site being bid by the Boston for Orlando in 2001. The July issue has reviews of *Deep Impact* and *Armageddon*. The letter column contained locs by Harry Warner, Buck Coulson, Bob Tucker, and Sheryl Birkhead.

Notes From Oblivion, #37, edited and published by Jay Harber, 626 Paddock Lane, Libertyville, IL 60048-3733. This handwritten perzine consists mostly of an essay on *Star Trek: Deep Space 9* and *Voyager*. He also includes a Next Generation fan fiction piece and a drawing of Louise Jameson (Leela on *Doctor Who*.) Jay is visually impaired and would like to exchange audiotapes with other fans.

Omegazine, #98, journal of the Omega Society, c/o John Martello, 3415 Silverwood Drive, Pine Hills, Florida 32808-2847. Available for trade or \$10 subscription. This issue contains a color cover (!), club news, movie reviews, comic story, zine reviews, and convention listings.

Opuntia #38, published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2E7. Available for \$3 cash for a one-time sample copy, zine trade, or letter of comment on the previous issue. Dale is one of the best fan writers consistently putting out his own zine these days, although my wife Anita finds the print size too small. #38 contains letters from people such as Harry Warner and Buck Coulson, an article by Dale on the million stamp legend in stamp collecting, a reprint of an article on amateur journalism that originally appeared in the *New York Times* in 1875 (!), and another article by Dale on rocket fans.

Proper Boskonian, #43, published by the New England Science Fiction Association, PO Box 809, Framingham, MA 01701. Available for NESFA membership, trade, or \$3 per issue. Edited by Lisa Hertel. This issue contains a short story, a report on lobbying Congress for the space program, the script for opening ceremonies for Wiscon 20, comic stories, and letters including ones by Joe Major, Joy Smith, Richard Brandt, and others.

The Reluctant Famulus, #52, edited and published by Tom Sadler, 422 W. Maple Avenue, Adrian, MI 49221-

1627. For some reason, nominators for the Hugo and other fan awards unjustly ignore this zine. This issue contains an opening editorial and a concluding one by Tom, an article by Gene Stewart arguing that Bram Stoker had a collaborator in the writing of *Dracula*, an autobiographical piece by Peggy Ranson, World War II memoirs by Terry Jeeves, Ben Indick on the New York subway system, Ulrika O'Brien on Swedish fandom, Frank Bynum on the *Earth 2* TV series, a comic story by Joe Mayhew, book reviews, zine reviews, and an extensive letter column including locs by Joe and Lisa Major, Buck Coulson, Ned Brooks, and Teddy Harvia.

Scavenger's Scrapbook No. 170, edited and published by Janet Fox, 519 Ellinwood, Osage City, KS 66523-1329. Available for \$5 for a single issue, \$7/2. Reviews of small press markets for writers and artists.

Scopus:3007, #8, edited and published by Alexander and Megan Bouchard, PO Box 573, Hazel Park, MI 48038-0573. This issue is mostly devoted to last year's WorldCon, including pictures. (Al and I were both on a panel devoted to nice faneds.) Other features included a "Bears in Space" comic story by Joe Mayhew, zine reviews, and letters.

SFSFS Shuttle, #134, published by the South Florida Science Fiction Society, PO Box 70143, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143. Edited by Shirlene Rawlik. Available for \$12 annually or trade. Club and Tropicon news, an article on Neil Gaiman, *Babylon 5* information, a report on the Nebula Awards ceremony, book reviews, and letters. The loccers include Sheryl Birkhead, Buck Coulson, Teddy Harvia, Joe Major, Janine Stinson, and Harry Warner.

Squiggledy Hoy, published by Bridget Bradshaw (nee Hardcastle), 19 Wedgewood Road, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 0EX, Great Britain. Bridget has both good and bad news. She has had to suspend her Ph.D. studies due to health problems. On the other hand, she should be married by-the-time you-read this. She writes about an unsuccessful panel at CorfluUK, memorable fanzines, and TAFF. (Bridget came in third in this year's voting.) Loccers include Buck Coulson, Walt Willis, and Harry Warner.

Thyme #120, edited and published by Alan Stewart, PO Box 222, World Trade Centre, Melbourne, Victoria, 8005, Australia. This is the Australian SF newszine. This

issue contains fan fund news, award listings, publishing news, a report on a fannish wedding, report on Basiccon 2, an article on an urban legend, book reviews, and locs by Buck Coulson, Harry Warner, Jr., and others.

Tightbeam #210, published by Howard Devore, 4705 Weddel St., Dearborn, MI 48125-3033 for the National Fantasy Fan Federation. Edited by Janine Stinson, PO Box 430314, Big Pine Key, FL 33043-0314. Available for \$18 annual membership fee. This issue contains letters, a report on Potlach 7, a review of the zine Bardic Runes, and a report on a meeting with actor John Inman (Are You Being Served?).

TNFF (Vol. 58, No. 3), official organ of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, PO Box 66408, Portland, OR 97290-6408. Edited by Craig Boyd, PO Box 7554, Little Rock, AR 72217-7554. Available for \$18 annual membership fee. Club news.

3 Pipe Problem Plugs and Dottles, newsletter of the Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem (Sherlock Holmes). Edited by Gael Stahl, 1763 Needmore Road,

Old Hickory, TN 37138. Available for \$5 annually. Club news, part 2 of an interview with a Sherlock Holmes expert, and an episode guide to the Jeremy Brett TV series.

Twink, #s 9 & 10, edited and published by E.B. Frohvet (a pseudonym), 4725 Dorsey Hall Drive, Box #A-700, Ellicott City, MD 21042. In #9, Rodney Leighton writes about male domination in fanzines; Frohvet on "Science Fiction & the Law"; and Ted White on fanzines. In #10, Frohvet writes about the influence of race relations in the South on the novels of Andre Norton. Other elements include book and television reviews, zine reviews, and letters by Joe Major, Bill Bridget, Teddy Harvia, Buck Coulson, Alex Slate, Janine Stinson, and others.

Vanamonde, #s 258-262, edited and published by John Hertz, 236 S. Coronado St., No. 409, Los Angeles, CA 90057. These are John's 2 page contributions to APA-L (a weekly (!) apa) that John also distributes outside the apa. Since I'm not in the apa, the mailing comments are a little hard to follow. It's still enjoyable to read, however.☺

Minutes of the 1998 Business Meeting of the Southern Fandom Confederation

as submitted by Tim Gatewood

The meeting took place at DeepSouthCon 36 (B'hamaCon 4) at the Ramada Inn in the Southside of Birmingham, Alabama, on Sunday June 14, 1998. Presiding was Tom Feller, President of the Southern Fandom Confederation. Also present were Vice-President Bill Francis, Treasurer Judy Bemis, a host of SFC members and others, and YHOSecretary Tim Gatewood. The meeting was called to order at 10:03AM by Tom.

Upon presentation of the Minutes of the last year's Business Meeting by then-Secretary/Treasurer Judy Bemis, Tim Gatewood moved (Irv Koch seconded) that the reading of the minutes be waived and the Minutes be accepted as published in the Bulletin. Motion passed. Judy Bemis then gave a verbal Treasurer's Report and presented the Secretary with a written copy of same, as follows:

Balance 6/5/97 (per last annual report) \$2,358.16

INCOME

Memberships	\$790.00
Donations for advertising	\$100.00
Patches Sold	\$20.00
Merchandise from Fo'Paws Sold	\$190.00
Handbooks Sold	\$298.00
Handbook Postage Received	\$2.00
Income Subtotal	\$1,400.00

EXPENSES

Bulletin Vol. 6 #12	\$169.07
Bulletin Vol. 6 #9	\$182.95
Bulletin Vol. 6 #10	\$153.85
Bulletin Vol. 6 #11	\$168.12
SFC Handbook (printing)	\$1,200.00
Merchandise from Fo'Paws	\$349.00
Bank Fee	\$0.36
Treasurer's Expenses	\$14.40
Expenses Subtotal	\$2,267.21
BALANCE as of 6/10/98 (before DSC 36) . .	\$1,590.95

Motion (Tim Gatewood, Lew Wolkoff) to accept the Treasurer's Report as read; motion passed. (YHO-Secretary wishes to point out that he did not have his calculator with him at the meeting and, so, did not notice that the numbers don't quite add up. Subsequent reports from the Treasurer may clear up this matter and he leaves it to the current Officers to follow-up on this matter.)

((Judy says she didn't have her calculator, either. The subtotal for the expenses should be \$2,237.75. The balance as of 6/10/98 should be \$1520.41. The balance in the checkbook on that date was \$1497.61. The remaining \$22.80 is cash in the box I take to cons.))

Having dispensed with old business, the meeting next moved into the Agenda as prepared by President Feller. Choosing to postpone the election of Officers until later in the meeting, the next item was whether the Southern Fandom Confederation shall endorse the Boston in Orlando in 2001 WorldCon bid. Judy Bemis stepped off the podium to speak in favor of the proposal, pointing out the Orlando location and the presence of 4 Orlando people on the Boston bid committee, among other considerations. There were numerous questions and comments, most notably from Guy H. Lillian, III; Irving Koch; Naomi Fisher; and Lewis Wolkoff. Lew spoke against the proposal. Upon a request from the floor, YHOSecretary perused the SFC Bylaws for any mention of the SFC endorsing a WorldCon bid; the only mention found was in the section dealing with the editorial policy of the *Bulletin*, wherein it is stated that the *Bulletin* shall remain neutral BETWEEN COMPETING SOUTHERN BIDS. There was no mention found of endorsing a single Southern bid, or exactly defining what constituted a Southern bid. Further discussion ensued, including Irving Koch & Steve Francis speaking against the proposal, and Adrian Washburn commenting politely. In order to bring the matter to a vote, Motion (Judy Bemis, Lew Wolkoff) for the Southern Fandom Confederation to endorse the Boston in Orlando 2001 WorldCon bid. Michael Liebmann called the Question. Motion failed.

Next up was a report from Judy Bemis on her efforts to establish an Archive for the SFC. She stated that she has an almost-complete collection of SFC Bulletins, only lacking the first 4 and 1 other. She also stated that she is willing to be the Archivist of the SFC as long as she remains the Treasurer and that she has the space for the anticipated mass of paper (zines, records, etc) that would be involved. Motion (Michael Liebmann, Tim Gatewood) to elect/appoint Judy Bemis as Archivist for as long the

SFC and she shall mutually agree; motion passed unanimously.

President Feller then spoke with brevity and clarity about the concepts of e-mail-only membership (no printed Bulletins, lower dues) and International memberships (higher postage costs leading to higher dues). Naomi Fisher spoke against the e-mail memberships as "discriminating against those without on-line access." Neither idea was formally moved, and several folks spoke in favor of the Bulletin being posted on the SFC's Web site so anyone with access could read them.

Pressing on, President Feller reported that Australian fan and DUFF Winner Alan Stewart pointed out that the SFC Bylaws incorrectly identifies the Hugo as a "national" award, when it is, in fact, an international award. After some discussion, Motion (Guy H. Lillian, III, Michael Liebmann) to change "national" to "fandom-wide." The motion passed with no opposition.

The next item of business involved appropriating money for room parties to be thrown by the SFC President. Tom Feller explained that fewer cons had

Treasurer's Report As of 8/11/98

by Judy Bemis

Balance as of 3/30/98\$1,596.08

INCOME

Membership Renewals\$550.00
Donations (some in lieu of Membership dues) \$50.00
Fanzine sales for 1997-1998 \$11.75
Canadian25¢
Patches\$15.00
Bulk Patches to DSC 37\$100.00
Map Shirts\$40.00
Handbooks\$50.00
New Shirts\$62.00

TOTAL INCOME\$878.75
Canadian25¢

EXPENSES

Bulletin Vol 6 #12\$169.07
Financial Expenses (copying, etc.)\$14.40
Books to Russia postage per DSC 36 mtg.\$50.00
TOTAL EXPENSES\$233.47

Reconciliation

\$1,596.08 3/30/98
+ \$878.75 Income
- \$233.47 Expenses
= \$2,241.36 8/11/98

space for club tables and the room parties seemed to be a good way to go for promoting the SFC when tables were not available. Considerable discussion ensued. Motion (Irving Koch, Judy Bemis) to appropriate \$50.00 for one year for the President or his or her designee to hold room parties. Further discussion. Motion (Naomi Fisher, Gary Rowan) to amend the Motion to set the amount as \$200.00 for one year at the President's discretion; not a friendly amendment. The vote was 21 to 2 to accept the Amendment to the Motion; amendment passed. Motion as amended passed with 23 in favor, none opposed, several abstaining.

Upon receiving word that Tom Feller still has several boxes of The SFC Handbook, Motion (Guy H. Lillian, III, Sue Francis) to reduce the per copy price to \$5.00 plus \$2.00 shipping/handling if mailed, regardless of membership status. Motion Passed. When it was pointed out that the SFC Handbook is now available on the World Wide Web thanks to the efforts of Sam Smith of Huntsville, Alabama (who was present to take a bow), YHOSecretary pointed out that, since we named those involved with producing the Handbook "Saints of the SFC," we should do likewise for Sam, whose efforts had been similarly massive. Motion (Tim Gatewood, Michael Liebmann) to name SAM SMITH a Saint of the Southern Fandom Confederation; motion passed unanimously (other than humble protestations by Sam).

Moving into the Election of 1998-99 SFC Officers, Tom Feller announced that he would not be standing for re-election as President and that Tim Gatewood would not be seeking another term as Secretary. With that, nominations were opened.

Julie Wall was nominated by Sue Francis (seconded

by Debbie Rowan) for President. Seeing no further nominations for this office, Motion (Irving Koch, Tim Gatewood) to elect Julie Wall as SFC President by acclamation. Motion passed.

Bill Francis was nominated by Michael Liebmann (seconded by Irvin Koch) for another term as SFC Vice President. No other nominations being presented, voting ensued and Bill was re-elected.

For the open position of Secretary, things got more interesting. Michael Liebmann nominated (seconded by Lew Wolkoff) Irvin Koch, who stated he would accept if no one else ran. Judy Bemis nominated Tom Feller, who declined in favor of "anyone else." Naomi Fisher nominated (seconded by Sue Francis) Patrick Molloy, who was so shocked and scandalized that he retaliated by nominating Naomi. Naomi quickly declined the nomination. Irvin Koch withdrew, leaving Patrick Molloy as the only nominee. Motion (Guy H. Lillian, III, seconded by several others simultaneously) to close nominations. Patrick Molloy was quickly elected as Secretary for the 1998-99 term, to which he responded "Oh, Shit!"

Judy Bemis was then re-elected by acclamation as Treasurer (and, not coincidentally, Archivist).

Lew Wolkoff rose to point out that this DSC had a poster up in the consuite from a teacher in Russia who desperately needed SF books in English for his classes, and to inquire whether the SFC could do something to help out this worthy charity. After favorable discussion, Motion (Lew Wolkoff, Irvin Koch) to appropriate \$50.00 to this cause to be turned over to the appropriate person on the DSC 36 Committee. Motion passed.

Motion (general uproar) to adjourn. Passed. Meeting adjourned 10:55am. ☘

Southern Convention List

compiled by W. Andrew York

Convention listings are as accurate as possible at the time they are submitted for publication. We can not and do not guarantee the absolute accuracy of any item printed in this section. You should check with the convention organizers to verify that the information is correct and current. E-mail addresses and telephone numbers are given for convenience and should not be used for any other purpose than obtaining convention information. If you know of an upcoming convention or corrected information on any listed convention, contact: W. Andrew York; POB 20117; Austin TX, 78720-1117 or wandrew@compuserve.com

1998

CONSTELLATION XVII:HYDRA October 9-11, Huntsville AL. Guests: Mike Resnick, Tim Powers, Bob Eggleton, David Miller, POB 4857, Huntsville AL 35815

RISING STAR 7 October 9 -11, Salem, VA. Guest: Richard Biggs. 545 Howard Drive, Salem, VA 24153, (540) 389-9400.

FAL'CON October 16-18, Ramada Inn, Bowling Green KY. Guest: Kerry Gilley. POB 767, Bowling Green KY 42102-0767, www.geocities.com/area51/8386

SCICON 20 November 6-8, Holiday Inn Executive Center, Virginia Beach, VA. Guests: Emma Bull, Will Shetterly, Colleen Doran, Margaret Cubberly, Peter Schweighofer. POB 9434 Hampton, VA 23670, info@scicon.org, www.scicon.org/

TROPICON XVII November 13-15, Doubletree Suites, Ft Lauderdale FL. Guest: Neil Gaiman, Charles Vess, Lynn Abbey, Hal Clement. Tropicon XVII, c/o the Rawliks, 539 37th St, W Palm Beach FL 33407, prawlik@concentric.net, scifi.squawk.com/tropicon.html

EXOTICON November 20-22, Airport Radisson Hotel, New Orleans LA. Guests: Mike Nelson, Mandy Leigh, Kevin Murphy, Carl Lundgren. WHIP Inc., 102 Metairie Heights #A, Metairie LA 70001, 504-831-1515 ext 3, frontenot@earthlink.net, dervishdatasystems.com/whip

CONCAT 10 November 27-29, Radisson Hotel, Knoxville TN. Guests: Spider & Jeanne Robinson, Darrell Elliott. Rick Shelley, Webb Clan. 316 E Scott Ave, Knoxville TN 37917, 423-637-6564, 423-523-6986, chloiea@mailexcite.com, knoxsf@aol.com, members.aol.com/knoxsf/cradle/concat.htm

1999

CREATION {STAR TREK} January 2, Plano Center, Plano TX. Guests: tba

GA FILK January 8-10, Ramada Inn Airport South, Atlanta GA. Guests: Juanita Coulson, Glenn Simser, Lee Billings. Michael Liebmann, 2715 Lenox Rd #B5, Atlanta GA 30324

CHATTACON XXIV January 15-17, Chattanooga TN. Guests: John Barnes, Barbara Hambly, Bob Eggleton, Bruce Sterling, Wendy Webb, Diana Sharples. POB 23908, Chattanooga TN 37422-3908, chattacon_info@mindspring.com, www.chattacon.org

CONCAVE February 26-28, Park Mammoth Resort, Park City, KY. Contact Gary Robe, POB 3221, Kingsport, TN 37664-0221, 423-239-3106, grrobe@preferred.com

WORLD HORROR CONVENTION March 5-7, Marriott North Central, Atlanta GA. Guests: Michael Bishop, John Shirley, Neil Gaiman, Lisa Snellings. POB 148, Clarkston GA 30021-0148, horrorcon@aol.com

DEEPSOUTHCON 37/CRESCENT CITY CON 14 August 6-8, Best Western, New Orleans LA. POB 52622, New Orleans LA 70150-2622, 504-488-0489, cccno@aol.com, www.fatsnake.com/ccc/index.html

CONUCOPIA/1999 NASFiC August 26-29, Anaheim Marriott, Anaheim CA. Guests: Jerry Pournelle. NASFiC 99, POB 8442, Van Nuys CA 91409, www.99.nasfic.org

AUSSIECON THREE/57TH WORLDCON September 2-6, World Congress Centre, Melbourne Australia. Guests of Honor: George Turner, Gregory Benford, Bruce Gillespie. Aussiecon Three, GPO Box 1212K, Melbourne VIC 3001 AUSTRALIA, www.maths.uts.edu.au/staff/eric/ain99

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2000 and on

CHICON 2000/58TH WORLDCON August 31-September 4, Hyatt Regency, Chicago IL. Guests of Honor: Ben Bova, Bob Eggleton, Jim Baen, Bob & Anne Passovoy, Harry Turtledove. Chicon 2000, POB 642057, Chicago IL 60664, chi2000@chicon.org, www.chicon.org/

TRINOC*CON coming late September, 2000, Research Triangle area, NC. POB 10633, Raleigh, NC. Contact Laura Haywood (919) 933-7909, 5-9 PM only please. lghaywoo@email.unc.edu. www.trinoc-con.org

PHILCON/59TH WORLDCON August 30 - September 3, Pennsylvania Convention Center and Philadelphia Marriott Hotel, Philadelphia PA, Guests of Honor: Greg Bear, Stephen Youll, Gardner Dozois, George Scithers, Esther Friesner. The Millennium Philcon, 402 Huntingdon Pike #2001, Rockledge PA 19046, phil2000@netaxs.com, www.netaxs.com/~phil2001/

2002 WORLDCON BIDS: San Francisco, CA. POB 61363; Sunnyvale CA 94088, info@sf2002.sfsfc.org, www.sfsfc.org

Seattle WA. POB 1066, Seattle WA 98111-1066, seattle2002@isomedia.com, www.webwitch.com/seattle02

2003 WORLDCON BIDS: Toronto, ONT. POB 3, Station A, Toronto ONT M5W 1A2 CANADA, info@torcon3.on.ca, www.torcon3.on.ca

Cancun, MEXICO. POB 905; Euless TX 76039, artemis@cyberramp.net.

2007 WORLDCON BIDS: Baltimore

2260 WORLDCON BID: Z'ha'dum (jm-grimm@ti.com).☛

Science Fiction Clubs in the South

compiled by Tom Feller

I am deeply indebted to the Fandom Directory (<http://members.aol.com/fandata>) for much of this information.

ALABAMA

Birmingham: **Birmingham Science Fiction Club**, P.O. Box 94151, Birmingham, AL 35220. Monthly meetings on the second Saturday of each month at 7 PM at the Southside Public Library. Dues: \$15 for one person, \$20 for family. Officers: President George Little, Vice-President Elliott Davis, Treasurer Debbie Rowan, <http://www.b'ham.net/bisfic/index.html>

Huntsville: **North Alabama Science Fiction Association** (NASFA), P.O. Box 4857, Huntsville, AL 35815-4857. Monthly meetings on the third Saturday at Teledyne Brown Engineering-Building 1. Business portion at 6 PM, program at 7 PM, followed by an after-the-meeting meeting for socializing. Dues: \$15 annually. Subscription to *The NASFA Shuttle*: \$10 annually. Officers: President Anita Eisenberg, Vice President and newsletter editor Mike Kennedy, Secretary Sam Smith, Treasurer Ray Pietruszka, Program Director Mike Cothran, Publicity Director Ron Lajoie. <http://www.hsv.tis.net/~constell/nasfa/index.html>

ARKANSAS

North Little Rock: **Klingon Military Academy**, PO Box 94823, North Little Rock, AR 72190. Contact: William DeJesus.

FLORIDA

Clearwater: **American Tolkien Society**, Box 901 Clearwater, FL 34617. Newsletter *Minas Tirith Evening-Star*. Contact: Paul S. Ritz.

Fort Lauderdale: **South Florida Science Fiction Society**, P.O. Box 70143, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143. Regular monthly meetings plus media outings, writers workshops, filk gatherings, and other activities. Dues: \$15 annually. Subscription to *SFSFS Shuttle*: \$12 annually. Officers: President Judi Goodman, Vice President Carlos Perez, Secretary Mal Barker, Treasurer Cindy Warmuth. <http://scifi.maid.com/sfsfs.html>

Green Cove Springs: **LORE (Legends of Reality Enacted)**, PO Box 717, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. Live-action role-playing. Monthly meetings and newsletter *Fairy Rad*. Contact: Cindy Sudano.

Jacksonville: **Star Sector Northeast Florida**, PO Box 8356, Jacksonville, FL 32239-8356. Contact: Karl Meyers at kmeyers@ix.netcom.com, <http://www.fortunecity.com/tatooine/zenith/67/>

Kissimmee: **Alliance of Gaming Enthusiasts and Rogue Society**, c/o GOTH, 105 Honeywood CT, Kissimmee, FL 34743. Monthly meetings and newsletters *Rogue Society* and *AGE Tome*.

Lake Mary: **The Guardians of Gallifrey**, 170 Broadmoor Ave, Lake Mary, FL 32746. *Dr. Who* and British SF. Monthly meetings and newsletter *The Gallifrey Guardian*. Contact Julia Langston.

Lantana: **Order of Star Knights**, 513 Greynolds Circle, Lantana, FL 33462. Contact: B.F. Scalley.

Maitland: **Orlando Area Science Fiction Association**, P.O. Box 940992, Maitland, FL 32794-0992.

Miami: **Black Point Naval Yards**, 17842 SW 77 CT, Miami, FL 33157. Modeling and rocketry, weekly meetings, and newsletter *The Blue Ghost*. Contact: George Dorris.

Panama City: **Panhandle Science Fiction Society**, 3911 Ereno Ct., Panama City, FL 32405

Riverview: **Stone Hill SF Association**, P.O. Box 2076, Riverview, FL 33568-2847. Monthly meetings on the second Sunday. Newsletter *Stone Hill Launch Times*. <http://www.stonehill.org>

Tallahassee: **North Florida Gaming Association**, 217 Columbia Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32304-3110. RPG, card, board, and miniature gaming. Weekly meetings and newsletter *Legends and Legions*. Contact: David Glenn.

Windermere: **Bajoran Alliance**, Box 653 Windermere, FL 34786. Newsletter *The Wormhole*. Contact: Ann Gabele.

GEORGIA

Atlanta: **The Atlanta Science Fiction Society**, PO Box 98308, Atlanta, GA 30359-2008. Meetings on the first Sunday of every month at 2 PM. Dues: \$12 annually. Chairman: Randy Cleary, Co-chair: Ian Letendre, Secretary: Jayne Rogers, Programming Director: Bill Bevil, Publicity: Lewis Murphy. Newsletter: *ASFS Future Times*. 404-266-8972.

Lebanon: **Electrical Eggs Ltd.**, P.O. Box 308, Lebanon, GA 30146. This organization works with conventions to provide handicapped access. Contact: Samanda b Jeude .

KENTUCKY

Bowling Green: **WKU Speculative Fiction Society**, WKU Chem. Dept., #1 Big Red Way, Bowling Green, KY 42101. Weekly meetings during academic year.

Contact: Annette Carrico.

Florence: **Old Time Radio Club of Cincinnati**, 10280 Gunpowder RD, Florence, KY 41042. Monthly meetings and newsletter *Old Time Radio Digest*. Contact: Bob Burchett.

Lexington: **Lexington Science Fiction and Fantasy Association** (LexFa), 1825 Liberty Road #418, Lexington, KY 40505. starsong@iglou.com <http://members.iglou.com/gazer/index.htm>,

Louisville: **Falls of Ohio Science Fiction and Fantasy Association** (FOSFA), P.O. Box 37281, Louisville, KY 40233-7281. Meetings on the second Sunday of each month. Dues: \$18 annually. Subscription to *FOSFAX*: \$12 annually. Officers: President Elizabeth Garrott, Vice President Lisa Major, Secretary Joseph Major, Treasurer Timothy Lane.

Louisville: **Burroughs Bibliophiles**, University of Louisville Library, Louisville, KY 40292. Edgar Rice, not William S., Burroughs. Newsletters *Burroughs Bulletin* and *The Gridley Wave*. Contact: George T. McWhorter.

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge: **Star One Delta**, 10334 Tanwood Avenue, Baton Rouge, 70809. Meets the third Sunday of every month at the Mr. Gatti's Pizza on the corner of Essen and Perkins. Dues: \$15 annually, \$7.50 per additional member in the same household. Star Trek and other media. Newsletter. Officers: President Karen D. Morton, Vice President Jeff Tircuit, Treasurer Johnnie Johnston, Secretary Sue Smith, Newsletter Editor Michael Scott.

New Orleans: **Babylon 504**, 3608 Victoria Street, New Orleans, LA 70126. Meetings on the 1st Tuesday of each month. Newsletter: *Babcom 504* ; Contact: Commander Rebecca Smith-Correll at 504-243-1495. Minister of Propaganda: Gustave A. Michel

New Orleans: **Krewe of the Enterprise** (KOTE), 4101 Norman Mayer Ave. #75, New Orleans, LA 70122. Star Trek. Newsletter: *From the Krewe's Quarters*. Contact: Keith L. Rombach.

Shreveport: **Science Fiction Xchange**, 7800 Youree Drive, APT 2200G, Shreveport, LA 71105-5529. Meetings are on the second Sunday of each month at the Mr. Gattis Pizza on Youree Drive at 2 PM. Contact: David D'Amico

MISSISSIPPI

Jackson: **The Neutral Zone Bar & Grill**, 1518 Dianne Drive, Jackson, MS 39204-5115. Star Trek club. Occasional parties. Officer: Chief Bouncer Carole Miles.

NORTH CAROLINA

Chapel Hill: **Research Triangle Science Fiction Society**, 105 W. NC Hwy 54 Bypass, Apt. S-2, Chapel Hill, NC 27516-2858. Two meetings monthly. Dues: \$10 annually. Contact Laura Haywood, (919) 933-7909, 5-9 PM only please, or lghaywoo@email.unc.edu
<http://www.sandbaggers.com/rtsfs>

TENNESSEE

Memphis: **Allies for Star Trek**, 2195 Madison Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104. Two meetings monthly: (1) the 4th Saturday of each month at 3 PM at the Main Public Library followed by dinner at a local restaurant, (2) one social gathering at a member's home. Monthly newsletter *Communications Console*. Dues: \$12 US, \$17 elsewhere annually. Officers: President and newsletter editor James T. Kacarides, Vice President Harold Feldman, Secretary Margaret Joyce, Treasurer Janice Joyce.

Memphis: **Memphis Science Fiction Association** (MSFA), P.O. Box 12534, Memphis, TN 38182. Two meetings monthly: (1) the second Monday at 7 PM at the Main Public Library followed by dinner at a local restaurant, (2) the fourth Sunday at a member's house. Monthly newsletter *Memphen*. Dues: \$10 annually. Officers: Chairbeing Angela Bridges, Vice-Chairbeing Claude Saxon, Treasurer: Greg Bridges, Secretary J. Michael Harper, Memphen co-editors Tim and Barbara Gatewood. memphen@aol.com
<http://www.netten.net/~msfa/>

Nashville: **Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem**, 1763 Needmore Road, Old Hickory TN 37138. Sherlock Holmes. Bi-monthly meetings. *Newsletter 3 Pipe Problem Plugs and Dottles*. Chief Investigator Billy Fields, Convener David Bradley, Newsletter Editor Gael Stahl, Webmeister Jim Hawkins. <http://www.TheHawk.net>

Nashville: **The Middle Tennessee Science Fiction Society**, C/O Anita Feller, PO Box 68203, Nashville, TN 37206-8203. Meetings at Green Hills Public Library on the second Wednesday of each month followed by a visit to a local restaurant plus additional parties and social activities. Newsletter editor: Debra Hussey.
<http://www.geocities.com/area51/dimension/4242/>

TEXAS

Arlington: **Texas Sci-Fi/Horror Society**, PO Box 202495, Arlington, TX 76006. Quarterly meetings. Contact: Douglas Ivins.

Austin: **Fandom Association of Central Texas (FACT)** Box 9612, Austin, TX 78766.

Austin: **Non-Aligned Worlds of Austin**, PO Box 19532, Austin TX 78760. Meetings on the first Saturday of each month at 1 PM at the Windsor Village Library at 5851 Berkman Drive. *Babylon 5*. Contact: Jerrie Marchand.

College Station: **MSC Nova**, Box J1, Memorial Student Center, Texas A&M, College Station, TX 77844. RPG, card, and board gaming. Meetings every two weeks. Contact: Clay Hanna.

El Paso: **El Paso Science Fiction and Fantasy Alliance**, PO Box 3177, El Paso, TX 79923. Monthly newsletter and meetings. Dues: \$15 annually. Officers: President Anita Ruble, Vice-President Tom Cable, Secretary Muriel van Sweringen, Treasurer Nancy La Rock.

Houston: **Friends of Fandom**, P.O. Box 541822, Houston, TX 77254. Contact: Candace Pulleine.
<http://clever.net/cam/sf.html>

San Antonio: **Ursa Major**, PO Box 691448, San Antonio, TX 78269-1448. Meetings on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Tuesdays and the 4th Friday of each month. Newsletter: *Robots & Roadrunners*. Contact: Mary Helm

VIRGINIA

Blacksburg: **SF & Fantasy Club of Virginia Tech**, PO Box 256, Blacksburg, VA 24063. Weekly meetings.

Fairfax: **Science Fiction/Fantasy Club**, 4400 University Dr, MS 2D6, Fairfax VA 22030. Newsletter *The Fractal*. Contacts: Sean Newborn and David Gardner.

Falls Church: **Animation Art Collectors Club of Washington**, 2972 Yarling Ct, Falls Church, Va 20042. Two meeting per quarter. Contact: Nancy McClellan

Newport News: **Hampton Roads Science Fiction Association**, 414 Winterhaven Drive, Newport News, VA 23606-2518. Meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at the NASA Langley Activities Building in Hampton. Newsletter *The Liberated Quark*. Contact Mary Gray.

Winchester: **Shenandoah Valley Gamers Guild**, PO Box 1448, Winchester, VA 22604. Semi-monthly meetings and newsletter *The Pages of Lore*. Contact: John Coulter.

Woodbridge: **Cambrion Adventures**, 3048 Seminole RD, Woodbridge, VA 22192. Live-action role-playing. Meetings every other Saturday. Contact: Bob McNeal.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CLUBS

These are clubs with affiliated clubs and/or members spread through the South. For the chapter nearest you, contact the address listed.

Committee for the Advancement of Role-Playing Games, 1127 Cedar, Bonham, TX 75418. Newsletter *CAR-PGa Newsletter* and other publications. Contact: Paul Cardwell, Jr.
<http://members.aol.com/waltonwj/carpga.htm>

DragonWeb, 4122 Tallah, San Antonio, TX 78218. Pern. Contact: Randall Stuke.

EDC Animation Society, 3352 Broadway Blvd, #470, Garland, TX 75043. Japanese Animation. Newsletters *Nova* and *Whispers of Iscandar*. Contact: Meri Wakefield-Hazlewood.

Federation Marine Corps, 2404 Greenwood Dr., Portsmouth, VA 23702. RPG. Newsletter *Attention All Hands*. Contact: Robert J. Bell.

International Costumers Guild, PO Box 94538, Pasadena, CA 91109. Newsletter *Costumers Quarterly*.
<http://www.costume.org>

International Fantasy Gaming Society, PO Box 3577, Boulder, CO 80307. Live-action fantasy role-playing.

Contact: Janice Moore.

International Federation of Trekkers, PO Box 84, Groveport, OH 43125-0084. Newsletter *Voyages Magazine*. Contact: Russ Haslage.

Mythopoeic Society, PO Box 6707, Altadena, CA 91003.

Klingon Armada International, P.O. Box 1695, Des Plaines, IL 60017-1695. Newsletter *The Catalyst*. Contact: Char Haguewood.

National Fantasy Fan Federation, 1920 Division St., Murphysboro, IL 62966. Newsletters *TNFF* and *Tightbeam*. Contact: William Center

National Space Society, 600 Pennsylvania Ave SE STE 201, Washington, DC 20003-4316. Newsletter *AD Astra*. Contact: David Brandt.

Romulan Star Empire, PO Box 3508, Dayton, OH 45401. Newsletters *Star Path* and *Warnings from the Edge*.

Society for Creative Anachronism, Member Services Office, PO Box 360789, Milpitas, CA 95036-0789

Starfleet, 200 Hiawatha Blvd, Oakland, NJ 07436-3743.
<http://www.sfi.org>

United Federation of Planets Internationale, 2445 Stonebridge Dr., Orange Park, FL 32064-5779. Newsletter *The Universal Translator*. Contact: Kaye Downing. ☸

Letters of Comment

June 4, 1998: **Robert "Buck" Coulson**, 2677 W 500 N, Hartford City IN 47348-9575.

Tom: We used to send *YANDRO* to Claude Saxon, a good many years ago. Hadn't heard or seen his name for quite a few years until your obit.

Why is Vulcon Atlanta cancelled and Vulkan Atlanta listed for May 22-24? Just for a name change?

If I had 6 different ways to be contacted, I might want to get away from the communication, but probably not. For one thing, it can always be ignored if I don't feel like answering. For another, our closest friends live in Indianapolis (100 miles away), Columbus OH (160 miles) and Milwaukee (300 miles), so we don't have many drop-in guests and it's nice to keep in touch. Visits either way have to be planned for. Everything is much

closer in England; Alan Dodd once said that, referring to a visit of ours to Milwaukee, if he went 300 miles north he'd be in the North Sea. (Though, actually, he manages to remain pretty much of a hermit while living in a London suburb.)

Well, our last convention was in Madison, WI (another 100 miles beyond Milwaukee) for the notoriously feminist Wiscon. I was on a panel about why male authors don't come to the con. (I immediately said that they had the wrong panelists because obviously all five of us *had* come to the con.) Juanita and I have been going for 18 years. Of course, when it advertises itself as "The gathering of the feminist SF community", some males might feel unwanted, but I have a big enough ego to disregard such little signs. A so-so con for us. Huckstering okay but not great, conversations ditto, not

too many filkers present for Juanita to interact with. But a big plus is getting to visit the DeWeeses going and coming.

May 5, 1998: **Harry Warner, Jr.**, 423 Summit Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740.

At last, some comments are forthcoming on two recent issues of the *SFC Bulletin*. I'm sure there are other fanzines from you in the stacks of unlocced publications, but these were near the top. If I ever went through everything hunting specific fanzines, the enormity of the task ahead of me would drive me instantly out of fandom. If I find more, I'll comment some more later.

The October issue seems to have waited an extra-long time, but it didn't come until a couple of months later, slight assuagement from my guilt. (And I apologize if I duplicate anything I may have already published in FAPA mailing comments about these issues. Memory of such comments has been erased as completely as if I were a crashed hard disk.) In it, your Jophan Family Reunion conreport reminded me of the old theory that all fans in the United States are descended from a common ancestor, a legend that began when a few fans found they had distant relatives in common. I don't know if the Jophan Family Reunion is something you made up out of the whole cloth or a covert description of a select gathering of a few fans without advance publicity. *((More the latter, Harry. Jophan is B'ham fandom's annual relaxicon. There is some advance publicity, but less and less every year. Not because we don't want people to come, but rather because we are lazy.))*

It seemed odd to read several items about New Orleans fandom without finding in them the names of any of the New Orleans fans who have been active down through the decades and still participate in apas. I gather

they don't mix much with the younger faneration.

Your references to Sam Moscowitz in this issue reminded me of something. Not long ago I obtained in a secondhand store a copy of an anthology of science fiction stories edited by Sam, and sure enough, there on the cover of this paperback was the name of the editor, Sam Moscowitz.

Oddly, I've never seen any local publicity for the Winchester gamers' club. That Virginia city is only about 35 miles from Hagerstown and gets publicity in Hagerstown from time to time for various activities, but never the Gamers Guild.

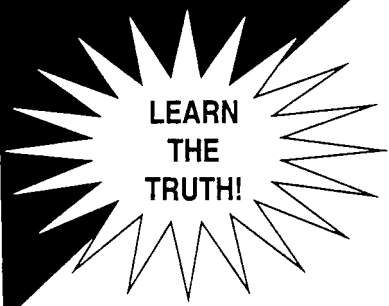
Tim Gatewood thinks Ned Brooks "must have access to one of the country's best collections" of obscure books. Ned doesn't exactly have access to it but rather owns it and keeps much of it in a house next door to the home in which he lives.

My opinion of eek-mail fanzines has sunk even lower since I saw a newspaper item about the cost of making print copies of Internet stuff. The cost was listed as four to eleven cents per page, depending on the kind of printer that was in use. It would be terribly expensive to build up a collection of fanzines from eek-mail sources that an individual wanted to preserve permanently in easy reading form.

The copy shop I use charges more to produce stuff on both sides of the paper than it does for one-sided versions of the same quantity of the same number of originals. Obviously, there is little or no saving by having my apazines reproduced on one side only because the higher postage for twice the weight of publications would eat up the saving and I would have on my conscience the waster of perfectly good paper. This shop flatly refused to give me my apazines copies in uncollated form: something to do with the increased speed of running the machine set up for collation. I would prefer them uncollated because I always want to look at both sides of each piece of paper to be sure they both have text visible.

The January issue, which also failed to arrive in the month printed on the cover, reminded me again in the ConCat report about the mysterious fate that has been striking guests of-honor for forthcoming conventions. George Alec Effinger was lucky enough just to become ill instead of dying as some other gohs have done before their big days. If it keeps on much longer, this trend could make it hard for major cons to find people willing to accept the honor.

I'm sure Laurence Gray was miffed by the mix-up over his payment for membership in LoneStarCon. But I must report that major conventions seem to be improving



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in another respect. Just recently I received a copy of the latest progress report from this year's worldcon, which contains an article by me. This is a welcome improvement over the past two or three times I was persuaded to write an article for a major con's publications, mailed it in, and never heard another peep out of the convention officials and don't know to this day if these items were published or not.

There must be some subtle influence that causes Florida area fans to be interested in both caving and science fiction fandom. Bruce Pelz was one of the first to combine the two hobbies while living in the South. I don't believe there are abnormally large quantities of explorable caves in Florida that might cause great interest in spelunking.

Maryland itself has never officially decided if it's in the South or not. The fact that the Mason & Dixon Line forms its northern boundary most of the way from east to west has caused some people to think it's part of Dixieland. SFPA originally considered Maryland to be in the North, for purposes of determining if an applicant for membership must be relegated to the limited number of memberships set aside for non-Southerners, then several years ago relented and Maryland is Southland today for the purposes of that organization. The trouble is that Maryland, although it looks so small on the map, is remarkably varied from one end to another. If you're standing on the northwestern corner of Maryland, Canada is closer to you than the southernmost part of the state. Temperatures may be 20 degrees different from the state's western plateau to its tidewater country. Winter sports are big in the westernmost county but the climate is tropical enough for tobacco farming to be successful in several southeastern counties. However, most Marylanders speak with accents closer to the population in the nation's north than to the southern drawl.

My apologies for being so late and so incomplete in responding to your publications. I've dropped membership in SFPA and the time thus freed has already enabled me to make at least a little progress in reducing the backlog of fanzines awaiting comments.

May 9, 1998: **Laurence Gray**, 1207 W Scenic Drive,
#S14, North Little Rock, AR 72118-3343
LGray92588@aol.com

After re-reading some of my letters in earlier issues of the *SFC Bulletin*, first of all, I would like to mention that I got my first pair of bifocals last year. It took me a while to get used to them but I have adjusted to looking

out at the world through bifocals.

My question about Jesse Jackson's reactions to a "white" man from South Africa who insisted on being called an "African-American" was borrowed from a column by John Robert Starr in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. Mr. Starr used to be the editor of this newspaper until he retired a few years ago. As well as editing the newspaper, he also wrote a regular column for the *Democrat-Gazette*. When Starr retired, the publisher of the *Democrat-Gazette* invited him to continue to write a column for the newspaper and Starr took the publisher up on that offer. Long before he retired from the *Democrat-Gazette*, Starr had a well-deserved reputation as a crusty curmudgeon and he hasn't changed at all since he retired. No, he isn't related to Kenneth Starr but John Robert Starr wouldn't mind learning that he is related to Kenneth Starr. Warning! Warning! Danger! Danger! Do Not ask John Robert Starr for his opinion of Bill and Hillary Clinton. I am not sure about "crusty" but John Robert Starr would probably thank me for calling him a curmudgeon. If you have a computer and access to the Internet and the World Wide Web, you can read some of Starr's columns at the following address: <http://www.ardemgaz.com>. I read Starr's columns because they are interesting to me even if I seldom agree with him. Besides being your standard newspaper, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* is also on-line.

Even though this question was rhetorical, some of the subscribers to the *SFC Bulletin* took it much too seriously. I am not going to mention any names because we all know who the guilty parties are.

In my experience with filking, it seems to beg, borrow, and/or steal from almost every genre and/or type of the organized noise called "music". When a local radio station carried the Doctor Demento show, I had the chance to hear most of the folk-song parodies by Allan Sherman. Doctor Demento is no longer being carried by any local radio station. Who is (or was) Elliott Shorter?

Several years ago, some local musicians founded an organization called the Little Rock Folk Club, which is still going strong. In October 1995, two members of the Folk Club who were particularly fond of Irish music started an Irish Jam Session at a local restaurant. When I showed up with my electronic keyboard, I was invited to join them because they said they *needed* a piano player. I enjoyed this first Irish Session so much I became one of the regulars at these Sessions. In February 1996, the two musicians who started the Irish Sessions wanted to start a band which would specialize in Irish and Scottish music. Since they needed a piano player, they recruited

me to join them. The name of this band is the Faux Celts and we are still working together and performing around here regularly despite some changes in personnel (one of the founding members had to move to Illinois to find work when he got laid off from his job here) and some disagreements about interpreting this music. Before the Irish Jam Sessions were started in October 1995, I had been playing Irish and Scottish music by myself for many years. When I began playing piano with the Faux Celts, I was told that I wasn't playing the music correctly because I was trying to play it like an American with a heavy and prominent bass part or bass line instead of in the style of piano playing instead of in the traditional manner like an Irishman. I had to learn a completely different style of piano playing in order to perform with the Faux Celts. I am not complaining because I am working regularly as a musician and getting paid for it. I knew Irish music was popular but I didn't realize just how popular it was until I began playing piano with the Faux Celts. I am not really an "Celtic" musician—just a semi-professional musician who is temporarily pretending to be an "Celtic" musician. It just so happens that I like to read science fiction when I am not "pretending" to be a semi-professional musician.

The current lineup of the Faux Celts (besides myself) is: Ellen Stern on guitar and six-string banjo; Peggy Loyd on vocals, bodhran, and guitar; Laura Brown on flute and pennywhistle; James Butler on fiddle; and Joe Ott on bodhran and bones (also called "Irish numchucks"). We haven't made a tape or a CD yet but I will keep trying to persuade the rest of the band to make a recording of ourselves sometime soon.

June 4, 1998: **Joseph T. Major**, 1409 Christy Avenue
Louisville, KY 40204-2040, jtmajor@iglou.com

Having seen semis burn out their brakes on I-24 between Nashville and Chattanooga, I can understand why Anita might be the least bit concerning about going over the edge there. Johnny Carruthers's con reports on Chattacon always seem to end with a note on how he just beat the blizzard coming in. That and my usual post-Christmas blahs keep me from going.

Strokes can cause odd things in the mind. H.L. Mencken had a stroke that some might have considered divine retribution for his long career as a public unbeliever; it deprived him of the ability to read or write, and so for seven years he existed in a sort of half-life. A cousin of mine had a stroke that disabled his direction-finding ability, so that he drove around Raleigh for several hours, unable to find his way home no matter how

often he asked directions. (I have talked to him and he does not show any sign of a stroke. Interesting.) So Walt Willis should know that he is not alone in selective effects.

While Lloyd Penney has the right idea about moderating the data flow of locs to email, some servers cannot handle attachments. Instead of composing the letter as a letter, then attaching the file to an email message, might it not be better to read the letter file into an email and send that? (Bill Bowers, editor/publisher of *Outworlds*, is on the free email service Juno, which does not provide the ability to read attachments, for example.) Having heard many comments about "You should have seen the letter I didn't send," I can say that the "inconveniences" of "snailmail" have quelled many such flamewars. The letter that "wasn't sent" by regular mail, because after being written (or even printed out) it was reviewed and seen to be inflammatory, is sent on email, and responded to in like manner, creating a cycle of positive feedback.

June 25, 1998: **Henry L. Welch**, 1525 16th Avenue,
Grafton, WI 53024, welch@admin.msos.edu

Thanks for the latest *SFC Bulletin*. The Mike Lowery that you mention is from Milwaukee and he prefers to be referred to as Orange Mike and not as the "orange fool." Personally I do not find orange to be a good fashion color and I think he would do better to wash his clothes more often.

In response to Buck Coulson's comments to an E.B. Frohvet I think that "not nice" is to be taken in the context as going out of your way to be unkind as a matter of routing. Clearly you can and often should be honest in fanzine reviews and articles, but that does not necessarily mean that you should go out of your way to harp on that which you find not up to your standards. There was a very good panel on this last year in San Antonio in which this and other similar points were made.

June 15, 1998: **Sheryl Birkhead**, 23629 Woodfield
Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20882

Dear Tom, Let me know – covers? Fillos? Titles? After some time to digest the con, what did your folks think of it? ((Well, Sheryl, it's not Tom anymore, but if you're volunteering for the *Bulletin*, I'll accept. All of the above.))

I've never asked, but from the description I presume ConCave does not take place in the cave itself? ((Right. I haven't been yet myself (maybe next year), but Toni tells me it is held at a 50s resort hotel.))

My sympathy to Memphis fandom on the loss of Claude Saxon.

Your piece from the *Fandom Directory* reminds me I have a blurb from it around here somewhere – it does provide a service in the listings. It's fun to see the convention listings and see who is showing up as guests of the various shindigs. DragonCon takes first prize with the number of guests and Libertycon is a close second.

I sincerely hope that Yuri Mironets and the other inhabitants of Vladivostok survived the drought. My problem is almost the opposite in the spring – with heavy rains the well water is almost undrinkable a few days later – heavy soil run 'off' – so I've learned to 'stock up' when the rains are forecast. But my predicament pales in comparison to the drought – thinking good thoughts.

I started out in the N3F and it was very good to me. I got a copy of the Neofan's guide so I could figure out the jargon and tried to help out when/where I could. I helped publish two N3F special oneshots (one of Harry Warner Jr.' writing with Jackie Causgrove who recently passed away and one of Mae Strelkov's writings...I think). But my mimeo ability, even then when mimeo was widespread, was marginal at best.

As ignorant as I am of such matters in the US, I have no idea when Native Americans were "given" citizenship status. The 1965 date for the Australian aborigines was a surprise. As removed as I am from the American Indian, I suspect things never have been (and are not now) all that great for them in "their own land". I hope this is not a universal problem with native peoples.

I don't believe I've read a DeepSouthCon report yet. It always looks good to see that Tucker is still toasting (take that as you will).

Congratulations. You've packed this full of useful information as well as the interesting.

March 1, 1998: **Paul Cardwell, Jr.**, 1127 Cedar, Bonham, TX 75418-2913

As Pogo would say, I am replete with rue. I typed up a response to the January SFCB and somehow never printed it out, much less sent it in. I usually do better than that, but sure missed it this time. Even worse, I find I have done this once before. You just need to publish more often than quarterly! Anyway, here it is late.

Laurence Gray: I-35: I don't have cruise control, but I know what you mean. I once attended a (non-fan) convention in Austin where the local drivers were the main topic of conversation. Finally one attendee got up and

made the following statement: "I am from Bakersfield, California and I want to say everything you have heard about California drivers is true – but Austin ones are worse!" and sat down to cheers. Since then, I have encountered more than a few of them in Dallas as well. However, erratic speed is not the main problem – keep enough gap between you and the car ahead and don't use cruise control and you save your brakes – it is that if you signal a lane change, some idiot will speed up to keep you from making the change. And I was born and raised in and around Dallas!

E.B. Frohvet: Colored chips: I was curious too, but assumed something like that. These yuppyfied market-driven conglomerates are on such a "white corn" kick these days, it is getting hard to find decent yellow-corn tortillas any more. Luna's tortilla factory in Dallas has some red corn tortillas, which are great for enchiladas; they don't contain chilies, just use red corn, but it does give a certain apparent zing to good two-alarm enchiladas.

When I lived in Vancouver, I had to go out of the country to get proper fixings. This produced the following exchange at the border: Customs: Citizen? Me: Landed (landed immigrant, the Canadian equivalent of green card). C: How long were you out of the country? M: (look at watch) Twenty minutes. C: Buy anything? M: Yes. C: What? M: Ten dozen tortillas. C: Get on through (stretched in total exasperation).

Post Office stamps: They have a meter which will produce stamps in any denomination. However, having a specific denomination (such as \$1.74, the amount for my zine *To Alarums & Excursions*) does require "putting in an order", which I may have to do soon, or make it up solely from 1 and 3 cent stamps salvaged from the stamp

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machine, left by those too imperious to take their change. I call it my "divy", the co-op's patronage refund, since at least in theory I am one of many people owning the Post Office.

Tim Gatewood; Southern Fanzines: Thanks for the four stars for understandability for the *CAR-Pga Newsletter*. This is not easy since like *SFCB*, we reprint contributions as received and some of the contributors have English well down their list of languages known. Add that to the fact that like most fields, RPG has its universe of discourse (academic for jargon), and anything can get a bit obtuse at times. As far problems for the non-gamer, I can't really conceive of non-gamers even being interested, although we once had a member who joined primarily because of a sociological interest in studying the fandom phenomenon.

The matter of races: in the cited article was not so much arguing against having them (I prefer "species" for this concept), but against considering any of them fair game for target practice, arguing instead for dividing the good guys and bad guys on the basis of that specific individual rather than its species. Lately quite a few of these articles have triggered a lively discussion and while we are still not in any danger of becoming an APA, fortunately I am having to carry less of the content load – to everyone's relief.

Now, on to May 1998. For Walt Willis: One of the cerebral arteries, I could understand, but the anesthetic is the only cause I can think of for thought problems. About all I can do is say "at least it wasn't in vein" and hope that will make you come up with something better in self-defense.

For Buck Coulson: If two of you are present, you should be able to sneak out, one at a time, in slack periods to see the con. Also, I have a few seminars (only sometimes done with panels, mostly me and group discussion) relating to role-playing I doubt many have seen anything resembling them. For instance, I have one, designed for a starter for discussion on public relations that I also do as a one-hour without the tape, and from the interest lately, I may do just the tape without the discussion as entertainment. It is a CBC radio documentary on RPG (very well done), with 11 x-17 posters-making comments on it, in the manner of the *Pop-Up Video* TV shows – except that I first did it in 1992. Since I hardly think the creators of that program were at a regional game con, it has to be a case of independent invention. Still, I doubt anyone else is doing it.

Before effective tremor attacked, I did a demo on scratch-building game figures without any talent in sculpting. It essentially involved a contour map of the

figure in styrene sheet stock, laminated, and shaped with a pyrogravure (wood burning tool) with the temperature reduced by a rheostat. If anyone is looking for a strange guest of honor, I have a whole sheet of the seminars I do.

For Joseph Nicholas: Now it is my turn for "huh?" The whole cultural mosaic thing is that people are not required to give up their identity to become a cookie-cutter (are British biscuits cut with little metal stamps to get the same shape?) duplicate of everyone else (the Melting Pot ideal) nor are they to be ghettoized into "Little [whatever original country]" enclaves where they don't deal with (contaminate?) the native population (which, as you correctly point out, came from somewhere else originally). It is the little differences will distributed throughout that make the whole picture, thus mosaic in which each piece has its identity while helping define the whole. Yes, I know the Australian problem, the US didn't grant citizenship to Red Indians until 1920.

June 9, 1998: **Harry Warner Jr.**, 423 Summit Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740

I still think there is an issue or two of *The Freethinker* in the backlog awaiting comments. But I haven't found it or them yet and meanwhile another *SFC Bulletin* has come in, and I'm determined not to fall behind again in commenting on that.

Sympathies go to Anita for her nervousness during mountain driving. It used to be much worse in the Hagerstown area years ago when all the mountain roads had only one lane in each direction and very scanty shoulders. I didn't mind too much going up a mountain because gravity was in my favor when braking and there was less danger I'd encounter someone passing someone else on a curve. But the downhill stretches of road were quite dangerous, in an era when most trucks couldn't get up a lot of speed and autos frequently passed them climbing a slope over a double solid yellow line. Now the main older roads have been widened enough to permit using the shoulder to avoid a head-on collision and most of the truck traffic has gone to the interstates, which I shun.

"How to Live Forever" is a tempting topic for a person my age. I can imagine a not too distant future in which a combination of a cancer cure, artificial hearts, and better stroke preventive measures will permit most people to live decades longer than today's average. But I wonder if it will be worthwhile. Very few people who attain the age of 100 have decent mental faculties left them. Most of them suffer severe memory loss and radi-

cally shortened attention spans. If a lot of people lived to the age of 150, I suspect that none of them would be more alert than vegetables. The problem, of course, is the human body's inability to replace brain cells, and it will probably be much more difficult for medical science to lick that basic difficulty than to cure diseases of old age. ((*But they are working on it, according to Toni.*))

I'm glad to know Nashville has a Sherlock Holmes club. We don't hear as much in science fiction fandom about mystery fandom as we once did. I suppose it results from a shortage of fans who are active in both areas.

There's not much a fellow can write about the listings of conventions and fanzines from the South. But I thought the fanzine reviews were well done, long enough to be specific without going into too much detail.

Obviously, the former USSR still has problems, as Yuri Mironets attests in his loc. But I imagine that the water problems in Vladivostok would never have been known in the rest of the world if the USSR still existed and that every difficulty that Russia experiences today had many counterparts during the Soviet rule.

I don't laugh at many things nowadays, either, and I haven't had the operation that caused this problem for Walt Willis. I blame my own grumpiness on the increased nastiness of society in general and the inhabitants of the Hagerstown area in particular.

Maybe there would be fewer hassles created by eek-mail messages if the people who use this form of communication would imitate my policy. I never put into the mailbox any letter I write until the next day. I don't know how many times this custom has permitted me to throw away a letter I'd written in a fit of temper which went away overnight.

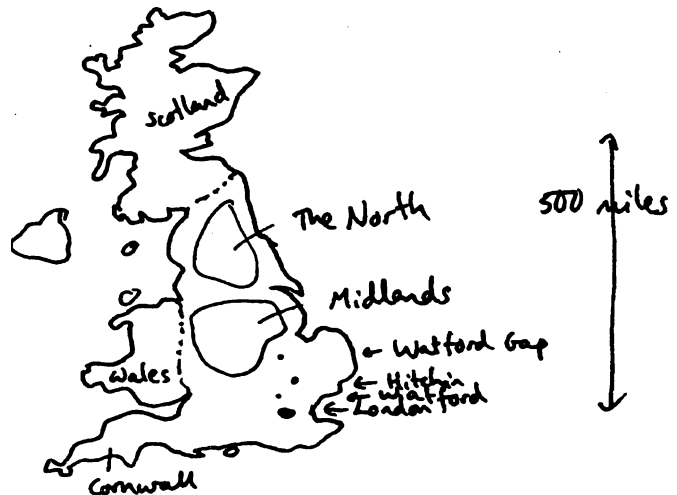
I must remember to put this issue somewhere other than in the boxes that hold locked fanzines. That's because of the roster. Undoubtedly, it will help me to track down an unknown address on a few occasions in the months ahead.

June 14, 1998: **Bridget Bradshaw** (nee Hardcastle), 19 Wedgewood Road, Hitchin, Herts SG4 0EX

Thanks a lot for sending SFCB (6) 8-12, if only I'd located earlier I could have told you timely tales of stamps and photocopying and email...

I enjoy your convention reports, it's nice to hear about what cons are like over there, though it throws me a bit to hear about Sue Francis being tied up and bullwhipped, as our Susan Francis is a very unlikely candidate for that kind of behaviour!

I guess my fanzine doesn't count as being Southern: as you can see I currently live in what could be described as the south. "The North" is often derisively described as 'anything above Watford Gap' – though Londoners often say it's 'anything above Watford' i.e. a whole 100 miles south of that! I was born a Londoner, so Herts feels pretty North to me. (I live in the north end of Herts, in the north end of Hitchin, at the north end of the street.) A real northerner would disagree. And to a Scot, 'The North' is south. I don't know what the residents of Cornwall would say. And this stirs up more fighting talk than any flag-waving, to a Brit!



June 1, 1998: **Catherine Mintz**, 1810 S. Rittenhouse Square, 1708, Philadelphia, PA 19103-5837

Thank you for another issue of the *Bulletin*. Just in case he hasn't written you himself, Yuri Mironets reports that three of his students presented papers at a conference, and did well, and that Vladivostok, as of the middle of May, still did not have regular municipal water. Usually the water is on for a few hours in the early morning, and he draws several buckets to use during the day to wash, cook, and so forth. People are now hoping that summer rains will offer some relief. It sounds a Spartan existence, but he appears to have had a successful year despite the problems.

As for myself, I am in the final stage of negotiating a contract for my first book. It is science fiction, scheduled for August of 1999 from the UK's Tanjen LTD and will be available in the US and distributed throughout most of the rest of the world. Abridged samples are already on my web page, which is easily accessed through the SFWA or HWA sites.

I would like to make arrangements for those interested but without Internet access to see some of the material also, but I'm not sure how to work it out. Suggestions

are welcome, bearing in mind this book, at least, will not be making me fabulously wealthy. Not that I'm not *will-ing* to deal with an excess of dollars, pounds, and bars of gold – but alas, that's not likely to be a problem.

On another topic, Buck Coulson and George Flynn were discussing SFWA Fever. I've seen people put the Sacred Letters not just on their convention nametags and stationery, but on at least one constantly worn necklace. They're probably on car key tags and cat's collars and briefcases, too. This over-enthusiasm is understandable only if you know how many, many, many times a novice writer gets asked, "Have you been published yet?" However, the fever hits some people much harder than others.

A newly-admitted neophyte of my acquaintance went around and deliberately insulted every non-SFWA writer of his/her/its writing network to "cut down the deadwood," only to discover that a number of the people disdained were and had been members for years, or had once been members and dropped out for one reason or another, including just plain not being organization types. One or two had simply never bothered to join. The cozy writing environment in which the neophyte's talents had been nurtured got chilly as weed-whacked-for-no-reason stories were traded around. Inevitably some of those that had been spurned as non-members became members and had their own tales to add. Eventually, the unfortunate writer left town, both literally and figuratively, leaving no rumors of his/her/its destination behind.

Not that this proves anything. It only takes three moderate-length stories at three-cents-a-word-or-better to become a SFWA member. Many once-members decide to become something else entirely, achieving happiness as anything from artists to computer programmers. But it's the worst case of SFWA Fever I've ever heard of.

June 13, 1998: Yuri A. Mironets, Oktyabrskaya st. 2, Apt. 15, Vladivostok, 690 000 Russia

Many thanks for sending numbers 11 and 12 of *SFC Bulletin* and publishing my letter in number 12. Judging by "The Carpetbagger", you seem to travel a lot and visit quite a number of conventions (I wish we had such a good organizer in Vladivostok – then our local loose community of SF fans would flourish).

A few words about our life in Vladivostok. The academic year at Far Eastern University came to an end, the students now are taking their summer exams, and the graduates defend their graduate research papers (in Russian they are called "diploma works"). Four of my graduates already defended their papers successfully –

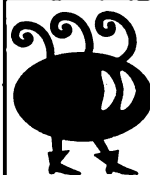
two of them received excellent marks, and two others good marks. The range of the themes of their papers was quite wide, just look at the titles of them:

- "Juvenile" novels of Robert Heinlein;
- Alien Civilizations in "The Chanur Saga" novels by C.J. Cherryh;
- American Science Fiction writer Julian May and her "Saga of Pliocene Exile;"
- Analysis of the octology "Chung Kuo" by British SF writer David Wingrove.

After the successful defense of their papers, my students and I celebrated it by having a small dinner party in my apartment. One of the toasts was to Science Fiction, which is a miraculous means of uniting SF fans all over the world. This dinner party was one of quite a few pleasant events, the other news was rather sad. As the financing of the Universities is continuously dropping lower and lower (and already almost reached the zero mark level), we had to change the curriculum at our English Language Department and reduce many courses. Regretfully, in the next academic year my course of lectures on American and British Science Fiction will be also cut down in half and instead of the whole academic year, will run only for one semester. Fortunately, thanks to American SF clubs, University Libraries and individual fans, we accumulated quite a large number of American and British SF and Fantasy books in the original, and sufficient amount of critical and reference books and encyclopedias on SF and Fantasy so the students can work individually, doing their research based on these books. I hope my future students will do their work successfully – now it's certainly easier than it was 2 or 3 years ago – we have some experience.

Well, that's about all of my news. I wish all the members of the Southern Fandom Confederation to have a good and pleasant summer. Clear Ether!

((We also heard from Joy V. Smith, Ned Brooks, Rebecca Smith, Andy York, Dick Lynch and John Martello.))



Name the Dingbat!
*I picked this little creature to use
at the end of each article.
What should I call him (her)?*

Thanks!

Many thanks to all who helped with the production of this issue. Charlotte Proctor typed the LoCs. She and Toni Weisskopf provided editorial help and proofreading. Elliott Davis was general cheerleader and helpmate.



A Statement About the Future of RiverCon

AS THE END OF THE MILLENNIUM APPROACHES, we have decided to retire RiverCon, Louisville's annual science fiction and fantasy convention, after the 25th convention in the year 2000.

After much consideration, this decision was based on two main factors. The first, and foremost, was that we do not wish to continue running RiverCon beyond that time when we can still do it well, and can do it with enthusiasm and fresh ideas. We want RiverCon to end on a high note as a successful and enjoyable convention, not only for the members but also for those running it as well.

The second factor relates to our committee members. We have enjoyed an association with a fine group of talented and dedicated people who have been working on and supporting RiverCon for many years. However, it is obvious that this same group of people cannot continue to run RiverCon indefinitely. Replacing retiring committee members, department heads, and even staff has become increasingly difficult. By establishing an ending date, we have hopefully provided that "light at the end of the tunnel" that will give all our committee members (and ourselves!) the incentive to stay with RiverCon through the very last one.

The RiverCon name and distinctive logo will be retired with the convention. The names "RiverCon" and "NorthAmeriCon" are service marks of the Louisville Science Fiction Association, Inc., and cannot be used without the express written permission of the Association's Board of Directors.

Any group that wishes to begin a new SF convention in Louisville does so with our best wishes. If asked, we will be happy to offer any advice, wisdom, and guidance our cumulative decades have given us. We want to make it clear, however, that any new Louisville SF convention will be completely independent of RiverCon and its present committee, even if there is an overlap of individual members.

We sincerely hope that the many people who have attended and enjoyed RiverCon over the years will continue to do so through the year 2000. We and the RiverCon committee offer our thanks and appreciation to all those who have given us their support and enriched our lives since RiverCon began its long voyage way back in 1975.

For the time being, we invite you to attend RiverCon XXIII, July 30 - Aug. 1, 1998; RiverCon XIV, July 30 - Aug. 1, 1999; and finally, RiverCon XXV, July 28 - 30, 2000.

*Steve and Sue Francis,
RiverCon Co-Chairs
June 28, 1998*

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Please note: if you received this copy of the *Bulletin* with a special colored back cover, this will be your last issue of the Southern Fandom Confederation *Bulletin* unless we hear from you. Send either a letter of comment, contribution, trade, or our favorite, a check. If you feel you've received this notice in error, please contact Julie so we can straighten it out.

To quote Monty Python, "I can't argue unless you've paid."