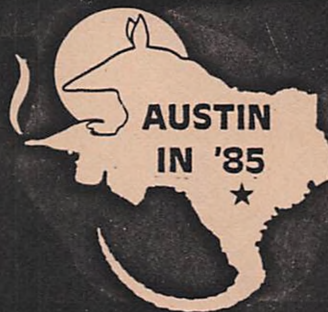


The Texas SF Inquirer

"THE BEST LITTLE NEWSZINE IN TEXAS"

FACT, P.O. Box 9612, Austin, Tx 78766



THE TEXAS SF INQUIRER "THE BEST LITTLE NEWSZINE IN TEXAS" NUMBER 2 / MAY 1983

The Texas SF Inquirer is published monthly by FACT, the Fandom Association of Central Texas. Subscriptions are available for \$2, which is, not coincidentally, the price of a pre-supporting membership for the Austin in '85 NASFiC bid. If you want to pay more, join FACT for \$12 per year; that gets you a subscription, too. Either way, send your check — or news, illos, articles, or letters of comment — to Box 9612, Austin, TX 78766. Editor: Pat Mueller. Assistant Editor: Carolyn Cooper. Art in this issue: Alexis Gilliland, Doug Potter, and Marye Wexford. Contributors this issue: Carolyn Cooper, Pat Mueller, Willie Siros, Robert Taylor, and Howard Waldrop, among others.

1983 HUGO AWARDS NOMINATIONS

BEST NOVEL

Foundation's Edge, Isaac Asimov
The Pride of Chanur, C.J. Cherryh
2010: Odyssey Two, Arthur C. Clarke
Friday, Robert A. Heinlein
Courtship Rite, Donald Kingsbury
The Sword of the Lictor, Gene Wolfe

BEST NOVELLA

"The Postman," David Brin
"Brainchild," Joseph H. Delaney
"Another Orphan," John Kessel
"Unsound Variations," George R.R. Martin
"To Leave a Mark," Kim Stanley Robinson
"Souls," Joanna Russ

BEST NOVELETTE

"Nightlife," Phyllis Eisenstein
"Swarm," Bruce Sterling
"Aquila," Somtow Sucharitkul
"Fire Watch," Connie Willis
"Pawn's Gambit," Timothy Zahn

BEST SHORT STORY

"Sur," Ursula K. Le Guin
"Melancholy Elephants," Spider Robinson
"Spider Rose," Bruce Sterling
"The Boy Who Waterskied to Forever,"
James Tiptree, Jr.
"Ike at the Mike," Howard Waldrop

BEST NON-FICTION

The World of the Dark Crystal, Brian Froud;
text by J.J. Llewellyn
*Isaac Asimov: The Foundations of Science
Fiction*, James Gunn
The Engines of the Night, Barry N. Malzberg
A Reader's Guide to Fantasy, Baird Searles,
Beth Meacham, and Michael Franklin
*Fear Itself: The Horror Fiction of Stephen
King*, Tim Underwood & Chuck Miller, eds.

JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD

Joseph H. Delaney
Lisa Goldstein
Sandra Miesel
Warren G. Norwood
David R. Palmer
Paul O. Williams

(Our thanks to Howard Waldrop for the Hugo information.)

WRITE TRACK

Texas writers are highly visible on the 41st Hugo ballot. **Bruce Sterling** has two nominations: "Swarm" for Best Novellette and "Spider Rose" for Best Short Story. **Howard Waldrop** is also in the Best Short Story category with "Ike at the Mike." **Joseph Delaney's** "Brainchild" earned him a nomination in the Novella category; he and fellow Texas writer **Warren Norwood** are up for the John W. Campbell award. Good work and good luck, guys!

FYI: **Bruce Sterling** is still waiting for his first sale, made to **Harlan Ellison's** *Last Dangerous Visions*, to be published! If you're wondering where juvenile SF is going, talk to regional authors **Neal Barrett Jr.** and **Mike McQuay**. Neal and Mike do some of the new Tom Swift adventures. A pat on the back for **Steven Gould** who just sold the short story "Mental Blocks" to *Amazing*.

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to the contributors to this issue like Friendly Texan **Marye Wexford** who gave us a history (?) of the Friendly Texans Parties. Our thanks to all the Texas fans who've promoted Texas fandom with their hospitality and good works. We also want to thank everyone who's offered us kind words of encouragement or support. Our hats are off to you all!

SSSSSSSHHHH!

Watch this spot for Austin-in-85 Constellation Party News. Hint: How do you attend a Texas convention without coming to Texas?

ERRATUM

Oops! Gremlins in the typesetter left out a key word in the last edition. **Johnny M. Lee** is Constellation programming operations chief, not programming head. Sorry about that, **Mr. White!**

TEXZINE NOTES

Odd Infinitem (a Wichita Falls SF club) and the **North Texas Association of Fandom** (NorTAF — a Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex SF club) are holding a joint **RUNAWAY** at Lake Kickapoo Boys' Club Camp, May 6-8. Some of the activities we have scheduled include a scavenger hunt, short-short story readings, "smoooooth," hiking, and plenty of group discussions on topics of fannish interest. A Runaway (see "Monty Python and the Holy Grail") is sort of a fannish retreat — a laid-back fun weekend where we leave the mundane world behind. Runaway! Runaway! Runaway!

Fiawol University Press wants to publish a fannish cookbook. The format will be much like **Anne McCaffrey's** *Cooking Out Of This World*. They are looking for recipes, cooking/food anecdotes, kitchen tips, etc. — in fact, almost anything cooking or food related. Since they're just a poor fannish concern, they can't afford to pay anyone for their recipes, artwork, etc. — but if your submission is used you'll get to see your name in print (egoboo) and you'll get a free copy of the cookbook, too! Send all submissions to Fiawol Univ. Press, c/o Marye Wexford, P.O. Box 190309, Dallas, TX 75219.

"**Aggieconpuzine**" was written during **Aggiecon** on a computer in the Austin-in-85 bid suites. It's got con reports, news and reviews as well as usual fannish convention babbling by people like **Bob Vardeman**, **George Proctor**, **Neil Kaden**, **Johnny M. Lee**, and **Kim Ball**. If you'd like a free copy, send an SASE to **Carolyn Cooper**, 1846 W. Main St. #2, Houston, TX 77098. Carolyn is also looking for a computer bulletin board to post the zine on, so if you have one please let her know. The zine uses 18K disk space.

J.A. Raish is starting three new media zines. *Road Warrior Revisited* is based on

the George Miller films "Road Warrior" and "Mad Max;" deadline for submissions is approximately June 1, with a summer publication date. *Snakebit* is devoted to the character Snake Plissen from John Carpenter's "Escape from New York," and will be published in the fall; the deadline is around August 31st. *The Further Adventures of Flynn* focuses on the concepts and people presented in the movie "TRON." No deadline has been set as yet. All three zines are looking for recognizable black and white line portraits (7" x 10½" or smaller), and quality manuscripts (but "please, no graphic sex or violence, and no 'Mary-Sues'"). For more information, contact J.A. Raish, 1705 Virginia Place, Ft. Worth, TX 76107, phone 817/732-5865.

SPRING RITES: AGGIECON XIV

Aggiecon XIV was held March 24-27 at Texas A&M University in College Station. The annual gathering of Texas fandom is a sure sign of spring, like bluebonnets and other Texas wildflowers.

Harry Harrison, this year's guest of honor, and several fans enjoyed a rat-shaped cake with grey frosting and a licorice tail, at the con's party suite Friday night. Special guest Stephen R. Donaldson was besieged at the autographing party.

This year's convention confirmed Texas fandom's strong interest in art. The art show was beautiful, with works by Art GoH Michael Whelan as well as regional artists like Dell Harris, Doug Potter, Real Musgrave, and Don Ivan Punchatz.

The Monkeyhouse, an infamous A&M-fan-owned-and-occupied house, finally killed their bottle of nitrous oxide during a Thursday night party. Attendees were a little late arriving at the convention the next day.

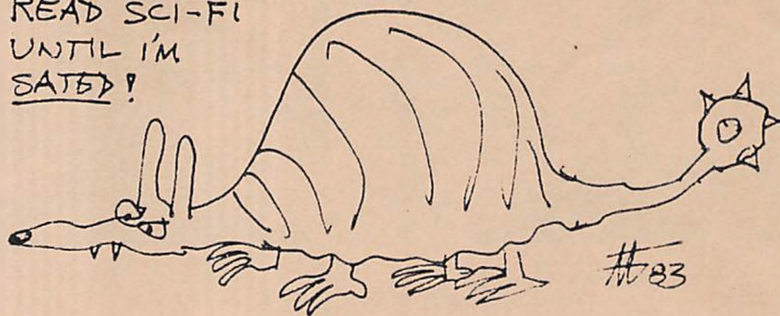
AREA CONVENTIONS

TEXARKON. May 13-15, King's Row Inn, Texarkana, AR. GoH: Andy Offutt; Fan GoH: Richard & Wendy Pini; TM: Bob Asprin. Membership \$10 to 5/1; \$15 thereafter. Dealers, chips & cheese party. For information, write to Texarkon, 1021 E. 29th St., Texarkana, AR 75502.

SWAMPCON 4. May 27-29, Sheraton Hotel, Baton Rouge, LA. GoH: Jo Clayton, George Alec Effinger; Fan GoH: John Newman and his pet Dalek. Membership \$10 to 5/1, then \$12. For information, send SASE to BRSFL-Swampcon, P.O. Box 14238, Baton Rouge, LA 70898.

QUESTICON III. May 28-30, Travelodge Central, El Paso, TX. GoH: Andrew Offutt. Membership \$15. For information, write Carol Smith, 903 Belas Artes, El Paso, TX 79912.

AND WHEN THE
MOON IS FULL, I
READ SCI-FI
UNTIL I'M
SATED!



Alexis Gilliland

A definite high point of the convention was the Neal Barrett Jr. Roast. Ask writer Joe Lansdale to tell you about the writer/editor banquet he attended with Neal. Some fans laughed so hard they cried. Becky Matthews, how are you going to top this roast next year?

Another hit was the computer compatibility game going on in the Austin suites. Fan Trisha Mason was declared "Miss Compatibility Aggiecon XIV" after rating over 90% compatible with 5 — count them, 5 — men at the con! David Allen and Paul Cooper promise to have an even funnier version at Constellation.

Ask writer Leigh Kennedy how her photography is coming. She's got a new camera.

The Austin-in-85 Bid meeting packed an SRO house. Friendly Texans Marye Wexford and Caryl Thompson agreed to ask the Association of Science Fiction Artists to find out what fans and artists want at the cons.

Can't find room to mention all the fun and all the people like Ardath Mayhar or Lewis Shiner. There are rumors about a romp to the A&M Observatory by George Proctor, Bob Vardeman, and others, but who would believe Michael Whelan making bizarre noises in an observatory?

There were three movie trailers being shown throughout the con: "Something Wicked This Way Comes," "Blue Thunder," and "Krull." Sneak previews of new films are becoming a habit with Aggiecon.

Survivors were last seen heading for one of several dead-dog parties held Sunday afternoon and evening. Deranged A&M fans were heard planning for next year's bash.

CON REPORT: Boskone XX

(Robert Taylor and Willie Siros went to Boston on February 18-20 to attend Boskone XX, the annual east coast regional sponsored by NESFA, the New England Science Fiction Association. Robert Taylor files this con report.)

I must confess a prejudice. I'm a real connoisseur of bad movies, and any convention that shows "Wrestling Women versus the Aztec Mummy" is going to receive a favorable review from me. But even without such a cinema classic, Boskone XX would have still been a great convention.

Being from Texas, I'm impressed by impressive things like shuttle launches, the Grand Canyon, the Empire State Building, King Kong, and the efficiency of NESFA. Their organization is one of the best in the country, and we would do well to use it as a model for our groups in Texas.

NESFA added several nice "touches" to Boskone. A "touch" is something a concomm doesn't *have* to do, but does *anyway* for the added ease and enjoyment of the fans. For example, the Boston Park Plaza is a very large hotel and as usual with a 2500-fan con the elevators were soon working very s...l...o...w...l...y — and fans took to using the stairs. In the stairwells the fans found posted instructions and directions on how to get from "here" to "there." That's a nice touch. If you were throwing an open party, NESFA seeded your party with cokes and munchies. Another nice touch. They also blocked the con suite and all the bidding parties on the same floor and wing of the hotel. This was a great touch. It helped all the parties attract larger audiences, kept the noise confined to one area, and made it easier to find friends and meet new people.

The programming offered fans a range of topics, from science panels to fan discussions to literary topics, from

"Laser Technology in the Year 2000" to "Weapons Policy" to "New Readership in SF." The art show was excellent. Among the artists displayed were Whelan, Shaw, and Foglio. Austin artist Dave Martin had a number of pieces in the show, as did Oklahoma artist Dell Harris. In fact, Dave's "Bird's Eye" painting won the "Best Professional Fantasy" award, and Dell Harris took "Best Professional B&W" for "The Dark Continent." Congratulations to both of them! The hucksters' room was well-stocked, though the number of book dealers was rather small as compared to the trinket-sellers. The convention had many memorable events; among the most moving was Fred Pohl's eulogy of Mack Reynolds.

Our bidding party at Boskone for the 1985 NASFiC was a big hit. Once again, Willie and I wore our cowboy outfits and served chili and jalapeno peppers along with Shiner beer. The success of the party was mostly due to Kurt Baty and Michelle Doty, who really knocked themselves out for us and Texas. They cooked up the chili, helped to serve it, sold t-shirts and buttons, talked up the bid and were

simply fantastic. With their energy and ability, I imagine they'll be running NESFA in a few years. Thanks again, folks, you were super. Some other fine people that made the party a success were Neil Kaden from Plano, TX and Rachelle Dubey from Stamford, CT. Neil and Rachelle looked great in their cowboy hats, and they were real troupers and hard workers. Much obliged to both of you.

A special thanks to Anton Chernoff, Rick Katze, Bob Beecher and the other NESFA members who helped all the bidding parties. And a kiss to Skia Hurst for the aid and comfort of the den.

The high point of the convention for me was being on a panel with Hal Clement and Poul Anderson. The subject was communications in the year 2000. I was so scared I don't remember much about the talk, but I know I had a good time. Other highlights included meeting and getting to talk with some of the legendary East Coast fans, eating lots of that marvelous seafood — and, of course, seeing "Wrestling Women versus the Aztec Mummy." Wow! What a flick.

CONVENTION FACTS & FIGURES

At present the Austin in '85 committee has blocked 875 rooms for the convention. Another 200 will soon be confirmed and negotiations are underway for 400 more rooms.

Most of the major convention functions will be held in the Palmer Auditorium. The hucksters' room will have 44,000 square feet available — about three-quarters the size of a worldcon dealers'

room. The art show will have 28,000 square feet available, more than any recent worldcon art show. The Palmer also has 19,000 square feet of space for panels and meetings.

The main hotels (Hyatt Regency and Sheraton Crest) have a total of 28,000 square feet of function space. These hotels will probably be used for the film program, the masquerade, and the GoH speeches.

As for food, there are 100 restaurants within a mile of the Hyatt/Sheraton/Palmer area — and 45 of these are open past midnight! Within a half mile there are 30 restaurants; 15 are open past midnight. These restaurants range from fast-food places to many of the best dining establishments in the city. There is a wide variety available both in price and style.

The Greyhound bus terminal is less than half a mile from the convention area, and the Trailways bus terminal is only a little farther away. The Amtrak station is an even mile away, and the airport is 3.5 miles from the convention site. The cost of a taxi from the bus terminals would average \$3, from Amtrak \$4, and from the airport \$6. There is also a free limo service from the airport to the Hyatt and Sheraton.

The Austin in '85 NASFiC bid is sponsored by the Fandom Association of Central Texas, Inc. FACT has filed with the IRS for non-profit, tax-exempt status under 501c3 of the IRS code.

BEWARE OF TEXANS BEARING PUNCH...

*Report to the Mundane Defense League
From: Special Agent Lois Lipshitz
Re: The Friendly Texans Party*

I have been infiltrating Fandom for many years now. While Fandom has posed many threats to the Mundane World, few have been as subtle and serious as the Friendly Texans Party. I have kept close watch on their activities and the following are excerpts from my diary:

BIG MAC - 1976. A Texas neofan named Caryl Thompson (no known alias) decides to throw an open party. She is aided and abetted by Linda Walls and Gene Sargent. Mark Hamill aka Luke Skywalker is one of the first guests to join the party and the last to leave. We need to keep an eye on him. They call it the Friendly Texans Party and on the surface it appears to be nothing more than a tiny laid-back party. I believe this might be a coverup for some larger Texas fannish conspiracy.

SUNCON - 1977. Caryl (undoubtedly the ringleader) says she wants to throw another open party. This time she is aided by Marye Wexford aka Marie Wexler aka Thunderthighs. Gene Sargent says they can use his room. Ed-From-South-Dakota says they can use his car to go get their party supplies. Filksinging Fans from New York say they will supply a bathtub full of ice. This is rapidly becoming a national conspiracy. Caryl says she has a recipe for punch... Marye says they can mix it up in a trash can... Several fans tell them the punch is awful but most of them keep drinking it anyway. The remaining punch is donated to the Seacon Victory Party. This is obviously a subtle attempt to establish a British connection.

IGUANACON - 1978. Once more into the breach, dear friends! A new co-conspirator, Joanne Burger, offers the use of her suite at the Hyatt for the party. The Filk Fans from New York return to supply another bathtub full of ice which they imported from the Adams. Several authors wander over from the SFWA suite, try the punch and tell the Texans it's dreadful. Quite a few SFWA members keep drinking it anyway. Everyone watches as the remaining punch eats a hole through the trash can, sprouts legs and runs off into the night.

SEACON and NASFiC - 1979. Joanne Burger hosts the Friendly Texans Party in Brighton, England. There is no longer any attempt to hide the Euro-Texan Fannish connection. Caryl hosts the Friendly Texans Party at the NASFiC. All of the Dealers tell them that their punch is disgusting. All of the Dealers keep drinking



it anyway. The remaining punch is stolen by 44 illegal aliens who reportedly use it as rocket fuel.

NOREASCON II – 1980. For the first time the Texans serve munchies at their party. Two unidentified New Jersey fans force them to accept a monetary donation to help defray party expenses. Some Canadians provide entertainment in the form of wolf howls. A Swedish fan tells them he is sure that their punch has no liquor in it and despite the fact that he thinks it's horrible, he keeps drinking it anyway. The next day he tells the Texans they should serve aspirin with their punch. They mail him the remaining punch along with two copies of *Another Fine Myth*.

DENVENTION II – 1981. Fans begin to ask what room the Friendly Texans Party will be held in this year. Additional co-conspirators are recognized: Stephen D. Poe, Bruce Tegarden, Edd & Theresa Vick, Ralph Green aka Ralph the Wonder Llama. Many more Texan and non-Texan Fans lend their financial support to the party. An unidentified Texan complains that the party has no bheer and the punch is terrible. He doesn't stop drinking the punch, though. The remaining punch is donated to the Melbourne in '85 bid party. A blatant attempt to cement the Aussie-Texan axis.

CHICON IV – 1982. A French restaurant gives some loaves of bread to the Texans for their party. The store from which the Texans purchase their party supplies hides the liquor so as to avoid exorbitant hotel corkage fees. This can

only be interpreted as a calculated intrusion into the mundane community! The Austin in '85 NASFiC Bid Committee gives Texas-shaped cookies to the Friendly Texans Party. This constitutes a frightening show of Texas Fannish solidarity! A Michigan Fan helps to serve the punch. The Texans host pros and fans from almost every state and such countries as Japan, Scotland, Australia, Spain, Italy, Norway, Yugoslavia, England. Without a doubt this has become a very large international conspiracy to squelch mundanity. The remaining punch . . . there is no remaining punch!

In conclusion, I strongly suggest that all mundanes avoid Baltimore over Labor Day weekend at all costs. At Constellation the Friendly Texans Party will celebrate their 8th anniversary. There seems to be no way to stop them. The Friendly Texans Party can be identified by their easily recognizable logo: Trash Can Rampant with Stetson. I can't stress this enough:

Attention All Mundanes!
Beware of Friendly Texans Bearing Punch

FIAWOL Y'ALL!

(– Marye Wexford)

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT . . .

Producing a newszine like this every month is a lot of fun – but it's a lot of work, too. The same can be said for our Austin in '85 NASFiC bid . . .

We want to get fans all across Texas involved, both with the NASFiC bid and with *The Texas SF Inquirer*. So tell us what your club is doing . . . send us review copies of your latest fanzines, or reviews of Texas fanzines you've received . . . send us convention reports . . . draw a few armadillos . . . write letters . . . let us know what you'd like to see at the 1985 NASFiC in Austin . . . tell us your ideas and suggestions for programming, panels, and films . . . promote the Texas NASFiC . . . volunteer to work on committees . . . help us do mass mailings . . . stay up until 5:54 in the morning writing the last bit of copy for the second issue of a certain Texas newszine . . .

. . . and become a pre-supporting member of the Austin in '85 NASFiC bid. It's only \$2.00 – and as a pre-supporting member, you also receive a subscription to *The Texas SF Inquirer*! If you'd like to help us even more, you can join FACT, the Fandom Association of Central Texas, for \$12.00 per year (that gets you a subscription, too).

If you live in the Austin area, or just happen to be visiting, come to our weekly meetings. Help us crank the mimeo and stuff envelopes – help us make the Austin in '85 NASFiC bid a reality – and help us let everyone know how wonderful Texas fandom really is!

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