

The Texas SF Inquirer

"THE BEST LITTLE NEWSZINE IN TEXAS"



FACT, P.O. Box 9612, Austin, TX 78766 ISSUE 7 / MARCH 1984

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NEBULA AWARD NOMINATIONS

BEST NOVEL

- Against Infinity
Gregory Benford (Timescape)
- Startide Rising
David Brin (Bantam)
- Tea With the Black Dragon
R.A. MacAvoy (Bantam)
- The Void Captain's Tale
Norman Spinrad (Timescape)
- Lyonesse
Jack Vance (Berkley)
- Citadel of the Autarch
Gene Wolfe (Timescape)

BEST NOVELLA

- "Hardfought"
Greg Bear (February IASFM)
- "The Gospel According to Gamaliel Crucis"
Michael Bishop (November IASFM)
- "Her Habiline Husband"
Michael Bishop (Universe 13)
- "Esterhazy and the Autogondola-Invention"
Avram Davidson (November Amazing)
- "Transit"
Vonda N. McIntyre (October IASFM)
- "Homefaring"
Robert Silverberg (November Amazing)

BEST NOVELETTE

- "Blood Music"
Greg Bear (June Analog)
- "Blind Shemmy"
Jack Dann (April Omni)
- "The Monkey Treatment"
George R.R. Martin (July F&SF)
- "Black Air"
Kim Stanley Robinson (March F&SF)
- "Cicada Queen"
Bruce Sterling (Universe 13)
- "Slow Birds"
Ian Watson (June F&SF)
- "The Sidon in the Mirror"
Connie Willis (April F&SF)

BEST SHORT STORY

- "The Peacemaker"
Gardner Dozois (August IASFM)
- "Her Furry Face"
Leigh Kennedy (mid-December IASFM)
- "Cryptic"
Jack McDivitt (April IASFM)
- "Ghost Town"
Chad Oliver (mid-September Analog)
- "The Geometry of Narrative"
Hilbert Schenck (August Analog)
- "Wong's Lost and Found Emporium"
William F. Wu (May Amazing)

AggieCon XV Preview

AggieCon is Texas Fandom's yearly tribal gathering, bringing together everyone from all over the state. It's the one convention that most Texas fen won't miss simply because everyone will be there — the writers, the artists, and fellow fans.

For the basic AggieCon info, check the Convention Calendar elsewhere this issue. Other guests at AggieCon this year will include Ed Bryant, Howard Waldrop, Leigh Kennedy, Joe Lansdale, Warren Norwood, Ardath Mayhar, Steve Gould, Chad Oliver, David Lee Anderson, Dell Harris, Lewis Shiner, and several other writers and artists. There will be a number of Big Name Fans in attendance (like Craig Miller, co-chair of the Worldcon to be held in Los Angeles this Labor Day). Other BNFs have expressed an interest in attending to take a closer look at Texas fandom.

Among the many scheduled program items at the four-day con are: a *Trivial Pursuits* game with SF questions; "Stump the Experts;" the "roast" with George Proctor; and lots of panels (including "The Worst Line in SF," "The Proverbial Good SF Movie — Seen Any Lately?" and "SF Was Like A Mother/Father To Me"). There will also be a number of art panels, autograph sessions, a meet-the-pros party, science presentations — and lots more, like the dealers' room, the art show, and the films (a partial list of films includes *Allegro Non Troppo*, *Invasion of the Daleks*, *Dragonslayer*, *Bladerunner*, and *Galaxina*).

There have been some rumors about a weapons policy at AggieCon this year, especially

in regards to the masquerade. OK. Here's the bottom line. There is No Weapons Policy. Weapons may be worn in the masquerade and anywhere else during the con. However, weapons may not be sold in the dealers' room. Rumors about a restriction on the type of costume that may be entered in the masquerade are also untrue. By the way, the masquerade is scheduled for 3:00 pm Saturday — don't miss it!

AggieCon can always use some help, and volunteers are welcome. You must be 16 or older, and able to work at least 4 hours. Interested persons should contact Annabel Shave in the headquarters room.

FACT (The Fandom Association of Central Texas, the organization which publishes the *Texas SF Inquirer*) will be doing the daily convention newszine at AggieCon. This newszine will contain reports about con goings-on — things like the masquerade winners, last-minute program changes, party listings, and any interesting gossip. Of course, the next issue of the *Inquirer* will contain a full report on AggieCon.

The road conditions between Austin and College Station are excellent with no construction. Between Houston and C.S. the conditions are fair with some construction around Navasota. For those fans traveling from the north, the stretch of IH 35 north of Waco is still being worked on. Of course, as we all know it will be raining, but the wildflowers should be spectacular. Bluebonnets and AggieCon — no place but Texas.

We certainly hope to see you there for what promises to be one of the best AggieCons ever.

—Robert Taylor

News•News•News•News••••

Bids? All ghod's children got bids . . .

Britain in '87! England is gearing up for a Worldcon bid, with Malcolm Edwards in the chair and support from such well-known fans as Dave Langford, Chris Atkinson, Martin Tudor, and Hugh Mascetti. For more information or a pre-supporting membership (\$2 US) write to Britain in '87, Duckett Rd., London, N4 1BN, Great Britain.

But wait! Phoenix in '87! The desert blooms again with a Worldcon bid from

Arizona. Bruce Farr is the chair and the committee is comprised of Christi Simila, Kandy Fong, Randy Rau, and others. Most of the committee worked on Iguanacon (the '78 Worldcon), and many of these folks also hosted the '82 Westercon. For information or a psm (\$5), write Phoenix in '87, P.O. Box 27201, Tempe, AZ 85252.

And here's another one! San Diego in '87! For information, write to P.O. Box 15471, San Diego, CA 92115.

More News ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

FACT meeting at AggieCon . . .

There will be a FACT and a NASFiC meeting at AggieCon. Check at the FACT table in the dealers' room for more details.

Rumor has it . . .

Rumor has it . . . there will be a number of out-of-state fans at AggieCon this year, throwing parties for the various cities bidding for the 1986 Worldcon site. Atlanta, New York, and Philadelphia are the competing cities. Impressed by the size of the Texas vote (100 plus) at Constellation when Austin won the NASFiC bid, the '86 bidders are trying to sway some Texas votes their way. If a bidding party does materialize, it will be a first for AggieCon and probably for Texas.

Rumor has it . . . there will be another Fantasy Festival in Dallas. Dallas and Houston fans are said to be coordinating things to avoid date conflicts.

Rumor has it . . . the L.A. Con II committee will use the computerized Texas "SF Dating Game," developed by ace programmer David Allen, to fix up their attending members with their perfect mate. Form questionnaires would be mailed to members for them to fill out and return. Participating members would find a personalized list of their matchmates in their registration packets.

Hey, fan — can you spare a solar credit?

As most everyone knows by now, Constellation lost money. While any contribution is tax-deductible, they also have a number of items for sale. These include videotapes of the Hugo Award Ceremony and Masquerade, t-shirts, books, and many other items. For a complete list, send an SASE to Constellation, P.O. Box 1046, Baltimore, MD 21203. This is a very worthy cause and we certainly urge you to help out the folks in Baltimore. They put on a good convention — just not a profitable one.

The Lensman movie . . .

E.E. "Doc" Smith's *Lensman* series has been a best-selling science fiction classic ever since the first book came out in 1934. And now a Japanese publishing house is making it into an animated film. Kodansha's two-hour full-length production will feature the best in technology from the Japan Computer Graphic Laboratory and the New York Institute of Technology. The film is scheduled for release in July.

The Izzard Poll!

Izzard, a wonderful fanzine published by Patrick and Teresa Nielsen Hayden, is running a poll on fandom and fanzine activity during 1983. The poll has been

distributed to the entire *Izzard* mailing list, but anyone who is interested can vote. Poll questions include: Best writer of long coherent pieces; best fanzine in white tie and tails; best fanzine in t-shirt and sneakers; most charming vice (specify fan and vice); which discussion in recent fanzines would you most like to see shut down; etc.

If you'd like to vote in the poll, send an SASE to Pat Mueller c/o FACT for a copy of the ballot. The deadline for return of ballots is May 1st. If you would like to receive the poll results, send \$2 to P&T NH, 19 Broadway Terrace #1D, NY, NY 10040 and specify that you want the issue with the poll results in it.

Local pros make good . . .

Austin writers are well represented on the 1983 Nebula Ballot. Chad Oliver's "Ghost Town" and Leigh Kennedy's "Her Furry Face" were nominated in the best short story category, and "Cicada Queen" by Bruce Sterling was nominated in the novelette category. The nominees and winners are chosen by the Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA); the awards will be presented at the Nebula banquet aboard the *Queen Mary* on April 28th.

Dallas area writer Lillian Stewart Carl has sold a novel to Berkely. The book, titled *Sabazel*, is a continuation of the author's story in *Amazons II*.

Lewis Shiner of Austin has sold *Frontera*, a hard-SF novel about physics and comparative mythology, to Baen Books, the new SF line to be distributed by Pocket Books. *Frontera* will probably appear in bookstores in early '85.

Katharine Kimbriel's *Fire Sanctuary* has been bought by Bluejay Books. The novel, slated for an '85 release, chronicles the adventures of a people branded pariahs because of the mutations caused by their radioactive planets. Katharine, a Dallas area writer, is currently finishing a fantasy novel as well.

Texas' own Lisa Tuttle has completed the text/story for two books for England's Green Tiger Press. The first is for a surreal, sensual book of paintings by Michael Johnson, and the second is for the new Una (*Witches*) Woodruff book, *Catwitch*. The list of women writers solicited by GT Press for Johnson's book, *Angela's Rainbow*, included Xaviera Hollander and Erica Jong, but our Lisa got the assignment. *Catwitch* was scheduled to be published in the US in September by Doubleday.

Oops . . . and other errata . . .

Our apologies to Caryl Thompson for misspelling her name in the last *Inquirer*. As one of the friendliest of the "Friendly



Texans," Caryl is well known in fandom for her warmth and hard work.

We received two letters about our mention last issue of a "St. Louis in '88" Worldcon bid. James Bakki, the Archon 8 co-chair, tells us that "the Archon committee does *not* support, now or ever, the St. Louis in '88 bid. Archon is in no way associated with this bid effort . . . The Archon folks have no desire to run a Worldcon. A major regional is quite enough work."

Rich Zellich, a member of the St. Louis in '88 Worldcon Bid Committee, also wrote to tell us much the same thing. He also says that "We have the St. Louis Convention Center reserved, and some of the downtown hotels have already committed themselves to blocking rooms for us. The Convention Center is quite large, and should comfortably hold the whole convention with no hotel facilities being required; we also get the Center 24 hours a day and can run programming and hospitality around the clock there if we want to. There are several hotels, all very good, in the immediate downtown area and no shuttle busing should be necessary . . . We plan to have our bid party right next door to the Anaheim Convention Center at L.A. Con II, with food as well as the usual liquids if we can work out the logistics. If we have food, we'll try for 24-hour availability if the motel agrees and if our volunteers can stay awake long enough. After L.A. Con II, you'll also start seeing our bid parties at other cons. Pre-supporting memberships are \$5, which gets you a matching reduction in the attending membership price when we win the bid if you participate in the site-selection voting (for any site, not just for St. Louis), and an occasional bid-progress newsletter (plus, of course, our undying gratitude). Checks should be payable to "St. Louis in '88 WorldCon Bid" and mailed to 1523 S. 10th St., #203, St. Louis, MO 63104."

About HoustonCon, Inc. . . .

We received the following letter from the HoustonCon, Inc. committee, and felt we should pass it along to the readers of the *Inquirer*.

February 23, 1984

To Whom It May Concern:

It seems as though there are rumors of two HoustonCons again this year. Over the course

of some years one of the convention owners in Houston has become dissatisfied with his position in relation to other owners. As a result there are again rumors of more than one Houston-Con convention, to the point of contracts actually being taken out in two hotels under similar names.

The recognized committee of HoustonCon, Incorporated would like the fans to know that the official HoustonCon, Inc. is going to be held at the Hilton Southwest Hotel (Southwest Freeway at Hillcroft) June 7-10.

We apologize for the misunderstanding amongst convention owners in Houston, and hope that it will not greatly inconvenience the fans.

HoustonCon, Inc is a member of, and supports the Houston area Science Fiction Convention Council, whose function is the promotion of cooperation between Houston Science Fiction Conventions.

Sincerely,
Committee, HoustonCon, Inc.

TAFF and DUFF stuff . . .

DUFF is the Down Under Fan Fund, and is the longest running of the fan funds involving Australia. It has been operating since 1972, and, in that time, has been responsible for much entertainment on both sides of the Pacific.

In 1984, DUFF will bring an Australian fan to the Worldcon in Los Angeles. The candidates for that race are Jack Herman and John Packer. The 1985 race will send a North American fan to Aussiecon II, the 1985 Worldcon in Melbourne. Nominations for the latter race will open after the winner of the 1984 race has been determined. The North American administrator for DUFF is Jerry Kaufman, 4326 Winslow Place No., Seattle, WA 98103. DUFF *always* needs donations, either of money or of auctionable items (books, old fanzines, papers, collectibles, etc); if you'd like to help, contact Jerry.

TAFF, the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund, was created in 1953 to bring well-known and popular fans across the Atlantic. Since that time, TAFF has regularly sent North American fans to European conventions, and has brought European fans to North American cons. Candidates for TAFF this year are Rob Hansen and D. West; the deadline for voting is April 30. Voting is open to anyone who was active in fandom (clubs, fanzines, conventions, etc.) prior to August 1982 and who contributes at least \$1 to the fund (contributions in excess of the minimum will be gratefully accepted). The North American administrator for TAFF is Avedon Carol, 4409 Woodfield Road, Kensington, MD 20895. If you'd like a copy of the TAFF ballot, send an SASE to Pat Mueller c/o FACT, or to Avedon.

FACT is thinking about starting up and administering a Fan Fund similar to TAFF and DUFF, to bring out-of-state fans to Texas conventions (and possibly to send Texas fans to other North American conventions). If you're interested in helping, want more information, or have any suggestions, write to FACT or talk to us at AggieCon.

Book Review



by Jimmy Fred Jumpball

Well, me and Jimmy Earl was sittin' down at the barber shop in downtown Centercourt the other day talkin' about women and girls and the various differences between 'em. Jimmy Earl allows as how there ain't much difference, which shows just how stupid he really is. Give me a woman over a girl any day. Women know how and when and why a man is a man and vice versa.

Well, the argument is just gettin' good when this guy, Houston Crockett (what a geek!) comes in ravin' about some new book called *Helliconia Summer* and how it was the best book of the year.

Well, says I. I hadn't heard of it, and who was this Brian Aldiss character what wrote it. If it's so hot, it must have been a p-sue-donym for Jerry Pournelle or John Norman.

No, he says, Aldiss is this really hot English writer and . . .

Stop right there! I says. Are you tryin' to tell me that you're ravin' about a book and it's not even by a Texan, much less an American?! There hasn't been much of nothin' good come out of the uk (see, even they don't like it, why else call your country *uk*) since Christopher Lee left Hammerfilms. So how come you're ravin' about a book written in a Socialist (dang near Communist) country? I says.

But it's *good*, he says.

So I ask him, does it have fifty-megawatt lasers fryin' villages? And he says, no, but it's got the invention of the pistol.

So what, I want to know. Does it have raw passionate sex and wife beatings? He says no, but it's got a guy trying to marry a kid and a beautiful girl getting off with dolphins.

Well, I am about to tell you. I like kinky sex, but a woman and a dolphin is just *too much* for me. Hey, those things is *fish*! You're not gonna see *me* chasin' after no tuna or wantin' to read about anyone who does.

Speak fast, Houston, I says. I'm about ready to toss you in the street. Why should I read about sicko Commie perverts who

don't use lasers anyway? (I really had him now. I already saw the puddle he and his book were going to end up in.)

So, old Houston begins to get the idea he's in trouble. Maybe I was swingin' the razor strop too hard. Or maybe it was Jimmy Earl and Jim Bob yellin' for blood. Old Houston begins to jabber like there's no tomorrow — and for him there ain't.

Well, he says, it's about this planet with a long orbit. Their years last over 1400 of ours and they're circlin' two suns. At one end of the orbit it's burnin' hot, at the other end it's freezin' cold, and civilization gets destroyed. And there's the people and the phagors (the *what?* I say). Phagors, he says. They're these talkin' animals and they both want to rule except phagors is real strong in the winter and men are real strong in the summer. Since this is summer, all the men are tryin' to kill the phagors and take over but certain guys don't want this to happen. And there's this big religion and political struggle (kinda like the Democrats and the Baptists) between these two countries where the king divorces his wife and wants to marry the daughter of the other king but she gets killed so he tries to marry her sister but they kill his phagor and shove it in his bed and accuse him of killing the first princess. And his wife is the Queen of all queens and is beautiful and real mad about being tossed over for a teenybopper. And there's this space station that they don't know about that sends people down to the planet to die. And the guy, Billie, wants to see the Queen but gets mixed up with an ice-seller.

By this time, me and Jimmy Earl are pickin' up Houston and are showin' him the door head-first. He drops the book as we throw him in the air. He lands in the puddle real good. I pick up the book. Nice cover, I says, and bean him with it. Jimmy Earl laughs.

So, we go back inside the barber shop to swap John Norman stories. Read any good Pournelle books lately?

—Jimmy Fred Jumpball

ChiliCon Case-a-Bheer

edited by Neil Kaden



ChiliCon Case-a-Bheer, the Official Lettercol of The First Occasional Lone Star Science Fiction Convention and Chili Cook-off, is edited by Neil E. Kaden, 1104 Longhorn Drive, Plano, TX 75203. Please send all Case-a-Bheer correspondence directly to Neil.

Mike Glyer, Van Nuys, CA:

Why *Rattail File*? [*Rattail File* is the L.A.-Con II letterzine. Correct answer #1 is: *Voice of the Lobster*, published by Noreascon II under the editorship of George Flynn, created an immensely successful clinic in Worldcon-running, as well as a forum of discussion on matters associated with the Worldcon — so much so that it begs to be imitated and continued in spirit.] Correct answer #3 is: Constellation's misfortunes have opened myriad possibilities for discussion. There is more fertile ground in masquerade running, Hugo administration, programming, etc. Possibly because *Voice of the Lobster* had done such a thorough job of capturing the collective consciousness of fandom's conrunners, insufficient time passed to create anything really original to put in a *Voice of the Lobster* clone. Brian Earl Brown put out a couple issues of *Cons and Shell Games* for Chicon which were fine fanzines, but didn't break a lot of new ground. My concern that another *VotL* clone would pack all the wallop of third-generation xerox is dispelled by what I've heard people discussing at cons. I simply hope to tap that pool in the printed form.

[*VotL*, one of the first fanzines I received when I entered fandom, is in many ways to blame for my continued interest in fanzines, conventions, and fandom in general. I lobbied hard for a letterzine for Lone Star Con, one that would have a different audience than that of the embryo *Texas SF Inquirer* when it was predominantly a largely-circulated NASFiC bidzine, or the regional newszine it is now becoming. I felt that there had existed, since Chicon IV, a void in fanzines and con-fandom that begged to be filled — note the percentage of space Glyer gives in *File 770* to Worldcon controversies, and the main subject of most smuffling at cons, and the dearth of constructive forums that exist in fandom in this area.

[When I read in *File 770* that Mike intended a similar enterprise for L.A.Con II, we decided to scale down this tradition. Most of the issues that bear on running a NASFiC are identical to those for running a Worldcon — but to handle those aspects *unique* to a NASFiC, *ChiliCon Case-a-Bheer* will run in every other *Texas SF Inquirer* until after L.A.Con II.

[Subscriptions for the life of the run of *Rattail File* are available for \$2.00 from L.A.-Con II, P.O. Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409. Correspondence may also be sent directly to the editor at 5828 Woodman Ave. #2, Van Nuys, CA 91401. —nek]

Notes from the NASFiC Executive Meeting held 9 October, 1983 at ArmadilloCon:

A strong groundswell of support came for the idea of substituting Hawaiian print shirts for the usual convention t-shirts at the NASFiC.

A consensus was reached that the philosophical goal of the '85 NASFiC is to create a "sense of family" and that several activities, like the chili cook-off, would be used to draw the attendees together. Also discussed was the concept that the '85 NASFiC was a service to fandom and as such should keep fans' interests and needs in mind at all times. Finally, everyone agreed to keep the decidedly unusual, fun, friendly flavor of Texas conventions and the Texas bid.

There will be five programming tracks: the *Film Track*, for all film and video programming; the *Side Track*, for fixed functions such as the masquerade and art show; the *Train Track*, for "how-to" programming, such as putting out a fanzine; the *Laugh Track*, for special humorous programming, such as "The SF Family Feud"; and the *General HalfTrack*, for the regular programming such as panels, authors' readings, etc.

There will definitely be a chili cook-off.

The executive board members and department heads have been asked to prepare perceived job and organizational descriptions, proposed general schedules of work for their areas, and specific questions to be addressed at future executive board meetings.

[The above was taken from *Information Report #1*, dated 17 October 1983, by Carolyn E. Cooper, head of Member Services and Information. *ChiliCon Case-a-Bheer* does not intend to become a distribution service for internal committee correspondence, but the above excerpt was felt to have general appeal to its intended audience. —nek]

Carolyn Cooper, Houston, TX:

The two-day trip back from Baltimore gave Paul, Sandy, and me time to *thoroughly* discuss certain points about the NASFiC. First, we *all* strongly favor the deely-bopper proposal. Basically, the idea was that instead of a myriad of color-coded committee and staff badges, committee members and department heads would wear deely-boppers. This is to (1) keep the member's position in perspective (imagine Adolph Hitler wearing a deely-bopper; it would have prevented a lot of heartache); (2) make

them highly visible (and therefore likely to work harder and better since fans can find them to complain); (3) keep the spirit of Austin in the bureaucracy of the convention; (4) weed out unsuitable applicants (anyone who takes themselves so seriously they refuse to wear a deely-bopper is too power-hungry for the committee).

I am still concerned with the attitudes of some people who run cons towards costumers, filksingers, and what is derogatorily called *fringe fandom*. They are a part of fandom. Many *trufans* either started or once participated in these areas. Many of the Austin supporters and workers still have ties with these interests. I can understand some people not wanting to have to deal with these areas since they don't like them, but I *strongly* suggest appropriate liaisons for these people to let them plan activities, functions, and amusements. These people are going to come to the NASFiC. They are going to spend lots of money on and at conventions. Dealers live by these people. These people just want what everyone wants at an SF con — to have fun, to feel a part of a group, to have a place where they don't feel alienated. If you let them have space to meet and enjoy their interests, they do not often venture into trufandom's domains and therefore are not "obnoxious". (I could make a few caustic comments on who is more obnoxious — a costumer or a BNF!) Anyway, that's my plea and I hope you'll consider it.

[I certainly take exception to Carolyn's assumption that taking oneself seriously implies that one is power-hungry. The corporate vice president who works sixteen-hour days, in his three-piece suit, making multi-million dollar decisions on a day-to-day basis, certainly has a better grasp of the rightful wielding of power than the grubby sixteen-year-old in his "Beam Me Up, Scottie" t-shirt making a bid to take over control of his local *Star Trek* club. There is a definite place in fandom for those of us with a sense of professionalism and decorum, and the Austin NASFiC should be jumping at a chance to take advantage of our high-priced skills. Unfortunately, we're all too busy building up our accounting practices to have any time for a bunch of propellor-beanie-wearing crazies!

[Seriously, now, many of the people who took part in this crazy NASFiC bid are part of that segment of the population which can be called "young professionals," and I think that the tax deduction for FACT Inc. probably rates for them a bit higher than getting a rare puce badge (the Chicon designation for smof). —nek]

Yvonne Knudson, Austin, TX:

Bill Page and I thought it might be helpful in your NASFiC planning if we got a bunch of us together in Baltimore and discussed some of our general impressions of Constellation — what we liked, didn't like, etc. — while it was still fresh in our minds. Here are some of the items:

✓The way the masquerade was set up virtually closed the event to any but con staff and VIPs. A sloped-seating room would have improved visibility — or the runway could have been extended much further into the audience. The masquerade at Denvention used similar facilities to much greater advantage. If you weren't in the front "reserved" section at Baltimore, you could barely see anything on the short runway.

✓On a somewhat related note, convention staffers do deserve some kind of break for their efforts, but reserving space for them at the expense of paying convention members seems a little inappropriate.

✓ There really should be a telephone number where con members can get in touch with convention headquarters 24 hours a day. This implies that headquarters should be open 24 hours. There should be *someone* around to handle problems or crises at any time.

✓ Panel moderators should know *well* before the panel starts (more than five minutes) about the bio information on panel guests.

✓ Ask Leigh Kennedy about her reading. Fifteen minutes is *not* enough time – by a long shot – for an author to read much of anything other than a novel segment, and a short one at that.

One of the things Bill and I came up with as a result of the combined experiences of Sven and I, Mack Pitchford and Robin Wilson, and the Monkey Expeditionary Force, was the idea of a "Hospitality" division of the con staff. I know there is probably a better name for it, but in general this division would assist con members with anything that was not related to the convention itself. A list of possible functions might include:

- Assistance in locating laundromats, pharmacies, clinics, churches, copying services, grocery stores, art supplies, bookstores, photographic supplies, etc.

- Provision of a first-aid station, preferably with an M.D. on call. Aspirins and band-aids are big attractions at conventions.

- One of the staff members of this section (or perhaps several) should be named Official Scapegoat, with the responsibility of acting as court of last resort for people who have problems which are not being resolved elsewhere.

- Provision of information on area attractions, cheap tours, etc.

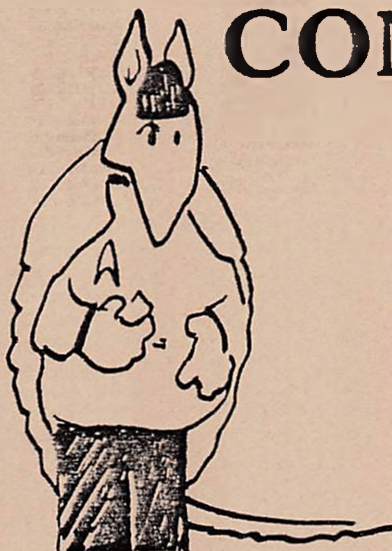
- Place someone at a booth with a phone book and an Austin map to help with directions.

- Information could be provided on where to cash travellers checks (hotels often won't do this, especially if you are not a guest), where to replace lost checks, which banks offer which automatic teller machines, etc.

[I think that *staff perks* at a convention have some very practical reasons. Staff members are (usually) spending most of their time working on the con. They would have to take extra time off from their jobs to take part in what (for the others) would be in-between event activities: Queuing up for tickets, going out for a restaurant outing, etc. This is why special registration lines, special events tickets in the staff registration area, and nutritious edibles (as opposed to the munchies in the con suite) are important. And some small amounts of other perquisites are justified—the staff are volunteering almost all their waking hours to *work*, so that their fellow fan can have an enjoyable experience. However, when these small perks are transformed into a policy of treating staff as VIPs, then the whole purpose of running the con gets lost. A balance must be struck between practicality and excess. One reward for staff comes when morale on the con is high, and everything is running smoothly – satisfaction in taking part in a job well done. Let's hope that in Lone Star Con we have lots of *that* coin to spread about liberally.

[One can see from the above letters that there is a strong member-attendee-oriented aspect to the Lone Star Con committee. Perhaps we *need* a few ego-centered squabbles and power plays to put it all in perspective, and to give Mike Glycer something juicy to write about in *File 770* . . . Well, hopefully Pat Mueller's new editorial policy ("Take Off The Gloves") and my own caustic editorializing will do something to liven things up.

—nek]



WUNDERFEST REPORT

The vast majority of Texas fans live in the geographic triangle defined by the cities of Dallas-Ft. Worth, Houston, and San Antonio; Austin and College Station fall inside this triangle. While this area can boast of much fannish activity, few Texas fans attend conventions other than their local ones (AggieCon and Armadillo-Con being the exceptions).

Not surprisingly, even fewer Texas fans travel outside the triangle to other Texas conventions.* While a regional preference can explain some of this, other reasons include poor publicity, the great distances involved, and a lack of fannish tradition regarding conventions.

This is truly disappointing. There are several excellent cons outside the triangle, especially in the west Texas cities of Wichita Falls, Lubbock, and Amarillo. And more importantly, there are lots of great fans in those cities.

In October of '83, Wunderfest V was held on the campus of Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls. The con was small – only 75 fans attended – but it was big in fannish spirit in more ways than one, especially with Jules Verne as the Ghost of Honor. Mr. Verne (portrayed by a very-well-read and appropriately-attired Kim Ball, complete with accent) was interviewed by an equally-well-read Larry Tucker in one of the most refreshing pieces of programming I've seen in years. Conducted in a style similar to the "Meeting of the Minds" TV show, the interview touched on Verne's life and his books. The questions from the audience and Verne's replies (he had a few barbed comments about that young upstart, H.G. Wells) added to the verisimilitude of the presentation which was informative, entertaining, and most enjoyable. I hope they do it again next year with Wells as the Ghost of Honor.

While Mr. Verne was absent from many convention events (due to his intangible nature as a ghost), the flesh-and-blood George Proctor proved to be an excellent GoH. Accompanied by his beautiful wife, Lana, George was easily accessible to the fans.

George gave an exceptional speech about the types of "firsts" we have all experienced as fans – first book, first movie, first convention, first zine . . . At times George wore a cape (his first Superman outfit), and at times a paper bag with eye holes and marked with crayons (his first space helmet). George's speech was in many ways a history of Texas fandom (in which he has played a major role), and it touched on

CONVENTION REPORTS

those special qualities of fandom we all enjoy and love. George's sincere love for the field and his hopes for it, as well as his concern about the diminishing readership and the growing viewership of science fiction, were well expressed in his speech.

Another delightful piece of programming was the radio play presented by the Interrabang Mental Theater under the direction of Larry Tucker.** The play, "The World Science Fiction Convention of 2080," was adapted from the Ian Watson short story of the same name, and dealt with a typical Worldcon "after the collapse." There's the registration tent, the Hugos are whittled from wood, editors and publishers and writers still meet at the bar but advances are in furs and lumps of metal. While humorous in tone, the story is really an examination of the influences of science and technology on humanity's imagination and freedom. The production was very professional, and the players had a sincere affection for the play because they were definitely enjoying themselves (especially the sound effects crew). It was quite interesting to watch them create the scenes; in a sense, they painted the backgrounds with sound and noise. High marks should go to Donna and Robbin Nall for their voice characterizations; the entire cast was excellent, both in their acting and their enthusiasm. Of special note is Larry Tucker's contribution to this fine madness. His adaptation and production of the story showed quality and style, and his own special affection for the field.

Wunderfest V was a convention that was relaxed, small (quite often the panelists outnumbered the audience) and not at all self-conscious. As a fan I didn't have to work at having a good time – it just happened. And this was due to the friendliness of Kim and Diane Ball, Buck Rogers (yes, his name is really Buck Rogers) and the rest of the con. I went to Wunderfest expecting to meet some new fans, talk about SF, and have a fun time. I wasn't disappointed.

—Robert Taylor

*Two exceptions worth mentioning – because they're great fans – are Marye Wexford and Caryl Thompson. As part of the cadre of "Friendly Texans," they are among the best traveling ambassadors the state and its fans have.

** If you are interested in having the Interrabang Mental Theater perform a radio play at your convention, please contact Larry Tucker at 1707 Lucile, Wichita Falls, TX 76301.

CONFUSION REPORT

(Willie Siros flew to Detroit Jan. 27-29 to attend Confusion. He has filed this report.)

Just when you thought it was safe to go back to conventions, the spring round of cons comes around and . . . surprise! There are those crazy guys from Texas again . . .

Yep, that's right. We had so much fun at Confusion last year, I up and decided to do it again. (Not to mention the fact that Larry Tucker has me on videotape saying, "Win, lose, or draw, we'll be back again next year!") I really did have a good time. It was our first combat

exposure and we felt warmly relieved that it

went so well.

However, last year I didn't have much of a

chance to just sit a spell and visit with folks.

I thought I had to do some non-stop politicking.

This year, I felt a bit more relaxed and did sit

and talk with my old friends from last year

(like Dick Smith and Leah Zeides), though I

also visited with friends I could have seen any-

where (like Rusty Hevelin, Ben Yalow, and

Craig Miller).

I was accused of having been "turned to the

dark side of convention fandom" - in other

words, *Smoo'ing*. Nothing could be further

from the truth! Instead of helping run the

"Consortium Party" on Saturday night, I sat in

the hall and gossiped about a certain former

Michigan fan who now lives in Austin. *Editor's*

note: I'll bet you thought I was going to edit

that out, Willie. . . -pm/ Not one word about

being the chair of a national convention does

seem to incite some fans into telling me arcane

and obscure details about fan and convention

history - but I'd always thought these were -

they're more like medieval morality tales, like

"Everyman vs. the Green Dragon".) The morals

are indeed interesting.

CONVENTION CALENDAR

(When writing to a convention for more info-

mation, please include a SASE.)

AGGIECON XV, March 29-April 1, Texas A&M

Campus, College Station, TX. Pro Goh: L.

Sprague de Camp; Special Guest: James P.

Hogan; TM: Wilson "Bob" Tucker. Membership:

\$10. Info: AggieCon XV, P.O. Drawer J-1,

College Station, TX 77844.

IDICON, April 6-8, Savoy Hotel, Houston.

Focus will be on *Star Trek* and other media fan-

doms (2 lines, art, and video). K/S will be out of

the closet; no one under 18 admitted. Member-

ship: \$15. Rooms \$38 per night. Info: IDICON,

1252 Seracen, Cypress, TX 77429.

CAPCON, April 13-15, Villa Inn, Lubbock, TX.

Guests: Andrew Offutt, Phil Foglio, Robert

Asprin. Membership \$13 to 4/13, then \$5/day

at the door. Filksing, art show, costume con-

test, parties. Info: Capcon '84, 302 E. Purdue

#29, Lubbock, TX 79403.

TEXARKON 3, May 11-13, Tall Timbers

Resort Inn, Texarkana, AR. Gohs: Theodore

Strugan, Phil Foglio; TM: Robert Asprin.

Membership \$10 to 5/1, then \$15. Info:

Texarkon, 1021 E. 29th, Texarkana, AR

75502.

CONJURATION, June 1-3, West World Inn,

Tulsa, OK. Goh: Jack Chalkley; FGOH: Doug

Walkey; TM: Warren Norwood. Other guests:

panels, gaming, masquerade. Membership \$8 till

5/4, then \$10. Info: Con-Juration, P.O. Box

690064, Tulsa, OK 74169.

PSICON, June 2-3, Villa Capt. Austin, TX.

Party con to celebrate the opening of *Star Trek*

III. Video room and dealers' room, panels, door

prizes. Membership \$3/day, \$5 for both days.

Info: PsiCon '84, 601 River Rd. #604, San

Marcos, TX 78666.

HOUSTONCON, INC., 84, June 7-10, SW Hilton

Hotel, Houston. Goh: John Steakley. Multi-

media con with films, dealers, costumes and

more. Info: Houstoncon, 11333 Chimney Rock,

Houston, TX 77035.

I thought Confusion's combination with the

Science Fiction Oral History Association went

well; I looked in on some of their tapings and

enjoyed them. I enjoyed the banquet, too, even

though there were no Texas flags on the tables

this year. Lloyd Biggle provided the, uh, enter-

tainment with his German Martin Band -

a polka band with himself on first clarinet and

Stanley Schmidt on trumpet. Beee-zare (and

genuinely funny).

Although there was no Texas chili, the

NASFIC party did have the Texas beer, along

with the combined efforts of Joyce Schwartz's

"Melbourne for DeepSouthCon in '85" bid

party, a BalitCon party, Scott "It's not my

fault" Denis' Constellation party, and the

Philly in '86 bid party. In other words, we all

held the "Consortium Party." Everyone seemed

to have a good time, and with the live party

hosts the room stayed full even when everyone

was off dancing.

Dick Smith made a fine Toastmaster, and

will eventually develop into a fine Fan Guest of

Honor (as soon as he publishes enough issues -

at least *another* issue - of his newzine,

Uncle Dick's Little Thing). So I expect I'll try

to go back next year (we'll still need more

NASFIC members) and meet more of those fine

Midwestern female fans. I did have a good time!

- Willie Stros

PIRATECON REPORT

PirateCon was held January 27-29 in Amarillo.

Several Amarillo fan groups - Starbase Amarillo,

as well as a number of very hard-working individ-

als, sponsored the convention.

The Guests of Honor were simply fantas-

tic. C.J. Cherryh was her usual professional and

charming self; Lee and Pat Killough were

thoroughly entertaining; and Roger Teneer was

great as Fan Guest and as a one-man PR depart-

ment for NASA. The two-man traveling art

show of Dell Harris and David Lee Anderson

was also on hand to lend the proper irreverent

tone to the goings-on, reminding us that artists

are not second-class citizens.

A very nice piece of programming, and one

that seems to be on its way to becoming a

regular feature at several cons, was the wine and

cheese party. It created a nice, relaxed atmos-

phere for mingling, much better (and certainly

cheaper) than a stuffy sit-down banquet where

you can only talk to the people seated near you.

On Saturday night, FACT hosted a NASFIC

party complete with the computerized "SF

Dating Game." It was a lot of fun, and allowed

me to do what I like to do most at a con -

meet folks, talk SF, and have a good time. And

makes for a good party in itself. The fans in

Amarillo are no slouches when it comes to

having fun, and they quickly got into the spirit

of things (including the "Dating Game." Chod

bless David Allen and his dating program, which

is a great icebreaker. I think he's brought more

fans together than anyone else!). At any rate,

the party and the "Dating Game" gave more

fans a chance to meet and talk, plus learn about

Lone Star Con, the 1985 NASFIC.

One of the most impressive aspects of

PirateCon was the fans running the convention.

Sheri Schwarz is without a doubt one of the

best con chalmers I've ever seen. She was a

cordial hostess, and above all a great organizer

and worker. The people working with her were

equally competent. They included Art Burnett

(one of my favorite fans), Andy Burns, Scott

Blanceno, Lynn Stenzle, Trixie Wahl, and Kirk

and Charlie Baker. These folks put on a fine

show; they got the job done and had fun doing

it. And that counts for a bunch.

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to define itself by its costumes, weapons, and walkie-talkies. There is more to security than these accoutrements. Personally, I'm more apt to listen to and ask help of someone wearing a three-piece suit with a name card identifying them as security, than someone wearing a ninja outfit or dressed like a samurai. Texas cons are now undergoing the debates about weapons policies and security measures that other major conventions have already survived. I hope we can deal with these problems in a mature manner with justice and safety for all.

The strength of PirateCon, and I believe its future, lies in its geographic location: Amarillo. The city is well situated, giving Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico fans a place to meet face to face. PirateCon has a chance to become an important regional convention. There are a lot of great fans in Oklahoma and New Mexico, but here in central Texas we seldom get to meet them. A strong fannish convention, which PirateCon shows indications of becoming, would be a way to build more bridges to other fans in this region.

And speaking of bridges, on April 13-15, CapCon will be held in Lubbock at the Villa Inn. Like Wunderfest and PirateCon, it will offer a chance to meet our brother and sister fans from West Texas - and fans from outside the state, too. CapCon plans to accent folk-singing and its art show, though there will be the usual program items and a few added surprises. Come to CapCon - you'll have a great time!

HOWEVER, don't go to these cons expecting thousands of tables in the dealers' room or elaborate art shows or masquerades. Don't expect impressive film line-ups or a huge gaming area. And don't look for an overstuffed con suite or three-ring programming. What you *can* expect are short lines at registration, no waiting for elevators, a good time with lots of fine fans, all the wonder you can sense, and those aspects of fandom that we all love - its sense of community, its friendliness, its warmth, and its uniqueness.

-Robert Taylor

CORFLU REPORT

(Corflu, a convention for fanzine fans, was held January 27-29 at the Claremont Hotel in Oakland, CA. John Quarterman files this report.)

Between *Genre Plat* and the Corflu program book, Allyn Cadogan & Co. wimped out from "the convention exclusively for fanzine fans" to "the convention for fanzine fans," thus leaving the way open for one of Them to invade and report back. Cheerfully dispensing my clever cover story ("And what do you do?") "I'm a convention fan here to spy on you."), I passed unnoticed while gathering the following juicy tidbits for you, the readers of the *Texas SF Inquirer*.

It was not your usual con. There was no masquerade, no hall costumes, no panels, no hucksters' room, no art show, no guest speakers, no filking, no all-night movies, no drunks, no elevator parties, no people with dragons on their shoulders, and (despite someone having forgotten to bring the signs with the international diagonal-slashed circle over Ben Yalow's bowtie) *no smoffing!* It was wonderful.

Though there were no panels, there was programming, mostly held in a fair-sized function room. One corner was partitioned off for the fanzine history room, there was a table for fanzine freebies, most of a side was taken up with mimeographs, typewriters and such, and

the rest was open. When a programming track had something running, a sign was hung on an easel and people pulled chairs over. This worked remarkably well, except for a tendency for the most popular track to draw everybody from all the others.

The Guest of Honor selection was held in the consuite. The GoH was chosen by what some referred to as chance: Ted White picked a name out of the hat Allyn was holding. It turned out to be someone who wasn't there. He picked another, but he wasn't there either. So he picked another: same name as the first! And another: still the same name as the first! This was obviously an Omen, so it was decided to find the lucky fan and bestow the solid gold badge on him.

Meanwhile, the Rich Texans in the group (Terry Floyd and yours truly, abetted by Sarah Prince) put in a crass and obvious bid to buy the GoH badge outright for one of their number: the eversuffering and currently crashed-with-exhaustion-from-driving-all-the-way Pat Mueller. This heroic (albeit somewhat crude) attempt was unceremoniously rebuffed by Allyn Cadogan, brandishing her whip.

Bul-go-ki! Those who survived it (evidently the majority of the con) claimed that this Korean fast-food treat was not only the mainstay of their diet (other than corflu) while at Corflu, but worth going out of your way for.

I wouldn't know, as I went out of my way daily to get to Evans Hall at Berkeley for my computer network fix. This was partially to contact Sally (my VAX) back at Peter Flawn's ranch, and partially to keep up with USENET, which has been described as an international computer apa with the equivalent of 200 fanzines published daily. Of those I tried to explain it to at Corflu, only Jeanne Bowman saw what I meant immediately. Terry Floyd complained there was no artwork, and most didn't follow what I was talking about. While this was not entirely unexpected at a con devoted to those subsidizers of Gestetner, those preservers of vanishing art-forms like three color mimeographed fanzines, I do think it was a bit unfortunate. There is much that can be done with electronic media. It is ironic that that potential was much more readily and widely recognized at Boskone (one panel there was staffed by prominent figures of USENET and ARPANET and attended by a large audience, most of whom were themselves regular contributors to USENET) run by that eminent confan organization, NESFA, than at Corflu, the fanzine fan convention.

The GoH turned out to be a long-gafted fan who couldn't handle the attention the gold badge brought him and left after the first day of it. So there was another, ah, chance selection. The Rich Texans once again lobbied for their favorite daughter candidate, brandishing large bank-rolls and fat stogies, but to no avail: the tall dark thin one with the gap teeth proved incorruptible.

Pascal Thomas, the new GoH, is sometimes said (though not within his earshot) to be from L.A., since he's there studying mathematics at UCLA as alternative military service for the French government (all true, believe it or not). His speech at the banquet was lifted from Doonesbury, but well done. Speaking French with an interpreter, he launched into such commonplaces as "Bonjour" (translator waves at the audience), followed by greetings from the French government. Things got a little odd when the translator was going on about California weather while Pascal shouted "Vous etes tous moutons!" and pounded his shoe on the podium...



There *will* be another Corflu next year. Allyn Cadogan and Shay Barsabe volunteered to carry on again, this time in the Napa Hilton, *nee* the Napa Holiday Inn. The year after that belongs to Falls Church fandom, or so says Ted White.

One fanzine was actually produced at the con: *SMOCKO!* This white on green wonder (ink and mimeo courtesy of Dave Rike) was produced by Terry Floyd and others who also didn't want to be named - places of production included the Empire Room, Allyn's room, the dead dog party, and Michael Farren's house until some godawful hour. There are pictures of Sharee and Terry sniffing corflu. There are no pictures of me rubbing Lucy's back. There is some excessive number of two-sheet four-page illegible copies oozing around. I counted a string of five people back in Texas each saying to the next: "It's not worth reading," who, having found out the hard way anyway, said to the next... Willie Siros refers to it as "that crudzine." Robert Taylor broke out laughing because he thought it was Terry's contribution to the committee apa. Pat Mueller had to be persuaded by three people to keep a copy. Dana Siegal might like it, as it includes a restroom tour.

-John Quarterman

WISCON REPORT

The 8th WisCon was held February 24-26 at the Concourse Hotel in Madison, Wisconsin. Sponsored by SF3, the convention drew over 700 fans. With Elizabeth Lynn and Jessica Amanda Salmonson as Guests of Honor, a full schedule of programming and events, and a very energetic concomm, WisCon was a convention with intelligence, variety, and lots of zest.

I had promised Jeanne Gomoll (Armadillo-Con's first Fan Guest of Honor and a founder of WisCon) that I would attend the convention. It took me five years to work up enough courage to brave the February weather of Wisconsin, and now I wish I had been coming all along.

WisCon is an excellent convention. Subjectively speaking, it's my kind of con. The programming has a strong emphasis on the literary tradition of the field and on fanzines; there is a definite focus on a specific theme (in this case, feminism); and there is a very pleasant air of fannishness about everything. Also, I loved the city of Madison, probably because it is so similar to Austin. Both are state capitals, both have major universities, and both share a common

attitude in lifestyles and culture. Even the geography was similar – especially the capitol building and the university campus.

Pat Mueller (a veteran of Wisconsin winters) and I arrived to enjoy some unexpected warm weather and sunny skies. Texas luck. Signing on as a worker, I spent most of Friday gofering and helping out where I could. When I don't know many fans at a convention, I find gofering the best way to meet folks – and I certainly met some pleasant ones. After all the years I had read *Janus / Aurora*, it was nice to put faces to names, like Richard Russell, Patricia "Spike" Parsons, Gregory Rihn, Kathi Scheller, Jan Bogstad, Tom Porter, Peter Theron, and many other enjoyable fans.

While collating and stapling the *Mad Moose Gazette* (the con's newsletter), Jeanne Gomoll and I caught up on things and I was introduced to several other fans. Plans were made for dinner (one of the two excellent meals I would enjoy in Madison, thanks to Jeanne and Joyce Scrivner), which Pat and I almost missed due to my poor sense of direction. (Madison has an interesting warehouse district.) The restaurant was tiny and the eight of us, including Jessica, Jeanne, and Spike, made up a third of the diners, but the food was superb and the conversation was lively. Following dinner there were other events: The opening ceremonies, and a mixer with good rock-n-roll and lots of dancing. I'm glad to see this at cons. A dance is a great way to party and bring fans together.

I spent most of Saturday preparing for our NASFiC party, but was able to enjoy several panels and visit the art show and movie room (again, a lack of "bad cinema," but still a good line-up). The dealers' room was impressive for the number of books and magazines on sale, plus the wide selection of fanzines available. The masquerade was almost surreal; in one sense it was quite poor, but it was also highly entertaining. I don't know how it was intended to turn out, but I found it most enjoyable and definitely different. Don't change it; it was great.

While I worked on the NASFiC party, Pat tried to smof at the Women's Apa get-together. Once again the chili and beer and peppers were out and about. Quite a few folks dropped in to

sample a taste of Texas and it was great to be throwing a party and getting to chat with fans. Cy Chauvin came by, along with Stu Shiffman, Candice Massey, and Joyce (who has me nearly talked into daring the weather again and traveling to MiniCon).

WisCon has a curious reputation and I would like to dispel some of the rumors about it. I had heard that it was a very "Serious" convention with little fannish programming and few parties. I had also heard that due to the strong feminist influences, men were barely tolerated. As I suspected, I found these rumors to be without foundation. This is a great convention! The programming does emphasize the literary (thank goodness), but there are *Dr. Who* panels, a comics panel, a costuming and makeup panel, plus gaming and many other things – something for everyone. WisCon does emphasize women and SF (again, thank goodness), but I hardly equate that with intolerance of males. At the feminist panels I attended (some of which were humorous as well as serious) I noticed an overriding theme of tolerance, especially toward other people, cultures, and lifestyles.

My tolerance of cold weather is still rather low – but I don't think it will be another five years before I attend WisCon again.

–Robert Taylor

TREKKON REPORT

(*Trekkon '84 was held in San Antonio March 3–4. Carolyn Cooper drove all the way there and back again to file this report!*)

Willie Siros Stranded at Trekkon 2 Days – EATS TRIBBLES TO SURVIVE!

Yes, guys and gals, it's true. Noted smof Willie Siros, the man who still thinks Spock is a pediatrician, the man who believes the *Enterprise* is just an aircraft carrier or space shuttle, was spotted attending Trekkon '84.

Also sighted accompanying Mr. Siros was Austin diplomat Robert Taylor with his kicky "SF Dating Game" modified with *Trek* questions. Ever the gentleman, Mr. Taylor discreetly ogled the costumers and belly-dancers. Austin's dynamic duo, along with San Antonio's madcap dingaling, Dennis Virzi, held another of their

chi chi NASFiC parties. Dressed in their darling trademark Western attire, the three were consummate hosts down to the Maalox provided for survivors of Mr. Virzi's homemade chili.

The wheelers and dealers were certainly in attendance with Houstonians Patti Bushman and Maury Gibson commanding a strong entry table across from those industrious folks from Starbase San Antonio and Starfleet. I must say, I was glad to see the return of the zines in the dealers' room, especially when it brought down those wonderful souls from Starbase Kansas City. I hope to run into you folks again at another of these little SF soirees. And Patti, what about this silly rumor that you're going to retire?

More Fuel for the Fire Dept.: Why was W.S. surveying the Hyatt and Riverwalk area? What did he mean by "never enough elevators"? And why were R.T. and D.V. threatening to throw him in the river if he even thought about it? What is it, Willie?

Many thanks to Echo 7 (aka Anne Kimbell), Mary Lou Estrello (better known as Your Highness, Your Worshipfulness, or Sister), and the rest of the alliance for the coffee and the trivia prizes. Anyone missing Mike Murray's excellent artist's life picture: Shame, shame. Better luck next time. Anyone missing con chairman Judith Ward – catch her as Fan Guest of Honor at Dallas' Fantasy Festival. Anyone catching five minutes with that fleetfooted Mistress of Ceremonies and ace organizer Fran Booth was lucky. I was tired just watching her work!

Current Rumors Dept.: What were W.S. and *Trek* star Grace Lee Whitney discussing in the lobby of the Menger Hotel? Could it be true that Mr. S. was explaining "getting laid" as his purpose for attending cons? Could it be our Mr. S. is turning *Trek*? That's simply J.N.D. (just not done). Whatever they were discussing, they were certainly having fun. What do you think, Mrs. Robinson?

My sincere thanks to Freddy for the bed and breakfast and please tell Gallagher I'll remember to let him out in the morning the next time we sleep together.

Well, ta-ta till next time. And remember, it's just a goddamn hobby.

–Carolyn Cooper

The Texas SF Inquirer

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