



The Texas SF Inquirer
Issue 49
April 1993

Cowboys 'n Indians

The Texas SF Inquirer, Issue 49, April 1993

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Howdy & Perhaps Goodbye?

One of the topics brought up at the annual FACT meeting in March was *The Texas SF Inquirer*. Some people don't think that *TSFI* should come out on a bi-monthly schedule. They feel this schedule represents a drain on FACT funds that could best be put to use elsewhere. I feel that most don't want to see *TSFI* fold completely, but rather come out yearly, semi-annually, or on an irregular schedule. Opinion were very divided at the meeting and nothing was going to get decided there, so a special meeting of the FACT membership has been called for June, to follow the Board of Directors' meeting on June 13, location TBA.

IF YOU CARE ANYTHING ABOUT THIS FANZINE, WHETHER IT BE TO KEEP IT AS IT IS TO CHANGE IT, OR GET RID OF IT YOU NEED TO ATTEND THIS MEETING OR SEND IN YOUR VOTING PROXY WITH YOUR WISHES.

I wish I could attend that meeting myself, but my cousin is getting married the following week in Washington, DC. In other words, do not send your proxies in my care, I cannot be there! Also, remember that just because you can't attend, that doesn't mean you can't comment at the meeting. You can send a written statement to be read by someone. I am.

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Please send any trade zines or contributions, including news, reviews, articles, artwork or letters of comment to:

THE TEXAS SF INQUIRER, c/o Alexander R. Slate,
 8603 Shallow Ridge, San Antonio, TX 78239

Editor: Alexander R. Slate

Personally, I don't think it would hurt *TSFI* to go to a quarterly schedule. But now a couple of words in my defense.

Perhaps I'm being paranoid, but I can't help feeling that this is to some degree an attack upon myself and what *TSFI* has become under first Dale and mine, and now my stewardship. All right, I'm not the world's best editor. I'm not even a particularly faanish editor, which is what some people want from a fanzine. I'm not Pat Mueller, and I don't have her connections to the old fanzine network that she did. But I've done what I promised to do when I took the job as editor.

I took it with the understanding that I would get an issue out every two months. I've come reasonably close to that. I've also brought the fanzine back from drifting into the gaming and media realms into which it appeared to be heading under Scott Merritt (not a condemnation, Scott). I've also tried to manage costs. I feel I've been somewhat successful on the printing side, and some on the postage.

I've tried to make the fanzines we receive in trade more accessible to the rest of the membership. For a while we tried keeping them at Ed's house, but no one seem interested. The fanzine reading table in the Dillocon con suite has been fairly popular, though. If

FACT gets an office/clubhouse, we can keep the fanzine library there. But now the contents.

If you're not happy with the contents, you have no one but yourselves to blame. I've responded to comments and added things at member requests - such as the convention listing - and not had certain things per member requests - such as fan fiction or poetry. Contributions have always been welcome from anyone, extremely welcome! Even solicited (look in your *FACT-Sheet*). If you didn't contribute, there is no excuse.

I'd now like to thank those FACT members that have contributed during my tenure as editor: Dale Denton, Ed Graham, Casey Hamilton, Fred Duarte, Jr., Karen Meschke, Cindy Foster (nee Guyton), Kathy Kimbriel, Robert Taylor, Richard Brandt, Bear Philley Robert Reedy, and Carol Stepp. I think that special kudos have to go to Robert Reedy, Cindy and Carol: who were so unsure of their contributions to start yet had the chutzpah to go ahead and do it. I'd also like to thank the other contributors who weren't FACT members, our loccers and also our artists, who add a measure of grace to our pages. To those who have commented favorably on *The Inquirer* in your letters and in your fanzines, thanks. You'll never really know how much your kind words meant. To those who critiqued (like you Leah) without attacking, also much thanks, for I've taken some of your comments to heart.

A special thanks to my wife, Laurel, for the support she's given me while taking the time to do this. If not for her graces, this wouldn't get done.

I've not been the best of all possible editors, but I don't think I've done the club a disservice, either. Yes, much of what is in the fanzine is there because I believe it should be, but what else is the function of an editor, except to decide this? BUT if you weren't happy you should have been telling me. If there isn't sufficient interest to keep it alive in FACT, perhaps *The Texas SF Inquirer* should die. But, I don't feel that's the case.

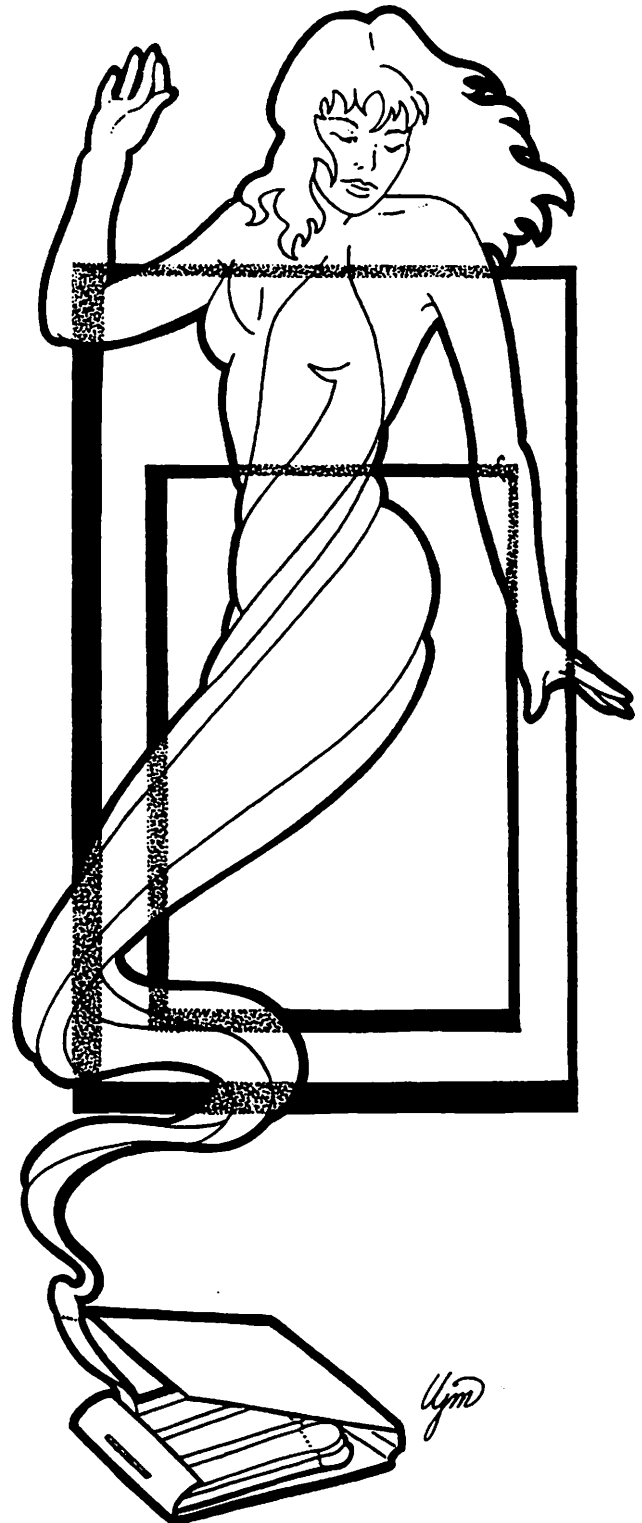
I've always said that I would step down as editor if that is the club's wish. I say it again here. I'll also try to publish the fanzine as you wish it to be published, on whatever schedule you feel it should be published (Warning! Monthly is not reasonable!). There are certain things I feel should be in the fanzine, such as locs and trade lists. There's always room for more submissions.

Does all this sound like a goodbye. Maybe it is. I think that I can safely say that whatever happens, this fanzine will not be the same by the end of the meeting. But once more:

MAKE YOURSELVES HEARD. GET YOUR INPUT TO THE FACT BOARD OF

DIRECTORS IN TIME FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING.

Final note, and happier. The next issue is #50, and the official 10th anniversary issue of *The Texas SF Inquirer*. Please send something in.



From Boondock Central:

The Changing of the Grad

editorial by Alexander R. Slate

One thing that has been pointed out about the last election was that it represented a change of generations. President Bill Clinton is forty-seven years old and is part of what is known as the Baby Boom Generation. I am thirty-five, born in 1957. I represent the tail end of the Baby Boomers. This means that my generation is starting to move into positions of authority and responsibility. That's just a little bit scary.

You see, I know just how little I've really grown up. At heart I'm still just a teenager who alternates between wanting some measure of authority and respect and just wanting to chuck everything and just have some fun. Yet, I find myself changing more and more lately. Could it be I'm finally growing up?

I'm sure that much of the changes are because I'm a father, and my children are getting older. It may also have to do because Laurel and I are homeowners again. And some is due to the changing nature of my work.

Part of my 'problem' has to deal with my childhood. I was a child of the middle class, and I was an intelligent one. I enjoyed school. School to me was fun, not work. And I never really had to work to get good grades. I never had to worry about where my next meal was coming from, and I could expect to get most of what I wanted in the way of presents, eventually. Now, don't get me wrong, I'm not extolling the virtues of poverty, nor do I think that poor kids necessarily grow up any more responsible than the rest of us. It's just that the way I am was at least created in part, or at the very least reinforced by my childhood experiences.

High school really wasn't too much different. Okay, I wasn't the smartest one in every subject, or even at the top of my class, though I was close. High school still wasn't a real challenge. For me, probably the 'hardest' part of high school was being on the wrestling team. Having been a tubby little child, I am by no means a natural super athlete. I had to work very hard to lose weight, to build up muscle and to become essentially a 'fair' wrestler for my area. Yet, even wrestling was not a matter of great importance. It was something that (at first) my parents made me do, but also something that became fun for me. But not being the greatest wrestler was not the end of the world. If I got any scholarships to college they would be academic, not athletic. My future career would not be

based on my wrestling skills. My own world-view was reinforced when I received not just one, but two appointments to the United States Military Academy at West Point (something which was to me then and which I still view as a bit of an achievement).

West Point was very different from anything else I had encountered in my life up until then. West Point was work. Yes, we had some fun, too, but at the Point you start out at the bottom of the heap, regardless of your talents and abilities. The upper-classmen don't care who or what you were. You're a plebe. I probably did more growing up in those two years than in any comparable period since. The reasons I left West Point are complicated and are in great part, if not all, due to physical problems. I'm nowhere near being a great runner (something which is important at West Point and which I hate doing) and I had very bad allergies at that time.

I still regret having left the Point. In retrospect, I probably should have tried to stick it out longer. I would likely be a little better person today. But I did leave, and actually lost some of my maturity in the years which followed.

Texas A&M was no real challenge, and frankly, I really didn't enjoy being there. There was no incentive for me to really work my hardest and I saw too many jerks getting by without deserving it. My experiences at College Station form the basis of my not to high regard for most universities and the 'education' they provide. There are four things that would have any lasting importance in my life that happened here, three of them are inter-related. One, I got my degree. Two, I discovered fandom along with three, some friends that I still have, and four, gaming.

From A&M it was off to Victoria, Texas and a job with Alcoa. I was only here for a little more than a year-and-a-half. Although I matured some during this period, it wasn't a whole lot. I certainly didn't learn how to buy a good car.

Then I was laid off, at this point I started to mature again. And at least at no time did I plan on running home. Had I not found a job as a civil servant with the Air Force I was set to rejoin the military; the Navy this time in a special plan.

But, I did get a job with the Air Force, at Brooks AFB. Many things have happened here. And my level

(Continued on page 8)

Convention Review:

Armadillocon 14

by Bob Reedy

The convention is sponsored by F.A.C.T. of which I am a member. F.A.C.T. spends a lot of time on this convention. We have monthly meetings for a year and the convention chairs were decided on before then. It is January 30, 1993 and FACT is taking proposals for Armadillocon 16 due by March; the convention will be held in October 1994. Armadillocon 15 business was transpiring even before Armadillocon 14. Armadillocon 15 business is being done in monthly meetings now. I think FACT does very well with this convention and I hope it will continue into the future.

Armadillocon 14 was held at the Wyndham Southpark hotel in Austin, Texas on October 9-11, 1992. the guest were the following: Neal Barrett, Jr., Guest of Honor; Darrell K. Sweet, Artist Guest; Gardner Dozois, Editor Guest; Al Jackson, Fan Guest; Kim Stanley Robinson, toastmaster. The program book contains much information on the guests and has a color cover of the U.S.S. ARMADILLO by Darrell Sweet. The U.S.S. ARMADILLO is a spaceship shaped like an armadillo.

The programming included panels, readings, gaming, the art show, the dealer's room, auctions, a band and a dance. There wasn't any masquerade or video room or films. Also, there was a Meet the Pros Party in the lobby; Opening ceremonies and the Guests of Honor had their hour-long addresses and interviews.

On Friday I attended 5 panels and the opening ceremonies. on Saturday I attended the Gardner Dozois interview, the Neal Barrett address, a panel, the art show auction and the dance with Los Blues Guys. On Sunday I attended a panel and the Howard Waldrop reading. All of this was interspersed with visits to the Con Suite; I watched Star Trek there, and visits to the bar to watch the UT-Oklahoma (football) game. I did some work as door guard at the art show and stood part of a watch in the dealers' room.

The panels were interesting and included audience participation. the Neal Barrett address was funny and soulful and the Gardner Dozois interview was humorous. The readings were lively and well attended. Los Blues Guys sounded pretty good and people were dancing to the music. The Art Show Auction was crowded and the bidding was competitive. I wasn't there the whole time but I heard the U.S.S. ARMADILLO sold for \$500. There was a bidding war on one piece that went for almost as much.

Darrell Sweet autographed T-shirts with the U.S.S. ARMADILLO on them and I purchased one for \$15 and

I also bought a print of the program book cover for \$1. In the dealers' room I bought one book and looked around.

The convention was well run and I saw many FACT members present. Bear Philley was busy in the Con Suite. Donna Rosser and Dan Tolliver were at the art show. I saw Alex Slate door guard at the art show. Lori Wolf, the co-chair did some introductions and looked very sexy. Fred Duarte, the other co-chair worked at the FACT table in the dealers' room and introduced me to Bill Parker who put me to work. Robert Taylor was there; we spoke in the bar during the UT-Oklahoma game. Earl Cooley was at the art show.

Willie Siros and Ed Graham were on different panels I attended. Judith Ward was there in a wheelchair. I saw Karen Meschke briefly but Matthew Duarte was probably in baby-sitting. Casey Hamilton played in the band. Carol Stepp I spoke to on the bus ride there and she was in the dealers' room. There were more FACT members in attendance, these were the few I remember.

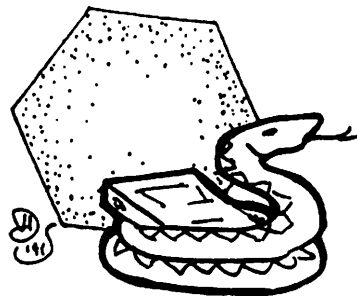
What I like about this convention are the panels, the atmosphere and the variety of choices available. I'm not very experienced at conventions (mostly I've attended Armadillocons) but I think this is one of the better conventions.

I would recommend attending Armadillocon. One improvement perhaps could be a science guest of honor, maybe from the University of Texas.

In my opinion Armadillocon 14 was a great convention with a good time had by all.

Next year's convention is November 5-7, 1993 at the same place; the Guest of Honor is Gwyneth Jones.

Long Live the Armadillo!



Various Musings:

A Gaelic Experience

by Carol Stepp

Hello, again. I've read over my last two columns and decided that I've gotten a little away from my original intent. Too much pontificating. I'm going to try to get back to what I originally intended - to entertain, and perhaps impart a little knowledge.

First, I'd like to thank everyone who voted for me for FACT's Board of Directors - I'll do my best to justify your confidence. FACT is going into its 10th year of existence - I've been a member only the latter 5 - and I'd like to see it grow and become more involved in the community, gain new enthusiastic members, and bring science fiction and fantasy literature back to prominence - particularly with the younger generation who has perhaps forgotten how to read. My ears are always open to your suggestions and comments - I'm in the FACT directory.

It's quite disappointing to me to forgo my trip to Britain this summer, but I plan to do it in '95 and go to World Con in Glasgow. This column was originally going to include my plans and a diary of the trip. In lieu of the diary, I will instead occasionally write about a particular place of interest - or a bit of history, or some trivia. One fellow I want to learn more about, and pass on to you, is Rob Roy - Scotland's Robin Hood. Sir Walter Scott wrote about him. Robert McGregor, who died in 1734 and is buried at Balquhidder near Loch Vail, just south of the Trossachs seems to be Scott's "Rob Roy". I shall pursue the tale and let you know.

I've neglected my Gaelic - I'll get back to it - so I'll give Alex's spell checker a rest and leave you with just a couple of brief phrases: My dear friend - Mo dheagh charaid; With good wishes - Le durrachdan. The beginning and end of a personal letter.

About all the Williams. William I was indeed William the Conqueror. He ruled from 1066 to 1087. One son was William II, also known as Rufus. He ruled from 1087 to 1100, when he was killed by an arrow fired by a good friend, Walter Tyrell. William II was succeeded by his brother Henry I, grandfather of Henry II, who had Thomas à Becket murdered (maybe - Becket was his good friend) and great grandfather to Richard "the Lionheart" and John, sealer of the Magna Charta (Carta). William III ruled jointly with his wife Mary (Hyde) from 1689 to 1694, when she died, then alone until 1702. He was the king who authorized the massacre at Glencoe. There was a William IV from 1830-1837, and the next William is the eldest son of Charles and Diana.

I wonder if many of you have read *Lammas Night* by Katherine Kurtz - either before I recommended it or since. I discussed the Grand Coven which met on that Lammas Night during WW2 that kept Hitler from crossing the English Channel. Now I'll tell you a little about the "Sacrificial King".

There is a belief, or at least a theory, among occultists that each time England has been in a crisis that threatened it as a country, blood of the royal line has had to be shed. It must be either a member of the royal family, or a volunteer who is a close friend who chooses to die as a proxy. To my own knowledge, some of those who shed blood, in theory, were Rufus (killed by a close friend), Becket (close friend of Henry II), and in more modern times, the Earl of Mountbatten, Prince Charles's favorite uncle, and closest friend. I know there are a lot of years, and several crises in between, but I don't know who all of the theoretical "sacrificial kings" are.

This brings me back to *Lammas Night*. Katherine Kurtz, with literary license, gave a fictitious brother to Edward VIII (known as David to his family), George VI (father of Elizabeth II), and the other siblings, and staged his death at the hand of his best friend and confidante, who happened to be a senior member of one of the occult groups (I've lent my book, so rather than make a mistake, I won't try to remember which group). It was the death of this William which caused Hitler to change his mind in this fictitious story.

So far as I know, this William is fictional (he was not the eldest, and therefore not the heir), but using him as a *deus ex machina* representing a true belief was to my mind a bit of brilliant writing.

Books I have read since the last column: among others non-*stiff*, *The Forever War* by Joe Haldeman. Comment, not to be taken as a bias on my part, merely an observation (keeping in mind the present day outspokenness of homosexuals): Joe Haldeman included in this book a theory of man's demise based on what happens when homosexuality is the norm and heterosexuality is considered the perversion. It resulted in Earth becoming, finally, inhabited solely by clones, androids, and other forms of artificial life, and the heterosexual element being banished to other worlds to continue the species naturally. I number a few homosexuals as personal friends and like them for who they are, but I would not like to see a future Earth as Haldeman saw it.

I also read Brad Denton's *Buddy Holly Is Alive and Living On Ganymede* and enjoyed it. It was funny as

some of the blurbs said, but I also found it disturbing and depressing in many ways. I remember all those deaths, and how they affected me. I enjoyed the book a lot, Brad, but it wasn't what I was expecting. *Wrack and Roll* is next.

I also read *To Ride Pegasus* by Anne McCaffrey (not a Pern book). It was about assorted psychic abilities different people had. I enjoyed it quite while learning some new and interesting things about the hidden mind.

At present I am reading *Make Way for Dragons*, the first in a series of three stories. I have the 3rd book, but I need to get the 2nd before I read the 3rd. This series is by Thorarinn Gunnarson, and I like his use of puns and slang, along with his Mindijaran dragons' language - clever mixture.

I've seen only one movie lately - *Sommersby*. I have never seen *The Return of Martin Guerre*, but every review I read was by someone who had, and *Sommersby* suffered by comparison. I'm here to tell you I thought it was a really good movie with Richard Gere and Jodie Foster both outstanding in their roles.

I've mentioned the Mabinogion, which is rather difficult to read, even among pagans who believe in the gods and goddesses written about therein. Shirley Crossland recommended a 4-book series which retells the story in an easier-to-read form by Evangeline Walton. I'm going to look for the series - if you have tried to read the Mabinogion and failed, you might also be interested in this series.

Those who don't read the Austin American Statesman, or who do and don't read L.M. Boyd's column in the Lifestyle section, may be interested in the following.

The Arabic numerals "42" translates in Japanese to "shi ni". Which relates to "shinger", "to die". So the Japan Auto Federation banned the number 42 from any vehicle racing in Japan.

Do you suppose Douglas Adams knew this when he declared that the answer to everything in the universe is 42 (*Goodbye, and Thanks For All the Fish*)? Just a thought.

The University of Texas at Austin offers the following correspondence course.

E367L American Science Fiction

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Covers development of American science fiction from the 1920s to the 1980s. Texts read in this course range from the naive adventure stories of the "pulp era" in the 1920s to the cynical cyberpunk fiction of the 1980s. Basic course structure follows the historical development of the genre. Students also focus on particular themes and various theoretical approaches to science fiction.

Course fee: \$175

Books (through UT): \$38.95

Texts: Silverberg, *Science Fiction Hall of Fame*, Vol. 1, 1970

Warrick et al., *Science Fiction: The SFRA Anthology*, 1988

Leguin, *The Dispossessed*, any edition

Gibson, *Neuromancer*, any edition

You have 1 year to complete the course. The books can be sent to you for the \$38.95 fee (you may already have one or two, but I suspect it is easier just to let UT get them to you).

To find out more, or to enroll, contact: The University of Texas at Austin, EIMC - Independent Learning, PO Box 7700, Austin, TX 78713-7700; 512-471-7716/1-800-2552-3461 (Texas only). Or on campus in the Education Annex between the Texas Swim Center and the Rec Sports Center.

If there are any Austinites interested in taking the course, call me. I think it could be beneficial to study together, and have discussions - a group would be even more interesting. I'm going to register for it, but I'll wait to see if there are any others - say until 1 September.

Incidentally, I was told that one of the stories in the Warrick anthology is "The Birthday" by Nathaniel Hawthorne - I've always thought he could be considered a sf/f writer.

St Patrick's day - at random:

True Irish dancers dance with their arms held straight and unmoving at their sides - this represents English repression. The dancing feet represent Ireland's natural cheerfulness.

There is a legend on how the Scottish Highland Fling came to be. While deer are rutting, the do a mating dance which includes a pirouette on their hind legs, antlers in the air. It seems there was once a soldier who, upon participating in a battle won, did a dance imitative of mating deer in honour of his laird. Modern Highland Fling dancers traditionally dance with a spotlight trained on their hands which do shadow pictures depicting the deers' mating dance. (This came from my Scottish friend John who I mentioned in the last column.)

At present I am working at KUT radio in a temporary job which I hope has become permanent by the time you read this. On St. Paddy's Day, I took a list of Irish phrases to John Ailee of Eklektikos to read over the air during the course of his shift - expecting to help him with the pronunciation. Instead, I went on the air with him, and as he said the English I said the Irish. I allowed my name and phone number to be used, and got some potential students for the group I study with.

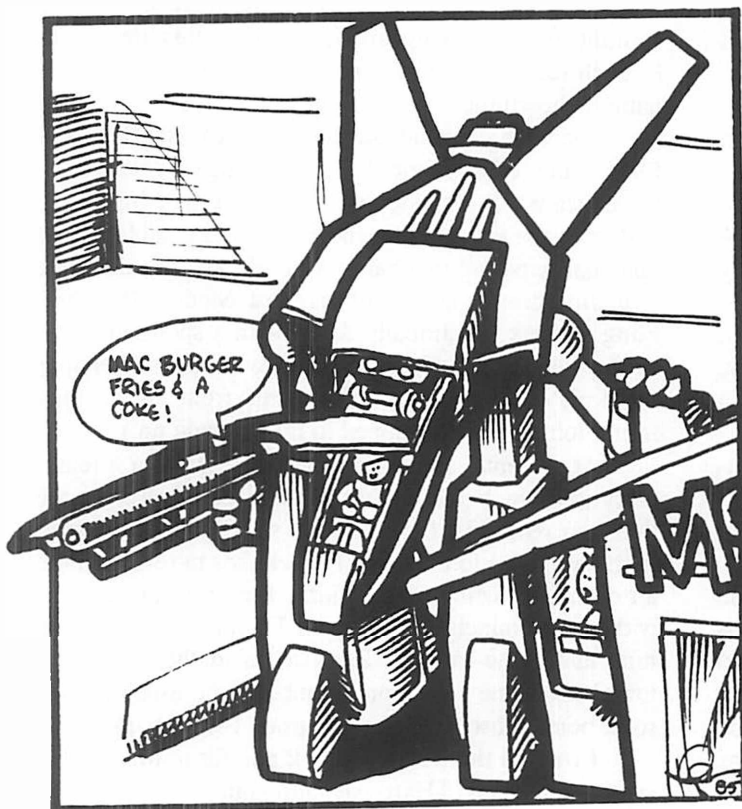
I went to the Dog and Duck pub for a little while - even drank a cup of Harp Ale, although I'm not a beer or ale drinker. The Silver Thistle Pipe and Drum band was there - they are actually Scots, but they played a lot of purely Irish tunes as well. Also Rich Brotherton and Ed

Miller. Ed is from Edinburgh, lives in Austin with his wife, Nora - we have mutual friends; Rich is American (not sure if an Austinite), married to Kathryn, and is considered the "best" guitar player in town - he won an Austin Music Award that same night as Best Acoustic Guitar Player - not his first, I'm told. They are also new parents. Hair of the Dog was there, an Austin Celtic band. I didn't stay late - it was too crowded and too smoky - even in a tent set up in the parking lot. But I had a really great time while I was there.

A stray female cat I've been feeding for 3 years has recently (March 1) dropped another litter - her last, for I shall see to that. I have her and her 3 babies in a box in a closet, and will be needing homes for the 3 little ones about mid-April. If you or anyone you know is interested in providing a home for any of these babies, please contact me. I already have two of my own, and can't keep any more in my small apartment (Mama Kitty goes back outside as soon as she is fixed and well). There are 2 black and white (female, I think) and 1 grey and white (male, I think). It's really a little early to be certain of the sexes.

LOC's about this column go to The Inquirer. Personal comments, suggestions, or criticisms can be sent to me at 1817 E. Olmorf #2012, Austin TX 78741.

Beannacht leat.



From Boondock Central, from page 4

of maturity slowly gained, a little faster as time has progressed. But let's concentrate on the more recent times. Almost six years ago I got married. I also became a step-father. Life sort of has a way of intruding on you. Economic reality can rule your life when there's a family involved, much more so than when you're single. We've gone through some lean times, Laurel and I, to a some degree we still are. It has greatly influenced how I spend my time and what I can do in regards to leisure time. That's why I don't attend a lot of conventions, that combined with the fact that my family is spread out over the US (from coast to coast) and much of our vacation time and resources go to visiting family.

But what I do is influenced by wanting to spend time with my family, not just because of money (I've written about all this before). When you spend from 7 to 5 away from the house 5 days a week, and the kids go to sleep at 8 or 9, well, if you want to actually spend time with the kids and do things with them it takes up weekends. That has also cut into my fannish activities.

There's also the future to look forward to. The latest item in this area is that I have just filed for a place on the ballot for the Judson Independent School District School Board (Place 6). Why? Because Josh is in second grade this year, and the girls start kindergarten this August. Their future will be guided, if not determined, by the environment they face in school and the education they receive there. I want to make sure that it's the best one possible. I am no longer content to sit on the sidelines and do nothing. Do I expect to win? Not really, but there's a chance, and if nothing else I will have made the effort. If I am elected I will have the opportunity to do something that will make a real difference. If I am not elected, it's not the last election. There will be other chances.

This is the legacy of the latest presidential election to me. The will and desire to really get involved. I don't expect much from being on the school board, other than aggravation and self-satisfaction. Yet it's time for our generation to really stand up and be counted, in a constructive manner, working from the inside. Making the system in our own image. If we succeed there is much to gain. If we don't, we will have no one to blame but ourselves.

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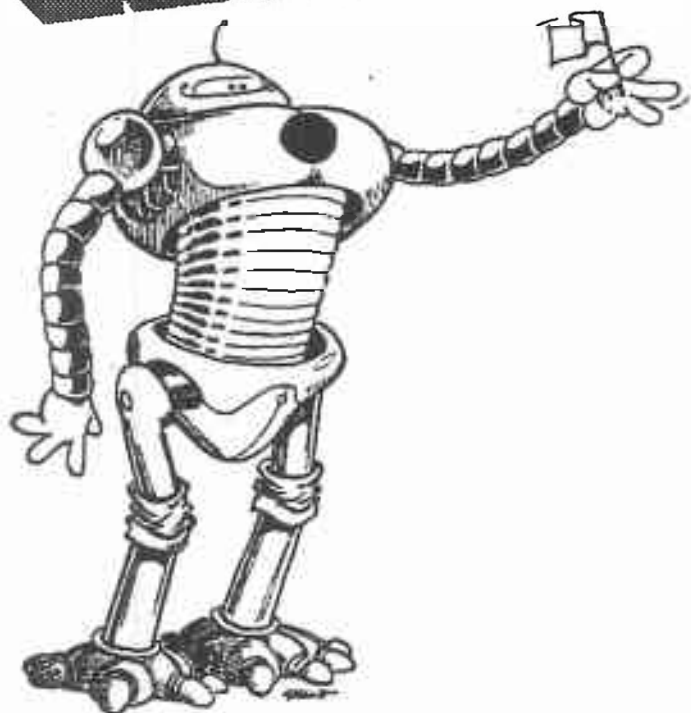
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John Douglas

Toastmaster
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Memberships: \$20.00 until May 30, 1993, \$25.00 until September 30, 1993
For memberships or more information (please send SASE):
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Alex on Art:

'Dillo Con & Sooner Con

by Alexander R. Slate

The artist guest of honor at Armadillo Con was well known cover artist Darrell Sweet.

Cover art is very difficult to do properly. Many of the things that make a good painting are non- or counter-productive in cover art (in the eyes of marketing directors anyway). There is a problem that much of the space in a piece of cover art will be 'wasted' by being covered up by lettering. So no detail of any importance can be put in that area. Darrell Sweet has been doing cover art long enough to know how to deal with these problems.

One of the things that Darrell does is to draw your attention right where he wants is. He does this by using lighter, more vibrant colors in a picture's foreground and darker colors in the background. Darrell works in acrylics and has a good color sense, handles textures well and has a proper sense of perspective in the pictures (as opposed to Alan Clarke, whose works I reviewed last issue).

But the one thing that makes Darrell Sweet a cover ARTIST as opposed to many who simply draw covers is that the characters in the works interact with each other. An important element of this interaction is that they look at each other; rather than at something off-canvas. A good example is the cover for the L. Sprague deCamp book, A Fallible Fiend. The demon looks at the wizard. The wizard (who is giving a lecture of some sort) is looking at the item he is talking about. The apprentice (or servant?) who is carrying the books is looking at the same thing as the wizard.

Another example is "Mourvar's Magic", which has two dragons and a human. While we cannot see what the human is looking at (we assume it's the dragons) the two dragons are looking at each other. This is done by having the dragon which mostly faces away from you, the viewer, turning its head and neck dramatically. Something which couldn't be done with people, but which looks natural on a dragon.

Not as well executed is "Strange and Ancient Name". The central figure is looking off-canvas, and we don't know whether he should or not. In the background is a bound figure who is looking at the central figure. Two other figures, foreground of the central figure have their heads turned towards you. In other words half of the characters interact, the other half don't.

There were many other works that Darrell exhibited at Armadillo Con, but I only want to comment on

one other piece; the rough for The Fallible Fiend. I find it interesting when artists show roughs or studies along with a finished piece. It gives insight into the creative process. The rough here is very rough. The finished work has a less cluttered foreground, the characters are positioned very differently; it's a more light-hearted piece (in keeping with the tone of the book) and is a much more successful work than if Darrell had stuck with his original ideas. The moral here is "don't be afraid to throw out early ideas if they don't work."

On to Sooner Con, always a good convention for art. I don't know how sales were this year, but I always have a good time talking to the various artists I've met there to see how things are going.

One artist whose work I saw for the first time at Sooner Con this year was Susan Van Camp. She showed 15 works; many were photoprints, though there were some originals. Bill Hodgson pointed her work out to me. There is some good work here, quite a bit of potential, but I can also see that she needs a lot more practice. There were no dates on the works, so I couldn't tell whether the varied quality was a sign of improvement over time or just chance.

Let me pose a question to you, the readers. If you were reviewing or critiquing someone's work would you start with the good points or the things that need improvement? This is always a bit of a quandary for me. In this case I'll choose the former.

One of the better pieces that Ms Van Camp showed was "Winged Belle", an acrylic and oils original. This piece illustrated one of the better aspects of this artist's work, her sense of line and use of non-linear form. The physiology is just a little off though, but not badly in this work. A 'better' example (or more properly, a 'worse' example) of this problem is "Snake Tamer", here the central figure is much too flat, too 2-dimensional.

"Winged Belle" is also one of the few pieces that has any background. "Golden Winged Leopard" is another. The style used is what I call "out take panel", the background is diptyched or triptyched into separate panels while the central figure is separate and spans several (or all) of the panels, usually in the foreground. It is a style more suited to illustrations than picture-painting and one which I have been seeing more of in the recent past. It does have its charm, but its novelty is beginning to wear thin and in some respects shows a laziness. In Ms Van Camp's case it comes from her comics background, and is an adaption of panel layout style.

Susan Van Camp's work may be classified into 4 types. The first is represented by "Golden Winged Leopard", "Winged Belle", and "Snow Leopard Mood" (discussed more later). These works are more complete

than the rest, they have backgrounds. They are to some degree perhaps an expansion on the other three types.

The second are 'playing card' works. "Scarlet Faun", "Silver Faun", and "Red Queen" are representative of this type. These are busts with a lot of border work. "Scarlet Faun" is to flat a piece. Both "Silver Faun" and "Red Queen" are better, more realistic, works. But for different reasons. "Silver Faun" is better due to color choice. The reds and oranges of "Scarlet Faun" don't provide enough contrast. "Silver Faun" uses silvers, greys, and yellows. As a result things like the figure's cheekbones are better defined. With "Red Queen" (which uses the same type of color scheme as "Scarlet Faun") it's the pose; the figure is turned slightly, where in the other two pieces the busts are shown straight on.

The third type of Van Camp's work is cat pieces such as "Air Raid" and "Stare Down". Good use of curvature and non-linear form, but they would be better if they had some background.

The fourth type of work is the furry anthropomorphic pieces. You know the type, cat and fox women. This type of work has a market and its fans. But I find them too cute. The other problem with these (Van Camp's) works are that they are too stiff and posed (bad cover style).

Susan Van Camp has a way to go. One problem is the lack of backgrounds in many pictures. These pictures lack a perspective, there's no characterization to the pieces, they are just figures.

I've already mentioned that she needs to work on her physiology. She also needs to work on her eyes. Eyes are the windows of the soul, and the eyes in most of these drawings are dead.

As a result, when the figures aren't looking at you the pictures work better. A good example is the best picture in this showing, "Snow Leopard Mood". The two figures are in repose looking off into the distance, not interacting with you, the viewer, and interacting with each other only by their contact. This is good, because the final area where Ms Van Camp needs work is to have the characters interact better. Little things like having two characters look into each others' eyes. She doesn't do this with "Snake Tamer" or with "Varcel's Vixens #1".

As I said earlier, Ms Van Camp needs a lot of work. But the potential is there. If she can put the different elements of the various pictures together and learn a few more items then she can be an artist we can all enjoy.

One place that Ms van Camp might turn to see how to do things right is Kevin Hopkins. Kevin had one piece in the Sooner Con art show really worthy of

comment. This was "Nefertiti's Window"; a remarked artist's proof (minimum bid \$100, quick sale \$160).

The picture consists of three elements: a wall, a window with a starscape, and a cat who sits in the window. Kevin has managed to give the wall a nice realistic texture, and the drawings are well done. Also well done is the way he integrates his signature into the picture as part of the wall carvings.

There is only one thing wrong with this picture, that is that the perspective on the window is somehow off. The starscape behind it is bright and colorful. It provides a brilliant contrast to the near monochromatic combination of wall and cat, yet it doesn't distract you from the rest of the picture. This is due in great extent to the careful placement of the cat in the window.

The cat shows a practiced artist. The musculature is well drawn and the eyes are very striking.

Another element, part of the whole effect, as opposed to the picture itself, is the presentation. The print is double matted and set forward in a box frame. On the outer mat are drawn two stylized Egyptian cats who face each other across a 3-D scarab set back within the matting, deeper in the frame. The print itself is a good piece of work, but the presentation enhances it.



Trades Listing

Austin Writer Feb 1993, March 1993

ed. Judy Barrett; Austin Writers' League, 1501 West 5th, #E-2, Austin, TX 78703.

Canadian Progress Report #3

Crash Jan 1993

Miles Pointdexter, John Labovitz, 519 Castro Street #7, San Francisco, CA 94114. If you like travelling on the cheap and don't mind staying with relative strangers, you might want to read this. Did have a fascinating tale of one of the editor's trips.

DASFax Feb 93, Mar 93

eds. Fred Cleaver & Rose Beeter; Denver Area SFA, c/o eds., 153 W. Ellsworth Ave., Denver, CO 80223-1623. Clubzine.

File 770 #96

Mike Glyer 5828 Woodman Ave #2, Van Nuys, CA 91401. Mike reviews ArmadilloCon very favorably.

FOSFax #163

ed. Tim Lane; Falls of Ohio SFA, POB 37281, Louisville, KY 37281. Elizabeth Garrott joins Tim as co-editor. Tim is getting a bit more strident in his political messages. The convention reviews and the loccol shine.

Instant Message #525, 526

NESFA, POB 809, Framingham, MA 01701-0203. #526 shows that occasionally someone can write some minutes that you can read without dust in your mouth.

Journal for Space Development Feb 93, Mar 93

ed. Richard Braastad; Houston Space Society, POB 266151, Houston, TX 77307-6151. Space news and articles, informative but dry.

The Knarley Knews #38

Henry L. Welch, 5538 N. Shasta Dr., Glendale, WI 53209-4925. Knarley on smoking and odor and Todd "Sydrous" Barlow on the Bristlecone Forest round out this issue.2

Matrix #103

eds. Jenny & Steve Glover; British SFA, c/o editors, 16 Aviary Place, Leeds LS12 2NP, UK. News concerning the club and the sf scene with convention reviews and letters. Some interesting stuff to read but the layout needs work.

Mimosa #13

Dick & Nicki Lunch, POB 1350, Germantown, MD 20875. The 1992 Hugo winner continues with the same format. Tales of earlier days in the lives of fen.

The Möbius Strip Jan 93

ed. Richard Brandt; El Paso SF&F Alliance, POB 3177, El Paso, TX 79923. Clubzine.

OASFIS Event Horizon Feb 93, Mar 93

ed. Louise Kleba; Orlando Area SFS, POB 940992, Maitland, FL, 332794-0992. Feb, Kimiye Tipton comments on TV and movies. Michael Gilbrook (from the Metro Orlando Space Society) writes about oxygen from lunar rocks. March is more of the same kind of stuff.

Opuntia #11.1, 11.5, 12

Dale Spiers, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta T2P 2E7. The fanzine review version (11.1). In 11.5 Dale comments on life and unusual names. The most regular irregularly-published fanzine in the world. #12 is back to Canadian fan-history, Winnipeg from 1949-1984 this time.

PSFS News Feb 1993, March 1993

ed. Carol Kabakjian; Philadelphia SFS, POB 8303, Philadelphia, PA 19101. Clubzine.

Rambling Way #27, 28

W. Andrew York, POB 2307, Universal City, TX 78148-1307. Diplomacy zine with some interesting commentary on the game and on real life diplomacy.

Riverside Quarterly V.9, #1

Leland Sapiro, Box 958, Big Sandy, TX 75755. A new address. As close as fanzines come to an academic journal. Includes part II of Justin Leiber's article on his father, Fritz.

Scavenger's Newsletter #109

Janet Fox, 519 Ellinwood, Osage City, KS 66523-1329. Small press news.

Science Fiction #32, 33

Dr. Van Ikin, Department of English, University of Western Australia, Nedlands, W.A. 6009 Australia What RQ strives to become. Though Damien Broderick's article in #32 is nigh unreadable, Hal Colebatch's article on Tolkien in #33 is fascinating.

SF Convention Register Spring 1993

Erwin S. Strauss, Box 3343, Fairfax, VA 22038. The seminal place for convention info.

SFSFS Shuttle #95

eds. Don Cochran & Fran Mullen; South Florida SFS, POB 70143, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143. Clubzine.

Shon'ai #33

Sondra C. Morrese, Rural Rte 2 - Box 553, Rolla, MO 65401. Sondra's moving to Washinton DC sometime this year so look for an address change. Everything relates to CJ Cherryh.

Situation Normal?? V. 3, #1 & 2

eds. Ken Forman & John Hardin; Southern Nevada Area FFU, POB 95491, Las Vegas, NV 89193-5941. Clubzine.

Stet #7

Leah Zeldes & Dick Smith, 17 Kerry Lane, Wheeling IL 60090-6415. A lot about fanzine pubbing and much more. Has a loccol approaching **FOSFax** size, though less political. Rapidly becoming one of the best fanzines around.

Stone Hill Launch Times Jan, Feb. & Mar 93

ed. Ann Morris; Stone Hill, PO Box 2076, Riverview, FL 33569.

The Unintelligencer #9 (Winter 93)

Embassy of Planet Claire, POB 3194, Bellingham WA 98227. Definitely strange, certainly not politically correct fanzine. Some-times a bit too crass for my tastes.

Voice of the Clam #8 (January 1993)

ed. Linda Deneroff; Seattle Westercon Committee, POB 24292, Seattle, WA 98124. I think this is a new editor. I think that ev-eryone that says they want to work on a con should read Yvonne V. Richardson's article first.

New or Notable

BCSFazine #236, 237

A new zine, hardly, but there is a new address:BCSFA. c/o PO Box 48478 Bentall Centre, Vancouver, BC, Canada V7X 1A2. R. Graeme Cameron is still the editor. #237 has a cover by Laurel.

Cacophany Feb 93

ed. Belinda Anderson, 9819 W 85th, Overland Park, KS 66212; Kansas City SFFS. A new editor. This issue didn't seem to have the same feel to it.

Cry Havoc Feb 93

Guest editor Jan Bishop; National Assoc for SF, PO Box 2838, Wellington, NZ. Going through some editorial changes. The contents seem unaffected, though.

De Profundis #250, 251

ed. Tim Merrigan; LASFS, 11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601. A new editor. This issue has a very different look, including both format and contents. Of late the meeting minutes haven't been as amusing. But they're adding stuff other than minutes.

Klarn Rays 2

A little (very little) eight pager that came with *Rune*. Just illos.

It's a Wonderful Ish

Andrew Hooper, the Starlitter, 4228 Francis Ave., N #103, Seattle, WA 98103. "What would be a more natural theme for a fanzine written by two Jews and an Atheist about Christmas?" Read this zine.

The Journal of Regional Criticism (unnumbered)

Joseph Uphoff, 1025 Garner St., D. Space 18, Colorado Springs, CO 80905-1774. A review of a musical duo and a poem.

Rune 84

ed. Jeff Schalles; MinnStf, PO Box 8297, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis, MN 55408. This fanzine has an editorial quadrum-virate, who rotate control. This issue was very late but worth waiting for. Too much to describe, just read it.

Smart Ash #53

ed. Tom Feller; Chumneyville F&SF Soc, c/o tom Feller, Box 13626, Jackson, MS 39236. Another club in trouble due to badly declining membership and a lack of interest. The most interesting item (among several) was Berislav Pinjuh's letter. Berislav is a Croatian fan, a medical student who got caught up in the fighting there. This letter talks about a trip into Bosnia to bring relatives to safety. Berislav sure has grown up a whole lot since we first cor-responded five years or so ago.

Spent Brass #15, 16, 17

Mark Manning, 1709 South Holgate, Seattle, WA 98144. #15 & 16 are four pagers dealing with different things, Much having to do with fanzines. #16 has Ted White's views on Harry Warner's "A Wealth of Fable." #17 is 10 pages long, 3 pages of fanzine review, 6 of loccol, and the backcover which has an ode to mimeo machines.

Sticky Quarters #21

Brian Earl Brown (see below). The major item chronicles the arrival of Sarah Brown.

Vector #170

chief ed. Catie Cary; British SFA (c/o Matrix, above). Another pub from the BSFA. This one deals with criticism of the printed word. Lots of reviews, but also has a tribute to Arthur C Clarke. Has the same type of layout problems as its co-zine.

The Whole Fanzine Catalog #30

Brian Earl Brown, 11675 Beaconsfield, Detroit, MI 48224. Basically, just what the title says. A listing of different fanzines with addresses and contents. The first one of these to be pubbed by Brian in a long time.



Conventional

April 30 - May 2 **Roc-Kon 17**

?, Little Rock, AR

Guests: Suzette Haden ELgin, Mary Hanson-Roberts, Greg & Angela Bridges

Info: \$15 until April 16, POB 24285, Little Rock AR 72221, (501)370-0889

May 28-30 **ConQuest 24**

Park Place Hotel, KC, MO

Guests: James P Hogan, Steven Gould, Nick Smith, Parris

Info: \$18, Box 36212, Kansas City, MO 64111

June 4-6 **ThunderCon 3**

Central Plaza Hotel, Oklahoma City, OK

Guests: Robert O'Reilly, Rick Sternbach, Sylvester McCoy (maybe)

Info: ?, 207 Americana Ct., Norman, OK 73069

June 18-29 **New Orleans Science Fiction and Fantasy Festival**

Clarion Hotel New Orleans, New Orleans, LA

Guests: Robert Silverberg, Bob Eggleton, Walter Jon Williams

Info: \$? (probably \$20), PO Box 791089, New Orleans, LA 70179-1089

July 23-26 **Cluefest '93 (A Mystery Con)**

Dallas, TX

Guests: Susan Rogers Cooper, Marvin Lachman, Jan Grape

Info: \$50, 4516 Lovers Lane #127, Dallas, TX 75225

Aug 20-22 **Bubonicon 25**

Albuquerque, NM

Guests: Kevin J. Anderson, Ann Marie Eastburn

Info: \$16 until Feb 28, NMSF Conference, POB 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176

Sep 2-6, 1993 **Con Fransisco (Worldcon 51)**

Parc Fifty Five & Le Meridien Hotels, SF, CA

Guests: Larry Niven, Jan Howard Finder, Alicia Austin, Tom Digby, Guy Gavriel Kay

Info: PO Box 22097, San Fransisco, CA 94122; memberships are \$110 until 1 April, then \$125.

Sep 1-5, 1994 **Canadian (Worldcon 52)**

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Guests: Anne McCaffrey, George Barr, Barry Longyear, Robert Runte

Info: \$85 until Sep 93, \$25 supporting. PO Box 2430, Winnipeg MB, Canada R3C 4A7

July 13-16, 1995 **NASFiC**, Atlanta, GA

Guests: Bjo Trimble, Tim Zahn, Michael Whelan, Orson Scott Card, George Alec Effinger

Info: \$30 until Sep 15, 1993. PO Box 47696, Atlanta, GA 30362.

Aug 24 - 28, 1995 **Intersection (Worldcon 53)**

Scottish Exh & Conf Center, Glasgow Scotland

Guests: Samuel R. Delany, Gerry Anderson

Info: PO Box 15430, Washington DC 20003-4030.

WORLDCON BIDS:

1996 - Los Angeles, CA

1997 - San Antonio, TX, St. Louis, MO & Adrain's House

1998 - Boston, MA, Baltimore, MD & Niagara Falls, NY

1999 - Portland, OR & Melbourne, Australia

2000 - Kansas City, KS & Jerusalem, Isreal

2001 - Chicago, IL

WESTERCON BIDS

1996 - El Paso, TX

2001 - Chico, CA



Letters, We Get Letters

Dale Speirs
Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2E7

1993-1-19

INQUIRER #48 is at hand. Dale Denton wonders why no one will take a hand in a military solution for Bosnia-Hertzegovina, as was done for Kuwait. Well, the most obvious explanation that springs to mind is geography. Allied forces in Iraq were fighting on open plains. There was no place for anyone to hide. But if the U.N. forces move against Serbia, they will be fighting in the mountains. There won't be any tanks lining up targets from ten kilometers away. Any beach landings will immediately be faced with the Dinaric Alps, which are up to 2500 metres high. Sarajevo is an easy target for Serbs hidden in the surrounding mountains. And so will be the infantry of U.N. forces slogging their way through the passes. I suspect the only successful method will be to bring the war home to the Serbs by air attacks on Serbian cities in their heartland, which is so far safe and sound. Let them get a taste of their own medicine, and they might sue for peace.

It may also be harder to collect yet another Allied group together. Not to mention politics; Canada's Prime Minister is married to a Serb. Brian and Mila certainly do not approve of the current situation, but she was picketed by protesters during a Calgary visit nonetheless.

Carol Stepp's articles on the Gaelic are of interest to me, Speirs being a Lowlander name. Nothing to do with the illiterate oatmeal savages who spoke Gaelic though. (And now over to you, Andruschak ...) I have a small library of Johnson and Boswell books, so the Hebrides material caught my eye, and I checked my copy of Boswell's *TOUR TO THE HEBRIDES*. No mention of Callnish, but on the general subject of standing stones, Johnson remarked that "... to go and see one is only to see that it is nothing, for there is neither art nor power in it, and seeing one is as much as one could wish." I am told there is an entire industry of Johnson-and-Boswell tours through the Hebrides, following in their footsteps.

With Regards,

I agree with you regarding the potential military problems of the former Yugoslavia. Tito kept pressure on the Nazi's for years. As regards the political situation; the problem with Bosnia and Croatia is that supposedly it's an intra-country problem as opposed to Iraq/Kuwait which was inter-country

Lloyd Penney
412-4 Lisa St., Brampton, ON, Canada L6T 4B6

January 23, 1993

Dear Dale and Alex:

Another issue of *TSFI* has arrived, number 48, and it looks quite interesting, just from the initial scan...I haven't received this fanzine for long, but congrats to you, Dale, on your run as co-faned. When you get your own fanzine going be sure to send me a copy.

The New World Order is a strange one, indeed. The UN hasn't moved into Bosnia the way it moved into Iraq because Iraq threatened US interests, and the Serbs don't. Also, there's more than just two sides in this dispute, and there appears to be some hope for settlement. There was none with Iraq and Kuwait. Besides, the action by the US came about through Iraqi expansionism and stupidity and Kuwaiti lies. Now, if Bosnia had oil, I think the situation would be different. Besides, the American military has pestered enough Muslims in Iraq; pestering the Muslims in Serbia might appear to be religious persecution. American troops make up the lion's share of the UN troops, certainly, because the USA has the biggest and best-equipped army, and America volunteers for these missions to keep this awkward military machine from rusting. It took long enough to build it, and with the Soviet Union simply going away, the ultimate victory has been taken away. Gotta do something to make the military look good.

Kathy Gallagher must have lost my address; I haven't seen *QSD* for a while. *Rune* seems to have gone away again; I guess the four-editor system fizzled before it could take flight. I might be able to give you some good news in March when the Canadian Aurora Awards are given out...I've been nominated for an award for the third straight year, but for the first time, Yvonne has been, too. Worst thing is we're literally competing against each other in the same category. I hope we tie for first...

Good luck, Dale...Alex, are you set to edit this beast all by your lonesome, or are you looking for a new co-faned. Let's hope there are local fans who can be volunteered into the position. Thanks for sending this issue to me, and please keep them coming.

Yours

Lloyd, I think you've oversimplified the situation in the former Yugoslavia. Some of what you say does have merit, but I think you might have engaged in a wee bit of hyperbole. But, I do hope that someone else responds other than meself.

Haven't received QSD in a while, either. And I never did have any faith that Minn Stf's rotating editorship would work well. Yep, I'm gonna do it by myself. The problem with a 'local' co-ed is that he/she probably wouldn't be local. That was a problem with Dale and me editing together. We live about 5 hours apart by car.

Harry Andruschak

17 February

PO Box 5309, Torrance, CA 90510-5309

Dear Alex:

Received TSFI-48 las week. Sorry for this hand-written loc.

2 weeks ago, my supervisor informed me that I was to attend a post office school in Norman, Oklahoma from 15 February to 6 March/

I was hoping to bring along my typewriter, and all the fanzines I need to loc. and be all caught up! by 5 March.

Alas, last Friday my typewriter broke down, and is now in the repair shop. I called around to other fans, but none had a portable typewriter. So I came to Norman with all the correspondance, and hope to locate a typewriter soon.

There is a typewriter shop in Norman, but I have no transportation to get there from the post office training facility I am at. I am working on this problem.

Until then, back to pen and paper.

Evene so, if I do obtain a typewriter, and get all caught up by 6 March, so what? I return home to 3 weeks of piled up mail in my PO Box.

And I go on a 3 week vacation to Seattle 15 March - 4 April. I come to another 3 weeks of mail. Sigh...

My next perzine is planned to be a report on my 3 week vacation in March, which also includes attending the Norwescon.

Norwescon will probably be the only non-LA convention I attend this year. Lack of money has caused me to cancel all plans to attend Corflu, Westercon, or Worldcon.

Page 10. Add Australia (Melbourne) to the 1999 Worldcon bids.

To update my loc...I have learned enough about DOS to run the post office lette machines. As for BBS work, I stop by my brother's house once a week to log in on "Recovernet", an outfit for those in 12-step groups. I will 9 years sober on 17 March.

But given my current financial situation, I see no prospect for buying my own computer system this year. Maybe next year.

That is all for now, my wrist is sooo tired.

I don't do any BBS work at all. The new computer has a modem, but its not located conveniently to any wall jacks. If you've never used a computer not having one is no inconvenience. My problem was I was getting

spoiled at work, using Windows and Word for Windows. I wanted to be able to interchange using the office and home computers. Now I can. Occaisionally I bring work home with me and occaisionally I do a little fanzine stuff on the office computer.

I can sympathize with the lack of money. Laurel and I are almost caught up with our debts, but there still doesn't seem to be a lot of extra money. I wonder where it all goes.

Tom Feller

February 18, 1993

see trades listing

Dear Alex,

Thank you for sending the issue.

As you know, I have no qualms about contributing to Smart-Ash, which I also edit. I will, of course, jettison any articles by myself in favor of other contributors. Like you and Dale, I find it easier to obtain artwork than articles. I have found that contributors have to be cultivated. You cannot sit back and passively wait for them to send you material.

When Dale recommends that the U.N. threaten to use force against Serbia, he is assuming that the former Soviet Union will not veto a U.N. Security Council resolution to that effect. This is a shaky assumption, because Russian nationalists are putting pressure on Boris Yeltsin to veto any such resolution. I think Saddam Hussein assumed that the Soviet Union would oppose U.S. military action in the Persian Gulf, but Mikhail Gorbachev considered relations with the U.S. more important than those with Iraq.

I enjoyed Carol Stepp's article, although she fails to mention that by tradition Robin Hood was a Saxon, not a Celt. I also share her problem of mundanes identifying me as a Star Trek fan, when I am really a fan of science fiction and fantasy.

Thanks for your letter, Tom. I'll let Carol comment on the Robin Hood issue.

Brian Earl Brown

February 23, 1993

11675 Beaconsfield, Detroit, MI 48224

Dear Dale and Alexander:

Thanks for sending the new issue of TSFI. I think I've finally gotten the address for it corrected in my address files so copies of SQ21 and WoFan 30 should be arriving soon. Keeping up with addresses is the part of being a fan-ed that I find hardest to do, probably because it's too easy to put off till later then ever get around to doing. On the reverse side of this what I've been doing lately [The reverse side was a picture of Brian with his brand new baby daughter, Sarah. Congratulations, Brian. - Alex]. Sarah's got me making faces and

speaking in voices - in public - which I thought I'd never do.

Someone might mention to Carol Stepp that she narrowly avoided the Vanity Press people. That publisher who was interested in her children's fantasy, but wanted her to subsidize the printing of her book could only be vanity publishers. They won't pay for printing her book nor will they help sell it to retailers, they just want her money for printing it. And they will print anybody's book -- they'll subsidize the printing.

Sorry to hear that Dale is stepping down as editor but will welcome his career as an article writer. There really aren't many people today who like to write articles for fanzines. It seems like people are either interested enough in fanzines that they want to publish their own, or they're not interested at all.

The end of the Cold War, heralded as the "end of history" seems to have unleashed tribal vengeance all over the world long bottled up by various strong-man rules supported by one or the other of the World Powers. There are almost too many fires to hope to put them all out and most look to be too intractable to even try. Sad to say but the "end of history" looks like it will generate far more history than the Cold War ever did.

Regards

Amazing what little babes can do to you, isn't it? Don't worry, you're not the only one - of course, I was making silly faces and using silly voices in public long before I ever became a father. Just ask my friends.

By the way, did you know that Sarah is one of the 5 most popular names for girls of this generation? We know that when we named our Sarah (She is named after my grandmother, in the Jewish tradition). There are several ways of spelling it though, and the spelling you and I use isn't the most common.

Here's an interesting point -- one of the jobs that John Dalmas had was working for a vanity publisher as a re-write man.

It's true, what you say about fanzine articles. I've tried to cultivate the FACT members, and it seems to be working some. Both Carol Stepp and Robert Reedy have recently begun writing for TSFI. I enjoy writing articles for 'zines, too, though I have a lot less time for it than I used to. If you want something for SQ of WoFan, drop me a line and let me know if you have anything in particular in mind. I always work best if someone suggests the topic.

I disagree, as do you, with the end of the Cold War being the "end of history". I personally thought that Bush's statement of the US being "the sole remaining superpower" parochial and snobbish; as if the contributions of our friends and allies have meant nothing and that superpower status has only to do with military

might and the willingness to face down anyone who disagrees with you.

Yet I applaud the use of the military to help around the world in situations such as Somalia, Bangladesh, and Bosnia. I wonder about a couple of matters, though. Such as; one, how many of these conflicts can we get involved with at one time, without expending so much of our resources that the American economy suffers? Two, is there a limit to the risk we should take and the losses that are reasonable and acceptable in order to try to save the lives of others? And three, whether to assume the role of the world's policeman isn't a bit arrogant, before we have our act at home straightened out? (I'll comment after I get a little feedback on what I believe.)

There's also something I heard on the radio today (though in a different context) that applies. The speaker said that freedom should include the freedom to kill yourself. What do you think about that? And to what point do we (other nations) have a right to interfere in what is the internal affairs of a sovereign state. Remember that Yugoslavia viewed the succession of the various republics as illegal. We had that sort of situation here in the US, it was called the Civil War, and we wouldn't have appreciated anyone else's participation then.

Joseph Nicholas

18 March 1993

5A Frinton Road, Stamford Hill, London N15 6NH, UK

Dear Alexander,

You suggest, in Texas SF Inquirer 48B, that I'm in error in referring to William of Orange as William I. I'd defend myself by suggesting that this is partly a matter of perspective - my source was John Prebble's The Lion In The North, a history of Scotland by a Scottish author, and from a Scottish perspective William of Orange, otherwise William III, was William I of Scotland. The previous two Williams, William the Conqueror and his son William Rufus, were kings only of England. Different countries, different traditions - and as a half-Scot, I am proud to remind people of these differences

Yours,

I sit corrected.

We Also Heard From

Henry L. Welch, "Your content/quality seems to be improving back to your old standards. Keep it up!"

Joseph W. Toti, Esq.

Katharine Kimbriel

Kai Nygaard (a catalog)

R'ykandar Korra'ti (address)

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