

# The Texas SF Inquirer

Issue 48 B

Feb 1993



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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**

## Howdy

Welcome to the 1993's first issue. Yes, I goofed, this is the real #48. The last issue, marked #48 was really #47. It wasn't mailed out until January, but it was ready by the end of December, '92. This year marks the 10th anniversary of TSFI, and the 50th issue (June). For official purposes, that issue will mark both events.

The year holds lots of changes in store for us all. For TSFI, the biggest change is that I am now the sole editor of *The Inquirer*. As most are aware, Dale Denton will be taking a hiatus of at least a year. Whether he plans on returning later as editor has not yet been determined.

Other than that, don't expect things to change to much. The last couple of issues have been over 16 pages long. This is a trend which I hope will continue. What else? The proofreading may suffer, but that's about all.

Our trade list continues to grow. Some are trades that I'm asking for, the majority are requests from outside. This means we're starting to get attention elsewhere and that's a good sign.

But, you will notice that the content is actually on the thin side. I will be taking some measures to decrease the room taken up by the trades list and the other non-article features, but the number of articles in this issue wasn't limited by room, it was limited by the number of items I had submitted. In other words, submit!

Advertising in TSFI. Rates per issue are:

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## From Boondock Central:

### Expectations

editorial by Alexander R. Slate

It took me a while to pick what to write about. I'm still not sure exactly what this column is going to be about. There's lots of stuff going on, more than enough to write several editorials, but ...

Our new computer has lead to some observations about my children and about how we develop. With the computer, Laurel and I bought a game called The Play-room (Broderbund) for the girls, and one called Read and Roll (Davison & Associates) for Josh. We had Reader Rabbit (The Learning Company); bought when Josh was younger, to teach him letters. And I found some share-ware stuff for kids that I'd had for some time, most notably Animal Math and Alphabet.

We bought Read and Roll because though Josh is learning to read fairly well, we found that he was just reading because we had told him that it was important to learn how to read. But, he wasn't reading for content. This also meant that he wasn't reading for enjoyment. He couldn't tell you about what he read, or what the important points of a story were later. He prefers being read to than reading himself.

Now Josh is not a dumb kid, but something was definitely missing from what we and the school were teaching him. He has become the typical video-oriented child of the 80s and 90s. I still don't know whether he has yet learned the joy of reading, but his reading skills have improved.

Sarah took to the computer like a hacker born. Just watching me for two days, she learned how to turn the computer on and get into any of the programs by herself. Something which amazed me. She knows which letter is which. She is starting to get a handle on letters sound and has a good start on logic. Reader Rabbit has a game where the child has to build a train from a successive series of choices, picking the answer which has two of the same letters as the answer which preceded it. It only took Sarah two nights to pick this one up. The Playroom also has a counting game where the child has to pick one of three die rolls and beat another character around the board. This

involves knowing which number is largest, but there's a trick: on the board are buttons (black or white). The black buttons make you go back-wards 'n' amount of spaces, the white ones forward 'n' extra spaces. The child has to learn that sometimes the largest number isn't the best. It took Sarah about four tries to grasp this.

With Animal Math we confirmed that Sarah could count up to 13. She also discovered and understands the concepts of addition and subtraction and what the + and - sign mean. That took her about 30 minutes to grasp.

Melissa is like Josh, she plays for the entertainment value, the pictures and sounds. It has taken Melissa several weeks to begin matching the letters to themselves

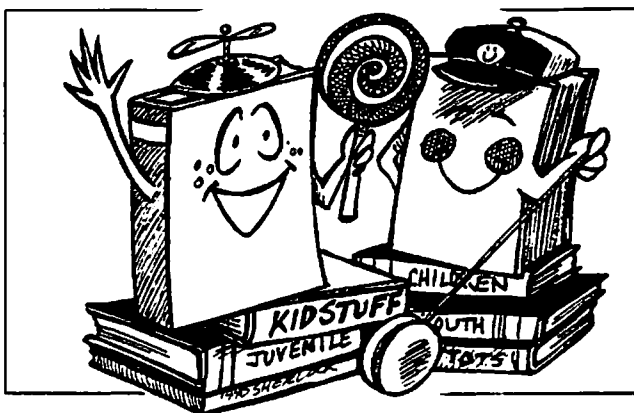
and she is also only now beginning to associate the numbers with their representation.

Yet Melissa can turn a cartwheel. Sarah, Josh, Laurel and I can't do that. Do I worry about Melissa? Yes, but I'm proud of her abilities and hope she'll catch up. I want my children to be brilliant at everything, and it is hard to be realistic in this matter.

Part of the problem is that I judge them against my own progress as a child. By the time I turned six I could read and write (well, print anyway). I could also count and my logical thinking was well advanced. Yet, I don't remember understanding the concepts of addition and subtraction at the girls age. Unlike Josh I loved to read, and my memory and understanding have always scored high.

But, athletically I've never been better than fair. As I said, I dream about all-around geniuses and super athletes. But what I really want are children with drive. Who will want to excel, and will work hard until they do succeed, regardless of how long it takes. This is even more important than intelligence or skill.

I also want children who aren't afraid to try new things and will dream dreams they haven't a hope of obtaining.



## Trades Listing

### **Austin Writer V.12, #11, 12**

ed. Judy Barrett; Austin Writers' League, 1501 West 5th St. #E-2, Austin, TX 78703. Poetry and info for writers.

### **BCSFazine #234, 235**

ed. R Graeme Cameron; British Columbia SFA, POB 35577, Stn E, Vancouver BC V6M 4G9. Could #234 be the start of a different publishing schedule for BCSFazine? Stay tuned. #235 continues with the Spider Robinson interview begun in #234 and also has as it's most important feature the WCSFCCA minutes.

### **Blackhole #32**

ed. Andrew Adams; Leeds Univ Union Andromeda SF&FS, c/o Leeds University Union, POB 157, Leeds, LS1 1UH, UK. Mr Adams last issue of editor (the future uncertain). An interview with Steve Donaldson, lots of reviews and a very bad piece of fiction. Nice cover by Ian Brooks, otherwise, no art at all.

### **Cacophony V. XVI, #5-12.**

ed. Jim Murray; Kansas City SFFS, c/o J. Murray, 2200 West 74th Terrace, Prairie Village, KS 66208. Yes Jim, off the wall! Enjoyable, but definitely off the wall. Regular features include (but are not limited to) horror reviews by Crispin Burnham, "Watching Cars Go By" by J. Gary Wileman, and an interesting cartoon "Without a Trace" by E. Richardson.

### **Cry Havoc Sep/Oct 92, Nov 92**

ed. Keith Smith; National Assoc for SF, POB 2836, Wellington, NZ. A lot of news on the scene, also a lot of book reviews. The Nov issue marks Keith Smith's last issue as editor.

### **Cube #50**

ed. Steve Swartz; SF3, POB 1624, Madison, WI 53701-1624. Just two pages, with news. And that news is that Cube will be a news zine from this point on. SF3 will be starting a new genzine.

### **DASFax V.24, #11, 12, V.25, #1**

eds. Fred Cleaver & Rose Beetem; Denver Area SFA, c/o F. Cleaver, 153 W. Ellsworth Ave, Denver, CO 80223-1623. Primarily club news, but there are some reviews and a column on comics.

### **De Profundis #247-250**

ed. Jeni Burr; Los Angeles SFS, 11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601. Interesting club minutes. There seems to be a bit of a shakeup in LASFS, some of the older members are not amused.

### **Eldritch Science Sunfire 1992**

George Phillies, ed. No address because this is the last issue of this zine, which featured fan fiction and poetry.

### **Ethel the Aardvark #45**

ed. Alan Stewart and Paul Ewins; Melbourne SFC, PO Box 212, Melbourne, Victoria 3005, Australia. Another last issue for an editor, in this case Alan Stewart. Lots of news and reviews.

### **Fatuous Turgid Toads #14**

Judith Hanna & Joseph Nicholas, see LoCs. An interesting zine with a left-wing view of the UK and the world. Leigh Edmonds' article is a unique piece. Evidently, yours truly is a right-wing loony according to the editors, a loc will be on its way to explain the misperception of what I said in FOSFax.

### **File 770 #95**

Mike Glyer, 5828 Woodman Ave. #2, Van Nuys, CA 91401. Magicon reviews by Mike Glyer and Laurie Mann along with the regular scene news.

### **Frozen Frog #5**

Benoit Girard, 1016 Guillaume-Boisset, Cap-Rouge, Quebec, G1Y 1Y9. There are two pages missing in this interesting zine. The other most notable item is the exporting of the fight between Joseph Nicholas (FTT) and the FOSFax crowd.

### **Instant Message #520, 522, 523, 524**

New England SFA, POB 809, Framingham, MA 01710-0203. Less interesting club minutes than those from LA.

### **The Journal for Space Development Nov 92, Dec92/Jan93**

ed. Richard Braastad; Houston Space Society, POB 266151, Houston, TX 77207-6151. All sorts of stuff on space, including club business.

### **The Knarley Knews #36, 37**

Henry L. Welch, 5538 N Shasta Dr, Glendale, WI 53209-4925. Interesting point of view zine from Knarley and his friends.

### **OASFis Event Horizon Nov 92, Dec 92, Jan 93**

ed. Louise M. Kleba; Orlando Area SFS, POB 940992, Maitland, FL 32794-0992. A guest editorial from Lloyd McDaniel and the obligatory Magicon reviews in Nov issue. Nice artwork by Peggy Ranson, C. L. Swann, Linda Michaels and more. Lots of flap about a Magicon review in the Dec and Jan issues.

### **Opuntia #10, 10.5A, 10.5B, 11**

Dale Spiers, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta T2P 2E7. #10 & 11 continues the history of Vancouver fandom, up to the present. 10.5A talks about the Calgary Stampede and Dale's family history. B covers politics, Canadian, Abertian, and Calgarian.

**Peripheral Visions #11**

Rob Sommers, 926-C Waverly way NE, Atlanta GA 30307-2551. One of the few fanzines that features fan fiction. This issue had only one, a so-so piece called "Pure Luck" by Eddie Roberts.

**PSFS News Jan 1993**

ed. Carol Kabakjian; Philadelphia SFS, POB 8503, Philadelphia, PA 19101. Primarily club news.

**Rambling Way #25, 26**

W. Andrew York, POB 2307, Universal City, TX 78148-1307. The really fun thing about Diplomacy zines is the dialog between the players. This zine also carries a few columns from folks around the world and now a column about the strategy of the game.

**Scavenger's Newsletter #106**

Janet Fox, 519 Ellinwood, Osage City, KS 66523-1329. THE source for small press information.

**SFSFS Shuttle #91 - 93**

eds. Don Cochran & Fran Mullen; South Florida SFS, POB 70143, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143. Typical little clubzine, news & reviews.

**Smart Ash #51 & 52**

ed. Tom Feller; CHimneyville F&SFS, c/o T. Feller, Box 13626, Jackson, MS 39236. #51 has a lot about the movies, reviews and an article about the different Babe Ruth movies. #52 has the Magicon review and a letter from Boris Pinjuh, a fan in Croatia, who did get caught up in the fighting (he's a medical student).

**Trans Atlantic Fan Fund, Dec 1992**

ed. Jeanne Bowman, for TAFF, POB 982, Glen Ellen, CA, 95442-0982. TAFF news. There's an interesting motion being made to reverse the America/Europe rotation so that a Euro-pean can attend Canadian and an American can attend Glasgow. Makes sense to me. Also came with a copy of **Taffervescent 6**, the newsletter from the European TAFF co-ordinator, Pam Wells.

**New and/or Notable (Primarily New)****Ansible #62**

Dave Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5AU, UK. This zine, from Hugo winning fan-writer Dave Langford came inside Ethel the Aardvark. Fannish news and gossip.

**Happy Birthday Tracy & Bill**

eds. Bill Bodden & Tracy Shannon, c/o SF<sup>3</sup>, POB 1624, Madi-son, WI 53701-1624. A one shot celebrating the title.

**How Do You Ad-Dress a Cat #5 of 7**

Bill Bridget, 4040 Mt. Creek Rd. Apt 803, Chattanooga, TN 37415. Evidently something produced by Mr Bridgett for a publication of the Wabash College English Dept. Contains

letters from Ben Indick and Harry Warner and an article about the Greek island of Delos.

**The Literacy Report #2**

Bridge Publications, Inc., 4751 Fountain Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90029. Something new from Bridge, a 4-pager. Not solely an ad vehicle for Bridge, but also seriously about the topic in the title.

**The Mobius Strip Oct 92**

acting ed. Richard Brandt, El Paso SF&F Alliance, POB 3177, El Paso, TX 79923. Little 4-pager. News, convention reviews, fanzine reviews and a con calender.

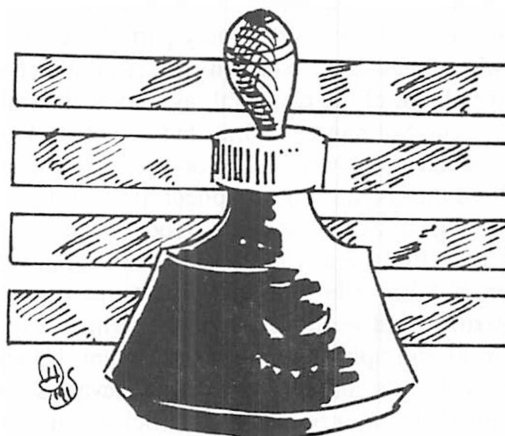
**The Nature to Wander #12**

Dale Denton, 2016 Ravinia Circle, Arlington, TX 76012. Dale's own zine, absent for some time now. Some of Dale's thoughts on the world, a piece of fan fiction, and reviews of books, films and cons from a number of different people.

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## Article:

# A Gaelic Experience

by Carol Stepp

Hi. Well, we're in a new year and life goes on. There have been a lot of changes in my life since I last wrote this column - back around ArmadilloCon time.

My fourth column is in press as I write this, as well as any letters I need to respond to, but I am going to correct a mistake I made in column three (I know, another one). The monarch who authorized the Glencoe massacre was William III (as in William and Mary, who held joint rule in Britain). The massacre of the MacDonalds took place on 13 February 1692. Because, I know of one reader in London, and perhaps a dozen others who are English, I will not get into political discussions in this column about Britain. I also have friends and pen friends in England and Wales, but I have learned a great deal about the "tribal animosities" between the Scots and the English, and I have to admit to leaning toward the Scot's side.

I'm sorry to learn there is only part of the Tudor castle (which replaced a Norman castle) at Winchester. I have photos of the cathedral, as well as the ruins of the ancient Norman cathedral, but somehow I got the impression there were ruins of the Saxon castle from Alfred the Great's time. I wonder, then, if there is any knowledge of where the castle stood. Joseph?

By now, Brian Earl Brown will have read my explanation of Ailric. I hope it answers his question. As for my writing and using grammar the British way, I did not mean to imply anything really blatant. I sometimes refer to lifts and flats instead of elevators and apartments (I live in a bedsitter, an efficiency in America) - but I often write using "s" instead of "z" (e.g. organisation), put a "u" where America has dropped it (i.e., colour, honour), and I use the Oxford comma with a series (i.e., a comma between the next-to last item and "and" - red, blue, yellow, and green). I talk with a pure Texas-American accent, but I do try to pronounce people- and place-names the way a native of Britain does. And finally, I prefer the phrase "as well" as opposed to the American "too".

For Lloyd, I can only guess at the origin of the Gaelic language(s) - to the best of my knowledge, they

came through Europe into Britain and Ireland with the Celts who, like so many Teutonic and Germanic tribes, originated in the area around the black sea where Odessa now sits. Alex told me the comment was made, but I have not taken the time to research the origins of Gaelic. If anyone out there knows more about this, I would like to learn as well.

As for Gaels in Quebec, when the English cleared the Highlands after the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie (Charles Stuart) in 1745, claiming them better suited for sheep than men, many Scots emigrated, or were transported and settled in places like Nova Scotia (New Scotland), where Gaelic is the principal language) and throughout Canada, as well as New England and the United States, Australia, and New Zealand.

Questions and comments having been addressed, I'll go on to other things.

While on the Gaels and the language, I'll talk a little about it. I got my *MacLaren's Gaelic Self-Taught* book as well as my beginner's dictionary, *Abair! Faclair Dictionary*. From the dictionary: abair, ag radh = say; abair (grunn) = what a (crowd)! The dictionary does not define faclair itself, but facl = word and faclairian = vocabulary or dictionary. Strange language, this! Donnie Macdonald of *The Gaelic Echo* provides some rather neat proverbs in his quarterly magazine. One of my favorites is "Fan-ne or ann an sron muic" (Fan-ye or oun un sron moo-ick) which means "A gold ring in a pig's snout". Another is "Chan fhiach duine 'na aonar" (Xan eeac doonye now-n-ar) meaning "A man alone is not worth much" which is said of bachelors! "Suas leis a'Ghaidhlig" (suas lesh-a gaylik) means "Up with the Gaelic".

A paragraph for the *MacLaren*: The words "duas" and "tuath" mean "south" and "north". Thus:

"'Duas' and 'tuath' also mean 'right' and 'left' hand. As regards the points of the compass, the observer, like the ancient Druids and sun-worshippers of old, is supposed to face the rising sun. Thus, 'the east' is called 'an ear', meaning 'before', 'in front' of, the land or country immediately in front of the observer; the country to the 'right hand' is the 'south', 'an deas'; for the same reason, the 'north' was called 'an tuath', the country to the 'left hand'; and the 'west', 'an iar', the country at the 'back', after, 'behind', i.e. the



'hinterland', because in this way it was to them the land to which the 'back' was turned."

On to other things. ArmadilloCon was great fun. On Friday night, I was able to attend three panels since the Committee planned them for after the Dealer's Room closed. It was my first experience in spending any time around Gardner Dozois, and one I'll not forget, ever. Saturday night were the parties -several. A good time was had by all. Since I live about a mile away from the hotel, and needed to save money, I did not stay in the hotel. That meant I had to leave fairly early both nights since I had to be back early the next day, so I missed out on a few things - especially Sunday after the Con closed.

I went to ConTex over Thanksgiving weekend. Mara Lee went with me - I rented a van. That was fun, but they got just over half the expected attendance, which left the dealers shopping one another, and little money being made by anyone. I later learned (from Mel. White, who dealered there) that DFF did about half its normal business, so where are the fans? I don't know how "Visions" in Chicago did - anyone? There was a good panel at ConTex about why fandom draws few younger people these days (other than gamers) and how we get them back (kill Nintendo?). One attendee said that around Minnesota and environs this is not true - young people are very active there. What are we doing wrong? Is Matthew Duarte going to be one of the few fans (I assume he will be) of his generation? What happens to fandom when the "older" people, the same ones who do the labor of cons year-after-year, fade away? Does active fandom stop? I am still considered a "neo", and I'm not in danger of growing tired of it all anytime soon, but there aren't many of me.

I've been thinking about abandoning my business due to losses (Jay Gardner says he will talk me out of that), but I'm also wondering if I shouldn't put my energies to work learning the ins and outs of conventions so there is fresh blood. It was suggested that I come to Houston to work with them creating a general sf/f organization, but surely I could be of use right here. My first ever con was Eclecticon with Eternacon where I was a committee head, and I thought I did rather well.

Anyway, I am hoping to get myself a good used van within the next 3-4 months, and this is an open invitation to anyone out there who thinks they can use me in fannish and convention work. It's possible I could keep my business and get friends to actually work the table at cons - for the chance to attend and have expenses paid.

(I have been approached by a person who for now will remain nameless to become a "mailing agent" for artists who want their work displayed at cons they do

not attend. I've also handled one person's things on consignment in my dealership, and am looking into doing more of that. A lot depends on when I get that van.

Well, my activeness in fandom will continue, but it seems to me that the road it will take is rather broad, quite open.

I recently took my own advice about a matter of spoke of in an earlier column - to my betterment by far, but perhaps to my loss as well. I quit my job at UT. I just couldn't take the bureaucrats in the department any longer. I have been working part of the time for UTEMPS, and I go to work for the IRS as a "seasonal tax examiner" on 8 February. That job could last from 3 to 6 months. In September, I will probably go to work full-time for one of the UT departments which I worked for as a temp - I was approached and it was discussed. If it all works out, I will probably accept. It will be a fun job in a fun place, and quite different from what I was doing before.

The loss is my trip this year. While I'm playing the lottery, and haven't given up all hope, the chances of going seems slim. If not this year, I will probably wait until 1995 and do the long trip culminating in WorldCon at Glasgow. I'll keep you informed. (To Harry Andruschak, I'll still watch for your shoes.)

My friends in England and Wales are disappointed, but understanding. It is possible that one or two may come here for a visit. In addition, I added another pen pal, since the last column, from Harris. The woman, Johanna McNeil, has never written again, but I still write to Farquhar, the farmer (by his letters, I think he must be quite lonely), and I write to a fisherman, Ewen MacRae. I've spoken to both on the phone. I get a few Gaelic phrases from them from time-to-time.

I also quite recently became acquainted with a man newly arrived in Austin from Kentucky who is originally from Ayrshire, south of Glasgow. I am in the process of introducing him around to Scots of Austin, my pagan friends, my Celt friends, my Gaelic-learning friends, my "new-age" friends (some of these are the same people), and eventually we'll get around to my sf/f friends. He does not speak the Gaelic, other than a few words and phrases.

I sold my TV and VCR in early November - I was wasting too much time with them, and I needed the money then. So I have not seen Deep Space Nine or Space Rangers - I expect to replace both units by the summer and will probably catch all the shows in reruns or syndication (if they last long enough for either). Likewise, no movies.

I have read several books - not many because I'm riding the bus daily. And a lot of my free time has been spent on creative projects and jigsaw puzzles. I

went to the Settlement House garage sale and at the "\$1-per-bag" sale on Sunday afternoon, stripped the sf/f/h book shelves. I ended up with 137 books for about \$18 (I had bought some the day before at the marked prices of 50¢ to \$1.50). Going through them to price them for the business, I pulled a couple of dozen out for myself. I can't remember everything I've read, but among them were three Dr. Who books, *Aliens*, parts of two anthologies, *Probe* and *Timetrav* (both ST novels), *Liar's Oath* by Elizabeth Moon, *The Wanderer* by Fritz Lieber (my first Lieber book - an experience), *Retief at Large* by Keith Laumer (I had it and another Retief at my table at ConTex and was talked into removing and reading them by an attendee - I'd like to get hold of the artwork for the cover of *Retief at Large* - that is one sexy man), *Druids* by Morgan Llywelyn (in which I learned more about Druidry than I had so far), and *The Sum of All Fears* by Tim Clancy. The Clancy book is not sf. It is 914 pages long. About page 400, I stopped existing in the real world for most of three days to finish it. Excellent, scary, intelligent - I can't think of enough superlatives. It's a must-read for anyone who likes that kind of story - maybe for every-body. Did you know that, given the ability to get the materials, instructions for building an H-bomb are available to anyone? Anytime?

Bob Reedy, thanks for your article about Liberty Con 6. I envy your getting to meet Katherine Kurtz. I assume you have read the Adept books. I'm delighted

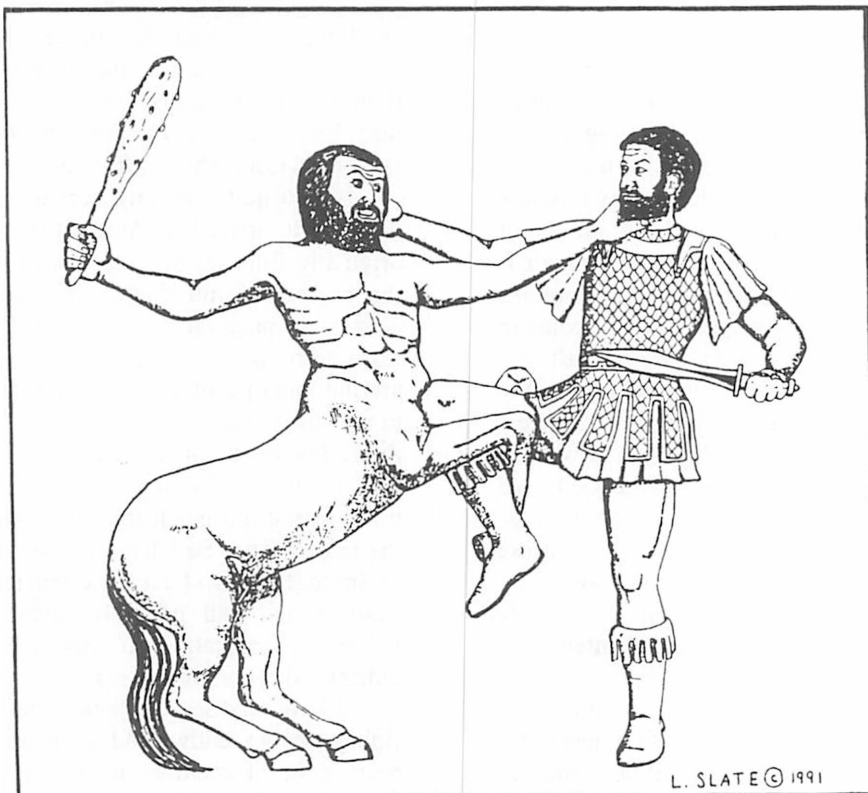
to hear she and Deborah Turner Harris plan a third. I have not read her Deryni series, but I will watch for *King Javan's Year* - 810 pages. Wow!

Just a few tidbits (in Britain, it's titbits): attended a combo Winter Solstice/Christmans party on 20 December - we anointed the Yule Log, sang some non-traditional carols, and then did some caroling through the neighborhood and then by the fire in the host's home; studied some Celtic mythologies and magick rituals; learned a little more about herbal medicine (especially after I came down with a truly bad bout of sinusitis in Corpus Christi over Christmas weekend); made myself an herbal magick amulet; bought a wonderful Scots music tape by The Corries (Roy Williamson wrote *Flower of Scotland* years ago, died of cancer in August, 1990 - Ronnie Brown carries on as a single); read more history of Scotland; visited my family in Corpus Christi over Christmas - won't do that again!; have enjoyed my free time, but I'm ready to go back to work. I suppose if I were independently wealthy I could find enough schools and projects to not miss working a regular job, but as a middle class citizen with little money, I find I need the security of a regular job to go to.

That's it for now - see you next time.

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

Beannacht leat, slainte mhath.





## Conventional

### Mar 5-7 **Dallas Fantasy Fair**

Sheraton Park Central, Dallas, TX

Info: ?, Bulldog Productions, POB 820488, Dallas, TX 75382. (214) 350-4305

### Mar 6 & 7 **San Marcon**

San Marcos, TX (gaming convention)

Info: 1706 IH 35, Suite #1, San Marcos, TX 78666 (512)396-0558

### Mar 19-21 **NeoCon 4**

Wichita Hilton East, Wichita KS

Guests: Wilson "Bob" Tucker, Randy Farran, WJ Hodgson, Jim Satterfield

Info: \$18, POB 48431, Wichita KS 67201. (316)687-6424

### Mar 25-28 **AggieCon 24**

Memorial Student Center, College Station, TX

Guests: Michael Moorcock, Peter David, Wendy Pini

Info: ?, MSC Box J-1, TAMU, College Station, TX 77844, (409)845-1515

### Apr 8-11, 1993 **Houston Future Fest**

Hyatt Regency, Houston, TX

Guests: Michael Pondsmith, George Alec Effinger, Sidney Williams, Roland Mann, Jerry Pournelle, Bjo Trimble

Info: \$35, STS Corporation, PO Box 1770, Friendswood, TX 77546-1770, (800)787-5317

### Apr 16-18 **AmigoCon 8**

Holiday Inn Sunland Park, El Paso, TX

Guests: Walter Jon Williams, Teddy Harvia, Thararinn Gunnarsson

Info: \$15 until Apr 9, then \$18, PO Box 3177, El Paso, TX 79923

### Apr 16-18 **Con-Troll**

Marriott Astrodome, Houston, TX

Guests: Larry Niven, Steven Barnes, Ed Greenwood, Del Harris, Judy Dugas

Info: \$20 until Jan 15, PO Box 740969-1035, Houston, TX 77274

### 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

### Jun 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 701791089

### 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 Francisco** (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 Francisco, CA 94122

### Sep 1-5, 1994 **Conadian** (Worldcon 52)

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Guests: Anne McCaffrey, George Barr, Barry

Longyear, Robert Runte

Info: PO Box 2430, Winnipeg MB, Canada R3C 4A7

### 1995 - **Worldcon 53** - Glasgow Scotland

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

### WORLDCON BIDS:

1996 - Los Angeles, CA

1997 - San Antonio, TX & St. Louis, MO

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

1999 - Portland, OR

2000 - Kansas City, KS & Jerusalem, Israel

2001 - Chicago, IL

### WESTERCON BIDS

1996 - El Paso, TX

2001 - Chico, CA

## Alex on Art:

# Notes From ArmadilloCon

by Alexander R. Slate

Congratulations to Donna Rosser, who ran a good art show at ArmadilloCon this past October. Even though she was constrained by the same lack of space as in years past, it appeared less crowded. While there still seemed to be about the same amount of art, there was more room in which to view it. Sales also appeared to be brisk, and the art show did quite a bit more business, both in terms of the number of sales and in the total dollar amount than before. But on to the artists:

My first subject for this column is Clayburn Moore, sculptor. Clayburn is one of the hottest rising stars in the fantastic art field today. Again, for me, judging sculpture is more difficult than drawing or paintings since I'm less familiar with it, and the techniques involved.

Clayburn exhibited 9 pieces at ArmadilloCon, ranging in price from \$140 minimum bid on "Light Cavalry" to a \$3200 minimum bid on the artist's proof of "Celestial Jade". While the latter is out of the price range for 99.9% of the people who attended ArmadilloCon, the piece is well worth that sort of money and more. Which brings us to the point that if you are a collector, the smaller conventions may well be the place to pick up relative bargains.

Now sculpture has its benefits and drawbacks as a medium compared to drawing or painting. It is easier to make something feel "real" in that it is 3-dimensional and details on more than one plane can be dealt with on their own facing, the drawback is that you have to worry about all sides and facets of the subject. You can't just specialize in the anatomy of the chests and the front of the arms. You've also got the backs to deal with.

And since these are bronze castings, there is no way to use color to any advantage (though this is not true for something like painted porcelain); though the wrong use of color can't hurt your presentation, either. Or so I thought. Clayburn informs me that the patina is a very important part of the piece, and that a lot of thought and effort goes in to making sure that it is done properly.

As I sort of mentioned earlier, Clayburn is rapidly approaching the rank of grand master in the field, and rightfully so. His work is GOOD! He knows anatomy and physiology. The pieces are not "static", but

gracefully depict action and motion believably. And they are also self-consistent works (more on that later).

Whereas I've seen some of the larger, more expensive pieces before, this was the first time I'd ever seen the smaller, more affordable works. Pieces such as "Light Cavalry" which is a small scale work depicting a man mounted on a dragon; the whole work being 3" high and mounted on a wooden base. Also pieces such as "Wizard's Ride" and "Dragon Prince" (Quick sale \$300).

Of the smaller pieces, I liked "Dragon Prince" best. In this piece you still can get the sense of the form and anatomy of both man and dragon. These qualities (which define Moore's genius to me) are lost in the other small works, the scale simply doesn't allow for it. Yet, these pieces will probably appeal to the dragon lovers in the crowd, since that is what is accentuated.

Back to the larger pieces, what Clayburn Moore is noted for. The capstone piece of those exhibited here was "Celestial Jade" (the winner of last year's Chesley for 3-D works). It is a classic bronze piece, not just for the fantastic art sculpture, but for type of sculpture. The figure is a winged female -- different from many other depictions of this same type, in that the wings are attached only to the arms.

But the real trick to "Celestial Jade" isn't the flowing lines (which are superb), not the detailed elements, not the lifelike anatomy or musculature, but the sense of emotion that the sculptor has imbued the piece with. More than you would expect from this medium.

I mentioned the self-consistency of the pieces. This is best depicted in "Pris de Fer" (Presentation of Steel). All the motion is in one direction; no hair flying one way and coat-tails another.

There were more pieces that I could describe, but these catch the essence of Clayburn Moore's work. Just one last note. These pieces are multiple castings from a mold, the sculpture equivalent of a limited edition lithograph (there is no original).

Shown: Pris de Fer (4/52), Celestial Jade (artist's proof), Lord of the Savannah (3/21), Bodeicea (5/8), The 47th Ronin (artist's proof), Wizard's Ride (1/100), Dragon Prince (2/100), Light Cavalry (2/100), and Prometheus (2/100).

## News and Stuff

Now back to more familiar ground, sort of. A new name (to me anyway) showing at ArmadilloCon was Alan Clark. He exhibited 10 color lithoprints.

9 of 10 are on the macabre side. The last, "Cow Bone Chip" showed a strange space-ship thing.

Alan Clark shows a nice sense of color. He also has a different way with his figures: they are bony, skeletal. The pictures also accomplish what I feel to be their purpose; they are disturbing without being gross.

If there is a problem that I can see it is that Mr Clark has a problem with establishing a sense of distance. This is true for the majority of his works. He tries to make things misty in an attempt to make them look far away, but it doesn't really work. there are two exceptions to this, though. These are "Work in Progress" and "Terrible Infant."

Of all the pieces that Mr Clark showed I liked "Death's Encroaching Geometry" the best, for all its faults. It's a blue mood piece depicting an old decrepit house. Everything is still, except for just the hint of motion at the windows. There's a lot to look at in this work and the change in values among the different shades of blue is nicely done.

Shown: A Vast Landscape, Cow Bone Chip, Within the Wood Grained Liquid Afterdeath, Death's Encroaching Geometry, River Stones Cannot See, Work in Progress, Terrible Infant, Half Scairt, Angel of Hearth & Threshold, Deadfall

## Sooner Con Art Show Awards

### Fan Awards:

Best Artist - Frank Kelly Freas

Best Piece in Show - "Nefertiti's Window" by Kevin Hopkins

Best Color Piece - "Jazz Serenade" by T.M. Hardaway

Best B&W Piece - "Black & White Night" by Jon Stadter

Best 3-D - "Herme" by Joy Marie Ledet

Best Fantasy Piece - "Dream Tree" by Lucy Synk

Best SF Piece - "Surface Warriors" by Frank Kelly Freas

### Peer Awards:

Best Artist - David Cherry

Best Piece in Show - "Dracula" by Rick Lowry

Best Color Piece - "Leather & Blood" by Angela Lowry

Best B&W Piece - "Guinevere" by Brad Foster

Best 3-D - "Elements of Time" by Tim Chessmore

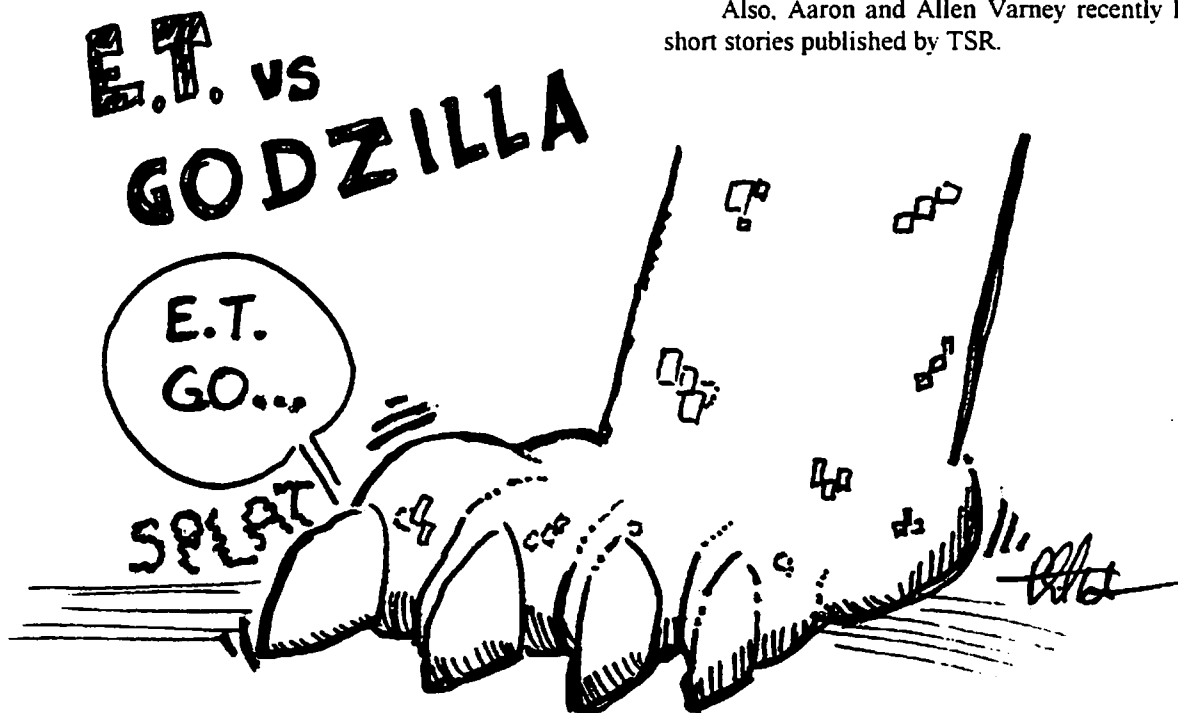
Best Fantasy Piece - "Fantasea" by WJ Hodgson

Best SF Piece - "Man or Machine" by David Lee Anderson

## Texas Writers Update

Aaron Allston's book, *Galatea in 2-D*, has been picked up by Baen for publication in August.

Also, Aaron and Allen Varney recently had two short stories published by TSR.



## Letters, We Get Letters

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

November 20, 1992

Dear Alex & Dale:

Many thanks for sending me issue 45 of TSFI. The con season is finally over, with several cons in October, finishing up with Yvonne and I as TMs at Maplecon 13 the Hallowe'en weekend in Ottawa. I can now concentrate on other things, like catching up on everything else.

The election...not being American, I can look at it without wearing red-white-and-blue-tinted glasses, and with some objectivity. Ross Perot was the pick-me-up American politics needed to get out of its hawkish period, and into its common sense period, a period of concentrating on the economy. Perot had the right ideas, but Clinton had the right words, and I think the best man won. Bush did nothing but snipe and throw mud, and he got what he deserved, his walking papers. While the American public's mood will remain hawk-ish (the casual killing of a Japanese exchange student by a complete idiot from Baton Rouge, followed by commercials for canned mace on CNN, still make me wonder), the triumphs of Desert Storm faded as people realized what this war was about, the continuity of the oil supply, and the effect of high-pressure lobbying by forces usually unknown to America (before this happened, did anyone know where Kuwait was). The idea of democracy was highly touted, but really didn't have much to do with the war. Bush and the Repub-licans have seen the end of the days for the moment, and I think that once Bill Clinton gets up to speed, he'll make a great president who will really pull up the USA, and the world with him. His only problem is a near-complete ignorance about the world outside the Unit-ed States, but then, that's never stopped an American president from taking action that affects the rest of the world. . .

Worldcon bids . . . 1998 has become very crowded as far as bidding goes. . . add Boston, New York City and (possibly) Prague, Czech Republic to Niagara Falls and Baltimore. Australia is bidding for 1999, Kansas City and Chicago are competing for 2000.

Con-Troll in Houston will enjoy the company of Ed Greenwood, a.k.a. Elminster. Ed is originally from Toronto, and we went to journalism school together. I haven't seen him in over 10 years, I suspect he's still the tall, thin, bushy-headed character I knew.

And that's all for now. Good issue, but not many comment hooks for me to latch onto. I'm sure another issue would allow me to do better, and I'm sure that issue will be out Real Soon Now. Keep it up, and I'll look for the next issue.

*Perot made an interesting addition to the presidential race, but I'm glad he wasn't elected. There were several things about his politics and his actions that bothered me.*

*Bill Clinton was not my first choice for the Democratic candidate, but was the candidate that I voted for in the election.*

*This country could probably use a strong third party. We'll see what happens in the next election.*

*I've never been to Con-Troll. My convention going has been cut down quite a bit. Maybe in the year or so to come. By now you should have received the next issue, and the issue after that as well.*

Rod Marsden  
6 Blackwood Rd.  
Merylands, Sydney  
New South Wales, Australia  
Post Code 2160

22/10/92

Dear Texans.

I came across a review of your magazine, "The Texas SF Inquirer" in "The Reluctant Famulus." I'm a big SF/HORROR/CRIME fiction fan and, at present, I am the editor and co-founder of "Prohibited Matter." "Prohibited Matter" is a short story magazine devoted to the three genres I've mentioned above. It is hard-hitting, daring (I believe) and contains small articles of interest besides fiction. The first issue contains an article on consorship in Australia - how it effects SF, Horror and Crime movies. In Australia we don't have the same laws as you do governing what we are permitted to read, hear and watch. Our rights in this area are not well protected as are yours by your own constitution. What's more many Australians never find out just how horribly censored some of the movies they watch really are. Sometimes it's obvious where the Censorship Board has said cuts have to be made. Sometimes it is not.

Anyway, "Prohibited Matter" intends to tell it like it is between what we hope will be well received fiction. Would you like a copy in return for an issue of "The Texas SF Inquirer?" Maybe we could also swap ads, do reviews of each others work, etc. In other

words, get some international friendship and co-operation going. Well, the ball's now in your park. I look forward to your reply.

Yours Sincerely

*I look forward to seeing your zine. You should have received your first copy of TSFI before this.*

*I debated about publishing this next LoC, but I figure there's at least one piece that Phil would like to see get in print (Note: this LoC edited.)*

Phil Tortorici  
PO Box 057487  
West Palm Beach, FL 33405

Nov 1992

Alexander & Dale

I am going to have to drop out of the fanzine art business for what appears to be a long time. Thank you for all that you have done for me: it has been quite a ride.

As my last official fanzine act, please nominate Joe Bob Brigg's "We Are The Weird" newsletter for the "Best Semi-pro Zine" Hugo. It meets all of the qualifications, and is hysterically funny, as well.

Aloha-

*It was our pleasure. Phil. I'm not sure exactly what it was that Dale or I did for Phil, I'm sure he is talking to the fanzine community as a whole. His talent and sense of whimsy will be missed.*



Dr Henry L Welch  
5538 N Shasta Dr  
Glendale, WI 53209

11/30/92

Just got issue #45. Definitely a bit dated since its pre-Magicon and pre-election. Interesting reviews by Carol Stepp, it seems one of my subscribers sent me a bunch of that spell-checker killing Gaelic.

*Henry, AKA Knarley, pubs The Knarley Knews. Gaelic does make spell checking interesting. Makes it hard on me, since I have to go back and make sure I've got everything spelled as Carol submitted it. Expect more typos with me as sole editor.*

Dr Sheryl Birkhead  
23629 Woodfield Rd  
Gaithersburg, MD 20882

Dec 8th, 92

Dear Alex,

I really ought to keep track of which reply goes where since I don't want to slight either one of you and try to alternate ... best laid plans (i.e. I should keep records - so I should - gee, that makes a lot of sense).

I presume you've heard of the death of Australian fan Roger Weddall. I am sure that others who know more of what went on will fill in the details, when all I have to offer is third hand, at best.

Dale - I am writing this while working at the Dr's office. Just as I was about to leave home I heard a faint whoosh, whoosh. I wasn't sure if it was my imagination or not. For a change I had the house totally quiet and could only hear the sound (put your hand in a bucket of water and splash it (hand - not bucket) around) only in the living room. I figured, when I couldn't find the source, that the roof/floor would eventually collapse and then I'd KNOW where the sound originated. I turned the pump off (old farmhouse) but the -VERY FAINT - noise continued. I locked the door and headed for the car. As an afterthought I opened the cellar door - well, hello there indoor swimming pool! Ugh - there is mold growing from the wet beams - obviously this leak has been going on for some time. Um ... the water level had almost reached the motor level of the furnace and I didn't like the way spray was splashing off the on-off box for the furnace box. Quick trip back inside to call a plumber. When I get home I'll check to see ... they said the foot or so of water wouldn't "hurt" and would eventually evaporate (Yeah, but WHEN?). Oh yes - I've now been waiting at the Dr's for 2½ hrs - I COULD have stayed home long enough to see the job finished and not left them still splashing around without waders.

Such fun - the aspects of owning your own home!  
But - back to TTSFI. -

Nice cover by Linda Michaels - but ALL her stuff is nice. I actually wasn't certain it was her work until I checked the credits.

I think Bush did a good job in the Gulf - a pity that such success could not have translated into the domestic economy. It seems that the election was as much of NOT voting for Bush as anything else. We shall see what happens now.

I assume there will be at least one Armadillo Con report in the nextish - looking forward to it!

Ah - and Ransom opposite Freas - the two pieces complement (and I believe that's the spelling I mean *[[It is - Alex]]* - in that Peggy's dragon could almost be a part of the Freas piece - but maybe the word isn't QUITE right - I tried).

The "loose" knit organization of B&Bs in Great Britain seems to work quite well. When visiting Ireland, I simply wrote and asked for the listing and got a monster book ...

Is Sherlock's character on pg. 6 an honest fan in search of ... (a convention?)?

Appropriate Harvia reporter on pg 9.

Mailwise - I get 14 out of the 31 entries - not too good, but about average for me.

Ah - at least one person read what I wrote for AQ - it is a beautiful zine.

---Dec. 13---gads, and here I was congratulating myself on at least having mailed my letter on #45 before #46 arrived and then I went through the correspondence pile and ... sigh ... sorry.

A "backdoor" comment on health care - I feel we need some kind of National program, but for the life of me have no idea how any sort of organized transition could be done without causing economic disaster for many companies and types of facilities! Oh well, that's what we pay politicians for (ha!).

Here I have #46 - -hope Armadillo Con was a winner (they usually are- just waiting to hear the details. . .nextish? . . .

Being picky- found more apostrophe problems along with punctuation (for comic relief I was about to add spelling- but wasn't sure you would know I was kidding--especially after seeing the massacred spelling in this letter!). Um- without looking up the location of Mt Holyoke--I think that is the school in Mass. ---I've always heard it pronounced Mt Whole yolk--so there MAY be another school Holy Oak. Since I didn't go to either of the schools, I lost (*most?*) certainly am not an expert on location or name pronunciation!

The Table of Contents was a bit difficult to read once the typeface got small (not small mind you. just um. smaller?)--but I do like the font.

When Clinton and Bush proposed their economic plans the president of some graduate school of economics (probably Harvard) said that if any of their students had submitted such plans they would have been returned and told to re-do them in appropriate detail and cover all areas. We'll see.

At the onset, I was seriously considering Perot- but when he backed out the first time with no warning and (at that time) no explanation- I would not even think of voting for him when he re-entered the race. Had he given what he later said was THE reason when he pulled out, I would not have felt this strongly when he re-entered. But, that is all academic now and I wait to see what Clinton can do--especially with the Somalia hot potato (or what will surely turn into one- dropped neatly into his lap as the incoming president). Again, we'll see.

Ah yes, Carol's Security...when I considered going to veterinary school after teaching for almost 6 years (and having been in research before that) fellow teachers were unanimous in wishing me the best and saying they wished they were free to pursue something they wanted to rather than being locked into something they no longer enjoyed because they couldn't afford to leave. They had security and most had other obligations which had to take priority over personal choices (the bank and pediatricians probably tend to get a bit touchy when you can't pay their bills). I also agree you shouldn't stick with something you don't like--but there is no sense in slitting your own throat if you can stick it out...and hopefully look for something at the same time.

Ah, her story of Glencoe...if I am not mistaken, this is the story told as part of window dressing in the latest "The Cat Who. . ." book--- The Cat Who Wasn't There. For those not knowing what I am talking about- it is a series of "detective" stories revolving about a (now) retired journalist who has two Siamese cats which always seem to help figure out "cases". This one revolved about a trip to Scotland and what went on there and on the return trip. I have noted that a lot of fen are interested in baseball, westerns, mysteries, and cats-- here is a series (VERY light reading I assure you) which combines two areas into one.

Who drew the cover gnome? Maybe the credit is there, but I don't see it. Of course I always enjoy Linda and Peggy's work...and Sherlock is getting to be a trademark with the Inquirer!

Don't see any scribbles saying you need art- so I'll get this into the mail--if I can remember (ah, fat chance!) I'll try to get some things cobbled together and send them later.

Storm created two large holes in the barn roof-- insurance will cover it I hope (problem is that after

Mom's death the deed still hasn't been re-written-it is in the courts even though the estate has been settled and the check the insurance co gave me is to the estate-which doesn't exist any longer- but the new deed isn't here either, so..the holes live on). In the meantime the hay and equipment get wet and soon will probably be snowed upon. Run. With so few farms around now, I hope I can find someone crazy enough to get up on the peak and do the repairs..with the proper equip-ment of course- I probably could pay a high school student to go up there--but I'd prefer someone sane to do it. It was an interesting storm!

Well, I'm only one issue late- but I intend (and this time I'll do it) to get this in the mail RSN (ah, always a copout possible!)

Happy Holiday Season to All-

*I didn't know you were a doctor, Sheryl, what kind?*

*I hadn't heard about Roger Wedall's death. I suppose that I'll get details from one of the Australian zines, but I haven't seen one in a while.*

*Yes, home ownership is fun. Laurel and I just bought a new dishwasher. Now we have to fix the garage door opener. Laurel cannot lift the door alone. I have trouble, and I'm no 90-lb. weakling.*

*B&B's are the way to go in Europe, if you don't expect American style all the time. An article on Edinburgh in Delta's magazine recently noted some places to stay and their prices. The B&B listed was less than half the price of the hotels.*

*As for reading what you wrote in AQ, I read all the trade fanzines. Some are easier to read through than others, AQ is one that's easier to read through.*

*We'll see about that Armadillo Con review for you. I haven't gotten any con reviews, and am trying to avoid filling this fanzine with my own writing.*

*I think there is more than one Mt. Holyoke college, though I think the spelling also varies by location. There is more than one Marymount College.*

*The cover gnome was done by Jim Anderson, credited in the issue following. Sometimes major gaffes like that one slip through.*

*Good luck with the probate on the farm. I don't recommend reading Dickens' Bleak House. Speaking of Dickens', I happen to be writing this about Christmas time and my thoughts turn to Dickens' The Pickwick Papers, my favorite Dickens and also my favorite Christmas story. Heartily recommended for those of you who haven't read it.*

*Thanks for the letter, no matter how late you believe it to be.*

Judith Hanna/Joseph Nicholas 14 December 1992  
5A Frinton Road  
Stamford Hill  
London N15 6NH

Dear People

I must correct another error in Carol Stepp's column...In The Texas SF Inquirer 46, she states that the Glencoe MacDonalds were slaughtered (although in fact many of them escaped - to die of cold and exposure during the following week) on the order of James I. It wasn't James I, who by then had been dead for almost 70 years, but William I [*Don't you mean William II, wasn't William I, William the Conqueror?- Alex*]. Also, it probably wouldn't have mattered if the Glencoe MacDonalds had sworn an oath of fealty to William earlier on; he wanted a small clan to be made an example of, to scare everyone else into line, and they happened to be picked.

The spelling of ITCHEN in my previous card is correct. However, two errors have crept into the transcript of the card as it appears in issue 46: the names of the North Wales castles are CONWY and CAERNARFON.

Yours

*Mea culpa. Errors are my life, as it seems to be.*

Harry Andruschak 22 Dec 1992  
PO Box 5309  
Torrance, CA 90510-5309

Dear Slate:

Thanks for sending TSFI-46. However, I notice you did not publish my LOC, or WAHF me, nor was my fanzine listed. Did you receive the LOC I sent on #45, along with my zine INTERMEDIATE VECTOR BOSONS? If not, let me know and I can send a replacement copy.

This time around I enclose, for your possible interest, two copies of a newsletter that sometimes publishes my articles. Not related to SF, of course.

REF your comment on page 10. Actually, I did not need the press and media to tell me much about the campaign. The GOP Party Platform said it all....a sell-out to the fanatical christians. All that anti-abortion and anti-gay stuff. The typical christian attitude of stuffing their beliefs and way of life down our throats.

As an athiest, I want freedom OF religion to also mean Freedom FROM Religion. Because once the christians have finished with the feminists and the gays, they are going after the catholics and jews and especially the Humanists/Freethinkers/Agnostics/Atheists. Like me.

Since the Democrats have a better track record in the area of the Rights guaranteed by the Constitution, or supposed to be guaranteed by the Constitution, I voted a straight democratic ticket, and I hope the Democrats will get the chance to put a few Supreme Court Justices in who uphold the freedoms I want.

+++++

Right now, of course, I am tired. Very tired. It is hell month at the Post Office. I have been scheduled to work 12-24 December, 13 days in a row. At least I can use the overtime money to pay off the credit card I used to pay my annual automobile insurance bill.

As for 1993 conventions, I did not fare well in my requests for vacation times that included Labor Day and 4 July.

As such, I will not be attending the 1993 WORLDCON or WESTERCON. And that is that.

But I was able to get two weeks off in March. Not too many technicians with more seniority than me want vacations in March. So I will be attending NORWESCON in Seattle, whiling spending a few days before that visiting my Mother and Sister who live in Kirkland, which is a suburb of Seattle.

My plans are to drive up, hugging the pacific coast. With luck I may even be able to get a third week of vacation at that time, and have the luxury of two weeks to drive up the pacific coast, taking in all the sights at a relaxed pace.

Not much time to write about this time around. As I noted, I am worried that my last LOC to you seems to have been lost. Tsk, tsk. Pist Office.

Yours Aye...

*Indeed, Harry, no LOC arrived. I try to print all the LOCs that come in, even if they aren't complimentary (such as Jay Harber's letter in #44).*

*I also worry about evangelistic fundamental-ists, but not Christians as a whole. However, I did not vote a straight anything ticket, nor have I ever. Individual candidates, particularly for local or state offices don't always agree with the party platform; therefore I rely upon a press that is informative and unbiased. Lately, there hasn't been much to rely on.*

*For anyone who happens to care, or who would like to meet me for any reason I hope to attend the following conventions in 1993 - Aggiecon (College Station, TX), WorldCon (San Fransisco, CA), ArmadilloCon (Austin, TX), SoonerCon (OKC, OK), and LosCon (Anaheim, CA). None of these are definite, a lot depends upon a lot of outside factors.*

*I look forward to seeing Intermediate Vector Bosons.*

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

Christmas Eve, 1992

Dear Alex and Dale:

"Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house. . . it's quiet, so I thought I'd get some catch-ing up done with the IN box. Besides, the postal rates go up in the new year, from 42c to 43c (not including tax), so I'd do well to get my loccing done before 1993 arrives. So, a loc on TSFI 46 is in order. . .

The cover looks like a cartoon of Mel Brooks as a hobbit. . . seeing what he's done to other genres, I hope no one ever gives him a copy of Lord of the Rings. . .

Anyway, you've got Bill Clinton, and I think he'll do just fine. I've seen in fanzines enough far-right whining about the pinko liberals being let in the door, so I'll just say that while Clinton won't shake up Wash-ington the Perot may have, he'll do things differently that I think will benefit your country greatly. I just hope he doesn't take a negative approach to the rest of the world when it comes to domestic and foreign policy. . . his way of working to bolster the American domestic economy is to screw around foreign econo-mies with hardball trade sanctions.

When we had Katherine Kurtz and Lois Bujold at Ad Astra last year, we thought they'd be extraordinary draws. . . they weren't, not because they're not popular authors, but because the economy is still bad. We found that while Deryni fandom is populous, they won't travel just anywhere, and Toronto is at the edge of the fannish population of North America. . . there's no cons north of me, unless you count Winnipeg, a distance away for me to travel to for a regular con. While I have never been to any conventions Tim Bolego has run, I will sympathize with him. . . the bitching at the bitch panel probably came from people who complained bitterly, but refused to do something about the problem. Toronto is plagued with that. . . I'm chairing Ad Astra in 1993, and while I am under pres-sure to have the convention cater to specific interests, I find that those who make these demands refuse to help to make what they want come to pass.

Peter Moorwood and Diane Duane visited us in Toronto before heading down to Dallas for GalaxyFair '92 and ArtCon IV. . . they always make good guests at conventions. They live a distance away, in Eire, but they don't mind the travel. A neighbour of theirs has had to cut back on the travel, though. . . Anne McCaffrey has had to announce that she is cancelling all of her engagements for 1993, including Ad Astra 13 in June. Her daughter is getting married, her travel



is being curtailed because of lengthy recovery from jetlag, and she says that because of this recovery time, she has strained the good will of her publisher, and wants to devote more time to her writing when she isn't planning the wedding.

To go with Brian Earl Brown's letter, once again, I am unemployed (a political firing at Butterworths), and I haven't enough money to produce a fanzine (although I have plenty of plans for one). However, unemployment allows me some time for letter writing and cartooning (yes, I do cartoon a little, but save the resulting scribbles for my up and coming fanzine), and the IN box doesn't have much in it, thank Ghū.

To update my own letter on Worldcon bids... the Australia in 1999 people are doing something a little different. They are not a bid committee, but a committee to promote a bid (this from Eric Lindsay's letter in Thyme 88). The committee is promoting the idea, and trying to gather a bid committee together to get the bid going, the members of the committee say they have no intention of being on the bidcom themselves, but feel that bidding to have Worldcon in Australia again would be a good idea.

I need a correction made to my mailing label...my apartment number is 412, not 312. Also, the Canadian post office is getting pickier, so spelling my last name properly is essential, or they may not deliver it. It's Penney, just like J.C.'s department store.

Anyway, it's time to wrap. I hope you and Laurel have a good holiday...it's Christmas tomorrow, so see you next year.

*I agree with you concerning Bill Clinton and while I'm sure that Perot might have tried to really shake things up I'm not sure how effective a president he would have made. The thing with Clinton is that the country has swung a little to far to the right in some things, though not necessarily everything.*

*Personnaly, I'm a bit surprised at how much right-wing sentiment there is in fandom. Of course not all the right wing sounding words are right wing; some are libertarian and while it can be difficult to tell the two apart, there is a difference.*

*The economy is effecting conventions all over. Reports I have from two Texas cons, the Dallas Fantasy Fair and Context, indicate that their attendance was down significantly. Particularly interesting since DFF is primarily a comic book crowd. Poor advertising may have something to do with both convention also, though.*

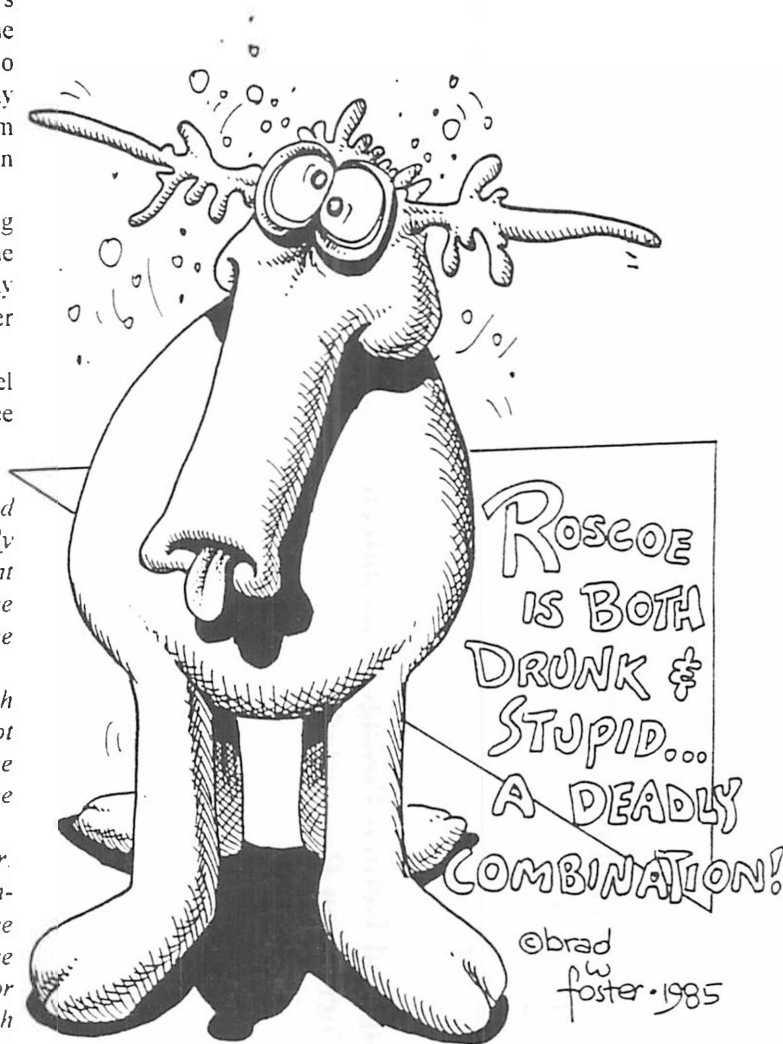
*As for the do nothing crowd, that is universal it seems. The funny (sort of) thing is that the Australian "bid" committee seems to be the same sort of thing - people who want a convention, but aren't prepared to*

*bid to get it. I'll apologize in advance if this isn't the case.*

*I only got to meet Peter Morwood and Diane Duane very briefly at GalaxyFair and I didn't catch them on any panels at all. I thought McCaffery was banned from airline travel on her doctor's orders? Congratulations to her on her daughters planned wedding, though.*

*Sorry to hear your out of work again. That's only happened to me once, for seven months before going to work for the government. What sort of unemployment system does Canada have? Little by little those of us here in the US are finding out just how different your country is from ours.*

*Hope you and your Yvonne's holidays were good one's. Best wishes for the new year.*



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