

T W I N K G





## PROGRESS REPORT

We view our wonderful covers (courtesy of, to date, five different artists) as one of the assets of the zine. We're satisfied with the fanzine review section and the letter column, though more trades and LOC's are always welcome. We'd like to see more outside articles and book reviews. To look at the plus side of the mailing list, Twink now reaches nineteen states and six other countries. While there is room for improvement in design and format, no drastic changes are imminent.

Reluctantly, we will probably have to enforce deadlines and page count limits. For articles, con reports, and reviews especially, the earlier the better. (But if timeliness is not a factor, we may hold over such material for a later issue.) There is more slack in the letter column both for time and space. Gaining readers who will actually respond/contribute is slow but steady.

If Twink is still not exactly as we want it to be in some respects, in other ways it's come along further than we expected. Most of that is due to you. And if we fail to thank everyone, by name, every issue, that will probably be due to space limitations, not lack of gratitude.

## STONEHENGE NEWS

In order to get back up to speed after well-documented problems, a second TAFF election will bring a British delegate to the 1998 Worldcon. Voting deadline is April 28th, fee is \$2 US or more if you want to send more. Nominees: Bridget "Bug" Hardcastle, Maureen Kincaid Speller, Chris Bell. Since Bridget is a regular contributor to Twink, she gets our first vote. Ms. Speller sent us her fanzine, so we voted for her second. Not knowing anything about Chris Bell, we can't endorse that person.

On a related subject, at least a few of you (we mention no names) expressed an interest in "Frohvet's TAFF Platform". Since we don't intend to run, it's an exercise in futility, but you asked, so:

"We would be a perfect TAFF delegate: not despite our anonymity, but because of it. The con could select half a dozen Americans, randomly assorted by race and gender, and we could play 'Will the real TAFF delegate please stand up?' We pledge to take a bag of nachos. (Any people that

eat jellied eels are way overdue for advice on junk food.) We pledge not to spend any more TAFF money than absolutely necessary on gifts for our niece. Anything else, the Brits will have to take their chances."

## MIDDLE GROUND

The extent of this "fannish vs. sercon" hostility is beginning to concern us. We remind everyone of what we said at the outset: we encourage lively discussion, but Twink is not going to be a vehicle for personal feuds and personal insults. While we got into fandom, originally at least, from a sercon outlook (our original intent was to talk about books), we'll do what little is within our power to narrow the gap. In that spirit, we will give serious thought to attending Corflu in 1999.


## STAY TUNED TO THIS CHANNEL

Coming in #10: another Margaret Simon cover; Lyn McConchie on cats; part III of "We're All African"; probably a Disclave report; reviews to include our take on Cherryh's Foreigner trilogy; plus what we have to say on the Hugo ballot, and -- we hope -- other stuff as well.

A special note to our artists (and a special greeting to new contributor Sue Mason!): Much as we enjoy the chance to display your varied talents, Twink is pretty well stocked for the next couple of issues. We encourage you to spread the wealth around.

## THIS(H) COVER

...was among several pieces sent to us a while ago by Steve Stiles. We don't pretend to know what it means, but given the perception of Steve principally as a "cartoonist", we decided this elegant piece should be a cover. In keeping with its "Asian" mood, the letterface used for the title is called "Mandarin". At the bottom is a hexagram from the I Ching, or Book Of Changes. Specifically, this is hexagram 17, "Sui", or "Following". The Commentary on the Text says: "... the whole universe accords with what the times dictate for it. Great indeed is this principle of according with the pulse of time."



Yo! It's TWINK #9!  
a product of  
Chaffinch Publications Ltd!

Twink is a fanzine published quarterly. Next issue: July 1998. Deadline for next issue: May 31st. Our main focus is on SF/fantasy/fandom. Twink is available for contributions, LOC's, birdseed, in trade for your fanzine, or by editorial whim. All contributions are greatly appreciated. We can't publish all of every letter, but we were certainly glad to hear from you. Mailing list policy: Anyone who writes/contributes/trades more or less regularly (at least every other issue) will stay on the mailing list. Anyone who does not respond at all after two issues in a row may be dropped from the mailing list without further notice. If this title page is highlighted in yellow, you may assume you will not receive further issues unless you write/contribute/trade promptly.

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pp. 6, 19: Phil Tortorici  
p. 8: Steve Stiles  
pp. 17, 24: Steve Stiles & William Rotsler  
p. 21: Sheryl Birkhead  
pp. 25, 26: Sue Mason

#### Twink

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This issue of Twink is dedicated to Olympic figure skater Nicole Bobek, who skated two God-awful programs and finished 17th. No one who knows skating will ever laugh at you for falling on your ass. As long as you keep getting up.



Whither  
The  
Ladies  
Of  
Fandom?  
by  
Rodney  
Leighton

(Author's note: The following is intended as, hopefully, a starting point for further discussion. My limited years and experience in fandom hardly qualifies me as any sort of "expert" on this topic.)

To begin with, I should emphasize that I am discussing fanzine fandom only. I am aware that a number of females attend conventions; that some are involved in costuming and other aspects of fandom. Also the following basically ignores some ladies who have some involvement in fandom but who rarely make a personal appearance in any fanzine.

Fanzine fandom can be divided into three categories. [[Editor's note: Gallia omnes ... Sorry, couldn't resist.]] LOCcer's, publishers, and contributors. This last can be sub-divided into writers and artists. This may be a weird order but I chose it because I am going to emulate my own life and work backwards.

Artists in fandom appear to be equally divided between males and females. This is not an area in which I have much expertise: I couldn't draw a single line from one side of the page to the other without benefit of mechanical assistance.

My appreciation of art is usually limited to male sexist appreciation of babes, which guys and gals appear to be equally adept at producing, and 'toons. I do not believe that this aspect of fandom contains more males than females.

The remainder of my categories are, however, somewhat male-dominated. Written contributions from females certainly exist but they are, for some reason, fairly rare. Aside from Sharon Farber, how many women have been Hugo-nominated as Best Fan Writer? [[Editor's note: Evelyn Leeper.]] Beyond con reports, and Lyn's contributions to a zine or so, do women write anything? Well, certainly, I have seen some. But not much.

Publishing is definitely male-dominated. This may be due to financial considerations, although I can think of quite a few women with more money than some guys I know, myself included. The field is not quite as limited as one would think from the comments of myself and the editor in Twink #7. I was aware of a few female publishers. I do not receive any zines from female publishers, except that itty bitty thing from Bridget Hardcastle which caused me to break my own rule of LOCing every fanzine I received, since there was absolutely nothing of interest to me in it. Bridget's previous zine, Obsessions, was good. Oh well. Geri Sullivan apparently spends scads of money on fanac and does a fabulous zine entitled Idea. I guess she doesn't like me. Jean Weber does something called Weberwoman's Wrevenge. I understand that Karen Pender-Gunn does a zine named after male sexist pig's favourite portion of female anatomy, although production may falter with her husband's illness. And there are a bunch of female publishers in Britain. And some previous publishers: Leah Zeldes Smith is to blame for me becoming involved in fandom. Conversely, I am, allegedly, responsible for the demise of Squee!, Brin-Marie McLaughlin's zine.

Now we come to my favourite aspect of fandom: LOC writing. This is again male-dominated. A quick scan of a couple of zines: FOSFAX #187 contains 32 LOC's, of which two are written by females; 29 by



males plus whatever Frohvet is. Challenger #6 has 21 male LOCcer's, one lone female and two ?'s. Opuntia #34.1 prints eight LOC's: all guys. Twink #7 has eleven male LOCcer's and five female. I have seen an occasional zine which, I think, has a higher ratio of female to male but perhaps that is a poor memory. Why is this? Is it simply that this is a male-dominated fandom? Or is it some other, darker factor which creates a lack of participation by the fairer sex?

There are many parallels between SF fandom and pro wrestling fandom. Fanzines in pro wrestling fandom are almost completely dominated by guys. Sadly, one reason is the treatment women receive by the majority of wrestling fans, and the way that women are portrayed in wrestling. I admit to being guilty of considering women as simply sex objects; however, I do feel that most women have excellent brains and can contribute a lot to any discussion or fanzine. I had a much higher female driven contribution to my wrestling zine than any publisher before or since. I believe it was due to the fact that while I made it plain that I considered most of them as desirable sex objects, I wanted them in my zine for their brains and communicative abilities.

I have, in the past, been guilty of long distance sexual harassment -- and plain, outright stupidity -- in personal and via LOC communications with ladies within fandom. I have regretted some of it although some gals have recognized the tomfoolery for what it was and considered it fun. I mention this as a prelude to wondering if similar activities form the basis for the non-involvement of females in fandom.

I do note that there is considerable "Stand By Your Man" -- or maybe, behind your man -- activity. How many zines which list two editors, list the female half first? Has anyone in fanzine fandom ever heard of Yvonne Penney outside of Lloyd's LOC's? Or Juanita Coulson, unless you go back to Yandro, whenever that was.

[[Editor's note: We're reminded of the old saying about giving someone enough rope... While we don't agree with everything in this article (in particular the

word "domination" makes our teeth hurt), in general our observations somewhat agree with Rodney's, i.e., fan artists seem fairly evenly divided, fan writers and editors are more often male. To which we add, caveat emptor, that in the U.K. it seems usual for male/female teams to co-edit fanzines (Plokta, Attitude, Banana Wings), where in the U.S. it's more common for couples to co-edit (FOSFAX, Mimosa, Knarley Knews). We suspect this says something about the respective cultures: what it says, we're less sure. We have to admit that we feel a certain small pride in the fact that Twink seems to do a little better than average at attracting female readers/contributors. Beyond that, we'll let you readers -- of whatever gender -- respond.]]





SCIENCE FICTION & THE LAW  
article by E.B. Frohvet

In exploring relationships with aliens, SF often deals with technical problems (see any of numerous books by Hal Clement). It occasionally deals with political problems (ditto C.J. Cherryh). Once in a while SF even takes on cultural problems (Godsfire by Cynthia Felice is one example which comes readily to mind). We've often wondered why so few SF books address legal questions.

For instance, there's a principle in law called "full faith and credit". The essence of this is that if a contract is valid in the jurisdiction where it was entered into, it will generally be recognized as valid elsewhere. Without this, interstate and international law would grind to a halt.

(This, incidentally, is the reason why so many people are getting exercised by the proposal to license gay marriages in Hawaii.)

As long as we're talking about marriage, we can use it as an example. Marriage is "a contract entered into with the state's consent". Civil law in the United States is derived largely out of the Judeo-

Christian tradition, which does not allow polygamy, at least in the last couple of thousand years. We can therefore offer as a general statement that "Bigamy is not allowed in the United States" -- except in West Virginia, where a bigamous marriage is voidable but not absolutely void, but let's not get off on side issues. What we mean by saying bigamy is not allowed, is that a bigamous marriage may not lawfully be contracted in the U.S. A lot of bigamous marriages are entered into, generally by people who lie to licensing authorities about their previous marital status, but generally those marriages are void.

Let's go over to, say, Saudi Arabia for a few minutes. In Islamic countries the civil law derives out of the Sharia, the traditional law of Islam, which does allow polygamy. Take an averagely well-to-do citizen, a banker perhaps: we'll call him Abdul. Abdul is happily and legally married to Fatima. Now Abdul gets a promotion at the bank, there's some more money coming in, so Abdul decides to take another wife; he marries Saabi. All proper and legal under the Sharia and the Saudi civil law.

Now Abdul's bank transfers him to the American office, so Abdul and his wives fly off to New York and set up house-keeping in a Manhattan duplex. Is this legal in New York? Aha, you cry, public policy in New York prohibits polygamy. But wait: this is where "full faith and credit" kicks in. Abdul's marriages were perfectly legal in the jurisdiction in which they were contracted. Under international law and the United Nations charter, the local government (U.S.) is obligated to defer to Saudi law according to "full faith and credit". Abdul and Fatima and Saabi may live together in the United States as husband and wife -- and wife -- with perfect legality, in whatever domestic tranquility they can achieve, for as long as they obey all other domestic laws. In theory, they could even apply for citizenship together as a family.

Mr. Heinlein narrowly missed the boat on this one. In The Moon Is A Harsh Mistress, the viewpoint character Manuel O'Kelly was arrested in the U.S. for "bigamy". His attorneys eventually got the charges dropped due to "lack of jurisdiction"; but counsel could equally well have argued that

the United States was obliged to recognize the validity of the character's plural marriage under the principle of "full faith and credit".



Granted, this is nit-picking. Heinlein generally did quite well on legal issues. Not surprisingly, he had military law down cold -- see in Space Cadet or in Starship Troopers. On another occasion (it may have been in The Star Beast, we'd have to look it up to be certain) Mr. Heinlein casually tossed out that a character could claim citizenship in a foreign jurisdiction under a "Lafayette law". After the American Revolution, a number of state legislatures granted citizenship rights to the revolutionary hero, the Marquis de Lafayette, and his heirs and assigns "forever". Lafayette has living descendants today. We don't know if any of them have ever attempted to claim those rights; but they could if they wanted to.

It's a stock SF idea now, even a cliché, that dolphins and whales are sentient beings. Oddly, the first example of this which we can cite was in Andre Norton's Key Out Of Time, 1963. Is anyone aware of an earlier use of this idea?

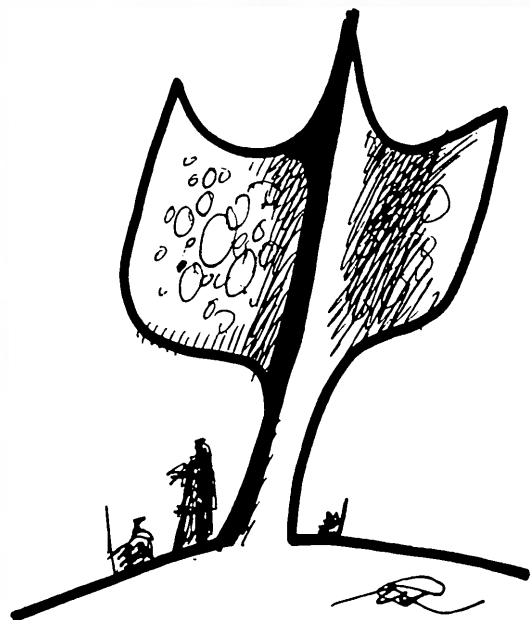
Under our present laws, dolphins and whales are animals. They have no civil rights, and no more protection than may be extended by such statutes as the "Marine

Mammals Protection Act", which also covers seals, walruses, and manatees, and nobody thinks they're sentient. (Humans had a similar status as non-sentient aliens in Robert Chase's 1989 novel Shapers; the one virtue in a book we otherwise found largely unreadable.)

However, in law, "human being" and "person" are not -- quite -- equivalent. A corporation may be a "person" for some legal purposes. Conversely, it is well established that the unborn child is not a legal "person", even in the last month of gestation: the fetus achieves the legal status of "person" by the act of being born, and surviving outside the womb for the duration of at least one breath. The fetus which miscarries or is stillborn is not a legal "person".

Let's suppose the law recognized whales and dolphins to be "persons". Clearly, those few who could prove birth in the United States (as at places like "Sea World") would have a prima facie case to claim American citizenship and the full protection of civil rights laws -- and almost certainly could sue their keepers for false imprisonment.

It seems a safe assumption, however, that the vast majority of whales and dolphins were born in international waters, and therefore could not claim American citizenship. In this country, however, even non-resident aliens are not entirely without legal recourse -- especially if



IN YOUR CASE, LOSS OF CONSORTIUM  
IS GOING TO BE TOUGH TO PROVE.



they have public opinion on their side.

(Mr. Secretary General, we make you a gift of this idea: All dolphins and whales to be declared "citizens of the world" under United Nations protection.)

If we assume that a school of dolphins or a "pod" of whales is a family unit, a good case could be made for recognizing that as a "marriage". Any human interfering with such a relationship could be prosecuted. Even do-gooder marine biologists could be sued for civil damages for loss of consortium. ("Consortium" is the legal right of spouses to the company, aid and assistance of each other. It is well established that damages can be sought for "loss of consortium"; it crops up in worker's compensation or wrongful-death actions.)

In his novel The Star Fox, Poul Anderson stipulated correctly that the United States has never been signatory to the 1859 Treaty of Paris, which prohibits the issuance of "letters of marque and reprisal": the legal basis by which governments formerly permitted private citizens to make war on the enemy (in the vernacular, "privateers"). Using this legal oddity, Mr. Anderson spun a tale about a man who takes a private role in an interstellar war. The author is to be credited for writing an SF novel using a legal "McGuffin", but there's a fatal flaw in his reasoning. The principle of estoppel bars a party from asserting a position he has previously denied, or vice versa. Although the U.S. never signed the Treaty of Paris, it has conformed to and enforced it as if it were signatory. Those who wish to participate in a war must join the recognized military and act in accordance with the laws of war. Having for over 100 years denied its citizens the right to act as "privateers", the United States would be estopped from asserting that right at this late date.

In a series of stories about her character Miles Vorkosigan, author Lois McMaster Bujold has him frequently wandering about the galaxy, conducting military operations as the head of a mercenary force. Granted, mercenaries do not have quite the same status in international law as privateers; and granted, Miles does hold a line commission in the Barrayaran military. However, he operates independently of any

legal chain of command, and frequently against the interests of governments with which his planet is not at war. The stories are vastly entertaining, and we laugh at Miles' uncanny ability to bluff and bluster through unplanned events, turning every quirk of fate to his advantage. Still, there are moments when the fuzzy legality of his actions is uncomfortable.

In his "Commonwealth" novels, Alan Dean Foster postulates a far-future society in which humanity has been legally merged with the insectoid "thranx". No doubt many people have shoved the cube-square law in Mr. Foster's face, but that's not the kind of law with which this article is concerned; and the fact that this seems to have been an altogether better deal for the human race than for the thranx is not really the issue before us.

The essence of the "Commonwealth" seems obvious: a formal recognition that both races are "persons" for legal purposes. It is the details which we find a little hazy. Thranx civil law derives out of their traditional family/clan/hive system of relationships. Even if we speculate that humanity have agreed to one uniform system of law, in defiance of all ethnic and religious differences (the present trend seems the other way: see the balkanization of the former Soviet Union into petty baronies each asserting "sovereignty"), how are the laws of two entirely different species reconciled? How is the Commonwealth government chosen? We find no reference to elections. And what exactly is the relationship of the Commonwealth government and the United Church? It is certainly true that all of a writer's effort in working out the setting of a story need not appear in the story itself, but in this instance we still have many unanswered questions.



Poul Anderson did a somewhat better job of this in The People Of The Wind, 1973 (a novel which he has told us was suggested by Belgium). He postulates a world jointly settled by humans and the avian Ythrians. Ythrians are governed by their systems of "choths" (clans) and "khruaths" (inter-clan meetings); humans have an elected parliament. Many humans have been adopted into, or are second- or third-generation members of choths, and therefore fall under choth law. The area which the author still fudges a little is how these two systems are reconciled. For instance, Ythrian law permits dueling. Most human legal systems do not recognize dueling, and a death which results is treated as murder. What if a case involved a human and a choth member? Where would such a case be tried, and under what method?



Consider the lowly sidewalk. If you bought your house in fee simple -- that is, you bought the land as well as the house -- chances are your surveyed property line runs to the edge of the nearest public road. The sidewalk is clearly on your property. However, the general public is entitled to proceed on your property; we can walk up and down

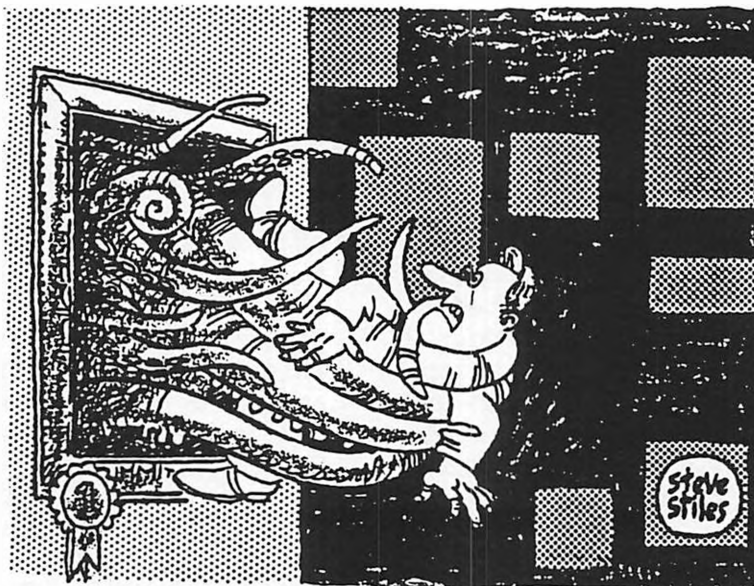
on your sidewalk until midnight, if we so choose, and you have no recourse. In fact, in many jurisdictions, you are legally required to maintain the sidewalk in safe and passable condition, at your own expense and inconvenience, as by repairing holes or shoveling snow. This is known in law as an "easement": the right to use the property of another. The only SF use of this we can recall is in Gardner Fox's agreeable little novel Conehead. (Fox used the term before it was pre-empted by Saturday Night Live.) The hero establishes that a disliked local minority have established by tradition their right to cross a particular piece of land for purposes of worship. They have established an easement, and the court correctly recognizes it.

In our own society, many people conform their everyday lives to a statutory code more than 3000 years old. The traditional Jewish laws on diet and many other subjects are explicated in detail in the Book of Leviticus. ("... These shall ye not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the hoof: as the camel, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he is unclean unto you." In case you were planning on serving roast camel for supper.) We've heard of a case where a merchant was fined in District Court for selling as "kosher" chickens which had not been slaughtered according to the prescribed method, and were therefore not "kosher". He was convicted of: false advertising.

The point of all this meandering? Writers, while you're out there creating alien worlds and strange cultures, by all means pay attention to the astronomy and physics of the situation. However, give some thought also to the statutory and judicial structure of your world. We find it difficult to imagine a sentient race without some judicial system, however informal; and any literate people will generally have encoded their customs into statute.

We submit there are probably as many SF plots out there waiting to be written about legal problems, as about hard-science problems. In math, circumference always equals pi times diameter. In law, you're not necessarily stuck with that arbitrary restriction.

KRAKEN  
IN  
THE  
WALL



Ted  
"Dr.  
Fandom"  
White

### The Fanzine Hugo Controversy And Why It Will Not Go Away

[[Editor's note: Slightly re-formatted, minimally edited, this is mainly the text of Mr. White's response to our "Fanzine Hugo" article. We'll save any further comments until the end.]]

You have to understand that I have never depended upon the very best fanzines for my overview of and enjoyment of fanzine fandom. There are never enough, and though the arrival of a Hyphen, a Skyhook, or an Innuendo would be the major event of the day (or week), it alone would not sustain the flow of fannish commentary and fan-pubbing that was the social currency of the day. (But it was incredibly fine when an issue of Warhoon, and the Tappen with D. West's "Performance" arrived on the same Saturday in 1981 -- how delicious not to know which to read first!)

...Which brings me to your article on the fanzine Hugos. I'm glad to see it, although I intend to argue with parts of it.

You are dealing with two separate, but entwined issues here. One is: What makes a fanzine good/award-worthy? And the other is: What makes a fanzine win a Hugo? You have not treated these separately, however, and may be in danger of confusing them. [[1]]

I will tell you up front that quality alone -- on any level -- is not the determining factor in the Hugo Awards. This is

actually true of all the awards, but it is particularly true of the fan Hugos. The nominating and voting base is skewed, to begin with, by a variety of factors inherent in the structure of the awards themselves. A small minority of the voters is actually informed on all the nominees; most vote for favorites or even just names they recognize. As I say, this is true for all the Hugo awards. But it is particularly true of the fan awards because most of the Worldcon attendees who vote are ignorant of fandom and fanzines. Most have not even seen most of the nominees, and vote for their favorite out of those they have seen. This is a badly uninformed voter base and makes all winners suspect. [[2]]

Indeed, it has been a rare year -- since the first fanzine Hugo was awarded in 1953 (or was it 1955 when that award was introduced? I'm not sure) -- that the fanzine regarded as the actual best won. Fantasy Times and its successor, SF Times, won repeatedly in the 1950's, at a time when neither Redd Boggs' Skyhook nor the Irish Hyphen even got nominated. F/SF Times was a semi-literate "newspaper" about the professional SF field, plugging the latest issues of the prozines (I subscribed). It was the only fanzine some Hugo voters saw.

Today's equivalent would be File 770, except for two things: it's about fandom, not prodrom, and it's much better done. (The true equivalent is Locus, but Locus

is no longer considered a fanzine.) But File 770 no more deserves a Hugo than SF Times did. It serves a utilitarian purpose, and is far from the highest example of the fanzine art, even among fellow nominees.

So what earned it its nominations? Mike Glycer hates for me to say this, but it all comes down to three words: circulation, circulation, and circulation. If your fanzine circulates to over 500 people it stands a much better chance of winning, because more voters will be aware of it. It is rare when the fanzine with the highest circulation does not win, but I can guarantee you that no fanzine with a circulation of under 300 has won in modern times. And 150-200 -- the "comfortable" circulation of most fanzines? Forget it. Unless you have a clique willing to bloc-vote you onto the ballot and support you in the final voting (a form of vote fraud, in my opinion, but it's been done more than once), you stand no chance.

I'm sending you Blat! #4. It's a typical issue; the first was a bit smaller, and no less good in terms of overall quality and tone. I personally think that it's one of the best fanzines ever produced, and a surprising number of fans agreed with me there. We did four issues in two years. We had a circulation of just under 300 -- which was prohibitively expensive, just for the postage. We were never even nominated for a Hugo. (We did win a FAAn Award at Corflu.) What does this tell me? Nothing I didn't already know: namely that so many fanzine fans are so alienated from either Worldcons or Hugos or both, that most of them do not participate in the Hugo process. Consequently Blat! didn't even get enough nominations to make the ballot. Thus, excluded from Hugo consideration, Blat! was nonetheless equal to or better than the actual nominees by most objective criteria. What does this mean for the winner (probably Mimosa) that year? That the award is devalued, and means less. It is as if the world's best athletes did not compete in the Olympics; that would devalue the gold medals, wouldn't it?

Does this devaluation concern the Lynches? I don't know; I've never discussed it with them. It would concern me if I was in their shoes.

So much for circulation. Schedule? Irrelevant. [[3]] Frequent is nice, but we settle for what we can get; fanzine publishing is still a hobby, subject to real-world pressures, as I don't have to tell you.

Size? More important. Different kinds of fanzines have different optimal sizes. I'd say Twink's is just right, for example. Habakkuk got too big too fast (which may be what killed it; it seems to be Habakkuk's Disease). Ansible (which you really should get, because it's better done than anything like it) is sized at one sheet, and is also just right. When we begin comparing one-sheet fanzines with 70-page monsters, we are comparing apples with oranges. And this any award will force us to do... which does not differentiate between fanzines of different sizes and functions.

Content: Ah, now we come to the meat of it. Content, along with presentation, with which it is often entwined, defines the true quality of a fanzine.

You can define content in various ways, of course. Fannish content vs. sercon content, say. (Like arguments over which is better music: jazz, classical, or rock?) A well-done fanzine is a fanzine that reads well and looks good. Good writing wins over bad writing; lively writing over dull writing -- irrespective of the nature of what is being written about. I'll read a fan like Greg Pickersgill on any topic he chooses. Over the years a variety of writing formats have emerged: personal journalism seems to be at the top of the list, followed by articles either serious/critical or humorous. Fanzines encourage us all to develop what natural style we have. Quite often the personality of the author informs the style in ways which may be engaging or offputting, depending upon one's taste in such things.

You, Frohvet, seem to confuse good fanzine writing with "getting articles by BNF's." Most BNF's achieved that status by being good at something -- writing, art -- but one chases them for contributions not because they are BNF's, but because they write or draw stuff we faned's want to use. And so do non-BNF's (or incipient BNF's, maybe). [[4]]



When Dan and I started Blat! in 1992, we could have filled the pages with BNF contributions, but that was not our criterion. We decided that we wanted the two best new fanwriters then on the scene: Andy Hooper and Barnaby Rapoport. Neither was yet known as a BNF, but we valued both as among the best new fanwriters. It was the fact that we valued them that counted with us as editors...

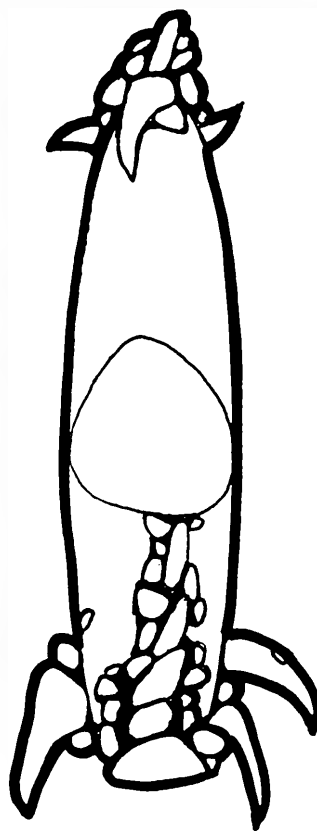
And of course, as everyone will tell you, there is no "unwritten rule that major American fanzines must have at least one article per issue by a British BNF", and I doubt you meant that too seriously. National boundaries mean little or nothing to a fan with Broad Mental Horizons. Many of us are friends. There is no tokenism; we publish material we like, irrespective of its country of origin.

Again, it's not "famous artists" who are asked to contribute to a fanzine, but artists whose stuff the editor likes. If I sent you a terrible scribble with Rotsler's signature forged to it, would you publish it because you thought it was by a "famous artist", or reject it as being below your standards no matter who did it? I hope the latter. [[5]]

You say of Mimosa, File 770, Ansible, and FOSFAX, "Sure, they're all excellent fanzines, we don't dispute that for a minute." I do. Only Ansible makes my list of "excellent". But perhaps I've seen more excellent fanzines, in the last 45 years, than you have. I regard the rest as good middle-rank fanzines. File 770 is basically a functional fanzine and little more. Mimosa is an anthology, lacking editorial personality and warmth (it has less of this than Twink). And FOSFAX exists solely in support of its argumentative letter column. There is nothing wrong in this: each fanzine occupies a niche valued by its readers and supporters. But frankly, that such could be considered fandom's best by anyone is a rather sad commentary on the current state of fandom. Not one of them ranks up there with Warhoon, Lighthouse, or even, at its peak (1960's) Yandro. To say nothing of a Hyphen or even a Rastus Johnson's Cakewalk. My advice to you, Frohvet, is to educate yourself about these other fanzines. Borrow some from Steve Stiles; see what fanzines are actually capable of. [[6]]

I applaud your parenthetical paragraph about the possibility of people putting out fanzines "with the primary purpose of winning awards... Is that what fanzines are all about?" Of course not. It would appear that some not only publish their fanzines to win awards, but think that this in some way makes them deserving of those awards. That is un-fannish by my definition of the word.

[[Editor's notes: 1: No, we perceive quality and award-winning as distinct though cognate issues. 2: Something to be said for the system used in the FAAn Awards, where in order to vote you must be recognized as a fanzine fan, or vouched for by someone who is. 3: We evidently attach more importance to maintaining a regular schedule than does Mr. White. 4: Our take is that articles by BNF's are a factor that impresses some of the small voter base; and the numbers are so small, even a minor factor can impact the results. 5: Mr. White is fortunate he did not suffer through the self-drawn "art" in early Twink's -- but we didn't have anything else. Getting Stiles and Rotsler in our #4 was a major boost to our credibility. 6: And which was the better baseball player, Jackie Robinson or Sandy Koufax? Apples and oranges again.]]



REVIEW BY RACHEL RUSSELL

Buffy The Vampire Slayer Warner TV  
Tuesday evening (check local listings)

Are you a fan of Buffy The Vampire Slayer? I love that show! I love the witty dialogue, the interactions among the characters, the acting, the exciting plots, the sudden deaths of characters I thought were semi-regulars. It is really a wonderful hour of TV.

Buffy is played by Sarah Michelle Geller and I think it's wonderful how her little face can convey so much emotion. In fact the whole cast is like that, a look, a raised eyebrow, a slanted smile, their faces are so fluid and alive. When some new background is revealed about a character, it makes sense, it fits into what we already know, and deepens things. Well, if I go on any more I'd be telling you "spoilers" if you don't watch the show. So watch it! My last comment is, this is a show with a balanced cast: Buffy, Willow, Cordelia, Ms. Calendar, Buffy's Mom, the evil Drusilla are all well written, well acted, different women characters. And Giles, Zander, Angel, Oz, Spike, even Principal Snyder are well done roles for men. (There's some secret to Principal Snyder that I for one am curious about.)

REVIEWS BY E.B. FROHNET

The Adept 1991 The Adept II: The Lodge  
Of The Lynx 1992 Katherine Kurtz &  
Deborah Turner Harris Ace \$4.99 each

Sir Adam Sinclair: country gentleman, physician, prominent in Scottish society -- and healer, spiritual adept, and "warrior of the light" in a tradition predating Christianity. The stealing of a

sword and the desecration of a tomb are the first clues that Sir Adam and his occultist friends face the terror of a black-magic lodge desperate for power.

This is the same plot Kurtz used in Lammas Night: members of the British aristocracy, paying lip service to the religion of the 20th Century, but actually occult white magicians against the forces of evil. Ritual magic, reincarnation, past life regressions, an outsider of untrained

Talent (a fictitious prince in Lammas, an artist named Peregrine here); the Sidhe, and in true kitchen-sink fashion, even Loch Ness are mixed in. This reads almost like a period piece even if it isn't.

II: Freemasons, the I Ching, sapphires. In a sense this almost suggests TV's Lois & Clark, which recycled minor variants of the same plot week after week. Another mad scientist: another satanic black magic murder cult. The Adept books lack the TV show's breezy awareness of its own campy silliness. Repeating a formulaic plot is easier to carry off in comedy than in solemn melodrama.

Interesting that the authors both apparently perceive occultism as a guy thing -- the female characters are clearly secondary; and neither, it seems, knows the difference between a falcon and a hawk. (The text repeatedly refers to Peregrine as a "hawk": a peregrine is a falcon. They are quite different.) There are several more books in this series. We may get around to reading them -- in no special hurry.

Rewind Terry England AvoNova 1997  
\$5.99

Six years ago the Holn had come to Earth. The methane-creatures cooperated



*only our opinion....*

peacefully with scientists and allowed tourists to visit their landing craft. One day, seventeen adult humans were aboard. The Holn ship set off seventeen children claiming to be the same people -- and the aliens left without explanation or warning. This is the story of what happened next; in particular, of how ill-equipped our mundane society is to deal with the consequences of such a problem.

Curious, no cover blurbs of praise from newspapers or Big Name Writers: didn't they want any, or couldn't they get any? This is a Roswell-UFO-TV-movie as influenced by Wyndham's The Midwich Cuckoos (or, far more likely, the movie version Village Of The Damned). There are way more characters than the plot needs, and nothing much to distinguish one from the next (the proverbial "funny hats" problem). England is a mundane, and it shows.

The Fire Rose Mercedes Lackey Baen  
1995 \$6.99

San Francisco, 1905: Magician and Firemaster, Jason Cameron, has trapped himself halfway through a shape-changing spell. He needs an assistant to research obscure texts so he can extricate himself. Enter Rosalind Hawkins, an orphaned but gifted scholar from Chicago. Broke, she grabs a rare opportunity for a woman linguist to earn enough money to complete her education. But there's more to Magick (sic) than reading old manuscripts.

Call it Beauty And The Beast by way of Jane Eyre. Neither are special favorites of ours. There's a fundamental flaw in the premise: if salamanders can carry trays and arrange clothing, why can't they turn pages? Rosalind is too much the pluperfect Victorian virgin to be quite believable. And Lackey may as well have set up road signs, "This Way To The Totally Predictable Conclusion." We don't object in principle to this kind of historical fantasy, but we found this getting tiresome less than halfway through.

Zod Wallop William Browning Spencer  
Borealis/White Wolf 1995 \$5.99

We'd have a hard time classing this book as either SF, fantasy, or horror (in

the usual Stephen King sense). The imprint says "dark fantasy" which is now a euphemism for horror, and misleading in this case. We bought this book largely because of a long interview with the author in Nova Express. We sat down in Barnes & Noble, determined to read the first chapter before deciding whether to buy it. Five minutes later, appalled and amused -- the two are ~~not~~ mutually exclusive -- we paid for it.

We perceive a road, running more or less directly from Bradbury to Zelazny to Gene Wolfe to Spencer; with books like Talking Man and Gormenghast and anything by Richard Grant short distances to either side of that road. All of which, we admit, tells you diddley about Zod Wallop. Okay, it's dark and cruel and funny and wonderfully written, and everyone in it is quite mad. And it's not SF.

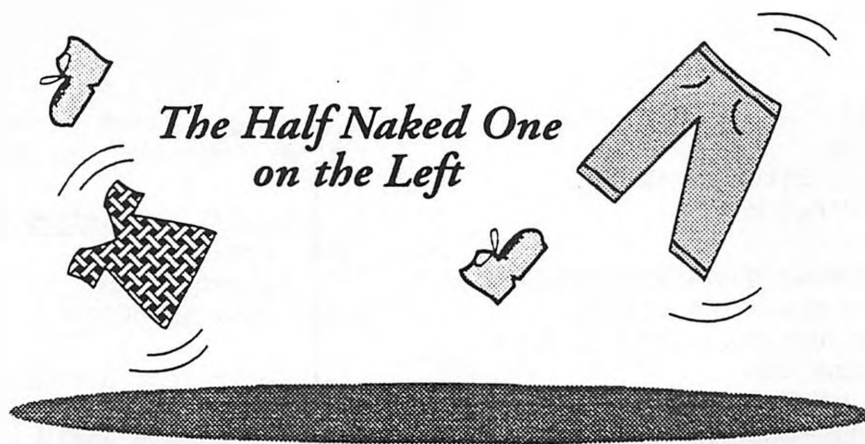
Midshipman's Hope David Feintuch  
Warner/Aspect 1994 \$5.99

This is part of an extensive series. We chose this one because it was available in the library and seems to be first, or at least early, in the chronology of the series. Hornblower set forward 350 years, with a dash of Heinlein (Starman Jones one evident influence). Feintuch appears not to grasp that even the young male readers who are the obvious target audience should understand the concept of "line of command", which the author feels the need to explicate in painful detail. He also uses the honorific "mister", by naval tradition reserved for officers, of common sailors. We understand the need for military discipline, but we can't agree with Feintuch's view that brutality is necessary to discipline, or that the only cure for brutality is more brutality. We finished this, but without much enthusiasm.

Unwillingly To Earth Pauline Ashwell  
Tor 1992 \$3.99

And Podkayne begat Rite Of Passage which begat Emergence which begat Orbital Resonance which begat this. If that lineage makes sense to you, you may make an effort to track this obscure book. If you don't have a clue, never mind.





## *The Half Naked One on the Left*

Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin  
Vol. 6 # 10      Tom Feller  
P.O. Box 68203  
Nashville TN 37206

Quarterly clubzine dense with information about Southron fandom: clubs, convention listing (now taken over by W. Andrew York), fanzine reviews (Tim Gatewood); a short lettercol, and Feller's column devoted thish mainly to a brief Worldcon report. Informative, repetitive, a little short on personality.

Squib #2  
Victor Gonzalez  
905 NE 4th Street, #106  
Seattle WA 98105

A lost article by the late Terry Carr proves the Fanzine Hugo controversy won't go away, it just gets recycled. Ted White, Andy Hooper, and Teresa Nielsen Hayden all read the Carr piece and share their takes on the same subject updated. There is also a short letter column. Neat, clean presentation.

Snufkin's Bum #2  
Maureen Kincaid Speller  
60 Bournemouth Rd, Folkestone,  
Kent, CT19 5AZ, United Kingdom

Speller discusses the transition from APA's to fanzines; a long reflection on riding "gallopers" (we gather that's what Americans call a "merry-go-round"); also a few words about her cats, and some letters. The editor is also a candidate for TAFF. Slightly above, or at least slightly longer than, the average American personalzine.

### Attitude #12

Michael Abbott, John Dallman, Pam Wells  
102 William Smith Close  
Cambridge, CB1 3QF, United Kingdom

There's something sad about the end of a quality fanzine, but so many athletes and musicians haven't known when to bag it, you have to admire someone who leaves on their own terms. Even coming in late, we admired this neatly produced and varied genzine a lot. It will be missed.

### The Jezail #3

Andy Hooper  
4228 Francis Avenue N, #103  
Seattle WA 98103

Apparently not out the window, just having fannishly traditional scheduling problems. Hooper on TAFF, DUFF, and Corflu news (he is the new administrator for the FAAn awards); Ted White's "Dr. Fandom" column; Greg Benford on Freeman Dyson's Imagined Worlds; fanzine reviews. The future direction of this highly informative fanzine has yet to be decided.

### Mimosa #21

Richard & Nicki Lynch  
P.O. Box 3120  
Gaithersburg MD 20885  
[Note change of address.]

The Hugo winner maintains its usual high standards and its usual specific focus, with a Worldcon report by the editors; the usual fan-history articles by the Usual Suspects (Kyle, Chalker, Ackerman, Willis); tributes for late fan Joni Stopa; and a few letters. Mimosa is like Popeye, it am what it am.

Squiggledy Hoy #2  
Bridget Hardcastle  
19 Wedgewood Road, Hitchin, Herts,  
SG4 OEX, United Kingdom

A small but growing quarterly personal-zine from someone who, in our Yank ignorance, we're just realizing is a BNF. The editor explains the title, her father on the old family home, cheese reviews, a mostly U.K. lettercolumn. As usual some Britishism's just bluegreened us, but mostly we enjoyed its casual style.

MSFire Vol. 3 # 6  
Lloyd G. Daub  
P.O. Box 1637  
Milwaukee WI 53201

More promptlier than usual -- are they speeding up the schedule? Most of this is taken up with Daub's "Pathfinder Nelix" serial. Editorials on William Rotsler and the B-1 bomber; familiar features of wacky poetry, fanzine reviews, and letters. The best feature of this zine is how much fun Daub and his cohorts seem to be having producing it.

MimeMeow #4 (and other issues)  
Bill Bridget  
4126 Mountain Creek Road, #6  
Chattanooga TN 37415

The arrival of this roughly monthly item was a surprise, but we're acquiring a taste for it. Reads more like an APA submission -- the editor's cousin explains why there is an ox at the Nativity scene; but #4 also has letters, fanzine reviews, and fan politics. The last is sufficient of itself to call this a personalzine.

Memphen #239  
Tim & Barbara Gatewood  
3125 S. Mendenhall Road, #353  
Memphis TN 38115

Monthly newsletter/clubzine of a small Memphis group. Club news, book reviews, and the Darrell Awards, with which we're not familiar. If we say "typical nice little clubzine", that's not a putdown; at least it publishes regularly. We're

acquiring a bunch of Tennessee contacts: now we just need one in Knoxville!

Scavenger's Newsletter #167  
Janet Fox  
519 Ellinwood  
Osage City KS 66523

Arguably "not a fanzine", this guide to small press, mostly horror markets still turns up in our mailbox occasionally. We had written to mention the non-response from Speculative Fiction & Beyond, noted herein. Having been perhaps too flip in reviewing a previous issue, we take this opportunity to say publicly that we find SN, within its limits, a useful and interesting source of information.

FOSFAX #189  
Tim Lane & Elizabeth Garrott  
P.O. Box 37281  
Louisville KY 40233

One review of FOSFAX seems to run into the next because it doesn't change much. Analysis and book reviews by Joseph Major, con reports by Johnny Carruthers and James Dorr, are the zine's strengths; you should know by now where we stand on its weakness. We'd really like to see Garrott take on more than her current token involvement.

Blat! #4 ("Winter 1994")  
Syndrome #5 ("Blat! Archives")  
Ted White & Dan Steffan  
1014 N. Tuckahoe Street  
Falls Church VA 22046

Sent to us by White as an example of what fanzines should be. Blat! is an impressive 94 pages with articles, fan fiction, LOC's, and bunches of Rotsler, Stiles, and Grant Canfield art. Syndrome is a reissue of material from a lost zine of the 70's, with an interview with Frank Lunney, the original editor. Both are very fannish, a label White disavows.

The Galacto Celtic Newsflash (Autumn '97)  
Franz Miklis  
A-5151 Nussdorf 179  
Austria

The editor's FAPA contribution discusses the problems of virtual reality; a report on his and his wife's trip to Morocco, and a midievalist party; comments on the World Wide Party; and remarks addressed to other FAPAn's, sort of a letter-column-in-reverse. Nice to have a view from beyond English-speaking fandom.

PhiloSFy #8

Alexander R. Slate  
8603 Shallow Ridge Drive  
San Antonio TX 78239

In some ways, a fanzine so like Twink (even the schedules are parallel) we're surprised no one has accused us of being Alex's evil twin sibling. An expanding book review section; letter column; fanzine reviews, and articles about ethics. There is even a tribute to Rotsler. Maybe the similarities are part of why we like this fanzine so much.

Flokta Vol. 3 #1

Steve Davies, Alison Scott & The Cabal  
52 Westbourne Terrace, Reading,  
Berks, RG30 2RP, United Kingdom

Davies' Novacon report played as a parody of bad pirate flicks; a vacation report by Dave Langford; Olde Plokta's Almanack. We're fond of Plokta, really. If we have a concern, it's the Comedian's Dilemma: doesn't it get a little tiring, having to be that on, that clever, all the time? For the record, we deny being Peter Mandelson. Goo.

The Reluctant Famulus #51

Tom Sadler  
422 W. Maple Avenue  
Adrian MI 49221

We've already praised this genzine amply, putting it tops on our nominating ballot. Sadler discusses his unsuccessful run for TAFF, Rotsler, and his (Sadler's, that is) grandchildren. Terrific Peggy Ranson cover, wide assortment of articles, long and very personal lettercol. Well started on its way to #100, we hope.

Vanamonde #'s 240-243

John Hertz  
236 S. Coronado Street, #409  
Los Angeles CA 90057

Hertz's APA-L contribution, apparently weekly but mailed in batches of four, out of the blue. Personal comments and replies to things said elsewhere in the APA, which as we're not a member, mostly went flying past obliquely. Is anything gained by labelling the back of a one-page sheet "page 2"? Pretty obscure from where we sit.

Visions Of Paradise #75

Robert Sabella  
24 Cedar Manor Court  
Budd Lake NJ 07828

Quarterly personalzine: Sabella's journal of his life; report on the Nanking Conference of which he was a committee member; comments on his tastes in SF and rock music; some letters. This does not have much SF/fandom content, and a few more illos would liven up its text-dense format; but it has a quiet appeal that grows on you, ~~the~~ more issues you see.

Space Cadet Gazette #7, #9

R. Graeme Cameron  
1855 W. 2nd Avenue, Apt. 110  
Vancouver, B.C., V6J 1J1, Canada

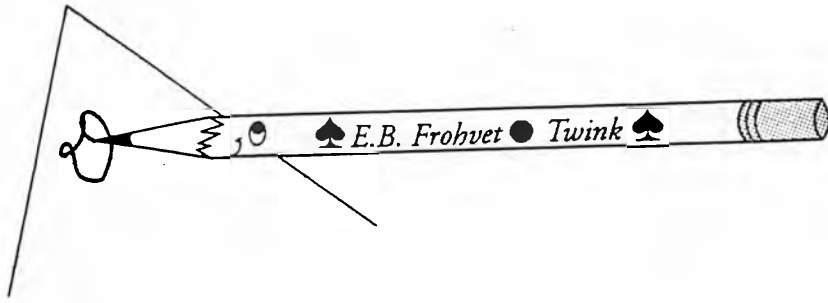
An irregular personalzine, in digest format. V-~~Con~~ report, an appreciation of B-movies, the editor's grandfather's World War I journal, a serial report of a 1981 (yes, that's correct) trip to Mexico. #9 is a definitive history of the Canadian Unity Fan Fund and its politics and feuds. SCG has personality and its own distinct voice, and a strongly Canadian view.

SFSFS Shuttle #132

P.O. Box 70143  
Fort Lauderdale FL 33307

#131 vanished in a time warp; but thish, edited by Edie Stern, is far in advance of any other Shuttle we've seen. Gerald Adair with analysis of Shakespeare; reprint of an old Terry Carr article; fanzine reviews by Peter Barker. This is much more what a clubzine should be; we hope for continued improvement.





## Rheaders Rhevenge

[[Editorial comments appear in the customary double brackets.]]

TEDDY HARVIA  
701 Regency Drive  
Hurst TX 76054

I'm disappointed you would stoop to putting a babe on your cover to increase your readership. Those that look rarely read or respond (at least in writing).

Knowing a pseudonym's true identity used to be an obsession. Now, however, after having lived with a pen name for 20 years, I realize a person's real self is often more revealed by a name they create for themselves.

[[Editor's note: Harvia's critique on a postcard featuring two cowboy-hatted Texas beauties in skimpy bikinis. // So what do you figure "Frohvet" says about us?]]

CATHERINE MINTZ  
1810 S. Rittenhouse Square #1708  
Philadelphia PA 19103

Yes, please, I would very much like to have a copy of Gormenghast. How would you like to be paid? I assume a check made out to "E.B. Frohvet" is not going to do the trick.

[[No, our bank does not know us as "Frohvet".]]

Unlike Lyn McConchie, I did pick up that F.M. Busby was male and also guessed that Andre Norton was female even though I was assured I was wrong by Knowledgeable Adults -- librarians. Nonetheless, I failed the Tiptree test until the creation of Raccoona Sheldon.

I'd guess that the odds of guessing an unknown fiction author's gender are better than 50-50, but that no one could approach 100%. I predict that as the genders become more evenly distributed among the professions that it is going to become harder to guess who is what -- and that everyone will care less, too, probably.

It may always be more difficult to guess a nonfiction author's sex, because often there are fewer clues about the writer's interests and experiences beyond the topic under discussion, and it's often the little sidelights that give the game away, the details that catch a character's eye. A man writing as a woman may only describe a room as a stinking mess; a real woman might specify the presence of dirty laundry, unwashed dishes, and spoiled milk.

[[We wonder if women are more oriented to visual details, or if that's just a convention of women's writing, like the detailed descriptions of clothing common to romance novels?]]

JOSEPH T. MAJOR  
1409 Christy Avenue  
Louisville KY 40204

PUBLIC NOTICE: I am not E.B. Frohvet and have no influence over E.B. Frohvet's editorial or other writings or endorsements.

You forgot to mention Rotsler's long and interesting film career. This featured such interesting incidents as described in the letter from him that led off the lettercol in Mimosa #21, where he tells about taking Marilyn Monroe out to look for a house.

[[Or the posthumously published article

in Outworlds #68 in which Rotsler discussed his adventures on- and off-camera making soft-porn flicks in the 1960's.]]

After Judy-Lynn del Rey died, she was voted the Best Professional Editor Hugo. Lester declined it, presenting arguments that paralleled your position, but with the additional comment that the fans had declined to honor Judy-Lynn while she was around to appreciate it.

[[We were present at that Hugo Awards ceremony, and had that precedent in mind when we made the remark.]]

"A funny reflection about something that happened in British fandom in 1954 is the perfect article." And I thought you had given up on Mimosa. If your prediction is correct, Mimosa is a shoo-in for Best Fanzine in Baltimore, thanks to Willis's "I Remember Me" in #21, which is -- a funny reflection about something that happened in British fandom in 1954.

"If Niekas published more often than every two or three years." Their problems stem from the gaffiation of the publisher ...with, they said, "all the manuscripts" back in 1996. Ed Meskys was showing off proof copies of the first 20 or so pages of the next issue at Worldcon. Moreover, I came to understand what Ted White means by "sercon" by reading the non-Moskowitz articles in Niekas, which have included some ironic gems as an article analyzing LOTR in terms of 20th Century army organization, an article discussing literacy in the Conan universe, and an article discussing a future history by Anthony Boucher that was about one book's worth of stories.

The panel I saw at Rivercon last year on publishing featured panelists arguing that doing media tie-ins does not generate any transfer to original work. Just because some devoted Lois & Clark fan buys Lois & Clark: A Superman Novel will not generate any recognition for the author and other works. Writing an original work may bring in more money in the long run, but long run does not pay this month's rent.

[[We agree; but paying the rent should not be a problem for Carolyn Cherryh.]]

"The rules of basketball, baseball, football or hockey do not specify that the players have to be human... There's stories



lurking in them thar rules." You mean like the deCamp story where someone entered a mermaid in a women's swim meet and she won?

I guess Lyn McConchie could get a lot of F.M. Busby since Rissa Kerguelen had two sequels, two prequels, and is usually split into two volumes because of size.

[[Ah, that's three prequels: Star Rebel, Rebel's Quest, and Zelde M'Tana.]]

I had a talk with Dick Smith at Ditto in Cincinnati last October and we observed that there was a division between Ditto and Corflu. Dick was in a position to observe directly, since he and Leah Smith are the exceptions to the rule, attending both. But you have a "Ditto crowd" and a "Corflu crowd" -- i.e., neither White nor Hooper nor Gonzalez nor Huntzinger were at that Ditto.

Harry Warner reports on the disappearance of the midlist. There was a notorious e-mail salvo by Spider Robinson late last year where he revealed his discovery of this with great Robinsonian awe and ire. Since most observers had been aware of this state of affairs for some time, Robinson's jeremiad ("Robinsonade" perhaps?) did not achieve quite the impact he had intended, which is in a way unfortunate, since it is a genuine problem.

[[The term "robinsonade" already has an accepted literary meaning.]]

I think it would serve the coffee snobs just right if they bought \$8/lb Costa Rican for \$21/lb Kona. There is a vast element of pretension in coffees these days. The only thing, one hopes, is that like all such supertrendy fads, it will burn out.

[[You should visit Bun Penny at Columbia Mall, where they have barrels of 25 or 30 blends.]]

JOSEPH NICHOLAS  
15 Hansons Road, South Tottenham  
London, N15 4JU, U.K.

Many thanks for Twink #8, the accompanying letter, the press clippings, the Hugo voting suggestions -- all gratefully pawed through. Because we are off to Australia to visit relatives at the end of the month, and will not return until the weekend before the Leeds Corflu in March, I am going to try to respond to the fanzines we receive as and when they arrive, banging out my thoughts in a rush in order to get them down on the page, to ensure that they actually get said instead of being allowed to drift until the press of last minute Things To Do condemns them to utter oblivion.

You say that you "still believe that the fannish wing objects by definition to the sercon wing". It may sometimes seem that way, and indeed there are fannish fans who virtually despise sercon fans for wasting time on mere books when they could be building up Fine Old Fannish Traditions -- just as there are those sercon fans who virulently despise fannish fans for not loving SF to the depths of their mortal souls. But I think you'll find that these are the exceptions, and that the divide is not between fannishness and serconism, but between those who like good books and good writing, and those who are so besotted with SF that they have lost all sense of discrimination and common sense, and think that Piers Anthony and Orson Scott Card are on a par with Brian Aldiss and Chris Priest simply because they are all SF writers... Naturally, I too will slum it from time to time, and read some scruffy ole genre nonsense just to give the brain a rest -- but it's more likely to be Jack Vance, for his convoluted imaginary societies, or Patrick O'Brian's "Aubrey & Maturin" seafaring novels set in the Napoleonic era, than Alan Dean Foster or Spider Robinson.

...It's true that there's currently a dearth of sercon fanzines... but I think this has less to do with changing attitudes of fans than with changes in external circumstances: the decline of the SF short story market, the rise of sharecropping and tie-ins, the shift from autonomous

novels to multi-decker carbon-copy fantasy trilogies, publishers' pressure for an enhanced bottom line that has virtually extinguished the mid-list, the burgeoning of alternative sources of entertainment which has reduced readership, and the simultaneous fragmentation and multiplication of SF which means there is now so much to read that the chances of connecting with other readers who share your particular tastes is so reduced that it's hardly worth talking about books at all.

[[Whew! If Twink accomplishes nothing else, our place in fan history is secure. Remember, you read it here first: Joseph Major and Joseph Nicholas agree on something (that the loss of the mid-list is a real problem).]]

At which point, winding up to a fair old pitch, I went downstairs and had dinner. And am much calmer now, you will be pleased to hear. The advantage of having a partner who only works Wednesday to Friday is that dinner on Monday and Tuesday tends to be a much less rushed affair -- more complex and interesting dishes. (Pour a glass of soave. Sip gently, ruminating on the trauma of having to go back to work after the long Christmas/New Year break... Glug down more soave!)

Coming to the end, I suspect -- and I've hardly said anything about this latest issue. Let me quickly address this deficiency, then, by saying that I thoroughly disagree with your Hugo recommendations... I haven't seen Tom Sadler's The Reluctant Famulus for two or three years, but I am familiar with the others, and apart from Attitude (which is unlikely to make the final ballot because it's never been nominated before, and is therefore unknown to the Great Unwashed) none of the titles you mention stand comparison with some of the others I could name. Banana Wings, Idea, FTT, Plokta, Never Quite Arriving.

[[We don't get Banana Wings. We did send Twink to Geri Sullivan in hopes of trading for Idea. FTT is not eligible since you didn't publish in 1997. We could see nominating Plokta -- maybe next year? But we'll stand on our recommendation of The Reluctant Famulus.]]



BUCK COULSON  
2677 W 500 N  
Hartford City IN 47348

I'm not much on "New Age" occultism. I guess I'm a total non-believer; I disbelieve in all the cults and the Christian God. (Though I'm legally a minister and have performed legal weddings; a friend sent my name in to the Universal Life Church years ago without telling me and I got somewhat of a shock when my ministerial certificate arrived in the mail. And then fans began wanting me to marry them...) Notice that all my marriages have been legal; they haven't all been religious, though I was asked to do one in a Quaker Meeting House. Juanita can do Tarot and has "amazed her friends", but also isn't a believer in anything. Most of the newer religions strike me as appealing to people who have rebelled against their parents' religion but want to believe in something. Fine with me...

[[ "Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets ..." -- Saint Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews (New Revised Standard). We're prepared to believe that many different people have fragmentary glimpses of the transcendent. ]]

People who criticize you are generally trying to prove their own superiority, because in their own minds they aren't really sure of it... The same, to some extent, goes for "fannish tradition". People who are strong for tradition aren't, for the most part, sure of themselves, and tradition is a crutch for them. Of course, if the self-promotion is taken for real, then there can be a reaction against braggarts ... so the self-promotion needs to be obviously a gag.

Maybe Bujold isn't working at her full potential with Miles, but the idea of a

working writer is to keep eating, and she's certainly doing that. Or, as Marion Zimmer Bradley once said when SFWA was debating a raise in dues, "My money goes for shoes for the kids." There's a big difference between writers who can afford to experiment to reach their potential, and those who write because they need the money, and it's not unheard of for some of the best ones to be in the latter group.

[[We once heard about the British writer Keith Roberts turning down an expenses-paid trip to a U.S. con because he could not afford the time off from his mundane job.]]

I don't know, Sheryl; I haven't seen or heard from Elliott Shorter for several years. He is -- or was when I knew him -- a New Yorker and may still go to East Coast cons. Last time I saw him was at the Atlanta Worldcon, whenever that was.

[[1986. How about it, readers? Any of our Northeast readers know the whereabouts of Elliott?]]

Nope, you won't see us at the '98 Worldcon. If you get to Chicago in 2000 we'll be there behind a huckster table, health permitting. Too long a drive, too much stress, too expensive for us old farts.

I guess reviewing, fan and pro, is the one thing I've done that Harry hasn't. Well, it's nice to know there's one thing he hasn't done better...



GUY LILLIAN III  
P.O. Box 53092  
New Orleans LA 70153

Good day at the P.O. box; Twink appeared along with Knarley Knews, a Geis-zine, & John Hartz' Apa-L pub. I hope to draw the roomful of loose paper and floating ideas that is Challenger #7 into some sort of



mailable form by the beginning of March, but no promises. Looking forward to the Worldcon -- on your turf, this time!

[[If any of our readers want to meet us, an opportunity will be made available at the '98 Worldcon; details to be announced, probably, next issue.]]

TED WHITE  
1014 N. Tuckahoe Street  
Falls Church VA 22046

[[Editor's note: Mr. White's letter was over six pages, with the proviso that "if you excerpt, that you do not do so in tiny out-of-context pieces." We've tried to keep what we could, but many points demanded the personal reply we sent.]]

It strikes me (both from reading you here...and earlier in Apparatchik) that you like to adopt poses, and affect attitudes, perhaps to disguise yourself and your true identity, and perhaps simply for your own amusement (the editorial we). Neither reason bothers me; nor do your affectations per se. But part of this stance you have adopted seems to rest upon the plank of opposition to "faanish"ness as you identify it, and by extension to those whom you identify as bastions of "faanish"ness like myself.

I've been here before. You are not the first to adopt such a stance. When communication is possible, I try to defuse the situation. When communication is rejected, I shrug my shoulders and move on.

When, in Twink #8, Joseph Nicholas quite accurately debunks this anti-fannish paranoia of Joseph Major, by pointing out that such people practice self-exclusion, your response is to quote me back at him -- and read the words you typed absolutely backwards! Read them again. What am I advocating? That "Corflu...should be attracting more than just the fannish hard core. It should be drawing the sercon...fanzine fans as well." (Your quote; your ellipses.) The implication is not clear "that sercon fans are made to feel unwelcome at Corflu." And to draw that conclusion is to exhibit an anti-fannish paranoia for which you ought to be ashamed.

Corflu was founded by people (specifically Allyn Cadogan) who would not

recognize the dichotomy that you see in fanzine fandom, and who were neither elitist nor exclusionary. Corflu is for people who are "into" fanzines. People like (gasp!) you. From the beginning it has drawn from a cross section of fandom... Corflu is as much a home for, say, Dick Smith and Leah Zeldes... as it is for me and my buddies (like Andy Hooper) -- and always has been. I'd like to see the fans who put out fanzines and shun Corflu... start showing up and participating.

[[We apologize for misconstruing your intent; and we may reconsider the chance of attending a Corflu in, say, 1999.]]

I rather liked Twink #8. (I'll wait while you get your breath back. Slow and easy -- long deep breaths. That'll do it.)

It reminds me of the kind of fanzines that used to be common in the Good Old Days (1950's-60's), right down to the cover. You have to understand that I have never depended upon the very best fanzines for my overview of and enjoyment of fanzine fandom... What filled in the gaps were all the other fanzines, scores of them, which while not top-rank were nonetheless responsible for one's overall sense of fandom... I value a fanzine like Frozen Frog in the same way I value a Trap Door: both are parts of the mosaic that is fanzine fandom, and each adds something essential to the overall experience... We need more good fanzines. Not more great fanzines (too much to expect), but more good, middle-rank fanzines...

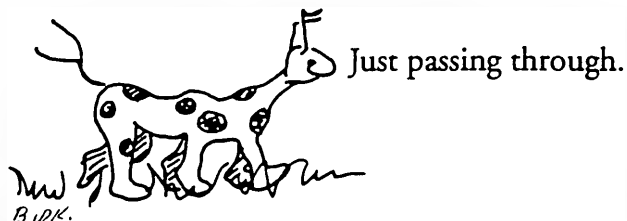
Twink strikes me as middle-rank, and the best things in it are yours (which is typical). You seem to have broad interests and a willingness to pursue at least some of them. I like that. I won't agree with you on a number of points, but I hardly expect to.

[[Editor's note: The remainder of Mr. White's letter was a long deconstruction of our article on the fanzine Hugo, differing on some points, expanding on many. Rather than print its entirety in the lettercolumn, we intend to discuss the possibility of using some form of Mr. White's comments as an article in future.]]

PETER "MAL" BARKER  
c/o SFSFS  
P.O. Box 70143  
Fort Lauderdale FL 33307

Thanks for sending along Twink #8. Next Shuttle should be out this week some time. The next one after that should be out at the end of March if all goes well. I get the honor of editing that one. Liked the cover on this one. Also the fanzine worthy of a Hugo business. We need to get a hold of MSFire it sounds like. Dunno if you have heard this but the Boston folks for 2001 have decided to move their location of Worldcon to Orlando, which of course gets everyone down here excited. At the last Tropicon I think Resnick did mention his doing Battlestar Galactica novels.

[[Seems fandom has finally worn out its welcome in Boston. Not surprisingly, Disclave (the D.C.-area con) is also moving to a new site after last year's well-publicized contretemps with bondage geeks.]]



SHERYL BIRKHEAD  
23629 Woodfield Road  
Gaithersburg MD 20882

Nice to see some of Franz's work outside of his zines. Nice lime green color, too, while I'm at it.

Each year I try to get the statistics on Hugo nominations and The Reluctant Famulus has been right up there in the top handful -- but not quite high enough to make that cut. It is a kudo to Tom that he gets that high, but always baffles me when I look at the list since I cannot understand why some of those zines are there. If one looks at the actual numbers, it would only take about 25 or so, based on the recent figures, to be up with the big kids. If a zine's circulation is about 100, then if about one fourth of the readership (assuming they are qualified to nominate,

of course) would be more than enough, since others see and hear about the zine. One fourth of the readership should translate into more than 25 nominations. Add to this that one can nominate five or six zines -- it gives any one nominator a choice. I try to be sure I nominate in all the blanks of the fan categories, if only to try to help my favorite... Only writing in one favorite may not be the best thing for your top choice. Ah, but I've raged on about this before -- each fan has the right to nominate and vote their way, this is just what I think.

[[See Ted White's article for more discussion of this. There may be a fudge factor regarding that assumption that all readers are eligible to, or will bother to, nominate.]]

I think I heard vague mumblings that there might be some sort of Rotsler award -- I'm guessing from the L.A. area, but what I heard mumbled was that it might be monetary in nature, and I'm not sure I go along with that. In kind, perhaps (goods, con membership of your choice, supplies or so on) but that might be simply a rumor.

The labyrinth is an interesting concept.

I am not into media information, so when I could not find Lois & Clark in the time slots I could follow, I had to presume it was cancelled. This surprised me as I had only heard good things about the show. I enjoyed it although I had wondered what to expect after the marriage, which opened up a lot of plot lines in and of itself. I was sorry to see the show go...

[[Our understanding was that Dean Cain's and Teri Hatcher's contracts were up and they just weren't interested in going on with the show.]]

FRANZ H. MIKLIS  
A-5151 Nussdorf 179  
Austria

Kusz die Hand Linda, meine Verehrung Susan, und habe die Ehre E.B., or short: "hi"...

[[Somehow we sense that greeting lost something in translation.]]

Many thanks for Twink #8, a zine that

surely earns the term "the salt in the fanzine-soup". I greatly enjoyed the LOC's and your witty comments. And with pleasure I noticed the riddle going on.

With great interest I read the article about the Hugo nominations. It brought a little bit of light into this (for me) mysterious fannish tradition. I don't exactly know the "hows" and "whys" of this nomination, the only thing I know is that we from the kraut-speaking part of the universe would sooner get a Tasmanian Space Devil in our bed than this rocket on the shelf. But no problem. We created our own nominations and prizes here.

Some examples: The Council of Elders and my home druids elected Catherine Mintz to the "Summer-Queen of Celtic Fandom", while Gabi Berndt reached the honors of "Bardic Queen of the Year". Fred Schutz, a renowned German fan-author and council of the "International Rattler", rewarded me with the title of "Grand Master of Celtic Fandom" and he in turn was rewarded with the "Prince Charming Award". Benoit Girard made me to the "Councillor of the World Wide Party". (For those who don't know: the WWP was created from pure fun by Benoit Girard and me and has been celebrated by hundreds of fen the fourth year over, creating a fannish wave over the world always on June 21st at exactly 21:00 o'clock.)

[[Sadly, we, a mere commoner, have been addressing Catherine with undue familiarity. Sorry, Your Summer Majesty. / Hmm, we feel an idea coming on: The First Occasional Twink Awards... ]]

I personally think that it's highest time to bring fresh wind and ideas into old dusty fannish traditions, and be honest: what is a cold and rusty rocket compared to a warm and tender Summerqueen?



LYN MCCONCHIE  
Farside Farm, Ngamoko Road  
R.D. Norsewood 5491, New Zealand

As for nothing in your atlas/travel guide on Norsewood, well, with some 342 people we aren't exactly the bustling hub of the universe. But we do have a large goat farm which is also organic, sells its own cheeses, and is New Zealand's smallest licensed dairy factory. (And the goats which are very well treated adore meeting visitors and the babies are utterly adorable.) We have a pioneer museum with the emphasis on the Scandinavian origins in the Norsewood/Dannevirke area. We have a pottery shop, and antique shop, tea rooms, three large craft shops... the Norsewear factory which makes woolen items sold all over the world, two parks and two settlers monuments. Because of our Scandinavian origins we get a lot of visitors and the Danish Queen always comes here whenever she visits.

[[Wow. We've never met a real queen, or even Catherine Mintz. We did once shake hands with a Lord Mayor of Dublin...]]

I could also be egotistic and say that I'm helping to put Norsewood on the larger map. My two children's picture books The Lonely Troll and The Troll's New Jersey are selling strongly and because of that the publisher (who also lives in the area) recently added merchandise with them so that now we have "Garden Trolls" tea towels, post cards, and T-shirts. The coloured sheep I breed also attract foreigners who like to photograph the small flock (black, brown, and black-and-white-spotted lambs). I'm one of the few people who still handmilk so I've had visitors brought down to see that too.

On Scavenger's Newsletter, there is a simple reason why both you AND those objecting to what you said are right. Every so often there IS an issue in which almost all of the markets pay in copies only. You just happened to strike that one. How do I know? Well, I've been getting Scav for some five years and I've noticed that about two issues a year are like that. So everyone is correct.

And to Sheryl Birkhead, I guess naming animals, looking after them and then eating them is the way farmers learn -- to be

schizophrenic. But I'm quite capable of hanging a handy name on a beast and then having it killed. The name isn't what makes you fond of it. On the other hand, Bette Davis, my jersey house cow, will live on here until she dies of natural causes and will then be honorably buried. So too the hens and the geese. The adult ewes and my ram (all named) are also safe. It's the offspring I name but take care not to get fond of, and then eat or sell. You have to. I have 6½ acres. If I kept everything which is born here I'd be overrun and the pastures eaten to bare earth in two years, and then they'd all starve anyway. But I DO make sure all my animals are well treated, die quickly and cleanly without fear or pain, and are apologized to for the necessity.

[[If we were about to be slaughtered, we're not sure an apology would be much help. But then we eat meat too, so...]]

And re: Franz's letter and your assurance that if Rodney expects you to be a "hot babe" he's going to be disappointed, that's all right. He's known me for years. He's used to disappointment. As for Murray Moore's comment that "the golden age of SF is 12", I disagree. I came to SF later, at 16. The first book I read ("Andrew North's Plague Ship, and yes, I still have the original copy) blew me away and I've been a fan ever since.

[[It's a widely quoted saying, not original with Murray, but 16 seems right on the edge. Almost every SF reader we've ever known acquired the habit between the ages of, say, 11 and 14.]]

For your skeletons in the closet snippets -- Piers Anthony collaborated on soft porn books back in the 70's. I came across one once.

And a snippet too for the "Oh yes?" department. There's a Canadian TV series which isn't half bad called Forever Knight about a vampire who works for the Toronto police as a detective. What has always amused the heck out of me is the disclaimer at the end where they say that the characters are fictitious and any resemblance to real people is accidental and unintentional. I see -- they don't want to offend any vampire cops out there!

My favorite comment on marriage:

Husbands are men who stand by you through all the troubles you wouldn't have had if you hadn't married them.

And on that note I must away.

[[And if anyone thinks we're fool enough to agree or disagree with that one, guess again...]]

JOY V. SMITH  
3403 Providence Road  
Lakeland FL 33810

Lovely cover by Franz Miklis (Twink #8). And I like the "Rheaders' Rhevenge" logo.

Very interesting interview with Bobbi Sinha-Morey; I remember The Midnight Zoo. One of the editors worked with me on a story, which improved it greatly, but unfortunately they lost the story, and then The Midnight Zoo folded. The story was published elsewhere later.

Excellent article on fanzines, and I found the labyrinth story interesting too. (I was reminded of the Pattern in the Amber stories too.)

[[We're told the same people have made a permanent labyrinth in a public park in the Baltimore area; but it's on the extreme far side of the city from here, at least an hour's drive, so we haven't seen it yet. Maybe in the spring...]]

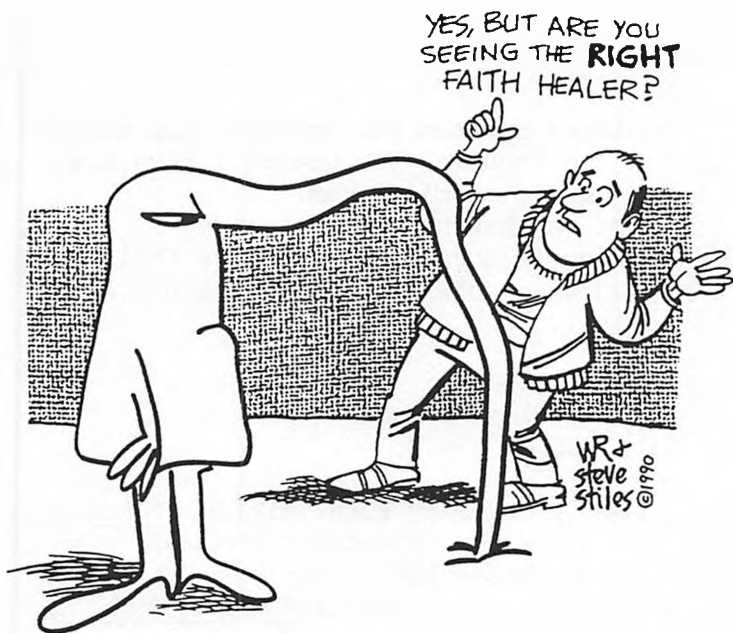
Good selection of reviews. I admire Leonard Nimoy's restraint in dealing with William Shatner's juvenile behavior.

Re: informal poll on pets. Our household has one cat, three dogs, and a collection of bird baths and toad houses. The pet population is way down from a hunch of cats, dogs, birds, and herps.

MARGARET B. SIMON  
1412 NE 35th Street  
Ocala FL 34479

Thanks for your note. It inspired me then and there to go ahead and send some art folios to MSFire, though I think you have three out of the four in your files; I am planning to put another one together this year. Maybe TWO more. They come in handy for small press editors who need something in a hurry. I've made more money recycling art this way; well worth the cost of the printing.





[[Gulp] We must owe you a bunch of money by now. Do you take VISA?]]

As for your intending to nominate me for "Best Fan Artist", am surprised and pleased. However as you say (and I FULLY AGREE) there are others who deserve the title far more than I do. Top that off, I didn't even understand what that "Best Fan Artist" was, though they give awards to them at most all conventions. Now, I know. The (former) Small Press Artists/Writers Organization had a category called "Best comic artist/writer". I won that one year. I did a lot of cartoons and caricatures for various zines in the 80's, but that was just for fun. When anything stops becoming fun and starts becoming WORK (not funwork), I lose interest fast. I teach so that I can have fun and play when I go home to unwind. Love challenges, like illustrating specific works, books, poems etc.

[[Your work, as we understand, has been more in small press/literary/poetry venues, but we're within our rights to nominate you for the Hugo for what you've done in Twink. We suspect Sheryl Birkhead and Steve Stiles, our other "Fan Artist" choices, are better known in SF fandom.]]

Bills arrived in January that I wasn't expecting, and also I had to have my aging cat put to sleep. So I'm rather short of funds this month. I'll catch up, though! Did I tell you I'm now happily divorced? Not that it matters to you, but it sure does to me.

[[We know from experience, having to

"put down" a beloved pet is always painful, even when it clearly seems like the right thing to do. We share your grief.]]

RACHEL RUSSELL  
2695 Glengyle Drive  
Vienna VA 22181

I myself am three months away from giving birth... Although this is mercifully a very smooth pregnancy, I am still very tired and often overwhelmed. I'm trying to cut back as much as I can, of course, my husband and I are trying to get in order the nursery, insurance, daycare... I've had to stop doing my web zine, besides not having time, somehow I can't read and be pregnant. It's weird. I have no "willing suspension of disbelief" so I can only rarely read more than a few pages of a work of fiction. This might be the most disconcerting effect of pregnancy! ... The point I wanted to make was that when I was doing my web zine, it never ceased to amaze me that the issues I thought would generate lots of comment, got little. Ones where I was "going through the motions" would often get tons of comments.

[[A curious effect, and one we've never heard mentioned by anyone else. Perhaps being pregnant is so overwhelmingly amazing, there's no need for fantasy?]]

As fun as it would be to meet you, most likely I'll have a very very new baby to cope with in May. Neither Eric nor I think we'll be attending Disclave this year. However, we will be at the Baltimore Worldcon (with Baby in Arms) -- and I hope to be able to drink, damn it! At least one small beer! So, let's try to hook up then.

[[We look forward to it -- first round is on us! And our very best wishes to you and Eric and Baby Russell.]]

RODNEY LEIGHTON  
R.R. #3, Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia  
B0K 1V0, Canada

It's a stormy day and as I wandered up to the mailbox I was hoping for some mail of interest. I found the income tax package from Revenue Canada for 1997; some sort of ad newspaper as yet unlooked at; and Twink #8. Thanks much. Aside from

making some soup, I have spent most of the afternoon with it ... and now devote some time to trying to see the monitor and refrain from smashing this thing to bits while composing some halfway readable commentary... Mimosa #21 is already here. Still to be read. Hey, is that egoboo for you? I read all of Twink the day it arrived. Haven't read anything in Mimosa yet. Which is actually more an indication of the size and comment than anything else.

First fanzine to arrive at my house in 1998. Suppose that's any sort of honor?

[[Well, we mailed #8 on January 2nd, but that's just how our schedule is set (i.e. to avoid the December rush). We also tend to look at shorter fanzines first.]]

Nice cover, but you knew that. I am pleased that you and Franz have connected well. He's a good guy and a good artist.

Hmmnn. How am I to know if you are a "hot babe" or not? I have no intention of attending any cons. Can't afford a trip to anywhere. But I don't know what Franz is talking about. I never once suspected you of being Peggy Ransom or Diana Stein or Bridget Hardcastle or any number of hot babes in fandom.

Speaking of which: I was quite surprised to note that Brin-Marie McLaughlin read my comments. Considering that I was allegedly responsible for her discontinuing Squee!, I didn't think she would wish to set eyes on anything by me. I was also pleased to see that she is contemplating publishing again. It's bothered me for a couple of years that I may have been (it's never been confirmed by her or the other person who claimed this) responsible for someone to stop publishing. Hopefully she will start again.

Bridget indirectly raises an issue which I have always and still find confusing. That being that, within SF fandom, people are still considered to be publishers and faned's if they only publish sporadically or not at all for years on end. At the time I wrote that question, the last publication from Bridget had been something like two years past. In all my experiences pre-SF fandom, if you have stopped publishing for a few months, it's considered that you have stopped publishing. Done. Gone. History.

[[The custom in SF fandom is that you can gaffiate (a verb derived from "get away from it all") for months or years, pick up where you left off, and no one is supposed to notice.]]

Here's a question for Joseph Nicholas: If exclusion from fandom, or a segment of fandom, is self-imposed, how is it that people who would be delighted to receive certain fanzines; who would definitely LOC said fanzines and who indicate their desire and willingness, indeed, longing, to read and comment on these fanzines, cannot receive said fanzines? It's patently ridiculous. I can think of quite a few fanzines which I would love to receive; which I would definitely LOC each issue of and which I have tried to obtain, without success.

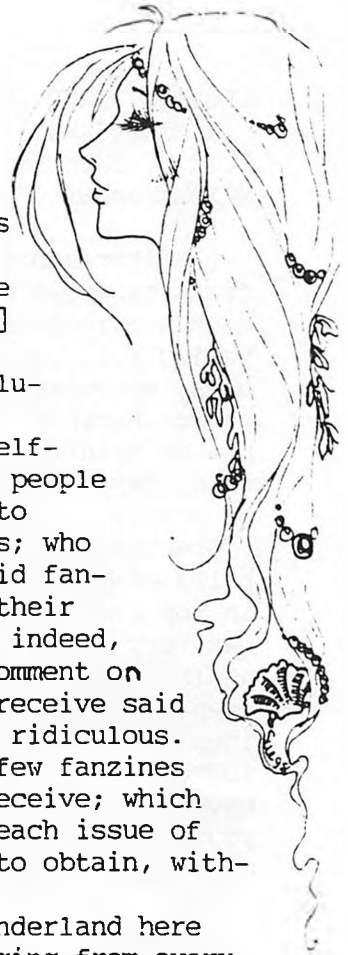
It's a real winter wonderland here today; snow and ice hanging from everything. I'm feeding a squirrel and a bunch of blue jays as well as a few chickadees and some crows. Don't have any animals or pets at the moment.

[[We have no objection to jays at our feeder. Damned if we'll pay good money to feed crows and starlings. We've seen squirrels once or twice scrounging seed from the patio where the birds spilled it.]]

Your zine listings are, in my opinion, just that. If you included ordering info (cost; if available for the damned "the usual"; whatever) they become reviews. I see you do include such information in some... but in other cases there is no indication of how one could get a copy, short of writing and enquiring and good luck to anyone who tries that.

...I think Joe reads so much that he just forgot about reading Twink #7. I must ask him next letter if he thinks you are Lee Hoffman and see what he thinks of that.

[[Where do you get these ideas? We admit your guesses to the identity of "Frohvet", however extravagant and far off the mark, are consistently entertaining.]]



LLOYD G. DAUB, LUCINDA BORKENHAGEN,  
& OINO SAKAI  
5138 N. 58th Street  
Milwaukee WI 53218

[[Editor's note: Labelled "the world's first tag-team LOC". Open text is Lloyd; double-parentheses (()) are Oino; not having the squiggly things Lloyd's printer uses, we substituted single parentheses () for Lucinda. Double brackets are still us. We think. Ghodd luck in deciphering this. Pay attention, there will be a quiz afterwards.]]

Greetings from the hallowed halls of MSFire. Okay, the snowed in top floor rooms of MSFire. I was very happy to receive once again a Twink in the mail. And even more overjoyed by the delicious babe on the cover. Nice looking human, too. Babe Zine covers. That's how I can tell you're a guy behind that false name and whiskers.

((No, EB is not a guy, and I can prove it! -- OS))

Oino, what are you doing in my LOC to Twink?

(We're here to make sure you say everything you're supposed to, Uncle Lloyd. And nothing you're not supposed to! -- LB)

Oh, [[deleted]]. Lucinda, too? EB, let this be a lesson to you -- never give copies of your house keys to your friends. C'mon, guys, this is supposed to be a private letter.

(Not when it's a LOC, Uncle Lloyd -- LB)

Oh yeah? With the size of Twink's mailing list?

((Never mind that, let me prove first that EB isn't a guy -- OS))

(We already know that, silly. EB is a girl -- LB)

((We have no proof of that; only that EB isn't male. The proof is as follows: Ahem. In Lloyd's first LOC in Twink #7 [[sic; actually #8 -- EB]] -- you remember, that was the funny one -- Lloyd said that EBF was one male person. EBF corrected him, saying that 'one person' was correct. That means 'male' was wrong...))

[[Actually, we said "One is correct." Any inference you've drawn about us being a "person" is your inference. We stick to our story of being a computer virus.]]

(So that makes EB a girl!)

((Not necessarily. That's only one gender down. There are still five to go -- ))

Give me that keyboard! Sorry about that, EB. I hope you can handle all that... I have to admit, though, that oino-baka was sort of clever in spotting that little slip of yours.

((And such a sexy slip, too -- OS))

OINO!!

(Never mind him! I was pretty clever, too. I've deciphered what 'EBFrohvet' stands for! -- LB)

How? The Shorter OED CD-ROM I installed couldn't get anything from its Anagram Hunter any more than the American Heritage Dictionary could.

("Aunt" Sheryl Birkhead's LOC for MSFire gave me the idea. She kept putting the fannish extra-h in some of her words, so I got the notion that the 'h' in 'Frohvet' is a fannish 'h' too and doesn't count. Then I did my own anagram hunt. And guess what? For 'ebfrovet' I came up with words like 'verb' and 'forte'. And we already know how much attention EB pays to grammar -- like she's an English teacher or something. So that means her

first name must be 'Verb', right? I wonder if she likes classical music? Her last name could be 'Forte'. -- LB)

It's kind of hard to argue with logic like that...

[[We're speechless too, Lloyd.]]

Okay, you two, get out of here. Go shovel snow or something. EB, on behalf of the MSFits of Milwaukee SF Services, thank you for putting our zine in nomination for a Hugo. We appreciate it. And the thought of actually getting on the ballot sets off all sorts of fantasies.

((Speaking of which, could we see some of those other Miklis UNcovers?))

I thought you were shoveling my sidewalk!



(We're done! Gee, Uncle Lloyd, it was only a foot of snow -- LB)

Well, go shovel Hellmann's sidewalk! ... I'd also like to know just how to go about actually nominating Sheryl for a FanArtist Hugo.

[[As the MSFan's later discovered the Worldcon's website, they are now up to speed on the Hugo voting process.]]

I read with great interest your article on fanzine Hugos. I second your complaint about not getting to see all the zines -- I've never seen a Reluctant Famulus, for example, though so far as I know they've gotten MSFire in trade. It does make it hard to judge who to vote for when you lack data. But that's typical; which is why opinion leaders are so important -- and so dangerous.

While I can find little room to argue with your criteria, they leave me no cause for hope of ever winning, even assuming -- as is my goal -- we achieve some semblance of a national mailing list. I can now understand why Knarley is so insistent on MSFire maintaining a regular schedule of publication.

As for ballot appearance and how to fix it; my tendency is to call term limits "a bad idea whose time has come". That is, I as an American detest the thought of the electorate not having its free choice, but certain voting systems tend to produce forgone conclusions rather than free choice. Given your list of most popular nominees and winners, why, I'd vote for them too. Mimosa has the beauty of presentation I want for my zine, and FOSFAX has the content. Actually, if Twink and MSFire could merge...

((There he goes, fantasizing again --OS))

(Hi, Uncle Lloyd! Did you miss us?-- LB)

More than I can say, Lucy. How come it took you so long this time before you interrupted me? Hellmann's have the same size sidewalk I have.

(That's because when we shoveled your walk, Hellmann's is where we put the snow! -- LB)

Well, go shovel the Grays' sidewalk then!

(Umm; that's going to be hard. That's where we put the Hellmann's snow...)

EB, it's a wonder I ever get anything done. OK guys, I'll get my coat.

... I think it's safe now, EB. I changed

the locks, too.

(You shouldn't leave your keys laying around, Uncle Lloyd --)

((It's that absent-minded professor act of his -- ))

(-- so we had copies made. How else could we work on MSFire for you? -- LB)

((Never mind that. I want to talk about that "Labyrinth" article, EB. Concerning zen: if after two book readings you still don't 'get it', then you're off to a good start. Your chakras are supposed to be in perfect alignment, not in reasonably, or even irrationally 'good', alignment... Think of your dancing better without thinking -- with your eyes closed -- and reread your zen book. Remember that wanting anything, even understanding, defeats the whole process...))

[[As we said on the occasion, all our training has been in western rationalism, and while we're not sure that has, on the whole, served us well, it may be too late to change. // Note to the readers: Now do you see why we like MSFire?]]

HEY, EVERYBODY! WE ADORE SHERYL BIRKHEAD AND HER FAN ART! And we didn't even have to break our word to stop telling people to vote for her for a Hugo. -- LGD

CATHERINE MINTZ

address previously shown

Get Franz to give "Summer Queen of Celtic Fandom" in German: it is much more impressive. My reign is at its height on Midsummer Night, when all good fans are urged to rise a glass of their choice -- be it wine, water, or home-brewed beer -- at 9:00 PM local time and toast fandom around the world.

[[June 21st is on a Sunday this year.]]

I hadn't heard the Boston bid had collapsed. Now it's a clear choice between trips to Disney World and the delights of Real Civilization. We shall see what kind of fans we have.

[[As we told Her Summer Majesty, we planned to vote Philadelphia first anyway. But that's just what we think.]]

HARRY WARNER JR.

423 Summit Avenue  
Hagerstown MD 21740



You have not discovered by noticing the Frederick postmark on my last letter that I am actually a hoax, maintained for more than 60 years by some other fan elsewhere in Maryland. All mail that is put into a deposit box in Hagerstown is shipped to Frederick for sorting and postmarking. If the addressee is in Hagerstown, it's returned to this city, thus guaranteeing a considerable delay. The most recent bill mailed to me by my fuel oil company was stamped with the firm's meter machine dated January 23. The envelope also bears a Frederick postmark dated January 26. It reached me January 27. The firm is situated four blocks from my home... so it took five days to cover the distance of slightly more than a mile.

But this doesn't get to the main purpose of this letter, which is to make some comments on the fine most recent issue of Twink. I must admit the cover left me feeling somewhat sorry for the girl, because it looks as if the creature she is snuggling up to has a hard surface and must be causing discomfort to her mostly bare skin.

My poor head would never be capable of solving the riddle of what causes a fanzine to get nominated for or win a Hugo. The last time I won a fan writing Hugo, a fanzine took its own poll and I didn't get one solitary low-ranking or otherwise vote in that same year, so go figure...

I don't remember having seen in any fanzine a narrative like your account of the Western Maryland College session. For that matter, I don't believe I've heard previously of this particular New Age idea, the Labyrinth. You probably could

not have received from just one session enough experience or influence to change completely your outlook on the world or your behavior in it. It would be useless for me to attend any such experience, because New Age wouldn't stand a chance against my overwhelming case of Old Age.

[[We took the Labyrinth to be an adaptation of the Hindu mandala, a visual self-hypnosis tool. No, can't say it has changed our world view. Yet. You know the saying, Mr. Warner: "Never too young to teach or too old to learn."]]

Patrick McGuire is quite right about the undesirability of good SF writers devoting their time to assigned novels based on someone else's characters and settings. The thing that attracted me to SF in the first place so many years ago was the ability to find a new idea, new locale, new sort of future in almost every story...

The all-time champion for a blooper in a professionally published SF story is probably one that appeared in Amazing Stories in the 1930's, whose title was "The Moon Waits", and the identity of the author has slipped my memory. The whole plot was based on a rigid tube that had been constructed from a fixed point on Earth to a fixed point on the Moon.

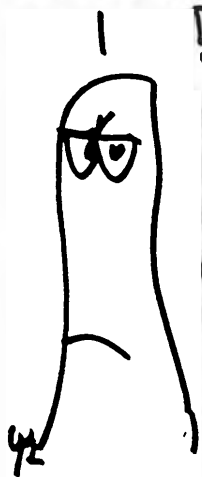
Rodney Leighton is absolutely right in his mental image of Sheryl Birkhead as a very nice person.

LLOYD PENNEY  
1706-24 Eva Road  
Etobicoke, Ontario, M9C 2B2 Canada

Thanks for issue #8 of Twink. I always enjoy a new fanzine, and I wish I'd been receiving it sooner. No matter, a LOC is due, so here it is.

I can't argue with your choices for Best Fan Writer, Best Fan Artist, or Best Fanzine. There should be some recognition spread about as far as Hugo nominations and wins go. The people who wind up on that ballot each year are there because of their efforts, but in past years, the final ballot seems to contain the Usual Suspects. Some new names on the ballot would tell others that with the right efforts a rocketship can have their names on it, too... There's nothing like winning. I have never won a Hugo, but I have won two Aurora Awards: in 1994 for convention

I AM A  
FILLER



DUE TO THE  
POOR PLANNING  
OF THE FANFD  
IT WAS TAKEN  
OUT OF AN  
OLD FILE AND  
QUICKLY STUCK  
IN HERE!

running, and in 1997 for fanwriting. Yvonne won last year for conrunning. It's wonderful when you BOTH win an award. I still have hopes that someday a Hugo will sit with the Auroras. The only Hugo that I know of in the Toronto area is Mike Glicksohn's for Best Fanzine (can't remember the year).

[[We saw your picture as Aurora winners in Science Fiction Chronicle, and you both looked very happy.]]

Many years ago, I was a member of SPWAO, trying desperately to get my short fiction published, without success. I saw how it helped budding writers and artists, and I see art from SPWAO alumnus Allen Koszowski from time to time. I am happy to see it still around and evolving, with a new name. I also see Herb Kauderer named in the interview. I've known Herb for a while now, with his involvement in conrunning in the Buffalo/Niagara Falls area.

Interesting article on what comprises a Hugo-winning fanzine. I've seen similar articles call upon a fanzine to be a focal point for fandom at that time, and with fandom as wide-spread and diverse as it is now, I'm not sure that focal point is possible... I look for a fanzine with interesting content (always number one), quality and fun art, and imaginative and eye-pleasing layout. One fanzine that always met those standards for me was Joe Maraglino's Astromancer Quarterly, pubbed in Niagara Falls. Coloured papers and covers, interesting fonts and Linda Michaels' art, combined with varying layouts, made that fanzine a labour of love. It's a shame it was never recognized with a Hugo nomination, and also a shame that Linda Michaels has never won a rocket. I do recall the fuss in 1986 when that costumers' newsletter, and the media list-zine Universal Translator, made it onto the ballot. It gave fanzine fandom the kick it needed to get involved, or risk losing the fanzine award to (at least, this is how it was perceived at the time) outsiders. My Hugo ballot is already gone, but I do remember that I nominated The Reluctant Famulus. I hope Tom does well in this; I don't think he'll win, but he deserves at least a place on the final ballot.

[[We vaguely recall sending a few early Twink's to an address we had for Maraglino,

no response. We have an allegedly current address for Michaels; do you suppose she'd be interested in getting Twink?]]

Fandom's favorite game right now is to figure out who you are. I guess the truth will out at some point. Perhaps we'll find out at BucConeer. Maybe the letters in "E.B. Frohvet" stand for words in a sentence; the women who make up the Trek writer "L.A.Graf" told me some years ago that it stands for Let's All Get Rich And Famous. I won't ask you to confirm or deny; I'll just say that I hope to see you in Baltimore.

[[Must be something in that northern air that inspires weird theories about us (see pp. 25, 26). We deny it! Last time, okay? We just made it up. It doesn't mean anything... Having said that, we're curious as to what sentence you can make out of it... ]]

Buck Coulson's letter reminds me of a story Mike Glicksohn told me some time ago. He also was able to find a copy of young Lois McMaster's Star Trek fanzine (produced with Lillian Stewart, now fantasy writer Lillian Stewart Carl), and purchased it with mischief in mind. When Mike was at a con where Lois was the GOH, he presented the fanzine to her for an autograph, whereupon she seemed to visibly shrivel, and exclaimed, "Where on Earth did you get THAT?"

From the back page: the British fans bidding for a Worldcon have settled on 2005. I may be a little biased, but I don't think anyone's taking the Berlin in 2003 bid seriously. The folks who are staging that bid have no contact with fandom outside Germany.

[[Our take was that there are two solid American bids for 2002 (San Francisco, Seattle); and the loser of that would be "heir apparent" for 2005. In our usual helpful fashion, we offer our suggestion for the first truly international Worldcon: Detroit/Windsor joint bid for 2006.]]

\* \* \* \* \*

[[And so ends another lettercol, with several new voices and a variety of views. We look forward to hearing from lots of you soon in response to this issue!]]



## M I S C E L L A N Y

Fans of Lois Bujold may want to read the "Author's Afterword" in the Young Miles edition. For instance, in the first draft of The Warrior's Apprentice, Miles had a sister. The character was deleted when Bujold decided she filled the "same ecological niche" as Elena Bothari. Makes sense, actually: there was always something a little incestuous about Miles' relationship with Elena...

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I don't even know where we are / But they tell us we're circling a star / Well I'll take their word I don't know / But I'm dizzy so maybe that's so."

-- songwriter Jesse Winchester, in "Defying Gravity".

Pocket billiards has an "Act of God" rule, obviously borrowed from the use of that term in insurance law. (Rule 3.34) If play is disrupted by an event which no reasonable foresight could have prevented, balls are replaced "as near as possible" to their original positions, and play resumes without penalties. The examples include the usual earthquake and hurricane, but also "light fixture falling".

We had been getting Twink copied at Kinko's; but we found another place that does the same job for about 40% less. Nowadays we usually pay for it with VISA. Oddly enough, the Post Office now takes VISA, too. Live and learn.

Trivia Department: What SF novel takes the familiar Biblical quote, "In the beginning was the word", and melds it so seamlessly into a discussion of the nature of language that one almost doesn't notice?

Have you ever thought how strange the world must seem to a 3-year-old? The world is full of these big people who want you to do (or not do) strange things, and you don't have the vocabulary to ask why. A child that age pretty much has to take everything on faith and hope that it makes sense later.

A. Bertram Chandler's 1964 short novel The Coils Of Time has a character named "Hardcastle" (any relation, Bridget?); and it refers to, though he does not actually appear in the story, a "Dr. Naismith" (hello, Ms. Bujold). Small universe, huh?

There was supposed to have been at least one more book in the "Change" series by Steve Miller & Sharon Lee (Agent Of Change, Conflict Of Honors, Carpe Diem). Does anyone know if it was ever published, and if so, by whom?

We'd like some artist to draw the Chateau de Frohvet. Don't be distracted by mere truth (i.e. it's a condo). We're thinking sort of French country manor. Chimneys are a must -- how can you have a manor house without fireplaces? A lakefront view would be nice but is not a deal-breaker.

You don't have to be a SFWA member, they tell us, to subscribe to the SFWA Bulletin. Market reports, contract information, etc. \$15 US/one year, \$27/two years, from: 404 Oceanside St., Islip Terrace NY 11752.

Australian fan Kim Huett returned the copy of Twink #7 we had sent, stating he found it "90% uninteresting and 10% extremely unpleasant"; and pointedly asked to be removed from the mailing list. Yeah, well, that can be arranged...

Opening Day for the new football stadium in Baltimore, about two blocks from the Convention Center, is: Saturday, August 8th. If that date sounds familiar, don't say we didn't warn you.

Story Project Update: The editor of Black Rose (a small press zine in Ireland we heard about via Scavenger's Newsletter) sent a polite note promising a response later. More courtesy than we've come to expect from editors. We'll keep you posted.

If anyone wants to sponsor us for the National Walk for Multiple Sclerosis, we're asking \$1/km or \$15. Checks payable to the "National MS Society", not to "Frohvet", please. Or contact your local chapter to walk. Thanks!