



File 770 116

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File 770 is available for news, artwork, arranged trades, or by subscription.

Subscriptions cost \$8 for 5 issues, \$15 for 10 issues, mailed first class in North America or surface mail

rates overseas. Air printed matter delivery is available for \$2.50 per issue.

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EDITOR'S NOTES

by Mike Glycer

Soft of Hearing: Tom Sadler writes in the April-June 1996 issue of *The Reluctant Famulus*, "My hearing is going bad and I need artificial mechanical devices to help prevent it from growing worse. There is supposedly no shame in that. ...I have no doubt that I'm in some very good company and that should help make the adjustment to my new physical state somewhat easier. ...Additionally, now I might be able to participate more fully in conversations and make more sense and reply appropriately to what others have said. I bet that will be a welcome relief to a few people."

True, Tom, all of it. Over ten years ago a co-worker gave me a metallic purple button that said, "I'm Not Deaf -- I'm Ignoring You." I remembered that gift in 1994 when my friends and family finally convinced me that I chronically answered different questions than they asked, and sometimes ignored people trying to talk to me. Tests showed my hearing was poor in one ear and worse in the other, so I had a hearing aid made to wear in my worst ear.

The technician working with me promptly dispelled my belief that the device would restore my hearing to FM clarity. These little devices, molded to the shape of the ear canal, have the limitations of an average microphone and democratically amplify all sounds together. Hearing must be relearned.

The ability to focus on a conversation with a friend in a crowded room party, or distinguish the faint rustle of a bee-

tle in fallen leaves, are not merely functions of having a certain level of physical hearing acuity. Both require concentrating on part of the information the brain receives to the exclusion of the rest. It takes practice to partially recover either skill using a hearing aid, but in my case it's still a net improvement. Similarly, the ability to drive a car and habitually ignore its dozens of mechanical noises, until one day there is a change in the pattern announcing engine trouble, is also a skill, one that a hearing aid tends to frustrate with its capacity for magnifying any mechanical noise. (It's an amazingly unhelpful capability at times. I'll never forget touring the Gettysburg battlefield soon after I got my hearing aid: when a tour bus set its air brakes I felt I was **inside** the machinery. Ack!)

I also needed new strategies for listening to a lecture in an auditorium, or a church service. Every loudspeaker in a meeting hall generates a soundwave that arrives at my ear at a slightly different time. Normal hearing homogenizes these signals into coherent speech, but a hearing device prevents this. It's just like the time I attended an Arthur C. Clarke lecture holding my portable tape player, ambitious to capture this potential fanzine material. Clarke's lecture was perfectly audible, yet the tape recording was unintelligible. Clarke's voice was garbled together with the sound of his voice from the podium loudspeaker and the echoes from the back of the hall. These days, just like my old tape recorder, I get my best results sitting close to one speaker and so that its volume drowns out the others.

While I've learned a lot about the limitations of a hearing aid, mine has still been a tremendous asset. Tom, yours will be a great help to you -- and probably an even greater help to your family.



JANICE MURRAY WINS DUFF

Seattle's Janice Murray won a closely contested race for the Down Under Fan Fund. She'll travel around Australia this September as a representative of North American fandom, stopping in Melbourne to attend the Australian National Convention.

The DUFF winner is chosen by a majority of votes cast in an automatic runoff. Voters were asked to list the three candidates in order of preference.

Murray led runner-up Joel Zakem by one vote after the first round, but still needed a majority. Andy Hooper's ballots were redistributed to voters' second preferences. About 80% of those ballots went to Murray and clinched her victory.

North American DUFF administrators Pat and Roger Sims report that the 185 North American voters generously included over \$1,600 US with their ballots. Janice will take

over the reins from Pat and Roger when she comes back from Australia. Perry Middlemiss is the Australasian administrator.

Fans Fight Home Blaze

by Robert Whitaker Sirignano:
Around 10 p.m. on New Year's Day, while waiting for a program to air, I heard my son scream, and a housemate shout, "Fire!"

It was. Leo burned himself on the arm running through a sheet that was on fire to tell us the news no one wants to hear. Giani [Sirignano] and I went in, with bottles of distilled water, threw it on the fire and stomped, smacked and smashed it out.

Drapes were on fire, acrylic sheets melted and smoke was everywhere. [Housemate] Miriam Benson assisted with additional tubs and bottles of water. Bob Benson dressed the kids up and took them outside while Giani and I did our panicky best. Within four minutes (which seemed like an hour: adrenaline does make everything move in slow motion) we got everything under control.

Giani and I kept asking (also known as "screaming"), "Did someone call 911?" It seemed like an hour, but in just four more minutes the firemen arrived. There was smoke damage to the room (Giani's and mine and Leo's). The fire was caused by a drape over a lamp, intended to keep some exotic pepper plants growing.

Another minute and it would have meant no house, no Leo, anything. For an accident, we were lucky. Giani and I lost a few CD's, a few books and a tape or two. Smoke and fire damage necessitate the replacement of a door molding and some ceiling tiles. A few books were smoke-damaged, but we can't resell them to Barry Levin because no one died.

For something so careless, all of us were lucky. At the most, we lost a sense of security and our peace of mind. We do intend to have a "fire sale" in the future, to insure fewer losses. As it was, the best save was Kelly Freas' *All the Colors of Darkness* painting: its plastic covering warped off, but the painting is untouched. I shudder a bit because we own so much.

1997 DUFF RESULTS

	1st Round			2nd Round		
	US	Aust	Total	US	Aust	Total
Janice Murray	76	12	88	18	10	116
Joel Zakem	83	4	87	4	2	93
Andy Hooper	22	12	34	-	-	-

Obituaries

Sam Moskowitz

Sam Moskowitz died April 15, following a massive heart attack on April 7. His wife, Chris, a retired doctor, had him taken to University Hospital in Newark, NJ. Moskowitz suffered *anoxia* and his EKG showed no upper brain function, according to Andrew Porter. Moskowitz was kept on a respirator and given fluids intravenously; however, his other body functions were not being regulated, and he passed away within 8 days.

Also known as SaM, in the faanish tradition of creating nicknames by contracting real names, Moskowitz was one of the dominant figures of early fandom. He co-organized the first Worldcon, Nycon, in 1939. And co-disorganized it by banning the New York Futurian faction from attending - - Don Wollheim, Robert Lowndes, Cyril Kornbluth, Jack Gillespie and Frederik Pohl. Moskowitz continued the factional rivalry by writing a version of its history in *The Immortal Storm*, published in the 1950s. Harry Warner, Jr. described the book's earnest, Stapledonian tone by saying, "If read immediately after a history of World War II, it does not seem like an anticlimax."

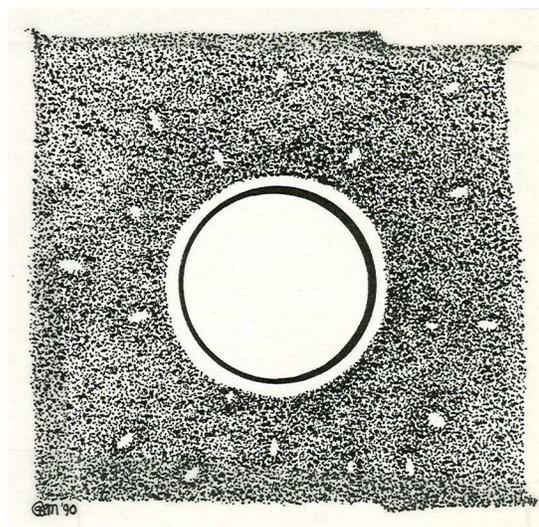
The Immortal Storm is Moskowitz' most famous fanwriting, but far better known to the readership of sf, and more representative of his love of the genre, are his essays about major sf writers, editors and artists collected in *Explorers of the Infinite* (1963), *Seekers of Tomorrow* (1966) and *Strange Horizons* (1976). As a newcomer to fandom in the late 60s, I found the first two books a revelation. They ignited my interest in the people and events behind the stories (and made me a ready audience for the teapot tempests of Geis' *Science Fiction Review*, when I finally discovered it.)

Moskowitz also edited several anthologies of historically important sf stories from the pre-*Amazing* era. One of them, *Science Fiction by Gaslight: A History and Anthology of Science Fiction in the Popular Magazines 1891-1911* (1968), appeared around the time I was progressing through every book on the sf shelf at the library: I admired his homages to these literary pioneers, otherwise, the assembled stories confirmed my taste for Campbellian sf.

The benefits of fannish "timebinding" are not attained without some cost, and Moskowitz' place in fanhistory illustrates this well. Who is the real Moskowitz? The mature essayist who provided my first introduction to the people behind all my favorite stories? Or the teenaged fanpolitician who wrote an unintentional mythology of early fan-

dom? The latter image tends to be emphasized by today's fanwriters.

In my own experience, a third image of Moskowitz overshadows the rest. One of the few times I met him, we were on a program together at MagiCon. SaM had previously lost his vocal cords due to cancer surgery, then mastered the incredibly difficult task of using an electronic voicebox, which required him to use his epiglottis to control the passage of air through a permanent opening in his throat. It was as if it was second nature to him, and he charmed the audience (and panelists) with many comparisons between fandom of the first and fiftieth Worldcons.



Seth Goldberg

Seth Goldberg died March 18 at the age of 44, just two days after attending Corflu. David Bratman reports, "Seth fell ill Monday and went to the doctor on Tuesday, when he was diagnosed with stomach flu. The initial coroner's report suggests he had a viral infection which caused heart failure."

Fanhistorians will remember Seth for serving FAPA as Official Editor (OE) for about 15 years (the Fantasy Amateur Press Association is fandom's oldest apa), and serving three different Worldcons as co-administrator of the Hugo Awards (with Bratman). His friends will remember him as one of the people who made fanac enjoyable, something more than simply a lot of work. We'll also remember his integrity, not only because he was a stickler about the FAPA constitution (which he was), or because he was very discrete about Hugo information (certainly that), but because we saw his strength of character as he fulfilled any commitment, even in such trying circumstances as occurred during the 1994 Hugos.

Seth will be especially missed by LASFSians because he

was one of a handful of Bay Area fans they knew well, through his many years in LASFAPA.

Judy Reavis, Seth's "business partner and soul mate" (they lived together in Benicia, CA), is establishing two Seth Goldberg Memorials (see below).

Seth's best eulogy so far came from Arthur Hlavaty, who wrote online, "Seth Goldberg was an apparent mass of contradictions. He was a successful businessperson with hair down to his ass. In the apas we shared, he appeared in every mailing, but never wrote more than two pages, and rarely even close to that. But maybe the most remarkable thing about him was that, while he was the sort of real-world success Sharyn McCrumb says all us fans should devote ourselves to becoming, he managed to find the time and energy to put in years of quiet, persistent, largely unrewarded effort to help sf and fanzine fandom." *Quoted with permission; originally posted on the Seth Goldberg memorial webpage at:*
<http://www.hidden-knowledge.com/corflu/sethmem.htm>

I emphasize *so far*, because David Bratman's forthcoming tribute in his personalzine *Girabbit* should be both eloquent and definitive. Bratman urges everyone who knew his friend, "Pub your ish, and mention Seth. Thus we'll remember him in the medium he loved best."

SETH GOLDBERG MEMORIALS: The memorial at Seth's *alma mater* will provide a scholarship for an undergraduate student of chemistry:

Harvey Mudd College Alumni Fund
 Seth Goldberg Chemistry Fund
 Att: Nancy Ambrose
 301 E. 12th Street
 Claremont, CA 91711.

The other memorial will provide funds for science fiction and children's writers to visit K-12 schools throughout the United States and conduct writing workshops for students:

"Seth Goldberg K-12 Writers' Fund"
 West America Bank
 20 Solano Square
 Benicia, CA 94510.

For more information, contact: Judy Reavis, 134 Incline Place, Benicia, CA 94510; (707) 747-6802 home; (707) 745-5665 business.

Brian Burgess by Greg Pickersgill reprinted by permission

I'm really sorry to have to report this, but good old fan Brian Burgess died Tuesday, January 28 at 7:00 a.m.

He'd been taken to hospital from the nursing home he'd been in for the last eighteen months, and simply died of heart failure, brought on by his generally poor state of health (after several strokes he suffered in the late 80s) and a recent breakdown in liver functions. He'd just turned 65 in December.

He'd been involved with fanactivities since 1952, and had attended conventions and meetings all over the world.

Because of his deteriorating health he hadn't been out and about or at conventions for a couple of years, and especially regretted missing Novacon 25 in 1995, as he was one of the last few Immortals who'd been to every Novacon up to then; he did get a special "Best Fan" Nova award, which I know he appreciated a great deal.

Brian was a real fan, a genuine enthusiast for science fiction, fantasy, fandom and conventions; he brought the same cheerful optimism to his other interests -- he was widely travelled and made friends all over the world, and was something of an authority on G.A. Henty -- and was a kindly and good hearted fellow, with maybe rather more than the usual quota of eccentricities, but who was in every sense one of us. I regret not having got to know him better, but like all good fans his presence will remain with us.

(I don't believe his family ever understood how much the sf fan world meant to him, or how well he was known. If any of you who knew him can write a note to his brother -- Roy Burgess, 1 Coombe House Chase, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4SL -- it might serve to correct their unstated impression that he had simply wasted his life.)



New Bids Spark Worldwide Competition for 2003 Worldcon

White Sands Test Firing

First in the field with an official announcement was the "ConCancun" bid for 2003, hoping to bring the con to Mexico.

David and Diana Thayer have already held convention bid parties. They assure the SMOFs that Cancun has an air-conditioned convention center with 150,000 sq. ft. of meeting space, and capacity to hold 6,500 people. They invite regular fans to browse travel brochures about this popular tourist spot, boasting coral reefs, lagoons, nature preserves, jungles, snorkeling and scuba, and shopping. Then, if the thrust and parry of the WSFS Business Meeting isn't enough excitement, there are bullfights!

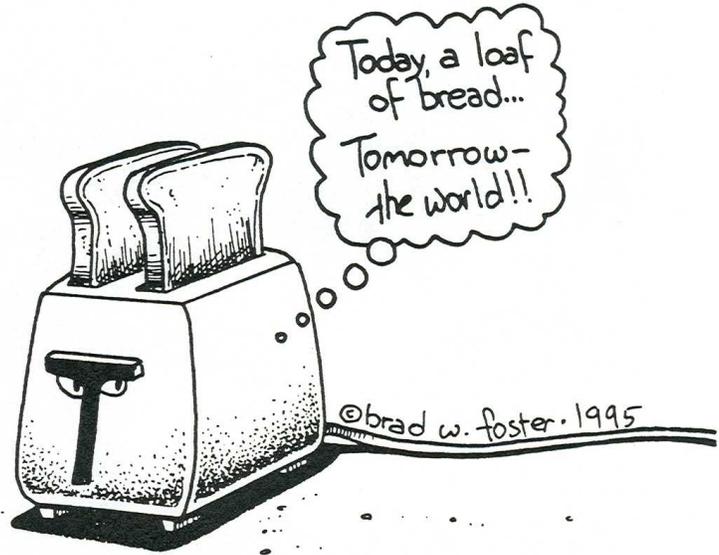
To presupport, send \$7 U.S. (50 pesos) to: ConCancun, c/o David Thayer, P.O. Box 905, Euless, TX 76054 □ 2307.

Canadian All-Star Team Enters 2003 Race

A quarter century is too long between Canadian worldcons. Toronto hosted the 1948 and 1973 worldcons, and Winnipeg hosted the most recent Canadian edition in 1994. So, a transcontinental group of well-known Canadian fans has united behind a bid to bring the con back a lot sooner this time, to Toronto in 2003.

The committee includes Toronto fans Mike Glicksohn, Lloyd and Yvonne Penney, and Larry Hancock. Glicksohn's presence is a major plus, several Toronto proto-bids over the past 15 years having foundered without it. There's attorney Ken Smookler, a veteran of the TorCon 2 who faded away from fandom for many years but returned in full force at the Glasgow worldcon business meeting. Leaders of the Winnipeg worldcon helped form the committee: those named in the publicity are John Mansfield, Linda Ross-Mansfield and Bruce Farr, who provide a wealth of practical experience in bidding for and running a worldcon.

When the bidders met in January to elect officers, Linda Ross-Mansfield warned the meeting how stressful it is to run a Worldcon bid. She urged them to have a different bid



★ EXAMPLE TWELVE: A MEGALOMANIAC TOASTER ★

chair every year. The committee agreed: Mike Glicksohn and Larry Hancock stepped up and were elected co-chairs for the first year. The other officers are: Secretary, Yvonne Penney; Treasurer, Raymond Alexander; Co-Legal Counsels, Ken Smookler, David Warren; Chairman Emeritus, John Millard.

According to Taral, Mike Glicksohn is trying to interest his old sidekick Derek Carter in designing graphics and drawing cartoons for the bid. The idea tickles Taral, who heard that when Marc Schirmeister ran into Carter at Disney several years ago, Carter begged him, "For pity's sake, don't mention I was ever in fandom!" Carter will be a great asset if Mike can lure him back to this side of the fence.

Presupporting memberships are available for CDN \$20.03 or US\$15.00. Make checks payable to Toronto in '03, and send them to: Toronto in '03, P.O. Box 3, Station A, Toronto, ONT M5W 1A2 Canada. The bid's home page can be found at --
<http://worldhouse.com/worldcon-2003/committee.html>.

Lloyd Penney explained in *Opuntia 30* that the current SMOF-studded Toronto bid is not related to Martin Miller's Toronto in 2003/Eclipticon bid announced in 1994. Penney, Dale Speirs and others sent checks to presupport that bid; the Toronto Trek committee worked to get hotel information for Miller; but nothing came of it. Penney considers it safe to say the Miller bid was "stillborn." However, the new bid has voted to add presupporters of the

Miller bid to its own list of presupporters if they present "reasonable proof" of the earlier donation.

The Winter of Our Discontent

It was clear there would be a European bid for 2003, but not so clear where it was coming from. KIM Campbell discussed a U.K. bid: a mixed response drove it underground; it may resurface as a 2005 bid. Then, Norwegian fan Herman Ellingsen raised the prospect of an Oslo bid for 2003, telling readers of the Intersmof e-mail bounce that, "We've got too many sources telling us it is practical to just shrug it off as impossible." Ellingsen said a decision would be made around Easter, but never answered my message asking whether Oslo will bid. A third group, of German fans, became the first to announce a European bid for 2003. That does not preclude other bids, however, it should clear the field of those who are ambivalent about the idea.

Brandenburg, Wie Gehts?

The Berlin bid for 2003 ("Baercon"), many months in development, was officially unveiled at the British Easter-con. Eckhard Marwitz posted on the bid's home page, "Since the working parties were formed in January 1996, there's been more informed discussions of the issues, particularly after Hansecon (October in Luebeck). Now in the Spring of 1997 we have gathered together a group of around a dozen Gerfans who want to get things going."

The core committee includes: Eckhard D. Marwitz, Christoph Luhr, of Luebeck; Hardy Kettlitz, Marcus Luther, Ralf Neukirchen, of Berlin; J. Lippmann, of Schwerin; Juergen Marzi, of Koblenz; Wilko Mueller, Jr., of Halle; Beluga Post, of Dortmund; Thomas Recktenwald, of Saarbrücken; and Dieter Steinseifer, of Paderborn.

If it's only been seven years since the last Worldcon in continental Europe, it has been nearly three decades since the only Worldcon in Germany, held in Heidelberg in 1970.

The bid's unusually candid publicity adds, "Especially following Germany's reunification, there's been international musings whether our fandom might be ready to take on such a task again. Opinion in German fandom was divided. The original joy was followed by a sober consideration of the realities of the job. A certain euphoria among the German visitors to the Worldcon in Glasgow has mutated into increasing doubts. That's a good thing, because such an undertaking should be properly thought through. Uncertain ventures can, however well meant, cause financial ruin. But too much timidity is also inappropriate, in the encouraging words of Kees van Toorn."

At Intervention (Eastercon), the bid sold presupports for UKP 6. The next stop on the campaign trail for Eckhard

Marwitz and Juergen Martzi is the Sferakon in Zagreb, Croatia. Concludes Eckhard, "We hope we can persuade the Berlin Bear to come with us to future cons to help publicize Berlin!"

Chairs, Musical and a capella

When I first saw that Glicksohn was co-chairing a Worldcon bid, I wondered, "Has he become as crazy as me?" No, he hasn't -- he's chairing the bid's *first* year, not its *last* year.

Chicago in 2000 boasts *two* mental health, er, Worldcon chair candidates. Earlier this year, Tom Veal was selected by a healthy margin over Dina Krause. According to Ross Pavlac, "Kathleen Meyer and I did the counting — the committee felt it was appropriate that the two most recent Chicon chairs be the ones to stick the next one with the job."

I shared with Tom that, in hindsight, my own maneuvering to become L.A.con III chairman was as sensible as a Munchkin elbowing through the crowd in a frantic effort to be under Dorothy's house when it landed.

Veal said, "Let me assure you that I saw the house descending and did my best to run out of the way. Unfortunately, I kept getting pushed back onto Ground Zero."



Chicago Bid's Proposed Membership Rates

Just before the deadline for filing Worldcon bids passed on March 1st, and Chicago was confirmed as the only bidder to file, Tom Veal told his committee, "After consulting historical records, I have calculated that if every member of the bidcomm votes, we will top the highest total that 'None of the Above' has ever attained."

If they win, Chicago's membership rates:

Site selection voting fee \$ 40.00

Conversion to attending membership:

Site Selection Voters

Chicago in 2000 Presupporters \$ 25.00

Non-Presupporters \$ 40.00

(Presupporters who vote and present 20 different Chicago in 2000 trading cards will receive free conversions.)

Nonvoters

Chicago in 2000 Presupporters \$115.00

Non-Presupporters \$125.00

These rates are subject to change after December 31, 1997.

The rationale is that the total of voting fee plus conversion will be about equal to recent U.S. Worldcons, while the high cost for nonvoters will reinforce the message that voting on site selection is the path to the cheapest possible Worldcon attending membership. The total of a supporting membership in LoneStarCon (\$25) plus voting fee plus conversion is significantly less than the cost of purchasing an attending membership without having voted. In addition, a \$40 supporting membership should actually provide some support, rather than merely enable to convention to meet mailing costs for nonattending presupporters.

California Dreamin'

San Francisco in 2002 bid mailed PROGRESS REPORT #4 to presupporters in March. Kevin Standlee, chair, explains, "PR #4 is the first of (naturally) four progress reports planned by the bid."

SF2002 has 238 pre-supporting members, 2 pre-opposing, 6 Friends, and 32 bid committee.

Pre-supporting memberships are \$20.02 US. Pre-opposing \$49; Friend of the Bid \$100.

Send to: San Francisco in 2002, P.O. Box 64128, Sunnyvale CA 94088-4128.

Fans Hospitalized

Don Fitch underwent heart surgery in January and says, "the insertion of a metal culvert to open a 90%-blocked coronary artery seems to have solved that particular problem, and the general one looks to be controllable by abstinence from smoking, cholesterol, and saturated fats. Taking things easy for a while, but no serious problems and the cardiologist is optimistic."

Mike Jencevice entered an Evanston, IL hospital in early February for treatment of meningitis. He was expected to fully recover.

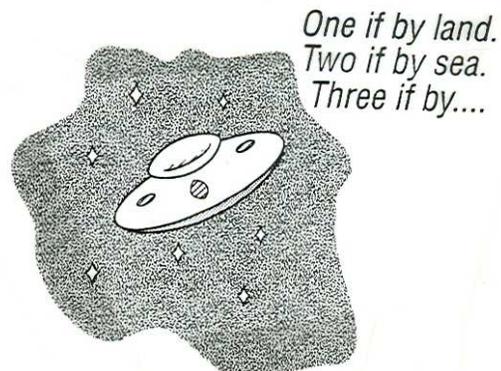
What A Tangled Web

Today, web pages *are* clamoring to compete for the Hugo, and the editor of *Sci-Fi Weekly* leads all the rest in his fervor to win the award. Hugo administrators reportedly classified this popular web page as a semiprozine because of its potential for a large Net readership.

The Best Semiprozine Hugo category was devised about 15 years ago by Marty Cantor, Gary Farber, Mike Glicksohn and Craig Miller -- so long ago that Web pages didn't exist, and state of the art PC's still used 8-inch floppy disks!

Two of the category's inventors, Gary Farber and Craig Miller, recently shared their opinions about this development online. Farber feels it's appropriate to put *Sci-Fi Weekly* in the semiprozine category until it does something that defines it into a professional category. (Then its editor would become eligible for nomination as Best Editor.)

Miller pointed to two other examples of why the WSFS Business Meeting should revisit the category definitions. "[It's] especially awkward to realize that *Omni* and *Tomorrow SF* now exist only in online/WWW form. Does it mean they are no longer professional? It seems to me that method of publication (e.g. paper, cyberspace, etc.) shouldn't be the flag we use to determine the category. Someone needs to rethink these categories for the inclusion of web publications. Not new categories but new criteria definitions."



TAFF

When Martin Tudor was notified of his 1996 TAFF victory, he never suspected he had won an “all-expenses-paid-by-yourself” trip to America.

Nor did he share that horrifying truth with very many until he had completed a successful tour as an exceptionally friendly and accessible TAFF delegate, producing *en route* four issues of an instant trip report.

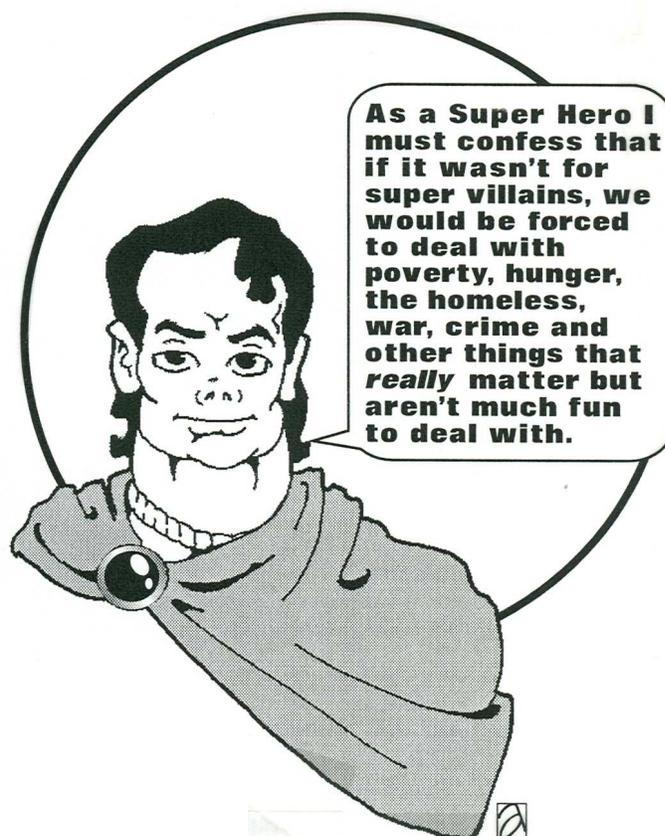
The secret was finally disclosed in November: Tudor had been left holding an empty bag by the previous European TAFF administrator, Abi Frost, who admitted converting the funds to her own use. The loss is estimated to be 2,600 pounds. Frost avoided making this highly-charged admission to Martin for quite some time by not responding to his phone calls and letters.

Once Tudor discovered the truth, he made two difficult decisions with the help of his friends and TAFF’s intimate supporters. First, he and his wife, Helena, would go ahead with the TAFF trip using loans volunteered by friends. Second, he would not broadcast these problems until they returned, so that their trip wouldn’t be marred by a trans-continental siege for gossip about the scandal.

Tafflon Tudor, Martin’s November press release, appealed, “Now the European fund is desperate for money to repay all of the kind people who lent money to finance the 1996 trip.”

Remarkably, Gary Farber, visiting England in November as the guest of a British convention, was able to contact Abi Frost and persuade her to meet with him to talk about TAFF. Farber summarized his November 5 meeting in a widely-circulated e-mail account, saying Frost’s deep, clinical depression was at the root of her conduct. Farber crowned his diplomatic achievements by reporting that day, “I have a check in hand from her, made out to Martin Tudor, for 200 pounds, which I will post to him in the morning. She [Abi] will make payments of 80 pounds a month, beginning in two months, which should pay off the debt within three years, if all goes as planned.”

Tudor’s press release outlined his purposes in making these various choices: “If the 1996 TAFF trip had failed to take place because the Administrator had spent the funds, both I and everyone whose advice I sought agreed it would’ve caused potentially irreparable damage to this, the oldest fan fund. I hoped that by making the trip, publishing as much of my report as possible whilst in transit and completing my report comparatively early, and ensuring that there was



a 1997 race, to prove TAFF was still strong and viable.”

Unfortunately only two of these three objectives were achieved. The planned 1997 TAFF race was cancelled in December, shortly after the nominating deadline passed and only one candidate, Luke McGuff of Seattle, had filed. However, the administrators say that the decision to cancel the race was based strictly on the availability of a lone candidate, not on the financial problems bequeathed to the European side of TAFF by Abi Frost. They did decline an offer from Ian Hageman, also of Seattle, to be Luke’s competition, wanting to avoid another straw-man candidacy like in the 1996 race where Martin Simonsen, a comparatively unknown British fan, sacrificed himself to give Martin Tudor company on the ballot. [*Details of cancellation from Thyme 113*]

The administrators faced a tough choice between two alternatives that each threatened to do some harm to TAFF’s relationship with fandom, either staging another race with only one strong candidate, or skipping a year and thereby postponing the most convincing evidence of TAFF’s resiliency.

Thanks to the swath Tudor cut through North American fandom last summer, not even TAFF’s hard times will be

able to keep it down for long. Most fans only need to see a friendly, competent European delegate at work to have their confidence restored. And we've already seen him.

TAFF's European Administrator is: Martin Tudor, 24 Ravensbourne Grove, (off Clarkes Lane,) Willenhall, West Midlands, WV13 1HX. The North American Administrator is: Dan Steffan, 3804 S. 9th Street, Arlington, VA 22204, USA.



B-5's Straczynski Named B-98 Special Guest

Bucconeer, the 1998 Worldcon, has announced that *Babylon-5* creator, J. Michael Straczynski, will attend the con as a Special Guest. The Baltimore committee members are among the show's large and devoted following. With good reason, they expect Straczynski's appearance to be among the most popular events at the con. (And by all means, schedule him in the *largest* program room!)

Drawing Card

Former Philadelphia SMoF "Scratch" Bacharach has opened Approachable Art, a gallery in Lancaster, PA. He is interest-ed in all mediums of art, including science fiction and fantasy, but no crafts. If you're planning to drop by when you're in the neighborhood, the neighborhood to be in is 47 N. Prince St., Lancaster, PA 17603.

Bells, Bell!

The Thomas-Major Wedding: Joseph T. Major of Louisville, America's leading sercon fan, married Lisa Thomas last November 22. *Fosfax* editors Timothy Lane

and Elizabeth Garrott, stood up for the couple. The ceremony's date and location coincided with Contact XIV, where many in the wedding party headed after dinner.

The convention's theme, "Dazed and Confused," did not carry over to the ceremony, although Major's dour sense of humor never deserted him. For example, before the wedding: "Reverend Nash informed us that Lisa and I were already married, he having signed the license, and after a flash of thinking how everyone would look when we said goodbye, we went on with the ceremo-ny."

Lisa is still adjusting to the big city of Louisville after moving from Henderson, still finding her way around. She writes, "It's amazing what a good job the Louisville Cham-ber of Commerce has done in hiding something as big as Churchill Downs." [*Fosfax* 184, 2/97]

The Bosky-Hlavaty Nuptials: Arthur Hlavaty startled *Derogatory Reference's* readers (at least this one) by announcing, "Bernadette and I are getting married again. As some of you know, we got married over ten years ago, unofficially, but meaningfully. The late Bob Shea presided, and we pledged to each other for life. Obviously, it has worked. But now, for purely pragmatic reasons (health benefits), it becomes necessary for us to have a redundant Official License. It doesn't mean that we think the government is fit to decide who gets married, and it certainly doesn't mean that Kevin is any less her spouse than I am. It's just a technicality."

After the ceremony, Hlavaty reported: "Kevin witnessed once again. The presiding judge, a man with an eyepatch (he seemed the sort who might make jokes about his own approximation of Blind Justice), was eloquent and sensible. The only dubious part was the bit about 'forsaking all others,' but Bernadette informed Kevin that he'd been grandfathered in." [*Derogatory Reference* 84]

This News Is History

After Lew Wolkoff explained that the Pennsylvania State Historic Site and Museum Commission accepts applications for Historic Markers, members of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society eagerly adopted his plan to request that an historic marker be put up at the site of the first science fiction convention, Milt Rothman's old house. The event happened in 1936. Markers cost \$1,000, half paid by the state, so PSFS' board voted to set aside \$500 in case their application is approved. The club's proposed wording for the marker is:

The world's first Science Fiction Convention was held on this site when the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society hosted a group of New York fans. October 18th, 1936.

Wolkoff thinks PSFS should have a dedication ceremony the week before Philcon for extra publicity. Since Rothman is a guest of honor of the 1998 Worldcon, maybe *Broadside* editor Michael Nelson should also cover the occasion for members of Bucconeer? [PSFS News, 1/97]

One last question: In London, they mount blue commemorative plaques on the outside of historic buildings. Do they do the same in Leeds, and now will British fandom try to get a marker at the appropriate site to assert their own claim of holding the world's first sf convention?

Taral Changes Publishers

Taral, *File 770's* most prolific cover artist (entirely against his will, I assure you), has moved his comic *Beatrix* to a new publisher.

"Much as I hated to, I've left MU Press. Edd Vick is an old friend, but MU is too much his hobby and not really a business. Without advertising or any kind of promotion, the comic I worked two years on sold 1,000 copies, and earned me \$300 over the \$100 flat fee for the cover. So (with Galacci's okay) I opened negotiations with Darrell Benvenuto's new Vision Comics. He was eager to gain *Beatrix* and meets pretty much all my conditions -- advertising! An advance on delivery. Merchandising tie-ins. If Darrell is right and he can sell 3-5000 copies, I could start earning four figures with the book.

"The first issue will be a special reprint of the MU issues, 32 pages with a 6-page introductory story added to a 28-pages 'Not-So-Secret Origin of Beatrix Farmer.' Color! Plans at the moment for a quarterly book. I should have at least two issues backlogged by the time the first hits the stands."

Your Name Here!

Peggy Rae Pavlat posted that her 1998 Worldcon in Baltimore is developing a wish list so they will know what to suggest whenever they are contacted by a potential sponsor.

Martin Easterbrook humorously replied, "I'm afraid I can't say that the Channel 4 programme on Intersection was a great success. However we did get a reasonable amount of money for being insulted (although much less than the initial figure they mentioned). You might approach your local PBS station if you want a more sympathetic programme or you could approach the Sci-Fi channel if you want sponsorship in cash."



First Fandom Changes Venue For Hall of Fame Awards

Hal Clement was inducted into the First Fandom Hall of Fame at Name That Con 10 in Earth City, MO the first weekend in April. *The Insider*, clubzine of the St. Louis SF Society described it as a "negotiation coup" for Mary Stadter.

The FFHA awards were presented at the Worldcon in many years (including 1996), usually after First Fandom overcame the committee's initial indifference or even resistance to the idea. This is not the first time a local convention has courted First Fandom for the right to host the awards announcement, but it may be the first time one succeeded, and may also make a permanent break with the Worldcon tradition.

Marjii Ellers' Perspective on First Fandom Awards at L.A.con

by Marjii Ellers: The First Fandom Hall of Fame does what the Retro Hugos aimed for: recognition of the outstanding writers, artists and fans of the days before there were Hugos.

How could fandom not welcome that? Only because of the lengthy presentations at the Hugo ceremonies wearing out the patience of nominees waiting for their moments of truth.

How do you think I felt when I was appointed to be the one to delay them? I have *never ever* wanted to be up on stage in front of an audience sending waves of bad karma at me, but First Fandom needed a local member who could also throw a room party/meeting. So I traded time on stage for space in the Souvenir Book.

That is why there are four pages devoted to the Hall of Fame and First Fandom in the Souvenir Book. Everything I could have said on stage can be read by those interested today, and as source material in reference libraries a hundred years from now.

Janice Gelb, Director of the Hugo Ceremony, was delighted when I promised her a FIVE MINUTE installation. Thirty seconds to introduce each one, and two minutes for each to accept. Both Erle Melvin Korshak and Frank K. Kelly are experienced writers and speakers; they timed themselves, as I did, and we were all set months in advance. Janice could count on us.

Then at the con with our prepared and timed words in hand, Dave Kyle offered to introduce me. I explained how this last-minute addition would have undone the carefully planned FIVE MINUTES, and Dave seemed to accept this with good grace. He only suggested a few changes and additions to the introduction.

Jay Kay Klein and I excised 12 seconds from each of my introductions. We wrote 44 words (reading time 23 seconds) and that was that. First Fandom's part of the Hugo Ceremony went quickly and well. Nobody glared at us from beyond the footlights.

Frank K. Kelly, though exhausted, recovered and thanked First Fandom for the memory; Earle Melvin Korshak felt wonderful about being able to remind fans of his friends the other Chairman of the Second Worldcon, the late Mark Reinsberg.

First Fandom's meeting/party was held in my room, and Dave Kyle made it a success. He placed notices in *Stat*, arranged for a phone call from Arthur C. Clarke so the First Fans could chat with First Fans and made up a guest list for me. Altogether, he has been a trufan and a gentleman. It is a shame things worked out as they did, but it is too late to rearrange the past.

I delivered on my promises: to First Fandom by planning and executing a ceremony pleasing both of those installed; to fandom in general by letting them read about these two pioneers deserving of their respect; and to Janice to speed the evening toward the climax.

Yes, I did my duty, but at a cost to Dave Kyle and myself. I had hoped to make friends in First Fandom.

[[Postscript: The 44 words of introduction were: SCIENCE FICTION existed before there were Hugos; First Fandom has been honoring writers, artists and fans of that era. First Fans nominate, discuss and vote because... they knew Science Fiction then, "When all the world was young, and all the trees were green." (Quote by Charles Kingsley, the naturalist and clergyman.)]]

Changes of Address

Chaz Boston Baden, P.O. Box 17522, Anaheim, CA 92817
hazel@ddb.com

John and Judith Chapman, 333 1st St., Apt. F315, Seal Beach, CA 90740-5949

Fred Cleaver, 2416 Belleview #3, La Junta, CO 81050

Janice Eisen, 3535 Tarrytown Rd., Brookfield, WI 53005

George "Lan" Laskowski, P.O. Box 801, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0801

Spike Parsons, P.O. Box 724, Mountain View, CA 94042

Lloyd & Yvonne Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ONT M9C 2B2 Canada; Telephone (416) 626-6199

Jon Singer, 10018 45th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98125-8120

Joseph and Lisa Major, 1409 Christy Ave., Louisville, KY 40204-2040

William Breiding, 103 North 6th Street, Fairfield, IA 52556; Telephone (515) 469-6142

William Breiding asks his friends: "Do try to adjust yourself to this new Iowa state of mind. it's a place to grow! Isn't it time YOU thought about leaving San Francisco? (Applicable, of course, to only those situated in the Bay Area!)"

Meanwhile, Jerry Kaufman points out a gaffe in last August's list of CoA's: "I wanted both to thank you for including our new address, and to correct your listing of our names. You showed 'Jerry and Suzle Kaufman,' but it should have been 'Jerry Kaufman and Suzanne Tompkins.' Of course, she does use 'Suzle' as a nickname, so 'Suzle Tompkins' would have been okay, too, but she's never used 'Kaufman.'" -- I made a Technicolor mistake this time!

Blind Fan Requests Zines on Tape Chance to DJ Your Own Fanzine?

*Letter from Jay Harber
626 Paddock Lane
Libertyville, IL 60048-3733*

"I've got a very serious eye disorder, involving a lot of eye pain and eye pressure and neurological effects, which becomes permanently worse each time I try to use my near vision. In other words, every time I try to use my eyes, the whole condition deteriorates even further. Therefore, for the sake of myself and for the sake of other people with serious eye problems, I'd like to suggest that you put out some kind of audiotape edition of your publication, in or-

der to make it accessible to people in my position.

“A lot of people are very self-conscious about reading anything onto tape, but it’s easy and doesn’t require any kind of ‘professional’ speaking voice. Anyone in my situation is grateful just to get written matter in an audible form no matter what it sounds like. The idea is that you make a master copy and send me a duplicate -- if you don’t have a double cassette deck, I do and can copy the tape and send back the original. I can even make copies of your tape for other people with eye problems, as long as you provide address labels for these people.

“Any mail sent to me, including tapes, can be sent with ‘Free matter for the blind and phys. handicapped’ printed neatly in the upper right corner, and it will reach me for free. I can also send tapes to other people this way. Please make sure to include your return address, though, since once in a great while a local post office won’t quite know how to deal with the ‘free matter’ stamp, and will send the tape back. I’ve heard this sometimes happens, but it never has in my case.

“Obviously, since I’m sending for your publication for the first time, I don’t know whether I’ll be subscribing to it, but I’m not asking you to do this just for my sake. I think it’s a very good idea for anyone putting out any kind of publication, especially a short one, which would not take very long to record. Some people without eye problems might even be interested, since the personality of the author comes across much better this way, and we know that a lot of people these days listen to spoken-word tapes in the car while commut-ing. Some might even be willing to pay a little extra for this.

“The eye problem has closed off most of the world to me, and I hope you’ll at least consider this idea. Thanks.

“P.S. Since I’m not able to read, and since these medical problems of mine tend to isolate me from other human beings (because of a severe light sensitivity, for one thing) I could really use and would appreciate audiotope letters from anyone willing to send them. I guarantee I will reciprocate. I’d especially like to hear from SF/British media fans, SubGeniuses, nondogmatic people on the Left side of things generally, or any combination.

FANZINE BITES

The Ottawa Science Fiction Society has just marked 20 years in its modern incarnation. After 236 issues as *The OSFiC Statement*, the clubzine is changing its name to *Inforunner*. Somehow this reminds me of the futile argument over whether Niven’s “Organlegger” or Panshin’s “Thumbrunner” was the better coined word for that con-

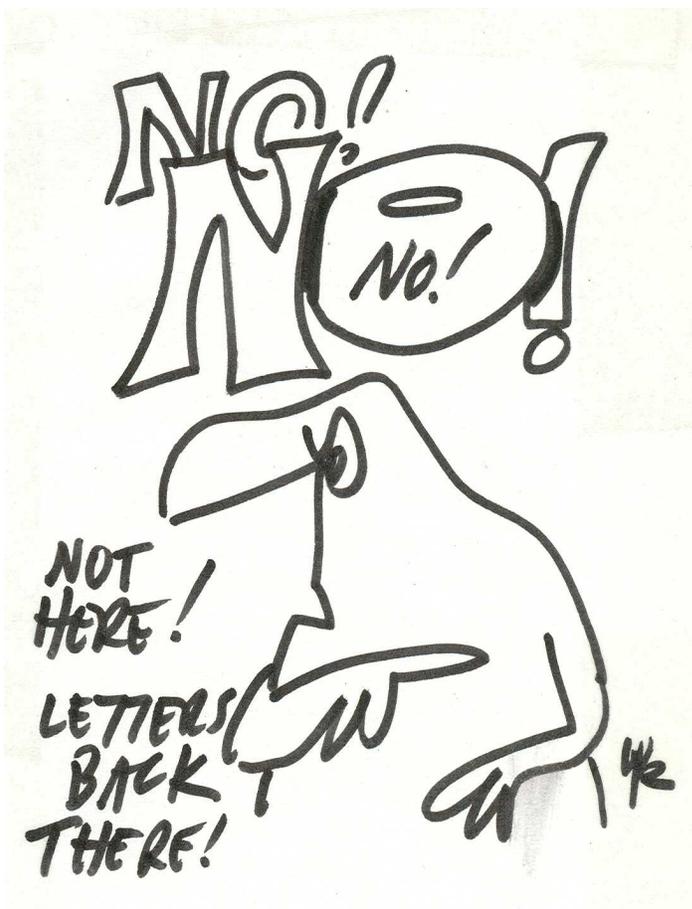
cept. Yes, I should talk, having published zines named *File 770*, *Scientifricion*, *Galactic Jive Tales* and ...*Organlegger*.

Dick Geis writes, “I’m baaaaack!” Health and financial problems had forced him to give up publishing *The Geis Letter*. Neither problem is exactly solved, but Dick said that sheer boredom drove him back to writing and editing the iconoclastic, fringe political zine that sounded like the *X-Files* long before we had a label for it. Renew your trades to: Richard E. Geis, P.O. Box 11408, Portland, OR 97211-0408.

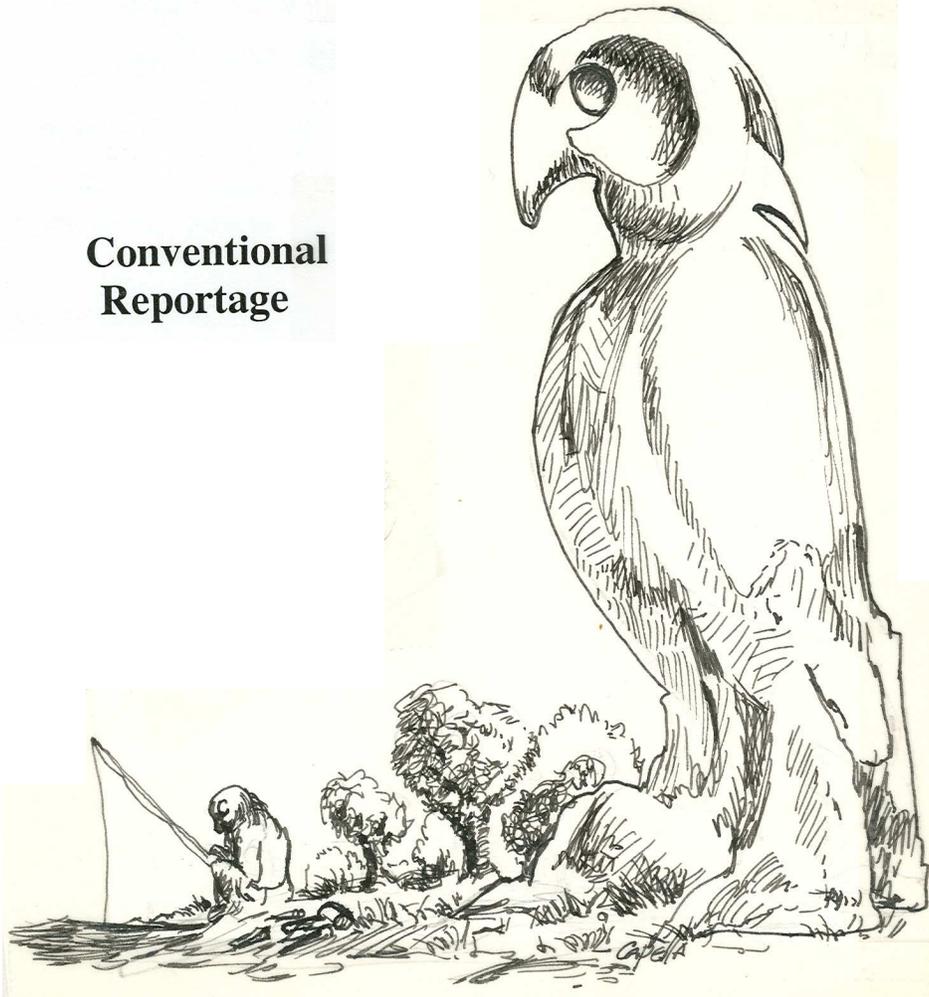
Greg Pickersgill reminds me that he accumulates fanzines for the MEMORY HOLE permacollection, which already houses over 10,000 issues of 1,800+ titles. For more information, check his the website at

<http://www.gostak.demon.co.uk>

It also includes the MHP fanzine bibliography.



Conventional Reportage



Context IX ***October 4-6, 1996*** ***Columbus, OH*** ***Report by Elizabeth Osborne***

Early in October, a small but very nice convention was held in the Harley Hotel in Columbus, OH. The main guest of honor was Hal Clement, who is very popular and respected by the fans. Mark Evans was Fan Guest of Honor. Dr. Christian Ready was Science Guest of Honor as well as a writer guest. Because several members of the con-com were graduate students or faculty from the nearby Ohio State University, the programming was heavy on science and the literary side of SF. Their well-planned program was attended by a disappointing number of fans, probably due to bad scheduling and a lack of publicity.

I came to Columbus for the Ohio Libraries Convention, held downtown in the convention center. Nearly every hotel room in the city was taken by people attending several

professional conventions or the OSU/Penn State football game. By Friday afternoon I was glad to escape uptown to the Harley Hotel and Context's 5:00 p.m. opening program, "This Is Your First Convention." In a sequence that would repeat itself, I spent an hour talking with Mark Evans (the only person to show up for the panel) about Context and the difference between Northern and Southern cons. I also asked why Context had no masquerade or costume contest, and was told there was too little interest in costume. In fact, I never saw as much as one hall costume during the weekend.

The next panel, "Convention Horror Stories," had more pan-el-ists. Then I went through the Dealers Room and the Art Show. After dinner, I visited the Con Suite, justly famous for its homemade bread and home-grown chili peppers (hot).

Saturday's three-track program included: "The Mars Meteor-ite Debate," a presentation of *Beowulf* in Old English, "A Guided

Tour of the Web," with a large screen TV illuminated by Netscape, "What Makes Vampires Sexy?," "Violence in Sci-Fi TV Debated," "Cultural Diversity in Sci-Fi, Is It Real?," "Mars Direct: How We Could Do A Mission," "A Real Hot Life: Life on 51 Pegasi B," "The Hubble Slide Show," "Chain Mail Bras: Clothing in Fantasy and Sci-Fi." Although the con was heavily loaded with literary and science programming, there was still some media programming: "The Best of Sci Fi on TV," and a debate about whether *Trek* or *Babylon 5* is better. At midnight, three of the newest *Babylon 5* episodes were shown, ending at 2:45 a.m.

A power-outage affected the entire block on Sunday, but the hotel was still able to get me a hot breakfast and check me out. Sunday's program offered, "What If Aliens Really Invaded?," "Context Grips and Gripes," "Horses at War: The Reality," and "Gothic Chic."

I had a very nice time. The hotel was a real joy to be in after my experience in a hotel downtown. The programming was very good and the Art Show was wonderful for such a small convention. I was surprised by the high quality and low prices. I haven't bought any art myself in

nearly a decade, but I ended up with five pieces. I also got nearly a hundred dollars worth of books and two Indian *saris*.

The main problem everyone discussed was the small attendance. It was the main topic of the gripe session. Over-shad-owed by the media/sci-fi con, Marcon, Context has a much smaller profile. In fact, those who do hear about Context usually consider it as a part of Marcon. This convention is run by a totally different group of people. While the convention would like to grow, Context does not want to become more than a small convention, but would like to grow to 200 attendees. Reasons given for this year's low attendance included: Context was held opposite Arcon, a regional con in St. Louis which had Ray Bradbury as GoH; some people were tapped out after the Worldcon; the Jewish Holidays were close to the date of the con; there were competing events in Columbus. There had been only one open room party at this year's Context, from Millenniumcon in Cincinnati.

Although local papers carried stories about Context during the weekend, it was hurt by a lack of advance publicity. The con committee did not get its hotel or guests of honor until just a few months beforehand. Also, for that reason the con was locked into a disadvantageous weekend. Members of the committee that I met were ignorant of the fan groups in the other parts of the state.

Context is a good convention: I enjoyed it very much. In an era when conventions can draw over 1,000 people, a small con can be a pleasant change. While the committee wants to keep it a small convention, they did want a bigger turnout than they had. I would encourage any fans looking for a sercon to think and visit Context next year.

SMOFcon 14

December 8-10, 1996

Seattle, WA

Report by Roger Wells

(c) 1997 Roger Wells

SMOFcon 14 was held December 8-10 at the Seattle Hilton. It was chaired by Richard Wright and sponsored by the North West Convention League.

The selection of Seattle, at last year's SMOFcon, was not without controversy. Traditionally, SMOFcon tries to work on consensus. For the first time, it came down to a vote. (Did Seattle burst in as a group of outsiders unwilling to work within the established system? Or did a small clique expect everyone to rubber-stamp their pet decision? I've heard both interpretations.) As it turned out, the vote was a tie, broken by a flip of the coin. Unfortunately, several publications apparently could not accept this final decision and

insisted on incorrectly listing the SMOFcon in Boston. It will be in Boston in 1997; this time the choice had almost universal support.

Seattle's SMOFcon theme was "breaking out of boxes"; that is, examining those preconceived notions which often confine our thinking. Actually, the SMOFcon was representative of much, but not all, of Seattle Fandom. There was limited representation from the fans who put on such conventions as the 1989 World Fantasy Con and 1994 Bouchercon -- Janice Murray was on one panel and I believe that was it. In the past, these groups have had little to do with each other; there is starting to be more interaction.

One of Seattle's "Boxes" has been to see the world as a formal structure wherein each person is assigned a rigid position. This favors educational sessions with a strict demarcation between teacher and pupil -- we teach, you learn -- as opposed to the more heavy emphasis on outside experts, rather than utilizing fellow fans, follows from this viewpoint. In a similar way, the convention was split, with hospitality and the resource room on the 28th floor, some sessions in the hotel lobby, and others at the nearby convention center. This, plus a heavy schedule, gave very little opportunity to mingle and network. This arrangement was partially dictated by the available facilities but has also been characteristic of past Seattle workshops and retreats and is the natural consequence of a worldview, or "box" that sees masters and subordinates rather than co-equals.

Nonetheless, this "outside authority" approach gave us some marvelous presentations. Sandy Deja, a former IRS agent now with Exemption Advisory Services, gave an excellent discussion of requirements for 501(c) tax-exempt organizations, which includes many conrunning groups. Fire Marshall George Goodall gave useful information on how maximum occupancy is determined. Future SMOFcons might consider how to combine the use of outside experts with the traditional meeting of peers.

Another "box" is the way we view SF cons: a "party for several hundred of our closest friends" vs. the concept of a formal business. (This debate rages, yea again, on several Usenet groups.) Interesting, divergent views were offered -- some participants saying that authors should receive no special benefits, others referring to con attendees as "customers" rather than "members."

The SMOFcon was held in the heart of downtown Seattle. This had advantages -- it was a good way to show off some of the best of Seattle, such as Ivar's restaurant for a Sunday dinner. (A fine tradition I remember from the days when the nearby, now-dwarfed Smith Tower was the tallest building west of the Mississippi.) Also, it was convenient to the convention center. On the other hand, this also showed why most Seattle-area SF conventions are held in the suburbs. Downtown Seattle is a very expensive convention location. The rate of \$87 for single or double was very

cheap: for downtown Seattle, anything under \$100 is good.

As a participant, my only real irritation is that I was not notified until the last minute and then only in a mass e-mail. We were given an apology at the wrap-up session. I've worked enough conventions, both in and out of SF fandom, to appreciate last-minute schedules. Still, the committee felt it necessary to contact the outside speakers individually yet we were not important enough to rate more than a group e-mail -- after all, we are only fans. Perhaps another box that might be examined?

In summary, in my view, much good information was exchanged. The rigorous schedule left little time for spontaneous discussion -- time to interact, to take new ideas and information and hash it about among peers. As always, fans representing diverse viewpoints came together: an excellent opportunity for those who came prepared to examine the "boxes" that confine their thinking. I certainly did.

Amigocon '97 Canceled

Like a pedestrian already sideswiped by truck and still in the way of an onrushing bus, the El Paso Science Fiction and Fantasy Alliance has decided to get its proprietary convention, Amigocon, off the road for a year.

Local hotels wanted to charge Amigocon a steep price for their convention facilities. The committee might have taken one of the offers and tried to make it work anyway, but not after last year's weak turnout for the El Paso Westercon, and not with this year's Worldcon in San Antonio likely to tempt Texas fans to reserve their travel budget for LoneStarCon. The committee also sensed it would be an either/or choice for the dealers, weakening one of Amigocon's traditional draws, the dealers room.

Look for the return of Amigocon in 1998 under chair Alexandra Creely.

SMoFs Reveal Worldcon Bidding Techniques

Fiona Anderson shared with Intersmof readers the answers to "What fans want to know for future large conventions" -

- ◆ Number of marzipan shops within 2km radius;
- ◆ Menu(s) from local ice-cream parlour(s);
- ◆ Amount of good beers available in neighbourhood;
- ◆ Quality of toyshops nearby and number of types of bears available;

- ◆ Restaurants and ethnicity (nearest Pizza, Curry, Chinese, and any local specialties);
- ◆ Touristing possibilities (castles, breweries, chocolate factories) — definitely NO churches or "famous towers" — and proximity of bars and cafes to same;
- ◆ Oh, and tell us about your Site, Committee (and experience), your Programme, and all the other unimportant crap....

The "Real" Coffee Auction

As part of the festivities to occur at Worldcon, LoneStarCon 2, an auction will be held to fund a scholarship being initiated to honor Real Musgrave at his *alma mater*, Texas Tech University. Musgrave has been associated for years with his trademark pocket dragons, teddy bears, pixies, wizards, meerschaums and, of course, coffee. The concept of the auction is for artists to create, either by designing and building, or decorating pre-existing coffeepots, teapots, tea kettles, tureens, urns, cups, grinders or anything else connected to coffee that might be found in Real and Muff Musgrave's own home, or in the home of one of Real's creatures.

For more information, send a SASE to: "Real" Coffee, 3015 Great Valley, Cedar Park, TX 78613.



The Fanivore

Buck Coulson

Personally, I'm not much in favor of the Retro Hugos. Yes, it's too bad there weren't awards for the earlier stories. No, I don't think that voters today will make the same choices that voters of the time would have, and how many of the authors/artists/etc. are still around to appreciate them? Honors don't do much for a dead man.

[[We who voted the Retro Hugos into existence believed in our hearts that the best stories and writers would win them, and some of the winners would still be around to collect them in person. It was not very logical to expect anyone alive to win one at the same time we predicted Asimov, Heinlein, Campbell and other pillars of the field would dominate the results. Would we have supported them if we did not expect the voters to pick the stories or people they honestly believed were the best? Certainly not. Would we have support-ed the Retro Hugos if there had been no chance of giving them to living winners? Probably not.]]

Well, I wasn't attending Aussiecon, anyway. If it takes memberships that high, then there isn't much to do about it. But you'd think that increased Worldcon membership would at least partly offset inflation. (And on the third hand, people who can afford a trip to Australia should be able to afford the con membership.)

The post office has been depending on collectors to boost revenues ever since the 1930s. (Having President Roosevelt be a stamp collector was what really started the process and it's been pick-ing up steam ever since.) Collecting full sheets has been done for years; The PO is just trying to expand it by printing more "collectible" stamps. (The local PO



personnel think I'm a collector because I buy all the new stamps; actually, 90% of them go onto postage. Of course, the local PO usually takes my word about postal matters, too....)

Yeah, *Alternate Worldcon* payments are fine with Gene DeWeese and I, even if they're small. Our story in there appeared first in Juanita's fanzine *EISFA*, which eventually became *Yandro*. All the payments are bonuses.

I agree with van Gelder: reviewers should tell where they're coming from. I think I did pretty well on that, especially in the fanzine; the flames in the background were pretty visible. It's harder to do professionally because there are -- or were for me -- more restrictions.

Alexis Gilliland

Thank you for *Vile 770* #115, uh, that would be *File 770*, the sword of Alan White's dismounted cavalryman serving to amend the F to a V. Very nice piece of work, that, in terms of drafting and composition. How did I know he was a cavalryman? Well, from tip

to pommel the sword -- a scimi-tar/saber slashing weapon -- was 5-1/4 inches, while from sole of foot to hip joint our hero's leg was only 4 inches. The heroically wide-set feet are also suggestive of much horseback riding, though White rejected the more realistic bowlegged stance as being anti-heroic/comic.

Very interesting, comparing the *Shaggy* #31 fan poll with the Retro Hugos. The latter were clearly biased in favor of the survivors, unless you want to argue that they were rewarding the fanac (that most ephemeral of art-forms) which had stood the test of time. With 397 voters vs. 75, the Retro Hugos might also be thought more representative. Of course, the 1946 Pacificon has an attendance of 130, so the poll was 57 percent of that year's worldcon attendance, while the Retro Hugos pulled about 6 percent of *this* year's con. Which takes nothing away from the winners: Rotsler's Hugo in no way diminishes Wiedenbeck, and Wiedenbeck's first in a 50-year-old poll takes nothing from Rotsler. The 1946 fan scene as seen by the participants is going to be very different from the 1946 fan scene as remembered by survivors and fan

historians. Still, I am inclined to agree with Gary Farber and others that it would be best not to repeat the event.

Bouquets to the con committee: You get roses, you earned them. Roses should also go to Elayne Pelz, who got the membership refunds out to the program participants, guests and volunteers for Christmas that same year. I, at least, am impressed.

Harry Warner, Jr.

The new *File 770* arrived today and inspired me to do something quite rare in my general behavior in these latter years: write a loc about it on the very day it arrived.

I think the causative factor is the fact that this issue is so free of chronicles of feuds, crime and general disorder in fandom. The obituary notices are sad, of course, but I'd known about both deaths for some time so they didn't come as a shock to me. Nevertheless, it's sort of sad to think that two so commendable fans have left us, one of them far short of the normal span of life. I'd never met Joni [Stopa] but Lynn [Hickman] stopped by the house one evening and I found him to be precisely as good a person as the eulogies in various fanzines have stated.

Your narrative of the deeds of derring-do at the Worldcon last summer increase the convention's reputation as one that has produced an unusually large amount of narrative from persons in high places. Most conreports come from people with small or no duties during the event. But yours are added to two very long accounts in the SFPA mailing of the experiences of fans who were in charge of certain aspects of the convention. If a few more people in similar situations should imitate the three of you in the coming months, the entire group of writings might deserve reprinting in one volume as a guide to future people who will be running large conventions. Such a volume might frighten a few people from volunteer-

ing, but I think it would encourage others as proof that humanity can survive stressful situations. Well, there are really four of you, because I forgot about Patty Wells' delightful narrative in this issue.

[[There are already two encyclopedic works about Worldcon running available, The Worldcon Runners Guide, edited by Ross Pavlac on behalf of WSFS, and Another Fine Nestsie, edited by Fiona Anderson of Intersection. Pavlac's tome is printed, AFN is available on a web site.]]

I think it's just as well that the Retro Hugos will be overlooked for at least a couple of years. Perhaps they could be revived in somewhat different form at a future date. The discrepancies between the outcome in 1996 and the results of that *Shangri-L'affaires* poll are proof that the Retro Hugos aren't satisfactory in their present form, particularly in view of the fact that both the old fanzine and last year's Worldcon would have had their poll results skewed in the same direction since both involved Los Angeles.

[[That's the reason I thought that the Shaggy poll was a fair predictor of who would have won the hypothetical 1946 Hugos. The list of Shaggy readers and Pacificon members undoubtedly overlapped a great deal.]]

My main thought about the Retro Hugo problem is the number of persons who voted in this fanzine category, that fan artist category, and also in the fan writer category last year. If I remember, the official tabulation showed 400 to 500 persons voting in those contests last year. Now, in 1946, I doubt very much if there were more than 200 fanzines in the world. Fandom contained quite a few other fans who were active in collecting or in efforts to write science fiction or in attending conventions or as local club members, but just like today, not every fan was a fanzine fan. If half of those 200 fanzine fans have vanished by now through death or complete physical or mental incapacitation or gafiation so complete they don't

know of the Hugos, there can't be more than 100 fans today who have comprehensive personal memories of fanzine fandom more than a half-century ago. How many other fans today have become well-acquainted with the whole fanzine world of 1946 through the purchase of old fanzines or an opportunity to read through someone else's fanzine collection from that era? A few dozen, perhaps. The remainder of those who voted in the fan categories for the Retro Hugos must have done so on the basis of what they've seen reprinted in recent fanzines, or the reputations of fans who were creative in 1946 and have survived to the present day or just recently died. So they are really not qualified to make judgments. Reprinting has been very spotty, favoring a few fans from the past and ignoring others of equal or greater ability. How long has it been since anyone reprinted a quantity of mid-century writings of Sam Moskowitz, Sam Russell, Joe Kennedy, Forry Ackerman and Jim Blish, half of those who finished in the top ten fanzine writing? How many who voted in the top fanzine category even then knew who published *Scientifictionist*, *Chanticleer* or *The DamnedThing*?

George Alec Effinger's paragraph puzzles me. Don Mattingly has been out of baseball since the end of the 1995 season. He didn't play for the Yankees at all in 1996 and he just the other day announced that his retirement is permanent. He lives in Indiana, not in the Los Angeles area. So why should this Mattingly sighting have occurred? Conceivably, he could have been on the West Coast on a visit and stopped by the Hilton so he could renew acquaintances with his former teammates. But it might just as well have been Gracie Allen's missing brother who was listening to Ray Bra-dbury.

Henry L. Welch

I'm sure everyone has already told you that you are crazy to be chairing a worldcon and still getting your fanzine out right before it starts. I actu-

ally don't think it is all that bad. If the con is properly organized, then there should be plenty of spare time in the last few weeks to do other things. Sure there are crises, but there shouldn't be an over abundance of them.

Our local con ran just over a week ago. Before the con we only had one real crisis involving a miscommunication between a committee member and the hotel sales staff. It took less than five minutes to straighten out. During the con there was only one real problem and it was dealt with as well.

I like seeing all the little news tidbits that you find. You are obviously more connected to things than I am which is just fine by me. I am though a bit concerned with the trend in world con bids. It seems to me that in the past two or three years that the voting and converting costs have grown astronomically. I can recall not too long ago being able to presupport/befriend the two major bids at \$20 each plus a \$20 voting fee and being an attending member (or voting and paying \$40 to convert.) I believe this was the case for Louisville/Nashville vs. Winnipeg. Now it's \$35 to vote and \$60 or so to be a friend with a conversion fee close to \$100. Is the economy of the worldcon changing that rapidly? Looking ahead to 2002 I see that ConFrancisco is offering its friend status at \$100. The implication is that pretty soon it will be well over \$200 at the door and close to \$150 just to get in the door three years ahead. (I note that Chicago in 2000 does not seem to be part of this trend.)

Any thoughts?

[[You raise some interesting questions. First, bid "presupporters" and "friends" are two different levels of support. For at least the last 10 years bids have been publicly enlisting \$100 donors. The earliest example I remember focused on hucksters, who were promised preferential locations if the bid won.

[[Second, Worldcon memberships have escalated faster than inflation over the past 20 years because the con has become more complex, as well as big-ger, adding functions and exhibits that increase its costs. The overall cashflow of a large Worldcon is now half a million dollars. Costs usually include hiring the local convention center, a large expense for U.S. cons that other-wise would use hotel function space provided at no charge if enough rooms are booked. The membership rates have risen to compensate for this growth. Of course, the fannish marketplace endorses the trend by continuing to bear the increase. There are people being priced out of the event, on the other hand, the Worldcon community includes many who came into fandom in the 1970s and now are in their "peak earning years", as a group able to accept high rates that would have been impossible for them to afford in their student days. The Aussie SMOFs are certainly right that American fans able to afford the trip will absorb a steep membership price, but I still don't understand why they appear unconcerned about the discouraging effect these rates will have on Australians.

[[The opening membership rates are really more significant than the at-the-door rates. The escalating rate structure exists to drive people into the fold at the earliest possible date so that the committee can plan its budget properly. In order to do this critical job well, they have to build in some meaningful negative feedback for procrastinators.]]

Ed Meskys

Today I had my reader over and we almost finished the August *File 770*. I was very interested in the letter from Lloyd Penny who mentioned that a regional con in Michigan had two guests of honor...an established one and an new and upcoming one. He mentioned that Zelazny died two days before he was to be a GoH. That reminds me of Mack Reynolds who died during the week before the Boskone where he was to be the

GoH. Lloyd's point was that the second GoHship for upcoming writers was good for catching people before unexpected deaths. I like the idea very much. My reader is coming back next Monday and we will finish *File 770* at that time.

Dave Langford

Thought you'd like to know that the understandably delayed issue with your post-Worldcon report arrived here today. Many thanks!

Also, thanks again (at least I hope I said it before) to L.A.con for the splendidly over-the-top Hugos — one heroically transported to the London sf pub meeting in September, by Cheryl Morgan (actually a British fan who fairly recently emigrated to Australia), and the other sealed in industrial-quality foam wrapping by Spike Parsons and brought to Heathrow by Rich Coad. Both have been much admired; Gary Farber visited and swooned at the sight.

Nobody had told me anything about Jo Clayton's progress in a while, so it was most cheering to read in *File 770* that she's recovering well. We are still losing too many fans over here: January saw the deaths of Brian Burgess and Phil Rogers, both familiar UK convention faces since before I entered fandom (though Brian's health had kept him away from cons since 1994).

Lloyd Penney

Congratulations. Once again, I say I wish I could have been at L.A.con III.

One thing that made me smile was the ribbon that said, "Place Stickers Here." Yvonne said that while you and Kees Van Toorn were pestering her at Magicon in the Treasury department, you noticed that our badges had a blank ribbon attached. When you asked, Yvonne said that we came up with a standard length of black grosgrain ribbon to store the assorted party pins and stickers you accumulated through a Worldcon, and ensure that you name on your badge would-

n't be obscured. Yvonne said that you thought it was a good idea...and there it is, in the Pantheon of Ribbons, so to speak.

The SF in '02 bidcom is doing it right, financially. And I think we are too [Toronto in '03 bid].

Henry L. Welch

Thanks for *File 770:115*. Lots of interesting information about L.A.con that I hadn't really known. Like many others I expected a bigger turnout than the reality, but I much preferred the smaller convention. The fan lounge was a great lounge area and I hope future worldcons will continue the tradition.

I was a bit surprised by the Aussiecon rates. The con may have many valid reasons for setting the rates where they did, but I fear it exposes a dangerous trend. As you point out, the SF in 2002 bid is already leaning in that direction with the very large presupport and friend bidding levels. I miss the days when you could vote for \$20 and presupport the two or three bids at \$20 and end up with an attending membership. This was a great way to support the entire bidding process without really getting soaked in comparison to the conversion fees after selection. Now with the higher amounts I fear that too many will withhold general support for the process and either bet on one bid or simply wait for the converting rates. This would obviously backfire in the goal to raise more bidding capital.

Teddy Harvia

Thanks for the Cancun plug. Several of us are flying down to tour the facilities, beaches and ruins.

My nose is back to 90%. Unfortunately, the remaining 10% causes a dull ache. Family medical expert Diana cheered me by telling me that the ligament will never grow back completely.

Your subtle self-deprecation amazes

me. Who else would have published Alan White's "load limit" cartoon? I was impressed with your accessibility at L.A.con, even if you were some-what distracted.

I thought your Hugo bases were great. George's negative hint about "books" ignores the major contribution media SF has made to the field. And Guy might have been less critical had he won one to take home to examine and show off up close.

[[I'm sure that's the attitude Guy thought was appropriate for me to have as a NOLAcon Hugo winner! And, when George made his comment about the pictures on the Hugo base I pointed out most of the movies were based on books. They even had the same title.]]

You were gracious not to send someone over to Dave Kyle and Forry Ackerman sitting on the bench before the Hugo Ceremonies to tell them, "Mike Glycer says you can't sit here." Oops, wrong Worldcon.

[[Oh, God, I think I've hurt myself laughing....]]

How much of the \$30-\$35,000 needed to run a successful Worldcon bid comes from intense competition. "We need to spend more or we'll lose!"

[[Our L.A. in '96 bid spent much more than that, and we ran unopposed. The real answer is: what kind of bidding campaign do you think it will take to win? For us, the answer was a high-profile campaign lasting four years. L.A. has never won an opposed bid, so we needed to pick an opportune year (we bypassed '93: San Francisco won, and exhausted the Phoenix bidders in the process), then go all out from start to finish, leaving no room for spoilers. That strategy required a lot of financial support by the bid committee. One thing's for sure, don't plan a long campaign without knowing where the resources are coming from. During that same '93 race, SF and Phoenix both started sucking financial vac-

uum a year before the vote, their publicity faded away and a spoiler Hawaii in '93 bid jumped in.]]

Cheryl Morgan

My comments regarding the high initial prices for A3 were not supposition, they were based on conversations with members of the bid committee. As far as the late buying of Australian fans is concerned, I think they are right, Australians do buy a lot later than other cultures. This is partly due to a cultural tendency not to do things until the last minute (something that also tends to affect concons...) and partly because Australians hate handing over money unless they get something in return immediately. You have to live there to understand.

As to Eric's comments on lack of local support for the bid, they are entirely specious. He was one of the main proponents of the argument that it was a waste of money and effort to promote the bid in Australia because very few Australians would bother to vote. Also his outspoken comments about media fans not being welcome at Worldcons have left the majority of Australian fans, at least in Melbourne, not wanting anything to do with such an elitist event.

Having said that, the majority of A3's membership will, of course, come from the US, simply because of the relative population sizes. Typically the Australian National Convention attracts only around 250 people.

Elizabeth Osborne

I just got your *File 770:115*. It was the first news I had of the Worldcon. As con chair, do you know if there will be a video tape of the costume contest? I would love to have one. Of course, I will be willing to pay.

Some of the reasons for the lower than expected attendance could be the result of (1) the long economic downturn in the California area that still hasn't been totally reversed; (2)

Movement of California's more economically successful population out of state, removing casual [con] visitors; (3) the real lack (despite *Independence Day* and *B5*) of new and successful SF in the movies and TV that fire up SF interest; and (4) the bad press that the L.A., and by extension, Southern California area has been receiving since the last worldcon. Southern California, which might just as well be [summed up in] L.A. for us in the backwoods, has been a neverending litany of disasters, both man-made and natural. These events include race riots, earthquakes, mud-slides, two major floods, fires and the O.J. trial (which can be listed as a disaster for the legal system and society.) Los Angeles is not only a place that I don't want to live in, but also a place I don't care to visit (much like New York during the '70s). Nor is L.A. that easy to get to, especially from the Midwest. With a worldcon just a few short years ago in San Francisco, and before that a NASFiC in San Diego, another West Coast convention is not what I need. I know people voted for L.A., but I was not one of them.

[[Will it horrify you to discover I graduated from the same university as O.J. Simpson? It's an association that has lost of some of its cachet....]]

This is not to say that it was a bad convention. Your zine sounds good and I haven't heard any negative press from people who went. I do know people who did go and they all had a great time. In choosing my vacation, I picked the Pennsic War in PA -- six hours away by car, and my family lived in between.

Buck Coulson

Juanita and I met Roy Tackett for probably the second time at Rivercon this year; I gather he had some aid from FLAP in getting there. He was in a wheelchair, but seemed to be recovering nicely. We also met Eleen for the first time. For awhile, there were so many people standing around talking in front of our huckster table that customers had difficulty getting close, but I can have customers anytime; I don't

get to see Roy and Eleen all that often, and haven't been seeing Dave Locke much in the past few years. Surprise attendees were Gene and Rosemary Wolfe; they must have decided to come at the last minute. Gene was on some panels, but wasn't listed among the notables in the program book. All in all, a good con, as usual; I've never been to a bad Rivercon.

One nice thing about fandom is that one doesn't have to associate with people one doesn't like, or accept what they say as gospel. Gene Wolfe wanted to know why I wasn't on one of the panels he was on; I explained that one of the people on programming called me up ahead of time to ask if I'd be on a panel with a certain Louisville fan I'm not speaking to. I said I would if they really wanted me, but I'd rather not. (They didn't mention that Gene would be on it; it would be a good joke if he was my replacement. "...Pinch-hitting in the #2 spot is...")

Addendum to my last letter; my high school class reunion (my 50th) was for everyone who ever *attended* the school: graduation was not a requirement. Everyone fitted into one medium-sized banquet room. My class had 13 graduates and 9 were present, plus one non-graduate, some coming from Texas, Kansas and California. (Juanita had more people in her high school graduating class than I had in my town.) I enjoyed talking to my 5th and 6th grade teacher, and my high school English teacher. I told the latter that her teaching had been very useful.

Brad Foster

Well, my bluff has been called. I've been working as a freelance artist for over 15 years now, and I've always said that, if times ever got tough, "Sure, I could just go out and get a job, no sweat." Big talk, and my bluff was called at the end of '96, as the money we owed and the bills were mounting, and moving into the winter months when income levels are usually dropping off. I finally *did* have to go job hunting. Odd feeling after 15 years on my own, but I managed to find some-

thing after about two weeks of looking. Not too far from home and on the bus route if I need to get there on my own (Cindy is also job hunting now, and with one vehicle one of us has got to find a different way to work!) Anyway, don't know how long this will last -- will depend both on how long it takes to pay off debts, as well as get into some decent shape.

Enjoyed the L.A.con reports, glad you decided to go with the editor hat as well as that of the chairman. I liked the revelation that you really didn't need the convention space, but it has sort of become a requirement to mount a Worldcon bid these days. It's all so complicated, I'm just so glad that someone else out there seems to love to put all this together for us!

Oh, and I blush at John's opening to his ConDiablo report. Gosh!

Joy V. Smith

Thanks much for *File 770:115*. I greatly enjoyed the L.A.con report and Patty Wells' life as a plant. Good and thorough reports on everything -- I like that; and I'll check out the websites you mentioned also.

Adrienne Losin

You survived! Congratulations, the hard part's over now. Sounds like a successful Worldcon to me. Downunder the battle for the A 'n 99 concom rages. Various good fans are beginning to retreat simply for safety and sanity's sake. At such times I'm glad I live in the country, am not on the Net and don't even have a phone! I live a couple of miles inland from the lovely, rugged Port Phillip bay's southeastern cliffs. Right now I'm sitting near the jetty at Mornington, looking past the securely tied-up fishing fleet to the distant forest fires. This summer's been a living hell for many. Fortunately, local wildfires missed my house by 3 miles.

[[In the next LoC, Charles Platt makes the novel argument that the Hogu Award declined before he could...]]

Charles Platt

Finally someone has told me the joke [[the 1996 Hogu Awards]], although that word implies a level of mentation that I am unable to detect. Platt, John Norman, and William Shatner tie for "best dead writer."

I guess the science-fiction field has become so pitifully malnourished, it no longer has sufficiently oxygenated literary lifeblood to support even the most rudimentary forms of satire. Fans never were capable of achieving anything very substantial (some of them didn't even buy books), but a few of them (mostly British) used to display rudimentary levels of wit. Not anymore, I guess. The essence of satire is that it should sting; and in order to sting, it should derive from the weaknesses of its target. If you're going to give satirical awards (an excellent idea, in my opinion) this means more than getting a few people in a room and giggling a lot. It means doing some research. Some ACTUAL WORK, yes. I have far greater weaknesses that you could have exploited; but you're so lost in your own sad remnants of skiffyspace you don't have a clue. I was expecting -- hoping for -- a blast from a blunderbuss; the best you could come up with was a misaimed ink pellet.

So where's my award? I'll bet there isn't one.

When I created a set of awards for the most disgusting contributions to a forum that I used to moderate on a local Internet site here, I actually collected, dehydrated, and painted some genuine cat feces, which were suitably mounted in little lucite boxes for the lucky winners. Do you have anything of that sort? Of course not.

I am disgusted, yet again, by the lameness of fandom.



Incidentally, your award is not even topical since I am of course just as dead now as I was in 1980, when Michael Moorcock described one of my books as "Yet another failed attempt to get fairly rich, fairly quick." (THAT, incidentally, was good satire; can you detect the difference?) I may be dead, yes; but I am well preserved. The same cannot be said of the putrescent, geriatric pinheads of the clique who perpetrated this crippled jest with all the wit and impact of an infant belching. For shame!

Robert Whitaker Sirignano

The essay John W. Campbell and I sparred over is "Meihen in Ce Klasmus" by Dolton Edwards. It's about spelling simplification. It can be found in the *Astounding Science Fiction Anthology*.

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