

TABOO OPINIONS #36

By Richard E. Geis

rerwingeis@cs.com

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2-15-05 ME & MY EGO

I'm in a kind of orgasmic ego shock. I was interviewed this morning by Steve Duin, a columnist for The Oregonian. The interview was suggested by John Henley, a friend and a book dealer here in Portland.

The shock is that I had no idea that I had had any real importance in the science fiction world, nor that my major fanzine, Science Fiction Review, was so significant nor that it has now such a reputation.

Yet here it is almost twenty years since the final issue of my SFR was published (the title was used afterward by Elton T. Elliott and some of his associates in a newsstand format which also used fiction, and the title probably will be used again) and I am deemed column-worthy for a major newspaper!

But the interview also covered my sex novel writing career (114 novels) and also my part in the federal government's mid-1960's attempt to put a major sex novel and nudist magazine publisher, Milton Luros, in prison by prosecuting in Sioux City, Iowa (their hand-picked venue to assure convictions). I was included with two other writers, two editors, a corporate bookkeeper, a salesman, and Mrs. Luros as fellow 'conspirators' in the overall charge of conspiring to publish and distribute obscene materials into Sioux City.

The 'obscene' books and magazines were ordered into Sioux City by postal inspectors using fake names via post office boxes.

The trial took two or three winter months and ended with guilty verdicts for almost everyone, on every count. Whereupon the judge went about vacating the convictions one by one (on the basis, I understand, of government misconduct in the grand jury indictment process, and because of insufficient evidence of conspiracy in some cases) until only Mr. and Mrs. Luros remained on the hook. They appealed and won and were cleared a year or so later.

So we'll see if this notoriety 40 years later, and science fictional fringe culture effect 20 years later, has enough human interest legs for Steve and his editors.

I am, still, however, somewhat blown away that SFR is now a legend in science fiction fandom. Hey, I was just having fun!

END TABOO OPINIONS #36