

AUGIE, A DOGGY FROM
AUSTRALIA



A MERMAN
FROM THE SEA OF

JAPAN

Editorial Notes by Mike Glycer

Mother Hitton's Littul Kittons: Fans are the people most likely to forget the distinction between science fiction writers and their stories. I've had more trouble than usual since the Scribd.com controversy began.

SFWA temporarily suspended its ePiracy committee in response to the online furor over its flawed attempt to deal with Scribd.com, a website which allows users to upload documents of all sorts for others to download and share — including many hundreds of copyrighted texts by famous sf authors.

Robert Silverberg asked SFWA to represent him in sending a take-down notice to the Scribd site. The notice SFWA sent also listed some that ought not to have been included, one of them by Cory Doctorow. Doctorow's example ignited a firestorm of protest and threatened litigation.

When SFWA fled the battlefield there was, for awhile, a genuine "old man's war" in the making, as septuagenarian sf authors like Robert Silverberg, Jerry Pournelle and Harlan Ellison were left to mount their own defense against the infringements of the file-sharing site.

Jerry Pournelle wrote a trenchant blog entry: "I confess that what infuriated me was that an author association which was doing no more than trying to help its membership keep their works from being openly and massively pirated has been made to be the bad guys, and [Electronic Frontier Foundation] has taken the side of the file sharers."

Harlan Ellison was simply itching to fight: "It may well turn out that my personally going after Scribd with all guns blazing will serve to benefit other writers. Hot damn! I am content, once again, to do the job. I've never lost one yet, and I'd as soon go it alone."

These are all good words, but I'm impatient for an even stronger response from my heros. Especially the ones who've had their

pictures snapped by *USA Today* before going in to advise Homeland Security about the war on terror. I expect nothing less from them than an imaginative and abrupt end to this theft of their livelihoods.

If Paul Linebarger were still around he'd be outraged by all the copies of "Cordwainer Smith" stories illegally available online. I'm sure it wouldn't take long for him to wake up "Mother Hitton's Littul Kittons." What more efficient solution to this problem could there be than to telepathically command copyright violators to rip themselves to shreds like mad minks?

Last Issue, the Cliff Notes Edition: It was a little surprising to receive a few letters about my article "Strangers Like Me" from people saying they agreed with me about things I didn't advocate. So I'm going to underscore two of my points.

(1) I think Japanese Worldcon members had a responsibility to nominate their country's best work for the Hugo. It's nonsensical to let Ultraman tower over the Hugo rocket if you're not going to put him (or anything else) on the Hugo ballot.

(2) As for there being only one woman Hugo nominee, all that's required is for people who want more women nominees to be sure to vote for excellent work by women. It's easy to become a participant in this process. For those who believe the real problem is lack of appreciation for feminist sf (not merely sf by women), I'm willing to read good stuff if they point it out. I don't have to be PC to want justice done to good stories.

Lifetime Achievement Hugo, No: Some fans at Smofcon talked about adding a new Lifetime Achievement Hugo category. Now if a compelling idea for a new Hugo category comes along, I'm not somebody who's going to arbitrarily rant about there being "too many Hugo categories!" The reason I simply can't warm up to the idea of a Lifetime Achievement Hugo is that it adds nothing.

The Worldcon guest of honor recognizes lifetime achievement. A symptom of the duplication is that the suggested 30-year career for Lifetime Achievement Hugo nominees is essentially the same starting point many (though not all) people use to

cull GoH prospects.

Promoters of the new category want Lifetime Achievement Hugo winners to enjoy receiving the award -- only living people will be eligible. That's understandable. But don't certain other implications follow logically from the same impulse? Won't everyone want to see the winning SF legend pick up their Hugo in person? Yet you can't take it for granted that somebody like Ray Bradbury or Anne McCaffrey will be sitting in the audience when the Hugos are announced -- they never were before! So won't it be necessary to select and reveal the winner sufficiently in advance of the Worldcon to permit scheduling and travel arrangements to be made by the winner? Perhaps the Worldcon will want to offer to pay their way, making them in effect another GoH. And won't that detract from the "actual" GoHs?

Another overlooked fact is that every Hugo category produces one winner and four losers. Do we honor the legends of the field by making them compete for this lifetime Hugo? There are good reasons bidders never reveal their prospective GoH's -- to avoid appearing to pit them against one another, and to spare the loser's guests any embarrassment. Here, not only would there be four identified losers, but the voting statistics would be published afterwards.

The competition also exposes the nominees to public debate about who deserves to win, and fans can't be relied upon to maintain their tea party manners, offering only polite and positive recommendations, if any of the nominees is the least controversial. (Surely Harlan Ellison has enough devoted fans to become a Lifetime Achievement Hugo nominee!) What a food fight bloggers will have, overshadowing the honors intended by the category.

While I don't think a Lifetime Achievement category is a good fit for the Hugo Awards, there is an alternative. Special Committee Awards often have been given for this purpose over the years. They may lack the imprimatur of being chosen by popular vote, but they also don't suffer from any of the problems I've outlined above.



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News of Fandom

Fans Escape San Diego Fires

Many fans in the San Diego area loaded their cars and left home while fires ranged over the area and throughout Southern California beginning October 20. By the time the flames were out, 1,500 homes were destroyed by fire, and 500,000 acres of land burned in locations scattered between Santa Barbara and the Mexican border.

Janet Tait and John Rogers, President of San Diego's Comic-Con International, lost their home in the Witch Creek fire: the roof was already on fire by the time they evacuated in the middle of the night. Several San Diego area fans watched property around their homes burn, though the structures were saved. Many others were temporarily displaced by evacuation orders.

On Sunday, October 21 Sandra Childress and James Briggs left home ahead of the fire, taking with them two cats and five chinchillas. Sandra, James and the original seven animals they'd taken went to Poway and stayed with Stacey Helton. Animal Control retrieved another 21 of Sandra's chinchillas later that day, however, 40 more remained at the house. They had a long wait before learn-

ing their house and garage survived as the fire burned around the property.

Authorities ordered mass evacuations as the fires advanced into new areas. It was essential for the large number of rural residents to have plenty of time to funnel down the narrow roads from the hills of inland San Diego County. A computerized Reverse 911 phone call system established after the disastrous 2003 fires was used to notify several hundred thousand residents when they had to evacuate. Law enforcement officers also notified residents by driving through evacuation areas.

A few local fans who might have offered crash space to their friends were deterred from doing so when fire predictions indicated they'd soon need to evacuate themselves. Indeed, Helton, Childress and Briggs all had to get out of Poway the next day, October 22. The evacuation order was lifted 24 hours later, allowing Helton to return home, after Childress and Briggs had moved elsewhere.

Residents of Ramona received the evacuation order on October 21, but when Kevin and Atanielle Rowland tried to leave

they were forced back by road closures. They returned home and successfully fought several small fires on their property. Jefferson Swycaffer reported online, "[They] fought the fire with garden hose and buckets. Three times, small fires caught on the roof, but they put 'em out each time. If they had evac'ed, they wouldn't have a house."

When Sue Dawe and Michael Underwood, also of Ramona, tried to evacuate they also didn't get very far. Dawe wrote, "We spent Sunday night [October 21] just down the street in the High School parking lot with dogs, cat and some family heirlooms -- took us an hour to get there (just imagine, all Ramona told to GET OUT!!! and 40,000 people try to get out on three 2-lane roads...) and the sheriff flagged us into the parking area, which is defensible space. [We] watched as fire came near to end of street, then split and went north and south around us." Before dawn they were home, where Sue kept watch 'til the fire subsided to smoldering bits.

Ray Feist evacuated to La Jolla, October 23, but the order was canceled and he returned home the same day. Pearl Stickler,

long-time San Diego club leader, and Richard Rowell had to get out of Escondido on October 24. Elisa Sheets, David Mills and David Ross also evacuated at some point during the emergency.

Alex Boster and the Conrunner wiki were among the internet hosts of check-in lists established to let fans in threatened areas notify friends they'd evacuated and that they were safe.

Minn-Stf Takes Online Headcount After Bridge Falls

After the Minneapolis bridge collapse on August 1, local fans used the Minn-stf LiveJournal community to determine that no fans had been hurt in the disaster. Geri Sullivan told the Smofs list that more than 185 Minneapolis fans reported they were okay after the I-35 freeway bridge fell into the Mississippi River.

Chris Garcia Wins TAFF

Chris Garcia won the 2008 Trans Atlantic Fan Fund race with 62.7% of the total combined NA/Europe votes. Administrators say 174 votes were cast and that no other candidate received 20% of this combined vote, but at this writing a full account of the voting has not been released.

Chris will be attending Orbital, the 2008 Eastercon, in March as part of his trip. Details of his TAFF itinerary will be announced when they are available.

TAFF administrators Suzanne Tompkins and Bridget Bradshaw add, "Further details of voting will be announced shortly. We would like to thank the other TAFF candidates - Linda Deneroff, Chris Barkley, and



Nobel winner Doris Lessing.

Christian McGuire for standing for TAFF this year and making it a real race."

Helpful Bureaucrat Saves FFANZ Trip

It could only be the plot of a fantasy novel – a government worker helped David Cake renew his passport *overnight* so the FFANZ delegate wouldn't miss the New Zealand National Convention. Cake didn't notice his Australian passport had expired until the night before he was scheduled to fly out. As he wrote online:

"I had a (domestic) plane ticket out at 10 a.m. the next morning, to fly from Western Australia to Sydney, and then a brief stop-over before flying to New Zealand. I got on the phone to the Australian passport office at 6 a.m., booked an interview for when the office opened at 8.30 a.m., and explained the situation. It was declared impossible to do anything, until they realized my passport had only just expired, and it was a simple renewal.

"They agreed to do the paperwork in Western Australia, but issue the passport in Sydney, and said with luck it would be the same day.

"I got on the plane. While I was in the air, my wife was able to ascertain that the passport could be issued the same day, and was able to convince a staff member to stay behind a little after the offices official closing time to give it to me!

"I got off the plane, got in a taxi, hurtled across town in rush hour traffic, was met by a kind woman from the passport office who handed me my passport outside their building, got back in my waiting taxi, and arrived at the airport in time to check in."

Lessing Wins Nobel Prize

Doris Lessing has been awarded the 2007 Nobel Prize for Literature. Not that she is impressed. She told the reporters who

brought her the news, "Oh Christ, I couldn't care less." Which might be the very same thing Chesley Bonestell said about a Special Hugo Award he was given in 1974, before relegating it to his bathroom to sit on the lid of the toilet tank.

Lessing may not be the first science fiction writer to get the prize. Rudyard Kipling won it in 1907, and no less authority than John W. Campbell called Kipling "the first modern science fiction writer." She may not even be the first Nobel laureate acknowledged as a science fiction writer by the literary establishment. That was Saul Bellow, winner in 1976, who also uttered the words "science fiction" during his Nobel lecture.

However, Lessing is the only Worldcon guest of honor who has won the Nobel Prize for Literature. The text of her Conspiracy GoH speech is available in *Worldcon Guest of Honor Speeches*, edited by Resnick and Siclari.

Beginning with *Briefing for a Descent into Hell* (1971), Lessing began to write what she calls "inner-space fiction." Then, in the novel series *Canopus in Argos: Archives* (vol. 1–5, 1979–1984) Lessing wrote about the post-atomic war development of the human species. The citation from the Nobel committee calls Lessing "that epicist of the female experience, who with scepticism, fire and visionary power has subjected a divided civilisation to scrutiny."

Has the literary world finally relaxed its prejudices against the SF genre? Don't kid yourself. Critic Harold Bloom belittled this year's Nobel choice to a wire service reporter: "Although Ms. Lessing at the beginning of her writing career had a few admirable qualities, I find her work for the past 15 years quite unreadable ... fourth-rate science fiction."

[[Earlier version posted on Trufen.net]]

Hazel's Picture Gallery Getting Better All the Time

Chaz Boston Baden has now restored 46% of Hazel's Picture Gallery (<http://www.boston-baden.com/hazel/Pix/>) and recovery efforts are going smoothly. He reports, "I have thousands upon thousands of recovered JPEG images and I am matching them up to where they go on the website."

In mid-2005 the server died, but Chaz was able to recover a large number of photos from 2005 that were still sitting around on various computers, and a lot of 2003 photos and earlier because there were backups or they had been picked up by archiving websites like the Wayback Machine (<http://web.archive.org/>) and others. The 2004 section of the website was the hardest hit.

Chaz says, "Right now I'm concentrating



my efforts on getting back as many of the those photos as I can, such as from Armadillocon and the two fannish weddings in SoCal that I attended that year. As you know, I work on it as time allows. Many people donated to the recovery fund. That money has paid for professional-grade recovery of the dead disk drive, which is where those thousands of unmarked unnamed untitled JPEG images have come from. (There were also 50,000 JPEG images on the disk drive that weren't mine. DD-B's server was a haven for fannish projects, photographers, and fannish photographers.)

"There was enough money left over to pay for real paid hosting service (with regular backups and reliable tech support). Donations since then have gone into the general fund, mainly to replace broken or stolen cameras.

"Summary: progress is being made, it's just taking a very long time.... Currently each percentage point in my '% Restored' statistic represents about two weeks of working on it at night when I come home from the office."

Chaz explains that he is not soliciting donations: more money won't make the recovery go any faster.

Pride of Literary Lions

Sierra hasn't been left behind by the other authors in the family. She watched Mommy write a book, then began her own first story, *Barbie & Friends*. Sierra dictated the story to Diana a few pages at a time over several months, while collaborating on color illustrations with her parents and several of her babysitters. Sierra enlisted one of the talented contributors to Diana's book, David Bratman, to prepare an index for *Barbie & Friends*. When David e-mailed his index he added, "Please tell [Sierra] that I was honored to be asked to write it, and that it was a very exciting book to index - something new on every page!" Now Sierra is waiting for someone to tell her where *Barbie & Friends* ranks on the Amazon bestseller list.

Unraveling DNA

The DNA Publications magazine empire has evaporated, reportedly the subject of a fraud investigation by the Virginia State Police for failing to fulfill subscriptions to *KISS*, its magazine about Gene Simmons' band. Even the DNAPublications.com website has been replaced by a placeholder page that contains no information about the magazines. Also gone for good is *SF Chronicle*, which Andrew Porter sold to DNA's Warren Lapine in 2000.

"But good riddance to bad rubbish," Porter wrote online in August. "Warren [Lapine's] response to anything adverse was

to pull in all the appendages and hide. Fat lot of good it will do him if someone comes by his house with a warrant or other legal papers. Or handcuffs..."

"However, what I should have done with *SFC* was to sell it for a lot of money to Charlie Brown, who would have merged the subscription base into Locus. But I wasn't that smart, that objective, sigh...."

Patenting the Ansible

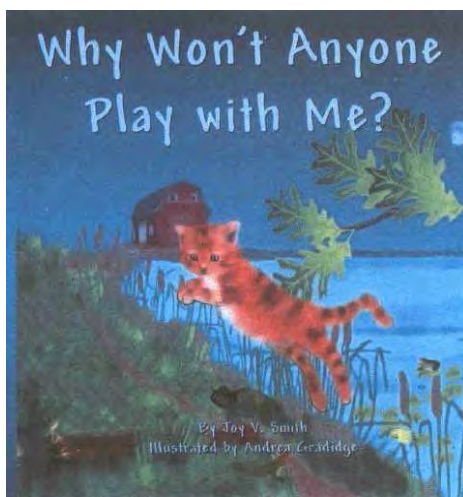
Did someone patent the ansible in 1997? Well, what else would you call the device David L. Strom registered with the U.S. Patent Office, after reading the description of what it claims to do:

"The present invention takes a transmission of energy, and instead of sending it through normal time and space, it pokes a small hole into another dimension, thus, sending the energy through a place which allows transmission of energy to exceed the speed of light."

When Ursula LeGuin told us in her foreword to *Birthday of the World* (2001) that "the ansible is older than the Internet, and faster," she really knew what she was talking about.

The Joy of Book

Joy V. Smith has a new book out for children, *Why Won't Anyone Play with Me?* The story revolves around the question, "Why doesn't anyone want to play with Kallie Kitten? Why do they jump into the pond or hide? Will this frisky kitten learn how to play with the other animals?" The images in this story were done by Andrea Gradidge. Price: \$19.95, from PublishAmerica, or via Amazon.com.



Cover of Joy V. Smith's new book, *Why Won't Anyone Play with Me?*

Medical Updates

Jean Weber had hip replacement surgery on August 27, According to Eric Lindsay. "Jean was walking (for small values of walking) using a frame in her room on Tuesday, less than 24 hours after the operation, with help from the physiotherapist." She was ready to go home about five days after the operation. Full recuperation will take 6-8 weeks. Lloyd Penney reported online that Jean will have the other hip replaced in November.

Andrew Porter sent friends and relatives this progress update about his cancer treatment on October 4:

"Thought you'd like to know that I had my final chemotherapy session on August 29th and celebrated being cancer free with a two week trip to the UK in late September, during which I attended the British Fantasy Convention and did touristy things, including going to Scarborough, where I met fan artist Terry Jeeves. We now enter the hopefully years-long period of watchful periodic catscans, where they make sure my liver bile duct cancer doesn't come back. I hope to make it to the Aussie Worldcon in 2010, and many other cons in future years. If I don't get eaten by a cane toad in the meanwhile..."

An e-mail Porter sent just before that final session in August added a sobering thought: "The long term survival rate for liver cancer survivors is depressingly low -- maybe 10 percent after 5 years -- so I am definitely planning to live for the moment. Certainly not making any long term plans.

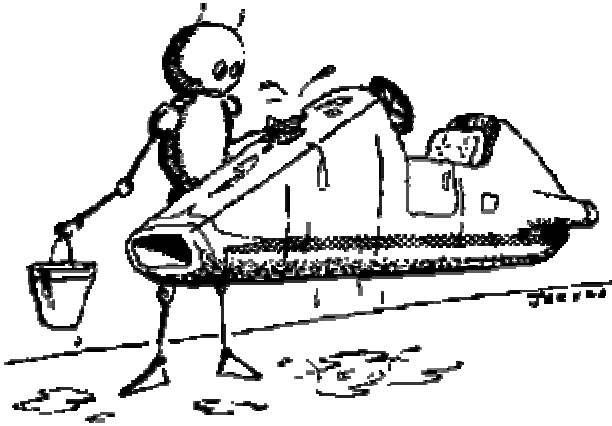
"I am looking forward to chemo-related effects -- swelling in my legs, fatigue, diarrhea, etc., etc. -- eventually coming to an end.

"Memorial Sloan Kettering is rated #2 in the nation by the US News & World Report cancer hospital ratings, and I will have periodic cat scans, so am hoping for a fairly long life. Another 10-15 years? Who knows...."

Alexis Gilliland wrote in September that he "graduated from my course of radiation oncology, and the doctor seemed quite happy with my prognosis. Sparing you most of the details, I will be having my psa tested semi-annually instead of quarterly, which is a good sign."

Linda Bushyager told friends in a year-end e-mail that she is now doing fine after a total knee replacement on her left knee in July. She has finished her course of physical therapy, and generally walks without a cane. Linda said she also had cataract surgery, "which is absolutely amazingly fast and easy. My left eye is now 20-30, and I'm having my right eye done soon."

JEEVES WINS 2007 ROTSLER AWARD



(L) *Jeeves* illo in *Challenger*; (M) With Frances Glynn in 1954; (R) Photo taken by Andrew Porter in 2007.

Prolific British fanartist Terry Jeeves is the winner of the 2007 Rotsler Award. The award, given for long-term wonder-working by a fanartist, was announced officially at Loscon, the Los Angeles science-fiction convention held over Thanksgiving weekend.

Jeeves is a member of First Fandom who has been an active fan since 1938. Once regarded as having few peers for his work on mimeograph stencils, he has also contributed countless humorous pen-and-ink drawings to fanzines. His "Soggies," humorous characters originally created to be both distinctive in appearance and easy to draw, have even appeared in a number of professional hobby-

ist magazines.

A highly versatile fan, Jeeves is a past chairman of the British Science Fiction Association, member of N3F, and former vice-president of ISFCC. He published the fanzine *Triode*, an OMPazine, *Erg*, and formerly edited *Vector*, for which he reviewed American prozines in the 1950s. In 1965, Terry became one of the first winners of the Doc Weir Award (voted by British Eastercon members). He's even won the N3F short story competition. He ran for TAFF in 1971, losing to Mario Bosnyak.

In more recent years, Terry not only has continued working as a fanartist, he has written many humorous and other types of arti-

cles for fanzines. His serialized memoir about his RAF service during World War II has appeared in recent issues of *The Knarley Knews*.

The Rotsler Award commemorates the late Bill Rotsler, the LA fanartist whose cartoons appeared in fanzines worldwide. The winner receives a plaque, a \$300 honorarium, and is honored with an exhibit in the Loscon art show. The award is given by the Southern California Institute for Fan Interests.

The award winner is selected by a panel of judges: Claire Brialey, Mike Glycer and John Hertz.

Robin Hobb Wins 2007 Endeavour Award

Robin Hobb's novel, *Forest Mage*, (Eos), won the ninth Endeavour Award at Orycon, held in Portland, OR in mid-November. Hobb's win was announced by Ursula K. LeGuin. Hobb, who lives in Tacoma, was unable to attend the ceremony. The book is the second in the Soldier Son trilogy. The Award is accompanied by a \$1,000.00 honorarium and an etched glass plaque by Florida artist Ashley Harper.

The other finalists for 2007 are *Children of Chaos* by Dave Duncan, *Fortress of Ice* by C.J. Cherryh, *Horizon* by Mary Rosenblum, and *Spirits that Walk in Shadow* by Nina Kiriki Hoffman.

The annual Endeavour Award honors a distinguished science fiction or fantasy book, either a novel or a single-author collection of stories, created by a



Ceremony: Dave Duncan, Ursula K. LeGuin, Nina Kiriki Hoffman and Mary Rosenblum

writer from the Pacific Northwest and first published in the year preceding the Award.

The Award combines the judging methods used by the two leading awards in the field, using the reader and fan-based judging of the Hugo Awards and the professional-based judging of the Nebula Awards. All entries are read and scored by seven readers randomly selected from a panel of preliminary readers. The five highest scoring books then go to three judges, who are all professional writers or editors.

The judges for the 2007 Award were Adam-Troy Castro, John G Henry, and Claude Lalumière.

The Endeavour Award is sponsored by Oregon Science Fiction Conventions, Inc. (OSFCI), the organization that sponsors OryCon and other Oregon conventions. OSFCI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

Lasting Impressions: News from the World of Fanzines

Eaton Collection News

When Mike Kennedy learned that the Eaton Collection at UC Riverside acquired a partial collection of *The NASFA Shuttle* from Bruce Pelz' estate when he died, he asked if they'd like to have it filled out. They naturally answered yes. Now volunteers will be helping Mike organize the Huntsville club's own *Shuttle* archives as the first step in finding issues that UC Riverside wants. He already has electronic archives for the last five to seven years.

As Dollar Sinks, Energumen Rises

Taral Wayne already has to increase the price for *Strange Voyages*, the complete collection on CD-ROM of Mike Glicksohn's *Energumen* and *Xenium*, because he has been whipped by the volatile currency exchange rates. "I used to give Canadian customers a break by selling it in Canadian dollars at par with American, but that was when the Buck was worth \$1.30 Canadian. (And the year before that it was \$1.42 to the Loonie.) Now that the Buck is worth 91 cents, I'm losing nearly 40 cents on the dollar not just on Canadian sales, but all sales. Effective with the first of January 2008, I'm going to be asking \$20, s&h included, in either U.S. or Canadian dollars.



(UK or Aussie sales add \$2 for the extra s&h.) Hopefully that will remain effective, but if the U.S. \$ sinks below .85 Canadian, there may have to be yet another price hike, for U.S. customers at least.

"(So far sales have skyrocketed to 12 after the recent Ditto. Murray Moore sold a grand total of four at the con. I think this averages out to about 1½ a month.)"

eBay Sells Copy of First Worldcon Program Book

A copy of the 1939 Worldcon Program Book, signed by Wil Sykora and Sam Moskowitz, was auctioned October 16 on eBay for \$283.87 after a lively round of bidding. This was the item's second time being listed for auction, after the seller's attempt to start the bidding at \$350.00 brought no responses.

Scanned images of the cover and interior pages were posted on eBay. A handwritten note in the top margin of the Greetings page said, "To the 1st Postwar Convention" and one of the autographs at the bottom of the page was dated 1946, inviting the inference that this was a surplus copy donated to auction at Pacificon.

A question e-mailed to the seller to get the history behind the item (former owner? estate sale? whatever?) was answered by Brian (no last name given), who wrote "I got this a few months ago at a flea market, came with some old sci fi mags."

Is it merely coincidence that it came on the market soon after the death of Walt Daugherty, one of the leaders of the Pacificon committee?

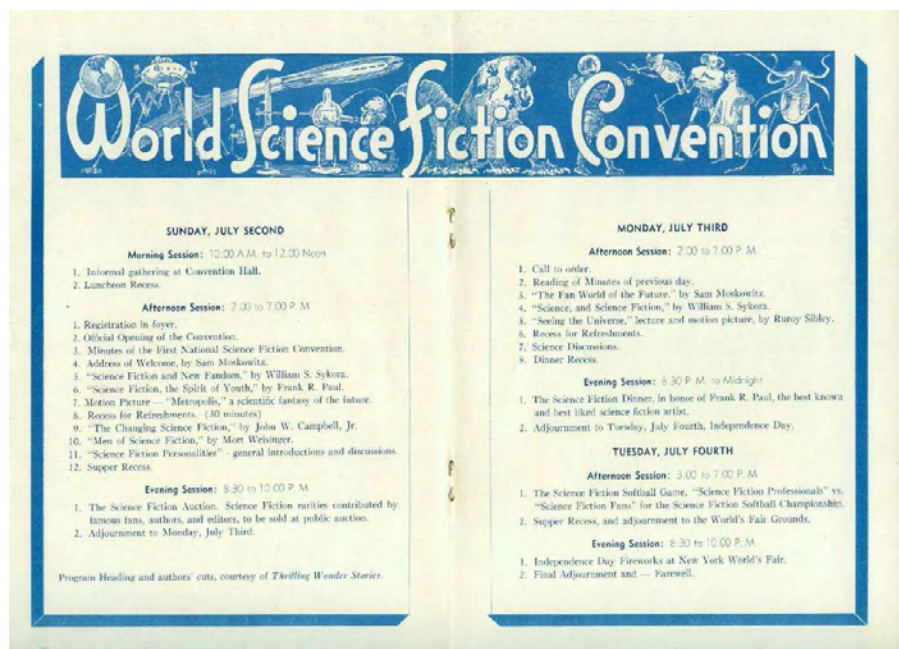
In August Company

James Bacon revealed in *Prolapse 8* that August 26 represents a significant anniversary in fannish history. For it was on August 26, 1947 that a 19-year-old **James White** called on a 28-year-old **Walt Willis** at 170 Upper Newtownards Road (a.k.a. Oblique House) to discuss their shared interest in British and American promags. *Slant* was originally started, the year after, as part of that collection drive. [[Source: Peter Sullivan on Trufen.net]]

2007 GUFF Losers Pub Ish

They may have lost GUFF, but they are determined to win your hearts. Anna Davour and Johan Anglemark didn't get to go to the Aussie NatCon (Ang Rosin did), so instead they have ransacked the memories of other journeys for material to fill *The 2007 GUFF Losers' Fanzine*.

Anna weaves together a report from her experiences having twice stopped over in Australia just long enough to board connecting flights. Johan Anglemark tells about his trip to a Finnish resort island. Good stuff. Fans will hope to see their names on the ballot another time.



The 1939 Worldcon, held July 2-4 in New York, had a 1-track program.

Canadian Fan Donates Huge SF Collection

Canadian fan Chester Cuthbert, who turned 95 on October 15, has donated his vast SF collection to the University of Alberta Libraries (UAL). Edmonton fan Randy Reichardt, a librarian at UAL, helped transport the collection to the university. Cuthbert made the decision following his wife's death in January 2007. His eyesight is deteriorating quite badly, making reading difficult.

This member of First Fandom started collecting in the 1920s. He is giving UAL an estimated 60,000 books and magazines, plus piles of letters from sf writers and fans. Raymond Cuthbert, his son, feels UAL was the obvious choice: other, more nearby institutions can't cope with such a donation.

For example, when Bob Stimpson, a member of Decadent Winnipeg Fandom in the 1970s, died unexpectedly in 1996 at the age of 47, he left his very large sf collection to the University of Winnipeg. The university kept the books in storage for six years before concluding that it lacked the means to process the collection. Brushing aside an offer from UAL to catalogue and house the collection for them, the University of Winnipeg sold it in 2002 to one dealer for a price that Reichardt calls "a literal steal."

Reichardt himself was a member of Decadent Winnipeg Fandom until he moved to Edmonton in 1978, which is how he became acquainted with Cuthbert. He went to work at the University of Alberta Libraries in 1983.

Cuthbert's donation was widely covered by Canadian media. The day that the collection was packed and moved, various local television and radio stations arrived for interviews, including City TV, Global, CTV, CBC Radio and CBC Television. Two Winnipeg papers also ran articles.

Reichardt explained that when the collection is processed "Each item will receive a book plate with an appropriate inscription and photograph of Chester.... While I know it is difficult for him to part with his life's work, I also know from speaking with him privately that he is very grateful to know that his collection will be treated with respect and dignity, and made available for decades to come for those students and researchers who are interested in the fields he collected for so many decades."

Wedding Bells in Vegas

Teresa Cochran and James Taylor wed on September 8 in Las Vegas. Arnie Katz gives full details in *Vegas Fandom Weekly* 100 C.



Raymond Cuthbert and Chester Cuthbert. Photo from the *Winnipeg Sun*

John Purcell Corrects Warner Collection Interview

John Purcell interviewed James Halperin, now owner of the Warner fanzine collection, for *Askance 3* (available at eFanzines.) One part of the interview raised a minor whirlwind of controversy, an exchange that implied UC Riverside's Eaton Collection had been offered the collection and turned it down. Melissa Conway, Head of Special Collections at the UCR Libraries, promptly issued a correction to the misimpression given by the interview, and Purcell put the matter to rest in an article widely distributed online and published in *Askance 4*.

Conway's statement said that it was "completely untrue" that UC Riverside had been offered the Warner fanzine collection: "We accepted circa 300,000 separate fanzines from the late Bruce Pelz, and we could easily have absorbed the smaller Warner collection. Indeed, we planned on doing so as Harry Warner had promised his fanzines to the Eaton Collection. Unfortunately, Mr. Warner died before he changed his will, and St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church would not release the collection to UCR despite our having letters showing Mr. Warner's intentions. I even traveled out to Hagerstown, Maryland to meet personally with the chairman of the vestry of St. Mark's, along with Peggy Rae Sapienza and Richard Lynch, to no avail. John Hertz, Esq., generously provided pro bono legal advice for years. Many other fans wrote letters to St. Mark's on behalf of the Eaton Collection. I asked the church vestry to keep me apprised of the fate of the fanzines, and wrote each year to inquire, but I never received a reply or any additional information from St.

Mark's. I'll spare you the blow-by-blow account, but it is important to note that far from saying 'No,' UCR fought for years to bring the Warner collection here. When we finally heard through the fan grapevine that the church had put the collection on the market, we all feared that the collection would be broken up and sold piecemeal at auction.

"All of us in the SF community were relieved when we heard that someone had acquired the collection *en bloc*, and even more so when we learned it was James Halperin. Indeed, if Mr. Halperin is ever looking for an institution in which to place the Warner Fanzine Collection, please assure him that UCR would be delighted to have it."

G.I. Joe Takes to the Skies

Things are still jumping at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis, which once hosted the 1986 Worldcon. Known for its 42-story atrium, wide open from the lobby to the rooftop, the hotel has always had a problem with conventioners tossing things from the upper floors. At least, it is a problem if you happen to be underneath.

But in September, G.I. Joe aficionados had permission when they launched 300 parachute-wearing Joes over the balconies. CNN broadcast video of the event.

In contrast, fans endeared themselves to the staff in 1986, as one maid was overheard telling another: "I like these people. They throw *soft* things."

Changes of Address

David Bratman & Berni Phillips, 1663 Albattross Dr., Sunnyvale CA 94087. Telephone: (408) 730-4726.

Neil Kaden, 4490 West Eldorado Parkway, Suite 927, McKinney, Texas 75070; E-mail: kaden@circleNK.com

Mark & Priscilla Olson, 115 Parker Rd., Framingham, MA 01702

Glen Osborne, P.O. Box 11487, Santa Ana, CA 92711-1487

Greg Robertson, 1443 Osceola Ave., Des Moines, IA 50316-1832

Mike Weasner & R. Lorraine Tutihasi, 2173 E Rio Vistoso Ln., Oro Valley AZ 85755-1912

Neil Kaden adds, "Sold Chez circleNK and moved into an apartment -- books now sold or in the garage."



Fandom's Tangled Web

Heinlein Archives Online

The Robert A. and Virginia Heinlein Archives are being digitized and placed online as a cooperative project between the Heinlein Prize Trust and the UC Santa Cruz Archives [<http://www.heinleinarchives.net/>].

Heinlein's manuscripts, letters, photos and scrapbook pages are among the offerings. As of July 7, 106,949 pages of documents were already accessible, with approximately 96,000 remaining to be added. Every set of documents has a detailed abstract to assist researchers.

Memorable bits of fanhistory are salted throughout the archive, but only findable if you know exactly what you are looking for. Direct searches for Heinlein's connections to fandom using obvious terms like "worldcon" and "fandom" return surprisingly little considering that the man was a three-time Worldcon Guest of Honor and life-long member of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society.

Plug "worldcon" into the search engine and copies of his three Worldcon speeches show up, predictably enough. However, "fandom" returns a null set. So does "LASFS." Quite surprisingly, there is not so much as a handwritten note related to Heinlein's unusual visit to the LASFS clubhouse in 1976 to thank members for their support of the Worldcon blood drive.

"Blood drive" itself, however, is a highly productive search term, leading to "Are You A Rare Blood" and a *precis* of the Dennis Paradis correspondence file revealing some of Ginny Heinlein's strongly negative feelings about the De Camps.

Searches of specific names occasionally produce tantalizing results. The archives

contain David Gerrold's 1971 letters to Heinlein and pages from the script for "The Trouble With Tribbles" – presumably about comparisons between tribbles and Heinlein's "flat cats," though the letters were written years after Gerrold's *Star Trek* episode aired.

There are also drafts of Heinlein's angry letter to Forrest J Ackerman about selling Heinlein's 1941 Denvention GoH speech to the prozine *Vertex* in 1973. The archivists say this is "a very forthright letter ending with 'Keep your hands off my property', underlined...."

But if you want to read these letters, remember, there is a modest charge of a few dollars for each item downloaded. Yes, that's our Bob!

Looking for More SF Awards Gossip?

Will the market support two more SF award websites? Well, at least one more if Kevin Standlee and Cheryl Morgan keep stirring the pot. They've launched SF Awards Watch <<http://www.SFAwardsWatch.com>> to provide coverage of the field's myriad awards. They won't even have to do all the heavy lifting themselves: Andrew Wheeler, Anna Tambour, Chris Roberson, Gary K. Wolfe, John Clute, Karen Burnham, Mario Guslandi, Michael Levy, and Victoria Hoyle have promised to contribute to the site.

Standlee added, in an online post, "It is likely that public debate about the results and potential rule changes will occur in the blog area of the site," a prophecy that is bound to come true because Kevin ignites a lively discussion about that sort of thing everywhere he posts.

Standlee and Morgan also helped launch

the new Hugo Awards site created at the direction of the Worldcon business meeting to promote and expand the visibility of the Hugo Award. It's apparently gotten off to a good start, with Cheryl Morgan reporting that over 16,000 visitors clicked through from a link at Slashdot to visit the new site. Content for the Hugo Awards site was written by a committee of Deb Geisler, Craig Miller, Cheryl Morgan, Mark Olson and Kevin Standlee. All are lively writers, but there is no indication an interactive community is being created around this site as there is around SF Awards Watch. The Hugo Awards site mainly carries historical lists of winners, voting statistics, and links to other data about the award. The URL is:

<http://TheHugoAwards.org/>

Wizenbeak's Website

A website featuring Alexis Gilliland's cartoons is under construction. "So far I have scanned in close to 3,000 (and yeah, I bought an Epson scanner to do the heavy lifting)," writes Alexis. "Maybe later it will feature assorted writing as well, but first we get the sucker up and running. We'll keep you posted." The first page is already visible at:

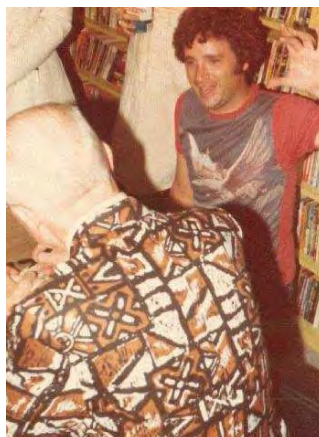
<http://www.alexisgilliland.com/>

Fancy That

Editors Jim Caughran and Joe Siclari have taken the *Fancylopedia 3* project online at Fancylopedia.editme.com. They invite interested writers to contribute articles explaining fandom's history and culture. Summoning a community to produce an encyclopedia has been successful tactic for the Wikipedia; however, *Fancy 3* will have more rigorous filters. Registration is necessary to participate, and the editors say they "will impose their own iron whim on content, style and presentation."

The first *Fancylopedia* was prepared by Jack Speer in 1944, and *Fancylopedia 2* was compiled by Dick Eney in 1959. Writers have worked sporadically on *Fancy 3* since Bruce Pelz set the vision prior to L.A.con II in 1984: Eney was Fan GoH and Pelz hoped to produce an updated edition in time for the Worldcon. Pelz passed on stewardship of the project to Siclari some years ago.

Heinlein's 1976 LASFS Visit: *Left:* Heinlein, Beverly and Bill Warren. *Right:* David Gerrold sitting at the feet of the master.



FILE 770

OBITUARIES

Hank Reinhardt (1933-2007)

Hank Reinhardt, one of the South's best-known fans, passed away October 30 due to a hospital-acquired staph infection contracted after heart bypass surgery.

An expert in blades and armor, Reinhardt was also the founder of the Historical Armed Combat Association, and co-founder of the mail order business Museum Replicas, Ltd.. With Gerald W. (Jerry) Page he edited the anthology *The Age of the Warrior*, which was released by DAW in 1979.

Indeed, Jerry Page did more than anyone to insure that Hank became a fannish legend in his own time. Page ran a series of hilarious anecdotes in *SFP*, his Southern Fandom Press Alliance apazine, called "My Friend Hank Reinhardt." I misdoubt that the basic events were entirely divorced from reality, no matter that Page later claimed: "There is a secret Hank Reinhardt who is not very bloodthirsty, does not consider edged weaponry all that interesting and who does needpoint."

John Maddox Roberts' famous story about Hank encapsulizes the legend: "Those of you who are into swords know that Hank

almost single-handedly brought about the revival of enthusiasm for the European sword when he founded Museum Replicas in the early 80s. When I was in Vietnam in 1970, Hank, fearing that I wasn't properly armed, sent me an axe."

Before Hank was inducted in the U.S. Army at age 22, he helped found the first science fiction club in Atlanta, ASFO. Years later he also helped found a club in Birmingham, Alabama, and units of the Society for Creative Anachronism in Alabama, Georgia, and Louisiana.

Hank was a fixture at DeepSouthCon and loomed over its annual Hearts tournament where, fannish legend held, a reverse at cards would ignite his prodigious temper. I can't say I witnessed any such thing the time I played in the tournament (1980). However, there could be a reason that Southern fans named the worst possible outcome in a hand of Hearts after Hank, as Lon Atkins reported in "A Hearts Primer," specifically: "Reinhardt: A failed moonshot, where a player takes only 25 of the 26 points of the hand. Disastrous to the attempter's score. Named after Southern fan Hank Reinhardt

who (as legend has it) unintentionally perfected the technique."

Adding to his fame, Hank was selected DeepSouthCon's Fan Guest of Honor in 1981, won that regional fandom's Rebel Award in 1971, was tagged for its satirical and semi-affectionate Rubble Award in 1997, and received Dragon*Con's first Georgia Fandom Award in 1990.

Hank was preceded in death by his first wife, Janet. He is survived by wife, Toni Weisskopf, Senior Editor of Baen Books, whom he married in 1994.

Liz Gross (1940-2007)

Ohio fan Liz Gross died June 27 after two weeks in a coma brought on by a bout of pneumonia caught at Wiscon. Liz had recently retired from Ohio State University, where she was a professor of biochemistry. She would have been Context 20's science guest this September. Liz is survived by her husband, Bob Hillis. Both have been active conrunners in the central Ohio area for decades. Liz helped found Context, and also served as chair of Marcon.

Roy Lavender (1919-2007)

Roy Lavender passed away June 17 at the age of 87. Roy was a member of First Fandom who found a unique way of keeping current with science fiction when he was growing up – by dumpster diving at the local hotel for the pulp magazines discarded by traveling salesmen. He also had plenty of stories to tell about the earliest Midwestcons (and how its facility earned the nickname "Beastly's on the Bayou") and the Cincinnati Worldcon.

Roy and his wife DeeDee (who preceded him in death sometime in the 1990s) served



Left: **Toni Weisskopf and Hank Reinhardt.** Right: **Bea Mahaffey, Hannes Bok, Deedee and Roy Lavender, Stan Skirvin,** on a New York rooftop.

as corresponding secretary for Cinvention -- "We wrote to every author who had appeared in an American English-language science fiction magazine," Roy bragged in *Mimosa*. They also were active in N3F (which once voted Roy the top fan).

A few years after Cinvention, they moved to Southern California in the 1950s and raised a family. Roy worked in the aerospace industry. Their son, Roy, Jr., served in Vietnam. Their daughter, Lois, was an active LASFSian. Roy, Sr. and DeeDee were founding members of The Petards in 1966, a monthly party group dedicated to discussion SF, composed of former Outlanders and some active LASFSians.

Don Dailey (1949-2007)

Donald H. Dailey passed away May 22, concluding a long battle with cancer.

Dailey was the former Newsletter Editor and Membership Chairman for First Fandom, giving up the post only when his deteriorating health prevented him from continuing to perform his duties. He was also active in Starfleet Command, an international Star Trek fan club, where he was elected Chief of Staff and later Commander-in-Chief.

He is survived by Janet, his wife of 33 years; three sisters; and two daughters.

[[Source: SFWA News]]

Rob Cole

LASFS member Rob Cole died June 30 after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease, complicated by pneumonia. He was 76.

Cole was active in LASFS for decades, though few were aware of his historic reputation as a journalist until it was chronicled in the Los Angeles *Times* obituary. Cole had been "a pioneering gay journalist whose efforts helped create a national readership for the *Advocate*, the long-running gay publication," a career move he made after working as an editor for 17 years at the *Dallas Times-Herald*. He joined the *Advocate* as news editor in 1969, two years after its founding, and only left the *Advocate* when the operation moved to San Francisco in 1974. Afterwards he helped start a Los Angeles-based gay publication called *News West* -- now defunct -- and worked for other newspapers in Southern California.

During the time he was active in LASFS, he made his living as a real estate appraiser, and always offered insights when the club discussed plans to upgrade its facility.

For most of the last 37 years, Cole was a board member of Christopher Street West, the organization that annually sponsors a gay pride parade on Hollywood Boulevard.



Right: Joe Hensely. Middle: Don Dailey. Right: Betty Claar.

Joe Hensley (1926-2007)

Indiana fan and author Joe Hensley died August 27 of complications from leukemia. He was 81. Hensley was a member of First Fandom, and received a First Fandom Hall of Fame Award in 2006.

A retired lawyer, prosecuting attorney, Indiana General Assembly Member, and former Circuit Court Judge, he wrote science fiction and crime fiction as Joe L. Hensley and Louis J. A. Adams. After publishing short fiction in the 1950s, his first published novel was *The Color of Hate*, published by Ace in 1960. He went on to publish 20 more novels and collections, over half of them in the Donald Robak series, plus approximately 100 short stories. His final novel, *Snowbird's Blood* is scheduled for release by St. Martin's Press in early 2008.

Tom Hensley, Joe's brother, wrote on Harlan Ellison's web forum that, "I [once] made up a pile of CDs for [Joe] to hand out to his friends in Madison, calling it 'Songs We Almost Know,' by Honest Joe Hensley and Bumbling Brother Tom.... A copy of the CD was playing at the [memorial] service the other day, enabling Joe to achieve something done by very few: singing at his own funeral." [[Sources: SFWA News, Harlan Ellison Webderland]]

Betty Claar

Betty Claar passed away October 3 of breast cancer at the age of 44. The Pacific Northwest fan was a former vice-chair of Norwescon. She is survived by Jayson Claar, her husband of 20 years

She attended Norwescons 9-31, working the convention many times over the years. She served as Vice Chair for Norwescons 23 and 24 and ran the Art Show several times. Betty received the Lifetime Membership Award in 2005. One of her final contributions was helping edit Norwescon's members guide for its Publications Division in 2007

Tracy Knoedler, Norwescon's current chair, wrote a tribute and recalled that "Betty loved being on radio. She loved being in the know about what was going on. The tee shirt

saying 'You're just jealous because the voices only talk to me,' has a ring of truth to it. Her sense of humor was earthy and infectious."

Chip Wyrde

Chip Wyrde of St. Louis was struck by a car and killed on September 29.

The Quincy *Herald Whig* reported that the Wyrdes were in a car with a group of friends on their way home from a Society for Creative Anachronism revel when the driver pulled the car off the side of the road, five miles west of Hannibal. While others tried to determine the problem with the car, Chip walked in the darkness looking for identifying information about his location. Rebecka told an interviewer, "A truck came flying down the exit ramp, and we hear this loud bang, which we didn't know what it was. It sounded like something falling off the truck or him hitting a sign."

Chip was immediately killed and the vehicle fled the scene. The authorities' request for help in identifying the driver was widely publicized in the local media, but to date no one has been charged.

The Wyrdes were married in 1988. Chip's SCA name was Christoval Anguiano.

Rick Urdiales (1954-2007)

Rick Urdiales, Kansas City area science fiction fan, died after being attacked and beaten on October 14. A 21-year-old man was charged with first-degree murder in connection with the death.

Urdiales taught English and writing at Blue River Metropolitan Community College. His short story "The Gas Man" was a third quarter finalist in the Writers of the Future contest in 1988.

[[Source: Kansascity.com, SFWA News, *Chronicles of the Dawn Patrol*]]

In Passing

Talk show host Tom Snyder, 71, died Sunday, July 29 in San Francisco from complications associated with leukemia. He hosted

The Tomorrow Show from 1973 to 1981 and his guests included a number of science fiction personalities. Harlan Ellison was on more than once: Snyder even wrote the introduction for the collection of Ellison's newspaper columns, *With An Edge in My Voice*.

Snyder devoted an entire show to *Star Trek* in 1976, interviewing James Doohan, DeForest Kelley, Walter Koenig, along with Harlan Ellison and *Star Trek* convention organizer Al Shuster. All five segments can be found on YouTube.

Lou (Moore) Edgar, fan, conrunner and former wife of Nashville fan Ken Moore, died this August in Antioch, Tennessee TN, at age 57. [[Source: Janice Gelb]]

James van Scyoc passed away in June at the age of 73, a few days after suffering a stroke. He was a member of the Ad Hoc writers group (which includes Bay Area fan Adrienne Foster) and husband of sf novelist Sydney J. van Scyoc.

Jim served a hitch in the Air Force as a pilot. When he left the service, he held various jobs, including piloting cargo planes for World Airways, until he went to work for Allan Automatic Sprinkler Co. in San Francisco, where he stayed for almost 20 years.

Jim was an avid car enthusiast, one of the founding members of the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of the Corvair Society of America. A tribute to him in a club publication said his pride and joy was his '65 Evening Orchid Corsa convertible.

Physicist **Sidney Coleman**, a professor at Harvard University, died November 18 at the age of 70.

Coleman nurtured a passion for science fiction. He co-founded Advent:Publishers in the 1950s, attended numerous science fiction conventions, and wrote review columns for *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction* in the 1970s. He served as a consultant for several top science fiction authors and appeared as a character in several stories.

He lived the *cliché* of the propeller-beanie-wearing fan, according to the *Chicago Tribune* obituary, though it seems to have been his mother's idea: "When Sidney Richard Coleman was a kid, his mom was concerned that her son's wandering thoughts would get him hurt -- literally. 'His mother had to put a beanie with a propeller on him, for when he walked across the street,' cousin Rick Shanas said. 'He wouldn't be paying attention, he'd just be so wrapped up in his thoughts, that she thought someone might hit him. He'd get noticed with the beanie.'"

2007 Mythopoeic Award Winners

Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature

Solstice Wood, Patricia A. McKillip (Ace Books)

Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children's Literature

Corbenic, Catherine Fisher (Greenwillow)

Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies

The J.R.R. Tolkien Companion and Guide, Christina Scull and Wayne G. Hammond (Houghton Mifflin, 2006)

Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Myth and Fantasy Studies

Gemstone of Paradise: The Holy Grail in Wolfram's Parzival, G. Ronald Murphy, S.J. (Oxford University Press, 2006)



2007 Prix Aurora Award Winners

Best Long-Form Work in English
Children of Chaos, Dave Duncan (Tor Books)

Best Long-Form Work in French
Reine de Mémoire 4. La Princesse de Vengeance, Elisabeth Vonarburg (Alire)

Best Short-Form Work in English
"Biding Time", Robert J. Sawyer
(*Slipstreams*, DAW)

Best Short-Form Work in French
«Le regard du trilobite», Mario Tessier
(Solaris 159)

Best Work in English (Other)
Neo-opsis Science Fiction Magazine, Karl Johanson, editor (www.neo-opsis.ca) [sf magazine]

Best Work in French (Other)
«Aux origines des petits hommes verts», Jean-Louis Trudel (Solaris 160)

Artistic Achievement

Martin Springett
[www.martinspringett.com]

Fan Achievement (Publication)
Brins d'Éternité, réd. Guillaume Voisine
(www.alegracia.com/brins/faq/faq.php)

Fan Achievement (Organizational)
Cathy Palmer-Lister (Con*Cept)

Fan Achievement (Other)
Fractale-Framboise, Éric Gauthier, Christian Sauvé, Laurine Spohner (blogue/blog)
[www.fractale-framboise.com]



Music to Your Ears

Two fans showcased their musical talents in different ways this past summer.

Cathy Beckstead, a past president of LASFS, performed in a theatrical production of *Li'l Abner* as *Li'l Abner's* Mammy Yokum. She said online, "It's a great show, even though the jokes are 60 years old. (I commented that our audience was too!)" The musical ran for six weeks.

Lynn Maudlin, a well-known singer at Southern California conventions, produced the first public performance of her song cycle, "House of Bread," based on the Bible's book of Ruth.

"House of Bread" was performed at her church in June. Lynn played the piano in support of the principal singers, Buzz Ayers, Richard Paine, Kristy Collins, and Tanya Oldson. (Wendy Widlus was the narrator). She described it as a "reader's theater"-style production, with no costumes or special lighting. There was just pure enjoyment for all of us present.

Lyrics for "House of Bread" are online at www.lynnmaudlin.com/ruth.htm or direct at www.moonbirdmusic.us

2007 HUGO AWARD WINNERS

Novel

Rainbows End by Vernor Vinge (Tor)

Novella

“A Billion Eves” by Robert Reed
(*Asimov's* Oct/Nov 2006)

Novelette

“The Djinn’s Wife” by Ian McDonald
(*Asimov's* July 2006)

Short Story

“Impossible Dreams” by Tim Pratt
(*Asimov's* July 2006)

Related Book

James Tiptree, Jr.: The Double Life of Alice Sheldon by Julie Phillips (St. Martin’s)

Dramatic Long Form

Pan’s Labyrinth Screenplay and Directed by Guillermo del Toro.
(Picturehouse)

Dramatic Short Form

Doctor Who “Girl in the Fireplace”
Written by Steven Moffat. Directed by Euros Lyn. (BBC Wales/BBC1)

Editor, Long

Patrick Nielsen Hayden (Tor Books)

Editor, Short

Gordon Van Gelder (*F&SF*)

Pro Artist

Donato Giancola

Fan Writer

Dave Langford

Semiprozine

Locus edited by Charles N. Brown, Kirsten Gong-Wong and Liza Groen Trombi

Fanzine

Science-Fiction Five-Yearly edited by Lee Hoffman, Geri Sullivan, Randy Byers

Fan Artist

Frank Wu

Campbell Award

Naomi Novik



A Hugo Post-Mortem

Langford’s Narrowest Victory: Dave Langford edged John Scalzi by a single vote in the Best Fan Writer category. They damn near tied and enjoyed the greatest last laugh in Hugo history. I’m laughing anyway — at myself. The redistribution of John Hertz’ votes determined the winner, and Langford followed Hertz on my ballot, so my one vote may have provided Langford’s margin of victory. Congratulations, Dave!

No Award? No Thanks: Apart from the close race, voters did not display increased resistance to Langford’s bid for a 20th Hugo. Only 50 people ranked No Award ahead of Langford (the number computed for the “no award test”). That is exactly the same number of voters who did it in 2006.

Signs of Japanese Life: The lack of Japanese finalists on the Hugo ballot was another controversial story earlier this year. The rules require publication of the first 15 runner-up nominees in every category, and fans wondered if the final report would reveal some

near-misses by Japanese language writers and artists. It didn’t.

The final list shows hardly any Japanese-origin work received any votes whatever. A work of fiction got 2 votes. A couple of pro artists were named on ballots. That’s it. (Just in case any of the vowel-filled names of the runners-up might have been Japanese, I researched them on Google. Every one of them turned out to be an English-language blog writer.)

Art or Atrocity? A figure of the Japanese superhero Ultraman practically dwarfs the Hugo rocket on Nippon 2007’s award base. That proved too much for some critics. A school of thought led by Arnie Katz claims that the 2007 Hugo base is the ugliest ever.

Katz told readers in *Vegas Fandom Weekly* #100 part D, “The Hugos given out in Japan are a travesty and an embarrassment. The committee robbed the awards of what little status and dignity they have with a trophy that is crassly commercial and indescribably tacky. The idea of tying the Hugos to an overtly commercial enterprise is reprehensible.” His rant inspired Taral to Photoshop an Astro Boy version of the base.

Chris Garcia disagreed with Katz, writing in *SF/SF* 52: “It’s easily the coolest trophy anyone’s ever done.... My argument is that it’s distinctive, Ultraman has a powerful place in the history of Japanese science fiction, it’s AWESOME and it gives a flavor of the host area that most Hugo statues fail to capture.... To me, the worst ever was the comically bad 2001 attempt for the Millennium Philcon. What the crap was that?”

Now please, that’s not even close to being the ugliest base ever. In fact, it’s beautiful. I have a 2001 Hugo and Johnna Klukas’ wooden artwork is lovely and well-crafted. And I don’t believe I’m biased. It’s untrue that winning an award automatically blinds a person to any flaws in the design. Remember that when Kelly Freas brought home a Hugo from Heicon in 1970 he threw away the committee’s base, which he said looked like scraps from a barn door, and made his own. In 1990, Lois McMaster Bujold was quite peeved that her Hugo rocket was not tightly attached to marble base and when it moved the fins would score the polished stone. My own ungrateful opinion about the Nolacon II Hugo base prompted Guy Lillian III to invite me to send him the award if I didn’t want it.

2009 Site Selection Voting

Total

Montréal 507

Kansas City 341

Write Ins:

Both 1

Monster Island 7

Brighton on the Green Line 1

Hollister 1

Minneapolis in '73 2

Monkey's Eyebrow, Kentucky 1

Spuzzum, B.C. 1

Peggy Rae's House 1

None of the Above 20

No Preference/Blank/Ineligible 19

Total Ballots Cast 902

Needed to elect (majority) 452

You can rest assured you're getting my frank opinion about the 2001 Hugo base, too.

I do not object to the Ultraman base. In a way, it is the sort of thing I wanted from a Japanese Worldcon — a fresh, possibly even alien, interpretation of the highly familiar rituals and artifacts associated with the Worldcon. Here's an ambitious example of that idea in action.

I also reject the red herring argument that by failing to condemn the Nippon 2007 Hugo base we somehow throw open the gates to future Hugo bases with statuettes of highly commercialized sf icons. Domestic



Wedding Bells: Simoné Van Zyl and James Bacon are getting married on February 9, in Croydon, UK.

Worldcons have deliberately conceded that focus to other kinds of conventions.

2009 Site Selection

Montreal will host the 2009 Worldcon, Anticipation, August 6-10 at the Palais des congrès de Montreal. The honorees will be Neil Gaiman, Guest of Honour; Elisabeth Vonarburg, Invitée d'honneur; Taral Wayne, Fan Guest of Honour; David Hartwell, Editor Guest of Honour; Tom Doherty, Publisher Guest of Honour. Julie Czerneda will be Master of Ceremonies.

Saara Smiles: Taral celebrated the invitation in his online journal:

"I don't want to sound flippant, this still has me excited and happy. I was never able to score a Hugo. Though I came close enough to view one from afar a few times, I never had enough votes in the final ballot to rise from the bottom of a slate of four or five. But this is easily in the same league. Maybe somewhat better. Lots of people win Hugos every year, but there are only three or four GoHs at each Worldcon, and only one is the Fan GoH. In Canada, I share the distinction with only one other (who was FGoH at the first Aussie Worldcon in 1975). So plainly I'm in a more exclusive club.

"Of course, it's also a lot more arbitrary. Kansas City could have easily won and someone else would be GoH. For every Worldcon there has ever been, 66 so far, there has been at least one set of Guests of Honour who were disappointed, and sometimes more than one. Likely as not, they all deserved the recognition. Unfortunately, only a few could be so lucky."

Going Wiki

Science fiction has always gotten its share of attention in the Wikipedia. Now the number of entries about fans is growing quickly, particularly for the fans who have been nominated for Hugos, chaired worldcons, etc. I started to think about this in earnest after taking a personal interest in two of the articles.

This year was the fifth anniversary of Bruce Pelz' death. I was thinking about him a lot and eventually wondered if he had a Wikipedia entry. If not, I knew it wouldn't take too much time to trim my *File 770* obituary into a serviceable article about him.

I discovered that Lee and Barry Gold, with an assist from Vince Docherty, had already submitted a good piece about Bruce. One can readily identify the authors who log in with transparent names (though that is not

required of users.) It was reasonable that the Golds would have thought of this first: Lee wrote an extensive biography of Bruce for the 1979 Westercon program book, an article she'd allow me to draw from when I wrote Pelz' obituary for *File 770* in 2003.

The Pelz Wikipedia entry takes a detour to mention Fred Patten's unbroken streak of contributions to APA-L since the apa began in 1964. This has not much to do with Pelz, but it's a nice thing to mention about Fred, and I'm fine with the Golds liking it there.

If I hadn't liked it, I could have chopped it out. Anyone can come along and revise a Wikipedia article to suit themselves.

Of course, anyone is free to change it back the very next minute. I know this from my experience trying to remove the dumb joke at the end of the Best Fan Writer Hugo entry. Steven Silver has repeatedly undone my change. An air raid horn must go off by his monitor whenever I alter his text.

The last paragraph of the entry reads: "David Langford (sometimes listed as 'Dave') has won Best Fan Writer Hugo most (21, as of 2007) times: having been nominated every year since 1979, he won in 1985, 1987, and every year since 1989. Thus, the category is sometimes jocularly referred to as the 'Hugo Award for Best David Langford'."

I was thinking that since this is put out to introduce the world to the fan writer Hugo, we should show some respect for ourselves. I can't understand why a fan, especially a past nominee who says he takes pride in the fact, persists in restoring this bad joke to the article.



The shop that rented kimonos to **John Pomeranz** and **Scott Edelman** for the Hugo Award Ceremony put a photo of the duo on their website. "At last my career as a fashion model has been launched," says John.



Diana Glycer at a Barnes & Noble signing in November.

Diana's book *The Company They Keep: C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien as Writers in Community*, published by Kent State University Press in March, has sailed as high as 9,473 on Amazon.com's bestseller list and at other

Times Literary Supplement Review Helps Diana's Company Break Into Amazon's Top 10,000

times it has drifted below 200,000. It enjoyed three weeks of good numbers immediately after being reviewed in the September 12 issue of *The Times Literary Supplement*, a legendary British weekly with a web counterpart. Diana said, "One of my friends wrote this week to congratulate me and to say that this must be a really important honor because *TLS* was one of the publications that Sherlock Holmes read!" It's true: the Inklings read it, too.

Critic Jon Barnes complimented the book, saying "Glycer excels at depicting [the Inklings'] world, with its petty rivalries, joshing honesty ('he is ugly as a chimpanzee', wrote Lewis of fellow Inklings Charles Williams), its wit and learning and championship of scholarship for its own sake." His choices of anecdotes from its pages made the group sound irresistibly interesting. For example,

as the review's narrative hook Barnes told why Tolkien abandoned his preferred epilogue to *Lord of the Rings*. That story prompted dozens of bloggers to link to the review, including Andrew Sullivan of *Atlantic Monthly*.

An equally huge plus in marketing the book to librarians is its selection for the Yankee Book Peddler Core 1000, a list of 1000 essential academic titles chosen by a prominent vendor used by academic libraries across America. Their staff of subject specialist librarians evaluates approximately 50,000 academic titles published each year to come up with the list.

Both Lewis and Tolkien fans like *The Company They Keep*. It's been nominated for the Northeast Tolkien Society's Imperishable Flame Award, and was running first in the online voting at presstime.

Lewis and Tolkien, by Diana Glycer an Excerpt from *The Company They Keep*

At the core of the Inklings was the interaction of two men, C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien. They are remembered as the authors of creative fantasy, but both men made their daily living teaching at Oxford University. They met at a faculty meeting on 11 May 1926, and Lewis's first impression of Tolkien was not particularly favorable. In his diary he describes Tolkien as "a smooth, pale, fluent little chap." Lewis adds, "No harm in him: only needs a smack or so."

It got worse. As Lewis and Tolkien grew to know one another, it became clear they had a number of fundamental disagreements, including differences in religious convictions and academic loyalties. Lewis writes, "At my first coming into the world I had been (implicitly) warned never to trust a Papist, and at my first coming into the English Faculty (explicitly) never to trust a philologist. Tolkien was both."

Within months of that first meeting, things got more complicated as Lewis and Tolkien found themselves on opposite sides of a curriculum reform measure being hotly debated at Oxford. Tolkien thought that the English curriculum should be based on close study of ancient and medieval texts and their languages, believing that if students were given a solid foundation, they

could read modern texts on their own. Lewis, on the other hand, sided with those who favored an emphasis on post-Chaucerian literature.

Tolkien was prepared to fight energetically for his curriculum. He decided that the best way to promote it would be to foster a love for Old Norse among his colleagues. So he founded a club he called the Kolbitar (literally "the Coalbiters"), adopting an Icelandic word for "old cronies who sit round the fire so close that they look as if they were biting the coals." They met to read Icelandic sagas and the Eddas in their original language.

Lewis was immediately drawn in. For him, the chance to study these texts was the fulfillment of his life-long devotion to northern mythology. He was only nine years old when he first discovered "Tegner's Drapa" by Longfellow and was "uplifted into huge regions of northern sky" that he "desired with almost sickening intensity." At twenty-eight, he remained unabashed in his enthusiasm for these ancient texts:

"Hammered my way thro' a couple of pages in about an hour, but I am making some headway. It is an exciting experience, when I remember my first passion for things Norse under the initiation of Long-

fellow.... It seemed impossible then that I [should] ever come to read these things in the original. The old authentic thrill came back to me once or twice this morning: the mere names of god and giant catching my eye as I turned the pages of Zoega's dictionary was enough."

The Coalbiters met regularly, working their way through ancient sagas and thrilling over both the literature and the language. Despite strong initial suspicion and intense professional conflict, Lewis and Tolkien discovered significant common ground. They gravitated towards each other because they shared an interest "in what they called 'northernness,' the linguistic side of it, the heroic side of it." As they talked together, Lewis was slowly won over to Tolkien's view of the English curriculum. And as they worked side by side, they forged a solid friendship, a friendship that lasted a lifetime. A student at Oxford in the mid-thirties, E. L. Edmonds, remembers, "It was very obvious that [Lewis and Tolkien] were great friends—indeed, they were like two young bear cubs sometimes, just happily quipping with one another." The transition from early suspicion to lasting friendship occurred as the two of them stood side by side, absorbed in a common interest.

MAN IN THE YELLOW HAT MEETS MAN WITH THE BLUE PENCIL



Craig Miller writes for PBS' *Curious George*, a show nominated for an Emmy in 2007. He spoke about censorship of kids television shows on a panel at the San Diego Comic-con, and his comments were quoted at length in a *Wired* magazine article, "It's Curious, George: Even Cartoons Aren't Safe From Censors." The well-known conrunner and LASFS member agreed to answer questions about the achievements and challenges involved in working on a show about one of Sierra Glycer's favorite characters.

File 770: How'd you get this gig?

Craig Miller: Well, in general, be an internationally known writer of children's television who has written and produced over 150 episodes of kids TV over the last 20 years. And know the show runner.



File 770: Which scripts have you written/contributed to?

Craig Miller: I've written a few episodes each season. For the first season, I wrote *Curious George's Rocket Ride* (about going into space), *Zoo Night* (about being trapped in the zoo at night), and *Curious George's Lowest High Score* (about miniature golf).



For the second season, I wrote *Monkey Fever* (about the Man with the Yellow Hat having a cold, originally titled *A Cold Day In... Hello Prof. Wiseman* until someone noticed, which took longer than I expected) and *The Big Sleepyhead* (about George wanting to hibernate to avoid the cold of winter). I also wrote one about George going to the symphony, but I convinced them that it would be better if it got finished by the board artist working with the music arranger, since no matter what I wrote it needed to be timed to the music. So they finished it without me, and I don't know the title for it.



For the third season, I've written two so far. *Curious George-a-saurus* (in which George accidentally causes a dinosaur skeleton at the museum to collapse and so he needs to rebuild it before anyone finds out) and the one I just turned in yesterday is *Shipwrecked with Hundley* (in which George and MYH and Doorman, their doorman, and his dog Hundley get shipwrecked. I expect to write one or two more for them this season.



File 770: Is the censorship process surprising, or just annoying?

Craig Miller: It's both. Because I've been doing this a long time, I know what not to include. So when I get called on something, it's by surprise and usually something that isn't actually there, which makes it annoying.

[As it mentions in] the *Wired* article... [in] *Curious George*, for the space episode, I had George open his food pack and out came a bunch of bananas and donuts, the only things George had been shown eating up until that time. I had them floating weightless in the capsule and George do a sort of balletic dance around the capsule as he'd take a bite of one, do some kind of flip, and then take a bite at another. Someone with too vivid an imagination decided that I must have meant -- and what they'd end up with -- was peeled bananas floating to insert themselves into the holes of the donuts. So that sequence got cut.

For another series, the distributor had me cut the line "I beseech thee" because they feared being called blasphemous. Why?, I asked, since it basically means "I beg of you." Because it sounds biblical and people might complain. How could I argue with logic like that? (While I still think it was stupid, it wasn't a battle I cared about winning. So I changed it to "I beg of you.")

File 770: Has writing for the top-rated children's show on PBS, an Emmy nominee, brought you wider recognition?

Craig Miller: I don't know. I don't think most people notice although when someone asks shows I've written for they're impressed by *Curious George* (though I suspect it's more because they've heard of it than any other reason). I'm pretty well known in the animation industry already and occasionally get flown to France or Italy or elsewhere to speak at an event, so I don't know if it's done anything in and of itself. It doesn't hurt at keeping my name out there. (I'm in theory going to India in the not too distant future to speak at two different colleges. Details have not been worked out yet.)

File 770: Must one watch PBS to catch the show, or is it also available as a download or DVD?

Craig Miller: Don't know about downloads, but there are at least two DVDs out with episodes. *Curious George: Rocket Ride and other Adventures* and *Curious George: Zoo Night and other Stories*. (As a zoology professor of mine might have phrased it, "A bright student will notice a relationship between the titles of the DVDs and the episodes I've written." The episodes aren't just mine -- in fact there's only one of mine on each -- but mine are the leads.)

John Hertz's Westercon Notebook

Westercon LX "Gnomeward Bound", June 30 – July 3, 2007
Marriott Hotel, San Mateo, California

Author Guest of Honor, Tad Williams; Graphic Artist, Theresa Mather; Fan, Christian McGuire; Toastmaster, Jay Lake. Attendance about 800; in the Art Show, about \$7,000 sales by 40 artists.

My United Airlines flight went to San Francisco — and Beijing! Gosh! What a world! In fact, just two months later, I went to Yokohama. But that's another con's story. At San Francisco, the airline gate had Peet's Coffee, may it be for a good omen. Also a plaque for Joe Kapp, only football quarterback leading teams to the Rose Bowl, the Grey Cup (Canada), and the Super Bowl; he threw seven touchdown passes in one game. A woman with children said "I knew him in Vancouver. He sold peanut butter." May it be for a good omen.

Who knows when Chris Garcia started the Fanzine Lounge, somewhere in the mists of time. When I arrived on Saturday, it was thriving day and night, full of people to meet, things to read and drink. My first task was to set up a Masquerade photo exhibit from L.A.con IV (2006 Worldcon, which McGuire chaired).

The Masquerade, an artform we fans invented, is as Drew Sanders says like a cross between *kabuki* and Little Theater; I know nothing that is much like it. This exhibit started at Loscon XXXIII (2006; Los Angeles). Charles Mohapel the L.A.con IV Chief Photographer sent color photos of the entries, and Mike Donahue helped with tech. We sent an improved version to Boskone XLIV (2007; Boston), which I then mounted at Lunacon L (2007; New York, sponsored by local club the Lunarians; *File* 770 150). At Westercon LX, Art Show chief Geo Mealer lent some panels; Hotel chief Kimmi Albee lent some of the lobby; Kenn Bates, Sandra Childress, Robert Jensen, and a Host of Others lent a hand; it soon looked swell. We engineered, we figured out labels and layout so it worked whether you were a Masquerade *aficionado* or just thought the pictures were cool, and we included order



So that through diversity both are more slightly to behold.

Castiglione

forms so you could get high-quality prints. Karen McWilliams and Stu Shepherd, coming by, corrected a label. I'd judged that Masquerade, I thought the label was wrong, but I couldn't remember and didn't have my notes. Thanks. Thus is history.

The next day I was to moderate "Will Bloggers Decide Elections in 2008?" Kathryn Daugherty was Programming chief; since I don't do E-mail or the Internet — to me *blog* is a drink, started at Liverpool in the 1950s (indeed before my time) — you might suppose this was one of her little jokes. But she had asked me, not sprung it on me; she

wanted someone, she said, who was reasonably bright, uncommitted to any position, and able to maintain a conversation. So I couldn't refuse. During the evening friends offered advice, proving they'd read the Program Book. I listened carefully.

The Australia for 2010 Worldcon bidding party had Coopers beer. I found that David Evans didn't know about "South Gate again in 2010!" He listened carefully. At the door to the party for Ahwahneecon, a joke bid which did not reify — fine word that — were mock torches with colored-paper flames and electric breezes, at which we naturally stood to toast marshmallows. The Ahwahneecon motto was "As long as the fire's burning, the party's turning." I observed to my hotel roommate Tom Veal, a friend who is well to the right of me politically, that since our room was 2100, we associated ourselves with a revolt. He said, "But it was a good revolt."

At breakfast Sandy Cohen helped ponder the state of Westercons. Dana & Bruce MacDermott dressed in working-clothes of the Amalgamated Warp Technicians Union, Local 8,646,372: yellow-orange jumpsuits, purple piping, headlamps, agate badges. Time for that panel, with Lake, Michael Siladi (brave for the con chair to try doing a panel), Brad Templeton. We were in a room called Synergy. The hotel called it that. Other rooms were called Connect and

The problem that a group of people raise to create fear.

Ibn Sînâ

Convene. Siladi asked, how can blogging change politics if people under 50 won't vote? Lake said World-Wide Web logs have changed fund-raising; a politician can get a higher number of smaller donors; it's easier to pay. Templeton said blogs are like small-press print publishing. Siladi said, there's more information. I asked, or just more data?

Hilary Ayers ran the newsletter, the *Daily Gnomicle*, "a brief speaking of truth" as well

as *gnome* + *chronicle*. Garcia was on the masthead as Lurker in Shadows, Rick Moen as Harmless Drudge. There were also a lot of fezzes at the con. None of my friends from North Africa, the Near East, Turkey, Iran, or Pakistan understand how this routine article of men's headgear, not current wear for decades but very ordinary, came to be a gesture of instant comedy in the U.S. If you walked into a Cairo coffee house wearing a fedora, would everyone laugh? Nor do folks in Fez understand why we name after them the hat they call a *tarboush*. Kate Yule knows this. But I digress. Being Feztercon followed from the Order of the Blinking Purple, started by Kelley Buehler & Daniel Specter at the '05 Baycon. Frank Wu in a purple fez was not enough; now we had leopard spots. I took this for a sign of change. I hoped the name would not invoke Don Martin's cartoon character Fester Bestertester. Buehler & Specter would later find a further way to behead Wu, but that's another con's story.

Another happy task for me was HANA, the Hertz Across to Nippon Alliance. It did in fact succeed, but that too came later. Murray Moore, starting HANA at L.A.con IV, had made an elegant flier with the Japanese red sun on white. Mike Glycer and I wondered if also having one in monochrome might be wise. Seihou Mikado, uncle of a

Though he does not work easily with others it is a great pity we have not more of his like.

Churchill



member of the Nippon 2007 committee, sent the Japanese character *hana* ("flower", much used in poetry; yes, his family has heard jokes for a long time about their name *Mikado*) handsomely calligraphed. We made a version with that (*File 770* 148). From Corflu XXIV (2007; fanziners' con, named for mimeograph correction fluid) my Supporting Member's packet came with this version printed on lucky red, which I thought impressive, and repeated. Innocent bystanders said they liked it. I took leave of absence from raising money for TAFF (Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund) and DUFF (Down Under Fan Fund) with the collections *West of the Moon* (2002) and *Dancing and Joking* (2005), and offered them in exchange for HANA donations. Some people gave me TAFF or DUFF money anyway, which I sent off. About HANA, I didn't want to know who was donating or how much, so I sent that money to HANA treasurer Janice Murray (Year of the Two Murrays!) and forgot.

The Kansas City for 2009 Worldcon bid was not to be found. Lisa & Kevin Standlee, pinch-hitting for the Montréal bid, answered questions and sold pre-supporting memberships under a maple flag, with maple candy, and maps. Kevin explained that Lisa made the maps; they were in a style called "cascading"; he kept a straight face through this astounding reference to the 2005 NASFiC (North America S-F Convention, "CascadiaCon", Seattle, where he was Fan Guest of Honor). Another Standlee stunt was drawing out all the \$2 bills his bank had and trading them to the rest of us for whatever currency we might spend during the con, so the hotel and other locals would notice we had an effect. This worked.

Among cons' better inventions is "Half Time" at the Masquerade. It isn't quite like football, which really has halftime. At our Masquerade everyone wants to see the entries; after all have appeared, some of the audience want to stay for the judges to return, some are content to read the results in the newsletter next day. For those who stay, the con wants to be hospitable; the Masquerade having brought them into a theater, it seems reasonable to stage some pleasant performance while the

Mythology to lean their backs against.

Bret Harte

judges deliberate. Like many things in fandom, this is easier to dream up than to do, since the judges can't tell how long they'll be out, and the Half Time act had better be able to stretch or shrink. I often judge Masquerades and don't see the Half Time. Now I was in it. Garcia wanted me to help him take off a popular quiz program. You might suppose this was one of his little jokes. But he had asked me — "No, really, John! You'll be great! You're the Man!" — which, to the surprise of many, me too, proved true.

Garcia set two teams. Lake, Derek McCaw, and Diana Sherman were Team 1; Jane Mailander, McGuire, and I were Team B (no, really); for a while McGuire had to step away and Howard Hendrix pinch-hit. Questions kept coming that the Oneyers couldn't answer but the B Team could. "What was a tendril session?" "What is the namesake of the fanzine *Ansible*?" "Which is the 'odd man out' among Phileas Fogg, Doc Savage, Tarzan, Kilgore Trout?" "What do these abbreviations stand for: TANJ, LTG, CUFF, WAHF?" Is it so recondite that LTG is the Little Tin God of LASFAPA (L.A. Scientifiction Fans' Amateur Press Ass'n, to which as it happens I do not belong), renamed from Official Editor for the man who published the Hugo-nominated fanzine *Holier Than Thou*? Anyway, we won.

In the Masquerade, Lake was Master of Ceremonies, entering to John Williams' "Imperial March" from *Star Wars*: "You have failed me for the last time, Lord Siladi." Kathe & Phil Gust won Best Re-Creation (and a Workmanship Award, excellence in difficult materials) as "Beauty and the Beast", a nice transformation in the dark. Jo Rhett won Honorable Mention for characterization (and a Workmanship Award, make-up) as "Delvian Priest", blue face and hands, robed, pausing nobly to pray. Arabella & Tom Benson won Best in Show (and a Workmanship Award, excellence in detail) as "Special Delivery" in 16th Century clothes, Benson's exasperation through a quill-pen gag priceless.

The Standlees' Montréal party served Canada Dry ginger ale. No one dared verify whether if Montréal won we'd be served U.S. Dry. Later in the con they threw a

Authenticity is a jewel.

Patrick O'Brian

Nippon 2007 party, same room re-arranged and re-decorated to feel quite different. Luckily Nippon 2007 had already won, so it could not be said these two by virtue of another of their hobbies were railroading the bid. Peanut-butter pretzels at the Westercon LXI party (Las Vegas). Rum punch at the

Seattle for 2011 Worldcon party with Bobbie DuFault and Sally Woehrl. I went outside to talk about Masquerades with Mette Hedin. The O'Hallorans joined us. The Fanzine Lounge thrived at 2:30 a.m. The Hospitality Suite had Karl Lembke's mead. The Ahwahneecon party had a flier trying to explain. Phoenix won unopposed for Westercon LXII, Ed Green with help from Sharon Sbarsky managing site-selection.

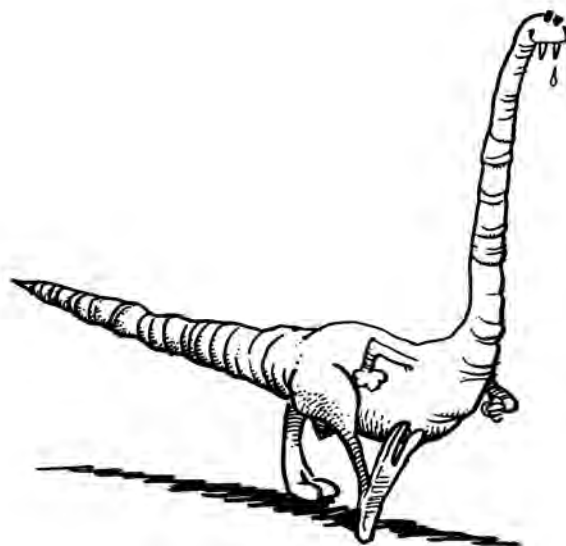
The Art Show had half a dozen pieces from the Kelly Freas estate. In a scratchboard study, Kelly's sailors wearing studded leather hung in the rigging, a square-rigged ship in sight, the mass of the men balancing the far ship, the arms and back of a front man echoing the curve of sails. Frank Lurz showed three panels of starry space, giving drama for human sight by foreground planets. A backlit strange ship, and its strange crane, poised for a galaxy, was "Brink of the Precipice". I thanked Melissa Mark for working in sheet copper, aluminum, steel. A thick copper rose had what the 19th Century called plastic quality. It would take years to brown. Patricia Davis kindly showed "Mossy", two-thirds done, with notes of how photos and the computer-software Poser helped her use acrylics and alkyds. She had astronomicals too. There was Craig Glassner, who'd bought an L.A.con IV Attending Membership from Steve Stiles when the Stileses couldn't go. Mather had forgotten her bidder's number, which she went to retrieve so she could get others' art. She talked of originals and prints,

In the world of affairs we live in our own age; in books we live in all ages.

de Senancour

paper that changed highlights, software that intensified colors; she had kept a boa constrictor for a while, from which she'd learned about drawing dragons. Ctein had mounted photos of the *Apollo XVII* lift-off and a *Columbia* lift-off side by side for the technically minded; we his fans could see his growing powers over ten years.

The Gusts in *Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars* clothes asked if they should wear them to Regency Dancing. I said "Bring them on!" Larry Niven regretted the lack of autograph sessions, which left him the choice of getting ambushed in the halls or being rude. Meanwhile "R U Responsible?" i.e. artists,



with Michael Swanwick, Sheila Finch moderating. Swanwick said "Salman Rushdie." Finch asked "Is 'in your face' art responsible?" Swanwick said "We're given a license to lie. We have to use that license to tell the truth." Finch said "Wholly propagandistic art dies out; history filters it." Sarah Harder in the audience kindly said "I am a Mormon" — we'd been talking of them — "and I'm appreciative when people treat my views with respect." I said Norman Rockwell took the responsibility that he'd be scorned by the fashionable. Outside the Dealers' Room, Williams tasted Kevin Andrew Murphy's mead. Williams said frozen food didn't ruin cooking, people today make pasta by hand because they like to. Folk art can be made by people who're starving; art needn't wait for spare time. At dancing there was Jean Martin, in clothes out of *Ackermann's Repository* (note extra "n"). Regency Dancing is a natural pastime for fanziners.

Sean Smith had found Anchor Steam beer in the bar, so we went there. The Standlees' Japan party was called "Next Stop, Yokohama", with strange crackers and drinks. The con would surely be strange for visitors and Japanese both, to which both looked forward with delight. Now high-tech wall screens had changing Yokohama pictures. An *origami* table had an elephant, a piano, and two space ships, one being the *Enterprise*, all strange to Japan. Kevin wore a fez over *hachimaki*, the Japanese headband people tie on to show they are serious — no, that's not right. Lisa's *Kuma* Bear wore a Nippon 2007 shirt. The League of Evil Geniuses party still had no picture of Arnold Zeck. I vaguely recalled hearing of a 1950s

Neither making an affectation of the new, nor bowing down to the old.

Bacon

Nero Wolfe comic strip — drawn by Mike Roy? For a one-shot, *Monday*, I wrote "In the Fanzine Lounge / The summer of Garcia / Is madly singing." This analogue to Po Chü-I and Arthur Waley was accepted without scruple.

Daylight Tuesday; Lake found me. He said "John, you're toast." And it was so. Kevin Roche had made a toast costume. It was called Melba, and had haunted Lake all weekend — or, come to think of it, vice versa: it was part of his mastery. Various of us had been toasted by Lake, and my time had come. While I was toast I went to help with the Art Auction. People were afraid my propeller beanie would get smeared. I tried to manage crisply. The toast itself was auctioned to support a Clarion West scholarship. At Closing Ceremonies, with Siladi in his gnome hat, Lake tried to get us all to sing "Amazing toast, how sweet the sound that saved a fan like me." Most of the gnome jokes will spoil in print. Why aren't there six-foot-tall gnomes? Actually there are a thousand foot-tall gnomes (Mark Ferrari, at the Liars' Panel). Where did John Donne predict Siladi's love of the graphic arts? He wrote "Gnome Man is an eye land." Here's how Tiel Aisha Ansari won the Grand Prize in the Iron Poet Contest, *bouts-rimes* using rhyme-words (with permitted modification) of Keats' "Grasshopper and Cricket" and required to include gnomes (or fairies).

Requiem for Dunsany

The people say Lord Dunsany is dead
For they don't see him walking in the sun
That shines on mortal lands. His race was
run,

They say. But drink with me a glass of mead
And I will tell you how the fairies led
Him from his bed. His suffering was done,
He bade farewell to earthly life and fun,
This mortal garden, sad and choked with
weed,
And now he walks the emerald land that
never

Browns with drought or withers in the frost,
Where in the distance, delicate and shrill,
The horns of Elfland faintly blowing ever
Summon forth the lonely and the lost
On ferny roads that wind through Elfland's
hills.

Tiel Aisha Ansari

Conventional Reportage

Smofcon 2008 Site Chosen

Columbus beat Boulder to host the 2008 Smofcon. Rick Katze announced online that the vote was 61 to 59.

Denvention 3 News

Erasing Adam's Mark

The new owners of the Denver Adam's Mark Hotel, the 2008 Worldcon's party/evening function hotel, will be rebranding it.

Patty Wells, who's handling hotels for the 2008 Worldcon, told the SMOFs list, "We knew it was going to be rebranded as something and now it looks to be a Sheraton. We have our contracts in place with them and will do our best to make [the change] a non-event. There are always burbles when a hotel changes brand, but it happens and we deal with them."

Kathy Mar Named Special Music Guest

Denver fans have always had a special interest in music, and particularly in filk music. Having Kathy Mar join Denvention 3 is an outgrowth of that love of music. Kathy Mar writes songs. Original songs. Songs that stay inside your head and gently unscrew the lid of your subconscious. People stay up late listening to Kathy sing, and then stay up even later singing with her. The songs she writes and performs are outstanding, and it is with great delight that Denvention 3, the 66th World Science Fiction Convention, is pleased to announce that Kathy Mar has accepted an invitation to be the Special Music Guest for the convention.

Kathy Mar started her professional music career as a streetsinger and folk artist in the clubs and coffeehouses of Denver and environs. She discovered filk music at the Denvention Two Worldcon in 1981. From then on, there was no holding her back. Kathy has won several Pegasus awards and was inducted into the Filk Hall of Fame in only the second year of its existence.

Kathy tells us: "Twenty-six

years ago, a shy Denver folk singer crept down a hall and listened at a doorway to people singing songs about space and fantasy. I had bought a one day membership to Denvention Two and explored what was, to me, a brand new world. Many years and so many songs later, I find myself one of the old-timers of filk music. I feel I have come full circle in my musical life and look forward to sharing this music with fans and newcomers alike. Denver was the home of my childhood and the start of my path on this road of song, and I am delighted to be coming back for this convention."

Denvention's Baseless Rumors

Denvention 3 doesn't have bases for its Hugos yet, but you can be the one to save the day. Hugo Administrator Mary Kay Kare announces the opening of competition to design the 2008 Hugo base.

The World Science Fiction Convention has been giving out awards for achievement in science fiction since 1953. Categories come and go, changing with the tastes and interests of fandom, but the basic design of the Hugo Award itself remains constant: A silver cigar-shaped rocket is the focal point of the award, the unchanging work of art and science that instantly identifies the trophy as a Hugo.

The one thing that does change every year is the base of the Hugo award. Next year's Worldcon committee will choose a base to complement the award. Photos of past Hugo Awards are online at:

<http://www.thehugoawards.com>

For the last few years, Worldcons have held an open competition for the design of its Hugo bases. Denvention 3 is continuing that policy and solicits artists and designers to design a base worthy of the Hugo Award. The design should also reflect the convention's theme, "One Mile Closer to the Stars."



Gnomes of Denver: Kent Bloom and Mary Morman promoted the 2008 bid in Interaction's masquerade.

The design may incorporate an aspect relating to the Denver region or Colorado.

The winning designer will receive a full 5-day membership in Denvention 3 and the opportunity to introduce their base design during the Hugo Ceremony.

Hugo Trophy Specifications: The base must be of wood, metal, lucite, or any other material which has a fixed form. Do not use materials which will change form when aged, heated, cooled, or that are fragile.

The silver Hugo rocket must be an integral part of the design. We will supply rockets for the bases. Ease of attachment should be a design feature. Rockets are bolted to the bases from below the tailfins.

The specifications for the Hugo rocket are as follows:

- § chromium-plated zinc/aluminium alloy
- § 13" (330 mm) tall
- § 2" (51 mm) across from fin-tip to fin-tip
- § weight 3 lb. 2 oz. (1.42 kg)
- § bolt 5/16"-18 machine screw thread
- § bolt-hole depth 0.625" (15mm)

The base must stand on a flat surface. Do not craft a hanging design.

Leave space for a plaque or plaques indicating convention, winner, and category of award in an easily readable font at 12 points.

Avoid designs that disintegrate in people's luggage, cannot be easily shipped, are excessively heavy, or that have bits that may fall off and need reattaching. Bases should not resemble weapons to avoid possible problems with the TSA.

How to the Enter the Competition: Anyone may enter. You must submit your design by midnight (MST) December 31, 2007 and the submission package must include:

- § Drawings, sketches, and/or a fabricated sample of the proposed base unit.
- § Cost estimate per base, and estimated total cost for the fabrication and shipping of 24 base units.

§ Lead time needed for fabrication.

§ Statement of your ability to either craft the bases or arrange for the work to be done.

Bases must cost \$150 each or less to fabricate. The finished bases must arrive in Denver no later than June 15, 2008. You may submit proposals either electronically or via postal mail.

E-mail proposals to hugodesign@denvention.org. Include the information above and a JPG, TIFF or GIF image of your design. State in the body E-mail what type of graphic file you are attaching.

If you prefer, you may use US

postal mail or international postal mail. Mail the information above and your sketch/drawing/ sample base (or a disk or CD containing your sketch/drawing). Our physical address is: Denvention 3, Attn: Mary Kay Kare, Hugo Base Design, P.O. Box 1349, Denver, CO 80201. In either case, include your name and contact information.

Denvention 3 regrets that competition entries cannot be returned.

The winning entry is not unveiled until the Hugo Ceremony. Strict confidentiality applies to the winner and the design until the Hugo Ceremony at Denvention.

Questions? E-mail hugodesign@denvention.org for clarification.

Denvention 3 Announces 2008 Pre-registration Rates

Denvention 3 pre-registration rates will go up on January 1, 2008. The new rates are as follows:

For a supporting member of Denvention:

Adult Full Attending Membership \$160

Child Full Attending Membership \$10

Adult Full Attending Membership for Pre-supporters of Denver in 2008 \$140

Child Full Attending Membership for Pre-supporters of Denver in 2008 \$0

For others:

Adult Full Attending Membership \$200

Child Full Attending Membership \$50

Adult Full Attending Membership for Friends of Denver in 2008 \$120

Child Full Attending Membership for Friends of Denver in 2008 \$0

Adult Full Attending Membership for Pre-supporters of Denver 2008 \$180

Child Full Attending Membership for Pre-supporters of Denver 2008 \$30

Supporting Membership \$50

Supporting Membership for Pre-supporters of Denver 2008 \$30

These pre-registration rates will be in effect until July 10, 2008. At-the-door rates will be higher. There will not be discounts for Denver bid friends or pre-supporters at-the-door. Day rate memberships will be sold at-the-door, but we have not yet set the rate. They will not be sold in advance of the convention.

Child memberships will include some number of subsidized child care hours; the number of hours will be announced later.

To buy a membership for Denvention 3 online, go to:

https://www.denvention3.org/wcdb/memed_member.php.

Capclave Rockville Hilton October 12-14, 2007 Report by Martin Morse Wooster

“Say, have you heard what Capclave is doing this year?” a disgruntled former WSFAn told me the week before the con. “They’ve posted a rule saying they have the right to go into open parties and expel anyone they want!” This source claimed that WSFA had done that specifically to exclude Keith Lynch from the convention.

When I heard this, I expected to see a phalanx of big, beefy, bulging-bicep WSFAns stalking the halls giving fen the boot, perhaps after uttering the traditional faanish mantra, “Dave Kyle says you can’t sit here!” But alas it was not to be. Keith Lynch was indeed at the convention, although several WSFAns told me they were shocked and appalled that I would dare suggest that Lynch had rejoined WSFA. Ted White was also present, and even contributed some memories to a heavily censored oral history of WSFA that was part of the convention program book. (Anyone who read the oral history would not know that anyone in WSFA had ever feuded.)

But Alexis and Lee Gilliland did boycott Capclave. However, Alexis’s son Charles did attend.

Capclave moved from Silver Spring to Rockville because the Silver Spring Hilton has a contract with the University of Maryland football team that gives the football players preferences for rooms

and function space during home games, and the hotel wouldn’t guarantee WSFA function space. The new hotel was nearly renovated, and is large, spacious, and reasonably close to the subway. WSFA currently has a two-year contract with the Rockville Hilton, but hopes to stay in this hotel longer.

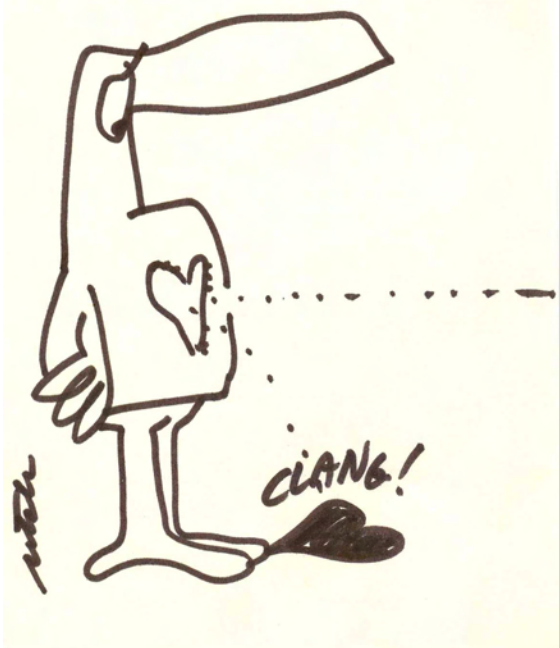
All of the panels were about books and films. I confess I only went to one panel, since I spent my time buying books and hanging out with friends in the con suite. I can’t report how author GoH Jeffrey Ford or editor GoH Ellen Datlow did since I didn’t attend any of their panels. The panel I did hear was on the Heinlein centennial, in which David Hartwell, busily editing James Patterson’s biography of Heinlein, reported some revelations, including that Heinlein’s mysterious first marriage (to the woman before Leslyn) cost Heinlein a Rhodes Scholarship, since the scholarship wasn’t awarded to married men at the time. Hartwell said that Patterson also has dramatic proof of Heinlein’s shift in political views in 1948, when he married Virginia, including a shift in party affiliation.

Saturday night was a party honoring WSFA’s 60th anniversary. Veteran WSFAns expressed their dedication to their club by splurging on tuxes and formal wear. Long-time WSFA treasurer Bob McIntosh wore a kilt. Everyone had a slice of cake.

The anniversary party marked the inaugural WSFA Small Press Award. Though it was unclear how many people had voted for the award (there were complaints in the *WSFA Journal* that not many people had voted) Peter Beagle won the prize for his short story “El Regalo,” published by Tachyon Publications. Beagle received a trophy made of glass. In an acceptance speech read by Michael Swanwick, Beagle said that his notion of a literary award included first-class travel and a nice hotel suite, because if those terms were “good enough for Harlan than it’s good enough for me.” He then thanked WSFA for the award and said he felt honored to accept it.

There were also long-suppressed rumblings about another Washington Worldcon bid. One t-shirt seen at the convention announced a hoax bid for Peggy Rae Sapienza’s house. The people I talked to, however, said a Washington Worldcon bid wouldn’t happen until hotels are actually built next to the Washington Convention Center.

All in all, Capclave was a perfectly pleasant small convention. My guess is that attendance was around 300.



Mythcon XXXVIII ♦ Report by Mike Glycer

**Clark Kerr Conference Center,
Berkeley, CA; August 3-6, 2007**

**Guests of Honor:
Ellen Kushner and Delia Sherman**

Thursday: Once we parked in front of UC's Clark Kerr Conference Center, Diana finally had a chance to pick up the jar of Planters Peanuts that had rolled off her lap while she navigated the hilly streets of Berkeley. She swept the nuts onto the pavement, got Sierra out of her car seat, and we all walked to the administration building to get our room assignment. When we came back to move the car, Diana had to shoo a squirrel from under the front tire, where he was stubbornly waiting for the next Fortean downpour of nuts.

While we were unpacking in our dorm rooms, Lee and Dolores Speth stepped in to say hello. Lee is a man of many fandoms. He and Dolores had gone on their second "Slayer Cruise" through Alaska's Inside Passage with other *Buffy* and *Angel* fans plus a few of the show's stars. Dolores felt it was "a gyp" because she didn't get to touch a glacier. She said that she might have taken the helicopter flight over the glacier had she known they actually landed and let people walk around.

Friday: Programming began midafternoon Friday. Edith Crowe served as proxy reader for Taryne Jade Taylor's paper titled "Forget Bombadil: Who in Helm's Deep is Goldberry?" Taylor determined to solve the enigma of Goldberry as a character within the bounds of Tolkien's hint that "an expla-

nation that already exists" in his legendarium. Goldberry and Bombadil are primeval beings with a natural magic. The paper linked Goldberry to the undine or other water nymphs and sprites. Taylor pointed to similarities between Goldberry's background and the Proserpina myth, noting that in being taken to Underhill, Goldberry was symbolically taken to the underworld.

Tom Bombadil's sleep command is something Taylor defined it as a "mini death," suggesting that may explain why he doesn't use it on barrow wights who are already dead.

Taylor's scholarship maintained a pleasing playfulness throughout.

Edith's audience contained a few fans of Harry Potter who hadn't had time to read the new Harry Potter novel, released just days before Mythcon. They were terrified of hearing spoilers and were pointedly avoiding a discussion of the book happening downstairs at the same hour. One of them believed, "It should be held in a soundproofed room!" Gavin Claypool, feeling the need to give away the ending (of something) declared, "The ring is destroyed!"

In fact, when the paper ended, I joined Diana and eavesdropped on everyone's comments about Harry Potter's sendoff. This proved to be the one place you were sure to find everybody at the convention who was younger than 45 (about 10 of the 40 people present.) The group sounded generally satisfied with the series' conclusion. Of Draco Malfoy, someone said that by the end of the book "he has figured out evil was not as

much fun as he thought it would be."

At dinnertime, Lynn Maudlin and I lined up together in the serving area of the dining hall. After considerable delay we arrived at the head of the line for the fish entrée only to learn we were supposed to have picked up empty plates somewhere else. We got them and lined up with the people on the other side of the horseshoe-shaped serving counter. Slowly we made it to the head of the line where servers were alternating between us and fans in an oncoming line who'd been smart enough to start with trays and plates, but had bypassed the fish being served in their line when they saw pork and potatoes available at our station.

Procession: The Society's colorful procession was slated for after dinner, there still being plenty of sunlight even this late on a long summer day. Near me a woman shed her backpack, drew out a blue velvet cap with a gold tassel, and the matching academic gown, slipped them on and was good to go.

Fans led the way carrying the banners of the Mythopoeic Society and several of the local discussion groups. John DeCles wore full Victorian attire, including a tall black hat on his head. Beside him, Diana Paxson wore a mask with a sharp black bird's beak, a beaded headdress covering her head: although it reminded me of Mardi Gras, this is fandom so it probably was an original creation.

My Diana marched in her red University of Illinois at Chicago gown. Sierra wore full pink princess regalia with gold trim. I merely



Mythcon 38 Procession: (L) GoH's Delia Sherman, Ellen Kushner, Chair David Bratman; (Middle) Tim & Bonnie Callahan, Autumn Rauscher, Bernie Phillips, Eric Rauscher; (R) Lee Speth, Mike Glycer, Sierra.



(Left) Donald Williams; (Middle) Mike Foster; (Right) Ken Lauw and Society founder Glen GoodKnight.

wore civilian clothing.

Opening Ceremonies: The procession ended by funneling people into the same room that had been used for the afternoon Harry Potter panel. Fans filled every seat and lined the walls of the narrow meeting room. As someone with a hearing loss that can be only partly compensated by electronics, I am a bit surprised whenever I discover no amplification is provided for the speakers at a large event. But in all fairness, I had better luck listening to panels in the loudspeaker-equipped auditorium.

Friday: Orson Scott Card introduced Mythcons to the fun of readers' theater in 1997. That's as close to show biz as some of us will ever get. I love it, and I was fortunate that Diana's *Inklings* book had inspired David Esselstrom of Azusa Pacific University to write a brief play. Diana took charge of its out-of-town trial at Berkeley. She cast me as Wamie Lewis. The Friday morning rehearsal brought together Eric Rauscher as Charles Williams, Bill Welden as J.R.R. Tolkien, David Bratman as C.S. Lewis, and Hannah Thomas as Death. Diana directed, and afterwards took note of the participants' critique for Esselstrom. He will revise the playlet before it is performed a Lewis-themed event at APU in February.

Once I figured out the lines, I really enjoyed taking meals in the campus dining hall, with its lofty ceilings and heavy wooden furniture adding a cloistered atmosphere that we *Inklings* fans imagine Oxford ought to have. The campus food was consistently good and sometimes remarkable – like the chicken Jerusalem (chicken and artichokes in sauce on egg noodles), the beef curry on rice, and the fish done Japanese style with ginger glaze.

Saturday: Saturday's breakfast was made even more delightful by the appearance of

Mythcon chair David Bratman in his "The Company They Keep" t-shirt. Diana had given to him as a partial thank-you for his incredible contributions to the book.

In the first round of programming after breakfast, Diana and two students from APU, Cathy Hansen and Hannah Thomas, presented "Adept at Scholarship: Allies and Obstacles in the Field of Inklings Studies." This was a practical overview of the scholarly tasks involved in research, writing, and publishing, aimed at emerging scholars. One can spend more time doing scholarship if one doesn't have to constantly reinvent the wheel, and the Mythopoeic Society is full of people who have explored the primary resources of the Wade Center, Marquette, and the Bodleian, as well as the internet and other secondary sources.

Later in the morning I moderated a panel of David Bratman, Diana and Mike Foster: "The *Inklings* as a Writers' Group: Collaborators, Critics, or Curmudgeons?" Mike Foster is a retired professor from Illinois Central and the North American representative of The Tolkien Society. Bratman is the author of numerous scholarly papers about the *Inklings*, including a systematic study of those who were lesser-known before he wrote about them. These articles were the foundation for the mini-biographies in his brilliant Appendix to *The Company They Keep*.

The group spent some of the time discussing the way individuals became *Inklings*, and the effect of the additions. David Bratman said "to people who accuse the *Inklings* of being sexist because they didn't invite women -- They didn't invite very many men, either." The *Inklings*, he said, deserved a share of credit for the fact that Tolkien completed the trilogy. In fact, Diana wondered if Carl Hostetler and the other Elvish linguists might say "Darn those *Inklings*!" because as

a result of the feedback, Tolkien spent proportionately less time on his invented languages.

I asked about the chilling effect of Hugo Dyson's famous veto, "Not another elf!" People agreed that the Blakean maxim "Opposition is true friendship" obviously refers to something different than opposition without respect.

I wanted to attend some other panels, but my hearing problems rendered it frustratingly difficult to decipher what was said in the large auditorium despite amplification and panelists considerably passing the microphone. I did best listening to papers presented in the side rooms, where I could sit in the front row and take advantage of readers who projected their unamplified voices to be heard in the back.

Mike Foster read his very well-written paper on the late George Sayer, Lewis friend and biographer (*Jack*), and Foster's friend as well. Foster summarized Sayer's interpretations of key relationships and events in Lewis's life, showing how they developed by adding Sayer's later comments on some points. Sayer was sometimes more frank in private conversation, or admitted he might have been more critical of Lewis's books if he were starting over. Equally valuable were Foster's reminiscences of his many meetings with Sayer across the years that revealed more about the personality of Lewis's friend. It was eye-opening to hear that Sayer planned another project after *Jack* – a biography of Warren Lewis. Foster wondered whether researchers will find any substantial trace of it among Sayer's papers. He also expressed regret that the papers had not gone to the Wade Center at Wheaton, Sayer's widow having decided they should not leave England.

Donald T. Williams read a paper about C.

S. Lewis's *English Literature in the Sixteenth Century (Excluding Drama)*. It, too, was wonderfully well-written. The things he had to say make it likely I will read Lewis's book sometime soon. Williams situated it in the literary debate about these works, demonstrating why it is one of the rare examples of scholarship that remain important years after publication. Williams suggested that longevity is actually encouraged by the many scholars who warn their students against what Lewis has to say. There must be power in the work: Williams says even those who levy justifiable criticisms against some of its views still call it brilliant.

Saturday Evening: Mythcon's Saturday night festivities opened with *Lord of the Rings*, the Tolkien musical that the Beatles would have written had they not ended up doing *The Yellow Submarine*, performed by guitarists Lynn Maudlin and Mike Foster, with back-up singers Anne Osborn and Ellen Denham. They recast "Help!" as Gandalf's plea for assistance in ridding Middle-Earth of the Ring, worked through several more Beatles parodies, and ended triumphantly with a version of "Twist and Shout" that implored Frodo to "twist off that Ring!" The concept was funny, and the performance elevated the joke to perfection by the harmonizing and Sixties-style dancing of Anne and Jessica.

Next a large number of Not-Ready-For-Mythcon-Players gathered onstage, all wearing the *de rigueur* bedsheets either as togas or cloaks. They acted out a series of silly scenes that twisted the titles of seven Harry Potter novels. Nearly everyone thought it was tremendously funny, and maybe if I'd been able to hear all the puns I'm sure I'd have felt the same way.

Co-GoH Ellen Kushner had no trouble following this act, nearly making us forget all that had gone before. She sang her way through *Thomas the Rhymer*, her novel based on a Scottish folk ballad. Kushner's voice was all the instrument she needed to range up and down the difficult scales of these beautiful songs. At times, she accompanied herself on guitar. Writers are often called upon to anchor a festive evening and few enjoy such an advantage in being able to bring their words to life. Having Ellen Kushner sing to us was like being showered with emeralds and rubies.

Sunday: I visited Moe's bookstore in downtown Berkeley, arriving early enough to actually find a parking space just around the corner from the entrance. At 9 o'clock there were mostly street people about, moving rather slowly and deliberately. Another fellow was unloading cases of rude and sophomore bumper stickers from his station wagon to set on a sidewalk sales table.

Moe's has a vast section of used SF paperbacks, so I was counting on finding some novels by George Alec Effinger – in vain. In his day George would have found a way to turn that into a punchline, but I was disappointed.

In the new book section, any number of biographies and histories that caught my eye. I settled on *Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War* by Nathaniel Philbrick which traces the pilgrims from their origins in England and the Netherlands to the 1620 landing, studies the 50 years of peace between New England settlers and Indians, then answers why the peace was broken by King Philip's War and how the settlers eventually won. You hear the cliché about people with ancestors that came over on the *Mayflower*. Philbrick says there are at least 10 million in America. In fact, back in the dorm when Cathy Hansen saw the book laying on a table, she told me that she is a descendant of William Brewster. Yet she's the first *Mayflower* descendant I've personally met.

Mythcon Banquet: The handful of us who were especially early for the Banquet witnessed the surprise arrival of Glen GoodKnight, the Society's founder, and Ken Lauw, who have been away from Mythcons for years. There were smiles, hugs and handshakes all around.

Autumn Rauscher spent the time before the speeches stalking her father, Eric, with a flash camera calling "Dad!" but getting photos only of the back of his head.

Chair David Bratman introduced the speeches with his memory of going to the 1975 Mythcon in Sacramento. "I said to myself, 'I don't want to miss another one of these.' And I haven't." Then he introduced Society founder Glen GoodKnight to a standing ovation.

Glen told about the earliest episode of the Society, the original Bilbo & Frodo's Birthday picnic he organized in September 1967. Glen said a flyer for that picnic sold on eBay for around \$150 the previous week. The flyer also announced a discussion group would meet the following month. That meeting was the formal start of the Mythopoeic Society. Within the first three years, the Society launched 14 discussion groups and held its first Mythcon.

Today, Glen is working on his Lewis and Tolkien collections so they can be sold to a university. (One of Glen's passions is to collect every edition of the *Chronicles of Narnia* published in every language. His new website, www.inklingsfocus.com, is designed to help collectors and readers of the series.)

Bonnie Callahan and Sherwood Smith followed Glen's talk with their own reminiscences of the Society's earliest days. Bonnie

said when she came to the second Bilbo's Birthday Party in 1968 "I was envious of all the people who'd been there since 1967." Sherwood said she sneaked and wrote to the Tolkien Society because her parents were suspicious it might be a band of hippies. But when her parents read an article about Bilbo's Birthday Party in the *L.A. Times*, "My father acknowledged if it was about books, then there couldn't be any marijuana – laughter – and my parents said I could go to the next one." She made a costume from blackout curtains and tights. Glen awarded her the "Most Beautiful" medallion made of cardboard with a plastic gem in the center. "I will sell it on eBay," Sherwood laughed.

Next, Ellen Kushner announced the 2007 Mythopoeic Awards. The winning entries in the Mary Stolzenbach Memorial Clerihew Contest were read, where two of the three categories had been won by Edith Crowe. (Stolzenbach once won all three, which inspired the dedication of the contest to her name.)

Delia Sherman's guest of honor speech completed the evening. Her mythopoeic autobiography resonated with the experiences of so many listeners – the same books, the same aspirations, even some of the same scholarly and literary achievements.

Monday: The open Stewards Meeting had nearly ended by the time I arrived. The Mythcon 39 committee was just being introduced – next year's is in Connecticut.

All Mythcons end with long-established ceremonies and rituals. Lee Speth stood to present awards for accomplishments in Golfimbul (Mythcon's late-night sport which may be thought of as a cross between kick-the-Dane's-head and baseball. Indeed, the squeamish may prefer not to think of it any further than that.)

Lee began by thanking Bonnie Callahan for providing an "artistically horrible" Golfimbul head. He gave various winners medals made from paper doilies. Our own Hannah Thomas won a silver for accuracy. Eric Rauscher declared, "As far as I know, you're the only person ever to have hit the rabbit." Don't ask.

The con officially ended after we sang three traditional songs. First, the Society's "Chorea Magna." Then Diana L. Paxson led her own "The Baby and the Bird." Last came Mythcon's improvisational singing gripe session, called "Way-hey the Mythcon's over." People jump in with their own verses about the con's in-jokes and foul-ups like "Make him look for Building Twelve," "Make him sit at the wobbly table," "Make him sleep with a little blue teddy bear," and most daunting, "Make him chair the next year's Mythcon."

Tuckercon *by Keith Stokes*

A.K.A. the 9th occasional North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFiC), and Archon 31 August 2-5, 2007, Collinsville, Illinois

[[A version of this report also will appear in the First Fandom newsletter.]]

The 9th occasional North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFiC), also known as Archon 31 or TuckerCon, was held over the August 2-5 weekend. NASFiCs are only held when the WorldCon is outside of North America. It was held in Collinsville, Illinois, Archon's usual venue, but much earlier in the year.

I left work early on Wednesday, and drove to the east side of suburban St. Louis in a little over four hours. After checking into the Super 8 (located near the convention center, but on the opposite side from the Holiday Inn) I walked over to the Gateway Center to pick up my registration package. It was the main place to see early arrivals, and I spent nearly three hours chatting with friends and taking a few photos. I still needed to prepare for some of the weekend's panels, so I returned to the hotel about 9:30 p.m. to catch up on email and prepare for the convention.

The convention didn't officially open until noon on Thursday, but I returned to the Gateway Center in the morning to photograph people setting up and talk to more friends such as Mitch Bentley and Cathie McCormick. Returning to the hotel, I had the first 5 pages of TuckerCon photos online as the convention opened.

I split the afternoon between the Gateway Center and Holiday Inn, including time in the Dealer's Room and the SFWA suite. I briefly sampled and photographed several panels, sometimes staying for a while. I stayed to listen to almost all of "With God as my witness, I thought Turkeys Could Fly," which had panelists Jan Howard Finder, Paula Helm Murray, Mel Tatum and Nancy Hathaway. They talked about convention mistakes caused



Nancy and Ross Hathaway. Photo by Keith Stokes.

by individuals who didn't know enough about what they were doing.

My first panel of the weekend was "Wink, Wink, Nudge -- Tell Me a Story, Uncle Bob," the first of five Bob Tucker panels I would be on through the weekend. With the exception of Uncle Timmy (Tim Bolgeo), everyone on the panel was a long

time friend of mine. The well attended panel consisted of our reminiscing about Tucker. Following the panel, I returned to the SFWA suite to put in an hour as door guardian. But there was little to do. Sandra Morrese had the suite well under control. I did have a fun conversation with Sheila Finch, particularly about her greyhounds. It was so much fun that I stayed overtime and I was late for Opening Ceremony, arriving near the end as Joan Marie Knappenberger and Roger Tener were leading the Guests of Honor in a Smooth.

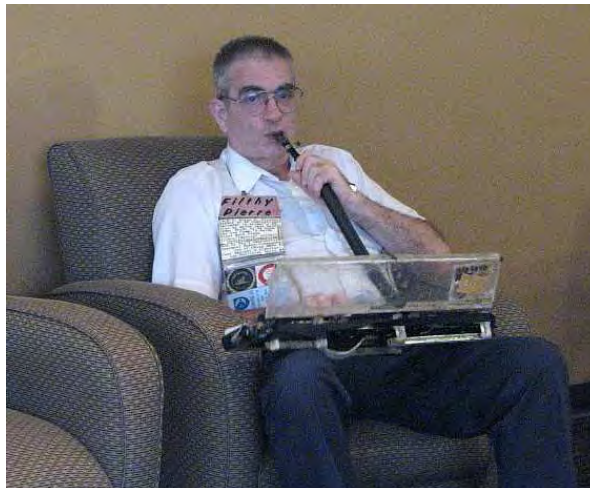
After the opening ceremony, the Knappenbergers, Teners, Rick Lancaster, and I walked to the nearby Ponderosa Restaurant. This was the first time I have eaten there. Except to be with friends, I probably wouldn't return. Michelle Zellich joined us at the restaurant, and I was able to learn much more about the advance work on the convention. She also gave me the good news that since I presupported the NASFiC at the highest level, I would receive a banquet ticket for Friday night, special seating at the Masquerade and a TuckerCon polo shirt. Yea!

There were no announced parties that evening, and I returned to the Super 8 before midnight to put up photos, and prepare for Friday's panels.

Friday was my heaviest programming day, with three events in a row starting at noon. The middle one was interviewing the Author Guest of Honor, Barbara Hambly. When I learned that I would get to interview her, I realized that it had been years since I had read any of her work. So



The GoH Smoooooth. Photo by Keith Stokes.



Left: Steven Silver. Right: Erwin S. "Filthy Pierre" Strauss.

there was two weeks for me to reread one novel, and read three new ones to prepare for the interview. I like her work and even now that the convention is over, I am reading another of her novels -- *Stranger at the Wedding*.

The Artist Guest of Honor, Darrell K. Sweet, was on the program in the room prior to our interview, and he ran late, cutting into our hour. Barbara didn't say so, but I think she was a bit upset about that. Though she did seem somewhat morose every time that I saw her, so I'm not sure. Still I think the interview went fairly well, and it had a good sized audience.

Following the panels, I finally visited the art show. It wasn't terribly large for a NAS-FiC, but was high quality. About a sixth of the show was an exhibit of Darrell Sweet's work. I looked long and hard at two of the cover roughs he offered for sale. A new credit card with zero percent interest until next spring was burning a hole in my pocket, but I resisted the temptation to spend nearly a \$1,000 on one piece of art. I may regret that down the road, but I think I would have regretted it more in the near future.

Friday evening was the annual Archon Dinner Theater Banquet. The beef and roast vegetables were good, and I enjoyed sharing a table with the Teners, Hathaways, Rick Lowery and John Coker. Elizabeth Moon came to be there for the awards ceremony and joined us midway through dinner.

The meal was followed by a participatory mystery theater involving the trial of Popeye for the murder of Gilligan. I thoroughly enjoyed the mystery event two years ago, but despite an enthusiastic effort from the participants, this year's event seemed to go on too long.

It was followed by the Guest of Honor Speeches, First Fandom Awards, Golden

Duck Awards, Sidewise Awards, and Archon Hall of Fame and Tucker Awards, emceed by Roger Tener. It sounds like *that* would have gone on forever, but everyone paid attention to the instructions to be brief, and it went through fairly quickly and enjoyably. Roger concluded the event by bringing out a couple of bottles of Beams Choice and leading the remaining members of the audience in a Smooth.

Later at the Holiday Inn, the first floor housed the dance, hospitality suite and public parties. There were only two parties on Friday: Yard Dog Press and KC in 2009. They were both packed and I spent only a few minutes at the Yard Dog event (congratulating Selina Rosen on receiving a Tucker Award) and never went into the KC party room.

The first floor was much more pleasant this year. The summer weekend and higher membership price kept down the hordes of excessively drinking young people. There was still a good sized crowd and I took several pages of photos.

On the fifth floor, there were three private events, and I spent most of the time at the Tor party and SFWA & ASFA Suites. Tor was the only one with a real bar. David Hartwell was also giving out free galleys, and I picked up advance copies of *The Thief Queen's Daughter* by Elizabeth Haydon, and *Radio Freefall* by Matthew Jarpe. I love free books!

I went back to the ASFA Suite next door, and the ladies running the room were soon slipping next door to pick up books of their own.

I spent Saturday morning preparing for an 11 a.m. panel, totally forgetting about the SFWA business meeting.

I was ready for the 11 a.m. panel about Tucker's *The Year of the Quiet Sun*. Unfortun-

nately, it appeared that Toni Weisskopf was the only other one who had prepared, and most of the hour was spent talking about Tucker in general, rather than his writing. I was a little disappointed, I've never previously participated in a serious discussion of his professional writing. This was my most poorly attended panel during the convention, but the audience still outnumbered the panel.

Then Nancy Hathaway and I went to lunch across Collinsville at the Smoke Pit. I wasn't very impressed by their BBQ, but the chili was good and the company was better. With Nancy living in California, I see too little of her.

We were back to the convention center in plenty of time for my 2 p.m. panel, the fourth of five Tucker panels. Though I had worried that there were too many Tucker panels, we found mostly different things to talk about each time, and the audiences stayed above average in size.

Later in the afternoon I helped out at the SFWA Suite a second time, but other than clearing trash every 15 minutes, there was little to do. I fired up my computer and worked on more photos while enjoying eavesdropping on a fascinating conversation with Gene Wolfe.

Supper was another group dinner, though smaller, with just the Teners and David Means. We went to a Greek/Italian Restaurant that I had visited earlier in the weekend, Fazzi's Bar & Restaurant, a small, informal restaurant that I will visit again.

Saturday evening was the Masquerade. I had a seat in the front row, next to Linda Zang, the convention's official photographer. I'm sure that her photos will be better than mine -- she was the only one permitted to use flash. Working in the low light, trying to get a few good photos, I shot so many pictures, that near the end, the 2 gig memory card was full and I had to quickly delete some of the earlier shots that were obviously inferior.

Vic Milan did his usual good job as emcee, and the 27 entry competition was presented in about 45 minutes. I left before Luke Ski's half time performance, planning to photograph costumed people in the hall, but instead, David Marusek sat down next to me and we caught up on each other's lives. In addition to his writing, I find his rural life in Alaska very interesting. We first met when he received the Sturgeon Award years ago in Lawrence, Kansas, and we manage to renew our acquaintance at conventions about once a year. Also consulted with John Shoberg, who (along with Dave Means and Cheryl Medley) was taking TuckerCon photos for the Photo

Awards Presented at Tuckercon

First Fandom

Hall of Fame Award: Algis Budrys

Posthumous Hall of Fame Award: Don Dailey

Golden Duck Awards

for excellence in children's science fiction

Picture Book: *Night of the Homework Zombies* by Scott Nickel,
illustrated by Steve Harpster

Middle Grades: *Apers* by Mike Jansen and Barbara Day Zinicola

Young Adult: *Rash* by Pete Hautman

Special Award: *Write Your Own Science Fiction Story* by Tish Farrell

Sidewise Awards for Alternate History

2006 Best Short-Form Alternate History: "Counterfactual" by Gardner Dozois

2006 Best Long-Form Alternate History: *The Family Trade, The Hidden Family* and *Clan Corporate*, a trio by Charles Stross

you say: '2011: Seattle is bidding. There is a web page and a flyer, neither of which names any committee members. Not that the names are really a secret, and as the bid gets more serious they may even be advertised. They propose to hold the con in August 2011 at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center located in Downtown Seattle.'

"The bid committee is indeed not a secret. Their names can be found on our web page" - <http://www.seattlein2011.org/committee.php>. And *File 770* is happy to publicize the fans involved with the bid:

Bid Team: Chair: Bobbie DuFault; Vice-chair: Pat Porter (also interim Secretary); Advisers to the chair: Christian McGuire, Kevin Standlee, Milt Stevens; Head Fund Raiser: Hans Johnson; Treasurer: Roberta ("Bert") Carlson; Mail: William Sadorus; Webmaster: Alex von Thorn; Art team leader: Frank Wu; Fiction team leader: Jay Lake; Podcast Guru: Jim Granger; Speaker to Hotel and CC: Sally Woehrl; Assistant to Hotel and CC: Steve Lewno; Japanese Translation: Glenn Glazer; Party Maven: Gene Armstrong Ambassador — East & Canada: Marah Searle-Kovacevic; Ambassador — Roving: Roger Wells; Flyers: Gibbitt Rhys-Jones; JoAT: Jerry Gieseke. Valued helpers: Rick Kovalcik, Helen Gbala."

Westercon 2009 = PHX

The Phoenix bid has won the right to host the 2009 Westercon. According to Kevin Standlee's LiveJournal post, the vote tally was:

Phoenix 78
AhwaneeCon 30
IditaCon 3
No Preference 2
Hollister 1
Both 1
None of the Above 1
Total Ballots 116

Words That Should Be Repealed from the English Language -- #1 in a Series

"Eponymous." I don't find it helps that I know what that means when I read a sentence like, "The character in the eponymous *Silas Marner*."

In theory, the word allows you to avoid sentences that say, "David Copperfield, the main character in the book *David Copperfield*..."

In reality, most of the time the word's only work is show that the author is able to use the word "eponymous" in a sentence.

Archive.

Later at the Holiday Inn, there were fewer hall costumes than usual. I spent most of my evening on the fourth and fifth floors at the same three parties as the previous night, as well as the Baen party where I finally got to know Uncle Timmy while he tended bar. I would have liked to have had longer chats with Toni Weisskopf and Hank Reinhardt, but they were hosting the party and were the center of attention. Toni introduced me to *Locus* photographer Beth Gwinn. I was amused that Beth had no idea who I am. We have taken photographs at literally dozens of the same events and our photos have been published next to each other several times.

There were more free books. I picked John Ringo's *Hell's Faire* and K. E. Mode-sitt Jr's *The Forever Hero* at the Baen party, and a galley of Wen Spencer's *Wolf Who Rules* at Tor.

At 11 p.m., I returned to the convention center to see the panel "It Will Haunt Me Forever" with John Novak, Laura LeHew, Nancy Hathaway, Ross Hathaway and others. It was fun listening to the stories from the panel and the audience.

Sunday, things were winding down. There were still chances to speak to people like Rich Horton, who I had missed earlier in the weekend.

My last panel was "Hugo's There" with Joan Marie, Tim, Roger, Robin, and Toni. Then we said good byes and I headed home.

For me, TuckerCon was the most fun of any convention in the past few years. I would

like to see Archon retain some of this year's feel when they return to their regular weekend next year.

My favorite parts were the quiet times talking to old friends and new ones. One of those cool times was when I was sitting in a chair in the convention center, working on photos on my notebook computer. Author Jack McDevitt (who doesn't know me), sat down in the next chair and we talked for 40 minutes. We even talked about a plot point on a book he is currently writing.



Seattle in 2011 Bid Committee

Marah Searle-Kovacevic, Seattle in 2011 Canadian agent, responded to last issue's report about the bid:

"In the article on future Worldcon bids,

BIG IN JAPAN

or, I could have had breakfast in my pajamas, but all I brought was a nightgown

A Ditto/Arteon report by Hope Leibowitz

[[Ditto has a long tradition as a specialized con for fanzine fans. The 2007 edition also was a 90th birthday celebration for Art Widner, for good measure held in his hometown of Gualala, California. Hope's report is slightly revised from its original appearance on the Trufen list.]]

It all started for me the night before, when I googled on the Breakers Inn, Gualala. I tend to forget that I can now do that easily, since I got a high speed connection. I had a small piece of paper handy, and this is exactly what I wrote about the different hotel rooms, which are all named for countries or states or counties:

"Breathtaking Ocean Views"

Holland - Wow!

Canada - "

Cape Cod - suite, wow!

Japan - holy shit \$275

Sweden - nice!

Oregon - Amazing!

Scotland - Yikes - 2 big beds!

Those are the only ones I accessed. I had no idea which room I was in, as I let Art, my roommate, deal with that. As it turned out, he didn't choose it either, as Alan wanted the consuite blocked on both sides by fans, so he had the room on the other side (further) and we were right next door to the con suite.

When David Bratman and I got there (he picked me up at the San Francisco airport) the only other person there was Art. And I found out that we had Japan, right next door to the con suite. I couldn't believe it. The room was amazing. I'm lucky it wasn't Canada (to be explained later).

There was free port in the lobby, and sake, and cookies, and coffee and a bowl of munchies. While waiting for more people to arrive, I had some port and coffee, but never availed myself of it for the rest of the weekend, as there was so much food and alcohol in the con suite. I have never seen that much alcohol in a con suite, maybe even counting Midwestcon.

The worst thing about the con was the free continental breakfast, as Karen Schaffer mentioned in her Live Journal. And it was even worse if you were expecting, per Alan's post to Trufen: "Room rates at the Breakers Inn range from \$108 - \$204 per night, and



include a full breakfast at the Oceansong restaurant next door." The Oceansong didn't even have breakfast and the next morning we discovered a bowl of fruit, packaged muffins, a few packaged white bagels with cream cheese and jam available, packaged cinnamon buns, coffee, orange juice and packets of instant oatmeal. A Holiday Inn Express we stayed at for a wedding in Vermilion Ohio at least had hard-boiled eggs, which I think is a lot better, and waffles too, but they also had lots of donuts and other pastries. What's with the sugar for breakfast thing, anyway?

Friday night a guy no one knew named Steve (Orlif?) showed up due to the article in the paper. He is a comics fan, and has been to cons before. I'm not sure about his last name even though it was on the comic book he brought to show people. It looked very slick, with good artwork. He came back on Saturday night too.

Little by little people showed up and the con began.

Eventually a bunch of us went to dinner at the wonderful Redwood Grill, a short drive north. Art was at one table with all his relatives (he'd planned on going to somewhere more expensive, but all his relatives couldn't handle that), and there were eight of us at a

nearby round table. Clockwise from me: Alan, Jeanne Bowman (Janice Murray couldn't come to the con due to nasty sinus problems), Marci Malinowycz, Pam Davis, Terry Floyd and Doug Faunt. My ahi tuna with wasabi cream was one of the best tuna meals ever, and Doug gave me a taste of his clam appetizer. The waitress said no separate checks as it was too much trouble. I am used to that from eating out every Friday with lots of people. But when we were finished eating, I noticed Doug going up to the cash register. If it were Toronto and someone else, I'd figure he was just debiting. But knowing Doug, I had my suspicions. And yup, I was right. Someone asked about the bill, and he said it had been taken care of. Someone, Terry I think, said, "But I haven't paid yet." Doug said a second time, "It's been taken care of." Yes, he had treated the whole table. He decided

that figuring out what everyone owed was just too much trouble. It must be nice to have the money to do that so casually once in awhile. It helps if you were the 44th employee of Cisco, way back.

Late Friday night I finally joined the Texas Hold 'Em game that was going on in the con suite. Chips only, no money. It is a completely different game when no money is involved: "Hmmm, I have a 3 of hearts and an 8 of clubs. Who knows, there might be a 3 and an 8 on the table soon, I'll stay in, what the hell." Julie McGuff, who'd never played before, kept winning of course. I did really well too for awhile. I took Alan's place, and Luke McGuff was in it. Julie used to be Julie Humphries, married to Bill, but that didn't work out and now she is married to Luke. As her maiden name was Shivers, I can see why she didn't go back to that.

The last time I looked at the clock after I got back to the room and went to bed, it was 3:38 a.m. Not bad, considering that for me it was 6:38. I managed to sleep until around 8:30. It wouldn't be a con if I didn't end up very low on sleep.

Saturday started with the disappointment of the continental breakfast, but the rest of the day was much better. Mostly hung out in the con suite after breakfast, until the trip to

Art's amazing house on Saturday afternoon. He started building it a long time ago, with help from various people, but didn't start living there for many years. It is green, and hexagonally shaped. The expedition was only the first of at least two expeditions to Art's house. This one included (besides Art and me): John Berry and Eileen Gunn, Murray and Mary Ellen Moore, and Jack Bell. A neighbor stopped by and gave Art a present (Scotch of course) and Art opened it and gave everyone a taste. I can't comment on it as I don't like Scotch. We stood around on the deck that goes almost all the way around the amazing hexagonal house. His cat, Olivia, was a bit shy with all the people, but at least I managed to get close enough to pet her once or twice. Art calls her the "little itty bitty kitty from Kansas City." But she is a gorgeous grey cat and not all that small, probably partly due to her luxurious coat.

On the way there Art got his mail (he has to go to Gualala to get it, as he lives in Anchor Bay, and the road to his house isn't even completely paved) and on the way back he got a package from Dan Steffan, with a beautiful card and artwork for the next *Yhos* as the day's mail hadn't arrived yet when we passed the first time.

When we got back to the Breakers Inn we found out before even going to the con suite that it was being cleaned, so Ian and Yvonne invited to hang out in their room (Canada). That is when I found out how lucky I was to be in Japan. Canada had a bed that literally came up to my waist. I don't get it. I would have needed a step ladder or a stool to get into it. I heard that a few people at the con did have to request some kind of stool to get into bed.

Dinner Saturday night was at the Ocean-song restaurant, as we couldn't get reservations at the fancy Russian restaurant. We had nine people in the dinner party: me, Roberty Lichtman, Carol Carr, John D. Berry & Eileen Gunn, Pam Davis & Terry Floyd, Marci Malinowycz and of course, Art. When it was Art's turn to order, after ascertaining the crab cakes weren't served with the spicy sauce any more, he asked about the rice. Is there garlic? The waitress said there were herbs. Art said that he wanted garlic. I'm thinking good luck! When she gets to me, I demanded garlic in my rice too. The poor, patient, waitress says it is pre-made and there is no garlic. I picked the rice anyway as the other choices were mashed potatoes and I forget what else. When my entree comes, the rice had an awful taste but I couldn't place it. Instead of eating the rice, I dipped a roll in the wonderful garlic butter sauce of the shrimp scampi I ordered. Art used the rest of the calamari dip from the appetizer that Pam Davis ordered, which had garlic. Towards the end of the

meal, I realized the water tasted awful too, and exactly like the rice. But at least I had lots of garlic chunks in my entree.

Then more hanging out in the con suite, until it was time for the huge birthday cakes and scotch tasting. Several people from the town showed up to celebrate with us, including the woman who wrote the almost full page article about Art for a local paper. Alan had gotten two enormous cakes, which he said were each twice as big as he'd expected. One was chocolate and one was lemon, but it was better than most white cakes I've ever had. It had lemon curd in the middle! And the chocolate one was one of the best commercial cakes I'd ever had. I didn't taste the lemon one until the next morning, when many people in the con suite indulged in leftover cake.

At the birthday party, there were 15 bottles of scotch on the table. I was sorry I don't like scotch. But people also brought lots of wine, so there was a wine tasting too. The wines were arranged from driest to sweetest, with white at one end and red at another. Plus there was an amazing variety of food. I stuck to wine for awhile as I was too full for anything except liquids after dinner.

The con suite was very crowded for Saturday night, but somehow no one seemed to want to spill over into Art's room, next door. There was even a dog. I saw the dog with Hal O'Brien, and I thought, Hal and Ulrika drove from Seattle, it couldn't be their dog. But it was. They were staying in a vacation house a few miles away, as the hotel had a no dogs policy. Sarah was a great dog, eight years old and very well behaved in spite of all the noise and crowding.

At one point, Art read the 10 things it took him 90 years to learn. He published the list in his fanzine *Yhos*, so people could find it if they want. It was well written and many quite clever anti-religious points were made. Or maybe it was just anti-Christian, I can't quite recall and I don't know much about religion.

Eventually the crowd dwindled, and by the time there were a precious few left it was only a bit after 11 p.m. Eventually it was Mike and Karen and me, and Karen decided to go to bed, so we all left. It was 11:45! On a Saturday night. Geeeeeze! Corflu people definitely have more staying up power than Ditto people. I couldn't believe it. (I'm with the Corflu people there!)

Sunday morning another identical breakfast, except for the leftover birthday cake. How decadent. Over 1/2 was left, and almost everyone in the room had some. Then people went various places. I didn't go far - next door to the supermarket, which had postcards. I bought 6 but only mailed one. The hotel had free hotel postcards and I mailed a

few of those.

Eventually it came down to Murray Moore, Mary Ellen and me, left in the con suite. Everyone else had gone off somewhere to sight-see. I whined, "Don't leave me all alone and stranded in the con suite!" Yes, I think I was the only person there without a car. Mary Ellen assured me they wouldn't. So first we tried to find the vacation house to drop off my suitcase but couldn't. Then we drove some more and tried to find Bowling Ball beach. That was one of the expeditions people went on. At high tide, not much to see, but at low tide, lots of round rocks. We found some path with lots of holes, but when we got to an overlook, only one rock. So we tried to find the vacation house again, and found it. Whew! Art's fantastic car was well hidden, but luckily Murray recognized some other fan's car.

The vacation house was great. A huge living room, kitchen at one end, and two bedrooms. Also a day bed at the other end from the kitchen. Jack Bell had a 6 a.m. flight, so I got to stay in the room he was using. He said the house was all paid for and refused money, so I finally managed to press \$40 on Alan to offset expenses, feeling guilty about not paying anything for accommodations all weekend. It was perfect having the dead dog party in the vacation house. Hal and Ulrika had to stay there as no dogs were allowed in the hotel.

Some people went on an expedition to Bowling Ball Beach, but I didn't go. When I discovered you had to climb down a rope ladder (and up again!) I was glad I didn't go. I might have been able to do it but my being there would have probably detracted a bit from others' enjoyment.

Karen Schaffer had bought sausages, and Hal and Ulrika grilled them, so we had an excellent dinner as there were also veggies and cheese and many other leftovers.

Little by little people left until it was just the people staying there. Marci went to sleep and Hal and Ulrika and I watched "Chocolat" on TV. I think the house had a bunch of videos or DVDs for people to watch. I'd seen it a long time ago (7 years) and I had forgotten a lot of the details. Johnny Depp, Juliette Binoche, Henry Molina. Great movie. Karen and Mike came by around 8:25 a.m. to drive me to the airport, I got there very early (a bit before noon for a 2:05 flight) and the con was over.

One of the best Dittos ever, but who knows if there will ever be another?



Novacon 2007

November 2-4, 2007

Quality Hotel, Bentley, United Kingdom

Report by James Bacon

I have become comfortable heading up the M40 and on around Birmingham and coming off the treacherous M6 at junction 10 for Novacon. On this occasion, I departed central London directly from the end of a shift at about half-past two and was in the hotel for five o'clock, quite happy with my journey. I had looked up the AA's (er like green flag?) travel guide and balked at the idea of going up the recommended M1.

Novacon is the convention of the Birmingham science fiction group and is seen by some as the second SF convention in the UK, after Eastercon. Membership fluctuates, but this year I was informed there were well over 200 people along, which seems like a decent figure. This was the 37th, so they know what they are at.

I wandered into the Hotel in my train driver's uniform. The hotel itself is functionally perfect for the con runner, but occasionally unpopular for those who prefer certain creature comforts, although having grown up on a diet of crashing on floors and sleeping in overnight video rooms, I found the hotel room, which I was sharing with the whole Tech department, (also known as Noel Collier) to be quite satisfactory.

I unloaded bags and wandered down dressed in more appropriate convention clothing, ready for a relaxed evening. I was greeted by many friends, and this is what Novacon has become for me. Many years ago (er, five maybe) I was floundering in this exact same environment, bemoaning the fact that I knew so few people. Now though it is very different. I expect I know about 40% of attendees by name and a few others by reputation, which is more than enough to find a spot and get into a conversation of some sorts.

I was greeted by Alice Lawson and we chatted about things. Her husband Steve is the membership secretary -- actually he is most convention's membership sec, having been so for Interaction and a batch of Eastercons, but they are also friends, so it's nice to catch up and chat.

Many fans of repute abounded, but I made a beeline for the dealer's room. Mark Plummer and Claire Brialey work a table for Cold Tonnage Books, and there usually are some bargains to be had. This

INVENTING
LITURGICAL
DANCE
(STEP 4)



year there also were two tables set up with fans selling off their own collections and another raising funds, three stalls selling new and imported books, and a comics dealer. It's a good mix. There is a system as well, where a number of the dealers will gradually reduce the price of books as the weekend wears on, so if you are a betting man or have strong nerves, you can get a few really cheap bargains. The room is great value to begin with.

Ken Slater had a table, and at the end of the weekend he was selling his books at a decent reduction. These were new and imported, and I found one or two bargains. Strangely I don't know Ken well enough

really to start a conversation, let alone greet him which is odd, as I have read so much about him beginning with Operation Fantast and continuing with his fanac in fanzines. A strange barrier exists, mostly in my own mind I expect. I still bought a lot of books.

Ina Sharrock who is of the same era as Ken (er, all of them), knows who I am and I greeted her and was impressed with her Knights of Saint Fanthony Cloak. Peter Maebly (I think) had brought along a selection of Knights Garb to be displayed in the art show. It accompanied some interesting armour that Peter Weston took some pleasure in showing me. These fannish artefacts are indeed wonderful to behold. That kit that was used by a bunch of London and Cheltenham fans in a mock battle Ken Bulmer and Ted Tubb organised, spending 1959 Whitsun weekend in jousting and pageantry between London Circle and Cheltenham fans. I found it nice that 48 years later such things that maybe were thought as ephemeral items built for the moment were on display for a couple of hundred fans to view. (It was well made and deadly looking kit.)

It's one of the things I like, that sense of history. Fun is also high on my list and Peter produced a Beanie that Ina Sharrock had made, way back when I would have loved to have walked in and chatted with fans that I can only read about. A beanie: well, it was a Calvinistic moment if ever there was one.

The programme began and I went down and saw the opening ceremonies, then promptly returned to the warmth of the bar. Not that the programme wasn't good, but I needed to boost my quota of catching up and the bar is always the best place for this.

At some stage as Friday evening, I was asked if I wanted a drink. I don't drink quite as much as I think I should, but on this occasion I started and I forgot to finish. The bar is the hotel is recently refurbished, it's ample, and the hotel provides a selection of real ales. They had two ciders on tap including one that I named 'addiscum' which is the wrong name, but due to my foreign accent I enjoyed the apple flavoured scum and I got served this cheap booze readily. This flow of booze continued as I sat and chatted with many fans, I



Claire Brialey, Mark Plummer, Max

suppose Novacon does attract the more active fan, and I was blabbing away.

I then went to my first programme item, which was “Booze, Books and Food,” and started to drink wine, which is something I just don’t ever do at all, and was further badness. This was more a social item than anything else, but people won books and I was impressed with the cake.

The rest of the night went very well. I remembered that I hadn’t yet eaten dinner just in time for the midnight selection of bacon and sausages in baps, which filled in quite adequately. This type of grub, just as one needs it is a big win for me, tasty cheap and beer soaking, well one hopes.

I staggered really quite drunkenly to my room and collapsed not too late about 2 a.m., having by then been up about 22 hours. Noel reported that when he came in the lights were on, my glasses and clothes were on and I was askew. I slept well and found my glasses, but upon waking, I had a tremendous cacophony of pain in the brain.

Drugs work, and as I wandered down for breakfast, at about 8:30, I popped some pain brain killers and joined Fran and John Dowd and Bridget Bradshaw (Bug) for breakfast. It was good and I caught up with bug, our last Taff winner, who has a back complaint at the moment, but it got all dirty and rude real quick, which was fun.

Bug headed off to give her TAFF report, but I required more coffee, before I departed to man the LX con table. This was to be my BOO (base of operations) point for the weekend. There was no shortage of LX committee members on hand, so one could scoot off quickly for a chat or to see how the current pricing was in the dealers room. I drew the short straw on getting to the book auction, so didn’t and got the timing of the Interzone presentation all wrong (it’s a single stream, but the brain wasn’t fully functional). The day flew by as much networking was taking place and I spent much time chatting with Orbital programmers about programme. I can’t wait for next year’s Eastercon. It’s going to be great, and I am really pleased that it’s about 25 yards above and 700 yards away from my place of employment.

I spent a lot of time after the table closed chatting with Steve Cooper. Steve is relatively new to fandom, but he is one of those guys who just seems to fit in really well and gets on with much stuff. He was in charge of publications for Intersection, a very senior position, and was brilliant, and he is on the LX staff. I enjoy chatting with him as he is very intelligent and organised and someone who thinks open-mindedly.

Most people were heading off for food, so I suggested we do the same and we went to an Indian restaurant in a nearby retail park,

the Blue Chiwawa or something. I was unsure how they would react to my clothing. I was wearing shorts and an Irish rugby jersey, but they greeted us like we regulars with a “Great to see you again, Sir” from the manager, which was nice.

Food was superb here and there were some other fans also enjoying the pleasant and spacious surroundings. We talked about Steve’s own convention, Conrunner. This is going to be the UK con for con runners. Steve has the Glyceric Big Tent attitude, and we were contemplating how there are now actually a lot of people running events that offer much of what a convention does.

We returned to the hotel. I wasn’t drinking, you see, and had the car to hand and the bar filled up as people returned. I had the fantastically good intentions of going to most of the evening panels, but instead ended up in the bar chatting.

I was in good company with Steve and then joined by Mark and Claire and others. I found myself through an act of gentlemanly kindness sitting next to Ian Whates. Ian is another newish fan, although has been on the periphery for a while and a reader for many years. His small press won an award last year, and he has become involved with the British Science Fiction Association this year as the new editor of one of their magazines, *Matrix*. He also is running Newcon 4 with Ian Watson next October in Nottingham. Another busy fan.

I write a comic column for *Matrix* and had wanted to catch up and I found myself getting on very well with Ian, who seems to have the same sort of enthusiasm as I have, which is rare, but recognisable. Just like Steve, there was networking in abundance and discussion about future plans and thoughts and ideas.

Alice came up and was also chatting about LX. It felt like I was surrounded by “can do” people and the night flew by. At this stage I thought a scum cider



(Left) Kate Solomon (Right) Tobes Valois.

was in order and suddenly it was also time for baps. There was much fun with the ladies from the bar as one in particular physically showed me the agile movement potential of her flowery baps and the craic was mighty.

At some stage I was given the Duty Committee members waistcoat of power, by Steve Lawson, which didn’t cause too much concern, but when I duly passed this honour onto Tobes Valois, there were howls of protest and so Steve reluctantly re-donned the waistcoat in what is known as the Mother Teresa Habit style.

Sometime in the early hours of Sunday morning, (it was about 4 a.m.), a lovely lady I know through Alice, Kate, whom I was chatting with was asked by Geoff Ryman about *Battlestar Galactica*, and I was witness to a most amazing conversation about the series. To be honest, I was silenced. There were long words and I was amazed as Geoff said “I know you think I am being misogynistic, but you are seeing that wrong.” I was the onlooker here, Kate has an awesome personality and is a strong and also very clever woman and Geoff is of course an au-



thor and not a dullard at all. So I had a grandstand seat as aspects of Battlestar were dissected and discussed. I added a few bits and pieces, especially about Katie Sackoff, whom I have had the pleasure of enjoying a drink with, and how she as an actress is quite accomplished and does bring something to the character, a depth I felt. On it went an excellent discussion, and it made the weekend worth it. I was impressed with the level of detail and analysis that Geoff has delved to come up with his opinions and conclusions about the characters, which is most human or realistic and what the real message or evil is, and comparing this contemplatively to various aspects of what I know to be our own view on culture and society. It went on for ages. I was impressed but close enough to 5 a.m. it was time for bed, and so I went off, staggering to the room, more with tiredness than the drunken slouch of the previous night and I woke Noel as I blundered into the room, failing badly to make the key work as it should.

I had to get up at about nine and struggled to breakfast and found that the hotel was already catering to John Dowd's strange Tea Fetish and providing him with a urn of *lebensraum* proportions.

I again entrenched myself behind the LX table and sold memberships. Orbital and Conrunner continued to also gain members, with Orbital now in the last few furlongs getting people at this last of minutes. I continued to DART* in and out of the Dealers room. Mark Plummer set up a system to inform me of when dealers dropped. No Tic, Tak Toe here, nope, it was a mobile phone.

Later I met with the rest of the LX committee while a number of volunteers manned the Con Table. It was a great meeting and things are going very well indeed. Hayley Nuserre, who is our youngest committee member at 22, had turned up in time, and we got quite a bit sorted.

This was followed appropriately by my only panel duty of the weekend. I was on a panel about conventions, called "Seventy Years and Counting," along with Hayley, Greg Pickersgill and moderated by Novacon Chair Steve Green. (There are nearly as many Steves in UK fandom as James in Irish fandom.)

The future of conventions is always contentious; I don't think we as a fandom are doing enough to attract new people. We rely too much on those already in the know. I am also unhappy that we science fiction fans, a most pigeonholed subculture of society, are so quick to be judgemental about who goes to a media or comic convention. How can there be book dealers going to London Film and Comic Con without some people who might like our conventions in attendance.



Charles Stross, Anders Holstrom, and Geoff Ryman

Peter Weston wanted to get Greg talking about Mexicons, which he duly did but it was interesting that Fran Dowd pointed out that there didn't seem to be a desire for this type of literate convention and that she and others had cancelled Distraction, which seemed to be a con of this ilk, due to lack of interest. Mexicon was discussed at length.

I could see the way things were going, so asked Greg if Novacon was more like the Mexicons he seems to desire and yearn for. This got the response, which cracked me up, that "Novacon was slack," Hayley and myself pissed ourselves as the moderator went from referee to centre back defence.

The Big Tent Glycerism was taken in vain, as it was pointed out that isolationism can occur within the big tent creating lots of small tents but I don't think this is reason to exclude others, rather we as conrunners need to integrate all interests more actively and provide more mixing and social interaction opportunities.

The chair of next year's Eastercon mentioned she was concerned they would have too many members. At the moment, I think they have over seven hundred and fifty members and are on target for being one of the bigger Eastercons. It's going to be brilliant and an opportunity to get new people more involved. Greying was discussed but it's all talk, we need to do things. Hayley and myself and LX guys are. But it's hard work and one wonders about the efficiency and cost of such things. Luckily, though, the treasurer John Dowd has a level of sceptical intelligence that forces reflection upon my ideas, and this seems to work well, as he is also very supportive. It's a good balance.

It was a good panel. Hayley best summed up how the future might look in her opinion and as she said, "Things will be different."

The convention rounded off with a closing ceremony and awards. The Nova's the awards that democratically recognise fanzine achievement were presented and it was nice to see Mark Plummer win best fanwriter,

Prolapse win best fanzine, and Peter Weston win a special award.

Both men were duly embarrassed and pleased with their rockets.

Charlie Stross was Guest of Honour, but I didn't see anything with him on, so I expect it was fine for him and those who enjoyed him, which is good for them.

Novacon has a themed meal on Sunday night and this year Caribbean cuisine was on offer. There is also a beer tasting, whereby one brings three bottles of beer and in return you get a badge which allows you to go to the beer table and taste a half glass of beer. You can repeat this as much as you like until the beer runs out, which takes ages. The food, company and ciders were all good. This works well as it is an enticement for many to stay over on Sunday night and as the weather outside turned into a vicious looking thick fog. I was glad I was ensconced in the tech departments room of recharging.

I joined Max, Ang Rosin and others as we dragged huge couches together to form a big square of people. I gave Swedish fan Anders a hard time; there was horseplay and at times I dozed off, only to wake to the refrain of Lord Belborough**, but eventually, I meandered into the tech departments regenerative facility and crashed into sleep.

As usual I made it up for breakfast, and spent quite some time chatting before slowly moving to the bar area to continue coffee drinking. As I was sitting there, I was struck by an idea. This occasionally happens. I get ideas. It's dangerous.

Stefan Lancaster and I had been looking to run a small fun convention about zombies, but we had failed to find a suitably salubrious venue.

With the approval of the Novacon committee and assistance of Alice Lawson, within in a matter of hours, we had a deal, a date, a venue and a convention. Zombiecon was at last born. I was rather impressed with this final burst of productivity.

It was a lucky stroke as I was delayed leaving and it appeared Anders Holstrom had missed his flight home and required a lift to the Free State of Croydon, where I live, so we departed. The car was full of books headed home and for cold tonnage storage, and we made good time back.

It was a nice weekend.

*Dublin Area Rapid Transit

**Lord Belborough owns Winkstead Hall, Chigley's stately home in Trumptonshire. He travels almost everywhere on Bessie the steam engine and has a little song that goes "Time flies by when I'm the driver of a train, And I ride on the footplate there and back again, Under bridges over bridges to our destination." Eccentricity at its best.



Short History of the Late DC Worldcon Bid By Elspeth Kovar

These aren't facts, they're my own impressions. And just because I pontificate doesn't mean that I'm completely correct.

Few people actually pay attention to how Worldcons are chosen, just that a Worldcon happens in this or that place. The parties, that there's voting, perhaps some consideration of this bid vs. that, yes. But let's start with a useful number: the general agreement of people who've been involved in bidding is that the average cost of a winning North American Worldcon bid is about \$50,000.

Winning or not, a bid also requires people who have a fair amount of experience working on Worldcons in various areas of expertise and a willingness to dedicate a number of years of their life to the project; volunteers; people to throw parties and stuff envelopes; money for supplies; and all the rest. But when you're thinking of bidding for a convention one of the first things to look at is someplace to hold it.

As I understand it, the DC Worldcon bid came about during a break in the second day of the business meeting at Torcon III when some folks were casually tossing back and forth the idea of DC being a great place for a Worldcon. It wasn't a serious discussion, just the typical banter before heading back into the session. What made it different from most is that the group included someone who

has tremendous enthusiasm but whose profession often requires living outside the country for years at a time. And who thought that a DC Worldcon was a great idea.

That tremendous enthusiasm swept along everyone else who'd been chatting about the idea. After all, the Aussie bid – which is a very strong one – started with less. Quite abruptly there was a Worldcon bid and equally abruptly Michael Nelson, probably much to his own surprise, wound up being bid chair. I hadn't made it to the business meeting, so I learned about the bid later the same day. Although I didn't think the bid was a good idea I was involved in what happened next.

There was a significant difference between the Aussie bid and one for DC: Australia is a big place and already had several options for locations. DC isn't and didn't.

Mike made a valiant effort but most of the enthusiasm people had appears to have relaxed into the idea of a bid, not an actual bid. There was a fair amount of research and discussion but in the end the bid only continued as long as it did because Newton's first law prevailed: An object in motion will remain in motion unless acted upon by another force. Which eventually came along and the bid got around to officially folding.

The majority of the research addressed the content of recent letters to *File 770*, choosing the physical site. Some of us find this sort of thing interesting. It's like seeing if you can fit the same puzzle pieces into several differently shaped boards. (If you're really hooked on doing facilities you might even, when in an unfamiliar hotel, find yourself prowling around to see how it might be used for a convention.)

A Worldcon site needs a lot of things. To cover a few: hotels within a reasonable distance of each other that are willing to commit large enough room blocks so that members have places to stay. They have to be near wherever you're holding the convention. That has to have rooms for programming. Function space grouped together for the Art Show, Dealer's Room, displays, a concourse/mixing area, etc. There has to be a place large enough and sufficiently appropriate to hold the Hugos and Masquerade. Because traffic flow important if the space isn't contiguous add that to the complexity. And if you're using two properties, much less three, there's a lot of ground for people to cover: can that be made to work? You'll probably have how to get there (including parking), restaurants, what's within walking distance, what requires a car or other transportation, and other 'outside' things in mind as well. There's a lot more and right now you're not even considering cost. All you're doing is juggling things this way and that, finding out if a Worldcon will fit.

Three sites were proposed for DC: the area around the Convention Center, the Crystal City area, and the two grand old hotels off Connecticut Ave where Discon II was held. (Other possibilities were offered and shot down after a small amount of discussion, including one proposed by the bid chair.) All three sites were examined carefully by people who know facilities. None of the proposed sites proposed fit the requirements.

The Connecticut Ave. area is wonderful but you'd have to cut the Worldcon back to about 4,000 people. Crystal City has a lot of hotels in the area but the function space is scattered among them. I was interested in if the DC Convention Center would work if the Marriott headquarters hotel wasn't built so that's the one I know the most about and how it was examined.

The DC Convention Center is three blocks long and two blocks wide, large enough that a Worldcon could wind up in one of three different areas. So the distances given by hotels are even more of a rough approximation than usual. A map and ruler determined the actual walking distance from each hotel to either end of the Convention Center. Getting a list of the properties in the area is easy online. Then calls to the appropriate rep for each about how many rooms they'd commit for a block. The result showed that there just weren't enough rooms within a reasonable distance.

The DC government does bear some responsibility for the convention center headquarter hotel being delayed, but that's not the only factor. The travel industry has changed enough that properties can make more profit from transients than from conventions and naturally want to have most of their rooms available for that. But conventions need a certain number of rooms that can be blocked, that is, set aside for members of the convention rather than for transients. Reaching a compromise prolonged the negotiations and the date for groundbreaking kept being pushed further and further back.

As I said, few people pay attention to how a Worldcon bid works. Many more have noticed that this one didn't. By now I've heard two reasons for that, both involving fuss and feathers. Truth is much more boring: what it came down to is that while at the beginning DC was sometimes called an exploratory bid the impression people got, and what it quickly turned into, was an actual bid. Although there were some folks who gallantly try to make it work the conrunning community, those who do pay attention to how a Worldcon bid works, pretty much accepted that it was too soon.

At some point it won't be. DC is my hometown, I love it a great deal, and I think people will have a good time here. But the facts speak for themselves: this not the time.

The Fanivore

Jerry Kaufman

The cover by Jennifer Gates is wonderful - very generous of you to splash out for color and good paper stock. I must admit, though, that when I first saw it, I thought it was by Taral. The subject matter is a little similar, and the sinuous lines and somewhat simplified detail is very reminiscent of his work.

I found "Strangers Like Me" to be the most compelling reading this issue. I wasn't aware of two out of three controversies you covered. It didn't cross my mind that there ought to be Japanese nominees. The Worldcon rules are written with the assumption that works will be in English (aren't they?) and so few Japanese stories have been translated that it seems a forgone conclusion that there'd be no fiction eligible. As for other categories, we average sf fans see little Japanese film aside from anime.

My thoughts on the lack of women nominated for fiction are equally simplistic - it's just one of those years, and next year may easily swing the other way.

On the other hand, I was more familiar with the John Scalzi thing, having read Ulrika's LiveJournal thoughts and the responses she got. I looked at Scalzi's blog before voting on the Hugoes. It struck me as reasonably well-written, mostly of interest to people who are his friends, some of whom are fans. Based on my feelings about who or what a fan-writer is, he's not particularly.

I bear some blame for people like Randy Byers or Claire Brialey not getting nominated because I could have nominated them but kept putting it off until it was too late. Like yourself, they write for an audience of fans, whom they count as friends. This is the distinction I would make between what Scalzi does and what we do. It's not subject matter that makes the difference between fan writing and non-fiction writing; it's not the quality; it might not even be the distinction between paid work and free.

Yet this thing we call fan writing is hard to explain. When we try to pin it down, we use markers that we can never define, like "fannishness." Even Claire, who wrote about it in *Banana Wings* not long ago, couldn't pin it down to my satisfaction.

Since I find myself wandering off into related matters and digressing incoherently all over the place, I'm going to stop now.

Thanks for continuing to publish File 770 all these years.



Greg Benford

As usual, another intriguing issue. I like keeping track of fans I've known for, in some cases, over half a century! (Gad.)

A fan note of sorts: A year ago I had just finished the Tiptree bio, which now has won the Pulitzer and is out in paperback. But though I exchanged emails with Julie Phillips on what I saw as deficient reporting in the book, and she asked to use my information, it's not in the paperback at all. There are no changes. The CIA did an independent analysis of the Tiptree "double suicide" and concluded that it was in fact a murder-suicide. There's no evidence her husband agreed, and in fact he expressed concerns that she was planning something he didn't like. Phillips also missed that Tiptree was let go from the CIA, because she was seen as too unreliable. All this was in an Agency report. I asked a friend there to look, and he read me parts over the phone. Phillips could've gotten the report--the Agency does its own study when an important figure dies in odd circumstances--under the Freedom of Information act; she didn't.

Racoona Sheldon was a classic bipolar, and they're at least interesting; you never know what'll happen next (my first wife was one, too). Still, I think Heinlein was a more complex character than Tiptree. The upcoming

biography may show this. In any case he was a more interesting writer.

Chris Garcia

I remember the first issue of *F770* I ever read. It was in my buddy's collection of zines (mostly non-SF, but he was a *Factsheet 5* completist) back in Boston. It was issue 70 or so. And now, it's all grown up and 150. You even made it to 150 before *The Drink Tank*! And it's a great ish!

Love the cover! Anytime a zine gets to debut a new artist to the Fanzinistas of the world, it's a *mitzvah*! I looked at the cover and I went "Wow, that's a different piece from Taral" and then I got to the blurb explaining that it was Jennifer Gates. Great stuff. I might be forced to get her to do some art for me!

I've read Stiles' TAFF report and it's a wonderful piece. Since I'm running again this year, I look at all these reports and go "I'm expected to compete with *that* when I do mine?" and I know I'll fail that test. Still, Steve has the advantage of being a good artist. It's well worth a read, and since it supports TAFF, all the better!

News of the Warner Collection was passed around by John Purcell to enthusiastic responses from those who heard it. I read *Askance 3* and I think Mr. Halperin is *the* guy to have it. Still, I wanna get my hands on it and see what they've got and figure out a way to get some of it on-line. That's always my plan, isn't it?

Niven and Pournelle are doin' *Inferno* again? I'm not shocked, but I am interested. I've never made it through *The Mote in God's Eye* or *Inferno*, but I've bought multiple copies of each and given them away. I like Niven's writing and Pournelle has a strong connection to my day job. I'll give it a try, or at least buy it once it's out!

Lots of fan fund news. I voted in GUFF and that was a race where there was no bad choice. I was most pleased that there were so many great fans from Northern Europe on the ballot. I wanted to vote in JETS, but I'm not European, so I wasn't allowed. Sadness. Sadly, DUFF couldn't get someone for the race. Gotta buy Guy's report...

More and more, I'm becoming a giant fan of Brad Foster, which is only strange considering I spent 20-something years of my life not at all getting what he did. The piece on page 5 is awesome! His colored stuff of late, like the cover of *The Drink Tank's* Second

Annual Giant-Sized Annual and *Askance #1*, are all reasons to give him another Hugo!

TAFF has begun...almost. I'm official with Arnie Katz, Ted White, John Purcell, Mark Plummer and James Bacon as my nominators. Good bunch, that. No one else has announced, so they may end up making me a two-time loser without ever having finished a race! There may be hope from the Southern lands, though. Frank Wu's been workin' on things. Ever thought of running, Mike?

[[I ran for DUFF in 1979 and won, then got hired by the IRS and had to give up the trip (no vacation time accumulated). For years afterwards, a former DUFF winner used to look me up and personally veto any idea I might have of running again whenever fans were canvassing North American candidates. Like Jacob Marley, I wear the chains I forged in life!]]

The Company They Keep looks wonderful, but I haven't had the money to buy my copy yet. I will, soon too. I did recommend it to my uncle who's the head of the Hemet Public Library system and to my Mom, who does recommendations for the San Jose Public and San Jose State Library (which are housed in the same building). I must buy!

Thanks for the kind words about *SF/SF*. The bunch of us are hard-working fools trying to keep a regular schedule as, and these aren't my words, the *File 770* of The Bay Area. *eI* is my favorite zine right now along with *Prolapse* and the new issue of *Inca*. Just wonderful stuff. I can't wait for the next issue. Earl Kemp's a fannish legend.

A gaming con in Iraq. This came up around the Fanzine Lounge at Westercon. Doug Berry, a former game writer and all-around nice guy, was offered a job driving in Iraq. He's on the fence and I told him about Ziggurat Con and he was pleased. He's still not taking the job, but he was pleased to hear it as a former Army guy.

And we lose more important parts of the history of fandom. I've been compared to Walt Daugherty recently, so his death was quite troubling. Any man with a sub-1/4 of a second quick draw is to be missed. Clifton Amsbury was one of the founders of The Little Men, a group we're trying to bring back. I'll really miss Frank's stories. We all will.

The lack of Japanese nominees, especially in the Dramatic Presentation categories, was a shocker to me...even more than my name appearing on the ballot! Not many Japanese nominators participated. One theory is that the Japanese who were most likely to nominate are the ones who most love Western SF. Makes some bit of sense. I was hoping for at least one Japanese Fan Nominee.

In my eyes, any attempt at a political

solution to the lack of female nominees will be like forced bussing: it might work, or it might just throw everything into question. I read all the nominees and they're all good. As an aside, I read the first China Mieville book thinking that, like all the China's I knew, Mieville was a woman. My bad.

The Best Fan Writer is an interesting problem. We have to do one of two things: define the Best Fan Writer or redefine the category as Best Fan Writing. There's a difference. The latter would include a lot of the pros who only once in a while write fannish stuff. The former would require a definition that would likely exclude pros. Think about this...

If we say the Best Fan Writer goes to the Fan whose writing is determined to be the best and say any Pro writer is excluded, that makes it Best Fan Writer, emphasis on Fan. If we say Best Fan Writing, it would allow Pros who are also Fans, as long as they write fannish stuff. You see this is a really big problem.

I would like Fans to be the sole residents of Best Fan Writer. SFWA membership would exclude you. Make it the inverse of the Campbell Award minimums and you get the idea. But...pros can be fans (Langford, Carr, Resnick, even Jay Lake) and their writing should be eligible. There's no good way to look at it. It's a category that lacks a good definition.

I like John Scalzi. I think he's a good pro and I think his blog is worth reading. I'm not sure I would say he's a fan. Blogs complicate matters (as does sticking to strictly 64 word stanzas) and if we say that every blog that talks of SF is eligible, why not nominate Neil Gaiman? He's as eligible as John Scalzi is, right?

[[Even Robert Silverberg is eligible: since



his column for Asimov's is electronically distributed, the fact that he's paid to write it doesn't disqualify it as "fan" writing under our wonderful Hugo rules. Filling up the category with pros wasn't my idea of a cure, however.]]

Opening voting won't help. Folks will decry whatever we do, no matter how good intentioned. I really think that the best thing is for the Pros to understand and to decline nomination where necessary. I know that sounds bad, but it should be an award for Fans. Now, if they are legitimately fans, then there's no problem, but a realistic look should be required.

Hey, that's my smilin' mug on page 21 with Billy Petit! I love John's reviews (I'm betting we'll see his Westercon 2007 review in an upcoming *F770*) and this was another good one. I had a blast at WorldCon and I want another one in LA within a decade. I mean, it *has* to be 2016 to keep with the tradition of the 6's.

More great Foster art and a James Bacon review (the second part of which appears in the next *Drink Tank!*). I think that James and Niall Harrison are going to be the future of British Fan Writing. All sorts of Bacon writing have popped up over the last year. He's had writing in zines over the years, but seems to have ramped up lately.

That is that. A wonderful lettercol and a great bacover end this wonderful issue. Always love the art you manage to gather for your zines. I can't wait for the next one to drop. If there's one thing I can say for sure, it's that gimmicky LoCing is a lot harder than I thought it would be. I really must work on that!

Evelyn Leeper

It's nice that you had this issue proofread. However, the sub-head on page 21 ("L.A.con IV, the 64th World Science Fiction Convention") indicates that you may need a different proofreader. :-)

[[That's probably why I haven't got a loc from Glicksohn on the latest issue, because he hasn't stopped laughing yet....]]

I'm not sure how you established the vote margins for Langford's wins, given the Australian balloting and all. It seems to me that each year I was nominated, almost all my votes were picked up in the first round, and even if I came in second in that, I always finished well down in the pack after all the calculations were done.

[[I had you as second in the 2001 Fan Writer voting because you were the last "live" nominee in the first round voting -- you outlasted me by one round and my votes were redistributed to you and Langford, who

finished with a 54 vote plurality. (It is the case that I subsequently "won" the so-called second place runoff -- where Langford's votes were eliminated at the outset.))

Great cover!

Taral Wayne

Read your thoughts on the 2007 Hugos with near-interest. Near? Well, it's hardly worth getting worked up about them. If I do, I just get all bothered and frustrated. When do they ever lead you to suspect you live in the best of all possible worlds?

The fanwriter Hugo is always a problem since everybody in fandom writes, and the differences between the top 50 percentile are usually rather small. In the end, your judgement is going to be based more on subject matter than any kind of objective writing ability. What would you rather read, a fan article that happens to be about your hobby of collecting Disneyland balloons, but stylistically rates only so-so... or an article about Henry James's influence on later American writers, that's superbly researched and expertly expounded, but bores the pants off you... or a long article explaining why the worldcon rotation system isn't adequate anymore, though you haven't been to one in twelve years and still have another twelve years of paying your mortgage to go... or an insightful piece of self-analysis by a fan coming out of the closet who you've never heard of and don't care a fig leaf about? Inevitably you pick the writer who picks topics you enjoy.

For instance, I almost always like reading Steve Stile's fan articles. He's mainly known as a fan artist, but he's a superb writer as well, and he talks about subjects close and dear to my heart. His career as a professional graphics artist, his years in the underground comics, his vast experience casting the pearls of his cartooning genius in the fannish swine yard, his favourite *Mad* issues or comic book artists... Of course, I can imagine someone who's aching to read about another fan's flooded basement or troubles in getting their BA, who might be a trifle impatient about all this comic book junk. Like me, they're being subjective.

And there's the problem with the fanwriter category. It's just too damned subjective. Hence 17 writers splitting 49 nominations every year.

And now that the category is opened to writing on-line, i.e.: some ambitious cipher in the SFWA, the issue has become impossible. Virtually all of the 19,104,059 people posting something vaguely like fannish writing will be eligible.

The fanartist category I resist the tempta-

tion to discuss at this point. It's just effin' hopeless.

As for the 2007 Hugos not having women writers on the ballot. It is odd. But maybe that's all. Generally, women writers have been well represented in the Hugos so whatever the lingering prejudices about PMS as a legitimate topic for science fiction, could it be that it might not have been a particularly good year for women writers in SF... at least in the eyes of voters? It happens.

And sometimes it just doesn't work that the worldcon in some other country becomes a showcase for that country's talent. Look at the last Torcon. Robert J. Sawyer won his Hugo at last, but was any other Canadian even on the ballot? Compare to other years when the worldcon was in other cities where the fiction categories seemed dominated by UK and Canadian writers. What happened in 2003 then? Nothing.

Re: Harry Warner's house. If you could buy a home in Toronto that was 2,000 square feet for only "\$100K and is now twice that", you'd check the basement and closets for bodies. Try \$350,000 to \$600,000 depending on the neighbourhood.

One problem with buying books in Canada is that the coverprice still reflects the exchange between the Buck and the Loonie three years ago. So while the American dollar is worth maybe a nickel more than the Loonie these days, the Canadian price of a book published in the U.S. (which is 95% of them) is still 40% higher!

Joseph T. Major

Beautiful cover!

Heinlein Centennial: They had about 600 people, according to preliminary reports, but had originally boasted of three thousand. You do remember MidAmeriCon, don't you? Another report indicated that the general tenor of the panels was "How RAH Remade My Life." They were going to issue a Memory Book with articles on that topic. Earl Kemp's "Heinlein Happens," much less the fond memories of Alexei Panshin, were not on the table.

News: Did Halperin also get Warner's Hugo when he bought the fanzine collection? That at least ought to go to the WorldCon archives, or perhaps the SF Museum.

Fandom's Tangled Web: And the Military Book Club was offering as a premium... a set of WWII style playing cards. Fewer teens seem to be reading books at all. OTOH, they r doin lolcats. ROTFLMAO. (The scene in Charlie Stross's *Glasshouse* where Reeve enters the early twenty-first century recreationist project, and they note that there is hardly any surviving documentation of the

period, would say something to those people, except they don't have the facilities to read it.)

Obituaries: Aaaak!

Laurraine Tutihasi and **Mike Weasner** passed through Louisville on their way to his unit's reunion in Dayton. We met them at a odd local restaurant called "Lynn's Paradise Café" near where I work and where Lisa works. It's decorated in Early American Yard Sale. A pleasant time was had by all.

"**Strangers Like Me,**" they really like me! Er... I think the big quarrel will come when the complete reports are released, with the reports of which works and people *failed* to get nomination. It will be interesting to see which Japanese works are on the top fifteen lists, or indeed if any are.

[[*Virtually none at all, as it turned out.*]]

The Best Professional Fan Writer Hugo: You forgot Dr. John L. Flynn, Ph.D., Three-Time Hugo Nominee. Who is a professional writer writing about SF for academia and paying publications. I suppose it's a tribute to the field that we can sustain such. Maybe we should introduce him to his fellow academician Joel Nydahl.

[[*In defining pro and fan writing, I'm inclined to focus exclusively on sf and fantasy fiction writers. Most academics are classroom teachers primarily, and authors of scholarly publications secondarily. They're certainly entitled to whatever fame they achieve, but there is hardly ever any money in scholarly writing. (Not that there's very much in sf writing!)*]]

Conventional Reportage: And remember: All Fandom Has Always Been At War with Eastasia.

Is it me or is the leftmost picture of **Harlan Ellison** on Page 20 particularly unflattering? He looks like a glass goblin; one hopes someone doesn't shatter him.

The Fanivore: Robert Lichtman. The front of Warner's house is narrow, as I recall, so it must be the depth.

Lloyd Penney

Sorry it has taken so long for me to get to the 150th File 770...this jobhunting and working for a living takes away so much valuable fanac time. What are you going to do? Win the lottery? Congratulations on this historic zine, and here are some comments on it.

Great full-colour cover, and a treat for the furry fans, too. There's an artist to encourage, and this is the first step.

Not a lot of news to offer...CUFF seems to be moribund again, and the final Aurora ballot should be out sometime this weekend, but mention of Tommy Ferguson reminds me that to celebrate five years of wedded bliss,

the itinerant Tommy will be bringing his bride Leslie to Toronto near the end of September to spend a week in Toronto, so she can see where and why Tommy lived here for a couple of years. A special pub night is in order, and Yvonne's getting that prepared now at the Foxes' Den, the very pub Tommy started the Toronto First Thursdays at close to 12 years ago now.

And, of course, we find out about the Hugos and 2009 Worldcon in a few days, news straight from Japan. I'm to the point where I will accept all results of site selection and Hugo winners with not apathy, but acceptance. With that in mind, I don't think I shall see Worldcon again. What I would like to see are the rockets distributed more evenly, more to those who have none and away from those who have lots, and no offence to those who have some.

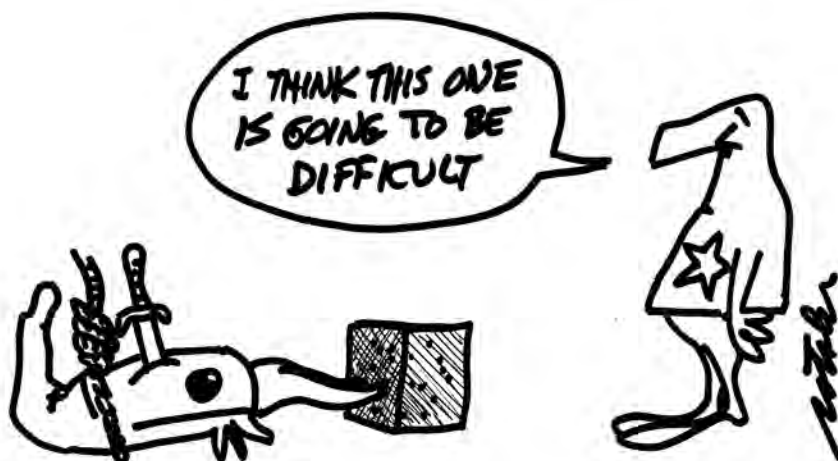
I thought there might be some Japanese names on the Hugo ballot this year, too, but perhaps the Japanese members had their own awards to vote on? Is there a general vote on the Seiuns, or that a juried award? The fact there's only 409 voting ballots for the Hugos indicates that the Japanese didn't care or didn't know about the Hugos, or that there were few North American fans who could scrape up enough cash to actually go. I wish we all had better contacts with Japanese fandom, and the Hugo ballot may be an indication that we have few general contacts, if any. I wish there was someone who would sum up Japanese fandom in English for a North American audience. (I'd like a paper fanzine version, of course, but a website would work wonders for trans-Pacific fan-nish relations.)

As for the Best Fan Writer Hugo...well, hope springs eternal, and perhaps Nippon 2007, with its reduced North American Hugo voting base, may not be the best time and place to discuss it. When Worldcon is in Denver or KC/Montreal, talking about pros in the fan categories may have more strength behind it. Hope still springs eternal for many of us.

I keep checking with Joyce Katz about Corflu Silver...for the first time, I will be attending, with Yvonne, an out-of-town Corflu, and we are looking forward to a week in Vegas with Corflu Silver as the capper. Should be great fun, and we look forward to seeing many there, including you.

I gather from interested sources that Torcon 3 dispensed the last of its monies, and the corporation is now officially folded. Ding dong, the wicked witch is dead... It's probably best to get more impartial information from Marah Searle-Kovacevic, the last chairman of the Torcon 3 board.

Oh, geeze, there's Garcia AGAIN! Photos, television, he's everywhere. He must



have a great agent. Yvonne and I had just the best time at LAcon IV. I've detailed my own good times elsewhere, but the parties were great, the staff lounge a welcome oasis of good food and smiles, the fanzine lounge a centre of feelgood and belonging to a bustling community, and main exhibit floor a maze of little nifties here and there to make one smile. As always at a Worldcon, there's hugging the folks you've missed all these years, and the intense feeling, the inner thrill that you truly belong, and that everyone understand you. I shall miss it terribly.

Support for a Montreal Worldcon surfaces here and there...Torcon put such a bad taste in our mouths, when asked if we would join up with the Montreal bidders, we said no, and have not even pre-supported them. We would have to make a decision if we wanted to hit the 401 for another Canadian Worldcon, and it's not as easy to make as you might think.

Thank you to Joy Smith on your good wishes. We're finding more and more ways to have some fun, and who knows how far we can go with each of these interesting directions we're going? The voicework is fun, and Yvonne has some interesting space-related projects up her sleeve.

Great illo on the back, too...based on the way they look, those 18 guys probably want to have a few stern words with their dentist, too...

Done for now. Again, congratulations on the 150 mark, congratulations to Diana on her new book, & a quick Chicken! to Sierra. We'll have a good time in Vegas in the spring.

John Purcell

Congratulations on reaching this landmark

issue, Mike! That is a lot of issues to pub, and this coming January is going to be another important fannish date: Thirty years of File 770. Man, that's a long time. Did you ever think that you'd ever stick with this thing for that long?

[[How skeptical was I that this zine would last? In the early 80s I decided against getting personalized 'File 770' license plates so they wouldn't be a constant reminder to local fans in case I stopped publishing. That was about 5 cars ago...]]

Also, have I ever mentioned to you how faanish it is living in College Station, Texas? Not for the fan activity; far from it. No, what I'm getting at are things like this: our car's license plate starts with the numbers "770." Plus there is a Langford Avenue, and one of my colleagues at Blinn College is a Joy Langford (absolutely no relationship to David; she's cute and married). There are other sfnal references around town -- street and business names, mainly - but my department head at Blinn not only shares the same last name as Farnsworth Wright, but she knows who that is! That was pretty cool. In any event, I thought you might like to know some of these things.

By now that tempest in a teapot surrounding my interview with James Halperin has blown over, and all is calm again. The disruption to the fannish continuum has been healed, and all seems right in the world again. Such as it is.

Your article "Strangers Like Me" was very interesting and thoughtful. Personally, I don't like the idea of professional writers being nominated for fan awards. Fans aren't in this thing for the money -- heck, a lot of the pros aren't really into it for the money since many of them hold down full time jobs teaching and elsewhere -- and I really don't think guys like Langford and Scalzi should

be allowed to be nominated for the Fan Writer Hugo if they have been paid for writing professionally. Granted, a lot of pros are still fans of the field and will write to and for fanzines -- I get locs from Greg Benford and Ted White, for example, and sometimes Will Shetterly or other fannish friends of mine who have sold professional fiction -- but just because they do doesn't mean they should be eligible for the Fan Writer Hugo. I dunno. It just seems hypocritical to me. And then I like these guys -- Greg, Ted, Dave Langford, and all -- so I don't want to hurt their feelings, but they're big boys and should be able to understand how I feel about this subject. Besides, I sometimes think that it's a Noble Thing that some one will occasionally withdraw their name from consideration for the Fan Hugos because they have either sold professionally as artist or writer, or simply want to give other deserving folks a chance. That's what Steve Stiles did last year for the last FAAn Awards handed out at Corflu Quire. That was a pretty classy thing to do, and I wish other people would follow his lead.

Once again, I really enjoyed the issue, and that cover art by Jennifer Gates was really nice! I may just have to ask her for something for *Askance*. Good job in getting fresh blood into fanzines, Mike. That's the way to do it.

Addendum: See, Mike? This is what happens when you produce an interesting issue: the reader can't stop thinking about what he or she has read, which prompts them to write back to you the next day, and the day after that, then maybe the following day, etc.

For instance, I was thinking about the Fan Hugos again this morning, and I remembered that a few months ago I had e-mailed Teddy Harvia (a.k.a., David Thayer, a.k.a., Miranda Thomsen) for possibly doing a cover for a future issue of *Askance*. He responded by saying that he had stopped doing fan art about four years ago in order to concentrate on writing a novel, among other things. So, if such is the case, then why is Teddy Harvia nominated for Best Fan Artist Hugo of 2006 if he didn't produce any original fan art in 2006?

This bugs me, and makes me think of a valid question. Should the Hugo committee of each WorldCon have some say about administering, regulating, and determining if any or all nominees are indeed qualified for nomination for that year? By his own admission, Teddy is not eligible this time around; in fact, he has not been a qualified contender since 2003 (if I have done the math correctly, that is). However, there his name resides on the final ballot for this year's Best Fan Artist Hugo. This problem gets compounded by the fact that I know and like David. He's a good

guy. Heck, all of the nominees are. However, it seems to me - and I may be talking out of my butt-hole here since I have no real idea how various Hugo committees and the WSFS work together in regards to the nomination procedure -- that each each World-Con's Hugo Awards committee needs to enforce some kind of "quality control" to ensure that a nominee for an award does, in fact, meet the eligibility criteria.

I dunno. This kind of stuff gives me headaches and is a main reason why I got disgusted with the Fan Hugos Way Back When in my first incarnation in fanac. Something sure seems to need a bit of fixing up here, and I felt that I should at least raise my voice about this particular concern.

Are we really getting to the point of seriously considering the abolishment of the Fan Hugo Awards? Judging by the discussion of recent years -- and past years, of course, since this is a long-running bone of contention -- this is something that might happen. Personally, I hope not, since even simply being nominated for a Fan Hugo is one hell of an honor. It probably won't ever happen to me, but if these award categories are kept, then perhaps this bears more serious thought. At the very least, let's start making sure that those individuals who are truly qualified to be nominated for these honors get recognized for their current efforts and not merely resting on past laurels.

Robert Lichtman

Belated congratulations on reaching the 150-issue milestone! Except for one of my apazines that's left that marker in the dust, I don't anticipate anything I do with wider circulation ever to reach that lofty number.

In your piece on the Warner fanzine collection, you write, "Purcell believes Halperin may help Jerry Weist write a book about fanzines using his newly-acquired research material." That should be an interesting challenge for them both. Weist knows fanzines primarily as collectible/saleable items and Halperin (primarily a businessman despite his past history publishing a few comics fanzines) has a trophy collection that's absolutely *not* indexed. This project needs input from someone with Actual Knowledge of fanzines and fandom. Well, at least Halperin made semi-encouraging noises about perhaps digitizing the entire collection. That would be very cool!

I read on one of the e-lists that I'm given credit as a contributor to *Brave New Words*. I wonder what I provided—I have no recollection of anyone approaching me, unless it was the person (just who I don't recall) for whom I typed out Tucker's words inventing the

term "space opera" from an issue of *Le Zombie*. I've just dropped him a line via his website asking for this information—and while I was at it, for a contributor's copy. Fat chance of that, I imagine, but am willing to be pleasantly surprised.

Your "Bradbury Feted" item reminds me to wonder if you're aware that a Graham Press of Los Angeles has published a hard-cover facsimile edition of *Futura Fantasia*, his fanzine published in 1939/40. Besides having all four issues, there's a preface by Bradbury and an interview with Bradbury and Ackerman. The endpapers are photos of fans from the period, and the cover is by Hannes Bok. Oh, and it's printed in green ink! It's available in three states: trade edition for \$35 (edition of 1,000), signed by Bradbury and in slipcase for \$150 (edition of 300, and signed by both Bradbury and Ackerman "in custom made clamshell box with photograph of Mr. Bradbury with the new book" for \$400 (edition of 52). I "made do" with the trade version myself.

Please note that *Ah! Sweet Laney!* continues to be available from Pat Virzi (virzi@swbell.net) for \$15 plus postage. Further details are available at efanzines.com, although the postage figures given there are from before the July rate increase. Best to contact Pat for complete and up-to-date information.

I appreciated your write up of John Scalzi's efforts to get a fanwriter Hugo. The main thing to note that's different about him from Carr, Shaw and Langford is that they were all fans *first*, while Scalzi is trying to break in via the back door of already being a pro using his blog as "credentials." I wonder what advantage he thinks is to be gained by going after this award given his track record as a pro. (Perhaps the answer is in his blog, but other than checking it out and determining that as a fanwriter he was unqualified in terms of writing quality—competent but not scintillating, like many of us—I haven't delved further.)

That would appear to be an uncredited Billy Pettit in the photo with Chris Garcia on the first page of John Hertz's enjoyable L.A.con IV report. In that report Art Widner is quoted as saying that Aubrey McDermott was the first fan. There appear to be schools of thought on this, and one of them holds that it's more or less a tie between McDermott and Cliff Amsbury, who you note in this issue's obituary section. Back in the '60s at a party at the home of Lou and Cynthia Goldstone—Lou himself being an early fan, and the cover artist for the program book for the first Los Angeles Worldcon in 1946 (scan attached)—both McDermott and Amsbury were present, claimed to go way back to the dawn of fandom, and as I recall were slightly

contentious about who came first.

In the letter column, Brad Foster makes a good point: "On the first comment, I don't see an electronic version of a zine in any way superior as far as long-term preservation over the hard print version. Aside from the long-going arguments of needing to have the appropriate technology to be able to view electronic media, compared to simply picking up and eyeballing hardcopy whenever you want, I've also run across a web-specific problem. In starting to put up the odd-links site on my own webpage, I went looking for some sites I found a year or three back that I wanted to share with people. Of the first five I went to, three were no longer there." I've encountered this myself in recent weeks. In conversation with an eBay buyer who's been going after auctions of Rotsler material, I pointed him to the Rotsler.com Website. In the section of articles, only one is actually available when the link is clicked. The other three take you to articles from *Mimosa*, but the location of those articles has changed and the owner of the Rotsler Website hasn't kept it up. I keep an extensive archive of electronic fanzines myself, concerned that this sort of disconnect could strike at any time.

Chris Garcia

It seems like all the zines I love to LoC arrive while I'm at events like the Cinequest Film Festival. And, like Ancient Greek clockwork, here's another *File 770*, staring at me from eFanzines.com while I'm still recovering the morning after the closing night party.

Love the Grant Canfield cover. For some reason it reminded me of what would happen if Rotsler and Schermeister got together with Stiles. It's a fun piece and a great way to start the ish!

Evelyn had her own knock-knock joke period, but since I'm a bit of an absurdist, I loved the ones that just flat didn't make sense. She started on longer jokes around 6 and has actually told the child-friendly version of one of my all-time faves, *The Old Man At The Wall*, to great effect.

Good to hear that Claire Brialey's stepped up to the Rotsler panel and I hope she'll get approved. She's a wonderful writer and has a darn good eye for these things. I've started thinking of doing an issue of *The Drink Tank*, with a few different long articles featuring the art of each winner of the Rotsler award. I think that'd be a fun one to go with.

The FAAn Awards weren't terribly shocking. Claire's the best Fan Writer without question (and the fact that I got the second most first place votes to her was very shocking) and Dan Steffan's another guy

who I've always voted with my first place spot. The only shock was that *Banana Wings* won and wasn't forced to surrender the title like it had to last year to *Chunga*.

Yep, I've said that I'll be doing CorFlu 2011, if the folks in England are willing to vote for it. I've even started looking for hotels. No one can say I ever do things last minute.

Lloyd Penney's adventures in voice-over are wonderful! As far as I know, the only folks who do semi-regular VO work are Lloyd, Lynn Gold and myself. If you go to guidolon.com, you can hear my performance as the title character in Frank Wu's insane cartoon project. I've even had a spot I did voice work for on local TV win a Local Emmy. I'm betting Lloyd will be the next Rob Paulson!

SO much stuff from the past is now on the web! Efanazines.com and FANAC.org are leading the way bringing this wonderful material to us. I'm working on scanning a number of the old N3F zines I bought at CorFlu. A couple of them have pieces from Harlan, LeeH and even Bob Tucker.

Mark Plummer sent me a note mentioning that in all of Greg Pickersgill's collection only seven zines listed an issue 119. I find that fascinating. I could only name three off the top of my head (*MT Void*, *Ansible* and *F770*) and then there's *The Drink Tank*. One of these things is not like the others...

I must pick up that book with Yvonne's paper. It just sounds so wonderful!

I haven't picked up my copy of *Ah, Sweet Laney* yet, despite having the chance at CorFlu. I've read a few things of Laney's, but precious little. I've never read all of *Ah, Sweet Idiocy* either, though there's a page or two on line that I've looked over and found really entertaining. True, it's nothing that anyone could get away with nowadays, but it's a really important look at what was going on in fandom back in the day.

I'm on Voices of Fandom. It's well-worth checking out. I'm a big fan of radio drama, oral history and oral interpretation, so it's right up my alley.

I've got a lot to say about Google. I love it, it's an important resource and it's what keeps Mountain View, California running with tax revenue. I also appreciate much of their stance on the matter of copyright. I'm not a fan of copyright, that's for sure. I think it creates a class system where the rich-enough-to-pay class has access to information while those below have little to none. It's much like the 14th Century, if you think about it. I believe that we need to open a lot of info up and Google is really the only way to do it right now. They've got the technology (which they share and rather openly) and they've got the people. I'm begging for the

day that one of the major fanzine collections goes to Google and asks them to do their scan thing because then we'll finally have a HUGE archive that the public can pull from. Anyone who cares about the history of anything should be supporting Google in their efforts to get that info out to the public.

I was a big Denver supporter (even though I was also the guy behind the Pacheco Progress zines for Hollister in 2008) and I'm glad that they won. I think I even bought my membership already, which would be an amazing thing since I've very rarely bought a membership so far out. I'm sure we'll get a good WorldCon out of them, even with the trouble of the Democratic National Convention messing up our hotel stays and so forth. I expect it to be one of the priciest WorldCons in a long time.

As for the 2009 race, I'm fully behind the good people in Montreal. I even did a full issue of *The Drink Tank* to promote it and I'm always talking it up. I think Rene's done a great job, introduced American fandom to Spruce Beer (the greatest weapon in this battle, in my opinion) and they've got a wonderful set of facilities. Not that there's anything wrong with Kansas City. It's a great place and the team they have are good too, though the recent SMOFcon debacle is seen by many as a negative. Still, Montreal's well in the lead in my eyes.

For the future, I'm hoping for another San Jose WorldCon and I'd love a DC edition too, though I understand that there's no seriously likely bid. That's a shame.

More fans lost before I ever got to meet them. I did meet Dick Eney briefly at LA-Con. I note the fact that *A Sense of FAPA* is the second largest fanzine ever published. Noting facts like that in my presence is a serious danger as I'm apt to try and break that record.

Delightful news about *The Company They Keep!* I've been told that you can tell how many books are being sold on Amazon by this formula- 1,000,000= 1 per year. 500,000- one a month, 250,000= one a week, 100,000= 1 a day, 50,000= 5 a day and below that the number get really big really fast.

I found my life inextricably tied to the cancellation of the 2007 Eastercon that made the Novacon so interesting. The loss of that con led to the loss of the TAFF race which I was in. These things happen. Still, James' article is very interesting. I've been told that I might be the US James Bacon. I'm not sure I live up to my end of that bargain, but it's a nice thought. I'm reminded by Max's sidebar about the room shared by me and Mr. John Purcell and by my recent trip to Cinequest. I'm well known around the festival for my constant motion and big energy, but at lunches, I almost always sit on my own and

enjoy a quiet meal. When I was asked by the founder of the fest why I did so I simply said "well, if you leave it on while you're charging, the batteries take longer to get back to full."

I love the clock image from Taral. It completely reminds me of the old *Far Side* cartoon where there's been a murder in a clock repair shop, every clock has been shot and is reading 4:20 and the detective says "Now all we have to do is establish the time of the murder." Good issue, as I've come to expect, and I'm hoping that we'll get another one soonish!

Earl Kemp

Mike, thank you for your kind words about *eI* in 770 #150. I keep trying....

I'm rapidly closing in on the sixth year of publication and, during all that time, the sf world doesn't seem to have noticed. Without the fan world, and academia, I would go completely unnoticed.

Robert Sabella

Thanks for *File 770* #150, which is indeed a nice round number. I'm happy your frequency has increased, although I certainly understand the problem of finding fanpublishing time while raising children.

Jennifer Gates's cover is delightful. I suspect she definitely has a future in the comic book industry. The last person I made that statement to was my AP Calculus student James Jean, and he has certainly been successful, so hopefully Jennifer will be successful as well.

The Best Professional Fan Writer Hugo. It's a damned shame when a person

cannot even question somebody's eligibility without being attacked in a flamewar. I wondered about John Scalzi's eligibility myself, although I did not post any comments (and, if I did, I doubt enough fans read my blog to have noticed it anyway). I guess blogging is now considered fanwriting, which kind of puts an entire different spin on the category. Dare I predict that with all the professional writers blogging that soon it will be difficult to find a real fan on the ballot at all? Hopefully it will not come to that.

[[Right now, the effectiveness of would-be fanwriter nominees in marketing themselves to the electorate is the decisive thing. But the electorate is Worldcon members. Naturally, there are ways besides blogging to reach them. Also, many pros blog to promote their writing careers, but few of them feel it helps their purpose to be tagged as a fanwriter. At this season, I think voters will wait for a pro blogger to show clear interest in being nominated for Best Fan Writer before writing in his/her name. On the other hand, there are only five slots on the ballot, so one cannot rule out the possibility of there being enough pros willing to fill them.]]

Eric Lindsay

Such an auspicious zine number.

If you do a PDF fanzine, should you make it so fancy that no-one would attempt to print the multi-colour version? Not having a printer, I admit I find the prospect entertaining. However, not having a printer, I also can't see much need to try to write anything more than web pages.

I am amazed to hear Leah and Dick Smith's cat Max reached 20 years. That cat always struck me as living dangerously. Too high for its station.

Many thanks for the con reports.

Henry Welch

It is nice to see you back on a more regular publishing pace even if it means I'll never catch up to you in issue number :-)

As much as I am unhappy with the Langford juggernaut, I agree with your comments on the fan writer Hugo. I agree that there is plenty of good fan writing out there, but as with all the fan Hugos, there is the matter of exposure. If there was an easy way for the voters to see samples that might help....

Alexis Gilliland

Thank you for *File 770* #150, a nicely turned out issue with lots of good stuff; only except for using none of my cartoons. Jennifer Gates's cover is quite attractive, but clearly an exercise in computer graphics. She might consider using a few more shadows and contrasting highlights to make her background look less like a painted backdrop, and to provide a foreground on which to place her otter warrior, who might well be taking a ballet leap in mid air.

At this point [July 2007] I am nearing the halfway mark on my radiation treatment, which seems to be going well, and when the doctors tell me something of interest I'll pass it along. Otherwise, I am reminded that gadgets, too, are mortal. My computer (a four-year-old e-Machine) failed to boot up one morning, and when the cost to repair it turned out to be about twice what it cost new, I went out and got a mini-Mac. One statistic: the old hard drive held 80 megabytes, the new one holds 80 gigabytes. Then, while I was messing around installing the new printer, the gas water heater (maybe 18 years old) developed a leak. So I called the plumbers, who came over that afternoon and installed a new one for about what the mini-Mac cost. Also at the end of May, we traded in the 1993 blue Subaru, which Lee drove, for a 2007 red Mustang convertible which she drives with enthusiasm and great joy. My own repairs are covered by Blue Cross/Blue Shield, but unlike the various gadgets it is doubtful that my new and improved state is going to be any major improvement. It may be better than it would have been, but probably not as good as it was.

Martin Morse Wooster has taken it upon himself to be your correspondent in resident on the subject of WSFA, even though my sources tell me he hasn't been to a WSFA meeting for quite some time. I don't doubt that he is quoting what Keith said on Keith's so-called WSFA list, but if Martin had taken the trouble to check his facts, he would have learned that Keith is not currently a member of WSFA, and that the club is considering legal action to make him stop using WSFA in the name of his list. His statement about Ted White is true, but meaningless in the absence of any context. The amendment to his report which he offers to Tim Marion suggests Martin has, finally, read my discussion dated 9/26/06, but reinforces my opinion that his original blurt was based on hearsay. What else? Because Confluence (five hours away) was changing its gestalt back in 2006, we weren't invited, so we didn't go. We also didn't go to this year's Balticon. The last two years we were not invited, but



when we showed up they did find a place for us on the program, and promised it wouldn't happen again. This year, despite Lee's several and repeated enquiries, it did happen again, and so we didn't go. Invitations are necessary, but not sufficient; I was invited to the WSFA Fourth of July picnic and skipped it, and received an invitation to attend this year's Capclave, but declined.

Keith Lynch

In the latest File 770 (#150), Martin Morse Wooster says I "loudly rejoined WSFA." This is incorrect. I resigned from WSFA in 2005, and have not rejoined, loudly or otherwise. Nor have I attended any WSFA meetings since 2005. Nor do I have any intention of doing either in the foreseeable future. I have no idea where he got the idea that I rejoined.

In the same letter, he says, "Remember, Ted White had not been a dues-paying member of WSFA for years." This is also incorrect. Indeed, as has been mentioned before in File 770, it was the fact that Ted's dues were current that set Alexis off in 2005. Alexis had long complained about freeloaders, but was far more upset when it turned out that Ted *wasn't* a freeloader. Alexis stated that Ted's WSFA membership (which dates to 1954) was false and in bad faith, and denounced several people (most of whom had no involvement) for paying Ted's membership or for accepting the money.

The vote to cease holding the club meetings at the Gilliland house was held three months, not one month, before Capclave, according to both WSFA's minutes (which are online) and Alexis's own libelous Capclave "fanzine"....

So was it "the most slanderous and inflammatory one-shot since Harlan Ellison kneed the mad dogs in the groin"? Having not read every one-shot, I can't say, but it's certainly the most inflammatory I've ever seen. If it doesn't meet the legal standard for libel, it can only be because no reasonable person is likely to believe a word of it.

If Wooster hasn't seen it, I'd be glad to show it to him.

Tim Marion

Just received *File 770:150* yesterday, and was overwhelmed by the beauty and color of the cover -- wow! Jennifer Gates is an excellent discovery and I very much appreciated her "otter warrior." She is no doubt destined to Go Places. Thanks, Mike, for sharing.

I can understand why Brian Earl Brown thinks you should change the name your

zine, but from my perspective, I'm glad you stuck with the title. I tend not to like titles with numbers in them, as I think it's confusing (for obvious reasons), but I remember at the time you started it that I was glad you had finally decided to stick with a title for a change. I've been archiving all my fanzines lately, including yours, so I am reminded of such newszine titles as *The Speed of Dark*, *The Sylmarillion*, and *Organlegger*. If there were any others, I didn't get them. May you continue to use this title until your 770th issue! (At which point it may be Sierra's duty to change it.)

Lots of letters from Sheryl Birkhead in your lettercol! Also a bit of egoboo for me. Both Gilliland and Wooster respond to my query about the publication Alexis allegedly distributed at a Capclave without really saying very much about it. Well, Alexis very politely told me it was none of my business, but not in those words, as, he said (again in different words) that it was a DNQ publication. My thought is that if it was a DNQ publication, it shouldn't even have been mentioned in the con report. Also, I had the impression, judging from Wooster's mentioning it, that he had actually been handed a copy. Apparently your impression, Mike, that he was not handed a copy, is the correct one.

But I am heartened by the fact that neither Wooster nor Gilliland, either due to politeness or just plain oversight, didn't correct me when, in my state of mental disassociation from fandom, I referred to "WSFA" as "WSFS"...which of course is a different entity altogether. That makes me feel like either a rank neo or a senile old phart, I'm not sure which...

Also I want to know where is Marie Rengstorff? *[[Hawaii, nowadays.]]* (If that's her correct spelling.) I don't know her from Eve, but her letters have really been interesting! She definitely writes the best letters I've read lately in fanzines.

Your mention of Ray Bradbury reminds me that he was in the news recently bitterly complaining about Michael Moore's movie title, *Fahrenheit 911*, and said that he "didn't give permission" for them to use that title. Sounds a bit clueless that he's putting his ego ahead of the message...and of course, you can't copyright titles, anyway.

We Also Heard From

Bill Breiding: Thanks for the glorious 150th issue of 770. The cover reminded me of a story by Gordon Dickson about an alien they called "Joe"; in the story he looked very much like the one on your cover. Joe was a talented artist (I think the story's title was "Black Joe") but no one would believe it

because he looked like an otter!

From #149 I ordered the Laney book; From #150 I have ordered the Stiles TAFF report from '68, and Guy's DUFF report. I probably would not know about these things otherwise, being a semi-gafiated paper fan.

Bill Warren: Reading the new [issue]. I see that in my letter you published I made a boneheaded claim -- that Laney had accused Forry and Walter J. Daugherty of being gay lovers. Since I wrote that, I read all of *AS!*; he never made the claim. For some reason, when I read parts of it years ago, I thought I saw that in there.

Joy V. Smith: Fantastic cover. I love the colors. And congratulations on your 150th issue.

I appreciated your fanzine reviews, including the Michael Moorcock quote: "even Cthulhu [would] make an excuse and leave ... and the Ordeal of the Million In-Jokes..." Also, the fanzine, fan, con, Hugo and other award news.

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COMPARATIVE SIZES OF
EXTINCT SPECIES FROM
THE LATE CRETACEOUS...



VELOCIRAPTOR
(about to eat lunch)

TIME TRAVELER
(about to be lunch)