

NOVOID

OUR SECOND ISSUE!!!!!!

BACK AT LAST!!!!!!

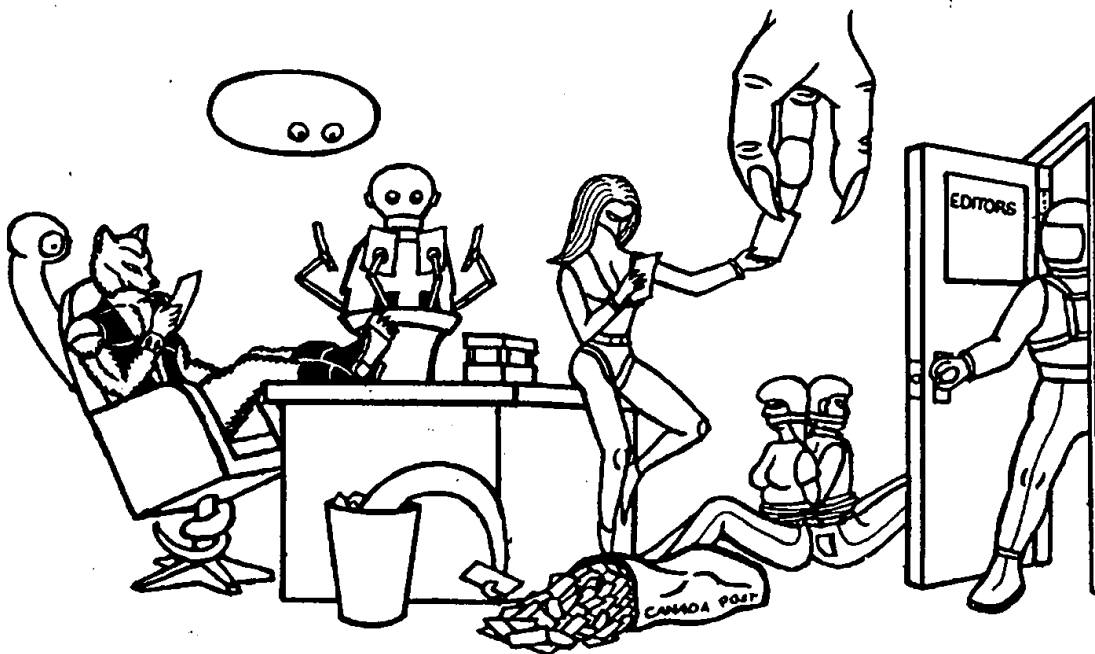
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| Guest Editorial - By Karl Johanson |
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I have decided to let Karl explain a few things about the bid for WorldCon '89 At Myles' House, since there seems to be a fair amount of confusion about what's *really* going on.

There seems to be a bit of confusion regarding whether this is a serious or a hoax bid. Sorry if we have been unclear. The major point of the bid is to have fun and to promote world peace (noble, huh?). When we started the bid we didn't really expect the positive response we got. We love the mail and the support we get, though.

Here comes the dilemma: some people are really fond of WorldCons (kind of a birthday, Christmas, Halloween and vacation combined into one). When we are vague it is part of us afraid to lead such people to expect things we can't provide. However, we are seriously bidding and hope to win. We can't provide, as some people we have talked to at cons have expected, multitrack programming, movie previews, dozens of guests and all the other things you get at a 'normal' WorldCon. We should be able to provide what was predicted in the flyers; i.e. goats, a trip to the rock quarry, four tents, mobile panel discussions and the like.

So the serious part is that we are bidding for the con, while our hoax or not so serious part is that it won't be a 'normal' WorldCon.

Practically speaking, it won't be likely that we could fit the thousands of people who might attend on Myles' property. To handle this we have two plans.

One: The WorldCon will last all year long, on whatever weekends or days members of the concom have off. That way we get less people at a time and can spend more time with each.

Two: The world wide approach. We have conceived of making the WorldCon worldwide to allow the entire population of the world to attend, not merely those who can afford the airfare. The con would still be centred at Myles' place. We might make some small portable Myles' houses to be at major cons.

Just as V-Con is also Convention this year, it could also be part of WorldCon '89. What do *you* think? Most people seem to like the idea. We will likely do a con booklet which we can send to any groups or individuals who want to take part. They can order the number they need, or else just get one and print their own copies.

My own comments:

I think that the major drawing card for WorldCon '89 At Myles' House is its uniqueness -- there really is no point in trying to make it similar to ordinary WorldCons, since you are defeating the whole purpose of having the con at Myles' house in the first place.

One of the advantages of having the con at Myles' house is, since you are doing away with the Mundane 'creature comforts' and stripping away much of the non-fannishness of the WorldCon, the result will have (I think) a greater appeal for the trufans, and will succeed in driving away the fringe fans and the fake fans, which I think the WorldCon would be better without. Why bother having thirty different rooms full of programming, when most of it really caters to the non-fannish fans? Of all the trufen out there, how many of them place a principal interest in programming to begin with? Sure, most fans go to some programming, but aren't things starting to get carried away here?

The same thing goes for guests. The original intent of having a guest at a convention was to honour them (why do you think they're called guests of honour?) for their achievements in the SFnal world. When you bring in dozens of celebrities, are you really serving this purpose? Or are you just providing fans with an opportunity to fawn over their favourite authors or artists? Again, aren't we getting carried away here?

Although you haven't addressed the Hugos specifically, Karl, the same thing applies here as well. Don't the Hugos suffer from the same disease of over-production that the rest of the WorldCon does? Why not run them more like the Caspers, where fans have a more realistic

(continued on page 9)

Rant and Rave...The Editors Babble on...

Hi there...if you saw NOVOID #1 then welcome back! If this is your first exposure to NOVOID then we sure hope you like it! Anyways, we have many interesting things to tell you, so I suppose we should get on with it.

First off, those who saw NOVOID #1 will notice that this issue is much bigger (not to mention that we are full-sheet size this time). It's a bit more expensive to do it this way, but we figured that this is a LOT easier to read!

Now for the news department...it seems that the small group of people that help put together this zine, plus a few others, are now organizing together to officially form a club. This club is known as SMOF, for Saskatoon's Members of Organized Fandom. For the diehard fen out there that think that SMOF is supposed to mean something else, our choice of a name may be a bit surprising. Come to think of it, either meaning of the abbreviation can apply to the club!!!

Also, some of the members of the club are boldly going where no Saskatoon fen have gone before--to the redoubtably famous Confusion, in Ann Arbor in late January. Should be an incredibly good time, assuming of course that the 2500 km long drive down there doesn't drive us nuts first! The preparation for an event of this magnitude is formidable, including finding out how to pronounce Somtow Sucharitkul's last name (it's pronounced as 'sioux-char-WRIT-cool). We had to go right to the source for THAT one.

Speaking of whom, we found a rather ironic comment by Stanley Schmidt in the lettercol of the April 1979 issue of Analog, where Somtow Sucharitkul's first story appeared. He commented that there were no Eastern SF writers, since 'Eastern cultures are ascientific.' Ahem. Where is lovable S. S. from, anyways???

While on the topic of irony, we also found a letter from a fellow named Don Wilson, which appeared in the August 1947 issue of Astounding SF. He comments on

"Tomorrow's Children," by Poul Anderson and F. N. Waldrop, saying "give their first effort a B plus, on its merits as a first effort. Here's hoping they will stay and improve; they ought to go somewhere." Well, we don't know about Waldrop, but it seems that Anderson managed to "go somewhere," huh?

Well, it seems that SF and Fantasy readers are no longer a small group of social outcasts as once was the case. Tom Ponting, Olympic medal-winning swimmer, says his favorite writers are Stephen R. Donaldson and T. Brooks. His favorite books, of course, are The Chronicles of Thomas Covenant. Gee, when athletic types start reading 'our crazy fiction,' it makes you wonder where SF/F is headed to.

You should enjoy the greater abundance of artwork in this issue. With many thanks to an Edmonton fened, we now have an abundance of artwork to play with! Still, we would like to see your creative efforts, especially your writing.

Well clear ether! See you in a few months...



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 FANZINE REVIEWS
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Come Hold The Moon Vol.2 No.1/2
 c/o David Gordon-MacDonald
 Box 5609, Stn. B, Victoria, B.C., V8R 6S4.
 Available for \$4.95 or the Usual.

This is the clubzine of the UVic Imaginative Fiction Society, containing fiction, art, and other sorts of fannish debris, assembled without any sort of editorial standards whatsoever. The writing ranges from bleargh to quite good, and the art ranges from fair to incredible. There are a number of illos by various Patons and, surprisingly, it's all wonderful! Jeffrey Taylor's submissions are scattered profusely throughout, with some incredibly clever cartoons.

The CREAZURES contributors sometimes take perverse pride in seeing how self-debasing they can get, which is sometimes quite amusing.



"I just washed it and now I can't do a thing with it."

Cause Celebre
 Garth Spencer, 1296 Richardson Road, Victoria, B.C., V8V 3E1
 15 pp. Available for \$1.00

In this one-shot, Garth discusses the history and future of the Canadian SF and Fantasy (Casper) Award. This is not easy, since nobody seems to agree on what's been happening. There



seems to be even less consensus on what to do with the award in the future. One of the problems with the Caspers is a lack of publicity. Let's hope that Garth's publication will help alleviate that, as the concept is worthwhile. ((I voted this year. Did you???)

The Dreamquester Nos. 3,5 and 6
 Sir Unicorn Enterprises, #210-12306
 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta,
 T5N 3K5
 11 - 19 pp. Available for \$0.50

This is the bimonthly 'newsy' publication of the Dreamquest Federation. Most of this zine is of interest to DQ members only, but it has some really nifty interviews. In #3 and 4 they interview R.L. Asprin, and in #5 and 6 they interviewed Stephen King.

It appears that this zine is mailed out only to DQ members, but a number of gaming outlets and bookstores in western Canada sell it.

IDOMO Nos. 18 and 19
 Chuck Connor, c/o Sildan House,
 Chediston Road, Wissett, Near Halesworth, Suffolk, UNITED KINGDOM,
 IP19 ONF.

Lots of pp. Available for the Usual, or records or tapes (DIY preferred); advanced obscene gestures, etc. Stamps are a last resort, he says.

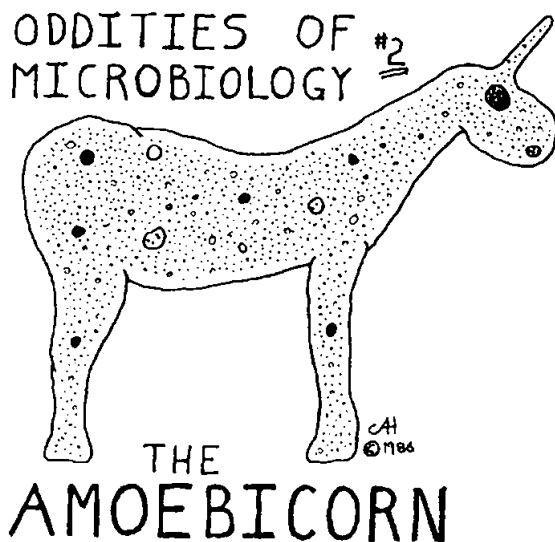
This is the first zine that I've

received from the U.K., and I hope they're all like this. Then again, maybe not.

One thing about this zine is that it's never boring...anything that reprints "Groans From the Gutter" by Bruce Kainins can't be boring - obscene, disgusting, controversial, maybe, but not dull. Chuck reviews dozens of fanzines, most of which I haven't heard of before, including a number from Canada. There's also some fiction, along with lots of clippings and artwork pirated from many sources. The net effect is pretty bizarre - it will put you into a really strange head-space if you read the whole thing through.

It is entertaining, though, and though it is a bit 'extremist', is at least a sourcebook for a myriad of zines and related publications.

Chuck doesn't number the pages, since he prefers not knowing just how much verbiage he's grinding out...



Mosaic Vol. 13, #3/4; Spring/summer 1980.
(subtitled Other Worlds: Fantasy and SF Since 1939)

Edited by J. Teunissen, with preface by Ray Bradbury.

208 Tier Bldg., University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2N2.

225 pp. paperbound. Available for \$14.95??

Mosaic is a journal devoted to the interdisciplinary study of literature. This issue happens to focus upon SF and Fantasy criticism, and contains 18 essays by various critics. The authors discussed range from Clarke, Asimov and Herbert to Stapledon, Bradbury and LeGuin. On the

whole, a rather broad-ranged survey of the field. However, it seems that some of the critics are not all that well-versed in the field, and come up with some rather strange conclusions. For example, Gorman Beauchamp's essay on the presence of a 'Frankenstein Complex' in Asimov's robot stories seems rather odd, since Asimov himself has been insisting that such a complex does not exist. Hmmm...

It's a worthwhile read if you are into academia, though if you haven't been exposed to this sort of thing, it might be wiser to start off with something on a smaller scale. It's all very intelligent, but I disagree heartily with some of the conclusions that some of the critics are drawing. Mind you, I'm pretty suspicious of critics as it is, so...

The Maple Leaf Rag Nos. 19 - 22.
Garth Spencer, 1296 Richardson Road, Victoria, B.C., V8V 3E1
18 pp. Available for the Usual or \$1.00, or \$8.00 for 8 (1 yr. sub.)

Issue #22 is a special "WorldCon '89 At Myles' House" issue, with a MylesCon cover, to boot!

The Rag is Canada's fannish answer to ~~Pryda~~ The Globe and Mail, with all sorts of news about the fandom scene in Canada, assuming something is happening in the first place - which is why Saskatchewan is hardly ever mentioned (GET THE HINT, FELLOW SASKATCHEWANIANS???). Since fandom is by nature rather chaotic, a publication of this type is invaluable, especially for people out in the boonies like/Saskatoon.

Unfortunately, Garth is having a bit of trouble supporting the Rag (gee, that sounds familiar), so the more subscribers he gets the better he feels - and it also gives him the impression that he's doing something that actually is useful.

Also, the success of the Rag depends on the quality/quantity of the news that he gets. Bluntly put, no news, no Rag. So, if something is happening in your area (assuming of course you live in Canada!) let him know, eh? ((You can get off your soapbox now, Colin))

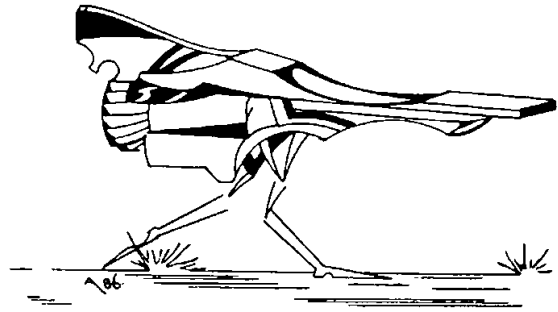
NEOLOGY Vol.10 Nos.3,4/5,6; Vol.11 No.1
 ESFACAS, Box 4071, Edmonton, Alberta, T6E 4S8.
 Available for \$1.00, or the Usual. Free with
 ESFACAS membership (\$8/yr out-of-town).

This is the 'killer' clubzine of the
 Edmonton SF And Comic Arts Society. Vol. 10
 was edited by Georges Giguere, who did such
 a fantastic job, so that the issues he edited
 have been nominated for a Casper award.

This clubzine is as near perfect as a
 zine can get - the club news isn't boring,
 and fills in outsiders on the ~~feed~~ latest
 happenings.

The latest issue is printed sideways,
 which I find rather hard to read. Ok for a
 change in pace, but it isn't something I'd
 like to see regularly. Kathleen Moore is the
 new editor, and she continues the tradition
 of having a bit of controversy in the zine -
 in her first issue, Terry Broome discusses
 elitism in fandom, and Robert Runte shows why
 he believes writers' workshops are essential.

Georges Giguere continues to do the
 mimeo for NEOLOGY, which is impeccable as
 always.



New Canadian Fandom No. 8
 Robert Runte, P.O. Box 4655, P.S.S.E.,
 Edmonton, Alberta, T6E 5G5.
 42 pp. Available for the Usual, \$2.00
 or subscriptions to the Maple Leaf Rag.

The only real creeb I can find with
 this zine is the total absence of anything
 on page 4. The mimeo burped again, Rob?

Other than that, it's fantastic!
 There are huge seething piles of art,
 scads of reviews, and lots of other
 articles, including an interesting
 essay by allan brockmen.

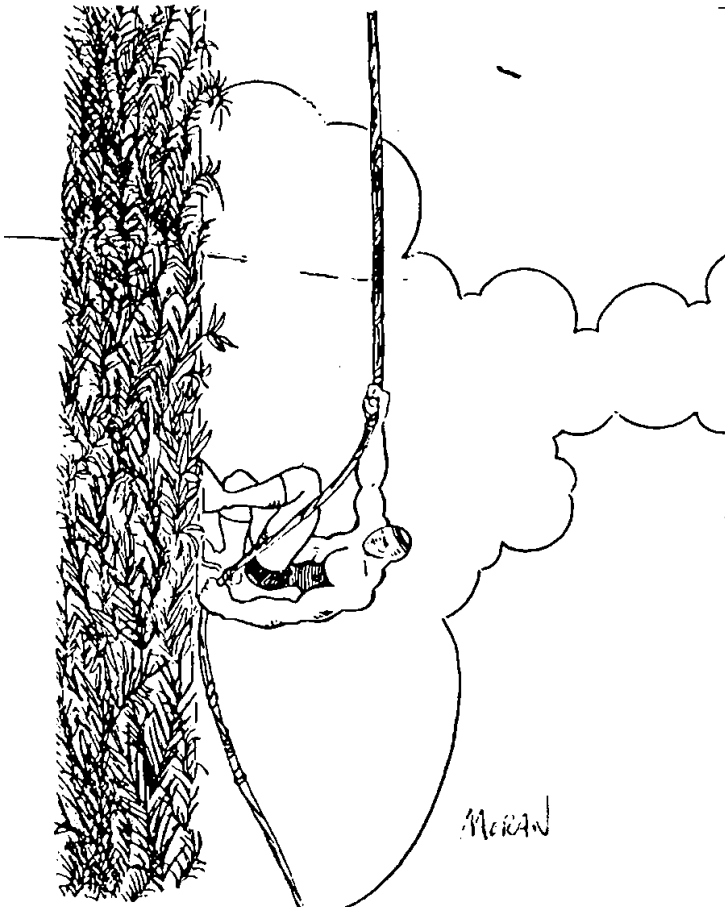
Another wonderful zine, worthy of
 the Casper nomination that it received.
 Unfortunately, Robert is ~~threatening to~~
 gafiating soon, so there may not be any
 more of NCF.

Most highly recommended; get a copy
 while they are still available.

Potboiler No. 8/9 (Spring/Summer 1984)
 Lari Davidson, Richards Road, Roberts
 Creek, B.C., VON 2W0.
 72 pp. Available for \$2.50.

This is another fictionzine, but
 this one is completely unlike Come Hold
The Moon, in that this zine is pure
class. Lari obviously has very high
 standards - this zine easily disproves
 Harlan Ellison's statement that 'no
 fanzine fiction is worth reading.'

Some of the stories in this issue
 were rather DUMB, but the overall quality
 is very good, and the illustrations are
 also very good, with some exceptional
 illos by Larry Dickison for Jim Latimer's
 story, "Because Grass Is Boring." I
 thought the latter was worth the cover
 price on its own, as it is so screamingly
 funny! There are 12 other stories in
 this issue, plus a column (?) by Bruce
 Kalnins, "Groans From the Gutter" (the
 same one that was reprinted in Idomo).

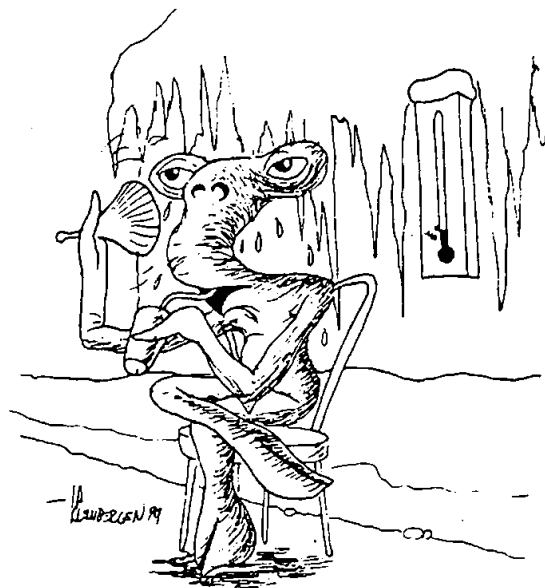


Sneeology; also Lock Up Your Goats
 WorldCon '89 At Myles' House
 c/o Myles Bos, 4196 Blenkinsop Road,
 Victoria, B.C., V8X 2C4.
 Available for 'an LoC, a trade, a SASE,
 a hard time or a million dollars.' Or
 so they say.

Since we ardently support the BosCon cause, it's impossible for us to be objective about this. Let's face it, here is something that is uniquely Canadian! American fen rely on the attraction of mundane things to draw WorldCons - luxury hotels, fresh crab meat, shopping plazas, high crime rates, and so forth. Myles realizes that these trappings don't make a WorldCon, and realizes that nothing short of goats, two golf courses, pup tents, and an elementary school will create a trufanish WorldCon these days.

So what if most fans won't come to this unique kind of WorldCon? Who needs all the riff-raff anyways? If all the drobes, gamers, and mediafen stayed home, the WorldCon would be a much smaller event, with a truly trufannish atmosphere.

Their bid literature is very amusing. Lock Up Your Goats contains a proposed programming schedule in really microreduced (we're talking microfiche size here) type - which just goes to show that, yes, they *have* planned things out. Why not bring fandom back to its roots, and support their bid? At least send for their bid progress literature. (Note: there will be bid support parties held at both KeyCon and Con-Version III, both held by yours truly and the usual gang of crazy Saskafen.)



Stranger In The Night (Weird In The Day But...)
 Beth Finkbinder, P.O. Box 8521, Moscow,
 Idaho, U.S.A., 83843.
 23 pp. Available for; I imagine, the Usual.

Beth comments that every fanzine needs a theme and, whereas some themes are planned, others just...happen. This zine's theme happens to be 'sex and drugs and rock-n-roll.' A number of her contributors seem to be new finds, and they're all surprisingly good. The cartoons by Tom Millhorn, Dan Willems, and Ari Burns are all hilarious, and the rest of the artwork is well done (especially the cover, which is *wonderful*).

The articles are sometimes highly personal and introspective, amusing, controversial, or just plain interesting.

Included in this issue, of course, is the ubiquitous convention report; a very nicely done one by Beth herself, on her MosCon experiences (sounds like we really missed out on something. Drat.).

To Be Announced Nos. 1 and 2
 Strawberry Jam Comics, Inc., P.O. Box
 40430, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.,
 94704-4430.
 34 pp. Available for US\$1.50 or
 CDN\$1.75. Try your local comics store.

Since we don't have a comics column yet (THOUGH WE'D BE DELIGHTED TO HAVE ONE, PEOPLE), this publication is going to be reviewed *here*.

Uh, oh.

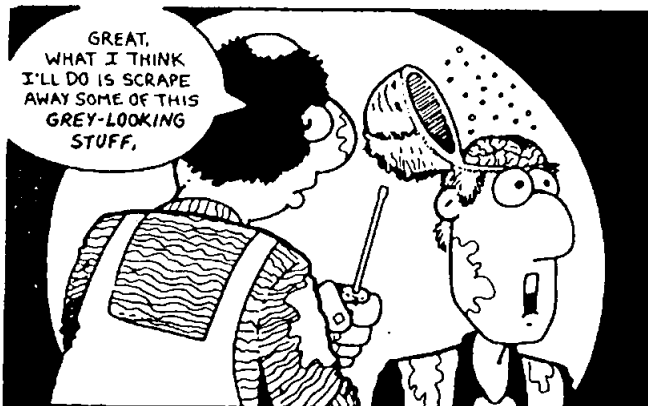
I think I have discovered something.

I used to think that comics were either of the super-hero variety (like *PanUniverseMan With Electric Tentacles (Magical, Too Boot)*), which simply don't hold my interest, or of the mindless junk style (such as *Archie Demolecularizes Mr. Weatherbee #346* or *Richie Rich's Very Own Space Shuttle*). But this is different...

I think I've finally discovered what comics fans were always screaming about. I was always content with good ol' SF, but now I've stumbled upon something entirely new. And it's all these guys' fault.

Just when you're minding your own business finding a groove in one sort of fandom, someone throws another kind at you. I'm sure you're all wondering what on earth is in these things to change a fan so profoundly. Well, how else can you react to such demented TV parody like 'Sesame Street Blues', 'Invasion of the Potato People!', 'Wide World of Blood Sports', and other like-minded sillinesses? This isn't TV parody of the *Mad* variety, either. It's more like SCTV, except without dumb actors. The only disappointment that I find is with the serious stories, drawn by Alexander. They really clash with the inspired lunacy of the rest of the comic.

Judge for yourself. The panel below is from "Home Brain Repair" (TBA #2), and is rather typical of the comic's general style:



If you're lucky, it might make a comics fan out of you. If you're really lucky, it won't (just another thing to spend gobs of money on, I'm afraid.)



'Ukulele Nos. 1 and 2.

Daniel Farr, #403, 1750 Kalakaua Ave., Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A., 96826.

Available for the Usual.

This is a monthly newsy personal-zine which, due to its briefness (about five pages) just *flows* along from start to finish. He comments about NASA, the decrepit state of fandom in Hawaii (Gee, that sounds vaguely familiar), and reviews an assortment of fanzines in a friendly, chatty style.

No artwork at all, but the way Daniel presents his zine, it doesn't really need any.

Why You Got This Zine No. 1

c/o Karl Johanson, #2, 464 Gorge Rd. E. Victoria, B.C., V8T 2W4.

Available for the Usual.

Hahahaha!!! This is the ultimate in special purpose zines - if you can fill four pages with reasons why you got the thing, you don't really need to write the *rest* of the zine, do you?

Some of the reasons/excuses are screamingly funny, and any faned whose tastes run in this direction deserve to

get ahold of a copy. I'm sure this zine will be one of the most pirated ones in the future, as many faneds may want to borrow a bit of this kind of mindless humour in the future.

Please note, of course, that we did not steal any of these - we're far too original for that. (*Yeah, right, sure, we believe you.*) OK, see for yourself.

Zoology Vol. 2, Nos. 1, 2 and 3.
Mike Skeet, Sign of the Drunken Unicorn,
79 Karma Road, Unionville, Ontario, L3R 4S8
Available for the Usual.

More smiles and chuckles, brought to you by ESFOGian Mike Skeet. These zines contain news (which may or may not be real), LoCs (likewise), and other special

What is the 'Usual', you ask? The Usual refers to the 'usual' fan's way of obtaining fanzines (aside from sending money). This includes: submissions (you will be dearly loved for these), a LoC (letter of comment), a trade (send 'em your fanzine and they'll reciprocate -- hopefully) or the (sometimes) coveted Editorial Whim.

Continued from page 2

chance of democratically choosing what they consider to be best? If the costs of producing the Hugos as lavishly as they are, results in a cost of thirty or forty dollars to vote, why keep it up? Why should a few hundred well-to-do fans determine what's to be called 'excellent'? Granted, the Hugos may have lost impact to everyone besides the book publishers; so, why not restore some meaning to them by giving the selection back to the fans?

I guess the real catchword here is 'overproduction' - each successive concon is more intent on producing the most lavish of shows and attracting the biggest ever crowd. Since a membership in the WorldCon is required to choose successive WorldCons, the oligarchy perpetuates itself. And if a minority is interested in the fate of the WorldCon, doesn't that say something about the cares of the rest of fandom? After all, the WorldCon isn't a goddam circus -- why don't we start running World Conventions for a change?

This is why I think that something like WorldCon '89 At Myles' House is so drastically needed. If the present WorldCon has

features (interpret how you wish - or dare!). The latest issue contains the rules and history of Pink Flamingo Croquet, which is played with (you guessed it) plastic pink flamingos, and a round fuzzy ball called a 'tribble' (ghod!). Also revealed in various issues are the favourite hobbies and sports of some ESFOGians, most of whom survive to talk about it.

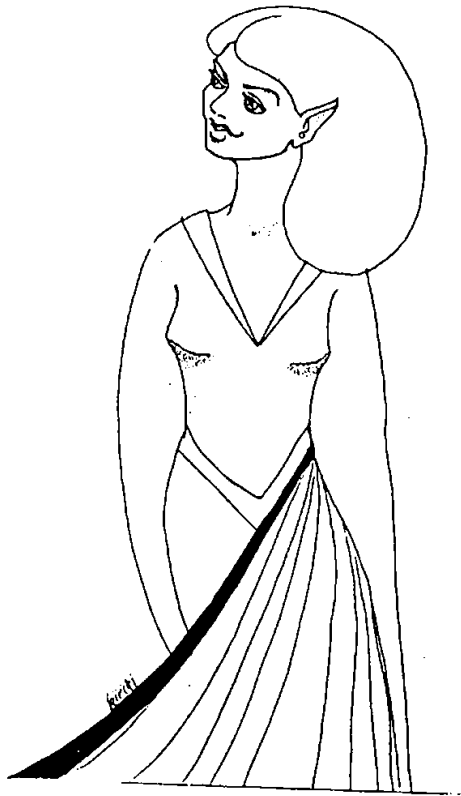
The classified ads reveal that Cathy Jackel has developed a new type of building material (just add water), although it might be difficult to get ahold of her, since it has been reported that she has recently journeyed to Oz, whups, Australia.

If you can't tell the difference between the real news and the imaginary, and the difference between real people and pseudonyms, that's your problem.

deviated too far from the intent of a world SF convention, then only a radical influx of new ideas can change peoples' attitudes about the WorldCon enough to bring about a change. I think that the Myles Bos bid is doing at least that -- the people that actively support Myles surely realize this, and perhaps other fans' minds are sufficiently stimulated to realize that some change in the current state of affairs might be beneficial.

I don't expect WorldCon '89 At Myles' House to win the bid, although I would like to see it happen. I don't think it's necessary for them to win for change to be brought about. That this bid is supported at all indicates that people are starting to think differently -- this is probably the best we can expect for now.

Another group that is attempting to bring about change is the Bermuda Triangle In '88 committee. Although their idea of a new concept differs radically from the Mylescon idea, the main idea is that others are considering a change also. Who knows? Maybe some of these new ideas will help shape future WorldCons.

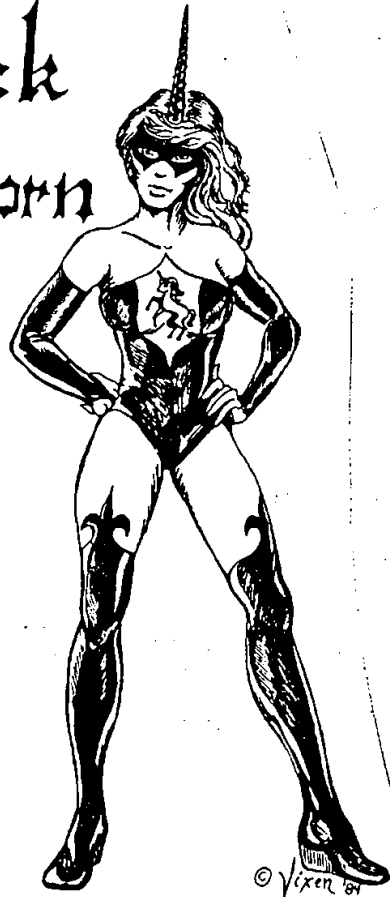


SPECIAL BONUS!

NO EXTRA COST!

YES...

Black Unicorn

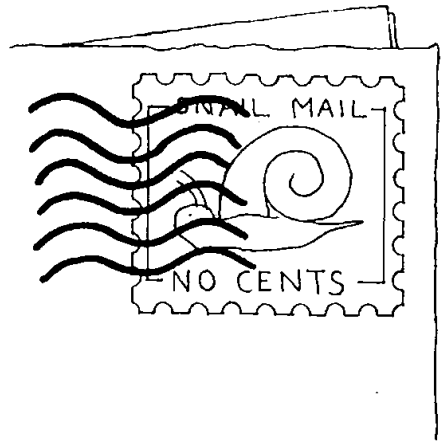


IT'S PAGE

9.5 !!

Wow!

LETTERS



Georges Giguere
9645 84th Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T6C 1E7
5 December 1985

Thought it'd be best to respond directly, after all, seeing my name twice on the bacover was a cheerful slice of egoboo. Thanks, eh? (note the Canadian content)

I enjoyed NOVOID 1. A really good first zine; the only creeps I can point out are your superreduced typeface, which the copier doesn't do justice to, and the distinct lack of artwork.

The typeface is hard to read - well, I'd only get mud on a mimeograph at that size; a pity, because I know what the original of that should look like - quite good, yes. May I recommend reducing your text no more than 80% of the original (if using 12-point Elite typefaces, otherwise, 10-point Pica size can go to 74%. 16-point microelite shouldn't be reduced further unless you're printing it all off a computer printer). You have lots of margin space; I leave 1/2" all-round due to the limitations of my particular Gestetners, but there's more leeway with Xerographic copying.

Nice to see you all in good humours. Being massively uninterested in computers, the light tone was all that kept me reading Allan's article. Eric's article on building a robot was silly, fun, and finished leaving me thinking, "You're weird, Eric." Interesting conreport on ConVersion, though I must differ with your estimation of the Twilight Zone TV show - I've never had my presumed intelligence so mercilessly insulted ~~in my life~~ as when I ~~watched~~ spent time watching this unmitigated piece of Sci-Fi As Hollywood Hacks See It. Double Bleargh! A good excuse for deployment of tactical nuclear weaponry.

Back to the conreport, you got good results on the photos. It would be too much trouble to send any of my pictures to anybody, so I don't/won't. Usually my pictures won't copy too well anyway; too much red... But they'll be accesible to all at local conventions; just see me and ask, or hit the convention suite.

Some comments on your Neofan's Dictionary (a Really Good Idea to have included): the letters "fmz" derive from "FanMagazine" which, it seems, was the original term for fanzine back in paleolithic times. Fringefans are there for the party. And Forry Ackerman is credited with coining the term "sci-fi"; it was Harlan Ellison railing at the world that brought the term into such disfavour. Myself, I prefer the term when speaking with non-fans; they can relate to it easily, and if they get funny I point out that it's better to read SF, westerns, or even whorelequins than nothing at all.

And some standing-on-a-soapbox: I REALLY HATE THE WORD "MUNDANE" when talking about the who aren't science fiction fans, unless they really truly are mundane, as people. The best way to establish one's superiority over other another who lacks a science-fiction mentality

is to use the concepts you read about in your day-to-day interactions with the outside world. To say you're better than another rings with truth when you back it up with creative (to them) thought/speech and actually Do Something with it.

A word on the cover-art listing: *yawn*.

Have you gotten the latest NEOLOGY? (V10 #4/5) Let me know if you haven't. If I'm feeling super-productive I may do some serious fanwriting this month, but NEOLOGY will be happening by the New Year, so We'll See.

From the editor:

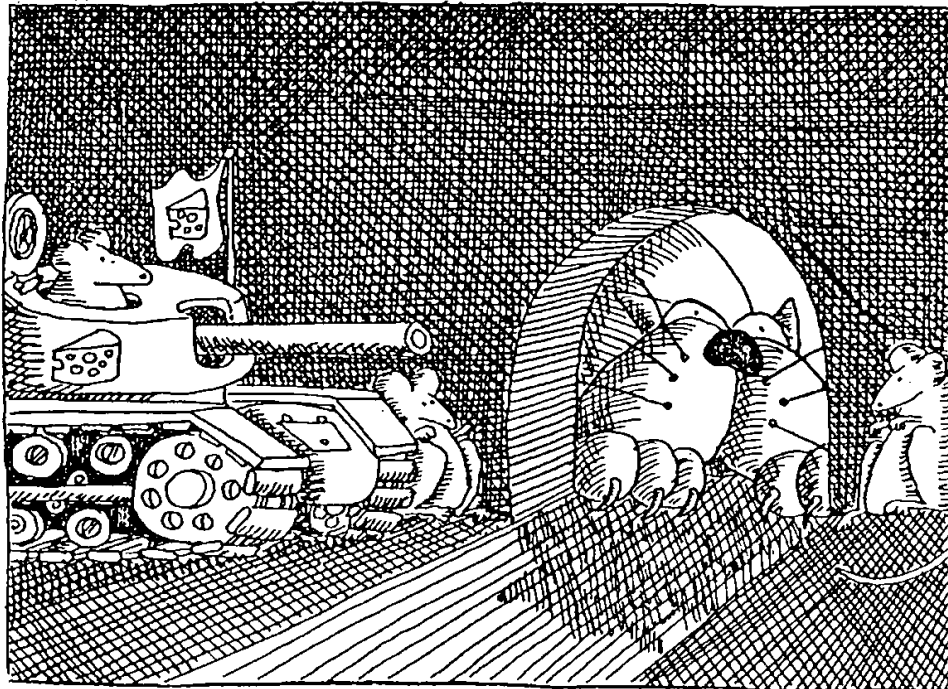
Yeah, we discovered the big problems with the photocopier a bit too late... You see, we used one machine to create the reduced 'masters', and used another machine entirely to run off all the individual copies. Needless to say, the results weren't quite as good as we expected. One point though; a 'point' is 1/72 of an inch and is used as a measure of type height; the word you are looking for is 'pitch'. Anyways, the reproduction problems have been straightened out, as you can see.

OK, so I missed the boat on The Twilight Zone, although I would not use words as strong as yours. Agreed, the SF-ish parts are somewhat awful, but the fantasy parts are OK. A specific example is the episode "I Of Newton" which was based on a story by Haldeman (sorry, can't recall which one). Really Good Stuff, in fact. I think some of the problem is that CBS, Harlan Ellison, and company don't want us to regard the show as SF as such--witness that, when Harlan Ellison was interviewed about the show, he threatened to rip out the interviewer's throat if he called him a 'science fiction' writer.

Granted, also, Harlan Ellison has made a big stink about 'sci-fi', but remember that he is against the use of 'science-fiction' as well--he views the term as being too limiting. Also, Ellison wasn't the only one against 'sci-fi' either; see the January 1986 Amazing if you don't believe me.

As for the comment about 'mundanes' in the Neofan's dictionary, you should've realized that it was rather tongue-in-cheek. However, I do believe that fen are special people, and I think it's the fannishness rather than the science-fiction element that set us apart: a huge majority of SF readers are not fans, and behave much like the rest of the world. Yes, it's our behavior that sets us apart; I get the impression that fen treat people better than do the average person.

Better Living Thru Technology



John Herbert
Karl Johansen
(WorldCon '89 at Myles' House)
Somewhere on the We(s)t Coast
24 December 1985

Dear Mr. Hinz,

Are you aware that you are named after ketchup? (oh, no I'm not! (those of you sufficiently interested can get proof by sending a SASB to me))

Hello, Karl here (great intro eh?) anyway been reading your letters to the con com; great stuff. Keep them coming. By the way, the whole thing's my idea. I thought of it. Me! Oops sorry sorry, my ego just took over my mind for a minute. (he rambles on to prove this...)

Karl, can I have my letter back? (that's John writing) No! Anyway, so long as we do nothing to hurt Myles' good name we can have great fun with this thing. (gee, I always thought you were for real. I guess I'll have to cancel the plane reservations, then, eh?) Till 1990 anyway. Then "Woodstock IV at Myles' House in '95." (egad!) Bye for now.

Don'tcha just love letters like this? (John's back) The kind that ramble on and make no sense? Sorta like an issue of MLR (Can't comment. Never did get a copy. (Garth, are you reading this?)). Or an episode of General Hospital.

Just wait until you read update #3! But enough gobbledy gook! Have a merry (indecipherable) and a great (likewise)!!

PS: Saw Myles' copy of Nuvold (Novoid) (whatever). A barnacle of good fun.

From the editor:

OK, not much of a LOC as such, but these guys are ~~a bunch of losers~~ such fun letter-writers!

Brian Fehdrau
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
3 January 1986 (17:26:02)

Here's my LOC or whatever you want to call it.

- 1) Next time you guys do a zine, keep Curtis away from the cover.
- 2) Maybe you should ease off about the cons. Not everybody is as fanatical about them as you.
- 3) Ken's editorial could've been a little longer. It seemed more like an advertisement. Yours was more interesting, but there goes the con stuff again.
- 4) The Inter-Data Universe Flyer was good, but not for local BBS'ers who've seen it already.
- 5) Eric's How to Construct a Robot was hilarious. That man ought to be put away. Note though that some of it did seem a tad unoriginal.
- 6) Get a proofreader. I noticed more than a reasonable amount of errors.
- 7) Con-Version II: See #2. (I have to admit The Anatomy of a Con-Suite was mildly side-splitting. Too bad it was the only one of its kind.)
- 8) The Neofan's Dictionary would be useful to those who don't understand what the zark you were talking about. It tells you why they don't.
- 9) I really don't see the purpose in the IASFM cover art index. That seemed more like something someone should be given your address to get.

- 10) Make the zine on full sized paper. The small size and print don't do it justice. They make it seem like a flyer.
- 11) The little quips on the back were amusing. Who are Robert Runté and Georges whatever-his-last-name-is?
- 12) Last, but not least, don't abbreviate, except maybe for things like neofan or egoboo. I'm quite sure you could have printed 'Table of Contents' instead of just 'T.O.C'.
- 13) Overall, a nice first try. But it needs work if there is to be a second.

From the editor:

(Reply sent 3 January 1986 (20:16:47))

- 1) Well, if you know of anyone else who can draw, put him in touch with us...
- 2) Try 'em. You'll love it!
- 3) His/ours will be longer in #2. As for mine, I did have a point to make, right?
- 4) True.
- 5) Also, true (for the most part).
- 6) WHAT ERRORS?????
- 7) The photos: the thrill of being there! If you thought looking at them was fun, it was wonderful taking them!
- 8) Fannish. Everyone speaks it.
- 9) Perhaps. However, if *Y*O*U* had submitted something, we could have put your thing in instead (get the hint, dozmo?)
- 10) We know that.
- 11) Look at the rest of the lettercol.
- 12) ABBREVIATE?!?!? But that's fannish! We CAN'T take that out just because you have a feeble mind, Brian.
- 13) Brian, tact and other social graces never were your strong points, were they?



Brian Fehdrau
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
5 January 1986 (02:02:48)

6) READ.

9) You don't really know what you'd be getting into there. I'll think about it. (Yes, contrary to popular belief, I am capable of thought.)

10) If you knew it, why did it stay that way?

12) As far as I'm concerned, T.O.C. is not fannish.

13) On the average, no.

If my letters seemed a little blunt or critical, then you must understand that that was the idea.

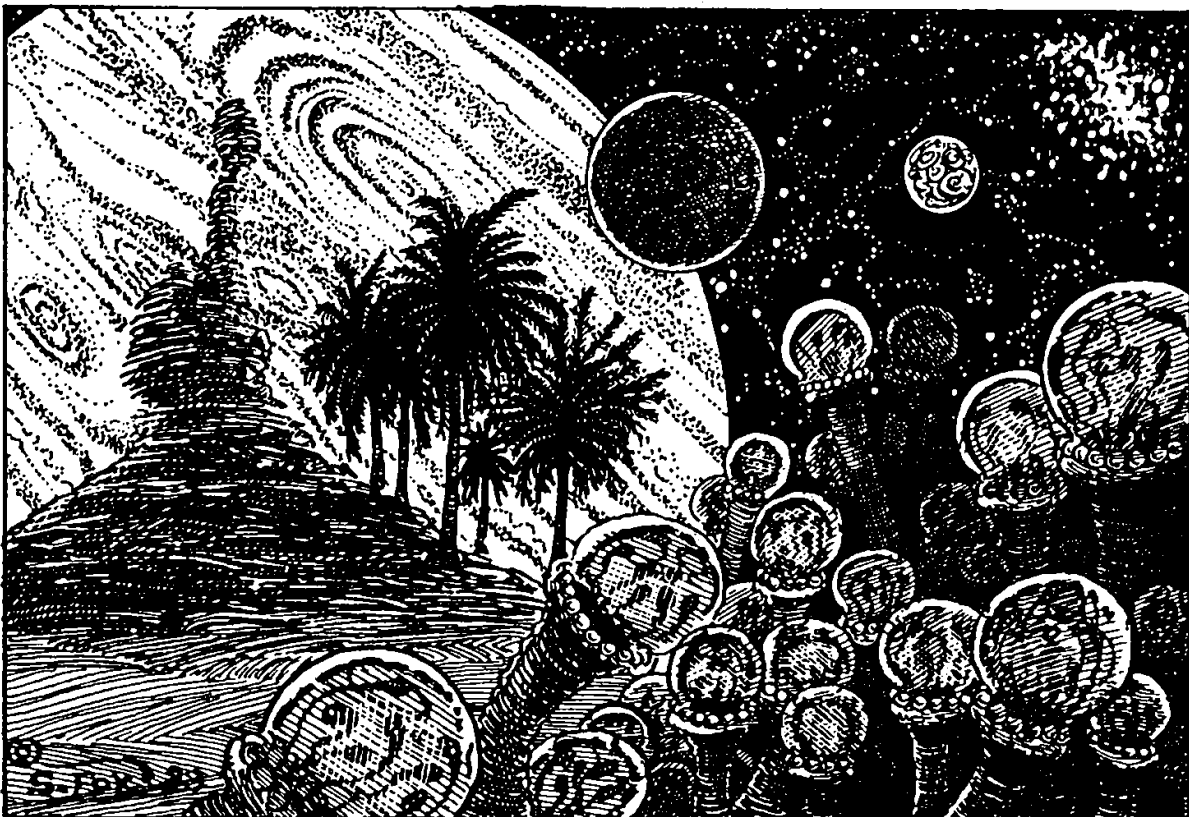
IANAD! MYA, E?

-BF

From the editor:

Ahhh, the beauties of electronic mail. How else can you send a message, get a reply, and send a rebuttal in a day and a half? Computers are great! What other contrivance can let you spend hours creating a literary masterpiece before your eyes, and then slaughter it off with wild abandon just before you save it?

We also heard from Robert Runte, who sent us a really bizarre postcard in black, violet and blue ink (showing off what your armada of Gestetners can do eh, Robert?). Nice card. We can't understand what you are saying, either, Robert. More conventional comments were received from Eric Hameister, John Parsons, and also the head of the U of M English Department (it's scary when you receive your first subscription from academia. We must be doing Something Wrong).



The NonCon 8 Report

(11-13 October 1985 in Red Deer)

Well, the Dastardly Duo, namely, Ted Benediktson and I, return from another Alberta convention (the saga continues...). Of course, Getting There was an experience of its own - we wandered into the hotel at 10:30 Friday night. Since we expected to arrive four hours before then it's easy to deduce that we ran into a few snags. OK, I guess missing/uncooperative cars, roads going in the wrong direction, and nonexistent hotel reservations do throw a wrench into ordinarily well-planned schedules. I got the impression on the way down that Murphy was riding in the back seat.

Once we got there things were just great. It's incredible how much an effect a con suite has on a person. By the time we got there we were fuming...but one step into the consuite worked like a spell. Of course, noticing people's reactions about my 'hat' was reason enough to cheer up in a hurry. Those of you who were there know about the hat--you've already seen it. For those who weren't, well...you know those electronic LED power meters they have on ghetto blasters these days? OK, now picture a few of them on a baseball cap. Get the idea? Unforgettable, right? (actually, the word that comes to some people is 'weird')

There were a lot of familiar faces there (I recall seeing them at ConVersion). One prominent group was, of course the Ace Warp Drive and Honest Abe's Drive Repair crews, who managed to drop in on the way to Alpha Centauri or some such place. I think Adrian Kleinbergen was there; I know Tim Hammell and Ken Macklin were there too. Possibly Rob Alexander was there, but I'm not sure. His art was there, which was good enough. Also, Steve Forty and Lorna Toolis were there too, but since he was fan GoH and she was TM, that was sort of expected from them. Oh yeah, John Varley was there too, almost forgot about him amongst all the notables. Who is he anyways (ahaha)?

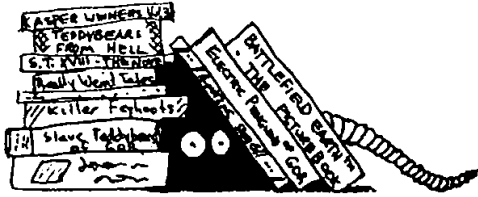
There were also a few familiar faces present at the masquerade. As at ConVersion, best of show was won by 'Thunderstorm and Blizzard' (those two Winnipeggers strike again!). The warp drive repairmen didn't enter this time, they only came to watch. They ended up being watched anyways; one local TV station covered the con and ol' V. Frondel and company were on the tube! Wow! (I suppose that's not that exciting. A good measure of mundane-shocking is making the national news.)

A lot of the panels were quite small and informal-- a big change over ConVersion. This was really nice when talking about things such as fanzines and the care of artwork: talking to a group at an almost one-to-one basis makes for more effective communication. The fanzine panel was interesting in the sense that the panel members almost outnumbered the audience! About the only negative comment about the program is the (non)trivia quiz. The questions were almost exclusively media-based, and obscure at that. Even the crack team of Stuart Cooper and company were hard pressed by some of the questions.

The art show and auction were great-- that's the first time I ever bought any art at an auction (first time ever for buying art period, for that matter). It was the (only) Alexander piece that was at the show. Imagine the thrill of striding down the hall clutching (carefully!) my new 'acquisition'. Incredible! Wow! OK, I had guilt feelings about the pittance of a price I paid for it, though...

Ah! But people wonder why we go to conventions. They can't relate to travelling several hundred miles for a weekend just to do a lot of weird things. I suspect that a substantial reason for going is the people and not just the events...the programming is perhaps just something to keep people occupied. (Hence the existence of relaxacons where programming can't get in the way of meeting other people.)

Well, it was a great time, despite the minor snaffles. By the way, the GoH of NonCon 9 will be Ron Goulart. Should be a great time!



Book Reviews

V: The Alien Swordmaster
By Somtow Sucharitkul
Pinnacle, 1985

Reviewed by Colin Hinz

Okay, though it isn't fair to compare "V" with Star Wars, we all enjoyed Star Wars, right? It was a lot of fun, even though it was fairly mediocre SF. If your sense of humour is strong enough, you'll enjoy this book.

The book describes Visitor activity in Japan. Not only does this locale provide for some rather amusing situations (such as the human sushi bars and the Geisha with a UCLA doctorate), but it allows the development of a special type of Visitor fighter - the Lizard Ninja (rumour mill: the book was originally to be titled Ninja Lizards, Lizard Ninjas or something like that). Anyways, the premise behind the book is that the Visitors are capturing martial arts masters and Converting them. It seems that the Visitors want to try an alternative tack to the 'shoot-'em-up' approach to diplomacy.

Some enlightened readers might speculate that Sucharitkul is portraying the true spirit of Oriental martial arts, and that, due to his mixed cultural background, he can offer insights on the true lore of the Ninja. Ah, but this is not the case. He, too, is just cashing in on a fad. Of course, he's having a lot of fun with the idea, and not being serious at all. Somehow he even manages to get in a few jabs about the "V" plot concept itself-- it's surprising the publishers didn't edit some of this stuff out.

Okay, now for an honest opinion: the book is rubbish. You won't find any mind-expanding, soul-searching, or psyche-altering thematic material here. But it's such FUN rubbish, though! If you can uncouple your critical faculties from your mind, get ahold of this book and read it.

The Adventures of Terra Tarkington
By Sharon Webb
Bantam Books, 1985

Reviewed by Colin Hinz

This book chronicles the adventures of Terra Tarkington, Interstellar Nurse, while stationed on the Taurus Sattelite Hospital Outpost, known to the staff as the 'Bull Run.' It appears initially that she was stationed at this remote base due to computer error, but we learn that this was not the case. Although this book sprung forth from the short-shorts that originally appeared in IA'sfm, much of the book centers on an element not touched on in these. This element is the presence of two spy agencies, namely, the KBG and the GIA. Of course, there are also counter-agencies, double agents and all that sort of thing. It is, in fact, one of these agents who is responsible for Terra's post.

I consider the best parts of the book to be the original material, centered around Terra. I found the espionage bits rather confusing, to the point where I wasn't altogether sure who was doing what for whom against which agencies. It seems that the espionage plot was added in to flesh things out into a whole novel.

Still, it was an unoffensive and fun read. You might wish to try it if you had nothing better to do.

The Prometheus Crisis
By Frank Robinson and Thomas Scortia
Bantam Books, 1975

Reviewed by Ken Read

This book deals with the spectre of a meltdown in a nuclear reactor. There has been no such disaster in north america yet. What would happen during and after a meltdown? Has anyone ever really considered the short and long term effects of such an event?

We were lucky with Three Mile Island. The nuclear "piles" got close to a meltdown but not quite. Radioactive steam was still released into the environment. Not good.

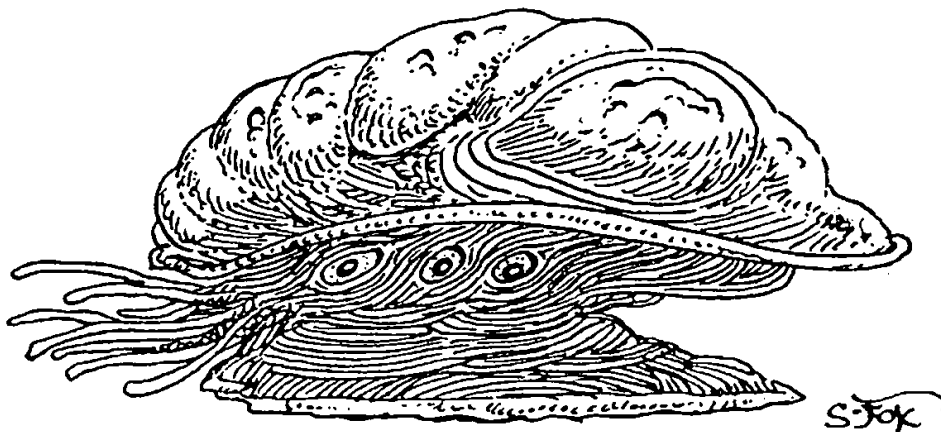
What if there was more than just radioactive steam released? Both short and long term radioactives are unpleasant to deal with. Has anyone ever thought of the iodine that we get in our table salt? Radioactive iodine doesn't last long. It has a half-life measured in days. Nothing to worry about! Right? Wrong!!! It doesn't take much to start accumulating in the thyroid. The damage will appear later as thyroid cancer. One will not know until it is too late. The pieces of a destroyed reactor (not just the uranium or the plutonium) may also melt down to 'China'. Then there are the other worries as well. What about stored fuel? Will it join the 'melt' in its journeys? A meltdown can (and perhaps someday will) release not just steam into the environment.

A conventional power plant (ie. coal, hydro, gas) will only cause damage on the premises of the plant and very local areas. A nuclear plant can take out a lot more land. The victimized land (and people) are dependent upon the weather. Which way will the radioactives be blown? Will it go into cities or country? No one can predict that.

The prometheus crisis describes what would happen if the largest reactor in the world failed and went into a meltdown. It looks into the construction of the plant, how it is run, what happens during and after a meltdown, and much more. What if poor workmanship was involved in construction? What about office politics? Both are evident in other plants. Then there is the actual meltdown. What are the effects on the local population? What countermeasures will one take to minimize the disaster? How are refugees cared for? These are all questions that are answered in this book.

If you think I am maligning nuclear power, you are mistaken. Nuclear power is good clean power as long as we treat it with the respect it is due. A nuclear meltdown is the price we would pay for a lack of respect of nuclear technology. The prometheus crisis tells us what that price can cost us in both lives and dollars.

The Prometheus Crisis was written by Thomas N. Scortia and Frank M. Robinson. These are the guys who wrote the book "The Glass Inferno", which was published in June 1975, long before Three Mile Island. These authors were really looking ahead.



The Fallen Country
By Somtow Sucharitkul
Bantam Spectra, 1986

Reviewed by Colin Hinz

This book is a first on two counts. First, it is Somtow Sucharitkul's first fantasy novel (assuming you consider Vampire Junction as a horror novel, and not a fantasy). Also, it is Sucharitkul's first juvenile book (assuming V: The Alien Swordmaster isn't).

The story involves Billy Binder, who is a young teenager who is abused by his stepfather. Because of this, he has become embittered and angry, and internalizes his emotional turmoil. This crushing trauma eventually draws him into an alternate reality - the Fallen Kingdom. His existence as Billy Binder is only a shadow of his existence in the Fallen Kingdom, as is the foe whom Billy must vanquish, else the Fallen Kingdom be drained of life completely. This opponent, the Ringmaster, has a shadow existence on earth as well. By using his knowledge of the Ringmaster's shadow, he is able to vanquish him using a new weapon never used before.

This book is Sucharitkul's finest. Creatively speaking, he pulls out all the stops in creating a world which is truly alien. The reader is imparted with a sense of awe for the beauty and grandeur of the surroundings, but is not overpowered by them. The environment remains as a background, serving as a backdrop for the characters, rather than intruding upon them. Some might object to the distantness with which Sucharitkul presents the characters; however, I feel it works marvelously in showing a slight 'alienness' of them.

His writing is both sensuous and easy to read, a happy mix between the traditions of the magazine fiction and 'literary' genre writing, but without the pretentiousness usually found therein. I suppose the easiest way to describe it would be as Bradburyesque, but suffused with the unique viewpoint of Sucharitkul's cultural background.

For those of you who are already familiar with Sucharitkul's work, especially his grander works such as the Inquestor series, this work will be a source of great pleasure and enjoyment. The book does have a message, which may be apparent only to adult readers, but it doesn't impede the delight of reading it. As a personal assessment, this is the best Sucharitkul ever (so far), and one of the best books I've read in the past year.

Little Myth Marker
By Robert Asprin
Starblaze/Donning, 1985

Reviewed by Zoltan DiRevulso

Ahhh... nothing like a damnfine series of fantasy books with a completely different perspective! This book is Asprin's sixth offering in the immensely popular Mythadventures series. In this book, Skeeve gets into a game of Dragon Poker, which has a ludicrously difficult set of rules. Unfortunately, Skeeve wins. This establishes a reputation for Skeeve in the gambling community, and he is made an offer that He Can't Refuse... or can he? Also, a group hires the Axe, a character assassin, to do a number on him. Things couldn't possibly get worse... or could they?

Anyhoo, Asprin breaks away from the usual pandemonium a few times, to become very philosophical. Now, this add some dimension to the characters, it does seem to be a bit out of place in a farcical book such as this one. It's not badly done, it's just that it doesn't quite fit. But this is really a minor creeb, on the whole Asprin maintains the level of quality set by the previous books.

One neat thing about the Starblaze edition of the Mythadventures books, this one included, is the wonderful Foglio art, both on the cover and inside, as well. Unfortunately, it always seems like there should be lots more of it. What's there, though, is more than worth the high price of the book (\$10.75 in Canada).

Definitely a very entertaining book. I most highly recommend it (best one I've read for a long time)

LORD TALONSON

PERSONAL DATA

Name: John Talonson
Occupation: Novice Stargod
Legal status: Naturalized citizen of the Realm with no criminal record
Titles: Heir to the House of Talon
(Note: Although often referred to as "Lord Talonson" by others, John is not officially recognized by the House of Talon, and has never claimed this title himself.)
Place of birth: North America, Earth
Marital status: Single
Known relatives: Talon (genetic predecessor)
Group affiliation: Talonson often receives assistance from the External Affairs Division of Starwinder
Base of operations: Mobile, has a permanent residence onboard Starwinder

VITAL STATISTICS

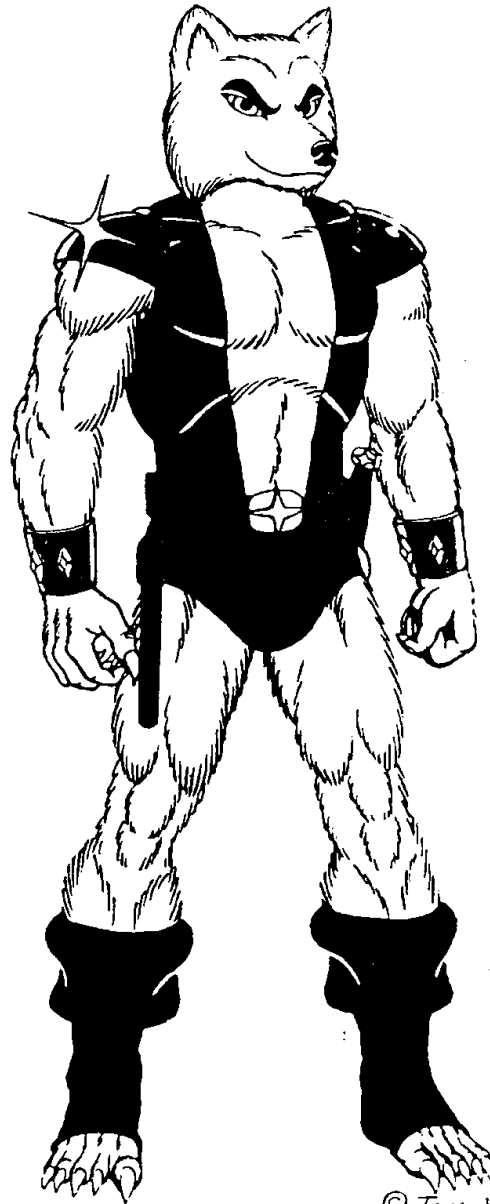
Species: Molluran
Race: Therianthropomorph (only existing member)
Sex: Male
Height: 200 cm (6' 7")
Weight: 160 kg (400 lbs)
Eyes: Red
Hair/fur: Silver (solid)
Physical condition: Excellent
Unusual features: Talonson is not an albino. His fur is silver, not white, and his eyes are a very dark shade of red and are mildly luminescent. Also, the Powerstone Firecore is embedded in Talonson's skin at his throat. However, it is not normally visible due to his thick fur.

WEAPONS AND PARAPHERNALIA

Sword: Niven blade, variable shape/mass/range, Talonite construction, Stargod empowered
Multifunction Power Bracelets:
Left Band- Communicator, mage/computer interface, full body force field, variable force shield
Right Band- Programmable blaster, scanner/targetter, masterkey, programmable function crystal
Whip: Extensible lash, adhesive and concussive nodes, noninflament collapsible
Dagger: (Upper-left inside vest pocket) Target seeking, selfpropelled
Notebook Mage/Computer: (Upper-right inside vest pocket) Uvanoa Prime and SCATA Alpha standard
Authorization Key: House of Talon, limited access
Armour (selfrepairing and selfredesigning) and other items are kept within Talonson's storage pouches.

POWERS

John Talonson's powers can be divided into three areas: his physical prowess that results from his enhanced physiology, his inherent magical talents (largely undeveloped), and the Stargod Effect.



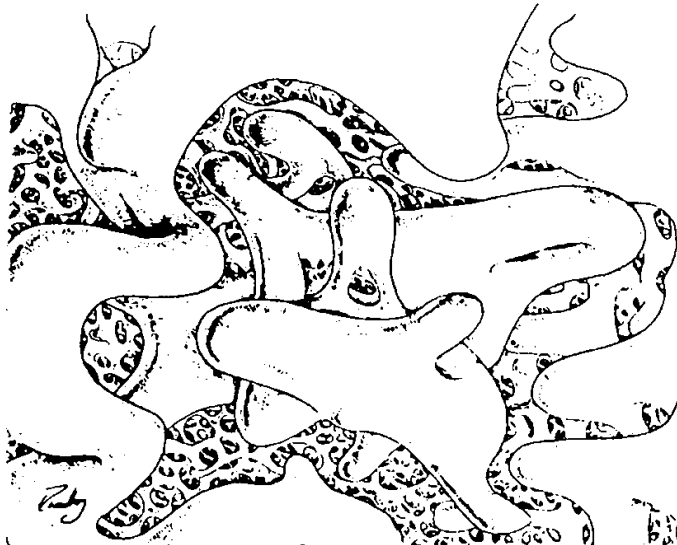
Talonson can lift (press) up to 200 kN (22 tons), has a superb sense of balance, and is extremely coordinated. All his physical senses exceed not only a human's, but those of a true wolf as well.

Rather than describe Talonson's abilities using the Stargod Effect, it is easier to describe his limitations, of which there are four. One: he cannot do anything that is physically impossible, such as creating matter and energy out of nothing. Therefore, Two: he is limited at any time by the amount of matter and energy within his surroundings, which, on the surface of an inhabited planet orbiting a sun, can be considered practically limitless. Three: he is limited by his own powers of concentration, and Four: the breadth of his imagination.

the CONVENTION mention...

- About 85% of these listings came from flyers found at ConFusion, 10% from flyers from NONcon, and the remaining 5% from Ghod-knows-where.
- 20-23 March. Norwescon 9. SeaTac Red Lion Inn, Seattle. GoH: Anne McCaffrey. Art GoH: Kelly & Polly Freas. Science GoH: James & Cooky Oberg. Fan GoH: Gregory Benett. TM: Spider & Jeanne Robinson. Registration: US\$20 to 1 March, US\$25 at the door. Info: PO box 24207, Seattle, Washington, USA, 98124.
- 26-30 March. CONtroversy 1. Holiday Inn, Edmonton. GoH: James P. Hogan. Comics GoH: David Sim. Registration: \$15. Info: #407-11020 Jasper Ave., Edmonton, Alta., T5K 2N1.
- 28-30 March. MINICON 21. Radisson South Hotel, Bloomington, Minnesota. GoHs: Damon Knight, Kate Wilhelm. Fan GoH: Denny Lien. Art GoH: Ken Fletcher. Music GoH: Ann Passavoy. Registration: US\$12 to 9 March, US\$20 at the door. Info: PO box 2128, Loop Station, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, 55402.
- 29-30 March. NOVA 11. Oakland University, Rochester. GoH: Leo Frankowski. Art GoHs: Randy Asplund, Sandy Schrieber. Fan GoH: Diana Stein. Gaming GoH: Pete Rogan. Registration: US\$5 at the door. Info: c/o Scott Young, 420 E. Vandenberg, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan, USA, 48063.
- 18-20 April. ANOTHER CONTRAPTION. Holiday Inn, Southfield. GoH: Timothy Zahn. fan GoHs: Maia Cowan and George Laskowski. Registration: US\$12 until 11 April, US\$15 at the door. Info: 1325 Key West, Troy, Michigan, USA, 48063.
- 25-27 April. AUTOFUSION 2. Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, Ann Arbor. Relaxacon. Registration: US\$9 to 31 March, US\$12 at the door. Info: c/o Jean Barnard, 1810 Charlton, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA, 48103.
- 25-27 April. CINCLAVE. Clarion Hotel, Cincinnati. GoHs: Joan Vinge, Edward Bryant. Art GoH: Joan Hanke-Woods. Registration: US\$12 to 1 April, US\$15 at the door. Info: PO box 118738, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, 45211.
- 16-18 May. KeyCon '86. Ramada Inn, Winnipeg. GoH: Anne McCaffrey. Art GoH: Erin McKee. Fan GoH: Beth Friedman. Gaming and Comics GoHs TBA. Registration: \$18 to 26 April, \$22 at the door. Info: PO box 3178, Winnipeg, Man., R3C 4E6.
- 16-18 May. MARCON 21. Sinclair Plaza, Columbus. GoH: Roger Zelazny. TM: Andrew J. Offutt. Art GoH: Kelly Freas. Registration: US\$18 to 15 April, US\$20 afterwards. Info: PO box 14078, Columbus, Ohio, USA, 43214-0078.
- 16-18 May. MisCon I. Quality Inn, Missoula. Guests: Larry Niven, Millea Kenin, Steve Gallacci, Tracy Hickman, James Crumley. Registration: US\$12 to 2 March, US\$15 afterwards. Info: PO box 9363, Missoula, Montana, USA, 59807.
- 23-25 May. CONJURATION III. Hilton Hotel, Tulsa. GoH: Christopher Stasheff. TM: Ron Goulart. Art GoH: Keith Berdak. Comics GoH: R.A. Jones. Registration: US\$9.50 to 10 May, US\$12.50 at the door. Info: PO box 690064, Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA, 74169.
- 23-25 May. V-Con 14/CANvention VI. Totem Residence, UBC. GoH: Frederik Pohl. Art GoH: Katherine Howes. TM: Randy Reichardt. Fan GoHs: Beth & Mike Finkbinder. Registration: \$15 to 31 March, \$18 to 15 May, \$20 at the door. Info: Box 48478 Bentall Centre, Vancouver, B.C., V7X 1A2.
- 13-15 June. Ad Astra VI. Howard Johnson's Airport Hotel, Toronto. GoHs: Roger Zelazny, Steven Brust. Art GoH: Kelly Freas. Registration: \$15 to 15 May, \$20 thereafter. Info: c/o Lloyd Penney, PO box 186, Stn. M, Toronto, Ont., M6S 4T3.

- 4-6 July. INCONJUNCTION VI. Adam's Mark, Indianapolis. GoH: Clive Barker. Art GoH: Michael Whelan. TM: Ken Moore. Fan GoH: Martha Beck. Registration: US\$13 to 1 April, US\$16 to 1 June, US\$19 at the door. Info: PO box 19776, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, 46219.
- 11-13 July. MAPLECON 8. Carleton Tour And Conference Centre, Ottawa. GoH: Stephen R. Donaldson. Registration: \$15 to 10 July, \$20 at the door. Info: Box 3156, Stn. D., Ottawa, Ont., K1P 6H7.
- 25-27 July. Con-Version III. Carriage House Inn, Calgary. GoH: Jack Chalker. TM: Phyllis Gottlieb. Registration: \$15 to 12 July, \$20 at the door. Info: PO box 1088, Stn. M, Calgary, Alta., T2P 2K9.
- 28 Aug.-1 Sept. ConFederation (44TH WORLDCON). Atlanta, Georgia. GoH: Ray Bradbury. Fan GoH: Terry Carr. TM: Bob Shaw. Registration: US\$55 to 31 March (attending), US\$25 to 15 July (supporting). Info: 3277 Roswell Road #1986, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, 30305.
- 26-28 September. L&N DEEPSOUTHCON 24. Galt House Hotel, Louisville. GoH: David Hartwell. Fan GoH: Ann Layman Chancellor. Art GoH: Alex Schomburg. TM: SOMTOW SUCHARITKUL. Registration: US\$15 to 3 March, then US\$20. Info: Box 580009, Louisville, Kentucky, 40258.
- 3-5 October. CONTRADICTION VI. Hotel Niagra. GoHs: George R.R.Martin, Nancy Kress. Registration: US\$10 to 20 Sept., US\$15 thereafter. Info: 1356 Niagra Avenue, Niagra Falls, New York, USA, 14305.
- 10-12 October. CONCLAVE XI. Plymouth Hilton, Plymouth, Michigan. GoH: Greg Bear. Fan GoH: John and Joanne Hall. Registration: US\$12 to 30 June, US\$14 to 26 Sept., US\$16 at the door. Info: Waldo & Magic Inc., PO Box 2915, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA, 48106.
- 10-12 October. NONcon 9. GoH: Judith Merrill. Fan GoH: Deloris Booker. Art GoH: Ken Macklin. TM: William R. Warren, Jr. Registration: \$14 to ??? Info: Box 4506, Edmonton, Alberta, T6E 4T7
- 31 Oct.-2 Nov. Ohio Valley Filk Fest II. Parke University Hotel, Columbus. GoH: Bill Sutton. TM: Margaret Middleton. Registration: US\$15 to 15 April, US\$20 afterwards. Info: OVFF II, PO Box 14078, Columbus, Ohio, USA, 43214.
- 14-16 November. Windycon XIII. Hyatt Regency Woodfield, Schaumburg, Ill. GoH: Harry Harrison. Ed. GoH: Donald & Elsie Wollheim. Art GoH: Arlin Robins. TM: Marta Randall. Registration: US\$15 to 1 Nov., US\$20 thereafter. Info: PO Box 432, Chicago, Illinois, USA, 60690.



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The problem about these dratted trip reports is that sometimes they take control of you, and come out the way they want to. This is my fourth try at writing this, and if it takes control of me again, I'll quit, and leave you with a blank page to stare at. If you're REALLY lucky, I'll give you a bit of artwork to set your eyes upon...

The problem with putting together a zine over a period of seven months, is that a number of anachronisms occur, especially with news. Earlier, I announced that we were driving down to Confusion. Well, we didn't. We availed ourselves to Air Canada's services, instead.

It isn't often that I really get the urge to go to the con just to meet some of the guests. In this case, I confess I couldn't resist -- a triple bill of Somtow Sucharitkul, Bob Asprin, and Kelly Freas. All of them are favourites of mine, for various reasons. Somtow was a bit special, though -- through the lettercols in some of the prozines, I discovered what a charismatic and kindhearted person he is. When I did meet him, he went far to prove that these observations were indeed correct. Of course, I was able to find out the answers to a number of questions I had regarding his works, both prose and music, that only a diehard devotee could ask.

For those of you who are familiar with the story that Somtow recently published in Analog, it is this story that reminds me of his guest of honour speech. You see, both are fascinating, a bit madcap, and of course, with either one, you can't possibly expect what's about to come up next. The interesting thing about his speech, though, is that although it's presumably factual (he spoke of his family), you don't have much of an idea of how far he embellished things.

Now that I've gooten myself into a rut, I have to get myself out of it. Easy...

One of the things we held down there was a party to promote WorldCon '89 At Myles' House. This didn't quite turn out as well as planned, since those eastern fans don't know about Myles yet. Obviously, Someone Isn't Doing Their Job...maybe the Toronto fen aren't bothering with the American fen at all, hmm? Things weren't too bad, though; we had a whole bunch of buttons made up, and we did manage to sell off a whole slough of them (and gave away lots of Myles' propaganda). When we asked Somtow if he'd like to be a guest at MylesCon, his response was, regrettably, non-committal.

Of course, the following night, the Toronto fans held their own MylesCon bid promotion party, in conjunction with their Ad Astra party. Apparently, they had even fewer attendees than we had (must have been the home-baked cookies that we brought!). Of course, we couldn't resist crashing the Boston bid party, at least to sample some of their wonderful cold cuts, cheese, and other yummys. We noticed that another of other people had the same idea...since they later appeared at our party!

Speaking of WorldCon support parties (ghawd, that sounds a lot like 'support hose!'), the Bermuda Triangle people were there as well. This bid originated as a hoax, much as did Myles' bid, except this bid really took off. They even have an ocean liner booked, a proposal written up, the whole thing. Best luck to them, since even if the con isn't fannish, it's a great vacation! Sure beats having the con in a dumpy old place like Cincinnati, eh? (Though I'm inclined to give New Orleans second place, since that city is at least interesting).

Of course, I'm wandering off the topic, but I never expected to stick to it in the first place.

Having spent a phenomenal amount of money in the hucksters' room in an equally phenominally short time, I was rather limited in making art purchases. Not surprisingly, buying any Kelly Freas' originals was a big out. Even the photo prints were out -- but I did get a really handsome set of litho prints. I can always get originals later,

when I have more money than I honestly know what to do with (fat chance, with the current costs of fanpubbing these days).

The dance was OK, but I suspect I was spoiling it for myself, since I was having a minor anxiety attack at the time. I had (foolishly) decided that the time had come to be in the masquerade, so in the weeks before the con I carefully prepared a costume. But when the masquerade came about, after frantically getting into costume, I found out that there was no judging. Terrrrific. If I knew about that beforehand, I wouldn't have bothered. Oh well, I guess that's just life in the food chain, as they say...

I've always wondered why the various Alberta cons never bothered to have a banquet. At ConFusion I had the chance to partake in one...now I know. Really, I wish they hadn't bothered. The food there wasn't much better than what Air Canada serves, and it was expensive - no wonder the Sunday Brunch is becoming a favourite among concons these days.

I guess that brings me to the Sunday brunch that I did have -- it was at the Jolly Miller, which is the hotel restaurant. I was able to have a truly wonderful all-you-can-eat buffet for five bucks less than the banquet, and the food was better not only in quantity but in quality as well. Now if that doesn't make a foodfan salivate I don't know what will.

Is there anything more to say? I don't think so -- I'm getting pretty anal-retentive as it is. However, choice bits of ConFusion were videotaped, and are now available as part of Uncle Albert's Video Fanzine #3. Write to Larry Tucker, 3358 Chelsea Circle, Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A., 48104, for more information.



OH NO!!! IT'S THE...

ONOCON REPORT

(Gee, that's only the third one!!)

ONOcon is a relaxacon that is held every February in Calgary (just the time of year when frozen fans need a thawing out...).

Relaxacons are a great change of pace from the regular variety of cons. You don't have to worry about frantically dashing around trying to make it to all the programming, since there isn't any...well, hardly any, at any rate. Most activities are informal, and are often scheduled (???) just before they happen.

Since I was spending most of the week in Calgary, I had nothing better to do Friday afternoon, than to go to the con. Since most of the concom wasn't even there yet, it wasn't too long before I ~~was/enslaved~~ found a few things to do.

While I was planning my trip to Calgary, I figured, "OK, there won't be an art show this time, so I don't have to budget for it." Right. Try telling the artists that. Though there wasn't an auction or anything, a number of artists were out en force trying to convince people to buy some 'badge art.' Sucker that I am, I bought several. One artist who was there, but whom I didn't meet (much to my disappointment), was Robert Alexander. Things turned out well in the end, though; take a look at the bacover...

One of the more entertaining moments was Kalen's loss of her pineapple on Saturday morning. After some of us naughty boys played touch football with it in the pool area, we brought it into the ConSuite, where it was dispatched with all the aplomb and dignity that it deserved - it was cleaved in two by a Samurai sword (well, ok, a cheap imitation). It was then most unceremoniously gnawed to death by everyone in attendance.

Another wonderful thing about the con is that the concom organized not one, but TWO dances, both of which were excellent. There must be something about Calgary fans - either they really get into dancing, or else there is a better male/female balance - whatever it is, both ConVersion and ONOcon put on fantastic dances. The concom seems to have worked out a really nice arrangement with the music, which I hope they stay with.

Since I didn't have a room at the motel, and the place I was staying at was four miles away (and no C-Train after midnight), I was more predisposed to staying up all night yakking, instead of trying to find a place to crash. One of the discussions that a group of us had was with a ~~mundane~~ non-fan, where we arrived at a particularly nifty definition of what a 'mundane' really is: "A mundane is someone who mindlessly follows the currents and tides of society, without giving thought to why he is doing so, or even considering if his actions are beneficial to him..." (sorry about the implied sexism here). Needless to say, this non-fan sure wasn't mundane, but then most of them aren't, really.

Another real hoot was playing fannish charades with a bunch of equally demented fen, late at night on Saturday, until six in the morning. Bear in mind that I hadn't any sleep for nearly 48 hours (I can't comment on the rest of the group, though). I did learn one thing from this activity though -- if you are ever asked to join a group of charade players, and one of them answers to the appellation "Nazrat, Lord of the Bungle"; don't. Unless you find a way of disposing of ~~it~~ him, you will be doomed for the rest of the evening to act out indescribably wretched scientific puns. Eeek!

One thing about the con that I found rather amusing and at first perplexing, was a comment made by Bonnie Liesener, one of the ~~Illuminati~~ concom members. Along with the usual information that I got after writing the concom, I received a note saying "For your added enjoyment we will be digging large holes all around the motel." When I arrived, one of my first questions that I asked her was, "what's with the holes???" As it turns out, that was a reference to the holes that the city was digging for the new C-Train line. Hmmm...not exactly like the building that they blew up back in 1985 -- I'd like to see them do that again!

Unfortunately, since I was hitching a ride home with a group of mundanes (yes, these ones were MUNDANES, all right!), I missed out on most of Sunday's programming. But...I guess I'll just have to catch it next year, eh?

 * HEY!!! This isn't in the Table of Contents!!! *
 * *****
 * No matter... It's Just *****
 * And seven ***** The Editor signing off... *
 * months' labour draws to a close. Well, I've *****

discovered that university and fandom don't really mix all that well. But that's all over with now (university, NOT fandom!), and I take care of the last formality next week. By the time you read this, I'll have finally convocated -- I found out today that, my worst fears didn't come true, and they'd rather get rid of me than have me back. I could go into graduate studies now, since I do have the average for it, but then I might turn into a Runté clone if I do, and (almost) fafiation just about tore me to pieces as it is.

I'm still not sure how I'm duplicating this thing. I tried to get ahold of a mimeo machine a few months back but that seems to have fallen through. I also tried to ~~find~~ get help elsewhere, but that didn't work either, since (I suspect) everyone else is more than sufficiently busy with their own projects. If you see me stick this on the wall at conventions, then you'll know that I didn't work out anything at all.

By now I'm sure you've noticed the wide variety of typestyles and layout styles in this zine -- a bit chaotic, I guess. The stuff in NLQ computer print was done way back when last January, and some of the Selectric'ed parts were done a few weeks back. The typed portions with the damaged capital 'w's and 'b's were done on this abomination. Just be glad that I didn't have to resort to the Smith-Corona manual. I used it in an apazine and...urrrrrgh!

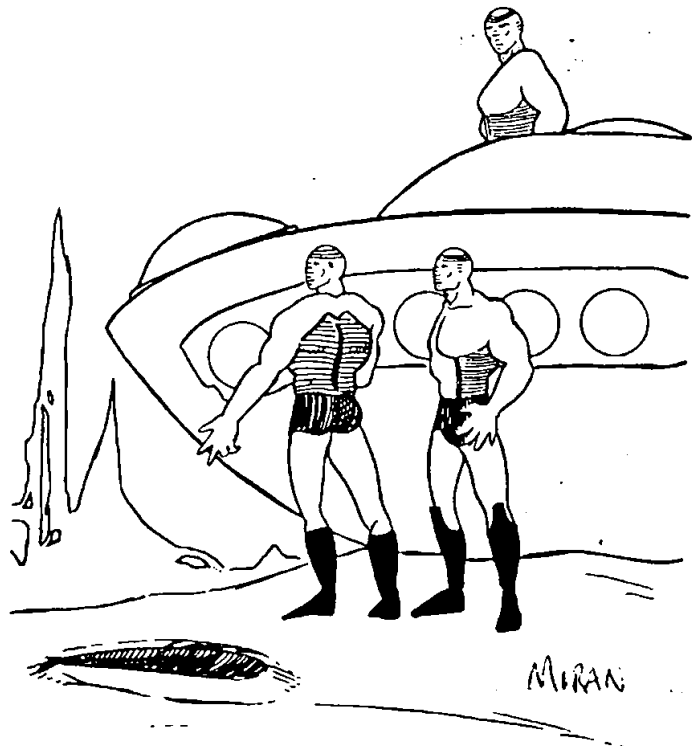
Another thing you've likely noticed is that much of the writing is done by myself. This isn't supposed to be a personalzine, honest; it's just that I have a damned difficult time finding contributors. I'd really like to have someone review comics and books -- fanzines are my pie, and conreports aren't too braindamaging, as long as I do them shortly after the con, and not wait four months like I did this time. I'm not really having a problem with art right now. Although the folder is dwindling, I get new stuff in now and then. However, I would like to see art from other artists as well -- especially newcomers that haven't submitted much to fanzines before. By the way, if things work out as planned, nextish's cover will be by Robert Alexander, in case you're curious.

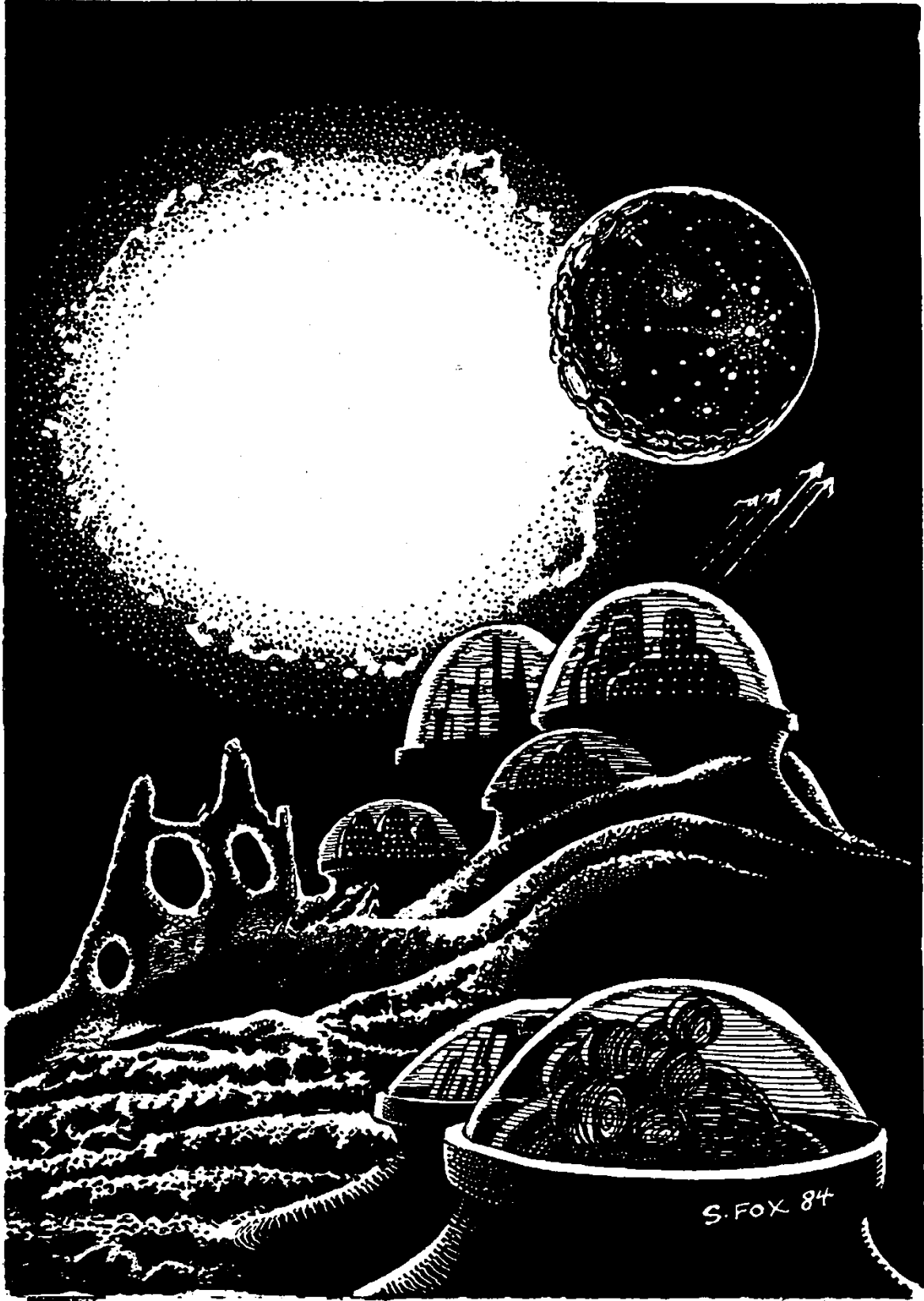
My penchant for inspired brain damage is leading me into trouble again. Some of my writing is taking a definitely Dadaistic twist - which means I'm thinking about having an APA for that sort of thing. Yeah, just like DADAPA of old, except with no ties with the old (and I'd be OE, of course. Until I get ousted). So, if you are interested, curious, or just confused, you can either write me, or wait until nextish for more info.

In case I haven't made this apparent before, if anyone out there has for sale any kind of duplicating equipment (but not half-dead stuff, please!) that you can sell fairly cheaply, please let me know... I'm just about in a fit of desperation now.

The Dart died, so I drive a different car now. It's a Datsun. I call it Hirohito's Revenge.

Take care, people. See you (in print) in July (I hope).....







WHY YOU GOT THIS

- You contributed (undying praise to you)
- You LoCced us.
- We'd like a LoC.
- If you don't send us a LoC, my fairy Godmother will turn you into a mediafan.
- I have friends in high places. If you don't send us a LoC the Earth will be invaded by bubble-gum chewing aliens wearing leather battle armor.
- You sent us money.
- You sent us LOTS of money.
- You WILL send us some money, won't you?
- We trade, in case you've forgotten.
- This is just a friendly reminder that we still exist.
- You support Myles.
- You don't support Myles, but you will once your dentist gets through with you.