

The Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin



Volume 7, No. 13

June 2002

Southern Fandom Confederation

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Policies

The Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin Vol. 7, No. 13, June 2002, is the official publication of the Southern Fandom Confederation (SFC), a not-for-profit literary organization and information clearinghouse dedicated to the service of Southern Science Fiction and Fantasy Fandom. The SFC Bulletin is edited by Julie Wall and is published at least three times per year. Membership in the SFC is \$15 annually, running from DeepSouthCon to DeepSouthCon. A club or convention membership is \$75 annually. Donations are welcome. All checks should be made payable to the Southern Fandom Confederation.

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The Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin is also available for trades, published contributions, and letters of comment.

The editor encourages submission of lengthy written material and art – covers and illos. Contributions and LoCs via electronic means are highly desirable. If you wish to use the Internet, you may send the article as electronic mail or an attachment. If you wish to send the editor computer media, 3.5" floppies, Zip disk, 88/200 MB Syquest, JAZ and CD-ROMs are acceptable. Virtually any file format, IBM compatible or Macintosh, is acceptable. Media will be returned. The Bulletin is laid out in QuarkXPress on a Macintosh. Ink and typewritten submissions also graciously accepted, of course. If you're not sure what all this means, get in touch to work out a solution.

Throughout the Bulletin, you will find comments in italics and enclosed by curly brackets *{like this}*. Those are comments from the editor, Julie Wall, unless otherwise noted.

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Fan	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$12.50
Pro	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$25.00

SFC Handbooks

This amazing 196 page tome of Southern Fannish lore, edited by T.K.F. Weisskopf, is now available to all comers for \$5, plus a \$2 handling and shipping charge if we have to mail it. The Handbook is also available online, thanks to the efforts of Sam Smith, at <http://www.smithuel.net/sfchb>

T-Shirts

Size S to 3X
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Off the Wall

by Julie Wall

Okay, this is it. My last *Bulletin*. As far as I know. It has been fun – hard work at times, but a fun and interesting four years. The hardest part has always been starting and finishing. Starting because there are always at least a couple of months between issues when my *Bulletin* producing muscles would get flabby. Plus, I tend to procrastinate. But once an issue got started, I would get into the swing of it. Work would proceed apace for a few weeks, and then there would be a mad dash at the end to get all the stuff in, fit it all in, get it proofed and schedule a folding, taping and labeling party and get them copied by then. Then there's the drudgery of the folding, taping and labeling. (I know, I know, at least we didn't have to collate!) And sending the boxes off to Tom and fighting with the post office about mailing the foreign copies. Luckily, the lady at the post office near work quit making me fill out customs forms. Then there would be the satisfaction of having gotten it done. And getting LoCs in the interim is usually gratifying, because you all have been so encouraging.

I want to thank a few people right off.

Charlotte Proctor has typed all the LoCs received via the post office, proofread every issue and helped fold, tape and label almost every time.

Toni Weisskopf has proofread every issue. Even long distance after she moved to Athens.

Gary and Debbie Rowan have helped fold, tape and label every issue. And sat at SFC tables with me at conventions. And helped me give parties.

More recently, Naomi Fisher and Pat Molloy have helped with the folding, taping and labeling several times. And Naomi brought dessert! And a couple of times she took the boxes to Tom in Nashville.

Of course, there's Tom Feller, who generously allowed us to use his bulk mailing permit for the last four years. This meant he had to receive the boxes of *Bulletins* and sort them and take them to the post office during his brief stays at home in Nashville. (Anyone who reads the *Bulletin* regularly knows that Tom travels *a lot* on his job.) Tom tells me that he doesn't plan to renew his permit any longer, so we'll have to decide on another course of action regarding mailing at the meeting at DSC.

Presidential nominee Randy Cleary has been a big help, too, lately.

Others who have helped with the folding, etc., over the years are George Little, Rebecca Brayman, Mike Rogers, David Shelton, Mary Anne Ellis and I'm sure others that I am forgetting. Thanks to all of you. I hope you'll continue to help the new regime, as I plan to do.

Thanks, too, to all the contributors of articles, art and LoCs – keep them coming for the new editor. Anything sent to my address will be passed on to the new editor.

The current plan is to have this issue ready to take to DSC for folding and etc. So if you were there, maybe you helped. If so – thanks! And don't forget that dues are payable each year at DSC. I hope to have a table somewhere for a while, too, but if not, there's always the meeting on Sunday morning. Or, if you won't be there, you can always mail it in. Check your mailing label for the date you are paid through.

Alas, I didn't get many suggestions from the SFC readership about what to nominate for the Hugos. I did do some nominating, nonetheless. And all but one of my nominees made the ballot, so I guess that's good.

I promised more info on ConCave, which was February 22-24. This was the second year that it was held at the Hampton Inn in Horse Cave, and as before, the hotel was sold out. Hotel Liaison/Tsarina Naomi Fisher had her hands full getting everyone housed. But the hotel cooperated with her very well, and some of the staff really got into the spirit of the con, donning costumes and such. I shared a suite with Bill and Linda Zielke and Randy Cleary.

I drove up to Huntsville on Friday morning and left my car at Randy's. We took Randy's much newer and spiffier Saturn first to the Publix for party supplies (regular readers of the *Bulletin* will recall my nearly disastrous attempt to get party supplies in Horse Cave last year), and then on up I-65 to Kentucky.

Bill and Linda were already there. After registering with Corlis Robe, Randy went off to hang his art, while I had a drink and hung out a bit with my buddies from Chattanooga. Once Randy was done in the art show, we all headed over to Aunt Bee's across the road for supper. It was decent food, but there was a mysterious item on the menu. An Italian sub served with "odd juice". We couldn't figure out if this was a joke, if they thought that was how you spelled au jus, or if it really *was* some odd juice. I've never seen an Italian sub served with any kind of juice (or jus) at all. Maybe next year



we'll summon the courage to ask.

Friday night we checked out the art show and went to parties. That's basically all there was to do, so it was a full agenda. Linda and I also tried out the jacuzzi tub in our suite. What luxury! Soaking in a hot tub with a glass of Asti Spumanti, chatting with one your best friends! Randy took pictures and keeps threatening to print them in his first issue as editor.

Saturday we variously slept late, worked out a little in exercise room, checked out the Huxter room and hung around chatting with folks until time for the Banquet at the Bookstore Cafe downtown. Once again, we had a city official welcome us and enjoyed our buffet. Bill Francis gave a nice Guest of Honor speech.

Back at the hotel, we slowly started getting ready for our SFC/Zielke party. We started the party pretty early, before the art auction was over. Our party was kind of mellow, and we closed it relatively early as well, so we could go to some of the others. We started thinking of some themes we could use if we do a party next year, since those types of parties seem to go over really well at ConCave.

Sunday we drove home. Well, Randy and I stopped at an O'Charley's in Nashville to have lunch and watch the USA Olympic men's ice hockey team lose the gold medal game to Canada. (Had to get a least one last mention of ice hockey in.) Tom Feller had given us directions to a sports bar, but when we got there, they had the NASCAR race on about 15 TVs (including the huge main TV) and the hockey game on only one. So we went to O'Charley's down the street where the TV screens were a little more balanced – they even put the game on the big screen once the race was over.

ConCave is the ultimate relaxicon, but Randy did sell a few pieces of art and I did sell a few SFC items and a membership. And the party was subsidized, as are all parties at ConCave, by Chairman Gary Robe. Well, by the convention, but Gary comes by the parties in his trademark horribly loud and ugly shirt to deliver the \$50 bill. A good time was had by all.

As for my future fannish plans, my next cons will be DSC and the WorldCon in San José. Maybe without the *Bulletin* to worry about, I will try to be a better loccer to other zines. But I'm not making any promises.

News and Notes:

One thing I definitely won't miss is reporting deaths and other bad news in our community. I never feel that I can do justice to those we wish to remember.

Among the pros, George Alec Effinger, his former mentor Damon Knight and R.A. Lafferty all passed away since our last issue. Fans lost were Bruce Pelz and James Mule. Forrest J. Ackerman has been in the hospital, but early reports that he

was not expected to recover were, thankfully, apparently in error.

Rafael Aloysius Lafferty passed away at the age of 87 on March 18th in a nursing home in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma after having been in failing health for several years. Jerry Page sent the following: "Damn. So R.A. Lafferty is gone. I used to see Lafferty quite frequently at Southern SF cons and though I haven't exchanged words with him in quite some time, I considered him a friend. *The Devil is Dead* is quite likely the most underrated novel in the entire history of the field.

"What part of him is gone is the part he didn't put on paper. I hope you had the pleasure of seeing him or speaking with him at some time or other. He looked like a little old man who drank too much – which, bless him, he was – but then he'd start talking. Mumbling, actually, and if you'd take the care to listen carefully the language of his conversation, the tempo and temper of his wit were all the same as those wonderful stories of his. You see, the part of him that's gone is a lot like the part of him that he put on paper. Damn again. I'll miss him, I'll really miss him."

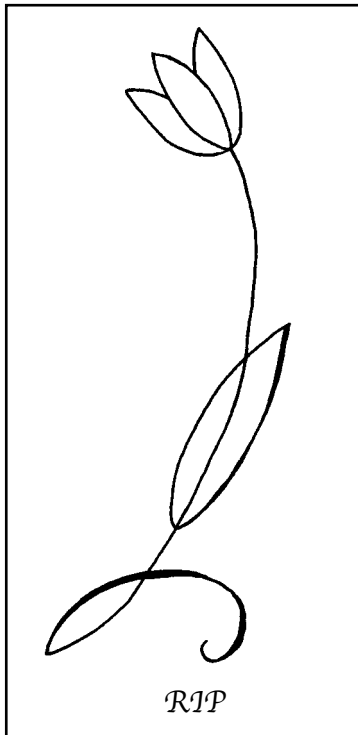
Less than a month later, April 14th, we lost Damon Knight at the age of 80. An SF writer, editor and critic, Knight was one of the Futurians and in 1956, a co-founder of the Milford Science Fiction Writers Conference. In 1965 he founded the Science Fiction Writers of America and became its first president. He and his third wife, Kate Wilhelm, were also involved in the Clarion Workshop in Science Fiction and Fantasy. A huge influence on the genre, he will be sorely missed.

A Southerner by adoption and 1974 Phoenix winner George Alec Effinger died on April 27th. He was 55. Though born in Cleveland, he lived most of the last 30 years in New Orleans.

Effinger was a part of the Clarion class of 1970 and had three stories in the first Clarion anthology. His first novel, *What Entropy Means to Me* (1972) was nominated for the Nebula Award. He achieved his greatest success, perhaps, with the trilogy of Marid Audran novels set in a 21st century Middle East. The three published novels were *When Gravity Fails* (1987), *A Fire in the Sun* (1989) and *The Exile Kiss* (1991). He apparently wrote a fourth book, however legal issues prevented its publication. "Schrodinger's Kitten" won both the Hugo and Nebula

for best Novelette of 1988. Also popular were his Maureen Birnbaum parody stories.

Fandom lost one of its own luminaries on May 9. Bruce Pelz was an extremely well-known and loved fan from the Los Angeles area. He died suddenly of a pulmonary embolism at the age of 65. He was involved in almost all facets of SF fan-



dom, from fanzines to chairing WorldCons. He is survived by his wife, Elayne and daughter, Cecy. A memorial web site has been set up at <http://www.lasfs.org/lasfs/bruce/>. The tributes there are quite touching, even to someone who, like me, only knew *of* Bruce. I had heard of him for years and seen him at WorldCons, but never actually knew him. I am sorry for all of us in fandom who now won't have the opportunity.

Finally, Guy Lillian reports that James Mule, founder of the very successful series of New Orleans *Star Trek* conventions known as VulCon, died in late April. Little detail is known except that he had cancer in addition to kidney failure, with which he had suffered for years. He is survived by his wife Jan.

In happier news, Ray Bradbury recently got a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

And, Joy Smith's audiobook finally did come out: Looking for an exciting new audio adventure? Want to travel to fascinating new places – 75,000 years in the past? Have a yen for sabertooth tigers and cave bears? Are you just tired of bodies in your freezer? Then it's *Sugar Time!*, An Audio Adventure by Joy V. Smith. To order, send \$13.95 per CD or \$10.95 per cassette tape to: Hadrosaur Productions, P.O. Box 8468, Las Cruces, NM 88006-8468. (Note: Prices include \$2.00 shipping and handling per item. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.)

Due to a fire at the Ramada Inn in East Ridge, TN, LibertyCon has been cancelled for this year. Uncle Timmy and the rest of the gang will be back next year with a renovated hotel and the DSC. If you have already pre-registered for the 2002 convention, you will have the option of having your 2002 membership refunded or having it rolled over to LibertyCon 16/DSC41 in 2003. All of the convention rates are going to remain the same – membership, dealer's tables, etc. Anyone that had already made a reservation at the Ramada Inn will have their reservations cancelled automatically.

That's all folks! Hope to see you around and about at conventions and the pages of this zine and others!☺

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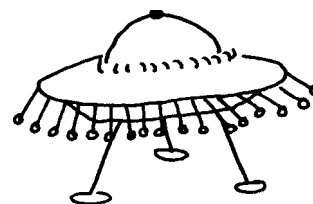
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SPACESHIP
DISGUISE #15
<CAUTION: TACKY>

Nebula Award Winners

The Science Fiction Writers of America held their annual Nebula Awards ceremony the weekend of April 27th in Kanas City, Missouri. The winners were:

- Novel –
The Quantum Rose by Catherine Asaro
- Novella –
“The Ultimate Earth” by Jack Williamson
- Novelette –
“Louise's Ghost” by Kelly Link
- Short Story –
“The Cure for Everything” by Severna Park
- Script –
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon by James Schamus, Kuo Jung Tsai and Hui-Ling Wang
- Special Award –
President's Award: Betty Ballantine☺

Treasurer's Report As of 5/23/02

by Judy Bemis

<i>Balance as of 10/22/01</i>\$1,779.85
INCOME	
<i>Indiv. Memberships & Renewals</i>\$75.00
TOTAL INCOME\$287.00
EXPENSES	
<i>Bulletin Vol 7 #11 printing</i>\$372.85
<i>Postage (Foreign & bulk)</i>\$60.47
TOTAL EXPENSES\$433.32
BALANCE\$1,421.53

Hugo Nominees

Only attending and supporting members of this year's WorldCon – ConJosé – may vote on the 2002 Hugo Awards. ConJosé will mail Hugo Award ballots to all of its members in Progress Report 4, scheduled to mail by the end of May 2002. A copy of the ballot will be available for download from the ConJosé web site at http://www.conjose.org/wsfs/wsfs_hugo.html. ConJosé plans to offer online voting as it did for the nominating ballots. The voting deadline is July 31, 2002.

Through July 31, 2002, an Attending membership in ConJosé is \$180 and a Supporting membership is \$35. Information about how to join ConJosé is available from the web site at <http://www.conjose.org/Member/membership.html> or write to POB 61363, Sunnyvale CA 94088-4128.

Each Worldcon has the right to add one special category, good only for that year and not binding upon any future Worldcon committees. ConJosé exercised this right and will award a Hugo Award for Best Web Site.

Three categories have six nominees due to ties for the final ballot position.

BEST NOVEL (486 ballots cast)

The Curse of Chalion by Lois McMaster Bujold (HarperCollins/Eos)

American Gods by Neil Gaiman (Morrow)

Perdido Street Station by China Miéville (Macmillan (UK)(2000); Del Rey)

Cosmonaut Keep by Ken MacLeod (Orbit (UK)(2000); Tor)

Passage by Connie Willis (Bantam)

The Chronoliths by Robert Charles Wilson (Tor)

BEST NOVELLA (300 ballots cast)

"May Be Some Time" by Brenda W. Clough (*Analog* 4/01)

"The Diamond Pit" by Jack Dann (Jubilee, HarperCollins/Voyager Australia; *F&SF* 6/01)

"The Chief Designer" by Andy Duncan (*Asimov's* 6/01)

"Stealing Alabama" by Allen Steele (*Asimov's* 1/01)

"Fast Times at Fairmont High" by Vernor Vinge (*The Collected Stories of Vernor Vinge*, Tor)

BEST NOVELETTE (292 ballots cast)

"Hell Is the Absence of God" by Ted Chiang (*Starlight* 3, Tor)

"Undone" by James Patrick Kelly (*Asimov's* 6/01)

"The Days Between" by Allen Steele (*Asimov's* 3/01)

"Lobsters" by Charles Stross (*Asimov's* 6/01)

"The Return of Spring" by Shane Tourtellotte (*Analog* 11/01)

BEST SHORT STORY (331 ballots cast)

"The Ghost Pit" by Stephen Baxter (*Asimov's* 7/01)

"Spaceships" by Michael A. Burstein (*Analog* 6/01)

"The Bones of the Earth" by Ursula K. Le Guin (*Tales from Earthsea*, Harcourt)

"Old MacDonald Had a Farm" by Mike Resnick (*Asimov's* 9/01)
"The Dog Said Bow-Wow" by Michael Swanwick (*Asimov's* 10-11/01)

BEST RELATED BOOK (252 ballots cast)

The Art of Richard Powers by Jane Frank (Paper Tiger)

Meditations on Middle-Earth by Karen Haber, ed. (St. Martin's Press/A Byron Preiss Book)

The Art of Chesley Bonestell by Ron Miller & Frederick C. Durant III (Paper Tiger)

I Have This Nifty Idea...Now What Do I Do With It? by Mike Resnick (Wildside Press)

J. R. R. Tolkien: Author of the Century by Tom Shippey (HarperCollins (UK)(2000); Houghton Mifflin)

Being Gardner Dozois by Michael Swanwick (Old Earth Books)

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION (452 ballots cast)

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (1492 Pictures/Heyday Films/Warner Bros.) Directed by Chris Columbus; Screenplay by Steven Kloves; David Heyman, Producer; Michael Barthan, Chris Columbus, Duncan Henderson & Mark Radcliff, Executive Producers.

The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (New Line Cinema/The Saul Zaentz Company/WingNut Films) Directed by Peter Jackson; Screenplay by Fran Walsh & Phillipa Boyens & Peter Jackson; Peter Jackson, Barrie M. Osborne and Tim Sanders, Producers; Michael Lynne, Mark Ordesky, Robert Shaye, Bob Weinstein and Harvey Weinstein, Executive Producers.

Monsters, Inc. (Pixar Animation Studios/Walt Disney Pictures) Directed by Pete Docter, David Silverman and Lee Unkrich. Story by Jill Culton, Peter Docter, Ralph Eggleston and Jeff Pidgeon. Darla K. Anderson, Producer. John Lasseter and Andrew Stanton, Executive Producers.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer "Once More, With Feeling" (Fox Television Studios/Mutant Enemy, Inc.) Written & Directed by Joss Whedon. Joss Whedon and Marti Noxon, Executive Producers.

Shrek (DreamWorks SKG/Pacific Data Images). Directed by Andrew Adamson and Vicky Jenson. Written by Ted Elliott & Terry Rossio and Joe Stillman and Roger S. H. Schulman. Jeffrey Katzenberg, Aron Warner and John H. Williams, Producers. Penney Finkelman Cox and Sandra Rabins, Executive Producers.

BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR (382 ballots cast)

Ellen Datlow (*SCI FICTION* and anthologies)

Gardner Dozois (*Asimov's*)

Patrick Nielsen Hayden (Tor Books; *Starlight* anthology series)

Stanley Schmidt (*Analog*)

Gordon Van Gelder (*F&SF*)

BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST (323 ballots cast)

Jim Burns
Bob Eggleton
Frank Kelly Freas
Donato Giancola
Michael Whelan

BEST SEMIPROZINE (283 ballots cast)

Absolute Magnitude, edited by Warren Lapine
Interzone, edited by David Pringle
Locus, edited by Charles N. Brown
The New York Review of Science Fiction, edited by Kathryn Cramer, David Hartwell & Kevin J. Maroney
Speculations, edited by Susan Fry, published by Kent Brewster

BEST FANZINE (237 ballots cast)

File 770, edited by Mike Glycer
Ansible, edited by Dave Langford
Challenger, edited by Guy Lillian III
Mimosa, edited by Richard & Nicki Lynch
Plokta, edited by Alison Scott, Steve Davies & Mike Scott

BEST FAN WRITER (248 ballots cast)

Jeff Berkwits
Bob Devney
John L. Flynn
Mike Glycer
Dave Langford
Steven H Silver

BEST FAN ARTIST (177 ballots cast)

Sheryl Birkhead
Brad Foster
Teddy Harvia
Sue Mason
Frank Wu

BEST WEB SITE (365 ballots cast)

Locus Online, Mark R. Kelly editor/webmaster (www.locus-mag.com)
SciFi.com, Craig Engler, executive producer (www.scifi.com)
SF Site, Rodger Turner, publisher/managing editor (www.sfsite.com)
Strange Horizons, Mary Anne Mohanraj, editor-in-chief (www.strangehorizons.com)
Tangent Online, Dave Truesdale, senior editor; Tobias Buckell, webmaster (www.tangentonline.com)

JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD FOR BEST NEW WRITER OF 2000/2001 (272 ballots cast)

Tobias S. Buckell (second year of eligibility)
Alexander C. Irvine (second year of eligibility)
Wen Spencer (first year of eligibility)
Jo Walton (second year of eligibility)
Ken Wharton (second year of eligibility)

The John W. Campbell Award, sponsored by Dell Magazines, is not a Hugo Award, but appears on the same ballot as the Hugo Awards and is administered in the same way as the Hugo Awards. 🐉



Convention Reports

by Tom Feller

Chattacon—

This convention moved back to the Read House this year for the first time since I have been attending. Most of the convention activities were on the mezzanine level. Unfortunately, that level has steps and ramps, like most historic hotels. Anita had an automobile accident a month before in which another driver (without insurance, of course) hit and totaled her car. The airbag worked, but Anita still hit her knees on the dashboard, so she had trouble getting around.

Another problem for us was that cigarette smoke returned to this convention and forced us to avoid public areas. We sat down near a coffee table on the mezzanine level Saturday afternoon, and some well-meaning person brought us an ashtray with smoldering cigarette butts. Finally, the dealer's room was exceptionally cold, so we didn't spend much time there. That said, otherwise it was a good convention.

Anita camped herself in the con suite for most of the weekend. She did venture out for Opening Ceremonies followed by a wine and cheese reception. She especially liked the brie. We also attended the Masquerade on Saturday night, which was followed by a dance. Anita was not quite up to dancing, so I got to dance with femme fatale Julie Wall. *{{Ha!}}* The dances alternated between fast and very fast. Anita thought it was influenced by the Rave concept.

I attended two panels. In the first, Jack McDevitt brought notes, but the other panelists forced him to throw them away. The second concerned *The Lord of the Rings* movie and the overall judgment was positive.

The parties were numerous. The highlights, as usual, were the Xerps in 2010 Worldcon bid party and the party for this year's DeepSouthCon.

Concave—

As usual, we had a relaxing weekend at Concave. The motel has an indoor swimming pool, so I utilized it on both Saturday and Sunday mornings. We mostly hung around the lobby, which also functioned as the con suite.

The only programming is the Guest of Honor speech. Bill Francis mentioned that

he has now taken up acting. The speech took place at the banquet at Bookstore Café in beautiful downtown Horsecave, Kentucky. The restaurant takes up half of the store and the books the other half.

Once again, parties were numerous (four on Friday night and four on Saturday night), the Xerps, SFC, and DSC ones were the highlights.

MidSouthCon—

I took Friday off so we left early enough to stop at the Casey Jones Village in Jackson, TN for lunch. The restaurant features authentic country cooking, and Anita and I like to stop there on our way to or from Memphis.

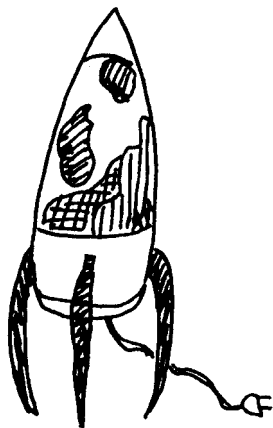
When we arrived at the hotel, the Holiday Inn-Airport, we noticed that the area that used to be the indoor swimming pool was filled with cubicles. Later we found out that the Transportation Security Agency (TSA) was conducting interviews for airport security positions. Unfortunately, they were using the MidSouthcon's meeting room space and were not relinquishing it. The committee had to move the con suite to a room that was originally slated as a video room, for instance. TSA did not pack up and leave until late Friday night. Under the circumstances, we thought the committee did a great job handling a difficult situation.

I was on a panel at 6 PM, but there was no meeting room available. Instead, Michael Kingsley, the head of programming, arranged for us to have a large table in the restaurant. We were not alone. Even C.J. Cherryh's panel was there. Our panel discussed fan websites. The other panelists were John Miller and Carlin Stuart. Miller works for Krause Publications, the company that owns *The Comics Buyer's Guide*, *The Guide to Collectible Card Games*, and other magazines. He said that although they have web sites, there are no plans to convert their magazines into web-only publications. He also said that the comics apas are hurting just as much as the SF ones.

I attended two programming items during the weekend. The first was a panel about Yard Dog Press, a micro press publisher in Arkansas. Selina Rosen is the publisher and chief editor. The other panelists were writers whose books and stories Yard Dog Press has published. One advantage they have over the large publishers is that they can do trade paperback print runs of only 100 books.

The other programming item was a discussion led by Arthur Morgan, a former student of Christopher Tolkien and former English professor who now operates a bed and breakfast hotel in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. He spoke about *The Lord of the Rings*. He mentioned that the religious right has not just gone after Harry Potter, but Tolkien and C.S. Lewis as well.

Anita and I watched two movies in the video room. We



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had recently seen the new version of *The Time Machine*, which we felt was not as bad as the reviews, and wanted to see the 1960 George Pal version, which was on the convention's video program. They made a time change when we went in, but we decided to stay anyway and watched *Escape from the Planet of the Apes*. I remembered that I had seen it in the theater when I was in high school, but saw that the production values and casting were on par with a television movie of the time. Then we watched *The Time Machine*. We still liked it, and it was much more faithful to the book, but we could also see that the costumes and makeup of the Morlocks were pretty cheesy. The new movie does a better job with them.

On Saturday afternoon, the hotel had booked a wedding and reception in the same space where cubicles were set up the day before and where the convention was supposed to have a banquet that night. They were late starting the wedding and the area was not set back up for our banquet at the appointed time. To pacify us, they set up hors d'oeuvres in the lobby for those of us who purchased banquet tickets and the actual banquet started about one hour late.

Anita and I left the convention early on Sunday afternoon so that we could watch the Academy Awards that night. I was disappointed that *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* did not get best picture, but knew that the Academy favors films about dysfunctional families and individuals.

Kublakhan—

Three conditions affected our experience. First, Anita and I were in charge of registration. We had printed the badges for pre-registered members the weekend before. I had to go on a business trip that week, so Anita printed signs and registration forms while I was gone. The second aspect was that Anita got a sinus infection that week and did not sleep well for several nights before the con. The third was that Anita went on the Weight Watchers diet program two weeks earlier. They have a point system in which various foods are given so many points, and the dieters are allowed a certain number of points per day. You can store up points by eating less on weekdays and then use them on weekends.

I got home early enough Thursday evening for us to go to her science fiction book discussion group. Although she was coughing, she did not feel badly enough to miss a social function. Besides, she had read most of the book. We skipped the after-meeting dinner.

Friday morning we made our last preparations before going over to the con. We set up in one of the non-smoking con suite rooms. The Days Inn-Airport did not have the bed removed and appeared to be nowhere near to removing it, so we made it the freebie bed and placed other convention flyers on it. The room had a safe, which we used to store money and badges. (People who stayed there told us the hotel charged \$1.50 per night for the safe whether they used it or not.) The hot water in the bathtub of that room was running when we got there. Bill Payne and Ken Moore had noticed it the night before and reported it to the hotel management. It was still not

fixed when we left Sunday.

Kublakhan and Parthecon have been at that hotel since 1996 and, it was by no means a first class hotel then. It has gotten worse every year since. The safes were the only evidence that any money was put into that part of the hotel in the last six years. Other people reported problems with the air conditioning, as in the lack of it, and rudeness at the front desk, and the hotel staff did not put chairs in the con suite until Saturday.

Anita and I kept registration open until about 10 PM Friday night. Anita decided to skip dinner so that she could expend points on party food. Sherry Norris relieved me so that I could have dinner with Sam Smith, Mike Kennedy, and Joe and Lisa Major at a nearby Longhorn Steak House.

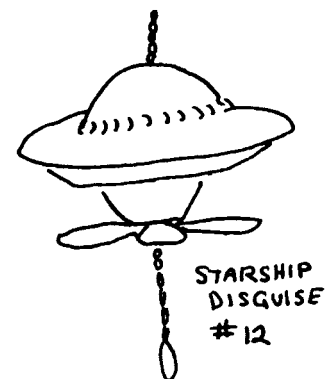
When we returned, I relieved Sherry and Anita so that they could attend the one party of the evening. It was hosted by the Middle Tennessee Science Fiction Society and began at 9 PM. There was also a "Fetish" party at 10 PM, but we did not stay long as Anita's lack of sleep caught up with her.

Because the hotel was so close to our apartment, we went home both nights where we had Adrian Washburn as a house-guest. After giving Adrian breakfast Saturday morning, we returned to the con to re-open registration. Skipping lunch, we stayed at registration all afternoon. The advantage of putting it in one of the con suite rooms is that people came in and talked to us on and off all afternoon. Then at 5:30 PM, my parents arrived. They were on their annual spring trip from Florida to Wisconsin so that my dad could help my brother to plant the corn on their farm. They hung around and talked to us for 45 minutes before getting back on the road.

Then Anita and I closed down registration to join Debbie Hussey, Dan Caldwell, and Joe and Lisa for dinner at O'Charlie's. When we returned, we attended our only program item of the convention. Secret Commonwealth, a local Celtic band, played a two-hour concert that evening. The lead singer, Jack Daves, has been an SF fan since childhood and attended his first Kublakhan twenty years ago.

After the concert, we visited the Xerps in 2010 party. As usual, they had excellent food. We passed on the skippies (vodka, beer, and lemonade), however. Anita did not feel she could afford the points, and I have found that they do bad things to my blood sugar. Their room had an exterior door to the parking lot, so they set up chairs outside. We lasted longer this time.

We returned to the convention Sunday, but did not bother to re-open registration. We did not see anyone without a badge anyway. We just hung around the con suite and talked to people before finally going home. ☺



Southern Convention List

Convention listings are as accurate as possible at the time they are published. We can not and do not guarantee the absolute accuracy of any item printed in this section. You should check with the convention organizers to verify that the information is correct and current. E-mail addresses and telephone numbers are given for convenience and should not be used for any other purpose than obtaining convention information. If you know of an upcoming convention or corrected information on any listed convention, contact the editor by one of the methods listed on the colophone. Also, this list is not exhaustive. It contains conventions in the South that your editor has been to or heard of or have made themselves known to her. For a more complete list, go see Kelly Lockhart's web site, the Southern Fandom Resource Guide: <http://www.scenic-city.com/sfrg/calendar.htm>

2002

MIDWEST CON 54 Jun 27-30, Ramada Inn, Florence, KY. Relaxicon. Deborah Oakes, 5627 Antoninus Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45238. www.cfg.org/midwestcon/, scribe@cfg.org

CRESCENT CITY CON XVII Aug 9-11, Best Western Landmark Hotel, Metairie, LA. Guests: Virginia Hey, Gregory Benford, Sharon Green, Jack Stocker, Ted Nasmith, David and Janice Liang. P.O. Box 52622, New Orleans, LA, 70152-2622, 504-488-0489, CCCNO@AOL.COM, www.crescentcitycon.com.

CONJOSE/60TH WORLDCON Aug 29-Sep. 2, McEnery Convention Center, San Jose CA. Guests: Vernor Vinge, David Cherry, Bjo & John Trimble, Ferdinand Feghoot, Tad Williams. ConJosé, POB 61363, Sunnyvale CA 94088-4128; www.sfsc.org/worldcon/Index.htm, ConJosé@sfsfc.org

DRAGON•CON Aug 30-Sep 2, Hyatt Regency and Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA. PO Box 16459, Atlanta, GA 30321-9998, dragoncon@dragoncon.org, www.dragoncon.org.

NECRONOMICON Oct 4-6, Holiday Inn-Crowne Plaza, Tampa, FL. Guests: David Brin, Tim Powers. P.O. Box 2213, Plant City, FL 33564-2213, www.stonehill.org/necro.htm, raggedyann@stonehill.org

TRINOC•CON 3, Oct 4-6, Downtown Durham Marriott, Durham, NC. Guests: Lois McMaster Bujold, Dave Arneson, Fred Chappell. P.O. Box 10633, Raleigh, NC 27605-0633, info@trinoc-con.org, www.trinoc-con.org

BOUCHERCON 2002 Oct 17-20, Austin TX. Guests: Mary Willis Walker, Sparkle Hayther, Bill Crider. POB 27277, Austin TX 78755, 877-607-7223, acs@crimeandspace.com

CON•STELLATION XXI: PAVO Oct 18-20, Tom Beville Center, Huntsville, AL. P.O. Box 4857, Huntsville AL 35815-4857, con-stell@con-stellation.org, www.con-stellation.org/

2003 and On

TORCON 3/61ST WORLDCON Aug 28-Sep 1, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto ON, Canada. Guests: George R. R. Martin, Frank Kelly Freas, Mike Glycer, Spider Robinson, Robert Bloch. POB 3, Station A, Toronto ON M5W 1A2 Canada, info@torcon3.on.ca, www.torcon3.on.ca

NOREASCON 4/62nd WORLDCON: Sep 2-6, 2004, Hynes Convention Center, Boston, MA. Guests: Terry Pratchett, William Tenn, Jack Speer, Peter Weston. POB 1010, Framingham, MA 01701, info@mcfi.org, www.noreascon.org

2005 WORLDCON BIDS: UK05, Glasgow UK (379 Myrtle,

Sheffield, S Yorks S2 3HQ England; kcampbell.cix.co.uk; www.uk2005.org.uk)

I5 in 05 ("a bid for the longest Worldcon"; Sat., Jan. 1, 2005 to Sat., Dec. 31, 2005, Interstate 5, San Diego to Seattle; <http://sundry.hsc.usc.edu/I5in05.htm>).

2006 WORLDCON BIDS: Dallas TX (www.rubberrodeo.com/dallas2006/).

Los Angeles CA (www.scifiinc.org/)

2007 WORLDCON BID: Japan (www.nippon2007.org)

2008 WORLDCON BID: Australia?

2010 WORLDCON BID: Chicago, Xerps, (<http://members.xoom.com/Xerps2010/>), North Pole

2012 WORLDCON BID: Chichén Itzá (bungalow@radix.net)

2017 WORLDCON BID: Moscow

2069 WORLDCON BID: Tranquility Base (lunatic@pobox.com; www.pobox.com/~lunatic/TBin2069.html)

2095 WORLDCON BIDS: Mars (welch@msoe.edu)

2259 WORLDCON BID: Babylon 5 (rastb5mod@aol.com)

2260 WORLDCON BID: Z'ha'dum (anna@zhadum.com)

23,309 WORLDCON BID: Trantor

1973 WORLDCON BID: Minneapolis in '73 🐼

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Noreascon 4

The 62nd World Science Fiction Convention

September 2-6, 2004
 Boston, Massachusetts, USA



Pro Guests of Honor:

**Terry
Pratchett**

**William
Tenn**

Fan Guests of Honor:

**Jack
Speer**

**Peter
Weston**

Noreascon 4

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 Sheraton Boston Hotel
 Boston Marriott Copley Place

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 contact prereg@mcfi.org

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 email progress@mcfi.org

For general questions, ask
info@mcfi.org

ADDRESSES

Noreascon Four/MCFI
 P.O. Box 1010
 Framingham, MA 01701-1010
 United States of America

Fax: +1 617.776.3243

Web page:
<http://www.noreascon.org>

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Annotated Fanzine Listings

by Tom Feller

Please send paper zines for listing to me at PO Box 68203, Nashville, TN 37206. All these zines are available for trade unless noted. Also unless otherwise specified, when writing for a sample issue, send \$1 to cover postage. A SASE is likely to be too small. eZines should be sent to tomfeller@aol.com

Alexiad, #2, published by Lisa and Joseph Major, 1409 Christy Avenue, Louisville, KY 40204-2040. Joe describes how he found fandom and reviews books.

Anime Sacramento Newsletter, April-May 2001, newsletter of Anime Sacramento, 5422 Colusay Way, Sacramento, CA 95841-2304. Edited by Laurine White. Club and Anime news.

Ansible, #'s 175-178, published by Dave Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5AU, UK. Dave's U.S. agent is Janice Murray, PO Box 75684, Seattle, WA 98125-0684. One of this year's Hugo nominees. Fannish news. Obituaries in #178 include Damon Knight, George Alec Effinger, and Richard Cowper.

CAR-PGa Newsletter, Vol. 11, #'s 3-5, published by the Committee for the Advancement of Role-Playing Games, 1127 Cedar, Bonham, TX 75418. Edited by Paul Cardwell. Available for \$10 annually or 85 cents per copy; no trades. Each issue has a convention calendar. Carsten Obst discusses the reception of the *Harry Potter* and *Lord of the Rings* movies in Germany in #3 and on the German Playmate of the Month who plays RPG in #5.

Con-Temporal, Vol. 9 #'s 3&5, published by Pegasus Publishing, PO Box 1845, Sherman, TX, 75091-1845. Edited by Scott Merritt. Monthly subscription: \$40 per year; Bi-Monthly subscription: \$30 per year. No trades. This zine has the most comprehensive listing of conventions that I have seen.

Covert Communications From Zeta Corvi, #9, published by Andrew Murdoch, 508-6800 Westminster Highway, Richmond, B.C. Canada, V7C 1C5. Besides zine reviews and what Andrew calls "retro-reviews" of SF classics, he published a fairly comprehensive list of awards in the SF field.

Derogatory Reference #98, published by Arthur D. Hlavaty, 206 Valentine Street, Yonkers, NY 10704-1814. Available for \$1. Arthur describes his whereabouts on 9/11 and reports on Millennium Philcon.

De Profundis #'s 350-352, official newszine of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society (LASFS), 11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601. Edited by Marty Cantor. Club news, calendar, and meeting minutes. Ted White has a fanzine review column.

Feline Mewsings, #7, published by R. Laurraine Tutihasi, 29217 Stonecrest Road, Rollings Hills Estates, CA 90275-4936. (This is an apazine written for the Fantasy Amateur Press Association (FAPA) and contains Laurraine's mailing comments. However, it is available outside the apa as well.) Laurraine discusses opera, theater, figure skating, and movies.

File 770, # 140, published by Mike Glyer, 705 Valley View Avenue, Monrovia, CA 91016. Available for \$8 for 5 issues, \$15 for 10. One of this year's Hugo nominees. This is fandom's leading newszine, and it has an active letter column. Ted White reports on Corflu, Martin

also reports on Capclave and Bouchercon, Dale Speirs on Con-Version, and Fred Patten on OryCon. Obituaries include Jack Haldeman and Meade Frierson

Future Times, Vol. 5, #3, the fanzine of the Atlanta Science Fiction Society, PO Box 98308, Atlanta, GA 30359-2008. Edited by Jayne Rogers. Available for \$6 per year. Club news, book and TV reviews, and convention listings.

Gegenschein #91, published by Eric Lindsay, PO Box 640, Airlie Beach, Qld 4802 Australia. Eric reviews books and discusses a number of subjects relating computers and 9/11.

Lofgeornost, #66, published by Fred Lerner, 81 Worcester Avenue, White River Junction, Vermont 05001. (This is another apazine written for the Fantasy Amateur Press Association (FAPA) and contains Fred's mailing comments. However, it is available outside the apa as well.)

Instant Message, #'s 697-700, newsletter of the New England Science Fiction Association, PO Box 809, Framingham, MA 01701-0809. Edited by Pam Fremon. Club and Boskone news. #699 contains an obituary for Damon Knight.

The Knarley Knews, #'s 92-93, published by Henry "Knarley" Welch, 1526 16th Avenue, Grafton, WI 53024-2017. Available for \$1.50 per issue. Both issues have letters, zine listings, and book reviews. In #92, Charlotte Proctor reviews plays, concerts, and arts festivals, Gene Stewart discusses patriotism, Rodney Leighton contemplates the concept of "the usual" in fanzine fandom, and Sue Welch reports on a trip to Uganda. In #93, Knarley discusses credit card abuse, Charlotte reviews a new novel by John Grisham, and Gene discusses the decline of public discourse.

Memphen, #'s 272-277, unofficial publication of the Memphis Science Fiction Association, PO Box 820534, Memphis, TN 38182-0534. Edited by Greg Bridges. Available for \$12 per year. Besides club news and book and TV reviews, Greg profiles SF writers with Memphis connections in #272, and Jack Jeffers interviews Terry Brooks in #277. There are obituaries for Gordon Dickson and L. Sprague de Camp in #273, Poul Anderson in #274, and Meade Frierson in #276

NASFA Shuttle, Vol.22, #'s 2-5, newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, PO Box 4857, Huntsville, AL 35815-4857. Edited by Mike Kennedy. Subscription: \$1.50 per issue, or \$10 for 12 issues. Besides club, Constellation, and DSC news and letters, Randy Cleary reports on Chattacon in #2. #4 includes an obituary for R.A. Lafferty. Mike reports on Kublakhan in #5

The National Fantasy Fan, Volume 1, No. 4, the official organ of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, c/o Dennis Davis, 25549 Byron St., San Bernardino, CA 9204-6408. Edited by Janine Stinson. Available for \$18 annually (make check out to William Center); no trades. Besides club news and reviews, Sarah Glasgow discusses the medieval bestiary and Ted White reviews Science Fiction Five Yearly.

Opuntia, #'s 50.1B, 51, & 51.1A, published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. Almost all issues contain letters and book reviews. #50.1B and 51.1A also contains zine

reviews. Dale writes about illegible postmarks in #51 and alternative atomic bombs in #51.1A.

Peregrine Nation, #4, published by J. G. Stinson, PO Box 430314, Big Pine Key, FL 33043-0314. Available for \$1. Besides letters and zine reviews, Lyn McConchie discusses creative writing.

Plokta, #'s 25 & 25.5, published by Steve Davies, 52 Westbourne Terrace, Reading, Berks RG30 2RP, Alison Scott, 24 ST Mary Road, Walthamstow, London E17 9RG, and Mike Scott, 39 Fitzroy Court, 6 Whitehorse Road, Croydon CR0 2AX, United Kingdom. One of this year's Hugo nominees. Besides letters, the cover of #25 spoofs Tolkien's map of Middle Earth, Steve and the cabal also spoof the *Lord of the Rings* movie, Rob Jackson describes his search for a long lost album, Patty Wells reports on her year with emphasis on Christmas, and Alison complains about music on the radio. #25.5 is essentially a flyer for Plokta, the convention.

Stehekin 11, published by Patsy Williams King, 647 Frasier Street, Marietta, GA 30060. Book reviews, cartoons, pictures, poetry, and letters.

Terminal Eyes, # 5, published by Tim Marion, c/o Kleinbard, 266 East Broadway, Apt. 1201B, New York, NY 10002. This is an apazine for FAPA and contains Tim's mailing comments. Tim comments on movies and TV, Darrell Schweitzer reviews *Quest for Fire*, Tim and rich brown exchange e-mail about various subjects, and Walt Wentz describes his year.

Three Pipe Problem Plugs and Dottles, newsletter of the Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem (Sherlock Holmes), March-April 2002. Edited by Gael Stahl, 1763 Needmore Road, Old Hickory, TN 37138. Available for \$7 annually; no trades. Club news, reviews, and discussion of The Canon. This issue is dominated by reactions to the untimely death of member David Bradley, but also includes a report on the Baskerville Bash in New York by Billy Fields.

Thyme, # 133, PO Box 222, World Trade Centre, Melbourne, VC 8005, Australia. Edited by Alan Stewart. Subscriptions: \$15 for 6 issues. Checks should be made payable to Mark Olson, 10 Shawmut Terrace, Framingham, MA 01702. Besides book reviews, publishing, and zine listings, Mervyn Barrett reports on the 1999 Worldcon in Melbourne, Lyn McConchie complains about the practice of publishers repackaging old stories and marketing them as new, and there is a discussion of an Australian Worldcon bid for either 2007 or 2009,

Twink, # 24, published by E. B. Frohvet, 4716 Dorsey Hall Drive, #506, Ellicott City, MD 21042. Besides reviews of books, TV shows, movies, and zines and a letter column, E.B. discusses awards with the science fiction field, Sheryl Birkhead compares the Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings movies, Dale Speirs applies the Samuel Johnson poem "Prologue at the Opening of the Theater in Drury Lane, 1747" to science fiction, Lloyd Penney reports on Astra.

Vanamonde, #'s 438-457, published by John Hertz, 236 South Coronado Street, No. 409, Los Angeles, CA 90057. These 2 page perzines were originally published for APA-L, the weekly apa. They all have John's mailing comments to other members of the apa. John discusses *The Grapes of Wrath* in #440, Isaac Stern in #445, and Lester del Rey's *World of Science Fiction* in #448. #'s 442, 447, 452, & 457 contain responses from people outside the apa.

Visions of Paradise, #90, published by Robert Sabella, 24 Cedar Manor Court, Budd Lake, NJ 07828-1023. Robert prints his diary for

September through December, discusses trends in science fiction in the 20th Century, and reviews books and fanzines.

The Whaling News, Vol. 14, #2, a publication of the Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn, a Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars, PO Box 256, St. Charles, MO 63302-0256. Edited by Michael Bragg. No trades. Club news and Sherlock Holmes articles.

Electronic Zines

BARYON #86, published by Barry Hunter, barry@baryon-online.com. Book reviews. Web version available at <http://www.baryon-online.com>

DISTRICT MESSENGER #'s 219-220, published by Roger Johnson, roger_johnson@hotmail.com. Sherlock Holmes news.

EMERALD CITY, #'s 78-80, published by Cheryl Morgan, Cheryl@emcit.com. Requires Adobe Acrobat Reader. Besides book reviews, Cheryl reports on Potlatch in #78 and Eastercon in #80. In #79, she explains why she resigned from the Conjosé committee. Web version available at <http://www.emcit.com>.

NO AWARD #11, published by Marty Cantor, hooahpubs@earthlink.net. Requires Adobe Acrobat Reader. Joe Major reviews Opuntia, Milt Stevens discusses silly titles, Ed Green remembers Los Angeles, and Len Moffatt describes his fannish life in the Fifties.

THE REVENGE OF HUMP DAY!, published by Tim Bolgeo, tbolgeo@att.net. Jokes and fannish news, especially Libertycon.

WOSSNAME, Newsletter of the Klatchian Foreign Legion. Published by Joseph Schaumburger, JSCHAUM111@aol.com. Terry Pratchett and Discworld news. In the February e-issue, Matty Smith writes about how she discovered Pratchett

Web Sites

Bookview at <http://hometown.aol.com/bookviewzine>, published by William Tienken. Reviews of non-fiction books.

Clocktower Books at <http://www.cloktowerbooks.com>, published by Brian Callahan. Electronic fiction.

Creative Connections at <http://pub28.ezboard.com/bcreativeconnections>. Electronic poetry and fiction.

Efanzines.com at <http://efanzines.com/>. Published by Bill Burns. This site contains downloadable electronic versions of zines by Andy Hooper, Victor Gonzales, Arnie and Joyce Worley Katz, Earl Kemp, Michael Lowry, Bill Bowers, Marty Cantor, Alexander Bouchard, Janine Stinson, Richard Geis, Ed Meskys, and others. There are also zine reviews by Ted White and links to other fanzine sites.

Epilogue at <http://www.epilogue.net/art/>. SF and fantasy art.

Keltona at <http://www.embiid.net/>. Electronic fiction.

Eric Lindsay's personal web site at <http://www.ericlindsay.com>. He discusses his home in Airlie Beach, Australia, computers, science fiction, and fandom.

Locus On-line at www.locusmag.com, published by Mark Kelly. On-line version of the Hugo Award winning semi-prozine. One of this year's Hugo nominees.

Memphis Science Fiction Association at

<http://www.pseudoworld.net/msfa>, Memphen Archive Web Site:
<http://memphen.org>, and the Darrell Awards web site at <http://darrellawards.org>.

Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem at

www.nashvillescholars.net. Published by Jim Hawkins. Sherlock Holmes news.

SciFi.Com at www.scifi.com, published by Craig Engler. Website for the TV network. One of this year's Hugo nominees.

Sci-Fi Dimensions at <http://www.scifidimensions.com>, published by John C. Snider. Interviews, reviews, articles, and fiction.

SF Site at www.sfsite.com, published by Rodger Turner. Book reviews. One of this year's Hugo nominees.

Strange Horizons at www.strangehorizons.com, published by Mary Ann Mohanraj. Articles, fiction, poetry, and reviews. One of this year's Hugo nominees.

Tangent at www.tangentonline.com, published by Dave Truesdale. Reviews of short fiction. One of this year's Hugo nominees.

Toonopedia at <http://www.toonopedia.com>, published by Don Markstein. On-line encyclopedia of cartoons.

VideoVista at <http://www.videovista.net>, published by Tony Lee. Video reviews. 📺

Letters of Comment

March 25: **Pamela Boal**, 4 Westfield Way, Charlton Heights, Wantage, OXON, OX12 7EW, United Kingdom

Thank you for Vol. 7 No. 12. Spring is springing, health, computer, car problems knocked on the head so we are getting the boat ready to be off any day now. Once again all you patient editors will be getting shorter shrift from me than you deserve.

In any event I haven't much to offer this time round, just the usual compliments on lay out, art work, photos and above all contents. I shall miss you when you hand over as editor but know only to well any club zine editor deserves a break after a couple or so years.

April 29: **E.B. Frohvet**, 4716 Dorsey Hall Dr. #506, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Your comment that you don't want *Harry Potter* to win another Hugo because "it isn't science fiction" echoes my point made elsewhere, that the Hugos are an SF award largely to the exclusion of fantasy. *{{Well, they should be. It's the World SF convention, no matter how many other genres horn in.}}*

Fellow Marylander, Sheryl Birkhead, tells me she made the ballot again this year for "Fan Artist"; along with Texans Brad Foster and Teddy Harvia; Sue Mason, of England, and Frank Wu, of whose geography I am unsure.

I would not wish to offend the bride and groom, to whom all congratulations and best wishes, by saying that your account of the wedding was generally humorous. (One flinches to imagine, but: What did you use the duct tape for? If I would be happier not knowing, feel free to ignore that...) *{{Mostly to attach strings of lights to the poles that made up the two tents. See, that didn't hurt a bit.}}* As for a wedding program, perhaps someone should adapt the system used in team sports and have everyone wear numbers. The bride of course would be #1; the groom could wear #0... Okay, Julie, I'm stumped: What is a "groom's cake"? I've never been to a wedding that had separate cakes. Gender discrimination!

{{Well, there probably is some folklorish tale to explain it, but near as I can tell, it is a device to allow two different kinds of cake at the reception. The regular wedding cake is almost always white, whereas the groom's cake is usually chocolate, or that frightening (but tasty) Southern creation: red velvet cake.}} I do recall one fannish wedding, presided over by Joe Mayhew, in which at the last minute it was decided that the groom's cloak was insufficiently formal, and he wore mine (black lined with red). The part of the hearth fire was portrayed by a candle, in deference to the wishes of the fire marshal.

Under the circumstances, I can understand many concons preferring a "no weapons" policy.

Note to Harry Warner Jr. and Mike Rogers: What I meant (I believe it was corrected at one point) was that no American woman had won the French Open between Chris Evert's last win (1985) and Jennifer Capriati's victory (2001). Mary Pierce was born in Montreal of a French mother and American



DSC ad

father; she has homes in both France and the U.S. and may hold dual citizenship; however she played Fed Cup for France... No, Mike, I can watch NASCAR if I'm really bored and there's nothing else on, but I'm not really a fan. I like tennis, basketball, and can watch golf; though I stick to my theory that if you cut open Tiger Woods you'll find cogs and gears and a positronic brain.

Not sure where I stand on Trinlay Khadro's theory, that she'd be more afraid of the ghost of a stranger than that of a relative. Though if I had the chance to talk to my grandfather's ghost, there are some questions I'd like to ask.

Dr. Jack Stocker: Thanks for bringing up the old Pat Frank novel *Mr. Adam*. I read it once or twice a long time ago and recalled the basic premise. If the nuclear plant explosion was in Mississippi rather than Alabama I will gladly take your word for it. (The comment speculating that Frank wrote only *Alas, Babylon* was an editorial comment: I knew that he had written several and was a fairly popular mainstream writer in his time. *Alas, Babylon* is the only one that has been in print for many years that I know of and the only one with which most people are familiar.)

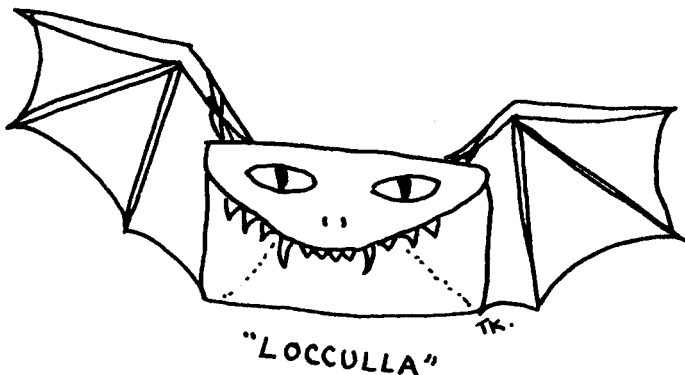
Julie: The last several pages of my copy had been exposed to grease or something. Don't know if this happened in the postal system. (They were legible; I don't need another copy.) *{{I think it must have been the postal system. We ate chili before we folded, taped and labeled.}}*

April 11: **Joy V. Smith**, 8925 Selph Road, Lakeland, FL 33810, Pagadan@aol.com

What a nifty idea and cool cover! However did you think of that, Sheryl?!

Re: Hugo nominations. Not a clue. Haven't read that much new stuff. The latest movie I've seen btw, is *Ice Age*, which I enjoyed. (Keep your eyes open during the ice cavern scene.)

Re: editorial. Sounds like you had a great time at Chattacon, ok, except for the noise and the lack of hot water (two of my pet annoyances); but you certainly partied a lot. I did like your point about the dj playing slow music (he should have) now and then for romance and catching your breath.



I enjoyed the Con*Stellation report. I hadn't thought of extra security there because of it being inside the airport terminal – certainly made it more interesting.

Oh, wow, Julie, just reading your report of the Weisskopf/Reinhardt wedding made me feel pooped. What a lot of preparation! And what great ideas; I loved the castle on the wedding cake. All the best to the happy couple.

Thanks for the southern convention list; I plan to attend Oasis 15, and I'd love to attend Noreascon in Boston in 2004. (haven't been back to Boston since I moved down here.)

The Annotated Fanzine Listings covers a lot of territory. *Feline Mewsings* (great title) and *The Holmes & Watson Report*, among others, sound interesting. I'm glad to see e-zines and web sites included. (Btw, Tom, thanks again for the zine listings in the AOL SF Fanzines folder.)

I enjoyed the LOCs, as usual, and the Terrorist in Hell cartoon.

April 20: **Arthur D. Hlavaty**, 205 Valentine St., Yonkers, NY 10704

Another excellent Bulletin; you set a high standard for your successor. I particularly enjoyed the wedding report.

Shortly after 9/11, a web site called adequacy.org put up a generalization of many people's reaction:

Of course the World Trade Center bombings are a uniquely Tragic event, and it is vital that we never lose sight of the Human tragedy involved. However, we must also consider if This is not also a lesson to us all; a lesson that my political Views are correct. Although what is done can never be undone, The fact remains that if the world were organized according to My political views, this tragedy would never have happened. [etc.]

I'm afraid your loccers remind me of that. To Harry Warner Jr., it's all about the feti (as always); to Joseph Nicholas, America dressed provocatively. Feh. *{{Arthur, perhaps I am showing my vast ignorance (again), but what is feti?}}*

May 22: **Sheryl Birkhead**, 25509 Jonnie Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20882

Nice thick ish!

Many years ago I gave up nominating in the fiction categories IF two books were not out in time: the Silverberg and Dozios collections. I just could not read enough sources to feel I was doing justice to the huge pool out there. So, I would get both books and made decisions based on them. Even that has not happened for a long time. So I have stooped to trying to read the freebie stuff on the Internet. This year Con Jose says writers aren't willing to have their material available for free – as opposed to previous years. That sounds as if I won't be reading... I did go to the one linked site that had several short fiction pieces listed as free – but I was not willing to “sign up” on yet another site and get more junk...sigh. That's my prob-

UK ad

lem, but there goes the biggest source I thought I had.

Superb wedding “note” (groom’s cake is not solely a Southern thing—but it may not be widely known). Congrats/ Best Wishes to Toni and Hank.

On page 10, I see that Randy Cleary is changing his signature – I like it. Or maybe I have it backwards? If so, I like the earlier one.

This is a jam-packed issue. Southern fandom is truly alive and well and doing great. By the way, Toni’s castle wedding cake looked, well...fantastic!

Perhaps, by the time the nextish is out, the deadline will be past, but DUFF (June 17) and TAFF (June 2) deadlines are coming up fast. I hope everyone will have their \$ay. Hope your farewell issue is a biggie. *{{Not as big as the last one, but no weddings to report on this time!}}*

April 27: **John Hertz**, 236 S. Coronado St., #409, Los Angeles, CA 90057

Thanks for another wonderful wedding report. Ruth Judkowitz didn’t tell me anything about it, but I guess she knew I’d see it in *The Bulletin*.

“No weapons” strikes me as an overreaction, but “most hall costumes require a weapon” is surely too broad in response, even if “the right to buy weapons is the right to be free”. Likewise “young folks won’t come if they can’t wear a weapon” – now that’s really too broad.

Great to hear Fanhistoricon will travel to DSC.

March 31: **Lloyd Penney**, 1706-24 Eva Road, Etobicoke, ON, CANADA M9C 2B2, penneys@attcanada.ca

I have received Volume 7, Number 12 of the *SFC Bulletin*, and many thanks for that. For all the good news the *Bulletin* provides, there is some bad news, and it’s that you’re leaving, Julie. I think you’ve done a fine job, and I hope whoever takes over can add the skill and grace you’ve given to all the issues you’ve produced. Bravo, and I hope there’s someone waiting in the wings. And now, to the issue...

I barely remember who I nominated for the Hugos, but nominate I did. I’ve heard that only 10 to 12% of all attendees at a Worldcon bother to nominate and vote? Perhaps that 10 to 12% know what they’re talking about, we can only hope. Joy Smith offers sage advice about not publicizing before publishing. I can now report that a spoken-word CD on which I was a voice actor will soon be available. The story contributors, including Edo van Belkom, now have their copies, and I hope mine will be available at a launch party soon. The disk is called *Fears for Ears*, and contains six short horror stories performed as radio-style plays.

I may not have said so in the last issue, but here I will...congratulations to Hank and Toni. Joining together like this is always the best of ideas. Yvonne and I will celebrate our 19th wedding anniversary in May. *{{Congratulations!}}*

The idea of banning weapons from conventions is a con-

troversial one. I think we can usually assume that this kind of policy comes from some congoers stupid enough to wave around swords and knives and point anything resembling a gun at a non-convention hotel guest. I know this spoils the fun for many others, but I can see concons reacting this way to reduce the fuss and cooperate with and soothe the hotel, many of whom operate under assumptions that we’re all wackos with weapons. Following this policy makes it easier for the concom to return to the good hotel they may have had in previous years. Those hotels are tough to find and keep, even in the biggest cities. I would agree with enforced peace-bonding on the part of con security. The outright banning...well, it doesn’t affect me, as I never carry weaponry of any kind, but I know others are upset.

Some information for the Worldcon list...the 2006 Worldcon site selection will take place at Torcon 3, so with that in mind, Yvonne and I have volunteered our services, and are now Canadian agents for this bid, in spite of what I said in my letter. I don’t think there is any Los Angeles bid for 2008.

It’s getting late, and the Easter long weekend is just about done, so I guess I gotta get ready for work in the morning. I’ve spent today catching up with a big stack of zines, and there’s still more to respond to. So, I’ll wind up by saying thank you for the hard work you’ve put into this zine, and thank you very much for sending it to me.

May 5: **Trinlay Khadro** P O Box 240934, Brown Deer, WI 53224-0934, trin@dias.net

So far as I’ve heard *LOTR* is a front runner for the media Hugo. Buffy fans have high hopes for “The Buffy Musical”, but feel it doesn’t stand a chance vs *LOTR*.

Last weekend we went to Concinny at MDOE in Milwaukee. The kids (KT and Chris) were mostly gaming: D&D, Counter Strike on the LAN, and the *LOTR* card game.

I went to a stack of panels and visited with friends. I enjoyed two anime events, “How To Kill a Gamer”, “Weapons in SF”, the celebrity lectures, etc.

At the auction I spent about \$20 which landed me two books, three t-shirts, one *Farscape* cap, several posters and a preview of *The Sweetest Thing* which I have no way to view. Nice consuite, but not much guidance to REAL food, and there was no access to a program beforehand.

?? “... the only way to get hockey tickets was to pose as scalpers.” ?? Isn’t that backwards? *{{Not really. That’s what scalpers are doing when they ask you if you have tickets to sell, looking for people with extra tickets so that they can give the people who have them a little money and then charge people who want tickets a bunch. We did the same thing because we didn’t want to buy FROM scalpers. And believe me, we could have. We found this really nice couple who decided they would rather go to dinner and let us have their tickets at face value – great seats and for far less than the scalpers wanted for nose-bleed section seats.}}*

Time magazine actually ran an obit for Damon Knight.

Concinnity's weapons policy: No weapons unless obviously fake or peacebonded. Not many people dressed up at all.

Not much going on here. KT has a boyfriend; Chris who is very nice and fannish. Today they're at a LAN club playing, probably, Counterstrike.

The company I work for moved their offices last week, but once I figured out a good route for my commute it wasn't too bad. Uncle is doing OK and spring (road repair season) has arrived in Wisconsin.

P.S. I'm working on a sort of "fannish friend" journal. If people would like to send submissions (4" x 5") or postcards, I'd be thrilled.

Trin@dias.net Key things I'm looking for are for folks to have fun and to express themselves. An Origami dragon of my own design.



March 28 **Tom Feller** P.O. Box 68203, Nashville, TN 37206, tomfeller@aol.com

This year you won't have to worry about *Harry Potter* winning the best novel Hugo. Ms. Rowling didn't get the fifth volume out, presumably because she was so busy with the movie. I doubt the movie will win in Best Dramatic Presentation with *Lord of the Rings* in the running.

Anita had a hard time with the steps and ramps in the Read House because of her knees. We must not have told you that she was in a car accident in December. While the air bags worked, she hit her knees on the dashboard.

Also the cigarette smoking at Chattacon was heavy this year, and we ran out of hot water, too.

Great wedding report!

In the case of Constellation, I can understand the NO WEAPONS policy, because their hotel is in an airport. Even before 9/11, the display of weapons, even toy rayguns, would have made airport security very nervous. However, in other venues, I think a peace-bonding requirement and inspection by someone with experience using weapons with costumes would be sufficient.

Whenever Anita and I visit New Orleans, we just start walking from the Canal Street end of Bourbon Street until we reach a point where the neon lights start to dim and then turn around and walk back. We always find lots of good music.

Dan Caldwell in Nashville is also a NASCAR fan.

E.B. Frohvet may not be aware that Monteagle is the highest point between Nashville and Atlanta. Anita gets nervous about driving over the mountain in the best of conditions. If the weather had been bad, she would have been hysterical.

May 1: **Paul Cardwell** 1127 Cedar, Bonham TX 75418

Harry Warner, Jr.: Is there a leak epidemic? We suddenly had one at a window (the caulking peeled up like a rope but

was redone), and two separate leaks, one each rain, in the garage roof. What's going on?

E.B. Frohvet: Cost of paperzines. We are going to have to raise the subscription of the monthly *CAR-PGa Newsletter* to \$12 per year because of the increase in postage (and to a lesser extent paper and toner).

Tom Feller: I prefer physical copies too, I save them. I have a problem in that I cannot download my own e-mail to disc. I use the local public library, which is Gates, download on SimpleText to disc, and print out through my Centris 610. I have no trouble with websites (unless the material is too long for SimpleText, in which case I must do it in pieces, and of course no graphics), but all I get for my own mail is [first line] Yahoo Mail, [next line] one square, beat left, then nothing. It shows up that way when I open the disc for editing out the boilerplate, so it isn't a Gates to Jobs translation problem. Any suggestions?

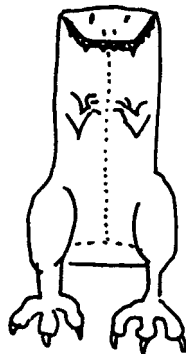
Joseph Nicholas: Hear, hear! The juntistas are on the march and in the US, our first [freedom of religion and communication], fourth [due process], fifth [ban on torture], and eighth [ban on 'cruel and unusual punishment'] amendments of our Bill of Rights are at least partially shredded. And that doesn't get into the international issues you so succinctly describe.



Peaceful protesters against the WTO are routinely gassed and beaten around the world. We have an unelected president, put there by two crooks in Tallahassee and five in Washington, the Voting Rights act of 1965 violated without even a mention in the lackey mass media. We have even logged two more 'trophy list' cases this calendar year blaming role-playing games for crimes! I think Bonham could be supplied with electricity by connecting a dynamo to Sam Rayburn spinning in his grave over at Willow Wild Cemetery. (Rayburn was the main ramrod of New Deal legislation and Speaker of the House of Representatives more than twice as long as the second place.) You will catch static for your comments, of course, but at least I will keep you company – maybe Harry Warner, Jr. Although he kept his comments to US history, the points were equally valid.

Harry Warner, Jr. second time around: I agree about Hemingway. On the other hand, he was typical of a time. The fictional Jim Dial on the *Murphy Brown* TV show once complained that TV reporters no longer have a Hemingway story. I am not that old, but I do have a Hemingway story, sort of. My first book was *America's Camping Book*, published by Scribners (who also published Hemingway). They were going to publish a semi-autobiographical opus posthumous work in which a teenager is running away from home. He lists the stuff he is taking and the editors thought it would be too heavy. As the then-resident camper, I was given the task of determining the weight of the pack. It was about 50 pounds, 10 over my preference, but one a football playing teen could handle, if not comfortably. So they published it.

I also got to do a new Preface when they republished Dan Beard's *Shelters, Shacks, and Shanties*. Then there was a palace revolt and the whole America's Home Reference library was taken out of print – monuments of the previous ruler, you know. They won't consider a third edition unless I give part of the money to an agent – even though it has already passed first-reader as well as two editions, Outdoor Life Book Club choice, Book of the Month Club alternate, and Gene Shalit



LOCCASAUROS REX

gave it a rave review.

"Ain't She Sweet" was written by Milton Ager, who also wrote "Happy Days are Here Again". His daughter is Shana Alexander, who did the Point/Counterpoint with James J. Kilpatrick on *60 Minutes* before Andy Rooney took over to only permit one viewpoint. Once, as a joke, she told a reporter that "Ain't She Sweet" was written about her and it was widespread. Actually it is a couple of years older than she is.

April 15: **Zanny Leach** 1522 Hillhaven Drive NE, Marietta, GA 30062, ZannyL@earthlink.net

After all these years, you know hotels sometimes have what might be considered "silly" rules. And, as always, they are wary of potential damage to a facility by a new (to this set of owners) group. The Chattacon hotel wanted all food and drink kept in the Hospitality area. However, they failed to think about food and drink from elsewhere, like parties or their own bar when they made the rule. It seems that most of what I picked up off the floor of the Silver Ballroom after the dance ended was red based drinks in large plastic cups, most of which had been turned over on the floor or chairs. The hotel wasn't mad at us, because it was obvious that none of it came from the Consuite, but this could go two ways. Either the rule is lifted for this year, or it is more strictly enforced, in that no food or drink will be allowed out of the room in which it is originally served.

People who throw parties could help a lot by not using huge cups that will get abandoned half full, and thinking about serving drinks not prone to staining. I am not sure about the staining potential of black olive daiquiris.

We also decry the warehouse look of the consuite and remember the disco bar fondly. However, we try our best, within our budget, to use fabric for baffling some of the noise. It is better with the carpet there, as it was this year, but still loud, like a room party magnified soundwise thirty times. It is by far the best venue for a consuite that we have ever had for ease of deliveries and load-in and out. *{{Yes, I know y'all do the best you can with it, I just wish the Read House would do something with it. I still much prefer the Read House to the other hotel, regardless of its problems.}}*

April 11 **Ned Brooks** 4817 Dean Lane, Lilburn, GA, 30047, nedbrooks@sprynet.com

Nice coverage of the Wedding of the Century (so far).

Interesting letter from Horrible Hank about ConStellation's "no weapons" policy. I agree with him that it is silly, but for him to refuse to attend on that account seems a bit over the top. I have been going to cons for 40 years and have yet to see a weapon actually used at one (other than simulated weapons in an SCA thud&blunder bout), so it doesn't seem that armament is really essential to convention merriment. But I must admit I don't know just what they mean by "no weapons" – is this like the airports, where they break the little files off your fingernail

clippers, or what? I guess I will have to go to their website and see if they are more specific. No, nothing there about weapons. Where was this policy announced? I have e-mailed a query.

November 12: **Joseph Nicholas** 15 Jansons Road, Tottenham, London N15 4JU, United Kingdom

Thanks for *Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin* Vol 7 No 12, and for publishing my previous letter therein. But "I suppose I should be glad that there was finally something in the Bulletin that you thought was worthy of comment"? Whatever can this mean? You surely can't expect, can you, that every recipient should endeavour to respond to something in every issue? Even with the best will in the world, one can't be interested in everything – indeed, there are whole areas of human activity (sport, opera, poetry, the Hugo Awards) in which I have no interest and about which I therefore maintain a Wittgenstein-like silence – and much will therefore pass without comment as one concentrates instead on those issues deemed of more immediate personal relevance. Which is what I do; which is what I'm sure other recipients do too. *{{Yes, I suppose you are right about that. I just had never received any response at all from you before, so...}}*

Still, I expect you are even now staggering beneath a tidal wave of mail from other readers who have wound themselves into a frightful rage about my comments and are falling over themselves to denounce my remarks as knee-jerk anti-Americanism or somesuch – which would only demonstrate that they haven't read the letter closely enough to notice that I was careful to bracket the EU with the USA and other countries as the rich North responsible for the construction and maintenance of global inequality. (There's a hint of this, too, in your rejoinder that I was lecturing on "how terrible we are" rather than on "how terrible we all are", but that just may be a slip of the editorial typing fingers.) *{{Not a slip, I was just using 'we' as the plural it is. I can read pretty closely.}}* And even if I hadn't, it is perfectly possible – as Jonathan Freedland argued in an article in *The Guardian* this week (responding, inter alia, to a series of abusive e-mails he's received from US readers) – to admire US values as set forth in the constitution (which he does) while opposing the particular actions of particular US administrations (a distinction his US readers obviously couldn't make).

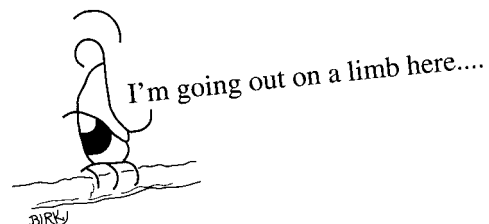
In any case, I don't think that the recent changes in Afghanistan have necessarily been all for the better – one of the reasons the Taliban were so welcomed, in 1996, was that by imposing strong central rule they put an end to the warlordism and faction fighting which had hitherto dominated political and economic life; warlordism and faction fighting which has now resumed, to the detriment of the attempt to construct a replacement government, whose writ scarcely extends beyond Kabul. (Never mind the larger question of why the US is still fighting the war, if it's been as successful as claimed, and why so few of the Taliban and al-Qaida leaders have been killed or captured. Come to that, have you noticed the suspi-

cious frequency with which the intelligence services announce new discoveries of Taliban and al-Qaida capabilities, which are quietly forgotten a few weeks later when, propaganda-like, the next discovery is announced?) Nor do I think that any further changes to the world – although you'll be aware that in my opinion the geopolitical situation hasn't changed much if at all – will be "the direct result" of the 11 September attacks: this is far too simplistic a cause-and-effect analysis. Chinese accession to the WTO (for example) has nothing to do with 11 September; but the impact that accession will have on international trade, particular in agricultural commodities, will be extensive, and for some medium-size countries potentially very disruptive. *{{I guess my poorly worded comment could be literally taken that I meant any and all changes to the world, but that would be ridiculous, of course. There are lots of things that have nothing to do with terrorism that will change the world.}}*

Aside from which, Hank Reinhardt's argument that people have stopped attending conventions because they're not allowed to walk around with plastic blasters on their hips is a complete non-sequitur – void of any evidence to support such a claim or even an underlying hypothesis to link the two parts. (Which might be why the convention committee concerned hasn't replied to his open letter: it can see the holes in his argument and has better things to do than deal with what is more an outburst of personal pique.) There are many reasons why people don't go to conventions: cost, timing, location, unattractive programmes, uninteresting guests, the absence of their friends, long-standing alternative engagements, whatever; not being able to wear a plastic blaster is hardly likely to be much of a factor (for anyone except Reinhardt, obviously). Nor is it true – indeed, it is just as much of a non-sequitur – to claim that if new people are not attending conventions then they are not entering fandom, since the two are not contiguous. Fandom offers much more than the opportunity to dress up for a weekend; that some choose not to do so doesn't mean they aren't fans.

But what are you going to do when you stop editing *SFCB*? Start publishing a fanzine of your own? *{{Nope. I'm ready to get out of the zine publishing business. The **Bulletin** was as much mine as I wanted it to be. Probably just go back to just attending cons and writing a few letters of comment.}}*

{{I began my first Bulletin with a cover portrait of Hank, so it's only fitting that I end my last Bulletin with a LoC from him. At any rate, the letter column should give the next editor something lively to start with.}}



May 13 **Hank Reinhardt** 1135 Duncan Road, Oxford, GA
30054-3614

I really enjoyed the last issue of the *Bulletin*. I found several letters that were worth commenting on, but my favorite was the one by Joseph Nicholas. At first I thought it was a joke, but then Toni explained to me that it was real, and that just delighted me. You see, I've been engaged in a long running discussion regarding the declining degree of intellect and awareness in fandom and this letter bolstered my argument hugely.

Frankly, the letter is so stupid that I have a hard time replying to it. It's like trying to reply to a child that says that the moon is made of green cheese, but that the reason it looks white is because the sky is blue, and the sky is blue because it reflects the ocean!

I can usually handle stupid people, and I can handle ignorant people, but ignorant stupid people who deal in irrelevancies are tricky.

But I am somewhat doubtful. Is it possible that he is preparing to demand aid for Great Britain? After all, it is a nation that is approaching Third World status rather quickly. The crime rate is soaring, racial tensions are increasing on a daily basis, and religious freedom is doubtful. After all, no Catholic can hold office in Great Britain. On top of the above, the economy is slumping, unemployment is high, and personal freedom is down the tubes. You do not have the power of self-defense, for if you fight back, you can go to jail. Nor can you sell goods using the old fashioned pounds and ounces, for if you do, you will also go to jail. For that matter, you can go to jail if you should be overheard making a racist remark. (They have plain clothes cops out to overhear this sort of talk.)

But no, I believe he is ignorant and stupid. After all, if he was that devious, then he should be able to make better and more intelligent arguments.

It appears that Mr. Nicholas is saying that if we would all love one another, and share with one another, and live in a perfect world, why we would all love one another and would share and then live in a perfect world! This, of course, makes perfect sense when you're twelve years old, but after that you should start to live in the real world and not a fairy tale.

Untold billions of dollars have been poured into the bottomless pit of the Third World, with no discernible success. Haiti is a perfect example. Troops were sent to stop the shooting, and billions of dollars sent in aid, then elections were monitored, and when it's all over with, nothing has changed. The people are poorly educated, with no tradition of cultural or political stability. They do have traditions: traditions of political violence, corruption, greed and poverty.

Oh, we could change it. We could invade, blow the hell out of anyone who opposes us, then set up school systems, force a degree of Republicanism on them, and in 3-4 generations, we stand of very good chance of changing the culture. But, of course, that would be Colonialism, and that's a bad thing.

Of course, I frankly don't care. It's their lives, and they can change if they want to.

Look at the Sudanese. Their response to the international aid when they were war-torn and starving was "why are you here? This is the way we live, and this is the way we fight. You kill Addid, and his son will take over." (Which is what happened.) "We like fighting, and we like killing Christians. So 'butt out'".

It was interesting to read in the latest *New Scientist* (a left-ist British science magazine) about a planned innovation scheduled for India. It would increase their crop yield tremendously. However, it was rejected by the Indians because "scientists" at the University of Sussex convinced them it would then throw large numbers of poor farm laborers out of work!

I am reminded of the oft-heard complaint about child labor in the Third World, the cries that it should be stopped. Fine, stop it. Let the poor people starve. After all, we've got too many people in the world anyway. But that is exactly what will happen if it is stopped: they will starve. I have been there, and I have seen it.

You simply cannot bring these countries up to the same level of development we have in one or two generations.

Look at Africa. AIDS is running rampant. Free condoms are available, but will the men use them? No. Even with the threat of death? No. You see, it implies that they are not men. Okay, it's their choice, I don't care what they choose, it's their lives.

Regarding 9/11: I would advise Mr. Nicholas not to make those comments over here. We are citizens, not subjects – it's a subtle point, but one considered worth dying for in 1776 – and thus someone just might remove a few of his front teeth. Of course, Mr. Nicholas just might fight back – but that's okay, because in the U.S. we still have the right to defend ourselves. Subjects of the Queen do not. But I digress.

I would plead in Mr. Nicholas' defense that he is totally ignorant of the religion of Islam. Islam does not mean "peace" as many have said. What it means is "submission to the will of God." The stated aims of Islam are to have a one world religion, Islam, and to destroy all others. Read the Koran. Also, Islam is not just a religion, it is also a political system.

Because I have an evil sense of humor, I would suggest that Mr. Nicholas go to Saudi Arabia and try to practice Christianity, or Hinduism, or Buddhism, and see what happens. (And could I get pictures of the beheading?)

But I am sure he is sincere and compassionate in his beliefs. I know it troubles him greatly that he has things so good, and he uses so much of the world's energy. I would suggest that he simply move to one of these places, and live as they do, and try to change them from within; for you sure cannot do it from without.

WAHF: Scott Merritt, who updated the prices for Con-Temporal and mused about the likelihood of TKFW-Reinhardt. 🐼

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