

Aussiecon 4, the 2010 Worldcon

2010 Hugo Winners

BEST NOVEL

[Tie for first place]

The City & The City by China Miéville (Del Rey; Macmillan UK)

The Windup Girl by Paolo Bacigalupi (Night Shade)

BEST NOVELLA

“Palimpsest” by Charles Stross (Wireless; Ace; Orbit)

BEST NOVELETTE

“The Island” by Peter Watts (*The New Space Opera 2*; Eos)

BEST SHORT STORY

“Bridesicle” by Will McIntosh (*Asimov’s 1/09*)

BEST RELATED WORK

This is Me, Jack Vance! (Or, More Properly, This is “I”)

by Jack Vance (Subterranean)

BEST GRAPHIC STORY

Girl Genius, Volume 9: Agatha Heterodyne and the Heirs of the Storm

Written by Kaja and Phil Foglio; Art by Phil Foglio; Colours by Cheyenne Wright (Airship Entertainment)

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION – LONG FORM

Moon Screenplay by Nathan Parker; Story by Duncan Jones;

Directed by Duncan Jones (Liberty Films)

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION – SHORT FORM

Doctor Who: “The Waters of Mars” Written by Russell T Davies & Phil Ford; Directed by Graeme Harper (BBC Wales)

BEST EDITOR, LONG FORM

Patrick Nielsen Hayden

BEST EDITOR, SHORT FORM

Ellen Datlow

BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST

Shaun Tan

BEST SEMIPROZINE

Clarkesworld edited by Neil Clarke, Sean Wallace, & Cheryl Morgan

BEST FAN WRITER

Frederik Pohl

BEST FANZINE

StarShipSofa edited by Tony C. Smith

BEST FAN ARTIST

Brad W. Foster

THE JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD

FOR BEST NEW WRITER

Seanan McGuire

Aussiecon 4 was able to brag about its Hugo voter turnout. Vincent Docherty wrote in *Voice of the Echidna*: “After the record number of Hugo Nominations, we had high hopes about the voting numbers and we are pleased to announce that there were 1094 valid Hugo Voting Ballots. This total is the highest since the 2000 Worldcon, and second highest since 1988.”

Further Down Underness

Aussiecon 4 set the record as the largest Worldcon Down Under. The convention’s onsite newsletter *Voice of the Echidna* reported that at the close of registration on Sunday the con had 1673 pre-registered members on site and 64 walk-in full members. There were 74 Sunday day members. In total, there were 2034 warm bodies on site at various times during the con not counting Monday walk-ins.

Even without aggregating the data into a proper warm-body count, attendance clearly exceeds Aussiecon 3 (1999)’s figure of 1,548.

Texas Files for 2013

Texas in 2013 bid chair Bill Parker reports they have filed the required paperwork with the Site Selection Administrator for the Reno Worldcon. Meeting these requirements by the deadline assures that the bid appears on the mail ballot.

The committee proposes to hold the Worldcon in San Antonio, Texas over Labor Day Weekend, August 29 through September 2, 2013.

Exploring Seattle in 2015

Alex Von Thorn says that Seattle is looking at bidding for the 2015 Worldcon: “On behalf of SWOC, I announced an exploratory committee to consider the possibility of bidding for a Worldcon in Seattle in 2015...”

It is not an active bid at this time, but should it become one Alex says he expects to be the chair.

Dublin 2014: Don’t Panic

Irish fan and 2010 GUFF winner James Shields’ e-mail of September 8 titled “Dublin 2014” caused a momentary spell of vertigo among fans who know that’s the same year London is bidding for the Worldcon.

The dizziness passed once fans realized Shields really *wants* a London World-

con. It will draw well-known authors to the U.K., who then might be persuaded to attend the convention he wants Irish fans to run in Dublin the following weekend. *That’s* what he means by Dublin 2014.

Shields is taking inspiration from Au Contraire, the New Zealand national convention he attended on the way to Aussiecon 4. “It’s interesting to note that the New Zealand NatCon the weekend before got about 150 extra attendees. (normal attendance 100 – was 250)... Dublin is much closer to London than New Zealand is to Melbourne, so I think we could get even more visitors as a result – 300-400 attendance would seem credible.”

He emphasized, “I don’t wish to run against London, rather complement it.”

James Bacon mentioned the development to the London in 2014 Worldcon bid committee and they concluded, “No issue our end.”

See? No reason for controversy. Try not to be disappointed.

SF3 Cancels Elizabeth Moon as WisCon GoH

WisCon's parent organization SF³ announces it "has withdrawn the invitation to Elizabeth Moon to attend WisCon 35 as guest of honor."

The opinions Moon expressed in her September 11 LiveJournal post about building a mosque near Ground Zero ignited widespread controversy. In the wake of this reaction, SF³ passed a resolution on October 3 recommending that the WisCon rescind Moon's GoH invitation. However, several weeks passed before that action was taken.

The decision itself, naturally, has become the focus of another controversy. David Klaus, a frequent contributor to the *File 770* blog, felt it was an opportunity for dialog lost.

Cheryl Morgan, in her blog entry, "Pressure Tells," acknowledged the decision might be seen as a simultaneous victory and defeat of civic virtues:

"So where are we? Have we found ourselves in a world of mob rule where anyone with a following on the Internet can hound innocent writers and convention committees into doing their bidding? Or have we found ourselves in a world in which the ignorant expression

of hatred for people you have defined as different, and therefore inferior and immoral, has become socially unacceptable?"

When interviewed by *NewsOK*, the *Oklahoman* online, October 23 about WisCon's decision to drop her as one of its guests of honor Moon reportedly said "she felt her comments were centrist and really didn't expect them to generate as much controversy as they did. The polarization of American politics, world politics, for that matter, she said, decreases the opportunity for civil discourse. What we dare not mention – because of fear of backlash – and cannot discuss calmly, because of the actual backlash and the feeding frenzy, is often what most needs to be brought into the open...."

The *Oklahoman* article also reports that after the convention's decision was announced Moon responded publicly on her blog saying: "WisCon management has the right to make whatever decisions they think best for the convention. I do not and did not dispute their right to rescind the invitation."

MoonFail, wow. By España Sheriff

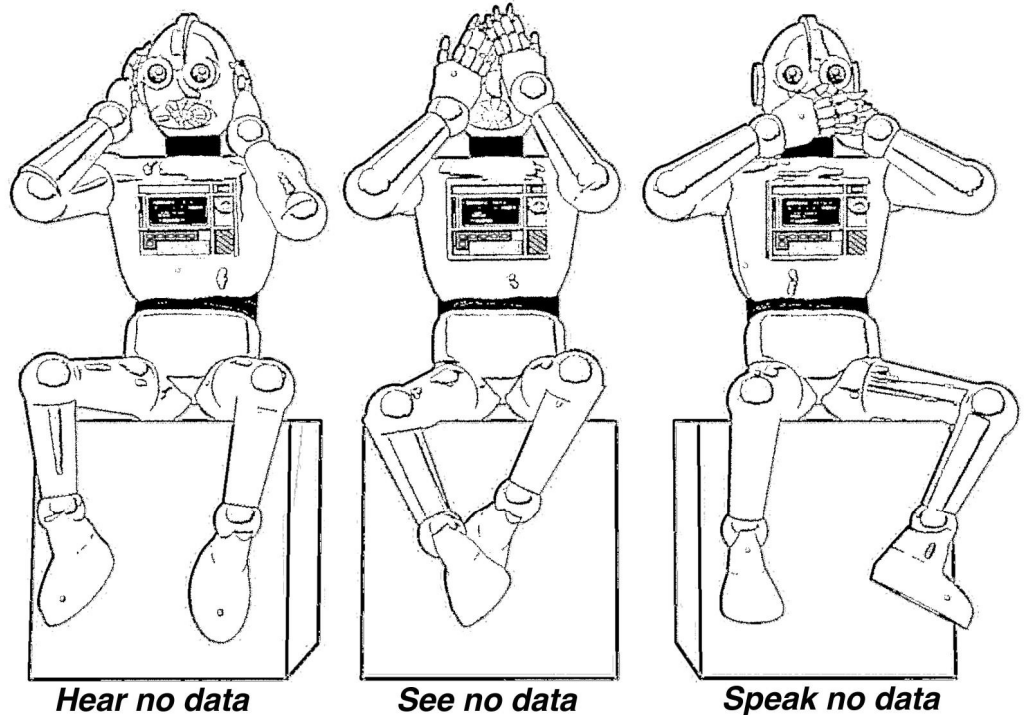
There is a lot to say about this particular incident, most of which has been said already by people smarter and more eloquent than I. But I do want to add a few words specifically about the subsequent Wiscon decision and why I followed it with great interest.

A few years ago a local convention I attend regularly asked Larry Niven to be their Guest of Honor.

At one time I would have been delighted by this, I have enjoyed several Niven novels over the years and of course All the Myriad Ways is a classic collection, from the titular story to the oft-referenced "Man of Steel, Woman of Kleenex." Additionally Niven is Los Angeles fandom and therefore I've met him at several cons and we have many acquaintances in common.

However at the time he was asked to be GOH, it had recently come to light that he had made some, to my mind, very unfortunate comments regarding Spanish speakers in his role as consultant to the Department of Homeland Security. As a Spanish speaker, a citizen, a human being and a fan I took exception to his comments and the context in which they were made. Those in a position of power or influence should be aware of the potential consequences of their words and deeds.

I don't want to digress, so if you want the specifics I would recommend entering "Sigma" "Niven" and "Spanish" into a search



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engine. What I would like to discuss here is my reaction and its effect on my eventual convention activities and experience.

For starters: My objection was not to Niven attending the convention, fandom is diverse and contains many diverging viewpoints. That's life and that's people and it's generally a Good Thing. Further, I would not have objected to Niven being a guest or being on panels, he's certainly important to the genre as both and

author and a fan and quite likely has much to say that is worth hearing, and much to write that is worth reading.

My objection was to the Honor portion of Guest of Honor. I personally subscribe to the 'member' theory of con-going. I am not a passive audience or 'customer', I'm a member, and as such I have always tried to participate and to help create the space and community I am part of. So when the convention chooses to honor someone by implication that honor is bestowed by the entire convention, myself included. Obviously there is no vote, the committee chooses the GOH, but like a government that I have not personally cast a vote for, it still represents me. I may not be familiar with the work or personality of the GOHs, but generally speaking I trust that their contributions to the field have in fact done us honor by their work as an artist or a person, or ideally both.

Now of course a person can be a good artist and a poor human being, and I am not suggesting that this is the case with Niven. He is by all accounts a nice man to know. Neither am I suggesting that an artist should be excluded from consideration as GOH for their personal life or beliefs, although I bet people known to be unpleasant are not in fact considered. But a GOH is generally picked because of their standing in the field.

And here is where I found myself having a hard time. The reasons that Niven was chosen as GOH were the exact same reasons he was chosen as a consultant for Sigma and given a voice of influence by the US government. The two are not separate, his comments came from 'Niven the respected SF author', remove the 'SF author' portion and the 'DHS consultant' goes away as well (as does 'SF con Author GOH'). His actions in one sphere cannot be separated from his work in the other.

For this reason I initially decided to skip the convention. Several friends asked me to reconsider, and eventually a combination of two arguments convinced me to attend. The first boiled down to 'What are ya, chicken?' but the second and more persuasive was this; making myself invisible was the easiest, laziest and least effective thing I could do. If I felt the Spanish speaking community had been slighted, then the correct answer was to highlight and celebrate said community.

I was contacted and corresponded with the concom, who had been unaware of the controversy, and assured them that I would not confront, harass or embarrass their GOH and explained a little of what we had planned, which amounted to a very tongue-in-cheek celebration of Spanish and Hispanic genre, which Andy Trembley dubbed 'Hispanac'.

We got flags, sombreros, Tequila, loteria (which played as a drinking game is pretty deadly stuff), luchador masks, some pretty awesome Superzan movies. We costumed accordingly; a friend and I both sporting Frieda Khalo ensembles, and spread the message without referring to the catalyst incident at all. It was all very silly, and honestly with a bit more time it would have been nice to do something slightly more informative and less... um, stereotypical. But the point was to keep it fun and laugh at ourselves while also being loud, colorful and most of all *present*.

The Moondoggle: Can't Win, Don't Try By Chris Garcia

You've probably got the Internet, so you've probably heard about the Elizabeth Moon situation. There are a lot of threads to look at, try to dissect, but mostly, it boils down to three things: there were statements made that appeared Islamophobic, Moon eliminated all the comments on the post, Wiscon, where she was to be guest of honor, made a

statement saying she was still going to be GoH, then SF3, the parent organization, made a statement saying she was not going to be GoH.

That's the last bit of neat and tidy in this entire mess.

España has the best take on the Silicon Situation back in 2008, and the protest we put into effect was simple, sly, humorous and brilliant. People knew what we meant, people asked questions of us and it seemed even Larry Niven noticed... well, maybe a little. It was a gentle push-back on a serious issue and I think it worked.

The questions raised by the Moon Situation (variously known as MoonFail, Moongate, the WisControversy, and my nomer – The Moondoggle) are interesting on many levels. The first one is that there was no win position. Wiscon says this about itself on their website –

"This is the world's leading feminist science fiction convention. WisCon encourages discussion and debate of ideas relating to feminism, gender, race and class. WisCon welcomes writers, editors and artists whose work explores these themes as well as their many fans..."

And...

"WisCon exists for the enjoyment and comfort of all convention attendees. You agree voluntarily to abide by these rules of conduct and you understand that SF³ (WisCon's parent organization) is relying on your cooperation, courtesy and good judgment. The convention committee will only take action under these rules when the behavior of any individual or small group either disturbs a significant percentage of attendees or detracts from the relaxed and comfortable atmosphere of the convention."

Now, read that any way you like and you can say that no matter what position they took on the matter could be both countered and supported. Allow Moon to remain a GoH and they can have a serious debate about the role of dissent, views of Islam and so on. Taken another way, they can't allow themselves to have someone who has virulently opposed religious equity and shown strong bigotry in a public forum. You can see that there is no good answer, and it's easy to say that it was Elizabeth Moon's mistake of posting such a thing when she knew she was going to be the Guest of Honor at a convention where this kind of thing is much frowned upon.

Several things were mentioned as forms of protest by various attendees, specifically by N. K. Jemisin but had been bouncing around the web in various forums, were things "...like turning my back on her during her GoH speech, challenging her when she's on panels." Those things might be a bit extreme, but it would also allow opportunity for those who still want to try to have the conversations on the matters that her post brought up. That's one thought. On the other hand, they could have all the debate they want even without her there and no one would feel threatened by having a known bigot around. That's another point. Again, no great choice is possible that won't piss off at least a fair percentage.

One thing that has annoyed some who have been carefully watching the unfolding of events is the brevity of the statement on October 21st that announced the rescinding of Moon's GoHship.

"SF3, the parent organization of WisCon, has withdrawn the invitation to Elizabeth Moon to attend WisCon35 as a guest of honor. Please see the SF3 statement at the [SF3 website](#)."

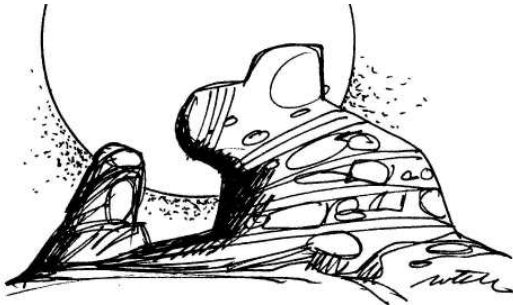
There's not a lot there. It's a simple statement, brief and, to many, completely unsatisfying. I wrote in and asked for a statement and got a simple response - *I'm sorry, all I can say is this: It was in the best interest of both parties, SF3 and Ms. Moon, to withdraw our invitation.* Doesn't say much either, but it does give us a few points for jumping on. Was it in the best interest of Elizabeth Moon? Most certainly. Being in that situation where folks who have strong antipathy towards you is no fun. As for Wiscon itself, that might be arguable. There was a 'Draft Statement of Principals' that showed up in eCube, (<http://www.wiscon.info/downloads/W35eCube4.html>), followed by re-stating the Wiscon refund Policy. That still wasn't a direct comment, but it is telling.

Let's look at the economic effects. If a large number of the Wiscon community wrote in and said they would not be attending if Moon remained as GoH, then it's was almost certainly for the best. If a single attendee would lead to a serious drop in the attendance and membership numbers, then there's a good reason to rescind the GoHship to Moon. If there is something that threatens the viability of a convention, then you're damn right you should move to exclude it, preferably as soon as possible. How many would make a noticeable effect: for a con that has a cap at 1000? My gut says maybe a couple of hundred.

As far as attitudinally, that's a harder call. It seems, from a trolling of the comments on various blogs and forums, that it's about 2-to-1 in favor of the rescinding, including Jemisin and Catherynne Valente. There are several notable folks who weren't happy with the decision, including Will Shetterly, who always seems to pop up in these controversies. This would seem to indicate that there's at least some dissent. Will there be an equally large backlash against this decision when it comes to the gate the con pulls? It's possible, though the numbers of respondents at the sites I was following the first couple of days after the announcement seemed to indicate otherwise.

The big problem is the community and how much damage, regardless of the outcome, this entire incident may have done to the ideal of Wiscon. There were people who said that this entire situation had soured them on Wiscon as a place of inclusion. There's the idea that by including Moon, that's actually excluding those who she offended and the greater inclusion is excluding her. That's an interesting take. There are those who believe that they are, in essence, excluding dissenting points of view, which I can also kinda see. There are also those who see this as an adverse action, the kind of thing that the ConComm was against when they issued a statement in their progress report, eCube (<http://www.wiscon.info/downloads/W35eCube3.html>). It does, perhaps, show a disconnect between the ConComm and the parent organization, and perhaps even more damaging, the ConComm took a stand, then SF3 reversed direction without a real thorough announcement. That sort of thing can be rough on a community that brings itself together under an umbrella of principled inclusion. Still, it might have been far worse to bring Moon in as GoH and then have a series of awkward confrontations.

So, there's no such thing as a good answer in this one. Either way, Wiscon loses with some segment of their audience. SF3 made a call, which may well end up being the right call, but ultimately, it conflicted with the ConComm's statement. This is one of those situations where holding off until all ships can report might have been the right idea.



Loscon XXXVII Report by John Hertz

(Reprinted from *Vanamonde* 915): The Los Angeles local con is Loscon, held over the U.S. Thanksgiving Day weekend. Loscon XXXVII was November 26-28, 2010 at the L.A. Int'l Marriott Hotel: Author Guest of Honor, Emma Bull; Graphic Artist, Phil Foglio; Fans, Kim & Jordan Brown; attendance about 1,000; in the Art Show,

sales \$7,200 by 42 artists.

España Sheriff, Leigh Ann Hildebrand, and Jason Schachat hosted the Fanzine Lounge: following Geri Sullivan at the '92 Worldcon there was a Fanzine Lounge by Day in a hotel "function room" (so Leibnizian) and a Fanzine Lounge by Night in a bedroom suite; I brought a few dozen recent zines for visitors to look at, and toys. Sam Chiang, Kate Morgenstern, and Brian O'Neill helped me build the Rotsler Award exhibit in the Art Show, honoring this year's winner Stu Shiffman.

I chose three Classics of S-F: Fredric Brown, *What Mad Universe* (1949); Hal Clement, *Mission of Gravity* (1953); H.G. Wells, *The Time Machine* (1895); the *Universe* and *Time* discussions I led alone, for *Gravity* I was joined by Greg Benford. *Time* was far the oldest and most widely popular, but *Gravity* I guessed was our best loved, and its hour was fullest. Maybe, someone said afterwards, that was because you were with a Famous Pro. Maybe, I said, but I think he was there for the same reason I was, and you were. However the hour kept digressing to the influence of *Gravity*, from the more vital question, what about the book was so good? One *Universe* attender had happened upon the NESFA Press collection of Brown's novels *Martians and Madness* (2002) in a used-book shop; on its cover an alien reads an issue of *Astounding* showing the great Kelly Freas picture for *Martians, Go Home* (1955), by which artistic license (Kelly's cover was for the 1976 Ballantine printing, nor had *Martians* been in *Astounding*) Bob Eggleton got to paint a cover with one of Kelly's best images, what fun. *Time*, we observed, expatiated little its fictional technology, a mark of good s-f; also of all three the strange minds it met were interacted with least.

On Friday night Bull, and Will Shetterly, came to Regency Dancing. On Saturday afternoon I led a tour of the Art Show, asking as I do *What's happening in this artwork? How does the artist show us?* On Sunday from 1 a.m. till dawn Becky Thomson, Tom Veal, and I hosted the Prime Time Party, with good food, drink, conversation. The final event of a con is the Dead Dog Party (customarily hosted by the current con committee, or next year's; until the last dog is -), but there wasn't one. At 2 a.m. on Monday the Fanzine Lounge at Night was going strong as I left.

[Editor's Note: Congratulations to John for being selected as next year's Loscon Fan GoH.]

Stu Shiffman Wins Rotsler Award

Stu Shiffman of Seattle, WA has won this year's Rotsler Award for long-time artistic achievement in amateur publications of the science fiction community. Established in 1998, the award is given annually and carries an honorarium of \$300.

Shiffman was named the winner on Saturday, November 27, 2010 at the Los Angeles local science fiction convention "Loscon," held each year over the U.S. Thanksgiving Day weekend.

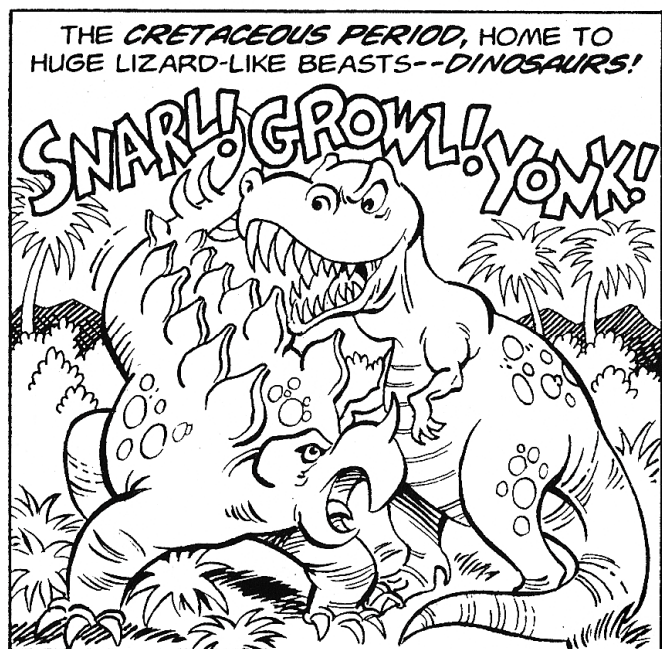
Shiffman's deft portrayals of our adventures, in which his historical interests and sometimes talking animals take part, have place us in hieroglyphic Egypt, Victorian England, or the future imagined by E.R. Burroughs. He won the Hugo Award as Best Fan Artist in 1990. In 1981 he was the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund delegate to the British national sf convention.

The Rotsler Award is sponsored by the Southern California Institute for Fan Interests, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, which in 2006 hosted the 63rd World Science Fiction Convention. The Award is named for the late Bill Rotsler, a talented and prolific artist over many years. Its current judges are Claire Brialey, Mike Glycer and John Hertz.

The 2010 Loscon [www.loscon.org] was the 37th. An exhibit of Shiffman's work was displayed in the Art Show.

For more about the Rotsler Award, please visit www.scifiinc.org/rotsler.

The Fanivore



Steve Stiles

Joseph T Major

Editorial Notes: Well, I bought *Take Back Your Government* when it came out. Or was rushed out. Note well the introduction which effusively praises the H. Ross Perot campaign of 1992, styling it a perfect example of this sort of effort. The footnoting is aborted at about page sixty because of the need to rush the book to print.

Right before Perot dropped his campaign. Only temporarily, of course, but it broke the momentum and in that pause people came to see how marginal and erratic Ross the Boss was.

The irony is that Lisa worked for the Republican campaign in Henderson that year, and upon reading *TBYG* observed that many of its recommendations were both valid and useful.

News of Fandom: If we aren't dying we're coming down with cancer. This is not the most cheering of news.

Sir Jean-Luc: One transposition: The five ranks of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in declining order, are Knight Grand Cross (GBE) or Dame Grand Cross (GBE), Knight Commander (KBE) or Dame Commander (DBE), Commander (CBE), Officer (OBE), Member (MBE).

The Order was instituted during the World War in 1917, to fill in a gap in honours.

There were some notorious cases of abuse, and of overgenerous awards. A. A. Milne wrote a poem about that, titled "O.B.E."; it ends "And died — without the O.B.E. Thank God! He died without the O.B.E."

One wonders if someone quoted that to Professor J. R. R. Tolkien, O.B.E.

Flaming Youth: It looks as if Farmer Chris of Ham (compare Chris Garcia to Pauline Baynes's illustrations for "Farmer Giles of Ham"; Chris, do you have a blunderbuss?) is recovering from his siege of fire, with three issues of *The Drink Tank* in three days.

Reno: Discounting Youth: With some reminders of how things have changed. Mid-AmeriCon was denounced for having a \$50 at-the-door membership fee, with nightmare scenarios of kids hearing of the con, ponying up the \$50 to get in, losing their badges, and having to pay another \$50 for a replacement. All Fandom Was Already At War over the Trek ban, where angels with flaming swords would be posted next to the registration line ready to smite anyone in Starfleet uniform, and this opened a second front. And then they instituted the hospital wrist badge scheme, and while someone else got a patient into the con for free, I got a rash.

So we can expect the usual criticism by those who haven't any other ideas, but are quite willing to point out how wrong things are.

Hm. Checking the Minneapolis Federal

Reserve Consumer Price Index conversion site reveals that the current value of that \$50 is \$191.21. <http://www.minneapolisfed.org/index.cfm>

Obituaries: See above under "News of Fandom". And just now George Scithers has died.

Roy Test: And he never got all the honor he deserved. Are any of the other founding members left?

[[*Not that I know of.*]]

Appreciation of Mark Owings: I read about the Grill/Binkin collection in an article by Jack Chalker in *Science Fiction Review* and when I encountered Chalker at Mid-AmeriCon (I'd bought a membership some time before the price went up) I asked him about it. He seemed glad someone had noticed.

Fan Noir: And now Taral is vying for a Sidewise Award!

Introduction to *New Realms of Fantasy and Science Fiction* (Hsin Huan Chieh): Would they like to trade?

Loscon XXXVI Report: Laura Frankos cites program purchases as to why the stories of Menedemos and Sostratos are not as by Harry Turtledove while the stories of Leon of Atrax and Jorian of Ardamai both were as by L. Sprague de Camp. Which leads to restrictions on authors. "You can't write that, it's not your genre."

Or maybe not. Frank G. Slaughter wrote religious fiction while C. V. Terry wrote

swashbuckling adventures, but the latter really was the former, and after a while the publisher admitted it.

WexWorlds: A Prejudiced Report: Is it possible that the anger expressed at Eoin Colfer writing Hitchhiker's books stems from people who liked what Douglas Adams did, and thinking that what they would get was a novel by Eoin Colfer (who is not Douglas Adams) with Douglas Adams's name on it?

Theme Songs: Every so often the theme song from "Friends" sticks in my head. I only saw part of one episode. I didn't like it. But the <deleted> <deleted> <deleted> song keeps on popping up!

The Fanivore: *Marie Rengstorff:* Since I was buying Wilbur Smith books during the period that "the battle still raging at that moment in Vietnam" was raging, I wonder. Later, of course, such works were the product of an evil system that all decent people boycotted.

Lloyd Penney: The Heinlein Centennial convention committee managed to get a co-sponsorship with a space conference (and the SF Research Association). I didn't see any notice of the space conference at all.

Marie Rengstorff

I was doing a disk cleanup and wiped everything I did not desperately need.

In cleaning out my computer, I even did a "scan disk." After 10 years in the tropics, my C drive disk was un-chipped, un-rotted, and un-corrupted. The trouble was, I forgot the magic words for "scan disk." It took me an hour to figure out which program was the same old scan disk under new nouns.

That is the problem with being on computers too long. One forgets the new terms. I first used a computer in the winter of 1947-

48. I ignored much of the data card era. I knew I would drop my pile of cards and lose all my information so never used one of those original machines. Instead I accidentally dumped my data machine (a large thing like an ugly, oversized typewriter) off the desk and onto the floor. It took a chunk out of the floor. I accepted the punch card machines when I no longer had to keep my cards in the correct order.

Soon floppies appeared. My first word processing program was Apple Writer. Before that, I depended on text book companies to send me programs on floppies. Then went to floppies the second they could. Paper is too expensive. The physics and biology instructors were upset when I did not share my text book, grading, and testing programs on floppies.

I was totally surprised they gave a hang. They repeatedly told me I was computer ignorant, so I assumed they already had and were using those kinds of programs. Nope. They had never even seen such things until more than a year after I had started using them. Such vindication. Giggle Snort Call me computer ignorant and pay the price.

Men still treat me the same way. They cannot believe a fat old lady can free dive to 100 feet and clean up her own computer. I don't use a dive belt to free dive and I don't know the correct modern computer terms, which leaves an impression of ignorance, which I totally admit to. I am going to go buy the latest book, *The Internet for Dummies*. Some communication techniques have passed me by. Most will remain in my deliberate ignorance category. You would not believe IM communication with people my age:

"Hi Marie, how are you. I'm sending you a rose. (icon included)"

"Hi, Susie. The manta rays were swimming around my beach today. Come on out

and float around with me."

"Hi Marie, I'm sending you a picture of a manta ray. (attachment included)"

"Stop with the attachments. I have an old computer that gets overloaded easily. I am going out to swim with the real rays. Come out with me."

"Hi Marie. I'll send the picture inside an email along with seven new pictures of my latest grandson. Then it won't take up as much space."

(A silent few bad words go through my head.) "By Susie, I have to go."

"Hi Marie. Are you having a nice day? I'll send you some doggie pictures and today's news on the Olympics."

"Please Susie, real letters only. Tell me what is happening in your life. No pictures. No news transfers. No blurbs about the problems of aging or of being a woman."

"Hi Marie. LOL, BFF, You always like the pictures I send."

"By Susie."

Needless to say, I shut down IM after a month. The rest of those cutsie communication systems will go the way of IM, so I have no intention of starting them.

Before the days of hard drives and internet, I spent years using my own word processing and data analysis program, which I created out of Word Star. I kept a dozen copies of the program because floppies died of natural causes after a dozen or so uses.

I am finally giving up my old Word Star manual. I thought I might need to dig out my old novel one day -- on ten real floppy disks. After all this time, I would need a manual; using original Word Star is not automatic. I would need my personally programmed disk for Word Star, the novel disks, the right kind of feed, and the manual, just to open a floppy data disk after all this time.

Kids call a little rigid plastic box a "floppy." That makes "kids" a very broad term. Anyone with enough decades of life knows that a floppy FLOPS. I think I still have my novel in original form flopping around somewhere, but none of the hardware or software to run it. The correct computer, the floppy-disk-only machine with no hard drive, never died. I threw it away when it could no longer keep up. It was big and huge, but not as big as that first computer at MIT. The programming room at MIT in 47-48 was as large as my bedroom. The working parts to that computer had a whole building separated from the programming room by a heavy-duty wall. When those old glass vacuum tubes blew, they were shrapnel bombs. But they were so beautiful, all hand blown.



Alexis Gilliland

Thanks for *File 770* #158, which is beautifully done, as usual. Bill Rotzler's back cover is interesting in that I don't recall seeing him use a wash before now. Maybe there are some oil paintings waiting to surface?

A couple of my cartoons in this issue also appeared in the current *Alexiad*, a bit of sloppiness on my part for which I apologize. A sheet of carefully vetted cartoons is enclosed for your contemplation and possible use.

"Fan Noir," Taral's piece on fan writing was competent, but perhaps longer than necessary. In one sense, everything written by fans is fan writing, so the question is what makes that writing memorable? I would say: Being entertaining. A highlight of the current issue is Chris Garcia setting his beard on fire.

Obituaries aren't supposed to be entertaining, but Martin Morse Wooster's piece on Mark owings reminded me of an old friend and told me some things I hadn't known, and I quite liked the obituary of Takumi Shibano. I regret to report that Peter Swanson, Lee's father, died on April 21 at 86 years of age. We are not going to the funeral, since he left his body to a teaching hospital, but we will be going up to Buffalo for the memorial service.

Brad Foster

Liked your look back at the old tv theme songs. And I'd never thought about a comparison between *Lost In Space* and *Star Trek*, but I think you absolutely nailed that. And along with your mention of *Lost in Space* and *Time Tunnel*, I started thinking another b-level sf series, "*Land of the Giants*," had a cool theme that set up higher expectations than the show delivered. So I went to the source of all knowledge these days, and found out John Williams did them all, along with the cool one for "*Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*." Even without *Star Wars*, that would have been enough to establish his sf music chops for sure!

Sighed at the start of John's Loscon Report about the artist who commented, on seeing Dan Steffan's art "[T]his guy is an amateur?" Seems that "fan" will forever mean "amateur" to most people, as if once you do something professionally you are no longer allowed to do anything for the fun of it again. Sigh number two.

HAIRY POTTER



Nice group shot of the Corflu Cobalt folks, reminds me of all those shots of sf club gatherings from ages ago.... which also makes me recall how many times I've seen those old photos run, with the comment of "we only know two names in this crowd of fifty..." Have you any way to attach names to all these people while they, or others, are still around to correctly identify them all? Maybe some code-savvy fan could help you do one of those things for the web version of this where you run your mouse over the photo, and the name of the person pops up? Or just the old fashioned version with outlines of everyone and numbers, and the corresponding names listed below. Future fan historians need this done now!

Carol E. Meacham

Greetings, good sir. I've been reading *File 770* for quite a while now, it's very informative and I think I like most all the news about Mr. Bradbury's goings-on. Through it I've also found Mr. Pohl's blog and I've been flipping through it in large blocks of time I really couldn't afford to lose lately, no matter how fascinating the subject.

I've been "officially" part of fandom since ChattaCon 11 in my hometown of Chatta-

nooga, TN. However, ever since I began to learn about the long history of this culture I now call home I've wanted to get involved in the "real" fandom -- that which is a direct line descendant, as it were, of those who found each other in Mr. Gernsback's letters pages. I know these folk are lurking out there somewhere, but how do I find them? Is there a listing online somewhere of currently extant science-fiction clubs and societies? I live in Atlanta and would love to make contact with such folk if possible.

In the past, I've written, self-published and podcasted 5 original novels -- 2 cyberpunk, 2 general sci-fi, 1 Arthurian fantasy. I've written fanfiction in the *Star Wars*, *Stargate SG-1* and *X-Men the Movie* universes. I have played D&D all my life and for a few years the "old school" *Battletech*, and read comic books for 12 years in my youth. So I think I have a lot to offer a club in terms of fanac possibilities. At any rate, do tell how I can become more involved.

M. Lee Rogers

Please do keep us informed about Cheryl Morgan's visa situation. We should always expect governments to screw things up (except when they hire you). Even though I do not want terrorists or spies to get into the country, it seems rather doubtful that Ms. Morgan fits either category. At this point, I would wonder whether a quick trip to Canada or a Caribbean country would be worth the risk of not getting back in.

Reno is not the only major convention offering special rates for younger fans. This year's NASFiC, ReConStruction, is offering a small discount to people under 25. This came from their Progress Report 1. It's worth a try.

Amen to Taral's point that writing about one's everyday activities is not inherently interesting. It always amazes me how many people think that such matters are worth publishing for any kind of audience. This is only one reason why I do not participate in social media websites such as Twitter. Why in the name of the Galaxy would anyone care about my everyday life?

Neil Kaden

Good seeing you at Mythcon 41 this past weekend. I hadn't realized that you were unaware I had been diagnosed 5 years ago



with Parkinson's disease – yes, I have joined the ranks of the *Dopamine Challenged*. This got me to thinking – statistics should show that over 1-in-100 fans are stricken with PD, but neither of us could identify where these fans are. Without a faanish safety net, they fall out of touch. The motion related symptoms, balance problems, bradykinesia, tremors, memory problems, and uncontrollable dystonia, are frequently not very visible, especially in the early stages.

People are typically diagnosed in their 50s and 60s, but live well into their 80s and 90s. By the time you are symptomatic, 80% of the nerve cells that relate to dopamine are damaged. Parkinson's is incurable, and the symptoms get progressively worse. Another set of symptoms that sometimes are overlooked are speech and swallowing problems. 89% of people with Parkinson's are at risk of losing their ability to speak – and frequently the patient cannot even recognize there is a problem. Parkinson's patients who do not receive speech treatment often end up with a feeding tube and may develop life-threatening aspiration pneumonia.

I am writing to you on behalf of an organization that has become very important to me. It's called *Texas Voice Project for Parkinson Disease*. This nonprofit organization is committed to helping those of us with Parkinson's keep our voices and our swallowing muscles strong. Texas Voice Project helps people with Parkinson's improve their speech to minimize future swallowing issues. Other non-profits out there include the Michael J Fox Foundation, The American Parkinson Disease Association, and The National Parkinson's Foundation. Texas Voice Project for Parkinson Disease has conducted over 10,000 treatment sessions over the past four years. Upon graduation, each patient has an opportunity to participate in weekly speech groups, and other activities to keep

the speech muscles strong. I personally found the "Loud Crowd" sessions the best of all the networking groups I have access to.

What makes Texas Voice Project unique is that this organization does not charge patients for the services they receive. Texas Voice Project runs its program completely off of donations. Although running the program like this is a challenge, especially with the current economic climate, it enables all patients who need help to receive treatment—regardless of their insurance coverage or ability to pay for treatment. They are looking to extend the service to the rest of Texas, and then nationally. I have volunteered to act as a referral point, and would welcome F770 to refer fans with PD to me (or direct to one of the non-profits). For more information about Texas Voice Project, and to view before and after videos, please visit their website at www.texasvoiceproject.org

Lloyd Penney

It's taken some real time management to get caught up with various responsibilities, and then get back to writing locs...the job hunt continues ever onward, but you've got to have some fun, so here's a loc on *File 770 158*.

The Hugos...well, you got a nomination from me. For me, the thrill of being on the ballot for the first time is still there for me. I've been raked over the coals by the usual people who think the Hugos should be shut down, and I am the last person who should be considered for this, but I won't let that stop me. The toughest thing I had to do was not to tell anyone but Yvonne for two weeks before the big announcement at Eastercon. I still have trouble believing that I am up against Fred Pohl for Best Fan Writer, which just shows that reality can still be stranger

than fiction. Good luck to both of us. (Last year, I was one nomination off the ballot. This year, I am assured that I didn't make it on by one ballot.)

Will Cheryl Morgan not be able to come to the US at all in the future? The attitude of the two government agencies of We're right, even when we're wrong is terrible, and there is no appeal in this case. Peter Watts, because he was convicted of being assaulted, is now a convicted felon, and cannot ever enter the US again.

Mike Glicksohn's health continues to deteriorate...I think he is right now in St. Joseph's Health Centre, receiving chemotherapy. Mike Harper has been sending out messages to everyone, and I am pretty sure you've been getting them, too. So many stories of fans' health problems. Ah, we used to be so young...

Yvonne and I have offered our services to the London in 2014 Worldcon bid. We've got a number of years of experience in foreign agenting, especially for L.A.con IV, and we will be assisting Kim Kofmel and Spike Parsons. We still have to get moving on this, but I hope we can lend a hand, or at least pass on some information.

The mention of Vcon 35 and its steampunk theme reminds me that in August 20-22, Can*Con 2010 takes place in Ottawa, the first SF litcon in Ottawa in many years, and the first Can*Con since 2002. It's also decided that steampunk will be its theme. Guest of honour is Marie Bilodeau, and all info is at www.can-con.org.

Yvonne and I had heard about Shibansan passing away a few weeks before this issue arrived. I know how well LA fandom knew the Shibanos, and we met them for the first time when we were visiting with the Trimbles just before L.A.con II in 1984. Has anyone heard from Sachiko, to find out how she is?

[[They contacted me for permission to run the obituary in Uchugin, though admittedly that's not an answer to "how are they." Since then, the only thing I have heard is that she and her daughter made it through the quake all right.]]

I am sure some may see themselves in Taral's article on fanwriters, and some names are lightly altered so that even I can see who's he's writing about. I even saw myself in there...the pointless natterer. I do try to pass along news and opinion; I try to be low on bile. Good fanwriting is subjective; it may simply be what you're looking for yourself.

Thank you for listing all the Hugo nominees, and again for the Aurora nominees. You've got the Aurora winners, saw them on the website.

Interesting report on WexWorlds, but one photograph caught my eye. If this convention

took place in Wexford, Ireland, how is a kid there wearing an Edmonton Oilers hockey sweater?

Darrell Schweitzer is right, the border regulations on both sides are silly, and quite incomprehensible. However, the Canadian government usually puts in place regulations that the White House wants, so I suspect that most of the silly regulations come from Washington and assorted agencies and departments.

[[Canada understandably doesn't want to let in Americans who won't be allowed back!]]

Martin Morse Wooster's mention of Cheryl Morgan's Torcon 3 report reminds me of the feeling of sorrow, yet vindication I felt when it was published. Many local fans who found out about the report were angry, but I had to say that Cheryl got it right. I wish Torcon had been better, and I hope Anticipation proved that Canadian fandom can do better.

R. Handloff

I just read *File 770 #158* and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I especially liked Taral Wayne's article about fanwriting. His remark that "One of the highest expressions of fanwriting, in my opinion, is that which vividly portrays another fan, or group of fans" rings very true to me. I have been reading science fiction for over 25 years now but to be honest I have an even deeper interest in the fans themselves.

As M. Lee Rogers points out in his letter "Persecution tends to make membership in a group much more meaningful -- ask the Christians who were fed to the lions in Roman times."

All of us are out of step with the world to some degree - fan or not. But there are certain groups of people - including fans - who are willing to own up to it. Those are people who I feel a kinship with and I think that's part of what makes fandom so compelling.

Henry Welch

Thanks for the number of issues of *File 770* that you have sent me over the past year and that I have been horribly remiss about LOCing until now. I will plead FAFIA and suggest you see the forthcoming TKK 136 for somewhat of an explanation. I have not fallen off the face of the planet, nor even stopped all my fannish activity, but my fanzine activity did get the short end of the stick.

Despite my apparent FAFIA, I have managed to read all the zines sent to me, although my comments will be brief.

157: Thanks for printing Vince Docherty's update on the Hugo eligibility rules.

158: I think that young adult and family memberships rates for Worldcon are a good idea that is long overdue. One of the reasons we stopped attending Worldcon was the difficulty and expense of taking three children along.

Steve Davidson

Robert Silverberg: I'm surprised at your surprise over Taral's surprise:

"And I'm surprised at Taral's surprise, in his splendid worldcon report, that pros are so hard to find at conventions after dark. Surely Taral has been around long enough to know that the pros have a social group of their own, even as fans do, and actually go out to dinner together in the evenings in little clumps of six or eight or ten, and then go off to their Dirty Pro parties, where publishers ply them with cut-rate booze."

We developed a solution for that at Suncon in '77 - making all of the Pros and guests wear those orange bowlers. Best to keep your mouth shut about the whole thing - I don't think anyone wants to go back to orange bowlers.

Sam Long

I enjoyed Taral's essay on fanwriting: a good analysis.

TV series theme songs from long ago: They give me nostalgia fits when I hear them today, as do old-time advertising jingles. But let's stick to theme music. How 'bout other Western theme songs like "Jim Bowie, Jim Bowie, he was a mighty adventuring man/His blade was tempered and so was he..." or "Have Gun Will Travel" reads the card of a man/A knight without armor in a savage land." Or "Johnny Yuma was a rebel/He roamed through the west" or the Bonanza theme, or the Wyatt Earp theme or any of dozens of others. Or of course "Dee-dee-dee-dee-dee-dee-dee" from Twilight Zone, and the Batman theme, and the Superman theme, and the theme to "The Vikings". And of course, "Dum-dee-dum-dum" of Dragnet, and in a less dramatic vein, "Love in Bloom", which was Jack Benny's theme song. In the classic vein, you mentioned Gounod's "Funeral march of the Marionette", and everybody associates the Lone Ranger with the finale of Rossini's "William Tell Overture". There's also Richard Rogers's "Victory at Sea" suite, which was the music to an early-'50s history program about WWII; he used one of the motifs again for the song "No Other Love Have I". On Saturday morning there was "Robin Hood, Robin Hood/Riding through the glen" and many others. There

was a brief period when backwoods sitcoms were the rage. I remember the "Real McCoys" theme and the "Petticoat Junction" theme, and the "Beverly Hillbillies" theme. But would you believe I don't know the Brady Bunch theme either; I don't think I ever watched the program.

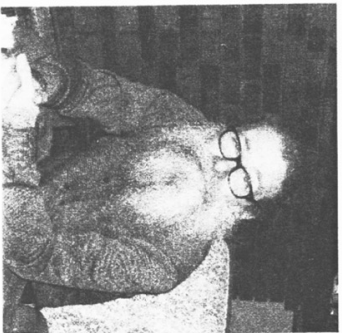
James Bacon's "Port Soderick Station" about railroads on the Isle of Man was very interesting because I'm somewhat of a railroad fan myself. I'm not surprised that one engine at least has a "Thomas the Tank Engine" face on the front. Funnily enough the article called to my mind a poem by Robert Burns, who, had he lived a few decades later into the early days of rail travel, would doubtless have written "The Deil's awa' wi' the Footplateman" instead of "...the Exciseman". I'll have to pass Bacon's article on to a friend of mine who's really into railroading.

We Also Heard From

June and Len Moffatt: On page 13, you have one of our photos. It was taken in the Moffatt House living room prior to Baycon in 1968. Rick Sneary did not attend Baycon that year, so we had the Shibanos and Roy/Tac over to celebrate.

Letterhack's Addresses

Steve Davidson, E-mail: steve.davidson33@comcast.net
 Brad W Foster, P.O. Box 165246, Irving, TX 75016
 Alexis Gilliland, 4030 8th St. South, Arlington, VA 22204
 R. Handloff, E-mail: rhandloff@gmail.com
 Neil Kaden, E-mail: kaden@circlenk.com
 Sam Long, E-mail: gunputty@comcast.net
 Joseph T Major, 1409 Christy Ave., Louisville, KY 40204-2040; E-mail: jtmajor@iglou.com
 Carol E. Meacham, E-mail: auntyproton@gmail.com
 June Moffatt: ljmmoffatt@verizon.net
 Lloyd Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2, Canada
 Marie Rengstorff, E-mail: marieor-toy2001@hotmail.com
 M. Lee Rogers, E-mail: mleerog@bellsouth.net
 Joy V. Smith, E-mail: Pagadan@aol.com
 Henry L. Welch, 15290 Upper Ellen Rd., Los Gatos, CA 95033; E-mail: knarley@welchcastle.com



Celebrating the Life of

Michael David Glicksohn

May 20, 1946-March 18, 2011

March 23, 2011 ~ Windermere United Church

Prelude: *Amazing Grace* and other tunes

Words of Welcome and Gathering

Call to Worship

Solo: *Love Grows Here*

Maureen Edwards

Opening Prayer

Remembering Mike

- Susan Manchester
- Manning Glicksohn
- Michael Harper
- Robert J. Sawyer
- Open Mic – please speak briefly

Hymn: *We Are Pilgrims*

VU 595

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Kelly Buehler and Sara Stratton

Meditation

Rev. Kate Young

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Our Lord's Prayer

Hymn: *In the Quiet Curve of Evening*

VU 278

Closing Prayer

The Commendation

The Blessing and Benediction – please stand as you are able

Postlude: *Lord of the Dance*

Organist: Carol King

Ministers: Rev. Linda Pennock and Rev. Kate Young

Piper: Tom Munroe

Following the Service you are invited to Mike and Susan's home, 508 Windermere Ave, to raise a glass to Mike.



They cut me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that will never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
(Sydney Carter, *Lord of the Dance*)