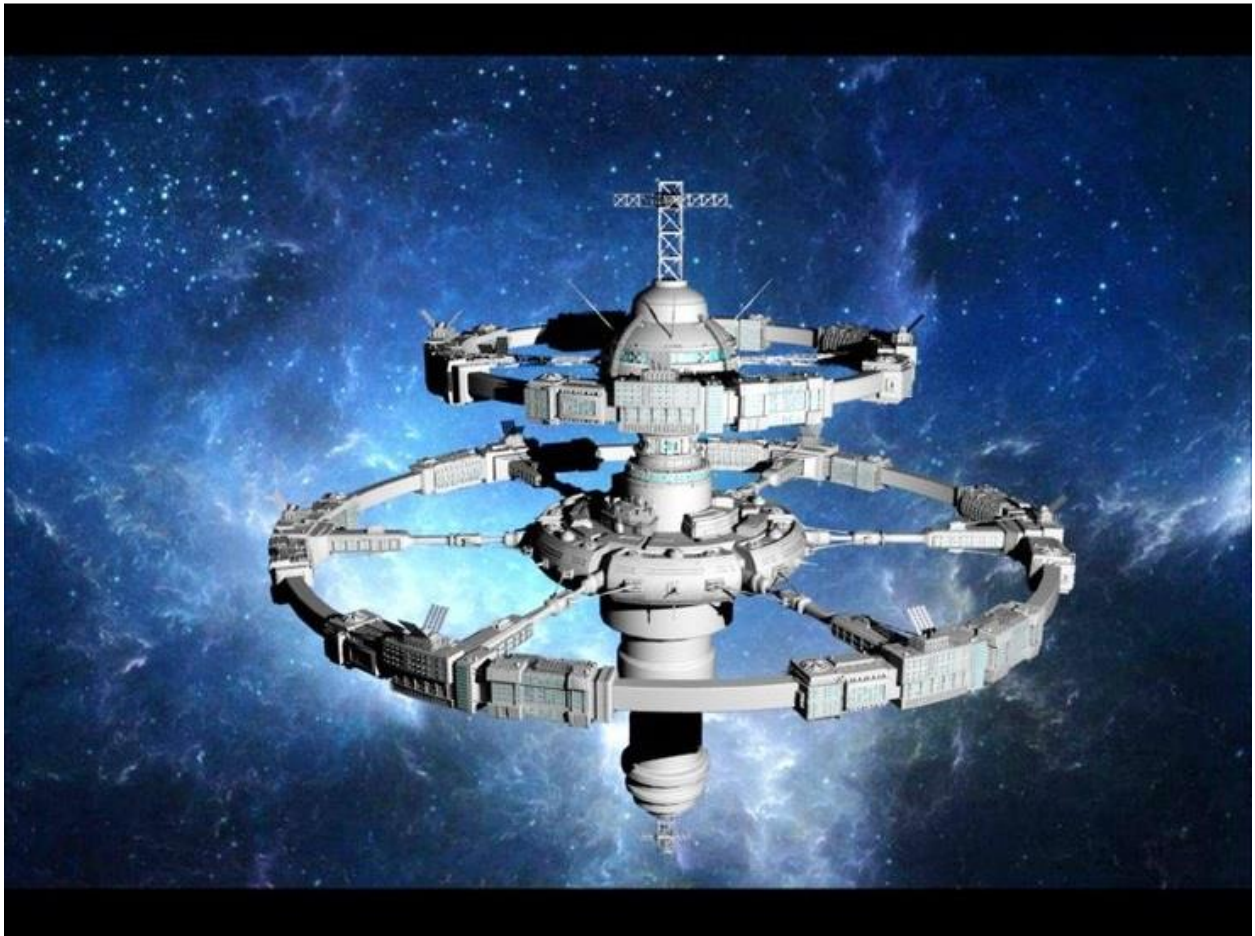


# N'APA 263

March 2023



# The Official Organ

## #263

**Next deadline: May 15, 2023**

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The official preparer is Jefferson P. Swycaffer - [abontides@gmail.com](mailto:abontides@gmail.com)

### Procedure: Please Read:

George Phillies will collate and mail, but submissions should be sent to the preparer, Jefferson Swycaffer. No harm is done if submissions get sent to George, but the process should be to send them to Jefferson.

N'APA is the Amateur Press Alliance for members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F). As it is distributed in PDF format, there are no dues or postage fees. It is open to all members of the N3F. If there are members interested in joining who have no computer access, special arrangements may be possible. People who only want to read are welcome to ask to be added to the email list. Check with the official collator, who is George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609; [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net); 508 754 1859; and on facebook. To join this APA, contact George.

We regularly send a copy of N'APA to the accessible (email address needed) N3F membership, in the hope that some of you will join N'APA. Please join now!

Currently the frequency is every other month, with the deadline being on the fifteenth day of odd-numbered months. The mailing will normally be collated in due time, as the collator is retired and the preparer has a full-time job. Publication is always totally regular, though some readers question my interpretations of "is", "always", "totally", and "regular". N'APA has been in existence since 1959, but has transitioned from being a paper APA to an electronic one.

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Sweden's 10th package worth €5B gives Ukraine world's BEST mobile artilleri (Archer), ditto best Combat Vehicle (CV90). Leopards roaring! Ukraine says: Tank You Very Much...

# INTERMISSION #129

E-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, [ahrvid@hotmail.com](mailto:ahrvid@hotmail.com), for EAPA, N'APA and other victims. Follow ed's newstweets from @SFJournalen. This # offers you the huge AFU archive, Chicon attacking freedom of speech, Smurfs in space, skiing up a slalom slope. the mighty Thor, Hugo G's sex mag... Typos? Schmypos? Bah! Late Jan 2023

## Editorially: Huge Archive, Complaint, 3D Smurfs, 110% Skiing

So, what's up for this issue? Connecting to the "UFO Sweden" movie from lastish, I cover the Archive for the Unexplained that was featured in that film. I have some unexpected information about Hugo Gernsback's Other Magazines, hackwriter Möller, Super-Man in 1930s, and more - in the History Corner. I ration the nuggets from the Royal Library (some are still in store), but I find sf/fandom history elsewhere too (if in English, advantage is no need to translate it). Here's a thing found, in this interesting sf history dictionary <https://sfdictionary.com/view/431/fandom> - an early use of word "fandom", *Sioux City Journal* 22 Sept 22, 1894, but relating to sports: "best men of the Western are being rapidly signed by the big clubs, and there will be mourning in fandom" Do you know earlier use?

Please read my complaint to Chicon, where they reach *new heights of dangerous stupidity!*

This winter I tend to go to fewer lectures, art openings and such, one reason is that I've become rather occupied, first by an (as yet) secret writing project, and secondly by attending an interesting popular collage course called "world building". It's about creating literary worlds and such, which is something I've been into a bit when writing. It takes a chunk of my time every week and this far it's rather fun. So I continue with what I call a picture rather than an events gallery. (But I attend some events. The Romanian Cultural Day in January was super, maybe their best since the Dadaism evening described in #44! And to our great joy, the Thor Modéen tribute gathering was on again!)

Europe's first "spaceport" - satellite launch site - just opened in the northernmost Swedish town of Kiruna. It's at the space research base Esrange, operating since the 1960s. The first satellite (only small sats, max 200 kg, but shrinking electronics make size matter less) should come soon, maybe the first European satellite launch (outside Russia) unless Branson and Virgin Galactic tries again. They just failed a launch from Cornwall, with a a 747 jumbojet carrying a smaller rocket intended for orbit, but it went out off course and missed space. Beside those APA comments (that you may skip) and LON art I'll have a few words about "Avatar 2" too.

But I can't promise to keep entirely away from sports. Sorry you cosmic minded beings! Among my mental deficiencies is a certain interest in this peculiar sport of cross-country skiing. 98% of the world don't care about folks treading on water (frozen) but it's rather popular up north. The US has some good ski-runners too, from Alaska and the northern states, even the UK has a top runner...based in Norway. Well, recently our superiorly talented Frida Karlsson won the big Tour de Ski event, a challenging series of seven races in nine days. Sweden's first win in this prestige competition in over a decade (by Charlotte Kalla, 2008, becoming our most popular athlete in all polls). Frida is presently the world's best skier on the ladies side. But her victory ended with a thrill...

The tour finish with the skiers climbing for 4 km up a slalom slope, a real tour de force in Tour de Ski! Frida lead with ca 1m20 from the previous six legs, but you can easily lose that in the gruesome slope. Halfway up the "hammer" hit her, the moment when the muscles get too little oxygen and too much lactate (produced under high stress). But Frida fought on. "My body said no, but my head didn't give up" she explained. She lost 39 seconds, collapsing for five minutes in the snow afterwards (getting medical staff attention and oxygen) but won the title. The picture of the totally exhausted winner, giving



Mr Rasmus Paludan, here with a Quran on fire, is actually Danish.

the proverbial 110%, went all over the sports world. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lip4ruQ64Jg>

And there's trouble with Turkey. It was perfectly legal under the protection of Freedom of Speech to hang up a mannequin in Stockholm, but it was one of the Turkish president and he Was Not Amused.

He demands scores of his critics extradited as "terrorists", one being a mere journalist only writing articles, one is just "guilty" of doing graffiti, and some are Swedish citizens Turkey *know* they can't get. Another guy torched a Quran, also fully legal. So Turkey continues to block Sweden from NATO. I think they'll have diplomatic problems with 29 countries in the longer run, so the door'll open one day. Mr Erdogan probably needs something to catch voters in the election coming up soon. (In principle I see religion as a quite legitimate target for criticism, but if you burn books you may soon burn people too, as Heinrich Heine noted).

Finally, I'm happy to tell you that the Swedish government decided on our biggest military aid package ever to Ukraine. They'll get Archer batteries (the world's best, most accurate mobile artillery) and fifty Combat Vehicle 90 fully comparable to the US Bradley. To this more NLAWs!

Mr Putin, we're coming to get you!

## A Complaint

A reply to a recent message from Chicon, the 2022 Worldcon:

'Ello, I wish to register a complaint:

IMMEDIATELY REINSTATE THE FANNISH INQUISTION AND TAKE BACK YOUR "APOLOGY"!

Your actions are unacceptable as it attacks freedom of speech and freedom of thought.

Someone with you in all seriousness managed to put these unbelievably atrocious words together:

*We would like to make a formal apology to the community for an insensitive choice made for the title of a program item.*

*For many years, the Q&A session for future Worldcon bids was referred to as "The Fannish Inquisition." This phrase was initially created as a riff off the Monty Python sketch. However, the actual Spanish Inquisition was of course an atrocity against many groups, and the descendants of those groups understandably find this to be an offensive joke.*

*When we initially published our Pocket Program and opened our online guide, it showed that the name of the item included "The Fannish Inquisition" as part of the title.*

This "complaint" from only one ("the member who brought it to our attention") reaches stratospheric heights in humorlessness and intolerance in claiming to be sensitive to the use of a simple word like "inquisition". Have a look at HC Andersen's story about The Princess and the Pea..

If a tiny articulation of claimed uneasiness may decide vocabulary and what we can express, freedom of speech is in grave danger, and obviously once language is put in a cage freedom of thought hangs loose.

We must stop this trend that anyone, who states feeling "uncomfortable" with what others say, have the right to silence them.

A well known historical institution, hundreds of years ago (are you going to tear out those pages in history books?), used as a cheerful gag would "understandably" (no, no one understands!) be "offensive" (no, it's an innocent joke!).

Get a life!

## Roses Are Red, Na'vis Are Blue

I was with my brother to the movies and saw "Avatar 2- the Way of the Water". You do best to see it in 3D. (I believe that cinemas otherwise are on the death row. But just as with those inmates it will take some time before they get knocked off.) I'm interested in 3D technology, which has improved a lot recently with circular polarisation that minimises the leak in the stereo view. It means the polarisation rotates in one direction for one eye, and in the other direction for the other. 3D before had linear polarisation where the polarisation simply lay 90 degrees off to each other.

I remember the early 1980s when Swedish TV had a short 3D craze. They aired some programs, and one feature film you watched with red/green glasses. (The film was "Miss Saide Thompson", 1953, with Rita Hayworth, [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0046076/?ref\\_=fn\\_al\\_tt\\_1](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0046076/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1) , also <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqDDJCPb18Y> but not in 3D ).

3D is of course essential if you want to dive into Virtual Reality - I have tested such at computer exhibitions, eg exploring non-existing buildings, playing games - which everyone expects to become a huge thing. It may take while, but it will come. I think ordinary TV screens even, one way or another, will get technology for 3D. (My brother thinks it's a flash in the pan. Pessimist!)

While I think Avatar #1 was a bit better, #2 was worth seeing. Circular polarisation was used for Avatar 1 too. As you may guess from the title there was a lot of underwater scenes, which looked

very nice. The plot in short: Jake Sully from the first film somehow has become a real Na'vi (the Smurfs if you remember, and don't ask how he was transformed), lives with the Na'vis, and has a family with kids. But the colonists are coming back to get him, so he has to flee. He takes his family to a tribe of marine Na'vis who are friends with giant, intelligent sea creatures called tulkuns. The colonists come with big ships to hunt the tulkuns and Jake, family and the marine Na'vis strike back. Think of it as an anti-whaling statement.

The plot isn't very impressive. What I enjoyed was the pictures and landscapes - in 3D. There is one (1) human hero among them (called Spider), else everyone are computer generated. There are short sequences from human labs, the bridge of a spaceship or hunting vessel, but I'd say that 90-95% of everything on the screen is computerised.

Today it seems you can easily make a film without any live actors, but still use anyone you want. This will in the long run have its impact on the movie industry. It won't be very long before all films and lot of data about Humphrey Bogart is entered into a computer and with the help of AI we'll get new films with Bogey. Or Marilyn Monroe. And Bruce Lee. I'd love to see "It's a Wonderful World Again" with James Stewart, or for a Swedish film "Data Bom" with Nils Poppe. (A Swedish Danny Kaye, who in the 1950's planned a film about the emerging computer industry, which unfortunately was canned. The script is said to still exist, so put the computers on the film about computers!) All this is also coming to the music industry. The "ABBAtar" show in London is sold out half a year in advance and seems to be well-liked.

So, if you haven't seen it, try Avatar 2. I read that James Cameron is already planning for Avatar 3 and 4, scripts are said to be ready, and computers are becoming more powerful every year. What have we learned this far?

1) 3D will grow.

2) You can make any actor virtually. A new Cary Grant film? A piece of cake. His next one will be called "South by Southeast".

3) Movie theatres will die. This is not because of 3D, more from the growth of streaming, increased media competition in general and cheaper as well as bigger home screens.



*There were lots of underwater scenes in Avatar 2. I wonder, did they really put in a Disney cameo? (>) If so I missed it.*

## Picture Gallery



*Best X-country lady skier right now, Frida Karlsson, going UP the slalom slope ending Tour the Ski.*



*Giving 110%, collapsing after win. Surrounded by leaders and medics (right). Team mates coming later watching (left). Well, Frida was OK. She's a fighter! Swedish skiing uniform is traditionally white (with blue, yellow decorations)*



L 2 R: PM Ulf Kristersson, EU commission president Ursula van Leyen & HM Carl XVI Gustav ribbon cutting for launch pad. Small satellites (up to 200 kg) to launch later 2023, 1st from Europe, unless UKs Virgin Galactic tries again. A 747 Jumojet lifted attempt from Cornwall earlier failed. Lapland launchpad is a part of Esrange space base above Arctic circle, good spot for Earth surveillance polar orbits.



Romania's Culture Day Jan 12 at their Institute. Timisoara culture capital info, poetry, music, snacks. One of their best since their legendary dadaism happening 2016 (see #44!). Saw Bill, ex reporter for our foreign radio service & Ukrainian Larissa ("Friends home are just trying to survive.")



Turkey blocks Sweden in NATO, as prez Erdogan is angry. Some hang a mannequin of him outside Stockholm city hall. He became red hot furious. Civil war in NATO...



Music together with a stunning, psychedelic visual show 12 Jan on Romanian Culture Day. Also poetry. The hall was packed. Also info on Timisoara, culture capital 2023



Mingle afterwards. Me with one of the poets. Robert Serban. I liked his stuff (read in both Romanian and Swedish) which was drastic but also had humour.



A nasty little virus stopped us for two years, but now we fans of classic comedy actor Thor Modéen (1898-1950) could once again celebrate his birthday Jan 22, also 125 years since his birth. Right Thor's daughter Margareta by the grave (talking to I believe Ann-Lena) afterwards inviting us to some food (roast beef, potato, chocolate cake), mingle and entertainment.



Margareta's place (she is in foreground). Man in glasses journalist Ove Säverman. First time I saw him since 1980...



Chairman of Modéen fan club TOFS Håkan, Anna-Lena and Martin (in hats), Joe R Struly (me).

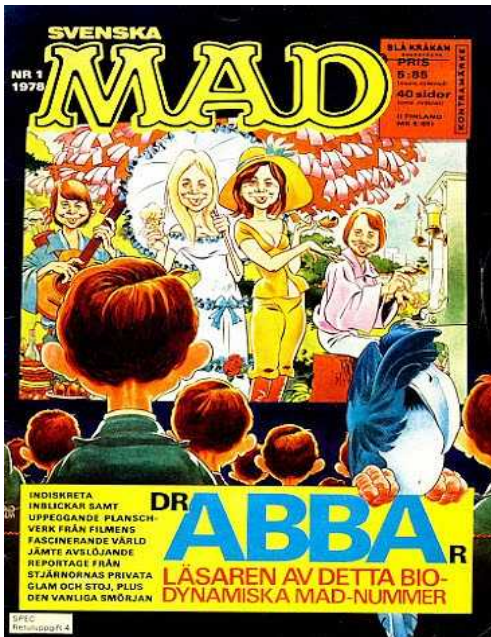


ska det ha rätt en viss förvirring hos poliserna om vad de skulle göra av Greta Thunberg.

Greta Thunberg went to Lützerath, Germany. Environmentalists have long occupied a village to stop coal mining. Police attempting to oust them. Greta also apprehended, looking rather satisfied. Swedish caption says: "There was certain confusion among officers what to do with a certain Greta Thunberg."



Ove Säverman speaking (left). Made radio shows about Thor Modéen. By coincidence he's behind one of my first newspaper mentions. He reported from Fabula-80 con, Copenhagen, and bumped into me who got a shout out.



Our favourite pop stars of course made it to the comics too. Here appearing in the Swe edition of MAD magazine



Unknown English language comics: "They claim real ABBA are so ugly they can't appear in public." Mamma mia!

## HISTORY CORNER

Let's start with stuff about Uncle Hugo. For many years (1950s up to the 1960s) he did a Christmas newsletter, *Forecast*, with predictions about Our Glorious Future. For instance (it must be from the newsletter), he predicted machines to be marriage makers, something Tinder and computers do today. In *Star News* for Jan 3 1952 (nexta page) you can read all about it, "Chorines Dislike Machine-Made Mates". Read more: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/predictions-from-the-father-of-science-fiction-61256664/> and <https://archive.org/search?query=forecast+gersnback>

*Park City News* got hold of Hugo's visions and reported, Dec 26, 1963, "*Delightful Prediction*", about newspapers transmitted wirelessly, but most of all about weather control. You can read about it yourself (also next page). It would be based on space mirrors, a whopping 100 miles in size.

Gernsback seems to have been rather liberal (except in paying authors, who'd get-pay-upon-suing), as he in 1933 founded *Sexology Magazine*. It folded as late as in 1983 as *Sexology Today*, we see in *Reading Eagle* Nov 2, 1983 (next page), "*Sex magazizne falls victim to revolution it promoted*". It is noted the founder also gave name to the Hugo Awards for outstanding sf writing. Sex and skiffy, forever together.

You probably know about how the creators of Superman published one of the earliest fanzines, which they in an inspired moment named *Science Fiction*. There're some pages of it on the net (it'd be swell to have more, maybe something for eFanzines.com?), like the cover of #3 proclaiming it is "The Advance Guard of Future Civilization!" (but I wonder if it isn't more like page 3 or so, as Joe

Shuster would be more than capable to draw a fine cover illo. Also found a few pages of the story "The Reign of the Super-Man" perhaps the debut of the Man of Steel, but here it seems he is an evil figure... (If you concentrate you may just about be able to read the text on next page. I did my best to sharpen it.) My friend Bertil Falk has actually met and interviewed Supie's co-creator Jerry Siegel. He played me the interview tape, saying eg that Lois Lane was based on a classmate of Jerry Siegel (and later wife). See

<https://www.cbr.com/superman-lois-lane-jerry-siegel-high-school-classmate/>

The probably greatest hackwriter in Swedish sf is on Olof Möller (b 1923) who poured out more than 30 cheap kiosk paperbacks of space opera (which were rather boring). I actually met and interviewed him, on the famous Spacecon 1980. Here's his 1985 obituary (deceased 8 June, after Super-Man) which shows he had a more varied life than expected, eg being a Latvian refugee, a concert pianist, caring for motorised kids, a period working for the top Military Academy... I should explain two terms: *raggare* are youngsters driving around in big American cars playing loud music (word being a noun from "to pick up", *ragga* - they try to pick up girls) and a *sune* is a very boring, ordinary Swede: "*Raggardad Olof Möller dead*" is obit headline:

## Chorines Dislike Machine-Made Mates

By RICHARD KLEINER

NEW YORK — (NEA) — Hugo Gernsback, go to the rear of the class, and take your electronic mating machine with you. An exhaustive survey of American womanhood (well, we talked to four girls, and that can be exhausting) proves unquestionably that they want no truck with machine-made marriage.

Gernsback is editor and publisher of Radio-Electronics Magazine. In his annual forecast of things to come, he predicts the world of the future will see a contraption which will "tell prospective couples if it is safe for them to mate, or not."

Four chorines — two married and two single—from "Guys and Dolls" didn't think much of the idea. In fact, cute and single Barbara Ferguson wrinkled up her cute and single nose and said, "Humph, I never did believe in electricity."

Onna White, tall, striking and married, was even briefer in her comments. She didn't even bother wrinkling her nose as she remarked, "I stinks."

Gernsback's electronic marriage counsellor would be based on two tests — first, an elaborate questionnaire to see if the couple meet proper standards for successful marriage, and, second, a "linked" test (taken while kissing, holding hands or otherwise in close contact) to see if they have what Gernsback calls the proper "electric relationship."

The four young ladies thought highly of the "linked" test idea. Little Miss Ferguson, who is still single, felt that something like that would be important. "How," she asked, "can you live with somebody who does nothing to



FOUR OF A KIND are these "Guys and Dolls" chorus girls, who are all opposed to the idea of an electronic mating machine. In front are Barbara Ferguson (left) and Onna White; in rear are Marcia Maier (left) and Alicia Krug.

artistic sense, color perception and physical contour. The girls said they would.

The single girls, surprisingly, were much fussier than the married girls. Miss Krug felt seven of those 11 items were important, Miss Ferguson eight, Miss Maier thought only five mattered, and Miss White said no to all but four.

All of them agreed that similar backgrounds of education and

dicted an unhappy union. The girls said they would.

"I'd marry the guy," Miss Maier muttered.

"I'd get married, anyway," said Miss White.

"I'd throw the machine out the window and get married," said Miss Krug.

"I'd go right ahead and get married," said Miss Ferguson.

The friend of mods, sunes and raggare, author etc Olof Möller has deceased at age 61. He was born in Riga, Latvia. His mother was German born author Camilla Möller and father the eminent doctor and scientist Maximilian Möller, who in 1939 fled to Sweden with his family. After graduation from the classic German high school in Riga Olof Möller studied at Stockholm Trade Institute 1939-41 and then had different employments and also his own firms. He was 12 years with the Swedish Wool Company in Nyköping and 1976-85 employed by the Military Academy in Stockholm being eg responsible for study literature. He has written the *Humanoid Rebellion*, *Watching Planet* and *Attack of the Stellars* and short stories. He was also skilled as artist and sometimes illustrated his own works. He was musically talented and a student of Hilding Rosenberg and made debut as concert pianist 1943 and as composer in 1947. He eg wrote "The Fylgia song"

## Sex magazine falls victim to revolution it promoted

By Cathy Burke

NEW YORK (UPI) — *Sexology Today*, the *Playboy* and *Penthouse* of its heyday, has fallen victim to the sexual revolution that it helped promote over the last half-century.

"Its image and identity got lost," Warren Tabatch, vice president of Medi-Media Publications Inc., said Tuesday. "Many of the stories and much of the information could be found in a daily newspaper. The name didn't help. It sounded too scientific."

"Sex had come out of the closet and we felt it best to put *Sexology Today* to rest," he said.

*Sexology Today* ceased publication with the December edition, which went on sale Sept. 29 for \$1.95.

THE "DIGEST" magazine was founded in 1933 by Hugo Gernsback, namesake of the Hugo Awards for outstanding science-fiction writing, as the 25-cent *Sexology Magazine*.

It went through a brief period as *Sexology Together* before it reverted to *Sexology Magazine* and finally to *Sexology Today*.

The 96-page magazine was a "how-to" manual, with illustrative photos and some

artwork. In its heyday, it had a circulation of 200,000. At its nadir, circulation was down to 100,000.

Tabatch said it was the oldest sex magazine in the country.

"IT WAS ALWAYS meant to be used as an aide for sex, but we tried to modify our orientation to suit the taste of today's readers, and make it more entertaining," he said.

Tabatch said the demise of *Sexology Today* was a testament to its success.

"It's not healthy for us that it folded, of course," said Tabatch. "But it does reflect a certain positive side to society."

"Gernsback had a very keen interest in providing people with a clear understanding of sex, to destroy the myths and fallacies. He started a whole revolution in sex magazines," Tabatch said.

Tabatch, whose father, Jack, is publisher of the magazine, said *Sexology Today* represented "a major contribution to the total awareness of sex by the masses."

"The fact that it has been suspended indicates this fact, that we have reached that level of awareness in our society," he said.

"You can ask a 10-year-old about sex today."

## Park Row Paragraphs Delightful Prediction

By RAY GAINES



With Christmas Day now past many writers are turning their attention to prognostications for the New Year.

But one modern-day prophet is attempting to look much farther into the future and foresees some startling developments. Hugo Gernsback, science-electronic publisher whose publicity office claims for him an amazing record of accuracy in his predictions, sees, for example, the day when the "instant newspaper" will be distributed via radio.

This, however, is one of Gernsback's less sensational prognostications, for actually experiments already have been carried out in the facsimile transmission of newspapers.

Perhaps of more immediate interest in Bowling Green today, what with the recent sledge of severe winter weather, is Gernsback's guess that the people of the earth will be controlling the weather electronically by the turn of the century.

Gernsback says in his 1964 forecast that such control is possible today if the world's governments want it.

The publisher would accomplish weather control by using eight 100-mile-diameter space mirrors to reflect the sun's rays and illuminate the earth's dark side continuously, thus creating a "perpetual spring" by heating the jet streams of the atmosphere at stratosphere level. He foresees the mirrors dispersing storms and hurricanes into unpeopled areas.

Gernsback claims his plan would create a constant twilight on the night side of the earth and produce more abundant crops.

The chief purpose of the plan, he says, is to heat the two sub-polar regions sufficiently to keep the so-called temperate zones free of frost, deep snow and ice. No attempt would be made to melt the polar caps, since this would raise the level of the oceans more than 100 feet and put all the world's coastal cities under water. To Southern Kentuckians, attempting to dig themselves out from under a 7½-inch snowfall and recalling the frigid weather of the last couple of weeks, Gernsback's prediction may see only a bit of far-fetched wishful thinking.

But Gernsback's publicist claims for him an amazing record of scientific forecasting, crediting the publisher with predicting in 1908 such things as radar, television and blood transfusions.

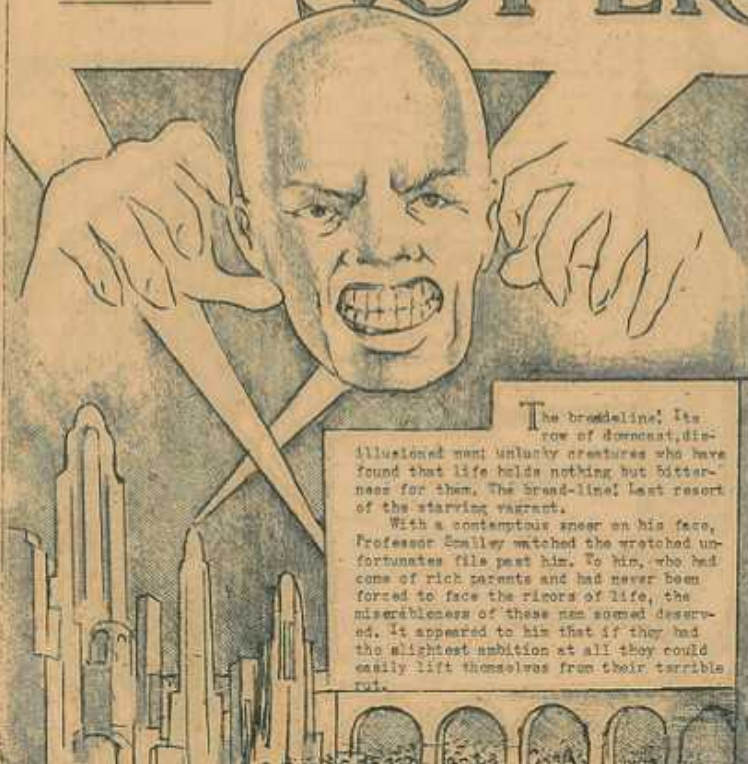
No doubt in 1908 these predictions appeared as fantastic as some of Gernsback's forecasts seem to us as 1965 draws to a close.



# The REIGN SUPER-

By Herbert S. Finn

# of the MAN



The bread-line! Its row of downcast, disillusioned men unhappy creatures who have found that life holds nothing but bitterness for them. The bread-line! Last resort of the starving wretch.

With a contemptuous sneer on his face, Professor Smalley watched the wretched unfortunates file past him. To him, who had come of rich parents and had never been forced to face the rigors of life, the miseries of these men seemed deserved. It appeared to him that if they had the slightest ambition at all they could easily lift themselves from their terrible rut.

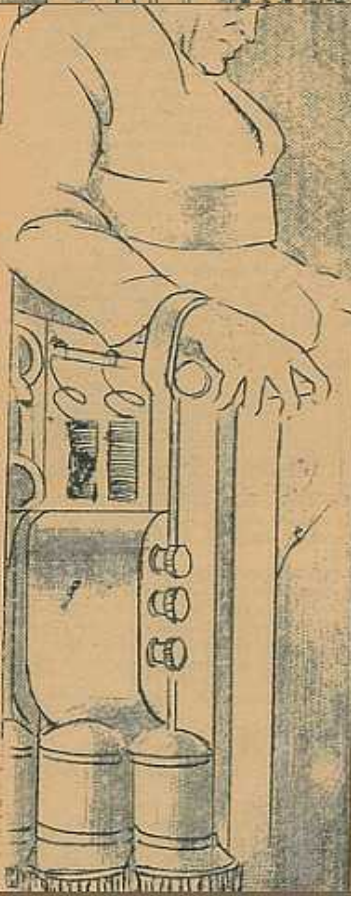
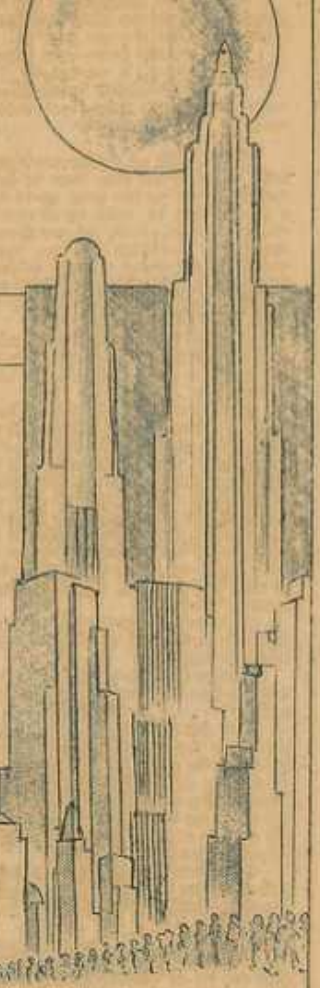
Another Thrilling Story by The Writer of "Savring The Master"

But while he eyed them with a world of condemnation, he was busy scanning their faces, searching for the one he sought. Time and time again he glanced on the point of reaching out and making a restraining arm on the arm of one of the men, but each he hesitated at the last moment and allowed the fellow to file past.

At last, however, he came on his search in despair and real - by claim of the attention of the miserably-worn man who happened to be before him at that moment. "How would you like to have a real meal and a real life?" he inquired.

The reaction in the man's face did not seem that Smalley was really sincere. "It's like nothing better, mister." Then, suddenly suspicious -- "What do you want me to do for you? Nothing, I hope!"

Professor Smalley laughed. "I assure you my intentions are purely humanitarian. But if you don't



...and she was saying that "Mars!"

That was occurring on their wonder-drum!

Faster than the speed of light were the answers to that rash thought.

In less time than it takes an eye-lid to blink, Dana was wide-awake, fascinatedly aware that was not of Earth. It seemed to Dana that he was hovering a short distance above the red, parched surface of the ground in an invisible body. Below him and stretching out from both sides of him to infinite distances was a stretch unwarped plain. Except for two objects, survivors and the pale sky, nothing else was in sight. The two objects instantly attracted his interest and attention. Both were -- being! One was a slim, tree-like creature, the other a thirty-foot-high thin streak of red light.

AS DANA watched they covered the short distance apart-time they flew each other. Both seemed to flow, rather than to walk across the coil. The second they came within striking distance, the tree-creature threw out a limb-like tentacle that acily wrapped itself about the red-intelligence. Other limbs flashed out, encircled the red flame and drew it against the tree's breast. In that instant the two alien nonretrogressive shook with their mighty efforts to destroy one another.

And Dana, while still on Earth, was witnessing this incredible scene, his sight which was transpiring 37,000,000 miles from where he lay motionless in the park.

The red intelligence now brought forth a power which it had not used before. Suddenly it expanded. The tree-like tentacles of the tree-creature snapped brittlely under the unexpected attack. Spirally encircled by its adversary it could be faintly seen within the red body that incircled it. Then suddenly it had vanished, was gone.

WHEN THE thing that had been Bill Dana woke the next morning, it reported its surroundings and his clothes unavailingly. Money obviously flooded back. With a shackle of silver emanating, it rose to its feet and stretched its arms. Then it began to follow the road toward more densely populated districts. As it walked, it spoke to itself.

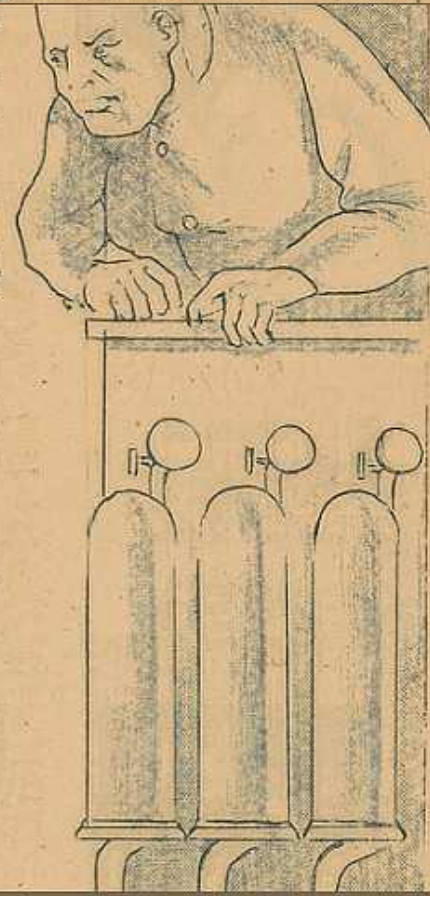
"Fool! Why did you sleep on the ground when there were thousands of unoccupied beds in the world? Money, obviously, was the reason. You lacked money. Now hilarious! Money is the easiest thing that can be acquired upon this planet! And you have spent a full year in idle wastefulness when you could have been living the life of a Prince, an existence inconceivable in its size. It is the greatest sin. I must atone for that! I must remedy my financial condition. That will not be difficult."

A grin of superiority crossed the Superran's face.

"I can do four things that no one else on the planet can execute. They are: intense interplanetary messages, read the mind of anyone I desire, by sheer mental concentration force ideas into people's heads, and throw my vision to any spot in the universe.

"Furthermore," he added, "during the night my mind has assimilated all the knowledge that exists in the universe. I know as much about Pluto as its inhabitants whose information I absorbed. I am a virtual sponge that absorbs every secret ever created. Every science is known to me and the most abstruse sciences are more available to my stuporific intellect. I am a veritable God!"

Thought of his total achievements swelled him with confidence. He strode along the road arrogant-



and the basic melody of the song was later modified by Rodriguez as "Que Sera Sera". His music career ended suddenly as he injured his left hand in an accident. He has become most known for his work in the 1960s for problem youth. He was among those organising the raggar mansion in Ekstubben by Flaten, after the raggar disturbances in the capital. He organised a number of youth clubs under the named National Federation Youth of Today. More than 12000 youngsters were members. Family is son David, defence civil servant with wife Marisol, grand daughter Marcia and sister-in-law Ingrid Möller.

Author Kjell Genberg told me how Möller in the 1960's tried to establish a booking centre for musicians (Kjell was himself in the game) but was fended off as the secret plan was that he'd get an

# "Raggarpappan" Olof Möller är död

Modsens, sunarnas och popbandens vän, författaren m m Olof Möller, Solna, har avlidit i en ålder av 61 år.

Han föddes i Riga, Lettland. Hans mor var den tyskfödda författarinnan Camilla Möller och hans far den framstående läkaren och vetenskapsmannen Maximilian Möller, som 1939 flydde med sin familj till Sverige.

Efter realexamen från Klassiska tyska gymnasiet i Riga 1938 genomgick Olof Möller Stockholms handelsinstitut 1939-41 och hade sedan blika anställningar och även egna företag. I tolv år var han anställd som personalchef vid Svenska yllekoncernen i Nyköping och hade 1976-85 anställning vid militärhögskolan i Stockholm med bla ansvar för undervisningslitteratur. Han har skrivit "Humanoidupproret", "Seende planet" och "Stellarernas angrepp" samt noveller. Han var också en skicklig tecknare och illustrerade själv ibland sina arbeten.

Han var mycket musikbegåvad och var elev till Hilding Rosenberg och debuterade som konsertpianist 1943 och som kompositör 1947. Bl a skrev han "Fylogiavisan" samt grundmelodin till

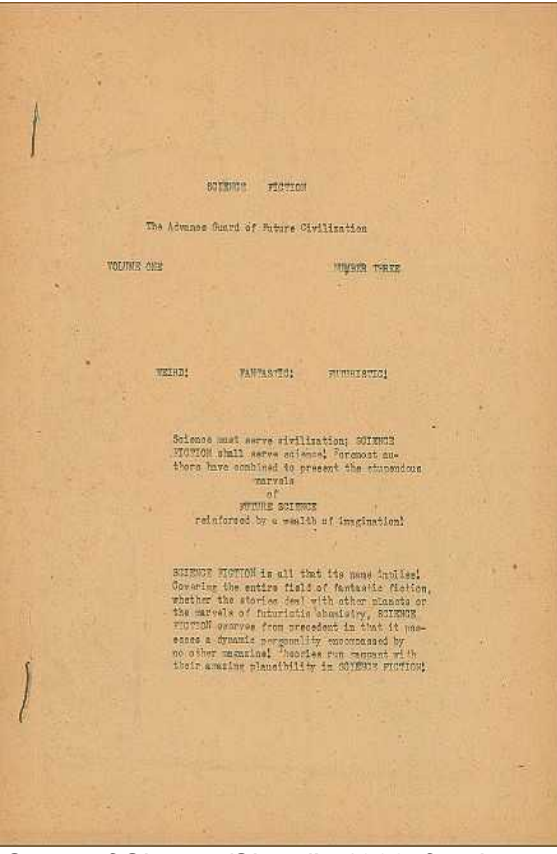


den senare av Rodriguez omarbetade sången "Que sera sera..." Musikkarriären fick ett hastigt slut, då han genom en olyckshändelse skadade vänsterhanden.

Mest känd har han blivit för sina insatser på 1960-talet för problemungdomen. Det var bla han som efter raggarroroligheterna i huvudstaden ordnade den permanenta raggargården i Ekstubben vid Flaten. Han organiserade också en mängd ungdomsklubbar under namnet Riksförbundet nutida ungdom. Över 12 000 ungdomar var medlemmar i dem. Närmast sörjande är sonen David, försvarstjänsteman, med makan Marisol, sondottern Marica och svägerskan Ingrid Möller. 19.6.85

unfair monopoly. And Sam J Lundwall once happened to be at a paperback publisher passing an office where Möller tried to offer them his books. Apparently he was turned down, despite - as Sam told us - that Möller in desperation called out: "But I'll make the covers for you for free!"

This History Corner has been



Cover of Shuster/Siegel's 1933 fanzine Science Fiction.



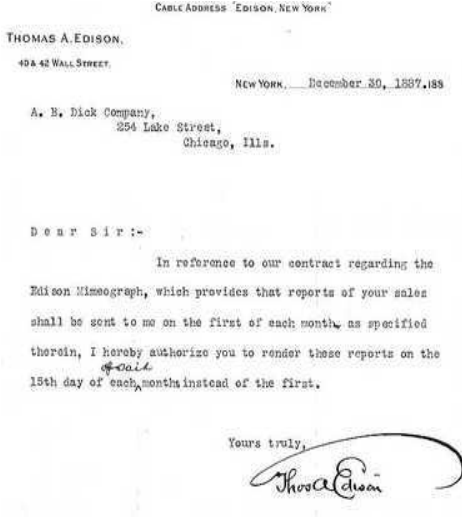
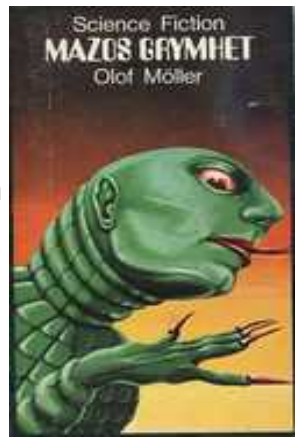
Möller did all his covers himself - not very exciting ones...

covering Thomas Edison, his boyhood magazine and the mimeograph he invented. The mimeo was licenced to AB Dick, which put a cylinder on his original flatbed device and made it a success. Here's a 1887 letter from him regulating changes in reports which indicates he took a commission for every unit sold. You see his personal signature too.

In last issue I covered the new Swedish "UFO Sweden" flick. One inspiration behind it was possibly the world's probably biggest library or archive of its kind: AFU or the Archive For the Unexplained. It began as a UFO library taking up a couple of shelves at the home of the founder, grew and grew, changed to include all kinds of "weird" topics and esoterics and became a black hole sucking in everything at the borderline of our knowledge, the Unexplained. It now has material from all over the world, two million items it is said, stretching a couple of miles of shelves.

After #127 I began digging deeper into AFU. One of the founders, Håkan Blomqvist, wrote a long series of history articles about it, luckily for you in *English*. If you want the early, detailed history go to:

- <https://ufoarchives.blogspot.com/2019/11/the-founding-of-afu.html>
- <https://ufoarchives.blogspot.com/2016/04/the-man-who-created-afu.html>
- <https://ufoarchives.blogspot.com/2009/03/kjell-jonsson-afus-forstebibliotekarie.html>
- <https://ufoarchives.blogspot.com/2017/11/afu-in-1980s.html>
- <https://ufoarchives.blogspot.com/2020/06/when-santa-claus-came-to-afu.html>
- <https://ufoarchives.blogspot.com/2019/10/afu-unique-world-heritage.html>
- <https://ufoarchives.blogspot.com/2016/11/afu-people-anders-liljegren.html>
- <https://ufoarchives.blogspot.com/2018/01/afu-in-1990s.html>
- <https://ufoarchives.blogspot.com/2017/11/afu-and-ufo-research.html>
- <https://ufoarchives.blogspot.com/2016/10/afu-people-sven-olov-svensson.html>
- <https://www.afu.se/about-afu/annual-reports/>



Some other sources. AFU 's newsletter (In Swe, much in Eng from 1979 and on) 1975-2008: <https://files.afu.se/Downloads/?dir=Magazines%2FSweden%2FAFU%20Newsletter%20%28AFU%29>

AFU Economy Reports 2006-2017: [https://www.afu.se/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/AFU\\_Economy\\_Report\\_2015\\_with\\_10\\_Years.pdf](https://www.afu.se/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/AFU_Economy_Report_2015_with_10_Years.pdf)

AJ Lewis interviews C Svahn & A Liljegren + Archive Tour <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYa1WUozE7U>

G Cameron interviews C Svahn <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-y2AAi0Xo-4>

AFU general info: <https://www.afu.se/>



I'll here try to summarise it by creating a history timeline, extracted from documents provided by Blomqvist (alas having some gaps), also getting comments and help from Clas Svahn. I think it's well

worth covering this subject. AFU is a giant operation, developing for a very long time under as far as I see systematic and serious work (and they have a small sf department, sf folks have contributed to the collections). Money mentioned: SEK = Swedish Crowns, worth *approx* **SEK10=\$1** (USD was weaker early in the timeline and is now slightly over SEK10). I doubt any other archive in the world of this type can match AFU! It's been complicated to put it together and any remaining errors are mine.

**1972:** Kjell Jonsson began collecting UFO books to create a lending library. (He suffered from severe asthma and had stopped growing.)

**1973:** A public defection from UFO-Sweden by Anders Liljegren, Kjell Jonsson and Håkan Blomqvist at the conference on March 17. It was official founding day for Arbetsgruppen för ufologi, AFU (Work group for Ufology), consisting of the three members. The 1972 library became an AFU project.

**1974:** Lennart Johansson, Stockholm's UFO-Center, donated his entire collection, ca 200 books. Became important part of the AFU library. Letter from Jonsson 30 sep: "I am now the only active AFU representative. AFU has closed down all former activities, our magazine Ufologen and field investigations. Instead I am presently engaged in planning a lending library of books and magazine." The beginning of the large archive to be, was a one man operation between 1974-1980 by Jonsson.

**1975:** AFU declares they'll change focus from investigating UFOs to "concentrate on the library", in the first # of their new Newsletter (mimeographed BTW, 4 #/y, 4p/#). AFU has 350 books. Anyone paying yearly membership fee may borrow. For your ed unknown Carlsrona Space Society (Rymdsällskap) mentioned, with 10 members headed by one Bernth Svensson.

**1976:** Newsletter switched to offset printing. Yearly fee SEK20 for newsletter and right to library access. Blomqvist interviewed in Swedish Radio's foreign service. Jonsson begins a Swedish UFO bibliography. AFU begins efforts to register newspaper articles. Newsletter grows in size to 14 pages, but goes back to mimeo - they bought a duplicator - with #8 since offset was too expensive. An early article of using computers for archiving.

**1977:** Liljegren permitted by Minister of Defence, Eric Krönmark, to study so far classified files on the Ghost Fliers, at the Military Archives. Built a registry of 1940s "ghost rockets" articles, and stencilled a list of 154 news telegrams from 1946. AFU has 105 members. Jonsson's bibliography finished: 1600 items (incl newspaper articles). Newsletter up to 24 pages. Obituary for Raymond Palmer (Amazing ed, also into UFOs). Carlsrona Space Society now 38 members, mostly into astronomy, "not into UFOs" but they have "an sf section".

**1978:** Publishes study of 602 Swedish UFO reports. From now newsletter 3 #/year. Back to offset.

**1979:** In March acronym AFU changed from Arbetsgruppen för ufologi (Work Group for ufology) to Arkivet för UFO-forskning (Archive for UFO Research). AFU Newsletter. International contacts increased and because of the new name. It gets some articles in English.

**1980:** Many donating books and magazines. In January 1980 AFU registered as



*Kjell Jonsson in 1977. His work sadly interrupted much too early.*

a legal foundation with board and bylaws. Lack of space great problem: Entire library was housed in Jonsson's small one room apartment in Södertälje. Liljegren found 38 square meters basement facility in Norrköping. Nov 15 the AFU library transported there. Now Liljegren handled the day to day activities at AFU, after work and at weekends. Sven-Olov Svensson, who lived nearby, began taking an active part in book loans, usually mailed. Project URD: "A Swedish system aimed at computerise of world-wide UFO data". First complete economic report as a foundation, turnover ca SEK 13000.

**1981:** GICOFF (Gothenburg Info Centre of Unidentified Flying Objects, active 1969-78) archive donated to AFU. Newsletter down to 2 #/year. Known fan B A G Schalen donates material, incl his graduation paper "Saucer people - UFOs as cult objects" (also reviewed in the #). Newsletter trade subscriptions with 100+ mostly foreign mags, shows list published (a reason for material in English, second # 1981 almost entirely in English). Economy turnover ca SEK 17 000.

Ufocode	Description Eng	Description Sw
A	Ancient cultures, archeology, ancient myths	Forntida kulturer och myter, (astrojärkeologi)
B	Behavioral & social sciences (psychology, etc)	Beteendevetenskaper & sociala vetenskaper
C	Contacts & communication with aliens	Kontakt och kommunikation med besökare
D	Design, propulsion & new energies	Konstruktioner, framdrift & nya energier
F	Fortean phenomena (Charles Fort, 1874-1932)	Fortean-fenomen
G	General aspects of UFO and UFO cases	Allmänna aspekter (på UFOs och UFO-fall)
H	Historical sightings & waves of sightings	Historiska observationer och historiska obs-vågor
L	Literature, library and fiction literature	Litteratur, bibliotek och fiction-litteratur
N	Natural sciences & natural explanations	Naturvetenskaper, naturliga förklaringar
O	Official policy, sightings, different countries	Observationer & offentlig policy, olika länder
P	Parapsychology, paranormal aspects, occultism	Parapsykologi, paranormala aspekter, ockultism
R	Religion, religious & philosophical aspects	Religion, religiösa och filosofiska aspekter
S	Science, scientists & philosophy of science	Vetenskap, vetenskapsmän, vetenskapsteori
T	Theories on origin & intent of UFOs	Teorier om ursprung och syfte
U	Ufology, UFO research & methodology	Ufologi, UFO-forskning och metodik

**1982:** Newsletter 3 #/year. Eg material on UFOs in USSR, 1940s Ghost rockets and reader's letter by Hilary Evan. Shelf space almost doubled. Library now also take personal visits. Economy turnover ca SEK12 500.

**1983:** Library has 1163 titles, needs catalogue system. Liljegren created Ufocode later updated to PhenCode, the library classification system used by AFU, built on mnemonic codes now very updated. New board member journalist Clas Svahn. Installed a copy machine and telephone which made communication easier. Only 1 # of newsletter. Member fee now SEK50/year. Fee to borrow introduced, SEK10 per loan if sent by mail. Economy turnover ca SEK14 000.

**1984:** Blomqvist quit his work at Stockholm Public Library, moved to Norrköping, starting as freelance journalist. Now three active in Norrköping. Only 1 # of newsletter (but 24 pages, eg material on UFOs in USSR). Copying machine makes it possible to order copies from the collection. "UFOcode" registration system continues development. AFU applies for grants from different institutions.

*Reg system Ufocode, later updated.*

Economy turnover ca SEK 29 000.

**1985:** AFU bought an IBM XT, for a stiff 50 000 SEK. Built the first UFO report database, ScanCat. Vast archive of publishing House Parthenon donated. Matrix printer used for the year's sole newsletter (only 5 pages).

**1986.** AFU cofounder Kjell Jonsson died of a heavy asthma attack. AFU joined UFO-Sweden as affiliate group and official recognized as archive unit of it. Economy turnover ca SEK37 000.

**1987:** Sven-Olov Svensson quit ordinary job to be full time volunteer at the small AFU office. Liljegren and Svahn allowed to copy the entire UFO archive at The Swedish Defence Research Institute. They could now build large national UFO report archive, merging reports from FOA, GICOFF, UFO-Sweden, AFU and other sources. Only 1 # of newsletter, but it's 22 pages with higher resolution matrix printer. Semitjov obituary.

**1988:** 2 # of newsletter. AFU publishes volume (100 pages) debunking the 1958 Domsten abduction case, researched by Svahn and Liljegren, proving it was a hoax inspired by "Tom Trick" (orig "Brick Bradford") sf comics.

**1989** Liljegren and Blomqvist rescued Gösta Rehn's entire correspondence from a dumpster. National organisation UFO-Sweden faced problems in late 1980s. Lack of enthusiasm, local groups disappeared, internal struggles between various ideologies. 2 # of the newsletter.

**1990:** Only 1 # of newsletter. Economy turnover ca SEK 37 000.

**1991:** Above crisis peaked at 1991 annual conference. Choice between science-based research or a New Age ideology? First won heavily, Svahn elected new chairman of UFO-Sweden, Watershed moment, he now phrased new position, Third Way Ufology: neither naive belief nor debunking but an open mind to theories based on critical investigation and empirical data. Danish organization SUFOI donated a very extensive collection of magazines. Files growing, 38 sqm simply can't house all. 1 # of newsletter, but now on laser printer. Clas Svahn now AFU chairman too.

**1992:** 1 # of newsletter. From editorial: "Events of the past ten months have ment a small culture revolution at AFU. In this short time span we have taken over some very fine collections, we have inaugurated a new sponsor pool, we have moved into new - much larger - premises, and we have had - for the first time - a small staff of full-time people working for us."



*Svensson, Liljegren, Svahn in HQ 1990.*

**1993:** January 1992 possible space solution nearby, still used as archive by real-estate company, so it must wait, but they could begin renovation in Spring. 75 sqm. Part of the archive was moved there in July. October 31 inauguration party. To cover expenses created pool of private sponsors, giving a monthly small sum. 1993 peak activity year for AFU. Jan-Feb held large UFO exhibition at Norrköping City Museum: "UFOs - Strangers From The Stars?", with extensive media coverage. Government began ALU, project for unemployed to work six months at an organizations with salary paid. March 1993 applied for ALU and hired unemployed. First was Jörgen Granlie, who for months coded database ScanCat. 1993-1998 ca 40 ALU people worked at AFU. Made member of two archive associations, Östergötlands Arkivförbund (ÖLFA) and Folkrörelsernas Arkivförbund (FA). Board of Private Archives of National Archives in Stockholm granted AFU 6 500 SEK for work material in ALU projects. First recognition as serious archive, first grant from Swedish authorities.

**1994:** No newsletter (and none in 1993) so the year lacks timeline info.

**1995:** Two # of newsletters. The AFU report database now 12 000 posts.

**1996-2000:** No newsletters. (So no timeline info for 1997-98.)

**1997:** Economy turnover SEK 111 000.

**1998:** Economy turnover SEK 99 900.

**1999:** Visit by Timothy Good, who donated 12,000 SEK.. AFU had 39 members. Stuff obtain from deceased sf author Peter Nilson. Obtained micro films of US Air Force UFO investigations. Economy turnover SEK 101 000.



*H Evans visiting in 1996.*

**2000:** AFU has 75 members. "Books, clips and objects from AFU have been used to shoot a Swedish sf film." (Unknown film, could be amateur film.) Obtained archive of Solna Astronomy Association. US database UFOCAT2000 obtained. Economy turnover ca



*If I'm correctly informed, USSR samizdat held at AFU. SEK 79 000.*

**2001:** Three # of newsletter! Danish SUFOI, Scandinavian UFO Information, archive to be copied to AFU, with 400 shelf metres material."Security doors & alarms for the archives were discussed." Plans to apply to grants for it. Svahn in UK to fetch books donated by Hilary Evans. Received grant of 3 000 SEK from the John Björkhem Memorial Fund, which awards money mainly to parapsychological research. Membership fee ("donation") now SEK150. Bruno R Ericsson collection added, some 20 shelf metres out of the 68 in total added in 2001. Bestselling crime writer Liza Marklund supports AFU since she believes in UFOs. Sanitising from "decades of tobacco smoking." One must assume staff used to smoke for a long time and that is now banned. 300 kg donation from Norway. AFU databases available on CD for SEK 150. Economy turnover 90 000.

**2002:** 2 # of newsletter, but delayed due to computer virus attack! First E-mail address afu@ufo.se. AFU had 87 members. Acquired a additional site 62 sqm, began to be filled in June. They now have:  
- 'A' archive (74 sqm) with magazine collections, Swedish & Scandinavian UFO reports, clippings, personal and organisational files, bibliographies and encyclopedias, book sale department. Began sales of second and third copies of books to supplement donations. At year's end the archive book collection was 9 939 volumes. magazines are 24 500 individual #. News paper clippings statistics.  
- 'B' archive (library, 62 sqm) with reference and lending book libraries, science & sf, paranormal, esoteric, audio, video library, microfilms (and microfilm reader) and picture library.  
- 'C' archive (30

sm) with surplus mags collection, map collection, other paraphernalia. Started new web site <https://www.afu.info> (now redirects to the .se site). Economy turnover SEK 102 000

**2003:** 2 # of the newsletter. In march the complete Danish report archive of SUFOI brought to AFU. AFU has previously Danish skeptic-librarian Willy Wegner's UFO newsclippings, magazines and photos, parts of former SUFOI chairman Per Andersen's UFO materials, 'odd' things in SUFOI magazine archive, and other mags. Liza Marklund becomes "prime sponsor". She visited the AFU ten years ago, when she wrote a news story for national paper Expressen. Svahn donated an "almost complete collection of Jules Verne Magasinet." AFU also has 30 smaller sponsors. Economy turnover SEK 182 000.

**2004:** 2 # of newsletter. "Donations from Hilary Evans and the Gordon Creighton's archives, brought from the UK by Svahn chairman of UFO-Sweden and editor of UFO-Aktuellt Håkan Ekstrand." More international donations through the year. "An international exchange program set afoot, particularly with...the Archives for UFO Research, News and Information Service, that aims to build an American archive quite similar to AFU. "AFU and UFO-Sweden took the initiative for a Swedish-international money collection to acquire parts of the SOS-OVNI archives owned by French UFO researcher Perry Petrakis. Stats in newsletter show UFO articles in newspapers have varied from 223/year in 1970 to 1015/y in 1979. AFU makes clippings as PDFs to distribute for free to a ing list. Malmö Interplanetary Society archive obtained. Economy turnover SEK 193 000.



SO Svensson, 1988, with Semitjov illo of observation by Clyde Tombaugh in 1949. [http://www.nicap.org/490820lascruces\\_dir.htm](http://www.nicap.org/490820lascruces_dir.htm)

**2005:** 2 # of newsletter. From editorial: "focus must now shift /from books & magazines to.../ personal & organisation files, UFO report files, audio & video tapes, and pictures, that all need attention to become more useful..these parts of AFU are more or less unusable. We have about 10.000 Swedish and Danish UFO reports to work on, and at least 2.000 audio cassette tapes, just to name two examples." Newsletter has article mentioning sf writers who are into UFOs, like Otto Binder, Clifford Simak.

**2006:** On # of newsletter (but none 2007). Grant from National Archive of SEK 82 000 to install a "rolling shelf" system to ease storage. Several material donations from Norway. Ten parcels of Russian material. Donation from Finland. Economy turnover ca SEK 200 000

**2007:** Economy turnover ca SEK 110 000.

**2008:** One newsletter #, from editorial: "...back in business after a three year long hiatus". Bill Caulfield UFO collection in the US acquired. Renovations of sites. "A tiresome, but very interesting period where we have moved, mostly on carts and by hand, 700 shelf meters of archives & library collections back & forth a few hundred meters in two directions...Our three main work facilities are all lined up within 200 meters distance along the same street...82.000 SEK grant sought from the Swedish National Archives for acquisition of (second-hand) compact-type shelves...half of the new shelves-on-wheels (5 full carts) are occupied by about 25.000 magazines from all over the world.... Our previous library has been renovated into fresh, new working facilities with six work tables, previous



On a donation raid in 1992, Svahn visited Henrik Nanne, known as author of many sf novels under the pseudonym Carl Henner.

working facility has been renovated into our new book & media library with some 60 book shelves.... Work proceeds



H & M Evans donation received. A real Xmas Day for AFU!

every day with getting a final good order of the books & documents collection. We have just invested 5.000 SEK in a new computer that holds our book Access database. New librarian, Ingrid Collberg, pro librarian earlier on Norrköping city library." Swedish journalist Jan Ove "Texas" Sundberg sold most of his UFO-related collections to AFU, paid for by Anders Liljegren. (Texas unfortunately suffered from cancer and died in 2011). Economy turnover SEK ca 195 000.

**2009:** Economy turnover ca SEK 172 000.

**2010:** 235 boxes from Hilary and Mary Evans, largest donation this far. "9 000+ books, 1000s of rare and unique magazines, many in excellent mint condition: subjects like UFO, forteana, folklore, parapsychology, paranormal phenomena, ancient mysteries, mysticism, esoterica, etc. Hilary Evans inspired AFU board to change acronym AFU from Archives for UFO Research to Archives for the Unexplained. A suitable name as collections now included all types of borderland phenomena." Since 2010 AFU has had many donations, eg archives from Borderland Sciences Research Foundation (BSRF), Flying Saucer Review and many more. Economy turnover ca SEK 394 000.

**2011:** Economy turnover ca SEK 614 000.

**2012:** Economy turnover ca SEK 738 000.

**2013:** Costly coverage of articles in the Swedish press media discontinued. Anders Liljegren monitors recent newspaper every second month, searching [www.mediarkivet.se](http://www.mediarkivet.se), database available free at Norrköping City Library. Saves SEK 30 000. Economy turnover ca SEK 1 257 000.

**2014:** AFU "a world heritage" for paranormal research. AFU board voted to change name to Archives for the Unexplained (still acronym AFU). "Applied for an authorization of this name at County Administration Board, and re-registration of foundation, incl its statutes with a few important changes, to revert to our original statutes and name Archives for UFO Research until we can pay SEK 8 500 to apply for "permutation". Purchased a Synology DS 2413+ NAS (Network Attached Storage) unit, with 12f hard disk slots, and got 4 TB HDs for the slots getting a 40 TB capacity, with internal redundancy. They had 12 TB of data. Copyright and personal protection prohibits external access, but it could be accessed from anywhere in the world. Got 4th A3 scanner for digitalisation and a photo scanner for new picture library project, paid by donation of 20 000 SEK from the City's fund Best for Norrköping, and a from board member Carl-Anton Mattsson. Invested in a new index sign system to display PhenCode classification on all shelves. Index blocks we needed for 700+ PhenCode subjects cost a staggering 27 .000 SEK. "Viking raiders, as donor Bob Rickard christened them, brought materials from Lionel Beer (BUFORA and ASSAP archives), Bob Rickard (CFI and Fortean Times), Omar Fowler, Busty Taylor (parts of CCCS archive), Bill Foley (about 1000 books from Lord Clancarty library), Peter Rogerson (3 400 books), Edwin Joyce (from the FSR archive), Bob Digby (BUFORA archives) and late Steve Moore. Especially collections from Bob Rickard, Lord Clancarty Library and Peter Rogerson were impressive, 1000s of new titles. 260 crammed boxes sent via the DB Schenker terminal in London and over the North Sea. Scanning of old clipping collections focused on editorial folders from Fortean Times, creating ca 150 000 files. Also digitised most Swedish UFO clippings (27 000)." AFU obtained big clipping collection from Swedish Space Corporation on early space research, ca 150 file folders (8-10 meters). Took in a box full of French interview cassettes to digitise and then return to French archive partner SCEAU (Sauvegarde et Conservation des Etudes et Archives Ufologiques). Liljegren and Svahn met in Stockholm with a developer of a new web site to structure and explore digitised 1946 Swedish ghost rocket documents from National Archives. Site paid for by a Ghost Rocket file documentary project group, headed by film-makers Kerstin Übelacker and Mike Cavanagh. Economy turnround ca SEK 1 386 000.

**2015:** Permutation yet unsolved. AFU for a period had no less than 23 work trainees and volunteers."New facility co-rented with another society took on a final shape in spring. Decided to create a third library there. IKEA delivered 1 ton of (mostly) wood to build 24 white book shelves for new library. Move there was books on psychology, sociology, conspiracies and psychiatry. For new library AFU invested in a HP Laserjet 400 colour printer, Lenove desktop computer, 2 book trolleys for our libraries, 100 archival boxes for folio documents, 250 cardboard boxes for magazines etc." Spent 56 569 SEK on archives & media collections and shipping it. Danish ufologist Per Andersen turned over large parts of his collection. Local Swedish UFO societies catalogued on line at the National Archives "NAD" database, <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/nad> (enter "UFO" to list of almost 150 Swedish UFO).ö Economy turnover ca SEK 1 867 000.

**2016:** Liljegren primary executive at AFU, for economy and staff of ca 15, having 12 archive sites. Despite shortages of resources AFU is so far able to sort incoming collections. "Phase 3" unemployment program amounts to 3.5 million SEK (ca \$350 000), topped by another 2,8 million SEK (ca \$ 280 000) from other unemployment programs possible as the first 3,5 million came. Larry Frascella, Pennsylvania, USA, donated another \$30 000 and also paid \$2000 for shipping BSR collection. SEK 200 000 earlier invested in equities and bonds, to save for the future, and another 210 000 SEK were now invested. Strategy not immediately spend incoming but get a good return on money. Acquired more IKEA shelves, new scanner, 3 PCs, spent to recover of crashed hard disc drive with AFU economy, adjustable work table, boxes and folders. AFU spent SEK86 483 SEK on new collections. Incl parts of the files (interview tapes, newspaper clippings) of author-journalist and drawing artist Eugen Semitjov from his son Jesper. He had father's collection in Thailand and AFU paid for return shipping. Has 29 500 items on 3 different sites. Finding space a challenge. Work to improve [https:// www.ghostrockets.se](https://www.ghostrockets.se) with new Swedish military documents, paid for by the Ghost Rocket documentary film team. BSRA-BSRF archive arriving from California, Larry Frascella donated a total of \$60 000 for the archives work and paid for shipping

**2017:** Donation from late Swedish psychiatrist and parapsychologist Dr Nils-Olof Jacobson (1938-2017), from FSR, CFI, CEI and BSRA. AFU has 13 sites. "Digitalisation of small selected parts deemed of high interest. Digitalisation of full archive unrealistic fantasies. 50 different persons has been with AFU during this period. More than 6 million SEK coming into the foundation as indirect support from the government. Gordon Creighton-Flying Saucer Review correspondence given 100s hours of attention." Obtained Wendelle Stevens collection, dito from Knut Aasheim, 23 boxes from Luis Gonzalez Manso, Spain: correspondence, magazines, videos, monographs, etc. Bertil Falk donated large collection of sf magazines. Donation from sf fan Kristina Hallind.



*Liljegren unpacking the Jacobsson archive.*

**2018:** Re-registration and re-naming to Archives for the Unexplained finalized by the Swedish IRS June 7. List of contributors that year has 165+ names, ca 40 could be considered "regulars". Total sum of donations SEK325 402 in bank account and SEK126,207 in hand-to-hand collection by Svahn. Spring of 2018 AFU had most of salaried personnel ever: 6. Viking raid: 450 kg books from Peter Rogerson, crop circle material from Paul Vigay. 21 boxes from Jörgen Bengtsson, who died in February. 294 items from Alvar Appeltofft Foundation (fandom, probably left over sf books from an inherited collection), 105 items from Bertil Falk. Visit from Crazy Pictures in September (resulting in feature film "UFO Sweden" in 2022). Visit by Swedish branch of the Canadian international media house Vice. 2009-2018 AFU has augmented about one million digital files: clippings, books, magazines, audio & video recordings, pictures, illustrations, correspondence files, etc, all on 40 TB NAS unit, called AFUNAS. Mattsson donated SEK35 000 for it. AFU has 10 000+ pictures (1000 GB) searchable by descriptions added to each. Work ended with ca 22 500 magazine # now digitised.

**2019.** UFO-Sweden support AFU by renting a new site from January (cost SEK 950/month), to store UFO-Sweden's exhibitions, AFU's museum items and growing sf collection. Now 14 sites within 300 metres having 3 km of shelves. Obtained the Parthenon archive, Edith Nicolaisen, of Parthenon publishing house in 1957, corresponded with contactees etc. Scanned 3260 documents from the Parthenon, incl 1900 letters. Total correspondences 10 000+ letters..Major event publication of book about on the archives, by chairman Svahn: "Verklighetens Arkiv X - de okända bilderna och berättelserna från vår gåtfulla värld", ("Real X Files - unknown pictures and tales from our mysterious world"), Sernie publishing house, and the English translation "Files of the Unexplained- the hidden history and forgotten photographs from the world of the unknown". Donation of \$10 000 from Larry Frascella, helped AFU pay for 85% of the printing. A new site for sf and memorabilia a 3rd major project for 2019, with all media & objects connected to sf, paranormal paraphernalia and "museum items", in cool and dry room, with the UFOsweden exhibition. They took all sf/fantasy connected books, magazines and our storage of UFO-/paranormal paraphernalia from other sites. Historically AFU has to focus in fiction on UFO- and paranormal-related fiction, not general sf. It is difficult, however, to draw a line in a gigantic area like sf. It is a matter of discussions with in the board if AFU

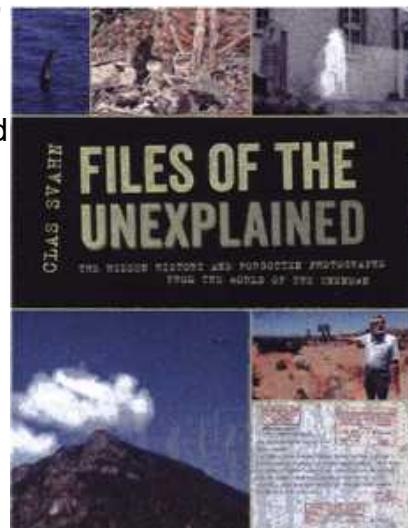


should be a repository also for sf fans. There are other international specialised libraries for that, eg Maison d'Ailleurs in Switzerland or Villa Fantastica in Vienna. Isaac Koi, London based lawyer, has successfully acquired the rights for AFU to publish digital versions of some major works in the UFO field. Whenever an item appears not in our database (and thus not on our shelves) it is entered in the database and sorted into one of 5. 000 file folders or boxes holding our "united" collection from all over the world The Swedish government archives on the 1930s 'ghost flier' phenomenon were digitised by a private company, ordered and financed by AFU. All the major Swedish government archives are now available to researchers in digital format (but not in English). 5 000 pages records from the 1933-1938 period are now on file with AFU in good company with the digital versions of documents from the 1946 ghost rockets and the more than 2.000 Swedish Defence UFO reports from 1947 to the 2010s (paid for by Research Institute of National Defense). Wendelle Stevens donation arrived, 222 pallets, about 70 standard "banker' s boxes" (total weight 1 ton), event covered by local media. Donation from Alvar Appeltofft's foundation (1 185 items, sf books presumably). More came from author and journalist Bertil Falk. Now AFU got for instance Falk' s own manuscripts and writings, including clippings of his own articles in Kvällsposten newspaper. 53 books from his collection are now in the AFU libraries. Staff reduced since 2018 due to cut in government programs. Had four employees at year's start (Kerstin, Leif, Peter M, Susanne), at year's end only Kerstin (in AFU shop) and Leif (digitising work) were still with AFU on wage subsidy jobs. Mattsson donated SEK14. 800 for new shelf for the sf collection.

**2020:** Closed to visitors due to the pandemic. 11 sites costing SEK187 000 SEK in rents. Three employed Kerstin E, Peter M and Leif Å. Salaries and social benefit costs ca 760.000 SEK. Swedish Public Employment Service pays most in programs combined with an active support for non-profit culture organizations. AFU got ca SEK 605 000 SEK. Its own cost ca SEK 55 000.

**Statistics up to 2023:**

- Number of sites: 15
- Total area: 700 square meters
- Shelf running meters: 4 900
- Number of book titles: 37 900



Clas Svahn's book on AFU.

**RYMDFRÄLST I KÖPING**



45 procent av all science fiction-litteratur är av högst tvivelaktig kvalitet, 45 procent är fullt acceptabel underhållningsläsning och de återstående 10 procenten är god debattlitteratur...

Så sammanfattar Sveriges kanske mest rymdfrälste man, Köpings stadsbibliotekarie Ro-

land Adlerberth, sin syn på den strida strömmen av SF-litteratur. Det allra mesta som skrivs både utom- och inomlands om marstianer, rymdfärder, flygande tefat och allt annat sådant passerar förr eller senare genom hans händer för att antingen recenseras eller också införslivits med

den store och mycket populära SF-avdelningen på Köpings stadsbibliotek. Roland Adlerberth, som på bilden ovan symboliskt demonstrerar sin tro på de flygande tefatens existens, presenteras i dagens specialreportage från Köping. Se sid. 8-9.



AFU interior. (I believe it's rather recent.)

- Number of books: 55 900
- Number of magazines: 100 900
- Number of original UFO reports: 80 900
- Number of newspaper clippings: 1 000 900
- Number of audio/video cassettes and films: 7 900
- Number of pictures/photos/illustrations: 25 900
- Number of physical objects and models: 1 900+
- Digitised material: 26 Terabyte.

I think its fitting to end this report of the huge AFU library with a note about the Great Librarian of Swedish sf, Roland Adlerberth (1923-1993). He was a librarian by profession, critic (covering the sf genre already in the late 1940's), involved in early fandom, prolific translator and for decades wrote the book column in first *Häpna!* and then *Jules Verne Magasinet*. The language of his fast reviews in

colourful and inventive phrasings became known as "adlerberthian"(Ingvar Svensson made a dictionary of adlerberthian!). [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roland\\_Adlerberth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roland_Adlerberth)

Here from a visit to him when he was a librarian in the town Köping (sadly I only have the page 1 teaser, not the longer interview inside), "*Space bitten in Köping*", in Morgonbladet Aug 3 1957:

*45% of all sf is of very doubtful quality, 45% is quite acceptable entertainment and the remaining 10% is good literature for public debate topics. That's how Sweden's perhaps most space crazy man summarise his view the big output of sf literature, as the Köping city librarian Roland Adlerberth. Most was is written outside and inside the country about Martians, space travel, flying saucers and all that sooner or later pass his hands, to either be reviewed or being included in the big and very popular sf department of Köping City Library. Roland Adlerberth who on the picture makes a symbolic demonstration of his belief in the existence of the flying saucers, is presented in today's special report from Köping (See p 8-9).*

## Mailing Comments

*First EAPA, then N'APA. And listen, eggheads, these struggling APAs need you! Join them! It's easy-peasy to make a PDF fanzine and we must keep fandom's fanzine tradition alive. If we don't fandom will collapse into just the convention makers, with their beaurocracy and CoCs. Fanzines are freedom! Do it! Ask me for details.*

**Henry Grynsten:** Wittgenstein and Hitler went to the same school? Interesting. ☒☒☒☒ otherwise, a very interesting issue, where I agree with a lot of things, though other may see them as controversial. For my part, I do really wish I could deny aging... A key paragraph is "Denialism of the female body. In humans, there are two sexes that are necessary for reproduction to take place. In that basic biological sense, there are just two sexes, and it has far-reaching consequences on how they think and behave, as well as on human culture in general. The different roles that the biological differences lead to sometimes cause women to, rightly or wrongly, feel that they are in an inferior position to men. This can lead to denialism of the female body that manifests itself in various ways." I agree, and there might not be need for much more comments. One could be showered with accusations and given names like "transphobic", but there *are* two sexes and the sex is built into every cell of the body, in the chromosomes. There may be some (extremely rare, pure mishaps of nature) borderline cases, like XXY or XYY chromosomes or rare hormone deficiencies but that's not the case with 99.99% of the transgender ideology followers. And there *are* obvius differences between the sexes. The physical ones are obvious (for starters, men tend to have 20-30% more muscle mass - that's why men and women are separated in sports). But there are also psychological ones - on *average*, but that average difference is quite distinct - like women tending to be more emotional and "caring", men more outward and gung-ho. (This may explain why men run more businesses. It's the modern version of going on a hunt, being in a competition for prey.) Here's my explanation of populist trends we see. People on the left (ie those who put the collective over the individual, basically) want to "crush the class society", which means ignoring that all individuals are different. The reason there are different segments of society is that everyone *is* different. Ultimately, this leads to attempting to crush the biologically ultimate difference, the two sexes. To "make everyone 'equal' " that there undoubtedly are two sexes won't do - that state of existence must be eradicated. (Laws they try to push through in Scotland is a scandal! From age 16, without medical or any other investigation, without parents' consent, you somehow change all chromosomes in every cell, so its claimed, by a simple legal notification. Well, what's the form for announcing that my cat is really a dog?) For my part, that everyone isn't equal isn't a problem - it's a *strength*. If we have a problem everyone having different properties, means there is always someone around that can handle it. Differences g9ivees us different solutions, views, impulses. So "inequality" may be constructive and beneficial, but no matter what we shall all, of course, treat everyone with dignity and understanding. As Martin Luther King said: to judge everyone by the properties of his character. We shall also help those worse off. ☒☒☒☒ recently saw a local Swedish Harry Potter fan club claim: We also want to make clear that we don't stand behind or agree with the hateful opinions the author has come forth with. In later years Rowling has on Twitter posted lots of transphobic and homophobic views, and written books mirroring these opinions, aiming to downgrade transpersons and make sure that society won't normalise lbtq rights. These opinions are also present in the Harry Potter series and because of this it is expecially important that young HP-fans look for environments that don't share these views and where they may feel welcome no matter gender or sexuality. Our efforts to make our events as including as possible will never end." Though in this paradigm "including" means sharply *excluding* all who disagree with their psudoscience ideas (that sexes aren't a physiological a fact). As for hate, they see it backwards,

forgetting the hail storm of hate against JK Rowling because she simply states how the world is. They harass her at home: <https://www.cbr.com/jk-rowling-home-posted-social-media/> They try to cancel her in every way. <https://thefederalist.com/2021/07/30/j-k-rowlings-haters-are-back-proving-the-left-will-never-forgive-dissenters/> <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/katiepavlich/2021/11/22/author-jk-rowling-details-horrific-harassment-from-transgender-activists-n2599501> They organise anti Rowling Twitter campaigns. When John Cleese defends her, he gets it too <https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/john-cleese-accused-transphobia-after-defending-j-k-rowling-twitter-n1248621> Those activist are full of vitriolic of hate of dissenters to their ideology.



## Artist Lars LON Olsson bugs us with that blue feeling...

**William McCabe:** The UK seems to be economically worse of than eg Sweden, part of the reason must be too harsh corona restrictions... And I sdon't think Brexit has done any good to the UK economy (quite the opposite). ☒☒☒☒ don't claim Thomas Edison was a leading actor in "personal press", but he was an interesting one, doing his newspaper on a train! I am aware of that many Edison inventions were a group effort. But the guy lead the groups, he had hired them, and he probably in many cases had the basic ideas for the inventions (there are lots of notebooks with his ideas and how they were developed). Edison was a very interesting figure.

**Heath Row:** As for languages, Chinese Mandarin may have the most speakers, but it's geographically limited, the written language is very difficult and Chinese intonation is hard to master. English is spread around, both geographically and in the many fields it is used, many have a decent second-language knowledge of English and it has borrowed from and is related to many other major languages - all this gives it a huge lead. ☒☒☒☒ Corporations (why label it "corporate fascism"? It's as if not knowing what fascism is!) will never take over from politics. Politics is *hugely* more powerful that business. Politicians make laws, they have infinite money sources (taxation), they have monopoly on using force (police, military) and they have the ear of all media outlets. One could argue that politics is too powerful, so it would be a good idea to limit its power. ☒☒☒☒ As I remember, Asimov's original Foundation trilogy wasn't a fix-up. The contents were the original novelettes. (I'm more fond of the original trilogy, than of the 1980's novels.) ☒☒☒☒ know about that poetry society. But I'm apt not to join. I don't even know if I could send a membership fee (I don't use credit cards, Paypal or anything like that). But I'd always be interested to hear any news about the society and sf poetry in general. ☒☒☒☒ Interesting that *De Profundis* will be revived, with you at the helm! Good luck!

**Garth Spencer:** Well, that translation between Romanian and Swedish, via English, was more elaborate than that. If anything was unclear the poets/translators would discuss the exact meanings of words so anything particular for English could be eliminated. Imprecise general meanings would of course still remain. The

Romanian Culture Institute has been doing these sessions with Romanian and Swedish poets meeting each other and translating for more than ten years. I fine way of cultural exchange! Sorry to hear about your mother. A good way to keep your brain alert is to constantly challenge it, be creative, use it. (As they say, use it or lose it.) I think doing fanzines is *one* antidote to dementia. Don't have many more comments, but I appreciate your writing. You have a certain, soft understated humour...

**Jefferson Swycaffer:** My main reason for thinking the Swedish system is reasonable is: if it ain't broke, don't fix it. We have a king with a purely ceremonial role. It works well. I also think that there is a point in keeping the historical connection. We've had monarchs for 1000+ years. Early in history we had an elective monarchy. Each province sent representatives (selected by the leading men, of course not by popular polls...) to a place called the Mora Rocks north of Stockholm and elected a king, not for a certain period, but for life. That system tended to lead to power struggles, civil war and regicides. So king Gustaf Vasa made Sweden a hereditary monarchy in 1544. agree that Campbell had some weird ideas, eg early on supporting Hubbard (I believe he later quit backing it). There's a thin line between genius and madness.

**Kevin Trainor:** Unlike others, I believe some part sympathetic to Ukraine sabotaged the Nordstream pipeline. It wasn't in Putin's interest to destroy it. (But, I think it was a *good idea* to blow it up! So no problem if it was the US.) I've met Jerry Pournelle. We had him as GoH here in 1993. He never told us he believed in the Dean Drive... As for steampunk, I know there is some "technical" steampunk novels. But among the followers, I see little interest in old technology - only fashion, and handicraft jewelry. For me, I'm very fond of old technology and I'm a lot into tech history (not only sf and fandom history).

**George Phillis:** Massachusetts doesn't seem to be a place that like Republicans... I wonder if the lack of a reasonably strong opposition is healthy? I seem to remember how they in Britain recognise the opposition by referring to it as "His Majesty's Most Loyal Opposition", knowing that an opposition is vital. If you have no opposition, only Yes men, you end up like Putin, getting no correct assessments and reports, believing in your own lies. It seems politics in the US is getting more polarised (and that's happening in Europe too). With a decent opposition, polarisation may be curbed

**Samuel Lubell:** You're right that the political scale is different in Europe. What we call conservatives (or moderates, in Sweden) could very well be described as Democrats in the US, ie usually in strong support of public health care. What you call Liberals are more like European Social Democrats or even Socialists (like Bernie Sanders). Our Liberals are like your moderate Democrats. (When I talk about liberals in Europe I therefore use the term "Euroliberals".) The present government, having a weak majority of only three in the parliament, is centre-right (moderates, liberals, christian democrats) with passive support by the Sweden Democrats (a nationalist party, I don't fancy them at all – nationalism is a antiquated idea). 00 was small for a Swecon, but it was the virus. The basic problem was there was no bid for the 2022 Swecon because of the blasted virus!, so the local small Ökon was "upgraded" be a Swecon, and in that role it grew a bit. Last time, Ökon – intentionally done as a small intimate con - had only about 50 attendees, so 100 was a step up. Technology may have been overrated in...skiffy! But in the general society, it's been underrated. We may not have a moon base yet, but who in the 1940 would have guessed how computers have developed, or mobile phones, that we can read and change the genes, that we are close to fusion power, that we can see to the edge of the Universe, that our AIs can write university level essays, etc. It may be easier to get simple things built in China due to the dictatorship. But it's much more difficult to make creative, complicated stuff done - due to that there's a lack of competition, that folks aren't free to test anything. Example: I've seen reports on how China is way behind in anything more than average semiconductors. At the same time, Taiwan is the absolute world leader in that! And the Taiwanese are Chinese Minus Communism.

*Well, time to stop. Comments are welcome though I usually don't run LoCs, unless it's an important one, or perhaps if you have corrections to or additions to the history material I present. I'd urge you to instead of a LoC, do a shout out or a review of this absolutely incredible fanzine in your own publication, on your web site, (a) social media account or what you have (and tell me so I can have a look!). See ya' and tack så länge!*

# Слава Україні!

Archive Midwinter  
a zine for N'APA 263

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19 February 2023

### Comments:

**Cover:** Planets and Moon -- not to scale. Impressive to learn that Jupiter now has over 100 known moons, although some are only about the size of terrestrial mountains.

**Ahrvid Engholm:** Interesting history, both in the past and in the present, of "Old Swedish Village." And fun retrospective of Mars Missions as envisioned in the 1960s! You know, it's funny, I've actually heard people -- educated people! -- claim that we could not do a moon mission today. I'm glad we \*are\* doing one, not least in order to show these people how wrong they are!

Amusing bit in the fiction section about "Each spacecraft has a comet warning, in case a comet swarm came too close." A \*space debris\* warning would make sense; a \*comet\* warning is just silly.

Interesting dictum, "The beginning of a story should be tell, don't show." I believe exactly the opposite! The beginning should be visual and immediate, a "shock to the system," something that sets the scene visually and viscerally. Fritz Leiber may have given us the absolute nu plus ultra in this, with his opening sentence, "The coupe with fishhooks welded to the fender bounced over the curb like the



nose of a nightmare." Brilliant! Hideous, and utterly damnable, and as visual as a photograph!

**Kevin Trainor Jr.:** I am sorry to learn of the loss of your friend.

I have a friend who is about to retire, and he has purchased a retirement house in Las Vegas. I guess at least he'll be warm!

I loved old Civilization I. I hated all the sequels, because of the oblique overhead view, the "diamond" pattern instead of good healthy surveyor's squares, the way George Washington and Thomas Jefferson intended! I simply could not cope with those damned oblongs! I did play, only once, the Civilization variant set in the Star Trek universe. The first civilization I met were the Vulcans, which gave me a nice head-start on my advancement!

I very much agree that Dominic Flandry is akin to James Bond, and that their stories have certain kinds of similarities. As a writer, Poul Anderson is better than Ian Fleming: Anderson's concepts are more coherent and cohesive, and have more plot integrity. Fleming just made things up on the fly, but Anderson's plots are well-engineered. I'm sorry you didn't like "A Knight of Ghosts and Shadows." I thought it was brilliant. Yes, it hurt!

Anderson did more harm to Flandry in that book than I can think of any other author doing to any other character! It was sad beyond all sadness, a tragedy of tragedies. But...brilliant! It was \*necessary\*! Backing away from that tragedy would have been like tacking on a happy ending to Romeo and Juliet. (Which I, personally, have done!)

If I were offering advice to a reader new to Anderson, I'd say jump right in to "Ensign Flandry." Later, go back and read the Falkayn books and stories, but follow Flandry chronologically from the beginning.

**Ahrvid Engholm:** Fun essay on Artificial Intelligence, which, indeed, is making truly astonishing leaps! Even our everyday encounters with it, such as the spelling and grammar suggestions we see in Word, are remarkably advanced and take context into account to a degree that is nothing short of amazing. The Word "Editor" function is also stunning. One thing that current AI programs, even the famed ChatGPT, do poorly is "long term memory." They don't maintain an internal history of a conversation, so, for instance, if you mention "rattlesnakes" at some point, then, quite a bit later, mention rattlesnakes again, the program will not show any awareness of the previous part of the conversation. This, of course, is trivially addressable, as a strategic AI concept. The only real limitation is in resources.

Good points re Russian use of tactical nuclear weapons in Ukraine: it wouldn't gain them much, because the troops on both sides are fairly well spread-out. There aren't many intense concentrations of troops, such as the U.S. in Saudi Arabia just before the first Gulf War attack. That was the sort of concentration that tactical nuclear weapons were invented for; thank goodness Saddam Hussein didn't have any! I, personally, don't think NATO/Europe would respond with massive air raids against Russian sites; I think they'd just double-down on economic and diplomatic leverage. At most, they might change strategy and lend/give aircraft to Ukraine.

I vigorously disagree that "math and equations are the ultimate inner workings of the universe." That's as absurd as saying that language and grammar are the ultimate inner workings of the universe. Math is a tool we use to try to understand the universe, just as are the drawings and diagrams we have in our textbooks. Would anyone be so foolish as to say that drawing and diagrams are the ultimate inner workings? Saying that math is making exactly the same mistake.

**John Thiel:** Spectacular cover art illo! Extremely pretty and fantastically colorful and intricate! Also really fun interior illos!

Fun story of your new computer! Aye, they aren't perfect yet by any means! But a lot of the problems are still "Between Keyboard and Chair," i.e. operator error. My little sister was using a laptop to write a story. At one point she closed the lid, to go off and do other stuff. There may have been a small foreign object trapped against the keyboard, because when she came back there were several hundred pages of nothing but "ggggggggggggg"

**George Phillies:** re board wargaming, I bought and read your book on TAHGC's "Stalingrad" and quite enjoyed. I learned a lot, especially about playing to win. I have never been very good at focusing on winning. I mostly play for ambiance and role-play. What would I do if I were Zhukov? Obviously, the games are susceptible to "minimax" strategizing. Alas, I'm just not very good at it. Could be worse! One of my old chums from high school had only one strategy: put his entire army in a coffee cup, replace it on the board by a "Task Force" counter, and go straight for the enemy's capital city. Zero subtlety, zero strategy. Make up the biggest task force imaginable and invade Tokyo in February of 1942. He was not very fun to play with.

I had not known that about Hiram Maxim and "powered flight!" Magnificent!

Fun segment of your current novel. I love the sequence where Eclipse says that her “community” is her -- is the characters she carries around with her in her head. That is true of a lot of us, for far more people than recognize it consciously. There is a very real sense in which William Shakespeare is more of an “ancestor” of mine than my paternal grandfather. Our consciences are formed of the conversations we’ve had, in large part with our parents, but also our friends and even fictional characters. Dominic Flandry is a bigger part of me than my paternal grandfather!

**Heath Row:** I’m delighted that you looked up Dan O’Neill’s “Odd Bodkins” and read and enjoyed it! It has been one of my very favorites for a very long time, and many of its jokes and slogans have become aphorisms for my life. “One cannot deal rationally with dinosaurs” is only one of several axioms of great wisdom.

rect me, I knew Fred Patten rather well, and got along with him very well indeed. Professionally, he purchased three stories from me for publication in various anthologies he was editing. He was a scholar of furry history, and rather a saint to the furry community. He is very much missed!

Tell me more about solo rpg! I used to be heavily and busily involved in the rpg hobby, and I was in a lot of face-to-face/paper-and-pencil games of so many different genres it would be impossible to list! Many were sui generis. But my favorite referee and game-master moved away to Kansas, and I’m unable (unwilling?) to game with others on a Skype or Teams network. (I have a mild phobia about being on camera.) Solo rpg may be my answer! I like the idea that just reading rpg material counts as “playing.”

**Samuel Lubell:** Agreement that “royals” are an outmoded concept, one I’m glad our country has done away with. We don’t have social castes -- bad enough that we have persistent racism. We don’t need royals or nobles. Long live the Republic!

Strong agreement that “All learning is worthwhile.” Maybe some fields of knowledge are more valuable than others, but very few are truly “worthless,” and even really weird and esoteric fields have historical value. The past is worth preserving!

re politics and modern trends in governance...much agreement. I don’t want to get into details, but I’m on board with just about everything you said!

I admire your several “Projects!” I am engaged in an informal “Project History” as I read history volumes during my lunch breaks at work. Currently I’m reading a book on the history of the U.S. Intelligence community, starting with George Washington’s spy cadre and moving forward. One of the saddest parts of the tale is how Woodrow Wilson intentionally dismantled intelligence gathering and strategic planning. He was outraged to learn that the Army was making up plans for what to do in case of various wars or attacks. Wilson couldn’t comprehend the difference between planning in the case of a war and “intending” a war! He was a great man, but the more I learn about him, the more I perceive his flaws.

### Translation

I got a nice email from a total stranger, asking permission to translate one of my novels. I asked what his marketing model was, and he said, none. He didn’t want to do this professionally; he just wanted to sit down and translate my book. Well, that falls under “Fair Use” and he can do that without any need for my permission, but I was pleased to give him permission anyway. The language is German, and he has been in touch with me asking advice on how to deal with various English idioms. A strange encounter, but, so far, quite a pleasant one!

# BROWNIAN MOTION # 1

An apazine by Garth Spencer,  
Vancouver, Canada, [hrothgarweems@gmail.com](mailto:hrothgarweems@gmail.com)  
For N'APA #263, March 2023



*Winter traffic in Vancouver*

## Allow me to introduce myself

Hello. My name is Garth, and this is my new apazine.

Some of you have encountered me in fannish correspondence before, and already know some of the following. I entered fandom about 1980 in a small club in western Canada, and shortly became involved in fanzine publishing and correspondence with the wider world. Since then I have been involved in club activities, personalzines, APAs, fanzine rooms and con publications, for conventions. I witnessed one major convention fiasco, (and got drawn into another one even after I knew better). I produced a Canadian fan newszine in the mid-1980s. I supported the first edition of a national Canadian SF anthology, *Tesseract*, by finding SF writers and contact information for the publisher.



(Maybe I helped give some writers the idea of starting SF Canada.) I found out what the Canadian SF and Fantasy Award was, later rechristened the Aurora Awards (and dug up some embarrassing early stories). I served as one of the Canadian Unity Fan Fund delegates when CUFF was revived.

So much for the bragging. My shortcomings are that I can fail to understand, or actively misunderstand, almost anything that people say or do.

These days I take part in three other APAs – eAPA, Apaplexy, and Stipple-Apa – and I am the OE of eAPA. (Question: How small a membership is too small for an APA? Sometimes I wonder about eAPA!) I also edit a personalzine, *The Obdurate Eye*, and plan to revise my personal website as a fannish resource site. Of course I also plan to put together a volume of Canadian fanhistory.

When Corflu Pangloss was held in Vancouver in fall 2022, I was surprised to find myself selected as Guest of Honour. Apparently it is a tradition to select some unsuspecting ~~victim~~ member as GoH and tell them to make a speech at the closing ceremonies. I have so far to go and so much to learn.

That sounds a lot busier than I realized. I guess I have generally been minding other people's business.

There is a concealed motive behind all of this. SF fandom was just one of the small-interest-group arenas I chose, in which to learn remedial people skills and normal interpersonal behaviour. I keep returning to this maniac goal.



*Garth fixing his Obdurate Eye on someone*

§

To my shame, I have to confess that I must have left a sour taste behind after I stopped participating in Vancouver fandom. By the time I left off editing *BCSFazine*, I had printed some virulent nasty editorials, basically claiming the BCSFA members were *not active fans* and what was their excuse? (There were Things Going On in my life at the

time, sure, but I have no excuse for behaving like everyone had suckered me somehow.) It was hard to accept that volunteerism was simply ebbing away in fandom. It was most visible when it came to convention volunteering but, really, the loss of enthusiastic voluntary activity ran through all fan activities. The Vancouver scene cannot have been unique.

Now I gather that generations X, Y and Z were used to working two and three jobs while studying, and really didn't have the spare time or energy; and I was simply oblivious to the reality. Obvious things like that tend to escape me.

### §

This leads (in my mind) to a question for NFFF as a whole. Do we recognize, and do we really deal with the fact that there are different fandoms now, out of touch with each other? That some people simply *don't* read or write, not with dead-tree products; some people don't volunteer, their experience teaches them to expect something in return for any participation, not always money; that taking their pictures at a convention requires them to sign a waiver, or demand residuals if you publish their images ... and so on and so forth. It may be fandom, but not as we knew it.

### §

So, nowadays, I think that humans are all reincarnated aliens, each of us with different motivations and species imperatives and worldviews than our neighbours. This makes the object of finding the current social norms (and documenting them for neurodivergents) an exercise in futility.

Am I making sense to you? Or does my idea of a joke make some sense out of office politics, or daily news, or the high divorce rate, or the way digital appliances and automated phone trees are programmed?

On other days I think our so-called civilization is endangered by broadcast television networks, particularly by sports programming, and that the single most dangerous faction threatening Western civilization is headquartered in Belgium. (Yeah, I know, but these are the best standup routines I can think of, some days.)

### §

As if I don't have enough on my plate, I consented to stand for the Canadian Unity Fan Fund. Again. I should know by March 16<sup>th</sup> whether I will serve as this year's delegate.

This may sound strange at first, but fan groups in Canada are sufficiently isolated from each other that it made sense to institute a travel fund to help fans on one side of the country see a Well-Known Fan's smiling face, from another side of the country. Until this year, the plan was for a CUFF delegate from one side of Canada to attend the Convention – the convention hosting the national Aurora Awards presentation - on the other side of the country, that year. (It moved around.)

I was a CUFF delegate before, when the Convention was held in 1999 in Fredericton, N.B. This year the delegate is to go to Pemmi-Con, the 2023 NASFiC. (This year's Aurora Awards will be presented online, not at a convention.)

It took a little time for anyone to throw their hat in the ring. This has happened in previous years. I wondered if maybe the majority of fans only knew about fandoms *other* than fannish fandom, and activities such as fanzines and fan funds and all like that there were not in their universe. But I've said that sort of thing before.

## The 10 Commandments of Logic

1. Thou shall not attack the person's character, but the argument. (*Ad hominem*)
2. Thou shall not misrepresent or exaggerate a person's argument in order to make them easier to attack. (*Straw man fallacy*)
3. Thou shall not use small numbers to represent the whole. (*Hasty generalization*)
4. Thou shall not argue thy position by assuming one of its premises is true. (*Begging the question*)
5. Thou shall not claim that because something occurred before, it must be the cause. (*Post Hoc/False cause*)
6. Thou shall not reduce the argument down to two possibilities. (*False dichotomy*)
7. Thou shall not argue that because of our ignorance, claim must be true or false. (*Ad ignorantum*)
8. Thou shall not lay the burden of proof onto him that is questioning the claim. (*Burden of proof reversal*)
9. Thou shall not assume "this" follows "that" when it has no logical connection. (*Non sequitur*)
10. Thou shall not claim that because a premise is popular, therefore it must be true. (*Bandwagon fallacy*)

## Mailing Comments

### Cover, public domain space images

I like planets. Thank you for these images. They look like raw material to me. Every so often I wonder whether we could shift planets into different orbits, so as to terraform them more easily and get some use out of them. Then I take my meds and lie down for a while.

### The Official Organ #262

One of the less comfortable encounters I have had, over the past year, has been a gentleman who hired me to do very simple computer tasks, because he was computer illiterate. I began to realize he was resistant to learning basic computer skills, not just without resources, when I gave him a Chromebook. Evidently, some people just feel unequipped to handle the means of online education and communication.

## **Archive Midwinter – Jefferson P. Swycaffer**

*Re your comments to Ahrvid Engholm:*

I wouldn't react so strongly against monarchy, being a Canadian, but just go "meh" when monarchist holidays and visits to Canada come around. It's just one of the ways countries organize their governments: You can only expect it to carry out most of the work of government, most of the time. Every blessed design for government falls ill to corruption and abuse and insanity from time to time, or in some degree. Onward.

As you say, John Campbell was not precisely a genius, and given to showing his background and his generation in his attitudes – and outside of his editorial skill base, his lack of critical thinking. Again and again, I see this, that people who have great talent, skills, even genius in one subject area will show little competence or judgment in other areas. I guess that transferring their critical thinking skills to all areas isn't something we can reasonably expect from people. But S.I. Hayakawa said something like this decades ago.

## **Intermission #127 – Ahrvid Engholm**

One of the reasons I was talking about page limits in eAPA was that I anticipated *digital* limits to what email accounts would bear, even when I zipped the PDF files.

## **Esmeralda County Line #2 – Kevin Trainor Jr.**

Interesting to hear there's a game called Civilization: Beyond Earth. How do they define "civilization"?

Re your comment to Ahrvid Engholm, about mundane news: Yeah, if representing constituent concerns was the function of parties, then more than two parties would be more functional. But on the one hand, there seem to be factors (perhaps intentionally created) that militate against more political parties; and there are, as you point out, serious drawbacks to multiple parties. The coalition governments we get in four-party Canada, to say nothing of (e.g.) Israel, suggest we have to think it out again.

Re your comments to Jefferson Swycaffer – I wasn't entirely sure that APAs and fanzines predated fandom, although I know something *like* them appeared before fandom did. I do know, as you point out, that social media seem to have assumed the role that fanzines had, and not to the benefit of fandom; there might have been a time when almost all fans knew the focal point fanzines to read, and were up on the same news and the same fannish reference points, but now there are multiple incomplete sources of fan news.

Unless one monomaniac volunteer tries to scan the whole Internet, there can be no one complete source documenting all clubs, fanzines, APAs, conventions, blogs, podcasts, fan funds or awards. But several groups, like fanac.org, give it the old college try. Onward.

*Seventeen Moments of Spring* sounds like it deserves an airing in North America, with subtitles. Would PBS or CBC (the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) show any interest? I have to wonder.

### **Synergy #23, January 2023 – John Thiel**

Condolences on your computer glitches. I am composing this apazine on a new desktop computer, which replaces a serviceable, but quite slow computer I bought years ago, reconditioned, from the local Free Geek shop. The key thing, as I learned when I was first acquiring computer skills, is to teach the machine who's boss. I learned to overcome the kind of glitches and nuisances that you reported. Now, I am mastering Windows 11. It is possible to teach an old dog new tricks.

Very likely the problems that people report – with new computers, and with other new appliances – is the result of companies rushing them into production, before they're really ready for market. In that case, I am glad I don't work in product development, constantly under pressure by managers to compromise my work.

### **Ye Murthered Master Mage 262 – George Phillies**

Ah, the N3F short story contest. Years and years ago, before the mid-1980s, I remember entering the short story contest. Donald Franson, I believe it was, was very kind about my entry.

You need more member recruitment? So does eAPA, the APA that I'm editing. Question: are any N3F members making their own films or videos together?

For that matter, the advertising for the Canadian Unity Fan Fund – or, for that matter, for a local conrunning group – could do with a boost. Maybe some of us need to generate and share promotion ideas.

### **Snow Poster Township #8 – Heath Row**

Your film reviews aroused my enthusiasm for seeing the films; now I wonder if I can fix the problems with my TV, or at least view *Aliens from L.A.* and *Journey to the Center of the Earth* online.

### **Samizdat... Ish #17, Jan/Feb 2023 – Sam Lubell**

Amusing *Galaxy* cover you have there.

Re your comments to *Intermission* #122 – growing up in Canada means living with a sort of cognitive dissonance. On the one hand, media and business and, well, the 80% Americanness of daily life could lead you to feel, for long periods, that you're somewhere in the States. And then, you look at your cash and the flags that show up occasionally and the postage, if ever you receive or send mail, and you remember that the legal head of state here is the British monarch. Mostly, the monarchy is a non-issue to me; but there are Canadians who support a Monarchist League. There are still people in my hometown who live as if the Edwardian era and its class pretensions never ended.

I guess any form of government probably gets most of its work done, most of the time. Until you get down to cases.

You mention the Russian-Ukrainian war, as Ahrvid generally does. A curious thing is that I can't recall how this market for surplus armaments began; what was Russia's, I mean, Putin's excuse for starting this? Somehow, I don't remember anyone mentioning that. Ever.

You mention “progress.” If you just mean obvious technological change, I agree, the changes seem far less obvious from 1970 to today than from 1917 to 1970. My impression is that so much technological change has gone on in microbiology, electronics and miniaturization, and particle physics that we don’t appreciate how profoundly our vital infrastructure has changed. Consider the effects of an EMP, or simply a power overload, on a major city. Electronics, and especially information technology, has so permeated our infrastructure that a 2020s city would have a much harder time than a 1970s city, recovering from such a disaster. I think.

Reading your “Status of Projects” was interesting, particularly because I have finally gotten my life down to fifteen or so project areas. If I have taken care of at least half of them in a day, I know I have done my adulting and taken care of obligations and cleaned up the place for the day. Mostly.

# INTERMISSION#130

E-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, [ahrvid@hotmail.com](mailto:ahrvid@hotmail.com), for EAPA, N'APA and other suckers. Follow ed's newstweets from @SFJournalen. This # offers space movement, Romanian fantasy, skiing, a chance to a worthwhile nomination. Watch out for the evil typos! Late Feb 2022

## Editorially: Nominate Bertil!

Except for the usual History Corner and a Picture Gallery, I'm not sure what this will offer you. It may say a few words about the ongoing World Championships in cross-country skiing (my secret vice). I nurture a hope it may be a few pages thinner than usual, to ease your strain of having to *read too much*.

But there's one IMPORTANT MESSAGE for this editorial. I want all my Swedish readers to *nominate Bertil Falk as Grand Master*, for the European SF Society awards to be decided on Eurocon in Uppsala 8-11 of June. (I just ask the Swedish readers. Nominations by foreign fans does not count.) Bertil has been active in science fiction since the 1940s, making his debut at the age of 12 in 1946 with the short story "A Trip in Space", as noted - with an English translation - here <https://File770.com/bertil-falk-from-a-space-hobo-to-finnegans-wake/>. For seven decades on Bertil has written, reviewed, translated, published skiffy and similar! He has eg written a fine series of short stories about a Viking detective! Bertil turns 90 this spring, so *we better nominate him now!* (Nomination deadline is 17 March.)

On top of everything he has recently, last year, completed *two unique, MONUMENTAL projects!* He spent years researching the Lund University Library for his 3 volume, 1000 pages pioneer *history of sf in Swedish*, titled *Faktasin*. <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/faktasin-bertil-falk/1137093070?ean=9789187619465>

This cornerstone in any academic library is the first to cover all of our genre written in Swedish, unlike earlier studies that cover sf in other and any language - Swedish being a tiny part. Thousands of stories, books, authors, magazines etc are covered. Just imagine the huge work behind this!

But an even greater achievement may be that he in 2022 also published his 500 pages translation to Swedish of James Joyce's "untranslatable" surrealist modernist masterpiece *Finnegans Wake!*

<https://alephbok.com/finnegans-likvaka-2/> In fact Bertil spent 66 years on it, beginning in the 1950s! (Not 9 to 5 every day, of course, but now and then through the seven decades.) *FW* has many fantastic, absurd elements, being what Bruce Sterling would call "slipstream". It's been considered almost impossible to translate as it is full om wordplay, Irish mythology, historical references, surrealist absurdities and other whims, much that maybe nobody else than Joyce himself understood.

There's no one I can think of more worthy of being chosen as European SF Grand Master than the Investigator of all Swedish science fiction since medieval times and the conqueror of Mount Finnegans, the energetic nuclear reactor of our genre, 90-year-old "Berra" Falk! Here's the site with the nomination form

<https://form.jotform.com/221346448073354>

*Jag ber alla Intermissions svenska läsare att nominera Bertil Falk som Grand Master! Sf i över sju decennier, 1000 sidor om svensk sf, "omöjlig" Joyce-översättning!* (That was to my Swedish readers.)



Nominate Bertil Falk as European SF Grand Master! Here's three heavy reasons why!

**JAMES JOYCE**  
**FINNEGANS LIKVAKA**  
MOTSVÄRIGGJORD PÅ SVENSK Å AV BERTIL FALK



Surreal masterpiece, claimed "untranslatable". Your nominee as SF Grand Master proved it wrong!

And while at it, though it's of secondary importance, please nominate *Intermission #122* as "best fanzine" too. Nominations should be for a single issue, and I think #122 is worthy with the unique story of the world's first spaceflight exhibits in Kyiv and Moscow in the 1920s (in a backward way being a bit topical today!). That issue also had the National Mimeographic parody, Pippi Longstocking in space, Martians from 1905 and 1948, A-bombs, Sputnik and more. I should of course remind you of all the work that goes into your favourite fanzine every month... We should be aware of that the mechanisms of ESFS nominations and awards are a bit obscure, but your nomination helps to underline who should and must be the natural Grand Master nominee:

Bertil Falk.

--Ahrvid Engholm

## Nordic Skiing Championships

95% of you will skip this.

It's called Nordic Skiing, where you unlike in Alpine skiing go cross-country and not down a hill. It's my secret vice, as you've seen in *Intermission* before. The Nordic skiing world championships is on at the time this issue is written and distributed. (I did my tiniest bits of X-country skiing as a boy, in the park near our house. But it really wasn't much.) TV here shows the skiing competitions wintertime. The Olympics and World Championships, the 90 km Vasa race, the World Cup... (Alpine skiing is also popular on TV, especially the era when the Great Ingemar Stenmark won his 86 World Cups!) I remember in the 1980s with great skiers like Gunde Svan and Thomas Wassberg. The 1980's was also a time when technology took great strides (plastic skis arriving) and free-style skiing (skating) came. It was actually an American who introduced skating, one Bill Koch who by this new skiing style also won the World Cup in 1982. Thereafter the Swedish team was lead by greats like Torgny Mogren, Per Eloffsson, Johan Olsson and Marcus Hellner. All male.

The Swedish women's side long lagged behind, but lead by Charlotte Kalla (six Olympics and Worlds gold medals) in the late 00's a new generation of Swedish women skiers popped up, and is today the world's best national team. Our arch adversaries of Norway have had single skiers that could get ahead (recently Therese Johaug, now retired) but the Swedish Women's Team has overall been ahead for a while.\*

Some like motorsport. Cars go round and round a track for hours, it seems, engines roaring, not much seem to happen as positions rarely change. Some say Nordic skiing is the same. Skiers breath heavily as they force their way through the woods, while the only thing happening is an electronic clock ticking. (In "interval start" each one starts alone, in 30 seconds interval, and winner is determined by clocked time.) But just as lap after lap in motor sports is somehow hypnotising, it's the same with the race against the clock in skiing. "At 3.3 km Ebba was 4.7 seconds ahead", the commentator notes. "Let's see now...at 5.1 km...it has increased! She's 7.8 sec ahead and looks fresh!"

Around the year 2000 we got the new sprint discipline where groups of sprint skiers race neck and neck in knockout rounds for a mile. And the Swedes has often been very good in sprint. If you don't fancy watching lone skiers in the woods for an hour, the fast sprint events is there for you. And the top four women sprinters right now are blue-yellow-white:Jonna Sundling (3xOlympic/World champ; update 5xchamp!), Maja Dahlquist (WC sprint total winner 21//22), Emma Ribom (two wins this season), Linn Svahn (sprint sensation before an unfortunate injury, now back).



Jubilations as Jonna Sundling is crowned ski sprint world champ. Emma Ribom (behind) won silver, Maja Dahlquist (outside pic) won bronze.

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\*I should add we recently had the "Biathlon" world championship, with 11 Swedish medals - not bad!. But I'm not that fond of the idea of skiing a bit just to stop and target shoot. It adds an illogical, random element. This odd sport originally developed from military patrolling in winter time, I think.





In the first championship event, individual sprint, those four above made it to the final - and won gold *and* silver *and* bronze *and* place 4! A total success. The sprint ladies 4-in-top was followed two days later by a double win in skiathlon (2x7.5km-classic+free style), Ebba Andersson winning gold, Frida Karlsson silver. Ebba took a dive into the snow in a

Jonna on finish line in team sprint, Emma cheering. Norway was 2nd, USA 3rd.

slope, but was up fast and her win was never in danger. (Norway's AÖ Slind was 3rd. 35 years and a debutant. Great achievement!) Russia wasn't there. They are too occupied occupying.

Then a new day, a new gold for the unconquerable Swedish skiing ladies. Emma Ribom/Jonna Sundling in 6 laps of team sprint. The US lead for most laps, the Swedes tactically using the



**JUST NU: Jaaaaa! Svenskt guld och silver – trots fall**

Skiathlon headline: "Right now: Yeeees! Swedish gold and silver - despite a crash"

slipstream ie not the almost-sf genre, but the air drag. The last uphill, Jonna accelerating. That was it!

Two days later. Two more medals, silver to Frida, Bronze to Ebba. US Jessie Diggins won (very good for the sport!), her first individual gold - congrats! The Swedish lady team reaching eight (8!) medals. Unfortunately, the relay race that followed became a slight disappointment. Ebba Andersson had a fall on her leg and lost 5-6 seconds. Frida tried to make up for it, but overstretched on bad skis and lost more. Top sprinter Maja on saved the day on the last leg with a dash to the bronze - medal 9. The relay team complained about less than optimal ski wax - important in this sport.



Ebba Andersson jumps on the podium after 30 km gold, outclassing Norway's Anne K Kalvå (silver) and team mate Frida Karlsson (bronze). 11 medals was Swedish championship record.

But the 30 km race made up for it. Ebba Andersson made a push after 12 km and increased her lead every km in Johaug style (Norway's now retired snow queen). Behind her Frida Karlsson grabbed the bronze - medals 10 and 11. The yellow sun shone across the blue sky as the similarly coloured flag went up. 11 metal discs is a record, earlier championship record for the Swedes was 9.

**Ukraine's National Anthem translated**

I don't know the Ukrainian language. But here's an attempt to translate the Ukrainian national anthem, "Ukraine Has Not Yet Perished", to Swedish using English sources. (English speakers can see several English versions, incl a footnote with my Swedish interpretation translated, and Youtube versions with the music.) The original Ukrainian anthem in Latin alphabet transcription.

<https://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/periods-genres/national-anthems/ukraine-state-song-lyrics-english-translation/>

*Shche ne vmerla Ukrayiny, ni slava, ni volya,  
Shche nam, brattya molodiyi, usmikhnet'sya dolya.  
Zhinut' nashi vorizhen'ki, yak rosa na sontsi,*

*Zapanuyem i mi, brattya, u svoiyi storontsi.  
Dushu y tilo mi polozhim za nashu svobodu  
I pokazhem, shcho mi, brattya, kozats'koho rodu*

The last two lines are repeated once. It is based on a poem by Pavlo Chubynsky from 1863, the anthem version having a tiny grammatical change, and the two last lines of the original poem deleted. The English translation from classicfm.com:

*The glory and freedom of Ukraine has not yet perished  
Luck will still smile on us brother-Ukrainians.  
Our enemies will die, as the dew does in the sunshine,  
and we, too, brothers, we'll live happily in our land.  
We'll not spare either our souls or bodies to get freedom  
and we'll prove that we brothers are of Kozak kin.*

Youtube has a couple of other English translations. The original poem's last two new lines are left in <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHzHISLhtmM> (Syan and Don are rivers):

*Ukraine's freedom has not yet perished nor has her glory  
Upon us fellow Ukrainians fate shall smile once more  
Our enemies will vanish like dew in the sun  
And we too shall rule, brothers, in a free land of our own  
We'll lay down our souls and bodies to attain our freedom  
And we'll show that we brothers are of the Cossack nation  
We'll stand together for freedom, from Syan to the Don  
We will not allow others to rule in our motherland*

The next Youtube-translation seems to be based on the original poem's *all* verses.:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_ZwYxxd4iJY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ZwYxxd4iJY)

*Glorius spirit of Ukraine, shines and lives forever  
Blessed by Fortune brotherhood will stand up together  
Like the dew before the sun enemies will fade  
We will further rule and prosper in our promised land  
We will lay our soul and body for the cherished freedom  
Cossackblood will raise the nation of the joyous people  
For the liberty the folk strives ardently from san to Don  
And will not let any alien power in our common home  
Aged Dnieper and Black Sea arm in arm rejoice  
And Ukraine will see daylight and live by Fortune's choice  
We will lay our soul and body for the cherished freedom  
Cossackblood will raise the nation of the joyous people  
Passion and hard-working hands prove bright future true  
Song of freedom, loud and clear, guide us all way through  
Over mountains and steppes it flows, over ages told  
Valorous Ukraine stands strong in a thriving world  
We will lay our soul and body for the cherished freedom  
Cossackblood will raise the nation of the joyous people  
We will lay our soul and body for the cherished freedom  
Cossackblood will raise the nation of the joyous people*

You can read all about the anthem here: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State\\_Anthem\\_of\\_Ukraine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_Anthem_of_Ukraine)

Finally, my Swedish version below is an interpretation rather than a straight translation (see footnote for "verbatim" English translation of it):

*Ära och frihet för Ukraina ännu inte död är  
Ödet ännu ler åt oss, vi ukrainska bröder  
Likt solen dödar daggen blir fienden ock gjor  
Och alla vi fränder regerar på fri ukrainsk jord  
Och vi visar att vi bröder är av kossackens stam      Vi skonar varken kropp och själ för att friheten nå fram*  
/Last two lines are repeated/

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\*Honour and freedom for Ukraine isn't dead yet / Fate still smiles at us, Ukrainian brothers / Like the sun kills the dew the enemy is also made / and we friends rules on free Ukrainian soil / We sparee neither body nor soul to freedom reach / And show brothers are of cossack tribe

## Picture Gallery

On the Holocaust memorial day Feb 27, there were many events, here and all over the world. I saw a discussion in my local library. The man in the middle is Thomas Hammarberg, former UN high commissioner of human rights. They of course also touched upon the genocide now committed by



*Holocaust panel. Former UN human rights commissioner Hammarberg in the middle*



*Picking fingerfood. We also had white or red wine. The man in red is Harald.*

Putin's troops in Ukraine.

On February 16 the Romanian surrealist fantasy writer (the best way to describe him) Mircea Cartarescu visited

the Romanian Culture Institute. In later years a constant Nobel Prize nominee (it's said, nominations are secret)

and he seems to have a fan base in Sweden. The hall was more than packed. I had to sit far back in a window niche.

It was quite interesting. I for instance noted his rather strange writing habits, which he described from the stage. Here: 1) He writes everything in longhand, in special notebooks. 2) He writes every day, weekends too, between 10 and 12 AM. Never any



*Afterwards mingle. Per and Helga (I think it was), I know them since before.*



*Cartarescu is quite popular. It was cramped. I got a window niche a bit from the stage.*

rather strange writing habits, which he described from the stage. Here: 1) He writes everything in longhand, in special notebooks. 2) He writes every day, weekends too, between 10 and 12 AM. Never any

other time. 3) It becomes 1.5 pages each time. If you think output is slow, it's actually becomes 500+ pages/year. 4) He never goes back to edit or cut. Only first drafts! 5) The finished notebooks never leave his home except for initially when he takes it to his publisher where an elderly lady



*Mircea Cartarescu signs. His latest book in Swedish is Melancolia.*



*Cartarescu (left) interviewed on stage by poet, journalist Cecilia Hansson (right)*



*Feb 24, 1 year after Putin's suicide war (it'll be his fall, I'm sure) Stockholm libraries had poetry readings of Ukrainian poetry. Swedish TV aired Ukraine themed documentary the whole week.*

other time. 3) It becomes 1.5 pages each time. If you think output is slow, it's actually becomes 500+ pages/year. 4) He never goes back to edit or cut. Only first drafts! 5) The finished notebooks never leave his home except for initially when he takes it to his publisher where an elderly lady



*I found straight banana! Mutation from Putin's nuke labs?*

types it into a computer.

Anyway, a very nice evening! Snacks, chat and wine ended a very nice evening. This zine has often reported from events at the Romanian Culture Institute -

## Historiska Hörnet

### Gudrun-effekten

Från Europeiska sydobservatoriet rapporteras att planeten Jupiter, genom Gudrun Schymans kursändring, nu rubbats en aning ur sin bana. Man undersöker just nu den patriarkala astronomins strukturer, för att komma till rätta med gravitationens genuskonstruktion, och könskvotera in en bättre bana för Venus.

AHRVID ENGHOLM

First a funny little thing I totally forgot. *The Gudrun Effect* from Dagens Nyheter Dec 28, 2004. Gudrun Schyman was the leader for the Left (Communist) party who left it to start a Feminist party. I made fun of it (I've always been sceptical to feminism) and it must have been the "light page" of the big morning paper DN that printed it, because the paper itself is otherwise very PC...

*The European Southern Observatory reports that the planet Jupiter due to the change of course by Gudrun Schyman, is now nudged a little from its orbit. They now investigate the patriarchal structures of astronomy to get a grip on the genus construction of gravity and give Venus a better orbit by gender quotas.*

Hilarious, wasn't it!

Next, just a picture, from when the "local Pulitzer" winner space reporter Eugen Semitjov met the first man in space, Jurij Gagarin.

It could have been from when Gagarin visited Stockholm in 1963. It looks like Eugen is showing Gagarin one of his articles. He travelled a lot, also in Russia. I lost from where it is, but the

typeface hints it could be one of the weeklies, perhaps the men's mag *Se* (where BTW the fan Anders Sfröberg used to work, leader of Fannyvall in the 1960's Great Fannish War). Caption:

*Eugen Semitjov has many friends among space scientists and others into space. Here Semitjov meets Russian Jurij Gagarin who was the first human in space, He did his space journey onboard Vostok 1, 1961.*

Speaking of space and sky objects (the interest in such seems to be ballooning...) this may be the first little article in Swedish press about so called flying saucers! It's from Dagens Nyheter in 1947, date of July 4. (I think it's a possibility it was Roscoe. That date is a holy one for the fannish beaver Ghod.) It was a rather short time after the "original" saucer sighting by pilot Kenneth Arnold, which happened Jun 24 that year:

*"Flying saucers" spooking in America - Private to Dagens Nyheter - UP. Canada has also had visits by "flying saucers", a sort of mysterious projectiles that earlier have been visible over 8 of the US states. The "Saucers" have been observed by many credible persons, but their information is very contradictive. Some eyewitnesses claim that they have flown "faster than an airplane, but not as fast as a meteorite". Others maintain the monsters have stood practically still in the air.*

As I may have explained before, I see the risk claimed sightings are uninvited guests from Alpha Centauri as infinitesimally small - officer Einstein of Universe PD (Physics Department) doesn't look kindly upon anyone trying to break the speed limit.

What UFO sightings really are: in most cases natural phenomena (satellites, Venus, balloons, airplanes, drones etc), in some cases hallucinations or daydreams, in other hoaxes by attention seekers. The phenomena of objects in the sky actually started earlier. During WWII there were hundreds of observations of what became known as "ghost rockets" (AFU and Clase Svahn, covered in last issue, made a thorough investigation of the cases, but found no aliens AFAIK.) I believe that the flying saucer craze was further strengthened by the flood of Earth invaded films the B-league of Hollywood produced in the 1950s. The best of these were about aliens landing, like "The Day the Earth Stood Still" (1951) and "War of the Worlds" (1953), while "Forbidden Planet" at least had spaceship and an alien monster. Generally, I'm rather fond of



Eugen Semitjov har många vänner bland rymdforskare och andra som sysslar med rymden. Här möter Semitjov ryssen Jurij Gagarin som var den förste människan ute i rymden. Han gjorde sin rymdfärd ombord på Vostok-1 1961.

### "Flygande tefat" spökar i Amerika

— Privat till Dagens Nyheter. —

NEW YORK, torsdag.

UP. Även Kanada har haft besök av "flygande tefat", ett slags mystiska projektiler, som tidigare varit synliga över åtta av USA:s stater.

"Tefaten" har observerats av många trovärdiga personer, men dessas uppgifter är ytterst motsägande. En del ögonvittnen påstår att de flugit fram "fortare än ett flygplan, men inte så snabbt som en meteor". Andra anser att luftvidundren stått praktiskt taget stilla i luften.

Mr Redaktör!

Det är en trostätt, grundad på naturvetenskap, att de flygande skivorna inte finns eller i bästa fall är observationerna beror på en mängd naturliga fenomen av olika slag eller fenomen. Två av dessa fenomen har redan nämnts och den nämligen av naturliga fenomen som är resultat av avsaknad av ljusstyrka i bilderna i frågan. Den andra fenomenet har nämnts som ovetenskapliga historier berättade om flygande skivor till och från observationer i olika länder. Vad (och hur) och varifrån kommer sådana historier från dessa fenomen? De flygande skivorna har blivit ett stort och intressant ämne för många människor. Med åren har berättelserna blivit mer och mer fantastiska och i många fall har de blivit ännu mer fantastiska utopiska.

En annan sak är tvisten med rymdresor, så kallade av personer som antingen är psykiska eller fysiska. Enligt dessa teorier har det varit möjligt att flyga till andra världar och till andra planeter och till andra världar och till andra planeter. Detta är en mycket intressant fråga och det är viktigt att ha en tydlig bild av detta ämne. Det är viktigt att ha en tydlig bild av detta ämne. Det är viktigt att ha en tydlig bild av detta ämne.

Major Donald Keyhoe har en tydlig bild av detta ämne. Han har skrivit många böcker om detta ämne. Han har skrivit många böcker om detta ämne. Han har skrivit många böcker om detta ämne. Han har skrivit många böcker om detta ämne.

K. G. Rehn

Herr K. G. Rehn tycks ha blivit förvirrad av min artikel "Möten med rymdresor", och enda slutsatsen som sålert kan dras i övrigt finner jag bara tillräckligt meningslös. Beträffande fenomenets verkliga natur visar jag ju att jag inte vill avfärda möjligheten av realistiska faktorer på dessa gremler. Denna fråga är dock inte ämnet för min artikel som i stället behandlar vissa mänskliga reaktioner. En grupp människor har varit bered att låta landa utan också kommunicerat med utrymmer ombord. Dessa personer skriver böcker om sina upplevelser som också i stora utgåvor runt jorden och deras åsikter presenteras av en del organisationer med förtjänat och säkert tillräckligt utseende mer eller mindre aktiva medlemmar. I motsats till herr Rehn vill jag inte kalla några i som möjligen för "psykopater eller lögnbolser". Jag konstaterar bara att "sagan" är i sig själva. Jag uttrycker att jag finner det intressant med denna symbolik som är hämtad från sanskritlitteratur och jag upprepar också Madame Blavatskys namn. Jag kunde säga andra, t. ex. att de t. k. men i stort som alla eskoterier i världens ära moderna versioner av myten om Quetzalcoatl. Jag kunde också säga att de enda personer i Sverige som påstått sig ha sett ett flygande föremål landa och till och med försöka att de varit ombord på det haft denna upplevelse nära den stad där det bokförlag finns som ger ut de flesta av dessa böcker. Varför en sådan lokal dump? Personligen vill jag tillägga att jag inte tycker att det skulle vara så märkligt om flygande skivor besökte jorden, snarare är det märkligt om de inte gjorde det. Befinner sig Quetzalcoatl ombord och landar i närheten av Hälsingborg, tycker jag dock det börjar bli lite konstigt.

Hälsingborg i sept

Sture Lönnnerstrand

all the funny, sparkling, sometimes downright silly Earth-invaded films of the era!

Speaking of this, here's an exchange of Letters to the Editor in Svenska Dagbladet, September 7 1961. Signature "KG Rhen"? argues that the saucers are real space visitors as a reply to a recent article by sf author Sture Lönnnerstrand (rather well-known as his *The Space Dog* just a few years earlier had won a big novel competition, awarded what today would be worth ca €30 000!) about meeting aliens Unfortunately I don't have Sture's article, but it'll be in SvD one of the previous days. For technical reasons my copy of it is very bad - I've tried my best to technically improve it - but with sharpened eyes I'll give you an English translation (with not too many misinterpretations, I hope)

*Mr Editor! It's a dogma, based on ignorance, that the flying saucers don't exist or in the best case that the observations come from a series of misinterpretations of known objects or phenomenon. Two extreme directions have cemented this belief. One is from military authorities who have adopted a rebuffing attitude of secrecy. The other direction has through its history of superstition involuntary but efficiently contributed to the bad reputation of the saucer problem. What people have read about the saucers primarily comes from these extremist sources. But people don't know the facts in the saucer issue. Through the years the evidence have gathered for the reality and interplanetary origin of the saucers. Meetings with space beings are another thing, described by persons who are either psychopaths or liars. Since these things have had the biggest publicity and are commonly known, it's difficult to understand the point of Mr Sture Lönnnerstrand's article in SvD. To write about occultism and other things to this extent /Sture was into Eastern mysticism and myths/, doesn't bring the saucer problem closer to its solution as I can see, quite the opposite. Mr L's description of the easy prey and their silly, preposterous stories are not only irrelevant, it will directly confuse and give the wider public dust in their eyes. Major Donald Keyhoe is with the intellectually honest minority of saucers researchers. He detests the bug-eyed stories. This isn't mentioned by Mr L who retells a few cases of the chronicles - it's a mistake to let these represent Keyhoe. Mr L's "final evaluation" seems to come directly from Keyhoe's reflections, unless Mr L read prof CG Jung's book on superstition in the saucer question. And further, prof Menzel doesn't talk about "sun cats" but about "sun dogs" or "mock suns", which is something different (sun activities or /unreadable/). Finally a warning: all reports about meeting aliens aren't crazy inventions.*

\*Could be Gösta Rehn, later famous for many UFO books. Sture Lönnnerstrand answers below:

*Mr KG Rehn seems to have been annoyed by my article "Meeting an alien", I must conclude. Otherwise I find his article quite meaningless. Concerning the real nature of the phenomena I don't want to dismiss that the vehicles are real on to vague grounds. But that question isn't the topic of my article, which instead is about certain human relations. A group of individuals have not only seen saucers land but also communicated with the beings onboard. These persons write books about their experiences that are spread in huge numbers around the world and their views are presented by a whole organisation of societies with probably thousands of more or less active members. Unlike Mr*

*Rehn I won't describe any of those "psychopaths" or "liars". I just note that something is going on. I repeat that I find it interesting with this symbolism which is taken from Sanskrit literature and I also mention the name of Madame Blavatsky /a known "psychic"/. I could say more, eg that all the people appearing in the stories are modern versions of the Quetzalcoatl myth /from the Maya indians/. I could also say that the only people in Sweden who have seen a flying saucer land and also claim to have been onboard have had this experience near the city where where the publisher of most of these books is based. Personally, I'd like to add that I wouldn't find it so strange if a spaceship visited Earth, it's rather strange if it didn. If Quetzalcoatl is onboard and lands near Hälsingborg I'd find it'll begin to become strange.*

If I interpret this correctly, Lönnerstrand's article was sceptical to meeting-alien stories, mentioning myths and a fraudster like Blavatsky, even if he in principle thought visits by alien spaceships were possible (as an sf author for two decades at the time...). But *these* encounters aren't credible. His critic KG Rehn (1891-1989) would become the Grand Old Man of Sweden's UFO movement and a prolific author (an article about him, in Swedish but try Google Translate:

<https://www.ufo.se/index.php/intervjuer-och-nekrologer/1393-k-gosta-rehn-1891-1989> )

Now, moving from saucers to real space activities. I have earlier talked about the illustrious *Swedish Space Movement*, a society active in the 1980s until the early 1990s. It was a space activity promotion society, to "boldly go..." you know: space research, spaceflight, space colonisation and so on. I was active in "The Space Mess" ("Svenska Rymdröran") as we sometimes called it internally because it was often a mess...

## Filmproduktion:

# En väg ut i rymden?

Uppmärksamma läsare av »SFV-sidorna» nr 3/87 såg att det i förteckningen över nya medlemmar hade smugit sig in en frammande fågel. »Rymdrörelsens filmteam» kallade sig nykomlingarna. Rymdrörelsen sysslar i vanliga fall inte alls med film. Deras intresse är rymden och rymdfärder. Orsaken till att de gick med i SFV var att de ville göra två filmer som skulle föra ut rymdrörelsens budskap. De skiljer sig därmed från de flesta av SFVs medlemsföreningar, vilka har filmproduktion som huvudintresse. Filmkrets tyckte det lät så ovanligt att vi stämde träff med Hans Starlife (nej, det är ingen pseudonym – han heter så!), redaktör för rörelsens tidskrift »Space Life».

Det visade sig att Svenska Rymdrörelsen är en organisation som propagerar för människans expansion i rymden. De anser att en kolonisering av rymden är en naturlig – och nödvändig – fortsättning på människans utforskning av jordklotet. Nu är rymdrörelsen en förening som sätter hårt intryck bara på människans expansion i rymden, utan även på sin egen expansion på jorden. Och som ett led i försöket att nå ut till folk, ville de nu göra film.

Rymdrörelsen beslutat att göra två filmer. Den första skulle göras billigt och fungera som »öppnery» inför den andra, vilken skulle bli mer påkostad. Även till formen skulle filmerna skilja sig åt. Den första (filmerna är ännu namnlösa, därav mitt »tjat om den första» och den »andra») ska vara uppdelad i två delar, en spelfilmsdel och ett dokumentärt avsnitt. Andamålet med filmen – ty dessa filmer görs i första hand för att sprida rymdrörelsens budskap – blir att informera om föreningen, samt att propagera för avskaffandet av den så kallade rymdlagen, en lag som förbjuder svenska privatpersoner att syssla med rymdfärder. Filmen, som ännu inte är färdig, ska bli ca 30 minuter lång, så att den passar in i de tidsramar en normal skoltektion har. Hans Starlife vill nämligen



I Kungsträdgården bedriver Rymdrörelsen opinionsbildning och filmproduktion på samma gång.

att filmen ska visas på skolor, i syfte att informera om rymdrörelsen.

### 200 intresserade ringde!

Om rymdrörelsens erfarenhet av filmproduktion var liten, så var dess förberedelser desto vidlyftigare. De gick ut och sökte medarbetare i Radio Stockholm och Stockholms närradio. Nästa dag ringde 200 personer hem till Hans Starlife. Mestadels tonsträffkor med filmensdrömmar, men även några som var intresserade av att stå bakom kameran. Massmöten och provfilmningar anordnades. Sommaren 1987 spelades spelfilmsdelen av Film 1 in. Naturligtvis kunde inte alla sökande

Hans Starlife vill gärna ta tillfället i akt att i Filmkrets söka medhjälpare till filmprojekten – det finns fortfarande platser att fylla, både framför och bakom kameran. Sponsorer är rara fåglar idag, men skulle det finnas några förelag som känner att de vill nå ett slag för människans expansion i rymden, så kan de – liksom oavsett vilka intresserade medhjälpare – ringa eller skriva till!

Hans Starlife  
Branta backen 19  
147 00 TUMBA  
Tfn: 0753-340-32

få var sin roll, men då handlingen innehåller en demonstration i Kungsträdgården kom de många flickorna ändå väl till pass. Eftersom demonstrationen var en verklig sådan, blev filmningen en märklig kombination av dokumentär och spelfilm! Måhända fann sig dock flickorna demonstrerande för något varom de själva hade en ganska vag uppfattning.

Film nr 1 fungerade alltså som en »repetition» inför film nr 2 – ett tillvägagångssätt som jag tycker verkar vettigt. Det tyder på en insikt om sina egna begränsningar. (Måste det till en förening som inte har film som huvudsyfte för att vinna den insikten?) Och de noggranna förberedelserna kommer att behövas. Film nr 2 ska nämligen, om allt går som planerat, bli en på alla sätt »stor» film. En film som ska byras ut på video och hålla för att visas i TV. Till detta kommer naturligtvis att krävas pengar. Med dagens produktionssituation mycket pengar. Rymdrörelsen har därför köpt ett professionellt videoproducent, Bani Barakat (Video-Film-International AB) som har lovat att hjälpa till att försöka skaffa sponsor. Regissör blir den för Filmkrets läsare välkända Laszlo Schászler (ut »Adaro», »Såsom i en känsla» m fl). Manus till film 2 har Hans Starlife själv gjort tillsammans med några

I'll give you the story of our film "Brottsplats: Rymden" ("Crime Scene: Space"). You can watch it on Vimeo here <https://vimeo.com/groups/filmfandom/videos/86451545>, as it was a part of my amateur fanthology *Filmfandom* (from if I remember 1992). The quality is awful: original edit would be VHS generation 2, my edit to a *Filmfandom* master tape was generation 3, so this copy is *VHS generation 4* or worse.. Despite crackling sound but perhaps not the most cracking production, you should be able to follow the plot, which in short is and I came up with the basic plot idea - about crime against the Space Law, adopted in 1982 to make Swedish space activities a government monopoly:

*A new law bans private space activities, incl remote control of space systems from the ground. Our hero "Hacke" hacks into satellites, a crime against the Space Law. Swedish Security Police hunts him down (eg in a silly car pursuit - more soon!). A female reporter is following the story. As Hacke is arrested the glorious and mighty Space Movement starts a campaign - via press, radio, a demo march - to have him freed and to scrap the Space Law. They finally succeed and celebrate their victory.*

The Swedish Space Movement was the brainchild of one Hans Myrfjäll, our own version of Claud Degler ([https://fancylopedia.org/Claude\\_Degler](https://fancylopedia.org/Claude_Degler)). While he didn't

travel around as an unwanted house guest and stole books, he did try to start the utopian "United Future" organisation - branded *Vereinte Zukunft* by us bystanders who saw its populist, even Nazi tendencies. He wanted the Space Movement to become a sub-division of this organisation, but we refused, Hans thus left us, and not much later committed acts I won't detail - but it was really SHOCKING things. Hans was a guy swirling around high up in space, and he changed his last name to Starlif, to which he added an E to become the Hans *Starlife* he dreamt of.

Our society had at most about 10 local chapters and close to 1000 members. We published the magazine *Space Life* (*Starlife* edited most issues, but constantly threatened to resign if we didn't follow his whims - I took over as editor for one issue at one such time), held meetings, aired a local "community radio show", arranged conferences (once also a small sf con),

made exhibitions (eg helping the Technical Museum with a big one), had study circles (one such attempted to build an electromagnetic rail launcher - it failed, but the sf fans of SPI later succeeded as seen in the Nasacon 10 report on *Filmfandom*) and for a while, since we had lots of members, had



Hans Starlife in the (mock) office of *Space Life* magazine. One of 200 phone girls in the back.

vänner. Det är en fantastisk historia de knäpat ihop, med scener från både rymdskepp och planeten Mars. Det ska bli en «kort långfilm», och handlingen uppvisar stora likheter med innehållet i de många amerikanska science fiction-filmer vi alla har sett. Rymdrörelsen vill, förutom att underhålla, också smyga in sitt budskap om nödvändigheten av att kolonisera rymden.

#### Skandinavisk science fiction – en omöjlighet?

Det kan inte hjälpas att jag tar mig för pannan när jag hör rymdrörelsens planer och läser manuset till film nr 2. Med rymdscener och helikopterjakter som skulle få George Lucas att svettas, undrar jag hur ett amatörfilmgäng ska kunna klara av det. (Utan att Sverige blir en kalkonfilm rikare!) Det är slående med vilken hängivenhet deltagarna ger sig in i projektet samtidigt som Laszlo Schüsler är en duktig regissör, som kanske kan finna okonventionella lösningar på till synes omöjliga scener. T ex ska ett rymdskepp fara in i jordatmosfären och kraschlanda på ett fängelse, vilket i sin tur ska förvandlas till en rykande krater!



Hans Starlife, redaktör för Rymdrörelsens tidskrift »Space Life».

Hans Starlife och jag talar lite om varför science fiction-genren aldrig har fått något genombrott i svensk film. Hans tror att publikunderlaget finns, men att bolagen av tradition håller sig till mer »svenska» teman. Han tycker vidare att de föreslå till nordisk science fiction-film som har gjorts (bl a några norska TV-serier), har innehållit för lite action. Det beror på bristen på resurser. Jag framkastar också teorin att rymdhisto-

rier i svensk miljö är svåra att svälja därför att vi i Sverige inte har någon rymdverksamhet (åtminstone inte med bemannade färder), medan det i stormakterna faktiskt finns visst verklighetsunderlag och påminner Hans om att science fiction-filmer i Sverige gärna får något tontigt över sig, med »Rymdinvasjon i Lappland» som främsta föregångare inom detta pinsamma område. Den enda moderna svenska filmen med rymdanknytning vi kommer på är »Gröna gubbar från Y Ra», som ju myntade ut i oförblomrad reklam för Bert Karlssons »Svenmarlande». Jag frågar därför Hans hur rymdrörelsen skulle reagera om ett företag erbjöd sponsoring i utbyte mot reklam i filmen. Han svarar att om det är enda sättet att få pengar, så OK, förutsatt att det inte påverkar filmens kvalitet i negativ riktning.

Hur det än går för rymdrörelsen och deras filmplaner så ska det bli intressant att följa detta ovanliga svenska filmprojekt.

Est talsätt säger att om man siktar på stjärnorna, så när man åtminstone trästopparna. Och det kan man vara säker på när det gäller Svenska Rymdrörelsen – de siktar mot stjärnorna!

Fredrik Crappman

a local council grant so we could afford to rent a HQ on popular Skåne Street.

An anecdote about why it was such a mess: when getting rid of *Starlife* we also lost the energy of fanaticism he provided and membership shrunk, to below what needed to get the grant to afford the club house. A plan was hatched (not by me - I promise! - I was drifting away from the Mess at the time) to share the HQ with two young girls who would run it as a hairdresser's saloon! Hairdressers and the Rocket Scientists pooling resources... It of course didn't work.

The HQ was lost and the Swedish Space Movement entered Earth's atmosphere, landing somewhere in the wilderness never to be heard of again. (Except, the fairly recent *Svenska Rymdällskapet* tries to claim roots from our crowd. None of them were with us, as our society was dead as a parrot for all the years in between.)

One of our major projects was the mentioned film. It started with *Starlife* imagining we amateurs could make a full length feature film to sell to the cable channels and become rich and famous. He even wrote a fairly tightly typed 100-page manuscript (something like heroes going to space, fighting evil powers, reaching the wonderful future star life) not realising that such a script would become at least three hours long. Instead it came to a the more down to Earth project, with the plot as above.

No one had told our popular Radio Stockholm station that *Starlife* was Degler reincarnated, so they let him loose on the air one day where he said: a) We would make a huge Hollywood style film, b) we would have auditions and could all young girls please phone him. Hundreds did, and by some sort of miracle of how to use phones hundreds of Hollywood dreamers turned up for filmed auditions in the Citizen House. It was chaos. We were so amateur that we didn't even have the much better S-VHS camcorders, only ordinary VHS. Even better systems were unthinkable.

After a while shooting commenced. Maybe 10 or so, mostly girls, were casted. They hadn't fled fast enough from the auditions realising we weren't much of Hollywood. Early parts were shot in my apartment and a lot in the Citizen House in a mock *Space Life* editorial office. I even let them borrow my typewriter, used to cut stencils. *Starlife* kept his ass away most of the time, and producer/director was Lars Engström, one of the few sane persons in the project. Two interesting episodes...

Of course there must be some "action", and somehow our film group came in contact with some jokers claiming to be stunt coordinators. They were given the task of getting an old junk car and shoot a sequence where this car during a chase tumbles over into a ditch. Which they failed doing...the car tumbled too early. The deal was that they'd find an around €100 car (which you can do, and it'll only be used to crash anyway) but maybe because they were ashamed of their own incompetence or they had the impression that the Space Movement was a huge operation, they sent an invoice to the sum of €1500 and threatened to sue over it. It caused us great concern.

A part of the plot was the campaign to free the film hero Hacke. That required a demonstration march in central Stockholm. We phoned the 100+ (mostly teenage girls) who had auditioned and gathered downtown, marching to Kungsträdgården, with police escort and everything yelling demands to scrap the Space Law and "Free Hacke"... Bystanders must have wondered, who the heck is this Hacke? Who were we? Anyway. It was all filmed and was the *first space politics demonstration* held here, maybe even the first in Europe or the world!



Vid inspektion av Rymd-Årskrets Övningsfilm kraschade bilen innan det var planerat  
**These amateur "stunt men" failed in their job and tried to extort the film makers.**

Lars Engström did a huge job with the final editing and fixing, recruiting me as narrator where needed (it seemed I was "least worst" for that...but still far from perfect). "*Crime Scene: Space*"

premiered at the Short Film Festival in Södertälje 1988 to mixed reactions. I don't think it has been shown to a sitting audience since. I included it on my VHS compilation through which some have encountered it, I'm sure, and I have had *Filmfandom* running on TV screens on a couple of cons. As noted it's also on Vimeo, but I'm not sure that'll make the world a better place... The member magazine of the Swedish Film and



Video Federation, *Filmkrets*, at the time wrote an article about the project, interviewing *Starlife* (I'll comment some of it). "A Way Out To Space", in #1 1988, and I'll summarise (the article was written by one Fredrik Crappman):

2 captions + info frame: *The Space Movement performs opinion making and film production at the same time in the Royal Gardens. / Hans Starlife editor of the Space Movement's magazine Space Life. / Hans Starlife wants to use the opportunity to look for volunteers through Filmkrets - there are still spots to fill, both in front and behind the camera. Sponsors are rare today, but if there's a firm wanting to promote man's expansion into space - or just assist in some way they may - call or write to /address + tel/.*

*...The reason the Space Movement joined the SFV federation was they wanted to make two films to promote their message /only 1 was made/...We met up with Hans Starlife, no it's not a pseudonym - that's his name) /ex Myrfjäll, ex Starlif/ editor of the movement's magazine Space Life. /I skip explanation of our space PR aims/ The Space Movement decided to make two films. The first to be made on the cheap as an exercise for the second that would have higher budget. The two films would be different also to their form...the second to be in two parts, the first being a feature film, the second a documentary /all to promote space and scrapping the Space Law/ The film isn't yet finished but will be ca 30 minutes long to fit in length for school classes to inform about the Space Movement. If the Space Movement's experience in filming is small the preparations have been thorough. /Went out in radio, and.../ 200 called Hans Starlife, mostly teenage girls with film star dreams, but also some who wanted to be behind the camera. Big meetings and auditions were arranged. The feature film part was shot in the summer of 1987. All applicants couldn't be used naturally, but as there was a demonstration in the Royal Gardens too all the girls came in handy. Since the demonstration was a real one the film became a strange combination of a documentary and a feature film. But the girls perhaps found themselves demonstrating for something they only had a vague grip of. /Film 1 being preparation for film 2 seems sensible/ Because film 2 shall, if everything goes to plan, be a big film in every way. A film you can rent and is good enough to be shown on TV. That will of course take money. In today's production situation a lot of money. The Space Movement has for this contacted a professional video producer, Bahi Barakat (Video Film International Inc) that has promised help with getting sponsors. Director will be Laszlo Schuszler known to readers of Filmkrets. /All this came to nothing./ Hans Starlife has written the script for film 2 with friends. /A 3-hour monster! It's a fantastic story they've created with scenes from both spaceships and Mars. It'll be a "short long film" and the plot looks similar to the contents of many American sf films. /And with space colonising PR - Scandinavian SF - Impossible?! I can't help hitting myself on the head when I hear the plans and read the script of film 2. It's space scenes and helicopter chases that would make George Lucas sweaty, and I wonder how an amateur gang could cope (without Sweden becoming one turkey richer.) The dedication they go into the project with is striking /mostly Starlife's dreams.../ and Laszlo Schuszler is a fine director,*

*who perhaps could find unconventional solutions for impossible scenes. A space ship will eg fall into Earth's atmosphere and crash into a prison transformed into a smoking crater! Hans Starlife and I talked a little about why sf hasn't made a breakthrough in Swedish film. He thinks there is an audience but the movie companies by tradition stick to "Swedish" themes. He also thinks that the attempts made with Nordic sf films (eg a couple of Norwegian TV series) have had too little action. It's due to a lack of resources. I put forth the theory that space stories in a Swedish setting is a tough sell since Sweden has no space activities (at least not manned space flights), /This was*



*More from the staged magazine office in the Citizen House. Phone guy in front me, pretending to hunt for info on Hacke (I guess).*

*impossible scenes. A space ship will eg fall into Earth's atmosphere and crash into a prison transformed into a smoking crater! Hans Starlife and I talked a little about why sf hasn't made a breakthrough in Swedish film. He thinks there is an audience but the movie companies by tradition stick to "Swedish" themes. He also thinks that the attempts made with Nordic sf films (eg a couple of Norwegian TV series) have had too little action. It's due to a lack of resources. I put forth the theory that space stories in a Swedish setting is a tough sell since Sweden has no space activities (at least not manned space flights), /This was*



*Was this the world's first space politics demo? We were ca 100, many from the 200 hopeful stardom dreamers lured by Starlife on radio.*

before our first astronaut Fuglesang/ while there is more of a reality among the big powers Starlife reminds us that sf-films in Sweden becomes a bit goofy with "Terror in the Midnight Sun" as the main proponent in this cringy field. The only modern Swedish film with space connection we can remember is "Green Men from YR", which ended in shameless advertising for Bert Karlsson's "Summerland". /theme park/ I thus asked Starlife how the Space Movement would react if a company offered sponsorship in exchange for advertising in the film. He answered that if it's the only way to get money it's OK, provided it won't affect the film negatively... There's a saying, if you aim for the stars you at least reach the treetops. And be sure of that for the Swedish Space Movement - they aim for the stars.

There's more I could say about the Swedish Space Mess, but this is enough for now. I can't help thinking we would have done much better if active today, when so much is happening in space - going back to the Moon, SpaceX, Mars, new huge telescopes, thousands of planets discovered, China coming along, our own Esrange satellite base...

For me, the adventures around doing this film lead me to a long interest in amateur short films. Because of our film project I went to the Film and Video

Federation's film festival in 1987 and have since been to it every year (except two years when it was away from Stockholm, and also during the pandemic which had no physical festival). I like the creativity and enthusiasm of these short films, and for me they are the short stories of movie making.

This History Corner will now finish with pictures from the interesting home of

the great Jules Verne, now made into a museum in the city of Amiens, France. It's interesting to see his study or library. His house even had a tower, but I wonder what's on its top? The Nautilus room probably isn't from the Grand Master's time, though.



Big celebrations as the mighty Space Movement protests free Hacke. Here's me clapping hands in joy!



Jules Verne's study in Amiens. Looks cosy.



One of the rooms of the Verne museum, his former home, is made into the bridge of submarine Nautilus.



Jules Verne's home, 1 rue Charles Dubois, Amiens. Interesting tower. Do the arches represent planet orbits, or what? It's now a museum said to be well worth a visit.

**Bertil Falk for ESFS Grand Master!**

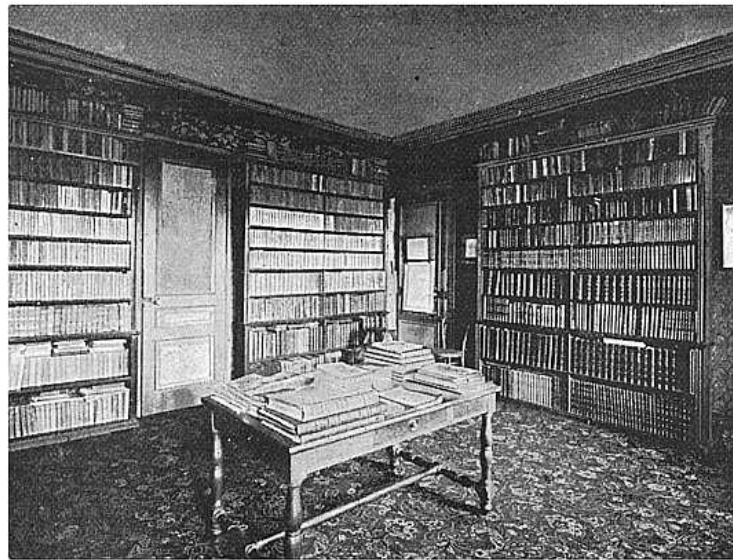
**Debut in 1946! 66 surreal years with Joyce!! 1000 pages of sf history!**

## Mailing Comments

*EAPA first, then N'APA. BTW, join the fun! Do a fanzine. If you do, you have something to put Kremlin under fanzine blockade with - like this zine does. Think of that!*

**Henry Grynsten:** Asimov as claimed to have been "notorious for sexually assaulting women at science fiction conventions". No! "assaulting" means to violently attack with the purpose of hurting or subduing someone. What Asimov did was groping. I believe he saw it jokingly. From reading his memoirs you learn the Good Doctor was quite inhibited and insecure in his relations to the opposite sex, probably from growing up in a Russian-Jewish immigrant family with old time values. Such insecurity leads to odd attempts in seeking contact. (I say this as an explanation, NOT to defend groping.)

\*\*\*Asimov was "bad at writing about people" "Bad", in what way? You mean the people in his stories? No, I think he was quite adequate, but then I'm not impressed by pretentious psychological babble, if that is what you require. One could mention eg the different, interesting characters in his Black Widowers stories. They are all interesting and work fine. "Psychology" in fiction is overrated as I have said before. Asimov being "obsessive in his collection of data.." Do you mean "collecting data" for writing his hundreds of non-fiction books? I see nothing wrong with collecting facts for books. "...and producing text, maybe he had some kind of functional variance." .I Yes, he may have had ADHD or some other four-letter condition. Asimov liked writing more than *anything!* Asked what he'd do if learning he had one day left to live, his answer was: "Type faster!"\*\*\* I agree with you on the non-existing "spectrum" of gender... \*\*\* "I assume you refer to Communism" Socialism and communism are just different stages of development of the same ideology, the first being the early stage of the second. \*\*\* Socialism has worked excellently in many democratic countries, as for example Social Democracy in Sweden. "Social democracy" isn't socialism/communism in its original form. It borrows some aspects of it and that's bad enough in itself (eg SocDem believes in collectivism, a hugely politicised state, as much central planning as they can get away with, etc). And it hasn't worked "excellently". The major progress was in the 1950/60s, when our local SocDem still limited taxes to max 30%. (Other countries in Europe not under the SocDems had the *same* development under other government, so it wasn't unique in any way.) The 1970/80s were lost and not very "excellent" decades as taxes and the state grew. \*\*\* During the time when the Social Democrats could implement their policies almost unopposed, the country became one of the most successful countries in the world. Only through the 1950/60s, when taxes and the public sector was kept limited! In principle that's what liberals and conservatives *also* support. In the 1970/80's - a time MORE true to SocDems - taxes, government spending, public sector skyrocketed, and all earlier relative gains were lost. It clearly didn't work "excellently" (Note: Of these 20 years, 6 had a Liberal non-Soc governments. It's disappointing they did little to stop these failures, I'll admit. 14 years of 1970/80s were still SocDem suicide put-brakes-on-economy-grow-the-state policies!) \*\*\* I don't for a minute believe that in any possible scenario it could have been more than marginally better I don't see why it would have been impossible to continue the economy on the 50/60's! If that had happened, it's clear we'd be MUCH more than "marginally" better off! \*\*\* Quoting a book by FN Faria claiming "liberal institutions ultimately weaken their social groups in the evolutionary process of inter-group competition". Are you kidding? I've seldom seen an "analysis" that's so dead wrong. The effect is the total opposite! Competition is strength! You get several alternatives for products and services, and can pick the best and most cost-effective one. As a producer you have to improve yourself to keep kickin'. It all spells *improvements*, not becoming becoming "weaker". What a dud Mr Faria is! \*\*\* Social Democracy combined with a strong state. SocDems isn't only "combined" with it, they ARE the builders of the big state. But a strong, big state suffocates the individual, creativity, freedoms, citizen's rights. \*\*\* Marx's "influence on the world has been monumental" Unfortunately... \*\*\* I've tried ChatGPT, and I'm not impressed. Beside ChatGTP I've also tried earlier AI systems, and I am a bit impressed. Compared to older systems, ChatGTP is way more powerful! And it's just the beginning! \*\*\* "a computer will never be able to think and feel like a human" I'm not sure of that. \*\*\* It "can't copy a human very closely."

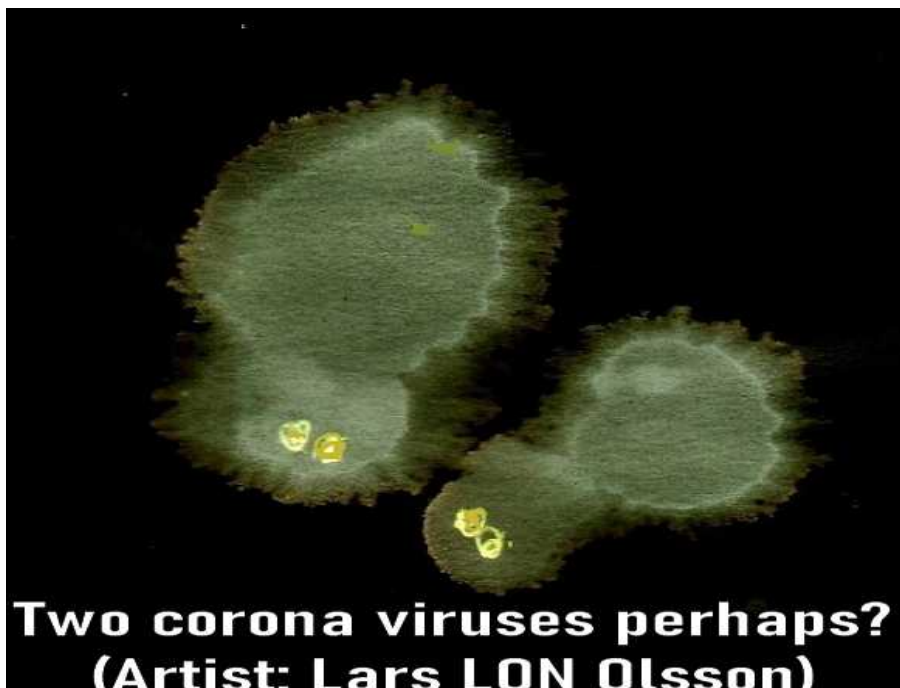


The library of Jules Verne. Seems well stocked! Possibly a contemporary picture, from Verne's own time.

What "machine learning" does is actually to copy humans, ie our brain's neural networks.

\*\*\* *"mathematics, it's a very simple system"*

Advanced mathematics is actually very, very complex! Fractals, 20 dimensions, imaginary numbers, calculus...\*\*\* *"If an AI never takes any risks, it will never make any real breakthroughs"* It's inventing and economics that benefits from risk-taking. Expanding knowledge benefits more from making free associations and taking leaps in your thoughts.\*\*\* *"Artificial intelligence would be so advanced that we don't understand exactly what it's doing"* We often don't even understand what humans do and why, so this shows AIs may get close to our way of thinking... *"so that we have no possibility of writing those kinds of algorithms"* A



misunderstanding: modern AI isn't about writing algorithms. They write themselves in the neural networks. We only write the algorithms for creating the networks (and that we *can* do).\*\*\* Interesting thoughts on death. But also depressing...\*\*\* I sometimes wonder about the long-term effects of TV crime shows and detective novels full of murders! I'm not sure the effects are always positive...but I would never agree to banning crime fiction or shows! In arts, death isn't "taboo"!\*\*\* Wharhol was clearly a very, very strange guy... That's all I can say!

**William McCabe:** You're probably right about early sports fans and film fans publishing amateur magazines, *but* I've found no trace of that they used the term "fanzine". And I've been looking around a bit, and so have scholars - they tend to be obsessed with finding "first use". Webster here claims first use of "fanzine" is from 1942 <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fanzine> - but we know it's from the autumn of 1940, by L R Chauvenet.

**Heath Row:** Interesting about roads and bridges. The Swedish road system was known to be very lousy, until the mid 19th Century. It was local farmers that had the duty to build and maintain the roads, and their enthusiasm varied.\*\*\* I have been writing a Xmas/New Year short story every year since 2000. But it was only a few years back I began to run them in *Intermission*. Some of these stories have been in Swedish, but I try to make them in English now (for inclusion in *Intermission*). I try to make these short stories humorous, perhaps also a bit odd.\*\*\* *"The Fannish Inquisition." I'm sure the staff meant well"* I'm sure the staff is so deep into virtue signalling they can't tell the difference between meaning well and being a die-hard fanatic.\*\*\* Fred Brown is also a favourite of mine! We have all read his short-short stories... (That was the kind of stories I started with writing when young. Never reaching his heights, of course, and always getting them rejected by Sam J Lundwall of the JVM magazine...)

**Garth Spencer:** I'd say a formal OE election isn't necessary - Garth stay, if you want! As for "max page count", only very few of my zines have been over 20 pages. If 20p tops is enforced, I can live with it. In fact, I really hope to go down in page count. As it looks now this will be shorter...\*\*\* Why are all cons postponed until 2024?\*\*\* Well, I think the best we can do is to aim for the society that has as little of imperfection as possible, reaching perfection is impossible. Anyone claiming to aim for the perfect will become an unbearable (and possibly dangerous) fanatic.. The problem with claiming you know the Perfect Solution is that it prompts you to go over dead bodies to reach it, as the Perfect Thing is the Infinite Good and thus worth any price to pay.\*\*\* Well-well-well! Time to finish! See ya' nextish! And do a fanzine! Plz mention or review this zine on your site, (a)social media stream or what you have. *Och glöm inte att nominera Berra Falk!*

**Слава Україні!**

# Synergy 44



NAPA MAILING

March 2023



The editor is John Thiel and his address 30 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Lafayette, Indiana 47904. Reaching him by email is a matter of [kinethiel@mymetronet.net](mailto:kinethiel@mymetronet.net) . I need not stress that this is a Ninth Fandom publication done for this APA, and that we (myself and my associates elsewhere) are respectful of Ghu and attentive to Roscoe, two gods of fandom who are supportive of our enterprise. We look with respect and favor on Xanadu, the Age of Aquarius, and the Rapture, and are mindful of the movement toward expanded consciousness and toward the New Outlook, the Cosmic All and the world of Syzygy. As I claim associates, I don't regard this apazine as a perzine; I think others in the apa would not be interested in writings by my companions and so I don't use their writings here, but if any of them comes up with an article on the exalted topics I have listed above, I'll print it here, it being on the topics or theme of this zine.

Members of this apa are invited to join the Great March to Glory (not a religious occurrence or a real one; it is just a consideration which I think is similar to the Information Highway and surpasses it, being of the nature of an amalgamation of fantasy and science fiction and all this involves.



**PLATWELL**

## EDITORIAL



### What Rough Beast is into my Tater Patch?

I read in the newspapers that the apocalypse is at hand, but when I look around me, I don't see any sign of it. Perhaps it is hiding shyly around the corners of buildings which provide a place for it.

Through the ages, there have been intervals in the development of Western man when people swore that the apocalypse had arrived, or was to arrive at a certain named date, and it never did, and though there were at those times people running through the streets claiming that the Last Days were there, and they did have backing, or we would not have heard anything about these occurrences in our history books, nothing much came of it—people were just out dressed in the clothing of their time, expressing a panic about one thing or another, but these died out, leaving no appreciable difference in the manner of living of those times. A recent example of the kind of thing that was motivating these disturbances is Orson Welle's radio broadcast of WAR OF THE WORLDS, which raised a panic in I believe what is called the New England states, but didn't cause any very great furor on a wider scale than that. People point out that the Kennedy assassination might be a sign of the apocalypse, well, I was in the army in Germany at that time, and we just sat around drinking cognac and being "blind" to it, as it was demoralizing to hear such a thing. Presidents had been assassinated before and it was not all new a thing; a bullet brought down Mahatma Gandhi and life in the world went on, although it was quite a disturbance; such an estimable person as that should not have been shot. William Butler Yeats wrote "the best lose all conviction while the worst are full of passionate intensity," well, I haven't seen things as happening in quite that way. Perhaps we should shuck off any gloom and doom that we have heard about.

## MAILING COMMENTS



**Jefferson Swycaffer:** Sanchez is really getting around with his art—and I think he may be rated as active. It's up to fanzine standards of yore, and some of it might be considered professional. He might be able to make it with a cover for F&SF. I have a professional-looking cover by him coming up on the forthcoming IONISPHERE.

Those overseas wars produce a backup which affects our culture here in our own country.

Seems like you find more than a little fun in Ahrvid's mailings.

Ignoring what others say doesn't seem really compatible with nature.

I still don't look upon the Eastern countries as being in the East, unless you turn the map upside down.

Notably, religion has things that are not tolerated by the tenets of civilization (which is preferential to science rather than magic). Billy Graham pointed this out in one of his speeches.

**Ahrvid Engholm:** I can't look over war reports without considering the number of bodies it leaves around. It almost renders the goals of warfare voided on both sides.

It doesn't seem like countries should have colonies in other countries. This universalizes war.

**Kevin Trainor:** Wooster seemed good at survival; it's odd to hear that he was killed by an automobile while walking.

I'm wondering if you might do a scientific article on Area 51, since you're so close to it.

If a pipeline isn't maintained, it explodes?

Have you been following Analog to see what the more recent editors have been doing?

That's right. Ghu and Roscoe are unbeatable.



**George Phillies:** Looking at Heath Row's fanzine reviews for APA-L, I thought he might serve as an excellent reviewer where the N3F is needing reviews.

**Heath Row:** I don't regard the Earth as being hollow so it detracts wholly from my enjoyment of either Verne's book or the movies to be told that it is.

Endings of fandoms aren't declared; new fandoms don't supplant earlier ones. Ninth fandom may not be the latest fandom but it's still good and I haven't ever seen a serious announcement of a new fandom since Ninth, which was organized by Colin Cameron and Vowen Clarke. Ninth Fandom was organized to perpetuate fandom if a disaster wiped it out, and a disaster practically has done that. So I've been calling attention to Ninth Fandom. It's represented by a Facebook page called NINTH FANDOM. Ninth Fandom is progressive and keeps its eye (it has one) on the future, and it also does its best to preserve the fandom of the past. Nobody's tried to get Joe Siclari to join Ninth Fandom.

The earliest issues of Pablo Lennis have been found by someone and are now archived on the net by the Fanac Project. They're welcome to do the same with the more recent issues.

**Samuel Lubell:** Royalty stories bore me; I wonder why American newspapers continue to do news items about them.

The sites proposed for conventions have become odious.

It seems strange to see people shooting each other.

Well, of course a world viewpoint is nice to have. There are worldwide problems—though being worldwide views might be one of the problems involved.

Well, folks, that's it for this issue.

Ye Murthered  
Master Mage 263+

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## N3F

The Laureate Awards for 2022 Work are approaching. Categories last year began with

Best Novel (over 100,000 words)  
Best Shorter Work (under 100,000 words) or  
Anthology  
Best Fan Writer  
Best Fan Artist  
Best Fan Editor  
Best Non-N3F Fan Publication (electronic publication is allowed)  
Best N3F Fanzine  
Best Live-Action Television Show, Film, or Video  
Best Animation (anime/cartoon)  
Best Manga/Comic Book/Graphic Novel  
Best Book Editor  
Best Pro Artist, cover or otherwise  
Best Literary-Critical or Historical Work

and advanced from there. We now have separate manga and comic nominations.

We also need more membership recruitment.

## Comments

A fine cover from Public Domain Space images.

Archive Midwinter — Your comments aer of interest. A friend built one of Campbell's psionic analyzers, and reported that it did not work. The output surface did not change its surface texture.

Intermission127 — Interesting bit on the Old Swedish Village. Once upon a time, there was a novel by iirc Blish in which the hero, asked to say which city he represented, answered 'What city has two names, twice' because New York, New York was unique. However, it turns out that New York is also a village in Ukraine.

Trips to Mars face several challenges, notably cosmic ray damage. The traditional Hohman minimum-energy trajectory, a very long trip, may be impractical, since there is this preference for the astronauts to be alive on arrival. Your recounting of 1970s plans is interesting for what did not happen.

The 18th century SF sort of fanzine was particularly interesting, though as a mode of travel flying on the back of an eagle looks disadvantageous even relative to modern air travel.

Gernsback, in addition to *Amazing Stories*, did the first American television broadcast, in 1923. The technology was a bit limited in its capabilities. His moon rocket impossibility report was based on control problems; the design came within a factor of two of the weight of a Saturn V.

*Esmeralda County Line — Edison's Conquest of Mars* is a period piece by Serviss. There was a version published as chapters in the back of another set of SF novels, I think the English language translations of Perry Rhodan, but the translator gutted the tale, leaving out considerable parts of it. I read the hardback, which was published in the 40s or early 50s by a western Pennsylvania Fan group, not sure which one.

Someplace there is another Russian spy series, with the CIA as villains, including the hot babe spy chief who alternatively slept her way up the promotion ladder or poisoned her superior to get the job. I thought the title was *Tass is Authorized to Report*, but I have since seen a sketch of the plot of that one, and they are not I think the same works.

Best of luck with your convention. My interest in travelling that far is a bit limited, since I have very much tired of flying.

Intermission 128: Your ChatGPT output is amazing, namely it is convincing total nonsense. It does get a very small number of facts right, perhaps by accident. The UFO Sweden film sounds amusing.

Synergy 43: You come up with the most wonderful artwork. Sympathies on the computer issues. We shall see how the computer does.

Snow Poster Township: I ahd somewhat not been

aware that Barbara Hambly wrote some number of Startrek novels. I was introduced to her writing via the Darwath novels. Your reviews will dually be appreciated. Thanks for the comments on my zine.

Samizdat 17 Thank you for the short bio of Doris Piserchia. For all that I have read two SF novels in the past two days, I rarely do a lot of fiction reading. I am short of time. I agree with your impression that sales of the 1632 series were quite good.

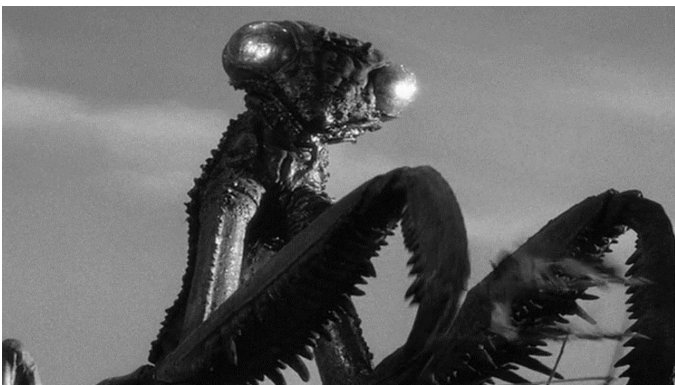
‘teaching critical race theory...’ It depends. Are grade schoolers to mathematics. Well, they are taught addition. But mathematics, stacks and sheafs and Lie groups and cohomologies, those topics are taught at the advanced university level. So grade schoolers are and for sure are not taught mathematics, and the same appears to be true of critical race theory.

Interesting of things that you have read, watched,...

And Now For Something Complete Different

SF Films in which NORAD and the Air Force are lead participants.

How can I nto start with The Deadly Mantis, an insect frozen in ice for 60 million years until in comes back to life, someplace near the North Pole. It’s a bit bigger than the mantis whose photos I showed, namely it is over a hundred feet long and ways a significant number of tons.



So here it is. It attacks an eskimo village, destroys a DEW line weather station, attacks a DC-3 (crunchy on the outside, not much to eat on the inside) and then attacks a significant arctic base.

At first you do not see the creature. The heroes



find wreckage, but no explanation of what caused the wreck.



They do find mysterious long indentations in the ground, a motif repeated in The Deadly Claw. The film could have extended the ‘what is this’ period to good effect.



Finally the good guys get a good look at it. Perhaps a batter look than some fo them wanted.

Then it flies south. Those smoke trails are air-to-air



rockets, trying to shoot the creature down. Period air-to-air rockets left something to be desired in terms of effectiveness, namely they are about as effective against the mantis as they were during the real-world Battle of Palmdale.

The creature finally has a midair collision with a jet fighter, is mortally wounded, takes shelter in the Holland (I think) tunnel, and is killed with poison gas.

Now a less well know film: The Lost Missile.



The first effort to shoot it down is Russian — you can hear the Russian-language countdown in the background. The object is launched into powered orbit above the earth, five miles up, radiating million degree heat that destroys everything in its path in a strip ten miles wide. A series of efforts are made to shoot it down, all unsuccessful. The gunfire, missiles, and at first whole fighter aircraft are vaporized before doing any damage. At the press briefing, a reporter asks an intelligent question, namely whether the propulsion is atomic or hydrogen. ‘We think hydrogen’.

There are several romantic threads. The wife of one of the scientists gives birth in a bomb shelter while he is rushing to the scene.

In the end, our air defenses do stop the missile. The hero gives his life by exposing himself to ‘deadly Plutonium rays’ in order to load the experimental Jove antimissile rocket (hint: Nike Zeus) with the plutonium for its thermonuclear warhead. The mysterious missile is destroyed over Lake Champlain.



## Snow Poster Township #9

March 14, 2023

*Snow Poster Township* is an apazine published by Heath Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA; kalel@well.com; 718-755-9840 mobile; 323-916-0367 fax. Banner artwork by Henry Chamberlain. *Snow Poster Township* is prepared for contributors to N'APA, members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, and select others. (Previously, it was prepared for FAPA. My previous N'APA apazine was titled *Snow Poster City*, and this effectively combines both.) A recent copy can be requested for the Usual. A member of the Fan Writers of America. This is a Karma Lapel publication.

### N3F Tape and Video Bureaus Report

I recently hosted two online events on behalf of the N3F Tape and Video bureaus. March 3, the Video Bureau held an online screening of nine science-fictional animated shorts, offering a program of about an hour in duration.

The short animations included *Short Fuse*, a project from Singapore that focuses on a post-apocalyptic scavenger in the year 2160—and his relationship with a discarded robot; *The Shift*, a dystopian story by Johan Samuelsson about artificial intelligence, robots that kidnap human infants, and the quest for creativity; Lucas Martell's cli-fi item *The OceanMaker*, which concentrates on cloud seeding; and the dramatically narrated *Laniakea* by Dima Taran, a piece considering the discovery of an alien monolith, a message, a portal, and the home planet of the builders.

The program also featured *Tribe: The Future of Human*, which considers whether humanity will be taken over by technology—or use it as a tool; *Urbance*, a gritty piece reminiscent of the Pander Brothers investigating the future risks of physical

intimacy; *Azarkant*, Andrey Klimov's 2013 story about exploring an abandoned spacecraft; *Echoes*, Martial Coulon's meditation on the search for silence; and Sava Zivkovic's mysterious *Freight*.

You can watch the program yourself at <https://tinyurl.com/N3F-20230303> given interest, time, and Internet access.

March 11, Neffers gathered with the bureau to watch the 1925 silent movie *The Lost World*. Originally premiering Feb. 2 98 years ago, the film is approaching its centennial. Based on a 1912 novel by Arthur Conan Doyle, the movie tells the tale of a professor's journey to a prehistoric land. Wallace Beery stars as Professor Challenger, and the film showcases stop-motion special effects by Willis O'Brien. A sound remake of *The Lost World* actually turned into the 1933 *King Kong*, which also features O'Brien's work.

With standing schedules of events on the first Friday, second Saturday, and third Thursday of every month, the next event held by the N3F Tape Bureau is scheduled for March 16. We'll share two episodes of *Dimension X*. "First Contact" first aired Sept. 8, 1951, and "Nightfall" originally broadcast Sept. 29, 1951.

Neffers can check out the events on the N3F's *Facebook* group, as well as in the February issue of *The National Fantasy Fan*. Vol. 82 #2 includes scheduled events from the two bureaus through September.

### From the Reading Pile: A Book Review

*Singer Distance* by Ethan Chatagnier (Tin House, 2022)

While I continue to own a sizable home library, some of it in storage and not all of it yet cataloged, I recently returned to the public library to see if I could read down the shelves like I initially did as a youth. Turns out that I can! The Los Angeles County Library branch near our home labels fantasy, mystery, and sf books with little colored decals on the spines. For example, Sci-Fi is blue, and Mystery is red. So you can scan down the shelves in the fiction section—or on the new arrivals shelves—for titles of possible interest.

In recent weeks, I've read two excellent books I would not have encountered or sought out otherwise: Alex Smith's collection *Ark dust (Faculae & Filigree #19)* and this novel. Published by Tin House, whose little magazine by that title ceased publication after 20 years in 2019, Ethan Chatagnier's *Singer Distance* is decidedly literary fiction that's also science fiction—rather than straightforward genre sf. And it's an excellent book.

Inspired by Ken Kalfus's 2013 alternate history *Equilateral*, Chatagnier's novel is a consideration of theoretical mathematics in the 1960s, intelligent life on Mars, interplanetary communication, and the impact of all of the above on fellow students, friends, lovers, and family members.

The Martians play a muted role in the book, communicating via math sent as signals between the surfaces of the two planets—literally spelled out in agricultural fields and other locations with fire or luminescent paint. A group of students led by a brilliant young woman ends up attracting the Martians' attention, which leads to the students' successes, as well as failures, as academics and people.

The role of the radio scientist Lucas Holladay as a force for popularizing math and science is thoroughly enjoyable, and the relationships between Crystal Singer and the narrator, Rick Hayworth, as well as one particular family member, are richly warm and affectionate. Chatagnier's characters feel fully developed and very human.

The science is interesting, too: Relative space and time based on your point of view, translating eventually into music.

### Comments on N'APA #262

In *Archive Midwinter*, Jefferson P. Swycaffer asked Kevin Trainor Jr. about Dashiell Hammett's character the Continental Op. I haven't read those stories myself and look forward to learning more. You also mentioned the 50th anniversary of your college sf club. Did you go to the University of California San Diego—and were you a member of Darkstar? If so, I'd love to learn more about the group. What did you do while a student? What was the anniversary party like? While I haven't cataloged Poul Anderson's *A Knight of Ghosts and Shadows* in my home library, I do have a copy of *Flandry of Terra*, which I'll turn to in the near future.

I previously commented on Ahrvid Engholm's *Intermission* #127 in *The Explosion Containment Umbrella* #5: "In *Intermission* #127, ... Engholm detailed the Swedish influence on the formation of Ukraine and eventually Russia, as well as Sweden's early colonies. I enjoyed the commentary on local literary events, including the work of space poet Harry Martinson and Kjell Genberg, whose *The Avenger from Tellus* sounds intriguing but is unavailable in English, alas. I quite like the idea of reworking fiction into genre fiction—or fiction from one genre into another. Recent viewing of *The Mandalorian* and *The Book of Boba Fett* (*Telegraphs & Tar Pits* #44)

reminded me how well sf and westerns align. The concept brings to mind sf-tinged mystery novels—or mystery-tinged sf novels—such as Isaac Asimov's *The Caves of Steel* and *The Naked Sun*, perhaps even Sharyn McCrumb's *Bimbos of the Death Sun* (though that's more a fannish novel, if I remember accurately). And while I haven't read Joyce and Jim Lavene's Renaissance Faire mystery series yet—with titles such as *Wicked Weaves* and *Ghastly Glass*—they seem adjacent to fandom. Of course, there's also the whole urban fantasy subgenre, which occasionally attempts to bridge noir sensibilities with the fantastic.

"Regardless, all of that strays somewhat from Genberg's reworking of a western into an sf novel. Perhaps dissimilar from last mailing's comments on Harlan Ellison's idea of 'literary feedback' (*Faculae & Filigree* #15) is the authorial practice of textual recombination and intertextual reference—within one's own output. I reworked a piece of J.R.R. Tolkien fanfiction to be more of a straightforward fantasy piece in order to submit it to a couple of writing contests; we'll see if they still smell too strongly of Tolkien. Different stories? Same story, different staging? That feels somewhat different from Henry Grynnsen's expansion on 'literary feedback' that results in the same story or stories being written and rewritten again over time by the same author, but it might be the same. Similarly, one can write a number of short stories over time and fix them up into a novel—with the interconnected stories as chapters. Asimov's *Foundation* is a fine example of this. (I adore fix-ups.)

"Thank you, also, for bringing Lina Rydén Reynolds and Harry Martinson to mind. As a relatively new member of the Science Fiction & Fantasy Poetry Association (<http://www.sfpoetry.com>), I'm glad to say that the organization offers 'overseas' memberships, so such poets in Sweden can consider participating. I recently met the association's con coordinator, who helps connect member poets with local conventions for readings and other opportunities. I also enjoyed the History Corner content on Thomas Edison's juvenile journalism, as well as *The Wonderful Magazine*, which seems similar to *Fate* or *Nexus* magazines.

"As I said in a previous ish, your fanzine length and page counts have grown on me, and *Intermission* is no longer as daunting as it once was to this reader. In the shared honor of Will Mayo, I'll don my propeller beanie for the remainder of this ish's writing. I think you're right that "'classic' fandom now consists of people around 80-90 years old," and it behooves us to 'at least save the history of fandom, the example it has for the surrounding mundane world,

and that will maybe keep just a few fen interested enough to keep a small flickering flame burning.’ We rank among those few fen, for sure. RAE your remaining comments!”

In *Esmeralda County Line #2*, **Kevin Trainor Jr.** remarked on the video game *Civilization: Beyond Earth*, the death of Martin Morse Wooster, and the music of Klaus Schulze. As my 50th birthday approached late last month, I treated myself to several new video games for the Nintendo Switch but haven’t taken the time to explore them deeply. Instead, I’ve been playing *Dungeons & Dragons* by myself in various guises (*D&D*, *Advanced D&D*, and *Tiny Dungeon* most recently). I even ran a couple of games at a local roleplaying game convention last month. (*Emulators & Engines #3*)

I appreciated your mention of *PS* magazine, the preventive maintenance monthly. It featured the work of Will Eisner (as I’m sure you know), whose birth anniversary was March 6. I’ve been watching *Space: 1999* in recent months (*Telegraphs & Tar Pits #46*), and I would disagree that it’s epically awful; you might not like it, however. *Seventeen Moments Of Spring* sounds wonderful; I’ll seek it out.

My remarks on *Intermission #128* by **Ahrvid Engholm** previously appeared in *The Explosion Containment Umbrella #6*: “Engholm opened with his traditional seasonal short story, this year’s titled ‘A Day in the Life of Vladimir Penisovich.’ How long has that been a tradition? It’s my first, and the thinly veiled political satire was delightful. Such a rollicking ride along with a world leader on the verge of an emotional, mental, and physical breakdown.

“Your invocation of Monty Python reminded me of the recent brouhaha around Chicon 8 and its public apology for using the traditional phrase ‘The Fannish Inquisition.’ I’m sure the staff meant well, and that they were assuaging someone who’d taken and expressed offense, but it smacks of lacking a sense of humor to me. It seems quite fannish to quote and paraphrase Monty Python, it seems fannish to maintain con-running traditions, and it makes me a little sad that the joy might have been sucked out of something. Of course, I say that as someone who hasn’t been affected by the Spanish Inquisition, and who doesn’t take offense, so it’s not for me to second guess a person or group of people who might. But a public statement of complaint might have landed more firmly than this retroactive apology. (And you invoke Monty Python again at 5 p.m.!)

“I also enjoyed your experiments with WriterGPT. The results make me wonder what texts were used as training sets. One could easily imagine using the collected works of Fredric Brown to train such an AI

to write a story in the style of Brown. He’s one of my favorite writers, so the work he left behind might be sufficient for this reader. Neither the Brown nor H.P. Lovecraft results read like their work, though. It’s good to know we can keep writing for a while longer.

“Thank you for your reportage on UFO enthusiasm in Sweden. While I’ve been enjoying watching and reading *Resident Alien* in recent weeks (*Telegraphs & Tar Pits #49-50*), it wasn’t until Season 1, Episode 9, ‘Welcome Aliens’ when characters attend a UFO convention that my interest in the show ranged beyond the comic book. The boom in the 1950s and its resultant periodicals, organizations, and books remain intriguing, as does the energy of conspiracy fandom generally. History Corner, as always, was awesome, especially the focus on the Battle Creek, Mich., slan shack.

“Your comment to Henry about trams reminded me of another highlight of our recent trip to Portugal: The funicular at Bom Jesus do Monte outside Braga. Construction of the funicular began in 1880 to replace horsecars that previously ventured to the shrine. The funicular runs along standard-gauge tracks and cables, fueled by water. In fact, it’s the oldest funicular in the world that utilizes water counterbalancing. Water is loaded into the car at the top of the hill to weigh it down to descend to the bottom while pulling an empty car to the top. At the bottom, the car is drained while the car at the top is filled, and the process continues.”

**John Thiel’s** *Synergy #43* shared some frustrating stories of difficulties with a new laptop. I, myself, recently procured a new laptop, so I can commiserate with getting used to a new machine. I hope your technical frustrations lessen; your apazine indicates that things might be going more smoothly than they did initially.

Your remark “[T]here’s always something bad happening in Russia. But who are we to complain?” made me think, “There’s always something bad happening somewhere.” Truth is, there’s also always something good happening somewhere. May the good outweigh and outlast the bad.

I RAE **George Phillis’s** *Ye Murthered Master Mage #262*. I had been unaware of AHKS!

And in *Samizdat #17*, **Samuel Lubell** mentioned Cyril M. Kornbluth’s short story, “The Marching Morons.” I recently read the story (*Telegraphs & Tar Pits #53*) and enjoyed it thoroughly. I appreciated your mention of Doris Piserchia and will look for her books! Your description of *Asimov’s* made me chuckle: “While it has few stories I would nominate for the Hugos, it has fewer stories I hate.”



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## ...Comments on N'APA 262

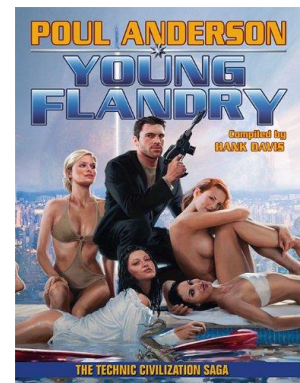
Archive Midwinter - The Baltimore Science Fiction Society recently had its 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. I'm about ready to do a re-read of Poul Anderson. It's been awhile.

Intermission #127 - As always a fascinating look at the European side of the pond. I liked your story about the Swedish-Ukraine connection. I like the idea of young Edison as a fanzine producer. Your description of *The Wonderful Magazine* and *Marvellous Chronicle* sounds like *The Weekly World News* and similar tabloids of today. I strongly disagree that minorities don't have anything new and different to say. People from different backgrounds are going

to produce different work. I'm sure you've seen that Swedish writers do not write the same things in the same

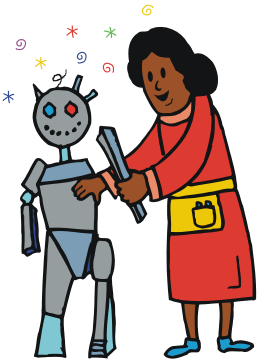
way as do American writers. The same is true with writers of different ethnicities and backgrounds. I think it is great that science fiction is becoming more diverse. I quite agree that we need more encouragement of science in the schools and society. If we spent half the attention to science as we do sports, we would have a Mars colony by now. I strongly disagree with your statement that the opening of a story should be tell don't show. In the real world no one describes how an electric light works when we flip the switch nor gives the history of the automobile when we step into a car, a story should be the same way without the 1950s awkwardness of saying "As you know Bob..."

Esmeralda County Line #2 - I haven't been to PRSFS lately, but will miss Martin too. I haven't tried *Analog* lately, but if it has moved away from engineering porn, I'll have to give it another look. I subscribe to *Asimov's* and *Fantasy & SF*. You are misinterpreting me if you think I'm against learning of any sort, let alone learning about other countries. I have a Master's in History and am a former Social Studies teacher. The statement against learning about other countries was by John Thiel in response to my statement in Ish 15 that "Increasing one's first-hand knowledge of other cultures seems to me to be a very good thing (and a regret of my own college experience is that I never participated in a semester abroad program)." A lot of military SF of the David Weber type books focus on the action and the explosions rather than the psychological effects of war on the characters. I don't object to marketing Anderson's Flandery novels to the James Bond audience. I object to the





embarrassingly sexist covers that Baen produced. Starting a new con is a lot of work, especially right now with attendance at even long-running cons still lower than pre-Covid.



Intermission #128 – A big problem with AI-written material, as you indicate, is that it gets the details wrong. The AI has no judgment and accepts all sources as equally valid. This should be fixable with a way to determine reliability. I didn't know about the Chile and Ecuador War of the World radio hoaxes. After what happened in America, they should have known some people would believe it and inserted notices about this being fiction.

Synergy 43 – We (meaning the USA) have a lot we can use to support Ukraine. I cannot see the U.S. or NATO sending troops now, but we certainly are sending them military equipment, as we should.

Ye Murdered 262 – Walter Jon Williams is well worth reading. You may find his Dread Empire's Fall series the most approachable.

Snow Poster Township #8 – Barbara Hambly is well worth reading although I've not read her Trek books. Everyone calls me "Sam" both at work and in fandom. I welcome your joining me with your own list of projects. I hope you make more progress than I have. I'm not surprised that men tend to be more overconfident than are women.

### ...Compton Crook Finalists

I run the contest for the Compton Crook Award for best debut SF, Fantasy, or Horror novel presented by the Baltimore Science Fiction Society (BSFS). BSFS has been doing this since 1983. The finalists for this year are:

- Bluebird by Ciel Pierlot;
- Daughter of the Moon Goddess by Sue Lynn Tan;
- Obsidian by Sarah J. Daley;
- The Ballad of Perilous Graves by Alex Jennings;
- The Bone Orchard by Sara Mueller; and
- The Genesis of Misery by Neon Yang.

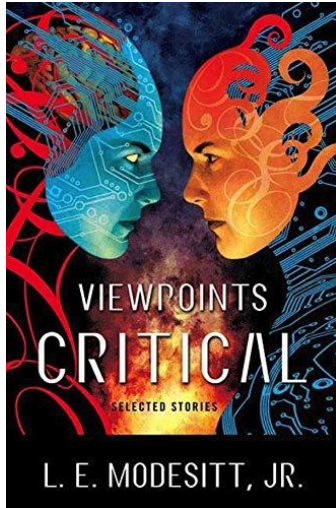


The winner will be announced in April and sent to File770 and Locus.

### ...Author Spotlight: L. E. (Leland Exton) Modesitt Jr

L.E. Modesitt is a very popular and prolific author, with over 75 novels. He is best known for his *Saga of Recluse* fantasy series which has 23 books (including one that gives a science fiction origin to this fantasy world). His *Imager Portfolio* series has 12 books, the *Corean Chronicles* has eight, the *Spellsong Cycle* has five, and his new series the *Grand Illusion* only has three (but growing).

In addition to fantasy he also writes science fiction. He has a deal with his publisher that if they want his fantasy, they have to publish the occasional science fiction book. His SF work includes *The Ecolitan Matter* (4 books), *Ghosts of Columbia* (4 books) the Forever Hero (3 books), and *Timegod's World* (2 books) as well as many standalones. His first publication, the short story "The Great American Economy" was published in *Analog* in 1973. His first novel, *The Fires of Paratime* (which was revised into *The Timegod*) was published in 1982.



Modesitt had a career in the Navy and then in government as legislative director and staff director for Congresspeople in D.C. He also served as head of Legislation and Congressional Relations at the U.S. EPA. He went to his first convention, a Balticon, at age 42. He moved to New Hampshire in 1989 and Utah in 1993.

His writing is often philosophical, with his characters having to study the metaphysics of magic and the philosophy of how to use their powers. While many authors have wars between Order and Chaos, Modesitt's Recluse series links order with creation and chaos with destruction, but shows how order powers can still cause great devastation even though such use has effects on the magic user. As a former economist, he puts more thought into making his world real than do most fantasy writers.

Readers new to Modesitt can get a taste through his story collection *Viewpoints Critical*. Or, they could start with *The Magic of Recluse* or *Imager* to start one of his fantasy series. Or for his science fiction, read *The*

*Forever Hero*, or *Timegods' World*.

### ...Update on Projects

**Project Netflix/Streaming:** I watched *A Hard Day's Night* - This movie starred the Beatles playing a fictionalized of themselves rehearsing and then playing a concert with various adventures getting to the concert. It is difficult to see what this was meant to be since it was part concert film, part light comedy. The music was good but the rest didn't do anything for me.

*Air Force One* - This Harrison Ford vehicle has terrorists take over the President's Plane and Ford as the President plays one-man hero. Realism wasn't a concern here, although they gave the President a military background as a way of explaining his fighting skill. Still, in the real world, the Secret Service would insist on protecting the President, even if he would want to sacrifice himself for his wife and child. It was fun watching it but I had to ignore the unrealistic elements.

*Breakfast at Tiffany's* - This is a classic that I've never seen. It is basically a romance between a party girl and an author with writer's block (who survives by being a kept man for a married interior decorator) who both live in the same building. My big problem is Holly Golightly is so quirky that I cannot see how she survives without a keeper, even if she can get would-be suitors to give her powder room money.

*Angels and Demons* - This thriller is based on the Dan Brown novel. Frankly, I think Dan Brown's books work better as movies than they do books. This one has symbolist Robert Langdon summoned to the Vatican to decipher clues to the location of an antimatter time bomb planted by the Illuminati. The suspense works well and there is a nice twist near the end that makes some of the less believable elements more plausible. This too is a movie best watched with the brain switched off.



*WandaVision*-This Disney+ mini-series based on the movie Avengers characters Vision and the Scarlett Witch starts out with spoofs of situational comedies of different eras, starting with black and white episodes. Gradually, a plot emerges and the later episodes drop the sitcom framework. This is well worth watching as a portrait of obsession and madness and what happens if one of Earth's protectors goes off the bend. I've also started watching episodes of the *Mandalorian* (Star Wars), *Hawkeye* (Marvel), and *Falcon & the Winter Soldier*, but haven't finished those.

**Project Classics** - I've finished Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield*. This is Dickens' favorite book. I started this in July 2022 so it's taken me a while. It starts off very slowly with David Copperfield being rather naïve and Dickens shows how a writer can use a narrator to tell things to the audience that the

character himself doesn't see. David is not the most interesting character in the book, at least he doesn't have the most interesting storyline. He basically gets educated, gets a job, falls in love with a very spoiled daughter of a rich man, marries her only to learn that she doesn't know how to keep house or do anything useful (in fact insists on being called a child-wife), becomes an author, is really sad when she dies after a couple of years of marriage, and finally marries the best person in the book. What held my interest more was some of the other characters in the book, especially the villainous Uriah Heep who pretends to be humble while exploiting others' weaknesses for his own benefit, David's false friend who runs off with the pretty girl from David's nursemaid's family, and Mr. Micawber who is convinced that the world should reward his genius.



**Project History** - I was disappointed with *With Malice Toward Some: Treason and Loyalty in the Civil War Era* by William A. Blair. There's lots of research here, but the author never develops the incidents into any sort of thesis. There's no real moral conclusion on whether the North was justified in regarding some Southern supporters as traitors, nor does he explain why the government allowed so many Southern leaders to go unpunished. *Principles for Dealing with The Changing World Order* by Ray Dalio is much better. It is a book that tries to distill lessons from history to form cyclical economic models that can be used to understand the present and make predictions for the future. It describes how a country rises to become an economic power through hard work and make its currency the world standard. This leads to peace and prosperity. But then, once rich, the people are unwilling to work as hard and the country starts borrowing money and inflating its currency to cover its debt. This leads to disruptions and revolutions/violence as another country becomes the new rising power and defeats militarily and/or economically the now declining former power.

**Project Trek** - No progress

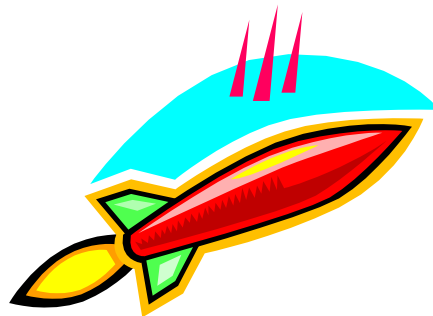
**Project Shakespeare**-I really need to get this going again.

**Project Activities** - I went to Boskone in February. I had a lot of fun. Aside from people wearing masks in the panel rooms it felt like a pre-Covid convention.

**Project Cleanup** - No progress

**Project Balticon** - I have three of my four main guests.

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Esmeralda County Line #3  
January-February 2023  
A zine for N<sup>o</sup>APA 263

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### **Introductory Natter**

Well, it's been a busy couple of months. January wasn't too busy since most people didn't have their documents yet, but at the end of the month I got called up to help out in the Reno tax mines. It wasn't quite as busy (for me) as it was last year; since we had more customer service people and a couple of tax pro assistants to help, I was only scheduled for seven hours a day (plus an hour for lunch) but I was working seven days a week, and that wears on you a bit. I didn't know until my last day of work whether they were going to extend my stay through the 22<sup>nd</sup>, but no – I was done on the 16<sup>th</sup> and promptly hit the road for Provo and Life, The Universe, & Everything, where I intended to promote Son of Silvercon and maybe see some Utah authors I knew.

Eight long hours later I arrived at the Provo Ramada, where I set up my nose hose and promptly went to sleep. After a decent breakfast at the nearby Village Inn, I picked up my flyers at the FedEx, found some parking on the south side of the Marriott, and went about the business of the day – picking up my badge, looking to see if anyone I knew was doing panels (they weren't), dropping off most of the flyers on the freebie table, inviting a couple of book dealers to come down for Son of Silvercon, picking up copies of Consider Phlebas and Silverlock (trade paperbacks!) for \$5 each, and leaving well before my two hours of parking were up.

Since there was no programming on Saturday I wanted to stick around for, and hotel rooms in Reno on Saturday night were a tad spendy, I decided to stop halfway in Elko, where there was a really nice Ramada downtown with a well-regarded Basque restaurant kitty-corner from it. Unfortunately for my palate, I was dog-tired after four hours on the road, and barely made it downstairs to the hotel grill before it closed, but at least the food was good old-fashioned diner fare.

Made it back to the office in Reno before they closed, which allowed me to pick up the monitor I needed for the home office and a Klaus Schulze triple-CD set that had been forwarded from Tonopah. Unfortunately this four-hour drive was very bit as exhausting as the previous day's run to Elko, so I opened up Priceline, found a cheap Days Inn in Carson City, and resigned myself to not getting home until Monday, which is in fact what happened.

A few days later I was on the road again, this time to Las Vegas, because I had a flight to catch – I was headed for Nashville for one of Mike Williamson's Emergency Holographic Conventions, this one being Confinement IV. I crashed overnight at my favorite Las Vegas hotel, the Stratosphere (I refuse to call it just the Strat, just as I refuse to call LAS anything but McCarran) but was kept from sleep by some jerk in the next room who apparently left the TV on to some setting that played 1:30 of some obnoxious rap song before stopping and replaying it. Gave up sleeping about 0200, wasted half an hour waiting for an Uber before giving up and driving to McCarran via the McD's on Paradise where I snagged a couple of Big Macs with a BOGO deal since it was too early for breakfast.

I slept most of the way to Nashville, so I was rested enough to rent some wheels – an excessively modern Ford Explorer which forced me to RTFM before I could figure out where the parking brake was and how to release it. It was far easier to sync my phone with the onboard stereo. Anyway, down I-40 East I went to Lebanon, making the obligatory stop at Waffle House for breakfast before checking in early at the Quality Inn.

Confinement is a fine little convention, full of authors and fellow veterans, and it is on the verge of outgrowing its oversized house party status and becoming something bigger, but in the meantime it still fits into the Quality Inn's one function room with the consuite across the hall in a converted hotel room with the toilet taped shut, the bathtub full of sodas & water on ice, and a good selection of munchies, including quite a few that didn't vex my pancreas. There were several good panels, a lot of good conversations in the consuite and elsewhere, and the Baen Roadshow with Toni Weisskopf herself; she had made the drive over the mountains from her North Carolina home to be with us, and we were suitably grateful.

All too soon it was time to take the Exploder back to the airport and sit around until it was time to fly back to Vegas. We got in around 0100 on Monday, and the Stratosphere was kind enough to let me have a late checkout so I didn't have to crawl out of my room and back into my car until after noon. Usually I hit the Walmart or Sam's Club in NW Vegas on my way home, but after all the traveling of the previous fortnight I just wanted to get food (at the Omelet House) gas, run the car through the carwash, and get my butt home. So I did.

## Comments On N'APA #262

### Archive Midwinter

(RYCTO Ahrvid) One of the things that depresses me about current fandom is that JWC Jr.'s memory gets shat on by both the left ("He was a misandrist FASCIST!") and the #PulpRev folks on the right who hold him responsible for killing off the pulp/sword & planet/adventure SF that was popular in the 1920s and early 30s in favor of "Popular Mechanics SF", or as the woketards call it, "competency porn".

(RYCTO me) It's good to be back. 🍷🍷 The Continental Op stories by Dashiell Hammett were the prototype for a lot of the hard-boiled noir detective tales that eventually got made into a whole slew of movies ranging from Hammett's own *The Maltese Falcon* to *Last Man Standing* with Bruce Willis. There's a collection of them on Amazon for the Kindle; IIRC it's 99 cents, which is an amazing deal. 🍷🍷 Thank you for the positive energy and good wishes regarding Son of Silvercon! Fission-chan is originally from a webcomic by the name of Quantum Festival, which can be found online at Webtoons.

(RYCTO John) I can't remember where I read this, but I recall a comment along the lines of "Science and religion cannot be in conflict, because Science is an ongoing investigation into Creation."

### Intermission #127

(natter) People forget that for about a century in the 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, Sweden was a major power in Europe, exerting quite a bit of that power on the Protestant side of the Thirty Years' War. Even after the disaster at Poltava, the Swedes held enclaves in what is now Germany up through the Seven Years War -or French & Indian War, as we call it here in los Estados Unidos. If the Swedes had managed to hold on to Wismar after 1903, that would make an interesting alternate history – in the tiny neutral enclave halfway between Lubeck and Rostock, what sort of espionage and weirdness might have eventuated? Not that I can see the Iron Chancellor letting you folks have it back. 🍷🍷 I was bemused to see a news article regarding the repatriation of Volga Germans from Russia to Germany. Apparently they were not integrating too well into German society after almost three centuries of life in Russia/USSR/Russia. 🍷🍷 "...atomic rockets (unpractical for several reasons)..." As I write this, the Engine Manufacturing & Disassembly (EMAD) building at the Nevada Security Site (f/k/a Nevada Test Site) is being demolished and the radioactive/chemically contaminated debris decontaminated before disposal. EMAD was where proof-of-concept testing was done for the NERVA nuclear rocket as well as Project PLUTO, which I thought was a product of Charles Stross' imagination. It wasn't.

(RYCTO Heath Row) I must agree with Heath here. There are many mansions in our ghetto, and not everything that comes to the screen (big or small) or is printed in the comics is copied from our profane texts. Indeed, one may justly accuse Hollywood of not having mined enough in the way of coolness from our rich veins of speculative literature.

(RYCTO Wm. McCabe) I have read a fair number of "Afrofuturist" stories, and the impression that I get from most of them is that they're trying too hard to reinvent the wheel, while pretending nobody else has made wheels before them. It's rather tedious, and much like other SF, 90% of it is crap.

(RYCTO me) I agree that fandom needs to be connected to fannish history, but disagree that it has to be solely about the Word. This attitude has done much to cripple fandom here in the U.S. since the time Star Trek fans were snubbed by "literary" fans in the 1960s, despite the fact that well-known authors (e.g. Harlan Ellison and James Blish) wrote for the show and worked on the novelizations. Not having learned from this mistake, litfans compounded the error by repeating it with Star Wars fans, followers of various SF TV shows, etc. with the end result that most regional media and anime conventions far outdraw their fannish counterparts. We would be far better off bringing those fans to literary fandom than continuing to look down our noses at them because they hang out on Facebook and Twitter instead of pubbing zines and showing up at SF club meetings which are more about socializing than SF.

(RYCTO Sam) Agree with you about "cultural appropriation". I pointed out to one woke young otaku that if he really believed that nonsense, he needed to take off his Final Fantasy costume, leave the convention, and go home to burn his anime & manga, because he was appropriating Japanese culture. He didn't take it very well, but he stopped talking that nonsense.

### Intermission #128

Mostly RAEBNC, except to note that some people are apparently taking advantage of ChatGPT to flood prozines with AI-written crap, to the point where editors are deploying AI to sniff out these AI-generated stories and closing their slushpiles until they can weed out the trash. I am reminded of a mobile game I play, Azur Lane, in which your shipgirls often find themselves having to blow away a lot of mass-produced crappy ships before engaging the main boss.

### Synergy #43

(natter) Sympathies on your computer difficulties. Having joined fandom only in the 1980s, after the advent of personal computers and word processing software, I don't know what it was like in the days of typewriters and mimeos. I did go through a phase where I lusted after an IBM Selectric, which was the typewriter I learned to type on (after a fashion) in the Army, but I realized that it would be a terrible waste of money.

(RYCTO me) Am I really putting more of myself in the current run of APAzines? I have lost the computer I was using in Las Vegas after several moves and the period of homelessness, so I can't really look to see, but I will take your word for it. 🍷🍷 The Metro cops\* down here are fairly tolerant of tourists and their antics, though I suppose if one spotted you wandering into the desert they might stop to make sure you're okay. The advantage of holding a convention in Las Vegas is that it is fairly inexpensive to get here by air, so if you live near a major city that would make it easier to get here. The disadvantage is that there seems to be a fairly small number of fans who actually live here, so staffing it might be an issue. Still, there are a number of comics and game shops, and a bar devoted to SF fandom in the Arts District, and not a year goes by without an anime and/or media convention in town, so I remain optimistic. If you decide it's too much for your budget this year, well, we offer supporting memberships and I encourage you to buy one. 🍷🍷 The Security Site is near Area 51, which is part of Nellis AFB's test and training range, but we don't have anything to do with them.

\*Las Vegas doesn't have a city police force; the Metro cops cover all of Clark County except for Henderson and North Las Vegas, which have their own municipal police departments. You can usually find most of them on Fremont Street and the Strip on the evenings & weekends.

### **Ye Murdered Master Mage**

(natter) Volunteers are always hard to come by, and competent volunteers even harder.

(RYCTO Ahrvid) Given the quality of product turned out by our current journalism school graduates, I would wager any coverage of the Swedish elections was written by someone who couldn't tell "...whether th' Filppines waz islands or canned fruit," to quote the memorable Mr. Dooley.

(RYCTO me) Thank you for the warm welcome, and I shall do my best to stick around. Perhaps if I am ever in Massachusetts we can indulge in a suitable beer & pretzels game some evening. 🍷🍷 I am bemused that the AHIKS has outlasted its parent. As far as I know, there is no comparable club for fans of GDW and SPI games, though I imagine they too are welcome in the AHIKS these days. 🍷🍷 I am glad you like the mug. 🍷🍷 Isn't it interesting that in order to find SF or fantasy that sees religion positively, we need to turn to Arkhaven or independent writers?

### **Snow Poster Township**

(reviews) I'd heard of Odd Bodkins but have never seen any of the strips. I had thought it was something from back in the days of the Yellow Kid.

(RYCTO me) Last I heard, StippleAPA's OOK does in fact agent, but I haven't had the money in quite a while. We'll see how things go after tax season, when I'll have more time on my hands. 🍷🍷 Being homeless was not as bad as it could have been; there are a number of programs accessible through the Veterans Administration that help homeless veterans, and I was able to make use of those to stay off the street, find temporary housing, and then move into permanent housing here in Tonopah. As Bill James once said about being poor in America, it's more annoying than anything else. 🍷🍷 My previous zine here was "The Silver State Age" and it just seemed appropriate to change titles since I don't know where I left off with the old zine. 🍷🍷 Somewhere in the bowels of my LiveJournal/Dreamwidth there is a post on "Cosplay Is Not Consent", which covered the problems that were (and apparently still are) ongoing at conventions regarding peoples' inability to keep their hands to themselves. As for cosplayers providing people fewer places to put their hands, this sounds a little too close to "She was asking for it, dressed like that!" for my comfort. Anime Detour solved the problem by making sure everyone knew we were a PG-13 convention and that "no costume was no costume" (i.e. no nudity or body paint only costumes) and coming down hard on people whose parents hadn't brought them up right. 🍷🍷 You are of course correct that everybody in a conversation has to be up to speed on the various subgenres being discussed, or at least willing to learn. 🍷🍷

Well, the problems between Minicon and MNSTF got resolved some years ago, though not in the way MNSTF expected. What I found interesting was that Boston and DC had similar issues with Disclave and Boskone, and my friend the late Richard Butler was of the opinion that this was a common problem in fandom at that time, though BSFS and Balticon seem to have dodged the bullet. Perhaps Sam Lubell would have more insight on that. I do know that there are some fans who seem to enjoy conrunning more than consuming SF or other fanac. 🍷🍷 I'll have to touch base with Wesley. 🍷🍷 Happy wife, happy life, so by all means enjoy your anniversary! Son of Silvercon does in fact offer supporting memberships, and we may not stay on that weekend in September. We'll see how things go this year and what the general sense of the members is as far as when we should do Son of Silvercon II, Bride of the Son of Silvercon, or whatever the heck we decide to call the next one.

(RYCTO Ahrvid) "A Streetcar Named Mobius" is indeed an excellent story.

(RYCTO John) I have no idea what the various fandoms after First Fandom are, and am uncertain where the breakpoints are.

(RYCTO Sam) Be careful you don't get burned out staffing too many cons. I made the mistake of being senior staff for Anime Detour and Convergence in 2006, and realized too late that I was not healthy enough to do so. It's a wonder I didn't fall victim to one of the infections that seemed to be plaguing me on a quarterly basis. 🍷🍷 You can land an airplane once, just as you can airdrop a tank once. The pertinent questions are: can you walk away afterward, and is the thing usable after you land/drop it?

### Samizdat #17

(RYCTO Ahrvid) We sometimes forget that for most of humanity's history we were ruled by various kings and other nobility, so it's not too surprising that one of the persistent tropes in fantasy is the restoration of the true king – as recently as 1936, one of the major factions in the Spanish Civil War had as its war aim the restoration of the Carlists to the Spanish throne. America is unique in having lasted this long as a republic without lapsing back into a monarchy, as France has at least twice. 🍷🍷 One of the Cockburn brothers argued back during the Cold War that the Soviets were the paper tiger they are showing themselves to be in Ukraine today. I was somewhat skeptical then, but after 30 years of post-Soviet corruption, I'm having second thoughts. Most of the defense budget is actually spent on personnel costs, as it happens. 🍷🍷 I have often wondered whether the movie Idiocracy was based to some extent on "The Marching Morons". 🍷🍷 (regarding technological progress) I will not quote Jerry Pournelle here about the moon landings. It's too early in the morning and it's too depressing.

(RYCTO me) I guess we're going to have to agree to disagree about gun laws. Chicago is infamous for having some of the strictest gun control laws in the nation, but since their useless DA never prosecutes anyone on gun charges, what's the point? Meanwhile, it's more dangerous to walk the streets of Chiraq than the actual streets of Baghdad. 🍷🍷 Having been reading military/combat SF since the 1970s when it became its own thing, I would beg to differ. If you look at the best-known military SF stories, almost none of them spend much time talking about the weapons. Starship Troopers, the seminal milSF novel, spends very little time talking about the powered armor; most of Johnny Rico's time is spent in class and the book has (surprisingly) only about three chapters of actual combat. The Childe Cycle (Dorsai, etc.) likewise spend little time talking about the weapons; they are mostly about the evolution of the Dorsai as a Splinter Culture and their relations with the other human worlds, particularly the Exotics and Friendlies. Haldeman's The Forever War, like Starship Troopers, spends little time on the UNEF's powered armor and is mostly about Mandella's war against the Taurans and the UNEF bureaucracy – and the problems of time dilation that affect his family, marriage, and human society in general. I could go on with the list (to include David Drake's Hammerverse and his collaboration with S.M. Stirling on the Raj Whitehall novels) but in truth the only milSF author I can think of who regularly engages in infodumps about weaponry is David Weber. Maybe Keith Laumer's Bolo stories. These days, though, any author who drones on about weaponry is wasting words they could be spending on characterization and plot. 🍷🍷



Well, I will be back for Balticon this year and unless it's a thoroughly woke disaster like LTUE was, I fully intend to return in 2024. Even then, I have friends to see and things to do around Baltimore; it wouldn't be the first time I went to a convention and missed all the programming. ☺🎲🎲 It's entirely possible that the strain of running a small press and magazine was part of what Drake was referring to when he mentioned Flint fronting as a rich author. The 1632 series is definitely a big seller for Baen, and I suspect it will continue to be so, though I wonder who will be racking the whip on continuity going forward now that Eric has passed on. 🎲🎲 Las Vegas is blessed with a huge supply of hotel rooms, but the problem is finding ones 1) off the Strip, 2) not on a major weekend, which is to say a major sports event, major trade convention, or music event like Electric Daisy Carnival, and 3) with enough function space. If we can't afford the Plaza this year, we might have a higher room rate at a smaller hotel in the Las Vegas suburbs. We'll see what happens.

(RYCTO Ahrvid) Ah, but without World War II we wouldn't have had rapid advances in radio technology, jet aircraft, rocketry, nuclear power, and containerized shipping. The Korean War gave us medical trauma centers and medevac helicopters (M\*A\*S\*H was based on Hooker's actual experiences in Korea), and the Cold War accelerated the Space Race with consequent advances in electronics & computers. There seems to be something about humanity that accelerates progress in time of war, at least up to the 1990s where the combination of ongoing low-intensity wars and the excessively bureaucratized Defense Department has choked off any actual technological progress. Thank God that petition to name the lead ship of the DDX (Zumwalt) class after Heinlein failed.

### *Here endeth the comments on N'APA #262*

#### **SON OF SILVERCON PROGRESS REPORT #2**

Well, we have a bank account (finally), a PayPal account ([fission.chan@gmail.com](mailto:fission.chan@gmail.com)), a website ([fission-chan.org](http://fission-chan.org)) and a fistful of memberships. Now we just need about 95 more members and we'll be a real con, albeit smaller than I originally planned. Still, we have a little over five months to go, and we may get 995 more people. I am working to see that this happens. In the meantime, we have Jon Del Arroz committed as a guest, and we may have David Butler coming down to represent Baen, so there's progress on filling in the schedule.

Attending memberships: \$40 (\$35 for N3F members)

Supporting memberships: \$20 (convertible to attending by May 15)

Make your checks or money orders payable to Friends of Fission-chan, and send them to PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049, or send us the money via PayPal.. Feel free to e-mail me with questions.

#### **REVIEWS OF THIS AND THAT**

*The Death of Stalin* Although this is based on a French comic book and is not strictly true to history, it's close enough for this former Russian linguist. The movie gives you a very accurate picture of what life was like under Stalin in the early 1950s, right down to the abject terror even the high-ranking members of the Politburo lived under, not knowing whether they'd be imprisoned and shot any moment for crossing the man who was (on paper) only the General Secretary of the CPSU. I did not even recognize Michael Palin as Molotov, or Jeffrey Tambor as Malenkov; clearly the actors were not cast for their resemblance to the people they portrayed. Steve Buscemi was excellent as Khrushchev, likewise Simon Russell Beale as the oily & treacherous Beria and Jason Isaacs as Marshal Zhukov. Knowing the actual history didn't spoil the movie for me, and I enjoyed it tremendously despite the frequent moments of cringe as various members of the main cast acted like the timid, fearful men they were. The execution of Beria was particularly satisfying.

**Consider Phlebas** This was the first of Ian Banks' Culture novels that I ever read. Loaned to me by a friend in Minnesota, it inspired me to read other novels in the series such as The Player of Games, Look To Windward, and The State of The Art, but after I had read four or five of them, I stopped looking for them, and reading Consider Phlebas reminded me why.

The novel is set during the Culture-Idiran War, and it begins with the protagonist, Bora Horza Gorbachul, dying by drowning in a sewage basin on a planet the Idirans hoped to subvert by substituting Gorbachul, who has the ability to shape shift, for one of the planet's senior diplomats. He is rescued at literally the last minute by the Idirans, and tasked with retrieving a stray Mind that has taken refuge on Schar's World, a planet maintained by the godlike Dra'Azon as a monument to its extinct civilization. After a number of digressions, our hero and the pirate crew he's acquired (along with a Culture Special Circumstances agent and a stray drone) arrive on Schar's World and things begin to go very wrong, catastrophically so. Everybody dies. Well, almost everybody. Sure, we get glimpses of the awesome Fully Automated Luxury Gay Space Communism of the Culture, as opposed to the Alien Jihadi Idirans, but for the most part it's hard to care about any of these characters or what they're fighting for. The whole thing comes off as a particularly cruel sequence of horrible events, including the reason Schar's World is a Dead World to begin with –the civilizations were preparing for nuclear war, with huge subterranean railway-mounted command and control systems, but succumbed to bacteriological warfare- and I found myself having to force myself to finish reading the book. I think it's going to be a good long while before I read this again, to say nothing of The Player of Games.

### ***Komi Can't Communicate #26***

And here we are, finally, with completely average Tadano and stunning (but tongue-tied) Komi finally admitting that they like each other, after World's Greatest Wingwoman Manbagi gets Tadano to admit that he likes her...but he likes Komi a lot better. This marks the point at which the manga finishes evolving from a slice-of-life high school tale with a ton of quirky characters into a romantic comedy, and I'm okay with that, because it leads to some hilarious interactions between Tadano and Komi's "forever 17!" mom and Komi's dad, who is every bit as uncommunicative as his daughter. (There is in fact a chapter in one of the earlier volumes where Komi and her Dad go out for shaved ice, say absolutely nothing the whole time, and go home feeling that they've had a meeting of the minds – AND THEY'RE RIGHT.)

I am behind on Higeiro & Spy X Family, but hope to have made some progress by nextish. The current event in Azur Lane has to do with the Sardegna Empire (Italy) and I am making good progress through that, while I've gotten ridiculously behind on Fate/Grand Order – have yet to finish Lostbelt 5, in which our Last Master of Chaldea has to defeat the seemingly invincible MechaGods of Olympus. Maybe if I stopped playing so much Civilization V I'd make more progress.



Fission-chan and Fusion-chan having tea.