



FILE
770

HOLD UP A MINUTE
OBELEX, THEY LOOK
LIKE STRANGERS.
WE BETTER ASK WHO
THEY ARE BEFORE
WE GO PUNCHING
THEM UP.

WHY BOTHER?
ANYONE CAN TELL JUST
BY LOOKING THAT
THEY'RE ONLY ROMANS

17.

HOOPS
D STILL
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SWISH
ZIP

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SLASH
SLASH

STOP
LAUGHING

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*THESE LONG-NOSES DRINK
SAKI AND ARE TOO ILL-MANN
TO OFFER ANY TO GUESTS. TH
MUST BE THE BARBARCUS RO

C. in C., Junkwaffel . The Complete Bo

DONALD DUCK in SITTING BULL'S GHOST

PIE HAWKIN'S D

THE GLASS GIRL OF OZ L. F. BA

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SAN FRANCISCO
FREAK
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gradually work their way along the shore. Paddling energetically, they leave a surprisingly large wake and collectively look like a fleet of landing craft approaching the beach.

The domestic geese swim in shallow water and pick at the bottom like the rest, until someone walks onto the landing behind our home. The geese are accustomed to people throwing food to them. If I appear they fix a beady eye on me. If I give the slightest encouragement, they'll flap and honk and run straight at me. Legend holds that a flock of Roman geese woke up the gods to save the Capitoline hill from attack, but now I'm convinced the geese were simply running to the Gauls screaming "Feed me!"

I spend a significant amount of time in seminars or reading classic works of literature and philosophy that I'd never gotten around to -- Augustine, Anselm, Aquinas, Dante -- or had tackled on my own in high school without enough training to comprehend -- Plato. Participating in classes gives me the incentive to read these works because there will be people to discuss them with. Sometimes I'm in the midst of the action -- reading the part of Tiresias in our productions of *Oedipus Rex* and *Antigone*.

It's an intense learning experience. The students, especially, have left some distractions behind, like TV. But they all have a laptop with a wireless Internet connection, which can be used to deepen their studies, or play Counterstrike 'til 4 a.m. Or both. The sky's the limit on what a person can accomplish who never sleeps!

Axes To Grind: Did Millennium Philcon mark a changing of the guard among Hugo voters, or have a different demographic than other Worldcons? Harry Potter never got a sniff of the Hugo before, but Rowling's latest novel did more than win this year, it got twice as many first place votes as the nearest compe-

tion. Some writers were outraged that a non-sf book won, referring to the result as "Harry Potter and the Hugo of Shame." Although the Hugo rules allow the award to be given to works of sf or fantasy, one can understand how this could be forgotten, since fantasy as practiced by Tolkien, Lovecraft, Moorcock, etc. has never won before. Other writers, and fans too, were upset that someone who doesn't know the sf community won its top award. Ordinarily, voters ignore bestselling writers outside the field, for example, Michael Crichton. However, I think Greg Bear explained the result very well: the vote is a tribute to a writer who has done more than anyone to attract young readers to our kind of literature.

The winner of the Best Dramatic Presentation Hugo was another anomaly, except that *Crouching Tiger* won with little grumbling from anyone besides me. It's true that although fantasy novels are rarely competitive for Hugo awards, quite the reverse is true for fantasy films: *The Princess Bride*, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* and two *Indiana Jones* movies have won Hugos. The only obstacle *Crouching Tiger* had to overcome was fans' long-standing habit of rejecting box-office champions. Since the end of the original *Star Wars* trilogy, top-grossing sf films have rarely won the Hugo. The list of losers includes *E.T.*, *Armageddon*, *Phantom Menace* (not even nominated), *The Matrix*, and every single *Star Trek* movie.

My objection is that *Crouching Tiger* is it's wildly uneven, a patchwork of genius and incompetence. I enjoyed *Crouching Tiger's* desert sequences and its tavern brawl. On the other hand, the movie had more than its share of running across rooftops on guy-wires. And the sword-fighting in treetops sounded good in the reviews but on screen was no more believable than Bugs Bunny.

Of course, you voters nominated Bugs Bunny for a Retro Hugo, too.

Editorial Notes by Mike Glycer

The Hills Are Alive With The Sound of Fanac: This fanzine is coming to you from the shores of Bass Lake in Northern California, where the mountains are beautiful, the air is clear, the weather is bright, and I haven't looked at a tax return in two months!

Diana is one of the professors Azusa Pacific University selected to start its new "Semester at Yosemite." It's a program based on the Great Works concept. Students are enrolled in some combination of courses in World Literature, World Civilization, Art History, Church History and Philosophy. All of the courses make use of many of the same literary and philosophical works. About 40 students are spending the term at a summer camp not far from Yosemite National Park. Diana helped develop APU's program, and we had the opportunity to go together because I was able to take leave from work.

So the day after I flew home from the Worldcon, I packed my car and drove into the mountains east of Fresno. For two weeks we lived at the camp, until our rental home became available -- a remarkable five-bedroom "cabin" overlooking Bass Lake. Once the summer crowd took their jet-skis home, it's remarkable how many birds came out again.

There are ducks of all kinds, kingfishers, herons and egrets. There are Canadian geese, and also six domestic geese gone wild. We've seen a bald eagle. There are coots everywhere, waterfowl slightly smaller than ducks. In the morning, two hundred coots take over the shallow end of the lake, tails up while they stir the muddy bottom to find their breakfast. They

MIKE GLYER'S FILE #770

News of Fandom

Bullsheet Ends Transmission

Marc Ortlieb ended the run of *The Australian Science Fiction Bullsheet* with issue #177. He told his readers, "When I started this publication in January 1994, I promised myself that when it stopped being fun I'd stop doing it. Sadly, recently the BS has become an obligation, rather than a pleasure."

Under a biweekly schedule, Marc published a prolific number of *Bullsheets*. He said with a note of pride, "I've enjoyed doing it, but I don't have Dave Langford's staying power. It was nice to briefly overtake him in number of issues produced."

The *Bullsheet* was both a paper and Internet fanzine from the beginning. Marc's one regret is, "I never did manage to put together an issue that was soft or absorbent, and it never did tear at the perforations."

Although the zine has come to an end, Marc will keep updating the calendar, fiction, club and convention listings on his Australian SF Site:

<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~sfoz/>

GUFF

Eric Lindsay writes, "As you know, we have been wandering. First on GUFF, which took Jean away for over three months. I think I mentioned that the first draft of our GUFF report is already up on my new domain." The address is:

<http://www.ericlindsay.com/guff>

"We will be working on the updates, corrections, and the printed version. Naturally we had a wonderful time, caught up with a few old fans (Paul and Cas Skelton, Pete Presford) as well as lots of the fanzine fans in the U.K. at Eastercon and as we traveled. Covered several thousand miles as we crisscrossed the U.K. visiting fans. Doug Bell and Christina Lake did seem to think driving from Bristol to Lands End for a picnic one

day was excessive however.

"I was delighted to see Ted White's Corflu report. That con made a great start to our GUFF trip. While I am starting to feel like a Corflu regular, I must admit that the increased value of the US dollar (or the decline of the Australian dollar -- I have to pay A\$2 for each US\$1) has pretty much stopped me travelling again this year. If I had an income, it might be different."

Not A Dry Sci-fi Eye in the House

Ron Salomon writes, "Although we've only lived in our house 32 years, already we are thinking of moving to larger quarters, basically because my collections are becoming more kudzu-like and are taking over the premises. This only became a glimmer of an idea due to a recent basement flood caused by a dying hot water heater 'losing it.' So now I have had to (NOOO!!!) throw away soaked fanzines, prozines and SF books, and I'm left with many more dampened by the moisture-laden atmosphere. In both cases, I am in serious need, if he exists, of someone who is qualified to appraise all my stfnal stuff so my adjuster can go 'battle' the insurance company adjuster for a fair settlement of my loss. Don't tell me my old *Worlds of IF* and Ace Burroughs and Ballantine 35-cent first

edition paperbacks are not worth anything! But I need backup. Please, Mike, put the word out in fandom that if there is someone out there, please contact me. And the phone numbers are -- work, (617) 292-5816, and home (508) 875-1885. And my work e-mail address is ron.salomon@state.ma.us -- the home PC is temporarily out of commission. Such a person will be connected with my adjuster to work out mutually agreeable terms. Heck, I can't even find a current or recent price guide for skiffy books or mags -- all I've seen so far are 15+-year-old titles through Amazon. Oh, and if there's a way to rid the leftovers of that musty smell, please let me know. And so, I end this piece of correspondence in hope of a drier tomorrow."

Banzai!

Tadao Tomomatsu, fandom's working actor, has been appearing in promotions for the USA Network's "Banzai Big Movie Friday." It's a cable movie and a simultaneous online game at their web site. Tadao is playing "Shaking Hands Man," whose character has celebrity brushes with the likes of Kelsey Grammer and Bill Murray. Tadao explains, "The segments are sorta Brit Burlesque/Benny Hill-ish humor.. Like Squirrel Fishing, etc."

Write and reassure Tadao he looks handsome on TV: "Truthfully I don't have cable so even I don't know how it looked. All I can say is that they have an extra wide angle lens, so I tend to look wider than normal."

You'll also hear his voice in the new computer game, *Throne of Darkness*, a Japanese RPG. Tadao's looking forward to it: "How often can you play a game and argue with yourself?"



Tadao Tomomatsu wields the microphone at DemiCon. Photo by Keith Stokes, used by permission.



Ruth Sachter of Portland, Oregon, You Asked For It....!

Teresa Nielsen Hayden and Mary Kay Kare were trading quips on SMOFs about how transferable some fannish experiences are to everyday life. For example, fanzines are easier to take home than a stack of storytelling conrunners, who “tend to be regrettably mobile and scurry off while you’re not looking.” Unless you use glue traps, Teresa said.

That’s when Ruth Sachter posted: “Calling all fan artists. I could imagine flipping through the next File 770 and seeing....”

I copied the conversation to Alan White, who took up the challenge of showing what happens when Smofs can check out anytime they like, but they can never leave...