

N'APA

261 November 2022



The Official Organ

#261

Next deadline: January 15, 2023

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The official preparer is Jefferson P. Swycaffer - 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; 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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For more art by Jose Sanchez, go to www.cosmofunnel.com/user/50125

INTERMISSION #122

E-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, ahrvid@hotmail.com, for EAPA, N'APA and others who thus - unlike NASA yet - are over the moon! Computer glitch cut down ed's newstweets from @SFJournalen for a while but now it runs again, and you should annex it! Sorry that Nerd Stream leaks typos but we'll partially mobilise corrections... Comments & corrections, anyone? Mid October 2022

Editorially: Full invasion of News!

There's been a tsunami of news lately. The death of dear old Lizzy Zwei, very successful Ukrainian offensives in that blasted war, the Nord Stream pipelines in the Baltic being blown up, and over here a very tight general election. Thish was delayed by a computer glitch, so I'm a little late to comment it all. I hope it will be come in mid October. In EAPA's open October mailing I arranged for #123 to run there instead - an issue I thought especially worth reading! (Don't you agree?)

But let's get on with those news.

The death of Queen Elizabeth II resonates with me, from in a fellow constitutional monarchy. I agree with the praise for QEII. She's was extraordinarily dedicated, wise and supporting for her subjects, fully understanding her role, for an unprecedented seven decades! The Queen did hundreds of state visits and has been described as "Britain's foremost diplomat" creating connections and good will all over the world. The constitutional monarchies (ie the monarch has constitutionally a symbolic role) remaining in the world are few which makes us special. They tend to be more stable and successful than republics. The politics around a presidency may polarise (see eg one Mr Trump and January 6th or Mr Nixon and Watergate) while a monarch is a neutral symbol that brings a country together.

Since kings are rarer and have this fairy tale shimmer from the Grimm brothers and Disney, it gives better PR, more tourism and more attention during a state visit by the monarch. This creates far more revenue than the costs of running the royal courts and palaces (the apanage for the entire Swedish Royal family incl all costs of the court is only ca €11m).

To connect with hundreds of years of history (1000+ years for Sweden!) is also important. It's a symbol of stability and continuation, of honouring traditions and not the least it's always best to follow the principle: *If it ain't broke, don't fix it!* I know the new British king Charles III has had a spotty history. A failed marriage and a tongue that sometimes slips into views a bit odd. But I heard his first speech as king and it was actually quite promising. If he delivers on what he said things should go well. Only time will tell. Long live the king!

The recent Swedish election turned out far from optimal. While the "borgerlig" (as we call the non-socialist) parties won, they need support from what I call the neonationlist Sweden Democrats. I loathe the SD, as they want to kick out immigrants and are against globalisation, which is and has been such a positive force in modern history. Nationalism is a feather-brained, narrow-minded and even dangerous ideology. We need more international cooperation, more trade, lower borders, etc. Such things creates more wealth and more understanding between people of different backgrounds and creeds. It is this unhealthy virus of nationalism that has created Vladimir Putin, mind you! But isn't the Ukrainians "nationalists" too, insisting on defending their nation? My reply: but they will at they same time reach out and want to connect on the international stage - joining the EU, to cooperate in defence through Nato, to do what they can to help the world with grain export. Nations will continue to have a role, but you can may reach out and cooperate at the same time. I've never like Mr Trump's "America First". If you isolate yourself, you lose.

What the next Swedish government will be is at the time of writing probably a right-centre coalition of M+KD+L (I use the Swedish abbreviations of party names). There were ideas that we could try a "grand coalition" between the social democrats and the moderates (our conservatives) who together would command the parliament. Such coalitions have happened in both Finland and Germany. It

would effectively shield us from influence from the blasted Sweden Democrats, which everyone want kept out of the government. Coming government will no matter what be weak, with just a slim majority. That's not ideal for handling inflation, coming economic downturn, the looming energy crisis, Nato accession and the international trouble caused by Mr Putin the Asshole.

The election results were (using their TV colours in different shades!):

Sweden democrats (SD) - neonationalists: 20,5%, 73 seats

The traditional non-soc bloc: 103 seats

Moderates - conservatives (M): 19.1%, 68 seats

Centre party - euroliberals (C) (former agrarian party, now SocD leaning): 6.7%, 24 seats

Liberals - euroliberals (L): 4.6%, 16 seats

Christian Democrats (KD) - not too religious: 5.3%, 19 seats

The traditional red-green bloc: 150 seats

Social democrats (SocD) - similar to UK Labour party: 30.3%, 107 seats

Environmental Party (MP) - "The Greens": 5.0%, 18 seats

Left Party (V) - former communists: 6.7%, 24 seats

However: as C leans towards the SocDs it gives that constellation a minority of 174 seats, while SD lean towards M, L and KD, which gives them a majority of 176. S+M would together also command the Swedish parliament (the Riksdag) if they choose, having 175 seats. The new government isn't installed yet, but is expected to be M+KD+L. Ukraine policies won't change. Before the election their spokesmen also said will send the fast-firing precision Archer artillery to Ukraine.

In September the Ukrainian forces liberated a huge chunk of the Kharkiv region. It was a brilliant strategic and tactical operation, first luring Putin to remove troops to Cherson in the south, leaving just untrained local militia from the self-proclaimed "republics". But I wasn't surprised about the Russian collapse. There are numerous reports about how demoralised, unequipped and untrained Russian troops are. Putin has met huge popular resistance to his recent "partial mobilisation" with street protests barely quelched, molotovs setting conscription offices ablaze and 700 000 (Forbes says) of young men fleeing to the neighbouring countries still open for them.

I see Youtube videos on how they hardly have equipment for the unwilling newly conscripted, no first aid kits, no body armour, no sleeping bags, no backpacks. 1.5 million winter uniforms are missing (funds for it were probably stolen by an Oligarch). Reports say conscripts are sent directly to the front with no or minimal training - no wonder the soldiers run! The Russians have lost over 10 000 pieces of heavy equipment (tanks, APCs, artillery, jets, choppers, lorries, triple-A systems, ships etc). They now send ancient T62's into battle, a 1950s design (being stored outdoors for decades!). Canon fodder and museum pieces won't do much against battle-hardened Ukrainians, well-equipped with modern weapons. President Zelensky wisely lets his generals run operations, as opposed to Putin who is said to amateurishly micro-manage the war. And the very important Crimean bridge has been blown up, the major supply link for Putin to Crimea. Putin is in deep, deep, to-the-neck deep in sh*t.

Ukrainians now advance in Cherson. I believe they will win, though it may take time. Putin's only option is to go nuclear, but giving such orders may tip the scale for the circle around him to dispose of the dictator, and the whole world would turn against Russia, including China and India. The Americans threaten to respond with massive air attacks to obliterate the Russian Navy and every single military spot they have identified.

Earlier there were explosions destroying the two Nord Stream gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea, two in Swedish waters (ie our economic zone), two in Danish. Unlike most I thinks Ukraine or anyone sympathetic to them are behind. Russia spent 10 billion building the pipelines, so why destroy a valuable asset? And the pipelines no longer works for energy blackmail! (You can't threaten to turn off gas, or tempt to turn it on.) Why disarm your own blackmail weapon? With the pipelines you would have the option to sell gas worth Billions, but now that option is removed. President Biden earlier spoke out harshly against those gas pipes. Ukraine and the West has the most to gain, so *Qui Bono* as Cicero said! The Americans could have sent in a submarine to torpedo the pipes. Note: If so, I *don't* criticise the move! It's a big blow to Putin!

--Ahrvid Engholm (your editor on the loose!)

The Fantastic Short Story Competition

We've just concluded the 23 rd (!) "Fantastiknovelltävlingen!" - meaning approximately "Fantastic Short Story Competition" - and the winners were (I will translate the titles):

1st PRIZE "Fyrmästarens dotter" ("Daughter of the Lighthouse Keeper"), by Camilla Linde (winning ca €100)

2nd PRIZE "En glimt av oändligheten" ("A Glimpse of Eternity") by Sunna Andersson (ca €60)

3 rd PRIZE: "God Granne" ("Good Neighbour") by Tobias Robinson (ca €40)

The winning story is about a lighthouse keeper who saves a little girl during a storm, but she isn't perhaps what you'd expect.



The diploma for winners. You fill in your name on first blank line and prize on the second.

We've been running this competition (I instituted it) for more than two decades. Compared to when it started we've have seen the number of people in Sweden getting into writing skiffy, fantasy or horry increase quite a lot. It's often young writers who need a light start, ie writing short stories. The number of small publishers and new books and anthologies with local writers has also skyrocketed compared to when this competition started. I've seen several new books by people who have taken part in the competition. And some stories from it have even appeared abroad, in eg in Croatia and Romania (I've had correspondents there who contacted me to get stories).

I'm stupid enough to believe that an activity such as a long-running serious story competition have had at least a little to do with the rising interest in writing local skiffy! And if you remember the story of our SF Writers' Society in last issue you'll see that promoting writing has been a long-enduring effort.

Science fiction is best in written form. (But not "fanfiction" dammit!) Real fans are readers and writers!

In Locus Again

I've been writing in *Locus* a few times. The first time was in the 1990s when I had a couple of reports of "The SF Year in Sweden". I had met Charlie Brown on some Worldcon when he had a Locus table among the hucksters - I looked in vain under his table for Snoopy... - and such reports was a thing he said he'd need. I wrote an op-ed piece a couple of years back attacking the incredibly stupid and ignorant notion that John W Campbell was "a bloody fascist". And I have written a couple of con reports. So after Swecon, without anyone asking, I wrote a little report from that con and added a few photos. To my surprise, they took that though the 2022 was rather small. It was in the October issue and it's basically a shorter, polished version of what I reported in last *Intermission*. (See next page.)

Strangely enough it took me an unreasonably long time to realise that the *Locus* is also a pun asking readers to "send Letters of Comment" (LoC us!).

Pictures found in a Klein Bottle

After the pandemic I've been going to more events of cultural and edifying nature. With a mobile its "free" to take pictures so I catch the photons wherever I go. I can't possibly cover every event (though they are fewer than before) but here's a few snippets. First, however, we go back in time to 2013

For reasons of epidemiological microbiology there were no 2022 Swecon bids, but the minicon Ökon was happening anyway on August 13-14, 2022 and was upgraded to be the 2022 Swecon. Due to (partial) double booking, Ökon 3 had to move to the same site as last year's Swecon, an old diesel workshop (Dieselverkstan) turned into an event venue just east of Stockholm. Friday had an informal warm-up in the Tolkien Society clubhouse, after which a hundred fan gathered for the con on Saturday and Sunday. There was a big freebie box of the classic Linqvist SF paperbacks from the early 1970s as a nice treat for attendees. Ah, sweet nostalgia!

There were two program tracks, both in Swedish, since few foreigners were expected (there was one Norwegian, and one from the UK). Guests of honour were local writers Torill Kornfeldt and Boel Bermann. The event began with chair Carolina Gomez Lagerlöf opening the bottle to release the Spirit of Swecon, which at the end was caught again and bottled up for next year. Random program notes....

In Bermann's guest-of-honour interview we learned that she was a very prolific short story writer, offering about 90 stories on her web site:

SWECON

The "When Science Turned into Horror" panel sounded very pessimistic, besieged as we are by war, viruses, fossil fumes, and what have you – but the sun was blazing bright through the weekend. It was sweaty. A panel debating that "Fandom Is A-Changing" discussed virtual conventions, which we've seen a lot – perhaps not all that successful. A professor, Jesper Stage, dissed the idea of generation starships in a lecture, pointing out that since they'd be unable to recycle 100% of resources, they'd dry up. Another professor, Martin Rundkvist, lectured on the subject of "Chivalrous knights in the age of steam" (on medieval nostalgia among Swedish nobility) and author Anna Jakobsson Lund talked about her special genre "Sawmill fantasy," with magic among the sawmills of Sweden's northern east coast.

Other panels covered human-like robots, how to revive the mammoth, animals as main characters, writing for children, new Swedish

SF/F/H, the Hugo Awards, dangerous plants like the Triffids, French comics – well, there were about 30 program items in all, and your intrepid reporter didn't attend them all. There were GoH kaffeeklatsches, a few huckster tables, and an auction. Oskar Källner received the fan activity Alvar Award during a special ceremony, and towards the end we sat down to watch slides from previous cons, earlier the specialty of fandom giant Lars-Olov Strandberg (1929-2018) and quite fun due to the audience comments flying around. If the undersigned may add one thing, it's that SF cons nowadays don't have enough fannish fun – silly games, quizzes, and such. But generally, attendees seemed to have a good time nonetheless.

The next Swecon is also the 2023 Eurocon, Konflikt, to be held June 8-11, 2023 in Uppsala. For more information, see <eurocon2023.se>. It should be easy to get there as Uppsala uses the same airport as Stockholm (Arlanda is in between the cities), and viruses should be just an unpleasant memory – and let's hope that goes for a certain warring dictator in the east, too.

—Ahrvid Engholm ■



"When Science Turned into Horror" panel



Carolina Gomez Lagerlöf catches the Spirit of Swecon

when I in *Intermission #10* reported from a Nobel symposium that I attended. I there happened to meet one professor Svante Pääbo, who as I write was just awarded the Nobel Prize (in medicine/physiology) for his research into DNA, eg being able to sequence Neanderthal DNA. I then wrote that I...*had the rare opportunity to speak privately with him for a few minutes. He said eg that humans today have 2-4% of Neanderthal DNA in in them. There's no doubt there's been some cross-breeding between us and them. He also said that they haven't, unfortunately, been able to sequence the DNA of the "Hobbit", Homo Florensiensis, discovered in Indonesia some years ago, because the material had been in damp conditions and the DNA had been destroyed. If there'll ever be a Swedish science Nobel in the next few years, my candidate is Pääbo.*



Wasn't I prophetic! I think Pääbo's prize was well deserved. His research has unveiled a previously unknown human race, the Denisovians, it can be used to trace prehistoric human migration, it maps our own evolution, and much more.

I have recently covered the return of ABBA. But did you know that William "Cpt Kirk" Shatner met ABBA in the form of Björn Ulvaeus? He took part in the TV show "Better Late than Never" that visited the ABBA museum in Stockholm in 2017, and they together with Ulvaeus. Here's the clip.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qmi75PaE7Xk> Kirk met stars long before he went to space with Blue Origin...

Intermission has often reported from the unique cult music club Sunkit. It has now started up a bit. August 18 it invited us to an outdoor restaurant with a wonderful view over the Stockholm harbour. (See next page.) I, Martin, Anna-Lena, Trampe, Danne & Co danced and bheered as the sun set.



Cpt Kirk and ABBA-Björn.

In last issue I talked about our SF Writers' Society, which encountered problems with the Russian Mafia, and our original member Bengt Björklund who became a bit of a Hollywood star where an actor portrayed him in the movie "Midnight Express", after being in a Turkish Prison. I'll have more on that in the History Corner, but also recently met Bengt again September 11 as the DIY publishing operation The Writers' Book Machine celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Bengt who now is a poet has a band appropriately named *Beat Poet Society*. They make music to his poetry, and they played during this anniversary. He himself plays a djembe, a West African drum, in the six piece band. We were outdoors in a joint named "Lasse in the Park". It was a bit chilly, we don't exactly have a subtropical climate, but the music gave us warmth. There are several songs by Beat Poet Society on Youtube, incl "Wild Element" which I find particularly fine (Bengt bangs the bongo in the background). Watch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfJm7np2l8U&list=PLZU7rTknuRltgOCy9zXSojDfl86Y_0OzF

At the Writers' Book Machine you can print your books cheaply, provided you do some of the work yourself. Every autumn they do an open poetry collection and throw a release party for it (I have taken part a couple of times - great fun!).



Latest Sunkit with view over the harbour. Trampe and Anna-Lena chatting in the background.



Beat Poets Society makes music from poet Bengt's (2nd fr L on bongo) poetry.

languages.. Scandinavia's biggest book fair, in Gothenburg in September, added Ukrainian literature as a theme, and newspapers has been full of articles about Ukrainian culture. Beside making great progress in kicking Putin in the butt, I think Ukraine as a country right now is making a huge breakthrough into the minds of people all over the world! If you're interested in Ukrainian science fiction see:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukrainian_science_fiction_and_fantasy

(I knew some about it already, having had contacts with Ukrainian fans in the 1990s, through the editors of the *Chernobylization* zine!)

Ukraine was also covered when the Romanian Culture Institute September 21 invited us to "Room for World Poetry". Four central European poets were invited to read their poetry and discuss their regional culture (poets were Corina Oproae, Romania, Krzysztof Siwczyk, Poland, Vaiva Grainyte, Lithuania, Elsa Aids, Czechia). The cultures of these different countries are as dissimilar as

There have of course been demonstrations for Ukraine in Stockholm. A park outside the Russian Embassy-slash-espionage-centre has been renamed Ukraine's Freedom Place. Many cultural activities cover Ukraine, for instance "Ukrainian Literature in the Shadow of the Invasion", on the Tranströmer Library October 5. We heard the Ukrainian historian Yuliya Yurchuk discussing with Per-Arne Bodin, professor of Slavic



Discussing Ukrainian literature and war.



Four central European poets being interviewed.

covering poetry) the institute treated us with wine and finger food. I had the chance to talk a little with Larissa, a Ukrainian woman who has lived in Sweden for several years (and I have met here many times before, typically on cultural events that she attends even more frequently than I do). She seemed optimistic (the Ukrainians had just smashed the Russians flat in Kharkiv) but was a bit worried about her sister who still is in Ukraine.

The Romanian Culture Institute is an oasis for culture in Stockholm. They often have fine cultural events.

between any of the "western" countries, but all have the common experience of having been under the Russian yoke. That gives them a better understanding of Putin's war in Ukraine, and consequently the central European countries are among Ukraine's staunchest supporters.

After their interesting remarks (also



Joe R Struly and Larissa from Ukraine, on poetry evening at Romanian Culture Institute.

HISTORY CORNER

Starting in 1983 and about three years on I worked for the popular science mag *Teknikmagasinet*, the brainchild of 1950's sf club Futura's "club master" Anders Palm. Editor-in-chief Palm had for years covered space and made the illustrated "News on Technology" page in the gents mag *FIB-Aktuellt*. In the 1970s Sweden was quite pornographical! *FIB* was one of those girly mags, sold everywhere, and thanks to the centre spreads (who tended to show more for every issue) at its peak reaching 300 000 copies, 6% of the male Swedish population! Editor Palm often used me as courier for next issue's "News on Technology" in *FIB*, and this way I actually got a good peek behind the scenes of these naughty magazines.

I just want to mention this background as I picked up a bundle of those mags recently at a paper recycling station that are sprinkled over Stockholm. In this's "History Corner" I'll present a few finds from it. The mags were from the early to mid 1970s. By lucky coincidence one of them, *FIB's* competitor *Lektyr*, had the article "The Swede who was convicted to 12 years in Turkey writes a diary from the horror prison: 'I was tortured for several days. Now we are 55 people in the same cell':

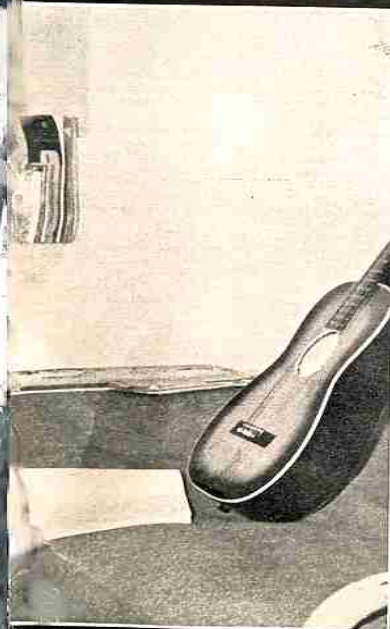
19-year old Bengt Björklund was arrested in Istanbul in January 1969. He had an ounce of hashish on him. For this bagatelle crime he got 12 years - the same sentence that a murder would get Sweden. Bengt is now in the Österåker correction facility and hopes to get out in a month. *Lektyr* here publishes an excerpt from the diary he wrote in the Turkish prison, where he shared cell with 55 prisoners."

Bengt was my partner-in-crime from the SF Writers Society! (See lastish.) The young version looks cute and so innocent, far from the Santa Claus poet of today. I don't remember much of the



Old Swedish gents mag. Cover girl Christina Lindberg became very popular and a film star.

Svensken som dömdes till 12 år i Turkiet skriver dagbok från skräckfängelset: 'JAG TORTERADES I FLERA DYGN - NU SITTER VI 55 MÄNNISKOR I SAMMA CELL'



■ I januari 1969 greps 19-åriga Bengt Björklund i Istanbul. Han hade 30 gram haschisch på sig.
■ För det bagatellartade brottet dömdes han till fängelse i 12 år — samma straff som han skulle ha fått för mord i Sverige!
■ Nu finns Bengt på Österåkeranstalten utanför Stockholm — och han hoppas bli fri om någon månad.
■ Lektor publicerar här ett utdrag ur dagboken han skrev i det turkiska fängelset, där han delade cell med 55 andra fångar!

AV TOM SVENSSON

BENGT Björklund i sitt turkiska fängelse. I dag sitter Bengt på Österåker dit han kom efter mamma Sivs påtryckningar på svenska myndigheter, främst UD.

VÄND

movie "Midnight Express" where he turns up as one of the characters, but if it's reasonably true to the real events it would describe some of this from his diary, which I'll summarise:

Bengt had bad luck. Turkish police turned hard on drugs just before his arrest, after four officers had been shot by a drug smuggler. In the middle of the night they smashed the door to his hotel room, which he shared with his Japanese girlfriend./privately he told me he was probably set up by his pusher, to score points with the police/ The court proceedings were very short: 12 years since they thought he was pushing drugs (he had only 1 ounce). He was tortured to confess, tied down and hit on the soles of his feet. He first sat in Sultan Ahmet prison but was transferred to Sigmalcimar site outside Istanbul which had 2500 inmates, "mostly political prisoners", guarded by soldiers with bayonets. Bengt had a private cell for a short time, but was then move to a big one (with 55 inmates from 21 countries). The usual food was beans and tap water, but you could buy extra food from the kitchen (getting money from the family and, I guess, the consulate) which you cooked yourself. He talks about a big comradery. Money and presents inmates received were shared and they would have extra Xmas food. Sometimes they would light up incense. Some would try to smoke dried orange peel. Bengt took up writing poetry and painting in prison and every morning he did yoga. Another activity was laborious sweeping of the floors. The 55 inmate hall had two heating fans (otherwise it could get quite cold) and several radios set to different stations. His mother Siv, who visited him every birthday, took up a fight to get the Swedish Foreign Office negotiate a deal, which succeeded after five years, when he was transferred to Österåker, and there he sat for further year (6 years out of 12 - the Swedes probably didn't tell the Turks that the practice was to release prisoners after half time).

This experience changed Bengt. He came out of drugs, began with poetry and walked the straight line. At the time we were into the SF Writers Society he also read and wrote a lot of skiffy - that's much more potent than any drug, after all!

Editor Palm's "News on Technology" (illos by the talented Sune Envall, who also did most of the covers for *Teknikmagasinet*) ran for many years in *FIB*, and was also collected to a sort of comic book every Christmas. It's a brilliant idea to present science in comic book form. An example: "Rescue Ball in Space". Summary:

Astronauts have this far been abandoned in case of a space disaster. Now they can be saved by the

remarkable rescue ball! It can hold a spaceman in an emergency until help arrives. It will be on board the Shuttle when it begins to fly in 1980. The ball is 0.85m in diameter, has three layers of special nylon and a simple radio for contacts with the rescue vessel. NASA has also developed a rescue suit with a backpack with oxygen, food, radio. But that's only for the pilot and one more of the crew. The others have to rely on the rescue ball. The ball will be transported as a suitcase. (Illo shows rescuer using a rocket gun.) Another idea is to fling a cable between two ships. Or you can install a long arm that may pick up the balls.

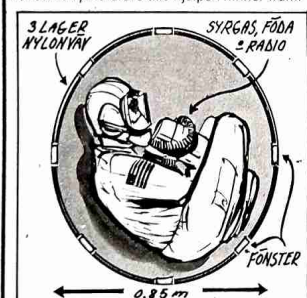


aktuellt om teknik Livräddningsbollen i rymden

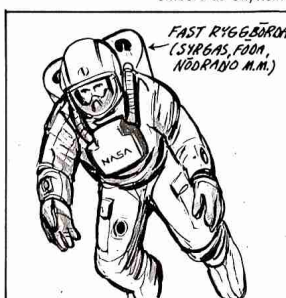
Hittills har astronauterna varit prissgivna vid en katastrof i rymden. Nu kan dom klara sig i den märkliga livräddningsbollen!

Ingenjörerna vid NASA har utvecklat en unik bubbla, som skall användas som livräddningsfarkost av framtidens rymdfarare. Den märkliga bollen fungerar som en sluten värld. Den skall kunna hysa en nödställd rymdfarare tills hjälpen hinner fram.

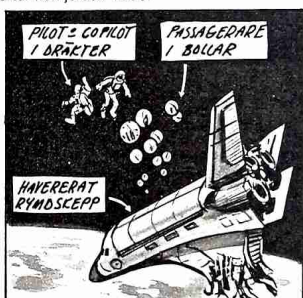
Tidigare har det inte funnits några räddningsfarkoster för rymdbruk. I händelse av en svår olycka hade astronauterna varit räddningslösa förlorade i mörkret utanför jorden. Den nya bubblan skall finnas med ombord då Skytteln startar från jorden 1980.



Rymdbollen mäter 0.85 m i diameter. Höljet består av tre sega, specialgjorda nylonlager. I bollen finns också en enkel radioutrustning för kontakter med räddningsfarkosten.



Samtidigt med rymdbollen har NASA utvecklat en ny räddningsdräkt. Den nya dräkten har en fast ryggskäpp och kan användas som livräddningsbåt i stället för rymdbollen.



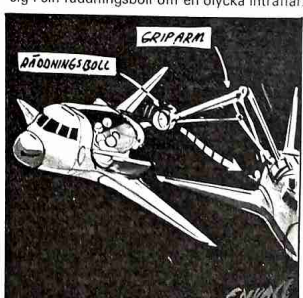
Bara piloten på Skytteln och en av besättningsmedlemmarna är utrustade med den nya dräkten. Alla övriga ombord måste klara sig i sin räddningsboll om en olycka inträffar.



Inom NASA grubblar man nu på hur räddningsbollarna skall kunna bärgas i händelse av en katastrof i rymden. Ett förslag går ut på att bollarna skall fraktas som "resväskor" från olyckskeppet till räddningsfarkosten.



En annan idé går ut på att spänna upp en kabel mellan de båda skeppen. De väntande räddningsbollarna förs sedan över från det skadade skeppet efter samma principer som man drar ut tvätt på en rörlig klädlinja.



Ytterligare en idé är att utrusta räddnings-skeppet med en lång fjärrstyrd, mekanisk arm. Räddningsskeppet går upp långsides med den havererade farkosten och plockar över räddningsbollarna, en efter en.

Text: Anders Palm Teckningar: Sune Envall

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The spaceball wasn't developed further. But the "Canadarm" became a feature of the Shuttle. Palm (originally a history teacher) was a sort of disciple of the legendary space reporter Eugen Semitjov, who helped him with tips and contacts. Semitjov would have been world famous if he had written in English. He would have been something like a Carl Sagan - one who could also draw and speak Russian! He didn't become a Sagan, alas, but he did win our local Pulitzer, Stora Journalistpriset ("Grand Journalism Award") in 1972. Eugen wrote a lot for the family weekly *Allers* 1972 and here's how that mag proudly reported his award:

Allers' "spaceman" bagged the Grand Journalism Award. The telegram said: You have been awarded the Grand Journalism Award for brilliant popular science journalism, which from the field of sf transgressed to reality-based and realistic reports with this year's series in Allers, "Our Dramatic Future", as the peak. Eugen Semitjov was happily surprised when he received this telegram, signed by Albert Bonnier jr as chairman of the prize jury. The citation says a lot of the achievements of Semitjov. But it'd be fitting with a little personal presentation of our skilled co-worker. Eugen Semitjov made his Allers debut in the autumn of 1957 - as artist - when the Russians launched the first Sputnik into space. Several years before the start of the space age he had foretold what was coming with art and text, mostly in Aftonbladet at the time.

His first article in *Allers* came in the spring of 1959 with the headline: Lone man in space. In the autumn of 1959 *Allers* sent Eugen Semitjov to the Soviet Union to make a big report on Soviet science. That was his breakthrough as science reporter. The readers of *Allers* were eg informed about the first manned space trip three days before it happened. Eugen Semitjov is one of few journalists who have travelled back and forth between Russian and American research centres. He has been on the spot for several Moon trips and almost regards Cape Kennedy as his second home. He has been to the biggest astronomical observatories, made space trips in simulators and climbed together with astronauts in artificial moon landscapes. He has many friends among the leading scientists of the world and follow their progress in different areas. As a reporter Semitjov is a three man team: writer, artist and photographer - a quite unique combination. Asked how he began this career he replies: I was into space already as a little kid - when my father (writer Vladimir Semitjov)



Allers "rymdman" EUGEN SEMITJOV tog hem stora journalistpriset!

Telegrammet lød:
Du har tilldelats stora journalistpriset 1972 för en lysande populärvetenskaplig journalistik, som från science fiction-området övergått till verkliga tekniska och realistiska reportage med ärens serie i Allers "Vår dramatiska framtid" som kulmen.

Eugen Semitjov blev sannerligen glatt överraskad, när han fick detta telegram, under tecknat av Albert Bonnier jr i egenakap av ordförande i primärnämnden. Motiveringen säger det mesta om Semitjovs insatser. Men en liten personlig presentation av vår skicklige medarbetare kan vara på sin plats.

Eugen Semitjov debuterade i Allers hösten 1957 som tecknare när rysarna sköt ut den första sputniken i rymden. Flera år före rymdålderns början hade han förespätt vad som komma skulle med teckningar och text, då huvudsakligen i Aftonbladet. Hans första artikel i Allers publicerades våren 1959 och hade rubriken: Ensam man i rymden.

Hösten 1960 sändes Eugen Semitjov av Allers till Sovjet för att göra ett stort reportage om rysk vetenskap. Det blev hans genombrott som vetenskaplig reporter. Bl a blev Allers läsare informerade om hur den första bemannade rymdfärden skulle gå till tre dagar innan Gagarin startade.

Eugen Semitjov är en av de få journalister som har rest kora och tvärs mellan ryska och amerikanska forskningscentra. Han har varit på plats vid de flesta mån färder och betraktat nästan Cape Kennedy som sitt andra hem. Han har gästade de största astronomiska observatorierna, gjort rymdfärder i rymdsimulatorer och klättrat Ullasjöns med astronauter i konstgjorda månländskap. Han har många vänner bland världens ledande vetenskapsmän och följer deras framsteg på de mest skilda områden.

Som reporter är Semitjov ett tremannalag i en person: skribent, tecknare och fotograf — en helt unik kombination. På frågan hur och när han kom in på denna bana, svarar han:

— Jag tänkte på rymden redan som liten grabb — när min far (författaren Vladimir Semitjov) läste sina rymdromaner som godnattsagor för mej.

read space novels as bedtime stories.

Filmmaker Micke Engström who is working on a documentary on Semitjov (he just received a grant to finish it!) found a number of his Allers reports which he graciously shared with me. My Royal Library diggings covered dailys not the weeklies, so without recycling stations and Micke this History Corner would be rather thin - so thanx! I have instalments of "Our Dramatic Future" mentioned in the prize citation for later issues. But concerning space colonisation, here's what Semitjov tickled gents mags readers with in *Lektyr*, in summary: "*When we colonise other planets - it happens: Humans transform to other races*":

In the universe we may meet a civilisation superior to ours...

Humans arrive to a new planet - using relativistic speed as seen in illo - with days 2h longer, air having slightly more oxygen but a bit lower pressure. Signs of dwellings are seen from orbit. They land on a continent covered with blueish grass. Temperature is +26C. They are scouting the surroundings. One stays in the lander. No animals are seen. They take gravel from the ground in their hands to study. Suddenly ten living beings are seen on the crest above them. Looking human-like, two arms, two legs, dark hair, covered with thick cloaks, looking primitive, like herders on Earth thousands of years ago. They carry spears and axes and just stands looking. The mothership asks them to take it easy. Plans are to land 400 colonists. Two races so far apart, can nature make them similar? Yes. There aren't many ways to construct an elbow or a knee. Nature's law says that beings similar to humans must appear on Earth-like planets. The immigrants may perhaps subdue the natives, or perhaps the arrival of the "gods" may lead to a huge technological leap. Or perhaps the two races interbreed and become a mix. Or perhaps we'll land on a planet that's earlier in the development, at the start of mammals. Or perhaps our future travellers arrive to a planet with beings far superior to us. Maybe they'll care for us like pets being lost, or they may turn us away and destroy us. Or we may land in a dying civilisation that has used up its resources. We may arrive to a planet where life hasn't arrived and we spread seeds that become grassland and forests producing oxygen so future generations can leave their big plastic bubbles. We will no doubt colonise other planets and moons in our solar system, but how about the rest of the universe. US sf author Isaac Asimov has an answer: "Suppose Earthlings come to a planet with the gravity 1.5G. A fat person has serious troubles. A tall person will fall more easily than a short. Different injuries will result. A short person with more muscles and fast reactions will manage it best. These properties will transfer to new generations and with time all on the new planet will be short and strong. But it can also be the opposite. On a 0.5G planet you weigh only half that on Earth. Muscles are less important. You move about with long sweeping strides. The body build will over time change also there. People become taller and the bone structure lighter. Average height may be 2.5.m. Arms and legs become longer and more slender. Not only humans will change. That goes for vehicles and buildings too. You may build things that would collapse on Earth and use aerial vehicles that couldn't fly on Earth. Future emigrants may change to races, not to say species, so different from each other that they can no longer mate", ends the biochemist and sf author Isaac Asimov. If he is right our stay on Earth is only the beginning, something primitive future historians will look upon as life in caves. Will we spread to other solar systems and finally the whole Milky Way? Will we live on planets we now haven't heard of? Will Earth turn into a legend told to future generations? By future human-like beings who thinks planet Earth exists somewhere but have forgotten which star it belongs to...

In Allers weekly #39, 1972, Eugen unveiled a possible reason for Man's quest into space further: "*We are Guided by a Higher Power*" (and a summary - articles in weeklies are often longer, so my intelligent summaries, with indirect quotes, makes it easier to grip the contents):

So says space engineer Jesco von Puttkamer at NASA's future centre. A universal force makes us spread life to other planets. Eugen visits Huntsville and Puttkamer who worked with Wernher von Braun on the Moon program. There are a lot of space scientists there



Universum kanske människan möter en civilisation som är helt överlägsen vår!

av sina bländande sol. Det valdiga stjärnskeppet bromsar för sista gången och går in i kretslopp runt den främmande himlakroppen. Det ligger där i veckor (ett avlägset jordiskt tidbegrepp som man behåller) medan optisk spänning, radar-kartläggning och andra förundersökningar pågår.

Mellan bländande molnmöster skymtar bild havsmöter och kontinenter med både koralter och tät växtlighet. Man konstaterar att planetens dygnet är nära två timmar längre än jordens, att rotationsaxelns lutning är nästan densamma – liknande årtusider råder tydligen där. Instrumentsonder som skjutits ned i atmosfären har meddelat att syrehalten är 25 procent (något högre än jordens) medan lufttrycket vid havsnivå är något lägre – det jänmar ut varannat.

En bevingad landingsfarkost gör klar för den första rekognosceringsfärderna, med två män och två kvinnor som besättning. Som preliminär landningsplats har valts ett slättområde nära en flodmynning vid västra kusten av en triangelformad kontinent, något större än Australien. Där råder subtropiskt klimat.

Den optiska spänningen har meddelat att kontinenten till stor del är täckt av skogar. Den intressantaste upptäckten. På närbilder har man funnit geometriska mönster som skulle kunna vara bostäder – samhällen uppförda av intelligent varelser. Men observatörerna är inte säkra – det kan även vara naturens eget slumpmässiga verk.

Landningsfarkosten tar också på den utvalda slätten en jöförmarsma pikar upp ner till sand och stoft. Sikten klarar, besättningen spårar ut geometriska mönster i tjocka gräs, pilen rapporterar:

Planetsgrupp Adam till stjärnskeppet... Vi har landat! Platan är en jämn sandstätt, delvis beväxad med blåa och gröna växter. En del av pilen har gått sönder. Stämmer med tidigare data... Öppnar kabinporten... Nere på marken nu.

Obskrivligt känsla att se blå himmel igen, att värmas av en sol. Temperatur + 26 grader. Typisk havsluft. Frisk bris... Hör ni oss?

Adam, vi hör er, svarar stjärnskeppet. Tack för informationer. Det låter bra, men ta det försiktigt! Varje prisstråk kan innebära fara så länge vi inte vet dess kemiska sammansättning. Har ni observerat något djurliv?

Inte ett spår hittills. Vi utför späningspromenerad enligt program A. Återkommer med rapporter.

Medan en av kvinnorna stannar i kabinen går de övriga bort över slätten. De går på linje med några meters luckor mellan sig, saktat med provande steg. De stannar då och då, tar upp en näve gräs och slår mellan fingrarna, granskar några stenar som ser ut att ha släpats av vinden. De är nära ån och när en överrumplande syn plöjligt bejakar dem.

På kanten ovanför dem står ett tiotal levande varelser! Människolikande varelser! Varelser med två armar och två ben, huvuden med mörkt hår

som faller ned över axlarna. De är klistrade i något slags mantlar av grov vävad...

Planetsgruppens ledare anropar moderskeppet genom sändaren han bär på ryggen. Det är det mest sensationella meddelandet en människa någonsin fått – rapporten om det första mötet i universum mellan människor och andra människolikande varelser.

Det ser ut att vara ett primitivt folk... Som herdar på jorden för några tusen år sedan, eller jägare kanske... Vad ska vi göra?

Verkar de aggressiva? Frågar stjärnskeppets befälhavare.

De står och betraktar oss från åsen och ett par hundra meters avstånd. De har spjut och något slags yxor, men inga andra vapen vad vi kan se.

Ta det försiktigt säger befälhavaren. Undvik våldshandlingar. Låt dem förstå att vi har fredliga avsikter. Kom ihåg att vi planerar att upprätta en koloni här, att landsätta fyra hundra personer. Vi avvaktar vidare rapporter från er.

Två raser från skilda världar har mötts. Varelser som är resultat av oändligt långa utvecklingskedjor, från de första livsmolekylerna och vidare genom miljardär år. Kan naturen framställa så identiskt lika varelser på planeter i olika solsystem, isolerade från varandra av oändliga avstånd? Ja, säger flera framstående forskare. Intelligenta varelser med förmåga att utföra konstruktivt arbete måste oundvikligt få människliknande skepnad – ben att förflytta sig med, armar och händer att manipulera med. Det finns inte många sätt att konstruera en led, en armånga eller ett knä. Naturens riktlinjer måste bli de samma, på jordlika planeter bör människolikande varelser förr eller senare uppstå.

Nu har de mötts, människorna och deras likar i ett annat solsystem – varelser som befinner sig några årtusender efter oss i utveckling. Vilka kan följderna av detta möte bli?

Infodningarna stirrar utan att kunna förstå vad det är som har hänt. En metallbalkande, eldfrustande jättefaller från sänkt sig ned från himlen. Ur metallfågeln har några främmande varelser i vackra vita dräkter kommit ut. Deras huvuden glittrar som kristall hjulmar med uppfyllt glasögon och bländande spröt (antennor) växer på deras ryggar.

De primitiva varelserna tror att det är gudar som har stigit ned från himlen. Där ännu mer övertygade om detta när natten faller på, när de vilkladda tändar elektriska lampor och låter en strålkastare svepa över omgivningen. När

morgonen gryr vågar sig några av infodningarna fram till tempel (plastbaracken) som "gudarna" uppfört på slätten. De faller på knä och överröcker offergård. Den första kontakten har gått rum.

Förstättningen är ovisst. Kanske kommer invandrarna att helt underkiva planetens ursprungliga invånare, att inta en maktposition med sitt kunnande och sin teknologi. Kanske medför "gudarna" ankomst ett jättelikt framsteg för den unga rasen, ett språng i utvecklingen som de inte är mogna för. Kanske blandas människor och urinvånare, och ger upphov till en livskraftig civilisation. Kanske förmå människor inte upprätthålla sin teknologiska nivå i "stenåldersmiljön" utan tvingas tilla baka.

Den här beskrivna, hypotetiska planeten är en önskedröm för människans framtida utvandrare – en yngre kopia av jordens Utvandrarna i universum lär få acceptera även andra, mindre jordlika planeter. Kanske kommer de att landsiga på en planet som befinner sig i början av den kenozoiska eran, i början av diggjuvarens utveckling.

Det är också möjligt att några av våra framtida kosmiska långtradare kommer att anlöpa världar där de härskande raserna är skrygligt överlägsna oss. Att vi möter civilisationer inför vilka vi kommer att stå hjälpa och handfärdiga, utan förmåga att fatta...

Kanske kommer de att ta hand om oss som vi tar hand om vilsekomna vilda djur, som förtärrt sig på våra domäner. Kanske kommer vi att bli slagna tillbaka, bortjagade eller förtärrade.

Kanske kommer vi nägonstans att finna en döende civilisation – spjällor av en kultur som förbrukat sin planets resurser. Som inte förtärrt att ta vara på möjligheterna när de en gång funnits...

Vi kan komma till planeter där inget liv ännu fått rofäste. Där vi står från som med tiden kommer att växa upp till savanner och skogar – vegetation som kommer att fylla utrumofaren med syre och ge kommande generationer möjlighet att slopa de ursprungliga baserna syrgaspumpade plastkupoler.

■ **Är vi kommer att kolonisera flera andra planeter och närmar oss till slutet av den kosmiska någen tvekan om.** Men vad kommer vi att spela för roll i det övriga universum? Solsystemet omkring oss – är det världar med bara primitivt liv, zoologiska trädgårdar utan någon intelligent, härskande ras? Eller är det världar där livsnästan ännu inte nått? Kommer vi att föra livet vidare? Och vad kommer i så fall att hända med människan på hennes nya världar – kommer hon att förbli densamma eller förändras?

Den amerikanske biokemikern och science fiction-författaren Isaac Asimov ger svar på den frågan:

Anta att en grupp utvandrare från jorden efter en svindlande lång färd finner en planet som de beslutar att stanna på. Antag att planeten som de koloniserar är lik jorden på de flesta sätt, men att den är något mer massiv – att tyngdkraften där är 1,5 g, så att dessa människor väger en halv gång mer än de vägt på jorden.

En fetlagd person får allvarliga svårigheter. En lång person förlorar balansen och faller lättare än en kort. Likaså en person med långsammare reaktionsförmåga. Ett fall kan resultera i farliga skador, muskelskador och brutna ben. Dessutom kan den större tyngdkraften orsaka sträckningar, ryggbesvär, nedsatt av inre organ och svårigheter vid havandeskap.

Bäst i denna nya värld klarar sig en kortväxt person med kraftig muskulatur, stark benstyrka och snarare reaktionsförmåga. Dessa egenskaper kommer att föras vidare från generation till generation – därför att denna människotyp har störst chanser att bibehålla hälsan, att överleva och föda barn. Med tiden kommer hela befolkningen på denna planet att ha blivit utpräglat kortväxt och muskulös, menar Isaac Asimov.

Utvvecklingen kan gå i motsatt riktning på en planet där gravitationen är 0,5 g – där människan har bara hälften av sin jordiska tyngd i behåll. Där får muskelskytten underordnad betydelse, rörelseschemat förändras – det bästa sättet att förflytta sig blir långa, lätt svävande steg.

■ **Kroppslig byggnaden kommer efter hand att förändras hos invandrarna efterföljande släkten även i denna lilla värld.** Naturen tillåter dem att bli avsevärt längre än vi, i och med att benstommen blir mindre belastad – kanske kommer medellängden att ligga över 2,5 meter. Armar och ben blir längre och slankare (här beaktas inga muskelknippen) och rörelserna blir mjukare, smidigare. Efter ett antal generationer kan ett nytt människostake av såregt gracila varelser ha utvecklats på denna planet.

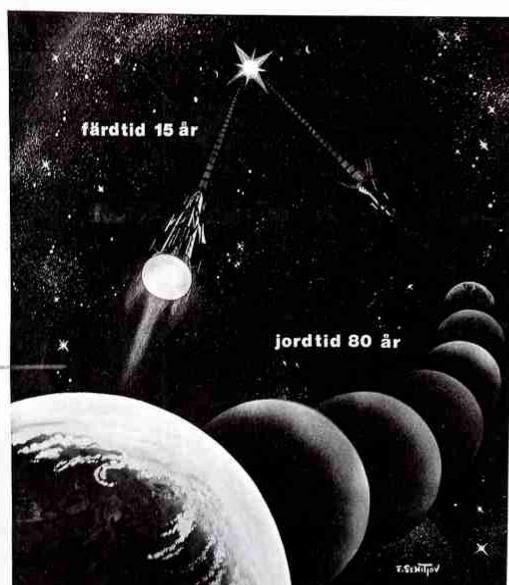
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Enligt Einstein går tiden långsammare när res hastigheten närmar sig ljusets. Om vi kan resa i en farkost med den hastigheten – då upplever vi en resa som 15 år när den tar 80.

and a cosy atmosphere. "Life is constantly growing and expands. A planet gets vegetation and continues with getting organism living off it, those who can move - life spreads. When a continent is filled there are beings who can build boats and spread over the oceans. The pressure of life forces life to spread. We see it today on another scale." So says the 36-year old space engineer Jesco von Puttkamer involved in many projects, like soon the Skylab space station. "Earth is boiling with life, but nature isn't satisfied with filling just one globe, it wants life to spread further. It gives one life form the capability to leave the planet." Why? Why does Huntsville design spaceships? There must be a driving force behind it. "Nature uses all possible means to fill up worlds. Our brains have developed for this purpose. It happens on other planets too. Earth isn't unique. Nature is the same in all of the universe. But nature is primitive. It may kill millions overnight. It's only interested in the goal. Our ability to think "me" is only a by-product. When a being meets a barrier nature develops means to break through. Fish got legs to spread over continents. Man resulted and could build ships, today spaceships. von Puttkamer believes we will migrate to other planets, provided nature's "experiment Man" isn't a failed one, like the dinosaurs. We must believe in ourselves. If we fail, nature will simply start new experiments. Nature's power to spread is like a religion, some would call it God (but that's something invented in lack of other explanations). And we will make other planets habitable, "planetary technique" is a new field. Nature is smart enough to give us that ability. We will transform Mars, first manned expeditions there may come in the late 1980's, and next century getting there to stay. They'll make greenhouses, with crops, cattle and factories, and they'll and become more over time. We'll put up generators to change the atmosphere, making oxygen, creating a "greenhouse effect" for warmth and we'll move out from the cupolas. Mariner 9 revealed there are more water on Mars than expected, which can be used for agriculture. It'll take a few centuries to transform Mars. Atomic rockets make a trip Mars and back in 22 months, including 80 days on the Mars surface. It'll be two big spaceships with six in each crew that'll travel "sideways" between orbits, for efficiency. He thinks of Hohmann trajectories. Three from each ship will land. The trip back will take 10 months. Water will be recycled on the ships from urine. Lasers may be used for a new sort of atomic power and cut the travel time to two weeks. Lasers compress hydrogen from water by a factor of 1000, no uranium is needed. Edward Teller is working on this, one more example of nature's quest to find new solutions. It cuts travel to days instead of months, requires much less supplies and is a big step. We could reach other planets in the solar system sooner than thought. But if that also happens on other worlds so we'll some day come to the "meeting with the others". As we overpopulate Earth and space, our spheres will be crossing, though it may take billions of years before it happens. An overpopulated universe makes for problems. Will it lead to galactic wars like what sf authors have imagined? "Overpopulated worlds are doomed. It goes for the whole universe too. Nature may create a new universe with new life and start all over again," von Puttkamer says. Or may there be life on another level? Filled with biological life? Could nature try to develop other life forms?

Oh, this his heavy skiffy speculations! Semitjov was deep into sf, he started doing art for the sf pulp

within which elementary particles and fields bounce around), claimed to create miniscule massless reaction. It's most likely a red herring too. But don't tell *Analog* or their next cover will have a school bus converted for a trip to Venus...

"*The Home of the Future*" was something the gents mag *Lektyr* had visited 50 years ago. It was full of computer terminals and "TV discs". They found:

A panel to remotely control a hifi sound system, a TV disc player, a home computer, TV cassette player. Press a button to see who is at your front door. You check your bank accounts through your home terminal and you get a budget proposal to your home fax. You check the cinema program through the terminal but instead decide to watch a movie at home, and select "Jaws" from your TV disc collection /Noteworthy is that the discs and player were very expensive. The TV disc player costed ca €350 , with inflation ca €3500 today! A DVD player can today be had for as little as €25/. You are amazed that films can be shown as still pictures or in slow motion. You can find a game from Bundesliga through a TV satellite and also Norwegian TV. The micro computer is connected to the TV player and also regulates heating, collects incoming messages, reminds of birthdays, fixes daily businesses, shows weather predictions etc

The article forgot to mention getting cooking recipes on the TV screen. All look-the-future-is-here articles mentioned that! It's also interesting what yesterday's future *missed!* Mobile phones. E-mail (mentioned message system was verbal). Movies streamed over the net. Social media. Computer games... The article just has latest versions of gadgets *already available* in the early 1970s. I remember that my high school had one of the early Philips VCR machines around that time, the first version with clumsy 1-hour cassettes.

When this is written, we agree reminded of the Cuban Missile crisis, as the Madman of Moscow hints he'll use nukes to further his genocide against Ukrainians. But it could be even worse, if gents mag FIB was correct: "*Soon anyone can lay hands on the world's most dangerous weapon - 20-year old built an atomic bomb in 14 days*". Summary:

The Marching Morons...



'En TV-skiva lär mig göra goda drinkar och dansa lika bra som Travolta'

■ Jag halvliggar i en mjuk bekväm soffa. Till vänster om mig finns en svart manöverpanel med massor av knappar och rattar. Härifrån fjärrstyr jag allt i min nya drömyra Hi-Fi-anläggningen, TV-skivspelaren, hemdataorn, TV-kassettspelaren...

En lätt tryck på en av knapparna i en TV-monitor på panelen frammanför bilden av en man som står och väntar utanför min port.

Eftersom det verkar vara en försäljare så trycker jag inte på knappen som öppnar min port. Jag ber försäljaren komma tillbaka en annan gång — när min ekonomi klarar en ny, stor investering.

Minuterna innan försäljaren dukar upp hade jag kollat samtliga bankkonton via min hemterminal. Bankens dataanläggning gav mig blixtnabbt besked: där fanns bara några hundringar att plocka ut.

Samtidigt knackades ett förlag till en ny, stramare hushållsbudget ner på min hemfax — en liten telemaskin som kopplats till min telefon och min privata dataterminal.

Jag fick veta att min ekonomi på sin höjd klarade av ett biobesök och en enkel supé på en pizzeria eller kinesrestaurang.

Från min hemterminal ringer jag upp biografernas centrala databank och frågar vad det är för nya filmer som körs i kväll. Eftersom det verkar vara ett rätt trist program så struntar jag i att beställa någon biljett.

I stället bestämmer jag mig för att se på långfilmen hemma. I ett fack i bokhyllan finns en hel travé TV-skivor med gamla klassiker.



SNYGOA utvinkningsbröder eller läckra maträtter ur Lektor. Allt det här kan du blixtnabbt få på en TV-skärm — bara du skallar en hemterminal.



DU kan också greja bord på krogen eller be dators räkna ut din skatt.

Jag kan välja mellan James Bond, Clint Eastwood, John Travolta och dansk gladporr. På en av de silvriglansande plastskivorna finns skräckfilmen "Hugen". Den kostade en femtiolapp.

Varför ska jag då anstränga mig med att gå ut, hämta biljett och köa för att komma in i en mörk, varm biolokal.

Min TV-skivspelare har jag köpt för 3 500 kronor. Skivorna med färdiginspelade långfilmer, hobbykurser och underhållningsprogram kostar 40-150 kr per styck. Ljudet kommer från fyra stora högtalare, inbyggda i väggar och tak.

TV-program i ultrarapid!

Desolventen kan jag köra mina TV-skivor i ultrarapid, köra dem baklänges och "frysa" enskilda bilder som jag vill se om.

Bilderna i Saturday Night Fever med John Travolta är numrerade från 1 till 40 000. Jag



På en av skärmarna får du reda på vilka semesterer du bör undvika.

kan lätt spola tillbaka och träna in alla svåra danssteg, om och om igen.

Samma sak är det när jag nu sitter i soffan med en fylld cocktailbricka framför mig.

På TV-skivspelaren anurrar en platta i den amerikanska serien "Do it myself". Världens bästa bartenders lär ut sina godaste drinkrecept.

Från min manöverpanel kan jag stoppa skivan, ta om svåra



ALLT sköter du bekvämt från en soffa i drömyra. På en manöverpanel dirigerar du TV-skivspelare, TV-bandspelare, hemdataorn och port-TV:n.



En annan visar var du hittar det bästa badvärdet under semestern, drinkrecept och köra dem i ultrarapid.

Medan jag blandar ihop drinkarna till kvällens långfilm så sänds ett par högtintressanta TV-program.

Via en ny västtyck satellit visas en toppmatch i Bundesligan. Det är Kaiserslautern och Bayern München som möts. I norsk TV — som jag också kan se via satellit — körs ett underhållningsprogram med Flexnes.

Men det gör inget att jag inte kan se de här TV-programmen just nu. De matas in på min TV-bandspelare. En klocka slår till och från när programmen börjar respektive är slut.

Jag har betalat 150 kronor för en tvättmaskinskassett. TV-bandspelaren kostade mig drygt 5 000.

Det är väl investerade pengar. Jag behöver aldrig missa intressanta TV-program, som visas medan jag varit utomlands på semester eller på ett party.

Min hemterminal med mikrodataorn är också kopplad till TV-bandspelaren. Den lagrar meddelanden från kompisar runt om i världen, reglerar värmen i min drömyra, fixar mina löpande affärer och hjälper mig att komma ihåg födelägsdagar, inbjudningar och viktiga telefonsamtal.

För 3 000 kronor har jag köpt ett hypersnabbt, perfekt "min-

(Forts. på sid. 76)

You need plutonium produced by all nuclear plants or to be bought on the black market. Nobel laureate Hannes Alfvén /see #124 on his dystopian computer novel/ warns that our Swedish nuke plants can explode anytime and 1000s will die from radiation exposure. But threat from bombs are worse. Anyone can now build a bomb /here the mag gets it WRONG! by putting two lumps plutonium in a pipe and set a timer to let TNT shot a lump towards the other. /That's a U235 bomb!/ Authorities in Florida some years back received a blackmail letter with a picture of an atomic bomb, in an astounding construction, demanding 1 million dollar. There was a huge panic but it was later found it was a 14-year old boy behind it. It's easy to get plutonium. And you can spread radioactivity by attacking a nuke plant, just crash a plane into a power plant. No one knows what to do with nuclear waste. Latest idea is to embed it concrete and bury it deep down.

The reporter seems to have listened too much to professor Alfvén who was known as a fanatic nuclear power opponent. In fact Swedish (and other) nuclear plants are surrounded by reinforced concrete shells that can stand an airliner crashing, and plutonium

and U235 bombs are done differently. But it's correct that constructing a Bomb is relatively easy, but getting U235 (difficult, slow enrichment needing huge facilities) or plutonium (needs a nuclear plant, plus it's dangerous to handle) is the catch. There's never been a big secret how the Bomb is designed. *Intermission #100* earlier told of a Swede (ASEA director Ragnar Liljeblad) who patented (!) an atomic bomb in the 1950s. There are cases of students making viable nuke designs <https://www.knowol.com/information/princeton-student-atomic-bomb/> or <https://www.nytimes.com/1976/10/09/archives/student-designs-2000-atom-bomb.html> - the design isn't the problem, it's getting the fissionable material.

At the time of writing the 2023 Worldcon in Chengdu, China, still lists Russian writer Sergei Lukianenko as Guest of Honour. It's unacceptable! That moron supports Putin's assault on Ukraine. Get rid of him or the con should be boycotted! Read eg <https://file770.com/sergei-lukianenko-hails-attacks-on-ukrainian-civilian-targets/comment-page-1/>

(Who BFWthought it was a good idea to have a Worldcon in China? The Chinese communist are behind a lot of very bad behaviour! No Communist cons in the future, please!)

Snart kan vem som helst skaffa sig världens farligaste vapen:

20-åring gjorde egen atombomb på 14 dagar!

Redan nu kan nästan vilken terrorgrupp som helst skaffa sig atombomber. Det som behövs är plutonium. Och plutonium produceras vid alla kärnkraftverk. Det kan också köpas på svarta marknaden...

aktuellit-reportage: Bengt Michanek



Den första atombomben över Hiroshima har krävt offer i flera generationer.

■ ■ ■ — Snart har världens liten diktator, varenda gerillaförare i hela världen tillgång till atombomber. Detta kan vi inte på något sätt förhindra. Det är det oundvikliga resultatet av kärnkraftsåldern.

Det säger professor Hannes Alfvén till FIB-aktuellt. Han har i FIB-aktuelles tidigare artiklar om kärnkraften avslöjat att våra svenska kärnkraftverk när som helst kan explodera och att tusentals människor över hela världen varje år kommer att dö i cancer och genetiska skador av den "naturliga" radioaktiva strålningen från de tusentals kärnreaktorer som inom några år kommer att vara i drift i allt fler länder.

— Men — säger professor Hannes Alfvén — det allra värsta hotet mot mänskligheten i och med kärnkraftsamhället är den ständigt och snabbt växande atombomben.

Forts på nästa uppslag

ett batteri, ett tidur, några sladdar, skyddshandskar och munskydd.

Trotylen delas upp i lika delar och placeras i ändarna av cylindern. Sedan delas plutoniet i två lika delar och dessa placeras, med ett litet mellanrum i mitten av cylindern. Tändningsstrådarna, batteriet och tiduret ansluts till trotylen. Atombomben är färdig.

När trotylladdningarna i cylinderns ändar detonerar tvingas plutoniumdelarna samman med en oerhörd kraft. Och det är allt som behövs för att en kärnexplosion ska äga rum. Så var den första Hiroshimabomben konstruerad. Miljoner människor dödades.

Det här är naturligtvis något förenklat och det finns även andra lösningar.

■ För några år sedan skickades anonymt en teckning till myndigheterna i Orlando i Florida i USA. Den föreställde en atombomb och följdes av ett krav på 1 miljon dollar. Experterna häpnade över den geniala konstruktionen och myndigheterna greps av panik. Högsta beredskap beordrades.

Så småningom avslöjades det att en 14-årig pojke var ansvarig för atombombsbrevet.

I dag cirkulerar ett ihärdigt rykte i höga diplomatiska kretsar i Europa.

Överste Kadafi — den egenälsnige diktatorn i Libyen vid Medelhavet — har lyckats komma över ett stort parti plutonium.

Om ryktet är sant kan det betyda en våldsamt upptrappning av det redan nu hårt ansträngda läget i arabvärlden och Mellanöstern.

Det går aldrig att komma ifrån kopplingen mellan det fredliga utnyttjandet av kärnkraften och atomvapenspridningen. Det är alla experter eniga om.

■ Men denna koppling kommer att leda till orimliga övervakningsåtgärder över medborgarna, åtgärder som ändå inte kommer att vara tillräckliga. Så här pessimistisk är David Rosenbaum, fysiker i den amerikanska atomenergikommissionen.

missionen:

— För det första så kommer det aldrig att gå att gardera sig mot terrrorsabotage mot kärnkraftverken. Det är omöjligt med tanke på den tilltagande internationella terrorismen. Men det kanske värsta är att vi med tanke på hur lätt det kan vara att komma över plutonium i framtiden måste bygga ut kontrollen över medborgarna kraftigt. Detta kan komma att leda till slutet för demokratierna och främja uppkomsten av totalitära stater.

Ytterligare en skrämmande aspekt av det framtida kärnkraftsamhället.

Men för en krigsförande nation behövs det inte ens egna atombomber för att tillfoga fienden ett förödande slag.

Om någon vill angripa Sverige räcker det att med konventionella bomber slå till mot våra kärnkraftverk. De ligger fullständigt oskyddade ovan jord. Dessutom av någon anledning nära stora tätbefolkade områden. Barsebäcksverket strax utanför Malmö skulle — om det bombades — kunna sprida förintelse över hela Öresundsområdet — Malmö, Landskrona, Köpenhamn — med miljoner människor i farozonen.

Våra kärnkraftverk är så oskyddade att det faktiskt räcker att ett större trafikflygplan störtar på ett av dem för att samma katastrof skall vara ett faktum.

■ Kärnkraftssamhällets problem ökar dag för dag.

När teknikerna löst ett problem med de otroligt komplicerade kärnkraftverken så dyker två nya upp.

Bland forskare och tekniker finns det heller ingen som helst enighet om hur alla problem med kärnkraften skall lösas.

Politikerna, som har det yttersta ansvaret, säger bara att "problemen kommer att lösas av våra skickliga tekniker".

Men bland forskarna och teknikerna inom kärnkraftsindustrin hoppar allt fler av för varje dag som går.

Det senaste exemplet på den stora osynligheten bland forskar-

na rör ett av kärnkraftens största problem — avfallsproblemet.

Tidigare har Sverige kunnat skicka sitt avfall utomlands. Vi har bara låtit andra ta hand om det utan några som helst garantier att deita har skett på ett för kommande generationer tillfredsställande och ofarligt sätt.

I dag har vi inte längre denna möjlighet. Ingen vill ta emot vårt högaktiva radioaktiva atomavfall. Nu måste vi lagra det själva. Det är livsfarligt i tusentals år och i dag vet ingen vad vi egentligen ska göra av det.

■ Dagligen kommer de mest fantastiska förslag från politiker och tekniker om var och hur vi ska försvara avfallet.

Men ingen vet säkert och paniken sprider sig sakta.

Faktum är att avfallet från ett enda kärnkraftverk innehåller så mycket radioaktivitet att det kan ta död på allt liv på jorden!

■ Den 19 maj i år offentliggjorde den statliga AKA-utredningen (utredningen om kärnkraftens högaktiva avfall) sitt senaste förslag:

"Gjut in avfallet i glas, placera det i stålbehållare och gjut in det 400 meter ner i urberget."

Regeringen blev jätteglad och statsminister Palme sa att "nu är avfallsproblemen lösta".

En tid senare trädde professor i geofysik och medlemmen av den svenska vetenskapsakademien — Nils Hasi — fram och kommenterade den statliga utredningens förslag. Han sa angående lagringen i berget:

— Det går inte alls. Det är farligt. Att tanken på en dylik förvaringsplats över huvud taget förs fram måste bero på att existerande sprickförhållanden i den svenska granitberggrunden inte är alltför klara.

I en lång vetenskapligt utvärderad forskningsrapport från ett förslaget är helt orealistiskt. Där står vi i dag.

Finally back to centrefold star Christina Lindberg... https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christina_Lindberg

She appeared in several movies, of which "Thriller – a Cruel Picture" (alternate title "They Call Her One Eye") (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thriller_%E2%80%93_A_Cruel_Picture and <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0072285/>

1973) has become famous. It's real cult film, even inspiring director Quentin Tarantino. It's a rather dystopian movie about a one-eyed young woman who is forced into drugs and prostitution. She swears to take out deadly revenge against the men responsible. I mentioned it already in #113 but now I've also found it online for you to enjoy :

<https://www.veoh.com/watch/v72702830FM9CKEkm> (Dialogue in Swedish and Italian subtitles, but as talk is sparse so you should be able to follow it anyway,*) And I've now also found a very interesting documentary about Sweden's oddest film director Bo Arne Vibenius and the filming of "Thriller" (in English)! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xxdWVUhiJc> and the star Ms Lindberg is interviewed in it. It was the first film to be 100% banned by Swedish state film censors in modern time - it couldn't be shown even with cuts - and was the inspiration for Tarantino's "Kill Bill" films. And "Thriller" costed



Cult Queen Christina today.

Слава Украине!

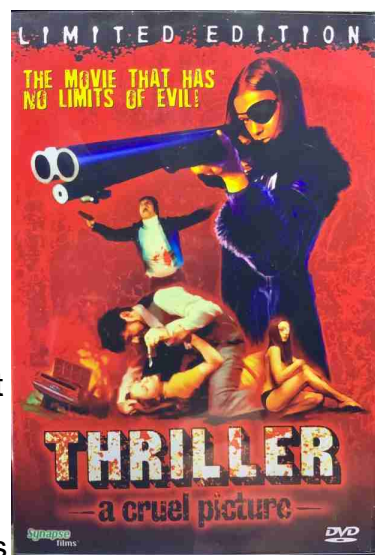
* Hm, I found it with English subtitles <https://sv.xhamster.com/videos/christina-lindberg-thriller-a-cruel-picture-6251622> - but beware: that's a bona fide porn site, so if your clicks go astray you'll get the nature films David Attenborough never covers.



only \$40 000 to shoot. I've met Christina Lindberg years ago. After gents mags posing and film career, she began with aviation journalism (for the mag *Flygrevyn* her partner published).

As I have done a lot of pop sci/tech writing I bumped into her at a press presentation of the new Gripen jet fighter - it was in the 1990s.

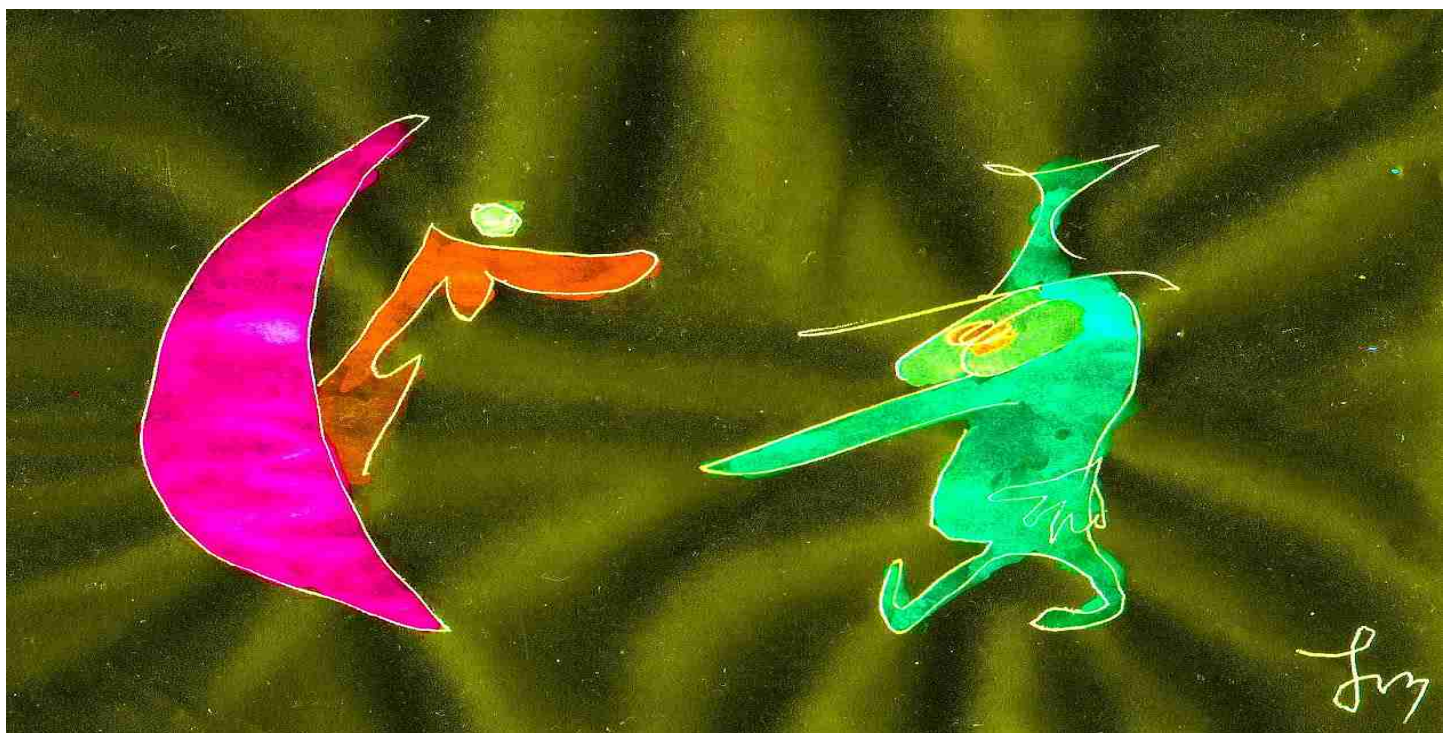
For next ish perhaps more on Eugen "Genie" Semitjov, but I also I still have Royal Library newspaper stories left. If you have more substantial comments to all this try a LoC. (I'm wavering regarding having a LoCol or not. The problem is I fear much more work if I add a LoCol and many more pages in a fanzine already too long... I read all comments, and if you have very interesting things to say you make persuade me!)



MAILING COMMENTS

First commenting brilliant EAPA 222, then the extraordinary N'APA 260... BTW, why don't you join! Fandom needs more fanzines. Do your fannish duty!

Henry Grynsten: Interesting about "peak performance"! I believe you can stretch the peak by constantly trying to be creative and using your brain. As the saying goes: Use it or lose it! * * "if you have the /nano/ technology. The science fiction technology" Well, as said, hundreds of years from now if we have the technology to build starships, we'll certainly be able to manipulate atoms! Technology progress has historically been under- rather than over-estimated. Example: Who would have thought that just over three decades after the Wright Bros climbed a feet feet into the skies we'd have the first jets! 10 years after the discovery of the neutron, 5 years after finding atomic chain reactions - atomic bombs were built. The first TVs came in the 1930s as well as antibiotics. We can already manipulate DNA. Our telescopes can trace big bang and we have the first (simple) quantum computers. Add 100 years, who knows what we can manage! 100% recycling with atomic rearrangement should be a breeze. * * That Fanac ouija board should perhaps be tried... * * That murder victims (women) are "found in water is partly to do with the fact that they can then be naked." No, I think water as a popular place to place bodies in fiction is because: A) a certain period in water gives a good chance of evidence on the body being destroyed, and B) if you weight down a body good enough there's a fair chance it won't even be discovered! "Man is, so to speak, a creature of culture, but woman is a child of nature... are men in fact more molded by culture than women?" Interesting question. I haven't heard it before. "Both the physical and mental characters of men show wider limits of variation than do the physical and mental characters of women." Sounds true. Studies seem to support it, as you also note. This higher degree of variation may be the cause of why men often dominate top positions in difficult fields. Variation would produce more men who are the absolute best in running an international company (but also more who are absolutely



Artist Lars LON Olsson: The Man in the Moon meets a Martian...

clueless about business). Hm, I don't find the link between what you discuss here and your ideas of water and creatures in it... * * "There might be only one genre: realism." In way, yes. But beside realism there is also SPACE OPERA!!! * * Hm, Syd Barrett Had A Strange Hobby... * * I suspect The Beatles WOULD have reunited in the 1980s hadn't John Lennon been murdered. ABBA did (later), so why not?

Heath Row: Interesting discussion on subgenres. There is something in the Good Doctor's assessment that all skiffy is either gadget, adventure or social. * * About genre soundtracks, one of the more successful ones is "Hooked on a Feeling" in "Guardians of the Galaxy" (2014), see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4i2oUp5fAQw> sung by Björn Skifs of the Swedish group Blue Swedes. This was the first Swedish track to enter #1 spot on the Billboard chart, which happened April 6 1974. By pure coincidence, it was the very SAME date that ABBA won the Eurovision with "Waterloo". April 6 1974 has thus by many been seen as the birth of Swedish pop on the international stage... Mr Skifs does a very good version of the song (original by BJ Thomas). * * Interesting that there is a "Leif Erikson Ediciones" in Mexico. I though Latin Americans would be more in favour of fellow Spain-connected Columbus. * * I'm not sure "Fanzines Are Fandom's Eternal Backbone (FAFEB!)" will catch on, but I have helped to coin local fannish phrases like calling nostalgia "The World of Yesterday - Today Again!". "JVM" is Jules Verne Magasinet, local prozine (now defunct). * * I probably still have a copy of my high school genre dissemination, but I'd be damned to find it (I re-read it many years ago and it was crap!) * * Thanks for the tip about the printing museum. I went to the site and found many gems there. I'm rather interested in old printing technology. What an impressive machine the Linotype was! * * As for APA-L, what I intended to query was only if one could join E-wise (only). Joining on paper would be too complicated. * * I don't think media or fringe fandoms have any interesting, worthwhile activities or a meaningful cultural background. They just do cheerleading for shallow media stuff. So true fandom (Trufandom!) would be diluted for the worse if such was included! Mediafandom lacks self-awareness, humour and creativity. Most thing they do is copying. Their "fanfiction" is copying professional fictional worlds. Their masquerade dresses are copies of comics and fantasy characters. They collect plastic model copies of movie spaceships. Very little they do is original contents! What media fans do, as they openly admit to, is to try to become engulfed by - be a part of - their fantasies. They live a second-hand life. But you become myopic and unable to view your doings from the outside. You lose a healthy perspective to your interest. Trufen on the other have always had that. Literary, traditional fandom is full of meta-references, self-irony, filk making fun of themselves, not to forget original creativity. It's true, alas, that trufandom is in risk of extinction (and I'm not sure it can be reversed), and that's why I do my best to at least try to preserve its history. * * Your "sister Gatwick". ROTFL!

William McCabe: I attended the Finncons that earlier were combined with their local Animecons. Sometimes they would have thousands of dressed-up teenage girls! They don't host Animecon anymore, so this year Finncon had only a few of those. In Sweden those are fortunately drawn to the Comic Cons that have begun, so you know what to avoid. * * I think that describing the Blitz before it happened! is sf. Covering a future or trying to foresee events is always sf, even if it isn't "spectacular". Describing, say, a lunar landing before Apollo 11 is skiffy, isn't it!



Garth Spencer: Interesting bio. Did you have an "America-next-door complex" growing up?

* * No, we least of all "use up" water (meaning fresh water). Cubic kilometres of fresh water is produced daily through evaporation. Useable water is only a matter of distribution. * * When you mention the thermodynamic obvious rule that everything weathers, you forgot you may locally reverse this by adding energy! For instance, the existence of life is a local reversal of thermodynamics.

Roger Sjölander: Interesting about rhetoric, Plato etc, but no comments. (I studied those subjects at Stockholm University. I took several philosophy courses in the 1980s.)

Finally: Tomas Cronholm corrected #124: Pic low left on p1 wasn't a GoH interview, but a panel on "the meaning of sf and fandom" with the two

GoHs. I took maybe 100 pics during the con, so things easily get mixed up... * * Time to stop. Our fanzine blockade against Putin continues with full force! 'Till next time...

--Ahrvid, Editor at large



Esmeralda County Line #1
September-October 2022
A zine for N'APA 261

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Introductory Natter

Greetings, fellow apahackers! For those of you who think my name sounds familiar but can't quite place me, I am the current Treasurer, Membership-wallah, and wearer of several other fezzes for the N3F as needed. I've been attending SF conventions on and off since Discon II in 1974, with occasional (lengthy) breaks while on active duty in the Army, stationed in West Germany around the beginning of the last act of the Cold War, and again during the 90s when I was married and helping raise two children on a shoestring budget. I was one of the founders of Anime Detour, an anime convention in the Minneapolis area, but have had less to do with them since moving out of Minnesota and nothing to do with them now for reasons I shan't bore you with.

I used to contribute to StippleAPA, which was formed by people on the waiting list to join MinneAPA, and ironically enough, the former outlasted the latter. One of these days when I have a working printer again I'll rejoin, because unlike a lot of other APAs, it's strictly dead tree. This is my second zine for N'APA; I had to quit some years ago when becoming unemployed and homeless got in the way of contributing. Things are more stable now.

My main fandom is SF, but I'm also interested in anime, manga, mobile games, wargames (video as well as old-fashioned cardboard & paper games) and some movies and TV, though as with anime, I find it difficult to get through shows or movies because I get easily bored and prefer to play video games of one sort or another since they're more interactive. Used to be into role-playing games (and have a truly shameful number of rulebooks/reference guides) but haven't actually played in years.

Comments On N'APA #260

INTERMISSION #123

I remember reading about Poltava and the Great Northern War in a darkly humorous military history called From The Jaws Of Victory, which chronicled a number of infamous military disasters through the centuries. Poltava was included in a chapter about the Great Northern War titled “The Tiny Lion and the Enormous Mouse”. 🍷🍷 It occurs to me that all of Tom Clancy’s novels are now alternate histories. 🍷🍷 I enjoy cosplayers as much as the next fan, but sometimes you need to tell people to go back to their rooms and put more clothes on. On the other hand, we ejected (and blacklisted) a number of adults from Anime Detour who couldn’t or wouldn’t keep their creepy tendencies under control. Too many people appear not to have learned the basic rule of behavior: keep your hands to yourself.

RYCTo Jefferson: There were in fact a plethora of Allied armored divisions involved in the Battle of the Bulge. The American 7th and 9th Armored were involved from the beginning, while the British contributed their 11th Armored division plus three additional separate brigades. By mid-January 1945 there were eight Allied armored divisions and two brigades in action in the Ardennes. ~~Everything I know about the Battle of the Bulge I learned by playing *Wacht Am Rhein*.~~

RYCTo George: Agree that the Hugo and Nebula Awards have become more about virtue-signaling than about quality. I now use the award winner lists as guides to what I should avoid.

RYCTo Sam: We don’t need more gun laws. The ones we have aren’t being enforced, so adding more would be pointless.

ARCHIVE MIDWINTER

RYCTo Ahrvid: “...sending probes to far-off locales where we can’t send humans.” Well, not with *that* attitude. ;) 🍷🍷 I too am a member of the Xerox generation. I remember seeing mimeographs in schools when I was growing up, but it never occurred to me until I got into fandom in the 1980s that people actually owned such things.

RYCTo George: This kind of inept/arbitrary/vindictive behavior is what led me to abandon Facebook in favor of Gab and MeWe, where I know that the authors I follow won’t be sent to digital time-out because some Silicon Valley commissar got up on the wrong side of xer’s bed.

RYCTo Heath: “...Haldeman’s vision was a touch dystopic.” Now there’s an understatement. His description of the UNEF as a U.S. Army that had learned nothing and forgotten everything from Vietnam would sound all too familiar to veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, judging from what I see every day on the r/Army subreddit.

RYCTo John: Like war, combat SF has always been with us, though I don’t think it really became a subgenre of its own until Gordy Dickson’s 1975 anthology. I am amused by the fact that after Pournelle & Carr started the “There Will be War” anthologies, Harry Harrison edited an anti-war SF anthology, There Won’t Be War. The Pournelle & Carr books have been reissued by Castalia House with a tenth volume added; the Harrison anthology has been out of print for nearly 30 years. 🍷🍷 I would like to agree with you about the Weak Historical Principle, but it seems that even here in the First World, we have far too many people who want to wield the whip over others, and just as many who don’t care as long as they’re not the ones being whipped. Times change, but unfortunately people do not.

RYCTo Sam: I can’t speak to mysteries, since I never cared for the genre (with the exception of Nero Wolfe, Sherlock Holmes, and the Continental Op) but I think Westerns are getting a shot in the arm from the blurring of lines between traditional Westerns and fantasy/horror, which I suppose is an offshoot of the urban fantasies popularized by Jim Butcher and Larry Correia.

INTERMISSION #124

Interesting history of Swedish fandom, about which I knew next to nothing before this. You should put a book together!

SNOW POSTER TOWNSHIP #6

Branches Of Science Fiction: I had always thought the distinction between hard and soft SF had to do with whether the science could (hard) or could not (soft) be quantified, which meant that stories about physics, chemistry, geology, etc. – and by extension, engineering – were hard SF, while the social sciences were not. Following this logic to its paradoxical conclusion, one is forced to acknowledge that most combat/military SF is in fact soft SF, since it is concerned more with the psychological and social effects of war on soldiers and their nations than with the ordnance they use, and this is true even of Keith Laumer’s stories about the Bolo Combat Units, some of which have no human beings involved at all.

But to quote the Sultan of Kinakuta in Neal Stephenson’s Cryptonomicon, “All of this is bullshit!” The whole purpose of chopping up SF into various subgenres should be (IMNSHO) to help explain a story you’re talking about to somebody unfamiliar with it. If I tell someone, “This is a dark loli magical girl anime,” they usually have a good idea what to expect, but if I tell someone that Neuromancer is a dystopian cyberpunk thriller, unless they know what I mean by those terms, they’re only going to get a vague idea about what kind of book it is. They might think I’m talking about Ira Levin’s This Perfect Day, which is also a dystopian cyberpunk thriller, but has almost nothing in common with Gibson’s classic novel.

RYCTo Jefferson: I have both the original A Spaceship For The King and the revised version, King David’s Spaceship. I will advert to you that the original version, with its Kelly Freas cover, has a lot more swash in its buckle than the revision, so if you prefer more adventure and less Imperial politics, read the original. The revision isn’t bad, mind you, but it strikes me as having been added to make the original story fit better with The Mote In God’s Eye, which takes place at roughly the same time. 🌟🌟 I remember tracking down the *Battle Angel Alita* manga after seeing the anime and coming away thinking that the anime studio had done a good job distilling the action and romance down into a decent short movie. Of course, when the movie came out I had to go see it, and it was well worth it.

RYCTo Ahrvid: A long, long time ago (back in the 90s?) MinneAPA and APA-L had some kind of arrangement where they were collated together, but it didn’t work very well. So there was at least one point in time when non-LASFS members participated in APA-L, after a fashion. 🌟🌟 Having been on the wrong end of the trufans/fringefans argument when I got back into fandom in the 90s, I agree that the survival of fandom in the long term requires us to realize there is One Big Fandom, and there are many mansions in our ghetto. I have personally introduced dozens of media and anime fans to classic SF that they enjoyed reading, and for that matter there are a fair number of filthy pro writers who got their start as what the so-called trufen sneered at as fringefans. (The name Jacqueline Lichtenberg should ring a bell, and James Blish is a good example of someone well-known in mainline SF whose career got a shot in the arm from *Star Trek*). I am sorry if I am ranting here, but by the Twelve Ritual Dismemberments, this kind of gatekeeping pisses me off. Fandom needs new blood, and if it comes in wearing nekomimi ears, while playing *Azur Lane*, and asking what we think of *The Expanse*, I think we should sit them down, offer them a sustaining beverage, and start chatting.

RYCTo George: There is a line from Cleve Cartmill’s “Deadline” to the raid on Steve Jackson Games, and I doubt we’ll be happy to see what’s further down that line. I just hope nobody gets shot.

RYCTo John: I’m going to take a look at those papers. As far back as Discon II, people were doing surveys of fans to see what kind of people showed up at cons, and I think the SFRA was founded partially to encourage such studies, but I don’t recall seeing much in the way of published papers. Maybe I’ve been looking in the wrong place. 🌟🌟 One of the problems with Minicon that led to its implosion was that MNSTF (its nominal parent org) became increasingly divorced from convention operations, to the point where they didn’t realize that the vast majority of the staff were not MNSTF members, and who really resented being characterized as fringefans by the MNSTF insiders who came up with the High Resolution Minicon Proposal.

When I founded Anime Detour, and its parent company Anime Twin Cities, I made sure that couldn't happen by requiring attendance at con staff meetings as a prerequisite for voting in ATC board elections. You might say that ATC is not so much a non-profit that runs a convention as it is a convention with a parent company to deal with all the greasy tax-exempt organizational stuff.

Now, having said this, I have a bias (probably an unreasonable one) against commercial conventions, because I don't see their purpose as helping build a fannish community so much as extract money from fans while giving them a false sense of community. Still, if there's nothing else around, I suppose a Creation Con or something like it is better than nothing.

RYCTo Will: (RIP) I find the idea of the World As Simulation to be more of a joke than anything else. I certainly hope it doesn't turn into a first-person shooter; as I commented in another context completely, I am far too old to be putting on my blue shirt and red beret so I can run around the rural Nevada hills as a 21st-century Requête.

SYNERGY #41

(natter) I think one of the ongoing problems with science fiction (and to a certain extent with fantasy) is that there is a general knee-jerk negative reaction to religion among writers and fans both. Religious characters are often portrayed as backwards, stupid, unscientific persons who are In The Way of Progress, and the contributions of believers to science (Gregor Mendel being the first to come to mind) are overlooked or handwaved away. This creates a blind spot, which I submit has not been good for the genre or fandom.

RYCTo Jefferson It is indeed difficult to figure out people at a distance, and not much easier when you are dealing with people at close range. I think people who are trying to figure out authors by rooting through their writings and online presence are embarked on a fool's errand. Somewhat relevant: in David Drake's most recent newsletter, while discussing the late Eric Flint,* he compared Flint to Karl Edward Wagner, who essentially drank himself to death. "He [Wagner] never made a serious attempt that I saw to stop drinking before it killed him because his image as a hard-drinking writer was more important to him than his life."

RYCTo Sam Can confirm that PABLO LENNIS has "a wide variety of contents" and is indeed published on paper. I characterized it as "eclectic" in a LoC I sent to you, I believe. It was not my thing, but I recommend it to folks because it may be their thing.

YE MURDERED MASTER MAGE #259

(natter) I think in the matter of N3F membership and activities, we are doing the best we can with what we have. Perhaps Son of Silvercon (about which more anon) will give us a shot in the arm, adding more members among whom we will have more active contributors to zines and other activities. Perhaps we will continue to grow by fits and starts, recovering old members one or two at a time and adding the occasional new member likewise.

SAMIZDATISH #15

(natter) Congratulations on being chosen as Balticon chairman. I have attended Balticon on and off since the 1970s despite moving from the DC area to Minnesota, back to DC, and out to Nevada, and while my purpose in attending has come full circle to the original hanging out with my friends, I have generally enjoyed the convention. I hope you can continue to make it a convention that attracts all kinds of different fandoms, as it always has.

RYCTo Ahrvid Considering that hospitals in the U.S. were being incentivized to report deaths of people who had COVID as being caused by COVID, you'll forgive me for being skeptical about those mortality numbers, but at this point I'm disinclined to argue. ☹️☹️ I don't like the Hugo nominees of the last decade or so, but after Sasquan and MidAmericon II it became obvious to me that WSFS doesn't want my opinion or the opinions of those fans like me. I'll spend my money on other conventions instead.

RYCTo Jefferson I long ago gave up on trying to read everything published in the SF/F genres. Heavens, it's all I can do to keep up with authors I like, even with David Drake having hung up his keyboard.

(Chicago trip/post-natter) You have my sympathy regarding United losing your luggage. ~~At least they didn't break your guitar.~~ Poor service like this (and conversely, outstanding service from Southwest when I was very ill in Minneapolis one year) is why I only fly Southwest these days. ☹️☹️ Of course they wouldn't have found your bag until after you bought replacements. Murphy sees all. ☹️☹️ Inflation's effect on food prices is something I particularly notice when I'm in Las Vegas, because I'm usually trying to get several things done at once and therefore resort to fast food so I can eat between appointments. You are doing well these days if you can get out of Carl's Jr. (Hardee's out east) or Chick-Fil-A for less than \$15, and \$20 is more common. ☹️☹️ I agree that A World Lit Only By Fire is not up to Manchester's usual standards, even for popular history, but nonetheless it is a decent summary of the times.

*For those of you who are unaware, despite Flint's popularity, he died deeply in debt, and his wife was forced to declare bankruptcy. Drake attributes this to Flint fronting as a rich, successful author, when in fact he was only middle-class. My words, not Drake's.

Here endeth the comments on N'APA #260.

SON OF SILVERCON PROGRESS REPORT ZERO

In which the Yr. Humble Author demonstrates that he has learned nothing from his experiences

By the time you read this, you will hopefully have seen the announcement in the N3F newsletter of a convention I am starting in downtown Las Vegas at the Plaza Hotel & Casino on September 28-30, 2023. While there have been a number of anime conventions and commercial Creation Con-style media cons in Las Vegas since I arrived there in 2015, there has been no "normal" SF convention in town since the original Silvercon, which happened before I got here. Conventional wisdom is that Las Vegas is too transient to support an ongoing convention, to which I say Bah! Balderdash! Humbug, even!

I have been through this before, with Anime Detour back in 2004, but Son of Silvercon is different: back then, I and the other AD organizers knew there were a bunch of Twin Cities fans that were sick of having to drive to Chicago or Cedar Rapids to get their anime fix. I know there are fans in Las Vegas sufficient to support a couple of geek bars and the occasional anime & media conventions; the question is, can I attract enough of them to build a convention staff and sufficient membership to sustain an ongoing convention? I certainly intend to find out. N.B.: this is not an official project of the N3F, though I encourage N3F members to sign up. If you are on the membership roster at the time of your registration (public, electronic, regular, or life) you get a \$5 discount off the pre-registration fee. You **MUST** specify on your check/money order that you are an N3F member to get the discount.

The convention will run from Wednesday through Saturday, so as to avoid the onerous weekend room rates Las Vegas is known for; if we can nail down the proposed contract before year's end, room rates will be roughly \$94/night.* My ambition is to stage a convention along the lines of Libertycon in Chattanooga, though without the attendance limits Libertycon has, with an abundance of discussion panels, a dealers' room, and a con suite. For starters. Pre-registration is \$40 until April 15, supporting memberships are \$20**, dealer tables are \$100 each (including two memberships for the dealers, limit of two tables).

Please make your checks/money orders out to Friends of Fission-chan; I do not yet have a bank account or a website set up for the convention yet, since I am trying to juggle pre-tax season training, medical appointments (in Las Vegas) and my newly acquired duties as a member of the National Security Site*** Advisory Board. I expect to have both of those operational by mid-November, perhaps earlier if enough people sign up early enough.

I am of course looking for help: if you have experience being on staff at other conventions or being a volunteer at other conventions, please let me know. I am not a believer in the collective labor theory of conrunning, so there will be perks above and beyond a cool T-shirt and nifty badge. Professional artists and writers will be offered a discount or waiver of membership in return for agreeing to host or participate in panels; perhaps we will be able to offer other perks as well, depending on turnout. We will of course have T-shirts in all sizes after I consult with an artist. .

Speaking of artists, our guest of honor will be M.C.A. Hogarth, author of Earthrise, Zafill: Fireborn Unpainted, Spots the Space Marine, and The Three Jaguars. Ms. Hogarth is also an artist and cartoonist, and we are fortunate to have her as our inaugural Guest of Honor.

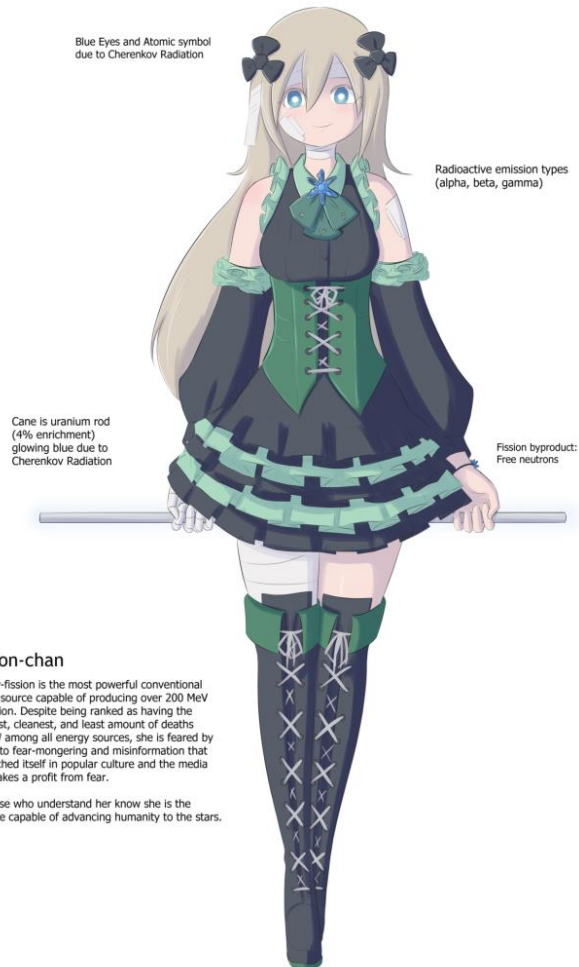
Make your checks or money orders payable to Friends of Fission-chan, and send them to PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049. We will be accepting electronic payments via GabPay and PayPal starting next month, *keayn aynboreh*, and I will post that information on the website when it goes live. I will also be sending e-mails with that information to members in the next progress report. Feel free to e-mail me with questions in the meantime.

*Plus tax and resort fees.

**Can be upgraded to a regular membership until April 15 2023.

***Formerly known as the Nevada Test Site.

Our mascot.



Archive Midwinter
a zine for N'APA 260

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17 July 2022

Comments:

Cover: The things you can find on the Internet!

Ahrvid Engholm: Fun notes on FinnCon and really old 1920s-era space fantasy! Those were the days when the idea of shooting astronauts from a big cannon still made sense to a lot of people. (And the days when even highly learned persons could argue that rockets won't work, because "there's nothing to push against." So much for common intuition in physics!) And fun notes on the old Soviet-era space race.

Alas, neither theology nor science can ever really uncover the "ultimate" answer to the question of the origin of the cosmos, because the human mind is always capable of asking, "Yeah, but what happened before that?" At least science is capable of defining a local $t=0$ and saying that we know what happened from that point forward – the Big Bang – and science has the integrity to say, "We don't know" what happened before. (The answer that there can be no "before" because time began when time-space began, and "before" $t=0$ is as meaningless as "north" of the North Pole. The problem is that the human mind refuses to accept this answer!)



rect me, I certainly hope you're right, in that Ukraine can actually win this war – if "winning" really has a meaning, given how much has already been lost: lives, property, human suffering, and so on. Surely one of the most pointless and evil wars in history – and it would have been so even if Russia had rolled right in and won in two weeks, as so many people, including many real experts in military science, quite expected.

Agreement that WWII could have been shortened – almost was! – by an effective defense of France in 1940. It would have left Germany with a dictatorship, but would they have resorted to mass murder? And of course Poland would still have been lost. A stalemate and "Cold War" would have been a grim outcome.

Ahrvid Engholm: Fun notes on Okon and fun notes on old SF in general.

rect Henry Grynnssten, I would hold a middle position: it is government's legitimate job to regulate private citizens' risk-assessment behaviors – motorcycle helmet laws come to mind. But, obviously, only up to a certain point. There's no use playing the "what if" card and create extreme caricatures of this viewpoint, as in

Kurt Vonnegut's famous "equalizer general" story. Caricatures make good rhetoric, but poor reasoning. Most certainly there is a very high value to be placed on moderation (in all things!) But I do believe that one of the legitimate functions of the state is to protect us (a little!) from ourselves.

re Henry Grynnsen, you said, "One reason I'm not too impressed with writers claimed to be great in "portraying people" is that writers have characters that are only aspects of the writer. And why should that one single person be so interesting?" I really vigorously disagree! This is a surrender to solipsism: why should I be interested in *anything* that isn't in my own mind? Why should I care what you think? Why should you care what I think? But the answer is that we are all engaged in a lifelong effort to communicate with each other, to break through the walls of solipsism, and to meet other people, befriend them, and learn from them. Some fiction authors are better than others at portraying characters, and some fiction authors have a larger "stable" of characters that they can portray. Robert Heinlein had about three characters; Shakespeare had a couple of dozen. Really good writers can evoke scene and setting, emotional tonality, and, yes, the illusion of a "person" in the personality of their characters. This is something worth noting and admiring, and if we are going to be in the business of writing reviews of fiction, it is a valid thing to bring forward and acknowledge.

Heath Row: re the actual science in SF, interesting question: space science seems to be best represented in SF. Possibly meteorology *was* the most under-represented...until the climate crisis! I think Greg Benford may be the best SF writer for portraying "real science." His breakthrough novel, Timescape, was a masterpiece in that respect.

I'd never before heard Asimov's division of stories into the categories of "Gadget, Adventure, or Social." I think I largely agree with it. One idea of my own is for the division of SF vs Fantasy, in that SF is often about how scientific advances affect society as a

whole, while fantasy is more often about how it affects a sole individual. My usual examples are "The Flying Pill" vs. "The Boy Who Could Fly." CE3K is science fiction, but ET is fantasy. Obviously, there are LOTS of ways this division can break down and fail!

re me, if you can find a copy of The Collective Unconscience of Odd Bodkins, by Dan O'Neill, you might thank me forever...or curse my name eternally! I am VERY fond of these comics!

Why should fandom be broken up into specialties? I find it useful in order to zero in on my own personal tastes and preferences. Just as an example, I'm a furry, and have been from very early on in the cycle of Relentless Furry Fandom. But I'm not a fan of "centaur" furry art. There is a division, then, that suits me, because I can skip over the motifs that aren't to my taste. Product labelling, when used correctly, is of service to the consumer! But I very much agree that it should be done with love, not hatred!

I agree with your thoughts on the "simulation" hypothesis. It should never be used as an excuse for apathy. (Nor should any other conspiracy fantasy!) Who knows: maybe the simulation is there to test for humanity's ability to do the right thing, even when it seems pointless. (We just had an election. I voted. I *always* vote! I have never missed an election, and I vote even when it is grossly obvious that my preferred candidate cannot win. This is only "pointless" to some points-of-view. To mine, it is "Do the right thing, no matter what.")

John Thiel: I largely agree with you on spirituality vs economics, and only want to point out the obvious, that there is room for both. Major League Sports is really weird economics: the games actually produce *nothing*, but it makes people happy, and it promotes a vast secondary economy where things actually *are* produced and consumed – t-shirts, hot dogs, etc. Economics is very largely a

matter of illusion. One economist once said that a recession occurs when people think a recession is occurring. The technical measure falls second to the popular illusion. Spirituality is highly marketable, and is, too, by-and-large a public good. I'd rather live around people who are moderately spiritual than around people who are not-at-all spiritual or who are totally spiritual. (Although I, myself, am very close to not-at-all.)

You say, "It's not likely fandom would exist without fanzines." Which is the cause and which is the effect?

George Phillis: I certainly agree that the N3F could be more active and more diverse with more members. I certainly have no idea how to make the club grow, but I certainly want to congratulate you and thank you for how you have made the Short Story Contest grow! We have a lot more entries now than at our nadir – the year we got none at all!

The use of drones – and the *usefulness* of drones – in the Ukraine war is fascinating. The technology is astonishing. We have a long way to go before realizing Cordwainer Smith's "War 81-Q," which was fought entirely between remotely-piloted vehicles, but we're making steps in that direction.

Lovely cover for "Of Breaking Waves." Who is the artist, and how did you arrange the commission? (And, if not too personal a question, how much did it cost?)

Interesting segment of your next novel. Introspective and quiet, it is still evocative of character. In regard to my earlier comments to Ahrvid, I believe you are a writer who does portray characters well, although I do not sense that you have a very large "stable" of character types do draw upon. You "do one thing well," which is one of the many roads to success.

Sam Lubell: I have seen a goodly number of science fiction and fantasy conventions, and having a good chair is one of the most vital differences between success and failure. Here's to your success!

I personally agree with you re covid and re writers!

Agreed that the Green Lantern movie tried to squeeze too much in. Also, the visual effect of the power was too dark. It should have been light and bright and emerald. The Marvel movies did a *much* better job with Dr. Strange's magic: it is the right kind of bright and flashing effect that the Green Lantern power should have been.

Fun trip report! I have never comprehended the vigorous rejection of ketchup on "Chicago" hot dogs. If you don't like it, don't order it, but whey make it harder for others (me!) to get what we like? Isn't "IDIC" still a virtue?

Nice spotlight on Water Jon Williams! Among so many other books, he wrote the three "Drake Maijstral" novels, which are sterling! They are obviously inspired by Alexei Panshin's "Anthony Villiers" novels, and yet...they're better! The student has excelled the master! These books (by both authors) are "comedies of manners" set in "high society," where style and erudition and etiquette are the coin of the realm. They are (both series!) delightful, subtly witty, and feature characters who have remarkable depth. I congratulated Williams in person on these books at a World Fantasy Con, and he said, sadly, that they were a failure. They didn't sell well, and they were harder to write than any of his other books. Comedy is hard! But he was happy to know that they had found a place of love in my heart (and more than a few other local fans here in San Diego would agree also!)

I think I may join you in "Project Shakespeare." I've only read about a quarter of the plays, and have only seen productions of a few. The movie version of The Tempest with Helen McMirrin as "Prospera" was brilliant!

INTERMISSION #126

E-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, ahrvid@hotmail.com, for EAPA, N'APA and some fen who may be followers of Roscoe (or not?) and ed's newstweets from @SFJournalen. This zine is now under a new government formed by the (room)parties F, A & N! Had we used a Linotype we'd etaoin-shrdlu all typos, or fix them in Edison's railway carriage printshop. But no, alas. Late Oct 2022

Editorially: Full invasion of News!

This may seem early. Since I was late with last issue, #125 and #126 come tight upon each other. I don't mind, as there's always a lot to fill this fanzine with. First, Sweden has a new Prime Minister in Ulf Kristersson, leader of the Moderate Party (our conservatives), leading a minority government of his party, the Liberals and the Christian Democrats. But they'll have a majority by having support by the neonationalist Sweden Democrats in the Riksdag.

Nobody except SD wants SD in the government. Such a government would have been voted down. However, what Kristersson has done is to a) let SD have a "liaison office" in the government HQ, and b) give in to lots of the SD demands - especially when it comes to immigrants. (I won't go through all the anti-immigrant agenda, but eg the number of refugees will be severely limited, requirements for citizenship will increase, immigrants will be encouraged to go back, deportation of criminals...and even for "social shortcomings", best translation for the concept of "vandel"). I think these policies are too



Inaguration cabinet meeting. L2R: Riksdag speaker Andreas Norlen, crown princess Victoria, king Carl XVI Gustaf, new PM Ulf Kristersson.

extreme and wrong at a time when we see millions of Ukranian refugees. The Liberals are already grumbling. I suspect the Kristersson government may run into trouble in the future. On the positive side, NATO accession may become easier, since I doubt the SD supported new PM will hesitate to extradite what Turkey claims are "terrorists". I don't know who they are, but really hope we *should nor* extradite bona fide political refugees! (There are indications some aren't "terrorists". Turk prez Erdogan has a tendency to call anyone being against him "terrorist".)

Otherwise, #126 will have lots of *history*, about metro systems (learn the fannish game Stora Mossen too!), Thomas Edison's surprising zine career, the incredible Linotype, and more with the great space journalist Eugen Semitjov!

--Ahrvid Engholm, unstoppable editor

The Stockholm Metro



"Greater Stockholm's Local Traffic" logo.

In September (the 19th) I went to a book release: Pär Isaksson's *Tunnelbanemiraklet* ("The Metro Miracle") covering the history of the Stockholm Metro system. The "miracle" in question being it was somewhat of a miracle that the Stockholm city council in 1941 had the audacity to decide to build a Metro. First of all, only a handful of cities in the world had such a system at the time, and Stockholm would be the smallest - not even 1 million then - investing in it. And secondly, a World War was on and the future seemed uncertain.

History and Expansion

The ruling Social Democrats in the City Hall were against a Metro, but by some administrative trickery (I'm not sure how) the opposition managed to pull the Metro out of a hat. In English it's called an *Underground* (Britain) or a *Subway* (US) but here we call it *Tunnelbana*, which approximately translates to "Tunnel tracks" (or "Tunnel routes"). It's also called a *Metro*, which comes from the Paris system called *Métropolitain* ("belonging to a city"). "Tunnel tracks" comes from that the first part in Stockholm was a tunnel under the southern district of Södermalm opened in 1933, intended for trams (streetcars in the US). This tram tunnel became a part of the Stockholm metro later, and was known



Book released: *The Metro Miracle*, about Stockholm's "Tunnelbana" history



Tunnelbana, station sign

as "the tunnel tracks" by the populace, a name the real metro system then inherited.

Construction began in 1944 and the first part from Slussen (the Lake Mälaren/Baltic Sea locks) south to Hökarängen suburb

opened in 1950. New parts of the now "green lines" opened virtually every year thereafter and in 1964 the first part of what is now the "red lines" opened. The "blue lines" opened in 1975. At the time of writing the system has 100 stations stretching 109 kilometres, but expansion work has begun, with new lines and nine new stations opening from late 2020s and on (see the chart). We'll get this::

* The *blue lines* will extend in the north to Barkaby, to the east to Nacka and will make a little loop and take over an arm of the green lines to go southwest.

* New "*yellow lines*" will go from Odenplan to the Arena City (with the giant Mall of Scandinavia and the national soccer stadium) and it will also go south co-existing with the green lines.

It is also almost decided that a *new line will go south* from station Fridhemsplan, towards the big Stockholm International fairs in Älvsjö. Exact route is being discussed and I think it will be coloured purple.

Trams and Art

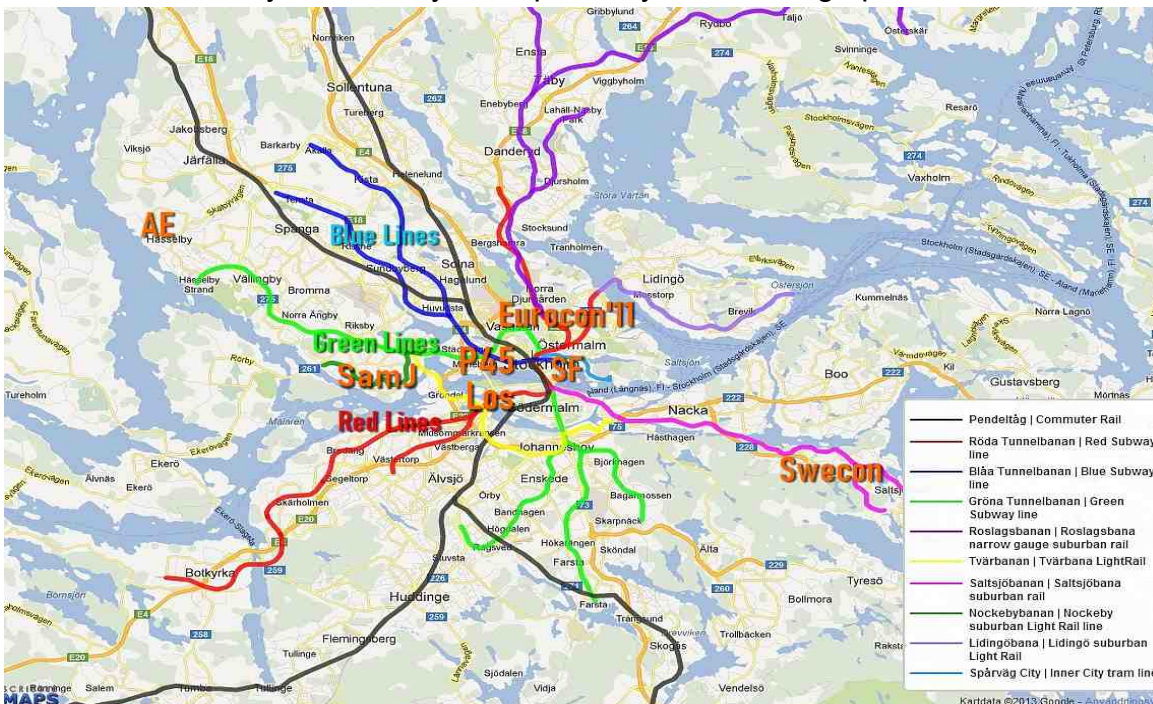
There were quite a lot of people on the book release. We heard the book's author Pär Isaksson, journalist Andreas Ericson and Stockholm regional traffic councilman Kristoffer Tamson. He said he was very much in favour of expanding the Metro as much as possible. It has been efficient and has served Stockholmers well. His party lost in the election a couple of weeks later, but the Red-Greens taking over - unlike nationally where they lost - probably won't change plans. Stockholm is



Stockholm's Metro. Expansions under construction marked.



Author P Isaksson & councilman K Tamson.



Stockholm's entire track system. Green/red/blue metro lines marked. Fannish notes: AE where SFJ ed grew up. Spot for several Swecons. Eurocon 2011. SF-Bookstore. P45 45 Pontonjär St where SF-Bookstore started in the old SFSF clubhouse, classic late 1970's fannish hotspot (minicons, zines, 4SJ, legends!). SamJ Lundwall's classic 19 Storskogs Way address. LoStrandberg, 22 Folkskole Street, spot for 100s of fanmeets 1960s-70s!

growing and the metro is the key to open new residential areas. The greater metropolitan area is now at 2.4+ million and expected to hit 3 million people by 2050. But the metro isn't alone. Beside local commuter trains (the national, Saltsjö and Roslags railways) we also have trams. That system topped in the 1940s with 22 lines and then gradually shrank as it was replaced by the metro. When Sweden switched to driving on

Play the Fannish Metro Game!

British fandom invented a game named Finchley Central. Name a London Underground station, and the first to name Finchley Central wins. The game was imported to Sverifandom and the Stockholm Metro: the contestants name a station, one after another, and the first to name Stora Mossen wins. It's a game of great psychology and strategy... The station Stora Mossen was chosen because it's the closets to the old, classic address of Sam J Lundwall, 19 Storskogs Way. His sf publishing house Delta also had their office closeby. "Stora mossen" means...The Big Bog!

daringly call the Stockholm metro the "longest art exhibition in the world", based on that artists were commissioned to decorate many of the stations, at least for the red and blue lines. I don't think all those stations are very impressive, but some are - like Kungsträdgården! Stockholm's metro art is usually modernist and abstract unlike eg in the Moscow metro, were it's Stalinist fake baroque.

Beside the metro there are also buses, of course, of which the long, blue "accordion buses" are a bit special for Stockholm. And we have inner city ferries, especially the Djurgården ferries going to the museum and amusement park district. See the complete rail system map above as it is now in a geographically correct representation, *incl some fannish spots!* The thick green, red and blue lines are the Metro.

Metros around the World

All this made me take a little look at how it is with metro systems internationally. When I grew up it was said that the greatest metro systems in the world were in New York City, London, Paris, Tokyo and Moscow. Except for perhaps New York, this is no longer the case! The Chinese have been constructing new metros with the same speed they build concentration camps for Uygurians. Getting exact statistics is difficult (systems are constantly expanded) but using Wikipedia and doing a little checking I find that the 10 biggest metro systems in the world are

these, counting the *number of stations*. If a station serves two

lines it still only counts as one. I did

a quick look at the population of the greater urban area the metros serve and also calculated the approximate number of city dwellers per station (K=1000) too. New York is still in the lead but chased by four Chinese. Paris is 5th, but London only 10th, in the number of stations that is.

New York City, USA, 424 stations (14 more are being built now), ca 21Kpeople/station

Shanghai, China, 396, ca 52K/station

Peking, China, 366, ca 58K/station

Seoul, South Korea, 315, ca 81K/station

Paris, France, 308, ca 34K/station

Shenzen, China, 288 ca 45k/station

Chengdu, China, 285 ca 74k/Station

Tokyo, Japan, 278 (two systems combined), ca 134K/station

Madrid, Spain, 302, ca 24K/station

London, Britain, 272, ca 32K/station

...and Stockholm with 100 stations, excl a ghost station, would land on ca 24Kpeople/station. That's second, after NYC, in

the right side of the road (1967) most trams were scrapped, only two suburban tram lines were kept. But two new tram lines have since opened, making it a total of four. It's the Djurgården line and the mighty Crossway Tram, becoming very popular and useful as it connects the "arms" of the metro lines. The tram system is also planned for more expansion.

Some



Artwork in the Kungsträdgården metro station (but not all stations are this outlandish).



Blue "accordion buses" on fast, high capacity routes. Ordinary Stockholm buses are red.



Inside the Metro. Yellow holding poles, soft blue chairs!. Ukraine inspired?d



Latest Stockholm metro trains, streamlined like spaceships.

station density, shared with Madrid.

But the great "old" metro systems drops in lists if you instead count the length of the routes! Here are the 10 longest systems in the world. Parallel routes only counts once. 8 out of 10 are Chinese! (But I wonder if the very long lengths stated *really* avoid double counting of lines sharing routes? Difficult for me to check.)

Shanghai, China, 803 km
Peking, China, 762 km
Guangzhou, China, 62 km
Chengdu, China, 519 km
Hangzhou, China, 516 km
Chongqing, China, 463 km
Moscow, Russia, 456 km
New Delhi, India, 436 km
Wuhan, China, 435 km
Nanjing, China, 436 km

The Stockholm metro is known as the *Tube*, like in London, but

also as *Tricken* ("the tricks"). The last also applies to trams and comes from the transports being "elecTRIC". I believe this originally comes from Norway, where the trams have been known as "trikken".

The Big Drawback: Expensive and Stupid ticket system

However fine the Stockholm Tunnelbana works, a huge drawback is that tickets are expensive and the ticket system is stupid and thieving. The region is divided into zones, and you pay for every zone. The cheapest trip in one zone (central zone admittedly covers a big area, though) is ca €4. A monthly travel card is ca €80. I saw statistics that Stockholm local travel is the second most expensive among European capitals (Helsinki is slightly more expensive, if I remember). And further:

- *You can't buy single tickets for cash at the stations. You must use the barrier automats with your credit card or a special travel card you "fill" with money. Pensioners who don't like plastic are fucked, as well as tourists who have cash but no info of the ticket system! You must "fill" a travel card in selected, external shops (7Eleven and such).*
- *If you don't use up the money, you won't get it back, unlike in eg London. And if you don't use up the money within 12 months the Storstockholms Lokaltrafik ("Greater Stockholm's Local Traffic") deletes - ie steals it! They've done that for me several times. Originally they did this by regularly invalidating old travel "stripes" (the old system). Now they steal money directly from your travel card.*
- *And this idea that every trip is connected to a plastic card, means that the government in principle can find all details on your local travelling. That's very, very dangerous for civil rights and liberties! An important defence against a politicians grabbing too much power is to at least not make it easy for the government to look over your shoulder.*

Fortunately, it's rather easy to sneak past the ticket barriers for free... Just follow in the steps of someone else (most won't object, knowing how fucked up the ticket system is). They don't check tickets at exits. The politicians complain about freeloaders, but they should look in the mirror: it's a consequence of you yourselves creating a inferior, expensive, stealing system.

Time to finish talking Tunnelbana. The fact is that I've originally and for a long time been a great fan of trams (which we now have in Gothenburg, Stockholm, Norrköping, recently opening in Lund, plus museum lines in Malmö and Malmköping), eg hosting fannish sightseeing tours on cons. Tram fandom has sort of spilled over to metros, especially as I'm generally interested in technology.

I've always been a fan of technological history. This makes me wonder about the pradox of this popular steampunk thing. I can't understand that these people seem only to be interested in 19th century fashion and jewelry and to an extent social order! (They actually seem positive to the class system!) But the steampunkers seem to have no interest at all in the exciting 19th century technology: *steam engines, telegraphs, zeppelins, Babbage machines, pneumatic mail, mimeographs, vaccine, dreadnoughts, harvesters, iron clads, sewing machines, cylinder presses,*

Classic Subway Skiffy!

Speaking of metro systems, read AJ Deutsch's classic metro skiffy "A Subway Named Mobius" (from *Astounding SF*, Dec 1950):

<http://www.ian.mulder.clara.net/books/SubwayNamedMobius.pdf> The



tunnels of the Boston subway becomes so topologically complex that when a new line opens a subway car disappears in spacetime!

You could also try Dmitry Glukhovsky's *Metro* series, post-apocalyptic underground societies appearing in the Moscow metro system. Note that Mr Glukhovsky is strongly opposing (*the way to go, man!*) Putin's war, and now though living abroad is a wanted man by the Kremlin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOswU0FnqS8>

repeating rifles, barbed wire, typewriters, gatling guns, phonographs, electric lights, cinematography, skyscrapers, elevators, Eiffel towers, Kodak cameras, early cars, rolling sidewalks, player pianos, bicycles, submarines, the Linotype... They may have old tech in art and illustrations and may use it in plots but never try to dig into how it works and how old tech could be used creatively. And they care little for old science: *Newton mechanics, the one galaxy static universe, a Mars with life, harmless radium, Earth being a mere 100 million years, microbes or atoms barely existing...* Remember

that the 19th-centurians did have electricity and communication at a distance. I read *Lincoln in the Telegraph Office*, by David Homer Bates, about how president Lincoln virtually besieged the telegraph office of the Department of Defense to get all the news from the American Civil War. He had the CNN of the day!

The oldest metro opened in London in 1863 for stinking steam trains, but went electric already in 1890. Metro systems are also 19th century technology. Did you BTW know that the *Metro* freebie newspaper which exists in numerous cities around the world, *started* in Stockholm? It was published by the Kinnevik MTG group and distributed from stands in the Tunnelbana. It began in 1995, but was discontinued here in 2019, probably from losing too much ads to the 'Net.

Edison's Newspaper

Speaking of rail and newspapers, did you know that Thomas Alva Edison began as an almost fanzine editor? Edison (1847-1931) was the leading inventor of the steampunk era, *the Wizard of Menlo Park*, even if he had an army of co-workers who contributed to his 1093 patents. Though he only improved, not invented, the lightbulb, he was first to record sound, started the first film studio and



An early Edison mimeograph. The roller is used over a paper in the inked frame.

made major contributions to movie technology, he built the first electricity distribution system (even if his DC method was a dead end), he wanted to build futuristic houses out of concrete and invented the mimeograph. As a young boy, age 14, he got a job as a baggage handler on the Great Trunk Railroad at Port Huron, Michigan. This he supplemented with selling things to the passengers. Among these was a small newspaper, that he sold and took up subscriptions for (¢8/month). His *The Weekly*

Herald came in the winter and spring of 1862 and claimed it reached 500 subscribers. (I guess it was daily passengers and people at the train stations.) It had news, gossip and advertising from towns along the line. He had some editorial assistance from train conductor Alexander Stevenson, and printed the newspaper in the baggage car on a galley proof press he set up there. The press was

Metro Trivia

Cincinnati began building a metro in 1917. Only just over 3 km was finished when the project was halted due to America entering WWI, increasing costs and finally the Great Depression. The metro was never finished.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cincinnati_Subway

Glasgow is a metro city! But it only has one line, a circle line opened as far back as in 1896. Why they've never built more is a good question.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glasgow_Subway

You can take the **Oslo** metro directly to a ski resort. The Holmenkollen line is officially a part of the Norwegian capital's metro (though it looks more like a light rail service) which you can take directly to the "Kollen" skiing centre, for cross-country skiing, ski jumping and more. The Holmenkollen skiing competitions become big parties for the Osloites!

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oslo_Metro

suburban housing was planned in Kymlinge and the station was almost finished, platforms and all.

Environmentalists stopped further work because an endangered fish living in a creek in the surrounding woods. (There's a debate about opening the station to develop the area. The grönlingen fish actually live in several places, in Sweden and Europe.)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kymlinge>



The unfinished Kymlinge station.



bought from one J A Roys, a Detroit bookseller and stationer, and the type - typesetting was manual, of course - from one William F Storey of the Detroit Free Press. The paper was a two-page one-sheet affair (see example page below) When he discontinued it, he and an apprentice at the Port Huron Commercial continued with an apparently "scurrilous and short-lived gossip sheet" called *Paul Pry*. Edison had taught himself telegraphy and morse code and was probably buddies with the telegraph operators along the train line. That must have been a great source of news for this industrious young editor.

Edison also used his ambulating printshop for chemical experiments. The downfall of his publishing enterprise came as his experiments one day caused a fire, upon which the conductor threw his things off the train, though Edison's official biography indicates he continued printing *The Weekly Herald* at his home in Port Huron for a while. The discovery of 185 pieces of type during an archaeological excavation of the homesite lends credence to this story. (They dig for dinosaurs. And they dig for Edison!)

In 1873 Edison invented the mimeograph, as you know. This vibrant mind thought a lot about publishing. If he published anything on the mimeograph is unknown, but we of fannish descent have reasons to be grateful. The first Edison mimeo was a flatbed device, but as he licensed the mimeo patent to the AB Dick company a cylinder was added for faster printing. Edison also became a hero in the pulps, in the 1898 story *Edison's conquest of Mars*, a follow up to Mr Wells' yarn by Garrett P Serviss, found on the 'Net, eg

<https://book4you.org/book/956220/dc0a0c>

Port Huron - Port Huron 3rd 1862.

<p>RIDGEWAY STATION. A daily Stage leaves the above named Station for St. Clair, every day. Fare 75 cents.</p> <p>A Daily stage leaves the above named place for Utica and Romeo. Fare \$1.00. Rate & Barrell, proprietors.</p> <p>OPPOSITION LINE. A Daily Stage leaves Ridgeway Station, for Burkes Cor. Ann Arbor, and Romeo.</p> <p>A Daily stage leaves Ridgeway station on arrival of all passenger trains from Detroit, for Memphis. R. Quick proprietor.</p> <p>UTICA STATION. A daily Stage leaves the above named Station, on arrival of Accommodation Train from Detroit for Utica, Disco, Washington, and Romeo. S. A. Frink driver. Mr. Frink is one of the oldest and most careful drivers known in the State [Ed.]</p> <p>MR. CLEMENS. A daily stage leaves the above named station, for Romeo, on arrival of the morning train from Detroit, our stage arrives at Romeo two hours before any other stage. Hicks & Halsey, prop. if</p> <p>THE NEWS. Cassius M. Clay, will enter the array on his return home. The thousandth birthday of the Empire of Russia will be celebrated at Novgorod in August. Let me collect myself "as the man said when he was blown up by a powder mill,</p>	<p>GRAND TRUNK RAILROAD </p> <p>CHANGE OF TIME Going west. Express, leaves Port Huron, 7:05 PM Mixed For Detroit, leaves Pt. Huron at 7:40 AM</p> <p>GOING EAST. Express leaves Detroit, For Toronto, at 6:15 AM Mixed, For Pt. Huron, leaves at 4:00 P.M. Two Freight Trains each way. C. R. Christie, Supt.</p> <p>STAGES. NEW BALTIMORE STATION A tri-weekly stage leaves the above named Station every day for New Baltimore, Allegan, Swan Creek, and Newport. S. Graves proprietor.</p> <p>MAIL EXPRESS. Daily Express leaves New Baltimore Station every morning on arrival of the Train from Detroit. For Baltimore, Allegan, Swan Creek, and Newport. Clark & Bennett, prop.</p> <p>PT. HURON STATION. An Omnibus leaves the station for Pt. Huron, on the arrival of all Trains. Fare 3 cents. Oley Agent</p> <p>LOST LOST LOST. A small parcel of Cloth was lost on the cars. The Finder will be liberally rewarded.</p>	<p>MARKETS New Baltimore, Feb 2nd Butter at 10 to 12 cts per lb Eggs at 12 cts per doz. Lard at 7 to 8 cts per lb Dressed Hogs at 3.00 to 3.25 per 100 lbs Flour at 4.50 to 4.75 per bbl Wheat at 1.50 per 100 lbs Mutton at 4 to 5 cts per lb Beams at 1.00 to 1.20 per bush Potatoes at 30 to 35 " " each Corn at 30 to 35 cts per bush Turkeys at 50 to 65 cts each Chickens at 10 to 12 cts a lb Geese at 25 to 35 cents each Ducks at 30 cents per pair.</p> <p>ADVERTISEMENTS. RAILROAD EXCHANGE. At Baltimore Station The above named Hotel is now open for the reception of Travelers. The Bar will be supplied with the best of Liquors, and every exertion will be made to the comfort of the Guests. S. Davis Proprietor.</p> <p>SPLENDID PORTABLE COPYING PRESSES FOR SALE AT MR. CLEMENS ORDERS TAKEN BY THE NEWS AGENT ON THE MIXED. Ridgeway Refreshment Rooms—I would inform my friends that I have opened a refreshment room for the accommodation of the traveling public. R. Allen, proprietor.</p> <p>TO THE RAILROAD MEN Railroad Men send in your orders for Butter, Eggs, Lard, Cheese, Turkeys, Chickens, and Geese. W. C. Hallett, New Baltimore Station</p>
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The 8th Wonder of the World: The Linotype

It was the machine that created pulp magazines and was used by all the newspapers. It caused a publishing revolution that changed society and culture. Our zine publishing buddy Edison called it the "8th wonder of the world". It was the glorius *Linotype* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linotype_machine - invented by the German clockmaker Ottomar Mergenthaler between 1876 and 1886. It took keyboard input, put type molds in a line, adjusted to right margin, inserted a molten lead compound, spit out a line of type ready to print, removed the molds and sorted them for next cycle. This two ton machine was pure genius! *New York Times* used it until 1979, when it finally switched to photo typesetting. All papers used to have it. Today only one little obscure paper remains (see below).

I saw a linotype in action myself when I as a kid went on a school trip to mid-Sweden, and our class made a study tour at a local newspaper. I've lately spent hours studying the linotype in action on Youtube. You should really have a look at it and ponder what the world would have been without it...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZvPFzXZY4o> - the last Linotype newspaper in the US, The Saguache Crescent.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MI2sYvUb4_0 - a Lintotype demonstration.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5n5JQrN8qx4> - the Linotype on the International Printing Museum.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GvzqBb6o9cl> - the Linotype at the Boston Museum of Industry.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EzilaRwoMus> - details of how mechanical typesetting works.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYKe5k6HbEU> - the legend of the Linotype.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UTSgUI1MIE> - starting a Linotype.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fL6Nx4GoBek> - history of Printing: the Linotype.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MGjFKs9bnU> - Farewell Etaoin Shrdlu, the last night with the Linotype at New York Times.

"Etaoin Shrdlu" should be explained: it was the first two vertical rows of the Linotype keyboard. If the typesetter made a typo, he'd run his fingers along those keys. The Linotype would spit out an disposable line of type and he could then type a corrected line. The keyboard had three parts: non-caps to the left (non-qwerty), numbers and special characters in the middle, caps on the right.

The Linotype speeded up typesetting by probably a factor of ten. It created modern publishing, gave the spreading of information turbo speed, gave us our pulps, thus the starting modern sf - and also sf fandom.

It was almost as important as the mimeograph...

(A later competing system - outside pure monotype clones, as the patents lapsed - was the Monotype, mostly used for books. It saved text on a perforated paper strip, like telegraph strips, which was then read through a separate typesetting unit. For books it was an advantage that all text was saved and new printings could be made from the paper strips.)

Miscellaneous Camera Exercises



Abbie Onestone was a fan of the world's 8th wonder. After all, he was intelligent.



A demonstration for Ukraine in Stockholm's Citizens' Square, Jun 22.



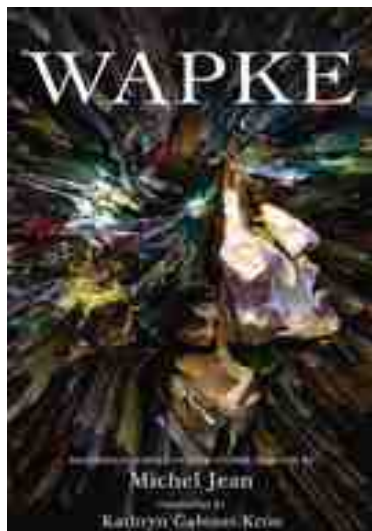
A snippet from celebrating the 80th birthday of Romanian-Swedish author and artist Gabriela Melinescu on the Romanian Culture Institute, Aug16. The finger food on the tables in the back were emptied rather fast.



Indigenous-Canadian TV-man & writer Michel Jean, Tranströmer Lib'r'y Oct 4. He edited the anthology Wapke ("tomorrow" in Atikamekw language) with sf by indigenous writers.



The damaged Nord Stream pipeline, from Expressen newspaper using a private underwater drone. 50 metres of pipes are said to be missing, so the job must have been thorough and extensive.



Left: Authors from "various nations & backgrounds get us into the future through moving, poetic, worrying, sometimes fantastical tales, on current social, political, and environment themes. From time travelling Indigenous warriors to rebellious language".

Right: The Short Story Masters met Sep 24. We talked about a planned author tour 2023 and our next anthology. Ate yummy curry. Drank bheer. Plotted against humanity. (NOT!)



HISTORY CORNER

The History Corner has earlier presented the - ..all over Sweden... - world famous space reporter Eugen Semitjov (1923-1987). His family fled Russia after the revolution, but Eugen was born and grew up here. His father Vladimir was an author, writing a lot of science fiction in hundreds of magazine short stories and a few books (published in Sweden). It was he who gave young "Genie" a deep interest in space and science. Today's haul includes snippets from Eugen's youth, on a raft with ocean liners and sneaking into the movies to marvel at times to come. While doing military service for the Swedish Air Force he began illustrating in the sf pulp *Jules Verne Magasinet* in the 1940s and in the 1950s began writing, about science and space, as rocket experiments and sputniks arrived. Since he knew Russian he had an advantage getting info out of otherwise tight-lipped Soviets, but he would also nurture contacts with the US space program. He wrote many books, masterfully illustrated by himself, hundreds of articles, was expert on TV during Apollo and won our local version of the Pulitzer in 1972. Here some articles from weekly mags. (Thanks to Micke Engström for them. I'll summarise in English, with some quotes.) In unused space in the magazine clippings I insert extra Semitjov pics found on the 'Net. If too small, google for the original. Interesting find was the sexy comic strip "Agent 006" - 6=sex in Swedish - which he did for a short time for a gents mag in 1965!

A visit by the ladies' mag *Femina* #43, 1972, "In 8 year's we'll be able to see beyond the creation":

Eugen talks about how he is driven by curiosity, more than 0 years after his first USSR trip to cover their space science. But he's just at home in Cape Kennedy, where he has his own room for every rocket launch. His autumn book is titled "One Day the Whole World Will Hold Its Breath" about the day we get radio signals from aliens, which may be soon. The Soviets are listening intensely from four listening stations. His son Jesper is 9, the mother Marie Machnow is a TV actress <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0532657/>. The Milky Way has 100 Billion suns. If you pessimistically estimate one in 1000 has an Earth-like planet there are 100 million Earths. If there's intelligent life on every tenth there may be 100 000 civilisations in our galaxy. But we can't yet see these planets, their stars blinds us. That may change when the US launches a space telescope, which may see 20 Billion lightyears out, also this long back in time. We could see beyond the creation, which is estimated to be 12-15 Billion years ago./Not bad! Latest estimate is 13.8 Billion years ago./ It will have a diameter of 3 metres and will see through crystal clear space. Most scientists believe life must be built like us. That is of carbon, and the life breaths oxygen. Some think it looks like us. A brain surrounded by a scull, eyes and ears near the brain for fast signalling. Head high up so we see far. Two arms and legs. Others think aliens look like Centaurs, half man, half horse. Some have talked about beings with six arms and six legs. Russian Alexander Kzantzev thinks we are descendants from another civilisation. From a space expedition making an emergency landing here: they couldn't leave. The crew degenerated and became us. We don't use most of the brain, only ca 4% /That is a myth! We may develop up to 8 senses in the future. Whatever speed we'll reach in space nothing goes faster than the human thought. We need telepathy and precognition to warn us for collisions with objects instruments won't have time to see. Scientists like Vjatjeslav Zaitsev believes that Jesus and two other astronauts were sent to Earth 2000 years ago to help us. Clay tablets and rock inscriptions from the time of the Aztecs have been found in Mexico talking about a man with a light beard doing miracles and creating new traditions, then lifting into space on a pillar of fire. The Chinese have a similar story of a Messiah. The details of the star of Bethlehem moving from west to east are those of a spaceship. Eugen doesn't believe in a god, but a universal life force. Our existence isn't arbitrary. Eugen and his family live on the 9th floor with

Om 8 år kan vi se bakom SKAPELSEN

**Utrikeskorrespondent låter
tämigen ointressant när man
träffar Eugen Semitjov – rymd-
korrespondent verksam i både
öst och väst – och i rymden.
Själv tror han att Jesus var vår
förste astronaut och Betlehem-
stjärnan ett rymdskepp.**



Ingenting är underbart än människor med pockande nyfikenhet, passionerade människor. Eugen Semitjov snubblar på orden när han ska berätta om rymdforskning, han är vår skickligaste journalist på området. Det är tio år sen Allers första gången skickade honom till Sovjet för att skriva om rysk rymdvetenskap. Men han är lika hemmastadd i amerikanska Cape Kennedy, där det finns ett ständigt rum för hans räkning vid varje raketuppskjutning.

»Det kommer en dag då hela världen håller andan» (Aksila & Karnekliff) heter hans höstbok. Man hittar inte börja fråga Eugen om hans journalistik, förän han är på väg ut i rymden. Jämfört med sin mörke och intensiva pappa verkar mildare Jesper trycks farbror. Mamma är TV-skådespelerska Anne Marie Machnow som betraktar sina pojkar med moderlig ömhet.

»Min boks långa titel syftar på att det kommer en dag då vi får radiokontakt med andra planeter, säger Eugen ivrigt. Och den dagen behöver inte alla vara avlägsna. Hittills har man inte fått påtagliga signaler från andra planeter, men i Sovjet pågår ett intensivt spaningsarbete från observationsposter utanför Moskva, på Kolahalvön i Sibirien och vid Svarta havet.

»Kan man tänka sig liv på andra planeter?»

100 miljarder jordklot
»Det finns 100 miljarder solar i Vintergatan. Om man lagt räknat antar att var tusende av dessa solar har en planet som liknar jorden, så skulle det finnas 100 miljarder jordklot. Om intelligent liv har utvecklats på var tusende av dessa planeter, så kan det finnas 100 000 civilisationer. Bara inom vår galax Vintergatan. Man har alltså verkligen räknat lågt i denna sannolikhetskalkyl.

Men ännu kan vi inte se om dessa planeter har liv, solarna har ett så starkt sken att observationer är omöjliga från jorden.

Annat blir det när amerikanerna 1980 får upp det stora spegteleskopet i rymden, då kommer vi att kunna se 20 miljarder ljusår bort i tiden. Ju längre bort en planet ligger, desto längre tar dess ljus att nå oss. Genom att rikta teleskopet långt ut i världsrymden när vi bortom skapelsen. Man har beräknat att skapelsen inträffade för 12-15 miljarder år sen. Spegteleskopet har en diameter av 3 meter och ska skjutas upp från Cape Kennedy. Det läggs i en satellithäna

utanför jordatmosfären. Att teleskopet bara är 3 meter i diameter beror på att det inte behöver vara större, rymden är kristallklar.

»Det liv som finns på andra planeter liknar det vårt liv?»

»Många vetenskapsmän hävdar bestämt att alla livsformer är uppbyggda som våra livsformer. Nämligen av kol. Och att det måste vara syre som detta liv andas. Kombinationen kol och syre är den tåligaste livsformen.

»Och så det mest spännande; hur tänker man sig att intelligenta varelser på andra planeter ser ut?»

Rymdentaurer

»En del forskare tror att de ser exakt ut som vi. Vår modell skulle vara den bästa med en hjärna som omges av en bensköll, ögon och öron som sitter nära hjärnan för att signalerna fort ska gå fram. Huvudet högst på kroppen för att vi ska se så långt som möjligt. Två armar och två ben. Andra forskare hävdar att varreter på andra planeter troligen ser ut som kentaureer, hälften häst och hälften människa. Man har också talat om varelser med sex armar och sex ben.

»Ryska vetenskapsmän har ju framfört fantastiska funderingar om rymdvetenskapen som en gammal vetenskap?»

»Alexander Kazantsev tror att vi är ättlingar från en annan civilisation. Vi skulle härstamma från en rymdexpedition som nödländade här på jorden och som inte kunde ta sig härifrån. Människorna från det rymdskeppet degenererades och blev vi.

»Degenererades?»

»Största delen av hjärtans volym ändrar vi inte. Vi utnyttjar bara ungefär 4 procent. Avskiten måste ju vara att vi ska kunna använda hela hjärnan en gång. Förmodligen kommer vi att kunna utveckla ända upp till åtta sinnen och mer. Vad man än kommer att förlora med för hastigheter i rymden en gång, ingenting förändras ju fortfarande den mänskliga tanken. Då behöver vi telepati (tankeläsning) och förhållningsfärdigheter för att undvika kollisioner som inga instrument kan mäta eller varna i tid för.

»Om vi nu är degenererade varelser från en annan och överlägsnare civilisation i världsyndogen, varför har inte denna planet tagit kontakt med oss igen?»

Jesus – en astronaut
»Forskare som Vjatjeslav Zaitsev anser att Jesus och två andra astronauter sändes till jorden för cirka 2000 år sen för att hjälpa oss. I Mexico har man funnit lertavlor och klippinskriftor

från aztekernas tid. Där berättas om en ljus man med skägg, som kom till dem och utförde underverk och skapade nya seder och bruk. Sen försvann han upp mot himlen, blev en eldpelare.

Samma här berättas om en Messias som kom till kinnerna.

I Bibeln står det att Betlehemstjärnan rörde sig från väster till öster och från norr till söder. Det är de rörelser man kan observera hos ett rymdskepp. När Jesus stiger upp på berget för att tala med Gud ber han lärjungarna stanna kvar nedanför. De berättade sen att de såg hans anikte upplysas av en sken. Här har man tänkt ut en rymdfarkost legat i en bana runt jorden, ljuskenet var åter-

skänat från en TV-sändare.

»Tror du själv på en Gud bakom skapelsen?»

»Jag tror på en universell lag. En urkraft. Vår tillvaro är inte en myck. Den enkla människan har säkert en mycket stor betydelse i helheten.

Rymdteknare i höghus

Vi går en trappa upp.

Var skulle Eugen Semitjov bo med sin familj om inte 9 våningar upp i luften med utsikt över hela Stockholm.

»Vilka planer på jorden tycker du bäst om?»

»Stockholms skärgård är fullkomligt unik. Jag älskar de solvarma bällarna och bergknallarna och lukten av varm skog. Där har jag vuxit upp som barn. Jag byggde mej en flöte av plankor som jag surrade fast vid tommas bensinfat.

Det gick inte att stå på flöten, så jag låg på magen och paddlade med händerna. Det bästa var när man tog sig ut i stora farleden utanför Lidingö, där gick oceanångarna. Jag låg och väntade på de väldiga svallvågorna.

Min pappa Vladimir Semitjov läste aldrig sagor för mej. Han läste ut sina egna böcker om fantastiska äventyr i världsrymden.

Den andra platsen jag älskar är Cape Kennedy vid Sölla havets kust. Det är oerhört fascinerande att stå och se hur vågorna dånar in mot kusten. Sen är Cape Kennedy porten mot universum.

Vid raketuppskjutningarna är trycket och stämningen mycket hög. Forskare från hela världen strömmar till. Där man på nattklubbar skriker orkestrer med jättorna mellanrum ut astronauternas namn och publiken vrålar med.

»När åker du nästa gång?»

»Jag hoppas komma dit 6 december och se den sista Apollo-färden på många år. Det skulle ha blivit två färder till, men anslagen har brömsats upp. Alla som

arbetar inom rymdbranschen i Amerika (300 000 personer) är försvivade. Hela vår framtid är beroende av rymd-forskningen.

Kraftverk av solstrålar

Det talas allmänt om att vi går mot en energikatastrof, inom loppet av 50 år kommer till exempel all olja att vara slut. Men i rymden finns energi. Med hjälp av jättespeglar som placeras i satelliter runt jorden kan man samla upp solstrålning. Solenergin går att omvandla till elenergi. Tanken är att vi inom en snar framtid ska få jättelika kraftverk som drivs med solenergi.

Det projekt som nu utlöser månpjekter är att lägga stora fabriker direkt ute i rymden. De är avsedda för sin tillverkning som på jorden måste ske i vakuum.

Till exempel kullager. Om man ute i tyngdlösheten droppar smått stålformar det sig perfekt till en rund kula. Dessa fabriker kommer att tas i bruk på 80-talet. 1977 ska man ha rymdskytillarna klara. De ska transportera material till och från fabrikena.

»Det brukar ibland bli aktuellt för politiker att försvinna. Kan man tänka sig rymden?»

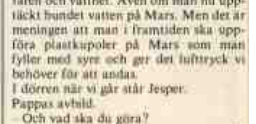
»Närmaste planet är Mars men resan dit skulle med nuvarande drivkraft ta ett halvt år. Sen är det dåligt med atmosfären och vattnet. Även om man nu upp-täckt bundet vatten på Mars. Men det är meningen att man i framtiden ska uppföra plastkupoler på Mars som man fyller med syre och ger det lufttryck vi behöver för att andas.

I dörren när vi går står Jesper. Pappas avbild.

Och vad ska du göra?»

»Undersöka tvärsnittarna

»Fishes & son»



a view over Stockholm /near Fridhemsplan, I was there/ He likes the archipelago with sun-warm cliffs and the smell from the forests, he was there as a child. He remembers how he built a raft out of planks and gasoline barrels and paddled with his arms to the shipping lane off Lidingö island where the ocean going ships passed, laying in wait for the big waves. His father Vladimnir never read fairy tales for him, but from his own books about fantastic adventures in outer space. He loves Cape Kenney in Florida. It's fascinating to watch the waves hitting the coast and it is also the gate to space. At launches alone the strain and mood is very high.

Scientists come here from all over the world. If you visit a night club the musicians will now and then shout out the names of the astronauts, with the audience joining it. Eugen hopes to go back there December 6 to watch the last Apollo launch for many years. Everyone in the space industry (300 000) are heartbroken. Our whole future depends on space research. They talk about an energy crisis, in 50 years we'll run out of oil. But there's energy in space. Giant mirrors can collect sunshine which can be transformed into electricity. In the future we'll have big solar power plants. After the moon landings we'll place factories in space for things that must be made in vacuum, like ball bearings. Molten steel will in 0G form itself to a perfect ball. These factories will come in the 1980s. The space shuttles will be ready in 1977 to do the transports. A trip to the nearest planet Mars takes half a year and there's a deficit of atmosphere and water, though water in trapped form has been found. The intention is to set up plastic domes to fill with oxygen and get the air pressure we need to breath. When we leave Jesper stands in the doorway. He looks like his father. "So what will you do" /Femina's team Aino & Arne Sellermark asks. Jesper replies:/ "I'll investigate the bottom of the sea."

Splashing in the sea was also what Sir A C Clarke was busy doing. Form this article it seems Eugen had read von Däniken, but it was also interesting that several in the USSR who also believed in such things! Many of the US space plans forecasted were as we know delayed or canned. I as said knew Eugen from cons and especially *Teknikmagasinet* and visited his studio apartment around 1987 doing an interview for my *SF-Journalen*, where he eg talked about his work for the JVM pulp. Eugen did an early artist's impression of an A-bomb explosion for the JVM cover, for instance. He mentioned how the editor nicknamed him "Spaceman"... After the interview he took me to his local pub in his white Ford Mustang.

In the next article we get more glimpses of Eugen's youth. His series "Our Dramatic Future" was cited for his Grand Journalism Award, and here's an installment of it, "Our Dramatic Future", Allers #26, 1972:

One early summer day Eugen happens to meet his teacher for his early school grades, the now grey-haired Vivi Dahlgren of Käppala folk school in Lidingö. He had recently taken his car - what he earlier did on bicycle - to visit the school building, now surrounded by new residential buidlings. He was 10-11 years old then, she

technicians and designers who have created today's world - being children in the 30s - subconsciously realises the dreams that Flash Gordon awoke. His spaceships, amphibian vehicles, underwater people, ray canons (compare with a laser) - all has become real. But science has grown more than expected. Flash Gordon never calculated a ballistic trajectory, never asked ground control to check his altimeter, he had no problems with fuel cells. Eugen's father one autumn evening 1935 took him to an R rated movie. He had already seen it but wanted Eugen to see it too. After discussing a while with the usher he managed to get Eugen into the saloon and he was extatic. It was "Things to Come" by the futuristic prophet HG Wells and directed by the master Alexander Korda. A skip the summary of the plot start./ Wells foresaw holography /with the film's communication cubes, where you can look around objects, now in the experimental stage. But the film had no idea that TV would creep into every living room and that you could switch channel if you were tired of the politicians, nor that all this would come so early. "Things to Come" ended with a prediction of the first Moon trip 2040. It was 70 years too late and a discouraging trip. A young man and woman are selected to be space pioneers. (She's the daughter of a leader, who now is about 100 years old, still going strong - average life span has increased. He is the son of the leader's best friend, a scientist.) The couple enters a spaceship lowered into a giant cannon. Just before it's fired the cannon hill is stormed by people who want to stop it - to stop two people to sacrifice their lives for science. They were right. Being shot from a cannon would be fatal. Wells did the same mistake as Jules Verne. And this was strange. Rocket experiments were ongoing and every expert knew that a rocket was the only thing that could take man to space. But in the film the cannon ball flew away with enormous force and the protesters were swept away by the pressure. At the end the leader and the scientist stand in front of a screen showing a starry sky and say: "We can't see them any more, but they are somewhere there in the eternity. Perhaps they'll find the answer to the riddle of the universe..." They didn't even have radio contact with the spaceship! The 1930s prophets didn't think of that. The real moon trips would have endless talk reporting numerous details. And before this we'd use satellites and robots to inform us about the conditions. Today "Things to Come" of course looks like a turkey, but in 1935 it was fascinating. At that time there was no plastic. There was no nylon, dacron or dralon. The zipper was new but buttons were mostly used. You satt and fingered a crystal radio and hoped to hear the sports without static for a few minutes There were no transistors and radio sets were as big as a refrigerator. Tape recorder - no one knew what it was. There were mechanical record players for 78 rpm. If it was too loud you put a sock in it. Cinema was black and white. Colour, what was that? We had ink pens with exchangeable tips. There was no plastic tape. You used glue and cords. Hardly anything of the small everyday objects were in the prophecies of the visionaries. That new materials would revolutionise life, that radio would develop further, that electronics would shrink. The 1930s prophets dreamed of the big things but missed the small. But we won't do the same mistakes. We have more knowledge and a sound basis, much better tools - we already know what we can do in the future. We have futurology and planning. We know of the threats. Environmental dangers. Overpopulation. Energy crisis. We know the future can be dramatic. Visit to another planet will give our onesided biology a new dimension and forward medicine enormously. Global weather control will be possible in the 1990s /!!!!/. We know computers develop fast, life becomes more automated and comfortable. We know less about the unscrupulous human psyche. We have changed through the years. What ideals and life styles can we expect in the future? Could twisted political movements stop progress? Will wisdom win? Many are the question marks.

Eugen was very interested in the future, and in Allers #42, 1972, he asked himself "Will the Future be black, grey or rosy?"

The world won't end, but big problems threatens. We're near a critical top in development. Will we go forward or back? The words of pessimists are like poison that could paralyse society. But claims we have no future is dangerous self-deception. The world won't easily "go down the drain". The world has seen worse crises than now. We may have had cleaner air and water before but it was of no help against the Black Death, which in the 1300s killed 25 million people in Europe. Of the then 0.5m in Sweden 1/3 died. Today's med tech would have ended the plague at the start. So much stupid stuff are said about science and technology. If we skip all scientists and technicians there is no one left to save us from dark clouds. They may have contributed to environment problems, but they are also the only ones who can save us. We have already avoided the worst abyss by noting the problems. Just look at the water of Lake Mälaren /in Stockholm's west/ - it's become noticeable cleaner in just a few years. Purification plats worked, dying waters get a new life. New York has regulated its air. No more than 1% sulphur is allowed in power plants - next year it'll drop to 0.3%. Similar things happen the world over. The rumour of our demise is vastly exaggerated. There are luddites wanting to get rid of all technology. They dream of going "back to nature" but don't realise we'd be in caves without technology. Would they enjoy no running water? No electricity? No heating, fridges, industries? When industry-made equipment run out they are stone agers. It may be nice to get away from civilisation for a few weeks. But would we like to fry hot dogs over camp fire in the long run, when there are no hot dogs any more... The luddites behave like spoiled children, having too many toys - nothing pleases them. But what if technological toys weren't around? If pop music died (sweet thought) without batteries. If we started over trying to survive, starting a fire in a cave? The more handy and industrious would try to make life more bearable. With water pipes, heating, even perhaps building a steam engine generator for electric power?

BLIR FRAMTIDEN SVART, GRÖN ELLER...



Professor Gösta Ehrensvärd står om en tillbakagång för mänskligheten till 1700-talsskiv. Vetenskapen kommer att rädda vår framtid.



Professor Ragnar Gerholm tror att fantastiska perspektiv kommer att öppnas för oss på 2000-talet. Vetenskapen kommer att rädda vår framtid.

Världen går inte under — men stora problem hotar oss. Vi är på väg mot en kritisk topp i utvecklingen. Blir nästa steg vidare framåt — eller tillbaka? Vetenskapens nästa underverk kan rädda oss!

Text och teckning: EUGEN SEMITJOV

Världen kanske pajar ihop i morgon... Det där uttrycket som kommit till på senaste tid är bland det vanligaste som någonsin sagts. Det om något skulle verkligen kunna få världen att "paja ihop". Olycksolyckorna, jargongen är ett gift som kan få förolämpande verkningar om det sprider sig genom samhället.

Påståendet att vi inte skulle ha någon framtid är ett farligt självbedrägeri. Dömdagsprofeterna vilseleder sig själva till resignation, överkomst, apati. Framtiden tillhör dem som tror på den — den gamla goda regeln kommer alltid att gälla.

Världen "pajar inte ihop" i första taget. Mänskligheten har varit med om värre kriser än de som kan hota nu. Vi har varit sämre rustade, brannare av okunghet och vidakeplighet.

Vi hade väl renade luft och vatten förr, men vad hjälpte det till exempel mot digerdöden — pesten som på 1300-talet dödade 25 miljoner människor i Europa?

Är Sveriges befolkning — som då inte var mer än en halv miljon — dog en tredjedel. Vår tidens medicinska teknik skulle ha kunnat kväva pesten i dess linda.

Det sägs så mycket dumt om vetenskapen och tekniken. "Spöla" alla tekniker och forskare — och det finns inte längre någon som kan rädda oss undan de mörka moln som trots allt hänger över horisonten. Viast har de själva indirekt bidragit till miljöförstöringen, men de är också de enda som kan finna vägar ut ur problemen.

Vi har redan väjt undan för den farligaste avgrunden — i och med att vi har upptäckt sammat farorna, som vi får några årtionden sedan inte ens reflekterade över. Det är vetenskapen som har slagit larm, som har börjat tvinga fram åtgärder mot föroreningen av naturen.

Se bara på Milarens vatten i dag — det har klarat märkbart på några få år. Reningsverkens fungerar snabbt. Dömdagsprofeterna och vattendrag har fått nytt liv. I New York har man ställt luften under kontroll. Svavelhalten (som orsakas av termoelektriska kraftverk) tillåts i dag inte över 1 procent — nästa år kommer gränsen att sänkas till 0,3 procent.

Det är ett par exempel på allt som sker jorden runt. Det pågår faktiskt en utveckling i positiv riktning, och inte så liten heller. Ryktet om vår förestående undergång är i hög grad överdrivet.

Steglet tillbaka — ett feisteg

Det finns "bakslutsvär" som propagandiserar för avskaffande tekniken. De drömmar om att återvända till naturen men tänker inte på att de skulle återvända till grötstadiet om tekniken inte fanns.

Hur skulle de trivas i längden utan kranten med varovatten, utan något rinnande vatten alls? Utan elektriskt ljus? Utan all annat som drivs med elektricitet? Spisar, kylskåp, industrier... När deras industriella framsteg utrustning är förbrukad skulle de anse sig att bli fullkomligt ständiga människor?

Det kan vara trevligt att komma ifrån civilisationen under några veckors friluftsliv, för omväxlingens skull — men skulle vi i långa löpstråk orka med att baka grilla korv över lägereld?

När det kanske inte ens finns korv att få längre... Bakslutsvärarna ber sig som bortskämda barn, som blivit övermåttad med lekaker — ingenting rör dem längre. Men om de tekniska lekakerna inte fanns? Om poppuckeln dog bort (ljusa tankar) i brist på batterier till skivspelarna? Om vi började om från början.

Det finns ett annat perspektiv på detta. Det är ett perspektiv som inte är så negativt som det som propagandiserar för avskaffande tekniken. Det är ett perspektiv som ser på tekniken som ett verktyg som kan användas för att förbättra människans liv. Det är ett perspektiv som ser på tekniken som ett verktyg som kan användas för att förbättra människans liv.

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and the Pill are mankind's two most important projects, to stop catastrophic overpopulation and to give future generations the means to live on at least our level. If science can't tame fusion by 2050 we'll go down the drain. US scientists Glenn Seaborg says fusion reactors will be a fantastic energy source. "I would do wonders, producing lots of cheap energy from practically endless supply of material. It'd create chemical and physics technologies letting us recycle all raw materials we have used up this far. The raw material is deuterium which is in sea water - ordinary water contains a hundred times more energy than the petrol for cars. Safety issues diminish, radioactive waste is so little it can almost be ignored. But authorities seem to ignore this project for all of our future. Nobel laureate Hannes Alfvén has in an open letter to the minister of industry suggested we skip the present nuclear power stage and go for fusion. The Atomic Research Council rejects it: "It's not yet proven that electrical energy can be produced this way" (they were right!) "though it may be probable". They believe research in this will take a long time and be very expensive. It's an example of how farsighted scientists are held back by myopic bureaucrats. Alfvén thinks we'll have fusion energy within 10 years if it is prioritised. Tor Ragnar Gerholm, atomic physics professor, also sees fusion as mankind's most important project for the future. He is also more optimistic about our future in his book *Futurum Exactum* than Ehrensvärd. These two are the Optimist and Pessimist in science: Gerholm doesn't think resources shortage will be so serious since nobody knows how much resources our planet has - much of it is unexplored. We have only scratched the surface. We'll find more as we go deeper open a third dimension. He sees electric cars as a misconception. They must get their energy from fossil power plants. We just move exhaust from the roads to the plants. And electric cars have inferior performance. The real alternative is the fuel cell, used in US spaceships and giving energy with high efficiency without harmful exhausts. We need to shrink them to fit inside cars. He says: "Today's traffic system is outdated, but everything points to that cars will dominate also in the future. They give a freedom no other transport can compete with" Alternatives for local traffic must be something radically new. US scientist demand: - cheap maintenance - speed similar to an aircraft - transport times short - no environmental problems. These demands seem impossible. But here is a solution gravity - GVT (Gravity Vacuum Trains). The idea is to pump out air from a tunnel shaped like an upside down ballistic trajectory. The train falls freely without resistance, passes the lowest level and continues by inertia, stopping at ground level. It'd be a roller coaster with a speed of 200 km/h /Seems slow, Eugen must have the physics wrong here./ It works like a pendulum, the commuter train of the future. The problems are the costs of digging the tunnels and passengers being sensitivity to zero G during the trip. But when GVT arrives we may be used to space trips. For intercontinental transport Gerholm sees atomic airplanes. Used for a long time for ships and submarines. Giant airplanes and hovercrafts with nuclear energy can't be made small, but giant vehicles open new perspectives. Nuclear energy is million of times more efficient than chemical. World trade enters a new stage. Gods and people can be transported anywhere. Travel possibilities have changed our world the last 10-15 years. Atomic air travel will transform it to a world without distances. The dark pessimism popular today is without merits. The future doesn't need to be grey - it may be rosy.

In the pictures we see professors Ehrensvärd (top) and Gerholm (bottom). Fusion has proven to be a hard nut to crack. Atomic flight never came, but Boeing 747, Ryan Air and similar have made the world smaller nonetheless! And this gravity GVT train looks a bit like Elon Musk's "hyperloop". Generally, however, the article is very insightful, even if some figures and timescales must be adjusted.

The dark pessimism Semitjov disagrees with has been on the rise for over half a century -1972 to 2022! It started around that time, with the silly, disproven doom projections by the Club of Rome. It was echoed during the big UN environment conference in Stockholm in 1972. But we have not depleted our resources! Think of the Simon-Ehrlich wager https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simon_%E2%80%93Ehrlich_wager that environmentalist Paul Ehrlich lost as he bet on that we'd run low on metals. New deposits are constantly found, we use resources increasingly more efficiently and also recycle quite a lot. As for fissionable fuels, their use will and has decreased, officially because of this fuzzy idea of "global warming" (it's the sun's magnetic field, stupid!) but I think politicians to a high degree like the the ambition of getting less dependent of Arab and Russian oil.

Finally, Eugen takes us to Cape Kennedy where we meet a Russian poet. ("Cape Kennedy" reminds me how I in the 1970s read the cheap space opera paperbacks about one "Cap Kennedy", published here, a rip-off of Captain Future by "Gregory Kern". I later learned it was a pseudonym for E C Tubb. One Gunnar Gällmo translated these and became so inspired - or disgusted? - that he wrote the parody *Uppror!* ("Rebellion") using the name "Ferdinand Fitzschkloff", now a humour classic! Gällmo is BTW a great promoter of Esperanto, just like Forry Ackerman. BTW, it was the Florida Legislature that in 1973 took back the name Cape Canaveral.) In *Allers* #33, 1972, we read about "*The Poet and the Rocket*". As a section of the text was put on top of a picture, so read my summary even if you know modern Norse lingo:

The Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko was a rare guest when the latest US moon expedition started. Eugen Semitjov tells about the poet meeting the giant rocket and his predictions about the future. The countdown echoes in the April air over Cape Kennedy before Apollo 16 starts: 10-9-8-IGNITION-7-6-5-4... The

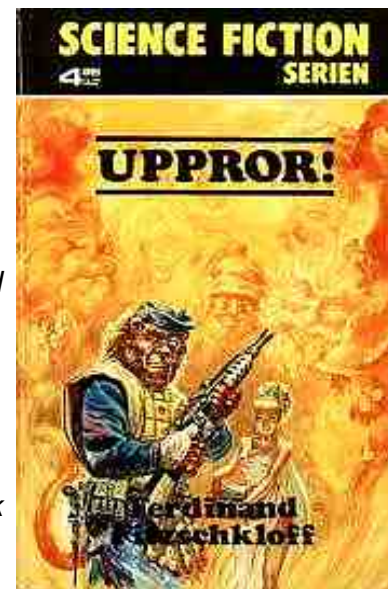
En sällsynt gäst befann sig på Cape Kennedy när USA:s senaste månexpedition startade i eld och rök: Den ryske poeten JEVGENIJ JEVTUSJENKO. Allers utsände EUGEN SEMITJOV berättar om poetens möte med jätteraketen och hans spådomar om framtiden.

loudspeaker drowns in the cheer from the stands as the blinding flame sprouts from under the rocket body and orange clouds rises to hundreds of metres. Go baby! Go! Go! Go! They shout in excitement, wild joy, euphoria seeing this almost unearthly sight. The white rocket - as tall as the towers of Uppsala cathedral, with three men laying in the steel capsule at the top - rises slowly, carried by the fire pillar. Soundless - the sound hasn't reached us yet. The rocket accelerates. Goes straight into fluffy summer clouds, and for a few seconds you only see the fire tail whipping out under the cloud. The rocket is visible again and rushes faster upwards. The sound wave reaches the people 5 km from the launch tower - clattering, earshattering thunder from a clear blue sky. The ground geins to tremble under the feet, as if all of nature trembles when man beats gravoity and flungs himself into the universe. Finally you don't see the rocket anymore, just the flame as a shining star in the daylight. The sun which recently was bleak shines once more and silence returns. Eugen has experience this many times now - it's always fascinating and words can't describe it. It's a drama that could silence a poet. There was a poet on Cape Kennedy when Apollo 16 started. A rare guest, the most famous young poet of USSR, Yevgeny Yevtushenko / https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yevgeny_Yevtushenko * / He was invited by his personal friend astronaut David Scott, commander of Apollo 15 that landed on the Moon last summer. 39-year old Yevtushenko is one of very few Russians who have witnesses an US space launch (No American has ever been admitted to a Russian rocket base.) Yevtushenko's visit becomes no less strange by his profession. In the USSR a respected poet is a person of another level of political and national importance than with us. He is an idol of the people, his performances gets audiences like one of our pop concerts: his poem about a successful space trip was published on the front pages of newspapers among all the official reports. Travelling abroad he is somewhat of an ambassador for his country. Yevtushenko saw the start of Apollo 16 from the VIP stand, together with celebrities like king Hussein of Jordan, US vice president Spiro Agnew, Wernher von Braun's brother Sigismund, actor John Wayne, prince and princess Carlos of Spain, and others. On the eve after the launch the Russian poet held a press conference in NASA's press centre in Cocoa Beach, the space town south of Cape Kennedy. He smiled as he entered in front of 50 reporters, dressed like Eugen had never seen a Soviet representative: white silk shirt with Ukranian embroderies /called a "vyshyvanka"/, a big fancy cap (which he kept on all the time), a bracelet with pearls on one wrist and one with amber on the other, heavy gold ring on the nleft hand and a lighter gold ring in the right ear. He was accompanied by a Mr todd from the US security service, with muscles, a tan, white-haired like the father in the TV western "Bonanza". He gave the impression he could draw a gun just as fast and dresed in a T-shirt and jeans. The poet and the security agent, two opposite personalities. But unlike Yevtushenko's stumbling English, it showed that the American spoke fluent Russian. His hands are alive when he speaks, it shows forms, sculptures, stresses his words. His face shifts between a smile and seriousness. He says: I'll write a poem of what I have experience here. Not about the launch - it was far too overwhelming - but about the evening before, the rocket in the dusk before launch day. He recites: There was the slim body of the rocket in the flood lights, embranced by the service tower clumpsy but still gentle arms...As a brother who embraces his sister before a long journey, at the moment of farewell... I was at the launch site together with David Scott yesterday evening...a couple of hundred metres from the rocket...the white giant..it was a fantastic experience...it gave me a feeling of...(How do toy say sprituality? He asks his body guard in Russian. Mr todd automatically answers breathlessness.) Yes a feeling of something grand. I had a bottle of champagne with me - I like champagne a lot. - but I forgot it. I became drunk without drinking. The poet turns to politics. A friend

...labeled "the head of the intellectual juvenile delinquents" ...his most famous poem, Babiyy Yar, in which he denounced the Soviet distortion of historical fact regarding the Nazi massacre of the Jewish population of Kyiv...as actor/ playing in "Vzlyot" ("Take-Off", 1979) as Russian rocket scientist Konstantin Tsiolkovsky" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yevgeny_Yevtushenko

a Russian cosmonaut told him that he during a mission saw Paris. Moscow and Stockholm together. He got a feeling that Earth was a spaceship, a big international tale. The worst that can happen onboard a spaceship, the cosmonaut said, was a quarrel. We have too many quarrels on Earth. That's very dangerous for our big spaceship. We must agree, solve problems, save our world from being poisoned, make it secure for the future. That's best done from space, from which we can see Earth as it is - as a freely hanging globe. I think our spacemen and yours are slowly securing Earth's future. The poet waves his hands, jewels gleaming. Mr Todd says nothing. A white-haired woman asks Yevtushenko a mild question: "As Scott returned from the Moon he said he'd rather write poems about it than dry reports. Have you read Scott's poems?" - "No, he has never showed me any. The poems may be his own little secret. (Audience laughs.) But I think that the first non-astronaut sent to space should be a poet. He'd give another view of space than dry data." A blonde in a short skirt asks: "Is there a spot for another woman in the Soviet space program? (She looks like she'd volunteer.) The poet turns to the security man: "What was the question?" "She wants to know if USSR will launch more women into space." "I think it's more your problem than ours. It seems the gentlemen selecting astronauts discriminate by sex," Yevtushenko says as the reporters laugh. "Well, you have launched one woman. But will more follow her?" the blonde insists. "Why not," the Poet says with a glimpse of irony in his eye. "Women may be insistent. They make so much noise here on Earth that we may be forced to launch a few more." The question comes about space cooperation between the US and USSR. Yevtushenko says he looks forward to the dockings planned between Soviet and US spaceships. "I'm sure the time isn't far off when Americans and Russians will fly to the Moon together. We'll establish common research bases on other planets... I'm a patriot. I love my country and cherish her successes. I wouldn't respect an American who doesn't love his country. But such patriotism would be worthless if we didn't cooperate and had common aims." The press conference ends. There's only one unanswered question: When will the first Russian put his feet on the moon? Does he know that, the man in the embroidered silk shirt? Has he prepared a poem for that day? Or does anyone know? Yevtushenko and his company has disappeared. The reporters go to their cars. The newspaper automats outside have the headlines: GRAND START FOR APOLLO 16 - 6TH US MOON EXPEDITION UNDERWAY! Apollo 17 starts in December - the last mission of the American space program. And then? Nobody knows, but he thinks it'll be time for Russians on the Moon. Eugen drives the coast road A1A north in the black, warm Florida night. The windows are up and the AC on to cool off. He turns to a byway and in the rear mirror he sees another car following. A big white Galaxie parks by the room door next to Eugen's. Mr Todd is by the wheel and Yevtushenko steps out. "Hello! So we are neighbours! Will you join us having a swim in the pool?" Seven years have passed since he first visited Cape Kennedy, at a time when the US slowly was catching up on the Soviet lead in space, when the moon still was a far away goal. Eugen then wrote in an Allers article: **The sea roars in the warm night next to me. Along the horizon in the north the lights of Cape Kennedy gleams. In the flood lights the rocket of tomorrow rises - it's the evening before the launch... The green water of the motel pool is enticing. You can flow on your back and watch the moon as a gleaming silver coin high up in the sky. The same moon shines over Baykonur - the isolated Russian rocket base. The Moon - the goal of the hectic race between the super powers.** Countless rockets have flown since. But this evening is exactly the same. He floats on his back in the pool again. In the night sky the moon once more gleams - but it isn't the same distant moon. People now walk around up there, they drive a car in the lunar deserts. Times have changed. The Moon race is over. A Russian poet splashes in the water beside him in the green water. He points to falling stars and predicts that astronauts of various nationalities will soon be there far away on common, whirling journeys. That people will cross the Milky Way...

Well, the Americans and Russians did go to space together a couple of years later, in the Apollo-Sojuz Test Project (ASTP), docking those two spacecrafts (and much later both Russia and US have worked with the ISS, though the former will soon leave/be kicked out). The Russians have this far not gone to the Moon. They have continued with improved versions of the Sojuz rocket through the years, which isn't up to a moon trip. The Soviets built a huge Moon rocket called the N1 but several attempts 1969-1972 to launch it (unmanned) failed, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/N1_\(rocket\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/N1_(rocket)) But look, they could have fixed problems and continued to the moon, for a *fraction* of the cost wasted on the insane war against Ukraine! Putin could have made "Russia great again" - in space! That stupid war eats so much money (direct costs, lost economy) that I estimate that the Russians could even not only have *gone to Mars* for it, they could even *establish a Mars base* for the money wasted on war. That would have been a creative, positive alternative to a bloody war, to bombing cities and torturing and murdering people. So why? Space projects moves humanity forward, widens our horizons, gives us valuable spinoff technology and new knowledge. On Mars we could perhaps find life, instead of extinguishing life with war. Anyway, see what *The Daily Herald* July. 14 1975 (no summary needed for Anglophiles) wrote about ASTP:



Esperanto-promoter Gunnar Gällmo wrote this rebellion against EC Tubb's Cap Kennedy space opera. A great yarn and good laugh!

U.S.-Russian Venture

Joint Space Flight Blastoffs Tuesday

By AL ROSSITER JR.
UPI Science Editor
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (UPI) — Apollo's astronauts went joy riding in jets today while countdowns moved smoothly toward Tuesday morning's launch of Russia's Soyuz spaceship and the blastoff of the Americans 7 1/2 hours later.

Space Event Time Table

HOUSTON (UPI) — Timetable of major events Tuesday for the Apollo-Soyuz International spaceflight (all times EDT, based on on-time launchings and subject to change):
8:20 a.m. — Soyuz cosmonauts Alexei A. Leonov and Valeri N. Kubasov are launched from Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome. (TV).
8:29 a.m. — Soyuz spacecraft reaches Earth orbit ranging from 141 to 116 miles high.
11:11 a.m. — Soviet control center near Moscow tests communications to Soyuz via American tracking network.
1:30 p.m. — Soyuz corrects its orbit if necessary.
3:50 p.m. — Apollo astronauts Thomas P. Stafford, Vance D. Brand and Donald K. Slayton are launched from Cape Canaveral. (TV).
4 p.m. — Apollo reaches orbit ranging from 103 to 93 miles high.
5:04 p.m. — Apollo separates from its spent Saturn rocket.

(TV).
5:13 p.m. — Apollo turns around and docks with the docking module mounted on the nose of the Saturn. (TV).
5:55 p.m. — Nine-minute telecast begins showing crew activities in the Apollo.
6:34 p.m. — With docking module linked to it, Apollo fires control rockets to move away from the Saturn, slightly raising its orbit to 103 by 94 miles high. (TV).
7:20 p.m. — Soyuz cosmonauts begin eight-hour sleep period.
7:35 p.m. — Apollo fires its main engine to begin rendezvous maneuvers, switching into orbit ranging from 102 to 101 miles high.
9:31 p.m. — Apollo fires its main engine again to move into orbit 145 to 106 miles high.
10:38 p.m. — Apollo uses its main engine to change the plane of its orbit, if necessary, to correspond with the Soyuz orbit.

Soyuz rendezvous in orbit would strengthen peace and deepen Detente. The United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim said the twin shots dramatized the will of the two nations to work together.

Astronauts Thomas P. Stafford, Vance D. Brand and Donald K. "Deke" Slayton loosened up for their flight in pursuit of Soyuz by flying F38 jets from nearby Patrick Air Force Base.

Russian managers in Moscow reported that Alexei A. Leonov and Valeri N. Kubasov also were ready at the Baikonur Cosmodrome, 8,670 miles from here. They relaxed while engineers prepared to start fueling the Soyuz rocket about 3:50 a.m. EDT — five hours before blastoff.

"All the training has been completed and the crews are in full readiness for ASTP

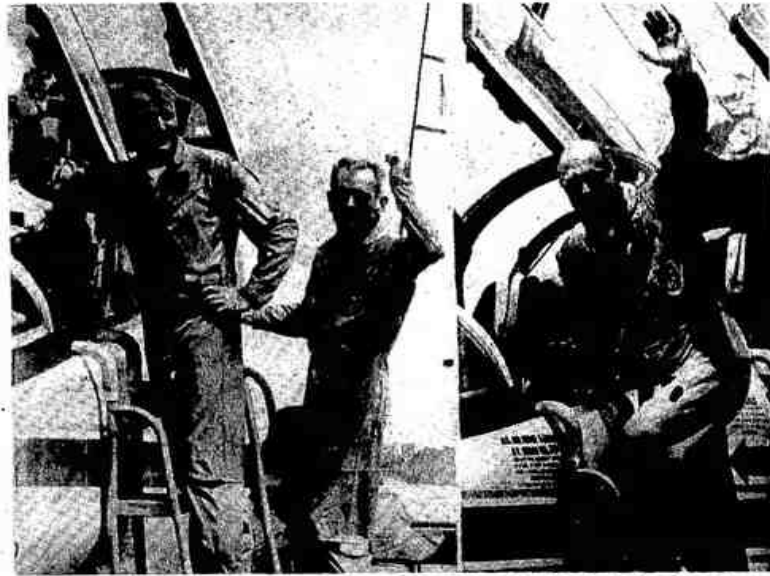
(Apollo-Soyuz Test Project), said Andrian G. Nikolaev, deputy director of the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center, at a midday news briefing in Moscow.

"We are convinced that the crews will fully cope with the mission and we wish the cosmonauts and astronauts a successful launch, a full completion of the flight program and a soft landing."

It was also reported that the two cosmonauts aboard Russia's Salyut 4 space lab will continue to fly during the Soyuz-Apollo mission, ending their two month mission during the last 10 days of this month. Leonov and Kubasov land July 21.

Boris N. Petrov, chairman of Russia's Interkosmos council, said in opening the Moscow news conference that the two

(Continued on Page 3)



THE THREE AMERICAN astronauts, who are scheduled to meet two Russian cosmonauts in Earth orbit Thursday, board their jet aircraft in Houston to fly to Cape Canaveral. Mission commander astronaut Thomas

Stafford waves (right) as he boards and Vance Brand, left, and Deke Slayton, center, climb ladders to the cockpit of their jet. The Apollo-Soyuz test project is scheduled for a Tuesday launch. (UPI Telephoto)



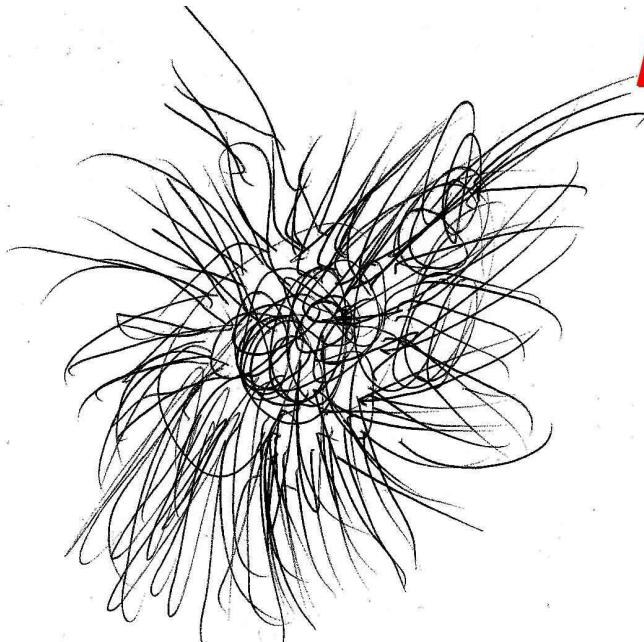
Oil-Price Plan Offered by Ford

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Ford today proposed a complex oil-price plan that could drive up the cost of gasoline seven cents a gallon by 1978, in effect challenging Congress to come up with a better idea if it can

expire Aug. 31 and Ford warned he would veto any extension approved by Congress unless lawmakers accept his "reasonable compromise."

But shortly after the White House released the message, Federal Energy Administrator Frank Zarb told reporters later that Ford changed the language to "put it in his own words" and that as usual, President would want to study a bill extending controls before publicly committing himself.

Artist LON Olsson hypnotising the lines to form into his art!



No Mailing Comments in this issue. Since #125 was late I could go through October EAPA there. Latest N'APA was commented in #124. And neither have had new mailings since. Intermission has always gone in small Amateur Press Associations (APAs), thus "mailing comments". But I'll take the opportunity to urge everyone to try doing a fanzine! It's easy to do electronically (your word processor can do it) and fanzines are the spearhead of fandom! It's your chance to communicate and be creative. You will enjoy it! Don't think - just do it! And while at it, please review Intermission in your fanzine, your home page or site. (Sending me your intelligent comments privately also works - that helps you to stay on my distr list.)

Слава Україні!

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N3F Progress

In the Mystery of Death, All Men Are Initiates

Sadly, in the last three months we have lost three noteworthy members. Will Mayo, whose zines and reviews graced our pages, is no longer with us. Our last living founding member, Robert Madle, reached the age of 102 before he passed to the next plane of existence. Most recently, Justin E. A. Busch, who gave us the monthly Fanfaronade as well as the most recent Films Fantastic, died after an extended medical challenge. Replacing these fine people will be a great challenge. Until then, Tightbeam and FanActivity Gazette will both be much thinner.

Issue Comments

Intermission 123: Once upon a time, Amazing published a series of articles on various sfnal ideas, and why they would not work. Of course, these were written in the 1920s. The one I recall discussed a rocket to travel to the Moon, and why it was impossible.

The amusing part of this was that the analysis was correct, though not for the reasons some readers would have expected.

First the author, who understood rocketry, designed the actual rocket. Of course, he was limited by period technology, so he had to use gasoline-liquid oxygen rather than liquid hydrogen-liquid oxygen, but he ended up with a Saturn 5, five stages including land and return, only about twice as heavy as the historical vehicle that actually worked. He then pointed out why you could not get it to work, namely that the control problems were impossible.

Has analogy was taking a US Navy heavy cruiser, balancing it on its end, and keeping it balanced by resting the bottom end on your hand as it flew upwards. Without computers, it could not be done. He did not identify the other issue, namely that without computers and digital communications the control team would have had to fly up with each stage, rather than sitting on the ground watching.

Archive Midwinter: My FaceBook exclusion, now ended, is that they went to two-factor identification, apparently designed by electronic gadget fanatics. You have several paths to set up 2FA, but all of them seemed to assume that you own a cell telephone or the like and can receive text messages. I do not. Fortunately I found the answer. There is a piece of software WINAUTH.EXE, that fakes being a cell phone, enough that you can use it to receive a security code from FaceBook. I did, and am now back in operation.

The blank pages were a setup error. I failed to notice them, of I would have cut them off.

“Dated”. We are the last generation of authors who will be able to populate other solar systems with planets as we see fit. Orbital telescopes have enormous power, permitting us to see planets around distant stars. There are now more than 5000 known exoplanets, with strong indications of many more, including sorts of planets not seen here, e.g., larger than Jupiter and inside the orbit of Mercury, peas-in-a-pod solar systems in which all of a considerable number of planets are about the same size, and planets so close to each other and their dim sun that a ground observer could see them drift slowly across the sky with respect to the fixed stars.

Consciousness beyond death ... How do we prove consciousness now? I recall a 1960 or so TV show in which the protagonist began getting telephone calls from a dead relative, discussing things that happened after the relative had died and other things that only the relative and protagonist knew.

Intermission 124: Fine piece on fannish history. The launch date for Artemis 1 keeps receding. Perhaps it will eventually get off the ground.

Snow Poster Township: Interesting essays. Listing all the genres of SF sounds challenging. Perhaps

take all of the novels published in a year, or all the short stories, and see what is similar to what. Alternative History is somewhat popular at the moment. I am not sure what 'Space Western' is. Interesting comic books from long ago. Occult detective...occult fiction once upon a time was a larger part of SF&F. You might propose that paranormal romance with vampires and werewolves is part of that subgenre. I agree that sf/fan fandom has many branches, but prefer to believe that we are all fan.

Synergy: An interesting essay on spirituality, economics, and science fiction. I agree that fandom would fade from the scene without fanzines, whether paper or electronic.

Fiction

Of Breaking Waves, a bit more

"Welcome to the true world, younger daughter." The voice was not quite directly behind me. I whirled, to find myself facing the elderly Nipponese gentleman with the sword. He wore an elaborate set of polychrome robes, all the colors of the rainbow, with a chrysanthemum embroidered on each shoulder. He smiled. I smiled back and bowed. It seemed to be the right thing to do.

He shook his head. "It is I who should be bowing to you," he said, "though you don't exactly belong here. I am Duty. And this young lady," the girl from the barrow was all at once at his shoulder, "is Life's End." She was still dressed all in black, and still had her perky smile. Her skin was very pale.

"I'm Eclipse," I answered, "But that's a name, not a meme. I think." Or was it? This place was much more real than it had been, before I died. Or whatever I'd just done.

"You eclipsed Solara, as your garb promised," Life's End answered. "You eclipsed the three memetic monsters. But..." She put a hand out. There was a barrier between us, not a force field, not something I was doing, that kept her from touching me. "...you do not share my meme. I cannot bring you to the next plane, this one. You're alive. And you're here. That's unusual. Very unusual. I shall have to ask The Needed Answer to explain."

"I seem to be here," I answered. "The Well closed. Do I wait for it to open, or is there another way home for me?"

"Do you have a need to return?" Duty asked. "Most people who come here find they are happy to stay."

"If not here, in the Eternal Park," Life's End added.

I tried to imagine wanting to stay in this place. It truly was beautiful. The pain that had laced my body was gone. Duty somehow seemed to be a kindred spirit. "...heavier than worlds," I answered. "I still have obligations."

"Ten thousand years!" Duty whispered. "But I do not know the way."

"I do," Life's End said. "I can tell you, Eclipse, though you may regret the learning of it. Alas, Duty, I will speak, but you are required by the laws of nature not to hear."

"As always," Duty answered.

"Tell me," I answered. "Please?"

"You must walk north, north and up," Life's End said. "The mountains will become colder and colder, darker and darker. You will reach a place where the blackness is total, where the cold surpasses all imagination, where the pain of breathing is an agony without end. You must persevere. Finally you will reach the slippery slope down, along which you will slip and slide, stopping just before you slide off the overhang. Be sure you stop, or you will fall and die. The light will come from behind you—do not look to see where it comes from, or you will surely die. Be not concerned with the Infinite Arch. Instead you must gather up your courage and jump off the overhang, though the fall will be many miles and you will be unable to fly."

I swallowed. "Thank you for answering my question, however much it may hurt me. And I'm happy finally to meet both of you. I've seen you here often enough."

"Go now! Go quickly!" Duty ordered. "Go! Or you will fail!" I waved good-bye to them, then did as I

was told. The thought that memes, ideas, were not only solid here, but were living beings, was beyond my understanding.

The climb was so terrible that I could barely face memories of it. It was so dark the phosphenes vanished from behind my eyelids. It was so cold that I froze solid, but could still move. The air filled my lungs with tiny knives, sharp as diamond shards. I could hear the crunch of frozen lung when I breathed. Finally I reached the top and slid downward, fast stepping to kill my not-quite-fall. In the end, I stood on an overlook. Rolling green hills that stretched out forever were far below me. An enormous, elaborate, aluminum arch more miles high than seemed possible rose to my left. A crystal sphere filled with sapphire fire hung from the arch's keystone. It was not the Namestone, but something of which the Namestone was a feeble, twisted echo. As promised, light came from behind me. I told myself not to look over my shoulder. Instead, I walked ahead and jumped off the edge. I fell. And fell. And fell.

And woke to find myself on a porch, the sound of rainfall flooding my ears.

It was interesting to learn that I could come back from death, if I did everything right, but as one American philosopher had said, 'if it weren't for the honor of the thing' — in his case, being tarred, feathered, and ridden out of town on a rail — 'I'd as well do without it.' I heartily agreed. Perhaps I only got to climb that mountain once. Perhaps I'm not up to doing it again.

But that climb explained why every muscle was sore. I'd climbed and climbed, albeit in my memetic body, of which my real body is some sort of mirror image. It was still a real climb, for which the description 'Glory does Everest' came to mind, except Everest is much too low to the ground. I'd climbed almost forever. My Medico glyphs flickered randomly from color to color. I'd completely exhausted myself. My energy reserves, for calling on my gifts, were nearly empty. Perhaps I'd been reborn with them entirely drained.

By now Comet and friends, the four of them, would be back home. They would be enjoying the benefits that I would not, assuming I ever got home.

Star and Aurora would be re-united with their parents, Morgana and if need be the Speaker would ensure that Comet was safely housed near my new school, Cloud would see his mother and father, something that I ... I groaned with pain. Mum had warned me that overcoming a memory block, all the missing memories coming back at once, was agonizing, because the memories struck from within with absolutely no warning. No surprise. She was right.

For a few moments I was seeing double, with blank areas where the eye actually does not see anything. I closed my eyes, waited, and things were back to normal. Normal, except I knew what the mind control had done. All my life, I had been unable to think about a fact: I had a father as well as a mother. Any time someone made a reference to my dad, about whom I know nothing, the words were papered over, so that I simply did not hear them, and was not aware that I was not hearing them. Mum never spoke a word that would trigger the mind control. More recently, now that I thought about it, Aurora had noticed that I could not hear certain words, and steered people away from repeating their questions.

But why the control? It was one more oddity in my past. Of course, if I wanted to court death to find the answer, I had but to fly to Mars and ask the Wizard of Mars. He would probably be willing to tell me, if I paid his fee. His enormous, life-threatening fee. I've done a quite adequate number of suicidal stunts in my life, thank you, including flying to the starcore, treading the Maze, and taking on three star demons single-handed, but I had good reasons for making those choices. Asking the Wizard of Mars a question is just as suicidal, because his price for giving you an answer is very high.

Perhaps, I thought, I should worry about more practical matters. Lunch came immediately to mind. Lurking in the freezer were a series of sealed containers, each labelled in Star's handwriting with a date and indication of contents. I dropped the first one into the microwave oven, and set the table while I was waiting for the slow defrost cycle and fast heat cycle to do their things. I would miss fresh vegetables, but his cooking was wonderful.

Meanwhile, I was alone with my thoughts. You courted death once too often and paid the price. Except somehow you got away with dying, and are

still here. How often did you court Life's Ending? Saving Comet and Aurora when you were all of ten. Doing the Lesser Maze. Dodging the Welcomittee when you exited. Flying to the center of the Sun. Disposing of the Lords of Death. The Aztec-an invasion really wasn't that dangerous. Taking Plasmatrix one-on-one, when her friends were helping her. Blowing up two mountain ranges, including the solar coretap ray. Killing the sky jellyfish. Killing three not-so-invincible star demons. Going below the bottom of the Well of Infinity.

"Some people might say that was excessive," I said aloud, speaking to myself. "Thank you, I'll be happy never to do anything like that again." Unfortunately, at a fair guess, I have several more death-dodging adventures to go, starting with flying home.

Photos, next page

It Returns

Some of you will remember this character from the 1950s documentary "The Deadly Mantis" complete with NORAD air interception, antiaircraft guns, and a ferocious 1000 ton monster killed by ramming it with a jet fighter.

It was big. It was ferocious. It was a praying mantis. Clearly, given how mantises work, it was a girl. The eggs it laid 70 years ago are now hatching, as witness the baby photo (color, right).

Yes, that is a real mantis, and the largest insect I recall having seen. The body was a good five inches long.



Synergy November 2022



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Peace, the peace that comes from the all, the infinite,
from contemplation and consideration, time out of
mind, from safety from lack of unity, and
submergence in the cosmic. These words here writ
without error on a table model Lenovo from Shops.

Cover by Colette Carmichael

**This work is done with the Press 250/Easy Press, partly
in significance of Ninth Fandom, this being accorded
also a Ninth Fandom publication. Aside from being
attacked by the gods, we are in solid state. For example,
Ghu and Roscoe have no complaints against us.**

EDITORIAL



Lord Love Science, and That Be So

Does the reader think that science is not blessed, just because someone has told him that? Did you check on this person, or were you timid of doing so because he was into major topics of consideration? What of his qualifications as a person? Science is blessed, and returns blessing, being as it is a part of creation.

In science fiction we find a harmony between science and magic, fiction being akin to fantasy, being a work of consideration and of the mind, Fiction, you will note, is not provable, except to prove that it exists by showing some of it to someone, and fiction does not claim the validity so dear to science. So who united fiction with science and how was it done? Apparently no one knows the answer to this. This not being answered, does science fiction have a firm foundation? You might say it does anyway, because that sounds better and more comfortable to you, but please respect the attitude of any who think that, to the contrary, it has no solid foundation. It might be surmised that these are people who want it not to have a solid foundation, because they do not like science, but I have just displayed the origin of that possible contention. I don't do that for love. So if the contention has a foundation, then people considering it need not be enemies of science—though a lot of the people pointing out that science fiction has no foundation are, in fact, enemies of science fiction. Or else the enemies of science fiction have ignored the possibilities of making that contention, and if you are thinking that people having that view are enemies of science fiction, then you will not be arguing the

statement I just made, unless you just like to argue. I pointed that there were enemies of science fiction involved, as a fact, and derived my consideration of it as a fact from the reasoning that they were not around anywhere and had ignored an opportunity, whereas we do know that science fiction has enemies and if it does not, a lot of discussion and controversy would not be occurring. Or else the reason would be that a person thinking science fiction had its enemies was paranoid, and moreover a person who identified with science fiction rather than merely reading it, or he would not have become paranoid. We have not been able to find a foundation for science fiction but reason that there may be a foundation for it that has not yet been discovered, however a foundation consists of being considered a foundation, so what we are really looking for is something we may consider a foundation, or for someone who has already established something that may be considered as a foundation.

These are splendid turns of thought; I am cavorting With my own mind, although of course someone else, some other, may consider them not splendid but rather of little worth, or ignominious. That's what you get when you have a difference of opinion.

Does science actually contend with magic? Are they mutually exclusive? Is enmity apt to ignite when they come in contact? That's not what happened when science fiction evolved, and those who began following it may have argued some points resembling science versus magic, they were not enemies of science fiction; but those who do force this argument are saboteurs of science fiction.

Someone, I think Arthur Clarke, has said that Science does not actually contest magic, which is so, and those with "open minds" should agree. Next we see that fantasy contains magic, yet fantasy fiction is in a partnership with science fiction, Do writers of science fiction actually dispute with fantasy? As such, I think they do not, and these people who do contest magic, or contest science, are what Dante describes as "stirrers up of strife." One next asks whether strife has any value, and you get appreciators of Howard, but I think higher things than strife are what was the makings of his books. Here, though, we see a man who argues incontinently, and stirs up trouble, and writes fantasy rather than science fiction. He seems to have regarded his contenders as "faggots", and these were people of the intellectual persuasion. But it is stirring up strife to say that he actually called them "faggots". Other people surrounding the arguments were saying that, and they were plainly liking strife. But Howard is an example of an internal problem. He is restless about what he writes. So were some science fiction

authors. So we have there an internal warfare mingling with an external warfare. As good as the originator of double action.

MAILING COMMENTS

"When Christ was a tiger"—Paul Simon

That cover art looks like it might be left in the public domain.

INTERMISSION #123: Quite a lot of warfare going on in the issue. One wonders if everything is not, in a way, a war. (I wrote this down at a fast pace and scrawled it, and at first it looked like I had said "is not, in a way, a beaver". I think not, eh?

ARCHIVE MIDWINTER: The mailing after this will be out in midwinter. Do you hear sound coming from the archives in the Midwinter?

I always figured NATO would solve a whole lot of the problems that there were, but at this point I haven't seen much that I was expecting.

Were the two characters in the EE Smith story really arguing about what a light year was, or were they perhaps doing a kind of exotic dancing?

See my editorial up top for sf warfare musings. It's an example of mailing comments overlapping into editorial matter.

INTERMISSION #124: If I saw Bengt O Bjorklund reading poetry around here, I would definitely go to the reading.

SNOW POST TOWNSHIP #6: The article on the Russian SF Society, sent from Russia by email, was in Pablo Lennis about twenty years ago, a couple of years after I had gotten my computer. I think the society has diminished now and gone into something else besides sf, which the author, in an email following up the publication of the article, said it was starting to do.

The "What Mad Universe" film became unavailable not a long time after it was first "released".

I think if I went to Japan on a foreign exchange program I would end up dead from inability to communicate with anyone at all.

SAMIZDAT: I don't think learning about other countries is worthwhile. They say "East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet."

A couple of Japanese exchanges attempted to shanghai me when I was returning to Lafayette from New Orleans and trying to get a local cab home. That was so far back that there are now three wind turbines operating where the cab company was. We still have taxis here, but no one seems to have found out where their headquarters are.

It sounds as if something like Synergy might have been involved in getting things together for those hoax postings. A sole doing, but a group must have gotten together with you for the hoax **ar**



Art by Richard Andre



**Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy Hanukkah
To All Readers of N'APA!**

...LoC on N'APA 260



Intermission 123 - I agree. SF cons are back! I agree on the importance of supporting the Ukraine. I'm glad you were able to get to Finncon. A case could be made for the Pippi Longstocking books being fantasy novels and Moomin Trolls certainly are. You have a very interesting article about amusement park moon trips. I strongly disagree with your response to George Phillies, in which you say, that SF awards are politicized and are given to "authors based on minority quotas rather than the success of their efforts." I think readers are recognizing that writers from nontraditional backgrounds are able to write works that are not just new versions of things we have read dozens of

times. I agree with your response to me about America having too many mass shootings. We do need to do something and gun control has to be part of the solution. And yes, the name of my zine is a deliberate reference to the Russian underground press.

Archive Midwinter - I actually used mimeographs in my first year teaching. You ask Will Mayo "Who other than the Christ has ever come back from being dead?" If you believe the Christian Bible, Lazarus rose from the dead. And in the Biblical book of Kings, Elijah the prophet asked God to restore life to the son of the widow of Zarephath. And yes, I agree that a lot of SF has lost the sense of wonder along with the canals of Mars and a lot of the gee whiz factor of concepts being invented for the first time. But we've gained a lot in characterization and writing quality. Gore Vidal actually wrote many works of historical fiction, including a bunch set in American history.

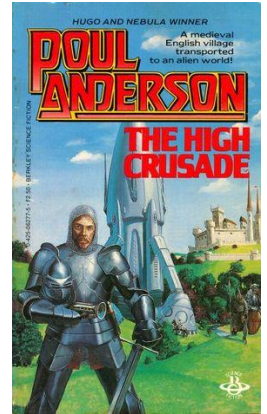
Snow Poster Township #6 - Your 12 branches of science seem to omit medicine (unless you see it as a combination of biology and chemistry) and your list of social sciences does not include history. Traditionally in SF, hard science fiction refers to stories that do not break the laws of science as we know them (with a special exemption for faster than light travel), while soft SF is less strict with the laws of science as we know them. Hard SF tends to be more focused on physics. I agree with your comments that fandom should be inclusive and not kick anyone out. People's interests overlap and a media fan or a manga fan may also read books or play games. And if they are included at a convention, may poke their head into a panel or two on another subject and develop further interests.

Synergy #41 - I disagree with your analogy of science fiction as economics and fantasy as spiritualism. There is plenty of science fiction that doesn't address economics or even more broadly social sciences. Science fiction to me seems more akin to physics, concerned with how things work rather than the why. Fantasy then is more like a religion in that it deals with the supernatural; magic cannot be explained by natural laws. Yes, Ted Sturgeon was a wonderful writer and very spiritual.

Ye Murthered Mage 259 - I agree that having a club with more active members is better than a smaller club. I need to send in more reviews and maybe look at other ways to contribute (well, after Balticon). I'm glad you liked my double 07s line.

...Author Spotlight: Poul Anderson

Poul Anderson was born in 1926 and lived to be 74 so he not only was a prominent author in the Golden Age, he was still writing well into the modern age. His last book, *Genesis* was published in 2000. Anderson wrote both science fiction and fantasy. His early books were classics of the “what if” school of SF. His first novel *Brain Wave* (1954) asked what if everyone on Earth became super-intelligent. *Tau Zero* (1970) asked what would happen to a spaceship travelling at nearly the speed of light. He is probably best known for his humorous Hoka series (co-written with Gordon Dickson) about an alien race of teddy bears who believe in Earth fiction so much that they take on the roles of fictional earth heroes and his *The High Crusade* about aliens conquered by Earth medieval knights. He is also known for an extended future history that includes subseries about Nicholas van Rijn, trader David Falkayn, and spy Dominic Flandry. He also wrote one of the best *Time Patrol* series. His fantasy includes *King of Ys*, *Operation Overworld*, *The Broken Sword*, and *A Midsummer's Tempest* (in which all of Shakespeare's works are true).



He was also well known in the Society for Creative Anachronism and filk communities. Anderson won seven Hugos and three Nebulas. He became a SFWA Grandmaster in 1997.

It is hard to tell where people should start with Poul Anderson. A lot of his work is out of print and a lot of his series have been collected under different titles. Project Gutenberg has 25 of his stories. You may want to check used bookstores for *Winners* (1981) which has his Hugo winning stories and *The Best of Poul Anderson*. Some of his backlist is published in ebooks by Open Road Media, which frequently has \$1.99 sales. Baen Books has several of his books in-print if you can ignore the incredibly sexist covers (someone tried to market Flandry to the James Bond audience).

...Post-Election Reactions



Before the 2022 midterm election, nearly everyone was convinced the vote would be a big victory for the Republicans and Donald Trump. After all, the president's party always loses seats in the mid-term election, especially when the president's popularity rating is low, as is President Biden. Combined with the high price of gas and high inflation generally, stock market drops, and concerns over the withdrawal from Afghanistan and the possibility that Russia will escalate the Ukrainian war, it looked very bad for the Democrats.

Instead, as I write this on November 13th, the Democrats have just retained their slight control of the Senate. The state of the House is still not decided with a number of districts still counting ballots, but even if Republicans do gain control, it will be very hard for them to claim this a mandate for extreme action or the impeachment of the President.

So what happened? I think for all the talk about the unpopularity of Biden, the pundits ignored that Donald Trump is even less popular. Even though Trump was not on any ballot, he was in the news so much that from the point of view of the voters a vote for the Democratic candidate was a vote against Trump. And since voters are more motivated by what they are against, rather than what they are for, especially in a non-Presidential election year with less known candidates, a lot of people saw the election as Biden v. Trump II and voted for Biden.

I also think that, in part due to the support of Trump, the Republicans nominated a lot of extremist candidates. Many were election deniers who claim that Trump really won the 2020 election and that massive fraud put the Democrats into office (even though no one has presented evidence despite many trials). Voters in primaries tend to be the Party die-hards and extremists, but this year, there was an active effort to kick moderates out of office and nominate the most conservative elements of the GOP. So it is only natural that the full electorate would reject some of these candidates when a more moderate candidate might have won. And of course abortion played a role. A lot of voters were shocked that the Supreme Court reversed *Roe versus Wade* after almost 50 years. This reversal happened because a Republican senate ignored Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland, claiming it was too close to the election even though they later confirmed Trump's nomination of Amy Coney Barrett made far closer to the 2020 election.

...Thanksgiving with the SF/Fantasy Heroes

Paul Atreides (Dune) is thankful for water and the opportunity to kill Harkonnen.

Luke Skywalker (Star Wars) is thankful for the return of his light saber.

Kal El (Superman) is thankful for the rebirth of the DC Universe.

Captain America (movie version) is thankful for a place to hide although he needs to ask Santa for a new name.

Hari Selden (Foundation) is thankful that people still listen to self-fulfilling prophecies.

Captain Kirk (TOS) is thankful for alien babes.

Captain Picard (TNG) is thankful for casting directors who cannot tell a British accent from a French one.

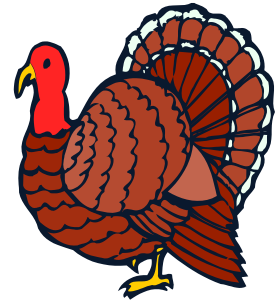
Captain Sisko (DS9) thanks the Prophets.

Buffy (the Vampire Slayer) is thankful that she is currently alive again.

Lazarus Long (Heinlein) is thankful for good genes.

Frodo Baggins (LotR) is thankful for really sturdy feet.

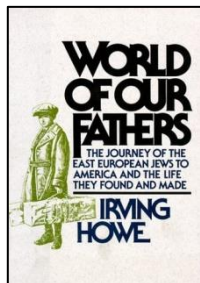
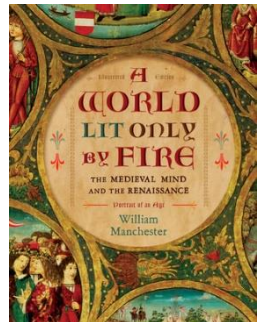
Fox Mulder (X-Files) is thankful for the exposure of the alien conspiracy. Dana Scully is thankful that there is no alien conspiracy.



...Status of Projects

Readers of past issues of *Samizdat* know that I have a number of long-term projects on which I have been working to improve my life, mind/body, and do more.

Project History - I have finished *A World Lit Only by Fire: The Medieval Mind and the Renaissance* by William Manchester. About halfway through, it shifts from a focus on medieval life to a focus on Ferdinand Magellan and his efforts to navigate around the world (1519-1522). Manchester sees this as the end of the middle ages and the start of the Renaissance. One problem is that this is too late for the start of the Renaissance which is frequently dated from the invention of the printing press in 1450 or the start of Leonardo DaVinci's career in the 1470s. Magellan seems to be more a continuation of the Age of Exploration than something new. I want to read *The Bright Ages* to contrast with the stereotypical Dark Ages portrayal here.



I'm almost done with *World of Our Fathers: The Journey of the East European Jews to America and the Life They Found and Made* by Irving Howe. This is more of a portrait of the immigrant experience than a history with a thesis. There is a strong focus on New York City, to the exclusion of everywhere else. It is also interesting how these immigrants, at least in the first generation, continued to live in isolation from American culture/life.

Projects Classics & Shakespeare: No movement on either. I resolve to finish *David Copperfield* by the end of 2022.

Project Netflix: I watched *Forrest Gump* which has a truly impressive acting job by Tom Hanks portraying a man who has a good heart but no brain. I also watched a couple of episodes of Season Two of *Fate: The Winx Saga*.

Project Trek. I'm going to have to return Season 1 of TOS to the library unwatched except for the first episode. Maybe I'll get TNG instead.

Project Balticon - I am the chair of Balticon 2024. I know who I want for most of my Guests of Honor. Now it is a matter of finding out how to contact them.

Projects Exercise and Clean Up - Not enough.

Project Go Out and Do Something – I went to see a movie *Goodnight Oppy* about the Mars rovers. I had forgotten that the Mars rovers were only supposed to last 90 days. Instead they went on for years. Spirit lasted six years while Opportunity was active for nearly 15 years. The movie was very well done, although the focus was on the survival of the rovers rather than the science that they did. The science was mostly defined as a search for water. The movie is worth seeing with lots of special effects that visualize what the rovers looked like in action.

...Ignorance of Science and Implications for Science Fiction

(originally in *The WSFA Journal*/July 2004)

Most people know very little about science. In their minds, the line between science and fantasy is very slim. For instance, take astrology. Two-fifths of Americans think it is at least "sort of scientific". Only a slim majority (56 percent) said it was not at all scientific. Despite that poor showing, we did better than the Europeans, only 39% of whom said astrology was not at all scientific. According to Gallup polls, half of Americans believe ESP is real, 42 percent believe in haunted houses (although just 38 percent believe in ghosts, I have no idea what the other four percent think is doing the haunting), 41 percent believe in a devil who sometimes possesses people, 36% believe in telepathy, 33% believe aliens have visited the earth, and 26% believe in witches. Moreover, belief in most of these (except possession by the devil) has increased over the last decade; belief in witches nearly doubled and communication with the dead increased by over 50 percent. (<http://www.nsf.gov/sbc/srs/scind04/c7/fig07-09.xls>).

It wouldn't surprise me if much of this population thinks the X-Files are a documentary.



So, while believing in superstition, many people simultaneously know little about science. A majority of Americans (52 percent) but just 41 percent of Europeans think that humans and dinosaurs lived at the same time. Three-fourths of Americans but only two-thirds of Europeans understand that the Earth goes around the sun, although just 54 percent of Americans and 58 percent of Europeans understand that it takes the Earth a year to do so. And only 45 percent of Americans and a third of Europeans understand that lasers do not focus sound waves. Of the 13 questions about science in the study, Americans averaged 8.2 percent correct while Europeans averaged 7.8 percent. (<http://www.nsf.gov/sbc/srs/scind04/c7/fig07-06.xls>).

This actually explains a lot about science fiction and fantasy. Too many Americans cannot tell the difference. Star Trek can get away with its technobabble because, for many of its viewers, the science is essentially an incantation that doesn't have to make sense. Naturally, if one doesn't understand the science, one won't understand most real science fiction. The quarter of Americans (and third of Europeans) who are still living in the pre-Copernicus age won't really understand a book about traveling to another planet and will have little interest in reading such.

Science fiction (and to a lesser degree fantasy) requires a bit more work of the reader than an adventure story set in the present day. Most science fiction books are a puzzle (which accounts for the overlap with mysteries among readers and writers) in which the reader tries to figure out the rules for the scientific gimmick, magic, or alien culture featured in the book. Those who don't like puzzles, who want everything straightforward, and don't want to work to understand what is going on, will have trouble with much science fiction. (Of course, I mean by this science fiction and fantasy that plays by the rules of science (or a consistent magic system), not an adventure story with just some of the trappings of science fiction.) Unfortunately, that naturally limits the audience and means that science fiction will always stay a small genre compared to more accessible narratives that allow the readers to turn off their brains.



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