

John Nielsen Hall: Welcome aboard, Uncle Johnny! Good to have you here in this Virtual Vegas, and looking forward to meeting you come April at Corflu Silver.

Perhaps unlike many other SNAP members, I'm well familiar with your personal fan history and have enjoyed all four issues of *Motorway Dreamer*. You note, "I have also written a lot for fanzines—my stuff could be found in *Maya* and *Zimri* (maybe others—I can't remember) back in the day, and these days I can be found in *eI*, *Prolapse*, *Bye Bye Johnny*, and various faneds have my pieces and are going to pub them Real Soon Now." As one of those faneds, I certainly hope that your "Episodes From A Journey" will have hit the streets in the new *Trap Door* by the time this mailing is sent out (or at least within days afterwards). And I hope

you'll like fellow SNAPS member Ross's title illustration.

Lord Kettle took a nice photo of you and Audrey—you look more relaxed in it than in the others I've seen.

"I'm particularly fascinated by your time on The Farm—I have, as I think I may have told you, lived for very short periods in communes and ashrams, and for a longer period in a Buddhist community in Oxford—which was just the same as sharing flats and houses in the sixties and seventies, but with meditation and puja's thrown in—and I suspect none of it involved as much privation as you maybe took on. I hope you will write more of it one day. Communal living is a whole other life, isn't it?" Indeed it is, and it *is* highly unlikely that your various spells living in communes and shared housing was anywhere near as desperately poor as what we underwent in the '70s on The Farm. As for writing more about it, I've posted the main bits I've written so far on the InTheBar "Files" section—did you read them there?

Bryan Follins: I don't recall if *I* was "the member [who] hinted he hardly knew about me," but I'm glad that—no matter who it was—it prompted you to write this glimpse into your personal history.

"I am about five months away from my master's degree in applied computer science. I have this keen interest in computer crime and how it affects society. Computer crime is indeed the crime of the 21st century." I'd be very interested to read your insights into computer

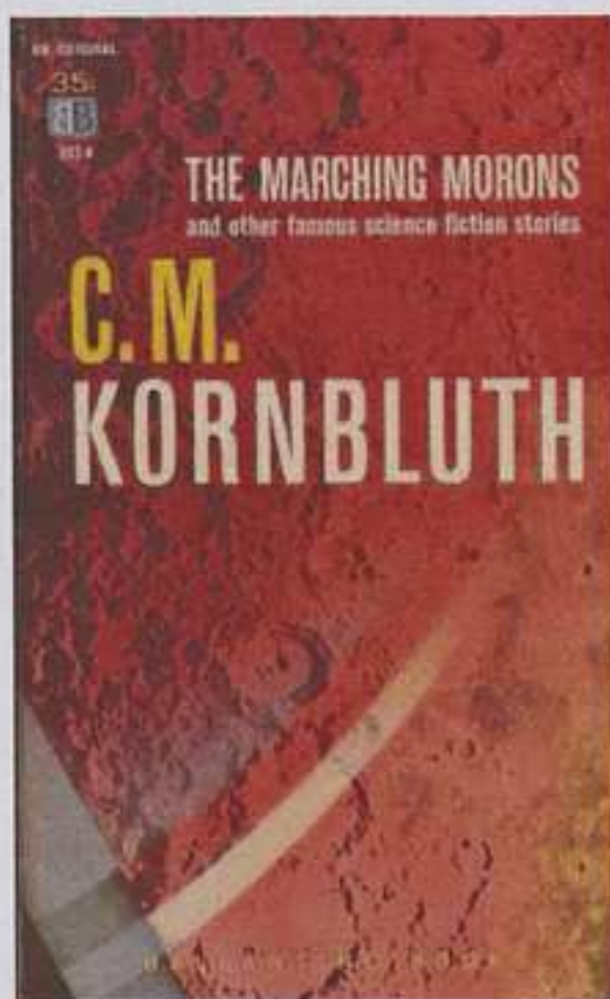


crime from your unique perspective.

And I'm glad you're part of the Vegrants, and look forward to meeting you in April.

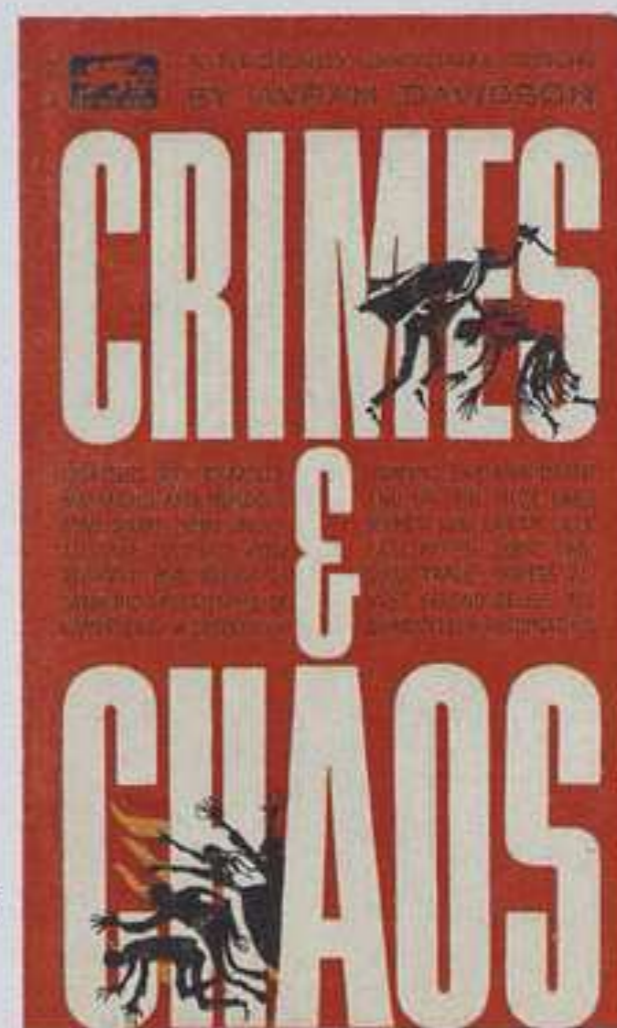
R-Laurraine Tutihasi: That's a very generic-looking house you're renting. Sorry to read that Mike's telescope and other items were stolen from your house in Southern California. I don't hold out much hope that despite filing a police report they'll be recovered, but do hope the insurance settlement is sufficiently adequate that it can all be replaced without any (or much) additional personal outlay.

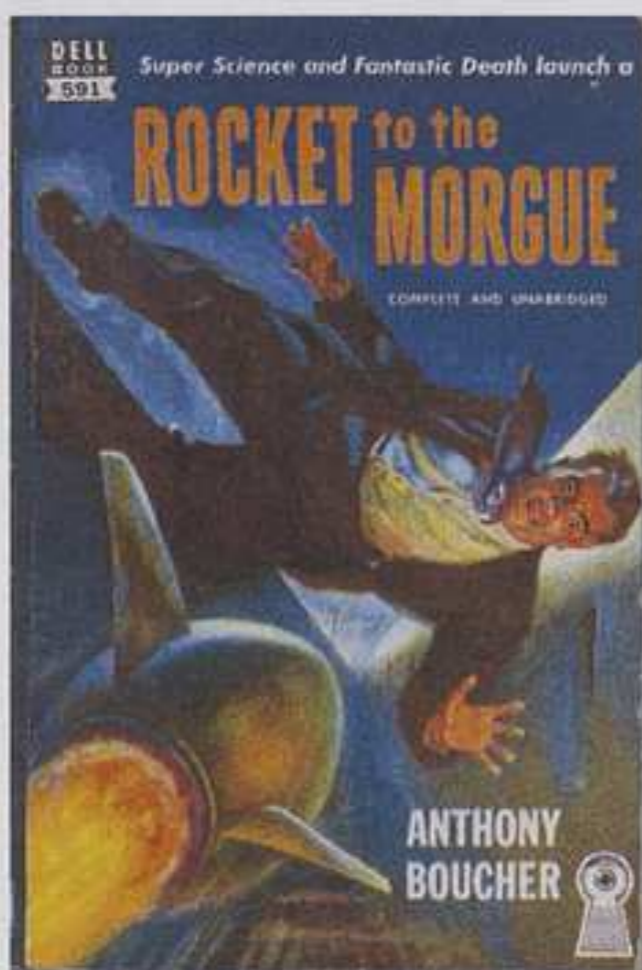
"For people who use computers in a rather limited way, a computer can last a lot longer than a few years." I basically do word processing (using WordPerfect), photo and graphics editing (using Adobe Photoshop Elements), and a lot of Web-surfing, all of which my existing computer ably supports. I have reached the 90% full point on my 30GB internal hard drive, so more and more am moving things I don't need to access much over to both my 160GB external hard drives. (Actually, it's not so much moving over as deleting those files from the internal drive.) Yes, I *could* replace the internal drive with a larger one, but don't want to spend the money on such an old computer. (I back up everything to one of the external drives on a daily basis and to the other once a month—that one lives in my car as an "offsite" backup—out of concern that the onboard one could decide to give up the ghost at any time due to age.)



"I really appreciated the Soy Joy bar. It's gluten-free, so it's one I can eat. I've found them in the store and bought one." As I wrote in January, I had a coupon for a free one. I got one and didn't care for it. It wasn't as Alan White described it ("the Fig Newton you rolled in dirt") but it was dry, crumbly and not very tasty. Glad you like it, though, since I imagine gluten-free energy bars are scarce.

Charles Fuller: "Like virtually the entire literate population of North America for the past 43 years or so, I have used Bic pens. They are literally ubiquitous in our society." I've used them, but they're far from ubiquitous in my experience and by choice and preference I have none of them in my personal possession. Both Papermate and Pilot make stick pens that I find superior in workmanship and ink quality, but pens-with-caps are not to my liking. Yes, I'm of the





generation that prefers pens with retractable points. (Perhaps it's because as a 10-year old I got "caught" by the original Papermate jingle that goes in part, "Try a Papermate, you'll think it's great, when you write with a Papermate pen.") Beyond that, I've never noticed that any pens get smoother as the ink is used—and I've never engaged in any of the mad scientist activities with pens and refills that you write of.

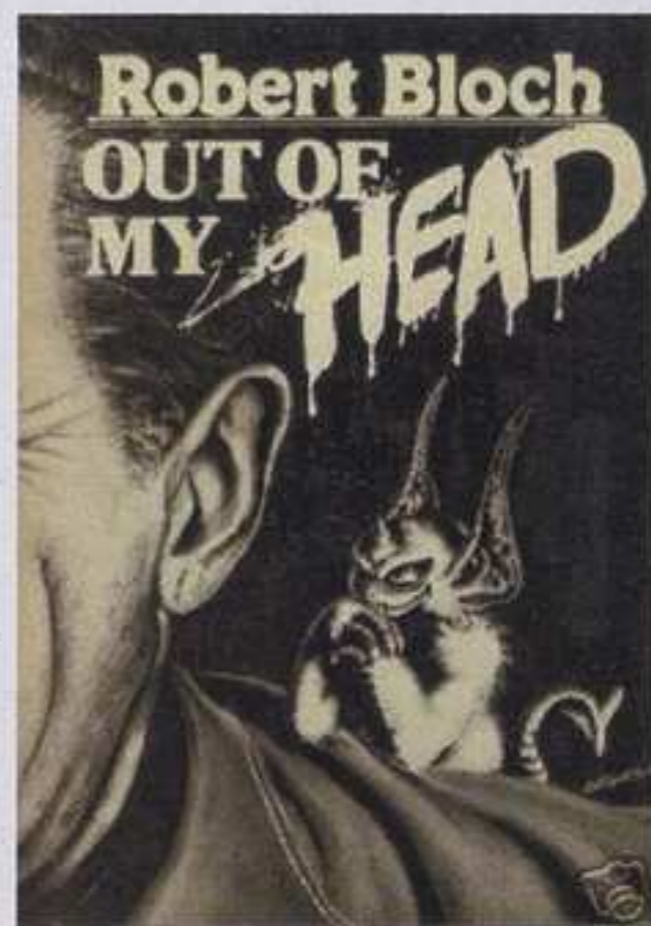
Shelby Vick: What an interesting array of Hugos you've favored us with. One of the 1959 Detention models lives here—it's the one Terry Carr and Ron Ellick got for *Fanac*—but it's in very poor condition. The thin exterior paneling was applied to cheap blocks of particle board using low-quality and/or insufficient amounts of adhesive, so most of the pieces have fallen off over the years. It was lent to Bruce Pelz for a Hugo display years ago—he repaired it, but since then it's resumed its self-disassembly. (Thankfully, other of Terry's Hugos are in much better shape.)

But more than all those rocket photos I love your "Snappit Puffin."

"I'm a long-time user of WordPerfect, even tho many of my friends swear by Microsoft Word. Well, when my computer crashed, my guys put in WordPerfect, as well as Microsoft Word. But when I use WordPerfect, I often get that infamous 'Error Message'. It only comes up AFTER the use, but still it's aggravating. So I use Microsoft Word more often. Still haven't discovered all the bells'n'whistles (can't, for instance, find out how to color text!) but it MOSTLY works fine." Please don't let Windows'/Microsoft's scare tactics put you off WordPerfect. As you know from experience with it and Word, it's the *far* superior program, allowing you more easily to put pictures where you want them down to the hundredth of an inch, color text easily, and more. (Actually, coloring text in Word is one of the things most similar to how it works in WordPerfect—from the Format pulldown select Font, and then you'll see a "Font Color" window below the font choices which opens out to a bunch of colors you can click on.)

James Taylor: Thanks for bringing us up to date on your life and times. Good that your health insurance didn't go up as much as you anticipated with the addition to Teresa, but it's still a huge nut to crack.

Arnie Katz: While it was interesting to read a little about the upcoming Corflu's events, your doing such a strong pitch here is a little like preaching to the

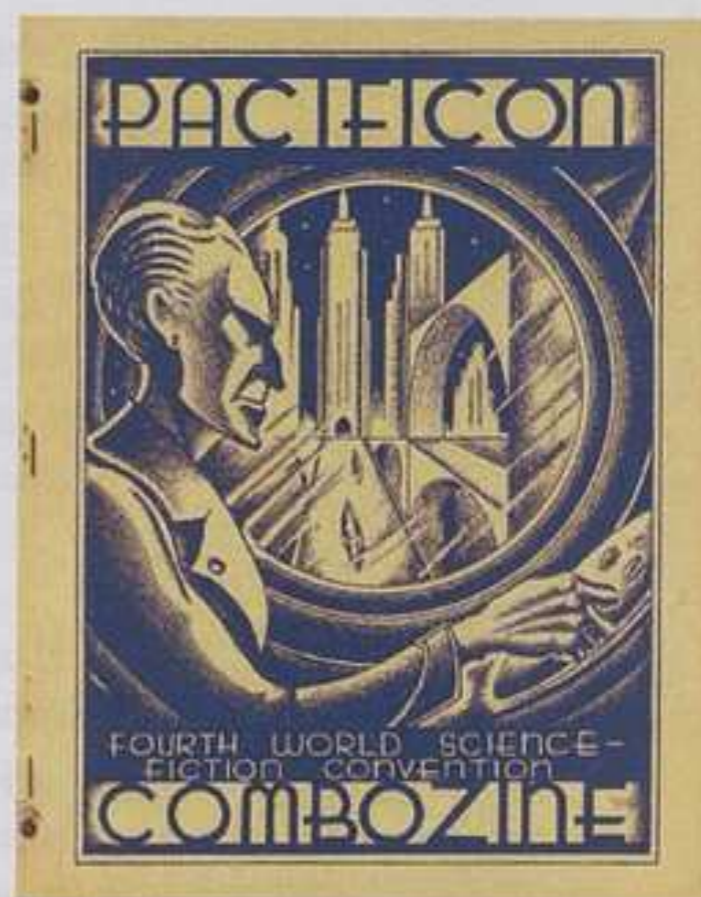


choir—I don't see anyone on the membership roster, even our more far-flung members, who isn't going to be here. I also know of quite a few fans who plan to attend whose names don't yet appear on the list of paid members at www.corflu.org—making it look to me like this might be one of the largest Corflus on record.

“I hope everyone will take advantage of the FAAN Awards Ballot I included with the last (and the current) issue of *The Snapper...*” I voted in a novel way this year—I printed a copy of the ballot, wrote in my choices by hand, then scanned the completed form and sent it as a PDF to Murray Moore. I'm looking forward to the results at Corflu Silver.

“I've known several eminent fans who gradually boiled down their fanzine collection to a five foot shelf or equivalent.” I wrote of doing just that back in the late '60s when I was retrenching my fan activity in the face of things that were more interesting to me at the time. After all, I was living in San Francisco during “The Sixties” and had a front-row seat for a lot of things that later became legendary. As you may know, at the time I decided to pick up and move to Tennessee I gave away my entire fanzine collection including file copies of my own stuff. That was one of the dumber things *ever*—but happily and luckily I've gotten most of it back and have one of the best organized premier collections around. I don't think I could possibly whittle it down to just five feet anymore—just my own stuff, Terry Carr's and Lee Hoffman's would overshoot it.

“As I'm sure I've remarked before, I am definitely no longer a completist collector. That ended in the 1970's when I began re-distributing minor fanzines to those who seemed to want them. I don't think that I am psychologically ready to give away a lot of almost-as-minor fanzines that have so many special meanings and associations for me.” Only in my first year or so of fan activity was I a completist collector. Over the years I've had various means of disposing of unwanted fanzines, and have never had to throw them in a paper recycling bin. As you know, my collection occupies something like 80-85 feet of file drawer space—and that's with some severe winnowings at times. Every now and then when space gets tight and room is needed for high-quality zines (for instance, I recently came into a complete run of Mike Rosenblum's *Futurian War Digest* complete with its riders), I reassess. But like you, there are always those otherwise not especially





distinguished fanzines with special significance that can't be parted with.

"I don't think contributing to one fanzine a few times over a span of years means that the fan isn't gafia except in the most technical sense." I agree, and your example of Calvin Demmon is a good one. After he and Grant Canfield shut down *Hot Shit* in 1972, with a few articles here and there (in some '70s fanzines and then in *Trap Door*) he was essentially gafiated so far as 99% of fandom was concerned. I had a letter of comment from Marlin Frenzel after Steve Stiles gave me his address and suggested I sent him a *Trap Door*, but I wouldn't regard him as a currently active fan, either. Although a tiny piece of me envisions him appearing and mouthing his "Afaninneedisafanindeed," the counterpoint to that is

FTL's "I'm afraid they might come to my door."

I believe we're on the same page when it comes to TAFF, as best summarized in your writing, "If TAFF looks to be doing something I think is good, like sending Bridget Bradshaw or Suzle Tompkins or Chris Garcia, then I'm in favor. If it sends someone like Vijay Bowen, then it is useless to me." And I join you in agreement that John P. would be a good TAFF candidate.

"Meaning no offense whatsoever to Charles, I can't imagine a reality in which you and I paused to compare him to Elmer Perdue. I just don't think you can make it stick, Meyer. No traction at all. None. They both double-spaced, though Elmer only did that occasionally. (As you know, he had a whole assortment of clever evasions.)" No disagreement here, Meyer! Although I've never met Charles, I don't believe he could possibly be as colorful and eccentric as Elmer. And unless Charles gets one of those 18-point school typewriters and/or widens his margins vastly, his typography is merely functional (even though I continue to wish he'd single-space).

Joyce Katz: "...Isn't it nice when a dental emergency story has a happy ending?" Indeed it is—it was somewhat harrowing to read of your numerous visits to the dental chair. I hope the partial isn't too much of a budget-buster. I had a minor scare myself in January at my annual periodontic cleaning—a small cavity was discovered at the back edge of one of my crowns. The technician couldn't tell if it had gone behind the crown itself, but if it had there was the possibility that it would have to be replaced. With the price of gold as high as it is these days, I wasn't



looking forward to that—but fortunately my regular dentist found no decay behind the crown and was able to quickly drill and fill. And the golden lining was that this was the tooth with my one and only root canal, so no annoying numbing was necessary, either.

“I greatly enjoy the classic pix you use to illustrate *VbtB*, though I would like it if you’d add captions to tell where/when they originate.” I’m glad you enjoy them, and where possible I’ll try to comply with your wishes.

“You talked about gardening on a hill. Do you have it terraced, or is it actually on the slant? That must make watering your vegs challenging, since it would tend to run off, even washing the seeds down the bank.” Our hill is definitely a steep slope, and we grow no vegetables there. (In fact, having given up growing tomatoes on the deck in a planter due to over-zealous squirrels and birds destroying most of the crop, we grow no veggies anywhere.) The hillside is planted in a variety of ground cover, and isn’t complete. It’s a multi-year project, adding something new every spring.

To Chris Garcia you write, “I still think you should reconsider your commitments and come to Corflu. Is it possible you might be able to get away from that other convention a day early, and make a hasty trip here?” I second that emotion!



Dick Jensen