1966-67 - The Twilight Zine

MITSFS may not have been fans, but they did publish a fanzine, and Cory and I eventually volunteered to co-edit it. At that time in my life, I was convinced I could not write, so the deal was that Cory would do all the writing, and my primary responsibility would be production. I learned all about cutting stencils, the use of corflu, gluing in electrostenciled art, and how to baby a mimeograph to produce the best results.

Although I did not write anything in English for the zine, I did once write a story in Fortran, called "SUBROUTINE STORY (GOLDIE)", an adaptation of "The Three Bears". Imagine my surprise when I was web-surfing for my name a few years ago and found this little piece had been immortalized online.

Because travel was so expensive for students in those days, and of course we didn't have the internet, fanzines were how fans of the day made friends and communicated. One of the thrills of going to one of the few conventions that existed was to be able to meet the people that you had known only through letter columns of fanzines.

Cory's first editorial, where she explains how we came to fandom and TZ

FIT THE FIRST

(Written by Cory, because Leslie is a physics student and therefore illiterate)

TO EXPLAIN OURSELVES

Once upon a time, we were Freshmen and shared a Radcliffe economy double (≡ a single with extra furniture) with two goldfish, a pumpkin named Ringo, and random Easter eggs; and we were content with our lot. Then we met Suford, a former LASFS member, who proved that fans were not all merely mythological Fabulous Monsters, and Dave Lewis (also known as the White Lewis, in order to distinguish him from Arlewis the Black), a mad philosopher (all philosophers are mad) who led us down the primrose path to MITSFS. Dismayed at first, we soon recovered our composure and set ourselves to wiping out the reigning female power bloc from Boston University, a task which we accomplished by the fiendishly Machiavellian tactic of having them marry members of the Society, most of whom subsequently graduated and moved off to such heathenish lands as Rhode Island and California. (it is claimed that Brown accepts FORTRAN for the language requirement.)

Two years have passed since then, and at last our plots have succeeded, for we now find ourselves in complete control of The Twilight Zine, and truly has it been said that he who holds TZ rules the world.

We had letters from Isaac Asimov and Harry Warner Jr., artwork from Steve Stiles and Jack Gaughan, terrible fan fiction, minutes of the meetings, and lots of geeky humor.
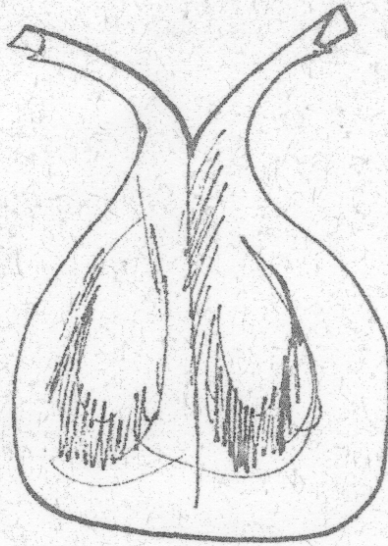
* * *

Harry Warner, Jr.
423 Summit Avenue
Hagerstown, Md.,21740
Jan. 1, 1967

A most entertaining Tricon report, made even finer by my own genial reaction to the successful writing of the correct year up above. (But each time the year changes, I find it increasingly fantastic to write a date that I was reading in one science fiction story after another not too long ago.) I find it most impressive, to find a feminine conreport which doesn't devote all the space to the costumes and the art show. And on the basis of the Tricon reports that have reached here so far, I would guess that the jellybeans are the most striking episode at any con since the Asimov discovery of his own Hugo at the Discon; I hope there won't be as much disagreement on who gave how many jellybeans to Harlan as there was over the exact remark Asimov made at that climactic moment. And I feel a little worse than ever that I missed the Tricon, what with a mere 850 persons in attendance. It would have been easy to find people there whom I wanted in particular to see, in comparison with the prospects of the Nycon, which will probably have well over a thousand attendees unless some sort of gigantic split in New York fandom occurs in the nick of time.
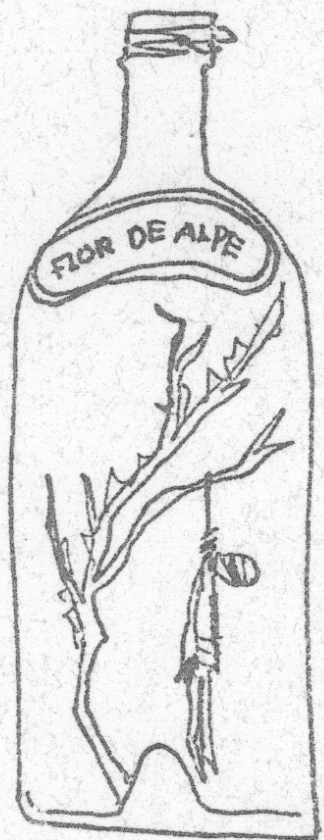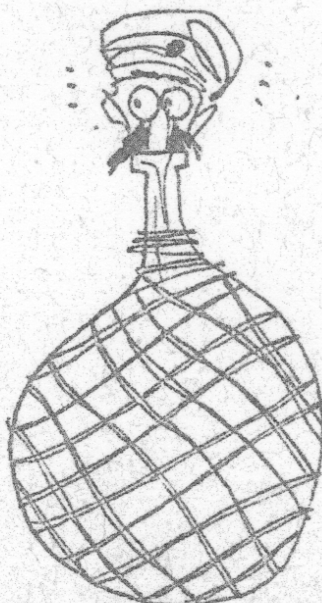
GENIIS : JACK GAUGHAN

genii with a split personality

genii in the Pepsi generation

genii with agoraphobia

Despondent genii

FLOR DE ALPE

ISAAC ASIMOV   Thanks for TWILIGHT ZINE #16.
West Newton, Mass.
17 March 1966   I can't write a story or article for very well-known
                       reasons and I won't bore you by crying on your shoulder
now. However, I can always write a letter of comment.

Like--Having flipped the pages for my name, as is my wont, (why is it that
your "wont" is what you will do, never what you won't do) and found them and
all was well. [Wont supposedly comes from Old English *wunian,* to dwell > to
be accustomed. --CJS] [For the benefit of those who haven't already guessed,
perhaps I should point out that my esteemed co-editor is a linguistics
major. --LT]

Don't think, however, that I didn't notice that crack about BLACK FRIAR OF THE
FLAME on page 2. Someone will pay for that come spring picnic time. My
daughter who is now 11 will vamp you all and drive you all to madness and
frustration, that's all.

THE SON OF THE GHOST OF MITSFS RETURNS AGAIN

[Being some examples of the kinds of things that go on every Friday at 5:00
in the Spofford Room.]

4/8   The set of treasurers present is empty.

       Ward read a letter sent to Dr. Asimov inviting him to our annual picnic
       in the Blue Hills. An excerpt from it is reprinted below:

            I think you will be interested to know that we ran a
            computer analysis of the letter you sent commenting on
            TZ 16, and discovered that the vocation best fitting your
            personality and talents is not that of writing popular
            accounts of principles of science, but instead that
            of writing popular fiction about robots, spaceships, and
            giant computers. As you are no doubt aware, this field
            of fiction (known vulgarly as "science fiction") is one
            of the least dignified and lowest paying fields of
            modern fiction. I hasten to assure you that we have no
            intention of letting this astonishing result become
            public knowledge, as we realize the damage it would cause
            your reputation if it were widely known. You need fear
            nothing from us, as long as you can come up with a story,
            article, poem, or piece of artwork (?) or letter of comment for
            the next five or six issues of Twilight Zine.

4/21   Minicult: When Fred Pohl spoke at UMass, he was introduced as editor of
       Analog - he replied "I'm very happy to be speaking here at Princeton"

4/28   Minicult (Phillies): Elevators are the safest form of transport per million
       passenger miles. Method of determination of such statistics was dis-
       cussed at length.

       The validity of man hours per square foot per week as a measure of Library
       usage was questioned. Twas claimed that our stated usage required that
       we have 8 people in the Library for 15 hours a day, every day.

       MS - That we have bananas at the picnic
       Failed 4-4+ -2+Spehn
       (The tie was broken by the Skinner)

SUBROUTINE STORY (GOLDIE)

--Dave Vanderwerf and Leslie Turek

Preface

The importance of a written vernacular to feelings of national unity has long been recognized. It was Dante who first led Italy along the path to nationhood, while Luther's translation of the Bible similarly marked the start of German nationalism. It is with the prospect of similar benefits to mankind before us, that TZ has undertaken to render a like service to another large, yet formless, ethnic community. We are happy to be able to present this translation of a great classic of world literature into one of the major dialects of the Fortranners, FORTRAN II. We hope that it may soon lead to the composition of original works in Fortrannish. We may even foresee the eventual emergence of an organized community of Fortranners within the United States, and possibly even a reunion with the speakers of other members of the great family of Machinish languages in a single national homeland. We wish them luck. --CJS

`SUBROUTINE STORY (GOLDIE, SJSTRT)`	Goldilocks and the Three Bears

`DIMENSION BEAR(3)`
`EQUIVALENCE (BEAR(1),PAPA),`
`1    (BEAR(2),MAMA),`
`2    (BEAR(3),BABY)`
	Once upon a time, there were three bears; a papa bear,[1]
	a mama bear,
	and a baby bear.

`DIMENSION WOODS1(100),HOUSE(3),`
`1    WOODS2(100)`
`EQUIVALENCE (HOUSE(1),KITCHN),`
`1    (HOUSE(2),LVNGRM),`
`2    (HOUSE(3),BEDRM)`
	They lived in a house in the middle of the woods.
	It had a kitchen,
	a livingroom,
	and a bedroom.

`DO 10 I=4,100`
`WOODS2(I)=PAPA`
`WOODS2(I-1)=MAMA`
`WOODS3(I-2)=BABY`
`10   WOODS2(I-3)=0.0`
	One day the three bears went for a walk in the woods.
	..
	..
	..

`DO 20 I=2,100`
`WOODS1(I)=GOLDIE`
`20   WOODS1(I-1)=0.0`
	Also walking in another part of the woods was a little girl named Goldilocks.

`KITCHN=GOLDIE`
`DIMENSION PORR(3)`
`EQUIVALENCE (PORR(1),PORRP),`
`1    (PORR(2),PORRM),`
`2    (PORR(3),PORRB)`
	Goldilocks came to the bears' house and went into the kitchen. In the kitchen there were three bowls of porridge; the papa bear's, the mama bear's, and the baby bear's.

---

1. Throughout this translation, the English verb "to be" will be expressed by the FORTRAN statement EQUIVALENCE. The FORTRAN "=", as in the phrase "a=b", is most accurately translated by the English "b goes into a" or "b goes to location a"