

# Feline ewsings



#9

August 2002

*Feline Mewsings* is a personalzine / newsletter published more or less quarterly by R-Laurraine Tutihasi, 29217 Stonecrest Road, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90275-4936, 310-265-0766, ltutihasi@aol.com, <http://members.aol.com/ltutihasi>. It is distributed through FAPA and sent to other friends and family. I can also e-mail this in Word or rtf format. Kattesminite Press #338. ©2002 R-Laurraine Tutihasi. Permission is granted to reprint or forward any part or all of this newsletter provided that it carries the following statement: "Copyright 2002 by R-Laurraine Tutihasi. Originally published in *Feline Mewsings* #9, <http://members.aol.com/ltutihasi>."

## \* Editorial / Introduction

This year's Westercon was in Los Angeles. Our convention report is below.

The therapeutic riding would be going well except that I've missed several weeks due to a shortage of volunteer help, on which the programme is totally dependent. I'm making up for that partly by using my Health Rider at home. Working in the garden once or twice a week for about an hour at a time probably also helps.

I managed to read all the fiction that was nominated for the Hugo this year. Well, not exactly, but close enough. I haven't finished two of the novels but read enough of both of them to get a good idea of what they were about and how well they were written; I read at least fifty pages into them and the last chapter. I will be finishing them eventually. I read all the short fiction, except that one of them was in an audio book as I couldn't find a print copy on the web and I happened to have bought the audio book containing the story. I saw all the dramatic presentations and was able to see samples or read reviews of everything else.

I spent much of June and July upgrading or replacing my computer. I have a special edition iBook. Mike figured out at the end of May what he had to do so that he could see the third paper tray in our HP laser printer from OS X. That was what I had been waiting for. I wanted OS X, because you usually don't have to reboot it just because an application crashes. The applications that crash frequently are the web browsers and Word. After we installed OS X on my iBook, however, we discovered that I didn't have enough disk space left to install new software or even to upgrade software I already had. I even had to move some files to our server. We did some reading and decided that we wanted to see the computers at the Apple store before making a decision on what to purchase. While we were there, we saw Olympic figure skater Scott Hamilton. He was there to get some advice on his PowerBook. I had a short but enjoyable conversation with him. He is very amiable. Anyway, we decided to get me a Titanium PowerBook rather than the new iBook. The iBooks are still G3 computers. I only had my old iBook for two years before it became inadequate. We figured a G4 computer would last me longer. At only a few hundred dollars more, it seemed to make sense. We ordered direct from the Apple site on the web, so that we could use a discount that Mike gets for being a developer. So early July was spent installing my software on the new computer and setting all the user preferences for me. I think one of the games I was trying that crashed may have messed something up, but a new version of the OS is coming out in August, and we found a workaround for a problem I was having, so we hope everything will be copacetic after we install the new software. OS X allows you to run most older software, but I decided I want to minimize the older software that I'm running. My sister had given me the Myst suite of games, but they do not run native under OS X, so I need to find someone who wants them. I bought realMyst, which is a new version of the game that runs under OS X. I haven't installed it yet. Another game that came with my iBook, called Bugdom, is being updated for OS X but won't be available until the end of the year. I found the game very frustrating and never got beyond level 3. However, there are cheat sheets on the web; so maybe

I'll get the new version. The other games I'm running are just shareware and freeware stuff like solitaire. I don't really play a lot of games on the computer.

In the past few days, our big screen TV started acting up. The set is a little over ten years old. When you first turn on the picture, it looks like a negative. At first, this settled down after about a minute. Now it takes about five minutes to settle down. Also, the picture lost a lot of its brightness. We had a repairman in. He was here for four hours and couldn't fix it. We decided to go shopping and price new sets. We discovered that the HDTV sets cost the same as the one we have now, so we went ahead and bought one; it will be delivered the next day as I write this. I checked with Cox cable and they plan to start testing HDTV transmission in a couple of months.

\* \* \*

## \* Mike

Plans for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mighty ETX Star Party in Illinois in October have been finalized. I won't be going because of logistical reasons.

\* \* \*

## \* Westercon 55: Conagerie

I got up early on Independence Day, so we could set off for Westercon in a timely manner. We left about 09h00. We got to the Radisson by LAX early enough for me to get a second meal before my book-reviewing panel at noon. Participants for "Reviewing Science Fiction Books" were Rick Foss, Sherwood Smith, Moshe Feder, Cheryl Morgan, and myself. Rick Foss was moderator.

After that, I attend "Book Covers As Eye Candy" with Mike. The panellists were Beth Meacham and John Hertz. Two other people were supposed to have been on the panel. About this time, we heard about a shooting at LAX, only a block away and wondered whether any arrivals had been affected. I believe the airport was closed all afternoon. We never did hear whether anyone attending the convention had been inconvenienced by the closure.

The panels were well spaced timewise. They were an hour long with fifteen minutes between each one.

Then I went to "Art Widner's 1941 Denver Ride Slide Show". Mike went to "Best Science Fiction Films of the Century" presented by Steven Boyett, Lisa Harrigan, Charles Lee Jackson II, and Eric Hoffman.

Following that, I went to "Harry Turtledove: Guest of Honor Interview" and Mike went to "Soviet Moon and Mars Rovers" with Hugh S. Gregory.

Following that, we made our first circuit of the dealers' room. Mike bought a couple of Man from U.N.C.L.E. books.

We then had dinner in the hotel restaurant.

We spent most of the evening at the LASFS meeting, which featured a memorial for Bruce Pelz. The meeting started in the usual way with a reading of the minutes and announcements. The rest of the meeting was devoted to reminiscences of Bruce by many people. I was most touched by what Bruce's daughter said. We learned about a side of Bruce that many people didn't know about. Of course, much of this was tearful for me. Afterward David Bratman and I tried to find the fan lounge, but it had closed early that day. I spent a little time in the con suite talking with David, Moshe Feder, and Lisa Harrigan.

On Friday I got up about 08h00, which is when I woke up the other mornings at the con. That gave me about six hours of sleep and time for breakfast before starting out the day's activities.

At 10h00, I attended "SF and Public Perception". The panellists were Barbara Hambly, Moshe Feder, Cheryl Morgan, and Larry Niven, who was recruited from the audience. I concluded that Larry Niven made the best point, that public perception was changing but at a glacial pace. Mike went to "Return to Luna" with Steven Boyett, Jim Busby, Lenny Dorsky, and Hugh Gregory.

Then I had another panel to do – "How Do I Review a Movie?" Fred Patten moderated Chris Weber, Katie Waitman, and me.

After that, Mike was on "Writing Popular Science" with Tina Beychok. The third panellist didn't show up. Since Tina represented medical publishing and Mike astronomy and computer science, the panel was pretty balanced.

Then we both went to "2001: the Rest of the World in Space" with Hugh Gregory. It was late starting, so I dashed out to cast our votes for site selection.

We had some time then to see the art show and return to the dealers' room. I also checked out the fan

lounge.

Then I went to listen to some filk. I caught the end of Barry Gold's session and saw quite a bit of Leslie Fish's. Mike went to "Save My Show!" with Bjo Trimble, Tadao Tomomatsu, Carol Alves, John Trimble, and Phil Osborn. I met Mike towards the end of the panel. Tadao was doing some routine demonstrating a TV show that had been cancelled. It was really funny, and I caught some of it on videotape.



Film Review Panel

We had dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Then we went to the fan lounge. I stayed there all evening gabbing with FAPAns and other fans. Mike went to the George Alec Effinger Memorial. He came around looking for me afterward; but he was unable to spot me, as I was surrounded by people. I was in the fan lounge until late, so I didn't make it to any parties.

Saturday morning Mike was on the panel "The Year in Astronomy", one of the first programme items of the day. The other panellists were Warren James, Mark Olson, and Steven Bartlett. I took the opportunity to talk to Warren James about the correct pronunciation of Comet Hyakutake. I don't know if he'll remember. Perhaps I can send him a sound file.



We returned to our room briefly. I was going to spend an hour doing e-mail but lost half the time. We discovered that my mail had been downloaded to an old AOL file cabinet. Mike had to reset everything and download my mail again. We were connecting through the phone, so it went very slowly. I ended up with about a half hour and didn't make it through more than half my mail.

I went back down to sit in on "The Future History of Medicine" with Dan Hooker, Deborah Ross (previously Wheeler), Gary Westfahl, and Elliot Weinstein. It was very interesting but not nearly long enough.

Then I went to a David Brin reading and Mike went to "Star Trek and the Television Thought Police". David Brin ran over a bit, and I had to leave before he finished as I had a panel I was on. It was a discussion of *The Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet*. Katie Waitman was on the panel with me. Everyone in the small audience, except Mike, had read the book. I decided to involve everyone in the discussion. After we exhausted the topic, we discussed other children's books. As a result of the

discussion, Mike later read the book.

Next we went to a talk by Harlan Ellison. He spoke about the lawsuit he is waging against AOL Time Warner for allowing copyrighted material to be bootlegged on their sites. His lawyers were with him. Harlan has exhausted his funds and then some, so he was selling books and soliciting donations to a fund to pay his legal bills. More information is available at <http://harlanellison.com/KICK/>.

We had dinner in the fan lounge, which was hosting a Bill Rotsler party. After eating, we left to see the masquerade. We weren't expecting anything spectacular, as there were relatively few entrants. However, we're glad we went. We enjoyed the best half time show I remember seeing at a con. Tadao Tomomatsu did a stand-up comic routine that was really entertaining.

Tonight, I decided to do the party thing and collect all the stickers on my name badge. Among other things, I signed us up to support Calgary for a future Westercon. I also picked up patches for the LA in 2006 WorldCon. I saw and talked to a number of fans including the Freases, Sean Smith, David Bratman, Liz Mortenson, and Moshe Feder. I had many conversations. There was a wide variety of food and drink. Gerri Sullivan was giving out star and penguin stickers for the number of Westercons we had attended. No one had a list handy, so I estimated a dozen. After I got home, I did some research, and this was my nineteenth Westercon. I had no idea I had been to so many. On the other hand, they are a lot cheaper than WorldCons since I have been living in California since 1983.

We had arranged for late checkout on Sunday, since Mike had a talk to give at 11h15. I did most of my packing before I went down to breakfast by myself. I met Bill and Beverly Warren in line at the hotel restaurant, and we had an enjoyable meal together.

Mike's talk on "Astrophotography with Small Telescopes" was well attended. He managed to fill most of the hour with a short time for questions. The equipment for projecting from his computer worked.

We decided to leave right after that, so we wouldn't have to worry about our luggage.

I had a really good time, but we were kept very busy by being on programming and attending many other programme items. I stayed up too late every night partying. It took me a week to get my energy levels back to normal.

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## \* Local Activities

### Theatre

**Capital Steps:** Because of all the events of the past year, this year's show was almost all new material. Subjects of satire included Al Qaeda, the Bush family (both father and son), the Clintons, and Caltech students. Just when I was starting to think that I might have seen enough of their performances, they pulled out all the stops. The participating members this year were Mike Loomis, Mike Tilford, Janet Davidson Gordon, Elaina Newport, Andy Clemence, and Marc Irwin at the piano. Mike Loomis has made all but one performance here, and I believe Elaina Newport has been here every time. The others rotate. I don't remember seeing Janet Davidson Gordon before.

#

**Star Wars 2: the Attack of the Clones:** I had heard that this one was better than the first, which, I found out, I'd forgot most of. I should have watched it before we saw this one.

The reviewers were right. This movie was better. For one thing, the special effects were about a hundred times better. More important, the story was better. Unfortunately, the dialogue was frequently rather lame. Everyone cheered when Yoda showed up to save the day. On the other hand, two kids sitting next to me slept through most of the movie. I'm not going to nominate it for the Hugo, but I'm sure someone will.

#

**Puccini's *Turandot*:** This was performed at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in downtown LA. This production stuck with the work that was left when Puccini died. It ends shortly after Turandot announces that Calaf's name is "Love" and doesn't have the wedding preparations that were added by a different composer. The sets in this production were quite lavish and quite Chinese looking, though very different from the 1988 Met production and the Beijing one. The first scene features a lot of bloody heads in piles. One thing didn't make much sense. When Turandot first appears, she is wearing a mask so I found it very unbelievable that Calaf would fall in love with someone he really hasn't even seen. The production was conducted by Kent Nagano. There were different singers for different dates for the top

three members of the cast. We saw Nina Warren as Turandot, Ian de Nolfo as Calaf, and Svetla Vassileva as Liù. I think everyone was in agreement that Vassileva's Liù was superb. Warren's Turandot was very good. However, I wasn't as impressed with de Nolfo's Calaf. Although he was good once he got started on an aria, he didn't sound as good to me in the short passages. On the whole, though, it was an excellent performance.

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**Under the Hat: Hollywood's Legendary Brown Derby Restaurants:** This was a photo exhibit at the Academy Foundation, which is associated with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. It was a collection of photos taken by the owner of the restaurants. They dated from the 1920s through the late '50s. The photos featured various celebrities. Interspersed among the photos were a couple of sample menus and souvenirs. Also featured in the exhibit were celebrity caricatures that used to hang in the restaurants. In one alcove were shown various TV shows featuring the restaurants. One we watched most of was an episode of one of Lucille Ball's shows that was hilarious. The show is one where Lucy and her friends are eating at the Brown Derby when William Holden walks in.

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**World Skeptics Conference:** This occurred in late June. Ordinarily, I wouldn't even have known about it. This year, though, Harlan Ellison was the featured speaker at the Friday luncheon and he was being given an award at the Saturday evening banquet. I attended the luncheon on my own, since Mike was working. I managed to get to Burbank on surface streets without any problem. Harlan's luncheon speech was about the 11 September attack. Mike and I both attended the Saturday banquet. The food was good and the various speeches were entertaining, in particular Gabe Kaplan, who starred in *Welcome Back, Kotter*, some years ago. I never watched the show, but I should see if they are being rerun someplace. Basically, Gabe did a great stand-up routine that capped the evening.



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**The Laramie Project:** Written by Moisés Kaufman and the Members of the Tectonic Theater Project, this was the first play of the Colony's new season. For the first time, they are using the entire new theatre in Burbank. They also started selling assigned seats. In some ways, this is an improvement. Before, you had to get there at least a half hour before the play to get the seats you wanted. The only time the assigned seating doesn't work out so well is when you need to change the dates of the performance you are attending because of schedule conflicts. It is fairly easy to change dates, but, of course, you lose your season seats. Of the six plays this season, we had to change dates for two of them. This was one of them. At least the theatre is small enough that it hardly matters where you sit. *The Laramie Project* was about the gruesome gay murder that happened in Laramie, Wyoming, in 1998. The writers of the play travelled to Laramie after the murder and interviewed people in the town who had known the murder victim or had interacted with him in any way before the murder. They made the trip six times, covering the funeral and trials. The play is written as a recreation of the interview process. I think it works better than if it had been written as a straight narrative. I think the horrifying aspect of the murder is heightened.

There were eight cast members, and each actor played about a dozen different roles. Everyone was great. I was particularly impressed by Ed F. Martin, who reminded me of Gary Sinise. The play was directed by the diminutive Nick DeGruccio. I was in tears for much of the last five or ten minutes. The audience gave them a standing ovation at the end. In return, we were given the chance to speak with the cast after the show.

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**Champions on Ice:** Since we had enjoyed them last year when we had free tickets, I decided to go again this year. I was not disappointed. The show had variety and the routines were very good. I didn't notice any big errors. No one fell except on purpose. I think the general quality of skating has improved greatly since I started attending these shows regularly back about ten years ago. All the routines are generally more entertaining than I remember them being back then. There were three purely funny routines interspersed among the other routines. The show ended in a patriotic number that culminated in fireworks. Boy, that startled me. Michele Kwan, as usual, got a standing ovation from her hometown fans. All the skaters that won the gold medal at the Olympics, except the Russian pairs, were in the show. I have already ordered tickets for next year's show.



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**Men in Black II:** We saw this with friends. It's a fun movie and very funny. The special effects are all over the place and well done. I can't compare this with the first movie, because I have forgotten most of it. I have it on my schedule to view our laserdisc.

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**Romeo and Juliet:** This was an outdoor production at the local South Coast Botanic Gardens. It was done in modern dress with modern music. It was a bit weird at first. Once we got used to it, though, it was quite enjoyable and well done. Some of the bit parts could have used some improvement, but the main characters were all done very well. It was staged at night, so it got a bit chilly sitting in the audience. Many of us hadn't taken warm enough clothing. This was part of Shakespeare Festival LA, and there had been earlier performances at Pershing Square in downtown LA.

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**\* Mailing Comments on FAPA #259:** Note to non-FAPA members: FAPA is an APA of people in science fiction and fantasy fandom. It has a large membership, currently about fifty. There are openings right now. If you are interested in joining, let me know and I can send you the relevant information.

**Dale Speirs (Sansevieria 49):** You said, "You know you've reached middle age when you're on the same medications as your parents." That's true for me to some extent. My mother and I are both taking medication for osteoporosis. Unfortunately, that's the only thing my mother takes but not the only thing I'm taking. My father isn't taking anything, and Mike takes thyroid medication. We must be doing something wrong.

Some people I know have already switched from a house phone to a cell phone. Part of their problem is that they move around too much. With a cell phone, they don't have to change phone numbers every time they move. I have not bought a cell phone yet, though after a phone outage a few months ago, I started thinking that I should get one soon. However, it was a freak outage caused by a leaky water fountain at the local phone office and not likely to be repeated any time soon.

Are you aware that calcium can help bring down blood pressure? Are you getting enough calcium in your diet? Trying supplements for a while to see whether it helps won't hurt, though calcium from foods is better.

We have gun control in California.

Government by choosing from the phone book might not be bad if you rotated. Instead of using the first two hundred names, you could pick every nth one, n to be determined by the number of people in the phone book and the number of people you need in the government. You could screen out for minors and people who were mentally incompetent or had criminal records.

**Catherine Mintz (Strange Days):** The responses to 911 seem to be evolving. Some of the initial responses went somewhat overboard. For instance, no one was allowed to drive into LAX for several weeks after the incident. However, things are back to normal in that respect. Long-term plans that are under discussion call for no driving into the airport, but we're talking years for a redesign of the whole place. LAX is old enough that it was never planned with security in mind. The ideas are still in the planning stages, so who knows what the final design will be. A lot of people didn't want to travel anywhere after 911. Businesses have cut back on travelling but also partly because of the economy, which in turn was affected by 911. Mike flew on one business trip to San Francisco back in January. I was originally planning to go. That I didn't had nothing to do with 911. We will be flying on our trip to ConJose, which we are combining with visits to family in Washington state. I think the biggest effect 911 had was on the way we look at things.

**Bruce Pelz (Starbourne):** I'm glad Bruce enjoyed his last trip, as I enjoyed reading about it.

**Harry Warner, Jr. (Horizons, Vol. 64, No. 2):** While I agree that Domingo's singing is not as good as it was, I have noticed that the roles he has been taking recently have been smaller ones. He still sounds better to my ear than some singers. Besides, people still clamour for him. He and Pavarotti are still good when it comes to singing popular songs.

**Roger Wells (Voice of the Habu):** The way I decide how I shelve an Ace double depends on which side I bought it for.

**Milt Stevens (Alphabet Soup #34):** Let me thank you for hosting the fan lounge and the parties

there at Westercon. I had a great time.

If a small town library really has two to three thousand volumes, then our home library is about the size of a small town library.

At least for some titles, the shows that were aired on *Dimension X* and *X Minus One* were re-performed. We have heard many of them on the radio and have copies of many, and the shows are not identical.

I tend to leave things the way they were when I move into a place. However, after living there for a while, I sometimes change a few things, such as the colour of the walls. The house we live in now hasn't been changed much yet. We changed the front door and installed bookcases. However, as the time we spend here grows, I am inspired to make more and more changes. I just talked to a handyman about refinishing the garage. The next big project will be a kitchen remodel. The cats have inspired me to want to replace the carpeting with hardwood or similar floors and to replace wallpaper with paint. The cats try to dig up the carpeting and have torn it in several places. They also like to peel the wallpaper. I don't know if or when I'll get to all these projects, but I have them on a list in my head.

I didn't mean to imply that all Oldsmobiles are luxury autos. However, the Aurora is, being priced in the low \$30,000s. As with other luxury cars, it uses premium gasoline. Mike was getting tired of spending all that money on gas.

**Moi (Feline Mewsings #8):** I wrote to Tropicana, and they have stopped making the Lite juice. They said it hadn't sold well.

It's amazing how much the TV line-up has changed since last time. Some series came to an end, and there are a couple of new series. Of the shows on the list, though, many are on hiatus or reruns until fall; so I'm really not watching much TV these days. Fridays are my busiest, since the Sci-Fi Channel's season doesn't seem to be on the same schedule as the other stations. Also, ShowTime's *Odyssey 5* just started recently. Louis Rukeyser moved from PBS to CNBC. I've also been catching *The Simpsons* and *Total Zoo* in reruns, since I hadn't watched many of them the first time around.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Justice League (Car) (Simpsons (Fox))	Mystery! (PBS)	Smallville (WB) (Total 2 (AP))	Enterprise (UPN)		(Louis Rukeyser's Wall Street (CNBC)) Farscape (Sci- Fi) Stargate (Sci- Fi) Jeremiah (Sho) Odyssey 5 (Sho)	Andromeda (Syn)

**Fred Lerner (Lofgeornost 67):** I agree that LA is probably too spread out to be a good terrorist target. The best target is probably the airport. The bag checks in places such as sports arenas are so cursory as to be useless. Since last September, it seems that LAX closes down every few days for several hours because of one problem or another. Towards the end of July, it was closed down for several hours while security tried to find someone who had passed the checkpoint without being screened. He was never found and probably had left by the time they realized that he hadn't been checked.

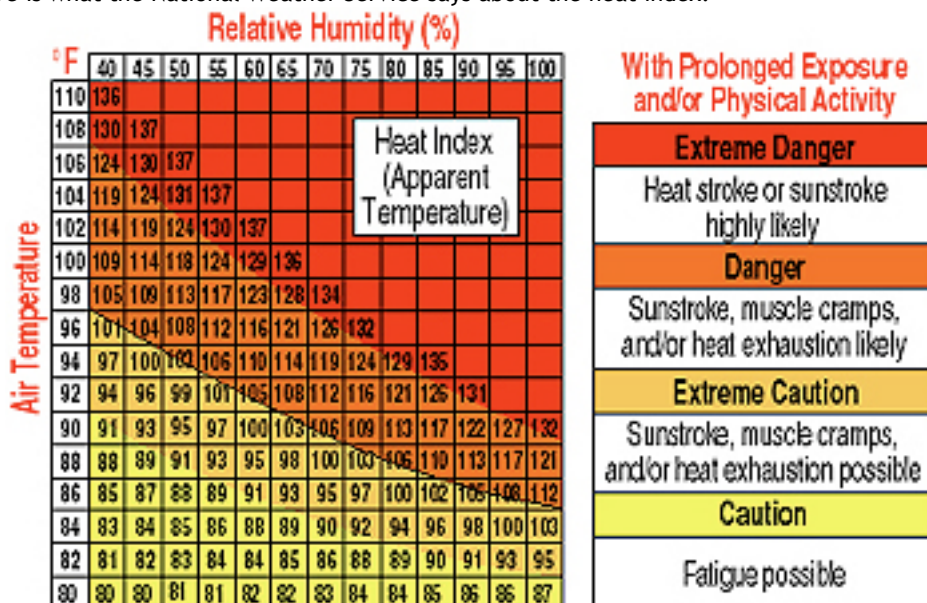
**Marty Cantor (Fish Wrap Follies):** You really only need a cable converter if you are getting premium or digital services. We rent one cable converter for our main TV set. We subscribe to two premium channels and digital service. We have cable TV connected to another set and our computers but don't have a cable box for them. This means we cannot receive the higher number channels on those sets. Mike's computer has a program that enables him to watch TV on his monitor. When we converted to digital service, we were given a new converter box.

**Jack Speer (Synapse):** Although the wedding march from *Lohengrin* is famous, I don't think the wedding scene in the opera is as important as other scenes in the overall story.

I have been an Anglophile for many years. Did you just now notice my British spelling? One of the things I like about the newer versions of Word is that I can set the language to English (UK). I do this for most documents. The other program that allows me to use British English is ViaVoice, the dictation software that I use. This one, though, reads the language setting from the system preferences. The interesting thing about ViaVoice, which requires one to dictate all the punctuation marks, is that I have to use "full stop" instead of "period" and "exclamation mark" instead of "exclamation point". I have also recently decided that the British practise of placing the full stop after the closing quote mark makes more sense (unless, of course, the full stop is part of the

quote. And although the collective plural sounded a bit odd when I first heard it (back in 1969 when I first visited the UK), I have decided that it makes more sense than the collective singular.

Here is what the National Weather Service says about the heat index.



Based on the latest research findings, the NWS has devised the "Heat Index" (HI), (sometimes referred to as the "apparent temperature"). The HI, given in degrees Fahrenheit, is an accurate measure of how hot it really feels when the relative humidity (RH) is added to the actual air temperature.▯

To find the Heat Index, look at the Heat Index Chart.▯As an example, if the air temperature is 95°F (found on the left side of the table), and the relative humidity is 55% (found at the top of the table), the HI -- or how hot it really feels -- is 110°F.▯This is at the intersection of the 95° row and the 55% column.▯

**Important:** Since HI values were devised for shady, light wind conditions, **exposure to full sunshine can increase HI values by up to 15°F.**▯Also, strong winds, particularly with very hot, dry air, can be extremely hazardous.▯

Note on the HI chart the shaded zone above 105°F.▯This corresponds to a level of HI that may cause increasingly severe heat disorders with continued exposure and/or physical activity.▯

Premium cable stations are all commercial-free. Other stations without commercials that I can think of are American Movie Classics and Turner Classic Movies. Nickelodeon doesn't seem to have any commercials during the shows but may have them between. Disney seems to have commercials only for their products, and they are usually spaced at half hour or twenty-minute intervals. Generally, the cable stations run longer between commercials. A network show may have ads on every five minutes or so, while the cable channels will go at least ten minutes between them and maybe more depending on the channel and possibly depending on the time of day. *Louis Rukeyser's Wall Street* is shown without ads on CNBC and PBS stations. I believe other shows on CNBC do have commercials.

**Robert Michael Sabella (Visions of Paradise #91: the Passing Scene):** Thank you for enclosing the order form for *Nanking 1937*.

Your said you had purchased a neutralizer. I looked it up on the web and found a site that describes equipment claiming to protect people from the harmful effects of EMF. Is this what you meant? Do you believe the claims? My reading in *Science News* seems to indicate that not enough is known about whether EMF is actually harmful to people.





**General Comment:** Sometime ago, one of the members asked about the distribution of fans in Southern California. The map on the previous page shows that for the membership of the LASFS as it was about a year ago.

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## **\* Letters of Comment (For the uninitiated, these are letters commenting on previous issues of my fanzine [newsletter])**

My replies to the letters will be enclosed in double parentheses. I will also routinely make editorial corrections in punctuation, spelling, and so forth.

**Neil Kaden, kaden@ev1.net**

**4 April 2002**

Laurraine,

Thanks for the notice on FM7. Hope the riding is in fact therapeutic -- if not lotsa fun. Back when Cris & I were riding regularly, I found that all that bouncing around helped relieve tension and cleared up the back problems I had.

((The riding helped me quite a bit. Unfortunately, lack of volunteer help has kept me from riding.))

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**Tom Feller**

**22 June 2002**

Thanks for sending the zine through FAPA.

I saw *Freaks* on vr [stet]. The Hilton sisters provided much of the comedy relief as one of the sisters really liked a man but the other disliked him.

Like David Thayer, I once set myself on the project of reading all the Hugo-winning novels. It was thirty years ago, however, and there were a lot fewer novels to read.

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**Neil Kaden, kaden@ev1.net**

**21 July 2002**

Laurraine,

Keep those e-mails on FM coming -- I always make time (eventually) to read & reply -- I really need to keep socializing, even by e-mail, with our friends. Even MORE so now.

Still between jobs and clients, and in my last LoC I was in fact UPBEAT, compared to now. This year in Dallas, telecom people are getting laid off faster than they are getting rehired (if any are) and the "Start-up" clients I targeted my business at are all hoarding what little venture capital they got last year and so can't afford any consulting, unless it's for other than cash -- like "I get paid when my consulting brings you in more business" -- and even that is taking forever. June/July has been tough, as I'm having to re-evaluate the work I go after and re-tool the type of job I look for -- to something I did 8-16 years ago. It's depressing and sleep-deprivation-inducing.

Cris is stressed out, too, from my situation and working long hours -- and so getting some of the Fibromyalgia symptoms back. We need to turn this around RSN.

Glad to see LoCs from Ron & Leslie -- good to know that OTHER old friends are also still around "out there."

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**Leslie David, ldavid\_@hotmail.com**

**23 July 2002**

Hi Laurraine,

I was able to open *Feline Mewsings*, although I did cheat and do it at the office.

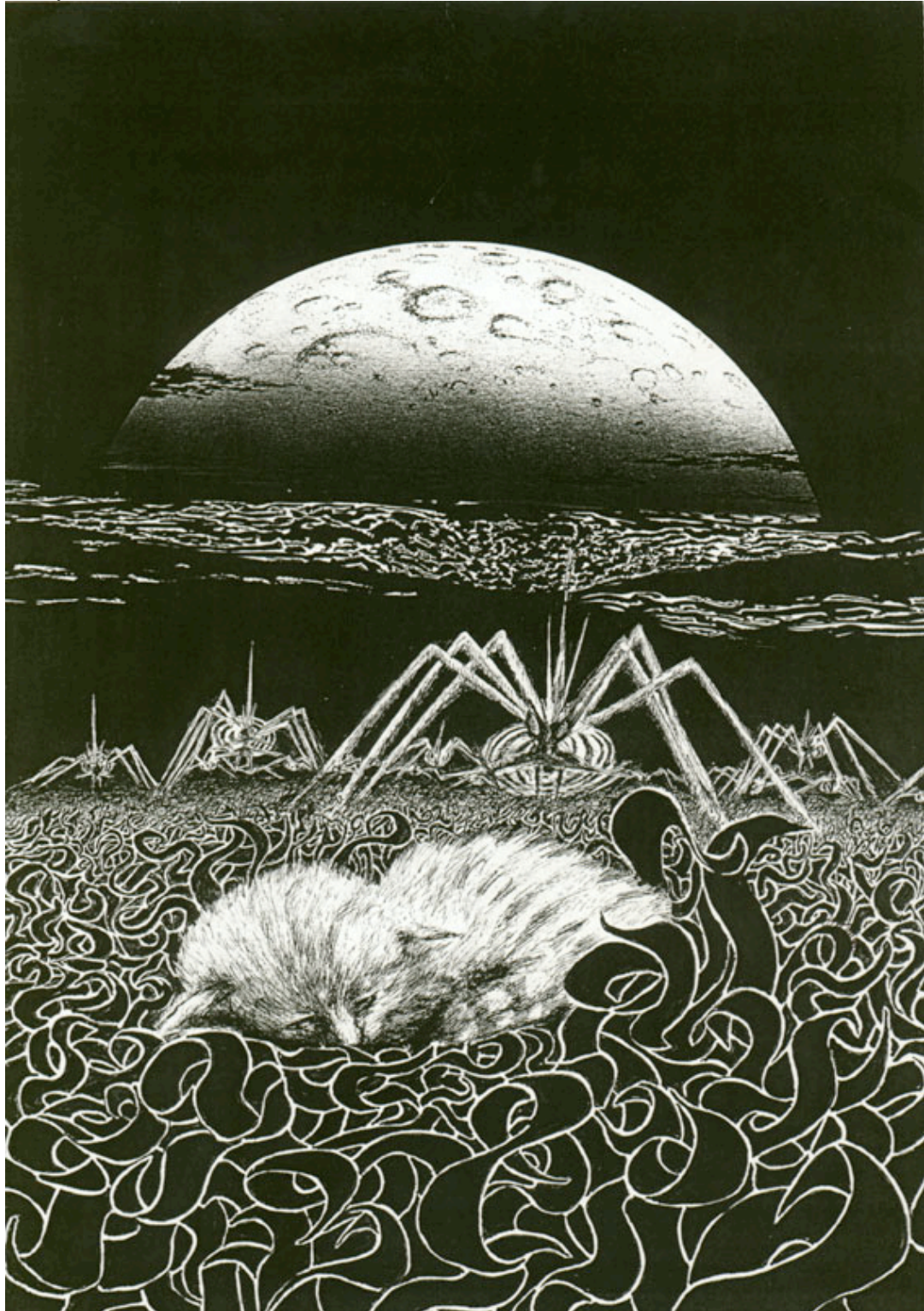
By now you realize that not only did I not attend Westercon, I didn't even make it to LA. We had an all-hands meeting on July 1 and were told there would be a reduction in force in September. I was scheduled to fly out to LA on the 3rd but immediately cancelled my trip and informed the hotel and Elena [Dent] that I would not be coming. I didn't think it was fiscally responsible to spend money on a hotel room and burn leave days I'm better off saving, so I can cash them in, if worst comes to worst.

Right now the place is very tense, since we don't know anything yet. We don't know if it's September 1st or 31st, and we don't know who will be going and who will be staying, so I've updated my resume and am looking just to be on the safe side. If anyone knows of a place that is looking for instructional designers/trainers, let me know.

What I really want is to get out of the government contracting business. I am so tired of never staying long enough to get vested, never getting more than two weeks vacation and having to drag my 401k (which

probably isn't worth anything anymore) around from job to job. In short, I don't want to roll over.

I liked the bit on English very much and may copy it and send it to someone who is teaching conversational English in Korea. Don't laugh-- it's something I've thought about, too. It would be really nice to sell the car, get rid of most of my junk, and live and work overseas. If nothing [else] turns up, I may seriously look into it.



Illo by Franz Miklis