

**SOUTHERN  
FANDOM  
CONFEDERATION  
UPDATE**

**Volume 1, Issue 26  
October 2011**

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## Editorial:

DSC news first. The entire board of SFC officers was re-elected unanimously. DSC 51 will be hosted by JordanCon in Atlanta, GA – more details to follow soon. Brad W. Foster (frequently featured in these pages) was awarded the Rebel, Selena Rosen was awarded the Phoenix, and Bill Parker was given the Rubble for winning another Southern Worldcon and making us all work. I have to thank Bill for helping me dodge the Rubble bullet one more year – Gary mentioned that last summer, I'd been the most likely candidate. But, ReConStruction was at least partially a success, and I was no longer the obvious choice. You can read all about that in the latest issue of *Consurgito!*, which I've both submitted to SFPA for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary mailing and posted on efanzines.com. The TAFF race has officially begun, and I'm attaching a ballot along with this email. I'm running, of course, along with Jacq Monahan and Kim Kofmel. Good luck to both of them!

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All contents copyright their creators. This zine is free, either by direct email or [www.efanzines.com](http://www.efanzines.com). A letter of comment or other contribution will get you on my mailing list, as long as I remember to put you there. If I forget, bother me a second time, or however long it takes to add you. I haven't been printing this one, which leaves me free to use as many pages as I wish, and do things like color. It also lets me use all the contributions I can muster, so fire away!

## Calendar of Events:

### October 7-9:

**Tsubasacon** (Huntington, West Virginia – Riverfront Ballroom and Conference Center. Anime convention featuring Chris Cason, Robert Axelrod, Robert McCollum, Gina Biggs, Kittyhawk, and Year 200X. Also, some layout problems with the website – on the venue page, you have to scroll past their long list of rules to find the short blurb about the Riverfront. Pre-reg is \$40.

[www.tsubasacon.org](http://www.tsubasacon.org))

**Fan Days** (Irving, Texas – Irving Convention Center. Star Wars based convention, with Guests of Honor Jim Steranko and Billy Dee Williams. General admission is \$20. [www.scifiexpo.com](http://www.scifiexpo.com))

**SIEGE** (Atlanta, Georgia – Marriott Atlanta Northwest. Professional conference for video game developers. [www.siegecon.net/SIEGE2011](http://www.siegecon.net/SIEGE2011))

### October 13-16:

**Wincon** (New Orleans, Louisiana – New Orleans Marriott Metarie. This looks to be a convention based around media fan-fiction, with a goal of creating a safe-space for women and other under-represented folks. Tickets are \$145.

[www.omgwincon.com](http://www.omgwincon.com))

### October 14-16:

**Capclave 11** (Gaithersburg, Maryland – Hilton Washington DC North/Gaithersburg. A serious literary convention with Guests of Honor Carrie Vaughn and Catherynne Valente which also happens to be a really good time, Capclave is one of the meeting points of Southern Fandom and the Northeast Corridor. Memberships are \$60. Oh, and the site-design is good enough that I can get all of that information without scrolling on the front page.

[www.capclave.org](http://www.capclave.org))

**Birmingham Game Days** (Birmingham, Alabama – Howard Johnson Inn. Gaming convention. Registration is either \$25, \$30, or \$32.50 – it's not entirely clear. [www.birminghamgamedays.com](http://www.birminghamgamedays.com))

**Comic and Fantasy Con** (Memphis, Tennessee – University of Memphis All Suite Holiday Inn. I don't actually see much in the way of comics on their guest list, but okay. Featuring Deedee Bigelow, Eric Stuart, Stephanie Osborn, Crystal Aura Wilson, and Tommy Hancock. Full weekend passes are \$35, with a \$5 discount for costumers. [www.memphisfcf.com](http://www.memphisfcf.com))

### October 21-23:

**Roundcon** (Columbia, South Carolina – Holiday Inn & Suites Columbia. Hybrid convention that got its start in gaming, almost died, and came back strong. These guys are doing two a year, now. They've got a few guests listed, but don't seem to have an emphasis on any of them. Pre-reg is \$25 through October 14<sup>th</sup>, then \$40 at the door. Simple but elegant site. [www.roundcon.com](http://www.roundcon.com))

**Necronomicon** (St. Petersburg, Florida – Hilton Bayfront. Ben Bova is Guest of Honor. Established SF/F/H convention in its 30<sup>th</sup> year. Memberships are \$50. [www.stonehill.org/necro.htm](http://www.stonehill.org/necro.htm))

**EXPCon IV** (St. Augustine, Florida – Renaissance Resort at World Golf Village. Anime convention featuring Ali Hillis, Chris Sabat, Vic Mignogna, Charles Martinet, and Mega64. Pre-registration \$35 through October 17<sup>th</sup>.

[www.expccon.org](http://www.expccon.org))

**Geek Media Expo** (Nashville, Tennessee – Maxwell House Hotel. General geek culture/multi-fandom convention. The big feature on their front page highlights Patricia Alice Albrecht, a voice actress. Tickets are \$30. [www.mtac.net/gmx](http://www.mtac.net/gmx))

**CharCon** (Charleston, West Virginia – Charleston House Hotel. Gaming convention. Pre-registration is \$30. [www.charcon.org](http://www.charcon.org))

#### **October 22:**

**Run For Your Lives** (Darlington, Maryland – Ramblewood, 2564 Silver Road. This is a 5K race with an obstacle course and actors portraying zombies. Runners will be wearing flags of the sort used in flag football, which the zombies will be trying to take. The ending, of course, requires climbing a fence. Runners will begin in 15 waves at half-hour intervals. Runner registration is closed. Specator passes are \$32. [www.runforyourlives.com](http://www.runforyourlives.com))

#### **October 28-30:**

**HallowCon** (Dalton, Georgia – Super 8 Convention Center. Small local con with an appropriate horror flair for the Halloween season. Memberships are \$50. [www.hallowcon.com](http://www.hallowcon.com))

**Oni-con** (Galveston, Texas – Galveston Island Convention Center. The big guests featured on the front page — once you get through the flash intro — are Airship Isabella and Chris Ayres. Pre-registration is currently \$35. [www.oni-con.com](http://www.oni-con.com))

**Vulcan Away Mission** (Orlando, Florida – Hilton Orlando Resort Lake Buena Vista. Star Trek convention featuring Patrick Stewart and Jewel Staite. General admission \$69, autographs, photo ops, and special events extra. [www.vulcanevents.com](http://www.vulcanevents.com))

#### **October 29-November 5:**

**C3 at Sea** (Baltimore, Maryland – Royal Caribbean *Enchantment of the Seas*. Cosplay Caucus Cruise. Berths start at \$681.81 per person. <http://theavatoysite.aplus.net/id7.html>)

#### **November 3-6:**

**EuroQuest IX** (Pikesville, Maryland – Hilton Pikesville. European style boardgaming convention with a mixture of tournaments and open play. Preregistration is \$40 through October 20<sup>th</sup>.

[www.boardgamers.org/specific/eq11ann.htm](http://www.boardgamers.org/specific/eq11ann.htm))

#### **November 4-6:**

**CONtraflow** (Gretna, Louisiana – Clarion Inn New Orleans Westbank. These folks are giving us the first traditional SF con in NOLA since Katrina. They're also behind the NOLA in 2018 Worldcon bid. Guests of Honor will be David Brin, Luke Ski, Robert Neagle, and Michael Scott. Memberships will be \$40, as the pre-registration period appears to have passed. [www.contraflowsf.org](http://www.contraflowsf.org))

**Chibi-Pa: Moto** (West Palm Beach, Florida – Palm Beach Gardens Marriott. Anime convention. Guests include Robert Axelrod, Mary Elizabeth McGlynn,

and Julie Maddelena, plus cosplayers and bands. Pre-reg is \$25.

[www.chibipa.com/news.php](http://www.chibipa.com/news.php))

**SugoiCon** (Fort Mitchell, Kentucky – Drawbridge Inn. Anime convention featuring Shinichiro Watanabe, Christopher Ayres, Carli Mosier, Josh Grelle, and Ian Sinclair. All useful information on the website must be obtained via dropdown menus. Pre-registration is \$35 through October 10th, then \$45 at the door. [www.sugoicon.org/current/index.html](http://www.sugoicon.org/current/index.html))

**NekoCon 14** (Hampton, Virginia – Embassy Suites Hotel. Anime and gaming convention featuring Akemi Solloway, Chris Rager, Kyle Hebert, and Jerry Jewell. Memberships are \$50. [www.nekocon.com](http://www.nekocon.com))

**Hurricane Who** (Orlando, Florida – Doubletree by Hilton Orlando at Seaworld. Doctor Who convention featuring Terry Molloy, Jeremy Bulloch, Paul Marc Davis, Chip Chung, and Steve Case. Tickets are \$65 through November 2<sup>nd</sup>. [www.hurricanewho.com](http://www.hurricanewho.com))

**SonicCon** (Dallas, Texas – venue TBA. Anime and gaming convention with a hedgehog show. The guest listing apparently requires you to check the asterisks to know who's confirmed, which strikes me as sketchy beyond belief. The confirmed guests are Lisa Ortiz, Darren Dunstin, Harry & The Potters, The Marquis of Vaudeville, and Happy! Project. Tickets are \$35.

[www.wix.com/sonicon/sonicon](http://www.wix.com/sonicon/sonicon))

### **November 11-13:**

**MACE** (High Point, North Carolina – Best Western High Point. Gaming convention that I've been to several times over the years and always enjoyed. Pre-registration is \$25 through November 9th, \$40 at the door.

[www.justusproductions.com/index.php/justus/mace/2/2/2](http://www.justusproductions.com/index.php/justus/mace/2/2/2))

**ShadoCon** (Tampa, Florida – Crowne Plaza. Anime con featuring Travis Willingham, Quinton Flynn, Chris Cason, Doug Walker, EgoRaptor, and Uncle Yo. Passes are \$40 through October 28<sup>th</sup>, then \$45 at the door.

[www.shadocon.com](http://www.shadocon.com))

### **November 12-13:**

**FAN:dom** (Pensacola, Florida – University of West Florida. I'm guessing this is an anime con? Only, they also have fantasy writers and a Quidditch contest, so it might just be a bunch of young geeks having fun. Not sure. They seem excited to have a voice actor, Eric Stuart. Their website is November's winner for most eye-gougingly awful. It's also a flash-based site, hosted on the same free service as the site for Sonicon. Thankfully, this appears to be a result of their overall low-cost approach, and weekend passes are only \$5 online or \$10 at the door.

[www.wix.com/fandom\\_con/fandom](http://www.wix.com/fandom_con/fandom))

### **November 17-23:**

**WarCon 3** (Warrensburg, Missouri – No location listed, beyond the city. Since it's Warhorn, I'm guessing gaming. Nor is any pricing indicated. You might want to try contacting them before driving to Warrensburg.

[www.warhorn.net/warcon-3](http://www.warhorn.net/warcon-3))

**November 18-20:**

**AnimeUSA** (Arlington, Virginia – Hyatt. Anime convention featuring Trina Nishimura, Travis Willingham, Laura Bailey, Micah Solusod, J. Michael Tatum, and Wendee Lee. One of the prettiest front pages I've seen, though it's graphicsintensive and information-light. Pre-registration is \$48 through October 31st. [www.animeusa.org](http://www.animeusa.org))

**November 25-27:**

**Darkover Grand Council** (Timonium, Maryland – Crowne Plaza Baltimore. Traditional SF con inspired by Marion Zimmer Bradley's Darkover works, with steampunk, filk, dancing, and arts and crafts to boot. Guests of Honor include Ellen Kushner, Delia Sherman, Shoshana Epsilon, Melissa Scott, Clam Chowder, Mark R. Donnelly, and Katherine Kurtz. Very groovy logo. Memberships are \$50 through November 1<sup>st</sup>, then \$55 at the door. [www.darkovercon.org](http://www.darkovercon.org))

**December 5-10:**

**Furry Cruise** (Ft. Lauderdale, Florida – It's a furry relaxacon vacation on a boat. Passport required. It may be too late to book a cabin. Contact info is on the website. [www.furrycruise.com](http://www.furrycruise.com))

**January 5-8:**

**Ichibancon** (Charlotte, North Carolina – [www.ichibancon.com](http://www.ichibancon.com))

**Mag Fest X** (National Harbor, Maryland – [www.magfest.org](http://www.magfest.org))

**January 6-8:**

**ShadowCon XVI** (Memphis, Tennessee – [www.shadowcon.org](http://www.shadowcon.org))

**InstaCon 9** (Dallas, Texas – [www.instacon9.org](http://www.instacon9.org))

**January 6-9:**

**GaFilk 14** (Atlanta, Georgia -- [www.gafilk.org](http://www.gafilk.org))

**January 8-15:**

**Star Trek Cruise** (Fort Lauderdale, Florida – [www.startrekruise.com](http://www.startrekruise.com))

**January 13-15:**

**illogiCon** (Raleigh, North Carolina – [www.illogicon.org](http://www.illogicon.org))

**MarsCon** (Williamsburg, Virginia – [www.marscon.net](http://www.marscon.net))

**January 13-16:**

**SCARAB** (Columbia, South Carolina – [www.s-c-a-r-a-b.com](http://www.s-c-a-r-a-b.com))

**January 20-22:**

**Chattacon 37** (Chattanooga, Tennessee – [www.chattacon.org](http://www.chattacon.org))

**January 26-29:**

**WAM 12** (Timonium, Maryland – <http://www.boardgamers.org/specific/wam12ann.htm>)

**January 28-29:**

**Wizard World** (New Orleans, Louisiana – [www.wizardworld.com/home-neworleans.html](http://www.wizardworld.com/home-neworleans.html))

**February 3-5:****OwlCon 31** (Houston, Texas – [www.owlcon.com](http://www.owlcon.com))**Kami-Con 4** (Tuscaloosa, Alabama – [www.kamicon.net](http://www.kamicon.net))**February 17-19:****MegaCon** (Orlando, Florida – [www.megaconvention.com](http://www.megaconvention.com))**ConNooga** (Chattanooga, Tennessee – [www.connooga.com](http://www.connooga.com))**Farpoint** (Baltimore, Maryland – [www.farpointcon.com](http://www.farpointcon.com))**KatSuCon 18** (National Harbor, Maryland – [www.katsucon.org](http://www.katsucon.org))**SheVaCon 20** (Roanoke, Virginia – [www.shevacon.org](http://www.shevacon.org))**February 22-26:****PrezCon** (Charlottesville, Virginia – [www.prezcon.com](http://www.prezcon.com))**February 24-26:****Mysticon** (Roanoke, Virginia – [www.mysticon-va.com](http://www.mysticon-va.com))**AnachroCon** (Atlanta, Georgia – [www.anachrocon.com](http://www.anachrocon.com))**June 15-17, 2012:****DeepSouthCon 50 – Lunar Party** (Huntsville, Alabama – Embassy Suites.

This will be the first independent DSC in about a decade, and the Moon Princesses have put together quite a crew to run it. Guests of Honor will include Lois McMaster Bujold, Howard Tayler, Travis “Doc” Taylor, Larry Montgomery, David Hulan, and Dr. Demento. Larry and David ran the very first two DSCs back in the 60s, and this will be a rare opportunity to get to meet them. I’ll have more information on this con in coming issues. Attending Memberships are currently \$40, or \$15 for pre-supporters. Supporting Memberships are \$20. [www.dsc50huntsville.com](http://www.dsc50huntsville.com))

**August 30th-September 3rd, 2012:**

**Chicon 7, the 70th World Science Fiction Convention** (Chicago, Illinois – Hyatt Regency Chicago. That’s right, it’s a single-facility Worldcon. Guests of Honor will be author Mike Resnick, fan Peggy Rae Sapienza, astronaut Story Musgrave, artist Rowena Morrill, agent Jane Frank, and toastmaster John Scalzi. All my usual bits about why you should go to Worldcon apply. This one is also on the edge of driving distance for much of the South, which should make it pretty appealing. Memberships are \$195. [www.chicon.org](http://www.chicon.org))

**August 29th-September 2nd, 2013:**

**LoneStarCon 3, the 71st World Science Fiction Convention** (San Antonio, Texas – Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, Marriott River Walk, Marriott Rivercenter. Guests of Honor will be Ellen Datlow, James Gunn, Willie Siros, Norman Spinrad, and Darrell K. Sweet, with Toastmaster Paul Cornell and Special Guests Leslie Fish and Joe R. Lansdale. All my usual bits about why you should go to Worldcon still apply. But even more importantly, it’s the first Southern Worldcon since 1997 (LoneStarCon 2). Let’s descend on this en masse

and show our support for Texas.  
Memberships are \$160 through at least the  
end of the year. [www.lonestarcon3.org](http://www.lonestarcon3.org))

## **Rebel Yells:** **News and note from all over**

*Brad Foster sent a loc and a fillo:*

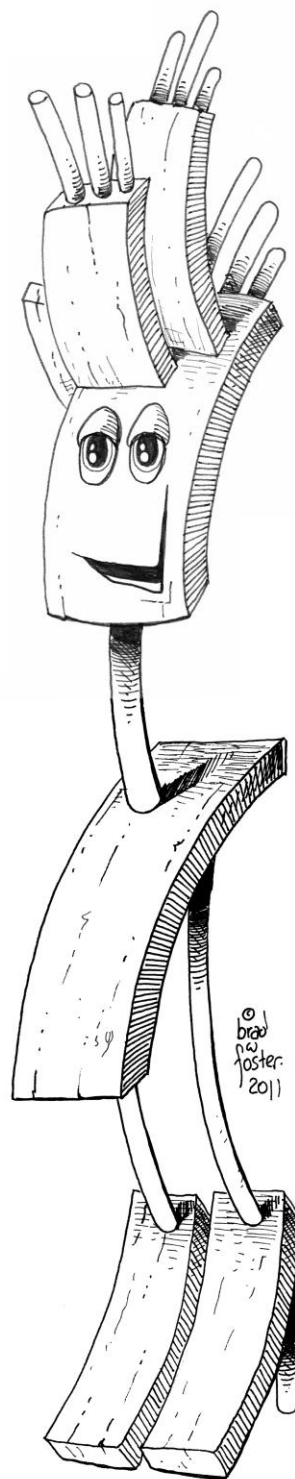
Greetings Warren ~

Saw the 25th issue of SFCU has been posted online, and you used the last two bits of weirdness. I had a couple of oddly cut, long pieces of paper sitting here last week, and did a couple of larger fillo pieces. Still the usual kind of odd cartoon, but this is actually about 15 inches tall! Of course, it will reduce down to "fillo" size, so can use it however you like. But thought of SFCU first to send it, since you have the stacked-word logo for your covers, thought this might work running tall up one side of cover, with title to the side.

Or not. Up to you. Again, you can run it small and will show up quite fine. How did I fall so far behind on the work here? Spent last few days moving 200 50lb boxes of old Jab pubs out of our back storage unit and carting them off to local recycling outfit. Stuff had been in there for years and years, the floor was starting to curve in places! Final count was something like 5 tons of paper moved. Now will have to try to repair the building over next few months, and will give us back some nice storage capacity again around here. Let that be a lesson to all- don't just put stuff to the side to "get to later"-- one day you'll find those few sheets of paper are now several tons you'll have to move!

stay happy~  
Brad

*I've had some tremendous luck with artists*



UMBER LEGS  
LORRAINE  
IS READY TO  
STEP OUT!

*this month, so I'm gonna hold off using this for the cover, but it's a great fillo! I think it's great here in the letter column, since it fits really well next to your letter. Nothing beats the luck I had with artists when I got sent to find you and Teddy, though. If anyone reading this hasn't seen the one-shot from this year's DSC, **It's Bigger In Texas**, go check it out on [efanzines.com](http://efanzines.com)! It's got a ton of great stuff from Brad, as well as Teddy Harvia, a piece by Stephan Martinierre, a couple by a new guy named Rodolfo, and even something from John Purcell!*

*We got several letters from Joy V. Smith this month:*

Dear Warren,

Another illustration that needs a caption! And I enjoyed the other illos and posters too. You've certainly been busy going at cons--and having fun. I look forward to hearing when TAFF is up and running.

Thanks for the background on the Orlando bid and for the Orlando WorldCon bid link. It looks like there still hasn't been an update since July, as you noted. I see there's a place for comments. None yet. Sometimes getting people to pitch in and carry on is difficult. Oh, yes, and getting financial support too.

Btw, what is the CSS Hunley?

And thanks as always for the con calendar.

Appreciatively,

Joy V. Smith

Warren,

There's a review of *Hidebound*, my SF e-book, on The New Book Review:  
<http://www.thenewbookreview.blogspot.com/>

Joy

Warren,

My SF e-book (short story reprint), *Pretty Pink Planet*, is now out on Kindle.

Description: An agent of SOESFOL (Search Out and Establish Sentient Forms of Life) tracks down planet pirates and rescues alien life forms of all types.

Joy

Warren,

My SF story, *Pretty Pink Planet*, is free on Smashwords:  
<http://www.smashwords.com/books/view/93615>

Joy

Warren,

*Hot Yellow Planet* is a sequel to *Pretty Pink Planet*. Lori and Chiing continue their adventures, meeting up with Chameleons, Ghosters, Splurts, and other aliens and humans.

Link: <https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/94029>

Joy

My other blog (media tidbits and more)  
<http://pagadan.livejournal.com/>

*The **Hunley** was the Confederacy's submarine. It sank, repeatedly. They think the last time, it was because the crew ran out of oxygen peddling the thing. Orlando's got some content up now, including a Frank Wu poster. I'll leave it to the reader to find it, though.*

*And here's a rare LoC from Christopher J. Garcia:*

OK, more of a LoClette, really. I am looking tremendously forward to FenCon in just... 10 days! Wow. Much to do! I actually got to write Gail Carriger's bio for the Programme Book, which was unexpected. I'm especially looking forward to seeing the folks who I seldom get to see (like that Guy Lillian guy) and experience a Texas con. Also, there's Texas BBQ. I love REAL BBQ the way my family (who I will be visiting when I'm out there) does it.

It was a damned good Worldcon, Hugo win was a part, but getting to meet Delphyn (HUGE thrill to finally get to meet her!) and N.K. Jemisin and getting a chance to hang with my buddy TAFF delegate John Coxon, and generally just having an amazing time. In fact, even before the Hugo melt-down, I was saying this was the second best WorldCon for me ever, trailing only LACon IV: The Fannening!

Love the Fosters you've got in this one, especially the One-Line Guy!

Chris

*Dude, it was great seeing you at DSC! This has really turned into a summer of epic cons. I hope you manage to write up and print the "Hoogo" story somewhere, because that was one of the coolest things I've heard you tell about. You're right about Renovation, too – my favorite Worldcon yet.*

*Here's some sad news from Steve Green:*

The actor Cliff Robertson died Saturday, 10 September, the day after his 88th birthday. He received the 1968 Academy Award for his role in Charly, adapted from Daniel Keyes' Hugo Award-winning short short "Flowers For Algernon" and the Nebula Award-winning novel of the same name. His other appearances included The Twilight Zone ("A Hundred Yards Over the Rim", 1961), Brainstorm (1980), Escape From L.A. (1996) and the Spider-Man trilogy (as Uncle Ben, 2002-2007). In 1977, Robertson uncovered a scandal at Columbia Pictures involving the cashing of fraudulent cheques by the studio head; although it was Robertson who reported these criminal activities, he was effectively blacklisted for three years.

-- Steve

*And of course, here's Lloyd Penney:*

1706-24 Eva Rd.  
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September 16, 2011

Dear Warren:

Thank you for Vol. 1, Issue 25 of the SFC Update...after the "five days of crazy" in Reno, as I've described it, it's kinda good to get back to a regular schedule. Kinda...maybe...

Hope you'll be enjoying FenCon...say hello to Kim Kofmel for me, and enjoy that hotel. I was there some years ago for an International Space Development Conference, and that's the only time I've been able to meet John Purcell.

After Worldcon, you went to Dragon\*Con? You must be exhausted. (Talking to your wallet there...) You've got my TAFF nomination, and right now, it's you and Jacqueline Monahan from Las Vegas on the ballot. Having someone act as an ambassador from Worldcon to ComicCon and Dragon\*Con is a good idea. It does get to the point where the three conventions might be unwilling to talk to one another. (I do remember when Dragon\*Con landed on the Labour Day weekend, saying it was a temporary thing because of the hotels they were dealing with. Temporary became pretty permanent.)

Joy Smith's loc...those restaurant chains that failed in Canada, they simply didn't do their market research, and assumed that Canadian tastes were the same as American tastes, and tain't necessarily so. For a picture of the Royal Canadian Mounted StarFleet, look up fanac.org, Worldcon and Chicon, photow82m005. Were we ever that young...

My loc...our first Worldcon was a Chicon (IV), and we've been to the last two Chicons, too. There might be a feeling of been there, done that. I don't like the idea of skipping two Worldcons to afford a third, but this might be our last opportunity to go to England. Last time I was there? Visiting relatives in Scotland in 1968. Cory Doctorow was on our plane on the way home...he broke the news to us that the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Jack Layton, passed away while we were gone.

And there's another page or so. Wish I could do more, but the issues do come fairly close together. I have writing assignments from John Coxon (his TAFF report) and Chris Garcia (The Drink Tank 300), so time is short, and the fanzines keep on coming, and hurray for that. Thank you, good sir, enjoy the DSC, and see you with the next issue.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

*I did, indeed get to say hello to Kim Kofmel, and now welcome her to the TAFF race! This is bound to be a good one. That hotel is one of the best for a con I've ever seen, and they've learned to use it well. DragonCon is rather permanently stuck on Labor Day, yeah – it's the only date they can get that many hotels to line up for them. Okay, that makes sense then, that I thought Cory was the guy behind me. I'm glad I wasn't crazy. And I'm glad you manage to get a LoC in every time – I think a predictable schedule helps.*

*Then, Greg Rieves sent a loc and a cartoon:*

Dear Warren,

I wanted to send a few words for the positive response in the last couple of months to my artwork appearing in SFCU, Thanks So Much! It has taken a little while to get a LOC to you because I have taken Brad Foster's advice and I have been working on a few extra pieces of artwork for other FanEds. That was a good piece of advice and hopefully I can keep up my present work speed and get those out soon. Thanks for the advice Brad.

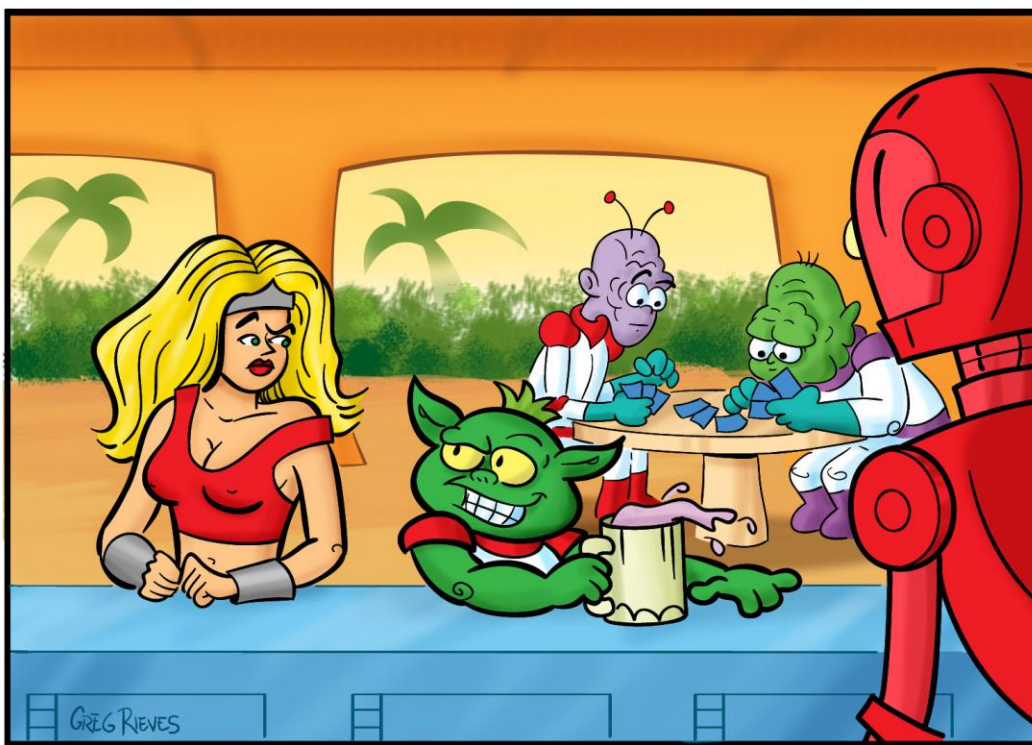
I also wanted to address the question of where I get the ideas for my artwork. Mr. Rich Dengrove asked if the first cover you ran of the hillbilly chasing the alien might have been inspired by a Mack Reynolds story, I can tell you it wasn't. All my color illustrations and coming right out of my sketch books! For years I have been drawing little scenes in my sketch book usually sitting in coffee shops and restaurants waiting for food. Recently i decided to take some of the drawings done in Markers, Pencils, and Crayons scan them into the computer and flesh them out using Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop. I think most people who see my artwork can tell I am influenced by Old School Cartooning! The biggest influences on my work are old Warner Brothers and MGM cartoons and old panel

cartoons from magazines like the New Yorker. I have always wanted to put that style of art together with science fiction.

Have a great day!

Greg Rieves  
Kernersville, NC

*Brad is a wise fanartist, and this year's Rebel winner (in addition to getting another Hugo). I must say I appreciate getting your cartoons, and consider them part of a run of great luck, art-wise, lately. I know you marked this as a cover, but I'm trying to mix it up.*



*We also got a nice letter from Mariann S. Steele:*

Hi Warren - I'm sure enjoying the bulletins you send me. I've been in this group probably close to 40 years, and it broke my heart last year when Ken Moore died - He ran the first con I ever went to. ArtKane in Wilmington NC. Kelly

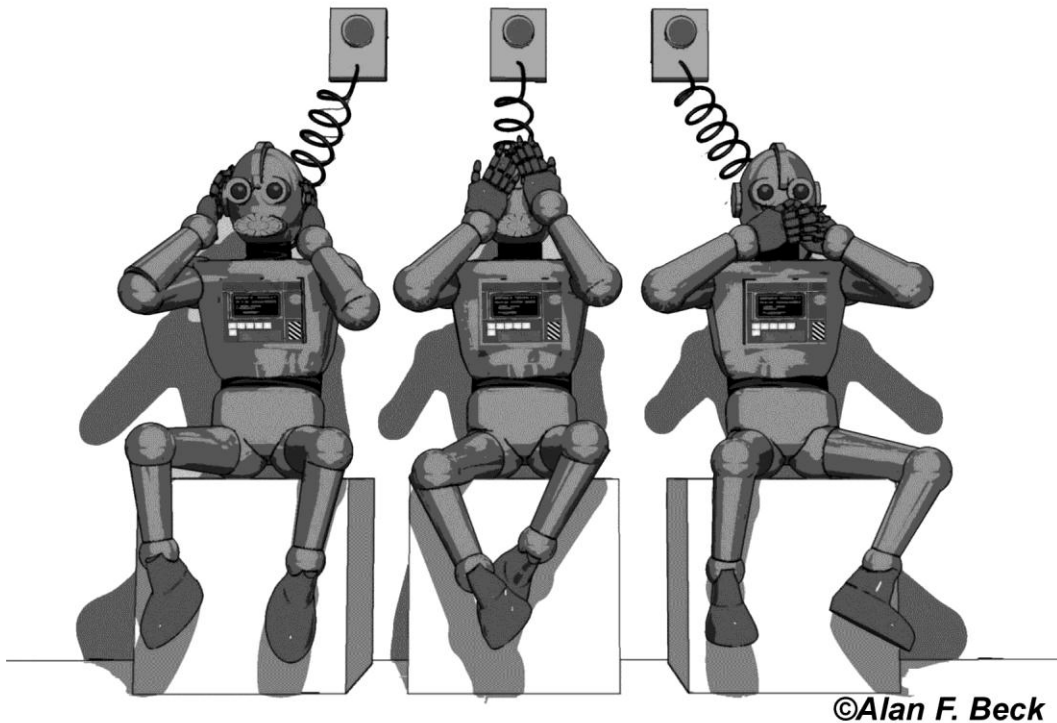
Freas and sword battles with the Society for Constructive Anachronism. Heaven!!! All the cons I've been to were like a taste of heaven - Away from the mundane daily world with people who, like me, loved things a little more decorated and shiny. Now I'm in my 80's and have outlived all the people who went to cons with me - But I still love reading about them - And for that, my dear, I cannot thank you enough! Bless you for I know that gets tiresome!

I need to renew my membership and wonder if you could E-mail me the address (and name, of course) of whoever is your treasurer this year. I always sent \$25 - a little more than the dues to help with the postage - So if that's okay, I'll do it again.

Still sorry about Ken's passing. That picture of him you had on that bulletin - Gee, he didn't look that different from the way he looked in the 1970's.

Well, I still think liking science fiction and fantasy keeps one young. It certainly keeps the mind flexible. So take care of yourself and I hope to hear from you before they kick me out of Southern Fandom! With love - Mariann S. Steele, 338 Oxford Drive, Ladson, SC 29456

*Patrick Molloy is the treasurer, and I've sent you his email address. That's one of the best LoCs I've received, and I thank you sincerely.*



**Hear no data, see no data, speak no data.**

*Bill Lawhorn wrote in to remind us about Capclave:*

Hi Warren,

I am looking forward to seeing you in a couple weeks at Capclave (Oct. 14-16). It is always good to get a chance to catch up with you. I should have some time this year, but I always seem to find ways to fill up conventions.

This year we have 2011 Hugo nominated (for best short story) author Carrie Vaughn, best-known for her “Kitty Norville” urban fantasy series; and author, poet, and editor Catherynne Valente, author of the Hugo-nominee *Palimpsest* and *Deathless*, among others.

Now that it is October the lower rates are gone, unless you are a student or active military:

\$60: All Weekend  
 \$25: Friday  
 \$35: Saturday  
 \$10: Sunday

Students and Active military:  
 ID required  
 \$25: Weekend  
 \$20: Saturday

If you are in the DC area, stop by our new location, Hilton Washington DC North/Gaithersburg, 620 Perry Parkway, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877. This is a little further out than last year, but we still plan to have a good time.

Capclave is planning a lot of the normal activities including panels, parties, workshops, and the WSFA Small Press Awards Ceremony. The SFWA Medical Fund Silent Auction is once again on the slate, this year Darth Dodo has his very own 2012 Calendar up for auction. There are currently only 5 in print. There may be more, but the auction one will be autographed.

And looking forward, in 2012 we have John Scalzi and Nick Mamatas and even further ahead in 2013 George R.R. Martin and Sharyn November.

Bill Lawhorn  
 SJOF

*Thanks, Bill! I'm definitely looking forward to the next few Capclaves.*

*WAHF: Nalini Haynes, Ed Dravecky, Alan F. Beck.*

## **THE CREATION OF THE HUMANOIDS (1962)**

### **Review by Richard Dengrove**

I have written in one of my letters that I wanted to be the bad movie king of Southern Fandom Confederation Update. I am obsessed with transmutation of junk into great movies. Am I similarly obsessed with the transmutation of great movies into junk? Sometimes. It depends on how catty I feel.

I don't have to go far for transmutation both ways; I just have to go to *The Creation of the Humanoids*. It is a bad movie, it's true. However, it is somehow a great movie at one in the same time. How is this possible? *Creation's* problem is that, for the most part, it is one enormous expositional lump. Teachers of fiction always say you should show not tell. That it makes for an interesting story if, along the way, you have pathos and bathos, suspense and maybe a little violence. Or a whole lot of violence. People's problems and quandaries interest us. Ideas hung out like meat to dry don't.

Some have felt the same way about this movie. Andy Warhol is reputed to have chosen *The Creation Of The Humanoids* as his favorite. While no one has pinpointed the passage containing this quote and many doubt it, it is auspicious. Warhol fancied himself the king of boredom. What else can one make of his *Sleep*, a six and a half hour movie of a man sleeping; and *Empire*, an eight hour movie showing only the profile of New York's Empire State Building at night

On the other hand, although most of *Creation* is one enormous expositional lump, it is one that contains a lot of interesting and curious social commentary. For instance, should we all become robots? Opposing the tradition of humanism, Jay Simms, the movie's scriptwriter, makes a good case that, under the movie's circumstances, we should. Also, the lump deals with where the seat of the soul is; what death means; and what helping humanity means? Finally, there is commentary about what we owe to others and the past, and what we owe to ourselves. However, that doesn't count because it takes place in *Creation's* one scene with action and conflict.

The writer Simms would have to be responsible for the plot. So what was his usual script like? Apparently, there was a lot of character development, which carried water for the low-budget, and mostly tacky, movies he wrote for. On IMDB, reviewer after reviewer loves his characters in the *Killer Shrews* (1959), *The Giant Gila Monster* (1959) and *Panic In Year Zero* (1962).

So what happened in *Creation Of The Humanoids*? This is my theory, for which I have only circumstantial evidence. I suspect the director/producer Wesley Barry had wanted to make Simms' usual low budget thriller with good character development. However, he wasn't able to scare up the money. So he had Simms condense all the scenes with actual people moving the plot into what I can only call a talkie. That talks and talks and talks. Simms' job was to fill it with scintillating talk.

Only one scene escapes the talk, talk, talk for some rather passionate talk. This is the scene where Captain Kenneth Craigis confronts his sister Esme Craigis Milos. Craigis is Captain, that is, in a private organization, the Order of Flesh and Blood, a group that hates robots. The confrontation concerns her relationship with the robot Pax. She and Pax are in rapport, i.e., share the same mindset. Pax

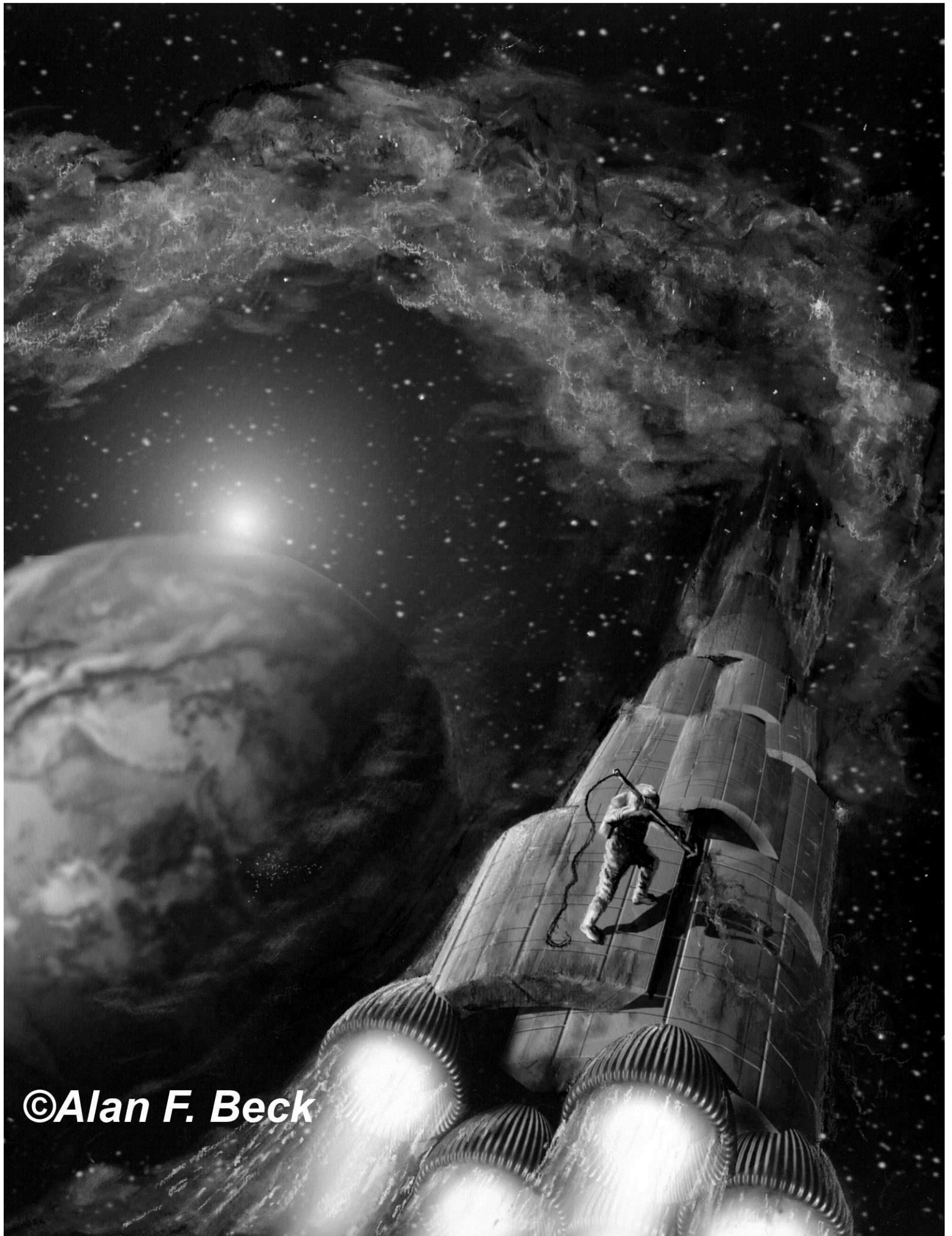
knows whatever Esme wants and does her bidding. To break up this osmotic relationship that is humiliating to him, Craigis argues both with Esme and Pax. While Pax's emotions and sense of humor are underdeveloped as compared to a human, he nails Craigis anyway. There also, Craigis meets the beautiful but thin Maxine Megan, and they are both mysteriously attracted to one another. Which sets the stage for a new intellectually stimulating talkfest.

Otherwise, ideas were the movie's big sin and redemption. There are a lot of smaller sins and redemptions as well than the theme and the plot. Let us start with the sins. The director/ producer Wes Barry, I gather, had directed since the twenties, and never changed his style. The language is often as archaic as an English teacher's. Dialogue and intonation not unknown then, but it now seems unbearably stilted.

That, to me, ends the actual sins. Some have regarded the acting too as a sin. I disagree and don't mark the acting a D- but a C+. It is true Erica Elliot as Maxine Megan can't act, but she never gets much chance to. Her job is too look lovely, which, though a mite too thin, she does. Other than her and spot characters, the acting is serviceable or better. Don Megowan had acted in other horror flicks, and was serviceable in the role of Captain Craigis, the anti-hero. More than serviceable was Francis McCann as Esme. Somehow she broke through the straightjacket of archaic dialogue to come alive. An actually good actor was Don Doolittle as Dr. Raven, the mad scientist and robots' friend, although, in that role, he plays somewhat of a wiseguy. Best of all was David Cross as Pax. The others played humans. He figured out how to play a robot who was the slave of humans and not quite human, and yet who whipped Craigis' derrière in an argument.

So the acting was not only not the sin some have claimed but a redemption as well. Even more of a redemption were the costumes. This was a rock bottom low budget film. You couldn't expect and couldn't get expensive special effects, even for 1962. However, the robots' costume was pure genius. I would have hated to have worn them. You couldn't see because the eyes were mirror reflections. However, when they wore them bald and with white clothes, you had, in spades, characters without a soul. A hundred CGI manipulations couldn't have the same impact as that simple effect.

Thus the movie only needed a proper script to take off. Maybe the original script.



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