



Science-Fiction Fanzine

Vol. XIX, No. 6; June, 2007

### The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy

#### כנס פנטסיה קון חוזר!

כנס הפנטסיה האהוב של האגודה מחדש ימים כקדם! הכנס יתקיים השנה בתאריכים 25-26 ביולי במרכז רוזין שברמת אביב ג' (רחוב דרזנר 2, קרוב למרכז שוסטר). נושא הכנס – חלום ליל קיץ. בכנס יתקיימו הרצאות, הקרנות ופעילויות קהילתיות מגוונות. כמו כן תועלה בו לראשונה הפקת המקור "חלום ליל קיץ" – עיבוד קהילתי לפנטסיה הרומנטית של שייקספיר, פרי עטן של ורד טוכטרמן ורותם ברוכין.  
<http://fantasy.sf-f.org.il> התעדכנו בקרוב באתר הכנס:  
 לקראת הכנס תתקיים תחרות כתיבה נושאת פרסים לסיפורים ארוכים (1500 עד 7500 מלה) בנושא "חלום ליל קיץ". אתם מוזמנים להשתתף ולתרום את סיפוריכם.  
[http://www.sf-f.org.il/story\\_959](http://www.sf-f.org.il/story_959) לפרטים נוספים:

#### חוג מדע בדיוני ברחובות – SFIR - Rehovot Science Fiction Club

ימי א' בשעה 20:00 בפקולטה לחקלאות ברחובות, חדר 2, בבניין ליד הבריכה. הפעילויות ללא תשלום.  
 17.6 – המשך הקרנת המיני-סדרה "מדריך הטרמפיסט לגלקסיה"  
 24.6 – הקרנת פרקים נבחרים מהסדרה "ננס אדום"  
תא אנימה - ימי ג' בשעה 20:00 (אותו מקום): המשך הקרנת הסדרה "סמוראי 7"  
 מידע נוסף ניתן לקבל באתר התא (<http://sfir.tk/>) או בדוא"ל [sfir42@yahoo.com](mailto:sfir42@yahoo.com).

More Society information is available (in Hebrew) at the Society's site: <http://www.sf-f.org.il>

## Letter to the Editor

Hi Aharon,

It was fun reading the book review of Heinlein's *Have Space Suit – Will Travel* in the March *CyberCozen*. I read it back in the 70's. Never thought that it actually pre-dated actual manned space flight/walks and of course moon landings. Thanks for the extra insight. Your explanations were detailed and thorough.

I'm afraid the review of *Red Thunder* by John Varley threw me. You also presented lots of details, but repeated how you enjoyed it and found it humorous, and never gave any examples....

In the May issue, all three reviews were interesting. I especially like the one about the *Robot Stories* DVD.

I prefer the split column pages rather than having lines run across the page (like in March's issue).

Keep up the good work, **Leybl Botwinik**

Leybl –

I usually use split columns unless I have several quotes from the book. When I quote, I indent the quote, and then I feel that it's confusing to use split columns.

The March issue could not use split-columns because they make the item longer. I hardly had room for both reviews as it was – I had to cut both of them because I wanted both reviews in one issue. This is because *Red Thunder* was like a Heinlein juvenile, so I wanted them together.

Thanks for your comments. It's nice to know people read *CyberCozen*.

**Aharon**

**In Memoriam**

**Miriam (Marie) Bursten Ben-Loulou**

Miriam was one of the earliest members of the Rehovot Science Fiction Club and one of the earliest contributors to *CyberCozen*, starting from the first full year (1990), and ending only last year with limericks in the June 2006 issue.

Raised in Texas, she made aliya, lived for a while on a kibbutz, eventually married, and settled in Rehovot. She used to come to the Rehovot Science Fiction Club meetings with her father, Abe Bursten, who died in 1994. (Abe was our oldest member: he started reading sf in 1928, before any of the rest of us were even born.)

Miriam died recently after a years-long illness.

In Miriam's honor, the next many issues of *CyberCozen* will each carry something written or drawn (she was an imaginative artist) by Miriam Ben-Loulou, with the date of issue in which it originally appeared.

**Elana Rein Remembers Miriam Ben-Loulou**

What can I say about Miriam Ben-Loulou? I met her at the Rehovot Science Fiction Club. The more I discovered about her, the more fascinating she became. She could and did draw beautifully; an unusually talented lady. She could write poetry and at the same time was very down to earth. She lent me some of her sci-fi books, introduced me to new authors as I did to her as well. I would always pick her up to go with me to meetings with great pleasure since it was such a pleasure just being with her. She was also great with her mom. She was always an optimist; when she became ill, she would always joke about it and write great e-mails that kept us up to date.

After I moved from Rehovot, we lost touch mostly but on the rare occasions when I did get there, I would stop at the playground near her house, we would meet there and she would see my kids playing and speak with them as well. We even met once in the mall; I called so she could see my younger son since she had not met him and she right away made the effort and came. Even when she was ill, she came to the playground to speak with us; that was the last time I saw her.

She was so happy when her grandson was born; it was such a pleasure to share her joy and pictures with her. She will be dearly missed by all those who had the good fortune to know her.

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**INTERPLANETARY CUISINE**

(From *CyberCozen*, March 1990)

By Miriam Ben-Loulou (Artwork by Miriam Ben-Loulou)

For those of you planning interplanetary trips this year, the following information on cuisine may be of interest. For the traditional minded we

suggest any of the planets with a Medieval society. There you will commonly find such old time favorites as freshly caught hare and venison, as well as tasty ale and wine. We assure you that multiple suns or

moons do not affect taste or nutritive value.

For the more adventurous palate there is a wide choice. We suggest you avoid the colony on Luna where algae are used to produce artificial veal and coffee (Isaac Asimov, *The Gods Themselves*), as the foods have a disagreeable taste for anyone used to the original. At Satcon Station (Barney Cohen and Jim Baen, *The Taking of Satcon Station*) you will enjoy real fruits and vegetables, as well as protease bread, protease sausages, and fried protease clams. (**Ed. note:** Kasher?) Stewed or steamed seaweed, seaweed slaw, and Orion fried potatoes are also available if you decide to dine there while completing arrangements for transportation to other worlds.

If you are planning to visit Heorot (Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle, and Steven Barnes, *The Legacy of Heorot*), you may have your choice of a variety of Heorot-grown earth foods, except for sea or fresh water animals. However, fish lovers will enjoy the native river dwellers called Samlon. (**Ed. note:** what about fried grendl? roast grendl? baked grendl?) Jabbul (Robert A. Heinlein, *Citizen of the Galaxy*) offers an excellent sunberry crush, but beware of pickpockets and intrigue. Ballybran (Anne McCaffrey, *Crystal Singer*) offers luxuries imported from the member worlds of the Federated Sentient Planets: fried steakbean, lemon-yellow cheese, Yarran beer, pepper fruit (thin, long furry fingers), and spicfish. Unfortunately this world is off limits to the casual visitor. If you are interested in a prolonged stay you must have perfect pitch and be willing to become a permanent resident.

The planet Orthe (Mary Gentle, *Golden Witchbreed*) has been declared a limited access world, but hopefully will soon begin to export such delicacies as arniac herb tea, lizardbread (Rashaku), roast wirazu (herbivore lizard beasts), and bird's wing bush berries.



If you enjoy the exotic, the world of Karres (James H. Schmitz, *The Witches of Karres*) is an obvious choice. They offer corn-seed coffee, swan-hawk eggs, and roasted Bollim liver. Their green Lepti liquor and Wintenberry jellies are export items. Witchcraft adds that extra tang.

Last but not least is Xanth (Piers Anthony, *A Spell for Chameleon, and The Source of Magic*). A typical menu includes cressmato sandwiches, wing cow cheese, broiled dragon steak with hot sauce, raisin bread from breadfruit trees, and for dessert the eye of a smilk, or the more tasty, richer -- but naturally more calorific -- eye of a scream bird.

*Bon Apetit!*

**Editor's note:** Beware of balloon travel in the Durdane country-side (Jack Vance, *The Faceless Man*, also known as *The Anome*): even the wealthiest will be served meals such as (1) tea, slabs of fruit jelly, buns and meat-sticks, 2) cheese, wine and biscuits, or (3) preserved fruit. Bill Silverman counters that if you take the balloon to Maschein the miserable fare on the way will be more than compensated for by the universe's finest gourmet meal, the traditional Feast of Forty-Five Dishes, designed by a gastronome four thousand years ago

(described by Jack Vance, *The Brave Free Men*). "Texture against texture, aroma contrasting with flavor, the color and placement of each morsel to the ancient stipulation upon the ritually

correct bowl, plate or board." Musical accompaniment to the meal is on the gastaing, khitan, or even the darabence, played by the finest druithines.

## And Then There Was the Word

Sidney Berger

Professor, Communications

A person can study a foreign language for years, get the grammar down perfectly, and acquire an enormous vocabulary. But without a grasp of the language's idioms, that person could be lost in a conversation.

Idioms are generally phrases that have a single meaning, which often cannot be interpreted from the individual words. To 'look' means to see something. 'Up' is a direction. But to 'look something up' means to find it in an alphabetical, numerical, or other list. If you ask non-native-English speakers to "look it up", if they don't know the idiom, they won't know what you are asking them to do.

English has scads of idioms. Try explaining to a foreign guest the meaning of this sentence: "I have a bone to pick with you." Or "She's fed up with all the tests she has to take." This last sentence has two idioms: 'fed up' and 'take tests.' What are you eating? Where do you take tests? Do you take them to your room? Do you take them to heart? Do you do a double take when you take them — wherever you take them to? When you take them, do you feel as if you have been taken for a ride? If you take them too often, do you need to take ten? If you are a boxer, do you take a dive? Or are they so common that you take them for granted? If you film them, do you get them on the first take? Of if you're corrupt, are you on the take, or do you take someone to the cleaner's? Note that one cannot figure out what these idioms mean by looking up the individual words in a dictionary.

Some words have whole clusters of idioms around them, as this example shows.

Let's just look at a few idioms.

As I said, usually an idiom must simply be understood to be understood. That is, one must know what the idiom means irrespective of the meaning of its individual words. Sometimes one can figure out what the idiom means without such specialized knowledge. For instance, "Every time he opens his mouth he shoots himself in the foot." To open your mouth, obviously, implies to speak. To shoot yourself in the foot means to do something that hurts you. The point is that even if one can sort of figure out what the idiom means, that understanding will not come from looking at the words literally.

In the old style of printing, using metal type, printers would pick up each piece of type, usually bearing one character, and put it into a composing stick — a holder that allows the printer to set the type in proper order. Each piece of type is called a 'sort.' If a printer is going along setting type and runs out of a particular letter (imagine trying to set the word 'word' and being out of 'w's), the printer is out of sorts. Of course, the idiom means grumpy, angry, or upset. And you can see why she would be.

'To start from scratch' means to start at the beginning, often with no precedent or anything to go by. The term comes from sports: the scratch was the starting line — a line scratched in the dirt. So someone starting from scratch begins from point zero, with no progress made at all. The phrase also implies that at the scratch point there is no momentum other than the potential of the racer (intelligence, enthusiasm, determination, and so forth). This idiom does not seem to be related to 'Mr. Scratch'

(meaning the Devil) or 'out of scratch' (out of money). action of the snail, who withdraws sharply when its "horns" are touched.

If you are expressing your anger to someone, the other person might say, "Pull in your horns." This idiom goes back at least six centuries, and has been traced to the years. I know a little bit about words because I use them all the time. A column on idioms could go on for

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### Quote of the Month:

"Here we are concerned to show you that ... in ... very important clinical areas ..., counsellors get their advice very seriously wrong.... Young German men ..., despite not having many sexual partners or injecting drugs, were diagnosed as HIV positive at a public clinic. They were deeply shocked, of course, and attended the post-test counselling. The counsellor told them that the test has a very low false-positive rate, about 1/20,000 – so they had a 99.99995% chance, virtually a certainty, of having the disease. A significant proportion of these young men then attempted to commit suicide, and a few succeeded. This was a very serious matter, all the more so in that the counsellors were misinterpreting the measurement.

"There is another measurement, an important source of data: 'How many men in this low-prevalence group actually *had* the disease?' About 1/20,000. About the same rate as the false-positive, note. So the question was not, 'How likely is the test to have failed to be correct, this time, for you, Hans?' as the counsellor believed. It was much more 'Now let us think, Hans; are you the 1/20,000 of your peers who has the disease, or are you the 1/20,000 false-positive? I would say, as you stand before me, that you have about a 50% chance either way.' And that would have made a great difference to what these men then did....

"It seems ludicrous that our chance of having a disease should be related to how many other people have it: It's obvious, isn't it, that it's just how accurate the test is? Not on your life....

"So the test result, alone, is not very informative (although the counsellors apparently think it is totally informative)."

From *Stop Working and Start Thinking* by Jack Cohen and Graham Medley, section 8.2

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