

# Purrsonal Mewsings #93



*Purrsonal Mewsings*, formerly *Feline Journal* and *Feline Mewsings* is a personalzine by R-Laurraine Tutihasi, PO Box 5323, Oracle, AZ 85623-5323; 520-275-6511, Laurraine@mac.com, <http://www.weasner.com/>. I hope to publish every twelve weeks or so.

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## **PURRSONAL MEWSINGS**

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#93

December 2024

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Photos—In Kritter Korner, photo of Cato, by editor; others as described in text. In Astronomy section, photos by Mike Weasner except for photo of us taken by a friend. First photo in Tuscon report taken by Linda Addison, second by the editor.

Contributions of art, reviews, articles, fiction, letters, even poetry welcome. Publication not guaranteed, but all submissions will be given due consideration.

[  ] if this box is checked, I need to hear from you if you wish to stay on my mailing list.

If you are reading this electronically and would prefer to receive a printed version, please let me know. Or vice versa.

## \* Editorial / Introduction

This issue is late for a couple of reasons. My life since my last issue has been busier than usual. In October we had a couple of get-togethers with alumni from Mike's alma mater, Indiana University. This included an outing to Kitt Peak astronomical observatory that took up most of a day. I had plans to attend two conventions in November. Unfortunately I managed to injure my back at the first one and never made it to the second one. I thought I might get over the injury on my own but finally ended up going to see my doctor, who ended up of not much help at all. The fact that he left town for a month following my appointment without making any arrangements for a substitute only made things worse. At least he had recommended physical therapy, and I ended up doing that when my back kept getting worse rather than better. As I write this in late December, I'm still undergoing physical therapy. My back is better but still pretty far from back to normal. My energy levels are still lower than normal, and I don't have my normal flexibility.

Also in November and December, my dentist put in a new implant to replace a tooth that had worn down too far to support a crown.

Weather-wise we had a fairly good monsoon season, but it has been pretty dry since with little rain. We've had occasional cold spells but nothing really extreme. The skies have been clearer than during monsoon.

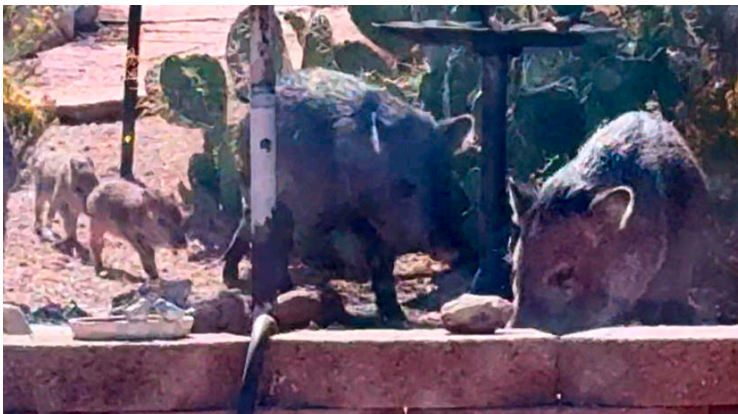
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## \* Kritter Korner

My injury has kept me from taking Cato for walks.

The weather has mostly been too cool for reptiles, but we've seen other animals. Plus there's always Cato (see right).

Previously we saw javelina mostly during the night, their photos captured by the camera trap. Lately they've become bolder and started appearing during broad daylight. Below is a clip from a video Mike managed to take from the pet room window. Note the two babies.



Mike also lucked out with a turkey vulture before they left for warmer climes .



Our camera trap also managed to get good photos of a Cooper's hawk in flight and a White-crowned Sparrow on a branch.



\* \* \*

## \* Astronomy

This was an active period for astronomy. For starters we had the trip up to Kitt Peak, which is a couple hours' drive southwest of us. We live northeast of Tucson, and Kitt Peak is southwest of Tucson.



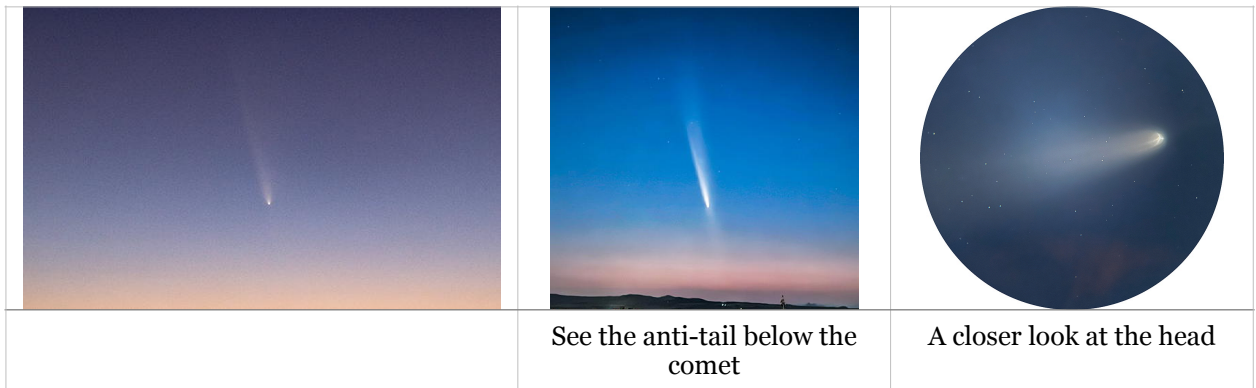
The observatory we observe from is the WIYN Observatory. The letters in its name stand for the University of Wisconsin, Indiana University, Yale, and the NOAO. Although we are treated during our visits with visual astronomy, the telescope is usually used for instrumental work. The support personnel who work there find our visits as much of a treat for them as for us.

Below are a few of the things we looked at that night. The photos are handheld iPhone pix that were taken at the eyepiece of the 3.5 meter telescope.



October was also busy for other sky phenomena, including Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS and more aurora sightings.

Here are three photos taken from Oracle of the comet over a few days.



When the aurorae appeared, they were in the sky for a long time and kept changing. Photos below were taken using an iPhone during the October solar storm.



Lastly here is a nice photo of Jupiter and its four Galilean moons taken recently using an iPhone looking through an eyepiece of a 12” telescope.



\* \* \*

**\* From Where I Sit:** My Opinions, Views, Etc. about Books, Plays, Movies, etc.

*If on a Winter's Night a Traveler*, adapted by John Capeci from a book by Italo Calvino and presented at the Rogue Theatre in Tucson.

I've never seen a play like this one before. The protagonist is a book reader. He starts



reading a book. Just as he's getting into it, he finds blank pages. He returns the book to the store and starts again. However, this seem to be an entirely different book; and it also stops at blank pages. The play continues like this with the reader looking for a complete version of the book.

One reviewer thinks that Calvino was celebrating the reader as opposed to the writer. Another reviewer found the book impossible to read; it seemed disjointed. I don't have any intention of trying to read the book. The adaptation, however, is quite entertaining. The reader travels from place to place looking for the author.

#

***The Day of the Jackal***, a TV series seen on the Peacock streaming service.

I have to admit that I probably would not have watched this series if not for star Eddie Redmayne, whom I've admired for a while. I had no expectations; this is not my usual fare. However Redmayne's performance made this a video equivalent of a page turner for me. He stars as a high-paid assassin for hire. He's also a master of disguise. The antagonist is an MI6 agent. There's a lot of tension. I felt strange rooting for an assassin, but Redmayne is irresistible. In most other movies, the MI6 agent would have been the hero. If all the episodes had been available when I started watching, I would have watched straight through. They were not, however, so I watched other things until I came back to it.

This show is not for the squeamish. There's blood and quite a bit of violence. Otherwise I highly recommend it. Some critics felt that background information about the main characters was distracting, but I felt it added to the verisimilitude.

\* \* \*

## \* ***Forbidden Planet: Legacy* by Mike Weasner**

Like many *Purrsonal Mewsings* readers, for many decades I have wished to see a sequel to *Forbidden Planet*. Hollywood has considered a sequel movie for many years. A famous Hollywood science fiction and screenwriter has been working on a concept for many years. In recent years I have done a "thought exercise" to develop a story concept of my own. But, to paraphrase a line in another movie, the actual probability of seeing my sequel concept come to life as a real Hollywood movie is "mathematically pretty fractional" (*The Invisible Boy*). Consequently, Laurraine suggested that I write an article for *Purrsonal Mewsings* that discusses my interpretation of what really happened in *Forbidden Planet*. (Note: if that Hollywood writer would like to learn more about my concept, he can contact me.)

### **Forbidden Planet: Legacy**

The Krell are back and they are pissed!

My sequel concept uses as a plot device that Dr. Edward Morbius was wrong when he said that all the Krell died off in a single night 200,000 years earlier. Some members of the Krell race were off planet when their planet was destroyed. Fifty years after Altair IV was destroyed, the Krell are back and they are pissed. In the sequel, as in the first movie, we never see the Krell. The threat to the Earth by the Krell leads to the main

story of what really happened on Altair IV that resulted in the planet's destruction. (My sequel concept also connects some events in *The Invisible Boy* movie to *Forbidden Planet*. Dr. Greenhill was a Time Traveler from the 20th Century who brought Robby the Robot back from the future. Robby saves a little boy and goes on to a successful career in Hollywood.)

*Forbidden Planet* leads the viewer to believe that Dr. Edward Morbius was the cause of the troubles on Altair IV. However, another interpretation is possible and in fact, highly likely.

In *Forbidden Planet* we learn that Dr. Morbius took the Krell "Brain Boost". This allowed him to learn a lot about the Krell race, culture, and technology. At the end of the movie, Dr. Morbius, Altaira (Morbius's daughter), and Commander John Adams are in the Krell lab on Altair IV. The Krell "monster from the Id" is coming in. Dr. Morbius is defying his daughter, Altaira, who wants to leave Altair IV with Commander John Adams. Dr. Morbius says, "I must be guilty" and "My evil self is at that door, and I have no power to stop it." Although he tries, he is unable to stop the monster. Altaira looks on at the futile attempt and the suffering of her father. Then the monster goes away for some reason. Dr. Morbius says to Commander Adams, "The switch, throw it." Adams pushes the switch down. Morbius says, "In 24 hours you must be hundred million miles out in space." He then dies. The planet Altair IV is destroyed.

So, what really happened on Altair IV?

The Krell "Brain Boost" that Dr. Morbius had taken did expand his intellect. But that did not give him the power to eliminate all "physical instrumentality", as the Krell, who were native to Altair IV, had accomplished. Altaira was conceived and born on the planet and was therefore influenced by the magnetic and electrical fields of the planet, like the native Krell had been. And just like the Krell, being born on Altair IV gave her some incredible mental powers. As Dr. Morbius explains it, his wife died of "natural causes" a few months after the *Bellerophon* colonists were killed. Unsaid was that she died giving birth to Altaira. While still in the womb, their daughter sensed their special love for Altair IV and wanted to protect them from the *Bellerophon* colonists who wanted to leave Altair IV. Altaira's "monster from the Id" killed the colonists and destroyed the *Bellerophon*, albeit unconsciously. For the next 19 years there were no more problems. Altaira probably did take the Krell "brain boost" as a child, although her father would have told her to stay out of the Krell laboratory. Altaira could control her animal friends who lived by her home on Altair IV, although she lost that ability when she fell in love with Commander John Adams. Altaira had never known any other human beings except for her father until the spaceship from the Earth arrived on Altair IV.

The problems return after Altaira takes exception to being yelled at by Commander Adams for kissing Lieutenant Farman. She tells her father that she does not like the Commander and hopes she doesn't have to see him again. Quickly though, Altaira begins to fall in love with Adams. The tiger senses a threatening change in Altaira and starts to attack her. Adams kills the tiger. Altaira initially wanted Adams to stay on the

planet with her and her father, but Adams wanted to return to the Earth. When Commander Adams has a disagreement with Dr. Morbius about passing the Krell technology to Earth, Altaira unconsciously attacks the ship. Later, to strand herself, her father, Adams, and Robby, all of whom she dearly loved, on the planet, Altaira uses her inherent power and attempts to kill, again unconsciously, the entire crew and destroy the United Planets Cruiser C-57D. During this attack, Altaira wakes up screaming. Her dream was causing the attack that ended when she woke up.

In defiance of her father's wishes, she eventually decides to leave the planet with Adams and Robby. To do that, again unconsciously, she must kill her father who would not allow her to leave with Adams. Another attack begins at the Morbius home where Dr. Morbius is the unconscious target. In the Krell laboratory, with the monster attacking, Commander Adams erroneously tells Dr. Morbius that his subconscious is responsible for the monster. Dr. Morbius mistakenly agrees that he is the cause of the deaths of the Bellerophon party and members of the crew of the cruiser. Even worse, now his daughter wants to leave him. Morbius suffers a heart attack from this terrible realization. But Morbius can't stop the attack since he is not responsible for it. When Morbius collapses, Altaira unconsciously realizes she has won, and the monster goes away. As Morbius is dying, he sets in motion the destruction of the planet. Adams, Altaira, Robby, and the surviving members of the crew of United Planets Cruiser C-57D escape the planet in time. Truly the last act of a loving father.

Altaira, not her father, although he had received the Krell "Brain Boost", was the cause of the deaths on Altair IV and the ultimate destruction of the planet. Without her, the tragedy of the *Forbidden Planet* would not have occurred.

In my concept for *Forbidden Planet: Legacy*, the sequel to *Forbidden Planet*, these facts would have been revealed as part of determining how to respond to the impending attack on the Earth by the surviving Krell.

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## \* **Tuscon 2023**

After lunch on Friday, 10 November 2023, I finished last-minute packing and left for a Ramada Inn on Broadway not too far east of Swan in Tucson. This was about an hour's drive for me. I initially drove right past the hotel and had to make a u-turn. The first person I saw was Bruce Davis, whom I had met at my previous convention; he checked in right after me. I was in a suite on the ground floor—133. After putting stuff more less in their places, I registered for the convention. The registration line was very slow, except mine went quickly because of being preregistered. While I was in line, I ran into Marty Massoglia, whom I had originally met back in the 1980s. I learned that he and Alice had split up—about a year previous. David Lee Summers, a friend we have in common, hadn't known about the divorce either. I went through the small dealers room and art show. I saw part of a presentation about OSIRIS-REX; but I got there late, the

room was crowded, and there were no new revelations; so I left. Then I decided to grab some dinner.

It was before 18:00 when I went into the restaurant, but service was abysmally slow. I sat with a couple from Mesa. The restaurant didn't have enough staff. I had a cheeseburger without a bun with fruit. As I was leaving my table, I saw Jim and Karen Doty with two other people. They were still waiting for their food and invited me to join them. I had one really great conversation with one of their friends, poet Linda Addison (see photo to right).



We decided to check out the “Meet the Guests” panel already underway. I saw David Brin leaning against a wall, so I went to say hello. The panel was very different from what we had expected, as much time was spent introducing the convention committee. Afterward I got caught up with John Viril, a very interesting person to talk to. Then Robert Clayton (from the Oro Valley sf book club) came along. While we were talking, Karen came looking for people to join her and her husband. Jim was drinking wine as usual. I just had iced tea. Robert kindly paid for all of us. Robert left early, as he was commuting from home. Later John joined just for the conversation. After we broke up, John and I continued talking. I thought I got back to my room relatively early, but I used up much time unpacking and didn't have much time to read e-mail. I did at least go over the con schedule and fill out my hotel rating spreadsheet. The room is rather cold; there's not much evidence that fiddling with the thermostat does much good; I was glad I had brought a nightshirt. I got to bed about 00:15.

As frequently happens on the first night at a hotel, I could have slept better. I got to breakfast about 07:30 and ate with Bruce Davis and a couple of others.

Afterward I joined the Dotys for conversation. Then I returned to my room and read a bunch of e-mail. About 11:30 I left my room to hear David Brin. While I was waiting for the Ballroom to open, I took some photos, including one with Linda Addison.

The David Brin talk was titled “An Hour with Author Guest of Honor—David Brin”. He mostly rambled until near the end, when there was a recap of his bibliography.

I had no time for lunch. Instead I attended “Incorporating History in Your Writing”. Panellists took the title two different ways. Jim Doty inserts actual history into his writing. Others (Eric T. Knight and Jessica Feinberg) insert something resembling real history into their fiction.

Then I attended “The Works and Worlds of Neil Gaiman” with Jen Senft, Madame Askew, Tanya Gouchenour, and Wendy Trakes. Each found him in a different way. I found him through *Neverwhere*. I have it on videotape, but our VCRs are incompatible with our new TV sets.

After that I attended a video presentation of “The Crystal Egg” by H. G. Wells. The presenter was Gloria McMillan, who is part of a group that make these shows.

Later I attended “Human Augmentation and AI and the Fermi Paradox” presented by David Brin.

Just before dinner I saw Jan Strasser, whom I had met through the Oro Valley SF book club, in the hotel restaurant and sat down to catch up with her. She had been talking with John Viril, who is in her writing group; he left in a huff rather than trying to join in.

About 18:30 the Dotys (see photo to right) showed up for dinner; we had previously agreed to meet. I had the burger with bacon, and this one was quite tasty. For one thing it was still hot when I got it. The conversation covered much territory.

After dinner I returned to my room, which was still pretty cold, and caught up with reading e-mail. I got to bed about 22:30.



On Sunday I got down to breakfast about 07:30 and joined author Ross Lampert. We were joined by Frankie and a con committee member.

Afterward I checked out and took my suitcase out to the car.

Then I attended “Why Do the Soft Sciences Never Advance in Science Fiction?” with Bruce Davis, Ross Lampert, William Herr, KJ Kabza, and Jill Knowles. The topic was tossed around.

I attended “Hot Enough for You?” by Melanie Lenart about climate change. I told her about the recent *Nova* series titled “Ancient Earth”, which gives an excellent overview of the topic.

I skipped lunch.

My next panel was “Giving Good Fan Service” with Beth Dolgner, Curt Booth, David Brin, and Bob Nelson. There was some disagreement with the meaning of the panel title. David talked about his efforts to increase the sf reading population.

“Why Are *Star Wars* Fans So Toxic and What Can We Do?” with David Brin, Jay Smith, Shelby McBride, SJ Schauer, and Chaz Kemp was my next panel. The title didn’t make much sense, as all but one panel member were *Star Wars* fans. They didn’t seem particularly toxic. David felt like an outsider. He pointed out that *Star Wars* was not science fiction.

“Can Androids Dream of Electronic Residuals? Will AI Change the Way Creators Get Paid?” with Bruce Wiley, Jim Doty, and Jenni Lee Simner was the last panel I attended. There was speculation about changes coming in the near future.

I left shortly after that after saying goodbye to a few friends. I got home before dark, feeling really tired.

\* \* \*

## \* Letters to the Editor

The text of letters received will be in brown. My replies to the letters will be enclosed in double parentheses and will be in black. I will also routinely make editorial corrections in punctuation, spelling, and the like. I use Oxford standards of spelling and punctuation.

**Jeanne Mealy, jmealy-in-mn at comcast dot net**

**6 September 2024**

Thanks for PW #91. Cute quail on the cover.

I'm impressed with how much you caught up on. Thanks for sharing the details. I don't envy going through all of that.

Good going with Cato! He just took to the leash? I'm jealous. I'd love to have a cat I could take on a leash.

((The first few times I put the leash on Cato, he just plopped down on the ground. I had to try this several times before he agreed to walk. Training a cat requires patience. If a cat wants to go out, you need to convince it that the only way to do this is on a leash.))

Cool eclipse photos.

Thanks for the opinions and reviews. *ESPionage* sounds good. I'm glad you were able to tell the actress how much you liked *An Iliad*.

Loved hearing about the Down Under trip. Again, jealous... (Business Class!) Many experiences, most that required patience (maybe more than I have) and physical endurance. You ate very well most of the time. What a shame your college friend Marcia wasn't able to get around very well. You were patient and flexible when she wanted/needed to change plans.

((Long flights are impossible if you can't afford business or first class. I did it once long ago in regular class, and it was terrible.))

What did you see in the Australian exhibit other than the tigers? Very good picture of the Sydney skyline from the Taronga Zoo.

((The tigers weren't part of the Australia exhibit. That part featured the usual suspects, such as kangaroos and koalas.))

It sounds like you took the harbour cruise to have lunch. Wish I could have switched places with you -- I love scenery even though I've been there before.

((The harbour cruise was part of the astronomy trip.))

Where is Coonabarabran? Were you able to go into the observatory? The radio telescope in Parkes is huge!

((Coonabarabran is about 225 miles northwest of Sydney.))

I sympathize with you about enduring the weekend crowds at the Lookout at Scenic Point. Sorry to hear that the Three Sisters area is now so commercialized.

What was King's Park?

((King's Park is a fairly large park in Perth. It has gardens and lawns and larger wilder landscapes. It also features places for band concerts, and there are refreshment and information stands.))

You mention going to a trivia game, but not what it was about or how you did.

((I went to three, if I remember correctly, trivia games. Each one was a bit different. Questions varied widely from geography to Australia-centric questions.))

Very good that you could eat with different people on the cruise.

Scary that you couldn't reach Marcia. I'm relieved that Elise and Tim helped locate her and figured out the technical issue.

Nice eclipse picture on page 10! Were you not as affected as the first time you saw an eclipse because you knew what to expect?

((For sure my first total eclipse experience stands out, probably because I had no expectations.))

Who are Mittens and Sylvester? I've never heard of these cats.

((They are both cats that had Facebook pages. I had followed Mittens for a while, but I think one must be in their city for a while to see them. Someone I talked to on the trip recommended looking for Sylvester instead, but we were nowhere near his part of the city.))

Uh, oh about the stairs without railings at the apartment. I'm glad you could afford to go elsewhere.

That elevated walkway at Kings Park looks VERY nice.

Much sympathy for having asthma and allergy problems.

Thanks for describing the art gallery and museum you visited. How did you find out about them? Very cool that you saw a great egret and black swans.

((I learned about the museums on the Internet. Whenever I expect to be in a city, I search for sightseeing information there.))

How large was the underground military station? Did the tour leaders not have information ahead of time about whether an area would have steps?

((It seems like we walked a few miles underground. Marcia found the tour of Rottnest Island for us. There may have been information online about the military station. I didn't research it.))

Poor little quokkas, eating unhealthy food. What is the Settlement? What else did you see at the Perth Zoo?

((The quokkas had the unhealthy food at the Settlement on Rottnest Island. They like the things at the bakery, just like people do. The one living in the wild are fine.

((The zoo had the usual mix of animals, plus quokkas. It's a relatively small zoo, and much of it was under construction.))

The train dining car sounds quite impressive.

What was the trivia contest about? Congrats on winning a mug.

Thanks for the map on page 18. How was the tour of Paddy Hannan's Ounce of Luck? WHAT was it?

((That is basically the mine, which is a big hole in the ground, where work continues all day and night. There is also a museum nearby.))

How was the view from Overlook Mountain? I hope it wasn't cloudy and foggy like the lower part of the area.

((We couldn't see anything from the overlook because of the rain and fog.))

That picture of you with the drag queen is hilarious. You both looked amused. Did you like the show?

((The drag queen show was my favourite part of the train ride.))

Tell us more about the kangaroo sighting at breakfast.

((I lucked out by having breakfast at just the right time as we passed them outside the train window. I heard others had seen them at other times. It's a luck of the draw thing. Someone has to be looking out at the right time.))

I was amused that you were impressed by the cab that was a Lexus and I was impressed that you saw a double rainbow.



Very nice that you met up with Aussie fans for supper. I know Bruce and Alan and possibly Terry Morris.

And you went to the Melbourne Zoo with LynC and Leigh Edmonds! You saw a good variety of animals.

I'm glad you were able to get around all right in Auckland. Poor Marcia. This was not a good trip for her. And the bad weather sure added an element of tension for you. It sounded like the rain was quite heavy.

((The rain was off and on heavy.))

I was really looking forward to sightseeing during the 2020 New Zealand worldcon. \*sigh\*

((Jean's trip to New Zealand was cancelled by COVID.))

OK, so you went to the Waiomo Caves to see the glow worms. What did you think of the tour?

((It was pretty interesting. The glowworms hang from the ceiling. I was disappointed that we couldn't take photos.))

Very nice of the bus driver to provide a golf cart for Marcia so she could see the Hobbiton area. The picture on page 23 doesn't look real, though I know it is. I'm not a big *Lord of the Rings* fan. I enjoyed the movies. And hey, you got a free pint AND another souvenir mug! Your luggage must have been heavy.

What was the traditional Maori entertainment that was similar to what you'd seen before?

((I first saw the Maori dance at the museum we visited in the northern part of New Zealand. Marcia didn't get to see that one due to problems getting up the hill. It's basically a dance to greet visitors.))

The scenery on the way to Wellington sounds wonderful. \*envy\* Who picked the Travelodge Hotel in Wellington? Oh, my, your problems in the hotel the day you left sound awful. I'm so glad you got home all right. I liked the website summary and the photos. SO MANY GOOD PHOTOS! You got a picture of a tiger roaring, ooh.

((The Travelodge Hotel was part of the Coach tour of New Zealand.))

I liked Lucy's poem about Cato and the lizard. She sure knows cats.

Closing Remarks: I heard that Phoenix had 100 days of 100 degrees or more (and the total number of days may be even more now). I hope that your area is still tolerable.

((We had very few days of 100 degrees or more, and it never got much hotter than that.))

#

**Jeanne Mealy, jmealy-in-mn at comcast dot net**

**13 October 2024**

Thanks for #92. I'll bet a lot of people reacted to that snake picture.

Good that it's been cooler. And I envy you being able to take Cato on walks.

Snakes, why'd it have to be snakes? And a coyote!

Thanks to both of you for the photos. What am I seeing in the first rocket launch -- the big light part?

((That large plume is the rocket exhaust being lit up by the setting sun.))

Kathy, Paul, John, and I tried to see the comet last night. We sort of saw it. Lots of light pollution here, and clouds. We will try again. Have you and Mike seen it?

((I saw it a few times through binoculars and once with the naked eye. Mike saw it many times.))

What a shame. *The Shrink Next Door* was about a manipulative psychiatrist. I'm a little surprised you were able to finish watching it.

((I didn't watch it continuously. I watched an episode every week or two until I got close to the end, when I went through two or three episodes over the course of a day or two. I studied psychology in college, so it was fascinating as well as horrifying to me.))

I did notice the gluten-free cookie option at Doubletree at Minicon this spring. Did you like the ones you tried? About time they thought of offering them. I have to read your zine carefully. I thought CoKoCon was this year at first.

((I've had the gluten free cookies at the Doubletree a couple of times now. They are tasty.))

Nice that you and Bruce Davis got along so well. "What Have Our GoHs Been Up To" sounds quite interesting.

Why were there dachshunds at the ice cream social?

((I don't know about the Midwest, but I see many dogs and cats at cons out here. So they were just a couple of the animal attendees at the convention.))

How cool to get a 'hi' from Lloyd Penney in your zine. I enjoyed spending time with Lloyd and Yvonne at the Buffalo NASFiC and hope we can meet up in Montreal in a few years -- unless they come to Seattle next year!

((I had hoped to see them at Loscon this year, but that was not to be.))

You ARE busy!

#

**Lloyd Penney, Penney at bell dot net**

**24 October 2024**

Thank you for *Purrsonal Mewsings* 92! There's a beautiful snake curled up in the bricks on the cover.

I've handled a few snakes over the years, and if you are calm, so are they. The only way I get as much done as I do is a massive list(s) that I keep. I list responsibilities, upcoming events, weekend plans, etc. on a calendar as well. Otherwise, I'd get nothing done. These lists help my rather faulty memory.

((I would not try to handle a rattlesnake or other poisonous animals.))

I haven't heard from Oprah Winfrey for a while, outside of supporting Kamala Harris for president. Now I see what she's been busy with. We noticed that on our cable service, OWN, the Oprah Winfrey Network, is not being carried any more. Has OWN gone under?

((As far as I can tell from a web search, OWN still exists. We never had it.))

CoKoCon sounded quite interesting, especially for its programming. It is hard to believe that we've just passed the 30th anniversary of the premiere of *Babylon 5*. One winter some time ago, we did some binging to watch the entire series, and we are thinking of doing that again this coming winter.

I used trust companies and credit unions for my banking when I lived in British Columbia. Here in Toronto there are some small credit unions, but the big banks are truly supreme.

Attendance for the NASFiC was just over 500 warm bodies, with more than 650 memberships sold.

((I briefly considered attending and bought a membership.))

That was then; but now we've recently returned from Niagara Falls, New York, and this year's World Fantasy Convention. We did enjoy ourselves, mostly because we knew this was not so much a con but a professional conference. We ran a table for *Amazing Stories*, sold some magazine back issues and current books, saw old friends, made some

new ones, and reunited with someone who used to buy dealers' tables from me about 30 years ago but who is now a published author. I haven't heard anything about attendance, but I have seen the list of this year's WFC Awards on File 770. I am sure more news will arise very soon.

And with that, I think I am done. We are still unpacking from WFC, and starting to pack for Loscon 50! Perhaps we will see you there? I hope so.

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**David Bratman, dbratman at earthlink dot net**

**5 November 2024**

I'm relieved that you enjoyed *The Skin of Our Teeth*. I went to a local production of it recently and did not care for it at all. The humour seemed laboured and the clever points overemphasized to the point that they were no longer clever. The actors tried hard but they were fighting against the material. I gave up and left after the first act. It's strange, because I've liked Wilder's other plays that I've seen, *Our Town* and *The Matchmaker*.

((I can't imagine what happened at the performance you saw. My high school did a creditable job. The only thing I can think is that the company you saw is not very good.))

Berni and I are big fans of Margaret & Kristoph's Renaissance/folk band Broceliande. We go to as many of their local concerts as we can get to; there's one coming up next month.

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**We Also Heard From:** Jeffrey Weasner

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**\* Closing Remarks**

With hope for this new year coming up, I close this issue.

See you all next time.

*Laurraïne*