

CHAT

MONTHLY NEWSZINE OF THE CHATTANOOGA SF ASSOCIATION
FREE TO MEMBERS OF CSFA; 25¢ TO FELLOW TRAVELERS

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"Somethin' UNIMAGINABLE happened! Imagine THET!"... L'il Abner

MEETING NEXT MONTH-SAME TIME, DIFFERENT PLACE....The Chattanooga Science Fiction Association met on Nov. 19 at U.T.C. Stanislaw Lem's Solaris was discussed, and the main attraction, the Star Trek blooper reel, was shown. Then, as an added treat, a trailer promo for Star Wars was shown. After the meeting, congrats went to member Tim Bolgeo whose son Jason Lawrence was born about a month ago. We had a crowd of 75 people, one of our largest attendances, and we hope many return for December's meeting. Next month's meeting will be 7:30 PM Saturday, Dec. 17, at the First Tennessee Bank in Brainard at the corner of Brainard and Germantown Rds. Due to exam week, the U.T.C. Student Center will be closed, so we moved back to our summer meeting place for this month. The book to be discussed is Destination: Universe by A. E. Van Vogt, rather than the previously announced Slan, since Slan is out of print. Instead of a movie, video tapes of the Space Shuttle test and the cartoon Bugs Bunny in Space will be on the program. Walden's should have the book, other stores might also. Mention the club when you ask for the book. To find the bank, out-of-towners from Knoxville, Cleveland, Atlanta should take I-24 west to the Belvoir Ave. exit, then North Terrace (parallels interstate) to Germantown. From Nashville, take Germantown Rd. exit (just past ridge cut). Go north on Germantown to reach bank. For questions: Mike Rogers, 266-0298. (NWL)

CHAT TO EXPAND....Starting next month, CHAT is expanding to two full pages (at least), one of which will be devoted to more diverse fannish aspects. We will carry things like book and movie reviews, essays, general correspondence, and even short fiction. We are interested in submissions, under the following guidelines: 1) Expect no payment; you will receive free issue of article's appearance, assuming you're not receiving CHAT already. 2) You will get a by-line. 3) You will stand a chance of getting edited, most likely for length (aim for $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{4}$ page typewritten copy as it appears here). All stories will be directed through a story editor. Conditions aside, be informed that WE NEED SUBMISSIONS. Send them to the masthead address or submit work at the meeting. Deadline is the meeting, unless other arrangements have been made. (DL)

CHATTACON UPDATE

3 PRO GUESTS THIS YEAR....ChattaCon3 will feature three pro guests this year in a departure from the usual relaxacon format. Guest of Honor will be A. E. (Slan) Van Vogt, with Arsen Darnay as M.C. and Perry Chapdelaine as a special pro guest. ChattaCon3 will be Jan. 6-8, 1978 at the Sheraton Downtown Hotel in Chattanooga. Membership, hucksters tables, and banquet tickets are \$ 5.00 a piece, respectively, thru Dec. 10, 1977. They will be \$ 7.00 after that date. To preregister, write to : Irvin Koch; c/o 835 Chattanooga Bank Bldg.; Chattanooga, Tn. 37402 (or see Irvin at the club meeting). (NWL)

VAN VOGT PREVIEW....Both A.E. Van Vogt and Perry Chapdelaine will have short fiction pieces in the ChattaCon 3 program book, Van Vogt's being previously unpublished. Van Vogt will give his GoH speech on Sat. afternoon, Jan. 7, and will also speak at the convention banquet that evening. (DL)

AUTHORS PARTY ANNOUNCED....Van Vogt, Chapdelaine and Darnay will attend the authors party in the con suite Friday night Jan. 6. There will be free beverage (punch provided by CHAT), and possibly readings by the authors. (DL)

ART SHOW SEEKS FAN ARTISTS....ChattaCon 3 is making a great effort to have a wide selection of fan artwork. In order to encourage displays from those unable to attend, the convention will pay return shipment via UPS (in original containers) on a limited amount of unsold material (up to 3 items, 4 square feet max, including mat framing). Artwork sent to ChattaCon 3 should not be priced above \$20 minimum bid; 15% commission to the con on all auction sales. Please note that if you attend, these guidelines do not apply, as you take your artwork with you. Multiple copy material should be sold at huckster tables (rather than the art show) where no commission is collected. Send all material to Artshow Director Dick Lynch, address on masthead. We will fill out all forms for non-attending artists. (Irvin Koch)

CHATTACON STORY CONTEST CANCELLED....Chairman Irvin Koch has announced cancellation of the ChattaCon 3 story contests due to lack of interest, with any late submissions to be entered in the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F) story contest concurrently open. The N3F contest judge is Jim Baen, former editor of Galaxy magazine, and current editor at Ace Books. Write to Irvin Koch (ChattaCon 3 address) for further details. (DL)

CHATTACON COMMITTEE TO MEET....The ChattaCon Committee will meet on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 10 AM for a planning session and a little work, at chairman Irvin Koch's home at 1623 White Oak Rd. Plans for the con will be finalized and signs will be made. Directions are as follows: From I-124 north-bound, take Manning St. exit. Turn right onto Manning, then left onto N. Market St./Dallas Rd. Bear left at top of hill by double storefront building (just past Chatt. City HS). Now, take 350° turn at the bottom of hill into driveway, or 250° onto Oxford and park. Look for Irvin's orange Vega. If all else fails, call 267-2000 and ask for directions. (NWL)

NEW SF MAGAZINES ANNOUNCED....Destinies, edited by Jim Baen, will appear this summer. Published by Ace Books, it will use the format of paperbacks (i.e. size, binding, etc.). Also, Roger Elwood will edit Inspiration, a new magazine that will supposedly merge SF and religion(!?). Anyway, the publisher will be Peterson Publications, the people who bring you Hot Rod, Motor Trend, Teen, and Skin Diver magazines; the first issue is due in January. In a related story, we understand Cosmos magazine has suspended publication, at least temporarily. One hopes for a speedy revival for it. (DL)

DUNGEONMASTERS MAY UNITE....Due to the increasing popularity of the fantasy game Dungeons and Dragons (D&D), the local dungeonmasters are interested in forming a separate group to meet at a different time than the SF club. Interested adventurers and people who wish to become acquainted with D&D should attend December's meeting and see Rich Morehouse afterwards. (NWL)

NEW NASA ADMINISTRATOR....Dr. Robert A. Frosch is the new NASA administrator, having been confirmed by the Senate in August. He succeeds Dr. James Fletcher. Frosch had been associated with Wood's Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts prior to joining NASA. (DL)

NEW PLANET(?) DISCOVERED....A 400 mile diameter 'mini-planet' has been discovered between Saturn and Uranus. So far, this discovery has created more puzzles than it has solved. Larger than any asteroid but smaller than any known planet (and several planetary satellites, including the moon), it messes up Bode's Law (a predictor of planetary distances from the sun). (DL)

GALAXY'S MOTION DISCOVERED....High altitude measurements of the universe's background radiation has shown the Milky Way Galaxy's proper motion to be 400-800 km/sec in the direction of the constellation Leo. (DL)

BLACK HOLE AT GALAXY'S CENTER?....New observations by radio astronomers in California, West Virginia and Massachusetts have resolved the radio source at the galaxy's center to a volume twice the diameter of the solar system. Of this, about one quarter of this source emanates from a volume the diameter of Jupiter's orbit. This suggests a supermassive black hole with an accretion disk, on the order of 100 million solar masses. (DL)

POSSIBLE NEW SATELLITE OF SATURN....Photographic evidence has been found for a new satellite of Saturn, the 11th. Located very close to the rings, it would be the first discovered since Janus in 1966. (DL)

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

BACK TO THE WELL....In August, we read and commented on Midnight at the Well of Souls by Jack Chalker. Mr. Chalker is a well known fan who has recently emerged as a notable new author. When hearing we were discussing his book, Jack asked one of our members, Irvin Koch, to record the discussion and send him the tape. Return comments by Mr. Chalker have been received. He writes:

"I am surprised that everyone--not just your group--takes Brazil (ed. note: the protagonist) at his word when he claims to be God. Ortega certainly doesn't believe it. A Markovian he is, beyond that there's no evidence at all. Also, I'm continually surprised that most people don't see Varnett's windup for the blatant hypocrisy it is. There also seemed, on the part of some of the group, to be a real concern with the lack of stereotypes in the characters--some people insisted that Hain be Sydney Greenstreet to the end, for example. I'm beginning to wonder if SF people--readers and their editors--like characterization at all. I'm just going over a story with Scithers for Asimov's (ed. note: Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine) and he was upset that a ferryboat crew seemed to be rather normal, rather nice, articulate human beings, both male and female. He wanted them to be the cartoon deckhands of 1940's B pictures. I found much the same tendency evidenced in the discussions. I wonder if SF people themselves think of SF as a form of literature, or whether they really want it all to be STAR WARS--slam bang action and cartoon characters with no depth or reality. Making people real in the books seems to make many readers uncomfortable. This is something that, perhaps, should be looked into."

Mr. Chalker has stories upcoming in Analog and Stellar 3, and currently has several books out.

COMPASS LOOKS FOR WRITERS....We also received another letter (by a circular route) from COMPASS, a newsletter for comics, films, TV, books, etc. Anthony Scialis, the editor-publisher, would like some one in the area to review ChattaCon 3 for COMPASS. Also in the SF dept., COMPASS is looking for an "...SF type writer (who is) looking for another writing outlet..." in order to expand their base. Inquiries should be mailed to: Anthony Scialis, COMPASS, 1100 Cut-spring Rd., Stratford, Conn. 06497. (NWL)

REVIEW: CALLAHAN'S CROSTIME SALOON by Spider Robinson; Ace Books, \$1.50 (Possibly out-of-print).

If you have a problem, go to a bar...as long as it's Callahan's Bar. As Ben Bova in the introduction says, the world is searching for a place like this.

Callahan's place, for those who don't know, is a small establishment on Long Island that serves not only 50¢ drinks (as well as providing a fireplace to smash your glass after making a toast) but understanding, no matter what the situation is. And Callahan's place gets them all.

This collection of short stories makes fine reading. Spider Robinson is a fine young writer who breathes life into each character, and humanity and fun into each situation.

Callahan's Crosstime Saloon may upset hard science fiction readers because, well..., there is little hard science in the stories, if any. But it's the art of story telling that's the star here; this empathy that the author imparts between the characters is infectuous. The reader becomes involved with time travelers, aliens (from Terra as well as other places) and just strange folk who need absolution.

Stories include: The Guy with the Eyes, The Time Traveler, The Centipede's Dilemma, Two Heads are Better than One, The Law of Conservation of Pain, Just Dessert, "A Voice Is Heard In Ramah...", Unnatural Causes, and The Wonderful Conspiracy.

While a few of the stories are predictable, they all read well. If you liked the time honored stories of Arthur C. Clarke's Tales of the White Hart, this book is for you. Enjoy.

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