

CHAT



Julia Wilhoit '79



NEWSZINE OF THE CHATTANOOGA SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

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SECOND ANNIVERSARY ISSUE !!

Why you receive CHAT:

- You are a CSFA member.
- You Subscribe.
- You Contribute.
- You're mentioned within.
- It's a trade.
- Trade, please?
- Contribute, please?
- Art work, please?
- This is *last* issue unless you write us, re-subscribe, or attend next CSFA meeting.

CHAT is a newszine of Southern fan news, and is supported by the Chattanooga Science Fiction Association. We encourage submissions of art, reviews, articles, letters of comment, and the like. Written material should be a maximum of one page typed. Please include name and address on the submission. While **CHAT** doesn't pay contributors, we provide a forum for fan writers and artists; a complimentary copy of **CHAT** is given to all contributors who aren't already receiving it.

Ad rates: Pre-printed flyer inclusion — \$7.50; Full page — \$7.50; Half page — \$4.00; Quarter page — \$2.50; 25¢ per line equivalent.



OCTOBER, 1979

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ISSUE 25

"Science may have found a cure for most evils, but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all - the apathy of human beings." - Helen Keller

OCTOBER CSFA MEETING AT U.T.C..... September's CSFA meeting was held back in its winter home at the U.T.C. Student Center in the Lookout Mtn. room. The September meeting was a hodgepodge of gatherings, and was topped by an auction. Before the meeting started, Colin Wright had a collating session for his fanzine, *SF Quest* (see article below). The book discussion, Jack Chalker's *A War of Shadows*, was held by a small group rather than the whole club, due to the small number of people who had read the book. The auction was held after people had a chance to look over the items; Dick Lynch and Mike Rogers were the auctioneers, with Tim Bolgeo keeping track of items sold. Special thanks goes to Andy Purcell for his donation of SF magazines for this and future auctions. The highest bid item was a "Fem Fans" T-shirt, which went for \$7.00, while the lowest bid item was a paperback (later burned) that went for 10¢. As before, The Syndicate was present with over \$15 in pennies with which to bid. In all, about \$75 was raised for CSFA. After the auction, a D&D discussion was led by Rich Morehouse, who outlined the game and took a small band through a short adventure. Due to the interest in the game, further expeditions may be held at future meetings. There was also a fanzine display by *CHAT* editors Dick and Nicki Lynch, of some of the zines gotten in trade. While all interested persons were invited to peruse the zines, few took advantage of it; the fanzine display will be held at future meetings, so be sure to look for it. The only business that took place was discussion of the November meeting/party to be hosted by CSFA for out-of-towners that may be visiting Chattanooga that month. Tim Bolgeo, who suggested the party, was put in charge of it. Come to October's meeting for more details.

The meeting ended when several members decided to go to the after-the-meeting-meeting at the Pizza Inn. The people who were playing D&D met there later.

continued on page 3

CSFA MEETING SUMMARY (cont.)

The next CSFA meeting will be OCTOBER 20, 1979 at 7:30 PM at the U.T.C. STUDENT CENTER in the LOOKOUT MTN. ROOM. October's book discussion will be on *To Your Scattered Bodies Go* by Phillip José Farmer; discussion will be led by Julia Wilhoit. The December book (moved from November) will be *Up the Line* by Robert Silverberg. This month's program was not set before the September meeting ended, and is still uncertain. It was suggested that we have a *Rocky Horror Picture Show* trivia contest, but since the movie is not playing in the area, the idea is a shaky one at best. Members are urged to contact Mike Rogers with any and all program ideas. Remember, if you have the idea, you are in charge of it, along with all those you can persuade to help you.

To get to U.T.C., take I-124 to the 4th St. exit (last before Tennessee River bridge). Go on 4th St. for about 8/10 mile to Mabel St., and turn right on Mabel. Go 2 blocks (bearing right) and turn left onto Vine St. (which is 1-way). Go 2½ blocks. The Student Center is on the left; look for its sign. The meeting room is on the ground floor, near the information desk. For questions, call Mike Rogers (266-0298). (NWL)

THE NAC REPORT BY NICKI LYNCH

A PERSONAL VIEW OF NORTHAMERICAN

Dick and I started the journey to NAC early when we volunteered to do the daily newszine, *The NorthAmerican Nebula* (the name is a pun on the *North American Nebula* in the constellation Cygnus). When we were accepted, we were told that it would come out for three consecutive days. Later, it grew to four, with an edition coming out Thursday, the first day of the con.

So Thursday afternoon we started out, planning to go there by 9 PM and get the zine together. We got to Louisville a bit after 9, slowed up by storms, and after saying hello to several people—most notably George Laskowski (Lan), we ate a late dinner and worked on the *Nebula*. And worked and worked. It was finished about 3:30 that morning, with even Cliff Amos contributing a story.

Thursday went by fairly well. I worked on registration during the afternoon (as I did on Friday) and helped Charlie Williams and Rusty Burke get settled in the art show. That evening Dick and I and several helpers (Clay Norris and Jackie Moore) put the second *Nebula* together. Charlie and Rusty also dropped by to put together a masthead and we tried to meet later at the parties.

From here things get jumbled. Friday night we had Guy Lillian around to joke and talk with, and got an on-the-spot masthead from Rusty, who was in a wizard's outfit. He makes a great wizard, as Charlie and I agreed. Saturday night Cliff Biggers and Wade Gilbreath stopped by with Charlie and Rusty and did a drawing on the blackboard as well as spot illos while we were typing.

The newszine was fun to put together, even though it was quick work. We didn't have to dig for the stories and we usually had enough to fill both sides of a page. The major problem was the typer. It decided that a daily workout wasn't to its liking and by Saturday had almost given up. It wouldn't have worked one more day, imho. We managed to get some Seacon business in, courtesy of Marty Massoglia who dropped by to SMOF with Irvin Koch, who was there to make sure we could read his writing. Irvin was running Special Programming as well as the N3F things (with the help of Mike Rogers and Margaret Middleton) and the daily zine was the only advertising for most of the programming he did, as it wasn't in the program book. We also could keep up with all the changes and additions. A big THANKS to all who helped out on the *Nebula*!

As far as the programming goes NAC seemed to be lightly programmed, the heaviest seeming to be in the Special Events Dept. I must admit that I went to little of the programming, as there was either nothing I was interested in attending, the programming was too early in the morning (shame, shame that

10 AM should be too early!) or that the room for the event was too full, as was the case in the masquerade. The crowd at the masquerade was at least three deep at the door and I'm told that the room was packed up all the way around as well. The few costumes I did see were very well done. If there was special seating for workers of the convention, we were unaware of it. We did, however, meet several people at the SFC meeting hosted by Meade Frierson III. I also got to talk with Penny at one of the parties, the one where she and Charlie exchanged stories about how strange downtown Louisville was. We also got to say hello and exchange pleasantries with Dal Coger and Greta Avery, of Memphis, whom we don't see often enough. Dick and I also got to meet and talk with Guy and his wife Beth, as well as Marc Glasser and Donna Camp. We also got to talk with Eva Chalker Whitley and Jack Chalker, who like Marc and Donna, had been to Seacon the weekend before. How the people who attended both cons lived through the week, I'll never know! And, of course, Wilson Bob Tucker was there, but we got to visit with him a far shorter time than we wanted to.

The huckster room (one of the helpers was Chattanooga SF Association member Janet Caruth) was a wonderful variety of goods and people, most notable (among people) were Andy Purcell and Howard DeVore. There were the usual items such as books, T-shirts, posters, and toys as well as the unusual items like tatted pieces and ceramic incense burners shaped like dragons. I bought T-shirts for Dick and myself that had airbrushed landscapes of the Moon and Mars, and also got myself a Callahan's Place T-shirt.

One thing not part of the convention but much talked about was the Heritage Festival that was being held adjacent to the Galt House. The fair consisted of booths manned by members of various ethnic organizations and featured foods native to different countries and notions from and about the idfferent groups ("Kiss Me, I'm Polish"). A large number of non-fans were attracted to the Galt House by the Fair, causing a great source of entertainment and good food for the con-goers.

The parties at NAC were something else! While there were a lot of them, they seemed to end early for the first few nights. We were talking with several people from Rochester (NY) and they were surprised that there were so many parties. There were an average number or maybe a few more open parties than a Southern regional. The planned ABC (Atlanta, Birmingham, Chattanooga) party came off as planned but ended early due to quick consumption of the drinks. From there we went on to a fanzine party, having been invited by Moshe Feder and had an interesting time.

THE NAC REPORT (CONT.)

The last night of the newszine, we went around to the parties with Charlie and Rusty. We had planned attending most of the parties with them to introduce them around to fanzine pubbers needing art and other fen in general, but somehow found it hard to keep together in the large hotel. After the masquerade we found the chance by trooping up to Guy Lillian's room for a combination SFPA/LASFAPA party. (These are two apas.) There was a oneshot going on and I noticed A J Barker-Bridget, Guy Lillian, Mike Rogers, and Andy Porter pecking away at various times. Lan had brought some banana bread and passed around pieces of it, after Dick cut it up with his pocket knife. I also met Sarah Prince, a former LASFAPA who bears an uncanny resemblance to B'ham fan Valerie Proctor (who we also saw and talked with there).

We finally got to meet artist Robert Mack Hester, who has been in CHAT in the past and introduced him to several people that were interested in his art.

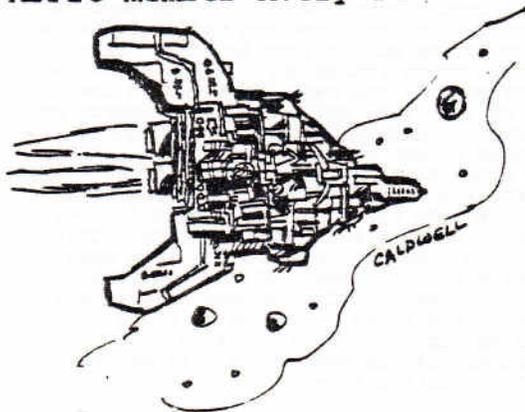
Sunday night was also a big party night. While many people were off on the evening boat cruise on the river, we were at a SAPS (a quarterly apa) dinner. Later we gather in Howard DeVore's room, one of the SPAS people. Charlie drew an illo for Howard and that was the start of an 'art orgy' with Charlie, Rusty, Cliff Boggers and Wade Gilbreath participating. During the evening, the perfect art show piece was planned complete with a triple mat and plastic cover. The party moved to A J Barker-Bridget's Worm Hole party, celebrating the pubbing of *Thru' the Worm Hole 3*. Moving on to find a spot to sketch, we picked up Deb Hammer-Johnson and Roger Johnson along the way and met Jim Gilpatrick in the second floor sitting area, where

the party lighted. Meanwhile Dick had found a SMOF group and stayed there until the party on the second floor broke up. While joking and watching people ride the elevator in armchairs, I got to talk with Cliff Amos, Ken Moore, the much harried art show director, and Steve Spero. Frank Love also sat in on the discussion/sketch session. Another of the parties in full swing on several of the nights were the Chicago in '82 and Detroit in '82 parties. The groups had been selling joint pre-supporting memberships during the day and had separate parties at night, the Detroit party featuring coffee and donuts. We also got to meet Brian Ear and Denise Brown. Unfortunately, they were at NAC a too short time.

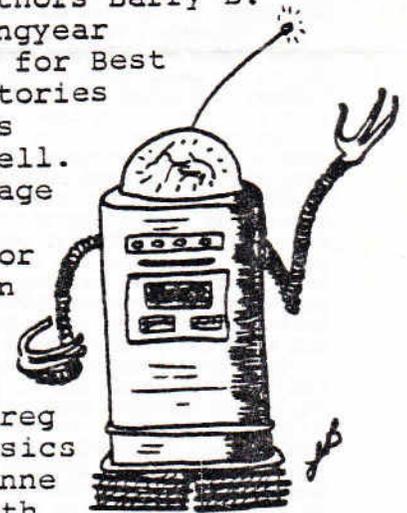
Monday was a strange day. Dick decided that we should leave that day rather than pay the extra day's hotel bill. So we packed up the car and stayed until the end of the art auction to pick up our money (we sold a wall hanging). Also staying were Charlie and Rusty with whom we sat in the audience and kibitzed all during the auction. It was the last of the three auctions and most of the artists were hanging around to be paid. The day before several artists who rebelled at the convention's cost of entering their art work in the art show held a Starving Artists Sale in the room next to the *Nebula* room. Apa-H had a gathering there and showed the proper attitude by displaying a "Thirsty Artists Sale" sign below the legitimate sign. It brought a few chuckles. After being paid, we had supper together, said goodbye to those left, and drove home.

All in all, NAC was a good time. We made many new friends and got to talk with old ones. To anyone I missed mentioning, sorry; if I mixed up the days of events, so it goes. We'll be ready for Boston come Labor Day weekend next year!

ONE LINERS....Chattacon 5 update: attending will be authors Barry B. Longyear, John M. Ford, and Linda Bushyager. Barry Longyear was a nominee for the John W. Campbell Award at Seacon for Best New Writer; both Longyear and Ford have had several stories in *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*. Linda Bushyager's first novel, *Master of Hawks*, was recently published by Dell. // Corrections from last month's CHAT: the cartoon on page 10 was by Cliff Biggers, not Wade Gilbreath (sorry). Also, Mark Roth won a NorthAmerican masquerade award for "Best Solo Humor", not "Best Solo Turtle". // COA: John Campbell, 1308B Mayfield Ln., Hixson, TN 37343 // AJ Barker-Bridget and Julie Wilhoit have resigned from the Chattacon Board, each citing personal reasons. // The LASFS newszine *De Profundis* reports that SF writer Greg Benford has been promoted to full professor in the Physics department at U.C. Irvine. // CHAT subscriber Jackie Anne Moore reports that she wrote a short article about North American '79 for her home town newspaper, the *Sarasota Herald Tribune*. // Atlanta Science Fiction Club president Cliff Biggers informed us that ASFic member Avery Davis totalled his auto "for about the fourth time". //



CSFA member Tola Varnell is spending two weeks in the Denver area undergoing management training. It's still uncertain whether she'll remain in the Chattanooga area after she returns. // Chattacon board meeting: October 20, 1 PM at Tim and Linda Bolgeo's home. Open to all interested. // Perry Chapdelaine writes us that Authors' Co-op, Inc. is now publishing a (non SF) weekly newsletter, *The Fairview News*, for Fairview, Tennessee community residents. // MidSouthCon '80 will be June 20-22, in Huntsville, Alabama. GoH is Fred Pohl, MC is Kelly Freas, and FGoH is Wilson (Bob) Tucker.

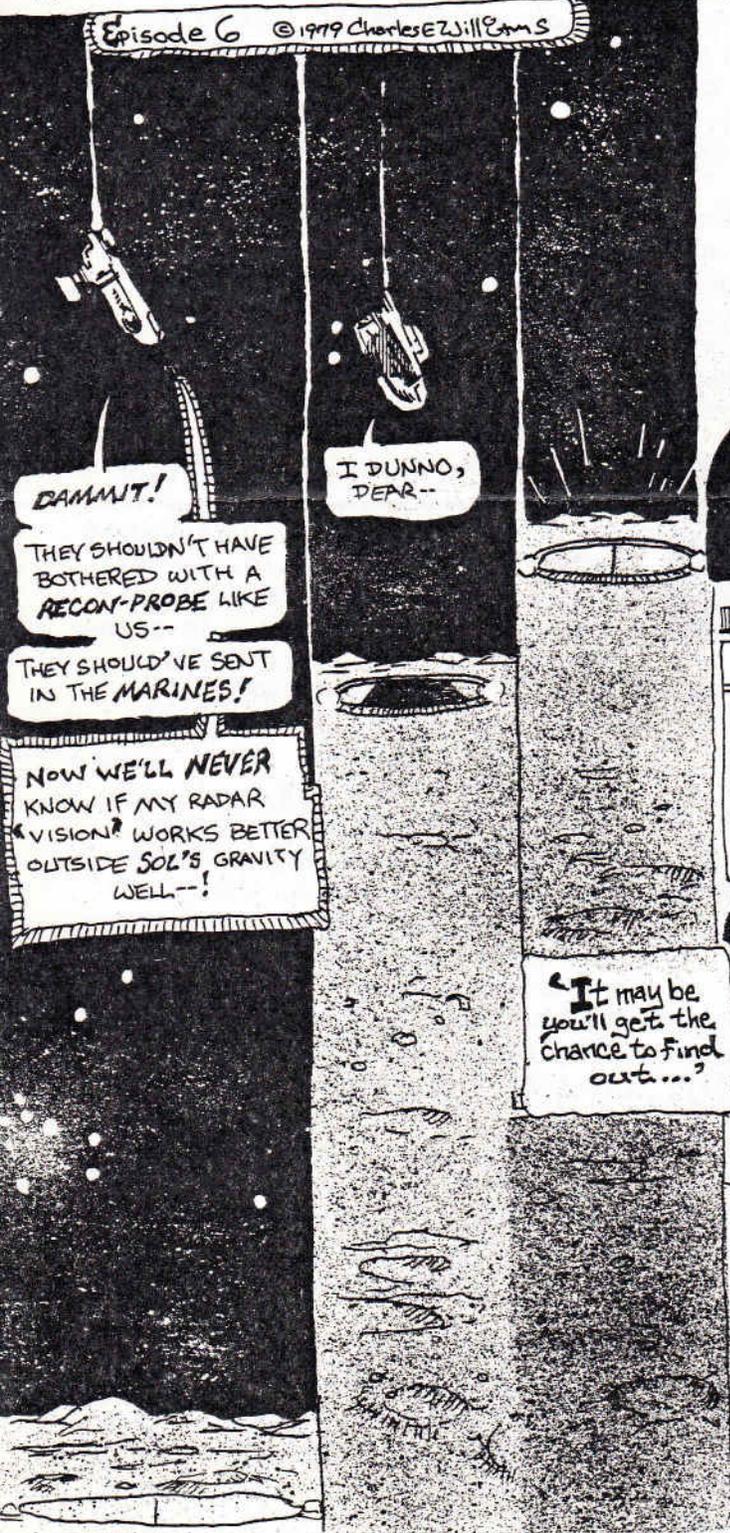


2063AD/as transmitted by **Cyrano Sever**:
OUR STORY THUS FAR: SOMEONE WAS EITHER TRYING TO ATTRACT ATTENTION OR START A WAR. FOLLOWING THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TERRAN UNION CATHEDRAL, ACTS OF TERRORISM BEGAN TO ERUPT ALL OVER THE CIVILIZED SOLAR SYSTEM. SELECTIVE ASSASSINATION AND CAREFULLY PLANNED MASS-MURDER, SEEMINGLY AIMED AT THE MOST IMPORTANT FIGURES OF GOVERNMENT, RELIGION, AND COMMERCE IN THE TERRAN UNION (THE INNER PLANETS) AND ON INDEPENDENT MARS AND AMONG THE JOVIAN AXIS -- **THE POWERS-THAT-BE** HAVE DISPATCHED ONE CIVIL-SERVANT / SCIENTIST TEAM (**HAL AND MAGGIE NOEL AND FRED the DOLPHIN**) TO THE VICINITY OF **PLUTO** TO INVESTIGATE THE **GNOSTICS**, A FRINGE RELIGIOUS GROUP WITH PROVEN ANTISOCIAL TENDENCIES...
AND NOW, CAUGHT IN MAGNETIC NETS HUNG BY ORBITING **TUGBOATS**, **HAL, MAGGIE, AND FRED HURTLE** HELPLESSLY TOWARD **PLUTO'S TINY MOON**...

'So, they've decided to interrogate us. How'd they get the resources to hollow Charon? It's at least as big as Ceres...

'How did a fringe group get the cash, when they've NOTHING to export? Maybe they are pirates... maybe the legends are true!'

'They keep a low profile. Central says they file annual reports on low-temperature research, but are primarily devoted to helping the Space People find their long-lost homeworld.'



Episode 6 ©1979 Charles E. Will & Sons

DAMNIT!

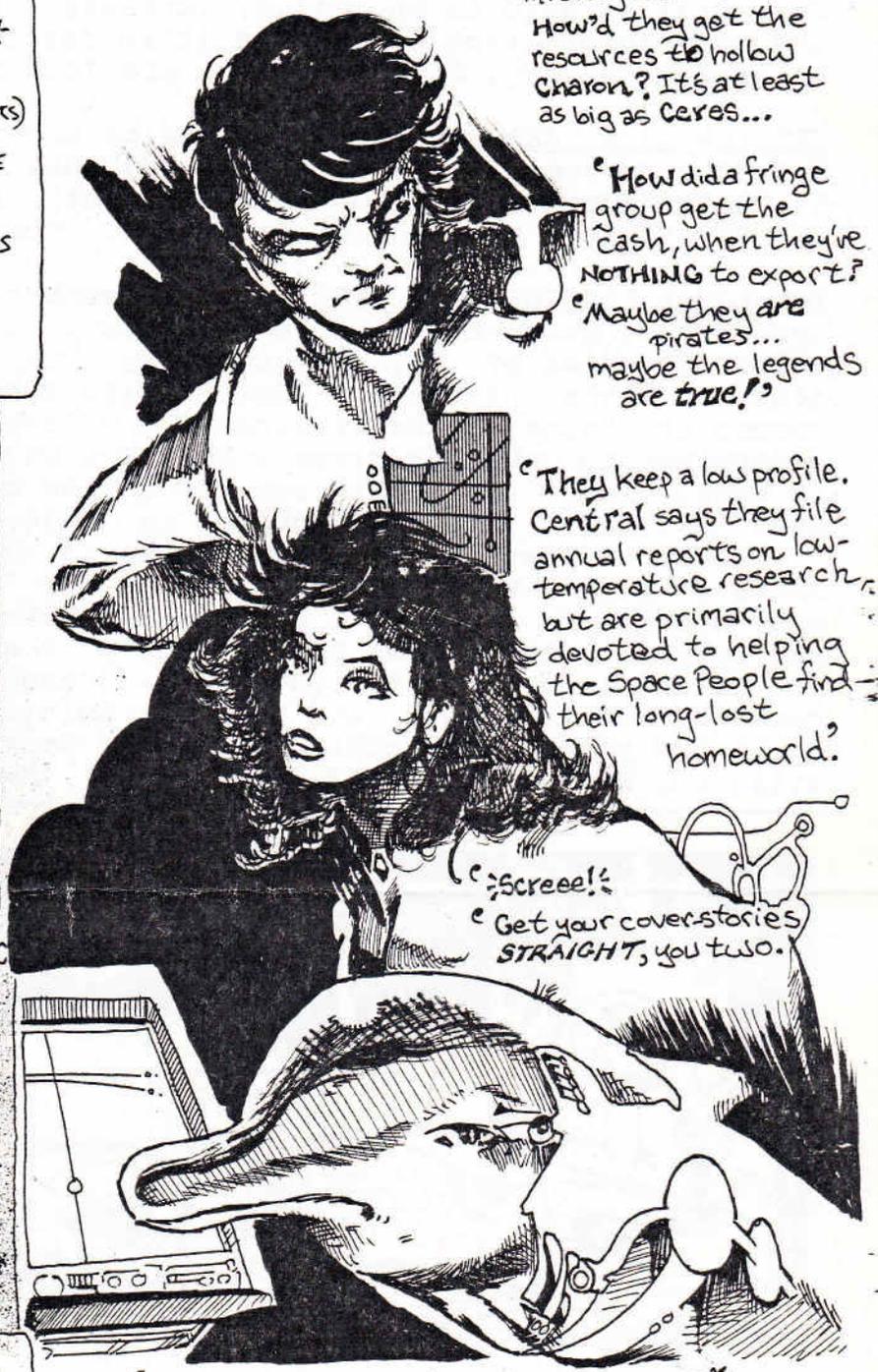
THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE BOTHERED WITH A RECON-PROBE LIKE US--

THEY SHOULD'VE SENT IN THE MARINES!

NOW WE'LL NEVER KNOW IF MY RADAR VISION WORKS BETTER OUTSIDE SOL'S GRAVITY WELL--!

I DUNNO, DEAR--

'It may be you'll get the chance to find out...'

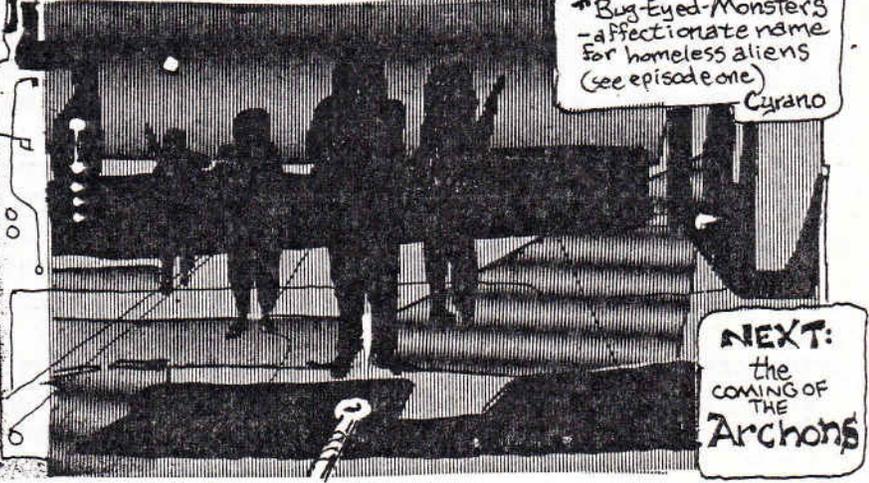


'Screee!'

'Get your cover-stories STRAIGHT, you two.'

'I PERCEIVE TWO MEN AND TWO BEMMIES* WAITING JUST OUTSIDE--'

*Bug-Eyed-Monsters - affectionate name for homeless aliens (see episode one) Cyrano



NEXT:
 the
 COMING OF
 THE
Archons

NEW KNOXVILLE SF CONVENTION.... A new science fiction convention, Satyri-Con, will be held in Knoxville, Tennessee, the last weekend in March, 1981. The only information we have on it so far is that the Guest of Honor will be Anne McCaffrey. Con organizers are John and Connie Neal. (DL)

UPDATED CSFA TREASURY REPORT....The balance as of September was \$260.83. Expenditures were \$18.50 for back payments for newsletter mailings, and \$5.00 for auction donation reimbursement. Income was \$7.00 from dues and \$79.35 from the September auction. The new balance is \$323.68. (RM)

TWO LOCAL FANZINES PUBLISHED....CSFA members Colin Wright and Andre Barker-Bridget currently have genzines out. Colin "Starchild" Wright is the editor-in-chief of *SF Quest* (formerly *Insight*). While it was once the clubzine of the Chattanooga Central High School SF/F group, *SF Quest* has become the "zine of the Syndicate, a wild-eyed bunch of fanatic young fen determined to make ourselves known, one way or another". This issue is 18 pages mimeo. Available for 75¢ or the usual, contact Colin Wright at 8803 Lake Villa Ln., Chattanooga, TN 37416.

Another genzine by a CSFA member is *Thru' the Worm Hole 3*, edited by Andre J. Barker-Bridget and available for "sale, trade, and/or whatever else strikes my fancy." I believe the price is \$1.00. *Thru' the Worm Hole* has been a controversial zine in its past and promises to do so in this and future issues. This issue is a 36 page mimeo zine with an offset cover by Julia Wilhoit, and features multicolor interior illos. It's worth the price of a buck. Contact AJ Barker-Bridget at 4603A Plaza Hills Ln, Hixson, TN 37343 for a copy. (NWL)



In *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, the resident media critic Baird Searles speaks briefly about the cycle, as he sees it, of non-SF and Horror/SF films. In effect, *Alien* is bringing on the wave of horror/SF films, in his view. Well, I would say that by looking over the crop of upcoming films, this is not quite the case.

Three films being highly touted and eagerly awaited are *Star Trek: The Movie*, *The Black Hole*, and *Time After Time*. *Star Trek: The Movie* is much talked about and stands a good chance

of being a good SF movie, as well as disappointing most of the Trek fans due to reported changes in personalities of the crew members. *Star Trek: The Movie* is also reported to have a plot similar to one of its TV segments. Still, this should not detract if it has a good script, fine acting, and interesting effects.

The Disney studio's effort at a serious SF movie is *The Black Hole*. The script is reported to be interesting and accurate, and the effects are capped by matte work by artist Peter Ellenshaw. Ellenshaw's work is currently at a film and gallery exhibition retrospective at New York City's Museum of Modern Art. (He was also featured on a segment of *Good Morning America*.) The Disney studio has spent much time and money on *The Black Hole* and hope that their effort doesn't vanish into one.

Time After Time is a time travel story that, according to one source, will rival George Pal's *The Time Machine* as THE time travel film. Unfortunately, critics have yet to agree. *Time After Time* follows the adventures of a time machine inventor, H.G. Wells, who chases Jack the Ripper from 19th century London to 20th century San Francisco (ever notice how everything seems to happen to San Francisco?). Malcolm McDowell, of *Clockwork*

continued on page 7

VIEWS AND REVIEWS (cont.)

EDITORIAL

Orange fame, plays Wells (and is currently hyping the flick). *Time After Time* looks very promising as a good SF romantic comedy adventure feature.

Also on the verge of being released is *Saturn 3*. From ITC Entertainment, the people who brought you *The Muppet Movie* and *Capricorn One*, *Saturn 3* stars Kirk Douglas, Farrah Fawcett-Majors, and Harvey Keitel in a story about life on Titan (Saturn's moon) and a robot that brings a little excitement. Based on a story by John Barry, *Saturn 3* may turn out to be light SF entertainment.

We are also awaiting *Meteor*, AIP's multibuck movie that features a plot similar to *Lucifer's Hammer*, and stars Sean Connery and Natalie Wood.

In a look towards TV, the small screen also has some promise for the SF fan. PBS will feature Ursula K. LeGuin's *The Lathe of Heaven* this fall to kick off a series of speculative fiction stories brought to the small screen. Ms. LeGuin worked closely with the production of this film, and it should be well done.

The Martian Chronicles will finally be shown on NBC this fall. The feature has been in the can for over a year and was finally placed on the NBC fall schedule of mini-series. It stars Rock Hudson, and promises to be good television SF. The TV production of *Brave New World*, also by NBC, has yet to be given an air date. Starring Keir Dullea, Trish O'Neill and Dick Anthony Williams, *Brave New World* was also filmed over a year ago, and will remain in limbo for the time being. There has also been a report that Clarke's *Childhood's End* has been bought for TV and is in pre-production. It looks as if classic SF will be popular on TV, should the networks decide to film and air them.

All in all, SF is looking like a growing interest on the part of the public. With a little thought and feeling, maybe the SF fans will find their favorite literature on the big and little screens.

The Chattanooga SF Association began about five years ago as a gleam in the eye of Chattanooga fans Irvin Koch and Ken Scott. From that grew Chattacon, which has succeeded beyond the hopes of a small regional, and *CHAT*, which has also done better than the originator expected. But something strange has happened, the spawning ground of these things is becoming increasingly murky. The book discussion, which was the backbone of the meetings when they began, has become the shoved-aside part of the meeting in favor of small social group gatherings. Now this is not bad and is in fact encouraged, but without a program of sorts, the club meeting becomes an in-group that refuses to admit new people.

What to do? I have no answers, just things I would like to see kept and enjoyed. I feel the anarchy that CSFA is should remain; formalizing the meeting would be a bore and just compound any problems of cliques. I would like to see the book discussion kept, but the method of selecting the book changed. Perhaps a committee should select the books, or perhaps book discussions should take the form of examination of ideas, such as 'first contact' or 'man reaching the stars'. While reading a single author and trying to discuss that author's ideas, this may work out better. I would also like to see the idea of programs run by different club members on different things and subjects, such as trivia quizzes and fringe fan fads, to continue. And, I would also like to see the club get a movie (that is, a theatrical film) maybe once a year, rather than look to video tapes so much. Granted, local members have classics and excellent selections, but a film is easier to publicize and more people can view it comfortably than can view a video tape in the rooms/numbers we have.

One new idea that has come up is doing alternate programming during the meeting, such as card games and D&D adventures for those interested.

Why all the interest in keeping programming and such? Think back to your first meeting -- would you have stayed around if you didn't know anyone, and everyone was just interested in talking with their friends? It is hard to make new friends when no one else seems interested. By dropping the programming or specializing it, the idea of literary exchange is lost. We may as well become the Third Saturday Meeting Group rather than CSFA. We will be giving up something that brought us all together in the first place, science fiction. I'd hate to see that go; it entertains me and stimulates my imagination. I've also met many good people and wonderful friends because of it.

But, what about the rest of the club? Are we just in a slump, or am I just afraid of what will not happen? Let's hear from YOU!

- Nicki Lynch



OFF THE SHELF / REVIEWS OF THE OUT-OF-PRINT - by Nicki Lynch

The Wrong End of Time / Total Eclipse / The Stone That Never Came Down - John Brunner
Doubleday Science Fiction

While browsing through the local library the other day, I noticed that there were several John Brunner books. While I had not been too interested in the book we read for one of the club meetings (*Shockwave Rider*) I decided to give his works another chance.

I'm glad I did! *The Wrong End of Time* is about a future America in a cold war setting, isolated by a defensive system. Danty Ward, a

young black man who possesses an incredible clairvoyant gift, is the key to opening America to the world and its problems; he can communicate with aliens who have settled near the planet Pluto and plan to destroy the earth. A young Russian scientist risks his life trying to find Ward and enlist his aid. It is a very interesting novel.

Total Eclipse is a story that takes place on a distant planet orbiting Sigma Draconis. Earth scientists have been brought there to discover what sort of race populated the planet and constructed a giant telescope on their moon, and what became of them. Parallel to this, earth is being torn by strife among nations. The novel deals with attempts to unravel the mystery of the alien culture, and the survival of the scientists involved.

In a tale closer to our own time, *The Stone That Never Came Down* is set in the not-too-distant-future London on the brink of collapse due to bad management and overzealous religious fanatics. In all this is Malcolm Fry, a disbarred teacher who discovers he has been given a marvelous new drug by a scientist who was killed shortly afterwards. This drug could change the course of human development. So the story, in a utopian Brunner novel, follows to course.

On the whole, these three novels make good reading, but I must warn you that the plots are parallel. All deal with the "one person holds the key to civilization as we know it" theme, and the first two end very dismally indeed. I find I like Bruner's earlier non-New Wave works better than his later New Wave novels. His ideas are simple and his characterization is what really carries the stories.

If you're by the library and want something good to read, look up Brunner. You *will* be interested.

CURRENT FICTION

REVIEWED BY DAVID PETTUS

Mr. Moon by Philip Knobel, Jove Books, New York, 1979, 318p, \$1.75

Sometime in the near future a tremendous earthquake leaves the West Coast in total ruin. In the process of tending to the injured survivors of the quake, a short order cook by the name of Mr. Moon, who has complained of chest pains, is given an X-ray. The X-ray indicates that Mr. Moon is not human, that he is, in fact, an alien.

If the overnight discovery of an alien isn't enough, what scientists don't know is that the government has been tracking a spaceship somewhere out in the asteroid belt for more than two years. When the President of the United States learns about Mr. Moon, he immediately assumes that Mr. Moon comes from the interstellar spaceship that they are tracking.

At first, I was a bit apprehensive about reading this book because of the blurb: "was he the world's greatest hoax? or the galaxies greatest hero?"...after all, no one wants to read a three hundred page novel only to discover that it was

continued on page nine.....

Mr. Moon Review (cont.)

all a cute joke in the end. An author who would do that would not hesitate to use the old "and they all got run over by a truck" bit if he wrote himself into a corner.

But fear not, the alien is real, I'll tell you that out front. And the story is enjoyable. Mr. Moon does have a connection with the spaceship in that he represents a group of aliens, called the Elders, who are aboard it. The Elders are super-social scientists, but they know very little about engineering, and are in need of Earth's technological know-how to repair their interstellar transportation system. Knobel's writing is adequate, but not extraordinary. It seems to me that he was having some difficulty in deciding whether he was writing a political thriller or a science fiction novel. There are elements of both, and they sometimes don't mix well.

On a scale of 0 to 10, I'd have to give it a 4.



VAMPIRE reviewed by Nicki Lynch

ABC-TV / MTM Production
[aired October 7, 1979]

Vampire, a made-for-TV movie starring Jason Miller, E.G. Marshall, and Richard Lynch, was a disappointment. It added nothing to the vampire legend and indeed made one wonder why the story was ever popular.

Set in modern San Francisco, *Vampire* followed an architect and an ex-cop's search for a vampire

who killed the architect's wife. The story limped along to an unsettled conclusion that would not hold the viewer's interest without the fine cast to bolster it.

Foremost among the cast was Richard Lynch (Ed. note: **ahem** - DL), who played the blond, suave vampire-prince. His performance made one wish for better writing so he could have developed this character. The main problem was that the vampire had no character and often acted irrationally. How he lasted that long was the true mystery. E.G. Marshall was excellent as the ex-cop and Jason Miller was teeth-grindingly good as the heart broken architect. Special guest Jessica Walters was fair as the lawyer-lover of the vampire.

But for a movie that appeared promising, *Vampire* failed miserably.

LETTERS OF COMMENT

EDITED BY NICKI LYNCH

Brian Earl Brown
16711 Burt Rd. #207
Detroit, MI 48219

I had better proof-
read these LoCs before
mailing them out.

Proofreading is such a
pain, too. The worst typo was we just lost
Detroit for we almost lost Detroit. The former
title I think was a memo to Jimmy Carter just
after Andy Young quit.

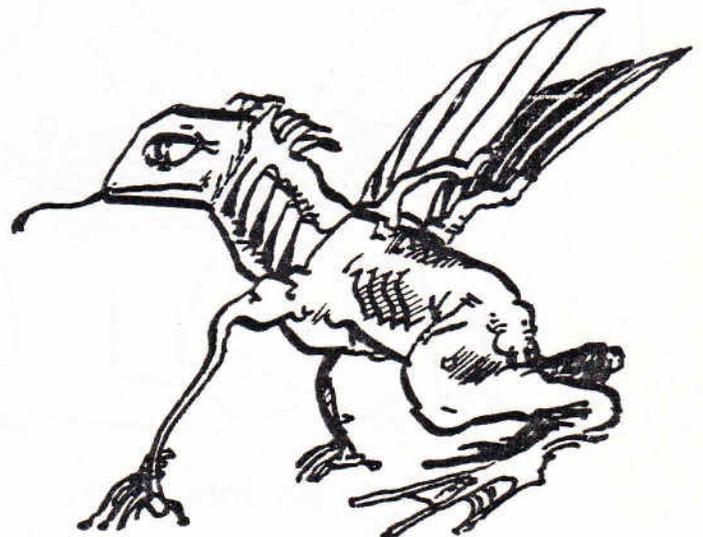
I'll read Perry Chapdelaine's column just
as soon as he resets it in a readable typeface.
This one looks like ditto gone bad.

I see you did ask Barger for some art. I
hope he continues to send you more. The two
regrets of out vacation were not being able
to visit with Sam and Marry Long and not being
able to visit Bob. **sigh** At least Mannothe
Caves was everything it's cracked up to be.

Enjoyed the Vinge interview.

((It was very nice meeting you again at NAC!
I also thought the type on that column was poor,
but

We hope Bob sends us more art. We like hearing
from him.))



LETTERS OF COMMENT (cont.)

Deb Hammer Johnson
508 B West 11th St.
Rome, GA 30161

Hopefully, we'll get
an end to all these golf
puns. They're driving
me crazy.

Speaking of roasts, I'm curious as to how a Celko roast would work for a DSC. I'm not certain there would be many folks left standing after a Tucker roast, especially if they toasted him after every story.

The juxtaposition of the burglary notices and your auction was a nice touch, especially with the disclaimer.

I followed you McLuhanesque column with much interest, that being part of my Pop Culture streak. Television when spoken of as a medium must include the broadcast of undisturbed movies on HBO, which hold the interest and work quite well. I realize you're directing the focus on commercial teevee; when I first watched the STAR TREK episodes (yes, I'm that old) [*Me, Too-NWL*], I was caught up in a true sensawonder. It can work on the toob, but it seldom does.

Awright! I'm finally going to see ALIEN. Urk*Dread*Anticipation* I liked Julia's article quite a bit, and will get one of those puppets for my own, one of these days.

I'm looking forward to more interviews, and I hope you didn't interpret my comment as being negative toward catch-as-catch-con interviews, just that I'd read some rather awful ones in zines hither and thither. CHAT's are superb. A nice round of applause *** and, yes, this is THE END.

((As you could tell by the last CHAT (Deb's letter is about the CHAT before last), we were not discouraged from interviews at all .

I, to, was intrigued by STAR TREK. What I wonder is if it was the age that I saw the series or that it was the series that evoked the feeling. I just don't know, but I do know that commercial TV today doesn't seem aimed in that direction. The sense of play and experimentation is gone from TV of the past. I often wonder if some of the shows of the past would be put on today, given the taste today.))

and yet another

Deb Hammer Johnson
508 B West 11th St.
Rome, GA 30161

The 24th issue was
definitely post-NASFIC,
especially for me.

Not that I wish to be ultrapicky, but the spot illo on p. 10 was Cliff's, not Wade's. Cliff has this strange thing about side-profiles with weird noses; usually they're aliens. That was one of the first Biggers' cartoons I recall that was a human. I've really acquired a taste for Harvia; the man reminds me of the old MADpun features by Sergio Aragones. Charlie's story continues in fine form, but I find that on a month-to-month basis, it's hard to remember all the intricate details. My last visit to K-town, I swooped down on his studio, and met the "Big E", who looks just like his CHAT character. I'd love to see more of Earl's work.

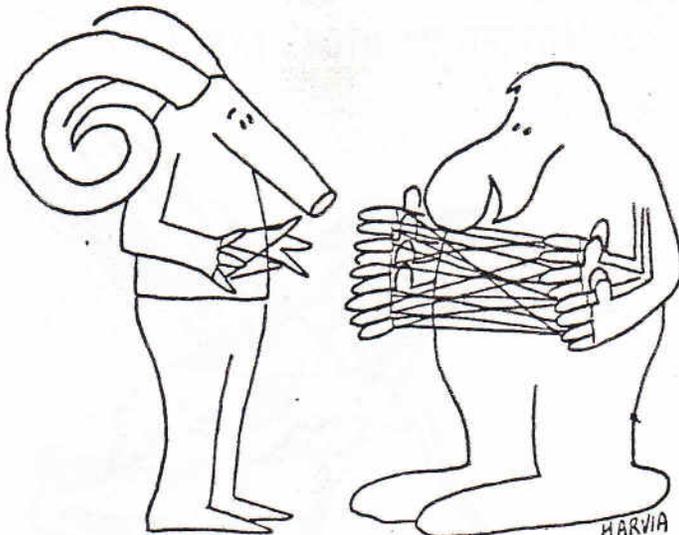
I flunked Harry Andruschak's quiz by about -100 pts. But I can zip a zipper and turn a key in a loc. That's about it though. The Vinge interview was quite good (I'll watch the superlatives, but I love to be enthusiastic); ChattaCon has snatched a topical writer for their next con. I'm hoping to get over my pro- phobia so I can talk with her and got to know her better. I find it interesting that the social science that has put most input into contemporary SF is anthropology; this might be because anthro is such an extrapolative science. In order to reconstruct old cultures, one must be quite inventive. In bridging the gap between ours and strange, non-technological cultures, we've got to develop an objective humanism that I feel fits right into science fiction. Guess I'm thinking of Ursula Kroeber LeGuin, Suzette Haden Elgin, and C.J. Cherryh, who all have extensive backgrounds with anthropology. My own directions in Popular Culture stem from the desire to understand myself in context with my own culture before I took on anyone else's.

Perry's column was difficult to read this time. Now I know I've got all these astigmatic problems, and I make a point of blurry lines a bit more than the average person, but it was difficult to read. Cliff's commentary about CHAT in the recent ATAR echoes many of my own sentiments about the column; in person I find him to be a lovely person (if not somewhat touchy), if not a bit too sensitive about what he interprets as criticism. Any writer for a fanzine, if he (or she) is worth her salt will garner comment. I've always held the policy that some reaction was better than no reaction at all. (This is coming from the world's laziest columnist, mind you.)

A good batch of locs this time. I met "Lan" at NASFIC, and enjoyed talking with him tremendously. I'd just received a copy of his Jack Williamson special for LAN'S LANTERN, and had the uncanny experience of taking my first of many elevator rides up with none other than Jack Williamson--just like in Lan's article. Talk about deja vu. Do like that fellow, coon-skin cap and all.

Good to see Wade's letter. I've been writing ANVIL for about a year now, and he gets to see my locs all the time, but this is among the first (if not the first) I've seen of Wade's. Also caught Nicki's in the last ANVIL.

I wrote Vernon a letter a while back, and he answered with the optimistic insistence that Knoxville would get going, as soon as he can get his job situation straightened out. His comments about pornography provoke a mild rebuttal from me (no pun intended); I find that



Can you do this one?

continued on page 11

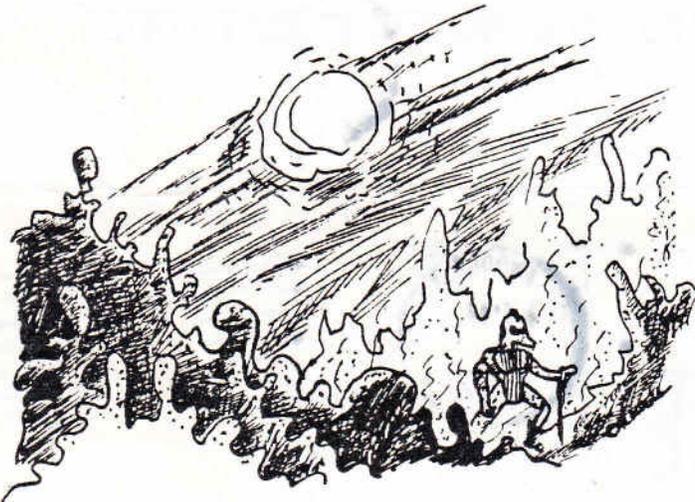
LETTERS OF COMMENT (cont.)

Deb Hammer Johnson letter (cont.)

I enjoy "erotic" writing quite a bit, especially from the Victorian era. I agree that is basically unimaginative, but it does serve its purpose. I have customers, both male and female, who ask for it everyday. I don't need it (which is a compliment to my husband), but feel it should be available to those who want it. The phrase "those who want it" is the stickler. Since my son has become cognisant of teevee, it's occurred to me that his worldview is coming from outside of us now. The violence tends to repulse him, whereas sexual affection is "funny". Tune in next month for the trials and tribulations of a young fan-nish mother. Ben's first full phrase was "not teevee guide". I must be doing something right.

((Well, Dick said ti was Wade's illo and I said it was Cliff's. It was late at night, so rather than call, it was just put in. Dick was convinced that both had given us illos while I was not. You can see who won. Sorry, Cliff.

We'd like to have more of Earl's work in the future. Hey, I have no astigmatic problems and I still couldn't read Perry's column, so don't feel bad. Good hearing from you!))



Sharon Webb
Rt. 2, Box 350
Blairsville, GA 30512

Thanks so much for
CHAT. I think I've
become a full-fledged
Harvia fan. I loved

his cover picture of the great Ghod Chat going forth to tilt at windmills. Won't somebody please show up at the masquerade as the Great Ghod? Wouldn't you love it?

The Joan Vinge interview was great. It's hard to interview people effectively, but Mike Rogers seems to have a knack for it.

Failed the science quiz utterly. Fell somewhere between ANALOG editor and Tsk tsk. Maybe next time....

Tell Perry that the free Scotch at Midwest-con affected my eyes. The P.T. Barnum type along with the others gave me a headache. Ghod knows what kind of column Perry would produce if he ever combined that Scotch with the Memphis Retsina we sampled.

((That would be a good costume! Maybe someone will show up as CHAT. Unfortunately, I lack the time and skill for such a costume.

We're hoping to get Mike to do more mail interviews. We haven't been able to get the at-the-con interviews we did in the past.

Well, at least if there is ever an opening for an ANALOG editor, you know you have some qualifications for the job! You did as well on the test as I did.

It was a nice type style, but I would have reversed the solid and open letters so that the open letters highlighted the names rather than the text.))

Harry "Andy" Andruschak
6933 N. Rosemead Blvd., #31
San Gabriel, CA 91775

Received CHAT
#24. Sorry,
but that column
I promised will

have to be delayed. Things are bad at JPL.
[Jet Propulsion Lab.-NWL]

The 1982 launch of GALILEO has been scrubbed. We planned GALILEO on the premise that the shuttle could take 24 tons into low earth orbit. Spacecraft and IUS ((Interim Upper Stage)) came to 23 tons. We planned to use the second shuttle off the assembly lines.

Well, we had delays. We would have been forced to use the first shuttle which is rated at only 16 tons at the moment. And that is getting to look optimistic.

Anyhow, we have lost the very favourable 1982 launch window. Gone the way of the Grand Tour, the 1979 Uranus Probe, the Halley Comet Rendezvous, etc., etc., ect.

Alternative choices are all bad and more expensive. Not to get too technical, we have a choice of trying to adapt the Centaur for a 1983 launch, or a twin IUS launch in 1984.

The 1983 launch involves problems of handling liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen in zero-G, among other things. It would also impact the proposed 1983 Solar-Polar Mission.

The 1984 launch with separate Shuttle Missions for Orbiter and Probe needs a lot more money from Congress.

No matter what happens, it is going to hurt JPL and the future US space program. In fact, there may very well be no future interplanetary space program. Should Congress say "no", both to ~~GALILEO~~ Galileo and Solar-Polar, the 1981 flyby of Saturn by VOYAGER TWO may be the very end of the US planetary program.

((A nice, if sad, report on the space program from our-man-in-JPL, Andy Andruschak. It would be a shame if VOYAGER TWO was the last of the interplanetary space program projects. Anyone interested in supporting the space program is urged to contact his/her congressperson.))

Vernon Clark
6216 Janmer Ln.
Knoxville, TN 37919

The Vinge interview
was interesting,
though less so than
the one in a recent

SF REVIEW. I don't know if it was the interview's length, or that Mike never seemed to manage to penetrate the authoress's facade/reserve. Ms. Vinge comes over too cold in the interview, something I doubt is the case in person. (This interview was done through the mails, I hope?)

Brian E. Brown seems upset because of the fact that I am upset with the major awards in the SF genre. I do not knock the fact that they are a popularity contest. If they were viewed as such by all SF readers, it would be fine. That isn't the case, however. These popularity awards are used as hype by the pub-

continued on page 12

LETTERS OF COMMENT (cont.)

Vernon Clark letter (cont.)

lishers and authors to promote sales (as if there isn't enough self gradization already in the publishing industry already). If there is to be some sort of awards system, I want to be able to use that system as a means of evaluating the SF genre and as a readers/buyers guide. The system we have now do not help in this respect. The Nobel Prize is rif with politika, but then it rarely is meant to honor the specific best work of literature of year/author. It has become some of a prize to honor an individual's lifetime achievements (where it falls mighty short). The Gandalf's for fantasy novels and lifetime achievement are just as prone to the errors of the above awards.

Look at Tolkien's SILMARILLION winning a Gandalf. Takl about a farce! The damn thing wasn't even a novel, or a collection of stories

more like an outline/synopsis. The ultimate popularity award (I doubt if many who voted for it actually read the whole thing, I didn't). I equate the re-institution of prayer in schools with the censorship of pornography for one reason. Both are two of most destructive and idiotic things people seem to be fighting for politically nowadays (along with the anti-abortionists).

((Yes, the Vinge interview was done through the mails. We thought the length was fine, as it is the usual CHAT interview length.

How do you know that fans aren't aware of the "popularity contest" atmosphere of awards? I would give fans credit for some brains! Many fans I know go to the library for their books. Who says we need an evaluating system? Any evaluation can only be made by the reader and that is on taste alone, for which there is no accounting. There currently is no "evaluating system" and there is no way to make one work for everyone.))

Artist credits: Julia Wilhoit - cover; Rusty Burke - page 2 (bottom); Charlie Williams - page 2 (top), 5 (2063 AD, part 6), 8, 9 (top & bottom); Laurel Beckley - page 4 (middle); Roger Caldwell - page 4 (bottom), 11; Earl Cagle - page 6; Teddy Harvia - page 10.

NEXT CSFA MEETING: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 7:30 PM; UTC STUDENT CENTER

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37411

- Moved, left no address
- No such number
- Moved, not forwardable
- Addressee unknown



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