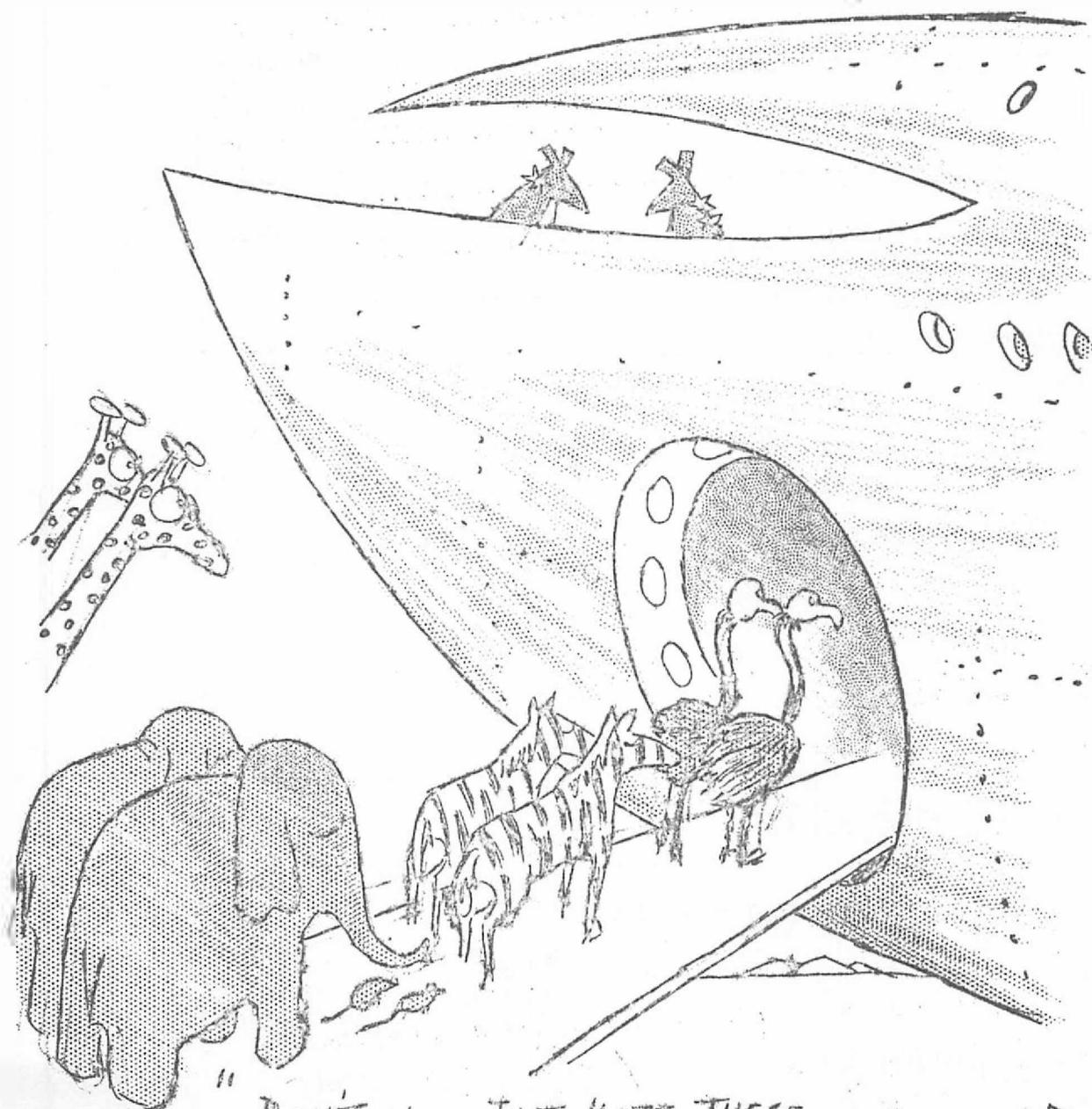


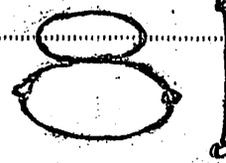
# Scottish



" DON'T YOU JUST HATE THESE  
OUT OF SEASON  
PACKAGE TOURS "

ATOM

# Scottishe



March 1981

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## Credits

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This is the second last issue of SCOTTISHE.  
The last issue will be published October 1981  
50p or \$1 per issue.  
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# Newsings

GRIMGOL WEED by Judith Buffery, Dobson SF, £5.25, 240pp. 4th in the series named THE STAR LORDS SAGA. The intricate pattern of characters continues with Amal and his Angels well to the fore. The introduction of Delera, rescued from prostitution and the child Sahaan shows that there is room for further sequels. The author shows considerable hardihood towards her creations!

THE ALTORAN CREED by Terrance Cockburn, Dobson SF, £5.25, 233pp. Altoran society is female-dominated and the story of the crisis in their culture is told by Sean, a male who is determined to see equality of the sexes restored. Not much depth of characterisation here and a routine overthrow-the-tyrant plot.

NOT TO MENTION CAMELS by R.A. Lafferty, Dobson SF, £5.25, 215pp. Alternate worlds are at the root of the plot but a lot of casual cruelty put me off reading this one thoroughly.

CENETARY WORLD by Clifford D. Simak, Magnum Books, £1.25, 191pp. Earth in this future is graveyard to the Universe, tombstones and landscape gardens cover it. Quite a fascinating idea in itself -but being peopled by Simak with some of his weirder creations makes it even more intriguing.

THE STAR CROSSED by Ben Bova, Magnum Books, £1.25, 223pp. The re-making of Romeo and Juliet as an SF tv show in a future which has 3D screens is the basis of this very entertaining story. Lots of fun and very sarcastic--it seemed to me based on some hard facts about the tv industry.

LADY OF THE HAVEN by Graham Diamond, Magnum Books, £1.50, 382pp. This follows THE HAVEN and charts the adventure of Stacey, Princess of the Empire and her wolf-companion. Adventure tale whose most interesting aspect is the relationship between wolves and humans.

STORM QUEEN by Marion Zimmer Bradley, Arrow Books, £1.50, 364pp. Pleased to see that Arrow are continuing this series of Darkover novels. This one concerns what is known as the Age of Chaos, when the power of laran was first learned and mis-used. Dorilys has strong laran able to produce storms and she is able to strike out at anyone who annoys her. She is a spoilt and indulged child who barely realises her lethal power and her story is told with compassion.

THE WOUNDED LAND: THE SECOND CHRONICLES OF THOMAS COVENANT. Book 1. by Stephen Donaldson, Fontana Paperbacks, £1.75, 500pp. This follows a series of 3 books so it is handy that it opens with a WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE. This describes how Covenant became a leper and then was transferred to an alternate universe. This new book opens with him back on Earth meeting Doctor Avery. She becomes involved with him and they are both transferred to this weird land where magic works and evil can flourish. Fantasy in the high style and the author has been likened to Tolkien.

GALACTIC WARLORD by Douglas Hill. Piccolo Paperbacks, 60p, 127pp. Randor is intent on revenging the murder of his home-world, this is the story of his crusade against the Warlord. Fairly routine adventure with clean-cut hero.

OUTCASTS OF HEAVEN BELT by Joan D. Vinge, Sidgwick & Jackson, £6.95, 198pp. The starship RANGER heads for the Heaven asteroid Belt hoping for trade. Before they have time to explain their mission they are attacked and find themselves in the middle of a civil war where their spaceship becomes a unique prize. Characters are interesting and their actions believable.

## Nibblings 2

LORE OF THE WITCH WORLD by Andre Norton. DAW Books. \$1.95. 223pp. Contains a collection of novelettes and tales not previously published - 7 in all - a real bonus to any collector of the WITCH WORLD series. An excellent introduction is by C.J. Cherryh.

KILL THE DEAD by Tanith Lee. DAW Books. \$1.75. 172pp. This must be the ghost story to top all ghost stories! There are enough twists and turns to keep any reader alert and still the ending comes as a surprise. Parl is a ghost-killer, an exorcist, plying his trade until he meets Myal the musician. Very weird, original and compulsive reading.

NOPALGARTH by Jack Vance. DAW Books. \$2.25. 272pp. Three complete novels with the well thought-out plots to be expected from this author.

ISAAC ASIMOV PRESENTS THE GREAT SF STORIES: No 4. This covers 1942. \$2.50. 448pp. 13 stories that range from THE STAR MOUSE by Fredric Brown via THE TWONKY by Lewis Padgett to MIMIC by Don Wollheim. Very useful series for the collector.

OPTIMAN by Brian M. Stableford. DAW Books. \$1.95. 190pp. War and why wars are fought is the meat of this story. There are 3 contending species on the planet Heidra and Bemy, the human, becomes involved. A good one for war-gaming fans.

THE GOLDEN BARGE by Michael Moorcock. DAW Books. \$1.75. 173pp. The author's introduction states that this was his first novel, written in 1958 when he was much under the spell of Mervyn Peake. Tallow sees a golden barge which he compulsively follows using ruthlessly everyone he meets. An allegory of much imagery and in which his readers can find the basic elements of much he has written since.

DAY BY NIGHT by Tanith Lee. DAW Books. \$2.25. 316pp. A dazzling tour de force of the real and the imaginary well mixed so that the author always keeps one step ahead of the reader. Just try to guess which are the real bits!

THE YEAR'S BEST FANTASY STORIES No 6: Edited by Lin Carter. 11 stories. Well-trusted names such as Leiber, Brunner and Zelazny. Two by Tanith Lee and some new names make up a good collection.

WORLD OF PROMISE by E.C. Tubb. DAW Books. \$1.75. 160pp. Dumarest of Terra. No 23. Ascelius is a planet of universities where Dumarest hopes to find the coordinates of Earth. Instead he finds himself in a mess of trouble. Once again the Cyclan is hounding his trail (though they are having their troubles too!). He does pick up a few clues to Earth before the end of this one.

THE VISITORS by Clifford D. Simak. Sidgwick & Jackson. £7.95. 282pp. The Visitors appear as black boxes, huge things that hover just above the ground. They come first to a small town in Minnesota and start to eat the trees! The puzzle of just how intelligent these alien things are, what their purpose, how they can be dealt with is well maintained and keeps the reader avid on the answers. I must confess though that this story disappointed me; I felt that it stopped just where it should have started! Of course the author is making a point about our Earth culture, how we have used our technology and each other. You can take a moral out of it..but I would rather have found out what happened next.

PROFUNDIS by Richard Cowper. PAN SF. £1.25. 158pp. Profundis is a gigantic submarine the only survivor of a nuclear holocaust which has been sailing under the ocean for years led by one mad captain after another. Tom is a lowly crew member whose job it is to look after the dolphins. When the Captain decides he is God, his computer the Holy Ghost, he picks on Tom as the Son. Weirdly funny at all levels and highly ingenious in plot I enjoyed this tremendously.

THE LUCIFER COMET by Ian Wallace. DAW Books. \$2.25. 302pp. This startling novel begins when a ice comet is discovered with two frozen figures locked in combat. One looks like Lucifer but it is discovered that the other is his brother. Ideas are crammed into this book..time-paradoxes in bewildering fashion are commonplace. The most fascinating characters though are Narfar, the Lucifer-like figure and Dorita the woman whose powers keep spurring her on to do what should not be done. They face a tragic end if the rest of the characters come safely though. Spell-binding!

REBEL OF ANTARES by Dray Prescot. DAW Books. \$1.95. 191pp. No 24 in this series which gives another adventure in Kregan where Dray is determined to stamp out slavery and unite the warring factions.

THE STOLEN GODDESS by Richard Purtill. DAW Books. \$1.75. 159pp. The second story of pre-Grecian Kaphtu from this author is very welcome. His descriptions of the Bull Dance are enthralling as is his story of the gods and half-gods and the mortals

### Nibblings 3

who are weaved into his story. The hero, Duccalion, has not only to rescue his love Akama, he also has to journey to Hades at the request of Apollo. Excellent fantasy, well thought out and well told.

COSMIC CRUSADERS by Pierre Barbat. DAW Books. \$2.25. 286pp. Two complete novels.

BAPHOMET'S METEOR is an alternate history story..if the Knight's Templars had been given help by an alien..how different would the history of the Crusades have been? Told with a close eye to our history of the Knights and so with a wealth of detail.STELLAR CRUSADE..continues the story with the Knights being now aware that the alien's help was to eventually rule earth. Using the technology they had discovered the Knights take to space to prevent an alien invasion. Inventive and unusual.

THE RESTAURANT AT THE END OF THE UNIVERSE by Douglas Adams. PAN SF. 95p. 187pp.

I think this will be as successful as THE HITCH HIKERS GUIDE TO THE GALAXY.

It has the same sort of illogical logic in it that made the other book the "stuff that cults are made of" to quote THE SUNDAY TIMES. Arthur and Ford are in the tow of Zaphod whose own adventures take them into some very weird places. The title is one of those places and features one of the many fascinating scenes that the author conjures out of a fertile imagination. Yet one has to admit that even his most absurd scenes are no more absurd than some of the things that happen on Earth today. I am currently watching the TV series about HITCH HIKER and so find myself wondering if it would ever be possible to show this sequel in the same way. Douglas Adams certainly hasn't made it easy for even the most enterprising TV producer!

STARSHIP Magazine. Fall 1980. \$2.50 From P.O.Box 4175 New York, NY 10017.

Subscriptions: USA 1 year \$8. I am British agent. 1 year 4.75p Please make any cheques you send to me payable to ALGOL PRESS. Next issue due Feb. 1981

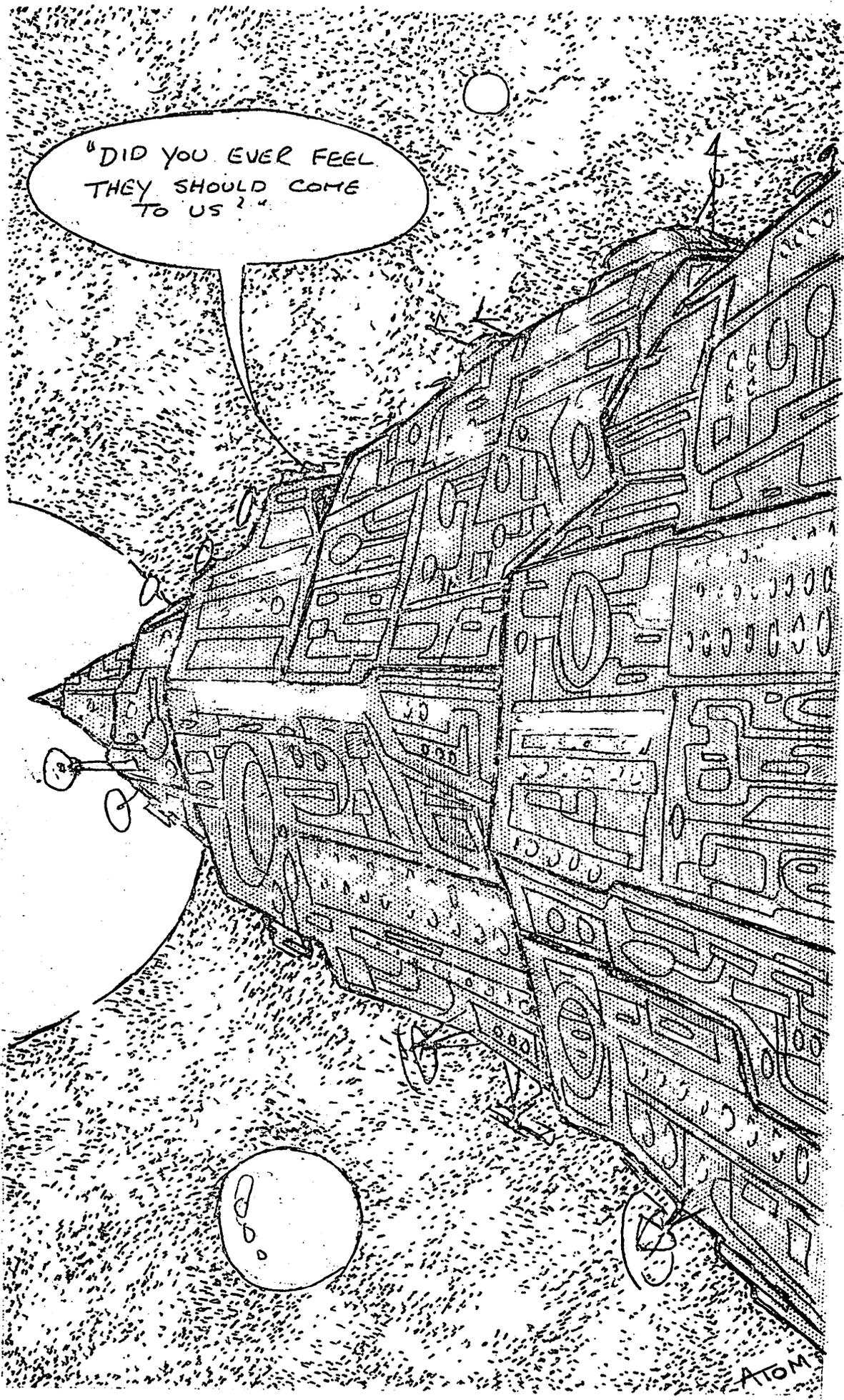
This issue has another fine line-up. In his editorial Andy Porter discusses the Fanzine Hugo. He took STARSHIP out of the running in 1977 expecting that SFR and LOCUS would do the same. They did not and have since then shared the HUGO between them. So he declares STARSHIP back in the running again until "the HUGO rules are changed to make the so-called semi-prozines ineligible". He points out to the SFWA any magazine under 10,000 of a circulation, is a fanzine! There is an article on the writings of Kate Wilhelm by Susan Wood. Susan's perceptive analysis will underline the sense of loss at the news of her death. Next Jeffrey Elliot interviews Diane Duane whose first novel THE DOOR INTO FIRE has been highly successful. Harlan Ellison writes an appreciation of the artwork of Michael Whelan. Fred Pohl's GOH speech is reproduced, enjoyable and also informative as he describes the formation of World SF and its aims. Shob Stewart writes about the films of Thorne Smith in his film column. The book review column is by Susan Wood and the letters include some nicely controversial ones.

AS ON A DARKLING PLAIN: by Ben Bova. Methuen Paperbacks. Magnum Books. £1.25. 189pp.

Mankind reaches Triton and finds machines working away that cannot be understood. The story of the work upon this problem spans many years and moves from Earth to Jupiter and Titan in addition to Sirius. In covering so much the author takes a lot for granted in the amount of knowledge held by the reader. I would not recommend this to someone starting out on SF. The style is rather flat as are the characters. The explanation of the puzzle is, however, ingenious.

NIKKAS: No 24: From: Ed Meskys RFD 1 Box 63, Center Harbor, NH 03226. Available for trade etc. Send all monies..\$1.50 to 106 School St. Laconia, NH 03246. In his editorial Ed discusses some of the talking books he has heard recently. His choice of a translation of the Koran gave some timely information. Ed also continues a discussion of the various types of aids to the blind and his evaluation of them. The book review column is valuable as it covers some little-known books. This is a fine genzine covering a wide variety of subjects such as: Public radio by Fred Lerner; some applications of Murphey's Law by Raphael Folch; Science Fact by Sherwood Frazier. The last is also a theme to muse over by Hal Clement. Piers Anthony tells of a Writer's Workshop. There is also a good letter column. Very neat 3 column production.

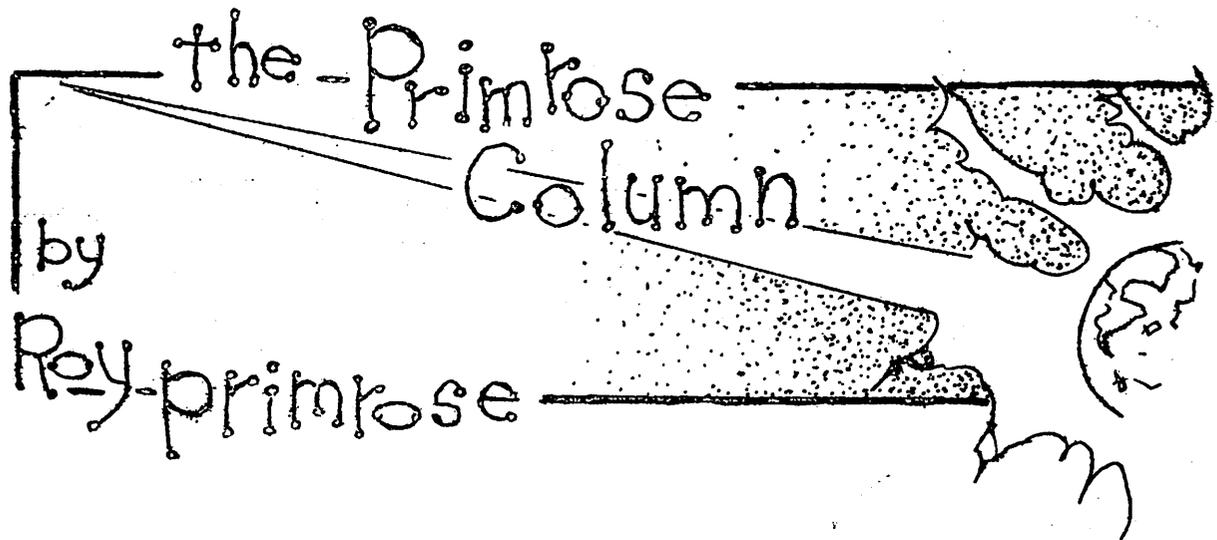
"DID YOU EVER FEEL  
THEY SHOULD COME  
TO US?"



ATOM

# the-Primrose Column

by  
Roy-primrose



Roger Waddington's letter talking about skin flakes and dust reminds me --when we were living in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, in a new and very dust-free house, a vacuum sweeper salesman came to the door with some very gadgety model that only an engineer could operate. When he got to the part where he was sweeping the mattress on the bed and explaining about skin flakes and dust carrying germs I just could not take it any more and asked him if he had ever seen mice raised in a totally-germ-free environment. Of course he hadn't, so I explained to him just what a problem it is just to keep them alive and how fast they will die if taken out into the real world. (Minutes in some cases). The demonstration went steadily downhill from there.

Incidentally, the main reason that house was so dust free was that it was a 'factory-built' house. It was a National Homes product, assembled on a boxmaking machine in Indiana, then trucked to the site. A truck mounted boom picked up the pieces. The smallest piece was at least the wall of one side of a room. It held them upright in place until a crew bolted them together. In about four hours the house was weather tight. Every joint was calked as the house parts went together, making it very nearly air-tight. In fact there was a separate vent from the outside to near the furnace so that opening the front doors would not cause such a back venting that the pilot light would get blown out.

I added a second vent to the area in the ducts just by the filters the lowest pressure area in the heating system. That made the house inside pressure just a bit higher than the pressure outside, so any drafts were going out, not coming in. The purpose was to make the house cosy, but it also had the feature that outside dust did not come in either, unless it came in by way of the vent, which was straight into the filters. Worked like a charm, and as a bonus, our daughter's sinus trouble went away.

The "acres in the sky" solar power satellite concept scares me. Hopefully its greatest task is to keep a department of NASA alive to the end of a study contract. Hopefully also the economics of the thing will remain valid--that the total energy requirement of making all the spacecraft and all the support systems and manufacturing acres of solar cells are greater than will be returned to earth during the lifetime of the satellite.

Because, if such a satellite should ever get put up to beam radio frequency power back to the surface, it will become one of the most dangerous weapons ever conceived. Just changing the control software from keeping the parabolic antenna a parabola to keeping it an ellipse is all that is required. And you would have a focus of power on the surface, a genuine beam weapon with megawatts of power to set things on fire in a path as it sweeps across a city, probably to cook people in its path just like a microwave oven cooks a trapped fly.

That aspect of solar power appeals to the same type of mind that likes big corporations, nuclear power plants and big brother government. Happily, there is another aspect that is getting a lot of play from the little people of the world.

The passive solar house is appearing in a lot of places. One of the most promising is the 'earth sheltered' house. An up to date cave. With

## The Primrose Column.2

walls of reinforced concrete, insulated with four to six inches of structural foam and then waterproofed and covered with several feet of earth. Typically one wall is exposed to the south and has a lot of insulating glass in it. To the north side there is typically a light well with a dome or skylight over it.

With the majority of the house exposed to a 55°F environment (temperature under the earth), then only a 10 or 15 degree increase in temperature is needed to keep the house warm in any weather. Being so well insulated, the normal household activity like cooking will probably mean that heat will have to be dumped to keep the temperature down and the heaters will not have to be turned on at all.

The active solar houses use power to pump hot water or fans to blow air between collector, storage and house. They are also appearing in some numbers and because to the political types who write codes (they are only a change in heat source, not a basic change in concept), they are being accepted in even greater numbers for code approval.

Either way, the use of solar power can, active, passive, earth-sheltered and all the variations in between, spell a great reduction in residence fuel requirements. It won't eliminate the need for power, gas, oil etc., but it can reduce it and in particular it can reduce peak loading, which really sets design numbers for the power plant builder.

Whether it will come about in any great degree is the question. No new breakthroughs are needed. But it does hit directly at the profit of the big oil companies, which also are most of the money behind the nuclear power plants, the gas suppliers and even the coal suppliers. In fact some of them call themselves Energy companies. For that reason I'd be a little surprised if any government did anything effective about a subsidy for builders that put up solar etc. homes.

So many things not only possible, but even profitable within current technology. There's even money in the commerce banks to finance some of them--like the Channel Bridge, or the Gibraltar Bridge. Both are practical and there's money available, but no one will move.

Using the techniques of the off shore drilling platforms, that are built on shore and then floated to their site and tipped up, either bridge could have all the towers put in place almost without hindering shipping and during a relatively short period of mild weather. Then the cables could be run without regard to shipping or weather and the road way placed, again without bothering shipping.

I wonder if the trouble is that most of the large companies are managed rather than run? Managers who have little or no stock in the company and who would rather make a "nice little profit" for the stockholders instead of gambling on something big and spectacular that the world needs but which would pay out slowly over a couple of generations.

Enough of that. I have run into one gutsy company. There have been ads running in The Contract Engineer for job shoppers who know dirigible design. The ads are by a firm in Dallas, but they are trying to hire for a company in England that wants to build a freight carrying dirigible. I sincerely hope they make it.

Roy Lavendar.

# TIME SNAP

by

Eric  
Needham

On the anniversary of the death of Elvis Presley I was deeply disturbed to find the evening paper had two full pages of IN MEMORIAM adverts. It seems to me that those youngsters who vowed undying love did not know what they were doing. I'm old enough to remember my mother having a gentle weep on the death of Rudolph Valentino in 1926, while I had my terrible-sense-of-loss in 1937 with the death of George Gershwin. I was 16 years old.

People who have never heard of George Gershwin know his music, which is as fresh and sparkling today as when new. But he left something else...an all-negro opera, PORGY AND BESS. I knew all the music, drooled over the names in the original cast, but due I believe to copyright difficulties at the time of Gershwin's death, PORGY AND BESS was never produced on any stage in any country outside the United States. Not until the 1960's was a motion-picture version produced. Even then I still hoped to see PORGY AND BESS on the stage.

But to return to Elvis Presley. In 1977 I was completely taken aback by the incredible similarity between the Leningrad of 1977 and the Manchester of 1938. Manchester and Leningrad are twin cities, both inland seaports, and the resemblance by night was incredible, with lots of neon-lighting and trams and trolleybuses and everywhere, people walking on foot.

Manchester's neon lights went out in 1939 and never returned to the same degree. Leningrad with the passing days seemed more and more like home, and the feeling of having gone forty years into the past steadily grew. And one night we went to see DON CARLOS by Verdi at the Kirov Theatre. And the world turned upside down. In the foyer was a forthcoming events board and on it, labelled in Russian and English, were photographs of a production of PORGY AND BESS. Forty years after the death of George Gershwin I came face-to-face with a stage production of his greatest work in an uneasy feeling of disbelief.

I looked at those black-faced Russian actors in immaculately-cut, faultless pressed suits and dazzlingly polished two-tone shoes. It may be true that in Western democratic republics impoverished negro fishermen in their spare time do dress like Mafiosi, but to me it seems they wear such costumes as are worn by such citizens as George Raft, Edward G. Robinson and James Cagney in Warner Bros. gangster films of the early 1930's, and indeed these films are still the only places I ever see such costumes.

In disbelief we went in to take our seats for DON CARLOS, a lavishly produced, magnificently lit, brilliantly-costumed drama with a cast of hundreds. And after a few minutes I flipped in time.

Elvis Presley spent some time in uniform, as I did. Towards the end of World War II as Allied armies drove towards Berlin I found myself confined to camp for a week on Fire Picket, guarding two fire extinguishers through fourteen showings of MARK OF ZORRO in the camp cinema of 620 Squadron RAF. On the last night I was told to stay behind for a special showing of a captured German film of the life of Baron Munchausen, a vividly coloured brightly costumed production with German dialogue and French sub-titles, of which I understood not a word.

So that in Leningrad of 1977 which so much resembled my Manchester of 1938 in a theatre which like Manchester's defunct Theatre Royal is a copy of Milan's La Scala I sat down to an opera of Old Spain by an Italian composer sung in Russian still reeling from the shock of seeing photographs of a play by a composer who died in 1937. The seething fury and impotent rage I felt to realise that after forty years we had arrived a week too early to see PORGY AND BESS! I'll leave you to guess. It was like a vision of Paradise to an unbeliever. Like a glimpse of the Pearly Gates with a notice "Closed for Stocktaking" to a relapsed heretic. So near and yet so far.

In this frame of mind I flipped back to 620 Squadron in England in 1945, or was it flipped forward?..to Baron Munchausen and German dialogue and French sub-titles and incredible costumes in wartime England, And back again to DON CARLOS in Old Spain sung in Russian in a Leningrad which was incredibly like pre-war Manchester. And this continued for two hours.....back and forth.

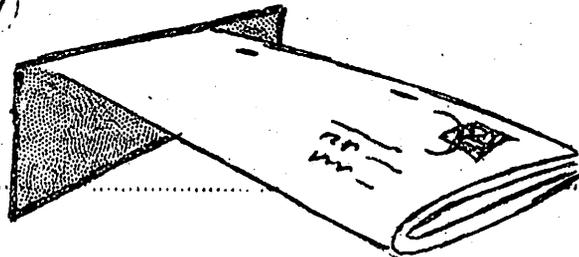
After the show my ecstatic wife murmured "Wasn't that marvellous?". All I could say as I passed those hateful photographs in the foyer was that I had never known anything like it in my life.

And this is why I look with concern on those teenagers who write the IN MEMORIUM ads. I think they are all mixed up.

Eric Needham



# haverings



comments on zines received.....

some from Australia first.....

FORERUNNER: Vol. 3 No 4: From: Jack R. Harmon, 1/67 Fletcher St. Bondi. NSW. 2026. \$4/12. Journal of the Sydney SF Foundation. Genzine in style with con reports, book and zine reviews. Like most clubzines..not much personality. Trades.

THE MENTOR: Nos 26&27: From Ron L. Clarke, 6 Bellevue Rd. Faulconbridge. NSW 2776. No price, for trades etc. John J. Alderson's article about the 'mores' of housing entitled HIS AND HERS is a nice mixture of research and provocation. Someone's sure to rise to this! Ron has some good contributors, in 27 Diane Southgate has an amusingly irreverent poem that I liked. He is also running a series giving the history of Australian fandom..valuable to historians.

THE SPACE WASTREL: No 3: From: Mr Warner & Mr Loney, St Columba College, Stirling Highway, Nedlands 6009. \$1 for 4/year. Also for trade but they want 2 copies. Mostly whimsical in output as the use of the Mr will have warned you.

AUSSICON 5th ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL FANZINE: From: Jean Weber, 13 Myall St. O'Conor. ACT 2601. Quite a delightful collection of people remembering the first Aussicon. Good writing too from John Bangsund, Mike Glicksohn, Leigh Edmonds etc. Some good views of a new fan being introduced to world conventions. They are bidding again for AUSTRALIA in 1983.

SF COMMENTARY: No 60/61: From: Bruce Gillespie, GPO Box 5195AA Melbourne. Vict. 3001. \$A2 for this double issue, which is looking very professional. Starts with a letter from Ursula Le Guin who thinks she may have Od'd on sf, what an enlightening remark! Some highly entertaining SF discussion in the letter column and the book reviews are of high calibre. When the reviews are scathing, and they often are, they are still without the hysteria that sometimes mars adverse criticism.

Next some Canadianians....

THE MONTHLY MONTHLY: No 12: From: c/o Robert Runte, 10957-88 Ave. Edmonton. Alberta. Published by the Gang of Four. editor this issue Rosanne Charset. 75¢. Rosanne is French-Canadian (her family go back to 1669!) and she gives a calm and succinct report of the recent Quebec Referendum. A review of the novel MOTHERLINES by Jeanne Gomoll is fascinating, I'd just read another review in MENTOR of this book and there could'nt be a greater contrast. I'll have to read this book, I see.

THE BIMONTHLY MONTHLY: No 13: From: as before. Editor this issue is Christine Kulyk single price issue now \$1. The schedule is changed to bimonthly after a full year of monthly issues. Artwork continues to be excellent. Main item is an interview with a Yugoslavian describing SF in his country. Discussion on cons being too big now shows quite diverse opinions. A good genzine.

NEOLOGY: Vol 5 No 4/5: From: The Edmonton SF and Comic Art Soc. Newsletter, PO Box 4071, Edmonton. Alberta. T6E 458. At their third annual con they bought films and have discovered this is a profitable thing to do-pass the news. Thorough coverage of Canadian news, books reviews, neat guide to zines by Robert Runte.

One from Italy.....

LUCIFRO: No 7: From: Bruno Baccelli, via Carriona 7G 54033 Carrara, Italy. Nicely produced, extra good artwork. In Italian throughout.

## Haverings 2

And so to America.....

SF ECHO:MOEBIUS TRIP:No 28:From:Ed Connor,1805 N.Gale.Peoria,IL 61604.\$1.50  
Notable for being very small and neat. So is Ed's coverage of 3 cons attended.  
Jack Wodham has a passionate piece against racialism and eliteism of any kind  
-ought to provoke controversy. There are a lot of letters-the readable kind.

THE WHOLE FANZINE CATALOG:No 17:From:Brian Earl Brown,16711 Burt Rd.No 207,  
Detroit,MI 48219.50¢ or trade etc. A fanzine reviewzine. Handy alphabetical  
listing. Editorial: STALKING THE PERFECT FANZINE has been a series of useful  
information on fanzine production..but the whole thing is useful.

HARLOT:No 1:From:Avedon Carol,4409 Woodfield Rd.KensingtonMD 20795 and Anne  
Laurie Logan,656 Abbot Rd.E.Lansing,MI 48823.Trades. Avedon does the editorial  
and discloses a nice sense of humour. Anne gives historical research on the  
use of the word 'harlot'-in old French it meant a vagabond! A Terry Carr reprint  
from 1959 is, of course, excellent. Both editors write further and their  
ability with words augers a good zine.

WOMEN AND MEN:No 7:From:Denys Howard,1013,N.36th Seattle.Washington 98103.\$1or  
trades etc. Apparently it has been 4 yrs since the last issue! He says it is  
aimed at 'gay' people. Some long fanzine reviews but the bulk of this is  
taken up by the letter column. Mostly relevant if you had read the last issue  
but fascinating in its range of subjects.

HAWAII:No 2:From:Seth Goldberg,PO Box 7309,"Enlo Park,CA 94025.25¢ Fapazine.  
Only 4pp but you can count a piece of new knowledge -that the title is the  
correct spelling according to the natives. Seth has just spent 5yrs there and  
I would like to know more about what it was like.

STEFANTASY:No 87:From:William M.Danner,RD1 Kennerdell,Pa 16374. Here is one zine  
where you will often see an ATOM illo-this time on the cover and in lovely  
colour.Starts off in high satiric style when J.Sebastian Carroll writes about  
the dangers of pencils. This is followed by reproduction of items published in  
the 18th century - and it is awesome to see how often the sentiments are still  
echoed today. The letter column continues to be one of the best around. You  
only get this zine if your heart is in the right place.

GROGGY:No 11:From:Eric Mayer and Katherine Malone, Spring Lake,140 F.Power Lane  
Rochester,N.York.14124. A personal journal done in hecto so distribution is limit-  
ed. The colour that is possible with hecto produces very attractive artwork. I  
was interested in Kathy who, at one time, corresponded with me over mystery  
novels. At that time she was a ballet dancer. Nothing from her in this and I  
only get glimpses of her from Eric. I'd surely like to know what happened in  
between! This one has a pleasant atmosphere.

MAGINATH:4 issues dated Aug,Sept,Oct and Nov 1980. From:Jessica Amanda Salmonson.  
Box 5688 University Station,Seattle.Washington.98105.\$1. Very neat with handsome  
coloured covers. As compiler of AMAZONS(DAW pb)Jessica has an interest in women  
warriors of history, mythology, and heroic fantasy and seeks such material. She  
is very interesting about how one should entertain foreign visitors and how one  
can see through their eyes.An unusual magazine-it quotes a great many titles for  
the heroic fatasy fan.

SF REVIEW:No 37:From Richard E.Geis,PO Box 11408 Portland,OR 97211.\$2.Once again  
Alexis Gilliland goes off with the prize for marvellous cartoons. In ALIEN THOTS  
Dick muses over the durability of formula fiction. The movie review column is  
chiefly valuable in warning me off! Some letters in reply to Chris Priest's  
resignation from SFWA make good reading and I await with interest his reply. It  
does seem as if he should be flattened..but I doubt it. Book reviews are the  
meat of this magazine -of high standard and valuable to the book-buyer.

YANDRO:Nos 250&251:From Robert & Juanita Coulson,Route 3,Hartford City,IN 47348.  
British Agent:Alan Dodd,77 Stanstead Rd,Hoddesdon,Herts. 75¢//35p.However 250 is  
a special issue priced higher with proceeds going to DUFF and T&FF. The special  
issue describes their visit to England. They both write separate reports, so very  
comprehensive as I were interested in different aspects of English life. I really  
enjoyed this, it is the kind of informative report we rarely see nowadays. No 251  
is a normal Y..it has 50pp and was done at the same time as the Trip report. This  
shows the incredible amount of work the Coulsons produce. Coads of amusing letter  
writers, succinct book reviews and Dave Locke's column has the brilliant idea of  
giving the F&AN awards to the N3F.Always a giggle somewhere in Y.

Haverings 3

...home again, home again, jiggely jig...

RA BRIG:No 1:From: Owen Whiteoak, Jim Darroch, Phil Dawson, 17 Royal Terrace, Edinburgh. EH14 5L2. 50p or trade etc. Very pleased to see this; Scottish groups are late on the fannish scene. Brian Hannigan writes a fairly guarded report on his first con. Jim Darroch reviews films shown at the Edinburgh Festival, pity if they do not get general release. Owen's article is titled SWEARING and is a plea for not banishing it from fanzines. He agrees that its continual use is boring—which is my main objection to it. Jim Darroch describes the con at Keele University..his main complaint was the food. Jim, I don't have that complaint about the food at Edinburgh University..any thoughts about that?

SECOND HAND WAVE:No 42:From: Alan Ferguson & Trev Briggs, 26 Hoecroft Court, Hoe Lane, Enfield, Middsx. No price. Odd choice of material. I can see interest in an article on an Irish writer; but an article on the death of Marilyn Monroe seems out of place. Particularly as it is written in the innuendo-ridden style. The rest of the zine is humorous, a bit heavy in parts, but on the whole, lively.

SF HORIZONS:No 3:From: Keith & Rosemary Walker, 6 Vine St. Greaves, Lancaster. Lancs. LA1 3JW. Main item is discussing how to choose books for an SF teaching course; very helpful to anyone contemplating such. Another good article is on the fantasy to be found in the children's section.

MABU:No 10:From: Ian & Janice Maule, 5 Beaconsfield Rd, New Malden, Surrey. KT3 3HY. Ian describes his first 10 yrs in fandom, enjoyable reading! Chris Evans writes about fanzines and compares them to the music scene. The main assumption here I would query is that all fanzines have the same purpose—to be seen as a success. Chris Priest entertains in describing the effect of his electric train set on his friends. Joseph Nicholls next with his usual sweeping generalisations..about American fans this time. I was just thinking to myself that his sentences were almost as long as Proust when I came to the bit where he accuses American fans of "wordiness". I wonder if he has any sense of humour at all! Letter column has discussion of the state of fanzines, typical is the opinion of Michael Ashley saying that fanzines are an artform and consequently subject to normal artistic standards. That sounds pompous to me..imagine being pompous about a hobby! Yet this fanzine itself has a pleasant editorial personality.

ERG QUARTERLY:No 73:From: Terry Jeeves, 230 Bannerdale Rd, Sheffield, S11 9FE. \$2/3 ... Loc plus 25p in stamps. This has part 1 of Terry & Val's trip to America report. Terry is lucky in being able to illustrate as he describes the scene. Boston is one town I'd love to visit so I really appreciated his detailed descriptions. I was with you in spirit, Terry! Efficient zine and book reviews are continued.

TWLL-DDU:No 18:From: Dave Langford, 22 Northumberland Ave, Reading, Berks. RG2 7PW. 50p Dave starts by describing his job and soon had me chuckling over his description of the necessity for urine samples. I can assure you Dave, your troubles were as nothing compared to having to test about 20 or so on a nice hot day..This is written by Dave throughout, apart from a few letters. His nice range of interests and a humorous outlook on life make this zine one of the best of the British batch.

R&G ARNOCK:No 2:From: John Shire, Ponderosa, Church St, Merriott Somerset, GS229. 15p or trade etc. I like John's reasons for publishing—his statement that he wrote for anyone who cared to read it. His book reviews are outside the usual SF range which makes a nice change. This shows a cheerful irreverent personality—very welcome!

LIBERATED CRABS: Also from John Shire with fellow-editors Allen Boyd-Newton and Mike Paine. Not nearly as good as R&G. Three editors make it too piecemeal. There are chunks of anti-war and anti-nuclear argument which, whilst very worthy, say nothing fresh about the subject.

SIDDHARTHA:Nos 10&11:From: Ian Williams, 6 Greta Terr, Chester Rd, Sunderland, SR4 7RD Tyne & Wear. For trade or comment. A personal zine. He describes buying a Sony video and how he uses it. This made me very envious, he has got one of my favourite films THE LION IN WINTER on tape now. I'm often annoyed to find two programmes I want to see on at the same time..but £750! That's a luxury alright. A Novacon report is written in an amiable fashion, I find this kind of report chiefly interesting in seeing who gets mentioned and who doesn't. Fandom can be a very fashionable place! Ian has some thoughts about publishing in this recession which sound sensible. I

#### HAVERINGS 4

am not a lover of rock music but I really enjoyed Ian's description of a band trying to get ahead in the music world. He gave a good behind-the-scenes piece. What I dislike about today's music is the dominance of the drummer, and of course, the loud volume. I would not even complain about the way the guitar has replaced the horn and the saxophone; if only someone would put a stocking over the heads of the majority of the drummers. I thoroughly enjoyed this zine.

With that I have emptied the basket and can now comment upon zines as they come in..oh the luxury of retirement...

GNU DEAL:No 1:From Ragnar Fyri,Sollivisien 37,N 1370,Asker,Norway.In English. This one ought to appeal to the game-playing fans. You are invited to assume a character such as Dr Who, and write in that characters name. The explanation of it all I found easy enough to understand, but the presentation of the material just a leetle confusing..who is writing what for a start. Funny though,particularly the Princess Leia verses.

THE BIMONTHLY MONTHLY:From:as before.Editor this issue,David M.Vereschagin.No 14. Dave starts by describing a weird encounter at 3am. Steve George then describes his curiosity visit to a porn shop, would never have the nerve myself so enjoyed his description..lor but its a funny world! There is a good fanzine review column but it only covers a small amount of zines. I enjoyed the letter column best where there is much discussion about the "myth of objectivity" ..and the difficulty of using "as a fact" and "as an opinion". Should be required reading for all faneds.. in my opinion. A very worth while issue.

MEMPHEN:Nos 39,41,& 42:From:Greg Bridges,140 Eastview Dr.Memphis.TN 38111.USA.For the Mid-South Fantasy Assoc."The usual or membership". The latter is \$4 per year. This club is able to offer its members films at their meetings. This zine is small-sized 4pp, club news plus occasional reviews.

SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE:Nos 2-5.Vol.2:From:Abdy Porter, address as for STARSHIP. Monthly.\$12 per year.Overseas\$18.Cheques can be made payable to ALGOL PRESS and sent to me. The complete newszine, up-to-date publishing news, many photographs,reports of conventions and sf personalities. A must for the serious sf fan.

FANTAST-MEDWAY, 39 West St.Wisbech,Cambs.PE13.2LX.Catalogues issued monthly, lists of books and mags for sale, American material can be obtained. Con listings and news items are added bonus.

FANTASY CENTRE,157 Holloway Rd.London.N7 8LX.Good for out of print books.

DE PROFUNDIS:Newsletter of L.A.S.F.S.Mainly club news but this ranges very widely always interesting readng.

DAGON:Nos 231-238:From:John Boardman, 234 E.19th St.Brooklyn,N.York.11226.An 4paQ zine that has much more than mailing comments as John covers so many current news items, along with his own robust opinions of it all.

Ethel Lindsay

# LETTERS

Eric Needham: "I have been speculating on the real reason for your return to Carnoustie. English people usually retire and flee to the South Coast to die, while Elephants hunt out the Elephant's Graveyard. For many years the location has been a mystery but now you give all the clues. It has to be a place where a small population would be unlikely to notice a procession of dying elephants. There has to be tall elephant grass to conceal their passage from spiering bodies, and of course, once buried, their remains can be disguised as rockeries. All is plain! You have retired from publishing to become the Guardian of the Elephant's Graveyard. Good for you, but my lips are sealed."

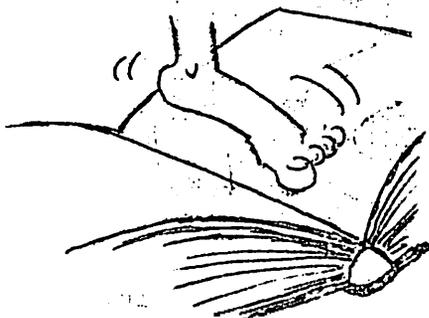


Arnold Akien. "That WHO NEEDS WOMEN debate was fun, I was there too but it was only later that I thought of the definitive argument in favour of women. For quite a few years there has been this worry about making first contact with aliens. Men, and I pause here to explain I mean male human beings like wot I is; and do not use 'men' as a general term for all humans. There is no use feminists trying to needle me on this point; as your own Scottish poet said "A mon's a mon for awl that". Yes, we men have been practising for this extra-terrestrial encounter. We have been trying to communicate with beings whose minds are far harder to comprehend than any ETs we are likely to meet. These strange and exotic creatures are called Women. I am sure that the strenuous efforts of men to develop what diplomats call 'a meaningful relationship' is not going unobserved by ETs. Even now we are probably being observed by representatives of vastly superior alien civilisations. One when we men finally manage to understand women they will descend in their flying teatrays to join the intergalactic brotherhood of thingies. The only obstacle to this happy event is the sheer immensity of the problem...What if, in pre-history, these vastly superior aliens deliberately planted women to challenge our powers of intellect and provide a spur to civilisation. This fits in very well with all those Adam and Eve variations. What we need is a book which will explain this theory of mine and connect it with all sorts of weird events in the past. Since I thought of it first who better than I to write such a book. I could call it WOMEN OF THE GHODS. It has everything! Mystery, Sex, an author with a funny name, what more could the public ask for? Move over Von Doniken..."



## Letters 2

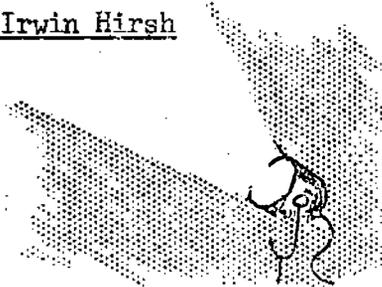
Roger Waddington:



"I'm glad you've now received the WARHOON WILLISH. I must admit though, that I wondered what possessed me once I'd put my order for this volume into the postbox- a sudden surge of enthusiasm? Fannish dreams? Be the first on your block? - with little exaggeration I'd hardly paid 25p for a book before, let alone 25 dollars; and my dismay didn't lessen any when the postman handed me this weighty, foot-across parcel. But since then I've been dipping into it almost every night. I have it in front of me as a talisman when I loo and, in short, I'm wondering what I ever did before without Walt Willis to amuse and inspire. After

seeing how Terry Jeeves is reacting to retirement, with his plans for the continuation for ERG etc..I'm not at all surprised that you want to hang on to those DAW reviews, though I wouldn't recommend the BSFA. At the moment it seems to be filled with what used to be called young Turks(today, they'd probably be called young Iranians) determined to push their views of the world of SF; and the reviews featured are designed more to educate the readers, to tell us what to read, rather than show us what's available, concentrating more on the beginner than the already experienced; and certainly from some of the reviews, it appears I've never read a good sf book in my life! " \*\*\*Roger, you go on to suggest I offer these reviews to ERG..but consider that Terry does his own(good)reviews and also that he has no doubt a limited amount of pages! I was highly amused at your young Iranians..and am also deeply grateful for the magazines you send on to me...\*\*\*

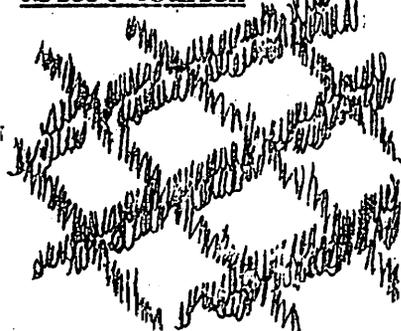
Irwin Hirsh



"For me the most enjoyable aspect of this issue is the artwork by ATOM. I particularly like his illustrations that are throughout the letter column. I could be wrong, but I don't think there is any other fanzine that has ATOM as a regular contributor, and I hope ATOM is not lost from fandom when the last issue of SCOTTISHE comes out. Hopefully he'll adopt another fanzine. I'm really sorry this isn't a longer loc, but since I've been pronounced dead in Mervyn Barrett's article you'll have to appreciate that it

has been rather hard for me to even write this much." \*\* ATOM does appear in other places but I do think the majority of his best work has appeared in SCOT. Of course there were those marvellous HYPHEN covers which were always so topical and made you fall off your chair laughing. I don't think there has ever been a funnier cartoonist in fandom than ATOM. I have some framed ATOMi?los of which I am very proud.\*\*\*

Robert Coulson



"But Tartanturf would be ideal for the lawn! Admittedly I've never heard of it before, but if Harry Warner vouches for it, it must be so. I suppose the company has a catalog that shows the proper tartan for each clan. What a conversation piece it would be! None of your common old green lawns, but a veritable front-door advertisement for Clan Lindsay. And think how it would simplify matters for neofens making their first pilgrimages to your home; the ideal landmark. "Can't miss it, my boy; only house in Carnoustie that has a plaid lawn."\*\*\*Eric Needham sent me an article about artificial turf and I hope you won't be too disappointed to learn that Tartan is only a trade name

and their turf comes only in green. This article was discussing its use for football pitches and how much better it was than the real thing. The article says that it is a green nylon ribbon pile, knitted into polyester backing reinforced with nylon tyre cord with an 'impact pad' of synthetic rubber....makes me wish I'd heard of this before buying all those pebbles...still then I would have missed that rather awesome pun...\*\*\*

## Letters 3

Sid L. Birchby.



"What! My last LOC made you laugh into your porridge? Mind boggles. I usually weep salt tears at breakfast. Useful as flavouring, but hard-start for the day's work, especially when SCOT-80 arrives with the count-down to the last issue. Should your readers ask the Government to schedule you as an Ancient Monument—excuse me, schedule SCOT—"Save Carnoustie's only Truezine!" and are you a Tourist Trap? Think of all those visitors to the pebbled shores of Angus. Wouldn't you like to become a National Asset? How would you like to be taken over by an oil-sheikh? Roger Waddington: there is a pleasant custom of producing a tribute to some Ancient Person in

the form of a book of articles on a suitable theme. Why not do something about it?

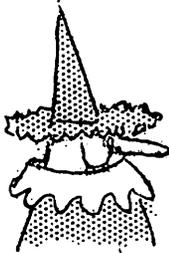
Bob Shaw: do you realise that when you attack critics, the first one was Eve?

"The Author's refusal to explain his arbitrary attitude to those damned apples is typical of the literary style, and is quite inconsistent with critical standards." And Adam is the archetypal fan-editor, isn't he? "I may deserve a ribbing, but not for poor reproduction. I don't give a fig..." E.C. Tubb: Dear Ted, We all

regret the disappearance of that little old corner shop which the planners demolished, and I personally have a permanent mental image of a snowy village street in Surrey, about 1938, with bow-fronted shops like a Charles Dickens story. Probably a motorway, nowadays. Since then, I have met many planners, and they are nice people, though retarded. Humour them, but don't bring Dumarest back to Earth. He wouldn't be happy." \*\*\*Well, I think that Dumarest must get back to Earth after

all his tribulations..and why shouldn't he be happy then? That will be an Earth of the future. The western part of this Earth is going through the second Industrial Revolution..which is not a very good place to feel optimistic I agree but still I am...an awful lot about ancients in this letter..listen..my aunt is now 88 and still going strong and I aim to go her one better. I enjoyed your article about the HUMMADRUZ -where is it being published?\*\*\*\*

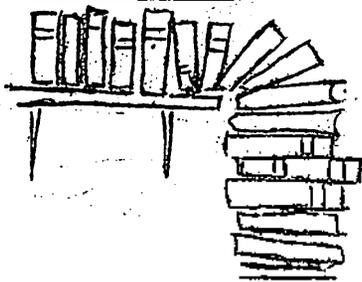
Dave Langford:



"Once again the cruel Scots commit cultural oppression upon the poor long-suffering Welsh, perverting the good Welsh 'ddu' into the Scots 'dhu'---tut tut---Concerning GROK and the lack of writer's workshops, I did write telling them that there were lots, but that often the best thing is to run your own. I've been involved with the 'Pieria' group for a long time--keep getting Denounced for elitism, but it's nowt but a bunch of friends sniping at one another's stories--including Holdstock, Stephenson, Kev Smith etc. The Milford conference that the Blishes started early in the

70s are still going: in theory anyone published in SF/Fantasy can be invited, though numbers are limited and its first come first served--besides which the fallible committee doesn't necessarily know about everyone who might qualify. Attendance at Milford 80 included Richard Cowper, Rob Holdstock, Chris Priest and others whose indiscretions will be chronicled in ANSIBLE. Anyway, anyone wishing to get in on the ground floor of writer's workshops would do well to send 75p to FOCUS, the Holdstock/Evans magazine aimed at new writers, and ask for issue 2, which dealt with just such matters. c/o 38 Peters Ave., London Colney, Herts. AL2 1NQ \*\*\*Thanks for the helpful information...about that ddu..I do apologise..you dhu know, though, that I am fandom's best typo-maker..dhun't you?\*\*\*\*

Eddie Bundred



"As to your reviews, I'm sure the BSFA would be glad to use them. I'm all in favour of factual reviews, as criticism is so subjective. I prefer a review to retell the plot and comment on the characterisation. I liked Mervyn Barrett's article on locs and sympathise with him. My library outgrew my shelves a while ago. When I joined the BSFA six months ago and began writing for zines they joined the books. Some with envelopes, some without, some with loose letters. Within a while I had lost track! As a result of my ignorance of things fannish I sent off few

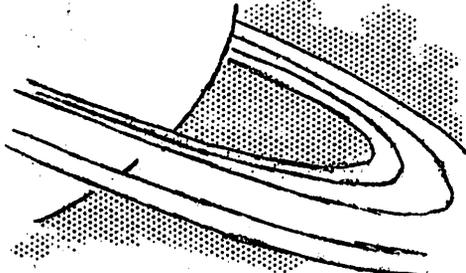
locs. The editors must think me awful ignorant or totally uninterested. So I have resolved to read every zine as I receive it and send off a loc before I lose track

Letters 4

Being a new fan, some of the letters and some of your comments were a bit confusing, but I'm sure I'll get used to the style eventually. It's just my luck to discover SCOT just as you've decided to stop publishing.\* \*\*\* It was always a fannish tradition that you received a copy of the zine in which a loc appeared. I would not count on that so much nowadays..money is getting tight and the expense is zooming.\*\*\*

Harry Andruschak:

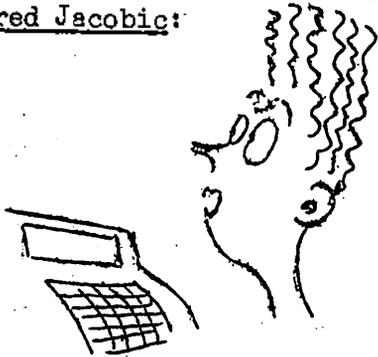
"Now it strikes me that when your zine folds..much to everyone's unhappy feelings, this might mean no more NATTERINGS. Therefore..would you like to continue your column NATTERINGS in my genzine? I print off all my locs in ditto,100 copies to be included in my SPPA No 100 zine. As a fannish joke I intend to put through a 500 page apazine. Of course nobody will read it, right? Otherwise I feel fine..and am happy over the Saturn encounter. Will send you some pics if I can get my hands on



them. Talk about lovely rings? Thousands of them!!" \*\*\*A very flattering offer, Andy, and thank you very much. However Buck Coulson beat you to it by offering to run it in YANDRO. My guess is that I will want a bit of time without a deadline before I start again.\*\*\*

Fred Jacobic:

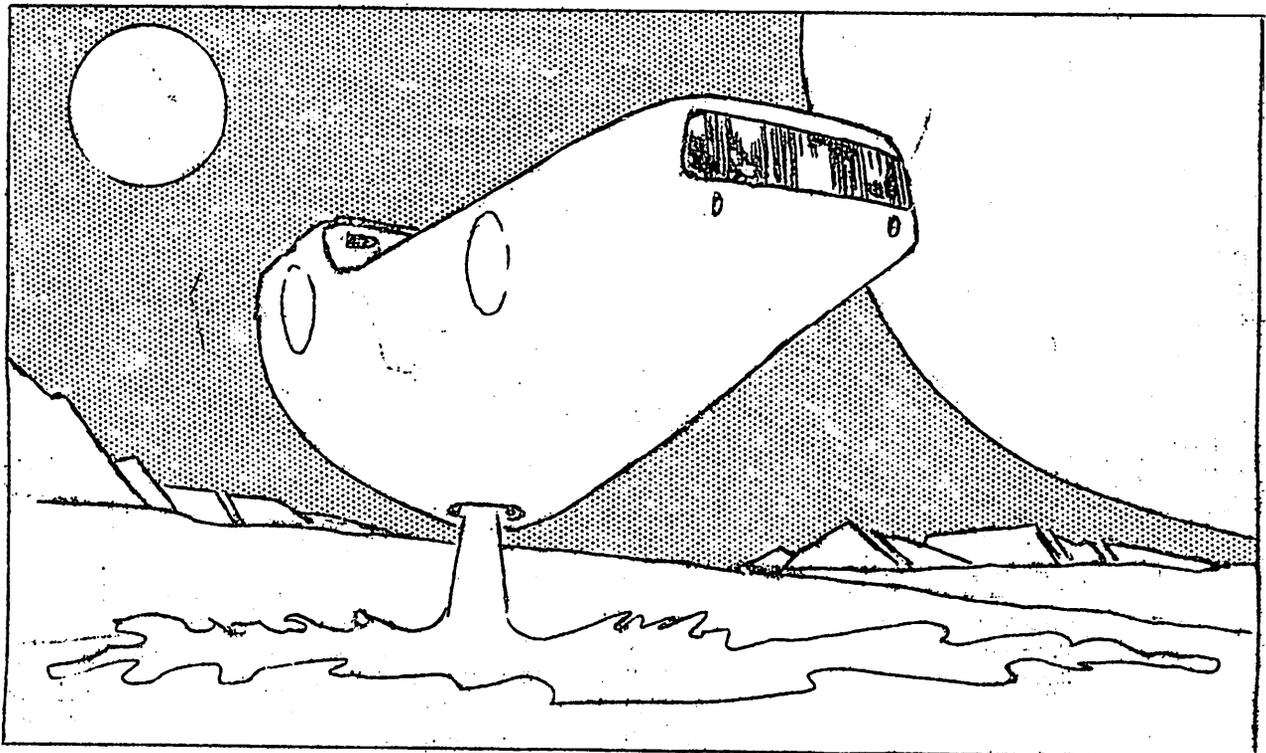
"Your mention of STAR WARS Troopers in the Winter '79 issue, brings to mind what happened at a Conclave convention. Picture a real fierce-looking Darth Vader wandering around. Across the way from the Con site was a restaurant with a girl sitting at the cash register. In comes Vader and company, she had her head down, looked up and what did she see but this scary-looking character, Vader before her. She all but fainted. I wish I'd been there to see it!"

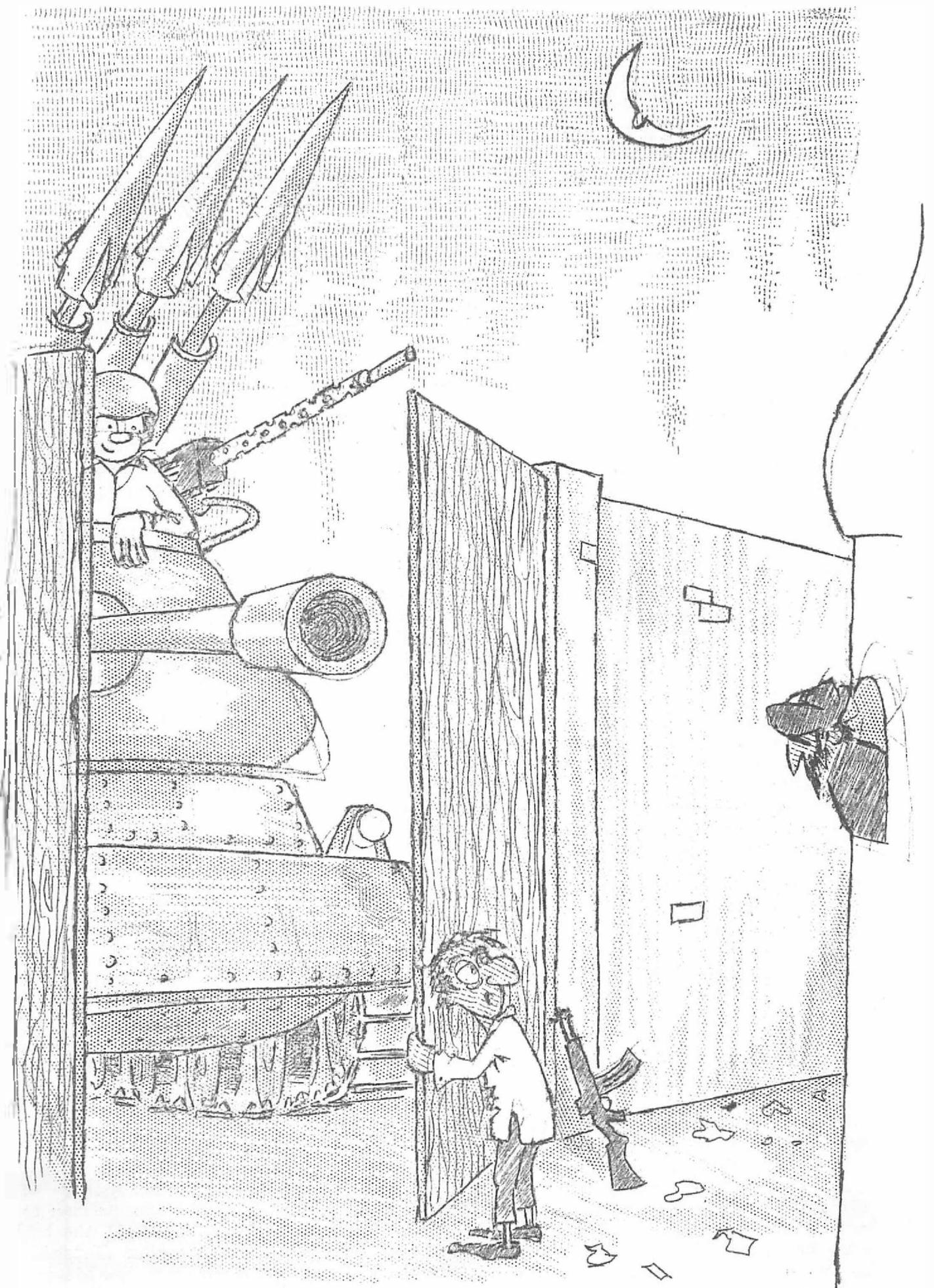


We also heard from, and wish to thank....

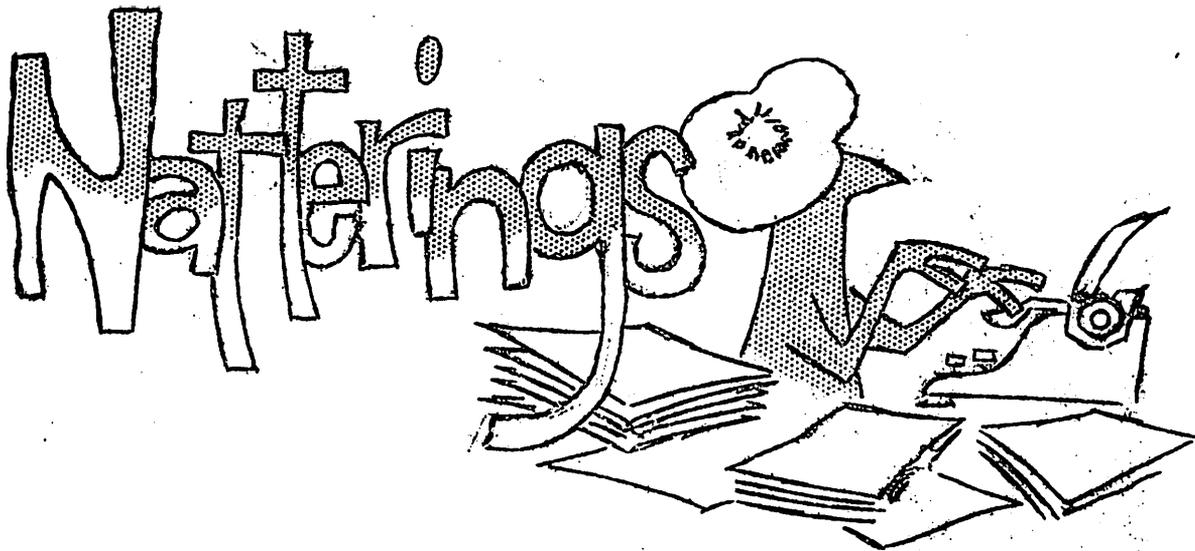
Betty Peters, John Brunner, David Nash, Pamela Boal...also Mary Long who sent me a picture of their handsome son..10 months old already!

\*\*\*\*\*





"IT'S AN AMERICAN... SAYS HE WANTS TO BE TAKEN HOSTAGE"



I first entered a Public Library so young I could not pronounce the word- my version was liberty-taken there by my grandmother who did her baby-sitting chore by giving me a book of pictures whilst she read all the newspapers. As soon as I was old enough to get my head above the counter I joined and first of all devoured all the books of Dr Doolittle. I stayed a faithful reader at various libraries until about the last ten years of my working life when I did not have the time.

One of the pleasures of retirement was going back to the Public Library; the one here is small but quite well stocked and one can order books. I did order one in November that has not come though yet; I guess that is because of the library budget. I can take out 4 books at a time so I decided to always make at least one a non-fiction book and started on the biography section. Other people's lives always fascinate me but, as I had done plenty such historical reading in the past, I zoned in on the theatrical section. There were books that were devoted to Hepburn, Tracy, Astair etc and I worked my way through them. The best writing was found in the autobiography of Dirk Bogard, I was not surprised to find that he has since written a novel. The most off-beat and entertaining was by Shirley Maclaine. The most poignant was, of course, about Judy Garland. I read there, quite appalled about how she and Rooney were treated as adolescents. Beds on the set where they lay down to sleep between shots-given sleeping pills to knock them out for a couple of hours and then pep-up pills when the set was ready for them. Such criminal behaviour is outlawed now but no wonder Garland was stuck on that pill routine. I suppose Rooney escaped because being a boy he would be tougher physically-but then there are all those marriages!

The best book of all turned out to be by Charlton Heston. THE ACTOR'S LIFE: JOURNALS 1956-1976, Allen Lane, £6.95. 482pp. The journals are a day-to-day record of his working life and revealing to anyone who does not know how hard it is to make a film. It is not a gossipy memoir, stars and directors are only referred to in connection with work or The Actor's Guild where he worked on the committee. Heston always knew his lines and was always on set punctually, any annoyance he shows is with people who could not achieve this. Yet he sympathised with the pressure on actors and movingly describes one who cracked under the strain. His realistic view of the acting life is revealed by the version of it he gave to his son Fray. When Fray was ten years old a reporter said to him "Don't you want to be a famous actor like your Father," Fray replied stoutly "Most actors aren't famous. My daddy knows a lot of good actors that don't even have work." I was surprised to find out how much theatre work Heston did between films, many of them Shakespearian roles. He clearly differentiates between such films as EL CID where he considered he had to act and films that he called 'non-acting' such as EARTHQUAKE. Yes of all the books from this section this is the one I would recommend. In fact it rather finished me with that section and a random grab this week had me come away with the biography of Alice B. Toklas.

## Natterings 2

Carnoustie in Winter is not just the best place to be..the gales howl, the windows rattle, it is dark all day and for weeks on end below freezing. The roads are icy and treacherous, and a de-frosting spray is needed for the windows of my Daff. Bearing that all in mind, no doubt, I caught a heavy cold for the first week of the New Year. I made up a bed on the living-room couch in front of the fire and stayed there for the first three days, only going back to my bedroom on the Thursday. It made a nice change to be nursing myself instead of other folks. I was a very solicitous nurse, all the patient did was eat, drink, read, and sleep. A very comfortable cure!

I delighted in a very 'family' Christmas and New Year, but now I am beginning to widen my circle. Every month I attend the Red Cross committee meetings which are considerably enlivened by the Chairman, Canon McKay. I do love people like him who share their sense of humour, and always feel sorry for those who lack such a sense.

I saw an advert in the local paper announcing the inaugural meeting to form a branch of the NHS Retirement Fellowship, to which all retired NHS staff were invited. It was to be held in Whitehills Hospital in Forfar, so off I went. As usual I was early so parked my car in the hospital grounds and looked around with interest. This was where it had all started for me and with pad and pen I figured out that I must have started my nursing career here on Jan.1st 1937. In other words 44 years ago! Had I been told then that I would be sitting in a car there one day I would never have believed it. It looked much as I remembered it although it is no longer a Fever hospital but now houses Geriatric patients. Rather bleak buildings set in quite a bit of space, outwardly it had not changed much.

My dear friends will not be surprised to know that I could not remember the names of any of the staff those 44 years ago although I could clearly recall their features and characters. There was the small, stout Matron who took a teaspoonful of liquorice powder every night, her sure cure for all ills. There was a tall, dark Sister with an incipient moustache who handed us out coloured texts from the Bible each week. Then there was the motherly Sister whom everyone liked and who first showed me how to exude authority without actually doing anything. There was a gaggle of nurses, all as raw as myself and there were the patients..the baby who died of Diphtheria, the little boy with the bad burn, the young man who could not pronounce Montrose because he was English...

As I got out of my car so did two other middle-aged ladies. "We thought" said one, "that you were for the same meeting." "I thought so too about you" I replied, "I think it must be the contented looks on our faces". This sally brought great hilarity and agreement. In all, ten people turned up - 4 men and 6 women. Undaunted we elected Mr Farquarson as Chairman and Mrs Carmichael as Secretary, and decided our first action must be to recruit others. My theory, which everyone felt was valid, was that the majority would stay away from an inaugural meeting for fear of being landed on the committee. I know I stayed very dumb when the question of the secretary arose, and the lady who was elected was very reluctant. One good point, we discovered, was that we would always be able to have a room for meetings in any hospital in the Angus area. Considering the cost of hiring rooms, this is a great benefit. We agreed to get on recruiting and meet again next month in Forfar but after that we would rotate between there and places like Arbroath, Montrose, and Brechin. The NHS are enjoining each Area to start a branch of the Fellowship and if it goes well nationally ought to be very good. We all enjoyed meeting one another. Retirement is just great; but we did find that we missed 'shop-talk'. In discussing this later with a Social Worker, he said that he felt the men missed it even more than the women. It was only to be expected, after all up till then one had spent the greatest part of one's life in 'shop-talk'! It is always odd to me to know that many people dread retirement. One useful thing has been the number of pre-retirement courses arranged by the NHS and many businesses have started to supply this for their staff also. It is queer how many people do not plan for retirement: however it is even queerer the number of people who act as if they were going to live forever and so had plenty time to trouble over foolish things.

### Natterings 3

A letter arrived from Harry Warner too late to be illustrated by ATOM, but not too late for me to pass on his astounding information...."...the oddest new gadget was one of those little calculators. In addition to giving the answer to all sorts of math operations, it contains a clock and a calendar. Each numeral when depressed gives out a musical tone something like a pushbutton telephone, and it's programmed so that every time December 24th arrives, the calculator automatically plays 'Jingle Bells'." The more I think of this, the more amusing it appears.

Harry also writes: "It's surprising how few fanzines have published lengthy reviews of the mammoth WARHOON. So it's gratifying to find you an exception to the rule. I suppose the problem has been mostly its size and the length of time required to read through it: maybe too many recipients weren't able to finish it for a month or so and then decided it was too late for a review to be timely. One thing I wish someone would do is to turn a copy of it over to a mundane who knows little or nothing of science fiction fandom, and ask him or her for comments and a review. I'd like to find this sort of confirmation for my belief that Walter's prose is brilliant enough to hold the interest and delight even a person who has no background in the things Walter wrote about."

It certainly would be an interesting experiment..anyone out there like to try it? I cannot offhand think of anyone in my present circle who would be suitable.

Let's see now..I was telling you about my widening circle. At the Red Cross meeting this month we learned of the latest idea for Carnoustie....the getting together of all the voluntary societies and a pooling of their information. This resulted from a talk at our AGM given by one of the local doctors. He pointed out that no matter how great the technological advances made in medicine there are basic problems facing his patients that need voluntary help. Take a simple thing like the doctor's prescription..to an elderly almost housebound person getting the prescription filled can be difficult. Some can get a neighbour's help but not all. Just to organise a service where the doctor can inform someone that a patient needs a prescription filled at the chemist will take some thinking out. Hopefully, this meeting of all the societies will solve some of the problems. Canon McKay told us that other districts are watching to see what happens.

Then I and my old school-friend Iris, went off to join the Townswomens Guild. We were very unsure as to just what this would be like; but were determined to 'suss it out'. We found a friendly bunch of mainly middle-aged ladies whose main object seemed to be to have a 'night out'. They meet each month with various speakers lined up. Subjects covered vary from Batic Scarves to the E.E.C. I noticed with interest that there is to be a talk by an American Housewife from Edzell where there is an American Base. However the night we went was a Scots Night..and we were entertained by local musicians playing and singing Scottish tunes and airs. One of the singers finished up with a song called DREAM ANGUS, that I had not heard since I was a teenager. I can remember being smitten by it and trying to sing it. It is, however, one of those Scottish tunes that linger a lot on the same note and which needs a strong voice. I really must find out where this song originated. It is really a lullaby sung by a mother who first describes that Dream Angus is "hirpling" over the hill, which means he must be a cripple. She goes on then to enumerate all the different animals who are sleeping but.."my bairnie is a-weeping". Last verse, the only one I can recall, goes - "Dreams to sell, dreams to sell, Angus is here with dreams to sell, Hush you my baby, and sleep without fear, Dream Angus has brought you a dream, my dear".

Is this song familiar to any of the fan folk-singers?

I am a faithful reader of film critic columns, even if it is doubtful I will go to see any of the films these days. At the moment horror and violence themes are all the rage, so I stay at home. One critic managed to sum up my feelings nicely. This was David Castell writing in the SUNDAY TELEGRAPH on the film PROM NIGHT. He wrote: "although three out of four victims are female, it is not strictly part of the abhorred assault-on-women cycle. It's more of the violence-against-anything-that-moves syndrome" I felt that was too good not to quote!

I hope that it is not too soon to have a hostage-joke; but I must say I would love to see ATOM's cartoon happen

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to those childish Iranians. At the moment as I write this they are at their cat and mouse games with the British prisoners. One of them, Jean Waddell, comes from nearby Arbroath. This is a smallish town, a North Sea fishing port. It is famous for Arbroath Abbey where the Declaration of Independence was signed and where the Stone of Destiny was found after it was kidnapped from Westminster Abbey. Should Miss Waddell ever get home I hope they give her a civic welcome.

I am struggling with an embroidery picture at my evening classes at the Dundee School of Art. I am trying to copy a Kelly Freas painting from a book I obtained at the College Library. It is THE ART OF SCIENCE FICTION and has been published in this country by Donning of Norfolk. The illustration I chose was originally shown on the cover of John Brunner's FROM THIS DAY FORWARD (DAW 1973). Freas says that he took the name of THE HOODED SWAN for inspiration in drawing the spaceship and it was the graceful swan-like outline that first caught my imagination. The spaceship is shown against the background of a formative planet. In using silver kid for parts of the body of the spaceship I have given myself lots of trouble and the result as it grows is by no means a faithful copy of the illustration. Still: I have learnt a lot in doing this with the help of an imaginative teacher. I feel now that I could do even better on a second try. For one thing I have recently found some gorgeous silver threads to work with and might have been better in using this instead of the silver kid. It is quite fascinating to make stars out of french knots and a bead or two!

*Effel.*