

CHAT

NEWZINE OF THE
CHATTANOOGA
SCIENCE FICTION
ASSOCIATION

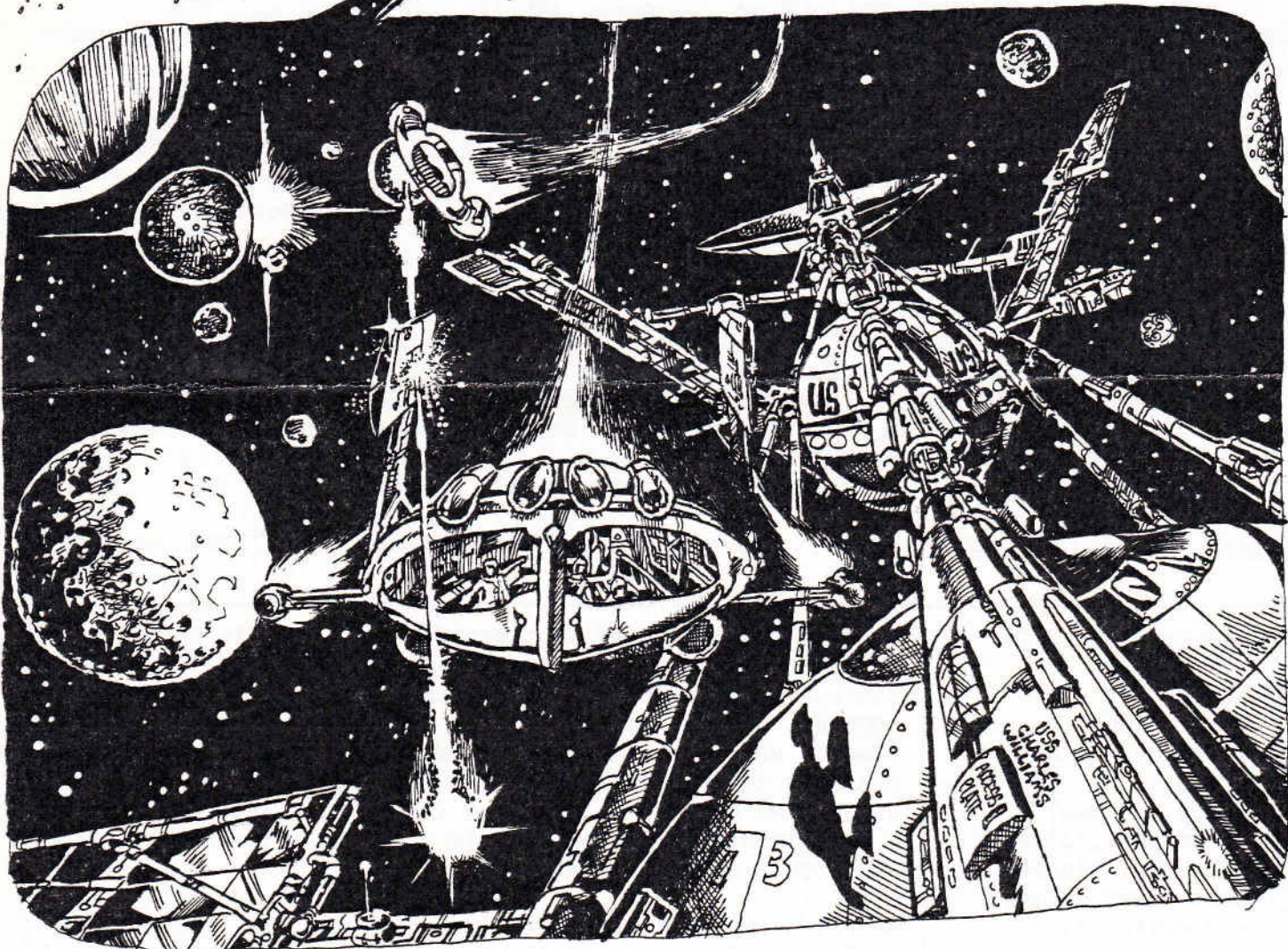
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TENNESSEE

CHATT

ALL
CITIES?

OLGA 1975



"Man will occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of the time he will pick himself up and continue on." - W. Churchill

MAY 26th CSFA MEETING AT 1ST TENN. BANK; TIME STORM AND TRIVIA FEATURED....The CSFA met at its usual place and time at UTC, despite word earlier from the university that our usual room was unavailable. The meeting started by filling out the club's Hugo nomination ballot. Nominations for best book, dramatic presentation, etc. were taken from the first five names yelled from the crowd. The book discussion, *Fireship* by Joan D. Vinge, was led by Mike Rogers and AJ Bridget. After a lively discussion, a livelier auction of SF junk was held. Sold were such items as books, a picture of Pat Boone and family, photoprints from NASA, herb tea bags, art, and the last can of Kocho-Kola from ChattaCon 4. The item that went for the highest bid was a drawing by Charlie Williams, bought by Bill Hedrick for \$20. The evening was topped off by watching a videotaped episode of *Mork and Mindy* and an after-the-meeting-eating at the Highway 58 Pizza Inn. The book for May will be *Time Storm* by Gordon Dickson; the book for June will be *The Shockwave Rider* by John Brunner and the book for July will be *War of Shadows* by Jack L. Chalker. If you have problems getting the books of the month, please see Rich Morehouse, who will be subbing for Tim for a while as book scrounger. The next meeting of CSFA will be May 26 (which is ONE week later than usual due to Kubla Khan) at 7:30 PM at the First Tennessee Bank at the corner of Brainerd and Germantown Rds. Discussion of *Time Storm* will be featured along with Uncle Tim's Heinlein Trivia Quiz. The books to read for the quiz are: *Space Cadet*, *The Rolling Stones*, *Farmer in the Sky*, *Rocket Ship Galileo*, and *Between Planets*. Enter and prove you are a Heinlein trivia expert- and win a prize! To get to the bank building: out-of-towners from Knoxville, Cleveland, Atlanta should take I-24 west to Belvoir Ave. exit, then North Terrace (parallels interstate) to Germantown. From Nashville, take Germantown Rd. exit (just past ridge cut). Go north on Germantown to the first traffic light (the one at the interstate doesn't count) and turn right. The bank is on the right, one building past the intersection. For questions: Mike Rogers at 266-0298 or Rich Morehouse at 755-4275. (NWL)

CHATTACON 5 UPDATE....As of this writing, nine professional SF writers have confirmed they will be at Chattacon 5, Jan. 4-6, 1980 in Chattanooga. Besides GoH Joan Vinge and MC Bob Tucker, attending will be special guest Hal Clement, Jack L. Chalker, Steve Vance, Sharon Webb, Perry Chapdelaine, Jerry Page, and Grant Carrington. In addition, as a special event, the Chattacon 5 banquet will be the Last Whole Earth Bob Tucker Roast. Memberships are still \$7 and banquet tickets \$10 from Chattacon, P.O. Box 21173, Chattanooga, TN 37421. (DL)

KNOXVILLE SF MEETING ANNOUNCED....Vernon Clark (6216 Janmer Ln.[cont. on page 4]

Why you receive CHAT:

- ☐ CSFA member
- ☐ Subscriber
- ☐ Contributor
- ☒ Mentioned within
- ☐ Trade
- ☐ Trade, please?
- ☐ Contribute, please?
- ☐ Art work, please?
- ☐ 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 and 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.

SPECIAL REPORT

THE OTHER RIVERCON

"Love to go to the Louisville Science Fiction Conventions, but hate to miss the 37th World SF Convention? Relax, there's Ohio RiverCon."

Catch phrases not withstanding, 'Ohio RiverCon' does not have anything to do with either Rivercon or North Americon '79. It is, in fact, a pale imitation of the real Rivercons, and is organized by Louise Hayworth of Orlando, Florida, the same person responsible for putting on OrangeCon in Orlando and TropiCon in Tampa.

'Ohio RiverCon' first surfaced last year about the time of Rivercon 4 in Louisville was held. Reportedly, Louise Hayworth and her daughter Adrienne were at the Rivercon hotel, the Executive Inn outside Louisville, handing out flyers in the halls, but never joined the convention. The Ohio RiverCon hotel is listed on the flyer as Stauffers Louisville Inn, the same one where the first three (actual) Rivercons were held. The original Ohio RiverCon flyer listed the contact as "438 Margrat Av., Akron, Ohio". Also featured on the flyer was the 'Rivercon' logo stolen from one of the legitimate convention's publications, with the word 'Ohio' added from letters that didn't quite match in size with each other, according to Rivercon chairman Cliff Amos. And there was a "crudely drawn Belle of Louisville" (riverboat) that Cliff says was not stolen, although the Rivercon riverboat logo is better.

In fact, the Akron address listed does not exist. The correct address, 438 Margaret Av., is the home of Jack Reifsnyder, who after a phone call from a Rivercon representative, removed himself from the picture (probably on the advice of his parents). At any rate, no more 'Ohio RiverCon' mail is being accepted at that address.

Upon checking with Stauffers, a copy of the hotel agreement letter (dated Feb. 5, 1979) was produced for Cliff Amos. It was written on "Galactic Enterprises" stationery, and had the typed signature "L. Hayworth". The letter asked Stauffers to refer inquiries about the convention to T. Phillip Rifsteiner, 16 Broadway St., Cornwall, Ontario, Canada K6K 6L9. Rifsteiner is also known as "Captain Canada", and has previously associated with the Hayworths, most notably at OrangeCon I. Finally, the letter reportedly went on to say "but if YOU want to get in touch with us, write L. Hayworth, 6913 Mediterranean Dr., Orlando, FL" (no zip). The Canada address is refusing to accept registered mail from the Louisville Rivercon committee. The current *Strauss Convention Register* lists a mailing address in Jamestown, NC, which again does not accept the Louisville Rivercon committee's registered letters. Also, the convention's name has since metamorphosized into "Ohio RivaCon", possibly due to pressure from Rivercon's legal representative, Jaime Fish. And, of interest is the fact that the Hayworth's second residence is in High Point, NC, which is near to Jamestown.

The point of this whole sordid affair is this: 'Ohio RiverCon' appears to be a blatant attempt to make money at the expense of naive SF fans and a fine, legitimate convention. The original Ohio RiverCon lists membership rates as \$6.50/\$10 after June 1, and Huckster tables as \$25 for the first (includes 1 membership) and \$20 for the second. These prices are excessive for a convention that does not and will likely not even bring in a pro author/artist as a guest (witness TropiCon and the OrangeCons in this regard -- OrangeCon I had Andre Norton, who lives close by and who appeared only very briefly, and Joe Haldeman, who also lives within driving distance; OCII and TC had no listed guests [TC didn't even have a listed hotel], and as far as can be determined by me, no guests appeared). And communication problems with Ohio RiverCon still exist. My call to the Orlando address yielded the information that Louise Hayworth is at the North Carolina address, and has leased or loaned her home for the time being. My call to the North Carolina address found Louise's husband (Adrian) at home, but he claimed to have no knowledge of her whereabouts, and didn't even claim to know what city she is presently in.

Meanwhile, the Louisville people are considering the use of a court injunction to prevent Ohio RiverCon from even taking place. But if it does, fans are advised to "let the buyer beware" about this one. Based on past records of OrangeCon et. al., if you go, expect no guests (even though the flyer advertised that there will be "guests"), bad or nonexistent programming, and little else besides excessive prices. If you're

cont. next page

THE OTHER RIVERCON (cont.)

looking for Rivercon, go to North Americon this year, or wait for the 'real' Rivercon next July. (DL)

KNOXVILLE SF MEETING (cont. from page 2)

Knoxville, TN 37919) informs us that the first meeting of the newly reformed Knoxville SF Club will be Friday, May 11, at the Lawson-McGhee Library, 500 Church Ave. SW (one block behind the Knoxville Post Office) from 5:30 to 9PM. Coffee and some munchies will be provided. The planned program is as follows: Discussions- *I Have No Mouth and I Must Scream* by Ellison, *The Persistence of Vision* by Varley, and *A Wizard of Earthsea* by LeGuin; Forum- where the art of fantastic film is going, and defining science fiction and fantasy; Organizational meeting- organization of a semi-formal group of Knoxville fans, and discussion of a possible mini-con in the K-ville area. That is quite a program for 3½ hours and Vernon notes that facilities are available for movie or slide presentations. He will also be able to provide a TV set for anyone wishing to show video tapes. For more information or additional programming ideas, contact Vernon at the above address or at 615/584-7993. (NWL)

UTC SF PROGRAM FOR GRADE SCHOOL STUDENTS OFFERED....One of the Enrichment programs the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga is offering this summer for 5th and 6th grade students is "Space and Science Fiction: Tomorrow's Reality". It's being taught on Saturdays during late April and May; teacher Linda Blazek is acquainting the children with the world of science and science fiction. While the class enrollment was not filled, Ms. Blazek has given her students the opportunity to "build a planet" and tour such places as the Memorial Hospital and Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville. In addition, Ms. Blazek has a library of SF books for her students to borrow and read from. According to Ms. Blazek her students "really enjoy" the course and the chance to explore science fact and fiction. (NWL)

STAR TREK FESTIVAL COMING TO EASTGATE BRANCH LIBRARY....The week of June 18-23, the Eastgate Branch Library will have a free Star Trek Film Festival. A different film will be shown each day on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with all four being re-shown on Saturday. Also on display will be *Star Trek* memorabilia on loan from CSFA member Janet Caruth. Showings will be 10:30AM and 2 PM on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, with an extra showing at 7 PM on Thursday and showings at 10, 11, 2 and 3 PM on Saturday. For more information, please call 899-9248, the Eastgate Library. (NWL)

THREE NEW CONVENTIONS ANNOUNCED....The Knoxville Comics Convention will be a one-day affair on May 26 at the Ramada Inn Westown just outside Knoxville.

Filk Con I, an SF convention oriented toward filksinging, will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas, on July 27-29, at the Arlington Park Hilton. Registration is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. For more info, send SASE to P.O. Box 9911, Little Rock, AR 72219.

The Atlanta Astronomy Club will sponsor this year's Southeastern Region Astronomical League Convention (the amateur astronomer's analog of DeepSouth Con) July 14-16 at the Camelot Inn on Clairmont Road in Decatur, GA. It'll feature paper sessions, guest speakers, exhibits, tours, and a banquet. For info, contact Mrs. Gail Speering (Rt. 4, Box 798; McDonough, GA 30253). (DL)

ONE-LINERS....North Georgia SF writer Sharon Webb will have a series of stories in *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, starting with the June '79 issue. The first one's called "Hitch on the Bull Run". // Margaret Middleton (P.O. Box 9911, Little Rock, AR 72219) reports that her fanzine *Arkanfandom* will soon undergo a name change to *Runway 37*. // Some sad news: Meade Frierson III tells us that Janet Reinhardt, wife of well known Atlanta fan Hank Reinhardt, was
cont. on page 6

THE REVOLUTION OF 2063 AD: AS TRANSMITTED BY CYRANO SEVERL.

MY LOCATION IS POLAR ORBIT OF SOL, TAKING ME OUT OF THE PLANE OF THE ECLIPTIC AND INTO DEEP SPACE. AS A WITNESS TO THE CURRENT COLLAPSE OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION I AM COMPELLED TO REPORT THE EVENTS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE FALL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDEPENDENT MARS, AND REPORT THEM AS A DISPATCH TO TITAN. MONTHLY SEGMENTS WILL TELL THE STORY, AS REPRODUCED GRAPHICALLY BY THE RECIPIENT..

THIS IS PART ONE.

"BY 2010 AD (65 POSTATOMIC) THE SOLARSYSTEM WAS FULLY COLONIZED AND FLOURISHING IN ITS OWN DIVERSITY. DESPITE THE DARKNESS OF THE PREVIOUS DECADE, A GOLDEN AGE SEEMS TO LOOM..

MATCH ORBITS OR DIE,
LUNA MINES RES-00671!

WE'RE MARTIAN SECRET SERVICE,
PIRATE!

IT'S THE BODY-BANKS FOR YOU!

"THERE WERE FOUR MAJOR POWER BLOGS
IN SOL SYSTEM IN 2050:

THE TERRAN UNION - INNER PLANETS OUT TO EARTH'S L5 STATIONS; BEYOND 150 MILLION MILES FROM SOL IS THE "FRONTIER"
INDEPENDENT MARS:- "ARES" IS MUCH LIKE 17th CENTURY NORTH AMERICA, POPULATED BY ADVENTURERS AND MIDDLEMEN.

JOVIAN AXIS - BASES AMONG GAS GIANT SATELLITES AND THE ASTEROIDS, BASIC RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY
THE GHOSTICS - RENEGADE RELIGIOUS SECTS AND "SPACE PEOPLE", UNITED TO USURP EARTH AND ITS WARMTH. THEY ARE PIRATES.

"THE GHOSTICS WERE NOT WELL-UNDERSTOOD, BUT WERE LARGELY IGNORED, GIVEN THE REMOTENESS OF THEIR PLUTONIAN BASE...

"--AND THE SWIRL OF THE
TAPESTRY OF THE GOLDEN AGE.
NO ONE CARED OVERMUCH FOR THE
EXTREMISTS WHO LURKED BEYOND
THE FRONTIER.

"UNTIL THE RAID ON THE
TERRAN UNION CATHEDRAL."

TO BE CONTINUED --

ONE-LINERS (cont.)

killed in an auto accident on April 22 in Atlanta. // North American '79 chairman Cliff Amos says that the North American hotel contract with the Galt House hotel in Louisville has been signed. This was reportedly one problem area that ultimately led to the firing of the five Columbus board members, as reported in *CHAT* last month. // Atlanta fan Joe Celko has written a brief history of the Deep South Conventions, which appears in *Ian's Lantern* (from George Laskowski, 47 Valley Way, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48103). // PBS is filming a special, based on Ursula LeGuin's *The Lathe of Heaven*. It'll be done in Dallas, and does not feature any big name stars. It's a pilot for a series of works of "speculative fiction" by LeGuin, Vonnegut, and others. // AJ Barker and Bill Bridget were married on Easter Sunday, in Etowah, TN. // New Orleans fan Guy Lillian is getting married on May 26; his new address will be 103 S. Mendenhall #13, Greensboro, NC 27403. // Other CoA's: Shelby Bush III, P.O. Box 751, Vincennes, IN 47591; Bill Bridget, 705 Elinor St., Chattanooga, TN 37405 // Speaking of Shelby, he's Fan GoH of OKon'80 in Tulsa. GoH is Gordon Dickson. // Southern Fan Confederation Bulletin #21 is available to



CSFA members who haven't got one yet. See Nicki at the next meeting. // Andy Andruschak (6933 N. Rosemead #31, San Gabriel, CA 91775) announces the formation of a new APA, to be called November Annual Press Association for Loscon Members (NAPALM). Contact him for the sordid details. // Andre Barker Bridget says that *Thru' the Worm Hole* #3 should be out in May. Check with her at the CSFA meeting for more info. // For completists: Atlanta fan Rob Greenway has announced that from now on he'll be known as Vlad Tepesch Drakul. His address is 240 Riverwood Court NW, Atlanta, GA 30328. // The next Atlanta Science Fiction Club meeting is Saturday, May 12, at 8 PM in the Dresden Place Apts. Clubhouse at 1870 Dresden Dr. NE. CSFA members are invited. // WDEF-TV (channel 12) recently showed an old *Twilight Zone* episode, and would be receptive to televising more if there is enough viewer interest. How about writing or calling them? // Some trivia: this year is the 25th anniversary of the invention of the term "Sci-fi" by Forrest J. Ackerman. // And finally: yes, *BS:Galactica* has been cancelled by ABC-TV *wild cheering*. Maybe we can finally get out of the pseudo *Star Wars*

rip-offs now. (DL)

At the Co-op

by

Perry A. Chapdelaine, Sr.

Courtesy of Authors' Co-op Publishing Co.
subsidiary of Authors' Co-op, Inc.

Rt. 4, Box 137

Franklin, Tennessee 37064

(615)-646-3757

During the last four *Chat* issues, I've reported dry statistics on our learning the publishing and distribution trade from the *Small Press* viewpoint. While the experience has not been quite as pleasant

as chasing *Barker's Trools* (apparently a hybridization of *Felis catus*, *Leprechaunus irish*, and small, timid *Rattus communus* native to certain apartments in Chattanooga, Tennessee) about the house in late evenings, it has some compensations. For example, my recent New York City trip, where I reviewed thousands of John W. Campbell letters in the Conde' Nast *Corporate Library*.

You've got to understand that Conde' Nast publishes *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Mademoiselle*, and hosts of other slicky

magazines of similar kind. Analog, formerly *Astounding* when purchased from Street & Smith, is sort of a back bedroom country cousin, often best kept out of sight when fine company arrives.

Of course, the science fiction scene is changing so rapidly that the cousin may be moved to the front room before long, unless it's already been moved.

The story begins when Authors' Co-op, Inc. succeeded in obtaining worldwide, exclusive rights to the John W. Campbell Letters, having gone

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AT THE CO-OP (cont.)

through **Charles Jerome**, the *Estate Trustee*, **Scott-Meredith**, **Conde' Nast**, and **Peg Campbell**. I won't dwell on troubles along the way.

Getting the rights was the task's small part. We had to find John's letters. I've never seen Conde' Nast's warehouse, but apparently Campbell's letter file was in it somewhere, and lost after a move. The search progressed through many months during which time **Mary Campbell** (no relation to John), my Conde' Nast correspondent, died. Finally, one day, I received a call proudly informing me John's letters had been found.

Delays occurred again, which involved our corporate lawyer, the estate, and other matters, and so I didn't get to New York City until the middle of January.

Hotel rates are atrocious there, and so my time was limited to about eight days, during five of which I had to quickly review each document among about 33,000, check off the one's desired, and mush on. I did so from about seven in the morning until about five in the afternoon, Conde' Nast being exceedingly gracious, even to the point of permitting one of their employees to open the Corporate Library earlier than usual, so as to fit my schedule and non-New York *early* instincts. I finished the task on time, but exhausted, having reduced the bulk by no more than about 20 to 28%, mainly getting rid of query letters about subscriptions, and such. (I don't have accurate figures, because that would have used up valuable reading time.)

Since I've been asked to write several professional articles on, or using excerpts from, the Campbell Letters, (income to be used for this project) I'll only say here that John was prolific, non-repetitive, and that he wrote from one half to five pages, single-spaced, and that he wrote to nearly everyone, fan and big-shot pro alike, and that every page pushed his theme: science fiction ideas for science fiction stories.

His letters were never personal, nor obnoxious, but objective in his unique Campbellian manner.

Peg Campbell, his surviving spouse, got him to begin making carbons in 1951, so that the Conde' Nast file contains only those letters from 1951 through 1971, when he died, and if you ever wrote to him, I scanned your letter, finding, for example, that **Gordie Dickson** "sure is a good writer." I also found my own letters, my eldest son's, when he was away in college, and **George Hays**, the present

Campbell Letter editor.

Isaac Asimov volunteered to contribute \$500 for letter copying, and so did **A. E. van Vogt**, with **Authors' Co-op Publishing Co.** footing the remainder of the bill.

We have also put in for a federal grant, asking for \$4,000 so that additional copying costs may be defrayed during search for and transmittal of letters written prior to 1951. We know that **Jack Williamson's** letters are available at the *Golden Library*, *Eastern New Mexico State University*; that Campbell manuscripts are also in *Harvard University* (according to John's own letters) and *Temple University* (**Isaac Asimov** had earlier contributed toward setting up the *Temple University* project); that John's daughter has a lovely collection she's forwarding to us; that **A. E. van Vogt** has a garage to search; that when John died, **Peg Campbell** transmitted a number of letters to **Lester del Rey**, whence they went to **Harry Harrison**, thence to **Will McNelly**, and from there to the archives at *Fullerton State College* in California; that **Anthony Boucher's** are in the *Lily Library*, *Indiana University*; that **Arthur C. Clarke's** are with his brother in London; that all of **Mack Reynolds'** resides with the Conde' Nast collection, and so on.

We're hopeful of hearing from many more writers and fans, meanwhile.

When copies are forwarded to us, we plan to transmit them to the *Golden Library*, *Eastern New Mexico University*, where **Jack Williamson** (in cooperation with librarians **Peggy Tozer** and **Mary Jo Walker**) will have duplicates made to ship to **Malcolm Edwards** of the *Science Fiction Foundation*, *North East London Polytechnic*. **Malcolm Edwards** *SF Administrator* and **George Hay** will be editing the letters, preparing them for our eventual publication.

Since two depositories are envisioned, one in New Mexico and the other in London, we'll have some coordinating problems to insure that each group ends up with duplicate documents.

Our *Tennessee* Senator, **Jim Sasser**, on February 14, 1979, endorsed my request for a \$4,000 federal grant. Having just received the federal grant bulletin, with its forms and *Catch 22* instructions, I'm pessimistic, but will persevere a short distance, anyway.

And while we're not asking for contributions, we surely will turn none away. John was mighty kind to a whole

lot of people, and his memory deserves these academic monuments. So long as the donations are used for copying and related expenses, they'll be tax deductible; that is, they'll go to establish the depository at the *Golden Library*, in New Mexico.

As to the New York trip itself: During my few off hours, I met with **Dick Witter** in Staten Island, *F. & S. F. Co.*; **Don and Elsie Wollheim** *DAW Books* (dinner); **Stanley Schmidt** *Analog* (dinner); **Robert Kaufman**, *Inside Scientology*; **Paulette Cooper**, *The Scandal of Scientology*; **Robert Z. Gallun** and wife, who'd just come back from Sri Lanka, visiting **Arthur C. Clarke**; **Cy Adler**, *Green Press Enterprises*, *The Queer Dutchman*, and others; and about ten people at his home party; **Nancy Whitaker**, English instructor who is enamored with SF, wants to learn about it, and is going to London this summer to mix with the SF crowd, and about fifty assorted people at her birthday party.

I talked with **Ben Bova**, *Omni*, **Gordie Dickson** (who was in Michigan), **Jack Williamson** (who was in New Mexico), **van Vogt** (who was in Hollywood), **Forrest Ackerman** (who was in Hollywood), **Isaac Asimov** (who was in New York), **Pat LoBrutto**, *Doubleday*, and **Norman Spinrad**.

I also met with **Frederick Turner** of *Kenyon Review*, *Kenyon College*, Ohio.

Regretfully I did not get to meet with or talk to **Judy-Lynn del Rey**. She was quite busy, according to word passed along. On my office wall hangs a large picture containing nine black and white proofs from the old *If* days. This was given to me by **Judy-Lynn Benjamin**. It contains some of the *Spork* illustrations from my early stories. Whenever I see it, which is usually daily, I'm reminded of her.

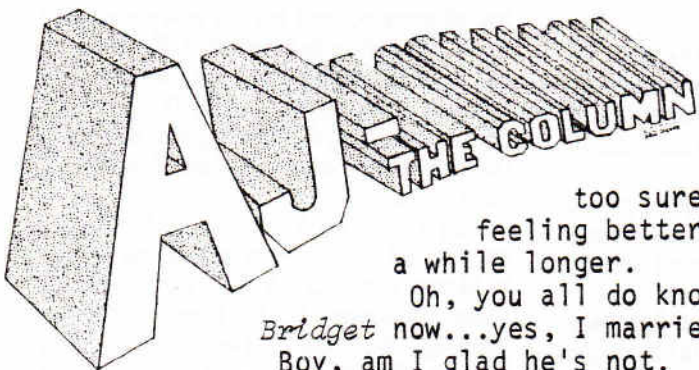
I also visited the New Jersey *Varityper* plant, where our expensive photo-composer is manufactured, and I got a computer program from them that their visiting expert had told us was impossible to write for our model. We're testing the program for them.

Admit now. Despite New York's winter snows and cold, harsh weather, the trip was somewhat more interesting than chasing **Barker's Trools**.

Oh yes. Conde' Nast's **William Raynor** just phoned to say they'll begin copying Campbell's letters now, March 19, 1979.

Photo-composition courtesy of **AC Typesetting Services**, subsidiary of **Authors' Co-op, Inc.**

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COMMENTARY BY A.J. BRIDGET

CHAT time again!

--Well, I just hope this one turns out better than the last one. Right then, I wasn't too sure I wanted to continue doing this column. But I'm feeling better, and my husband says I have to keep it up for a while longer.

Oh, you all do know I got married, don't you? That's why: I'm A.J. Bridget now...yes, I married the man Bob Tucker thought was a John Thiel hoax. Boy, am I glad he's not.

It was a nice wedding. A very fannish wedding -- Bill got the whole ceremony on tape, on the back of the *Rocky Horror* cassette. Someday I'll explain just how appropriate that was. But not in this column -- the editor would *never* go for it...

Anyway, there were lots of friends and lots of food...at BARKERCON I.

Ponji and grEGOrY went to Crossville while Bill and I were on our honeymoon. They brought Shelby Bush's troll home with them. I have had to put my foot down; they wanted the nasty booger to live in the apartment with us, and that would be just too much. What with all the trools and the few remaining cohorts, greggy, Ponji, Pretty Baby, Bill, and I...this place is awfully crowded as it is. Not only is it crowded, but this troll of Shelby's eats APA mailinga -- and our trools were being eaten out of house and home!

Pretty Baby spent the time Bill and I were gone in the hospital: no more babies. But Pretty doesn't care -- she's gone over to the trools...*my cat has defected and gone over to the trools!* It's just *terrible!* The World's Greatest Trool Hunter has defected and is having a great time with her new friends...while Bill and I are having a terrible time with them *and* her. It's so bad around here, the cohorts (those female versions of trools who reproduce by photocopy) are moving out! Bridget says that...oh, I forgot: I'm Bridget now, too...anyway, Bill says they probably moved into the Post Office down by the Market Street Bridge.

We tried to get Shelby's troll a place of his own under the Market Street Bridge but it was all booked up. Right now the poor half-starved thing is living under the Walnut Street Bridge; he'll have to stay where he is for now. But Bill and I put his name on the waiting list for space under the new By-Pass Bridge. Ponji and greggy ride down the hill with Bill every morning at 6 when he goes in to work at the News-Free Press to keep him company, and I pick them up at 5:30 when I come home; they are allowed to take him the odd zines that Bill and I still get in the mail -- but the trools still get the APAzines.

Dick informed me he was throwing out my old logo and that I had to get a new one. I'd like to thank Ken Scott for my new art work...It seems like so much is changing lately that I wish something could remain the same. I liked my logo. Julie drew it for me -- don't get me wrong, I like the new one too.

But somehow, it's not me. As long as Dick gets his new logo I guess no one really cares -- and this is my last column for awhile, anyway. I have gotten behind terribly in a lot of commitments, and some things have to be put on the back burner. I'm also having to take a few months off from the Chattacon Committee...I sort of need to get to know this new husband of mine, and...

Anyway, this way maybe *Worm Hole* #3 will be ready by Kubla Khan.

IS IT APATHY, OR JUST THAT WE DON'T CARE?

COMMENTARY BY SHELBY BUSH III

Last fall, we would have thought it was impossible. The blurbs were too convincing, the commercials too spectacular, and the memories of *Star Wars* were too fresh. The show just *had* to be a success. It seemed fore-ordained. But there was the headline in the evening paper -- "*Battlestar: Galactica* shot down by ratings".

The fault, of course, is a shared one. *Battlestar: Galactica* was a silly, trite show which masqueraded as science fiction behind its shiny sets and spectacular effects. This was the fault of the network, the producer, and most of all, us the fans.

Yes, we the science fiction fans were partially responsible for the failure of *Battlestar: Galactica*, and, ultimately, ALL science fiction shows on television.

For, although Science Fiction Fandom is a vocal lot, it is not vocal where it counts -- in the letter boxes of the television networks. Had science fiction fans sent their letters

cont. next page

Is It Apathy...(cont.)

and reviews of *Battlestar: Galactica* to Glen Larson and ABC instead of publishing them in limited publication fanzines, perhaps *Galactica* would have not been abandoned to the soap opera mentality of the mundane viewer. If fans had grotched to the people who could do something, perhaps *Galactica* would have become "quality" science fiction, instead of trying to appeal to the people who did affect the ratings--kids.

A couple of new science fiction shows are coming to television in the near future. *Brave New World*, which by all reports will be "quality" SF (which usually means in this case that it will stick to the classic novel), and *The Martian Chronicles*, which should appear this coming fall (prospect of what series television can so to *Chronicles* scares the hell out of me).

What's expected of the science fiction fan? Do what comes naturally--write letters, write reviews, or just write; to the networks, to the studios, to your local television stations. Tell them that you want to see more quality science fiction on the tube--then tell them what you mean by quality.

After all, science fiction fans are consumers, too. You buy the sponsors' products as much as the mundanes who are dictating our television viewing now. So let's get off the stick, and onto those typewriters, gang.

Here are the addresses for the networks. Your local stations' addresses are in your telephone book. The studios can be addressed to the studio's name, and "Hollywood, CA 90038", and they'll get there.

AMERICAN BROADCASTING CO., 1330 Avenue of the Americans, New York City, NY 10019
COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM, 51 West 52nd St., New York City, NY 10019
NATIONAL BROADCASTING CO., 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, NY 10020
PUBLIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, Washington, DC 20024

LETTERS OF COMMENT

Cliff Biggers
1029 Franklin Rd.
Apt. 3-A
Marietta, GA 30067

The latest issue of CHAT arrived today, and I wanted to dash off a letter while everything was fresh on my mind.

CHAT looks quite good; I like the smaller margins, not only because it gives us avid readers more material per page, but also because it seems to make the art/layout stand out more. You do a good job with art, and I find that Charlie Williams' spot illos really add a great deal to the zine. The cover this time is one of the better full pagers I've seen from Charlie recently, but there's still a small problem in getting his figures to really stand out from the background. Perhaps a bit less shading of the fine-line sort might help, or more careful layout of the shading and the spotting blacks.

A.J. Barker's column might be helped a bit by a real direction, and perhaps more space to make her point. As it is, A.J. writes quite well, but her column reads like preliminary natter for some as-yet-unwritten apazine, and it doesn't particularly carry the reader's interest as well as it might. Topics might be of help there.

Charlie's illo on page eight, Spock up-against the-wall and watched by Storm Troopers, is one instance where artistic execution and subject matter work perfectly together; I'm quite impressed by it.

I was a bit disappointed in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* as an animated feature; while the writing was fair, the animation was not only too little but very poor; eyes changed size from one brief passage to the next, features wavered now and then, and outlines weren't totally consistent. I kept thinking of the remark someone made about the *LotR* film, where foot-hairs seemed to crawl and wriggle like worms because of animation deficiencies.

((Last month's cover repro deficiencies are probably our fault, in that the original had to be reduced to 74% of original size to fit the page -- this crowded the already

small figures still more. Also, Charlie did that illo way back in 1976, well before he started doing things for fanzines. We found it in a bunch of things he sent to us to sell for him. The Spock and the Stormtroopers illo also has a checkered history -- it was originally used as publicity art for the first Knoxville SF Club meeting a year or so ago, then was issued as a series of low-priced limited edition prints at SF cons, then as a publicity flyer for a CSEA meeting. We finally realized it hadn't been published before. By the way, Williams art will be featured in upcoming issues of the fanzines ATARANTES, Future Retrospective, The Whole Earth Fanzine Catalog, File 770, and Scientificfiction, to name a few. And we hope you liked this month's cover by Charlie.))

Margaret Middleton
PO Box 9911
Little Rock, AR 72219

I disagree with your evaluation of *Salvage 1*, on balance.

I don't happen to have seen any of the series episodes, but I did see the pilot, and enjoyed it.

I wondered why, too, until I realized the plot was a direct steal from Heinlein's "Requiem".

Yes, the special effects creaked, especially the rocket exhaust appearance.

((*Salvage 1* is a prime example of the way media SF is headed -- a lot of effects and everything else poorly done. In this case, even the effects are bad. It doesn't say much for a series that its brightest moment occurred when it ripped off somebody else's ideas.))

Victoria Poyser
503 S.Sawyer St.
Olympia, WA 98501

Thanks for the recent CHAT; I especially enjoyed the film reviews, perhaps because your tastes are similar to mine. *Dracula* is my favorite *Cliffhanger*, and *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* was a delightful glimpse into the *Narnia* cycle, which I first fell in love with when I was 12. *Salvage 1* does make BS:G look good. A bunch of people fell to watching it at a NWSFS meeting; I sought solace in a bottle of wine.

LoCs cont. next page

More Letters of Comment

((We've given up on both BS:G and Salvage 1. To change the subject and continue the discussion of fan artists from last month, Victoria certainly deserves consideration for the fan artist Hugo award, as does Wade Gilbreath from Birmingham — both have been ignored up to now, as has been Charlie Williams.))

Charlie Williams
4314 Hayes Ave.
Knoxville, TN 37912

I am immensely flattered that you indulge my craziness at all, much less print reams per month and drop comments like "award-winning, someday" with such blythe abandon. Positive reinforcement is always good for my production rate.

((Charlie's new pictorial SF scenario 2063 AD begins in this issue of CHAT, and will run for 11 more episodes. And it's only the prequel to a much longer projected scenario, which may also get published. Some of Charlie's other immediate projects are two long-overdue covers for Deb Hammer Johnson (RSN!), and "top secret project that combines Dental Health with SF" called Project Startooth. Honest.))

Harry J.N. Andruschak
6933 Rosemead #31
San Gabriel, CA 91775

So the Columbus Group got the boot from Cliff Amos? Shades of KumquatKon!! Now all

we need is for the Guest of Honor to stick his nose in and demand that this person or that person on the concom be fired.

((It's unlikely that North American has or will have the type of problems that plagued Iguanacan. Also — I believe the rest of the committee as a whole and not just Cliff was the boot-er. As for the Guest of Honor getting into the act — that doesn't sound like Fred Pohl, but the way things are going, who can say at future cons?))

George 'Lan' Laskowski
47 Valley Way
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013

The Columbus People were fired from the North American Board? Oh-oh! And they are a power behind the push for Chicago in '82; this could cause some trouble with that bid as well.

Of course, having no details, it is difficult to judge either the actions or the consequences—but I assure you, rumors will fly (as always when something like this happens), and no doubt it will bode ill for the Columbus People. But let us wait for the details.

Steve Vance sold a novel to Manor Books? The last time I read one of those I ended up correcting the typos, and was terribly disappointed in the ending (and most of the plot, too). The book was called *The Corobite Mines* by Peter Roberts, and was atrocious. I've looked through a few other Manor Books and noticed the same bad proofing. I will probably pick up Steve's book. (breaking my boycott of said publisher) just to see what it's like (and I hope they did a better job in printing). For Steve's sake, I hope it came off all right.

Interesting review by Bill Bridget on *The China Syndrome*. People won't remember it? This was, of course, written prior to the incidents at Harrisburg, PA. I'm sure the movie will be well remembered—as was *Marooned*, which happened somewhat for real a year or so after its release. I do remember seeing *Marooned* when it first came out and thinking, "Gee, this could really happen!" I was spooked when it did! Likewise for those I know who saw the movie before *Three-Mile Island*. Frightening.

Well, I suppose there is that one good thing in *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century*: you get to see the Detroit Renaissance Center, where the '82 Worldcon will be if Detroit wins the bid. Then again, considering the movie, maybe that's not such a good thing-----.

((The key thing to remember about Three Mile Island is that very minor amounts of radiation were released, despite the fact that the reactor core was apparently partially uncovered for a short time. This says something for the soundness of overall design of the plants despite individual shortcomings. No matter what, though, nuclear plants will likely be around for quite a while -- nobody wants increased coal strip mining or paying ever increasing amounts of money to the Arabs for oil, and solar/geothermal/wind/etc. technology is still quite a ways from being economically competitive.))

