

CHAT



CHAT

NEWSZINE OF THE CHATTANOOGA SCIENCE FICTION ASSOC.
PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY DICK & NICKI LYNCH

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"There are certain laws in the Universe, and one of them is 'No Refunds'." - "Dr. Romano" from Laverne and Shirley

AUGUST CSFA MEETING TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS....

The July CSFA meeting was held at the usual summer meeting place, and attendance was low. The book discussion, *The Texas-Israeli War*, was short, and there were no announcements other than the August meeting. After a short nominating period, *Up the Line* by Robert Silverberg was selected for the November meeting; Ken Scott will be discussion leader. September's book is *A War of Shadows* by Jack Chalker (discussion led by A J Bridget) and October's book is *To Your Scattered Bodies Go* by Phillip Jose Farmer (discussion led by Julia Wilhoit). July's program was the CBS showing of the Marx Brothers' *Animal Crackers*. Deb Hammer-Johnson and her husband Roger, fans from Rome, GA, arrived late and had to leave early. The next CSFA meeting will be AUGUST 18 at the JAYCEE TOWERS on West 9th St. at 7:30 PM., and will feature cartoons and free refreshments. All members and interested people are invited to attend; there will be no book discussion and no dues collected. To find the Jaycee Towers, take Interstate 124 to the 9th St. exit (9th St. WEST for those coming from north of the river). Go west on 9th St. (away from downtown) to the stop light at the top of the hill across from the Zayres store. Take a left at the light, then an immediate right into the parking lot of the Towers building; park in spaces not marked "reserved". For questions, call Mike Rogers at 266-0298. (NWL)



Why you receive CHAT:

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

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

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

OHIO RIVA-CON HOAX.... Despite national publicity that appeared in *Analog*, *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, and other places, Ohio Riva-Con (scheduled for the weekend of July 6-7) never happened. A letter received from Louisville fan Jamie Fish described the situation: "No fans, no guest, no hosts, no nothin'." Previously, Stouffer's Louisville Inn had informed convention organizer Louise Hayworth that they were cancelling meeting room space reserved for Ohio Riva-Con, but Hayworth reportedly indicated that she "had already found another hotel". The manager of Stouffer's only had to send one telegram to a prospective attendee (in Canada); apparently the fact that the convention's mailing address(es) were refusing correspondence discouraged many would-be

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OHIO RIVA-CON HOAX (cont.)

attendees. At any rate, *CHAT* would like to know of anyone who paid money to Ohio RivaCon as this appears to be a clear case of mail fraud. (DL)

DEEP SOUTH CON....DeepSouthCon 17, held in New Orleans July 20-22, drew about 400, according to *ATARANTES* editor Cliff Biggers. The Rebel (outstanding Southern fan) award was presented to Cliff Amos, while the Phoenix award went to New Orleans area author Jo Clayton. Atlanta won the bid for the 1980 DeepSouthCon by a landslide (an unofficial source had it 111-2-1 over Tulsa and Nashville, respectively); it will be the w-ekend before the Boston WorldCon and will have Ted White as Pro GoH, Michael Bishop as MC, and Mike Glyer as Fan GoH. In other Southern fan news, we understand that Oklahoma was added as a Soithern Fandom Confederation affiliated region. (DL)

D. LYNCH WINS CSFA PUTT-PUTT TOURNEY...."I'm not trying for aces; I'll take the safe two and let you make the mistakes."

That was how Dick Lynch described his winning strategy for the First Annual CSFA Putt-Putt Invitational at the Northgate Putt-Putt course last July 14. Though Lynch himself made a number of mistakes, he made fewer than him opponents, winning by one stroke over newcomer Joey Brimm and by three over Mike Rogers.

Lynch's 54-hole total of 42+38+45 =125 was 17 over par.

His strategy was not always practical, because some of the holes on the course do not give the player any sort of easy second putt. But he managed to avoid disaster, having no 5-putt holes and only 5 fours. Brimm had 1 five and 5 fours, while Rogers had 3 fives and 3 fours.

Ironically, Rogers led the tournament after the first round with even par 36, 3 over Brimm. Lynch led after 2 rounds by 1 over Rogers.

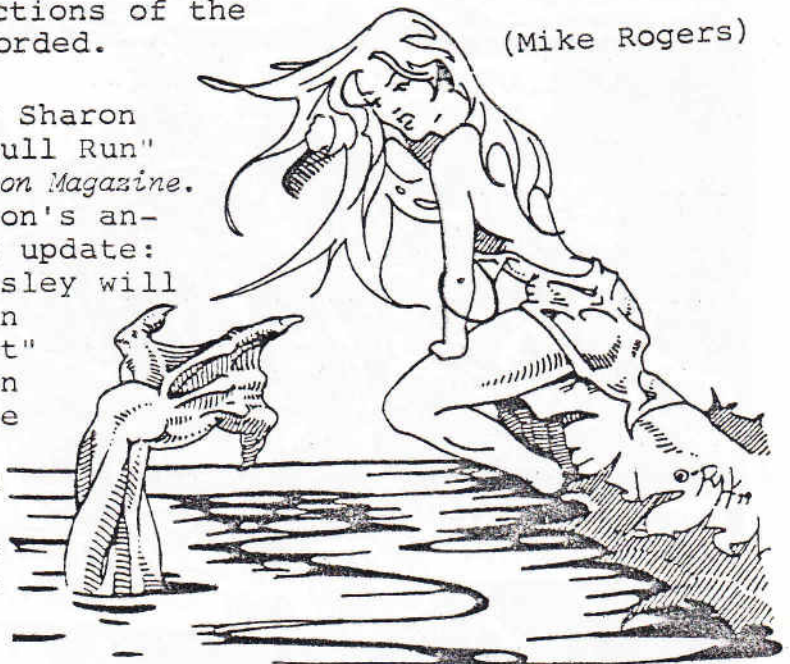
The tourney was slightly disturbed by the unseemly behavior of a non-playing CSFA member who heckled Rogers during the last 9 holes by casting voodoo wammies and reciting malevolent incantations. Rogers did not think this affected his play ("I was stinking up the joint anyway."), but he was observed threatening to insert his putter into one of the spectator's bodily orifices.

For his win, Golfer and Ex-Ice Hockey Player Lynch received a \$5 Walden-books gift certificate from the club and a Putt-Putt frisbee from the course.

Lynch and Rogers both expressed a desire to repeat the festivities before the end of the season. The reactions of the less successful players were not recorded. (Mike Rogers)

ONE-LINERS....North Georgia SF writer Sharon Webb has a short story "Itch on the Bull Run" in the August *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*. She's also sold a story to Roy Torgeson's anthology *Imaginary Worlds*. // Chattacon 5 update: Mary Elizabeth Councilman and Joe Hensley will be in attendance. Joe will also be in "The Last Whole Earth Bob Tucker Roast" at the banquet. // While in Florida on vacation, the home of CSFA member Mike Rogers was burglarized not once, but twice. Also, Atlanta Science Fiction Club president Cliff Biggers' new home was recently burglarized. // The next CSFA auction will be at the September meeting (no relation to previous item). // Several members of

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"2063AD" continues: "As Noel and Company proceeded toward the transplutonian system on a mission to spy on the settlement of Gnostic Terrorists there, events continue throughout SolSystem which result in varying degrees of chaos through the civilized Worlds of Man..."

IT BEGAN, LONDON-TIME, TERRA, AT HIGH NOON. MERCURIAN AMBASSADOR JULIAN AND BRITISH PRIME MINISTER HART WERE ENGAGED IN CONVERSATION AT A STATE DINNER.

THAT'S MERCURY'S BUSINESS.

THE NEWSPAPER, ONLY A METER FROM JULIAN, WAS THE PERFECT EYEWITNESS TO THE ASSASSINATION...

...WE PAY FOR YOUR COMPONENTS WITH RAW MATERIALS...
...THEN SELL THOSE PARTS TO THE TITAN COLONY.

HOLD THAT POSE, SIR...

NO ONE REMEMBERED THE ASSASSIN, !
FOR NO ONE SAW HIM....NO ONE....

SIMULTANEOUSLY, AT MARTIAN COLONY VOLCAN...

THE STORM SHOULD ARRIVE IN FIFTEEN MINUTES...
TIME TO BATTEN DOWN THE PLANTS!

THEN WE'LL...
GKK-KK!
MY... MY
AIR!

I THOUGHT YOU CHECKED THE-
GGKKK!

YOU...
YOU'VE
KILLED
...ME...

...AND AT THAT MOMENT,
JUST BEYOND NEPTUNE'S
ORBIT...

...AND IS ACCELERATING
RIGHT OUT OF THE SYSTEM...!

INTER-PLANETARY CARGO
SHUTTLE DEMETRIO...

WHAT IN...? THE LANDING
BOAT HAS BROKEN AWAY...!

...TAKING FIFTY CIVILIAN PASSENGERS
TO THEIR DEATHS!"

ONE-LINERS (cont.)

the Chattanooga Science Fiction Association will be assisting at North American '79 in Louisville. Mike Rogers will be handling the N3F room, Janet Caruth will help run the hucksters room, Irvin Koch is in charge of special events, and Dick and Nicki Lynch will edit the daily newsletter (the *North American Nebula*). We're all looking forward to seeing you there. // Speaking of North American, the most recent issue of Mike Glycer's newszine *File 770* contains Ross Pavlac's reply to Shelby Bush III on the firing of the Columbus people from the North American board. Ross cites four grievances the Columbus people had, and the alleged illegality of the firing. // And speaking of Mike Glycer, the results of the Down Under Fan Fund (DUFF) voting to send a US fan to the Australian National SF convention showed Mike was the winner, but due to work conflicts, he had to withdraw (Mike is in training for *gasp* an IRS auditor position). In short, he had to get off his DUFF. // Sillyvester Barker died in Saturday, August 4. He was the cat mascot of the Southern Appalachian Fem Fan Federation. His final resting place is a vegetable garden in Etowah, Tennessee. // Changes of Address: Tola Varnell - 250 Central Ave. #3, Cleveland, TN 37311. Bill & AJ Bridget - 4603A Plaza Hills Lane, Chattanooga, TN 37415. (DL/NWL)



SF & TV - CAN IT BE DONE WITHOUT INJURING THE SENSE OF WONDER?

OPINION BY NICKI LYNCH

Television is a cold medium, according to Marshal McLuhan. By that, it is meant that TV doesn't interact with the viewer, and the viewer doesn't get involved in the screen action. In the days of radio, people got involved with the plays and programs because they *had to* in order to follow the program. Television is different: it does not involve the watcher; it throws out

the images and sound and an occasional important bit of information. So what does that have to do with the SF fan?

Well, more than you might think. The major feature, the most intangible one commented on by fans, is the sense of wonder that comes from reading SF (or fantasy). Is this sense of wonder transmitted by the tube as well, or will it be left in books?

To comment on the question (for it is an individual question that a person can only answer for him/herself), the idea of 'sense of wonder' must be examined. What is it? Well, for me it is a feeling that uplifts me, not in a happy or religious sense, but in an intellectual sense. I feel I have seen myself in a character or situation; perhaps I have moved from Chattanooga, Tennessee AD 1979 to another place and time -- one I may never actually experience, but real nonetheless. Can TV capture that?

The one thing 'sense of wonder' is *not* is special effects (SFX). Seeing Superman fly or a starbow (which science has recently determined would *not* happen *darn*) is great, no doubt about that, but it is only transitory. The SFX is not the point of the story, nor is it an essential part; it is an added feature and nothing more. It makes it look better, but it doesn't explain, expand, or give substance. It just exists to flesh out what we have imagined.

What, then, kills the Sense of Wonder? In the long run it amounts to unimaginative writing, acting, and directing. Transplanted plots, such as *Battlestar: Shane*, and repetitious plots (A.K.A. the monster, planet, or crisis of the week) are the killing of any

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At the Co-op

by Perry A. Chapdelaine, Sr.
Authors' Co-op Publishing Co.
Subsidiary of Authors' Co-op, Inc.
Rt. 4, Box 137
Franklin, Tennessee 37004

The Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA) publish the *SFWA Bulletin*, and *SFWA Forum*. The *Bulletin* is for outsiders who are curious and want to peer into SFWA affairs. The *Forum* is for those insiders who wish to say their piece, and spit, regardless of where the spittoons lie. The *Forum* is not for outsiders' eyes.

The *Bulletin*, while not always containing official writ, tends to be bland but safe, sometimes even interesting. The *Forum*, on the other hand, sometimes can become as lively as a fanzine — which I guess it is — a thinned down fanzine run for and by and to those of us who have never outgrown the other kind.

Yesterday (June 5, 1979) I received a pleasant call from the *SFWA Bulletin* editor, John Carr, and after thanking him for becoming the very first to ever pay me any official attention, we held together a most delightful conversation. John sounds quite interesting, and I hope to meet him one day.

His mission, he said, was to ask if it was alright to change the beginning of my *Chat* article (Issue number 20, Volume 2, Number 8, page 6-7) regarding my trip to New York, and the John W. Campbell Letter project. Apparently John Carr's editorial instincts rebel at Barker's (now Andre' Bridget's) *Trools*, and so that part of the article will most likely be cut from the reprint next *SFWA Bulletin*.

I was pleased, of course, and came to the strange nagging thought that I ought to bet Sharon Webb and her husband (what's-his-name? — Bill? Bryan?) and Deb Hammer Johnson that my bland article *At The Co-op* is the first (and so far only) article from bland *Chat* to be reprinted in the bland *SFWA Bulletin*!

Any other takers? (I'm a very conservative gambler.)

There was much grouching about *Just Imagicon* recently held in Memphis, Tennessee. While I had some complaints (they shouldn't have showed movies in the con suite; they shouldn't have picked a hotel far away from cheap restaurants; the banquet shouldn't have been Sunday; they should have been better organized) actually the conference wasn't all that bad, especially when you consider it as their first con. Frankly I can't drink beer anyway, so the fact they budgeted on the low beer side didn't bother me as much as it did the louder grouchers.

It was probably a convention designed with a different-than-usual crowd in mind, being oriented toward films and fantasy. That kind of crowd tends to be younger, less aggressive, less beer drinking, I would think.

I was happy to meet the fabulous Tom Johnson, who publishes a most completely professional *Fantasy Film Journal* (Nostalgia Graphics, 3610 Pearson, Memphis, Tennessee 38118) Watch Johnson. He's going to make it big in that particular region of film/fantasy publishing.

Dalvan Coger and Greta Avery were most kind, permitting me to stay with them two nights. Dalvan has the wildest book collection, virtually exploding from every one of many rooms; and also he has a fine piano that he permitted me to torture somewhat. (Really needed Mike Roger's presence)

Another great highlight of the *Just Imagicon* (besides renewing acquaintance with Mr. & Mrs. L. Sprague de Camp and Kelly Freas) was my getting better acquainted with Sharon Webb and what's-his-name (Don Webb?).

I'm ashamed of my poor memory, especially for names. I should have written them down, including that of a friend with Dalvan and Greta.

Anyway, I found Sharon and Bryan? witty, charming, talented, intelligent. I can understand why Sharon is selling fast. I predict that she's also going to make it big one day, so watch her closely, too.

If Bryan? got off his duff, I believe he'd write well, too.

Also visited Rick Sheppard's and Sam Fellin's bookstore (Vintage Books Unlimited, Western Gateway Shopping Center, 1901 Russelville Road, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101; phone (502) 843-1674). Besides the standard new and used Sci-fi fare, they sell new and used comic books which help support their handling of the books which they love most. Remember Rick? He's the one with the little cardboard noses at the last *Chattacon* and he usually has a room party with good scotch and such. He's a fan, loves Sci-fi and ought to be patronized. If you want a book, try Rick and Sam first before you purchase at some place that cares less. I know I appreciated those who purchased from us our first publication van Vogt's *BATTLE OF FOREVER*. What I'm suggesting is that we ought to support those who support us!

By the way, at the *Just Imagicon* someone introduced himself to me as a grant-getting expert, and I completely forgot to write down his name. Anyone knowing the man's name, please let me know; or, if he's reading this, please — will you contact me?

Has anyone other than myself noted that Shelby Bush III seems to have a different, attractive female companion at every con?

Can anyone tell me if Barker's/ Bridget's *Trools* chewed up my invitation to their recent wedding?

Did anyone see Irvin Koch drink scotch with me at *Just Imagicon*? Truly! No fib! It happened, cross my little heart and hope to die, if it isn't!

Forrey Ackerman says he intends to be from beginning to end of *North American*. And that he'll be pleased to meet any of my friends, and have lunch with all of us. I hope you all consider yourselves invited.

And oh, yes! Authors' Co-op Publishing Co. may soon be buying all of Robert Hale's stock of my *THE LAUGHING TERRAN* for resale along with van Vogt's book. While it isn't my best work, it is one of a series of differing styles (not similar contents) and it is mine, and will be first time available in North America.

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

SF & TV (cont.)

show, and are especially deadly to SF.

So will TV ever impart the same Sense of Wonder that SF fans get from literature? It is a question to be answered as we watch -- this coming season and in the future.

HOW TO WRITE A SCIENCE COLUMN (OR) YOU TOO CAN BE A "NASACHIST"

COMMENTARY BY ANDY ANDRUSCHAK *(First of two parts)*

A few months ago, Nicki Lynch asked me if I would like to do a science column for *CHAT*. I declined on the grounds of lack of time. Yet I can see her point, as the ignorance of fans on the latest scientific findings is appalling. Something should be done to give fans the latest information. Otherwise they will get lots of inaccurate info from sources like *Analog* magazine.

So I am going to tell you how to become a science writer. Yes, I mean *you*, the one reading this. Follow this program and you will be able to write science columns that are far more faithful to the facts than those that appear in the prozines. You can impress faneds with a flood of facts. You will be able to win arguments by citing sources. You might even become as obnoxious as me about your superior intellect.

It requires money to buy three weekly magazines and about three hours a week to read them. Don't laugh, I am dead earnest.

AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY

The very first thing you do is subscribe to this magazine. Subscription forms can be found in your Public Library's copy. If you can't find one, send me an SASE (*Ed. Note: to H.J.N. Andruschak, 6933 N. Rosemead #31, San Gabriel, CA 91775*) and a request for the subscription forms. A three year sub costs \$74.00, which works out to less than 50¢ a week.

I cannot praise this magazine enough. Every week it will come with the latest information on NASA activities in its pages. You think you know about the Space Shuttle? No you don't, unless you read the weekly reports on how the launch of the first shuttle, now scheduled for July 1980, is coming along. It contains reports on future projects of NASA, present state of projects, Congress activities on the Space Program, and latest information from satellites.

It also is just about the only place you will find accurate information on the Space Program of the USSR. You will find it eye-opening.

And among the many extras I might mention that the magazine reprints, in full, the reports of the National Transportation Safety Board. This is the group that makes the final and definitive reports on airplane crashes. Because the commercial airlines advertise heavily in US newspapers, these reports are usually ignored by your daily papers.

Remember the crash of two jumbo jets in the Canary Islands? Pilot error. The Dutch captain took off without proper clearance. You can read the transcripts of the cockpit tapes, and weep. The Dutch co-pilot asked in a worried tone if the captain was sure the other plane had left the runway. Too late; it hadn't.

SCIENCE NEWS

The subscription to this newsletter works out to 25¢ a week. This little 16 page magazine gives you the latest findings from the science world in summary form, with sources cited if you wish to look up the original. It also runs a very useful book service so that you can buy the latest books on just about any subject covered by the magazine. This alone is well worth the 25¢ a week. Again, I can supply subscription forms if you can't find one in the Library's copy.

SCIENCE Magazine

I have often been asked where JPL publishes its many findings, or where other NASA spacecraft findings are published. Well, here it is. This magazine is published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. \$34.00 a year is the charge. It is less of a bargain than the first two magazines, but here is where you get the real information.

Here the scientists report all their findings, complete with all facts, all figures, all speculation. This *is* the source. You will get watered down versions in other SF magazines many months later.

That's it! Less than \$1.50 a week! No paperback books costs so little yet would give you a wealth of information.

And now I must go and write a letter to the Editor of *Analog*. The August issue has two
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ALIEN SECOND LOOK AT A MONSTER MOVIE

BY JULIA WILHOIT

Some while back, I had a strange dream: I was in a movie theatre and the film showing was *Alien*! (And this was before the movie was released!) I woke up, though, and all I could remember was a general effect of black space, colors, and something about eggs. What a letdown!

I hate to say it, but my dream has come true. I've seen the movie, read the novel, and the illustrated version, not to mention buying several magazines because they promised closer looks at the alusive alien. I sat in the theatre, bug-eyed, chewing my popcorn frantically while mucous dripped and blood spurted on the big screen. But something was wrong. I don't even remember if I was scared. The movie was slickly done, the acting was terrific (more about that later), and the special effects were good. But something was definitely missing.

I am reminded of my mother's comment upon seeing me, at the age of ten, in my chubette sized girl scout uniform: "It looks as if it were designed by a committee." *Alien* suffers from a similar problem; the entire movie shows signs of committee work. As any veteran of

a Concom can verify, that's no way to do anything except make a quilt. The producers of *Alien*, not wanting another Bizarro *Star Wars* like *Galactica* or *Star Crash*, but wanting to ride the crest of the SF craze, called in about two dozen writers and told them to make a monster movie. So they put together *The Thing from Outer Space*, *Jaws*, and *Close Encounters*, and came up with a monster that's part Tyrannosaurus, part insect, part shark, and part humanoid. There is no single concept for the movie, and therein lies its gravest fault; the whole film seems spotty, almost whimsical. (For instance, the 'space jockey' found dead in the craft where the eggs are found is inspired by the Mayan carving that so intrigued Van Danikin.) This mishmash effect, along with the constant metamorphosis of the creature, the smoky, 'organic' sets, the 'smeared' dialogue, the non-existent plot, combine to create a movie that is very difficult to pin down intellectually. According to *Newsweek*, the creators intended this, but as a result I feel the movie lacks unity. Some films have an unmistakable aura, the mark of one man's vision; they come 'from the heart'. *Star Wars* had it, to name just one example; *Alien* doesn't. So don't expect *Alien* to be a great film; it's not the definitive monster movie, just the slickest.



Everyone will want an Alien handpuppet.....

Now on to what I liked about *Alien*: The acting was very good and I liked the portrayal of the crew as ordinary people, sans make-up. I especially liked this refreshing view of women in SF; I'm full to the gills of Stella Stars. Sigourney Weaver, as Ripley, the warrent officer, was quite sexy with her sweaty T-shirt and bruised thigh. But more importantly, here we have a woman who is competent, brave and smart. She's not a bit masculine, she's simply a person who gets the job done. Most women in monster movies, in fact in SF books and movies in general, are simply shown as pretty and screaming. Weaver was shown doing just that on the front of *Newsweek*, bug-eyed and screaming for all she was worth, so I was pleasantly surprised by her role in *Alien*. Sometimes women in SF get to be spunky, like Princess Leia, but Ripley has courage. (Of course, Veronica Cartwright, as Lambert, does get to blubber a lot, but Weaver makes up for it.) This subtle modeling of Weaver's role never becomes propaganda; it is simply taken as a matter of fact. I enjoyed this more than anything else about the movie.

On the light side, *Alien* is being mercilessly promoted, and I've bought my share of books and other goodies. I'm looking forward to putting together my *Nostramo* spaceship kit and collecting my *Alien* bubblegum cards. I'm surprised though, that the promoters haven't seen the potential for more obvious humor in pushing *Alien*. What about an *Alien* hand puppet showing the little critter as it pops out of Kane's chest, and a matching T-shirt with a red splotch on the front? I'd buy it, but then again I like popping zits.

I can't criticize any specific part of *Alien*. The acting, the sets, the special effects, and the direction were all good, taken separately. The best people were hired for

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(*Alien* cont.) each job, but seemingly they just didn't have the same picture in mind. Even the other parts of the promotion share this problem. The novel has nothing to do with the movie which doesn't have much to do with the illustrated version. Everyone was just doing their own thing, and they ended up with nothing more than some very high class cheap thrills. As Robert Pirsig would say, it lacks Quality. It just misses it by *this* much, and I'm sorry.....I guess I'll just have to keep on waiting for the ultimate thrill. In the meantime, though, I think I'll go see *Alien* again, and sew myself an *Alien* hand puppet, and make an *Alien* T-shirt with a red splotch.....

(*How to Write a Science Column* cont.) so-called fact articles in it. Both writers mention the existence of an intergalactic hot plasma. Said plasma does not exist at all. And now for a little quiz.

- 1) What spacecraft findings were mis-interpreted by the two authors?
- 2) What spacecraft findings showed they were wrong?
- 3) Name the spacecraft at the Sun-Earth L1 point.
- 4) Name the spacecraft in orbit that has been damaged by colliding with a piece of space junk from another spacecraft.
- 5) How many USSR spacecraft have landed on the Moon?
- 6) Do you recognize the term "Splav" ?

Answers next month.

LETTERS OF COMMENT

Guy Lillian III
102 S. Mendenhall #13
Greensboro, NC 27403

Thanks for CHAT and the corrected address. I loved that "Plummeting Doom" cover, and urge you to

pub it in SFPA (or Shadow) and LASFAPA. It's too good not to trumpet.

((Good idea about repeating the cover else where and I shall. For those who don't know, SFPA is the Southern Fandom Press Alliance and the Shadow is the zine in the APA for the wait-listers. I'm currently the EO of the Shadow. LASFAPA is the Los Angeles Scientifiction Fans' Amateur Press Association.))

Colin "Starchild" Wright
8803 Lake Villa Ln.
Chattanooga, TN 37416

You people never give up, do you? Month after month, y'all turn out zines

which turn out to be classics.

Your interview with Donald Wollheim was in the tradition of the CHAT interview. Well-written, and very well put.

Earl Cagle has the right idea about doing a SF story. I must say that style is "originals".

Charlie Williams again out-does himself with his "2063 A.D." His work has been appearing in more and more places, I've noticed.

Sharon Webb really has made a good case for "Chat", the fourth fannish ghod. Only one question: What are the other three?

I had enjoyed *Alien*. It was really a good movie. 'Tis tru that it relied on visual effects to sell, but that was the general idea in the first place. At least they didn't say they had more than they did.

I love the last review of *Alien*. If I didn't know better, I'd swear ponji wrote it.

Anyway, good luck with CHAT, as it is fast becoming "the zine" in the south!

((Em, that is a good question, what are the other three. I suspect they are "Gheer", "Cons" and "zines".

No, ponji didn't do the last *Alien* review.

Yes, Charlie is becoming more and more in demand and we are glad to see it.))

EDITED BY NICKI LYNCH

Roger Caldwell
1119 Mayflower Rd.
Kingston, TN 37763

Forry invented the term "sci-fi" back when everyone called their stereo a "hi-fi" and so you could say the

term is somewhat anachronistic. After all, hardly anyone uses hi-fi when they talk about their \$600 stereo set. Eh?

The Bond film, *Moonraker*, was fun: escapism as you say. But during that space battle, I had *deja vu*. Remember those ads on the back of comics in the 60's with the plastic spacemen fighting in space? This film did have an SF cinema first: Marines in space! Mostly the film is a rehash of Bond standards. I wish they would do a Bond film in the spirit of the earlier films (say, *From Russia With Love*).

Alien is OK, better than all of the B films it is being compared to. The recent CINEFANTASTIQUE says the film rips-off the B films. I don't think it's so much of a rip-off as it is a natural progression in the genre. I wouldn't call it the most visual SF film ever made. That's what we used to say about *2001*. How soon we forget.

It really isn't the best SF film either, because it is much more of a horror film in a SF setting. Sure there are a lot of nice things in it that we haven't seen before, but a monster eating people is pretty old hat. The shocks are sometimes fairly cheaply accomplished in that they depend on shots of the monster appearing, and are not the most creative horror effects done on film. The film is visually stunning and the money looks well spent. I would say the film succeeds the most because it is a director's film and it is fascinating to watch the set-ups and to notice how Scott manipulates the audience. The visual and audio impact are strong and grab you with the opening credits. Jerry Goldsmith's score is excellent. ...The film is worth seeing if just for the first third when the ship lands in the planet. It is very realistically (sic) done.

Now that we've had *Alien* (SF/horror), *Star Wars* (space opera), and *CE3K* (metaphysical SF with some soap opera thrown in), I would like to see a really intelligent SF film that didn't rely all that much on special effects. Perhaps *The Martian Chronicles* or *Brave New World* will fit the bill.

One last thing. The illustrated story of *Alien* was only excerpted in HEAVY METAL. It wasn't ser-

Letters of Comment (cont.)

((We can always hope for better SF. I have a sinking feeling that they will work an explosion in the two you mention. See Asimov's Adventure SF Magazine for a deeper explanation. I look forward to the PBS's THE LATHE OF HEAVEN for quality. What would you say was the film with the most creative horror effects?))

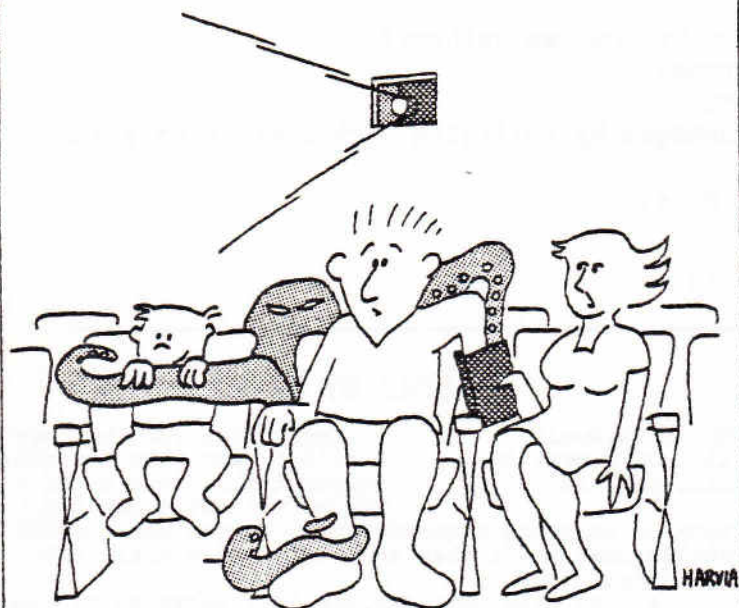
I remember the ads you mention and that thought occurred to me while seeing Moonraker. Let's just hope that Marines in Space doesn't become SOP in the future; dog fights in space is bad enough!))

F. E. Vedder
1410 McDowell Rd.
Jackson, MS 39204

Issue #22 has a timely, wonderful cover. I love it. Alien seems to be a controversial flick. I thought it was a great horror film; nice and scary without being as graphic as I don't like films to be. Sure, it has flaws. But so do I, and I like me anyhow. I have yet to read a book or see a movie that was letter-perfect. How many nits did Peter Piper pick if Peter Piper.....

((We like topical covers, when we can. Thanks for the nice letter. The Jackson club has a club zine called Smart-Ash and worth looking into.))

CREATURE FEATURE REVIEW



The plot was thick,
The popcorn shared,
The creature breathed,
And we were scared!

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

The Voyager Two
mission has been a
100% success!!!!!!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

What a joke. Remember all those people who saw canals on Mars? Nowadays they see flying saucers. And lo and behold if Europa doesn't have giant cracks alot like the canals of Mars.

And rings. And some outstanding pictures of the other moons. Io has changed..one volcano is quiet now, but we have seen other active. ((But why did not Pioneer 10 and 11 detect the sulfur torus??)) All in all, we have enough data to keep scientists busy for years.

We have also, in passing, destroyed 100% of all SF stories set around Jupiter. Life is hard for a hard-core SF writer when JPL gets to work.

((Not to mention hard-core SF readers! Nice update on what's new in space and at JPL.))

Irvin Koch
1870 Dresden Dr. N.E.
B9
Atlanta, GA 30319

The reason, Eva, I could not notify the N3F story contest winners to show up at Kubla was I couldn't be positive we'd be able to announce them there until close to con time. Then, indeed, I didn't learn exactly who won until Friday at the con. Attempts at getting the (local) winner on the phone failed. *sigh* I later learned both 1st & 2nd prize winners have been to (Southern) cons and can't stand them. #3 was in Brooklyn, #4 in Canada, one was in New Zealand and the girl in Cincinnati was in the process of moving to Indiana. The other finalist, in AL...couldn't make Kubla. ... As far as getting the 79/80 winners to the con they're announced at (ChattaCon 5, I hope), you [Eva] will have the stories and Jan-nelle Holmes may, if you remind her now, be talked into sending me the names and address of all sent to you.

((This is in reference to Eve Chalker Whitley's letter in the last CHAT. Irvin is the president of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, A.K.A. N3F.))

Lynne Holdom
P.O. Box 5
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442

Thanks for CHAT. I do keep meaning to write LoCs, but.....

I can see how much use I'd be at your book discussions. The Texas-Israeli War was one of the worst books I ever read; so much so that details of the plot and such escape me. The other books I have also read though I didn't really like any of them except for the Farmer one. EvaWhitley is right that fanzine reviewers do not consider whether a zine is a first effort or not. However there is a reason behind it. They consider whether or not someone might want to read it. I was lucky in that N3F subsidized me while I learned the ropes..... Sometimes a person has to find his or her own fanzine voice.

Another argument on porn. Well, I have a 14 year old son who likes SF and I allow him to read whatever he wants to. Generally he doesn't like books with a lot of subtle sexual content --- he never finished The Forbidden Tower --- but I would not forbid him to read whatever he wants to. No 12 year old is nearly as naive as the parents want to believe. ...

If you want to know where all the sex on TV is, try watching some afternoon soap opera. I occasionally watch "General Hospital" and at the moment, there are about four extra marital affairs going on. They treat rape more realistically than evening shows (most soaps are written by woman for women). But they are also more graphic in showing sex than the evening shows I watch. I mention this because my daughter at age four was dedicated soap watcher and used to recite what happened each day. Yet I have never heard anyone denounce soaps when they talk about too much sex on TV.

As a Dalmation owner, I was wondering how they

Letters of Comment (cont)

got into outer space. Use my dog for a coat indeed.

((As a person who works with fibers, I know you can make things from dog hair. It must be mixed with wool, though, in order to be spun. I have seen things made from dog hair. True about the soaps. Soaps are considered instructional due to the problems they cover. Maybe it is felt that the children are in school or outside playing, while after dinner the children would more likely be in the house. I, too, know of pre-schoolers who are avid soap opera fans. Lynne edits N3P's zine, Tightbeam.)

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

Thanks again for sending me CHAT. I loved the Tom Swifty cover. It was swift. (forgive me)

My only news is a sale to Roy Torgeson's new anthology, Imaginary Worlds. It will be out in December, I think. The story is called "Miss Nottworthy and the Aliens". Roy is the editor of the Chrysalis series.

Also...I really enjoyed your interview with DAW, especially the part about Gernsback.

Wade Gilbreath
4206 Balboa Ave.
Pinson, AL 35126

I enjoyed the July issue of CHAT very much. The cover was a great parody and, oh, so topical. My compliments to Charlie

and Tom. Also it seemed to me that the layout on the last issue was very clean. That has been the one small nit I've picked with CHAT in the past. Each issue is so jam packed (which has firmly established CHAT's growing reputation) that the layout gets too cluttered. Then again, I guess I'm a student of the Old West. I like them wide open spaces in fanzine design. Seriously, the July issue was just as packed as ever, but everything was more organized and more pleasing to the eye.

Please, get some more art from Robert Mack Hester. I do not recognize his name, but his spot illo on page three was just fine.

((Well, the layout was different because we did CHAT in a different manner. I'm glad that it was an improvement as it was much easier. Instead of typing things out in order, we typed out things and pasted them in place. I also like more spaces in a zine and I got Dick to leave more of a margin this time. We should have more Hester art in future issues of CHAT. He is very good and from Alabama.))

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

I thought the Alien comic was well worth the price, but then I'd heard enough about the movie before

hand that I knew I wasn't going to see it, even tho a lot of the sets look really good, etc. I can't take well to blood and gore. ... A movie is primarily a visual medium, so a comicbook adaptation makes a lot of sense, more than a novelization.

AJ's review of Foster's novelization tells me nothing about the book. I mean, was the writing adequate, did it capture the essence of the movie?

It's immaterial whether Foster is getting rich or not (novelizations are frequently flat-fee deals instead of royalties). I just want to know if it's worth reading.

Loved the cover. It looks like at Skylab day minus 1 that Detroit is smack daub in the reentry zone. Oops.

Excellent interview with Don Wollheim. A pity that this is only a portion if the rest is as interesting as this, perhaps you would print it later.

What can I say about Chapdelaine's column? That I didn't like his reference to a "pretty chick" (unless Shelby Bush [is] into chicken raising...) all the rest is too depressingly true.

Charlie's serial is interesting, so occasionally the word flow is a little confusing. And I think he ought to work on clearing up some of the clutter in his panels. Detail is nice but not when it makes the central figures hard to see.

I seem to recall that in The Binding Curve of Energy, which discussed the possibility of amateur made A-bombs, one of the concerns of the expert being interviewed was the sloppy security at nuclear material processing plants because nuclear reactors used weapons grade material (i.e. U²³⁵). Besides one doesn't need an A-bomb to cause nuclear havoc. Just a bunch of dynamite or scattered uranium about in a broad scatter would be just as effective tho less spectacular.

((Actually, Plutonium would be more effective. As for weapons grade Uranium being used in nuclear reactors, it just isn't so. According to the people at the local nuclear power plant, that is being put up, a light water reactor uses fuel 3-4% rich, while weapons grade Uranium is 37-38% rich. Quite a difference! Maybe we can get someone from Sequoyah to give us a more indepth report.

By a portion, we mean the most interesting part of the interview, leaving out bad questions and the like. The interview was also done under time constraint, as Mr. Wollheim has other commitments.

I hope I transcribed the letter right. It was handwritten.))



REB79

Teddy Harvia
c/o David Thayer
7209 Deville Dr.
Ft. Worth, TX 76118

Reading positive response to my cartoons always delights me (Lan calling me, uh, mentally healthy was positive, wasn't it?). I

just draw what I see....

To say that APA-62 is an APA which talks about sex is factual, but slightly misleading. Several members, including myself, illustrate sex. I always did need pictures.

((For those interested in zines and more of Teddy Harvia, David Thayer and Miranda Thomson, look into getting a copy of David's zine, NebulousFan. The newest one should be out soon. It is a fantastically boxoid zine.

When ever you can get us art, Teddy, we love to see it!))

Cliff Biggers
6045 Summit Wood Dr.
Kennesaw, GA 30144

As one who has collected DAW Books since those first four titles were published in 1973, I enjoyed

the interview with Don Wollheim; I find him an amazingly talented editor, probably one of the most consistently pleasing editors in science fiction, and it's a shame he doesn't get that recognition in the form of a Hugo.

Perry Chapdelaine's complaining about postal prices merely echoes my sentiments; however, I think if he investigates, he'll find that many fans are arranging publishing schedules so as to overlap with convient conventions, thereby cutting down on mailing costs via hand delivery. I know that I do so, when I finally get an FR [Future Retrospective, a review zine edited by Cliff and Susan Biggers; it is worth getting for the reviews and columns.-Ed.] out (the larger the fanzine, the more procrastination goes into getting it done).

Letters of Comment (cont.)

I am amazed at how often the "sci-fi" dead-horse is brought up to stir up controversy. "Sci-fi", no matter who created it, is nowadays considered to be a demeaning, tawdry term; why spend valuable time creating arguments as to why it should be okay to say "sci-fi" when you can just as easily say "sf" and not irritate others? A lot of language is semantical etiquette, phrasing things so as to create a positive attitude in the mind of your listener/conversant and thereby enable conversation to continue. Why bring to play any terms that block off, even in part, that communication?

Congratulations, Dick, on your putt-putt win; your idea has us teed off, and we're trying to think of a fair way to set up our own putt-putt tourney. We're green with envy, and it's drive-ing us crazy; we'll rough it until we come up with our own system for our club. And, before the golf puns ruin the "hole" letter, I'll tell you that we seriously might try to come up with a tourney of our own, and maybe have a club championship or somesuch.

((I could have stood another round be"fore" you ended the golf puns! We'll look forward to the Atlanta tourney, whenever.))

Many good points on the PO and "sci-fi".))

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

The cover seems to be part of an all out Skylab campaign on Charlie's part, as I've seen T-shirts and

other paraphanelia of his with disaster themes on them. It makes me wonder how humorous it would have been if the Lab had really caused injury when it fell. Maybe I'm a bit disappointed that it was so unsensational after all. Maybe we'll have better luck with the next piece of space junk.

The DAW interview was the first I've encountered since my days of CHATHood. I agree with the general compliment that they are excellent features. I generally like those better that are taken from written correspondence rather than taped interviews with everyone's mind wandering over beer and boredom. This one falls into the latter category(???) but is still quite informative and readable.// The second best feature was Sharon Webb's Tennecon report. UT is my olde stomping grounds, and although Fort Sanders is firmly out of my bones, my spirit still dwells there a bit. ... I hope that the university decides to repeat the event in later years.// We have set a policy of not seeing films this summer because it costs us an arm and a leg to hire babysitters. ...Your approach of viewing all the media representations of ALIEN was quite good; I'd love to see a comparison done by one person. Theoretically, is there one story with different representation in the comic, movie, and book, or is there a slightly different version of each one? Taken singly, could the comic or book "work" without the film? Some of these thoughts come from Nicki's paragraph on the movie. I don't think it's right to criticize a film because it would make a weak book, or vice versa. From what I hear, ALIEN is a good bit of cinema, and its impact comes from manipulation of cinematic elements rather than a book plot. The gore, like graphic sex, can cause the audience to build up mental blocks in order to stand the stimulation, and can interfere with real enjoyment of the story.

....

((If you like mail interviews, you should like our next interview - with Joan Vinge.))

I understand that the book ends a bit differently than the movie. Personally, I think a film or book should stand on its own merits rather than a tie-in.))

Vernon Clark
6216 Janmer Ln.
Knoxville, TN 37919

This latest issue is definitely the best I've received thus far.

Liked the interview

with Wollheim, While as a fictioneer Wollheim is unimportant, it's interesting to see how his novels came into being. It definitely shows the mentality of publishers of that era towards SF & F. Too bad you didn't ask Wollheim why AVON FANTASY READER used to change titles on its cover stories, ... Another good question would have been why the anthology series ended. The way in which DAW books came about was amusing in some respects and at the same time sad that someone such as Wollheim had to leave. It is fortunate that Wollheim did form his own imprint, as he's given quite a few new authors their first break since then, a higher percentage than when he was at ACE books. He's also published quite a few turkeys, however, so what Wollheim likes isn't what everyone else will necessarily.

While Perry Chapdelaine is criticizing the Nebula Awards, why not strike a few blows at the Hugos, which are nothing more than a popularity contest. How many people actually vote who have read everything? What they should do is have some sort of ratio/vote, where everyone casting a ballot only vote for what he/she has read or seen. Then the less well known people might have a chance at winning the awards they deserve, not some good but not great work by a famous and high powered sales-wise author, artist, movie. Any comments? While I'm at it, I'll agree with Perry's suggestion on using the awards to sell a book. Then if a book had low vote totals we'd know by just how much the book in question won its Nebula.

I think Tabor and Ogle lost the point of *Phantasm*. It really was sort of a satire on the whole horror film genre. On Tom Snyder's show July 3, in an interview with the makers of *Dawn of the Dead* and *Phantasm*, both directors explained what they were trying to accomplish. What's also interesting from this show is both directors comments as to their influences from comic books- specifically the EC's *Tales from the Crypt* and *Weird Fantasy*.

((I know of no other way to bestow awards than people deciding. How would knowing how many people voted for a book tell you if you would like the book? It is the publishers who put award names on the book, not the author.))

Perry Chapdelaine, Sr.
Rt. 4, Box 137
Franklin, TN 37064

(Here are Perry's comments on CHAT 20)
Dick and Nicki Lynch: Correction for your one-liner,

page 3. CHAT #20, At the Co-op, is suppose to be reprinted in the *SFWA Bulletin*, not *SFWA Forum*, according to telephone conversation with John Carr. End of my article in CHAT #22 mentions *SFWA Forum*, as a letter mailed there. *SFWA Forum* is for members only; *SFWA Bulletin* is anyone who subscribes. As to whether or not credit is given to CHAT, I don't know.

Eva Chalker Whitley: Since I'm half WOP, and many of my best friends have been KIKES, and I love WOMEN'S LIB, I find you point about hating the term SCI-FI insensate. Eric Temple Bell, otherwise known as a sci-fi writer John Taine, influenced immigrant Alfred Kozybski into creating *General Semantics* (which in turn influenced A.E. van Vogt's *World of Null-A*). S.Ichiye Hayakawa (now California congressman) became famous writing *Language and Thought in Action*, which became a collegiate English standard a generation ago. "The essence of sanity," according to these works, "is that one learn to recognize that the symbol is not the thing itself."

Suppose we arose tomorrow morning and lo! instead of being Negroes, all of the world called us Cheiropolidi-do you really think this would make a vast and momentous difference to you and me?..

Letters of Comment (cont.)

..Would you be any less ashamed of being descended from a black man, or would your schoolmates feel any less superior to you? The feeling of inferiority is in you, not in any name, W.E. duBois wrote. The name merely evokes what is already there. Exorcise the hateful complex and no name can ever make you hang your head.

Deb Hammer Johnson: Come to any convention where I am, (or visit my office) and you shall have my undivided attention, at least for a time.

Arthur Hlavaty: Where have I said that sex is vile? Do you think I sired ten children via vile-ness? I stated that society will not permit young children mixed with public porn. I want my sci-fi with children (and youngsters and oldsters). If you like porn, be someone's guest. Set up a porn conference-but don't call it sci-fi (or SF or Speculative Fiction or any other name that serves

to deceive me into attendance).

Vernon Clark: Lord no! NO censorship of ANY kind. And I repeat, I love sex as much as Wilson Tucker, maybe more, even! And I read stories containing sex- but not those that are pornographic. So, what is porn! Well, if you agree its porn, and I agree its porn, then that's porn! And NO, I have never censored my children's readings, just as mine have never been censored. Come, come, Vernon! We're talking about hard core imagery that is repetitive, non-creative, appealing only to those who have the grossest purient interests-not borderline use of sex scenes which might range from Romeo and Juliet to how an alien makes it with another weirdo!

George Laskowski, Jr.: Thank you! Now what do you think of truth in lending? Or truth in story awards?

ARTIST CREDITS THIS MONTH: Wade Gilbreath - cover; Earl Cagle - pages 2, 4 (middle); Robert Mack Hester - page 3; Rusty Burke - pages 5 (top), 11; Charlie Williams - page 4 (2063 AD part 4); Julia Wilhoit - page 8; Teddy Harvia - page 10

NEXT CSFA MEETING:

SATURDAY, AUG. 18

7:30 PM

JAYCEE TOWERS