

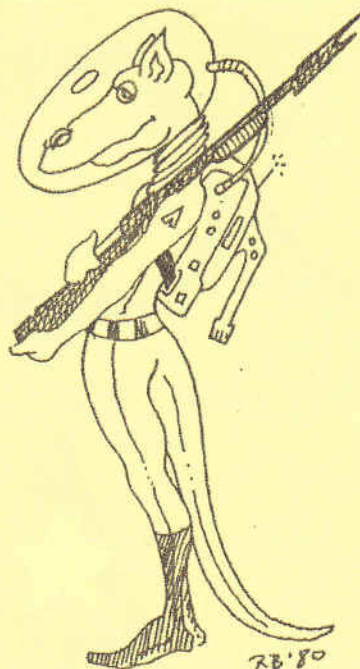
Chat



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NEWSZINE OF THE CHATTANOOGA SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION
Published Monthly by Dick and Nicki Lynch, 4207 Davis Ln.,
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CHAT is a newszine of Southern Fan News, and is supported by the Chattanooga Science Fiction Association. We encourage submissions of art, reviews letters of comment, and news (especially news). Written material should be a maximum of one page typed as it appears here. Please include name and address on the submission. While CHAT doesn't pay contributors, we provide a forum for fanwriters and artists; a complimentary copy is given to all contributors who aren't already receiving it. Opinions expressed by contributors do not necessarily represent those of the editors, or of the Chattanooga Science Fiction Association. All correspondence to CHAT will be considered for publication unless otherwise specified by the writer.



AD RATES: Pre-printed flyer inclusion - \$7.50; full page - \$7.50; half page - \$4.00; quarter page - \$2.50; each line equivalent - 25¢. Inquire about color printing/ads.

DEADLINE FOR CHAT #34: Sunday, June 22, 1980. All articles and LoCs must be in then.

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"I have little patience with scientists who take a board of wood, look for its thinnest part, and drill a great number of holes where drilling is easy."

- Albert Einstein

* * * * *

ROME FANDOM PLANS "VATI-CON", Saturday, November 29, 1980 is the tentative date set for Vati-Con, a relax-a-con being run by the newly formed Rome, GA SF Club. The convention will be similar in format to the recent ABCcon in Birmingham, AL, in that there will be reduced rates for members of the Atlanta, Birmingham and Chattanooga SF organizations. In fact, each of the three clubs is encouraged to use programming time that will be available. The officers of the new Rome club are Chris Radney (Pres.), Deb Hammer-Johnson (V. Pres.), and Iris Brown (Sec.-Treas.); more info is available from Deb Hammer-Johnson (2 Tyler St., Rome, GA 30161). (DL)

MIDWEST FAN FORUM PLANNED. The St. Louis Science Fiction Society (P.O. Box 15852, Overland, MO 63114) is planning a publication similar in some ways to the Southern Fandom Confederation bulletins published by SFC President Meade Frierson III, as a clearinghouse of information about conventions, publications, clubs, and fandom in the Midwest Region. The concept for the publication is for the compilation of a master mailing list of attendees of midwest conventions and clubs. Each organization in the area can publicize themselves by renting space in the zine in the form of ads or flyers; each name in the mailing list would then receive a copy (free). Organizer Elst Weinstein asks that suggestions, comments, questions, etc., be sent to him c/o the St. Louis club; also needed is access to computer facilities for compilation of the master mailing list. The first issue is hoped to be ready before WorldCon. (DL)

CSFA TREASURY REPORT. The balance as of April 1 was \$269.15. Income was \$36 dues combined for April and May. Expenditures were \$7.50 for the Hugo Ballot, \$100 for the CSFA June Party plus \$53 for CHAT #31 and #32. The new balance is \$144.65. (C.Wright/DL)

UPCOMING REGIONAL CONVENTIONS

MIDSOUTHCON '80, c/o Andy Purcell, Rt 1, Box 322-A, Leoma, TN 38468 (send SASE).
June 20-22, 1980 at the Sheraton Inn in Huntsville, AL. This is one of the new southern cons. GoH: Fred Pohl; M.C.: Kelly Freas; Fan GoH: Bob Tucker. Memberships-\$10 thru the door. Banquet-\$12. Also there will be a tour of the Marshall Space Center (not included in the price of the con.).

MYSTICON, P.O. Box 12294, Roanoke, VA 24024. July 4-6, 1980 at the Sheraton Red Lion Inn in Blacksburg, VA. This new con is by the Nelson Bond Society. GoH: Gordon Dickson. Kelly Freas will also attend. Memberships are \$9 at the door.

RIVERCON 5, P.O. Box 8251, Louisville, KY 40208 Aug. 1-3, 1980 at the Galt House in Louisville, KY. Hotel rates are \$37 for single-double-triple-and quad. Rivercon is back after holding NorthAmericon in Louisville last year. GoH: Roger Zelazny; Fan GoH: Lou Tabakow; Toastmaster: Vincent DiFate; also attending-many other pros. Memberships are \$7.50 until July 15, \$10 after. Banquet (at 1 PM Saturday-buffet style) is \$8.50.

ASFICON I, 6045 Summit Wood Dr., Kennesaw, GA 30144 Aug. 22-24, 1980 at the Northlake Hilton in Atlanta, GA. As this is the DSC (DeepSouthCon), it is not to be missed! GoH: Ted White; Fan GoH: Mike Glycer. Attending-should attract many pros and artists, as usual. Memberships are \$10.

NOREASCON II, Box 46, MIT P.O., Cambridge, MA 02139. The World SF con. Aug. 29-Sept. 1, 1980, at the Sheraton Boston, Boston, MA. GoH: Damon Knight and Kate Wilhelm; Fan GoH: Bruce Pelz; Toastmaster: Robert Silverberg; attending: more pros and artist than can be counted at this time. All the excitement that a World SF con can have! \$8 supporting membership; write for the attending rates, but hurry! the price is going up.

IMAGINITZACON, c/o Mike Brown, 3211 Trezevant, Memphis, TN 38107. Sept. 26-28, 1980 at the Holiday Inn Overton Square in Memphis, TN. GoH: Robert Asprin; Fan GoH: Steven Carlberg. Memberships are \$8 to July 4, \$10 until Sept. 25 and \$12.50 at the door. Make checks payable to: Lillian Weatherall, 786 Snowden Cir. East, Memphis, TN 38104

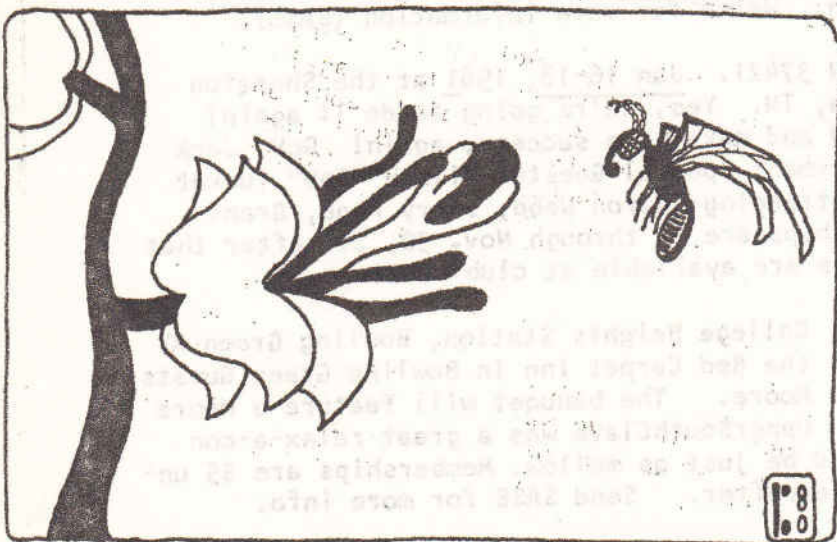
ROC*KON 5, P.O. 9911, Little Rock, AR 72219. Oct. 17-19, 1980. GoH: Andy Offutt; Fan GoH: Dick and Nicki Lynch. Write for more information (SASE).

CHATTACON 6, P.O. Box 21173, Chattanooga, TN 37421. Jan 16-18, 1981 at the Sheraton Downtown Hotel in Chattanooga, TN. Yes, we're going to do it again! You are all invited to attend and make it a success, again! GoH: Jack Chalker; M.C. Forrest J. Ackerman; Special Guests: Wilson "Bob" Tucker and Gordon R. Dickson. Also attending-Sharon Webb, Jerry Page, Grant Carrington and more! Memberships are \$7 through Nov. 30; \$10 after that and at the door. Memberships are available at club meetings.

UPPERSOUTHCLAVE XI (CONCAVE II), Box U 122, College Heights Station, Bowling Green KY 42101. March 13-15, 1981 at the Red Carpet Inn in Bowling Green. Guests of Honor will be Ken and Lou Moore. The banquet will feature a Moore Mashing led by Cliff Amos. UpperSouthClave was a great relax-a-con last year and this one should be just as mellow. Memberships are \$5 until March 1st; then \$8.50 thereafter. Send SASE for more info.

PARTY AND AUCTION AT JUNE MEETING. The May CSFA meeting was held at the usual time, but not the place we had planned to meet. Instead of the Rustic Village Apartments Clubhouse, the CSFA met at the old summer meeting place—the First Tennessee Bank Building. However, this did not deter the meeting from being fun and packed with fen. The meeting was run ably by Mike Rogers, who started the meeting by running the Hugo Ballot selection by the club. Assisted by Dick Lynch, the ballot selections held no surprises except for a few "NO AWARD" selections. Clarke's *The Fountains of Paradise* was chosen as the club's first choice for Best Novel. After the announcements, which included a plug by Andy Purcell for MidSouthCon (which is the weekend AFTER the June meeting), Mike led a discussion of "Is SF Dying?"; it was lively, and many people not heretofore participating raised their voices. In fact, it was so successful, the suggestion to hold more non-book, discussion-orientated meetings was brought up. Finding that attractive, the club members had many ideas of what other programs should be. The final choices were: (July) Conversations with a pro-Sharon Webb, and (Aug.) Discussion on "SF and the Cinema" to be led by Irvin Koch. Both meetings will be held in the Rustic Village Apartments Clubhouse and will not feature a book discussion. The meeting then closed to the strains of fen deciding where to eat and whether a Putt-Putt tourney would be done again this year. The June meeting will be June 14 (this is one week EARLIER than usual, due to Mid-SouthCon) and will be a summer Auction/Party with all the trimmings. Among the items to be auctioned will be: Triffid Seeds, *Man From U.N.C.L.E.* playing cards, fanzines, books, T-shirts, 2 copies of *Weird Tales*, NASA photos, a *Star Wars* folder, two copies of *Playboy Magazine* (25th anniversary ish and another), prozines, semi-prozines, and apazines, and whatever else is donated at the meetings. Anyone is welcome to participate by either bidding or entering things for auction. All auction item proceeds will go to the club unless specified for another cause, such as a fan fund (the ABCclub and several apazines are among the funds so far specified). Credit will be extended as the treasurer see fit. So.... start saving and counting those dimes!! The second part of the meeting will be a party featuring pizza and drinks for those over and under age. If it is like the last, it should be excellent indeed. All interested fen are invited, and the fun will begin at 7:30 PM. We're informed that the pool and tennis courts will also be at our disposal, so be there, etc. To Reach the Rustic Village Apartments Clubhouse: take the Highway 153 exit (Exit #4) from I-75 (toward "Airport" and "Chicamauga Dam"). Take

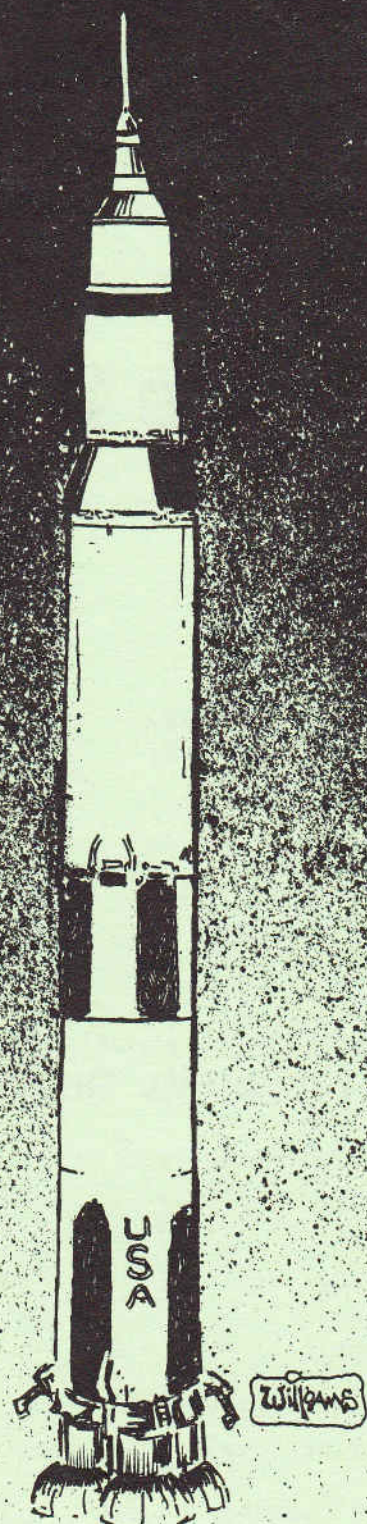
the first exit (Lee Highway) from Hwy 153, and turn left at the end of the exit ramp. Go on Lee Hwy for about ½-1 mile, and turn left on Central Drive just before reaching the Hudson Gas Station on the left (if you reach the traffic light, you've gone too far). Central Drive takes you directly to Rustic Village Apartments; the meeting is in the clubhouse, near the middle of the complex. For questions, call Bill Hedrick at 892-7344. (NWL)



MIDSOUTHCON

'80

JUNE 20-22, 1980
HUNTSVILLE, AL



GUEST OF HONOR

FRED POHL

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

KELLY FREAS

FAN GUEST OF HONOR

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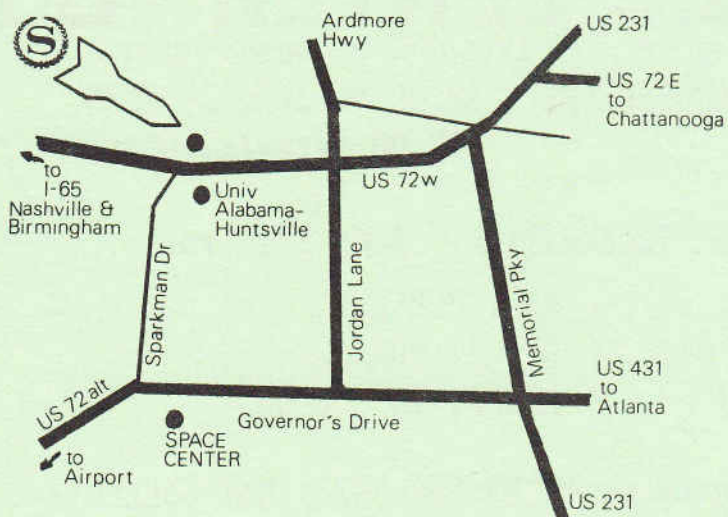
**Art Show and Auction · Banquet ·
24 Hour Hospitality Suite · Movies ·
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For ART SHOW INFO:
Dick and Nicki Lynch
4207 Davis Ln.
Chattanooga, TN 37416

For DEALERS TABLES & INFO:
Write to
Convention Address

**Memberships : \$8.00 each
\$10.00 after June 1**
Buffet Banquet: \$12
Dealers Tables (8 ft): \$15

BANQUET ENTREES: Southern Fried Chicken, Bar BQ Ribs, Baked Beans, Corn, Turnip Greens, Whipped Potatoes, Pan Gravy, Salad, Assorted Jello Molds, Assorted Desserts, Rolls, Coffee, Tea or Milk.



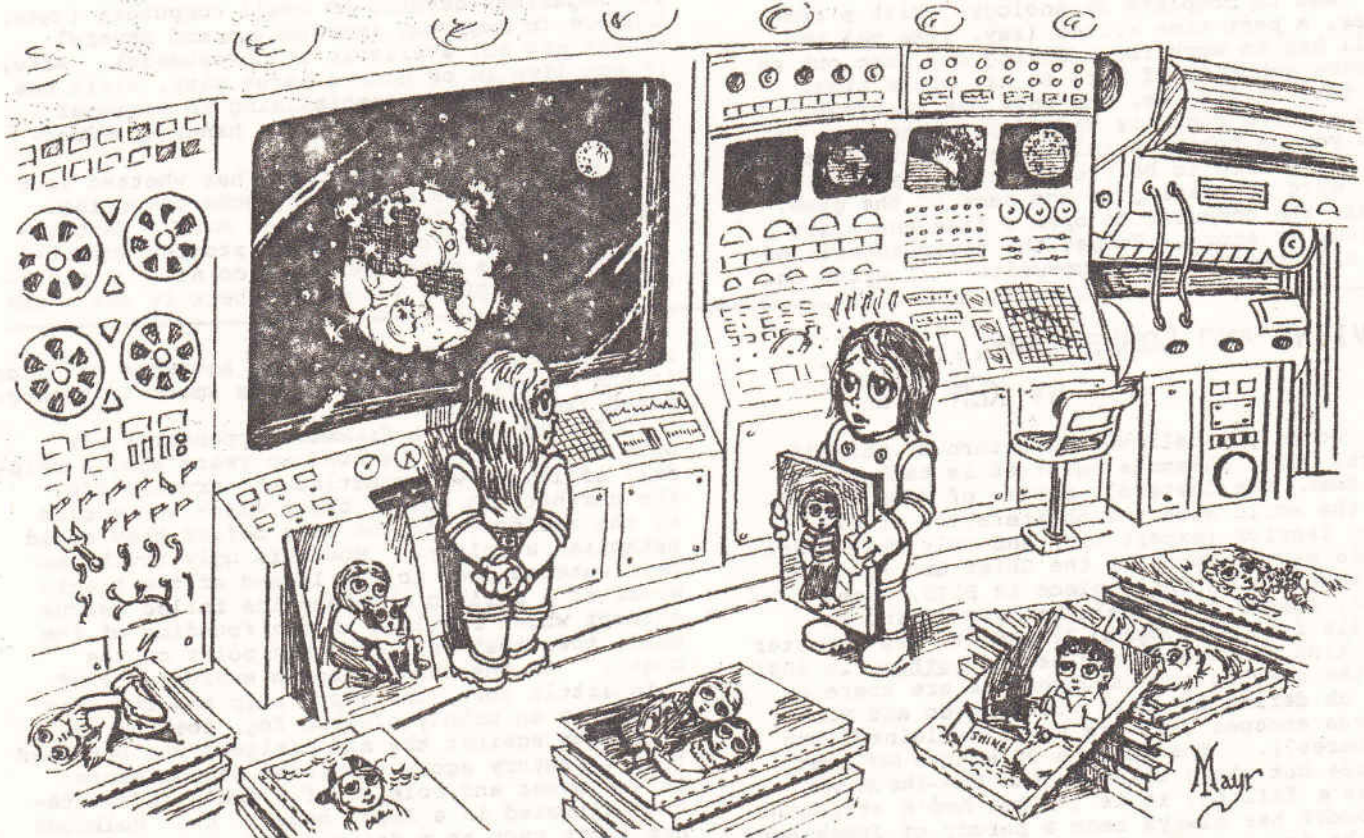
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ONE LINERS. Bowling Green, KY, fan Jim Woosley is spending the summer in Switzerland, working on a research grant at CERN in Geneva. Also, other Bowling Green fans Pat Malloy and Al Fennelly are working at Marshall Space Center in Huntsville, AL, this summer.// Speaking of Bowling Green, info we've received is that streets and locales from the movie *The Fog* are all borrowed from the Bowling Green and central Kentucky area. The movie's director and writer, John Carpenter, once lived in Bowling Green.// Special Guest at Chattacon 6, Jan. 16-18, 1981, in Chattanooga, will be Gordon R. Dickson. Memberships are still \$7; write to P.O. Box 21173, Chattanooga, TN 37421 for yet more info (enclose SASE).// Cosmic Con 80, June 28-29 at the Read House Hotel in Chattanooga is billed as the "1st Tennessee State Comic Book Convention". Memberships are \$1 (one-day) or \$1.50 (two-day); hours are 10-7 on June 28 and 12-5 on June 29. Contact David Wright (702 Highview Dr., Chattanooga TN 37415) for info on dealers tables and hotel reservations.// David Pettus informs us that he is folding his fanzine *Fan Plus* after only one issue due to excessive printing costs. But he is leaving open the possibility of switching to a cheaper, non-offset format at a later date.// The Knoxville SF Federation (KSSF-"Kiss-Off") had its second meeting on Saturday, May 31, in the form of a bi-monthly party. Distributed was the first copy of their clubzine, *The KSSF Journal*. The next meeting/party is scheduled for the end of July.// Knoxville fan Claudia Peck will be attending the Clarion Writers Workshop, held this year at Michigan State University in Lansing, MI.// The Edmonton, Alberta (Canada) SF Society produces a TV show, *Orbit SF*, for closed circuit cable TV in that area. According to *Neology*, the Edmonton clubzine, the program "is a mixture of science fact, science fiction, and fantasy." The club controls all aspects of the show, from scripts to camera work.// ASFiC member Brad Linaweaver has sold a story to *Fantastic*, according to *Atarantes*. // SF author Joan Vinge will marry editor Jim Frenkel on June 8.



"WELL.....AT LEAST WE WERE ABLE TO SAVE
MUCH OF THE WORK OF THEIR GREATEST ARTIST."

WRITING BY COMPUTER...

COMMENTARY BY RALPH ROBERTS

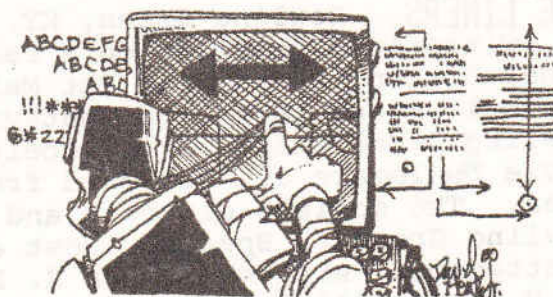
In one corner of the dining room, my secretary sits in a small brown box. She never complains and takes no coffee breaks. She types 360 words a minute and never gives me any lip. Seven day work-weeks don't faze her in the least. She's my personal computer.

Science fiction writers have predicted for years that computers would soon play an increasingly meaningful role in our lives. Well, as Honeywell says in their ads, "that day is today". Thanks to the technological explosion engendered in large part by the Apollo Lunar Landing program, the price of computer hardware has dropped to a point where hundreds of thousands of people can have personal computers in their homes and do so. I'm merely one of many thousand who started with personal computers as a hobby and then found a practical use. In my case, writing science fiction with a dash of fantasy now and again just for seasoning.

The Large Scale Integrated Circuit (LSI) is the device that has made this revolution possible. Thousands of transistors and other electronic components can be crammed into a tiny chip whose case is smaller than your thumb. This makes feasible my little brown box of a secretary (a Chieftain microcomputer with 48 kilobytes of memory and two disk drives). What's more, having a computer is like the six-gun in the Old West, it's an equalizer. A short, weak man (say like Billy the Kid) who was fast with a six-shooter had nothing to fear from big men. He could walk tall and proud unless, of course, he met a big man who could draw faster than he.

But to complete my analogy. With a computer, a part-time writer (say, like me) who still has to work for a living can turn out an immense quantity of work in his spare time. And take it from me, the only way to break into the pro ranks is dogged persistence. Unless you're Robert Heinlein, and in that case you don't need to be reading this anyway.

Word processing is the name of the game. I tell the computer to open a file and start writing my story. Forget the disadvantages of the old greasy-gearred typewriter. I write one



word after another and see them displayed on the CRT screen before me. I grandly ignore such irritating little details as line length, page number, changing paper, etc. Just write one sentence after another. Finished with the story or portion for the day, the computer stores that particular file on a floppy disk. Floppies are a small disk (either 5 or 8 inch) coated with a magnetic surface. The computer can record or retrieve a 5000 word short story in mere seconds. You can also go in and make additions, deletions, correct spelling, and so forth. Makes rewriting a snap. Replaces lost manuscripts with the greatest of ease.

The story done to my satisfaction, I ask the computer (my secretary) to type it up. She does. Typewriter quality at 360 words per minute, and she determines line length, how many lines to a page, page number, when to start a new page -- all automatically. Me? While the story's printing out, I'm somewhere else drinking a cool one and kicking around ideas for the next blazing saga of the spaceways. It's the only way to write.

And contrary to popular opinion, owning and operating a computer is both simple and inexpensive. How do you find out more? Read the magazines devoted to small computers (*Byte*, *Kilobaud*, *On Computing*, *Interface Age*, and several others are all available at newsstands). Also, if you live in or near a large city, visit one of the many stores specializing in personal computers. That way, you get hands-on experience.

Hope this little article has whetted your appetite to learn more about home computing. Don't know what I'd do without mine. Certainly wouldn't have over seventy stories submitted to various magazines as I do now. A personal computer gives you power! Check it out, huh?

REVIEWS AND COMMENTARY...

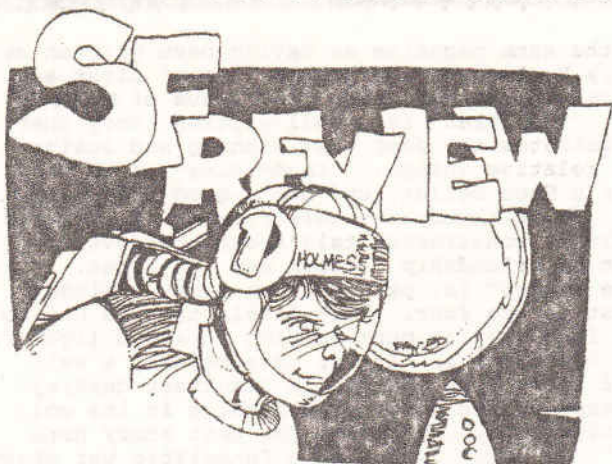
BY KEN SCOTT

Would you believe the return of Maxwell Smart? The infamous Agent 86 is back in *The Nude Bomb*. The dastardly master of KAOS threatens the world with the obliteration of all known fabrics (except his) and only Max stands in his way. Gone are the Chief and Agent 99 and Control; in their place is PITS, a new Chief, Agents 36 (Pamela Henlsby, Princess Ardella from *Buck Rogers*) 22 and 34, two computer whiz kids, a gadgets genius and nothing is lost. All the cliches and catchphrases are there as well as daring deeds of bumbling-do and miraculous escapes that are never explained (but who cares?). The NB is a 90 minute *Get Smart* episode but where this was *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*'s failing, it is *The Nude Bomb*'s strength. Max Smart has always been a parody of James Bond but the few moments of drama in this film are

more appropriate than the many attempts at humor in the recent Bond films. Max Smart is backrg-plong (sorry about that...).

The Fog is John Halloween Carpenter's new opus of terror. One hundred years ago, a ship-full of lepers was scuttled and drowned off the northern CA coast; their money was stolen by the residents of the area before they could establish a colony. Now this ugly truth has been watered down to the legend of the tragic wreck of a sailing ship and the failed rescue attempt which resulted in the founding of the small town that rests at that point on the coast. On the one-hundredth anniversary of this little town, the leper ship and its crew return in an unholy glowing fog, seeking retribution against the six citizens who betrayed them a century ago. Adrianne Barbour stars as the owner and sole DJ of a small radio station situated in a light house. Hal Holbrook has a bit part as a drink-sodden priest (whose grandfather was a priest!?) who discovers the

continued on page nine



Beyond the Blue Event Horizon
by Fred Pohl
Del Rey Books; \$9.95

reviewed by David Pettus

Fred Pohl has been writing science fiction for over forty years now. Recently, with novels like *Man Plus*, *Gateway*, and *Jem*, Pohl has asserted himself the one and true king of the SF mountain. And rightly so. Where most writers who have been associated with the field for so long are no longer producing quality fiction (when compared to much of their earlier work), Pohl is, in fact, producing material much superior to his earlier works.

Beyond the Blue Event Horizon is a sequel to *Gateway*, which is perhaps Pohl's most popular novel to date. Like *Gateway*, *Beyond the Blue Event Horizon* is an extremely well written book. Unlike *Gateway*, *Beyond the Blue Event Horizon* will not likely win the Hugo, Nebula, or John W. Campbell awards. Let me tell you why. *Gateway*, in the novel *Gateway*, is an orbiting way station left behind by a mysterious band of super-technological aliens called the Heechee. Explorers like Robin Broadhead take a chance on obtaining fabulous wealth, or ending up dead, or forever lost in the depths of interstellar space when they pilot Heechee space ships that are pre-programmed to travel to various unknown areas of the galaxy. Broadhead takes the chance and lucks out. Now, in *Gateway*, there was a lot of that "sense of wonder". Who are the Heechee? Why have they left all of this technology behind? What happened to the Heechee? And on, and on, and on. There was an awful lot to think about in *Gateway*. And this just isn't the case in the sequel.

The action in *Beyond the Blue Event Horizon* takes place fifteen years after *Gateway*. The earth is starving. There is a chronic food shortage. But then the pilot of a doomed *Gateway* ship sends word to earth that he has stumbled upon a Heechee "food factory" that can manufacture untold quantities of food. Broadhead joins in financing a mission to retrieve the alien food factory, and in so doing learns the answers to all of the questions that readers wanted the answers to when they read *Gateway*.

I did very much like Albert, a sophisticated computer that communicated with Broadhead via a three-dimensional replica of Albert Einstein. In a book like this one, where there is of necessity quite a lot of "explaining and

theorizing", it comes in quite handy to have an entertaining computer to do all of that stuff. It certainly beats having characters talk at each other. When Albert goes into an involved lecture about this or that, the reader really doesn't mind it. In fact, Albert is one of the better "characters" in the novel.

All in all, *Beyond the Blue Event Horizon* is a fine novel. However, in light of novels past, it is something of a step down for Pohl. A disappointment.

Takeoff!

by Randall Garrett

Starblaze Editions/Donning Co.; \$4.95

reviewed by Nicki Lynch

Takeoff! by Randall Garrett is a fun book to read. It's chocked full of, not only funny Garrett stories, but Garrett stories that parody the works of other SF authors and classic SF stories.

This delightful collection includes such tidbits as: "Gentlemen: Please Note", "Backstage Lensman", "The Cosmic Beat", "Despoilers of the Golden Empire", "The Horror Out of Time", "Look Out! Duck!", "Master of the Metropolis with Lin Carter", "Mustang", "No Connections", "On the Martian Problem", "Prehistoric Note", "Reviews in Verse", "Isaac Asimov's 'The Caves of Steel'", "Alfred Bester's 'The Demolished Man'", "L. Sprague DeCamp's 'Lest Darkness Fall'", "A. E. Van Vogt's 'slan'", "Poul Anderson's 'Three Hearts and Three Lions'", "John W. Campbell's 'Who Goes There?'", "The Adventures of 'Little Willie'", "Introduction to Benedict Breadfruit by Grendel Briarton" and "Through Time and Space with Benedict Breadfruit".

Snuggled among the stories are illustrations by Kelly Freas, popping out to delight when one least expects.

The only sad note about this book is that Randall Garrett may not continue to write such masterpieces. He has been seriously ill with a brain fever brought on by an insect bite.

Enjoy *Takeoff!* It is a very enjoyable book. But the reader is warned--the classics of SF need not have been read to enjoy it!!



Castaways in Time

by Robert Adams

Starblaze Editions/Donning Co.; \$4.95

reviewed by Nicki Lynch

Castaways in Time plunges the reader into the mists of the story and doesn't let one up for air until the end.

Set in the present, the story swiftly moves into the past, when there were knights in shining armor and kingdoms to be won. Into this world is thrown Bass Foster, Krystal Kent, Professor Collier and his wife and several other people who were trapped in Bass's home during a horrific rain storm. During the storm, a tidal wave which should have wiped out the house, instead, relocates it into an alternate universe in a different time.

Bass and the professor, along with several truckers who were also caught in the storm, quickly adapt to the new age. The house has been transported to the courtyard of a castle and Bass quickly makes friends with the occupants. Bass soon finds himself fighting a war for, none other than, the legendary King Arthur, in a different kind of war—a war where the fighters often come from the future.

Robert Adams weaves an interesting story, sure to interest those who like alternate history and universe stories. The story is also well punctuated with illustrations by Kelly Freas.

Castaways in Time is an interesting look at an alternate history.

Manifest Destiny

by Barry B. Longyear

Berkley Books; \$2.25

reviewed by David Pettus

It is always a delight to discover a new talent. *Manifest Destiny* has introduced us to a writer that will be "established", a "big-name" in every sense of the word, in only a very short time if he continues to write science fiction. And there is little doubt that he will continue to write science fiction, for he does it very well.

Longyear is just getting started, and already he has a story on the Hugo ballot for Best Novella. I for one hope to see him win the Hugo, and I am certainly looking forward to reading and reviewing Longyear's work for many years to come. Mark my word... Longyear will be another Arthur C. Clarke.

Manifest Destiny is actually a collection of novellas, tied together by brief interludes which help to enhance and elaborate upon the universe that Longyear has created for us. Unlike a number of books which have attempted to do this kind of thing, *Manifest Destiny* works. It makes sense, and the fiction is quite above average.

There are four novellas here; three of them have already appeared in print, and one of them, the last one, is in print here for the first time. "The Jaren" first appeared in the Fall, 1979 issue of *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*. It is of interest to note that it appeared as having been written by Frederick Longbeard. Longyear quickly realized that his real name was no harder to remember, and so "Enemy Mine" appeared in the September issue

of the same magazine as having been written by Barry B. Longyear. "Savage Planet" first appeared in the February, 1980 issue of *Analog*.

"The Jaren" is a well-written story that illustrates the fact that winning and losing are relative things. "Enemy Mine" is on this year's Hugo ballot, and has a good chance to win (it has already won a *Nebula award* - ed.). It is a finely constructed tale about the development of friendship between man and alien. "Savage Planet" is, perhaps, the story I liked least of the four. Most likely this is due to the fact that it puts mankind in a bad light... the truth hurts. It is, nonetheless, a well told story about mankind's "manifest destiny" to expand, and destroy everything in its collective path. My choice for best story here is "USE Force", which is a futuristic war story in the tradition of Haldeman's *The Forever War* and *Mindbridge*. Very good.

Longyear writes "hard" science fiction, which is to say that his stories are not terribly character/personality/emotion oriented. However, there is a certain "compassion" evident in his work that indicates a feeling for the people, and aliens, he writes about. And he can make the reader feel this way also. For it is the writer's job to make us "feel" and "consider" as we read.

Barry Longyear is off to a very successful start. He'll be the first to reach the finish line successfully too. Highly recommended.



REVIEWS / KEN SCOTT (cont.)

truth of the founding of the community. All in all, it's a good movie, although it does not have the same sustained tension of *Halloween*.

Latest from Rumor Central—*Alien* and *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* have been sold to Home Box Office for possible viewing in the fall. Ahhh, I can hear those VTR's humming now!!

The Romantist

reviewed by Perry Chapdelaine, Sr.

The Romantist is a large annual magazine which began publication in 1977; number 3 (1979) has just been issued. All three volumes are priced unbelievably low. What makes this journal unique is the high literary standard of its editors who have tried to provide a forum for serious, well written essays on fantastic literature (including some poems, art, and music).

The Romantist (a word coined by F. Marion Crawford as a variation of "Romanticist") is not limited in its purview to fantasy and the weird tale. Certain science fiction authors (especially the scientific-Romance and space opera varieties) fall under its scope. For example, M.P. Shiel, H.P. Lovecraft, and Clark Ashton Smith have been topics of essays in its pages.

The editors maintain that the key word to describe Romanticism is imagination; consequently imaginative literature (with emphasis upon the fantastic) is the subject of *The Romantist's* varied writers. The editors want very much to publish well written essays (based upon scholarship) on science fiction authors whose works are within the magazine's scope. They are not interested in psychological, and "new wave" fiction -- nor realism.

The appearance of a new magazine is seldom a universally heralded publishing event. With little fanfare, *The Romantist* has quietly spanned a wide literary void -- between conventional literary journals which usually ignore Romanticism and "fan" publications which passionately espouse Romantic authors and artists but seldom with tempered argument and thorough scholarship. It is indeed much like the literary magazine common through the 1920's.

The Romantist is the only American journal which is currently reconsidering Romanticism as a valid literary credo -- renamed the more accurate "Romantism". Its editors are frankly those few over-studied early Romantics such as Byron, Shelly, and Keats who mostly stressed the personal and subjective -- who remain the text-book cliché "Romantics". Instead, they are providing a forum for studying the more subtle, wide-ranging Romantists who emphasized the ideal and the imaginative -- mainly authors and artists (and musicians) who are critically neglected and ignored today. Inspired by F. Marion Crawford (1854-1909) the magazine's editors decided to include in the third and latest edition a revival of Crawford's work contributed by The F. Marion Crawford Memorial Society entitled *Lost Crawfordiana*.

Happily, the loyal aficionados and cognoscenti of fantasy have been, during the twentieth century, the staunchest defenders of a major aspect of Romanticism. Indeed, the greatest Romantic writing and art in this century has usually appeared in the genres of fantasy and supernatural horror. Therefore, many of the Romantists covered (and to be covered) have made their reputations in the realm of fantasy -- literary luminaries such as Clark Ashton Smith, Arthur Machen, Robert E. Howard, H. Warner Munn, H.P. Lovecraft, Robert W. Chambers, M.P. Shiel, to name but a few.

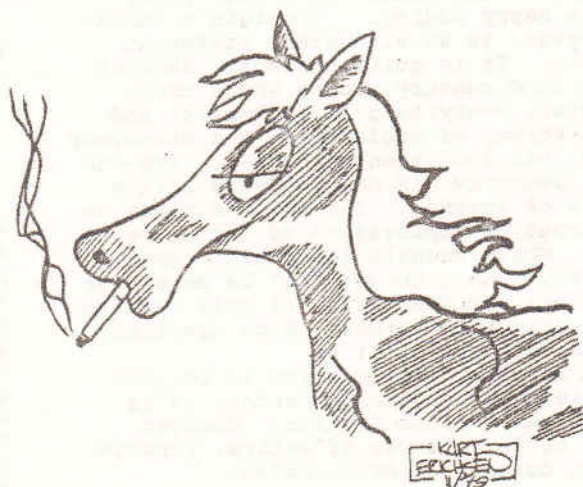
But *The Romantist* will not confine itself to fantasists or to the fantastic works of Romantists; instead, it will explore the larger vistas of Romanticism. Within its covers will be

forgotten tales, poems, and art; but new Romantists will be invited to its pages from time to time. *The Romantist* will publish critical and biographical essays along with bibliographic researches.

These standards and goals have already found a home for *The Romantist* in very prestigious libraries both here and abroad along with inclusion in many standard library reference works.

The Romantic Revival -- especially in the genres of fantasy and supernatural horror -- has been with us for more than a decade, but it has not had a journal of sufficiently-wide purview nor thorough scholarship until now. *The Romantist* is a journal worthy of the most prestigious book collection and worthy of the most devoted and discriminating bibliophile and Romantic reader.

The first three numbers of *The Romantist* have contained a long essay on Clark Ashton Smith as remembered by his bio-bibliographer Donald Sidney-Fryer, and essays on Russell Kirk, F. Marion Crawford, George Sterling, Robert W. Chambers, M.P. Shiel, Arthur Machen, O. Henry, Thomas Burke, and Lafcadio Hearn, plus essays by H. Warner Munn. *The Romantist* has also published new poems and art; and De Maupassant's early Romantic poems first Englished by Steve Eng. Also noteworthy is the publication of F. Marion Crawford's lost essays on India, Buddhism, and mysticism from the 1880's and 1890's and the first English translation of Crawford's Preface to the French edition of his play *Francesca da Rimini* written for his friend Sarah Bernhardt at her request (1902).



The Unman / Kovrigin's Chronicles
by Vadim Shefner
Macmillan Publishing Co.; \$9.95

reviewed by David Pettus

The United States is certainly not the only country with a rich tradition in science fiction. The Russians have science fiction too! And Macmillan Publishing Company has been involved in a new project designed to make available quality translations of science fiction, written by some of the more popular Soviet science fiction writers. Macmillan calls this new series of books the "Best of Soviet SF" series, and so far there have been thirteen books containing fine examples of Soviet

continued on page 12

The Unman review (cont.)

short stories and novels written by people like Alexander Belisev, Vladimir Savchenko, Dmitri Bilenkin, Eremai Parnov, Mikhail Emtsov, and the very, very popular Strugatsky brothers, Boris and Arkady. These books are making it possible for American readers to explore all of the major science fictional themes and motifs evident in today's Soviet literature, for the first time ever.

Antonina W. Bouis has done most of the translation in these books, though a couple of them have been translated by Alice Stone Nakjimovsky and Alexander Nakhimovsky. The translations are, of course, readable... but I would not describe them as "lively" in every case.

Vadim Shefner is quite a well known writer in Russia. He has attracted millions of readers there, and so he is deserving of an American audience also. *The Unman / Kovrigin's Chronicles* is comprised of two novellas, each very different from the other. "The Unman" could be best described as a fable. It is a humorous tale of a young man named Stefan, who is so very untalented and socially inept that he is considered an "unman" by his friends and family. But he is, at the same time, a very stubborn fellow unable to resign himself to that status, and so he leaves home, undertaking a trek which affords him the opportunity to meet numerous inventors and discoverers, scientists of all kinds, and finally, the girl of his dreams. "The Unman" is a very funny story with a happy ending. "Kovrigin's Chronicles", however, is an altogether different type of story. It is quite serious. Shefner describes a 22nd century utopia where crime does not exist, everything is automated, and space exploration, or exploration and discovery of any kind, has long been abandoned. But one man, Andrei Sveochev, is not ready to settle down and die of boredom. Instead, he plans to follow the road to exploration of the universe around him. Which results in several complications. "Kovrigin's Chronicles" is an easier story to become involved with, if only because it is more serious in nature. Both novellas, however, are worth reading.

Soviet science fiction seems to be just as preoccupied with social commentary as is much of American science fiction. However, there seems to be more use of satire, parable, and fable in doing it. Recommended.

Berserker Man

by Fred Saberhagen
Ace Books

Reviewed by Brian Earl Brown

The best book I've read in the past month or so was *Berserker Man* by Fred Saberhagen. While I'd long thought his Berserker idea played out, Saberhagen comes up with some new ideas and twists while plotting a good spy/war novel. Rather than the simple "problem" stories like "pressure" (how to destroy a Berserker with Squash) or metaphorical allegory (*Brother Assassin*) the story is a fairly straight we-must-develop-the-superweapon-before-the-Berserkers-stop-us. Adding depth to this suspense plot is some fine characterizations of Michael, a

bright child whose psych-profile best fits the weapon's needs. Michael really has a child's perspective.

The weapon itself is a mass of engines and weapons and forcefully warped out of our space having only shimmering robes surrounding the wearer. Control is through direct brain stimulation, making this the perfect synthesis of man and machine. Part way thru Michael's training he is captured by Berserkers, then escapes light-years from anywhere with only the "lancelot" weapon system to help him find his way home. This begins a fascinating odyssey across the galaxy which finds Michael growing into even greater awareness of the "Lancelot's" potentials and at last with a final confrontation with the Berserkers with the fantastic (and alas all too metaphysical) construct called *Taj*.

Berserker Man resembles E.E. Smith's *Sky-Lark* series with his hero gaining over greater, more godlike powers. But where Smith's Dickie Seaton remains unchanged and in a way unimpressed by his great powers, Saberhagen's Michael does indeed feel the wonder and burden of interfacing with "Lancelot". As such *Berserker Man* is a much more mature and rewarding book.



YOU THINK YOU
GOT PROBLEMS.
JUST REMEMBER,
IT ALL ENDS UP
DOWN HERE.

Compton Divided

by Robert Sheckley

reviewed by Brian Earl Brown

Compton Divided by Robert Sheckley is an interesting, enjoyable but uneven novel. Alister Compton is the victim of viral schizophrenia for which a cure has been found—personality-splitting with reintegration in later life. Competing fragments of the displaced personality as extrated and impressed into an android's body. Compton was diagnosed too late for successful reintegration but insists on it anyway as a way to overcome his rigid pedantic nature. His efforts to achieve reintegration lead him on a harrowing journey most people would consider "broadening", a point Compton fails to realize. In order to achieve his goals Compton learns to act quite unlike himself. And his other selves are pretty satisfied to be who they are—one is a total hedonist, the other an unrepentant homicide. Nor does reintegration solve Compton's problems for Compton's problem is the essence of the human situation. The story is wacky and farcical, ending at the universe's greatest mental health institute—10,000 square miles landscaped to resemble California.

Compton's quest to overcome himself would have been meat enough for this novel, but Sheckley throws in things occasionally that don't mesh—such as the author using himself as his own *deus ex machina*, or a villain that gets promptly forgotten till the last chapter. For such reasons I'd call it a sloppy novel but with many interesting parts and worth the reading.

Empire 99

by Ron Goulart

reviewed by David Pettus

In recent years, the comic strip has taken a beating. Indeed, the adventure strips are more and more being pushed-off the page by popular "gag" strips; non-continuing episodes of characters like "B.C.", "The Wizard of Id", and "Shoe". Continuity strips are becoming rare. And good adventure continuity strips are almost non-existent. But there is one...

Back in 1978, the NEA (Newspaper Enterprise Association) made arrangements with a popular science fiction writer, Ron Goulart, and a very popular cartoonist, Gil Kane, to undertake what *Future* magazine today calls "the first major science fiction comic strip to appear in 25 years". And, it is the first major SF adventure comic strip to appear in twenty-five years or so. Good lord... it's good!! There is nothing else like it on the comics page. It's called *Star Hawks*, and made its very first appearance in newspapers across the country in October of 1978. Since then, *Star Hawks* has become quite popular with readers; so popular in fact that Playboy Press has released the first novelized version of a *Star Hawks* adventure. If you like the strip, you'll like the novel, too.

Empire 99 is actually a novelized version of the second *Star Hawks* adventure to appear in the newspapers during the early part of 1979. For the most part, the novel follows the illustrated newspaper version pretty closely. Though, there are certain differences, the most important of which is the fact that in the illustrated version, *Empire 99* was called *Empire 13*. But the basic plot is the same, and the story ends the same way in both versions.

Star Hawks is just plain fun! Of course, most everything that Goulart writes is just

for fun. And I for one love it!! It's refreshing to read something that doesn't take itself so damn seriously for a change. *Star Hawks* is entertaining, and fun, and should be on everyone's reading list for good "light" reading.

There is the Interplanetary Law Service, the ILS, and the agents who work within the ILS and who must enforce the laws are called "Star Hawks". Goulart's *Star Hawks* are characters in every sense of the word: first there is Rex Jaxan; Rex is the straight guy, a real hero, tall silver-haired and ready to fight for what's right. Rex is quite a brawler, but he doesn't hold a candle to Chevez, his bald-headed partner, who is a real womanizer. Chevez has a tendency to compare every fist fight that he involves himself in to a near miss with a jealous husband or the time he "fooled around with that polygamous princess on Pluto". Chevez highlights his speech with exclamations like "Hoy!!" and "Zam!!". Very neat stuff.

I think that the most impressive character is Sniffer, a robot dog with a foul mouth, who is always trying to convince Rex and Chevez that the ILS should pay more attention to his ideas. Actually, Sniffer is quite an intellectual type. And the *Star Hawks* could not easily get along without Sniffer's input on a case. Trouble is, along with Sniffer's input comes Sniffer's insults, which the *Star Hawks* could do without most of the time. Goulart's robots have always been smart alecks, and Sniffer is certainly no exception.

Too, the novel is written like a comic strip. Which is to say that never a page goes by without a "kathump!", a "whammo!", a "zzzattzzz!", a "bong!", or a "kawhang!". Stuff like this seems to work better in an illustrated format, and takes something away from a novelized version. Still, the book is a lot of fun, and well worth reading.

Highly recommended.

LETTERS OF COMMENT

Vernon Clark
6216 Janmer Ln.
Knoxville, TN 37919

Ah, the latest two
CHAT's have had im-
pressive covers. You
know, it's not every

day that you see multicolor mimeography anymore. Good show, please keep it up.

Oy! "He's Bread, Jim." by C. Williams was an absolute riot. Charlie's version of the intrepid crew of the Enterprise were nice, but of course Lt. Poppinfresh took the cake (or biscuit, if you prefer).

The Alexis Gilliland cartoons are real nice. He's one of the most talented cartoonist working in fandom, he is much of the tone for Dick Geis' *Science Fiction Review*. Hope you can keep his stuff appearing in CHAT.

Great to hear the old friends of Chattanooga will be returning. Now, if you could only get a few dyed in the wool FANTASY authors, my heart would be content.

The idea of an SF discussion every meeting is a viable one, but of course should include topics that the greater majority of CSFC members can participate in. That's why the discussion on "Is SF Dying?" led so ably by Mike Rogers, was such a success. I hope such discussions will be announced and participated in into the future.

Guy Lillian gave an excellent brief report on Kubla Khan Ate. Like Guy, I was fascinated by Stephen King. King's a hell of a writer and even greater hell of a person. I hope he attends next year's Kubla, for I'll be there with my latest Stephen King novel to autograph. But of course, Guy left out the most important reason to attend a Kubla--the great room parties!

I got to admit I watched *Buck Rogers* too, Deb. I mean, what died in the whole *Planet Stories* space opera fiend wouldn't watch all the half clad fembods of BR. And the humor is enough to cause one agony at times, it's soooo inane. Ah, junk food is good for you if taken with moderation.

Bob Barger and Jerry Collins turned in fine artistic contributions. Bring'em back for more please!

See you the second weekend in June. May-be sooner?

((Thank you. We were lucky to get covers that lent so well to our printing process. And *hint*hint* we are still looking for more of them. There is one more color cover we have coming up.

((I, too, hope Mr. Gilliland keeps gracing these pages.

((Well, how about a few suggestions of fantasy authors for the next Chattanooga? The concom usually looks

continued on page 14

Vernon Clark LoC (cont.)

for someone who is (a) up-and-coming or very established, (b) not seen in the South much or never has been here for a con, (c) will say yes when asked.

((But, we have an SF discussion at every meeting-usually a BOOK discussion (sometimes even fantasy). And as that is announced well in advance, all the members could read the book and participate. But as the book discussions haven't done well this year, it looks as if general interest discussions will be the order. *sigh* another tradition bites the *Big One* dust.

((Not to mention the great room party that you and Knoxville fandom gave (as well as the ABC party)!!

((OK. Bob and Jerry--more art PLEASE!!! we really enjoy your work! Rusty and Charlie, see Bob and Jerry above--same applies!

((Good seeing you at the KSSF party the other night. See you at the party/auction!))

in BigTime zines and have access to some of the top fanartists around, she could always write an article about Southern Fandom for RUNE. I'm sure I could find somebody exemplary to illustrate it.

And regarding artwork, CHAT has some of the best. Bob Barger is a fine artist, and one I'd like to have in RUNE and my new perzine, PRIVATE HEAT. And I need not mention Charlie Williams other than to say that he is a superb artist and his comic strip on page 4 is hilarious. By the by, is the inspirer, Ron Lee, the ubiquitous Demonte? I wouldn't mind some silliness for both above mentioned fanzines. He already has one bacover for RUNE but that's no reason to stop now.

((We also hope to get a few articles for the upcoming ACBzine, SUNCATCHER, from Guy. His writing is wonderful, as you point out, and should be seen by more people.

((Hope you can make it down to the next Kubla!

((RUNE, for those who don't know, is the zine of the Minneapolis SF Society and Lee is one of the co-editors.

((Thanks for the kind words about the art work and artists in CHAT. Unless Delmonte has moved from New Orleans to Knoxville, I'd say Ron Lee is a real person. In fact, I believe I've met him. I'd like to know what happened to Demonte; does anyone know?))

Sally Ann Syrgala
P.O. Box 149
Centerville, MA 02632

Thanks for shipping
the May issue of CHAT
this way. Did find
the Charlie Williams

cartoon quite to my liking. You realize, of course, even the Marvel comic edition of *Star Trek* has McCoy reciting "He's dead, Jim." Though "He's bread, Jim"- change one letter and you have jam as its covering. Sorry 'bout that, I have been around fannish types too long. That's my only defense for such a remark.

Your mention of some of the older TV series is interesting. Instead of merely running reruns, old television shows are coming back for encores. *Topper* did this. We won't mention *Battlestar Galactica* and *Galactica 1980* -do you suppose they tired of the BS designation? *The Wild Wild West*'s latest incarnation was on the other week. *Star Trek* made it to the movies. There is talk of a *Man from U.N.C.L.E.* movie. *The Nude Bomb* is basically *Get Smart* as a film on the big screen. One could go on but that should be sufficient to show reincarnation exists in the celluloid frame of existence.

Did enjoy the zine. Again thanks for sending it.

((Thought you'd like that cartoon!

((There's been talk of a *Man from U.N.C.L.E.* for ever, it seems, but nothing has come of it. If it ever does happen, I'll be surprised. Then, again, I didn't think they'd ever get *The Wild, Wild West* to the tube again.

((Good hearing from you!))



GANARES © JERRY Collins 1980

Lee Pelton
2726 Girard Ave. S.
#101
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Guy H. Lillian III
once more proves his
mettle as being one
of fandom's top writers.
It is a pity that out-

side of his membership in LASFAPA, Guy's work only appears in the Deep South and fen in the East Coast and the North get little or no exposure to it. The man should write real fiction, so perhaps others could get to see what I'm talking about.

As for Ken Moore's philosophy concerning cons, our local Easter confabulation, MINICON, follows somewhat the same course. This year we had pros C.J. Cherryh, Joan D. Vinge, Greg Benford, Bob Tucker, the Wollheims, Gordy Dickson, and Robert Sheckley mixed with the crowd (over 1200) with casual, non-pompousness surrounding their presence. C.J. lettered a number of name-tags for unsuspecting fen and the huge con suite accomodated all gatherings of fen & pros. The aura was relaxed and entertaining. If only more cons would approach things this way. Maybe I can con my employer into letting me huckster at the next Kubla Khan.

If Deb Hammer-Johnson wants to be both printed





David Martin
6320 Fairest Dr.
Harrison, TN 37341

I haven't LoCced a
CHAT since September,
so you luck has just
run out. CHAT is get-

ting better and better all the time. It is actually a first rate zine and has been for some time. Your recent switch to mimeo has improved the repro quality tremendously! Especially in the area of art repro. I have enjoyed the three-color cover art that the past couple of issues have run. Keep up the super work.

I will have graduated Chattanooga Central High School by the time this sees print and will be earnestly seeking employment for the summer. If I can get a job and a couple of hundred dollars saved up by mid-August, I will be able to attend ASFiCon. I definitely plan to attend all of Chattacon 6 (my parent cells dragged me away from Chattacon 5 at 11:30 PM of the first night of the con. It had something to do with the fact that I didn't have a ride home and that they didn't want me to stay overnight with "that bunch of loonies"). Colin, Rich, and I plan to share a room for that one.

Well, I'm running out of things to say. I won't be at the May meeting due to the fact that the school musical's opening night coincides with the May CSFA meeting and I happen to have one of the main roles. See you at the June Party/Auction meeting.

((Thank you for the kind words! We've been planning to have color illos in CHAT for a while, but only recently have we been able to do some. With such tight deadlines (monthly) it's hard to get many done. We're now looking for covers that can be done in several colors, if anyone out there has any!))

((Congrats, grad!! Also congrats on the school musical.

((Hope your plans for getting a job and to cons works out.))



Ben Fulves
25 Parkway
Montclair, NJ 07042

CHAT's moving along too fast for me! Up to #32 already, and holding its own as a monthly. Congratulations. Wait, I take that back -- what was that cover? Probably the worst of 1980, you should be ashamed (so should the artist). The interior art was fine, though, as usual.

Ah, the Carvel commercial. It is my favorite example when talking about TV advertising. Carvel is an ice cream franchise owned by, you guessed it, Mr. Carvel, who has the bravado to feature himself in every one of his TV and radio commercials. Listening to this guy talk would put any hyperactive six year old to sleep in five minutes; he sounds like everyone's great-grandfather just after he's gotten up. Yes, that bad. But, a friend of mine was at a party a few years back when Carvel first started doing his commercials, and a conversation developed in which a party-goer voiced his vehement opinions about the commercials. My friend asked him to tell which commercials he hated most, and do you know that guy named *every one of* Carvel's commercials. The fact that he hated all of them doesn't matter; what matters is that he remembered all of them. That's how bad they were, and that's why Carvel is one of the most successful ice cream chains, because everyone remembers his commercials.

The Charlie Williams strip was very clever, as was the Alexis Gilliland cartoon.

I think ABCcon and Suncatcher are great ideas. It's good to see two (no less three) fan clubs that aren't feuding for some idiotic forgotten reason, as is the childish fannish tradition.

((Well, the cover looked swell before we color-sepped it. Maybe it lost something in the translation. We hope you enjoy the Harvia cover this month.

((I'm led to understand that an ad may be the worst and most grating production in the world, just as long as it's message is retained by the audience. Used car dealers and furniture hawkers are notorious examples of this. Luckily, national advertisers seem to be getting away from that tactic.

((Much as we'd like, we can't really say that all is in harmony between clubs. There are always little idiosyncrocies between people that rub individuals the wrong way. Several examples come to mind... Anyway, you're right that the clubs themselves, if not individual members are in harmony. We are really trying for unity among us, and we're glad to see it shows.

((Suncatcher, by the way, is coming along nicely, and money permitting, will be out by WorldCon. DL))

Chris Estey
600 S. Kent St.
G-45
Kennewick, WA 99336

Just a quick note to tell you I loved the four color cover on the current CHAT! Although I may be in a minority,

I would rather see more pages than color... but that color is marvelous!

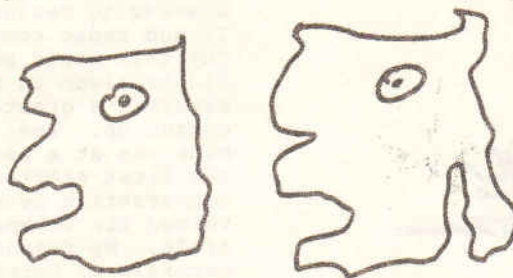
If you think that you have a bad Post Office, check out mine -- since Mt. St. Helens blew-up, our system has been so fouled-up as to not allow any mail in or out of certain counties!

((Ouch! You're right. I just checked the map, and Kennewick is about 200 miles due east of the volcano. You must have got quite a fall-out.

((And your comment about our color cover just goes to show you that the old saw about opinions remains true... In this case, we appreciate yours! DL))

ARTIST CREDITS: Teddy Harvia - cover; Bob Barger - page 2; Rusty Burke - page 4; John Mayer - page 7; David Heath, Jr. - pages 8, 9 (top); Stephen Fox - page 9 (bottom); Cliff Biggers - page 10; Kurt Erichsen - page 11; Wade Gilbreath - page 12; Jerry Collins - page 14 (middle); Laurel Beckley - page 14 (bottom); Charlie Williams - page 15 (top); Chris Estey - page 15 (bottom); Arthur Hlavaty - page 16.

ONE-CELL FUNNIES



I THINK,
THEREFORE
/ I WHAT?

Shuty 80

NEXT CSFA MEETING --

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

7:30 PM

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