

DEGLER! 158

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SPECIAL NEWS ITEM: This week I received a letter from the SFJA, one from Terry Carr, and one from Bill Mallardi. What they all said was essentially the same thing: that Star Trek is in serious trouble as far as ratings go. Harlan Ellison has formed a committee known simply as "The Committee"; it consists of Poul Anderson, Bob Bloch, Lester del Rey, Harlan, Philip Jose Farmer, Frank Herbert, Richard Matheson, Ted Sturgeon, and A.E. Van Vogt. The basic point of this is that Star Trek may go off or, far worse, be converted into a sort of kiddie show like Lost In Space unless the network (NBC) and Desilu are bombarded with letters. Now, I called up Lester del Rey (who had given his permission to use his name on the letterhead), and, as usual, Lester had a few biting remarks about Star Trek. However, he did inform me that Gene Roddenberry was giving this project silent support.

The addresses to write to are: Star Trek, NBC, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY, 10020; Star Trek, Desilu Productions, 780 North Gower Street, Hollywood, Calif., 90038; Star Trek, TV Guide Viewer Service, Box 800, Radnor, Pa., 19088, and various home newspapers attention of the TV Editor.

I'd advise all fans to give this your support; with thousands of letters rolling in, I'm sure that NBC would hesitate to cancel Star Trek.

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Dept. of Corrections: About 8 years ago I reported in Degler! that The Monster Wheel Affair takes place in a Giant Orbiting Space Station. This is incorrect. The book, by Dave McDaniel, is the story about who actually put the fer-shlugginer Monster Wheel in orbit. Further, The Planet Of The Double Sun is the beginning of the American Professor Jameson series. It appeared in Amazing in the '30's, in Astonishing in the early '40's, and in Super Science in the early '50's. It's the longest running s-f series in history, and Terry Carr writes that "the stories are ante-deluvian in style, but are pretty gassy in their own way. You can read 'em as science-fiction camp, or as Oldtimy SenseofWonder Stuff, both of which they are."

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Asimov, Isaac (that's what comes out when you type A instead of I) had an article in the November 26th TV Guide dissecting the science in the current science fiction series on TV. In true Asimov-type humor he proceeds to demolish Time Tunnel, It's About Time, and other series.

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Oil Properties Dept: Bob Leman reports that Professor Benjamin Hannifin has put together a Dorcas Bagby anthology, containing all of The Howsell Plan and excerpts from other novels, plus fifteen short stories, and is currently hunting a publisher for the manuscript.

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Back issues of Degler! are available for 3/5¢. The number after your name on your envelope is the number of the issue with which your subscription expires. To join NYCon III send \$3.00 to 25th World SF Convention, P.O. Box 367, New York, NY, 10028

Jack Gaughan reports that two more books have been dedicated to him: The Fabulous, Formless Darkness, by Samuel R. Delany, and The Stolen Sun, by Emil Petaja, both to be published by Ace Books.

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Subscription Extension Dept: Elliot Shorter, whose sub was originally supposed to run out some 4 issues past, reports that the first Talbot ^{Mundy} book to be published by Avon will be The Devil's Guard. It will be published in the spring.

The guest speaker for the Evening Session Science Fiction Society of the City College of the City University of New York (Not a religious organization) will be Frederik Pohl. He is scheduled to speak on December 9th, in room 305 of Finlay Student Center, 133rd Street and Convent Avenue.

On December 16th a fraternity at City College will show a flash gordon serial, in toto. The City College Club has reserved thirty tickets, at 50¢ each. Contact Elliot Shorter for information...

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Stephen Pickering Flipp Out Dept.: Stephen Pickering has sent me a letter stating that "I have battled your type at new left meetings..." and also "any accusations published in your Birchite magazine...will lead only to your ostracism." I'd like Pickering to get it straight -- am I a member of the "new left" but publishing a "Birchite magazine"? Politically, I seem to be all screwed up. However, this doesn't answer any of the many questions raised by Pickering in his own articles. I guess I'm just being anti-intellectual...us new left Birchites gotta stick together, though...

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Concerning Convention Bids: I've heard rumors that Columbus is going to bid for the 1969 World SF Convention. And so I investigated the quantity and quality of hotel rooms in Columbus. Here's the rundown: There are only 4 hotels capable of putting on a convention, or of even holding one, for that matter. The four hotels are the Pick-Fort Hayes, 350 rooms; room rates, \$7.50 -- \$12.00. The Deshler-Cole, 400 rooms, room rates, \$7.00 -- \$10.00. The Columbus Plaza, 400 rooms, room rates, \$11.50 -- \$14.00. Lastly is the Neil House, the most likely place for a convention. The Neil House is a new hotel with large convention facilities, 635 rooms, and the room rates are \$7.50 for singles, \$11.50 for doubles, \$12.00 for twins, and \$25.00 for suites. So Neil House looks like the hotel the Columbus group will choose. Sometime soon I'll have a look at the hotel facilities in St. Louis. Anyone for '71?

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Contest Department: Alan Shaw, New York's spy at MIT, submits several news clippings from the Tech, the semiweekly MIT School paper. Included are a clipping highlighting the highlights of the Boskone III, mentioning that MIT is aiming for the world s-f Convention to be held in Boston in 1970. Another clipping notes that an Ugliest Man On Campus Contest is being held, with Erwin Strauss, the MIT SF Society secretary (or whatever he does for them) as one of the finalists. The contest will be voted on by students during this week, and the proceeds, at a penny a vote, will be donated to the American Cancer Society.

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Ed Cox For TAFF !!!
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