

# DEGLER! 180 APRIL 28, 1967

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NEWER OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTION POLICY: How was I to know when I announced new mailing policies that the United States Post Office was contemplating the same thing. The trouble is, they have the law behind them. As of May 1st, overseas airmail to Europe increased from 15¢ to 20¢ per half ounce, hence the cutback in number of issues per shilling. Sorry about that, subscribers. Australian subscribers will subscribe to what may be an Australian edition, instead of receiving Degler! directly from me, it seems. This will work out best for my budget and, once again, because of the high cost of foreign airmail rates. Details are not yet worked out, but should be within two weeks. Stay tuned to this station for further details.

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275 ATTEND LUNACON: 275 fans, professionals, and readers of science fiction attended the 10th annual LunaCon sf conference at the Roosevelt hotel, April 29th and 30th. Professionals in attendance included James Blish, Guest of Honor; Judith Merrill; Roger & Judy Zelazny; Arthur C. Clarke; L. Sprague de Camp; Ted & Robin White; Dave & Cindy Van Arnam; Lin & Noel Carter; Terry & Carol Carr; Samuel R. Delany; Alexie Panshin; Lester & Evelyn del Rey; Dannie Plachta; Hal Clement; Judy Lynn-Benjamin; Dick & Pat Lupoff; Lee Hoffman; Frank Kelly Freas; Gray Morrow; and a host of others.

The program was upset by the failure of several of those scheduled for it to appear. Jack Gaughan was absent, for personal reasons; Fred Pohl was in California on business, and Edward Ferman had an unexpected previous committment. However, Charlie Brown was quick to recruit other talent to fill the vacancies in the program, and those scheduled in the Program Book but who failed to show up were replaced by other panelists.

A major problem of the convention was the lack of cooperation by the hotel management, who hemmed and hawed about various portions of the contract after it had been signed. Another problem was the cash bar at the EasterCon parties, Friday and Saturday nights, where drinks frequently cost more than people wished to spend (\$1.43 for a screwdriver; 42¢ for a glass of ginger ale), which resulted in more restrained parties than there would otherwise have been. The high price of rooms, likewise, also hindered the development of any large room parties. Few if any actually stayed at the hotel.

However, any convention can be good in spite of the hotel, and the LunaCon was no exception. The New Writers panel, which opened the convention Saturday afternoon, was in fine shape, with Ted White, Lin Carter and Dave Van Arnam bringing up several good points. There is, possibly, some objection to be raised to calling these three "new writers", as all three have sold at least 3 books, and indeed Ted White outlined his hopes for the future, when he will have gone beyond writing for a living and will have branched out into other forms of writing.

Samuel R. Delany, next speaker, gave a talk centering around his own work, explaining a good deal of what went into the creation of The Einstein Intersection, and answered questions from the floor.

I unfortunately missed the Pro Artists panel, consisting of Kelly Freas, Gray Morrow, and John Schoenherr, but did catch the last panel of the day, a special panel moderat-

ed by Ted White, and consisting of Lester del Rey and Terry Carr. The theme of the panel seemed to be about distribution and writing of science fiction, with comments by Ted and Terry on the reasons for Ace Books' expected increase in both book size and price. Terry naturally defended Ace Books, but Ted noted that it's a sorry state of affairs when a distributor suggests they can make more money if a publisher changes the size and price of their books, and an even sorer one if the publisher meekly goes along with the idea. A short period of general invective against the gradual increase in the price of paperbacks, coupled with a general decrease in pages, followed. The panel eventually bogged down in an argument between Ted and Lester on the advisability of a Utopia on Earth with all Man's wants fulfilled and all his troubles ended. Ted took the stand that it might free him for what he really wanted to do or be while Lester felt that it would mean the end of human civilization as we know it today. The panel was fascinating, but overlong; the audience was getting quite restless toward the end.

This ended the program for the day; the EasterCon party was held that evening, into which many people brought their own mixers and hard liquor, circumvented the cost of that which the hotel provided.

The Program Sunday began with a panel hastily thrown together, instead of the announced "Trends in Science Fiction." I missed much of this, as I was completing my collection of F&SF from the various booksellers in the other hall.

At 2:30 James Blish gave his GoH speech, in which he noted some interesting things about his novelization of the TV show, Star Trek. Blish said that of 8 scripts originally given him, he threw one away as being impossible to write, and that this one was by a science fiction writer. Blish said that, generally, scripts for Star Trek by professional sf writers were terrible and full of holes and technical impossibilities, as viewed from a television production viewpoint, which is why Star Trek went back to using TV hacks who could write scripts for tv production. Blish also said that the sales on his book resulted in a second printing of 25,000 after an initial run of 125,000 for the Star Trek book, and this is the first time one of his books has had a second printing within 3 months of its initial publication in the entire time he has been in science fiction. Blish also noted that the surprising sales figures were one of the reasons why Star Trek was renewed for the next season.

The final item on the program was a dialogue between Roger Zelazny and Alex Panshin, which degenerated into a "How I Got My Start in SF" as told by the two participants. Afterwards questions from the audience were answered.

The Convention was over by 6pm, with people hurriedly leaving and giving the room the disorderly and silently empty look that all conventions must inevitably get. The Lunacon will be held at a different hotel next year; perhaps with a different setting and more hospitable hotel management, the Lunacon will be better next year. This year it was too formal and for me, although the program was good, lacking in the little bit of mad partying that I've come to expect at the Lunacons.

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Born: To John and Bjo Trimble; a daughter, Lora JoAnne, 8 lbs., 8½ oz., blonde, blue-eyed, April 4th, 1967, by Caesarian Section. Mother and daughter doing well, now at home. Congrats!

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Notes From Publisher's Weekly: At the annual dinner of the Mystery Writers Of America, held April 21st at the Biltmore Hotel in NYC, the cover for Theodore Sturgeon's Some Of Your Blood won Best Award under "Best Individual Jacket: siftcover."/=/ New releases include No Blade of Grass by John Christopher from Avon (June 20, 60¢) and The Rim-World Legacy by F.A. Javor from NAL (June 20, 60¢). This last seems to be terrible Thud & Blunder, and the former is a re-release of a Crest Book./=/ Degler! will return with more news nextweek, and we may even be out on time for once. But I doubt it::::::::::Steve Stiles For TAFF!!!:::::