

# DYNATRON

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A fanzine (what else?) dealing with Fantasy, Science Fiction, Fandom and other Esoterica (Whaat?). Edited and published bi-monthly by Roy Tackett at 915 Green Valley Road NW, Albuquerque, N.M. 87107, USA. Distributed to a select mailing list of about 100 good fen and true. Material not otherwise credited is probably the ramblings of the editor.

A Marinated Publication ¶

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If I could live ten thousand years I would still be stupid.

Ancient Chinese Book of Accumulating Random Thought  
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An outfit in New York called Freedom House has made a study of civil rights, political rights, etc., of some 133 nations of the world and prepared a Political Freedom Index which is a sort of guide to the various country's respect for liberty. The index is a zero to 100 figure. Of the 133 nations listed only 35 have a rating above 50. Human freedom on planet Earth has a long way to go. I will not list them all but two categories are worth noting: those who received the top score of 100 and those who hit the bottom with zero.

100

Canada  
United States  
Costa Rica  
United Kingdom  
Ireland  
West Germany  
Belgium  
Switzerland  
Norway  
Denmark  
Netherlands  
France  
Sweden  
Iceland  
Australia  
New Zealand  
Austria

0

East Germany  
Albania  
Bulgaria  
Guinea  
Mali  
Central African Empire  
Equatorial Guinea  
Angola  
Ethiopia  
Mozambique  
Somalia  
Uganda  
Iraq  
South Yemen  
Mongolia  
Cambodia  
Laos  
North Korea  
Vietnam  
Benin  
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A housecat should talk small when addressing a tiger. -----

RONALD SALOMON says he's just plain nosy and wants to know what I meant lastish when I said I changed jobs involuntarily. I could probably rage on for several pages about that but I'll try not to.

I am, one

might say, a civil servant. Specifically, I work for the U.S. Air Force as an electronics technician. (Yes, yes, I am one of those notorious "double-dippers" Jimmy Carter wants to purge but don't get me started on that.)

I worked at a facility where we studied the effect of short pulses (microseconds) of very high energy gamma radiation on elec-



tronics circuits. But that is old stuff. The new thing is lasers and toys of that type. There was a need to expand the laser division, to get more people into it.

There is, however, a freeze on civil service hiring and new positions cannot be created and filled. Ah, but old positions can be rewritten to meet new needs and that is what happened to me. Transient Radiation Effects was closed and my position was rewritten to reflect all sorts of new criterial and I was no longer qualified to fill it (mainly, I suppose, because there was someone already hired in on a temporary basis who was.) Civil Service rules, despite their intent, are notoriously bendable. So I was reduced in grade and assigned into an electronics equipment repair shop where I spend my time fixing meters. It isn't tremendously interesting or exciting but it buys the groceries.

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Men are not offended by a little extra courtesy.  
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TONY RENNER wants to know if I got his name off Donn Brazier's mailing list. Yes, his and some others. After more than two years of semi-gafia I felt Dynatron's mailing list was rather out of date. Some of the people on the current list are holdovers, some I picked up from Donn, some from other fanzines, a few from the N3F's NFAS (supplied by Donald Franson). Some of the fans on the list are total strangers to me so it follows, I suppose, that I am a total stranger to them and it occurs to me that mayhap I should introduce myself to them and cite some fannish credentials. So.

Roy Tackett aka Roytac aka HORT (from "Horrible Old Roy Tackett" hung on me by Bruce Pelz). I've been reading science fiction and fantasy and playing the fannish game since the 1930s. Member of First Fandom, FAPA and CAPA, fan GoH at Westercon XXII, TAFF in 1976, co-founder (along with Bob Vardeman) of the Albuquerque Science Fiction Society in 1965, now and then participant in Bubonicon. And, to explain the "double dipper" bit above, a retired Sergeant of Marines. (Quick, what's the reference?) The first issue of DYNATRON appeared in September 1960 and it has appeared at sporadic intervals since.

My preferences are for hard SF, the sort of Fantasy that A. Merritt wrote, the sort of whimsy that Thorne Smith mastered. I don't give a damn about SF as literature. I'm interested in the ideas and the story. If you were to ask me to name my favorite author I'd be stumped because there are so many of them. It depends, I suppose, on the story. I am a complete disbeliever in the supernatural, flying saucers, astrology and the host of other pseudo-scientific garbage that is increasingly popular these days.

Other than science and science fiction my interests tend towards paleo-anthropology, archaeology and ancient history. The future and the past, yes?

Chrystal and I have been married for 27 years. Elder Daughter, Diana, now married to Tom Stull and living in Lincoln, Nebraska. Younger Daughter, René, is a math major at the University of New Mexico.

And you'll have to bear with me if, in these pages, I occasionally throw in a reference that will be obscure to most of the readers. There are some old friends on the mailing list and I know they'll break up over them. It's a bad habit, to be sure, but if you find something too obscure ask me about it.



Over the years I have fooled around with various captions for the lettercol and have never come up with one that was really satisfactory. Maybe we'll have a name the lettercol contest. Suggestions anyone? Response to #67 was excellent. Thank you all. CRAIG HILL, who publishes an unusual fanzine titled MONOCHROME (for 75¢) had the earliest response which came in almost before I got the issue in the mail. Very strange. I debated on running the letters straight or breaking them up by topic and opted for the latter this time.

### SCI-FI FLICS

CRAIG HILL: The mention of Star Wars was expected yet unexpected in the latest DYNATRON. The attentive mass-audience appeal of Star Wars may be scary at it's potentially minimal points because of media exploitation. For commercial networks to state grade Z television shows labeled as "sci-fi" rivalries to Star Wars has been credited to barely digestible LOGAN'S RUN and QUARK! At this point it would be expected that these shows would upgrade their quality from one point to another. The Truth is, however, that LOGAN'S RUN barely existed one television season being axed off at the starting of 1978 as a pretty good New Year's resolution. QUARK!'s script is leveled off at a Saturday morning SPACE ACADEMY I.Q. 20 plateau. I hope I never see the day when Star Wars toilet paper is sold.

Lucas' production of Star Wars does have good points, however. Lucas was able, with finances provided, to reveal the best possible results of a science fiction motion picture from direction, production, set coordination, acting; special effects were perfect. The acting of Alec Guinness was the finest part of the picture.

Being the first profound movie to cut it is Close Encounters of the Third Kind. Trying to represent the historical sightings of memorable UFOlogy had to be technically supported in order to sell well. Currently tough cop Jack Webb is trying to cash in the UFOlogy phenomena by producing PROJECT UFO. In this one, folks, he is caught saying: "Good evening, Ma'am, did you see an unidentified flying object at 12:37 AM Friday night?"

Unfortunately both Star Wars and Close Encounters are not science fiction but science fantasy. I find myself agreeing that they are progressive to the national attitude for spending on space shuttles, solar satellite power stations, terraforming planet Venus and lavishing additional bread for big hunks of interplanetary exploration.

ROBERT BRIGGS: I preferred Star Wars, too. Of course I haven't seen Encounters but SW was PLANET STORIES. I'm wild about the barroom scene. Who is the SF, F and H Film Academy? Did fans start it?

REED ANDRUS: I'm coming to the conclusion I'm in the minority when I say Close Encounters 3 is the best SF film ever made. I feel it addressed the "first contact" theme much more effectively than The Day the Earth Stood Still and was far less ambiguous than 2001. The critics seem to be attacking the film for what it didn't show or didn't explain rather than what it did. And there are those who automatically and categorically associate extraterrestrials with Von Danniken. Sigh. Mutter.

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In Thistle Wadi there are diamonds as big as pomegranates but I didn't want any because I had just eaten.  
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ROYTAC: Chrystal and I went back for another look at Close Encounters and I came away much more favorably impressed than I was at the first viewing. Objectively, I must say that the story was good science fiction containing, as it did, the subtle blend of hard science and mysticism that seem to be necessary to an SF story. There were flaws, true, but there are always flaws. The only thing I felt that really needed explaining was what, in the name of Verne, was so important about Roy to warrant his special invitation to the ship?

JOYCE SCRIVNER: The Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror thing was rather much. Very hokey in more than one place. I did like the idea of putting astronauts to work handing out awards for the SF people. And I agree that George Burns was delightful. Oh God! isn't bad either, except that it is such a small movie. Fun, funny in places but about as much nutrition as a Tootsie Roll. ((Ah, but a recent TIME poll rated Burns as one of the most influential figures in religion in 1977: "He made God real."))

PAUL WALKER: I suspect the success of both SW and CE3K are due in part to their quasi-religious overtones.

ROYTAC: Accepted if you mean overtones of the supernatural. Science and religion are seemingly inseparable in the mind of the public, a situation which, I suspect, goes all the way back to the caves and the shamans. Science fiction and fantasy also seem inseparable. There seems to be a feeling among the common herd that any remarkable achievement has to come from something higher than man. After all, they say, just plain old humans couldn't really accomplish these things without help from above. Much stf also has this theme. The Arisians are an example. I, on the other hand don't believe there is anything higher than Homo Sapiens. By the way, Paul, if you haven't read Fritjof Capra's THE TAO OF PHYSICS, you ought to look into it.

DAVE WIXON: The first episode of QUARK seemed a heavy-handed lampoon of SW. I got no solid laughs, but did chuckle several times - on today's TV fare, that's not bad! Later episodes continue to amuse but it seems evident that they're mining a very small vein and will soon run out of material to take off. Basicall, I guess, the show seems a confection with little depth.

FRED JAKOBIC: Like STAR TREK set the standard for sf on tv, so Star Wars set the standard for sf in movies. I'm not a trekkie by a long shot, but it is a lot better than the junk now on, or that was on since its showing. Forbidden Planet is my next favorite.// Since you've been around a while I'll ask you this: Have you ever heard/seen a tv series called ROCKY JONES: SPACE RANGER? It was on in the early 50's. Article on it in SPACE WARS, v.2, n.1, Feb issue, page 26.

ROYTAC: I have a vague recollection that ROCKY JONES existed but that is about all. Somebody else will have to come up with the details. I wonder what we will think of Star Wars in, say, 1997.

RONALD SALOMON: Both SW and CE3K are terrific. Each in its own way. SW is fantasy, CE3K is SF. But ask me which I'd rather see 6 times and I'd answer immediately ~~that~~ ~~the whole thing~~ Star Wars because I felt in my one viewing of each film that SW had lots more detail, and each time I could concentrate on different aspects while enjoying myself.

Someone said recently they were awaiting the video equivalent of a print library. With prices as they seem to be going it won't be long before the SF collector can have his own video SF collection. I heard someone moaning at Boskone 15 that a movie he wanted cost so much, in this case \$170 for an 11 minute short. Compare this to the VTR biz where you can videotape a Star Trek episode on your Sony Betamax for about \$4 worth of tape. ((Yeah, but consider the initial outlay for the VTR machine. RT))



((Editorial interruption: I think one page of that is enough. The elite typeface allows more words per page, true, but that's an old manual machine which is a lot harder to operate and takes much longer to do a page.))

TONY RENNER: I didn't think the Awards Show was so terrible: it was about the same as every other awards show. The Shatner performance was pretty bad. The song "Rocket Man" is probably the best SF song I've come across. "All that science I don't understand./ It's just my job five days a week." Great.

MIKE GLICKSOHN: I never even knew there had been an awards show for sf and fantasy films. How lucky!

DAVID TAGGART: The ultimate merchandising gimmick from Star Wars is underwear with THE FORCE IS WITH ME printed on the crotch.

MARTY HELGESEN: I hadn't thought of CE3K as pro-space propaganda, but you may be right, in which case there is something to be said for it. But on the other hand some people may get the idea that since they (oops) They are coming to rescue us, and They are so much more advanced than we are we don't need to waste time and money on our puny rockets. Why bother making a better canoe when people are coming with spaceships? ((So we don't make the same mistakes the Injuns did and let 'em get off the boat. RT))

GLENN GARRETT: Star Wars was an enjoyable movie and I nominated it for Dramatic Hugo but, damn, why do people have to go overboard in their enthusiasm for it - like Trekkies and Star Trek - it's good but not that good - posters, record albums, buttons, etc. For once I'd like to see enthusiasm with a little intelligence. ((It's known as hype and merchandising, Glenn. Good old American custom of squeezing out every buck possible. RT))

BUZZ DIXON: The effects in CE3K were far more mindboggling to me than those in Star Wars. This, however, is because as a photographer and amateur film-maker I know the difficulty of photographing light sources. However, virtually all of Star Wars consists of some form of special effects shot while only an hour or so for CE3K is.

CE3K is that rarity of rarities, a humanist SF film. It's filled with beautiful bits of human humor, emotion and individualism. Star Wars is a better film, however, in the same way Wagner is a better composer than Scott Joplin. Both wrote music that deserves to be heard again and again, but the scope, power and grandeur of Wagner overpowers poor Scott.

DON FRANSON: I thought the SF movie awards show was better than the Oscar and Emmy shows I've seen, except one or two. You want propaganda and equal treatment and recognition for SF, and when it comes, you complain.

LAURINE WHITE: The advertising for Disney's new film RETURN FROM WITCH MOUNTAIN is obviously slanted towards CE3K and SW fans, with mysteriously glowing lights appearing over the horizon and zipping across the sky. The ad says: "They have the power...and they WANT it!"



JIM MEADOWS: Your view of the making of films is somewhat mechanical. SF is harder to do than fantasy because sf needs more special effects. Bullshit. That is a gross generalization. If you mean space opera when you say sf, and vampire movies when you say fantasy, then you may be right. But your generalization has already been disproved by sf and fantasy films made throughout this century. For instance the special effects in Orpheus or The Wizard of Oz seem to me much more difficult and costly than those in an sf flim like Fahrenheit 451 or Invasion of THE Bodysnatchers. There simply is no golden rule on this point.

GARY DEINDORFER: I thought the moment when the mothership appears in Close Encounters surpassed anything in Star Wars. ((Big mother, wasn't it? RT)) I was never much of a fan of space opera, so I wasn't as thrilled by Star Wars as many people. I like Close Encounters better. I love the way we see various craft in the movie but it is all prologue for the appearance of the mother ship, a nice special effects crescendo. I think the best moment in Star Wars is the beginning, where the unbelievably gigantic battleship begins oozing onto the screen and keeps filling it up and up and up.

But there are some beautiful novels that could make beautiful movies without requiring the budgets of Star Wars or Close Encounters. Sturgeon's More Than Human and The Dreaming Jewels, Stapledon's ultimate superbeing and dog story, Sirius, Doris Lessing's Memoirs of a Survivor. And how about a film, though needing a big budget, of that fantastic masterpiece What Mad Universe by Fredric Brown.

MICHAEL SHOEMAKER: Surprisingly, for one who is such a movie buff as myself, I have yet to see both Star Wars and Close Encounters. From what I've heard of SW, and the clips I've seen, I was reminded most strongly of Williamson's The Legion of Space. Is that an accurate impression? ((Likely. Lucas has everything else in the film. RT)) One thing that worries me is that the success of SW & CE will breed an endless stream of similar flics (space operas and SF appealing to pop cults). I keep hoping they'll make a movie out of The Caves of Steel or perhaps Voyage of the Space Beagle, Earth Abides, Fury, Starship Troopers, The Demolished Man, all of which would be good movies, I think. Unlike you I never cared much for 2001. My favorite SF movies are THX 1138 and The Day the Earth Stood Still.

ROYTAC: It is interesting, the amount of comment on SF films. It tells me something about fandom.

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I think that people should travel all the time because they can then avoid each other with greater ease.  
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### THE SPACE PROGRAM

JIM MEADOWS: Your comments on Star Wars and such were interesting, especially as you are the first person I've come across who is more interested in sf (at least some sf) as propaganda, rather than good entertainment or art.

Personally, it annoys me somewhat. I can see the potential usefulness, and indeed the inevitability of space research, but I tend to believe that there are a few other things we have to aim our resources at first, before we reach that neck of the woods. Like learning how not to blow each other up before we impose ourselves on



the rest of the galaxy. But that whole topic aside, I was particularly struck by your matter of act view of sf as a tool for a political goal. You took the whole thing from a sort of marketing standpoint. It was not important to you that sf on film never seemed to be very good--the fact that it had a much wider audience than print sf got you interested. Your view towards space travel as a goal not to be questioned is very like the stance of the advertiser - ours is not to reason why, ours is but to sell more pie. Whatever the benefits or drawbacks of increased space research, we do know we will have to con millions of people into it before we make any progress. Con would seem to be the right word. Convince is a word you use with people with respect, and I can't imagine you having much respect for the proverbial average man, if you label him as Joe Sixpack.

ROYTAC: The resources of this planet being limited and considering our tendency to breed ourselves into Malthusian disaster, we need the resources available elsewhere to bring about that good life for all the humanists envision. (That's the old colonial philosophy, isn't it?).

The idea of SF as propaganda is an ancient one (consider Gulliver's Travels as just one example) and I am certainly not the only one who advocates it today. There is, for instance, Ellison's statement of position in re Iguanacon and that is not the first time he's advocated SF as propaganda. And you're right about conning the average man whether you want to use it as "convince" or in another connotation. If left to the average man, humanity would still be huddling in the caves.

Jim, just who the hell is th~~is~~s proverbial average man (or woman)? Are we talking about the chap who puts in his eight hours a day for a wage that doesn't quite meet the cost of living, that federal and state governments take 1/4 to one-third of before he even sees in and the so-called news media, acting as the propaganda mouthpiece of the corporations bitch that he's the cause of inflation (and this is one confused sentence--Speer will complain)? Are we talking about the guy who sweats to get his children through a public school system which has become dedicated to building empires instead of educating; the guy who is never going to catch up although the propagandists keep telling him he never had it so good? Hell, Jim, that's me. The only difference between me and the rest of the average guys (not all the rest, to be sure) is that I like to fool myself into thinking I can see further than the hood of my car which most of them can't. Nah, I haven't much respect for the proverbial average man. He enjoys being shit on. I don't.

X

DAVE SZUREK: So Star Wars sells the desirability of the space program, you say? Well, I really can't say. I might know what you mean after I've seen it, but for the time being, haven't we seen enough of war on our home planet without searching for new battlegrounds elsewhere in the universe? ((I don't know, David, how much war have you actually seen? Personally, that is, not vicariously. RT)) As for the space program in itself, I've mixed feelings, and you might dismiss me as just another Joe Sixpack. No, I'm not unalterably opposed. I can't deny that it's an extremely attractive prospect, but are you sure we're ready? Doesn't it sometimes seem that we should get it together here at home before devoting all our energies to galavanting around the galaxy? I would lend it my support as a solution for the overpopulation problem (wouldn't it be ironic if we got "there" and learned it was just as, or more, overpopulated than Earth?) or a defense against



mass annihilation (we escape Earthly doom, and land on a planet the exact second that a black hole gets a little too close?). Otherwise I'm ambivalent, and its largely dependant on circumstances. Truth is that there is money better spent on Earth, and while far less glamorous, there are problems which must be taken care of. I'd rather see one individual spared death or illness by deprivation than every inch of the heavens conquered. I've also hoped against a possible re-enactment of the "Conquest of America" but that particular fear may be unfounded. Yes, space exploration is damned tempting, but let's get our priorities in order. On the other hand, we may have to find alternatives to Earth if we really expect to survive much longer, so I'm not positive exactly what I think; can sympathize with both stands.

ROYTAC: As the conquest of America proved, emigration is no solution to the problem of overpopulation. That requires mostly self-discipline, I suppose. Pay heed to Harry on the bit about spending money on Earth;

HARRY WARNER: The opposition to space exploration isn't very logical when it thinks the money should be spent on Earth. That's where all the space program money is spent. I have my doubt, though, about the chances for the resolution which Rep. Teague introduced. You are right about the need for the public to demand resumption of the space race in order to achieve some results. I still think the nation's space program would be much more advanced, much more active today, if every Star Trek enthusiast who wrote to NBC about returning the series to the network had also written a letter to a congressman urging more space exploration. Politicians make allowance for the source when they're bombarded by letters from members of this or that organization, knowing how efficiently letter-writing drives can be organized by their officials. But the kind of personalized letters written not at orders from an organization but from the hearts of the writers; like those the Trekkies wrote the network, mean a great deal more to political figures.

ERIC MAYER: I wish Star Wars and Close Encounters would whet the public's appetite for the space program but I'm afraid the public's imagination and love of adventure ends where its wallet begins. I believe that the increasing complexity of society - the increasing regimentation is simply wearing people down, robbing them of anything but the mere will to survive. The human spirit - to get corny about it - is being strangled by government, insurance companies, credit bureaus, banks, and the endless number of other institutions who have decided to regulate us for their own benefit. There's just no space left for imagination as far as most people are concerned. Physically life is easier today than it ever was. But our environment, psychic as well as physical, has become so totally artificial - people are out of touch with basics like curiosity about the universe.

Is a man who worries and cares about nothing except working 12 hour days to make money not much different than the wild animal that spends all its time hunting to fend off starvation and never looks at the stars? Maybe we've come full cycle. We've become primitive animals in a technological jungle and now we have to evolve again - learn again to control our new environment before we can begin imagining again. Well, maybe that's the point we are approaching.

Pardon my melodrama please. I watched films of the



space program on a recent NOVA and when I saw the astronauts on the moon tears actually came to my eyes. I was thinking how much we'd thrown away. How can a society reach the moon, then turn back? What kind of a person is it who cannot appreciate such a feat?

During the 1960s I liked to wonder what we'd find on Mars when we got there - what the space colonies would be like - now I see that I'll never find out.

Heck - I admit, I'd want Jerry Brown for president just on account of his support of space colonies (and I think in other ways he's dangerous). Why the hell don't we use what we know to solve our problems. It's crazy. The awful thing is - if we don't make the right moves soon we'll no longer have the resources to move at all.

LAURINE WHITE: The pro-space propagandists have support from at least one tv series, SPACE ACADEMY on Saturday afternoons. Space exploration is shown as a great adventure. Humans are capable of cooperating on a venture as vast as this and can befriend alien races rather than meeting them with hostility.

BUZZ DIXON: I, too, have been keeping up with the good Senator from Wisconsin. North American Rockwell or NASA or somebody should wise up --stick an aerospace industrial plant in Wisconsin. Then Proxmire will vote yea on space measures. ((You betchum, Red Ryder. RT))

NOVA (PBS' excellent science series) ran a two-part program in late Jan on the space program. About the same time SCIENCE DIGEST ran a series of articles on the future of space travel. Both reached the same conclusion: Man is on the verge of the greatest of all experiences, his Birth into space. We have today the technology to begin colonizing space. We have at this instant all we need to start viable industries and set the ground work for future colonies. We need not wait for something to be invented or techniques to develop - we have them right now! We can begin energy, food, and industrial programs which can eradicate hunger, curb disease, and spread material security throughout the world and into the depths of space!

idea. \*sigh\*.

And Proxmire says it's a nutty

GLENN GARRETT: I saw Ray Bradbury on the Tonight show supporting the space program...with such comments as less money for arming foreign countries and more for the space program. Too bad Bradbury is totally ignorant of science and physics. ((Ah, but Glenn, the program also needs the support of poets...RT))

FRED JAKOBCIC: I have always been pro-space. Staying on this planet and trying to solve this planet will only lead to the day when it may literally sink from too many people, but come to think about it, we will destroy ourselves or be destroyed in the end. Our only salvation, as the human race, is to get off-planet and become self-sufficient, and ideally get many of us off planet so as to have room and air, etc., for those that stay. Space travel is necessary to survival of the human race.

JACK SPEER: You are too flippant when you dismiss the argument "the money involved could be better spent on Earth" with "(buying votes, no doubt)". You may well believe that too much is being provided to the poor gratis by the government, for their own or our good; but you can't well deny that many people are in pretty sorry circumstances, and may legitimately believe that more government money would relieve



them. The poor are people too, and their wishes rightly enter into congressional decisions on budgeting. To equate democracy with buying votes is like equating capitalism with exploitation: it overlooks and distorts.

ROYTAC: But that is no argument for cutting back funding for the space program. As Harry points out the money is spent here on earth. It not only provides jobs but also corporate profits and both of those mean increased spending power and increased tax revenues. It follows that the poor would benefit, albeit indirectly, from a stepped up space program because it would cause a step up in the overall economy....I wasn't aware that the wishes of constituents, poor or otherwise, ever entered into congressional decisions on anything.

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Mike Shoemaker reports that the offices of the Otis Elevator Company in Washington, D.C., are located in a one-storey building. Dwell on that for a while....  
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REAP

ROBERT BRIGGS: I don't agree with you. The U.S. economy of "abundance" is a passing phase sandwiched between "scarcity." Don't you know how many people there are in the world? Do you look to space to resupply finite Earth resources? There certainly is not "enough power now to put the program into effect." Do "large numbers of people" have "creative urges"? I can follow Reynolds "when he pictures the population giving itself over to such things as programmed dreams." It is not "technologically possible" now.

ROYTAC: The U.S. economy is not now and never has been based on abundance; it has always been based on scarcity. There's more money to be made that way because prices can be kept higher. We were approaching the road of abundance during the late 50s and early 60s but apparently that was too much of a good thing. Space could resupply finite Earth resources. No question of that. As for available power and energy--sure there is with plenty to spare. Don't tell me you believe that propaganda put out by the oil companies and their stooges in government that there is a shortage? The only shortage was, in their minds, in their profits.

HARRY WARNER: The Farmer proposal for a world of abundance seems to ignore some basic human impulses. Even if there's so much of everything that nobody needs to own anything, there would still be the instinct impelling many of us to be the big guy in the block. For some persons, it might emerge in the collecting instinct, others might insist on having one automobile for every member of the family and a new model every twelve months, still others might keep adding wings to their homes in an effort to have the biggest house in town. It's irrational, but even animals have their territorial instincts out in forests where there's plenty of room for everyone.

ART RAPP: Sorry, I can't swallow Philip José Farmer's assumption that with existing technology we could provide "abundance" to everyone on earth. By applying technology to equalize the standards of living of all people on earth we could no doubt provide the vast majority with



what they would, initially at least, consider "abundance" (at the cost of imposing on ourselves what we would, I am afraid, consider "deprivation"), but even if Earth's population were stabilized at its present level we would soon run into some limiting factor (probably availability of protein from renewable resources). In most countries, despite technological advances, standards of living are actually declining because population growth is outstripping technological growth. Being members of the small minority who have been living in the first-class cabins on Spaceship Earth, we have fooled ourselves into believing that we'd outsmarted Malthus and his nasty old law, but I'm reluctantly convinced that we've already passed the point of no return, and the global population figures will be readjusted in the VERY near future just as predicted by Malthus and the Club of Rome and Paul Ehrlich, and all the other doom-cryers.

According to Lester R. Brown, who is a world-renowned expert on both biology and economics: "The question - in short - is not 'Will we accomodate human needs and numbers to the planet's finite resources?' We will. The question is, will we make the accomodation in a systematic, orderly fashion...or in a chaotic and catastrophic fashion?" (MOTHER EARTH NEWS #50, p.23)

Other sober and serious experts predict a partial or total collapse of the U.S. and world economic structure in the imminent future - say, within the next 5 years - and warn that not only should an intelligent and prudent person attempt to make himself self-sufficient as possible for food, shelter, and fuel within that time, but should be prepared to defend what he has against mobs of those who don't prepare. Shades of the 1950's air raid shelters!

DAVE TAGGART: Mack Reynolds, like many sf writers, consistently underestimates mankind's capacity for violence. There is, has been, and will be a large portion of the population who like to kick ass. If you give them a Utopia and free them from the daily grind then you had better have a large police force on hand to keep them in line. Because even if they can have everything that they should rationally need, there are a lot of people who are capable of random acts of meaningless violence.

DAVE SZUREK: Haven't read AFTER UTOPIA but judging from your sescription I'd be the first to support a program like REAP, providing those who sincerely wanted to work were not prevented from doing so. I've many quarrels with the almighty Work Ethic. I refer to when it is taken as an actual "ethic", i.e., a method of proving one's worthiness rather than a means of livelihood. Most work does destroy creativity, regiments a person's life unnecessarily, and and if they let the propaganda or the strain suck them in too deeply, reduces them to an object. People start out "working" in school, go on to working all but two days a week, performing as a robot and surrendering all manner of precious time. Society tells them that they live to work, not the other way around, and if they manage to make it to 65 are finally allowed a few short years to themselves. Big Deal, huh? By that time they're sometimes left to conemplate death and nothing more, occasionally feeling that they've already died because they've been programmed into seeing work as the only proof that they exist.

It would be nice if those who wanted to work could all do so and those wh'd rather not were permitted to follow the course of their own personal choice. It doesn't always work that way in the real world. Freedom does not exist if either



extreme wins the rank of "only acceptable pattern" and I'm just idealistic enough to believe freedom is possible, if we don't stand in its way. If one labors for satisfaction, or the attainment of a useful goal (by his own standard, not because he is coerced into thinking it compulsory) those rights must be protected. REAP might meet with opposition from the more efficiently conditioned segment of society. Work must be recognized for what it is and the stigma removed from not working.

ROYTAC: Agree completely, Dave. It must be remembered that work, as we know it, is a product of civilization in which there has always been an elite urging the mass to work harder so that they, the elite, can enjoy life without laboring. The public schools acting (perhaps unknowingly) as the brainwashers for our elite begin programming the work ethic as soon as the children walk through the door. Again let me point out that "non-civilized" societies have worked their butts off when there was something to be done they considered worthwhile.

JACK SPEER: Are you sure that the application of technology would give everyone on earth abundance? I thought the labor-intensive cultivation of the Orient got more production per acre than our farming methods would. ((Negative. Compare Japan and India.)) And where would the crude come from to supply plastics for luxuries for everyone? I'm inclined to think that, for the present, reduction of population is necessary in any solution to the problem of world poverty.

ROYTAC: I think, personally, that a population reduction to about 25% of its present level would be necessary.

ROBERT CHILSON: As for REAP or its equivalent, technology may bring it about without any political program being needed. Granted cheap energy and the technology to produce, say, food - meat - out of oil or soybeans, can the price of meat help falling? And when food gets too cheap, no one can make a profit selling it; when distribution accounts for say 90% of the price of the product. Then there'll have to be some kind of social change, either government distributing food free or some non-government organization (a co-op, for instance) taking over. Preferably a large number of local organizations. In short, social change won't come till after the revolution which is a switch, at least in thought. (On the other hand, no revolution ever succeeded unless the new order was already well-absorbed by the people. Cuba is still under a dictator and Brezhnev is not an improvement on the Czzars.) ((More likely the price of food would be kept high by price-fixing on the part of the food companies. RT))

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And Dave Wixon says Caryl married him for his name just so she could call herself Caryl Dixon Wixon.  
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#### SF AS RELIGION

JACK SPEER: No no. The original trinity is Poe, Verne, and Wells. Stapledon is a relatively late saint. When did green become a fannish color. As a loyal Orangeman, I deny it.

JOYCE SCRIVNER: Who's the Archfan for New York? ((I don't know. Got any suggestions?))



BOB TUCKER: In your comments on Newman's comments about science fiction becoming a religion, I noted one missing detail of the myth. You didn't offer a Lucifer figure, an angel who fell from grace. May I suggest good old Wollheim? He was the first fan/writer to sue Gernsbach. It is my understanding that the matter was settled out of court, that Wollheim received some money, but was thereafter barred from the Gernsbach magazines. I think Wollheim would make a fine devil.

ART RAPP: The French have some sort of proverb about how the more things change, the more they remain the same ("Cherchez la femme," I think it goes, though I don't know much French). Your discussion of science fiction as a religion brought this on since it impelled me to pull nearly 20-mighod-years-old FANCYCLOPEDIA II off the shelves in order to remind you of some lines of mine which Eney inserted therein under the topic of "Fantheology":

Each fan sometime in his career  
To Inner Voices lends an ear  
And with true fannish assininity  
On fandom foists a new divinity.

It has been done before, he knows,  
As when the glorious Ghu arose,  
And gathered in believers true  
Until opposed by famous Foo.

Then Cosmic Circle had its birth:  
"To hell with heaven; Clod's on Earth!"  
And it might be alive today  
If Clod had washed his feet of clay.

Then Mighty Roscoe's Cult arose  
(As every SPACEWARP reader knows)  
Interpreted by deacons three:  
Rick Sneary, Edmund Cox, and me.

The moral of this history, fan,  
Is: Cults ain't founded by one slan;  
Attempts by two make fandom nod,  
For only T'ree can make a ghod.

MARY LONG: Well, what about Archie Mercer as an Archfan? By right of naming, he's one of the elite. Of course St Louis fen have a rather unfair advantage over the rest of us, with their own Arch tere... ((Yes, Archie might do. Besides he has birds in his beard. That's a qualification in itself. RT))

LAURINE WHITE: Shin'ichi Hoshi must be an sf author in Japan. The only Shin'ichi I know of is an actor who has starred in such Japanese sf classics as INVASION OF THE NEPTUNE MEN and TERROR BENEATH THE SEA. Before achieving SF Saithood, Vardeman should have at least one novel published under his own name. This hasn't occurred yet. The masses of worshippers wouldn't make priests of unknowns (to them) like Pelz and Brazier. We'd see Archfan Charlie Brown, Richard Geis, Andy Porter and Susan Wood, names appearing in zines with circulation in the thousands, not hundreds. ((Hoshi is one of Japan's foremost SF writers - mostly short stories. He had one pubbed in F&SF some years ago. RT))



ROYTAC: But the masses would have no say in the selection of priests; they don't in any other religion. Priests, arch-fans, etc., would be appointed by the council.

CAROLYN "C.D." DOYLE: Fandom as a religion? Oh no! I've been exposed to a sight more religion than I care to think about, and all I can say is - why make a good thing bad? (I rather think Bova would be regarded the same way many Catholics regard the Pope - heh-heh)((As infallible? Rr))

Religion is so often a sad thing - it keeps people from being open minded, able to grasp and really think about new ideas. People tend to use religion as a shell, and you can talk to them, try to present things to them - but it will only go so deep, till it strikes the shell, where they're thinking about Jesus and love or Satan and death, or whatever their religion happens to be. Religion is often the crutch of a lazy person. Instead of having to think for themselves and decide "Is that right or wrong? Do I want to get more involved in that or not?" all they need to do is look at the Pope's stand or their pastor's stand.

ROYTAC: Ah, but I envision SF as a religion of ideas, new ideas (if the writers manage to enlarge their imaginations) and basically anarchistic. If an adherent doesn't like Aldiss as his lar (and I can readily understand that) he can always pick Buck Coulson.

JIM MEADOWS: I don't know what Edwin Newman meant by sf being religion, but I have heard the comparison used with some validity. It's not that this is all sf is capable of; instead the relation is used because that is how some readers approach it. Certain people are simply moved by statements made in sf works about mankind's destiny, or the nature of the universe and God, etc. Works like STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND, CHILDHOOD'S END, STAR WARS, 2001, the works of C. S. Lewis, all have elements like these which people can latch onto emotionally. And some people get really caught up in it, taking some works as something akin to prophecy simply because they wish it was true. A dramatic example is the establishment of the Church of All Worlds, modelled after the pseudo-religion of the same name in STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND. Not everybody is so impressionable or so starved for other input that they take sf like this, but a lot of people do, and some of the fan following of sf works depends on this.

TARAL: Your missionaries of Stf will have a hard time here in Toronto. We have no objections to your pantheon, having been closet Stfnalists since time immemorial, but the choice of the obvious Archfan in Toronto by the Church would cause immediate schism. The Derelicts would schism en masse, probably setting up a presbyter system in place of the Church Hierarchy. (What other choice would we have, once having schismed?) The Apostle, an old school sexist, would never allow Vayne to be Archfan, and I myself an heretic. Can we not skip the Middle Ages and proceed right to the Age of Reason? As Deists we might worship the abstract characters in the Holy Books rather than the prophets Heinlein, Asimov, Clarke, et al.

#### TAFF

HARRY WARNER: I don't think of TAFF as charity either. But I do believe quite a few fans share my preference that TAFF trips go to fans



who probably wouldn't be going across the ocean without such assistance. This doesn't mean they're objects of charity. It merely indicates that they have families to support or they don't have regular jobs because they're still in school or some other circumstance makes it somewhat unlikely that they would be attending the con so far away without TAFF. Some fans can't understand the distinction between charity and opportunity which I can distinctly perceive in my own mind, I know.

MARY LONG: I believe that I saw you in 1976 in Manchester, was I correct? ((Yes.)) I don't think, though, that we had any long conversations - probably a nod and grin as we passed by. Personally, I think TAFF is a good thing, but no one seems to want to begin my pet project, which is Send An Expatriate British Fan Home for the Con. Wy, there are lots of us - well, a few anyhow. There are myself and Bill Burns in the U.S. and Mike Glicksohn and I think Derek Carter, not to mention Michael Harper, in Canada.

CAROLYN "C.D." DOYLE: Previously, I have always gotten DUFF and TAFF ballots too late - after the deadline. Now this year, after nominations and all, if I have any money left after my 4 cons in April, May, June and July, I hope to vote. But I must confess it is more important to me to help C.D. go to a con than to help TAFF winner go. Yes, I'm selfish. Indy is not exactly a hotbed of liberal thinking or fannish activity, and the cons give me things I can't find here in abundance. But I would certainly like to vote, if I can. ((Can you think of any town, really, that is a hotbed of liberal thinking or fannish activity? Voting for TAFF will cost you only one dollar. Save your pennies. RT))

ROBERT CHILSON: Comments on TAFF (and by extension, DUFF) were especially valuable. I confess I always thought of them as charities. But I consider them valuable nevertheless; more valuable for fandom than for the recipients. Fandom is not merely a democratic society, it's anarchic. There's no organization, no president, no officers, no legislative mechanism, no centralization of any kind. This is its strength. But still it needs unifying forces. Fanzines and cons are important in this respect; and so are the funds. Not to mention the Hugos. The very diversity of these unifying forces helps strengthen fandom.

Remember in THE FUTURIANS Wollheim telling how Sykora approached him after the war with a proposition to unite fandom under their banner and lead it onward and upward to some vaguely-visualized greatness. "It was like it was still 1939 to him," Wollheim said. You'd think that even if all the previous failures weren't enough, the collapse of the Cosmic Circle would have told him it couldn't be done. Hell, by '39 that was obvious. ((Rather a pity, though, don't you think? RT))

DONALD FRANSON: I have a question about TAFF. Why is the period between the announcement of the winner (April 79) and the convention (August 79) so short? Is this enough time for the winner to make plans and preparations involving reservations, vacations, etc.? Seems like you could save more time for this period by having the whole process start now, instead of October 1st. The voting should be open during the Worldcon, not two months later. This is, I suppose, written into the TAFF rules and you can't change it, but it doesn't seem right that the winners have so short a time after they're sure of the situation.



ROYTAC: There's four months there, Don, which is sufficient time to make plans and preparations. We probably could have started things a bit earlier (and I would like to have the voting open during the Worldcon) but it also takes a while for nominators to be rounded up, candidates persuaded to run, etc. The Seacon committee has assured Peter Roberts and me that there will be no problem with hotel reservations for the TAFF winner. That committee has an entirely different view of TAFF than the Suncon committee did.

### OBSCENE BOARDS

ROYTAC: Herewith a direct quote from the Albuquerque TRIBUNE of 7Mar78: "WASHINGTON (UPI) - Television viewers were exposed to 1,054 profanities - mostly the worlds 'hell,' 'damn' and 'God' - during 864.5 hours of prime time viewing last fall, says the National Federation of Decency.

"The federation is a citizens group headed by the Rev. Donald E. Wildon of Tipelo, Miss. It monitors sex and violence on television and complains to networks, sponsors and local affiliates about what it considers inappropriate programming."

Great Wells: Any group which considers "God" to be profane is sick, sick, sick (666).

ROBERT BRIGGS: I tend to support the Obscene Board. Pornography can be viewed as social-environment pollution.

REED ANDRUS: I'm happy to hear Salt Lake isn't the only place the Citizens for Decency are operating. Last year the far far right was picketing all over the city culminating with an attempt to stop the showing of LOOKING FOR MR. GOODBAR, an R. movie. They lost the battle but tirpled the film's business in the process. It'll happen again this year with some other picture. They never learn. The best way to stop or at least slow down the profits of pornographic theaters is to refuse to accept advertisements - quietly, with no publicity. I see maybe one X every couple of years, usually because it's received a load of promotional hype, and with one exception (Through the Looking Glass) none have been worth the \$5 entry fee.

DAVE SZUREK: You think the Albuquerque Obscene Board is appallingly humorous? Happens every day somewhere in the country, which, of course, makes the situation no more tolerable. Know what happened here when ULYSSES opened several years ago? Some concerned clergyman tried to halt its showing by sneaking in and then discovering a minor in the audience. Got caught at it, fortunately, sending his lofty plans awry.

MARTY HELGESEN: No, I don't remember the Concerned Citizens for Decency Through Suppression of the Constitution. I do remember, though, that the Supreme Court has said that constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech do not cover every conceivable utterance, and that among the kinds of utterance not covered by the First Amendment is obscenity. I do not always agree with the Supreme Court. In fact, I have been known to disagree vigorously and at length. But in this case the legislative history of the federal government and of the states which ratified the First Amendment shows that in this case the Court has interpreted their intentions correctly.

If obscenity is to be outlawed it seems reasonable that allegations of obscenity be investigated by a board rather than by one person, so that one person's



individual ideas will not lead to undue severity or laxity. It also seems reasonable that the board's expenses be paid by the government it serves. If the board had not stayed for the second feature they might have wasted the taxpayers' money. Someone else might later complain about the second feature and they would have to go back. This way they could evaluate two films for the price of one.

But, of course, your real objection is that you object to obscenity being illegal. I disagree, but I am not going to write a long essay explaining why. If you choose to argue in support of your position, I'll undoubtedly reply.

ROYTAC: No, Marty, I don't think the question of the legality or illegality of obscenity really enters into my objection. I would feel the same if the board were set up to pass judgment on religious tracts, or political propaganda or science fiction. Personally the thought of paying five bucks to watch shadows copulating on a screen strikes me as stupid. My objection is the very existence of the board. Who are these people that they dare pass judgement on what others may see or read? What we have here is a small group seeking to impose their beliefs on the rest of the citizenry and that is what I object to.

A couple of your other points deserve an answer, though. The board did not save the taxpayers any money by staying for the second feature. Albuquerque's ordinance declares that each case must be considered individually. If someone had later complained about the second feature the board would have had to go back to the theater to review it. (they made no judgement on it when they saw it--merely enjoyed it.) By staying for the second feature they went beyond the authority granted to them by the law which required them to view only the film against which the complaint had been lodged.

The Supreme Court's decision declares that alleged obscenity must be measured against community standards. The definition of obscenity is ambiguous in itself. The city attorney has offered the opinion that the city would lose a court test because the board, made up of preachers, retired military officers and a couple of professional people, does not represent a true cross-section of the city's population and cannot, therefore, really set itself up as the representatives of community standards, whatever they may be.

It might also be noted that Concerned Citizen has yet to complain that he was dragged bodily into the theater and forced to watch a film. He always paid his \$5 voluntarily.

And before you get set to fire off a reply, if you do, go back and re-read my first paragraph above.

#### MISCELLANY

ALEXIS GILLILAND: I received DYNATRON, and read it, and now can't find it to append inane remarks to all the comment hooks. So this letter is going to have rather less than usual connection with the fanzine which inspired it, and may not even mention science fiction or sci-fi or spec-fic. Actually, I write specifications for a living, so spec-fic has always had a singular resonance for me:

His face taut with strain, Arpad forced open the iron-bound chest, and tenderly lifted out the pale green book within.



"What is it?" whispered Trina.

"Volume 24 of the 1975 Annual Book of ASTM Standards," was the soft reply.

"But we wanted ASTM D 1949!" He hushed the impatient girl and studied the index.

"Page 136," he said, smiling triumphantly, and leafed through the yellowing pages.

"The pages are gone from 134 to 139," she sobbed.

"By Crom!" bellowed Arpad, "some duck fornicating spec writer hath excised the test method!"

Wild, maniacal laughter echoed through the chamber and the barbarian librarian unslung his mighty broadsword!

Well, so much for spec fic. ((You know, Alexis, if you expanded that I think you could sell it to Lin Carter. RT))

The coal strike was a strong argument for nuclear and solar power. You can't trust an Arab or a coal miner not to put their interests ahead of yours. I suspect that photovoltaics may be here sooner than expected. I have seen an estimate of \$50 per peak kilowatt generating capacity for CdS/CuS thin films on float glass. That is, by integrating the CdS/CuS application with a plant making float glass, you can turn out 1 KW of capacity for \$50. Once they get some of the bugs worked out. Private industry is looking at a market somewhere between air conditioners and automobiles in size, and is going to get it as fast as possible. One morning the government will realize that the energy crisis is having all those underutilized utilities treating to go bankrupt.

Say about 1984. ((Fifty bucks per kilowatt isn't bad. I've never calculated just what my power requirements are around here but they're fairly high. Still at \$50 per kilowatt--yeah, I could stand that--even add on electric heating. Now if we can talk the Congress into giving us a tax credit for doing it....RT))

At this point, a few words are in order about the ICC, a volunteer effort to bring home baked cookies to ~~A home baked~~ Disclave. Last year's ICC, also known as the International Cookie Conspiracy, was an outstanding success, both in terms of quality and quantity. The convention thanks you, the convention committee thanks you, and I thank you. To be sure that it is, indeed, you who are being thanked, check your last year's Disclave badge. If it has the Red Star of the International Cookie Conspiracy, you may gracefully acknowledge our applause.

MIKE GLICKSOHN: Boy, some people got a hell of a nerve! Spend a couple days on an island with some guys and they think they can take liberties with your good name, your reputation and your appearance! What's with three Glicksohn jokes within ten lines? ((I couldn't think of a way to get ten within three lines. RT)) Do I go around publishing fanzines in which I take your name in vain. (Do I go around publishing fanzines for that matter?) Do I write things like, "Boy, that Roytac's more horrible than having to read a complete run of DYNATRON"? Of course not; some of us have a little taste in such matters, a little restraint. (Actually, I don't mind such remarks if they're accurate. As Joe Haldeman said in connection to the publication of a pretty accurate account of the Lime Jello Affair, "It pays to advertise" and knowing just how old and horrible you are there's a good chance that there is a female Yeti on your mailing list! Still, I think these



references to my degree of hirsuteness are a gross exaggeration. I can easily think of three other fans who are hairier than I am and I'm sure there are quite a few male fans who'd qualify as well if I ever did that sort of investigation.) ((The Lime Jellow Affair is one thing... but I wouldn't want to publish anything about Joe Haldeman's Pigeon Key stew...RT))

HARRY BOSE: I don't like your term "Joe Sixpack", even though you compensate, prove your not serious, by using "Joe Phan". What irritates me is the implicit assumption that the differences can be sanded off, yielding the featureless, standard individual (who has another name I refuse to use). I hate it when someone ignores the differences, groups the similarities, and calls the result that name, the one I refuse to use. Besides, a university professor has written a book about "Joe Sixpack", called THE BLUE COLLAR ARISTOCRATS, that reveals "Joe Sixpack's" complexity. Unhappily, even this book does not go far enough, examines too little, uses that name (initials A.M.) too often. But it is a good start, and it gives a feel for "Joe Sixpack" as an individual, not as some plebian to be won over to the space-program--I hope you don't really think of him that way.

ROYTAC: It strikes me that I really wouldn't be too much interested in reading a book about blue collar workers written by a college professor. My observations on Joe Sixpack (and the term is not original with me...I heard one of our esteemed Sennytors use it and I got a little es-steamed at that--) come from rubbing elbows over the past several years. You see, Harry, I, too, am a blue collar worker....

DONALD FRANSON: Do you believe in secondary boycotts? I don't. Is it right to boycott (refuse to invest university funds) in corporations that trade with South Africa? Is it right (same principle) for Arab countries to blacklist corporations that trade with Israel? Is it right (same principle) for fans to boycott the State of Arizona for their ERA vote, while attending Iguacon? Does this mean also boycotting the City of Phoenix, which has a woman as mayor?

WALLY STOELTING: I think all Pro GoHs should protest over something done in the state the Worldcon is in. For instance, if held in Washington D. C., the GoH could protest government spending. In New Mexico, missile sites ((nuclear waste dumps are more likely RT)), in Nevada, gambling. In NYC, everything. In Virginia, lack of intelligence. Also different GoHs can protest each state's stand on certain issues. For instance, those in favor of ERA can protest Virginia, Arizona, etc. Those against can protest whichever states passed the bill. The entire American fandom can bring buckets of American soil to Seacon to stand in, protesting British intervention in Ireland. All Australians can bring buckets of sand to Iguacon to protest the selling of jet fighters to Israel and Egypt. Future fandom will note that Puerto Rico gained the 1996 worldcon in order to double its size. Dirty feet will, of course, be a sign of honor.

ROYTAC: Whoa! Hold it! Wait a minute! You chaps are trying to involve me with Harlan Ellison's position paper with regards to Arizona and Iguacon, etc. I didn't print anything about it but...since you've brought it up...

As one who favors using stf as a propaganda vehicle who am I to protest Harlan's use of it? I applaud his willingness to take a stand. More of us need to. I will not, however,



emulate him and go live in a tent in Phoenix at the end of August (although it would be a hell of a lot cheaper than the rooms in the con hotels) because the temperature can reach 120° and anybody who plans that sort of thing as a protest won't be half-baked, he'll be cooked dry.

TARAL: On the subject of Japan, we can see that the post WW2 Marshall plan built up Japanese industry and to protect it the Japanese enacted strong tariff protection against foreign imports. So naturally raw material tends to flow into Japan and finished products out. But who is better off? Japan? With their standard of living and the value of the yen? In spite of economic setbacks and a falling dollar, I'd say the U.S. is incalculably better off. How many fanzines are published by Japanese? Fanzine pubbling, like many other hobbies, is a mark of affluence even in supposedly hard times.

ROYTAC: Strangely enough I think that the results of WWII were actually a favor to Japan. (Some may not agree.) But the destruction of the Japanese industrial complex forced them to rebuild after the war and they rebuilt modern. New plants and new techniques give them a great advantage. Our plants, on the other hand, suffered no destruction and are old and decrepit by comparison and U.S. industrialists would rather put the profits in their pockets than invest in modernization. There is a great deal to be said for the theory that the multi-national corporations really don't give a damn whether US industry goes down or not.

As for your other question...there are many fanzines published in Japan. The country has a large science fiction establishment and a large and active fandom. Several of us have urged Japanese fans to bid the worldcon but they are reluctant to do so...mostly the language barrier I think.

((You have undoubtedly noticed the absence of any comment on ERA or feminism. That's deliberate. I had not intended for the subject to appear at all but the following from Jon Inouye is of interest:))

JON INOUE: I am for women's rights, but I am not for ERA. ERA is a phoney amendment. Margaret Mead, noted anthropologist, is also against ERA. Why? It will strip away decades of protective legislation towards women. It will give the government the right to draft women (I have nothing against women in the armed forces. I do have questions about what social changes may come about to the family unit because of this.) It is a big step towards TOTALITARIANISM. 1984. Big Brother. Everyone in the Army, and let's let the kids all be put in a State Care Center where they can be trained to behave in the State Manner.

Women should have equal opportunities based upon abilities as INDIVIDUALS. The Equal Rights Amendment will not only strip away rights from women, it will strip away rights from men as well. ERA is the greatest put-on since the invention of INCOME TAX in the early part of this century. The idea behind a graduated INCOME TAX was that "big business" and "monopolies" and "trusts" would be ended; it would give the "little man" a chance. Ironically it was the big businesses in the know who supported legislation in 1917 towards the income tax! (One of them was John D. Rockefeller SR.) What it did was to clobber their competitors. The large banks who supported the Federal Reserve Act (income tax) managed to squeeze out of the income tax pinchers via establishment of tax-exempt foundations.



TODAY, THOSE WHO ARE LEAST CONCERNED ABOUT WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ARE THE ONES WHO, FINANCIALLY ENDORSE THE ERA. WITH TREMENDOUS FINANCES, THEY HAVE PROMOTED ERA ON MEDIA, NEWSPAPER, TV, COMMUNITIES llyet even now, they are failing!!!

There is an inside story behind ERA that most of us have probably never heard.

opinion on this.

I'd like to hear your

ROYTAC: ERA seems simple to me. It has been a while since I read the text and my desk and files are such a mess that I'd be a week trying to find it but it says, roughly, that equality under the law shall not be abridged on account of sex and that Congress shall have the power to enforce the amendment through appropriate legislation. I keep hearing anti-ERA people talking about the "fine print" of the amendment but, believe me, there isn't any. If people are bothered by the second section about Congressional enforcement--they can pressure their Congressmen about that the same as they do any other legislation.

It is my observation that most of the so-called protective legislation regarding women actually abridges their rights and freedoms. I really cannot see that ERA would strip away anybody's rights: men or women. ERA will, you (and others) say give the government the right to draft women. Indeed? Under what legislation? There is no draft law. But even if there were what difference would it make? The military forces are actively recruiting women at the present time.

I don't buy ERA as a step towards totalitarianism. It is in the totalitarian countries that one finds women most oppressed. Consider, for example, the Moslem countries or Latin America.

As for it all being part of a big plot... conspiracy theories are tempting, aren't they? They offer such simple explanations for everything. I've read many books on all these great conspiracies but have as yet to read one that presented any solid proof. As with books about the Bermuda Triangle the authors of conspiracy books all quote each other.

#### NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM

And We Also Heard From: Marty Levine who has a new address: 1023 Elizabeth St., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15221. Buck Coulson, Pat Mathews who commented not on what I wrote but on what she thought I wrote. Carol Kennedy. Chester Cuthbert. And if I forgot anyone...I said the place was a mess right now.

In Seattle there has been for many years a "Buffalo Sanitary Wiper Company." It's been suggested that we view businesses such as this as primarily organizations. After all, isn't it nice that someone cares enough to make sanitary wipers for buffalo?

PAULINE PALMER

Page 20? This is where I usually call it quits but I think we can sneak in another page or two or three. Got a few books to mention and the like. And about four more lines to fill in on this page. I should try to think up some fabulous fannish saying as I was saying to Glicksohn in response to his fanzine but, really, I have problems with those. Everybody send fabulous fannish sayings to Mike Glicksohn for the next issue of his zine.



ALL MY SINS REMEMBERED by Joe Haldeman (St Martin's Press, NY, 1977, 184pp, \$7.95)

Joe Haldeman has taken three of his short stories and nailed them together, more or less, into a "novel". I did not read the originals but the versions in this book seem to leave a lot of strings hanging loose.

This is the story of Otto McGavin who applies for a civil service job with the Confederacion, is drafted without his knowledge or consent into the TBII (read CIA), and through hypno-conditioning and programming becomes little more than a robot for the next 20 years. Eventually the violence done to his basic moral character by the things he has been forced to do under programming causes McGavin to crack up. Since he is no longer programmable the TBII has no further use for him; McGavin is liquidated and a note is left for the clean up crew to dispose of the remains.

Haldeman has written a very bitter book, a condemnation of the depersonalization of the individual by governmental bureaucracy. McGavin has no choice in the matter; he doesn't even know, until after he has received his initial programming, that he has been selected for use by the TBII. His initial interview with the government examiner indicated he would be a useful tool and so he was used and when he broke, as tools do, he was thrown away as useless tools are.

It makes you wonder just how far along the road we really are. Joe could have made it better, though, if he had gone into his subject a little deeper. It isn't "government" that does such things; it is people in government. What is it that programs them? The better story might have been about the depersonalization of those who depersonalized McGavin.

And if you think it can't happen here...read your newspaper.

#### BITS AND PIECES

MIKE SHOEMAKER comments that DONN BRAZIER may not be too far out in his comments on a fanzine registry bureau (haven't I heard of something to that effect in the UK?). Mike quotes from RUNNER'S WORLD to the effect that one California city is considering a law to require runners, joggers, etc., to get a license.

Chrystal and I made a quick trip to California in April. Sort of a duty thing. Chrystal's mother is 85, lives in Los Angeles. We got out now and then to do things for her that she finds difficult such as shampooing rugs, cleaning drapes, etc. About the only vacationing involved was a quick trip to see Simon Rodia's Towers in Watts and one day at Morro Bay to eat fish.

The heavy rains have caused some damage to the towers. Funds have been appropriated to repair them...as one chap put it...as soon as they decide which damned bureaucrat gets to spend the money.

If you ever get a chance to visit the Towers don't pass it up. They are worth going to see.

Oh, on the 9th of April at the University of California at Santa Cruz over 400 women gathered to celebrate a festival for the Goddess. This was at the completion of a three-day extension course on "The Great Goddess Reemerging". The celebration was a mixture of paganism and witchcraft.



There was chanting and dancing and general merriment. It is to be expected that with worship of the goddess having been almost forgotten for a couple of thousand years, more or less, that new practitioners would be a bit rusty on ritual. Maybe they ought to read Thomas Tryon's HARVEST HOME.

One woman said she had a little prayer she used when she was driving: "Goddess, by your grace, help me find a parking place."

All rightee.

Looking at the list of Hugo nominees I am dismayed to find that I have read none of the nominated novels. First thing you know I'll be almost as far behind as Speer.

Several fans asked why I didn't simply call the Doc Savage Supply Company to find out what they did...What, and take the mystery and speculation out of it? No fun in that.

Several comments on the Panama Canal. I don't have any objection to giving the canal to Panama...it's paying them to take it that I object to. (Speer will tell me I should have made that "to which I object." He's right.)

And I should tell you that, provided Plague doesn't get us first, another grand and glorious BUBONICON will be held in Albuquerque 25-27 August. That's the weekend before IGGYCON so if you are headed that way might as well plan a stop in the Duke City. I really have no details other than Gordon Dickson will be Guest of Honor. For info on costs, etc. write to Mike Kring, 6413 Academy NE, Apt 213, Albuquerque, N.M. 87109.

CHESTER CUTHBERT: I was pleased to note your praise of Merritt in a letter published not long ago. I still consider that Merritt has not been displaced as the best writer of heroic fantastic adventure stories and it really amazes me that his name does not rate highly with many of the people who give information about books to Gil Gaier. Surely the modern masters don't do that much better than Merritt--or do they?

ROYTAC: I'm really not up on much of the modern heroic fantasy. What little I have read, except for Leiber's Fafhrd and the Gray Mouser stories, has not really impressed me. Most of it, in my limited experience, is bad. Part of the problem may be that most of Merritt's books are apparently out of print. Which is a pity because they are thoroughly enjoyable.

It's the same with the work of Thorne Smith. I have copies of most of it and find on re-reading that it is somewhat dated but still funny and his barbed comments are still pertinent.

on the subject of mysterious enterprises JEFF HECHT notes that he saw a sign outside an old building in Ballston Spa, N.Y. that read ROBOTICS.

MARY LONG found out that the MISTER PENGUIN MAJESTIC SHOPPE is a tuxedo rental place. Here in Albuquerque, with less imagination, the tux rental is simply "Mr. Tux". Hmmm, over in Texas one could make that Tex Tux.

With just a touch of sadness I note that SEERS RIO GRANDE WEEKLY suspended publication this week. SEERS was the last of the alternative newspapers in New Mexico. It has been struggling along for the last couple of years with apparently no real gut issues to



latch on to. The few issues I've seen lately have had a few stories concerning women's rights, "gay" rights, the plight of the poor criminals in prison and the like. So another carry-over from the 60s fades away. Rather a pity because there is still a need for voices of protest. If activism was the mark of the 60s then apathy is the mark of the 70s.

And I guess I don't really care about that.

This is the final stencil for this issue and this is 30 April (the first day of 1978's getting up early time and I'm not fond of that either). Now if I can get this run off and in the mail by next week end I can lie to myself that I was on schedule.

HORT

XXXXXX

1978



FROM:  
Roy Tackett  
915 Green Valley Road NW  
Albuquerque, N.M. 87107

TO:  
LEN MOFFATT  
BOX 4456  
DOWNEY, CA.  
90241

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