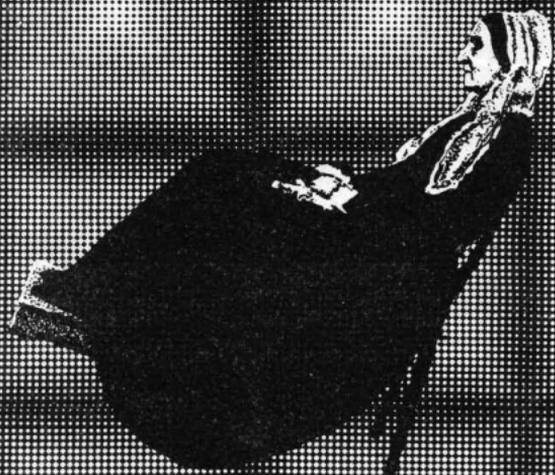


MATRIX

47



JUNE

issue 47

JULY

Wonder of wonders, miracle of miracles, as the song goes. Here is yet another members news magazine for the entrenched hard-line elite of the Medium to end all Media, your friend and mine, science fiction!!! (known also to booksellers as " Stick it in with that Bermuda Triangle crap"). This 'ere herudite journal is scraped from the presses every two months to enlighten you about events in the SF sphere, and anything else which catches our fancy. Read on.....

JUNE 1983

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EDITED BY: Simon Polley

EDITORIAL ADDRESS:

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In the Wicked North.

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Sandy Brown, 18 Gordon Terrace, Blantyre, Lanarkshire G72 9NA or

Keith Freeman, 269 Wykeham Road, Reading, Berks., RG6 1PL

This will ensure you further information on the BSFA and its activities. Sample mailings can be obtained for £1-50, the sum being deductible from the price of a full membership when you quite naturally take one out - DON'T YOU ?!

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Alan Dorey, 22 Summerfield Drive, Middleton, Greater Manchester

Once again, special thanks to the famous Harveys for their help and patience (especially since I am typing this only a day or so from the deadline) and to the jolly Leeds SF Group, who are mentioned in my prayers every night ('Dear God, please send a plague of frogs and locusts to Bingley' etc.). Mr. Polley's liver was once again supplied by the Royal Society of Pathologists and his extensive wardrobe was donated by the Leeds Nearly New Discount Warehouse - our motto " Never mind the quality, just keep an eye open for the fleas" . A big grovel and whine to all the brave contributors represented herein would not go amiss either.

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MATRIX 47

Matrix 47: A probably totally erroneous attempt to introduce the concept of page numbering into the production of a high-grade Matrix - there follows a rough idea of where the bits ought to be...

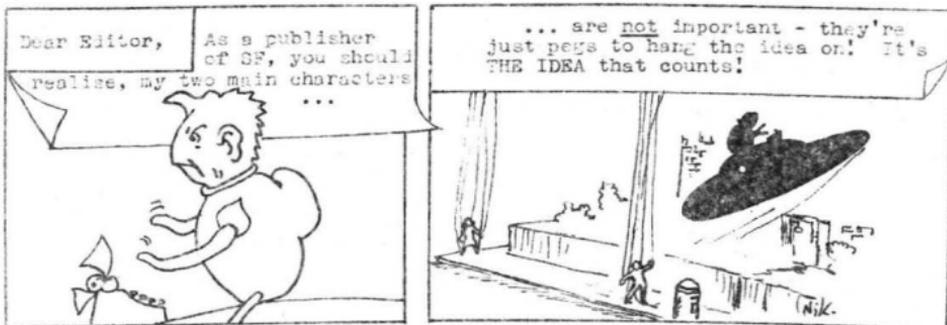
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Nor have the printers, so neither will any of you! (See back page)

ART CREDITS

Shep Kirkbride p.8, 23
 Pete Lyon p.27, 28
 Nik Morton p.3
 D.West p.17, 18, 19, 20 and the cover

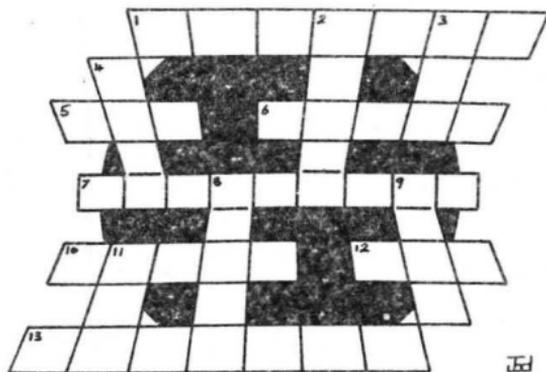
Please note that any views expressed herein probably have very little to do with me or the BSFA, and even if they did, we'd probably not own up to them when the lawyers appear. Oh, and the usual 'scapegoat clause' applies. It is all my fault - just take my word for it!



EDITORIAL

THE USUAL WHINING EXCUSES

Indeed, that's what it could easily be. I write, my friends, in a time of national crisis, as well as in a time of personal chaos. This issue should reach you just before the election, I reckon, so may the Gods help us all! Even reasonably devout pacifists such as myself are oiling their carbines and checking the ammunition as She Who Must Be Reviled approaches yet another victory over the drones of United Kingdom Ltd., that well-known, second-rate business which is still putting guns before butter decades after the event. Lest spears be rattled at me, I should say that I am in no way a Stalinist, I have very few militant tendencies and I've worked for the Liberal Party for ten years, on and off (Is any Liberal seat safe? they used to cry with one accord). I have no Nuclear Power- No Thanks sticker in Welsh on my car (mind you, I haven't got a car either), even though I might agree with some of that ilk. No, I'm just frightened She is going to make it again. Every night I pray before St.Roy, wrap myself in orange blankets and cuddle up to my inflatable David Steel (no batteries needed) but I don't think it's going to work this time. What has this got to do with SF, you cry! Nothing; like life, food, sex, drugs and drink have nothing to do with SF either. So now we've solved that, I thought I'd finish off the page with a crossword, seeing as some nice person sent me a few samples - if anyone really wants the answers I might just be persuaded to run them next issue, but you shouldn't need them, to be honest. Oh, and the reason I'm really upset is not over the politics of the thing, but I bet the Bingley Beast, aka famous eastern fakir Darjeeling West, ten quid that the Alliance will win more than 30 seats. Boy, am I going to be in a bad mood if they lose? Yes, is the correct answer. But enough of my cheap vitriol - read on, read on.....



ACROSS

- 1 A British comic, or one from Atlantis maybe (7)
- 5 Recent British Books, should give oranges up front (3)
- 6 He may be in sight but he's hardly friendly (5)
- 7 He gave us the Cthulhu Mythos but he isn't the sauce (9)
- 10 Abnormal show (5)
- 12 If talented - then sigh! (3)
- 13 In Fantasy these abound: be they dark or otherwise (7)

DOWN

- 2 Moon (5)
- 3 Recall the TV android that ran with Logan (3)
- 4 A brave man maybe called this woman's circle (4)
- 8 Welsh Bill translated Verne partway outside spaceship (5)
- 9 Chequered spaceships always Chris cross (4)
- 11 Czech workers run unique riot in play (3)



News from: Joseph Nicholas,
Nik Morton, me, Brum Group
and various.....

This issue the main item of news is the BSFA Award Report, which goes as follows....

First, the results:

BEST NOVEL: "Helliconia Spring" by Brian Aldiss
BEST SHORT FICTION: "Kitemaster" by Keith Roberts
BEST MEDIA PRESENTATION: "Bladerunner" - director Ridley Scott
BEST COVER ARTIST: Tim White

This is, of course, for work that received its first British publication or presentation in 1982.

A total of 37 nominating ballots were received before the cut-off date of 29th January 1983, listing 22 novels, 31 short stories, 23 media presentations and 16 cover artists. More or less....since some people still seem awfully unsure as to what constitutes a paperback reprint of a book published in hardback in an earlier year. So, the above-mentioned figure of 22 novels includes only those actually eligible for the award - up to a dozen more were listed, but all fell outside the period in question (some dating as far back as 1979). It seems incredible that this has to be said at all, but eligibility can easily be checked by consulting the date of first publication given on the copyright page (can anything possibly be less complicated?). Many people also seem confused about the eligibility in the short story category, so I'll take this opportunity to set the record straight. A magazine's contents can be considered eligible if the magazine is either published in the UK or distributed in the UK by some national organisation -- Interzone (obviously) fits the former description, while such as F & SF, Analogue, Isaac Asimov's and Omni (all of which can be obtained through W.H.Smug, believe it or not) fit the latter.

On, then, to the final ballots, a total of 137 of which were received -- 103 through the post before the cut-off date of 30th March 1983 and 34 at Albacon 2, this year's Easter SF Convention in Glasgow (these figures do not include the 1 ballot received after the convention, it not having been posted until 31st March -- you probably recognise yourself from this, so let me ask - what was the point?) The extraordinarily low figure for the ballots received at Albacon 2 reflects (it must be said) the convention organisers' and helpers' indifferent and indeed downright uncaring attitude towards the whole thing -- approaching the registration desk on the morning of Saturday 2nd April and noticing a large pile of undistributed ballots still stacked on it, I enquired the reason why. " Why bother? " I was told, "As it's all rigged in advance, isn't it? " "Then why the fuck," I said, " do you think we bother to send the ballots out in the first place? " At least they had the grace to look slightly embarrassed; but the fact remains that most of those 34 votes were collected by yours truly then taking up a pile of ballots and walking around the hotel thrusting them into people's hands. Frankly, if convention committees can't be bothered to bring the award to the attention of their members -- and thus bring to naught the work of John Harvey in printing the ballots in the first place -- then I don't see why the BSFA should extend the right to vote to their members in the beginning. Or am I just acting unnaturally aggrieved at this one slip-up?

Joseph Nicholas.

Meanwhile, on to some media and general news from a slightly weak trickle of sources...

A number of extremely uninteresting books have appeared since the last Matrix, but two rather more curious titles did find their way to the editorial desk from the publishers. Entitled The Stalking and The Talisman, they purport to be the work of one Robert Faulcon, and are about "Daniel Brady, the Nighthunter, and his search through the world of the occult for his wife and children, who have been abducted by a monstrous force...." Those who wish to discover the true author need go no further than the postscript added by Arrow to their data sheet - HE LIVES IN ST. ALBANS, HERTS, AND IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW (their capitals and their underlining!). Marion Dimmer Bradley's Sharra's Exile has appeared here in PB, but is a variant on the Sword of Alcones theme seen in different ways. The Conservative Party Manifesto hit the bookstalls a few days ago, but I found this just too fantastical to deserve any comment at all.

Entering briefly into an area despised by the majority of people I know, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of books on Fantasy Role Playing over the last few months. After a couple of overview titles came out last year, the Dragonquest book has been substantially revised and is now available in its 2nd edition, whilst Puffin have published two more titles in their 'play it yourself' series started with The Warlock of Firetop Mountain. PrenticeHall International are thinking of importing some FRP titles such as Eunequest, and the dreaded Cambridge mind-control mill has started churning out Imagine, the magazine which unfortunately has connections with Gary Gygax and the D&D empire, apparently espousing the right of authorised law-enforcement officers to eventually win in all situations and specifically the right of GG to make a whacking profit in these afore-mentioned situations. The magazine is further hampered by the immensely dull cover, which I presume is R. Matthews, Esq. Still, this might be a good small market for UK artists who want to spread wings, and it is said there will be some fiction each issue.

On the more kosher side of things, Unwin have just brought out two more in their Unicorn series - The Charwoman's Shadow by Lord Dunsany (£2-50) and Figures of Earth by James Branch Cabell (£2-50). Another title which might have curiosity value is Man on Earth - The Marks of Man: A Survey from Space by Charles Sheffield (Sidgwick & Jackson, £12-95), which is exactly what it says, with lots of maps and intriguing photos. In August, Granada publish Long Voyage Back, a post-holocaust novel by the author of The Dice Man, Luke Rhinchart, and Juxta-Position, the final volume in the Split Infinity trilogy by Piers Anthony. Predictions abound in Donald James' The Fall of the Russian Empire, detailing the collapse of the Soviet powers in the near future. September sees two probably atrocious after-the-bomb titles, or after-the-collapse-of-sliced-bread (I'm not quite sure from the blurbs), Wasteworld 1: Aftermath and Wasteworld 2: Resurrection, gory little sagas from one James Barton - that is, unless he too is a cover for some more noble author. Bob Shaw makes his debut with Granada when comes The Ceres Solution which has been well received by the TLS, amongst others. We can also eagerly (?) await the 4th book in Doris Lessing's Canopus in Argos: Archives cycle, The Making of the Representative for Planet 8. Fontana come up with yet another PB Donaldson - White Gold Wielder, and Picador with Queen of Stones by Emma Tennant.

Worth a look: two new titles from the Bee in Bonnet series recently launched - The Retreat from Liberty by Michael Moorcock and The Doomed Rebellion by Paul Ableman, both extended pamphlets on their authors' personal beliefs with regard to present-day society. I've yet to read them, but the MME calls Paul Ableman "a slimy paternalist worm" so I'm looking forward to that one.

The only other thing of any note brought to our attention is Auguries, a new venture from the South Hants SF Group. Auguries 1 is now available, a non-profit magazine (Vector-size) with features & stories, all illustrated, about 22,000 words of SF from Dorothy Davies, Chris Naylor, Matt Sillars, John Bark, David Malpass, John Platts and Nik Morton. Apparently it's available from Mike Cheater, 38 Outram Road, Southsea Portsmouth, Hants or from Nik Morton, 235 West Street, Fareham, PO16 0HZ, for a mere 92p (75p + 17p post & p.)

CONVENTION NEWS

Delights that await us.....

Not that we haven't announced it already, but don't forget BECCON '83, 29th to 31st July - there may still be room left ; contact The Heights, Northolt, Middlesex UB5 4BU.

RICHARD A. SLAUGHTER, 16 CHURCH HILL AVENUE, WARTON, Nr. CARNFORTH, LANCs. LA5 9NU

I'm gathering material for an article on FUTURES EDUCATION in Britain. I'd be grateful if members with knowledge of any specifically future-focussed work (incl. teaching with, or about, SF) would contact me as soon as possible. I'm primarily interested in schools but would also welcome information about/ contacts with those teaching such courses in other institutions (eg. colleges, universities, polys etc.) In return I can supply up-to-date info on developments in this field.

OWEN WHITEOAK, TOP FLAT (LEFT), 112 POLWARTH GDNS., EDINBURGH EH11 1LH

For those of you who missed RA CON, we still have some programme books left - Harry Harrison bibliography; articles on Harrison and Pete Lyon ((who?)) and lots of Pete Lyon artwork. Available for 50p from above address.



Thumbing through the last Matrix was a little like stumbling across a fannish time capsule, the majority of the text - including Life on Mars - held over from the original abandoned M46. One casualty of that delay was the annual clubs directory, which missed Albacon but finally appears this issue (it'll take me a year to recover from typing it up!).

Meanwhile, fandom in the provinces shuffles on. Helen Balen, former president of Glasgow's Io group, submits the following report on the past year's activities: " Meetings were not attended by a great number (about 8 on average) despite a membership of 200 for Io and 100 for S4. The film nights attracted the larger crowds (about 70 people 0. The Anne McCaffrey talk in January with a signing session at Future Shock was a great success. Both societies ran a joint programme; it was agreed to let in each other's members and share the cost of the programme - this seemed to be a successful idea. Details of next year's events will come out in late September, and the membership fee has increased (for Io) from 50p to 80p."

Sorry, I'll write that again: despite what you read here last issue, the dust had barely settled after the Birmingham SF Group's fannish revival ((Oh no..surely not again!!)) when the knives came out again. The murky events are far too pathetic (not to mention boring) for extended coverage, but an emergency session in March saw newsletter editor Pauline Morgan resign no less than three times (giving three entirely different reasons) to be quickly replaced by Eunice Pearson, with yours truly elected "minister of fannish affairs", the first assignment of which was to organise the Brum Group's room party at Albacon 2; things are beginning to look up, folks ((This better be true, Green, or it's a pistol-whipping for you!)).

The same, apparently, cannot be said of the self-styled " SF in Southend". Matrix mole Alex Stewart headed a Colchester Group expedition to the seaside resort for the Perilous Dreams shopwarming on April 30th and reports that a "rilly traffic time was had by all. As I suspected, there's a lot of trufen down there, and they

all turned up to wish Chris and Geoff well and drink their beer. We all had such a good time that the idea of regular local meetings surfaced about an hour before closing time. Astral Leauge initiate Ashley Watkins offered to take on the arduous task of trying out all the pubs in the area, and says he'll get on to you himself as soon as he's found a suitable one." Despite this groundswell of enthusiasm, however, Alex is doubtful that the existing group has much future: " A few dissatisfied members turned up at the party, making appalling revelations about the embezzlement of funds, crass incompetence all round and internal bickering that makes the Cleopatras look like the Woodentops. I only heard about a tenth of it, but notes were being made ; keep an eye on Ansible, that's my advice."

Happily, the Colchester Group continues to survive, organising this year's UNICON and meeting every second Friday at a member's home. "Meetings are fannish and informal" Alex promises, " and run from about 8pm until the beer runs out -- usually around two in the morning. Our one and only rule is Bring a Bottle." Sounds like fun ; details from John "Judge" Murphy at 7 Bergholt Road, Colchester, Essex (Colchester 73543).

Jon Wallace writes to let the world know that the Dundee SF Society is alive and well and living, surprise, surprise, in Dundee - he even sends along a copy of his fanzine Placebo as evidence : ".even after our last meeting which was a pub crawl designed to find a venue for a monthly non-formal (or informal) meeting. After trying out the beer and accomodation in a variety of venues we finally settled on a place (Moira's suggestion that the Jack Daniels was ideal because it had a fan on the roof was rejected out of hand). Our new meeting place will be the unfortunately named Town and Gown (used to be the Phoenix) in the Nethergate. For foreign fans: when you get off the train and leave the station, don't cross by the footbridge, continue on up the hill, past the car rental, to the circle. The Nethergate is off to the left. The pub is about 100 yards up on the right. Right? (It serves real ale, by the way - Belhaven & McEwans 80/-) We'll be there on the first Thursday of each month from about 7.30 pm onwards."

The night draws in, the typist tires. The deadline for the next issue is July 4th (cue fireworks) and the address for all correspondence is, as always, 11 Fox Green Crescent, Acocks Green, Birmingham. And now, whilst the more courageous of you leap to the clubs directory in search of cock-ups, I'll pour myself a stiff drink and leave you in the usual way.

See you in sixty.

Steve

May '83

And now, a little piece concerning a certain London BSFA meeting. Having heard lots of different views on this particular subject, I asked Ken Lake to produce a final version of his comments for publication in the ever-openminded Matrix. Here goes...

ON BEING INTRODUCED TO LONDON FANDOM

By Ken Lake

Who Ken Lake?- Reader of SF since 1945 but new to organised fandom. Where event? - King of Diamonds, meetingplace of the BSFA in London. Purpose of report?- To express disillusion. Ulterior motive?- To elicit reassurances that reporter is mistaken, or alternatively to locate more enjoyable fan groups.

(An earlier version of this was submitted to a fanzine, but rejected as being unbalanced, not naming names, and being, in the Editor's opinion, more suited to M.)

One chilly February evening I found myself in a stuffy upper room, submerged in a milling mass of happy fans, choking from rollups of unidentified pseudo-tobacco and astounded at the low level of discussion in a feature entitled " Does the Team Think?" which to me, at least, merited the answer NO.

Four presumably well-known SF personages (Editor of zine which rejected article could not recall name of one of them) faced up to - or in most cases evaded - questions on such fannish topics as the present Conservative government, unilateral disarmament, female-only APAs and (so I am told - I had left by then) the size of SF cons today. The audience was invited to comment.

The last batch of papers I received from the BSFA included a totally anonymous sheet written by the Questionmaster and disclaiming responsibility for the non-SF nature of the questions, and reminding me of one I had mercifully forgotten (" Should men

wear make-up without adverse criticism? "). I suppose after that any further comment is really unnecessary, but I have been asked to prepare this piece, so here goes.

Even more upsetting to one who, as a newcomer, had made no little effort to attend a meeting of this specifically SF body and heard little about SF all evening, was the low standard of debate throughout. Examples? The efforts of the present government were summarily dismissed as "ineffective" without a word of justification; an excellent article in the Daily Mail was dismissed without comment because "nobody reads the Daily Mail" (not true - both the questioner and I had, for a start).

Any audience comment which revealed the previous speaker to have been misled or in error was airily dismissed with that hoary old gimmick " we weren't talking about that " followed by a reiteration of the incorrect statement. But perhaps the best examples of bias came in the bit about unilateral disarmament, where we were solemnly told that a) " The Russians are peace-loving people with no desire to upset anyone" - mentions of Afghanistan, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and the Berlin Wall were simply shouted down; b) "Russia has to defend itself because it is surrounded by American-armed countries" - perhaps someone with a little time to spare could explain how SF fans can be unaware that on ANY spherical body (eg. Planet Earth) EVERY country is surrounded by others, while at the same time pointing out that neither China nor the Arctic Ocean can properly be described as armed by the US.

This all arose out of the "female APA" question, where I was surprised to find that the Questionmaster had to explain first what an APA is but was then totally unable to direct the discussion into that subject itself and away from a series of Salvation Army-type testimonials on behalf of the women of Greenham Common.

Finally someone raised the question of the thick and choking pall of smoke that overhung the low-ceilinged area of the room in which the meeting took place (presumably to get away from the bar, which was propped up by numerous uninterested members who shouted louder and louder at each other until occasionally shushed by the Questionmaster). This brought forth two absolute gems of intellectual expertise:

a) "Why do people who complain about smokers not complain about vehicle exhausts?" Answer: we do, there's little we can do about it, but - as the Questionmaster pointed out - Portsmouth BSFA meetings are smokefree on alternate occasions (this proposal was shouted down), and one can vote with one's feet by walking away from vehicle pollution whereas being stuck in a meeting with what I can only describe as aggressive smokers one has surely the right to ask for equal treatment.

b) "Smokers pay enough tax to knock 5p off income tax, so everyone should encourage them, to keep taxes low" - this one really shattered me as it seems obvious that the money can come from other sources, the government should not encourage smoking on moral grounds of health, and by extension one could argue in favour of murder, rape and bestiality so long as they are heavily taxed.

I had always imagined - wait for it, read first and laugh afterwards - that SF fans were people who, by virtue of their enquiring minds and unprejudiced outlook on the world, were best fitted to appreciate tales of satire, tales of extrapolation and tales of utopias and dystopias, tales the ordinary man dismisses as silly rot because he lacks the flexibility of mind to absorb their tenets and assumptions. I imagined that SF readers would be interested in discussing, arguing, having a meeting of unlike minds, getting informed where they were ignorant, and perhaps putting into practice some of the ideas they gleaned from their readings. I confess I had already noted Heinlein's being dismissed as a fascist - a term which has NO meaning outside the Italian party headed by Mussolini, but which is now universally applied by leftist loonies to anyone who does not accept all their beliefs (a usage as false-to-fact as the application of the label "communist" to ANY Russian leader since 1917) - but had ignored this accusation as being the work of some odd crank sounding off in reaction to Yankee SF's constant attacks on "communism".

I was wrong. I admit it. On present showing, the members of the BSFA who attend the London meetings are Trotskyist, anti-British, blinded by propaganda, incapable of listening to anything that does not fit into their preconceived and false-to-fact framework, unable to discuss anything, filled with catchphrases and slogans, and a disgrace to all SF is supposed to stand for. Perhaps I overstate. Perhaps the group in February was unrepresentative. Perhaps there are fans out there who lack these failings. If so, where can I meet them? IS THERE ANYONE OUT THERE ?

((Good stuff, huh? Our lines are now open for callers.....))

BSFA CLUBS DIRECTORY 1983

To paraphrase Franklin, success has ruined many a fan. Thus, on a night when I should be out rehearsing my John Travolta impersonation for the Novacon 13 Rock Opera, I find myself instead chained to my desk producing the latest installment in what, to my resigned bemusement, is now an annual chore - the British Clubs Directory. When it comes to coherence and accuracy, the only difference between the following and the Hitch Hiker's Guide is Simon's inability to print the words "Don't Panic!" on the cover in large, friendly letters, but such is life.

Steve

ABERDEEN

Aberdeen University Union SF Society: Publishes groupzine Ring Pull, runs film shows and SF library; contact through William Goodall, c/o Aberdeen University Union, Broad Street, Aberdeen AB9 1AW

BELFAST

Belfast SF Group: Informal group - James White is President; contact Graham Andrews at 53 Columbia Street, Belfast.

BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham Polytechnic SF&F Society: Original incarnation folded mid-1981, but rumoured to be rising from the grave; watch this space.

Birmingham SF Group: Narrowly saved from premature braindeath with the coming to power of a highly fannish committee in March, the Brum Group celebrates its twelfth birthday in July. As well as publishing a monthly newsletter the BSFG hosts the terrific Novacon, Britain's second-largest SF con, runs a tape library and is currently planning the launch of a group APA; the co-presidents are Brian Aldiss and Harry Harrison. Meetings are held on the third Friday of each month at the Ivy Bush, Hagley Road, Edgbaston (although a more central location is currently under debate), with informal gatherings at the Old Royal, off Colmore Circus, on the first Tuesday; details from Margaret Thorpe, 36 Twyford Road, Ward End, Birmingham.

Birmingham University SF Society: Wednesday lunchtimes at the Guild of Students table tennis room.

See also Solihull SF Group

BOLTON

Bolton & District SF Group: Spin-off of Mancunian fandom, meeting Tuesdays at the Old Three Crowns, Deansgate, in addition to claiming responsibility for the infamous Crazy Eddie; contact Bernard Earp at 21 Moorfield Group, Tonge Moor, Bolton.

BOURNEMOUTH

Wonderworld: Contact on 0202 37733 (days)

BRIGHTON

Brighton SF Group: Fridays in the saloon of the Hare and Hounds, Preston Circus; contact Andy Robertson at 20 Kingsley Road, Brighton (telephone on 0273 558775 evenings or 01 637 3434 extension 5705 during business hours).

Wandering Worlds SF Group: " Free beer, coffee, floor and lectures" ; contact Ruth Wilder at 16 York Villas, Brighton (Brighton 721622)

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University SF Society: Thursdays at the New Hall Bar, Harrington Road; library of 3000 books available to members; once described by Alfie Bester as " so brilliant and so wonderful (they) ought to be shot", can be contacted at 27 Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8EG.

CARDIFF

Cardiff SF Group: Informal meetings Fridays at the Students' Union Building bar and Saturdays at President Lionel Fanthorpe's bookshop in City Road; healthy interchange with Swansea SF Group activities; call Lionel on Cardiff 498368, though he may force you to buy a dozen copies of his latest tome before he reveals anything.

COLCHESTER

Colchester SF Group: Formerly the Stour Valley SF Group, and this year host to Unicorn, meets alternate Fridays at members' homes ~~Beetham/Chaitaan/Alex/Sterrett~~ ~~HAB/Beeth/Banthead/Tob/Exett/Rob/It/Tha/Tot~~. Contact Alex for CSFG and Information on Unicorn 4 at 11a Beverley Road, Colchester, Essex.

COVENTRY

University of Warwick SF&F Society: Contact via the Arts Federation pigeon holes; SF and wargaming, groupzine Fusion.

CROYDON

Croydon SF&F Club: Second Friday of the month at the Railway Tavern in Purley and final Friday at the Tavern in the Town, Croydon; contact John Hunt at 39 Sonyfield Road, Coulsdon, Surrey (Downland 55262)

DUNDEE

Dundee SF Society: First Thursday of the month at the Town and Gown, Nethergate; groupzine Placebo just out (see main column); contact Jon Wallace at 21 Charleston, Dundee, DD2 4RG (Dundee 646563).

DURHAM

Durham University SF Group: Occasional meetings, three-figure membership, group fanzine and regular venue planned, library of circa 2000 books; contact Carlton Collier at Durelm House, Durham.

EDINBURGH

Edinburgh University SF Society: Formed 1976, meets Thursdays in the university's David Hume Tower, moving to nearby Potterrow Bar afterwards; contact Marie McKissock at the Societies Centre, 60 The Pleasance, Edinburgh.
Friends of Robert the Hack (F.O.R.T.H.): Tuesdays at Milne's Vaults, Hanover St. -very informal, organised RaCon in February and publish the triffic groupzine Forth ; drop Jim Darroch a line at 21 Corslet Road, Currie, Midlothian.

EXETER

University of Exeter SF Group: Suffered terminal braindeath shortly after the excellent Microcon (see M41), although its members live on in exile and helped organise the Brum Group's room party at Albacon II ; a second Microcon may still be held, the alleged sequel this year naught but a mediafan travesty.

GLASGOW

Friends of Kilgore Trout: Traditional centre of Scottish fandom, meeting Thursdays at Wintergill's Bar, midway between the Kelvinbridge and St George's Cross tube stations on the Great Western Road; organises Faircon and groupzine FOKT.

I0: The Glasgow University SF group, contacted via Lesley Affrosman at 46 Stirling Drive, Bearsden, Glasgow, or on 041 942 0287 (see main column)

S4: The Strathclyde University SF and Space society, reached through Madelaine Campbell at 61 Albert Avenue, Glasgow, telephone 041 423 6927.

HARROW

Harrow SF Group: Also known as " Pete Wright goes to the pub", presumably folded when the inimitable Pete moved to Faringdon.

HATFIELD

Hatfield Polytechnic SF&F Society: Weekly meetings on the campus; details care of the Students' Union. P.O.B. 109, Hatfield, Herts.

HULL

Hull University Union SF Society: Tuesdays at the Union Building, organises outings to conventions, bookshops and other groups, as well as publishing Who Suffers? ; contact Dave Harbud at 3 Southview, Paisley St., Hull.

IRELAND

Ireland SF Association: " Meetings, fanzines, films, etc" ; contact Brendan Ryder at 18 Beech Drive, Dandrum, Dublin.

KEELE

Keele University SF Society: May fold following the exodus of the original Union mob, largely to this year's Novacon ; contact care of the Student's Union.

KENT

East Kent SF Group: Informal get-togethers in Folkstone, first Friday of the month - contact Paul Kincaid at 114 Guildhall St., Folkstone.

LANCASHIRE

Ormskirk, Preston and Lancashire SF Media Society: Fortnightly meetings at Edge Hill College, Ormskirk ; contact Lesley Crowther at 14 Lady Openshaw Hall, Edge Hill College.

Preston SF Group: Alternate Wednesdays at the Black Horse Hotel, Preston; contact Chris Barlow at Flat 709, the Maltings, Malthouse Way, Penwortham, Preston (0772 749254)

LEEDS

Leeds SF Group: Fridays at the Adelphi Hotel, at the lower end of Briggate ; " darts, dominoes, politics, philosophy etc " ; organised 1981 Eastercon; drop a line to Simon Ounsley at 21 The Village Street, Burley, Leeds.

Leeds University SF Society: Wednesdays at the Pack Horse, Woodhouse Lane; publishes Black Hole, still edited by Matrix's Simon Polley ((even though I am a little behind schedule, I suppose)) ; large SF library on campus.

LEICESTER

Leicester SF Group: First Friday of the month at the Old Black Swan, Belgrave Gate; attempt to launch Lexicon last year collapsed amid accusations of excessive membership rates; past guests include yours truly and SF artist David "I'm nearly famous" Hardy; contact Neil Talbot at 70 Falmouth Rd., Evington, Leicester.

LONDON

BSFA: Third Friday of the month at the King of Diamonds, Greville St, between the Chancery Lane and Farringdon tube stations; soon-to-retire Gollancz chairman John Bush is the guest on June 15th. Watch Matrix for updates.

City Illiterates: Fridays until September at the Cock Tavern, Euston. Moving to the Kingsway Tavern, Holborn October-March; responsible for Bacon; contact on 01 422 9895.

Friends in Space: Third Sundays at the Queen Victoria, the Green, Ealing; gossip, alcohol and secret signs.

Imperial College SF Society : Launched 1976, now Friday lunchtimes above Stan's Bar in the college residence Halls; contact Martin Jeffcock at the Physics Dept., Imperial College, London SW7.

One Tun: Veteran venue, high on Saffron Hill, Farringdon ; meetings first Thursday of month.

London Plus Group: Informal Spin-Off group of the One Tun gatherings; contact at 38a Thornton Avenue, Chiswick, London W4.

Queen Mary College SF&F Group: Contact care of the Students' Union, Mile End Rd., London.

SODDs: Responsible for groupzine SODDs Law, this assorted gathering of fans from Durham, Oxford and St.Andrews can be contacted at 18 Selkirk Road, Tooting, London.

South East London SF Group: Third Tuesday of the month at the Southern Stars, New Cross Road, London; contact Peter Pinto on 01 691 2792.

MANCHESTER

Manchester BSFA: "Real Soon Now" (Alan Dorey, 22 Summerfield Drive, M24 2WW

Manchester and District SF Group: Informal get-togethers on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the William Shakespeare, just behind Lewis's in the city centre.

Tameside SF Modelling Society: Contact care of 23 Pinnington Road, Gorton; monthly challenges etc.

UMIST: Contact via the UMIST Students' union at PO.Box 88, Sackville Street, Manchester M6C 1QD.

MATLOCK

Matlock SF Group: Recently opted for greater informality and now meets alternate Tuesdays at the Boat House, Matlock, Derbyshire; contact Mandy Dakin at 68 Rutland St., Matlock.

NEWCASTLE

Garnet Fandom: The city's archetypal hive of informality - Tuesdays at the Duke of Wellington, next to Worswick St. Bus Station; drop Ian Williams a line at 5 Greta Terrace, Chester Rd., Sunderland (Sunderland 57881)

NORTHAMPTON

Cassandra SF Circle: Slightly sercon, recently held a couple of film days; contact Stephen Austin at 43 Talbot Rd., Northampton (Northampton 30703)

OXFORD

Oxford University Group: Sundays at Worcester College, opening with literary discussion and moving on to the Bulldog Bar, St.Aldgates, for the main business of the evening; contact Dave Strong at Wadham College, Oxford.

READING

The Glomerule Group: Deeply philosophical gatherings at the Osbourne Arms lounge bar, near the Alder Valley bus station, third Thursday of the month, according to spiritual leader Dave Langford (94 London Road, Reading)

ST. ALBANS

Staffen SF Group: 2nd Monday of each month at the Peacock, Hartfield Rd.; contact Mic Rogers at 22 Campfield Rd., St.Albans, Herts. (St.A. 39172 after 8pm.)

ST.ANDREWS

University of St.Andrews SF&F Group: Tuesdays at the Union boardroom; contact care of the Students' Union pigeonholes or ask for Terry at John Smith's bookshop, 87 South Street.

SALISBURY

Salisbury SF Group: Contact Roger Whittington at 91 Mitford Hill, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

SALTCOATS

Saltcoats & District SF Club: Wednesdays at the Crown Inn Lounge - also known as the Space Odyssey Society (SOS) ; write to Dave Ellis at 6 Talisman Walk, Saltcoats, Ayrshire.

SHEFFIELD

Sheffield SF Group: Final Wednesday of each month at the West Street Hotel, West Street, Sheffield ; write to Chris Jennings at 43 Walkinson Gardens, Sheffield.

SHREWSBURY

Shrewsbury SF Group: Thursdays at the Admiral Benbow lounge, Shrewsbury. - groupzine The Gigo Principle ; contact Dave Shotton at 16 Moston Green, Harlescote, Shrewsbury (0743 51131)

SOLIHULL

Solihull SF Group: Modesty prevents me from saying how terrific these meetings at the Red House, Hermitage Rd., Solihull, on the 2nd Sunday of each month, are, nor how coveted copies of the groupzine Twilight Zine are, so why not drop me an s.a.e. and find out for yourself ; membership is £1 a year, which includes six issues of TZ.

SOUTHEND ON SEA

Sf in Southend ; Recent entry in the fannish stakes, with fanzine Eminar and 45 minute video featuring 'candid interviews' with members about their involvement with the group, though any visions of unnatural practices are dispelled by downbeat reports from Colchester delegation Alex Stewart and John Murphy ; contact at 73 Bournemouth Park Road, Southend on Sea, Essex.

SOUTH HANTS

South Hants SF Group: Second and fourth Fridays of the month at the George and Dragon lounge, Cosham ; excellent groupzine Death Rays from John Bark, 5 Byerley Close, Westbourne, Emsworth.

STOKE-ON-TRENT

Stoke-on-Trent 6th Form College SF Group: Last reported extant at Channelcon; no further information available.

Stoke-on-Trent SF Society: Contact Patricia Hall at 'Janus' 141 Allerton Rd., Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8PG.

STRATFORD UPON AVON

Stratford SF Group: Short-lived Midland group, folded due to university commitments, although members got together for an expedition to Unicon 3.

SWANSEA

Swansea SF Society: Twice-weekly meetings in the Welsh hills, fanzine Redshift; contact Linda Thomas at 113 Heathfield, Swansea, W.Glamorgan (Swansea 54335)

TAUNTON

Taunton SF Group (the Cidereal SF Society): First Friday of the month at the Winchester, Taunton; write to Allen Boyd-Newton at 42 Church Lane, Bicknoller, Taunton, Somerset.

WORTHING

Worthing SF Group (aka Space Scene UK): Founded autumn '81 and meets at a member's house, although fanzines and film/video nights are on the drawing board ; contact Nick Flynn at the Croft, 26 Cissbury Road, Worthing (W.30642)

Corrections, additions, congratulations and death threats to:

Steve Green, 11 Fox Green Crescent, Acocks Green, Birmingham

May 1983

MAD the reality & the Story

THE STORY:—

FOUR MERRY MUTANTS TRYING TO LIBERATE REALITY FROM THE STIFLING CRASP OF THE MEDIA-BARONS; WITHOUT FORMING A ROCK BAND.

THE REALITY:—

A QUARTERLY, INDEPENDANT COMIC FOR MATURE PEOPLE; CALLED MAD DOG.



IT HAS FOUR (SURPRISE!) CONTINUING COMIC STRIPS, AS A CENTRAL 'CORE':—

OF OUR COMPLEX IDEAS OF SUBSTANCES: (BELOW)

A TROUBLE-SHOOTING PROGRESS MINISTER TRIES TO UNTANGLE MURDER FROM MIND-NUMBING TECHNOLOGY WHICH MAY HAVE HELPED HIM COMMIT THE CRIME HIMSELF



ALIEN TALES: (LEFT & ABOVE) OTHER EYES, OTHER WORLDS, OTHER TIMES & OTHER MOTIVES.



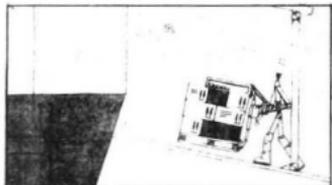
FIVE: (BELOW)

CUTE ROBOT GETS CURIOUS AS IT FINDS IT HAS EVERY REASON TO BE PARANOID - SOMEONE'S TRYING TO TERMINATE IT.

CLOUDRUNNERS (RIGHT) ORDINARY PEOPLE TRY NOT TO LOSE THEIR 'MINDS' IN A UNIVERSE THEY WERE NEVER MEANT TO COPE WITH.



NOT TO MENTION THE ONE-OFFS, ODD-BALLS & LOONIES WHICH APPEAR; MANY WITH A TASTEFUL SPECULATIVE FICTION ORIENTATION!



IF THE MEDIA-BARONS HAVE DISRUPTED YOUR LOCAL SHOP'S SUPPLY OF MAD DOG THEN YOU CAN GET IT FROM: 'THE OFFICE', 75, OXFORD AVE., SOUTHAMPTON SO2 0DN. FOR 50P PLUS 20P P&P. BETTER STILL, ANNOY THE MEDIA-BARONS BY SUBSCRIBING!

When you come to the end of a lollipop, the not-so-old song advises us, all you're left with is the stick. This is my last Down Palace Walls, and I had thought to round things off with my two pennorth on the question "why review fanzines?", but, you will be pleased to know, Abi Frost beat me to the punch and you are accordingly pointed in the direction of Le Nouveau Reveu Blue.

On the other hand, I cannot entirely resist the temptation. Unlike most publishing, fanzines are an essentially mutual exercise. Reader response is an integral part of the process by which a zine is moulded into something "better" than it would otherwise have been. By "better" I mean that it will be more effectively self-expressive of the producer. Now the art of self-expression is not something plucked from the sky, mature and perfect. It requires attention. 5% inspiration and 95% perspiration is a cliché, but true, and that's if you're lucky! Effective self-expression requires every weapon the English (or whatever) language affords us, but every weapon in the world will be useless if their deployment is inadequate. Proper tactics require attention, imagination, and hard work. Not that there are not those who can so thoroughly prepare a piece that they can sit down at the typer and just let it all flow out, pristine and perfect. If you are one such then you are a genius, or Harlan Ellison, and either way you won't be reading this. For the rest of us we deceive only ourselves if we imagine that we can get it absolutely right first time. The post-production is just as vital as the pre-production. Just ask anyone who has watched raw movie footage. Perhaps a little of the immediacy, the passion, will be rubbed off in the polishing, but maybe not. The ability to keep such qualities is one of the factors which sorts out the sublime from the mundane.

Now then, it has been said that fanac is for friends. Simple, isn't it? So far as I am concerned, friends deserve your very best, and no amount of dressing it up can disguise the fact that offering less than your best is cheating your friends. And you don't cheat your friends, do you? For the producer of fanzines it isn't a question of writing *like* Dave Langford, or producing a zine *as perfect as* Crystal Ship, but of emulating the effort and commitment which has gone into those works. Your friends deserve nothing less.

Which brings me to fanwriting. There ain't no such animal. There is writing. That writing may be about fannish topics, which will give it special attraction to fans but no intrinsic merit. The methods by which we judge any writing are basically the same -- does it communicate and does it entertain/enliven/enlighten/infuriate along the way? -- and we *do* judge everything, whether it is to think "Hmmm, nice" or to construct a formal critique. Which isn't to say that the same criteria apply to every piece of writing. Despite its prevalence in sf criticism the lambasting of War and Peace because it isn't Starship Troopers is not a valid exercise. As I said above, fanac is a mutual exercise, and just as the producer is obliged to do his/her best, so is the consumer. Saying that something which went in one eye and out the other is "great" does not constitute a contribution towards that act of mutual creation. It isn't friendly, and neither is calling the producer a stupid, fucking cretin because you happen to think he/she has missed a certain nuance. It's a matter of balance.

During my year as Matrix reviewer the balance of good writing has tipped towards the serious end of the spectrum. The fannish entrails have been much examined although I would suggest that the omen-searchers have missed the blindingly obvious fact that those who could write those fannish extravaganzas of yore have found more satisfying means of occupying their waking hours. Maybe they will be doing it again next year. Who knows? So far as I am concerned the top of the heap during that year, and winner of the headmaster's prize, is Alan Ferguson, whose work has been of a consistently high standard, reaching peaks in Felicity and Wallbanger 7. That Alan is not exactly unknown seems to me to be fairly indicative of the state of British fanac today; people are very much keeping on keeping on while waiting for a wave. Somewhere someone is creating that wave. Who it is I don't know, and I doubt they even know what they are doing. All they know is that they are doing something which makes them feel good.

Which seems like a quite reasonable definition of fanzine activity. On which note I shall take my leave, with only the seemingly interminable list to go...

Ansible 31,32. Dave Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5AU, England. Available for £2 subscription for 8 issues.

The indispensable gazette with sources that even Lord Gnome envies. 32 has the Ansible poll form (you voted early, you voted often) and both issues have sufficient burrs in the blankets of the rich and comfortable to bring a smile to most faces. Rumour has it that some fans don't get Ansible, but I don't believe rumours, only when they are printed in Ansible.

ADBUMP 1. Paul Vincent, 25 Dovedale Avenue, Pelsall, Walsall, West Midlands, WS3 4HG, England. Available on request (if he still has any copies).

Paul's gentle entry into the personalzine scene, with introductory chat, a discourse on the trials of OU study, a blow-by-blow Novaconrep and a glance at the tube. Evidently a sensible sort of chap, with the odd tilt which may well grow more pronounced. He also muses on the latest spectator blood-sport, the Brum group.

Blatent 12. Avedon Carol, 4409 Woodfield Road, Kensington, Maryland 20895, Blighted States of America (she said it, not me!). Available for the usual, US\$2 or large donations to TAFF.

Avedon coolly deals with booze'n'stuff, sex'n'things (answering Prof. Higgins), fandom Americanis, Blade Runner, and the life of a fan. Economical, incisive, insightful + artwork from Hansen, Rotsler, Gilliland and ATom. What more could anyone desire?

Blood in the Bathroom 1. Jon Wallace, 21 Charleston Street, Dundee, Scotland.

Available for the usual, plus offers of world domination.

Jon discusses bleeding noses from all angles and tangents, plus other aspects of the life of Jon -- a new briefcase, Blade Runner watching, pubbing his ish. A very personal personalzine, the sort you could show your maiden aunt without jeopardizing your inheritance.

A Catalogue of Fantastic Literature B-83. Simon G Gosden, 25 Avondale Road, Rayleigh, Essex, England.

A list of titles available from Simon, plus a little general chat. Only collectors know how good is Simon's list, so I'll just suggest you get it if you are interested.

Chocolates of Lust 2. Phil Palmer, 62 Beaufort Mansions, Beaufort Street, Chelsea, London, SW3 5AF, England. Availability? Try asking the man.

In my first column I described Phil as multicoloured and insufferably erudite, and the rotten little sod is at it again! Not content with the first full-colour cover I've seen since a Peter Pinto special (courtesy of Margaret Wellbank) and several Cyril Simsa collages, he accompanies his romp through the philosophical ramifications of mechanistic scientific method with a handwritten explanation of several aspects of higher physics. Nick Lowe revisits toilets he has known, Geoff Ryman relives his disappointing visit to the Subway Club, Alan Ferguson tells some tales from his days (working) in a mental hospital, and Cyril Simsa muses on the playing of stereotypical social roles. Phil and Jimmy Robertson swap lists of records. Fannish it isn't. Very good it is. I have but one question Phil. Have you sent a copy to Mary Whitehouse? Oh yes, and one complaint. The staples aren't long enough. Okay? This may well be the future of fanzines.

Comatoast. Steven Bryan Bieler, 12375 Mt Jefferson Terrace, Apt. 10K, Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034, USA.

A single page culinary exploration of out of doors America. Tasteful. I laughed.

A Cowardian Interlude 1. Mat Coward, 7 Arkwright Road, London, NW3, England. Availability?

An in between Beyond the White Gates finish from Mat, revealing that BTWG has been delayed by various contractual obligations, together with advice on rebuffing unsolicited mail and why double sixteen is good for your wealth. Send the man a copy of your zine.

The Creature from the Typing Pool. Andrew C Neale, 157 Longsight, Harwood, Bolton, Lancs, BL2 3JE, England. Available for the usual or 2 stamps.

Assorted musings from Messrs Neale and Bream, with a promising debut from Gareth L

Gleaves. Topics include spectacles, criticism, and the disinterment of sheep... that is sheep, not Shep, alias Kirkbride, who contributes substantial good artwork. A5 size and fullsize print is a trifle odd on the eye, but the lads are getting better.

Crystal Ship 7. John D Owen, 4 Highfield Close, Newport Pagnell, Bucks, MK16 9AZ, England. Available for contribution, communication, trade, editorial whim. The latest edition of the best zine that presently am, which ought to satisfy anyone's eclecticism. Arnold Akiem reviews the state of the genre at his inimitable length, stupefaction guaranteed. Ken Mann discusses terrorism, which is fine as far as it goes (about a third of the way), and John shows us another amusing snapshot of fannish life. The loccol is largely response to the excellent 6th issue. This one is worth getting.

Death Rays 6. John Bark (for SHSFG), 5 Byerley Close, Westbourne, Emsworth, Hants, PO10 8TS. Available for 50p an issue, £1.50 for 4, trade, contribution. The South Hants groupzine, in which Mik Morton reveals why he writes, Mike Cheater shares his second (and last?) dose of equine education, plus reviews, and a loccol. This one doesn't hurt and the South Coast team seem like a likeable lot.

Don't Get Caught. Kevin K Rattan, Room B44, Bowland College, University of Lancaster, Lancaster, England (term-time), 23 Waingate Close, Rawtenstall, Rossendale, Lancs, BB4 7SQ, England (vacation). Available for any excuse, but send stamps. "A hyper-trendy quickie personalzine" from a man who knows how to get a good review (flattery, of course), given over to Kevin's view of recent (not by now!) zines, worries about the sanity of second-generation feminists and their neanderthal antagonists, encounters with tarantulas, and the funniest play written in the last 5 years (Stoppard's Dogg's Hamlet). Kevin moves quickly.

Dot 15. Kevin Smith, 53 Altrincham Road, Gatley, Cheadle, Cheshire, SK8 4EL, England. A brief "Hello I'm still alive and well" issue reporting the how and why of Kevin's move to the wet north-west. Will Greater Manchester displace West Yorkshire? I ask myself.

Drunkard's Talk 1-6. Malcolm Edwards, 28 Duckett Road, London, N4 1BN, England. The name says it all, gossip, slander, gibberish giving the Edwards'-eye view. If you get it you probably love it, and if you don't you'll just have to try harder, won't you?

Epiphany 1. Gary Farber, 4227 8th Ave NE, Seattle, Washington 98105, USA. Available at whim, for request, but a trade would be a friendly gesture. Gary's guided tour of Seattle fandom, dropping names with gay abandon, enthusing all over the place. I doubt this will make the next Fanthology, which may well break Gary's heart, but I expect he'll get over it when he turns the next page. He seems that sort.

Epsilon 13. Rob Hansen, 9a Greenleaf Road, East Ham, London, E6 1DX, England. Available for LoC, trade, or at editorial whim. Rob discusses The Women's Periodical, fanhistory (wrapping himself in linguistic knots without quite managing to escape), and his reactions to matters fannish. Just a little lacking in vigour by the standards of previous issues (which is high, my masters, high). Perhaps he had been spending too much time creating episode 2 of "Trufan and Junior", which continues episode 1's precise drawing and slyly malicious wit.

Fandom of the Opera. Frances Jane Nelson, 62 Campsie Road, Wishaw, Lanarkshire, ML2 7QG, Scotland & Jacqueline Robinson, 40 Clavens Road, Penilee, Glasgow, Scotland. Availability? Try the usual.

Another full-colour cover gives way to a disappointingly bitty genzine, with a Scottish accent adding precious little by way of interest. The individual contents have nothing actually amiss with them, but as they flash by the abiding impression is of what the authors might have said if only they'd put a little more thought into it, which might have made it all a lot more worth reading. I'm sure all concerned can do better.

Fanzine Fanatique 51,52. Keith and Rosemary Walker, 6 Vine Street, Lancaster, Lancs, LA1 4UF England. Available for trade, or the usual. The mixture as ever, with lots of thumbnail reviews, reprints from beyond the dawn

of time, rather old but still current hints and tips on the nuts and bolts of fanzine production (are you listening at Shallow End?), plus a lot of sensible chat on the current video scene, a continuing interest of Keith's and one on which I haven't disagreed with him yet. Is one of us wrong?

Four Musketeers in Search of a Fan Fund. John D Berry, address as for Wing Window. One page of TAFF doodlings from John wondering on the worth of fan funds and the winners. For myself I think that fan funds could come right back into necessary fashion.

Hydrotophia 1. Tom Taylor, 268 Tottington Road, Harwood, Bolton, BL2 4DN, England. Available for 30zits, trade, the Koh-i-Noor, contribution, whim, LoC, or threat of personal violence.

A nicely produced personalzine in which Tom discusses empires, electronic fanzines (say "hello" to Bob Shaw, Tom), the EEC, plays, films, and books. At times his opinions are not quite as informed as he might think, but he is lively enough to keep most of us from falling asleep. I look forward to the next issue.

In Defiance of Medical Opinion 6.999, part 2. Chuck Connor, Sildan House, Chediston Road, Wissett, nr Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 0NF. Available for trade, LoC, old books and mags, etc.

As ever, Chuck reviews all manner of fanzines, with more care and affection than most reviewers, with poetry and prose from assorted types who probably don't yet qualify for PLR. This issue also reviews indie tapes, with a cry straight from Chuck's heart on the subject. Send substantial amounts of cash to Chuck and find yourself considerably enriched. Anyone who wishes to explore small presses is advised to get IDOMO smartly, if they do not already.

Indian Scout 1983 Annual. c/o 18 Gordon Terrace, Blantyre, Scotland, G72 9NA. Available for lighting fires.

With the exception of John MacFarlane's cover this doesn't quite reach the heights of joyous idiocy as did the last Indian Scout, but even so this is a goodie. Anonymous tales of mystical Glasgow life with frontier aspirations, drugs degradation and orange juice on the West Coast (of England), and a poem hymning the Cretins. Not a classic, but any Indian Scout is better than no Indian Scout.

Izzard 2-6. Patrick & Teresa Nielsen Hayden, 4337 15th Ave NE, #411, Seattle, Washington 98105, USA. Available for the usual, US\$1 per copy, but letters preferred. Izzard continues along the Pongish trail, being the forum for much debate on fan-history, fandom Americanis, and Uncle Ted White. The salient feature -- apart from its regularity and general friendliness -- is the impulse to participate, so why don't you go ahead and participate. That apart, there is always the possibility of something from Teresa, and that makes any zine worth acquiring.

Microwave 4,5. Terry Hill, 41 Western Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 8NE, England. Available for the usual, "videos of what we did on our honeymoon" (are you *sure* Margaret proof-read this Terry?) or even 3x10p stamps (make that 6x10p for no. 6). I still think that it takes more than open pretensions to classicity to achieve it, and I doubt whether any of the many (hundreds, thousands, maybe even millions) of pieces in these two big and huge zines will get onto the Ansible poll. Still, there are many examples of attractive artwork and no. 5 reinstates the music competition (you can put the bucket away now, Terry). I'd suggest that you get no. 5 and then take a couple of days away to enjoy it properly. Classic it may not be, but alive and lively it is.

Neo News. "Little Green Man", 42 Green Lane, Belle Vue, Carlisle, Cumbria, England. An anonymous piece of fun directed at the missing Matrix. Someone has gone to a lot of trouble to produce something that must have brought a smile to the faces of all concerned. Thanks, whoever you are.

Not Science Fantasy News 3. A Ving Clarke, 16 Wendover Way, Welling, Kent, DA16 2BN, England. Available for the usual. Ving doesn't want his zines reviewed, so I'm not reviewing this.

Le nouveau reveu bleu. Abigail Frost, 69 Robin Hood Gardens, Cotton Street, London, E14, England. Available for the usual, presumably. Recommended elsewhere in this review. Abi is highly opinionated, often bloody infuriating, and always lively. This zine is vital to anyone who is interested in

contemporary fandom and has more than rotting sawdust between their ears.

Nutz 1. Pam Wells, 24a Beech Road, Bowes Park, London, N11, England. Available for LoC, contribution, request, 30p in stamps, or at whim.

A well-filled first issue that ranges around the globe taking in Ra Con, the Isle of Man, Cairo, Manhattan, and an Aussie sheep station courtesy of Linda Pickersgill, myself, John Harvey, Caroline Mullan, and Judith Hanna. Caroline Mullan's "Manhattan" is a real stand-out and makes this zine worth acquiring for her slim page-and-a-bit. A most promising issue.

Periphery 8. Jeff Suter -- has recently changed his address, which is probably in the CoA column. Available for the usual.

In Jeff's hands the term personalzine means a very *personalzine*, although there are external contributions from Eve Harvey on discovering astronomy and Pam Wells on beginner's fanatic. Jeff stands up for his opinions, however unfashionable (and wrong!) they can be, the stout fellow. He says that his fanzine can seriously annoy you. If it does you're probably not thinking properly, and if it doesn't you are probably nailed down inside a box.

Placebo. Jon Wallace, address as for Blood in the Bathroom & Moira Shearman, 25 Scott Street, Dundee, DD2 2AH, Scotland.

A quickie two-pager which came and went with even less lasting effect than said placebo.

Proton 2. Simon Bostock, 18 Gallows Inn Close, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, DE7 4BW, England. Available for stamps, trade, at whim.

Not quite as ambitious as the demised Supernova, this personalzine is given over to views of Silicon and reactions to Proton 1. According to his cv Simon is the shy, retiring type, which doesn't account for his "come out fighting Genghis Smith" attitude in print. It is interesting to see him maturing right before your very eyes.

Quinapalus 6. M K Digre, 4629 Columbus Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55407, USA.

Available for trade, LoC, humorous contribution, 50p.

The first issue I've seen, dominated by the first morsel of Joyce Scrivner's DUFF report -- relaxed and informative on the hows and whys of becoming a fan fund winner. Dave Wixon celebrates the dodo at inordinate poetic length, and MK takes us with him on a few steps of his journey to Noreascon. Interesting, but it would be more so if I knew the characters involved.

Rhetorical Device 1. Clifford R Wind, #206, 308 Summit E., Seattle, WA 98102, USA. Available for discourse, and at editorial whim.

A seriously intended zine given over to serious discussion, in this issue religion, with contributions from Clifford, Chuck Spear, and the redoubtable Teresa Nielsen Hayden. One of these days I intend to get involved with this, so why don't you too?

Seldon's Plan 48. Wayne Third Foundation, Box 102 SCB, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan 48202, USA. Availability? Try asking.

Some professional magazines have lower production standards than this monster. The BSFA's man in America, Cy Chauvin, has a hand on the tiller. The long list of contents ranges from the ho-hum to the rather good, e.g. Steve Trout's introduction to the cartoon aardvark Cerebus (who has a recurring protagonist who is a dead-ringer for Joseph Nicholas). Big, lotsa good artwork, very good production, and good value for however much it may cost.

Shallow End 0,1,2. Janice Maule, 5 Beaconsfield Road, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 3HY, England. Available for LoC, contribution, stamps to the value of 30p.

The "how-to-do-it" zine from Mesdames Hanna, Harvey, Maule, and Wells, notforgetting uncle Tom Macinski sitting by the door. This is a *good thing*, but I'm as yet unconvinced that the collective are quite as sure of themselves as they ought to be. Still, the prognosis appears good, and they promise practical articles to come. When Judith Hanna stops sharpening up her own style at the expense of the contributors this could grow into a very useful aid to all those who want to do it, better.

END OF PART ONE

((Due to the length of Martin's article and listing, it has proved impossible to run the entire listing herein. The rest of the listing will appear in the next issue of Matrix for anyone wanting to know what happens after Shallow End, along with Martin's final comments.))



Gosh, goodness me etc. In response to the bravely cobbled-together Matrix 46, lots of rather generous letters were received on the fact that it had actually appeared and so on, for which all due thanks and cringes. Malheureusement, not many of them went into any further detail worthy of public note. Guess what was in the ones which did take up issues? Yes, it was in fact, er..not beating about the bush....mmm..not in any way avoiding the argument..ahh..well, OK - they were virtually all about the evils of smoking, how it makes you fat and vote Conservative or whatever, and thus tonight's forum must, I'm afraid, give some passing mention to this burning issue so close to everyone's lungs.....(I'm very sorry about the fact that the last sentence was a bit long and inarticulate, incidentally - just in case anyone feels the need to write and tell me so.).....

MIKE LEWIS,
MYLON,
64a COOPERATIVE ST.,
STAFFORD ST16 3DD

Judith Hanna has a very valid point about non-smoking areas at conventions. I find cigarette smoke very unpleasant, and not at all an aid to enjoyment of a meeting or whatever. I personally think that people are going about it the wrong way (not smoking, but non-smoking!) - areas should be set aside for smokers, not non-smokers. Why should I have to search a train for a special carriage with non-smoking signs if I wish to avoid being blanketed in smoke? Making certain carriages, areas etc into smoking areas would put the onus on smokers to find somewhere, not me.

((I knew it would come! One day I shall be hunted down like some wheezing Tarka the Otter, pursued by smokehounds o'er hill and dale, with no place to call my own. My pipe and my comfy chair will be burnt in the village square and there will be no maiden who knows my grave, no-one to place tobacco flowers on my headstone. But wait - there is yet charity in the chests of the Clean Ones....))

PAUL DEMBINA,
29 HOWCROFT CRESCENT,
FINCHLEY,
LONDON N3 1PA

As a non-smoker myself I do object to being subjected to the fumes of those who indulge in this disgusting form of pleasure(?) ((Hang on, let him finish..)) In the enclosed spaces of pubs a fog of tobacco smoke builds from the ceiling down and my eyes sting and water, making vision an ordeal to be endured. But, despite all that I don't think the discomfort is encountered to anywhere near this degree in large air-conditioned con halls. Segregation could be counter-productive to the free-wheeling atmosphere of a good convention, where the application of too many rules and regulations (usually on the part of the hotel) places strictures on the behaviour of the attendees.

((Well, I think that's charity, but I won't push my luck. More more more...))

NIK MORTON,
235 WEST STREET,
FAREHAM,
HANTS. PO16 0HZ

Re the hot-air debate concerning smoking - I dislike cigarette smoke but cannot advocate prohibition; yet, if such a backlash does gather pace, perhaps many smokers have only themselves to blame, for lack of consideration to others....Remember when people asked if you minded them smoking? Being polite, you said " No. " (but you did really)..Now attitudes have hardened. As the saying goes, there's too much intolerance in the world - it needs stamping out!

((Speaking as one who has only himself to blame, and would like nothing better than a backlash , frontlash or indeed any lash, I will now leave the final word on this matter to a spokesperson from Gollancz...))

" I think smokers at conventions are fine, as long as they don't start putting tobacco in their cigarettes, pipes, etc. "

((I think that sums it up, really.))



((And now, a bit about SF. Sorry, but I do feel we have to cater for these minority interest groups now and again...))

NEIL ALLAN,
CAIRDS CROFT,
TOMNAVOULIN,
BALLINDALLOCH,
BANFFSHIRE

The question you put at the end of your comment on my letter was, were you missing the point? I don't know, were you? When I lifted the quote from said info sheet, I was referring to books of high standards, not the crass commercial crap that clings to the shelves of bookshops - a mass crowded together to stifle and smother the good

books, and hide them from the shoppers' eyes with their vast numbers - like weeds around a pretty little plant. ((Surges of applause from a bemused audience. Shouts of "Resign!" from the back etc.))

At the end of my letter, I said that 20 favourable reviews would mean 20 new books sold. Again I was referring to good works, not rubbish, but I take your point, from the comment at the end of Mike Lewis' letter - people would say that a large amount of good reviews were a cover-up attempt to disguise the fact that there is a lot of junk lurking under the umbrella of SF. Having read Mike's letter, I think I was wrong to assume, or accuse, that PI highlights the bad books available. Now I think that the large number of unfavourable reviews just goes to show what a lot of grot is available.

The problem is (as I stated in my letter to Vector 113, on SF films) that the masses seem to want 'convenience food' type entertainment; just so long as there is some action and the plot doesn't strain the brain cells too much, who cares if the characters are two-dimensional and all merge into one lump?...Perhaps we should concern ourselves more with the good that is around - I just can't see how we can change the blind, mindless sheep on the other side of the wall: they are too lazy and are happy to be in the flock, where they feel safe. One thing that really worries me more than the present state of the material on sale is the fact that kids are now growing up to expect SF to be all lasers, spaceships and simple plots, with simple characters. There could be kids who will never know any better. Could we petition the publishers, telling them we are not prepared to stand for the effect they are having on SF? Anyone got any ideas, any answers - are there any answers?

((I was a little stunned by the mixture of metaphors at first, with sheep and weeds hemming me in all over the place, but I suppose I should say that I was really being sarcastic when I commented on this problem in M46, so I shouldn't take what I said too seriously. SF, for better or for worse, is the trash, along with the elegant fantasy and the embittered sociological tirades - all of these are components of the 'genre' or however you would wish to describe it. I don't believe that you can skim off the cream and have that on its own - it needs something on which to float. I would go on, but I'm getting lost in odd expressions myself . As time and space press rather heavily on us now, I shall move on to listing the also-rans and merely promise a much longer lettercol next issue, possibly with some of the other points brought up in letters received this time.))

((Not only have I not had space to include much from the WE HEARD FROMs, there is also little or no mention in the preceding pages of the following WE ALSO HEARD FROMs:

DAVE BARRETT, 31 MAYFIELD GROVE, HARROGATE, N.YORKS HG1 5HD popped in a number of brief comments, along with a short article which should be in M48, and wants to know if anyone has the Meal Ticket song used in Flipside of DH - could he tape it perhaps?

PHILIP COLLINS, 7 COLCHESTER ROAD, LEYTON, LONDON E10 6HA warred that now he is in the blissful state of employment again he will soon be tormenting the nice people at the K of Ds, and sent a review of Beastmaster which I couldn't unfortunately fit in. This leads me on to someone's query - "Is the film based on Andre Norton's Beastmaster book at all?" Apparently the idea for the bird, cat and ferret-types is pulled from the book, but I think that's about all which bears any resemblance to the original work.

ROY GRAY, 17 ULLSWATER, MACCLESFIELD, CHESHIRE SK11 7YN sent in a long letter, the most ominous part of which was "We should regard the high new member turnover as an awful warning." Much to my dismay, he doesn't say any more on the subject - an awful warning of what, puzzle I?

HELEN McNABB, THE BOWER, HIGH ST., LLANTWIT MAJOR, S. GLAMORGAN sent in news of CYMRUON and offered support as a possible fanzine reviewer. I hope that now this issue is out, I'll have time to write to all the people who offered their services for er..various things, so do not think you have been forgotten! No chance, my pretty ones.

Thanks also to some others who missed deadline with contributions, letters etc. Philip Collins wanted to know if it was written "in secret Yorkshire code so us Southerners couldn't read it?" - this is not a totally bad idea, but I'm afraid it just got missed out somewhere along the way. Please keep writing in on as wide a range of topics as possible - next deadline will be about mid-July - say the 15th, to have any chance of squeezing in Matrix 48. I shall make no rash promises, as every time I do, something goes wrong. However, I hope that the next issue will be considerably longer, especially as I now have a fair amount of stuff promised (ho ho!) and even some articles to hand!! It may even be the famous contentious, offensive and generally subversive issue I keep setting off to produce, but as this is being typed a few days only from the mailing, I think the Fabulous Flying Harveys have had quite enough contention and subversion from me already for one issue.

Be happy.

Simon

DON'T PANIC!

YOU ARE NOT THE ONLY ^{ONE} WHO HASN'T GOT PAGES 17-20 -
NO-ONE HAS SINCE THEY HADN'T ARRIVED FOR PRINTING
BY THE TIME OF THE MAILING.

THANK YOU POST OFFICE!

John & Eve Harvey