

THE NEW PORT NEWS
#81

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Well, as you can probably see, this was done on a wordprocessor rather than on my old typer... Ah, the wonders of modern science... I think I will try printing a couple of the pages on ditto and a couple on mimeo - I know the ditto will work, as I have already done a zine for Slanapa that way. This is a WordStar wordprocessor on an Osborne 1 computer, using an Epson MX80III F/T dotmatrix printer, if you are interested in the gruesome technical details.

HEDGE & HENNY - Meade & Bernadette - I never comment on oneshots...

ASFOAWN - Celko - Another Osborne user, obviously - the awkward right margin justification is unmistakeable. And besides I already knew... Joe suggested that I might send him stuff on diskette for some computer zine, but I don't feel I know that much about it as yet. I am very disappointed in the Osborne service at the moment. The master disk in my dBase II set is defective and I have been waiting three weeks now for a replacement.

FRIENDS

IN SPACE - Linda - I tend to agree with you about con programming... Just because most of the things programmed at cons are things that fans found out that they enjoyed informally doesn't mean that every damn-fool thing we enjoy needs to be formalized by putting it on the program. Certainly before someone on the con committee puts the Worst SF Contest down as an item on the program, he ought to check and see if there are any entries to it - the last couple of years there have been no new entries worth noting, and it may well be that we will never find anything to compete with THE CLONES, WEREWOLF VS THE VAMPIRE WOMAN, and QUEEN KONG.

I agree with you about tennis too, it is boring... Wish I could see that last St Trinian's film - I wonder if Alistair Sims was in it? He's dead now, I think, but he was in COLD COMFORT FARM a few years ago.

SLIDEAWAY - Dee - Welcome to the apa!

HUITL - Meade - I found it very confusing trying to decide what sort of computer to buy. Sounds like (from the very little I know about it) that you would have been better off to get a Commodore 64, since you are interested in gaming. I doubt it is possible to get an adequate printer for under \$600 unless you are one of those wizards who can make your own out of an old Selectric. I will try your little program in my machine and see what it does. It looks to me like it should run about 8 times as long as the smaller program, because that had 100 steps and the second one has 800 with the nested loops, or actually 820 since you let N start at 0.

7 DEADLY VIRTUES - Donna - I saw TIMEWALKER, but it couldn't have been much, it has gone right out of my head... I heard about the "Sneak Preview" review of DARK CRYSTAL - "we can't tell what audience it was aimed at" or some such crap. I thought it was great myself - it wasn't aimed at any

audience, it will create its own audience. What audience was LORD OF THE RINGS aimed at?

NOW WAIT FOR LAST MAILING -- Guy & Joe -- the famous Gestetner's name was David -- but I don't comment on oneshots...

DHARMA BUMS -- Beth -- Beroaldus would be appalled to know that you think I am him... He is off to Tibet again, don't know if he will get back in time to hold his place on the w/l.

Under the current law, an artist's works are protected by copyright for 50 years after his death, but since Finlay died before the current law was enacted, I would have guessed that his work would be under the old law that a copyright could be held for 27 years and renewed once for another 27. As to favorite words, I rather like 'eldritch' and 'vombic' and 'phosnority', though one doesn't often get an opportunity to use that last one.

Yes, our laminar flow experiment is in a wind-tunnel. The ordinary smooth flow of air at low velocities is laminar, as in your sterile-prep hoods, where the purpose is to exclude air-borne contaminants. We are trying to achieve laminar flow at 9/10 of the speed of sound, or about 600 mph, because the drag on the airplane would thus be lowered and it would use less fuel, thus further confounding OPEC.

Weir is a great director... I have seen everything that has been released in the US, as far as I know -- PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK, THE LAST WAVE, GALLIPOLI, THE PLUMBER (only on cable here), and the one that is currently playing here, THE YEAR OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY. THE LAST WAVE is probably the one that I like best, being a fantasy fan, I have seen it three times.

I don't much care for musicals either, and avoided PENNIES FROM HEAVEN when it was here. But I did watch it on the tube recently and rather liked it. And I like some of the old musicals like WIZARD OF OZ and 5000 FINGERS OF DR T. And does PHANTOM OF THE PARADISE count as a musical?

"WOULD YOU"
WANDESSA -- George W -- What's on the RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK stickers, I never saw one? I will try to look out for Marian Cockrell books. My cousin Rob Roy MacGregor has me looking for a copy of ROB ROY by Sir Walter Scott for him. What is Hoffenberg's SOW NOT IN ANGER about? I finally got THE QUAKER CITY that I was looking for, still need D'ORDEL'S PANTECHNICON. And I ordered Loren Eiseley's ALL THE NIGHT WINGS from Strand and they didn't really have it, so I'm hunting for that too. Must remember to look in BIP, it might still be in print.

Thanks for the clippings -- I have one for you that I mean to send Real Soon Now headlined "Hey George, Your Nose Knows". That silly movie "Q" did finally turn up here, lasted a week -- and that was just while I was watching it. I knew right off it must be the one you had mentioned. That the local theaters would show this but not Huston's WISE BLOOD says something about our so-called civilization.

Did you get your own mimeo?

FRIENDS IN SPACE -- Linda -- By all means send me your book list, never can tell but what you will have something I want. Slater says he is going to drop me because I don't buy that much, but what can I do... His is the only regular sf list I get from

over there, though a number of other come in occasionally, had one from "The Fantasy Centre" recently.

I used to have several copies of REVELATION 23, but I have only the one left and it disappears occasionally - maybe Beroaldus takes it. I don't suppose it is still available from the original source, John Webster of 3167 99th St., Milwaukee, Wis - I have had it at least 15 years. Hard to tell when it was done exactly, it's undated. Are you sure about the British Museum having the Sphinx's nose? I never heard that before... Make a nice monster movie (at least as good as "Q") for the Sphinx to come to life and fly to London to get his nose back!

I have never understood why people say they are 'proud' to be Polish or Irish or Black or White or whatever - it's not as if it were really an achievement that they could claim credit for!

JEWELS & BINOCULARS - Tom - It is a lot easier to play music backwards with tape recorders than with turntables, I think. Although, with an old belt-drive turntable it would be dead easy as far as reversing the motion goes, all you have to do is put a twist in the belt. I suppose atheists have churches because TV is so bad on Sunday morning... But seriously, the desire to belong to something like a church and belief in God have very little to do with each other. Yes, I think I can safely promise that if Worcester should win the DSC, I would attend! Why not bid for Arkham or Dunwich or Innsmouth, you would get better art...

No, no, it was the bagpipe that Satan invented - and the Scots haven't gotten the joke yet... I have been seeing a glockenspiel at a Decatur, Ga., flea market for some time now, but they want \$100 for it and I know damn well I would never learn to play it.

THIN ICE - Mark - We must have started getting DALLAS in the comics here after they changed to the current artist, he's certainly the most consistently awful excuse for an artist that I ever seen in national syndication. Not that the stupid strip deserves any better. The mausoleum in ONE DARK NIGHT looked like the same one as in PHANTASM to me - was it? Good luck in Los Angeles!

SPIRITUS MUNDI -- Guy - I am inclined to bang the phone down on any unsolicited phonecall, but why a fan, with our cosmic minds, would be bothered more by an "obscene" call than by an attempt to sell life insurance or magazine subscriptions, I don't know... To believe that words from a stranger over the phone can do you any harm is irrational, equivalent to a belief in sympathetic magic. The whole notion of "obscenity" is irrational as far as I am concerned. The Virginia legislature has just taken an even more irrational step, apparently - it was reported in the local press (without any explanation) that they had amended the law on 'child pornography' to remove any requirement that the state prove that the material involved is, in fact, obscene. As far as I can see, this leaves anyone who photographs, draws, paints, or writes about a child open to a charge of "child pornography"!

You know it wouldn't do for me to be OE, I would throw all the bad repro in the trash and there would be hell to pay... I have no idea whether all or any of Finlay's work is in the public domain. Gerry de la Ree could probably tell you something

about it. If Finlay sold an illo to a pulp in 1946 and they (or whoever came to own the rights) renewed the copyright in 1973, then as far as I understand the law the thing is protected until the year 2000. It may well be that the pulp copyrights were not renewed after the original magazine folded, but you can't be sure without checking with the Copyright Office.

I agree with you about Alan and Staton and Charlie Williams, but I never thought Wirth was all that great, though he was a talented amateur. And Burge, with the single exception of that tribute to Bok, never drew anything I ever saw that had any life to it - he had an absolute passion for rigidity. Collins would be much better than Burge if he wasn't so lazy. A lot of his stuff is too sloppy, but at least it's alive.

Liddy and Moon Unit Zappa debated on nuclear weapons, of course. I thought she won, but the nuke freaks probably thought he won...

I am still corresponding with Dave Hall, I will have to ask if he knows what ever happened to E E Evers.

Local fan gave me several boxes of books, mostly hardcovers from the last 20 years and I found one that was truly rare and several of interest, and a bunch of Reader's Digest Condensed Crap to give away as quickly as possible. The one rare book was a nice copy in d/w of Fred Chappell's THE INKLING.

ONE DAMN THING - Ryan - Funny cover!

FLAME - P.L. - Elegant cover art! What ever happened to your ditto? It shouldn't be that hard to find a mimeo in a large metropolitan area, though they aren't as common around here as they were. I need bifocals, but I don't much like the idea. Maybe I will just get reading glasses and switch back and forth. I can see well enough for the little screen on this Osborne, but for small print in a dim light I have to take my glasses off and get real close.

Hey, just got the calligraphies today, much thanks! I can use the ones with thin lines with the thermal mimeo and the others when I do offset.

A HIGHER ELEVATION - Larry - That tape was Guy's idea, but actually I don't know what else he could have done... The full text is available elsewhere, in any case. The local rare book store has a bound book of the addresses of Abraham Lincoln that is about 1/4 the size of this! Great Ghu, now I gotta go back to the previous mailing and look up Fig.8 in the Fan Typology to see how you are trying to insult me... Rather like making the condemned man dig his own grave... Oh, that - The Engineer - I rather thought of myself as being more like Fig.4, the BNF. You strike me as being somewhere between Fig.11 and Fig.12!

I watch NightFlight sometimes, but they seem to keep running the same stuff over, and often not what was announced. Have you heard the parody song that ends up "I'm goin' back to Beethoven, 'cause Country Music sucks!"? They played it on the local folk show last Saturday, would have been funnier if it hadn't been sung in such an extremely nasal tone that it was almost incomprehensible.

EMERGING - Liz Stewart - Welcome to the apa! Good first zine. That about the Eve of St Agnes being the coldest day of

the year reminds me of a medieval quasi-fantasy I read recently in which "mother of wine" - a sort of brandy - was made before the invention of distillation by leaving wine in a leather bottle out overnight on the coldest day of the year. Supposedly, the water would freeze and leave highly concentrated alcohol to be poured off. But I haven't been able to find out whether this technique was really used in days of yore, or merely invented by the author for the purposes of his novel. I think it was in Gene Wolfe's THE DEVIL IN A FOREST.

Don't bother to read any of Vonnegut's recent stuff, it is atrocious, both boring and depressing... BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS was probably his last readable book. Did I say that I thought 'racial memory' is nonsense? I suppose it depends of what is supposed to have been remembered. The theory of evolution implies that certain aspects of the past history of the race are coded in the genes - but that isn't that same as saying that you personally can remember living in a cave or eating grubs for breakfast because some ancestor did that 100,000 years ago. The 'terms' for buying books from that list are simple enough - the prices include postage, I generally expect cash with the order (though this would not be necessary for SFFPA members), and books are returnable for full refund. "Liz" means delight in what language?

JUST ANOTHER ZINE - Alan - Cute cover! What a short zine... Maybe I am just as well off with the Epson if the Selectric would burn out! The capability of changing elements would be nice though, especially for doing fake oneshots. If this were being done on a typer, I would over-slash the last five words of the previous sentence, but if that is possible in WordStar, I don't know how to do it! Real Soon Now, I will get those scenes in the Stefansson book xeroxed and send copies to all the artists in SFFPA to see if they want to collaborate on an illustrated edition!

PXR - Sperhawk - Nice DelMonte art! Maybe your shoelaces are monofilament, it won't hold a knot... I missed the 60 MINUTES segment on NOLA ritual police murders, but it wouldn't surprise me. I will see if I can find either HAWKWIND tape or the name of the guy that sent it to me, it's been a while since I heard from him. He did a small zine for a while, which became a HAWKWIND zine, but I can't recall the title of it either.

MEL - Lon - Part of the percentage drop (or leveling off - I can't keep track of their lies) is due to the government statisticians having changed the computing base by throwing all the military into the pot as 'employed' - which they are, of course, but they weren't computed in before so by adding them you get a phony shift in the percentages. Well, I have gotten into my car foot-foot-fanny - when some twit parked too close and I couldn't open the door but a few inches.

Do you mean to imply that Wolfe plans to write more in the universe of THE BOOK OF THE NEW SUN? I liked the series very much, just finished the last of the four. I also got CASTLE OF THE OTTER, a book about the world of Severian, but haven't had a chance to read it yet.

SUGAR MAGNOLIA - JoAnn - Did "Plastic Jesus" originate in COOL HAND LUKE, or did they just use it there? I used to have a copy of that, but I think I sold it - saw in the paper the other day that the author of the novel just

passed away. It was autobiographical to some extent, he had been on a chain-gang in Florida and knew a man on whom he modelled the "Cool Hand Luke" character.

I asked Rusty who the 'shike men' are, they were in his zine in the previous mailing... Yes, if you never read any Robert Chambers except THE KING IN YELLOW, you would have read the best of his stuff, by far. They caught that twit Bakker with a \$300,000 Florida condo, paid for by the contributions of the vidiots while he was claiming they were a million in debt... He is stonewalling it, of course.

INTUITION - Stven - Cover looks like something by Keith Henderson to me, perhaps from GREEN MANSIONS. Yeah, it was Rusty said that Paul wasn't a Jew - he should know, I suppose, being a student of the matter, but I would have liked to heard more about why he believed this. Maybe it is just his own notion, or maybe it is a common belief among experts in the field, I don't know. You were fat?! That sounds even less likely than Paul not being a Jew...

THE SPHERE - Don - Nah, the first soap opera was THE BARBER OF SEVILLE...

BREAKFAST AT MILLIWAYS - Nicki - You mean there still is a "Cult"? Tom Cockcroft was asking me that the other day, I had no idea. Never heard of Dalvan Coger, though it isn't that sort of name you would forget. MTV doesn't have much other than video tunes, but they did show a couple of movies last year. The Varsity in Atlanta used to have good Moon Pies... I haven't had one in years.

MINAC TOLL - Dick - I think you explained the statistics better than I did... It crosses over the 50% or even odds where I remembered, at a group of 23.

LAPIS LAZULI - Dennis - That was Ferdinand Feghoot that said "People who live in grass houses shouldn't stow thrones", not Guidry... I think Guidry said "People who live in gas houses shouldn't show scones", but with his spelling, it's hard to tell...

LIVING A DREAM - Liz Schwarzin - That is interesting about the deduction for the computer, thanks for including it. I chickened out on trying to claim the full cost of it on my 1982 return, but if I get a modem this year so I can talk to the Langley computer complex over the phone, I will certainly claim some of it next year. Much thanks for the Bellairs book, I never have found a copy.

FAVERSHAM'S - weber - I agree with you about Covenant! 64 is a 6th power, namely the 6th power of 2. Looks like to me that any number that was both a square and a cube would have to be a 6th power as well, so the next one after 2^6 would be 3^6 or 729.

NORMAN BATES - Nancy - I once asked my father why I was called "Ned" when it wasn't my name - but I have told that tale too many times in this apt already and no one understood it yet... DDE should ought be ashamed of himself, this repro is putrid, to say the least - of course, it might be your masters rather than his machine.

JUST A GIGO LOW - Hank - Ghad what an awful pun! Lovely typesetting and printing. Oddly enough, the turntable I have hooked up to my stereo is a Benjamin Miracord, and it does have 78rpm in case I should want to play the Robert Crumb 78 stereo record, which I think is the only 78 I have. The only 78 stereo too, as far as I know. I think I have an older turntable with a heavier arm but fancier changer somewhere - I can't remember the brand name, but it stopped the rotation each time before it dropped the next record.

I remember Sheckley's IMMORTALITY INC., but didn't know that it was called TIME KILLER in GALAXY. I remember that movie where Dick Van Dyke was a priest and was supposed to have murdered a nun, I think it was called THE RUNNER STUMBLES. It wasn't that good - an honest effort, but quite forgettable. I never heard that before about Houghton Mifflin exceeding a quota on the number of copies of LotR they could import and rebind - I have a set of the US 1st edition, and it bears neither the British nor a US copyright notice of any sort. The front of the title page says "Houghton Mifflin", but on the back of the title page, where the copyright notice would normally appear, it says only "Printed in Great Britain" at the bottom of the page. So this sheet at least must have been printed specifically for export to the US. I would have guessed that HMCo was supposed to over-print their own copyright notice and neglected to do it - but if the British printer had to set up to produce the special sheet for export anyway, why didn't he go on and do the whole job at once? Aha, so we have a birthday match - if I understand Dick Lynch's analysis correctly, the probability that 3 people will have the same birthday would be about 70% x 70% or about 50% for a group like SFFA of size 30. So the odds are even that three of us share a birthday.

LOPHOPHORA - Rusty - Great cover! I demonstrated illegibility? It's all I can do to spell it... Tom Cockcroft tells me he got the WEIRD TAILS and enjoyed it, thanks. If you had told me in person that Paul wasn't a Jew, I would have noticed that you were drunk and/or stoned and said something appropriate to the occasion like "Paul who?" - perhaps we need an International Mode Code for apazines, in which drunks would print on paper of one color and drug fiends another color, and so on.

I know what you mean about argument for its own sake, and I see nothing wrong with it - there are any number of questions that I could argue either side of if I were in the mood for it, such as abortion, evolution, defenestration, etc. There are a number of people who think that I actually believe that Nat King Cole was Roy Rogers in blackface. I have the awful feeling that "Paul was a Jew" (or the opposite) may become as famous in SFFA as Bill Bruce's "Alligator!" was in days of yore... "Knoxology" is a great piece of writing. I didn't go to the Fair and it has been a long time since I was in Knoxville. About all I remember about it is the homes of some fans I visited there, most notably Janie Lamb out in the strange hillbilly suburb of Heiskell. Who else? Jim Tillman (?), a professor at the Univ of Knoxville, who had a large basement library of sf with an early electrostatic dust zapper that popped occasionally. And Jim and Ferri Corrick, who had a huge Baum collection, hamsters, and a psychotic Labrador.

THE GOLDEN LAMPREY - Vern - Striking cover, I'm sure Vaughn would be pleased!

Speaking of Valley Gurls, Nancy Lebovitz had a button at SciCon that said "I'm a Delaware Valley Girl, gag me with a Hoagie". Oh, it was you sent Tom Cockcroft the WEIRD TAILS? Much thanks! I have been corresponding with him for years, a great guy. I actually met him at AussieCon, which I think was his first and only con, though he has been a fan since - well, he once had a cover on Laney's ACOLYTE. THE MAKER OF MOONS and THE SLAYER OF SOULS read like imitations of Sax Rohmer, yuck... But then Hope Mirrlees never wrote anything else like LUD-IN-THE-MIST, and Ben Hecht never wrote anything else like FANTAZIUS MALLARE and its sequel, THE KINGDOM OF EVIL, though he was a very prolific writer. You are probably right about Burge and Finlay, though Finlay wasn't nearly as stiff as most of his imitators such as Burge and D Bruce Berry. But I never liked Finlay as well as I do Bok - Finlay was probably the better draftsman, but Bok at his best could do more with a few lines than all of Finlay's stars and bubbles. As to reprinting the Burge tribute to Bok, I would be glad to do it, but aside from any legal question, I don't feel that I have any right to it. Burge still lives in Atlanta, I think, perhaps we could get his permission. I think Jerry Page still sees him occasionally.

Mimeo become obsolete? Bite yo' tongue, bwah... Not in my lifetime... Nice logo for "The Armchair Eclectic" - reminds me that I was in the local rare-book store last Saturday swapping lies with the owner, when in comes this grotty dude with longish greasy blonde hair and a pentacle medallion and asks for a copy of THE NECRONOMICON. I fear I could not restrain a discreet giggle...

Timescape recently brought out a collection of CAS stories as THE LAST INCANTATION, but they gave it very poor distribution and I had a devil of a time getting a copy for myself and one for Cockcroft. I sent for two copies by mail and the twits sent me to copies of TIMESCAPE and had the gall to bill me for the difference in price. When I pointed out that I had sent exactly the right amount for the books I ordered, they said to return the TIMESCAPES and they would send the books I wanted. Well, I returned the TIMESCAPES and guess what... Bah! I would not be surprised if the Spearman reprints of the Arkham Clark Ashton Smith books are still in print in England, but I don't know for sure.

Good reviews. Got the lovely GHOST OCEAN and your check, will have sent you the books as soon as I get this apezine off to DDOE.

SHADOW - Shadows - Well, I would say something about this, but it's just too discouraging... Irv can't solve the simple engineering problem of opening an uncut book, something that the primitive peoples of the 19th century managed regularly and without electronics... And Hlavaty makes scatalogical remarks about mimeo - these young whippersnappers got no respect, is all I can say. Beth Lillian has a lovely zine, much too good for this lot...

So there we are - howcum I got 8 pages of comments out of such a relatively small SFFA mailing? Maybe it's the magic of WordStar... I will try these last two pages on mimeo, Arthur Hlavaty and the Gates of Hell notwithstanding...