

RATATOSK

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1965

A bi-weekly news and yammering zine by Bruce Pelz, Box 100, 308 Westwood Plaza Los Angeles, Calif 90024. Available for news or 3/25¢. Who's for TAFF next?

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LONCON II comes up in three weeks, and all prospective attendees should get their hotel reservations in immediately if not sooner. The convention will be at the Mount Royal Hotel, Marble Arch, London, over the weekend of Aug. 27-30, and the room rates are \$8.66 for a single room (= 60/-), \$7.96 per person for a twin room (55/-) or \$7.25 per person for a double room (50/-). ++ The charter flight being arranged by JudybBlish has fallen through due to lack of passengers, and those who had signed up are falling back on secondary travel plans.



"HOW APPROPRIATE, HOLDING CONS IN THE SILLY SEASON!"

WALT WILLIS wishes to explain that, while he and Madeleine have been unable to send formal invitations, due to being very busy settling into their new home, all their Stateside (or Province-side) friends are more than welcome to visit them, and they will put up as many as they physically can. Their phone number is Donaghadee 3226. Remembers that come New Year's, you clowns!

NEW OFFICERS for the Baltimore SF Society for the second half of the year include Ron Bounds as Treasurer, Steven Patt as Secretary, and Jerald Jacks as Vcep. Incumbent Chairman Jack Chalker was returned to the post. ++ Chalker also reports that "Master Nicholas," an original Seabury Quinn story that appeared in MIRAGE #6, has been sold to Lowndes for Magazine of Horror.

POPULATION EXPANSION: The early months of 1966 should see two more second-generation fans in Los Angeles Fandom -- Katya Hulan is expecting a child in late March or early April, and Dian Pelz is expecting one in mid-March. Oh, well, LASFS has always been looked upon as a sort of kindergarten...

ACE BOOKS releases for August are a Doubleback by Jack Vance (Monsters in Orbit/The World Between and other stories) and a couple of antiques: JWC's The Black Star Passes, and Homer Eon Flint's The Lord of Death and the Queen of Life. There's also another Earth-doon story, The Last Hope of Earth, by Lan Wright. ++ September brings another MZB story of Darkover, Star of Danger, and Avram Davidson's Rogue Dragon, plus the doublebacked We the Venusians (John Rackham)/The Water of Thought (Fred Saberhagen). And for the enthusiast of Space Opera, there is The Hunter Out of Time, by Gardner F. Fox.

THE GILBERT&SULLIVAN REPRESENTATIVE FOR CALIFORNIA, Ed Meskys, says that 70 tickets have been reserved for the Lamplighters' production of Patience on Saturday, 16 October. Send \$1.50 with your reservation to Felice Rolfe, 1360 Emerson, Palo Alto, Calif. 94301. Earliest reservations get choicest seats. Changes can be made up to 10 October without losing priority, and refunds are guaranteed until the 1st of October. (They are probably available until the 12th, and possibly until the 15th. Write now, if interested in attending.

Your subscription expires with issue _____.

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RON ELLIK'S TAFF REPORT is now entitled The Squirrel's Tale. Only 5 people made any suggestions for a title, and the LASFS meeting, which was to act as judge, ignored all but 3 titles. S.Z. Meszchcow's "Squirrel Feathers" got 2 votes, Al Lewis's "The Squirrel Uncaged" got 11, and "The Squirrel's Tale" got the rest. A run-off, just make sure, awarded the latter the majority, and then the club was told who submitted the titles. "The Squirrel's Tale" was suggested by Bruce Pelz. [Cries of "Boo!" "Fix!" etc. etc.]

A NEWSPAPER CLIPPING, passed on by Anne Ashe, indicates that the SF gimmick of deep-freezing a corpse until such time as science can "cure" death by natural causes may be becoming a reality. Prof. Robert Ettinger, instructor of physics and math at Highland Park Community College near Detroit, is advocating the idea, and has made arrangements for himself, his wife, and their two children to be frozen. Four organizations have been formed to promote the technique, including Juno, Inc., of Springfield, Ohio, which is making plans to enter commercial operation with "cold storage" capsules as coffins, storing them in a building or mausoleum. Ettinger says the process would currently cost around \$50,000, but would eventually be about \$8,500 when it receives wide public acceptance. He's written a book on it, The Prospect of Immortality, and he is touring the country to promote said book.

APAc: After a monumental false start -- 9 zines had been diverted from the OE's home back to the Post Office by a neighbor's misinforming the postman that the OE had moved, and the 9 weren't discovered until after several mailings had been sent out -- the N'APA mailing for June (#25) reached 454 pages, outstanding among which was the biapan (N'APA/SFPA) CLARGES from Lon Atkins. As the addition of the 9 zines made a few other changes in the OO, the ALLIANCE AMATEUR 25 had to be redone, with most of the early edition being jetissoned. If you have the 1st edition, it's rare. Seven members were dropped from N'APA this time, leaving only Dwain Kaiser on the waitlist. A resolution was introduced this mailing to amend the N'APA bylaws so that, after one more amendment, N'APA could (though not necessarily would) declare itself free of the NFFF, thus saving its members, some of whom would not belong to the N3F except for N'APA, some \$1.75 a year in dues. Developments since the mailing went out indicate that the NFFF Directorate, in the person of Clayton Hamlin, simply refuse to admit that separation is at all possible, with the result that some of those members of N'APA who were undecided or even against the resolution, are now in favor of it. Stay tuned. ++ The June OMPA mailing featured two things, the first of which was the final part of Archie Mercer's 138-page novel, The Meadows of Fantasy. This is excellent indeed, and if you aren't in OMPA, send 75¢ for the complete thing to Archie at 70 Worrall Road, Bristol 8, England. Possibilities of further such Mercatorial Manuscripts make retention of OMPA membership vital. The second is the censorship of two zines for material which the Assn. Editor, Brian Jordan, considered libelous. Dick Schultz's BROBDINGNAG 8 and part of Bill Donaho's VIPER 9 were removed from the mailing. I foresee a lot of argumentation and probably a lot of postmailings as a result. This, the 44th mailing, contained 294 pages. Apparently there are 7 members out this time, and all but the last one of the Waiting list (Fred Lerner) are thereby invited to membership. It would appear that N'APA and OMPA are the best deals for rapid admission to APA membership, as they have a fast turnover.

FOLLOW-UP DEPT. The query in R14 as to what had happened to Broyles's 2nd edition of WHO'S WHO IN SF FANDOM brought a reply via Jim Goodrich of New York: Broyles wrote Jim that he could not find anyone to offset the volume (about 96 pages worth) at any reasonable price, and he has been considering getting a mimeo and trying to reproduce the thing that way. Don't hold your breath, I guess. ++ Now, what's happened to READER'S GUIDE TO TARZ'S AFRICA?