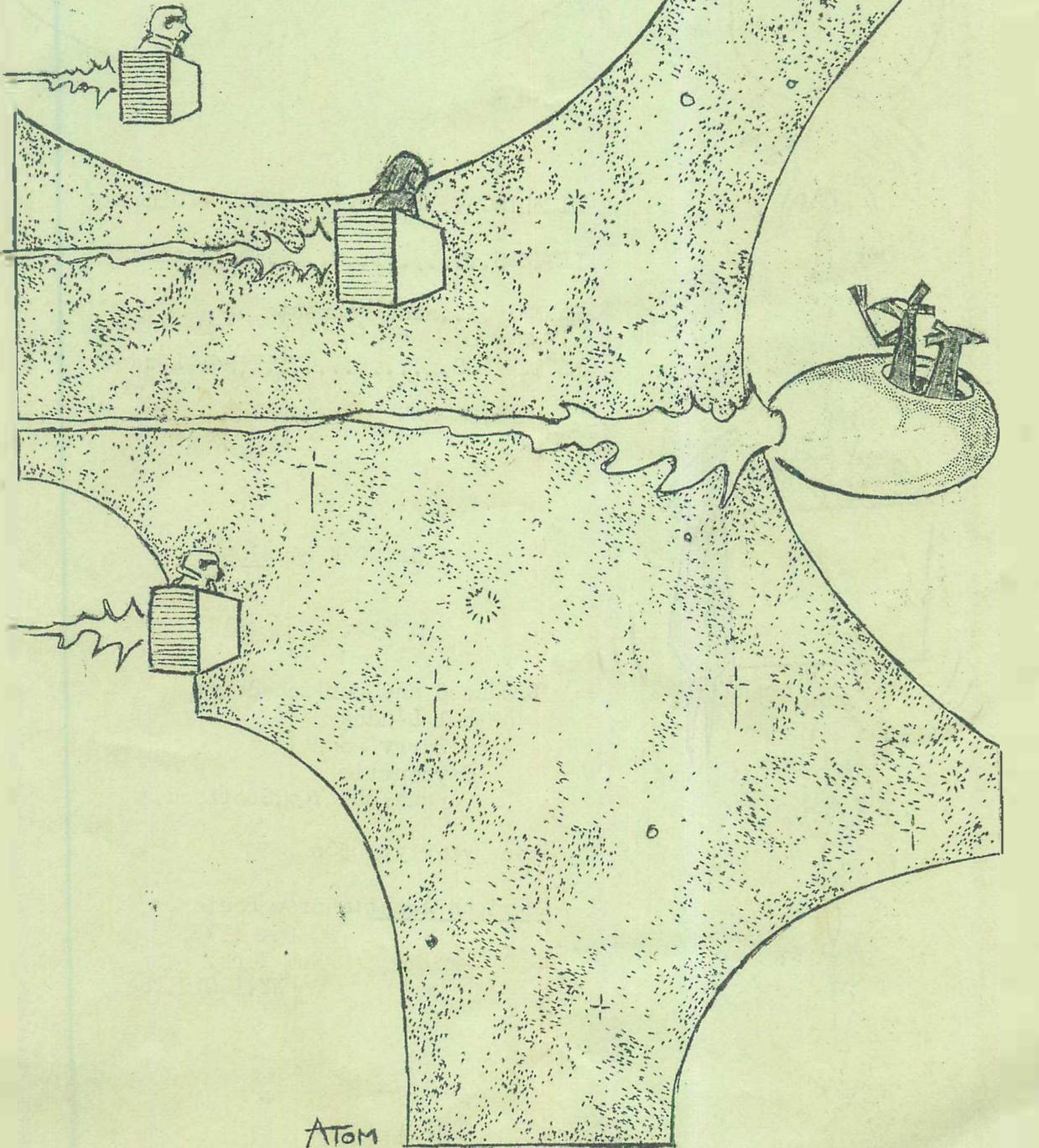


SCOTTISCHE



ATOM

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MAY 1980

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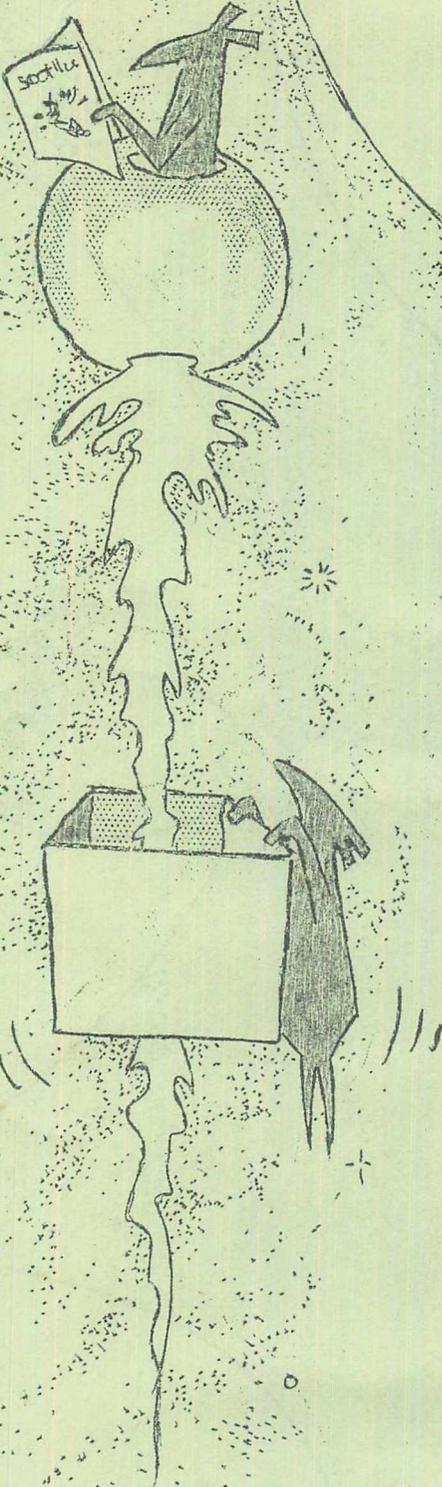
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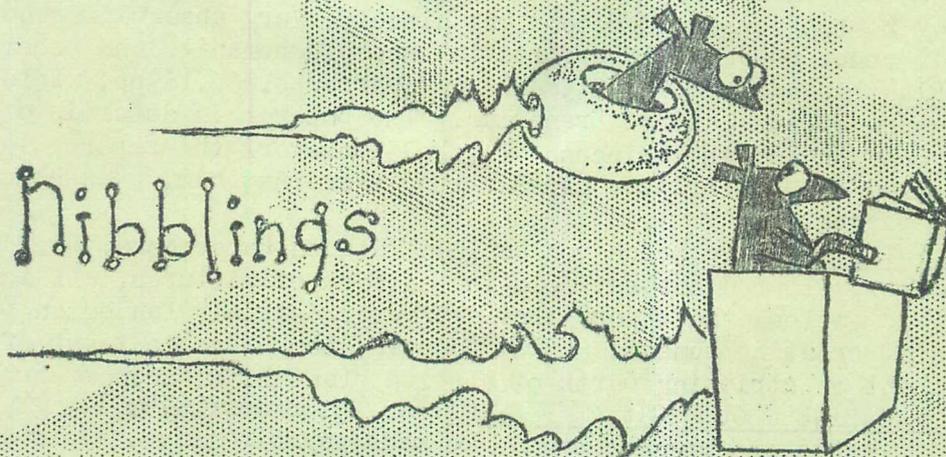
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Nibblings



THE ION WAR by Colin Kapp, Dobson SF. £4.95.252pp. This postulates a future where a tyrannical Terra lords it over the colony planets. Ion transforms Dan Storm-dragon, into an Ion Warrior who becomes involved in the fight against Terra. I find this author's style rather flat, perhaps because he has more interest in the science ideas than in his characters.

WORLD'S BEST SF:4: Edited by Donald A. Wollheim, Dobson SF. £5.25p.280pp Taken from the year 1976 are 10 stories. APPEARANCE OF LIFE by Brian Aldiss, OVERDRAWN AT THE MEMORY BANK by John Varley, THOSE GOOD OLD DAYS OF LIQUID FUEL by Michael Coney, THE HERTFORD MANUSCRIPT by Richard Cowper, NATURAL ADVANTAGE by Lester del Rey, THE BICENTENNIAL MAN by Isaac Asimov, THE CABINET OF OLIVER NAYLOR by Barrington J. Bayley, MY BOAT by Joanna Russ, HOUSTON, HOUSTON, DO YOU READ? by James Tiptree, Jr., I SEE YOU by Damon Knight. They are all strong stories and some of them have deservedly won awards. They are the kind you can re-read and I do not often re-read short stories.

THE DAY OF THE KLESH by M.A. Foster, DAW SF, No 357, \$2.25.240pp. Meure hires out on a spaceship to see the universe but gets stranded on the planet Monsalvat instead. He finds there that the different human species stay apart from each other and that there is a mystery attached to this to be solved. Richly peopled story that is complicated and requires concentration.

THE PARADOX OF THE SETS by Brian Stableford, DAW SF, \$1.75.176pp. This describes the final voyage of the spaceship DAEDALUS sent out to check on colonies not visited for a century and a half. The planet is Geb and they find the people thriving as they are using the natives who are unaggressive and eager to work. This poses the puzzle - how could a seemingly humanoid species develop in this way? This has been a well-orchestrated series.

THE DOUGLAS CONVOLUTION by Edward Llewellyn, DAW SF, No 359, \$1.75.190pp. Douglas of 1980 becomes Capt. Garth of 2170 - sound familiar? Well, it isn't; mainly because the author tells the story through the eyes of Diana who is allocated to be his Pilot. This gives a freshness to the theme and allows the author to present a future where Garth's fighting ability and his mathematical experience both come in useful, absorbing and unusual.

THE BROKEN CYCLE by A. Bertram Chandler, DAW SF No 360, \$1.75.156pp. A Grimes adventure in which he is cast away with a female policewoman and then placed in a new Garden of Eden by a robot who thinks of himself as Master! Una is a lively lass but I didn't like her very much...but then Grimes is larger than life too.

that had been deadly enemies of humanity, Duncan feels obligated towards the mri and accompanies them on a journey to their legendary home planet. In the course of this journey he learns how to become mri himself. Very absorbing reading and most so when it concerns Duncan's efforts to lose his humanity and become mri. MY LORD BARRIBIAN by Andrew J. Offutt. Methuen Paperbacks. 95p. 189pp. Valeron is the barbarian King of the land of Branarius. The Emperor is determined that he shall wed his only child, the Princess Aloysha. However, the Emperor is murdered Valeron is accused and so begins a great struggle against him. Swashbuckling tale told with vigour.

THE GODS FROM OUTER SPACE by Erich von Däniken. Methuen Paperbacks. \$1.25. Large sized, stiff covers, coloured covers. Told in the form of pictures, all in very fine colour. This follows the theory that extra-terrestrials landed on Earth and were the means of creating humans. First however, they have to fight off another set of aliens bent on stripping Earth of all its plant life. Handsome production. STARSHIP: THE MAGAZINE ABOUT SCIENCE FICTION: No 35. Summer 1979. 1 year \$8 or £9. I am British agent and cheques should be made payable to me. The coloured cover this time is by Eddie Jones, and the graphics of this magazine are particularly pleasing to the eye. Fritz Leiber's son, Justin, writes a wonderfully affectionate yet analytic article about his father, and this is accompanied by a very fine photograph. Good photographs also enhance an interview with Richard Lupoff, whereupon Lupoff proceeds to write a perceptive article on Philip K. Dick. Robert Schooley on the frustrations of sitting down to write shows how many ingenious ways there are to avoid getting started! Sandra Miesel discusses the work of Randall Garrett in his Lord Darcy series. There are some fine reproductions of covers to illustrate Vincent DeFate's article on SF art. All this is topped off with film and book reviews and a good letter column. In addition there is a news magazine incorporated SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE --in the future this will be published seperately and will be monthly at \$1.

DAW PAPERBACKS:

THE FACE by Jack Vance. No 361. \$1.95. 224pp. 4th of the Demon Princes novels. Gerson's vengeance list began with 5 names, now only 2 are left. In this story he is on the trail of Larque who is very well hidden and the task to discover his identity is formidable. Well up to the standard of this series.

JOURNEY TO THE UNDERGROUND WORLD by Lin Carter. No 362. \$1.75. 175pp. Soundly in the tradition of 'lost worlds' stories--quite a rip-roaring yarn and the first of a new series. Real cliff-hanging ending!

IDUNA'S UNIVERSE by E.C. Tubb. No 363. \$1.75. 156pp. The 21st book in the Dumarest series. Iduna is a princess who lies as one dead after having been caught in the mind-trap of the Tau. If Dumarest can rescue her the Matriarch promises him money and freedom. So he enters the world of a child's mind to find out why so many before him have failed. A fascinating concept.

AMAZONS edited by Jessica Amanda Salmonson. No 364. \$2.25. 206pp. 13 stories plus an introduction and an additional reading-list. As the title implies warrior women are the heroines of these stories. However the first story is by C.J. Cherryh and this is pure fantasy of a haunting quality. The best is by Tanith Lee whose economy of style is to be admired.

GHOST DANCE by John Norman. UF 1501. \$2.25. 300pp. A story of the American West very vividly told and much preferable to me than the Gor stories.

EMPHYRIO by Jack Vance. No 365. \$2.25. 208pp. I liked this because it contained a good puzzle. How did the society of Helmo evolve? Ghyl lives in a feudalistic society and eventually breaks out by joining a group who hijack a spaceship. Great deal of fascinating detail given.

A FORTUNE FOR KREGAN by Dray Prescott. No 366. 1.95. 222pp. No 21 in this series. Dray was originally in Nelson's Navy and was transported by the Star Lords to Kregan. He ended up as Emperor, but the Star Lords never leave him in peace and he is once again on a bravura adventure.

THE GOLDEN GRYPHON FEATHER by Richard Portill. No 367. \$1.75. 160pp. This is set in the days when Athenians were sent to Crete to participate in the Bull Dance and is told by one of the young girls. Wonderful descriptions of the Dance, combining a nice blend of history and myth. Glimpses of the Gods makes me wonder if there will be a sequel.

ONE ON ME by Tim Huntley. No 368. \$2.25. 221pp. As an original idea as I've read it for ages. Told by Mark who is born illegally after all births are finished, His weird upbringing in a universe where everyone can have everything they want leads to a dash for freedom where he meets Synthetics whose upbringing has been equally weird. Makes compulsive reading!

THE AVENGERS OF GARRIG by John Brunner. No 369. \$1.75. 157pp. A primitive lost world planet which is invaded by ruthless men using technology from space is the setting for this tale. A female agent is set down to investigate and she becomes involved in bringing retribution. Fast-paced against a well-thought out background.

THE YEAR'S BEST FANTASY STORIES: No 5 edited by Lin Carter. No 370. \$1.95. 204pp 12 stories. An unusual find is an early T.H. White story - THE TROLL. Good selection with varied themes.

THE BRIGHT COMPANION by Edward Llewellyn. No 371. \$1.75. 176pp. A contraceptive turns out to be the cause of sterility with a collapse of civilisation following. David, one of the few young men in his community, decides to set sail for a sanctuary overseas. He is joined by Ann, an escaped captive wife. She turns out to be highly aggressive but useful as she had received training from her engineer father. Exciting adventures follow but the story of their relationship is more enthralling. All the feminists will like this one. I know I did!

THE FADED SUN: KUTATH. by C.J. Cherryh. No 372. \$2.25. 256pp. This is the grand climax to the novels of the Faded Sun which has woven a picture of two races - the humans and the mri. Their dealings with the third race - the Regul has resulted in widespread death. This ties up all the ends satisfactorily.

THE KEEPER'S PRICE by Marian Zimmer Bradley, and The Friends of Darkover. No 373. \$2.25. 206pp. 16 stories. Many of them by the Friends fill in gaps in the Darkover saga. particularly in the Age of Chaos. which contains a short but very biting one from Elizabeth Waters. Definitely a must for all Darkover devotees.

THE FIVE GOLD BANDS by Jack Vance. No 374. \$1.95. 160pp. Light-hearted adventure when Paddy tries to steal the secret of inter-stellar flight. Good fun.

THE GARMENTS OF GAEM by Barrington J. Bayley. No 375. \$1.95. 206pp. Peder is a tailor which is why he is chosen to salvage a cargo of clothes. Because of this he becomes the wearer of a Frachonard suit. This is made of a special material which changes the personality and confers great charisma. Sharp characterisation and brisk plot.

THE WINGED MAN by A.E. Van Vogt. No 378. \$1.75. 158pp. A submarine of the present is whisked into the future where they find many different types wanting them to join in warfare. There are winged men and there are fishmen and Lt. Kenlon has some tricky decisions to make about who should be helped. Complicated!

ALDAIR, ACROSS THE MISTY SEA by Neal Barrett, Jr. No 379. \$1.75. 188pp. This continues the story of Aldair who, in a previous book, discovered that Man had made animals like himself intelligent and then left them to their own devices. He sets sail with companions to the shores of Merrika and finds more evidence of Man and many terrifying adventures. He is a sympathetic character. Sequel appears more than likely!

ISAAC ASIMOV PRESENTS THE GREAT SF STORIES (1941) No 3. No 377. \$2.25. 352pp. 17 stories which contain such classics as SHUTTLE BOP. ADAM AND NO EVE. ARMAGEDDON and A GNOME THERE WAS. Very good value.

FIGHTING SLAVE OF GOR by John Norman. No 376. \$2.25. 384pp. This time a man is kidnapped and taken to Gor but the basic pattern of these stories stays the same. You either like them or you don't.

PRELUDE TO SPACE by Arthur C. Clarke. Sidgwick & Jackson. 85p. 176pp. This ushers in a new pb edition of the works of this author. Originally written in 1947 it is a very factual account of what could have happened, and it is interesting to compare what did happen. Alas, the further efforts that Clarke envisioned has not yet happened! The others in this series (which make a handsome shelf of books) are TALES FROM THE WHITE HART. 95p. 156pp. EXPEDITION TO EARTH. 95p. 174pp THE LOST WORLDS OF 2001. £1.240pp. THE SANDS OF MARS. 95p. 207pp. GLIDE PATH. 95p. 234pp.

GATEWAY TO LIMBO by Chris Lampton. Sidgwick & Jackson. £5.50. 184pp. An exotic adventure which starts when Carstairs escapes from the Compound ruled over by Hawkesworth on the planet Aerie. Fast-moving and inventive

Nibblings 'A

THE ULTIMAX MAN by Keith Laumer, Sidgwick & Jackson, £5.95. 217pp. Dummy is a small-time crook who is whisked away by an alien who states he intends to use him as a guinea-pig to assess human potential. Dummy not only finds out the extent of human intellect, he begins to out-wit his captor. Hectic story with the reader needing to watch out for double-dealing!

KINSMAN by Ben Bova, Sidgwick & Jackson, £6.95. 280pp. We follow Kinsman's career in the Air Force where he becomes an astronaut and develops a burning desire to see a Moon colony project succeed. Lots of technological data plus arguments for a space program.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE TALISMAN by Clifford Simak, Sidgwick & Jackson, £6.95. 346pp. Very pure fantasy in which Duncan sets forth for Oxenford with a precious holy manuscript. Along the way he collects Andrew, the Hermit, Ghost, a Goblin, a witch and a Lady on a Griffin. Well up to the usual Simak standard, but the journey is fairly predictable. Some quirky humour helps to lighten the tale.

SIGHT OF PROTEUS by Charles Sheffield, Sidgwick & Jackson, £6.50. 282pp. Granted that the progress of science to an ability for man to change his form and retard ageing; this story takes a logical step into the problems that would arise. There would be an agency that monitored for illegal changes and this is where the story starts in the office of Bey. Intriguing technology allied with questions on scientific morality. Unusual and challenging.

TIME OF THE FOURTH HORSEMAN by Chelsea Quinn Yarbo, Sidgwick & Jackson, £5.95. 183pp. Horrifying tale of a future population explosion whose government chooses an area for experiment. Vaccines have been doctored to make them valueless, and Dr Natalie finds the old diseases coming back. When she, and the other doctors who share her horror try to do something, they are placed under house arrest. The picture of a city becoming the focus of epidemics is starkly shown, and the author never gulls her punches.

WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS by F. Paul Wilson, Sidgwick & Jackson, £5.95. 177pp. Josephine is head of a Business Advisory firm co-founded by her Grandfather and Old Pete. When Pete comes out of retirement with a puzzle she merely humours the old man. Soon though she discovers a conspiracy involving a new way of stellar travel, and begins to take him seriously. Engrossing with lots of new ideas. Only snag is the author is apt to get lured into too many sub-plots!

THE STAR OF HESIOCK by John Rankine, Dennis Dobson SF, £4.95. 217pp. Fast-paced adventure where Sam and Jean are lured into an experiment which involves them with the dying world of Deiner. Logical if rather grim ending.

DOES ANYONE ELSE HAVE SOMETHING FURTHER TO ADD? by R.A. Lafferty, Dennis Dobson. 8 stories. Weird, and impossible to categorise. An example is the story of Peter the meanest man in the world who marries the most beautiful woman in the world. They have thousands of progeny..which are eaten!

THE LUCK MACHINE by E.C. Tubb, Dennis Dobson. £4.95. 188pp. When two disgruntled teachers get drunk with an experimental scientist they invent a luck machine. Doubtful about it, they give it to Robbie a very strait-laced teacher, and they persuade him to wear it. Once they realise the machine actually works they try desperately to get it back--but if Robbie has always good luck--how can they? Inventive and amusing.

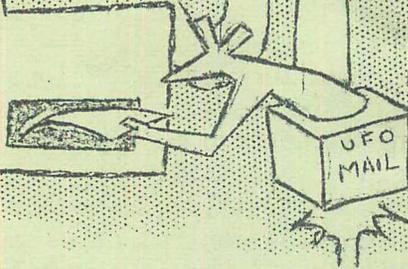
THE IRON CLOG by Judith Buffery, Dobson SF, £4.95. 185pp. 3rd volume in the Star-Lord saga. Very swashbuckling affair that rarely draws breath. Mostly seen through the eyes of Dr Jindy who is taken prisoner by Amaal who is determined to ruthlessly keep the peace in the Federation worlds.

RITE OF PASSAGE by Alexei Panshin, Magnum Books, £1.25. 254pp. This won the Nebula award when it first appeared. It gives a very fine picture of life aboard a giant spaceship and also a very sensitive portrait of a girl growing into adulthood. Quite a tour-de-force! It is a book I enjoyed re-reading.

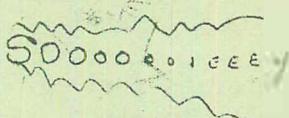
THE MAGICIANS by James Gunn, Magnum Books, £1.10. 197pp. When detective Casey is hired to find the real name of a man he finds himself plunged into a situation where magic is real and his knowledge of mathematics useful. Convincing and dramatic and often funny.

I AM NOT THE OTHER HOUDINI by Michael Connor, Magnum Books, 95p. 136pp. For a first novel--very impressive. Arcad has kinetic powers but is afraid of them. He is asked to investigate Sterling, an illusionist, who is suspected of having similar power. Political brain-washing seems to be the aim and in AD2079 this could be explosive. Suspense is admirably maintained.

Letters



John Boardman:



"I had almost forgotten the article I had written for you; thanks for publishing it. You misprinted the hog call. it is "Sui", and is usually spelled "Soooy!" There is a variant, "Poooy" And the Spanish madonna in the Phillipines is called "Nuestra Senora de la Leche." ***He and my typos!***"

Eric Needham:



"Arthur Thomson's drawings leave me dumb with admiration. Please tell him so. Can't help thinking of age disparity. When I first met Arthur C. Clarke about 1939 he seemed almost senile at 24, when I was 18... There was a letter from Bill Danner in a previous issue who, at 72, found the years getting shorter. I just wonder why some mystic doesn't come up with the idea of resetting your own biological clock to zero so that once again you may experience the long years of childhood, or having an eccentric biological clock which permits long, long summers and short, short winters to enable me to keep the garden in order."

Sid Birchby:

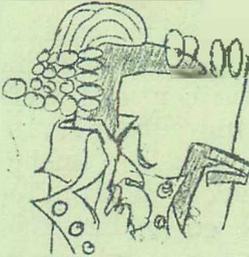


"Eric Needham's puzzling verse is less so in its context. It is half of the 8th stanza of the White Knight's song in Lewis Carroll's 'Through the Looking-Glass', and the words of the song are a parody of a poem by Wordsworth about an aged leech-gatherer. Carroll's first version appeared in 1856 in an ephemeral magazine and differs from the Looking-Glass version of 1871. The 8th stanza originally read:

' I heard him then, for I had just / Completed my design
To keep the Menai Bridge from rust / By boiling it in wine.
I duly thanked him, ere I went / For all his stories queer,
But chiefly for his kind intent / To drink my health in beer.'

At the time, Carroll was aged 24 and studying at Oxford University. By 1871 he was a middle-aged mathematics lecturer and a Reverend. Moreover, "Looking-Glass" was intended for children, so changes had to be made. The second half of the stanza became: 'I thanked him for telling me / The way he got his wealth
But chiefly for his wish that he / Might drink my noble health.' Out go the rhymes of queer and beer. Not that queer had its modern slang meaning, as far as is known, but beer must certainly have been a taboo subject in children's books. Those were the days when working-class intemperance was being tackled with rather more priggish zeal than the social conditions that caused it. Last point: very little of Carroll's nonsense is without a grain of reason, as Martin Gardner shows in his 'Annotated Alice and Shark'. Even the bit about boiling the Menai Bridge in wine. As a civil engineer, I happen to know that iron and steel was once, if not still, treated against rust before leaving the foundry, by pickling it in 'Dr. Angus Smith's Solution'. A nice bit of industrial archaeology here for those with a taste for research: when was the Menai Bridge opened and was the steel-work rust-proofed? In fact, I think I'll ask the 'New Civil Engineer' about it. Roy Lavendar: the so-called Green Man carvings in churches are said to be images of the witch-god only because the late Gerald Gardner (no relation to Martin) said so. It is very doubtful. I have found churches with such carvings in the Sanctuary, facing the altar. No priest would have allowed them to be placed in the holiest part of the church if they had been pagan symbols. The solution is quite otherwise, but this is not the time to go into it... That Brighton convention sounds as horrible as it looked on TV. Do you ever have the feeling that maybe the aliens on Atom's covers are taking over? Given another century, the real WorldCon: held on a spare planet!

George H. Hinton:



"Now I can understand the appeal of Georgette Hoyer for some sf fen, in that it depicts as alien a world with different manners, different customs, different lifestyles, as the most gifted sf writer has been able to imagine; and in fact, thanks to his intensely formal depiction of his characters, and the importance of the background as opposed to his basic plot, I hereby nominate Jack Vance as the Georgette Hoyer of SF...I'm still working out the equivalent categories for other writers, but I'd be very grateful for further

suggestions." ***What a temptation..the Catherine Cookson of SF..but I will refrain.***

What a temptation..the Catherine Cookson of SF..but I will refrain.

Mervyn Barrett:

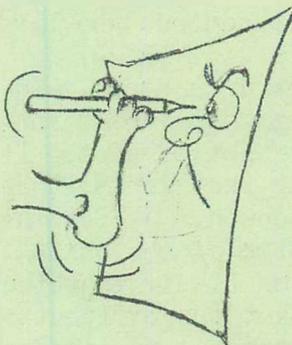


"I'm sure all the talk about beer is for the reason Harry Warner gives -its a sort of fannish tradition. Fandom as I know it is surprisingly short on drunks. Before our con a few out of town fans came to my place for the evening and when I asked what they'd like to drink they all said, "coffee" Ghod, what has fandom come to, I thought, and I had to have a neat vodka to steady my nerves after the shock. New Zealand is an incredibly booze orientated place and in spite of the prices going up horrendously everyone has cupboards

full of the stuff. There are liquor supermarkets the size of say, Sainsbury's, through which one pushes a trolley to be loaded with booze. If you buy more than two gallons you get it at a wholesale rate. Since I don't have a car I don't usually go to these. Mostly I buy the odd flagon or two of wine at the liquor store just down the street. It's a very pleasant place to browse around -they have tastings quite often-and all day Saturday they have a pianist there playing standards, show tunes, stuff like that. It's the only liquor store I've come across with live entertainment...I was amused by the programme item in your con report GETTING INTO FANDOM. What we need is an item that tells us how to get out of fandom." ***Fandom is a habit-forming drug!***

Harry Warner:

"ATOM's continued evolution of style fascinates me. Who would have imagined a few years ago that he would ever turn out something as detailed and busy as your front cover for this S? The next thing you know, Rotsler will be drawing cartoons that will look like frames from the most elaborate Disney shorts of the 1930s. And if you say nothing on the topic, fans will be arguing about the lack of an ATOM sketch for Michael Moorcock's loc, something like the debate on which way the Venus di Milo's arms stuck out....There's one obvious way in which TAFF could be confined to mainly fanzine fans as competitors:instead of the present system of making loose ballots available, switch to ballots which are bound into



fanzines and honor no others. Of course, completists would be reluctant to take anything out of a fanzine, even if two copies were stapled in. But I suspect that it's no use to try to manipulate the competition in this manner. If fanzine fans want their own to travel, the only fair way to accomplish it would consist of setting up a fund specifically limited to fanzine fans, just as the FAAN awards have been established in response to Hugo circumstances. Or fanzine fandom could simply content itself with an occasional one-shot campaign to get so-and-so across the ocean. I'd love to see a new Willis fund begin, now that Dick Bergeron has finally distributed the enormous Willish of Warhoon." ***I would like to see the Willish..I have not heard of anyone having a copy over here,nor has there been much publicity about it over here!***

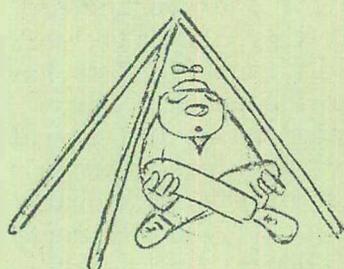
Keith Freeman:

"I've almost convinced myself I should never vote in any poll/award again. There seems to be more bitterness(caused by people losing)than sweetness(well it's the opposite of bitterness - but I don't think it's exactly the word I am looking for). When you have the case like TAFF where there are two contenders either of whom I'd be happy to vote for it's easiest not to vote for either! Lest anyone jump to conclusions - I am not trying to say that bitterness is always coming from the person who loses, quite often it's more obvious from the supporters. ..The Order of St Fanthony is, at the moment, in a state of hibernation. Every now and again people say to me "Why doesn't the Order of St Fanthony do something?"-trouble is



they don't suggest what or who should do it....SF circles(not to be confused with stoned circles I presume)and social pyramids..the mind boggles. I'm not being unkind to Mike Moorcock - but the cons he seems to remember with affection were those he attended as an accepted fan and an up-and-coming author...in other words he was near the top of the pyramid. Of course the pyramid was much less high in these days - hence the newestest neo was also much nearer the top.Today not only is the pyramid higher(if you'll allow the analogy to go on)but there are also other pyramids(Dr Who fans, trokkies etc)and even, I suspect pyramids within pyramids! I believe the Novacon has taken the step of limiting future members. A logical move that a lot of people (@s long as they're in the number) might agree with - but any animal that doesn't grow will die..is this really true of organisations?" **Re pyramids..see the following letter!***

Robert Coulson:



"For Sid Birchby - if there is a tendency for SF circles to form pyramids, the result would be a cone, which is undoubtedly where fanzine fans got the idea that con-fans have pointy heads....Frankly, I tend to agree with L. Sprague de Camp that flood legends are universal myths because they're so handy when you want to get the parishioners to fix the leak in the roof. My favorite among bits of the past in English place names is Torpenhow Hill, which I recall someone writing about years ago and mentioning that Tor, Pen, and How are all names in different

languages for "hill". Obviously each new conqueror thought that the previous "hill" designation was part of the place name...We only stayed around the Meet the Celebs party as long as we did because Eric had promised to go find you and drag you up to the table. The music was idiotic at that point. I have no great interest in meeting celebrities, but those who do want to meet them generally want to talk to them and talking was impossible. I was trying to meet some new British fans; not entirely successful. At one point I was in earnest conversation with this fan I'd never met before - and learned he lived in Elkhart, Indiana! There I had flown 3000 miles or so to meet someone who lived 80 miles away!***

Rick Sneary:



"Surprised to see an article by John Boardman again, and very good too. The oral tradition among children is interesting, though I always take it with a lot of salt. It is easy to read something into something that isn't there --- with Von Donakin's pictures of spacemen. As for the Old Beliefs, I am just as much an agnostic of the White Goddess as of the White Christ. It seems likely that there is something there, but I am doubtful that the explanation suggested is the right one. Just this month I received a copy of THE CRYSTAL WELL, which is a neat offset 'fanzine' produced by avowed pagans. It is all serious articles and

light poetry on the Old Beliefs. Nothing occult and no SCA lightness. The world is indeed full....John is right about cattlemen-v-sheepmen. My ex-brother-in-law wouldn't eat lamb,because his family had once been cattlemen...The letter from Bennett ran so smoothly into Moorcock's that I had to read it twice to be sure Ron wasn't living with a bird named Jill...I didn't mean to point the finger just at Mike about why didn't he give open parties, if he liked them so. It was really meant for all those who are critical of changes, they themselves do nothing to prevent. A pro, giving an open party would, of course, have even a worse time these days. Another of those damn shames about the growth of fandom. I read in a military book that a Company of aprox. 100 men is the basic army unit, because that is the largest number one man can easily get to know as individuals. In old Middle fandom, 100 was about all there was...SF Cons have been welcomed by the Mayor! In 1958, the Mayor of South Gate opened the Con!"

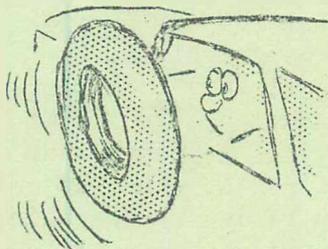
Arthur Thomson:



"Thank you for the fanzines..all those British fanzines and all those fans living in and around London, though very few names I recognised. And a funny thing (have you noticed?) that nothing seems to have happened before 1969 (aprox) in this British fandom. It's as if there is no background or tradition before then; the majority of those writing came into fandom from then. It's like it all sprang full-grown all of a sudden without any history. Strange. Us fifties fans were brought up on the happenings of fandom before then - Quandry - Le Zombie - Tucker, Burbee, Laney, Bill Temple, Mike Rosenblum, they, and all the

fannish esoterica - "who sawed Courtney's boat" and "Yngvi was a louse" - formed part and parcel of the enjoyment of fandom as a whole - not just what was happening that particular year 195-. It all formed a background to build enjoyment of fandom upon. Ah well. It must be strange for people like Bob Shaw and such who are still 'into' fandom as he is today, to have all this fannish background knowledge yet only deal with fans whose past only goes back to 1974 etc." ***The fact that new fans nowadays can meet others much more quickly than fans of the fifties could, must be one reason for the change. We were so few that written contact made up a larger portion of our fanac. However, I agree that the disinterest in what went on before is pretty widespread. You have only to visit a few Fan Rooms and see the slight range of photographs on view to realise this. In answer to a plea for photographs for the Fan Room at Seacon I sent my albums to Eve Harvey. She abstracted some (about 4!), forgot to take them to the Seacon, but handed me the albums back. I am still waiting for the photographs to be returned. When I quizzed her about it at the Albacon, she clutched her forehead and said she had left them at home again. Apparently I am not the only one patiently waiting though, I met another fan who complained of the same thing.***

Donald Wollheim:



"I don't know if you noticed but there was a one sentence story on the back of the clipping you sent that read - 'A lorry carrying 20 tons of grapefruit overturned on the A1 near Durham yesterday, blocking the northbound carriage-way.' I read this three times with a growing picture in my mind of dozens of car drivers staring in wide-eyed horror as thousands of yellow grapefruit come rolling down the highway directly at them! Something like that happened to us years ago when we were driving across a bridge in San Francisco. A truck ahead of us, loaded with old car tires, lost its load--and we faced an oncoming rush of dozens of

tires rolling back at us on their own! It was funny and alarming at the same time. At least two brushed our car leaving nasty dirt marks on the side.."

We also heard from and wish to thank...Allan Beatty, Peter Singleton, Donald Malcolm, Betty Peters, John Brunner, David Nash, Bobbie Gray, Fred Jacobic, and Pamela Boal. The fact that I do not quote from your letters is not that I do not enjoy them but that I am looking for bits of general interest. However I should quote Pamela where she says that she "surely never implied that poems must rhyme and I know that I backed your own contention that a poem must say something."

Ethel Lindsay



comments on fanzines received.....

MAINSTREAM: No 3: From: Jerry Kaufman & Suzanne Tompkins, 303 16th Ave. E., No 102, Seattle, WA 98112. 75¢ or trade etc. A sort of gen cum personal zine! Both editors write of their personal experiences, and they have quite a few contributors. I was most interested in Jessica Amanda Salmonson's article on poetry, but would have felt happier had she quoted some samples to back up her opinions.

CHUNDER: No 5: From: John Foyster, GPO Box 4039, Melbourne, V 3001, Australia. 5/£1 or loc. Informative zine, with con reports and zine reviews. Also good letter column I'd give particular mention to Roy Tackett's words on TAFF and how he feels it is essential to get con committees interested. I agree with that alright!

Ayewonder: Nos 1&2: From: Leigh Strother-Vien, 5361 San Vicente Bl, Apt. 137, Los Angeles, Cal. 90019. \$1 or trade etc. A definite genzine with book and zine reviews and even a column with thorough reviews of the SF magazines. I liked all the poetry which is highly unusual for me these days. Artwork is good with the second issue having a Bjo cover. Letter column badly needs pruning but this is nearly always the case with a 2nd issue. The best article is on the Copyright law by Robert Plunkett. There is fiction, but not more dire than usual! Very promising.

The Whole Fanzine Catalog: No 6/7: From: Brian Earl Brown, 16711 Burt Rd., No 207, Mich. 48219. 80¢ or trade. Admirable aim by the editor of reviewing all fanzines - as a matter of interest I counted that he had received 43 in one month. One wonders just what the complete total of fanzines can be! Brian has a rating system which proves he is brave as well as thorough. He continues a useful article on postal rates for fanzines. Very worthwhile this one.

WILDO: No 4: From: Eric Bentcliffe, 17 Riverside Cres. Holmes Chapel, Ches. CW4 7NR. Pleasant personalzine chiefly notable for early fan days memories from Eric and a short highly amusing account by John Berry of a finger-printing episode. Judging by the letter column others are enjoying Eric's return to publishing.

CIDEREAL TIMES: No 7: From: Allen James Boyd-Newton, The Gatehouse, Combe Florey, via Taunton, Somerset. £1.80 for 6. Published on behalf of the Cidereal SF Society. Trade etc. I found the most interesting part a short piece by Graham Ashley CRITICISING THE CRITICS in which in which he points out that a lot of sf criticism is written in wordy language that is mistaken for intelligent criticism, he gives some very good examples of this. My favourite is "The saturation of mathematical imagery cleverly outweighs the brief spark of entropy, giving the latter instances a savage beauty and a real attraction". I was in wholehearted agreement with his view that here the critic is making himself more important than the work he is discussing. Apart from book reviews the remainder is taken up with fan fiction about club members which I found only marginally interesting.

THE FRIENDS OF KILGOUR TROUT MAGAZINE: No 4: From: Sandy Brown, 18 Gordon Terr. Blantyre Scotland. 30p or trade etc. Clubzine--they meet every Thursday evening at the Lounge of Wintersgill's Bar in Great Western Rd. Glasgow. Bill Carlin explores the possibility of sf producing a future 'crime' novel to equal the work of Dostoyevsky, 'mystery fiction' being my other interest, I certainly wish someone would. A non-con report from James White is a welcome sight although I see he has not lost his love of puns. More well-rounded than most club zines.

LA CLEF BAROQUE, 9 Rue Raymond Ducourneau, 33110 Le Bouscat, FRANCE. A fanzine that looks very fascinating which, alas, I cannot read except to know they want trades.

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JANUS: No 14: From: Janice Bogstad & Jeanne Gomoll, c/o SF3, Box 1624, Madison, WI 53701 \$1.50 or to be etc. Janice has a project for interviews with women writing SF and I was instructed to learn that she had a list of 49 names! Although this is a feminist-orientated zine it is not completely so. There is the continuation of an article on cloning by Ctein and the reviews are excellent. So is the production and artwork. There are also really good interviews with Octavia Butler and Joan D. Vinge. Various people provide enlightening vignettes from IQUANIMON. A very civilised zine which on reflection makes me aware that I had forgotten to object to the very crude nude female on the back of THE FRIENDS OF KILGOUR TROUT magazine!

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW: No 30: From: Richard E. Geis, PO Box 11408, Portland, OR. 97211. \$7.50 per year. British readers write to Wm. Dawson & Sons, Cannon House, Folkestone Kent CT19 5EE for current quote (this issue is equivalent of \$8) Formidable array - ALIEN THOUGHTS by Dick is a diary-type column which incorporates letters from a wide circle, including many authors... Foul Anderson defending American medicine for instance. There are three interviews, I found the most enlightening was by Charles Platt on Norman Spinrad. There are literally scads of reviews of books mags and films and their high standard is the main reason for this magazine's popularity, I see it has once again won the HUGO.. deservedly.

THE SPANG BLAH: No 18: From: Jan Howard Finner, PO Box 428, Latham, NY 12110. 75¢ but from issue 20 it will be \$1. Fun first with Dave Langford showing how to write about SF RUBBISH, fun but also crafty. Jack Cohen is also supplying fun with a mock serious approach to Tribbles. Ken Folmer puts an end to this by asking DOES SF EXIST, and pithily answers his own question. However it is Bob Shaw next and I know I will laugh out loud at least once.. and I do. This set out to be a newszine and right enough at the end comes two pages of news.. but more of a fanzine now!

I LIKE TO SNIGGLE: From: Harry J.M. Andruschak, 6933 N. Roesmead No 31, San Gabriel, Cal. 91775. Fanzine. As Harry works at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory under NASA he is able to send out some stunning material. This consists of Mission Status Bulletins on VOYAGER 1 which includes a photograph of Jupiter. Among the goodies that Harry sent to me was a copy of an apa that is yearly collated at the World Con! It has 25 contributors.. some items are pretty scrappy.. but there are two which are describing the in-fighting among the worldcon committee that hold me astounded. And yet, I shouldn't be.. having participated in my time in such shenanigans. Fans and committees really don't mix and the only wonder is that so many successful conventions are arranged without actual bloodshed!

THE MONTHLY MONTHLY: Nos 2-6: From: c/o Robert Runte, 10957 -88 Avenue. Edmonton, Alberta, CANADA T6C 0Y9. 75¢. Published by the Gang of Four. Trades all for all but send 2 your zine. Christine Kulyk writes of her experiences on a con committee and what a worrying experience it can be. There are many different articles like this in each issue, and another good one is by Wiktor Bukato describing SF in Poland. Well produced and really is monthly.

SOLARIS: Nos 30 & 31: From: Norbert Spohner, 1085 St Jean, Longueuil, P.Q. CANADA JH4 2Z3. \$1.50. Handsome production and excellent artwork. In French.

XENIUM: No 12: From: Mike Glicksohn, 141 High Park Avenue, Toronto, CANADA M6P 2S3. No price.. this goes out to you if you are good in some way! An elegant zine and Mike has an urbane style. He gives away goodies too with his zine and this time he has distributed cancelled cheques. Mine is for over \$300.. the boy lives in style I take it. He also proves by providing a one-shot.. that professional authors are no better at being scintillating at this form of fun.. than are amateur fans.

ZELOOK: Nos 3&4: From: Ragnar Fyri, Forlaget Bactrianus, Solliveien 37, N 1370. Asker NORWAY. This is in the form of a diary in which is listed and commented upon the books he has read and the fanzines. Quite interesting but some description of himself would be welcome. I had to really hunt for his name!

SF COMMENTARY: Nos 58&59: From: Bruce Gillespie, GPO Box 5195AA, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, Australia. A \$1/USA \$1.50/ One of the best zines for serious criticism of SF No 58 concentrates on the novel TRITON. No 59 has a long article from Chris Priest attacking the S.M.A. He even blames it for the attitude of authors who expect payment in kind for appearances at Conventions. Of course, an author in any other genre would think this goes without saying, accustomed as they are to payment for giving lectures. I sometimes feel SF fans are unaware of how privileged they are in their relations with the writers. As an example.. most

Mystery writers would be appalled at so much contact with their readers.

ORNITHOPTER:No 6:From:Leigh Edmonds,PO Box 103,Brunswick,Victoria,3056. Some trades, an apazine.Good discussion in the letter column of the merits of fanzine as opposed to club fans. This includes Leigh's relevant remark that the increase in sf media production is bound to bring in more fans "who do not have a literary background". How true!

CEGENSEIN:Nos 11 &13:From Eric B.Lindsay,6 Hillcrest Ave.Faulconbridge.NSW.2776 Australia. Eric has one of those disarming colophons which ends up "I also make lots of mistakes". I wish I'd thought of that when I first started. He also does fanzine reviews so well, I wish he had done more. Lots of discussion in the letter column on the subject of unemployment.This is apt to be an increasing factor in all our lives..so very timely

CHUNDER!:Nos 10-12:From:John Foyster,GPO Box 4039,Melbourne,Victoria.3001. Australia.10 contains 4 different con reports..most descriptive is Leigh's own the most amusing is by John Foyster, the other two haven't got the hang of it yet. This zine has a pleasant editorial personality and in addition gives a good picture of Aussie fandom.s activities.

WAHF-FULL:Nos 2&3:From:Jack R.Herman,7b Kingsbury St.Croydon Park.NSW.2133 Australia.\$3/4. Highly interesting interview with Gordon Dickson on his cycle of novels. I have not read them all..but now I will! No 3 gives a complete run-down of the tv series 1990, even the cast lists. The second portion has a series about Future Wars of a high technical standard.

SPECTRE:No3/4:From:Perry Middlemass,PO Box 98,Rundle St.Adelaide.5000,Australia. Excellent production.Main item is a long interview with Lee Harding; and THE COMPUTER PRIESTHOOD which debunks many statements made by computer people. I most enjoyed Perry writing about the PRINCES IN AMBER books in the enthusiastic way that sets you hunting for the books.

SIKANDER:No 1:From:Irwin Kirsh,279 Domain Rd.Sout Yarra,Victoria.3141.Australia. \$1 or trade. This is a lucky lad, evidently, as he bagged Eric Lindsay, Leigh Edmonds and John Bangsund for his first issue. John Bangsund, as usual won the writing stakes hands down, I chuckled and giggled my way right through the article.

SF ECHO:No 26:From:Edward C.Connor.1805 N.Gale.Peoria.IL 61604.USA.\$1 or trades. Small-sized and very neat.An article on Gene Wolfe is accompanied by a helpful bibliography.Lots of book reviews, most interesting item is a long letter from Philip José Farmer.Lengthy debate in the letter column of the state of the Fan Hugos and the talk of their being abolished. Found that I agreed most with Buck Coulson where he says that nothing in fandom merits the use of the adverb - "henious"!

QUINAPALUS:No 4:From:M.K.Digre,1902 S.4th Ave.Minneapolis.MN 55404.USA.\$1 but trades etc preferred. This, because of its gay artwork, comes looking like the old-time Ted White zines. The mood is light-hearted and is quite successful in its aim.

STARLING:No 37:From:Hank Luttrell,20th Century Books,2619 Monroe St.Madison. WI 53711.USA.\$1.50.This is a fanzine not only about SF but the "whole spectrum of popular art and media". Which it does admirably..covering in this issue.. underground comics, stand-up comics, community radio and TV,Malzburg,and..the most amusing..Beverley DeWeeso writing about..I WAS A TRASHY BOOK LIBRARIAN.

JANUS:No 16:From:Janice Bogstad & Jeanne Gomoll,c/o SF3,Box 1624,Madison.WI 53701.USA.\$2.Extra-good artwork and layout. Jan's editorial gives an excellent picture of the reasons why people bother to put out fanzines as she emphasises the fact that one can start and follow through to the conclusion. Something not often possible in ordinary life. This is a feminist-orientated zine altho it does have other interests. Most fascinating is a lengthy review of the D&W book AMAZONS as I contrasted this with my own reactions. There are also two very worthwhile interviews with Joe Clayton and Chelsea Quinn Yarbo. I would have wished they had asked the latter where she got that name. I was intrigued to learn though that Chelsea(from the place?.from the bun?)has also written mystery stories. Alas..so few get published over here. All in all a very satisfying zine that I highly recommend.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW:Nos 33&34:From:Richard Geis,PO Box 11408,Portland.OR. 97211.\$1.75. This Hugo-winning fanzine is notable for its many book reviews and good articles. Highlight for me was an interview with Donald Wollheim - the first I have seen about this editor in which he gives some views of the behind scenes at DAW books. There is also a profile of Harlan Ellison which

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is written by Charles Platt and in which he gives a good word-picture of not only the author but his fantastic home as well. I miss, however, Dick's own thoughts on the issues of today..more and more reviews gives less and less Geis.

DYNATRON:No 72:From:Roy Tackett,915 Green Valley Rd,NW,Albuquerque,N.M.87107. USA. 50¢. A slim issue but full of meat. Roy himself on the subject of TAFF and Ed Cox with a comical piece of fan fiction. But where is the Trip Report,Roy?

xxx MAINSTREAM:No 4:From:Suzanne Tomkins and Jerry Jauffman,4326 Winslow Place North, This contains a lovely diatribe against an excessive love of cats by Richard LaBante. Then Marilyn J.Holt argues that men have a place in fiction and with tongue firmly in cheek she stands many well-worn arguments on their heads. Suzle has an amusing story of her trip to and from the Season which augers well for the report to follow next issue.

PHOTRON:No 16:From:Allen Beatty,PO Box 1040,Ames,Iowa,USA. 75¢ or trades etc. Small-sized but packing quite a lot in..Allen writing about Pangborn and Swann, readers listing their favourite fantasy novels,Donn Brazier amusing with his idea for fan identification(earmuffs!) plus some good critical articles. Small type allows all this but it is not the eye-searing type!

THE ALPHA CENTURA COMMUNICATOR:No 8:From:The University of New Mexico SF Club, Editor:Harriet McKenney,1609 Roma NE,Albuquerque,N.Mexico.87106.USA.\$4 per year. It appears from this that there is a thriving group now in Aluquerque, and this is a pretty standard clubzine, full of their activities with some fiction to round it out, and some movie reviews. They have a helpful movie house..

THE WHOLE FANZINE CATALOG:No 11/12:From:Brain Earl Brown,16711 Burt Rd,No 207, Detroit,MI.48219.USA.\$1. Mainly a fanzine reviewing zine but also contains articles on fanzine production. I would find this much easier if I understood all the references..however this time they have concentrated on the hecto and this is a method I have never used. The reviews are efficient and detailed and useful.

YANDRO:No 249:From:Robert & Juanita Coulson,Riute 3,Hartford City,IN 47348.USA 75¢/35p.British Agent:Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd.Hoddesdon,Herts. A column by all three Cou'sons this timeso that everything that has been happening is covered nicely, however it is still Dad that gives me a grin. I also gave a few snorts of laughter at Buck's comments on the mail he receives; and enjoyed his robust coverage of the large amount of books he has read. Never get through this without picking up some titles that I must have.I bet I end up with the walls of this flat lined with books! I do like Y, it brightens up my day.

THE CRYSTAL WELL:Vol.13:No 4:From:P.O.Box.3145,Seal Beach,CA 90740.USA.4/8. This is "the Journal of Neoromantic Paganism". It is lovingly produced with a fine coloured cover. There are articles on such matters as THE ETHICS OF SPELL CASTING and How to Build a Pagan Shrine. It has no dealings with Black Magic and seems to be basically a 'return to nature' cult. It certainly is a weird thing..man on the moon and a return of paganism. As usual the adverts are quite fascinating!

P*S*F*Q:No 3/4:Michael Ward,Box 1496,Cupertino,CA 95015.USA.\$3. On the face of it a zine of serious sf discussion; but a note of levity emanates from the editor preventing this from being a deadly serious zine. An article on Don Grant with bibliography, and article on suspense techniques by Chelsea(could it be the football team?) Yarbo, and an interview with C.L.Moore are some of the highlights. The letter column is mainly debating feminist views with the most sensible letter being written by Marta Randall who points out that a book stands on its own irrespective of the author. This zine is very good value.

SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE:Nos 4-7:From Andrew Porter,PO Box 4175,New York,NY 10017.USA.Monthly.1 year \$12.Foreign\$18. News of new publications, publishing plans, reviews of books and films, many fine reproductions of book covers, and letters are the contents in this very efficient newszine.

DE PROFUNDIS:Nos 113-117:From: The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society,11513 Burbank Blvd,N.Hollywood,Cal.91601.USA.Monthly newsletter.\$5 per year.As this lively club is at the centre of a huge quantity of fan and pro activity, the newsletter is well worth having for even such far-flung fans as myself. Imagine! there was a Dr Who convention in California attended by Tom Baker!

HAUT TON:Vol.1.No 0:From:Elayne F.Pelz,15931 Kalisher St.,Granada Hills,CA. 91344.USA. Newsletter of the Friends of the English Regency.\$5 per year. This contains news of the setting up of this body and of a successful convention held in LA. Sounded fun..dancing,costumes and all.

FANTASY ARTISTS NETWORK, POBox 5157, Sherman Oaks, CA, 91413, USA, is an organisation devoted to communication between artists in the field of F and SF. Its aims make it sound useful to any budding artist. The editor of this is Kipy Poyser, 503 S. Sawyer, Olympia, WA 98501, USA who will send a questionnaire to any fanzine editor interested in artwork. I have not returned the questionnaire myself, as if you have ATOM who needs more?

STEFANTASY: No 85: From: William M. Danner, R.D.1, Kennerdell, Pa. 16374. No real price if you get it you have been living right. Should you wish to complain about the way things are these days..this is a good place to write..but you must complain with wit..other wise you will not fit in. More surprising excerpts from THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN of the late 18th and early 19th century.

A WEALTH OF FABLE by Harry Warner. From: Fanhistorica Press, Joe Siclari, Editor, 2201 N.E. 45th St, Lighthouse Point, FL. 33064, USA. Strictly speaking this is not a fanzine but it is duplicated and produced in three volumes. The editor says it is hoped to eventually produce it in hard covers. It has an introduction by Wilson Tucker. This is, of course, the continuation of fannish history from the end of ALL OUR YESTERDAYS, and Harry is now covering the 1950s. A lot happened then and in 233pp there is not much that Harry has not reported upon from individual fans to world conventions. It really is an awesome feat and I doubt if it could have been done so methodically by anyone other than a practising newspaperman whose profession has taught him how to compress without losing the meat. I can vouch for the correctness of all the bits that I know of personally. I found it both entertaining and informative and cannot recommend it too highly. This is time-binding alright!

DAGON: Nos 217-222: From: John Boardman, 234 E. 19th St, New York, NY. 11226, USA. An apazine. This is mostly full of whatever is interesting John at the time..as his interests are wide this makes for good reading. Was particularly tickled by his reports on reactions to the film THE LIFE OF BRIAN. TIME MACHINE Nos 22-23 is also from John and mainly features an article about the pulps.

SECOND HAND WAVE: No 42: From: Alan Ferguson & Trev Briggs, 26 Hocrodt Court, Hoe Lane, Enfield, Middsx. For trades etc. The editors are determined to be funny and sometimes hit their target. Of course different people think different things funny--the theory that the development of the limerick has mirrored that of SF made me laugh once I realised the direction this theory took. A different tack and, I think, a more serious one is the comparison of King Ludwig 11 with Walt Disney. At anyrate I enjoyed the accompanying photos of the King's palaces. An odd one, so welcome for that.

FLEDGELING: No ?*: From: Andy Firth, 185 Osborne Rd, Jesmond, Newcastle on Tyne, NE2 3JT. Andy says this was written for a laugh but to be honest I found most of it incomprehensible. For instance there is a piece of fiction whose first character is called the Dwarf. Now that is OK if you know which fan has that nickname..but if you do not..well how can you guess? British fan humour being what it is it may refer to the tallest man in Britain.

ANSIBLE: Nos 4, 5, 6, 8: From Dave Langford, 22 Northumberland Ave, Reading, Berks. RG2 7PW. 4/60p. Dave introduced this after Peter Roberts discontinued CHECK-POINT. I think the style is a bit more breezy than Peter's but the news coverage is as competent. I read with awe about the hoax on Chris Priest..my how did anyone dare! Also Chris's plea for ideas for revenge, but as he does not disclose the name of the hoaxer I feel hampered. Not that this hampered Bob Shaw who retailed a chilling idea in the following issue. Well, this zine is a must alright.

WALF: No 4: From: Tom A. Jones, 39 Ripplesmers, Bracknell, Berks. RG12 3QA. This one starts off.. "I am very interested in communication" and then you have to go through to the back page to find out who the "I" is exactly. However..it is all deliberate, he is experimenting with communication, and has tried to produce something different. Well, everyone can do what they like with their own zine (a that I hold strongly) but I do like knowing who is talking to me.

CHIMERA: No 1: From: Ian Williams, 6 Greta Terr, Chester Rd, Sunderland, SR4 7RD. Aha, thought I..here is a Seacon report! However it turned out to be only vignettes..nice ones to be sure, but very short. Then Ian lists books he has liked and, more interesting because of the comments, books that he had disliked. After that he finishes off with one of those rallying cries to British faneds to get out of the rut and do something different. Doesn't say why..but it is a call that goes out at predictable intervals.

SMALL FRIENDLY DOG:No 17:From:Skel and Cas,25 Bowland Close,Offerton,Stockport,Cheshire, SK2 5NW. A personal-zine of the better type by which I mean that the editor can write well, and hold the interest over a wide range of subjects. He also has a nice way of dealing with the letters and incorporating them in his diary-style zine. Very enjoyable and it even contains a Season report, in which he makes sensible remarks about the HUGO ceremony.

WALDO:No 5:From:Eric Bentcliffe,17 Riverside Cres,Holmes Chapel,Cheshire.CW4 7NR.Available by whim. This has the first coherent Season report I've seen which can make the scene fairly clear to those who could not attend. In the beginning..this was the object of convention reports! Next comes John Berry's account of his way of dealing with cats..such a nice change from the usual gooeey accounts...and it is nice to see him back. Leisurely pleasant reading.

CIDEREAL TIMES:No 80:From:Allen Boyd-Newton,c/o 42 Church Lane,Bicknoller,via Taunton,Somerset,20p. Published on behalf of the Cidereal SF Society which is part of the Student body of Manchester University. A letter enclosed clears up for me the meaning of UMIST..University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology! There is an interview with Brian Stableford, and article on WHY DO YOU READ SF? Another article is about Jet Morgan. Rather bland as most clubzines tend to be.

GROK:No 8:From:Neil Richards,c/o UMIST SF & Fantasy Society,Students' Union, PO Box 88,Sackville St.Manchester.M60 1QD.5p to members, cost price to others but it does not say how much this is. The editor says this is not a fanzine the aim is to serve the needs of the members and he defends his right to publish fiction. There is, apart from the fiction, club news, book reviews, and a science article. Typical of the fiction is NIGHTMARE MAN which was done much better by Ellison in I HAVE NO MOUTH AND I MUST SCREAM. Not a favourite of mine in the first place as I am not a devotee of horror fiction.

GANNETSCRAPBOOK:No 7:From:Andy Firth,185 Osborne Rd.,Jesmond,Newcastle upon Tyne Ian Williams gives a very good report of what it was like to run the Fan Room at Leeds last year.This does seem to be becoming a more onerous job as programmes as well as displays are expected. I have to apologise to Ian for calling him by the wrong surname in my report on that event. Years ago I did this to Mal Ashworth and he sued me..I always meant to re-print the ASHWORTH VERSUS LINDSAY trial but never got around to it. I enjoyed Kev Williams write-up of his holiday in Eire, a very good descriptive piece. The Gannets are always entertaining.

LES SPINCE:No 36:From:Darroll Pardoe,38 Sandown Lane,Liverpool,L15 4HU.It says.."Availability: if you have to ask, it probably isn't".This has a good photo cover. There is a horrifying report from Pam Boal on going to the Season in a wheel-chair. Thinking of the stairs that confronted everyone, my heart bled for her. This is something that con committees will have to take into account as she was not the only one there in a chair. Remainder is a letter column in which the subject of feminism in British fandom is discussed. The most rational and unheated remarks also come from Pam Boal!

FEETNOTES:No 5:From:Peter Pinto,42 Breakspears Rd.London.SE4 1UL. This continues the woeful tale of his time in the publishing world but with less detail - probably due to our laws of libel. His Season report is not very good beyond conveying the sense of crowds of people. A Tolkien article requires more knowledge of the books than I possess. This ends with a jolly good piece of advice about motorway driving.

SMALL FRIENDLY DOG:No 18From:Skel & Cas, address as before.Again, a very welcome personalzine, exceedingly well done. Skel had borrowed my copy of THE LINDSAY REPORT and promised his review in this zine. However, his comments are rather equivocal; I gather he enjoyed it even if I hadn't used "the current trend of brutal honesty". So that I feel he really doesn't believe that I liked everyone I met in America, when in fact I did. Then too, I had been in touch with so many of them beforehand and have remained friends with so many of them since. I have little sympathy with the whiffs of anti-Americanism that I detect now and then in British fandom. Not, I hasten to add, that I have detected any such from Skel who appears to take a urbane view of life.

ERG:No 69&70:From:Terry Jeeves,230 Bannerdale Rd.,Sheffield.S11 9FE.£1 for 3. With No 70, I must congratulate Terry on his 21st anniversary, this comes with the 70th issue which has a grand coloured cover plus a celebratory button! I add the botton to my collection. I have a hankering to attend a costume'do'

wearing all the buttons I've collected over the years. The title could be - "an old fan, and tired.."but who would remember who wrote this and where apart from Ted and I? Other congratulations to Terry are on his retirement..join the club! This zine combines serious science articles, good book reviews and a lively letter column. The editorial personality is strong, Terry enjoys putting his zine out which is what has kept it going so long.

SF HORIZONS:No 1:From:Keith Walker, 2 Daisy Bank, Quernmore Rd,Lancaster,Lancs LA1 3JW,Production here has improved a little. Book and zine reviews by a variety of people,Some evidence of haste towards the end.

OUT OF THE BLUE:From Harry Bell and Kevin Williams,9 Lincoln St.Gateshead,Tyne & Wear. Kev is entertaining on his days as an Altar Boy and in fact the whole zine is entertaining in an unhurried way. Other contributors are Arnie Katz,Mike Glicksohn and Ian Williams who fit in well with the atmosphere of humour.

DRILKJIS:No 5:From:Dave Langford, 22 Northumberland Ave,Reading,Berks.RG2 7FW and Kevin Smith,10 Cleves Court,St Marks Hill,Surbiton,Surrey.KT6 4PS. 50p or trade etc. A Jacqueline Lichtenberg book gets chewed up first, haven't read it but if the description is correct, it deserves it. The GOH speech by Chris Priest mentions the fact that there are 12 pb publishers of sf in Britain, this was Nov 79..and we have just heard that Penguin are dropping their list. Joseph Nicholls' column FROM THE UNDERWORLD is where he gives his opinions as if they were the Word of God..such confidence is quite sublime! Peter Nicholls' SEACON impressions gave me quite a giggle or two. I shall treasure his report of Mal Edwards ordering "ham sandwiches" for some time. A model zine..

PROGRAM BOOKLET from the 1979 Wellington,New Zealand con has a good introduction to new fans of the phenomena of fandom.Now a con report, Mervyn?

THE SPANG BLAH:No 20:From:Jan Howard FINDER,PO Box 428,Latham,NY 12110.25¢. This has extra nice artwork. This zine started as a news zine but has evolved into a genzine with practically no news. Articles are from Bob Shaw,John J. Alderson, M.Z.Bradley etc..and show the editor's world-wide contacts.

OPAL:No 3:From:Keith Curtis,BoxJ,175,Brickfield Hill,NSW 2000, Australia. Very neat, very slim, mostly reviews.

GROGGY STORIES:No 9:From:Eric Mayer & Kathy Malone,654 Boulevard East,Weehawken, NJ,07087.For locs only.There is a fascinating story by Eric about trouble with a neighbour - seems a sort of a personalzine-but I don't know enough about them to fill in the spaces.

MAD SCIENTIST'S DIGEST:No 7:From:Brian Earl Brown,16711 Burt Rd,No 207,Detroit, MI 48219. Quite a few goodies..Eric's thoughts on turning 30..discussion of focal point fanzines and the merits of being married. Good reading.

TAFF-DHU:From:Jim Barker and Dave Langford,22 Northumberland Ave,Reading,Berks RG2 7FW.60p.Sold in aid of TAFF.The production and artwork are very impressive This shows a nice spirit between the candidates who are both nominated for TAFF. The writing too, by both is superlative..I voted for Dave, but indeed they both prove here they are more than worthy to win.

INTERCOM:No 5:From:Marciano Giuseppe,Via Starrabba,22-90126,Vilagrazia,(Pa) Italy. In Italian. Trades wanted.

FANTAST MEDWAY,Ken Slater,39 West St.Wisbech,Ca,bs.PE 13,2LX. Frequent catalogues sent out from this,Britain's foremost SF dealer, the coverage of SF is large and Ken usually has a news column that is up-to-date.

FANTASY CENTRE, Dave Gibson and Tod Ball,157 Holloway Rd.London N7 8LX.Also send out frequent catalogues. Large range.

FERRET FANTASY LTD, George Locke,27 Beechcroft Rd,Upper Tooting,London SW17. SF catalogues, but he also covers fantasy and detective fiction. Many rare items. There is news too, in the latest issue of the publication of A SPECTRUM OF FANTASY:The Bibliography and Biography of a Collection of Fantastic Literature This covers more than 3100 books price £36.

SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE:No 8:From Andrew Porter, address as before.Monthly schedule well maintained.This latest issue features the Nebula nominations and all other up-to-date news.

HINDMOST:No 1From:Jon Wallace,21 Charleston St.Dundee,DD2 4RG.Organ of the 42 Dundee SF Society.Best for its retrospect reviews, the rest is fiction. News of the club members would be welcome! Nice to see a club so near my home.. I must get in contact..Real Soon Now.



hatterings

Ethel Lindsay

Attending this year's Easter Convention meant a return for me to where I first encountered fandom. I arrived in Glasgow on the Thursday and soon went looking for the place where I had lived for eight years. It was a short walk uphill from the Albany Hotel (I had forgotten about all those steep climbs in the centre of Glasgow) to the Ophthalmic Institution in West Regent Street. I was surprised to find it still in use; but only as an Out-Patient and Casualty unit. All the in-patients are now housed in a new unit on the outskirts of Glasgow. I looked up at the window on the top floor where I had lived, and reflected that it had only been apathy that had kept me there as Night Sister for so long. In fact I might never have moved if I had not bought a copy of NEBULA and read Walt Willis's article about fandom. That was the first step on my road into fandom and to a very, very, happy life.

In that room I first clanked a hand-propelled duplicator (and nearly died of fright at the sound it made) and produced the first copies of SCOTTISHE, and for over 20 years now I have continued to do so. I am happy to say, however, that latterly it has been with an electric Gestetner. It has always been interesting, highly rewarding, and one of the best hobbies that anyone could have. For that I thank NEBULA, Walt, and fandom, in that order!

Next year I shall be at the official retiring age of women and can get my hands on the State Retirement Pension. So I have been thinking that SCOT should retire too. Tentatively broaching this idea to friends at the Convention I first encountered resistance. My demur was - "For so long it has been a pleasurable hobby, but now it is beginning to be a chore", and at that reply everyone agreed that this was a good reason to stop.

So next year, 1981, will see the last two issues of this fanzine. Any left-over subscriptions will be refunded.

I enjoyed the convention the main reason for this being, as usual, the chance to talk with my friends. The hotel was comfortable and I was very enthusiastic about the food served in the Carvery. I was also highly awed by the amount of food some male friends of mine can stow away when the supply is unlimited!

Because the pre-con paperwork organisation had been poor, I was pleased to find that the actual programme was well planned and, as far as I know, went off well. An alternate programme is a good idea now that the numbers are rising so much. As to its quality over all I really cannot speak having missed so much of it. I did attend the WHITHER EASTERCONS? panel where the problems of future cons was discussed. As always the hub of the problem lies with finding a hotel that is suitable and at the same time trying to keep the costs for attendees down. There is also the necessity of safeguarding future con committees from the growing financial worry. I think fandom can be proud of the fact that year after year volunteers come forward to take up an increasingly onerous task. I also attended the Bidding Session where a spoof bid from Edinburgh made us all laugh and the genuine one from Leeds was thankfully voted upon.

I might see more of the programmes if I did not spend so much time mooning about the book-room. As usual it was full of large temptations head of the list being a Darkover Concordance and a Darkover game both of which my pocketbook had to resist. But I did go all silly and buy an Avon button.

Another panel that I attended was called WHO NEEDS WOMEN? This was enlivened for me by Peggy White who is every bit as witty a speaker as her husband, who for once was in the audience listening to his wife instead of it being the other way round. The GOM Colin Kapp, very bravely gave his views on the role of the "little woman". At the end Peggy asked Colin to stand alongside her, looking down from her height she asked him, "What was that about the 'little woman' and

sent us all off laughing, Colin too. An enjoyable piece of fun.

Then there was a panel on fanzines. I got there too late to hear much more than the ending; and I cannot recall all the panellists, being sure of only Rob Jackson and Joseph Nicholls. I am sorry I did not come in at the beginning of this as it appeared as if the subject had been treated with great solemnity. I gathered that the criticism had been at times scathing. The ability to be intellectutally superior to someone's poor old crudzine can be enjoyable to judge by the expression on the face of one of the pannelists—but to me that is a very weird way to find enjoyment in fandom.

This is something I feel very strongly about - fanzines take time, money, energy, and a kind of love, and no matter how poor the end result they never merit complete derision. No fan has the right to tell any other fan that he should not publish. Of course anyone is free to tell a faneditor they do not wish to receive his fanzine. Years ago I received that request from Brian Aldiss in a politely-framed letter; and I cannot recall feeling more than very marginally miffed.

The discontinuation of SCOT next year will, I sadly believe, see the cessation of the flow of fanzines into my home. I willbadly miss them but certainly could not afford to buy them. They are an absolutely fascinating phenomena giving to the editors the complete freedom to write and produce whatever they wish. The criticism can be ignored for here in fandom you really can do your own thing!

Am I arguing for a complete lack of criticism? Certainly not - there are various types of criticism after all. There is the best, which is constructively analytical and enlightening and which, I feel, ought to be reserved for the works of art that really merit the treatment. There is the instructive which briefly tells you of content and style and which is helpful to the buyer; this type can be embellished if the critic has a sense of humour. There is the helpful type of criticism which points out ways to improvement in as kind a way as possible - here the danger is to sound patronising! Then there is the purely destructive criticism meant to hurt and in this it usually succeeds. Fanzines, I think, need a combination of the middle two - to use the first is absurd and to use the last is too self-satisfying.

Some of you kindly wanted to know how Life in Carnoustie progressed. I have settled into some sort of a routine; but finding a routine with no 'daur' behind it is very difficult. I am within sight of seeing the garden look tidy for I had taken Brion Varley's advice to get rid of the long piece of grass that did not resemble a lawn! Our ground here is practically pure sand and this makes for very coarse grass. I have had it all dug up and encircled with green plastic edging. It is covered with a large sheet of plastic and awaiting the delivery of a pile of pebbles to cover this..delivery promised tomorrow. The sheet of plastic is to prevent weeds coming through the pebbles, the men who fixed it for me have it kept in place by bricks. Surveing this, my brother informed me that Carnoustie must be wondering about this queer woman who is growing bricks! When the load of pebbles arrives, the men will then cut out two small flower-beds so that I may grow some flowers, and around the border I plan to set bushes. I have also started a rockery, and everywhere I go I pinch stones for this. Some heather is already cheerfully growing in this.

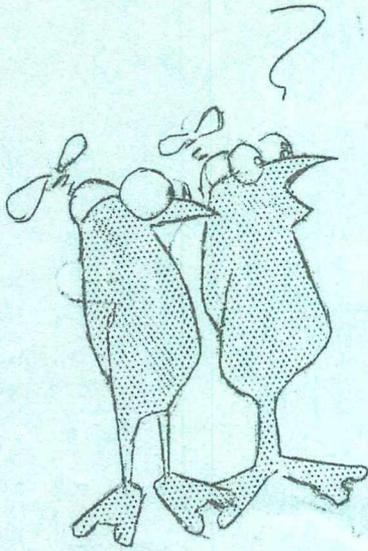
I had a part-time job for two months. This was a Blood Pressure Clinic which was organised by the Medical Research Council. Everyone in the district between the ages of 35 and 62 were invited to come along and have their blood pressure taken. The research aim was to discover people in this age group who had a slight rise in pressure—and to see if they would benefit by treatment or not. It will be five years before the result of this can be seen but in the long run it might make a difference to the figures of people with coronaries.

It certainly was a very good way to get to know the population of Carnoustie and I was continually being suprised by meeting again people I had know in my school and teen days. A span of twenty years certainly makes a difference in us all! We processed over 2,000 people. Of that, only two women refused to give their correct age. I was often amused when I put this question to see someone turn to either the wife or husband and say.. "Oh, goodness, what is my age again?". As a matter of interesting statistics ..more husbands asked this of their wives, than the other way round. At the end of all this came a most welcome cheque..hence the garden work!

Oh, life is very good, thank you, in Carnoustie.

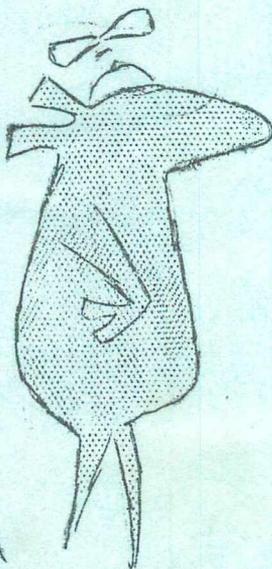
Ethel.

"Look, it's the famous
JIM BARKER, DRAWING
HIS FAMOUS 'JIM BARKER FOR
TAFF' CARTOON!"



ATOM

"IT'S FROM SKEL' N' CAS', THEIR NEW FANZINE IS GOING TO
BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT AND INNOVATIVE.....
THEY'VE FOUND A NEW FOUR LETTER WORD TO USE ALL
THE TIME INSTEAD OF F...."



ATOM

Reduced
Rate

Sam

Howard Finder

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Katham.

New York

12110

USA

