

AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS

Volume 3 Number 6

Sep./Oct. '81



SNOW QUEEN Wins Hugo

THE 1981 HUGO AWARDS were presented at DENVENTION, 39th World Science Fiction Convention, held in Denver, Colorado, on the Sunday evening of the 6th of September. The BEST NOVEL AWARD went to THE SNOW QUEEN by Joan Vinge. (Dial and Dell USA and Sidgwick & Jackson and Futura U.K.). Gordon R. Dickson won both THE BEST NOVELLA and THE NOVELETTE Awards with "Lost Dorsai" (Destinies February /March '80) and "The Cloak and the Staff" (Analog - August '80). Co-Guest of Honor at the World Con with C.L. Moore, Clifford D. Simak, won the BEST SHORT STORY Award with "Grotto of the Dancing Deer" (Analog - April '80).

THE BEST NON-FICTION Award went to Carl Sagan's "Cosmos", the book based on his TV series. THE BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR Award went to Edward L. Ferman, editor of The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction. Michael Whelan won the BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST. BEST FANZINE was again won by Locus. BEST FAN ARTIST AWARD went to Victoria Poyser. The late Susan Wood was voted the BEST FAN WRITER Award. "The Empire Strikes Back" won the BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION Award. The multi-talented Somtow Sucharitkul was the recipient of the JOHN W. CAMPBELL Award for Best New Writer.



JOAN VINGE
Photo Jay K. Klein

Baltimore To Hold 1983 - Melbourne Bids For 1985

BALTIMORE won the bid to hold the 1983 World SF Convention. Australia put up a very good show, but not good enough against the very strong bid by the Baltimore fans. The voting was 916 for Baltimore, 523 Australia, 188 for Scandinavia, 37 no preference, 12 write-ins and 3 none of the above. About 50% voted by mail and 50% at the convention.

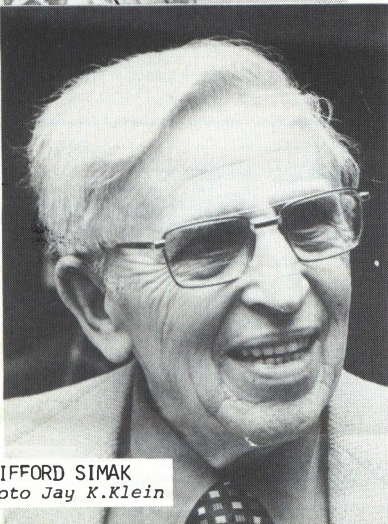
The situation with World cons at the moment has CHICAGO as the host city for 1982, BALTIMORE in 1983, LOS ANGELES facing a bid from Britain for 1984 and a bid from AUSTRALIA or MELBOURNE to be specific for 1985, against Breckenridge, Colorado and a number of others we hear, who did not bother to advertise in the Denvention Booklet, but they must be taken seriously. Thanks to the work of the A'83 committee and our many friends, we have made a lasting impression. To strengthen this friendship and show how desperately we want another World Con in Australia we need to work very hard. It is obvious that if Britain wins '84 it will be a little harder for us to win '85, as the World Con has never been held outside the U.S.A. two years running.

Over 4000 people attended the 39th World Convention in Denver, Colorado from September 3rd to the 7th. About 14 Australians attended and Carey Handfield who was one of them, reports that the con was a good one and much better than a lot of fans feared. However reports from other sources have been conflicting in that there were problems, such as

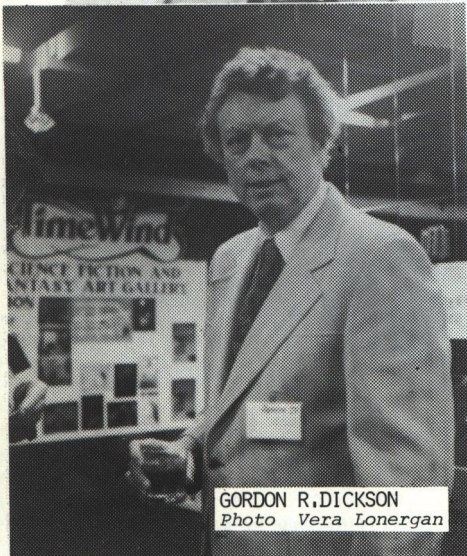
getting around to the various venues. One professional correspondent reports that it was a waste of money for her and other editorial friends.

Carey Handfield reported that he spent all of his time working and helping run the A'83 bid. He said the bus shuttle system worked well and got people to the con, but the hucksters reported that sales were down. (This could be because people had less time to browse.) Carey goes on to say that one of the main highlights of Denvention was the screening together for the first time of STAR WARS and THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK. He got to see one programme item, GONAD THE BARBARIAN, which was presented by Duck's Breath Mystery Theatre from San Francisco. It was excellent. The film programme ran 16 hours. There was a special display from the film DARK CRYSTAL and Gary Kurtz was flown in by film promoters as a special guest for the con. While there were some excellent items, the standard in the art show and masquerade were down.

Australia in '83 was very active at the con running tables, bidding parties and showing the films. While we lost the '83 bid we have a lot of support and a much better chance for '85. Australians attending Denver included Carey, Sally Beasley, John McDouall, Ian Nicholls, Marc Ortlieb, Alex Wasiliew, Pauline Dickinson, Shayne McCormack, Ron Serduick, Harry and Val Rogers, their two children plus two of their friends. Our thanks to Carey for those details and a further report, from Val Rogers will be found inside.



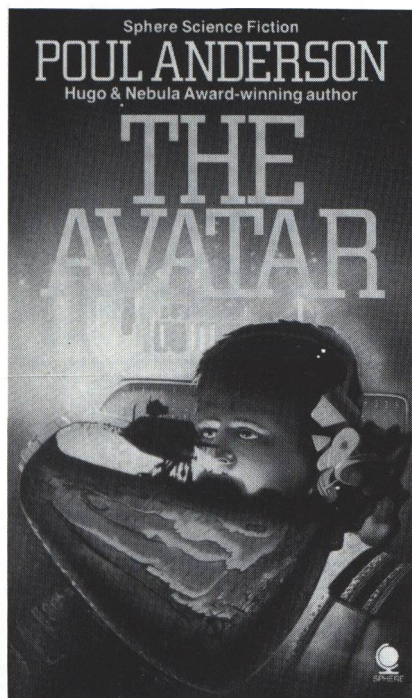
CLIFFORD SIMAK
Photo Jay K. Klein



GORDON R. DICKSON
Photo Vera Lonergan



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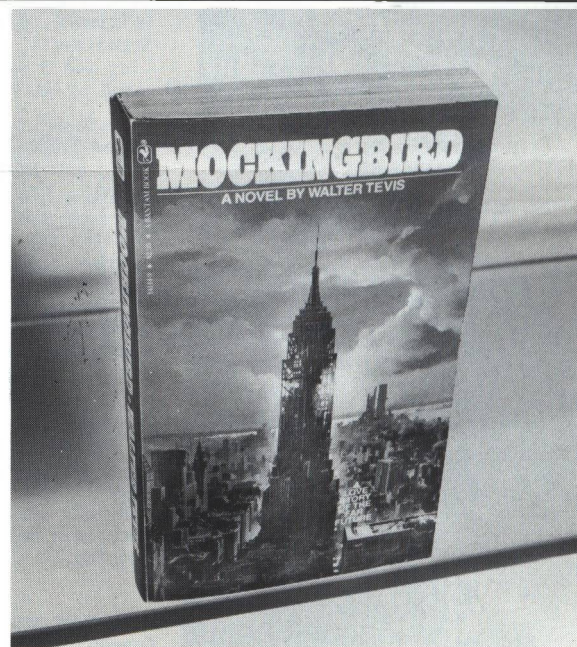
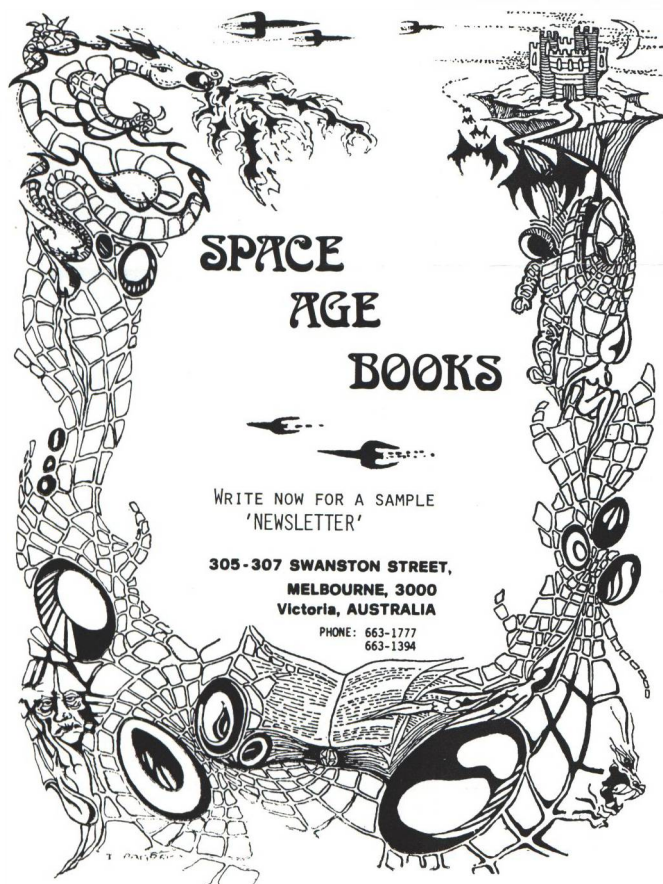
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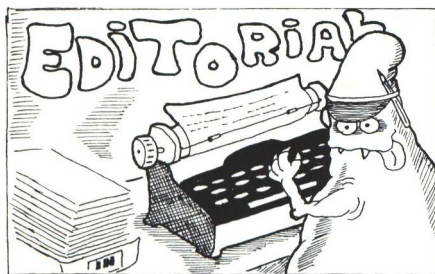
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Well, that is that! Australia has lost the bid to hold the 1983 World Con, but all the time and effort that went into it certainly has not been wasted. I get the impression that most of the A'83 committee have run out of steam and do not have the enthusiasm to make a new bid for '85, but their work and the efforts of other people, both here and in the USA, has laid the groundwork for a successful bid for 1985. I do feel disappointed that Sydney apparently will not be the site for a 1985 Australian World Convention, but the ball is now in the court of the Melbourne fans and it seems obvious that Melbourne will be the site for a successful bid.

No doubt some of my readers are sick of the sight of Australia in '83 and now you are going to have to put up with a lot of publicity for Melbourne in '85. I would have thought that one World Con in fifty years would have been enough, let alone two in ten years, but some people are suckers for punishment. ASFN most certainly supports the bid for Melbourne in '85 and we hope that all our readers will also. A lot of people want another world con in Australia and we have built up a very strong and friendly relationship with fans in the USA and Britain also for that matter, so let us not waste all the effort that has been spent. Let's get behind the A'85 committee and give them a lot more support than the A'83 committee got. '85 is in the bag if everybody does their bit. I personally would like to see a lot more Australians attending the World Con in Chicago next year and certainly more than the relatively small showing this year. As our own Bert Chandler will be the Guest of Honour at Chicago, it will be particularly appropriate if we have a contingent of say 25 or more people attending from Australia. Ok, so it costs a lot, but it also costs a lot for people to come here from overseas, so if you want the World Con here you can best encourage people to vote for us and to attend, if you go to Chicago or Baltimore or Los Angeles or Britain and show the fans there that you are really serious about wanting the World Con in Melbourne in '85. Start saving now. Robin Johnson, whom you can reach at Box A491, Sydney South, NSW, will be happy to give you details on current costs and tour suggestions.

Amongst the letters that I have received since the last issue was one from Roger Weddall, who was one of the organisers of the 1978 National Australian SF convention. He complained about my comments in the last issue's editorial regarding the intention of Melbourne fans to bid for the world con in 1985, in the event of Australia not winning the bid for 1983. By mentioning this he said that I had sabotaged the chances of the A'83 bid.

In answer to Roger I can only say that as far as I was concerned, at that stage the bid had already been lost. Baltimore had been pushing this idea of Australia bidding again in '85 for quite a while and the idea no doubt had a strong influence on the voting. I am quite sure the intention of Melbourne to bid for '85 was well known in the U.S.A long before copies of ASFN even got over there. As for Roger's comment that by mentioning a so called division in fandom in Australia, I was giving Australian fandom bad publicity, I can only remind him of the irreparable damage that his '78 Con committee have done to our image, with their very poor handling of the DITMAR AWARDS. I am interested to know if anybody agrees with Roger's criticism, but I sincerely believe that my comments had little or no influence on the outcome of the '83 World Con bidding. The determination of Baltimore to win and the the mediocre publicity presented by Australia, due I must point out partly to a limited budget, were the deciding factors in the end.

The response to my request to readers to write in and tell me what they liked or disliked in ASFN and what I should drop or continue, was quite disappointing, but I sincerely thank the few people who did take the trouble to write and those who have offered their assistance. (See the letter column in this issue.) This issue is out a few weeks later than I would have liked it to be, simply because I have been too busy with Space Age to put in any time on ASFN. However I do want to continue producing ASFN and I have decided to do just that. It was originally intended to help with the publicity for A'83 and I hope that it can continue to publicise and promote Australian sf in all its aspects. The emphasis will be changed on some sections and the size will be limited, both to save time and cost. I will endeavour to cover all the important news about new books, but the amount of information given will be curtailed. I still hope

to produce the proposed F&SF Checklist and with a bit of luck, the first issue will be out just before or just after Christmas.

Merv Binns

AUSTRALIAN PROFESSIONAL NEWS

GEORGE TURNER'S second sf novel VANEGLORY is to be published by Faber in the U.K. in October as previously announced and his third sf novel, YESTERDAY'S MEN in May next year also by Faber in the U.K. VANEGLORY will not be available in Australia till sometime early in 1982, but special advance copies may be made available for review, as it will be eligible for the DITMAR. / A. BERTRAM CHANDLER'S THE RIM OF SPACE has been received in both Allison and Busby bound and Sphere paperback. WHEN THE DREAM DIES is also due. The latest title in the "Rim World" series is published by DAW in October, THE ANARCH LORDS. This is another title eligible for DITMAR nomination, but should not be hard to obtain from the specialist bookshops. THE WAY BACK was reprinted by DAW in October also. / Another possible nomination is KEITH TAYLOR'S sfs novel BARD due for November publication by ACE and it will be available in Australia by January. Keith also had an article in the War Games magazine SORCERER'S APPRENTICE, "Farmers, Chieftains, Bards and Pirates". / BRING BACK YESTERDAY by A. BERTRAM CHANDLER is due to be published by Allison and Busby and we expect also by Sphere. / BEHIND THE WIND is the new title in PATRICIA WRIGHTSON'S aboriginal mythology fantasy series, commencing with THE ICE IS COMING and the whole series is being published Del Rey in the U.S.A. BEHIND THE WIND, now on sale, is another title eligible for DITMAR nomination. / GEORGE TURNER has sold a novella to TERRY CARR for his UNIVERSE 12 anthology, called PURSUIT OF MIRACLES.

AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS

ISSN 0155-8870 is edited and published by Mervyn R. Binns under the sponsorship of The AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION.

ASFN is registered for posting under Australia Post regulations category 'B'. The address for all correspondence is 305/307 Swanston Street, Melbourne, 3000, Victoria, AUSTRALIA.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$6.00 Australian for 6 issues, surface mail. \$10.00 Airmail. Please make all payments payable to the editor, Mervyn R. Binns. Our American agent is LOCUS, Box 3938, San Francisco, CA 94119. Please send all payments in the U.S.A. to LOCUS: \$6.85 US surface mail and \$11.45 US airmail. Our British agent is GERALD BISHOP, 2 Cowper Road, Cambridge, CB1 3SN, England. : 3.75 pounds surface and 6.20 pounds airmail.

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An Interview with LARRY NIVEN

FEEDBACK DO YOU GET FROM YOUR READERS ON THIS HARD CORE SCIENCE ASPECT OF YOUR WRITING?

L.N.: I get enormous feedback from readers, and most of it involves either the scientific basis, or the internal logic, of my stories. I have stacks of letters about the Ringworld, and I used them, too. For details see the Dedication in THE RINGWORLD ENGINEERS. Computer programmers have created elaborate programs to define "Niven orbits": close approaches around a point-mass. A month ago one Sheridan Simon of the Guilford College Physics Department sent me proof that (a) the launching lasers used to move the Crazy Eddie Probe aren't powerful enough; (b) the Ringworld can't stand up to a determined attack. (I think he underestimates the fuel expenditure for a spacecraft that's trying to dodge during a near-lightspeed attack). I have on hand Dr. Robert Forward's analysis of a gas torus around a neutron star, for use in my next novel, THE SMOKE RING; but then, I asked him for that. Most of these things come unsolicited.

They comment on the fantasies too. It seems that everyone who reads THE MAGIC GOES AWAY tumbles to the implication that the magic will work just fine in outer space, as the mana hasn't been used up; and they all want to tell me about it.

Others send me photocopies of interesting articles. Any medical discovery that might involve the organ bank problem (as outlined in the Gil the ARM stories) is made known to me at once. Two different friends sent me MASSIVE ROTATING CYLINDERS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF GLOBAL CAUSALITY VIOLATION, a paper by mathematician James Tipler, giving specs for a time machine. I stole that title for a short story. (Catchy title, eh?) Tipler spotted it. He sent me a paper which I am not bright enough to understand, proving that if you had a time machine, it would cause naked singularities.

It's not always true, though. There are those who comment on the story-telling aspect of my stories. I enjoy shop talk of both varieties.

ASFN: I KNOW YOU ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE EXPLORATION OF SPACE. WHAT IS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE USA AND THE WORLD IN GENERAL RELATING TO SPACE EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT? IS THE SPACE SHUTTLE THE BREAKTHROUGH WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR AND IS THERE ANY SIGN OF A SWING POLITICALLY, PUBLICLY OR IN ANY WAY TOWARDS INCREASING THE SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPACE EXPLORATION?

L.N.: Things look good. For one thing, the Space Shuttle works. For another, there has been an explosion of space advocacy groups whose

avowed intention is to put pressure on our government to put us back into space. For a third, there exists (finally!) a coherent, detailed plan for doing so. It was written at my house, by more than thirty very bright fanatics, under the guidance of Jerry Pournelle. It's already well known in Washington, and may become the basis of our space policy for the next dozen years.

ASFN: THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT YOUR READERS WOULD LIKE TO HEAR MUCH ABOUT THE RINGWORLD OR THE PEOPLE IN THE SAME UNIVERSE, EITHER BEFORE THE RINGWORLD CONSTRUCTION OR LATER. DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS TO WRITE MORE STORIES WITH THIS BACKGROUND? THE SAME GOES FOR THE GIL HAMILTON SERIES.

L.N.: I don't have any "known space" stories now in my head; and I'm going to be up to my neck in contracts anyway for the next couple of years. If I had to guess, I'd say that there will be more Gil the ARM stories, someday.

ASFN: WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU GOT COMING UP IN NOVELS TO BE PUBLISHED, OR ON THE DRAWING-BOARD IN THE NEAR FUTURE? HAVE YOU ANY MORE COLLABORATIONS WITH JERRY POURNELLE PLANNED OR DUE? IS DREAM PARK A ONE-OFF, OR WILL YOU BE WORKING AGAIN WITH STEVE BARNES?

L.N.: Jerry Pournelle and I have two book outlines out (It happened that way because of option problems.) We haven't signed contracts yet, but when we do, we'll have two years to produce (a) a sequel to THE MOTE IN GOD'S EYE, and (b) a tale of the invasion of Earth by aliens, in present time. Designing a being who would want to invade the Earth, at slower-than-light speeds, is more difficult than you might think.

Steven Barnes and I are working on a second novel. It deals with a Space Shuttle caught in Earth orbit without fuel. How can it get down? Watch for it soon: THE DESCENT OF ANANSI.

Then there's THE SMOKE RING, which I'm working on alone. Picture a toroidal region surrounding a neutron star, in which there is a terrestrial atmosphere. There are storms and tidal effects, but everything is otherwise in free fall. Life has been evolving in there for a billion years. A spacecraft crew was stranded there five hundred years ago, and their descendants are having their problems.

ASFN: DID YOU EXPECT LUCIFER'S HAMMER TO BE SUCH A SUCCESS?

L.N.: We hoped LUCIFER'S HAMMER would be as big a success as it was; but after all, anyone can daydream. We weren't counting on it.

ASFN: WHICH OF YOUR WORKS DO YOU THINK IS YOUR BEST AND WHICH DID YOU ENJOY WRITING THE MOST?

On his recent visit to Australia for NUCON we asked LARRY NIVEN if he would mind answering a few questions on his writing, that we thought would interest our readers. He graciously agreed and I hope his answers give you at least some small insight into the writing of this very popular author.

ASFN: HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTO SCIENCE FICTION AND START WRITING?

LARRY NIVEN: Since I discovered science fiction at around the age of 10, I had daydreamed of being a science fiction writer. I also daydreamed in Math class.

I didn't try to sell a story until around age 25. By then I'd reached the limit of my mathematics education; and my daydreaming was starting to take shape of complete stories. I wrote one down and sent it out.

It bounced. I kept writing. I sent money to the Famous Writers School and got through about 2/3 of the correspondence course.

I kept sending them out for a solid year before Frederik Pohl bought THE COLDEST PLACE. It's lucky for me that I finally discovered that stubborn streak.

ASFN: HOW SOON IN YOUR WRITING CAREER DID YOU DISCOVER IT WAS MORE HELPFUL OR DECIDE TO USE AN ESTABLISHED BACKGROUND OR UNIVERSE FOR YOUR STORIES?

L.N.: That doesn't take figuring out. The background for a tale of the future is as much work as you want it to be. If a carefully carved slice of "the future" works for two stories, then you use it twice... and it gives you a chance to say more about that wordline, if you missed anything the first time.

Known Space had no good reason to get large and elaborate as it did. I've done other clusters of stories, but I don't expect any of them to get that large.

ASFN: AS ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SF AUTHORS YOU HAVE OBVIOUSLY FOUND A FORMULA THAT WORKS AND READERS APPRECIATE. YOU ARE NO DOUBT REGARDED AS ONE OF THE LEADING AUTHORS BASING YOUR STORIES ON SO CALLED 'HARD SCIENCE'. HOW MUCH

L.N.: Not bloody likely. I felt that every one of my books was worth writing. I admit to a sneaking favoritism for LUCIFER'S HAMMER, which got me the most money and the biggest audience, and for RINGWORLD, because the concept was so much fun, and because of the awards. Then again, I keep meeting Superman fans who got vast enjoyment out of the article MAN OF STEEL/WOMAN OF KLEENEX. INCONSTANT MOON was my only real love story, and it came out just the way I wanted it to. Oh, never mind.

ASFN: SORRY ABOUT THAT LAST QUESTION LARRY, BUT I THINK YOU ALMOST ANSWERED IT AT ANY RATE. THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO ANSWER ALL OUR QUESTIONS.

We will be bringing you further interviews with both Australian and overseas authors, when the opportunity presents itself.

Ed.

CONVENTION REPORTS

TOLKON

OTHERWISE KNOWN AS UNICON VII OR SYNCON '81

Convention report by Justin Ackroyd.

Tolkon, the seventh university science fiction convention was held during 21st-24th August at the New Crest hotel in Sydney and attracted about two hundred people. Although the convention was orientated to the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

The convention was opened on Friday evening with some light programming and a party. Saturday morning and afternoon were taken up with talks, discussions, a low key auction and Jon Noble's guest of honour speech on the history of Tolkien fandom. Rob "Goon-Show" McGough was at it again in the evening, this time with "Lord of the String" and its unforgettable song, "Bad Hobbits". This was held after a particularly successful masquerade, highlighted by Nick Stathopoulos as the "Elephant man".

Sunday started at the Hyde park with a Mediaeval Fair where a large percentage of attendees came in costume, adding to the atmosphere. A lunch of bread, meat and cheese was served, entertainment was provided by the Sydney Morris Men, and a combat tournament was conducted.

Back to the hotel and the programme continued with a balloon debate. This resulted in the Troll's representative justifying his existence and was the balloon's sole survivor after some amusing debating, especially from the representatives of the Elves and the Istari. The evening's highlight was an excellent audio-visual presentation by Transfinite Audiovisuals.

Monday morning was taken up by a vast miniatures display and battle depicting the Battle of Pelannor, from Lord of the Rings. The afternoon was a wind-down with Jon Noble presenting an abridged version of his paper, "Sauron as a Product of Social Ineptitude - A Marxist Interpretation of Lord of the Rings".

The Hucksters room was notable for the silver rings and other ornaments of Cindy Smith and the armour of Tim Dawson. The art show/competition was highlighted with works by Marilyn Pride and Nick Stathopoulos.

The New Crest hotel kept up its high standard, the bar was well used, even though a little costly and the parties were as enjoyable as ever.

Altogether, Tolkon was an enjoyable and successful convention and my congratulations to the committee, especially Cary and Marjorie Lenehan and Jack Herman.

PHANTAS -TACON '81

PHUN & PHROLICS AT PHANTASTACON.

Convention report by Bruce Barnes.

Phantastacon was held at the Melbourne Town House during the 21st-23rd August. The hotel achieved infamy during UNICON IV, when the management went around closing room parties. However, the hotel is under new management, so I went.

Also half of Melbourne went as well, or so it seems. The place was packed! The queue at the registration desk was not getting any shorter and the organisers were wondering what hit them.

Phantastacon catered heavily for comic fans and that segment of the population afflicted by Dungeons and Dragons. A big tournament of which became the convention's main feature. Although I escaped D & D contamination, I did become snared by a programme on the TRS-80 computer in the electronic games room, games room.

The high point of the film programme was WIZARDS, which was more warmly received here than by past audiences. Among the other films was the miserable KRONOS and the even more miserable WASP WOMAN. (Which is even worse than it sounds.)

There was a smorgasboard dinner on Saturday, just before the masquerade, for those of us with \$3.50 to spare. It was nothing special, but these days it is quite novel to pay less than \$10.00 for a con. meal.

Of the two advertised guest speakers, Alan Salisbury (Sols of Snake fame showed, but Alex Stitt (Grendel, Grendel, Grendel) didn't. It seems that some of the organisers didn't even know what happened to him!

I never saw any room parties, although I looked for them. I have since been told that they DID exist. All were quiet affairs, held behind closed doors. I figure this reflects either the basic nature of the people attending or a subconscious cringe-reaction from the fate of the parties from UNICON IV.

There was a raffle on Saturday and another on Sunday, each for a video movie. (Tickets free to attendees.) I missed out on winning by two numberstwice!

At the end of Sunday all prizewinners were announced, the dealers stalls closed, tournaments over, and the last committee member hurled into the swimming pool. They took the computer away too. I decided to round the weekend off with treating myself to RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK, but the cinemas had all gone on strike!



THE GANDALF AWARD was presented at DENVENTION to Co-GOH C.L. MOORE.

WORLD FANTASY AWARD NOMINATIONS

LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: Joseph Payne Brennan, Avram Davidson, L. Sprague De Camp, C.L. Moore, Andre Norton and Jack Vance.

BEST NOVEL: ARIOSTO by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro (Pocket); FIRELORD by Parke Godwin (Doubleday); THE MIST by Stephen King (From "Dark Forces" edited by Kirby McCauley for Viking); THE SHADOW OF THE TORTURER by Gene Wolfe (Simon and Schuster); SHADOWLAND by Peter Straub (Coward, McCann & Geoghegan).

BEST SHORT FICTION: "Cabin 33" by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro (Shadows3); "Children of The Kingdom" by T.E.D. Klein (From "Dark Forces"); "The Ugly Chickens" by Howard Waldrop (From "Universe10" edited by Terry Carr); "Unicorn Tapestry" by Suzy McKee Charnas (From "New Dimensions 11" edited by Robert Silverberg and Marta Randall, Pocket Books).

BEST ANTHOLOGY/COLLECTION: DARK FORCES edited by Kirby McCauley (Viking); DRAGONS OF LIGHT edited by Orson Scott Card (Ace); MIMMY! A CHRESTOMANTHY OF CRYPTOLOGY edited by Bill Pronzini (Arbor House); NEW TERRORS edited by Ramsel Campbell (Pan); SHADOWS 3 edited by Charles L. Grant (Doubleday); SHATTERDAY by Harlan Ellison (Houghton Mifflin).

BEST ARTIST: ALICIA AUSTIN, THOMAS CANTY, DON MAITZ, ROWENA MORRILL, MICHAEL WHELAN and GAHAN WILSON.

SPECIAL AWARD-PROFESSIONAL: TERRY CARR (Anthologist); LESTER DEL REY (DeI Rey Books); EDWARD L. FERMAN (Magazine of F&SF); DAVID G. HARTWELL (Pocket Books/ Timescape); TIM UNDERWOOD AND CHUCK MILLER (Underwood and Miller Publishers); DONALD A. WOLLHEIM (DAW Books).

SPECIAL AWARD-NON-PRO: PAT CADIGAN & ARNIE FENNER (Shayol); CHARLES DE LINT & CHARLES R. SAUNDERS (Triskell Press/ Dragonfields); W. PAUL GANLEY (Weirdbook Press/ EERIE COUNTRY/ AMANITA BRANDY); STEPHEN JONES (FANTASY TALES /AIRGEDLAM!)

The panel of judges will include Paul C. Allen editor of Fantasy Newsletter, C.J. Cherryh, Gardner F. Dozois, Art Saha, and Donald M. Grant. The winners will be announced at the banquet at FANTASYCON VII to be held October 30th to November 1st at the Claremont Resort Hotel, in Berkeley, California.

Our thanks to Peter D. Pautz, Executive secretary SFWA, for these details.

OTHER AWARDS:

MARION ZIMMER BRADLEY was presented with the seventh GREY MAUSER AWARD for outstanding contributions to adult fantasy. The award, a model of a Mauser pistol mounted on a board, is given by Fantasy Faire in Los Angeles. Fritz Leiber did the actual presentation.

Locus

The PROMETHEUS AWARD given by the National Libertarian Convention, will not be presented this year due to administration difficulties. This award takes the form of gold statuette worth in the vicinity of \$3000. The first one was given to F. Paul Wilson for his novel WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS.

Locus

EDITORIAL NOTE: Due to the delay in getting overseas published books by Australian authors at times, we believe that it is about time that some change or addition was made to the rules for the DITMAR AWARDS. It would be some help if the definition be made that a book must be on sale in Australia before the 31st of December. As George Turner's VANEGLORY will not be published in Australia till probably March or April it would not be eligible till 1982, for instance. Any books published November or December overseas as the rules stand can be nominated, although they would not be on sale here under normal circumstances till February or later. This gives people little time to read them before nominations close, particularly when the National Convention is held in March. Comments are invited please.

M.B. Ed.

Obituaries

PADDY CHAYEFSKY. Playwright and author Paddy Chayefsky, winner of awards for his film and TV plays such as MARTY, and the author of the novel ALTERED STATES, died recently after a long battle with cancer. He did not like Ken Russell's interpretation in the movie of ALTERED STATES, and withdrew his name from the credits.

ROBERT AICKMAN, one of England's leading authors and anthologist of ghost stories died of cancer in February. He was a man of many interests including ballet, film and drama. Some of his best known books are POWERS OF DARKNESS, SUB ROSA and COLD HAND IN MINE.

People and Publishing

FOREST J. ACKERMAN believes he has established a record as an agent, by selling 200 books for reprint in Italy. Authors included in the deal were A.E. VAN VOGT, L. RON HUBBARD, STANLEY G. WEINBAUM, H.L. GOLD, DONALD F. GLUT among others.

(Locus)

ROBERT REGINALD is filing suit against KEVIN HANCER. Reginald produced a "Complete Paperback Index, 1939-1959" which he claims Hancer stole information from. He bases his claim on the fact that he (Reginald) included a number of fake entries in his book which Hancer has included in his volume. Sneaky!

JAN HOWARD FINDER'S collection ALIEN ENCOUNTERS has been postponed by Taplinger until Autumn (USA). (Ansible)

FRANK HERBERT is doing a sequel to THE JESUS INCIDENT with co-author BILL RANSOM... SAMUEL DELANY has three finished books waiting for publication. Meanwhile DISTANT STARS, a trade pb collection of seven stories was published by Bantam in August. A novel set in Neveryon, A FABULOUS FORMLESS DARKNESS will be published by Bantam and STARBOARD WINE, a collection of essays will be published by Dragon Press. He is working on the title STARS IN MY POCKET LIKE GRAINS OF SAND. Almost all of his published books have now been taken over by Bantam.. DRAGON LORD OF THE SAVAGE EMPIRE by JEAN LORRAH has been bought by Playboy Paperbacks... STERLING LANIER has finished the long awaited sequel to HIERO'S JOURNEY... PAUL HAZEL has finished his fantasy novel UNDERSEA, the sequel to YEARWOOD and the third in the series will be WINTERKING... L. RON HUBBARD'S giant sf novel is doing the rounds of publishers. As part of the deal no mention of Dianetics or Scientology may be made on the book or in publicity and it must be marketed as a super sf novel... Berkley have bought EMPEROR, SWORDS, PENTACLES by PHYLLIS GOTLEIB, which is a sequel to her JUDGEMENT OF DRAGONS... ROBERT VARDEMAN has sold a series to Playboy Press, CENETAPH ROAD, and one of the characters is a giant talking spider.

Locus

FANTASY NEWSLETTER, one of the leading f&sf review and news magazines in the U.S.A. has been dropped by it's editor/publisher PAUL ALLEN. Family commitments and other things have forced this on him. (I know how he feels. Ed.) However FN will be taken over by Robert A. Collins, of Florida Atlantic University who administers the Thomas Burnett Swann Fund.

SFC & LOCUS

DOUGLAS ADAMS reports that there are no plans for a second TV HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE. The phenomenon incidently hit Melbourne recently with Space Age reporting a sell out of the Pan paperbacks and the two record albums. As yet we have not seen any sign of the TV show. Adams is working on a third book; LIFE, THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING for publication next year.

There is a possibility of a film being made on the series also... HELICONIA SPRING is the first in a new trilogy by BRIAN ALDISS, which will be published by Jonathan Cape starting next year. It is described by Cape as "a monumental saga which goes beyond anything yet cre-

ated by this master among imaginative writers.."

SFC +

The review magazine THE SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY REVIEW, under the editorship of NEIL BARRON, will be revived soon. It ceased publication in May 1980. The Science Fiction Research Association will underwrite the cost of production. For further details write to NEIL BARRON at 1149 Lime Pl., Vista, CA 92083, USA

SFC



JOHN BRUNNER

Photo by Jay K. Klein

JOHN BRUNNER will be the Guest of Honor at CONSTELLATION, the 41st World SF Convention to be held in Baltimore in 1983. DAVE KYLE is Fan Guest and JACK CHALKER Toastmaster... ROBERT SHECKLEY resigned as fiction editor of OMNI in July and Associate Editor ELLEN DATLOW has been given the position... Del Rey books will publish THE SMOKE RING by LARRY NIVEN in hard cover and paperback, which is an associated novel to RINGWORLD.

SFC+

Ace have bought THE SHROUDED PLANET and THE DAWNING LIGHT by ROBERT SILVERBERG and RANDALL GARRETT, both of which were published by Starblaze in trade pb format... Berkley will do a new edition of THE BOOK OF PHILIP JOSE FARMER which was previously published by DAW... GLEN A. LARSON and NICHOLAS YERMAKOV will do two more "Battelstar Galactica" novels for Berkley... STEPHEN GOLDIN has sold two more books in the same series as his MINDFLIGHT to Fawcett, MINDSEARCH and MINDWAR. Also by Goldin, the seventh in the "Family D'Alembert" series should appear from Berkley early in '82 after lying on the shelf for three years... THE BUSINESS OF BEING A WRITER by STEPHEN GOLDIN and his wife KATHLEEN SKY, based on a class the husband and wife team taught at Cal State, Northridge will be published by Harper and Row... KATHLEEN SKY is working on THE TOWERS OF WITCHDAME for Bantam.

SFC

The Arthurian theme is seemingly endless. Ace has bought IDYLS OF THE KING by PHYLLIS ANN KARR, Bantam will publish MERLIN by Robert Nye, which we saw in Penguin in '80 and Bantam will also publish GUINEVERE by SHARAN NEWMAN...

EDWARD L. FERMAN, editor of *THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION* has announced that the magazine, in a co-venture with Charles Scribner's Sons publishers, will produce a new series of hard cover sf books. Mainly novels, but some one-author-collections and the Annual Best From F&SF, which has been previously published by Doubleday.

Locus +

STEPHEN KING and PETER STRAUB have collaborated on a novel, *THE TALISMAN*, to be published by Viking. Timescape Books have bought a trilogy from GREGORY BENFORD. The first title in this "Starscape" series is *IN THE OCEAN OF NIGHT*, which was published by Dial in hard cover in '77, *ACROSS THE SEA OF SUNS* the second, is completed and he is working on *STARSCAPE*. A fourth book, *THE STARS IN SHROUD*, which was a re-written version of a 1970 Ace title *DEEPER THAN THE DARKNESS*, uses the same universe, but is not being considered as part of the series. The last two books in the trilogy were originally sold to Dell, but they were casualties of the apparent dropping by Dell of their sf line.

Locus

LARRY NIVEN and JERRY POURNELLE will do *THE MOAT AROUND MURCHESON'S EYE* for Simon and Schuster after they complete their big one for Fawcett, *THE FOOT...* *Dark They Were and Golden Eyed*, the specialist sf book shop opened in London by Derek Stokes in 1969, has closed down. They were the inspiration for other sf shops including Change of Hobbit, Dark Carnival, Forbidden Planet, The Science Fiction Shop, Dangerous Visions and of course Black Hole, Galaxy and Space Age in Australia.

Locus

The Harlan Ellison book announced as an Ace trade pb, *BLOOD'S A ROVER* has been cancelled. Ellison had not turned in the manuscript to Ace and in a deal involving payments on other reprints the advance on *BLOOD'S A ROVER* was returned. It is to be hoped that another publisher will pick up the title when it is available. Ace will be doing a series of 13 other reprint titles by Ellison in 1982... *GALAXY* magazine is currently the centre of financial law suits, but one way or another there is a good chance that the magazine will be revived... Tor books are promoting FRED SABERHAGEN as one of their major authors. *WATER OF THOUGHT* was published in May, *EARTH DESCENDED* is an October title, *THE BERSERKER WARS* in December and during '82 and '83 they will published *COILS* co-authored with Roger Zelazny, *DOMINION* and *THREE OF SWORDS*.

Locus

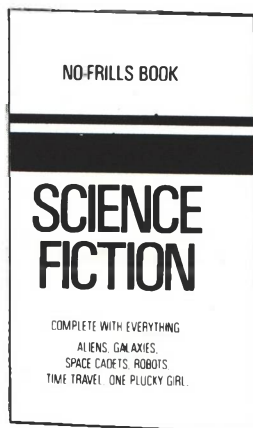
DANIEL KEYES, the author of "Flowers for Algernon" and other sf stories, is writing the true account of multiple personalities Bill Milligan, *THE MINDS OF BILLY MILLIGAN*. Milligan, after being accused of rape and murder, was found to have over 20 personalities. Truth is stranger than fiction and the personalities that at some time take control of his actions range from a four year old boy to a lesbian.

P.W.

THE SWORD OF THE LICTOR is the third in the "Book of the New Sun" series by Gene Wolfe and will be published by

Timescape soon... LORD VALENTINE'S CASTLE is a September release from PAN and his new book set on the same world is *THE MAJIPOOR CHRONICLES* due for release by Arbor House early in '82... ROBERT HALE, who have been notable for the quantity of sf books they have published over the last few years, if not quality, are cutting down on the number of titles they are publishing. We believe this is largely due to the current economic climate in the UK in general and the cut down on finance for libraries, which are a large part of Hale's trade... It was reported in a U.S. sf news magazine that SUZETTE HADEN ELGIN had succumbed to the heatwave in the U.S.A last summer. This report was incorrect, and Ms Elgin is hard at work behind her typewriter still... *TIMESCAPE BOOKS* are to publish three "Star Trek" novels. *THE ENTROPY EFFECT* by Vonda McIntyre is already out and due from Futura also in November. *THE KLINGON GAMBIT* by Robert E. Vardeman is an October *TIMESCAPE* release and this will be followed by *THE COVENANT OF THE CROWN* by Howard Weinstein in December. This author is known to the ST fans as a lecturer on ST and a scriptwriter for the ST cartoon series.

In what must be one of the cheapest gimmicks ever foisted on the American reading public, Jove Publications, who are obviously finding the going tough, have announced a series of books called "No Frills". They have no titles, no authors mentioned and no illustrations on the covers. If the booksellers even order them we will be surprised. They are more likely to laugh them out of business. We consider it an insult to even think that people would buy them. Then again....



MAGAZINE NEWS

Some new magazines planned in U.K. are: *EXTRO Speculative Fiction* is being re-incarnated by Robert Allen helped by Randall Flynn and Dorothy Davies. Plans are for monthly publication. Details from 3 Cadels Row, Faringdon, Oxon. U.K. *INTERZONE* is the provisional title of a quality magazine planned by people including David Pringle and Malcolm Edwards and others. Special book offer if you subscribe now to Ground Zero Publications, c/o 28 Duckett Rd., London N4 1BN, UK. 5 pound. Fiction submissions considered now. Big name British writers will be included but new authors are encouraged. *THE OMNI BOOK OF*

THE FUTURE is a UK OMNI spinoff, with revamped OMNI articles plus some fiction. Planned as a weekly partwork assembling into encyclopedia type volumes. Michael Scott Rohan is fiction editor at the moment and you can reach him at Eagle Moss, 7 Cromwell Rd., London, SW7 2HR UK. *AD ASTRA* is still going, but is behind schedule. *THE PATCHIN REVIEW* is a "fanzine" edited by Charles Platt. It reports such items as the Nebula Award Banquet, publishing news and reviews, with articles by Ellison, Malzberg and Platt under various pseudonyms. \$12.00 for 6 issues to 9 Patchin Place, New York, NY 10011, USA. Space Age has copies at \$3.00

Ansible

MORE AWARDS

The Winners of the *PORGIE AWARDS* for 1981 are as follows: *FANTASY*

GOLD MEDAL: *THE SHAPES OF MIDNIGHT* by Joseph Payne Brennan (Berkely)
SILVER MEDAL: *JOURNEY TO APRILIOTH* by Eileen Kernaghan (Ace)
BRONZE MEDAL: *THE HOUNGAN* by J.N. Williamson (Leisure)

SCIENCE FICTION:

GOLD MEDAL: *STARWEB* by Joan Cox (Avon)
SILVER MEDAL: *NUMBER OF THE BEAST* by Robert Heinlein (Fawcett)
BRONZE MEDAL: *PLAYERS AT THE GAME OF PEOPLE* by John Brunner (Del Rey)

Our thanks to George Goodwin Media, distributors of Ace Books in Australia, for this information.

FAN NEWS

JULIA CURTIS and ROY FERGUSON are making it legal on the 28th of November. The wedding will take place at the home of Pat and Mike Wilkinson-Cox, in Mundaring, Perth, W.Aust. Our congratulations to Julia and Roy.

It is with regret that we report the recent passing of PHINEAS GLICK. "Bluey" as he was known to his friends, hailed from Sydney and was quite active in Sydney fandom in the '50s, until his job involved his moving to Melbourne.

CONVENTIONS

The only SF convention that we know of still to come this year is *THE CONVENTION OF THE GREAT KLINGON EMPIRE*, a Star Trek con in case you didn't know it, to be held in Adelaide October 24th and 25th. Details from SASTEK (08) 2556569.

SWANCON 7 will be held Jan.30th to Feb.1st in Perth, Details from P.O.Box 318, Nedlands 6009, West Australia.

MEDTREK is a Star Trek con to be held at The Hydro Majestic Hotel, Medlow Bath, N.S.W. February 13th & 14th. Details from 12/207 Birrel St., Waverly, NSW 2024.

TSCHAICON is the Australasian National Convention to be held next Easter in Melbourne. See advertisement for details.

OCTOCON will be held in NEW ZEALAND from June 4th to 7th, in Dunedin we presume. Details from P.O.Box 5516, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Details on the 1982 *WORLD SF CONVENTION* to be held in Chicago and other con details will be given in the next issue.



AN ON THE SPOT REPORT By VAL ROGERS

I am sorry more people from Australia were not able to attend DENVENTION, but I do not think it was as good as SEACON '79, which was the last Worldcon I went to --- not by a long shot. Although the 39th World SF Con was my first U.S. one, I think SEACON has spoiled me forever. Denvention was not as well-run, nor as full a programme, with the minute attention to detail that was so noticeable at the Metropole Hotel.

Of course the problem was that the Hilton was not as labyrinthine as the Metropole-- where you could get lost for a week before they found you, but as you'll remember, also enabled the whole of Seacon to be held under one roof! Denvention '81 was held over three venues, vastly separated across town. To do them justice however, they provided a shuttle service (bus) to get us to the hucksters and art show rooms, another auditorium in another hotel, and other hotels where members stayed. These special buses were only for con members, and were so frequent that sometimes three were lined up waiting outside the Hilton-- and once Harry was the sole occupant for a ride across town! It must've cost the organisers a fortune!! But because of this situation, you found you were missing things you wanted to participate in, such as listening to panels and authors, etc -- because you spent so much time in travelling from A to B to C. (Of course it wasn't all that far, you could walk it; but buses are faster, so if you walked you missed out on even more of the programme!)

I think it will take Denver quite a while to get over its second -ever world con in 40 years. Many people wore their costumes, even in the street. And a lot were seen to carry dragons with them everywhere -- a constant companion; on head, across shoulders, along arms, and on the back of hands; depending on the size of their "pet".

Unicorns and rainbows seem to be the "in" thing at present, not only at the Con, but right across America.

The Masquerade was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the Con, and most costumes were of such high standard in workmanship, it must've taken them a whole year to plan and make. And with 140 participants, singly or as a group, it must've been awfully hard for the judges to decide who was to win. So while they deliberated on the matter, we all left the arena to use cameras (the people who'd remembered to bring them over to the parade did -- the rest of us kicked ourselves); while the various costumed members posed under specially rigged photographic lights in a roped-off area. (But

pitifully sad were those others in costume throughout the Con, who were just living out their fantasies, for all to see. Their costumes were shoddy, and most just couldn't see that they should wear a costume more suitable for their figures). However there were no nude or topless (only nearly), and everyone stuck to the code for no real weapons. And all no smoking requests were observed. And at the end of the Masquerade the judges thanked the audience for behaving so well. No catcalls and rude comments, etc. (What must the other cons be like?)

I hope the idea of Breakfast, and Dinner with the authors, is not a forerunner of forever cutting out the banquet. But it was a good idea which should be promoted as something extra on the agenda -- if one could get the authors out of bed for breakfast (over 14 tables were left without an author)! However at the dinner at the Buckhorn Restaurant, which was built in the early 1880's (a two-storey wooden building, full of memorabilia of those times in the West), we didn't have a cause for even one complaint. Our table was the last to have their author sit down, and for a long while we felt we were going to be left out. But the wait was worth it -- we were privileged to have G.O.H. Clifford Simak to share our meal and conversation. He is an absolutely delightful person, and we got on well.



The porters at the Hilton were very helpful, and one we nicknamed "Denver" because he was a "mile high". (He was extremely tall, and Denver is called "The Mile High City".) One of the bellboys we spoke to a couple of times was "Pappy" Galt -- an ex-boxer who came to Australia to fight Jimmy Carruthers quite a few years ago.

The Dealers and Art Show rooms had to be experienced to be believed. Held in a huge cavern of a place, the art show section held more than just painting and pen drawings -- it covered all types of artistic expertise -- from artwork and photos, to pottery figures, and utensils; unicorns and dragons carved, or made from material and stuffed (some were huge); stained glass; leaded, stained glass windows -- the one with the head from "Alien" won first prize. (Computer circuitry was used for part of it, to give "texture", and gave it a very unusual effect) -- but my favourite was a leaded, stained glass window made from the design of an Apollo emblem. Then there were mirrors; carvings; sculptures;

engravings on glass, or slate; working models; embroidery -- the list was endless -- just about anything you could imagine, in any medium. Marilyn Pride also had some of her "rocks" there.

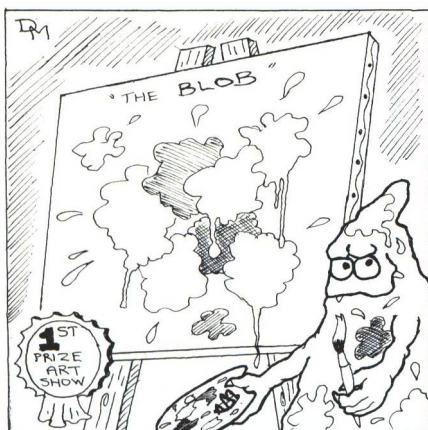
Between the Art Show and Dealers areas, there was an area where they had the actual car from "Blade Runner"; and in an enclosed area nearby they'd set up the storyboard, pre-production drawings and photos, miniature settings, memorabilia, and life-size models from the movie "Dark Crystal". It was so good I lingered in there longer than I should have, but when I came out I saw the table for the L5 Society, and while I was busy joining the Society, Bjo Trimble came up, so I introduced myself. We talked for a while, and this led me to write a letter to El Presidente Reagan on their rusty old typewriter (which, amazingly, was even older than the one I'm using now), about not cutting funds to NASA.

The Dealers area didn't only cover books, posters, badges, etc; but was more encompassing with such a variety of items you wouldn't believe. Out of print records (but I'd just run out of money before I saw "Mr Spock's Music from Outer Space" -- maybe just as well, as the price was exorbitantly high); emblems; memorabilia from NASA, including the few remaining cans of coke that had been specially sent to the Columbia re-entry (they had a picture of the Shuttle on the side and cost \$10 each)! There were some very unusual T-shirts; jewellery, including some made from feathers (and even a tie made from feathers, too), and some jewellery was beautifully wrought in metal; and holograms made by lasers were available, too. I bought some miniature geode earrings. Then there were cushions; photo slides; out of print comics, books, and magazines; scripts -- I bought one from "The Prisoner" which was written by McGoohan, himself; and a special mention must be made of Alicia Austin's artwork, and her badges which were rather risqué, to put it mildly.

But the daily Con update was never out till midday which posed quite a problem at times; and the Con T-shirt sold out in a few hours -- they didn't have enough to go around.



ARTWORK ON THIS PAGE AND THE NEXT BY "TINY" DARYL MANNELL



Denver is like Melbourne (no offence meant) - but it closes down after hours and at weekends - even at the hotel it was no different. And we were there over the Labor Day weekend - ! All food places in town closed early - even the Ice Cream Parlor at the hotel, so we were left without places to eat. (Of course, even if the Hilton Restaurants remained open longer, they were far too dear to eat at, for the average Con-goer). Do you remember at Brighton, the little snack bar they provided between the main hall and the first hucksters room? And how you could have a breakfast included with your room payment? And the fact that one bar was open 24 hours (or until the very early hours) just for Con members to meet and converse? As I said, I guess Seacon has spoilt us.

"The Making of Raiders of the Lost Ark", and "Blade Runner SFX", were movies not to be missed - I just wish we could get them to show at Conventions here.

Another highlight was free tickets to the first-ever showing together of "Star Wars" and "The Empire Strikes Back". Held on Friday night at the old Paramount Theatre just up the street - a theatre being restored, but so vast, in the old style of theatres that it accommodated us all! - It was a Happening; which started off with a recital on the old wurlitzer. This prompted a dance session by Con members, who wore Star Wars Storm Trooper outfits, and brought a huge round of applause; and everyone was in such a high frame of mind, that when the organist finished they gave him a standing ovation! Then Gary Kurtz and Kasanjian, came on and spoke to everybody before the movies started. After that it was



pure Music Hall - everybody sighed, cheered and clapped the heroes, booed and hissed the villains, and accompanied Han Solo with some of his lines (maybe they thought he would forget them?), then cheered all the credits, followed by another standing ovation - in the dark! With all that frenetic excitement and sound - not to mention the newly-installed-for-the-occasion, Dolby sound system - I felt sure the headlines in The Rocky Mountains News next day, would read: "Old Theatre Collapses on Huge Audience - !"

Yes, it truly was a Happening, and one I was glad to be a part of.

But while we were waiting in the queue for the theatre to open, one of the group behind us was condemning President Reagan because he'd got rid of The Clean Air Bill; and truly, the next morning you couldn't see the Rockies at all from our hotel window - and the stench was so bad, I thought the construction workers, digging outside the front of the hotel, had burst the sewer main. The smell even came through the air conditioning! Rotten eggs. Thankfully the smog was only that bad for the one day. But this was Denver. Los Angeles, I could understand. - But whatever happened to clear, fresh mountain air? Well, we found it at Vail, which is a ski resort like Aspen, and 11,000 feet above sea level.

As the opening ceremony had been so dull, and as we wanted to see some of Colorado before returning to California, we decided not to wait for the closing ceremony. So after breakfast at Ackerman's (no relation. But they sure heap your plate high with food), the seven of us took off up the highway in a rented car. We had been told it was a place we should visit, and one look at Vail made us glad we'd come. Nestling in a valley, Vail is truly a beautiful place. Built along the lines of a Swiss village, it nevertheless is very modern, with the look of having been designed by an architect and a landscape designer - even to its covered bridge over a rushing mountain stream. It probably was.

The hotel was strangely silent when we got back from Vail. No babble of voices from people rushing hither and yon. Gone were all the posters and every visible sign that the Con had ever existed in this point of Time.

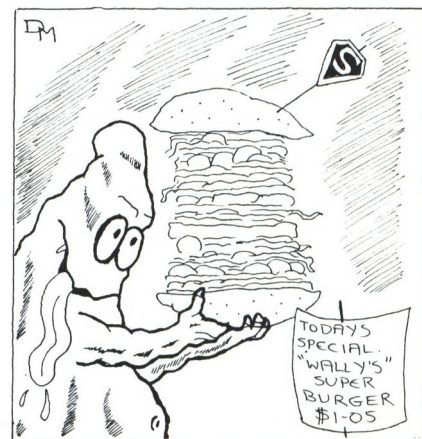
As you may already know, George Lucas is building his own movie-making complex north of Los Angeles. It will rival, even surpass the ones already in the movie - making capital of the world. And it is situated in a valley called Lucas Valley!

While we were watching the morning news show on TV in San Francisco, they announced that the shooting of the new Star Trek movie (TV?) was to begin in October, and that Shatner, Nimoy and Koenig had already signed. And that Spock was definitely going to be killed off! (Seems that Paramount is suffering from the Indecision Syndrome again, doesn't it)?

Well, I don't think I can say much else about the convention.

Disneyland was as fabulous as ever, and we spent two whole days there from 9 am till midnight. It was hard to drag

ourselves away from the Magic Kingdom, but with only a little while left we had to visit San Juan Capistrano; The Queen Mary, at Long Beach; and Universal Studios (who sure could take a leaf out of Disneyland's book on how to move people); and finally it was time for our last meal together, so we chose The Hamburger Hamlet at Westwood Village - home of U.C.L.A., (and Harry's and my old stomping, and chomping, ground when we attended that university many years ago). The next morning Gayle, Galaxy Ron, Trish and Alan left for England via a stopover in New York; and Harry, Tony and I left for two days in Honolulu enroute to Sydney.



One thing we found - that compared to England, the food in America is much cheaper, with far more variety, and you get lots to eat.

Well, that's all for now - hope I haven't bored you. But you may find something in this "diary" that could help when you're considering ideas for the next Aussiecon, (if we get it in '85)!

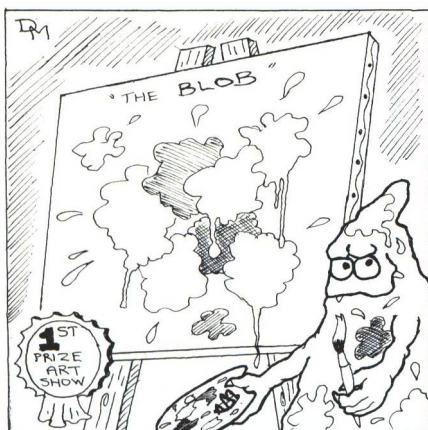
Peace,

VAL ROGERS

My sincere thanks to Val for her very interesting impressions of DENVENTION. ANDREW PORTER, editor of SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE has sent me some of his photographs to use, but they turned up too late to include in this issue. So we will have a page of photographs from the World Con in the next issue.

In this little bit of space I find I have to spare I will remind you that next year's World Convention is to be held in Chicago, in the U.S.A. and A. BERTRAM CHANDLER is the Guest of Honour. I hope as many people from Australia as possible will attend. I will also remind you that we should support LOS ANGELES for '84. Yes, I know it would be nice for Britain to have it, George Orwell and all that, but just think about that for a moment. Then again some nuts have predicted that the whole West Coast of the U.S.A is due to fall into the Pacific Ocean between now and 1984, so the decision may be made for us.

Just remember one thing! If MELBOURNE is to have a chance of winning the bid to hold the WORLD CON IN '85, BRITAIN must not win '84. At least that is my idea of the situation and I do not think that very many world con buffs will disagree with me.



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As the opening ceremony had been so dull, and as we wanted to see some of Colorado before returning to California, we decided not to wait for the closing ceremony. So after breakfast at Ackerman's (no relation. But they sure heap your plate high with food), the seven of us took off up the highway in a rented car. We had been told it was a place we should visit, and one look at Vail made us glad we'd come. Nestling in a valley, Vail is truly a beautiful place. Built along the lines of a Swiss village, it nevertheless is very modern, with the look of having been designed by an architect and a landscape designer - even to its covered bridge over a rushing mountain stream. It probably was.

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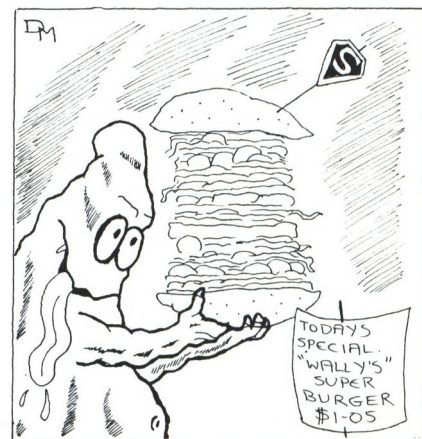
As you may already know, George Lucas is building his own movie-making complex north of Los Angeles. It will rival, even surpass the ones already in the movie - making capital of the world. And it is situated in a valley called Lucas Valley!

While we were watching the morning news show on TV in San Francisco, they announced that the shooting of the new Star Trek movie (TV?) was to begin in October, and that Shatner, Nimoy and Koenig had already signed. And that Spock was definitely going to be killed off! (Seems that Paramount is suffering from the Indecision Syndrome again, doesn't it)?

Well, I don't think I can say much else about the convention.

Disneyland was as fabulous as ever, and we spent two whole days there from 9 am till midnight. It was hard to drag

ourselves away from the Magic Kingdom, but with only a little while left we had to visit San Juan Capistrano; The Queen Mary, at Long Beach; and Universal Studios (who sure could take a leaf out of Disneyland's book on how to move people); and finally it was time for our last meal together, so we chose The Hamburger Hamlet at Westwood Village - home of U.C.L.A., (and Harry's and my old stomping, and chomping, ground when we attended that university many years ago). The next morning Gayle, Galaxy Ron, Trish and Alan left for England via a stopover in New York; and Harry, Tony and I left for two days in Honolulu enroute to Sydney.



One thing we found - that compared to England, the food in America is much cheaper, with far more variety, and you get lots to eat.

Well, that's all for now - hope I haven't bored you. But you may find something in this "diary" that could help when you're considering ideas for the next Aussiecon, (if we get it in '85)!

Peace,

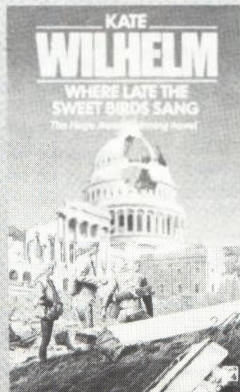
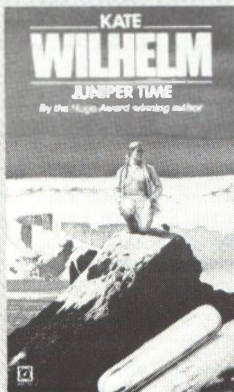
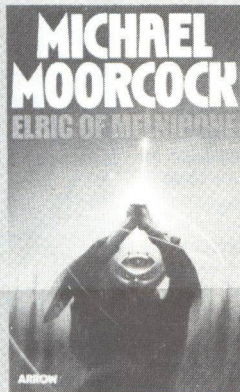
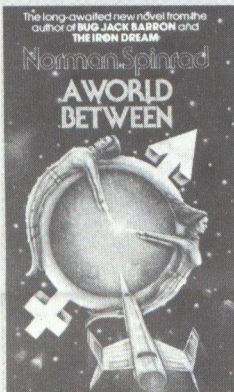
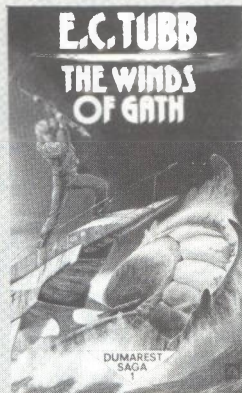
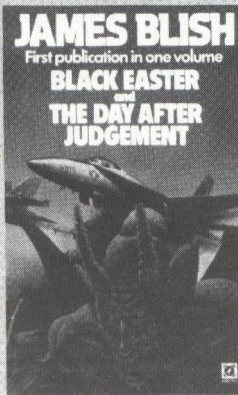
VAL ROGERS

My sincere thanks to Val for her very interesting impressions of DENVENTION. ANDREW PORTER, editor of SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE has sent me some of his photographs to use, but they turned up too late to include in this issue. So we will have a page of photographs from the World Con in the next issue.

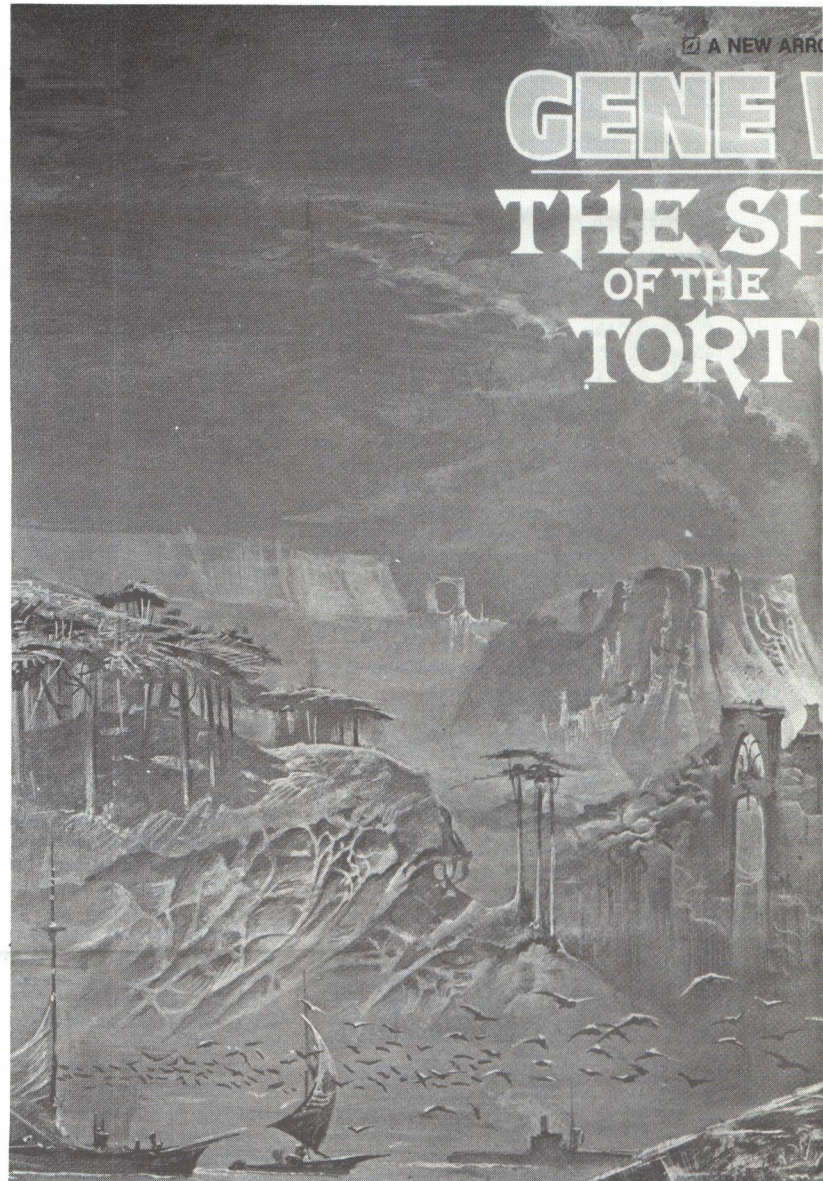
In this little bit of space I find I have to spare I will remind you that next year's World Convention is to be held in Chicago, in the U.S.A. and A. BERTRAM CHANDLER is the Guest of Honour. I hope as many people from Australia as possible will attend. I will also remind you that we should support LOS ANGELES for '84. Yes, I know it would be nice for Britain to have it, George Orwell and all that, but just think about that for a moment. Then again some nuts have predicted that the whole West Coast of the U.S.A is due to fall into the Pacific Ocean between now and 1984, so the decision may be made for us.

Just remember one thing! If MELBOURNE is to have a chance of winning the bid to hold the WORLD CON IN '85, BRITAIN must not win '84. At least that is my idea of the situation and I do not think that very many world con buffs will disagree with me.

ARROW SCIENCE FICTION ~



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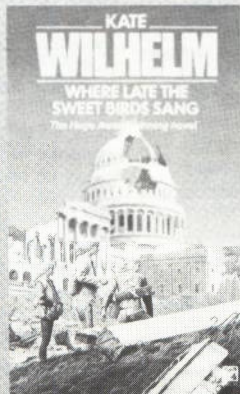
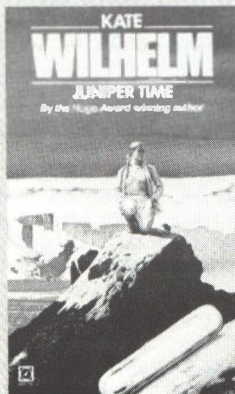
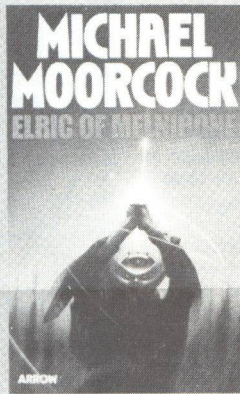
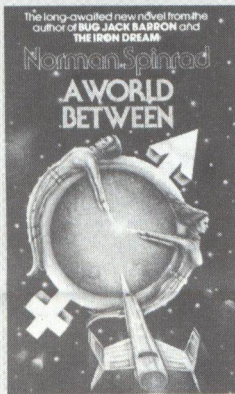
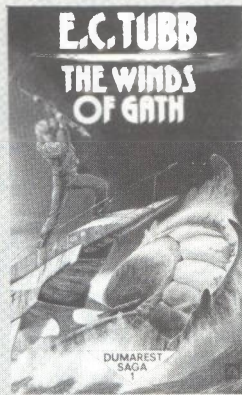
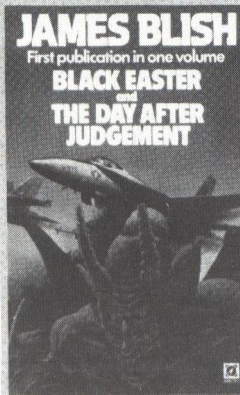
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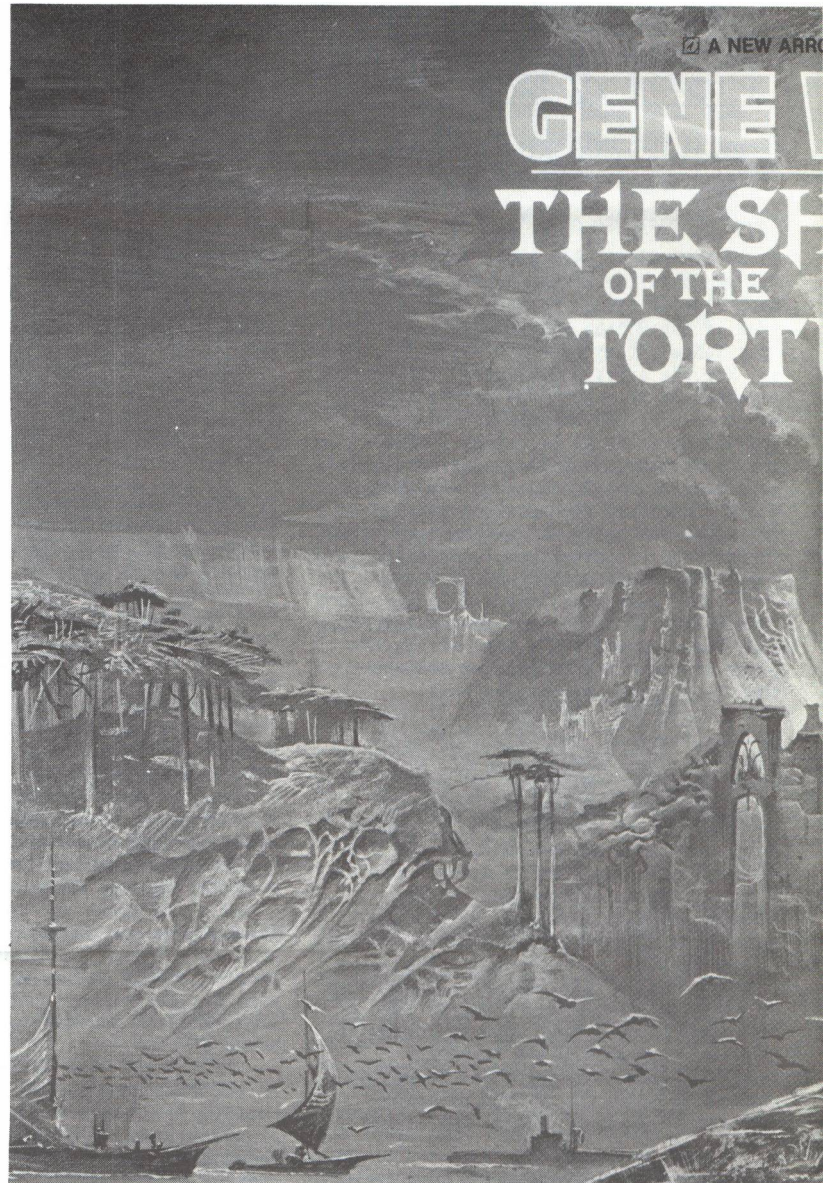
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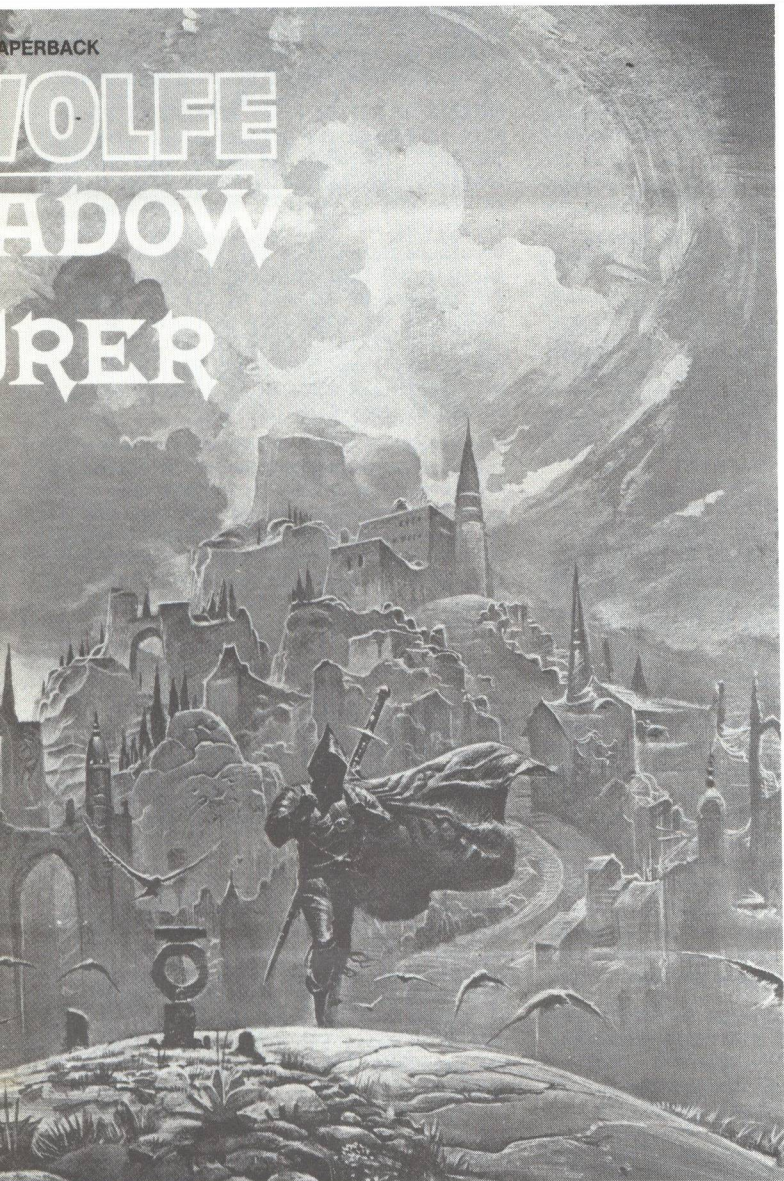
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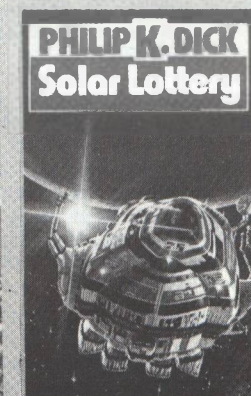
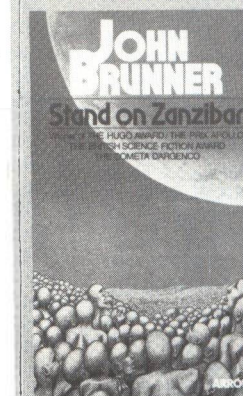
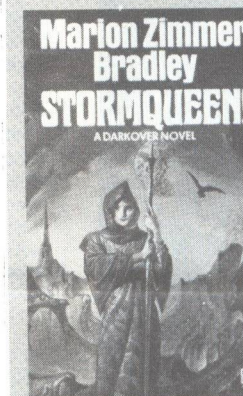
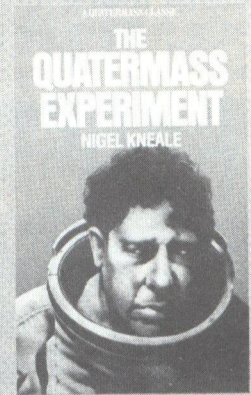
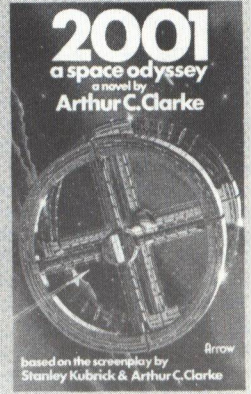
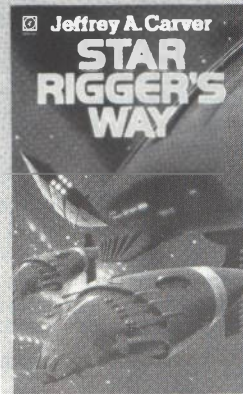
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THE NEW SUN
 by the far distant future
 as Le Guin described as
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ADOW
RER

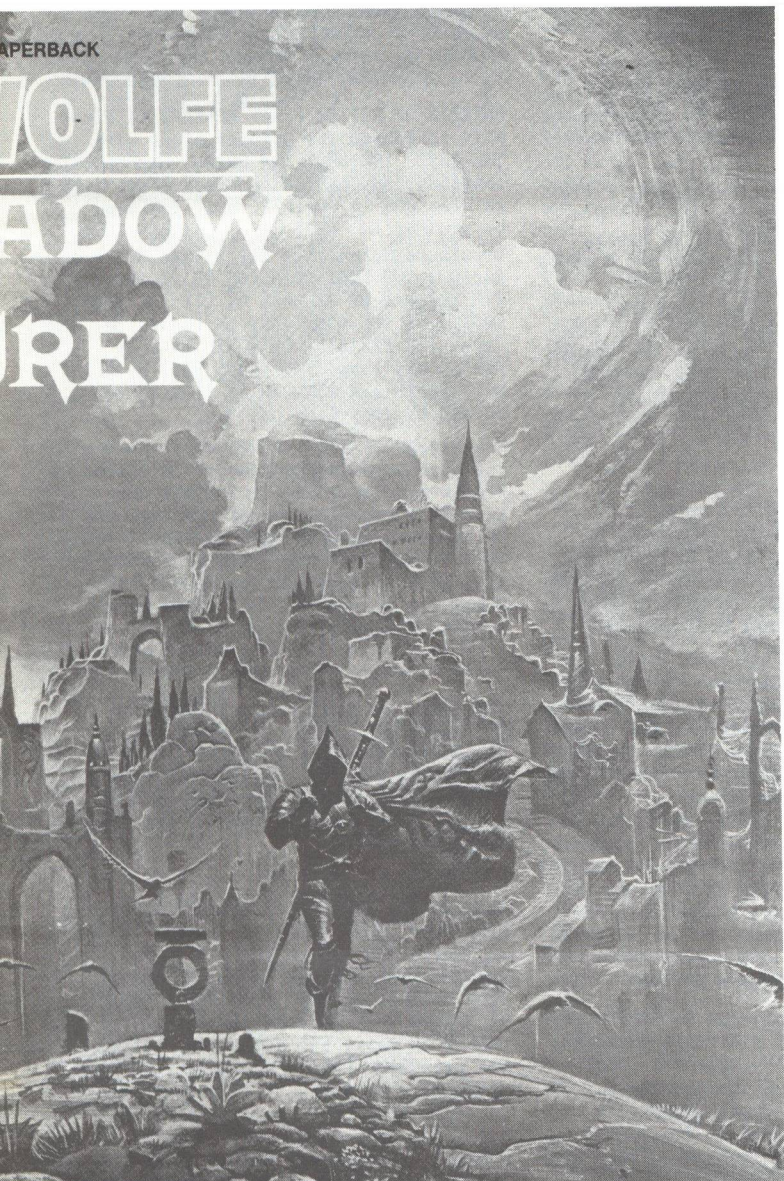
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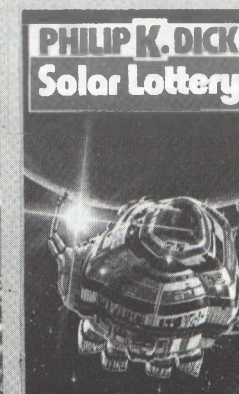
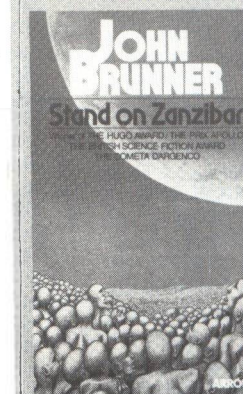
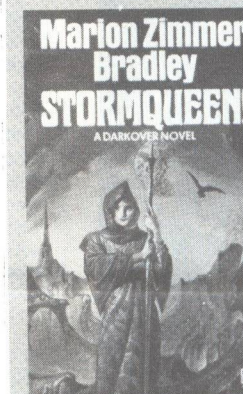
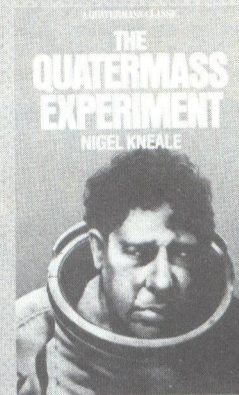
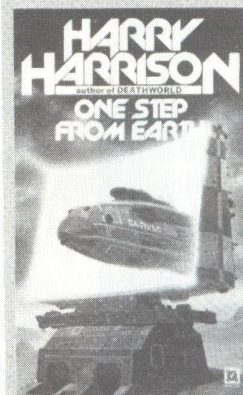
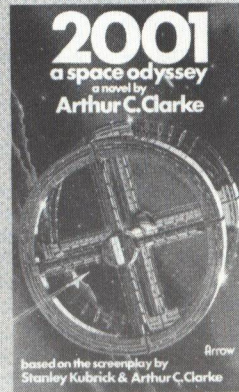
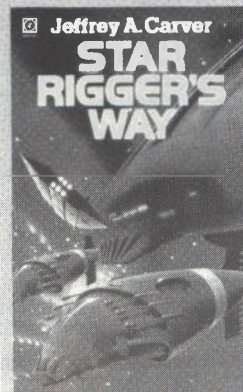
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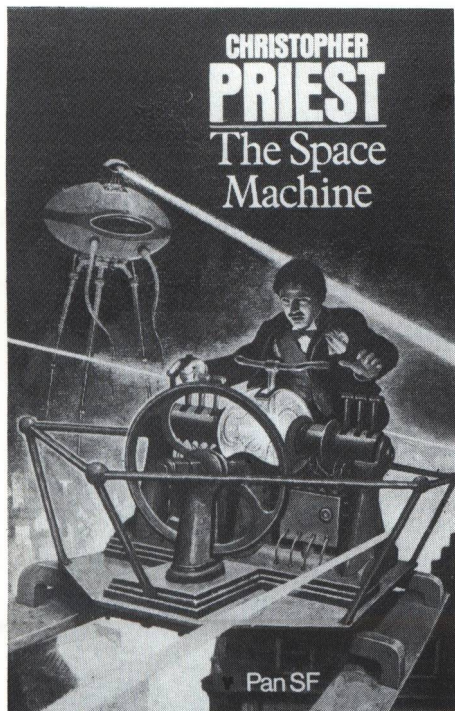
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* * * * *

When voting was due to close for the next DUFF (Down Under Fan Fund), to send an Australian fan to the U.S.A. next year only one nomination was to hand. That nomination was from DARYL MANNELL. In a move that we consider was quite unfair to Daryl the nomination period was extended. People had plenty of time previously to nominate so why did they suddenly find they could go after it was found that Daryl was the only nominee. Without any voting of course it does make it difficult to raise the funds needed, but I still feel uneasy about the way that things have worked out.

Other candidates now I believe include PETER TOLUZZI, DAMIEN BRENNAN and DERRICK ASHBY. I shall print all the candidates platforms in full, when they are made available to me.

For those people who know little about fan funds, the basic purpose is to cement friendship between Australian and U.S.A. fandoms. I believe the fan selected to go has an obligation to do all he can to further this friendship and I will have more to say on this matter next issue.

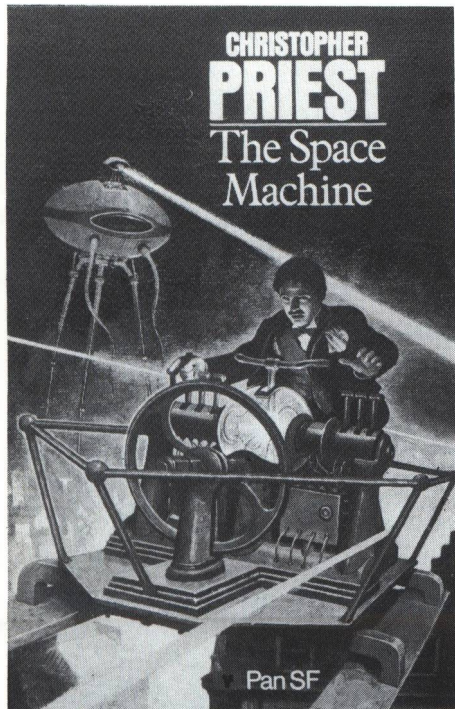
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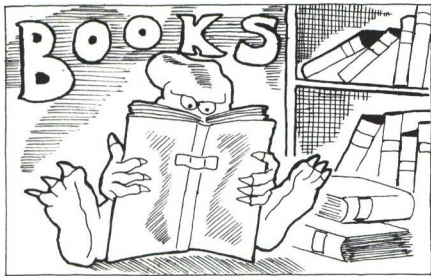
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When voting was due to close for the next DUFF (Down Under Fan Fund), to send an Australian fan to the U.S.A. next year only one nomination was to hand. That nomination was from DARYL MANNELL. In a move that we consider was quite unfair to Daryl the nomination period was extended. People had plenty of time previously to nominate so why did they suddenly find they could go after it was found that Daryl was the only nominee. Without any voting of course it does make it difficult to raise the funds needed, but I still feel uneasy about the way that things have worked out.

Other candidates now I believe include PETER TOLUZZI, DAMIEN BRENNAN and DERRICK ASHBY. I shall print all the candidates platforms in full, when they are made available to me.

For those people who know little about fan funds, the basic purpose is to cement friendship between Australian and U.S.A. fandoms. I believe the fan selected to go has an obligation to do all he can to further this friendship and I will have more to say on this matter next issue.

M.B.



A list of books announced by publishers up to October, and some later.

ACE: LORD DARCY INVESTIGATES by Randall GARRETT is a new title in his series. SPACE POWER by Harry G. STINE is a non-fiction title on space travel. ELSEWHERE edited by Terry WINDLING & Mark ARNOLD is an illustrated sf anthology. THE BLACK KNIGHT OF THE IRON SPHERE by Gordon EKLUND is the 3rd in the Lord Tedric series originated by E.E. "Doc" SMITH. Two trade pbs are THE MAGIC MAY RETURN edited by Larry NIVEN and DRAGONS OF DARKNESS Edited by Orson Scott CARD. There are reprints by Randall GARRETT, Gene WOLFE, P.J. FARMER, Fred SABERHAGEN, Andre NORTON and A. Bertram CHANDLER. In October we see the first mm/pb editions of LOST DORSAI by Gordon R. DICKSON, DIRECT DESCENT by Frank HERBERT and SURVEY SHIP by Marion Zimmer BRADLEY. SHADOW OF THE SANCTUARY is a new science fantasy, sequel to "Thieves World", edited by Robert ASPRIN. WARRIOR'S WORLD is a sequel to "Warrior's Blood" by Richard McENROE. There are reprints by ZELAZNY, SIMAK, E.R. BURROUGHS and another new title we almost missed, SPACETIME DONUTS by Rudy RUCKER.

W.H. ALLEN: Early this year Allens published THE FINAL ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES edited by Peter HAINING. In June DR WHO AND THE SEA DEVILS by Malcolm HULKE and DR WHO & THE CYBERMEN by Gerry DAVIS, both reprints. THE STATE OF DECAY by Terrance DICKS is we presume a DR WHO title.

ALLEN & UNWIN: THE LETTERS OF J.R.R. TOLKIEN edited by Humphrey CARPENTER and Christopher TOLKIEN was an August UK title.

ALLISON & BUSBY: LITTLE STOLEN SWEEP by Katherine MOORE (nfd), BRAVE OLD WORLD by Phillipe CURVAL and BRING BACK YESTERDAY by A. Bertram CHANDLER (First British edition and first time in HC).

ANGUS & ROBERTSON: A new TPB edition of the classic Australian sf novel, OUT OF THE SILENCE by Erle Cox was published in September.

ARBOR HOUSE: Titles published from January to October are THE WELL by Jack CADY, THE TRIDENT by Joel HAMMIL, MCDOWELL'S GHOST by Jack CADY, A SWEET FAMILIARITY by Daoma WINSTON and THE ARBOR HOUSE NECROPOLIS-VOODOO! MUMMY! GHOUL! edited by Bill PRONZINI. All of these titles are horror & occult fantasy.

ARCHIVAL PRESS: A deluxe edition of Michael MOORCOCK'S novel THE VANISHING TOWER was published in June.

ARGO: This sf series from Atheneum Publishers saw in September DAY OF THE STARWIND by Douglas Hill, THE KEEPER OF THE ISIS LIGHT by Monica HUGHES, THE

GIFT OF MIRROVAX by Malcolm MACLOUD, SOUL-SINGER OF TYRNOS by Ardath MAYHAR, A CIRCLE IN THE SEA by Steve SENN,

INHERIT THE EARTH by Irma WALKER, THE VOYAGE BEGUN by Nancy BOND and THE JOINING STONE by Shirley Rousseau MURPHY.

ARLINGTON: This British publisher is credited with the presumably fantasy title RAMAPO by Sam NORTH for September.

ARROW: SHADOW OF THE TORTURER by Gene WOLFE is the lead September title from Arrow with reprints of titles by James BLISH, E.C. TUBB and Marion Zimmer BRADLEY. October sees an unknown title due called SAM 7 by Richard COX.

ATHENEUM: An overlooked March release was THE LAST CRIME by John DOMATILLA.

AVON: The first U.S. pb edition of George ZEBROWSKI'S novel MACROLIFE was on the September list with NEW ENCOUNTERS, OLD ARRIVALS by Brian ALDISS. In October we see STATUS QUOTIENT by Ralph A. SPERRY, ESBAE: A WINTER'S TALE by Linda HALDEMAN, VISIONS OF WONDER (A collection of religious fantasy) edited by R. BOYER and K.J. ZAHORSKI, ELEMENTALS a hf/n by M. McDOWELL and BLUE CHAIR by Joyce THOMPSON JUSTICE AND HER BROTHERS, DUSTLAND and GATHERING all by V. HAMILTON we presume are also fantasy titles.

BALLANTINES/DEL REY: TOMORROW'S HERITAGE by Juanita Coulson is the first in a new sf family saga series, due with THE ELVES AND THE OTTERSKIN a fantasy by Elizabeth BOYER, reprints of DEADLY LITTER by James WHITE and THE ELEVENTH COMMANDMENT by Lester DEL REY and new editions of Alas GARNER'S fantasies THE MOON OF GOMRATH and THE WEIRDSTONE OF BRISINGAMEN. In October Jack CHALKER starts a new series with LILITH: A SNAKE IN THE GRASS, A Four Lords of the Diamond novel. LONG SHOT FOR ROSINANTE by Alexis A. GILLILAND (2nd in series), plus THE RING OF ALLAIRE a fantasy by Susan DEXTER, and reprints by David GERROLD, Fredric BROWN and Fletcher PRATT. Trade PBS from Ballantine include: THE ART OF LEO & DIANNE DILLON edited by Byron PREISS, SPECIAL EFFECTS IN THE MOVIES by John CULHANE, MORE THAN HUMAN by Theodore STURGEON and UNDER PRESSURE by Frank HERBERT.

BANTAM: QUAS STARBRITE by James R. BERRY is an sf novel released in September, with the 1st in the "Mathew Swain 21st Century Private Eye" series, HOT TIME IN THE OLD TOWN by Mike MCQUAY. In trade pb format a collection by Samuel DELANY, DISTANT STARS with LITTLE, BIG, by John CROWLEY, an unusual fantasy.

DOC SAVAGE double novel 105/106 has THEY DIED TWICE and THE SCREAMING MAN by Kenneth ROBESON. Released in August for the John CARPENTER movie was ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK by Mike MCQUAY. In October we see SLOW FALL TO DAWN by Stephen LEIGH and the JANUS SYNDROME by Steven E. MacDONALD. Missed for August was THE VIRGIN, a horror fantasy by James PATTERSON.

A.S. BARNES & CO Inc: As well as the expected film title from this publisher, a revised edition in PB of FILM FANTASY SCRAPBOOK by Ray Harryhausen, they announced for September publication THE SCIENCE FICTION COLLECTOR'S CATALOG by Jeff Rovin in TPB.

B.B.C: The British Broadcasting Corporation's publishing division has listed two sf titles; EARTHSEARCH by James

FOLLETT and BLAKE'S SEVEN: SCORPIO ATTACK by Trevor HOYLE.

BERKLEY: September saw a collection by Elizabeth LYNN, THE WOMAN WHO LOVED THE MOON AND OTHER STORIES, followed by a rp of Poul ANDERSON'S THE CORRIDORS OF TIME, TINTAGEL by Paul Cook, an sf novel, and an occult fantasy, MAYNARD'S HOUSE by Herman RAUCHER. In October the third in the "Phoenix Legacy" series, HOUSE OF THE WOLF by M.K. WREN, REEFS-The Journeys of McGill Feighan Volume 2 and SUNWAIFS by Sydney VAN SCYOC an sf novel.

BERKLEY/PUTNAM: This publisher has dropped their sf hard cover series, but a few are still to come and some f&sf titles will still be published. A trade pb series is planned and we will list the coming titles next issue. Meanwhile HCs out include THE UNREASONING MASK by Philip Jose FARMER, CRUISER DREAMS by Janet MORRIS and announced but probably delayed, AMARANT: THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF ATLANTIS BY A LADY BOTANIST by Una WOODRUFF (Artist). THE WOLVES OF MEMORY by George Alec EFFINGER is an October release.

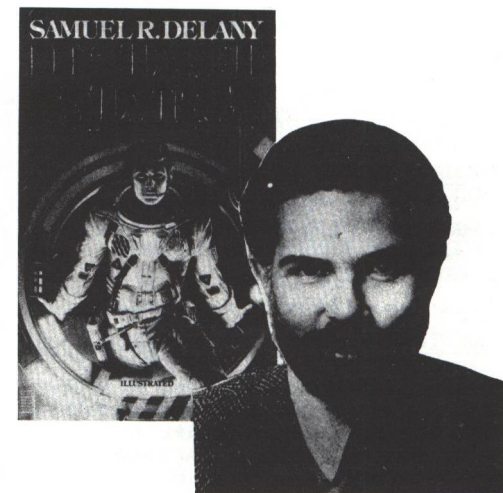
BODLEY HEAD: Three fantasies, the first more horror, were published by this publisher early in the year; THE HUNGER by Whitley STREIBER, THE SWORD AND THE CIRCLE by Rosemary SUTCLIFF and SWAN'S WING by Ursula SYNGE.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS: Due for July publication was THE NEW SOLAR SYSTEM, an illustrated book on astronomy by Brian O'LEARY and J. Kelly BEATTY.

JONATHAN CAPE: Missed earlier were THE STOLEN LAKE a juvenile fantasy by Joan AIKEN and OTHER PEOPLE: A Mystery Story, an occult fantasy juvenile by Martin AMIS. In August a science title of interest, 2081: A HOPEFUL VIEW OF THE FUTURE by Gerard K. O'NEIL. An art book by fantasy artist Alan ALDRIDGE, who illustrated "The Beatle Lyrics" and a number of childrens books, covers the whole range of his work with PHANTASIA OF DOCKLAND, ROCKLAND AND DODOS.

CHEAP STREET: This is a new American limited edition publisher we believe, who have published ERVOOL by Fritz LEIBER and RHAPSODY IN AMBER by Roger ZELAZNY.

CORGI: TONGUES OF THE MOON by Philip J. FARMER in probably it's first British edition and BIRTH PYRE, a horror fantasy by Larry BRAND are the only f or sf releases in September or October.



CORONET: A reprint of John WYNDHAM'S very early novel, THE SECRET PEOPLE is followed by the prehistoric fantasy, THE CLAN OF THE CAVE BEAR and two sf novels by Suzy McKee CHARNAS, WALK TO THE END OF THE WORLD and MOTHERLINES. Mary STEWART'S juvenile fantasy A WALK IN WOLF WOOD was published in Knight series.

GERRY DE LA REE: VIRGIL FINLAY REMEMBERED is this small publisher's latest addition to their series on the work of Finlay. This has letters and tributes to the artist as well as the usual samples of his work. HC and PB.

DELL: THE POINT MAN by Stephen ENGLEHART seems to be a futuristic spy novel.

DEACORTE: THE STOLEN LAKE by Joan AIKEN (SF/N), CATACOMBS by John FARRIS, an occult fantasy novel, and an illustrated children's pop-up book, ROBOT by Jan PIENKOWSKI.

DENT: Published in April and overlooked was SINISTER, STRANGE AND SUPERNATURAL edited by Helen HOKE. HF/A.

DENVENTION: The 1981 World Convention published a collection of sf stories to coincide with the convention; THE DENVENTION TWO BOOK OF HUGO WINNERS. NFD.

DAW: DELUSION'S MASTER is a new fantasy by Tanith LEE. THE ANARCH LORDS by A. Bertram CHANDLER features John Grimes as a planetary governor. NOW WAIT FOR LAST YEAR is a P.K.DICK new edition and DARYA OF THE BRONZE AGE, a prehistoric fantasy by Lin CARTER completed September. The big one for OCTOBER is a new "Darkover" novel by Marion Zimmer Bradley, SHARRA'S EXILE. SHOWBOAT WORLD by Jack VANCE is a new edition. THE YEAR'S BEST FANTASY STORIES:7 has a new editor in Arthur W. SAHA. Still on the trail, DUMAREST #25: THE TERRIDAE by E.C.TUBB.

DOUBLEDAY: AND THERE'LL BE FIREWORKS is a new sf novel by Suzette Haden ELGIN. CHRYSALIS #9 edited by Roy TORGESON is the latest in this anthology series. TIME BANDITS by Terry GILLIAM and Michael PALLIN in it's American edition. GHOSTS: A TREASURY OF CHILLING TALES OLD AND NEW edited by Marvin KAYE, plus his new fantasy novel, THE AMOROUS UMBRELLA. SHADOWS 4 edited by Charles L. GRANT.

From DOBSON publishers we see a new edition of the third of the novels based on the TV series THE PRISONER by David McDANIEL and a presumably sf title, BITTER HARVEST by Ken HORNSBY.

DRAGON'S DREAM: We still have not seen all the titles this art book publisher announced early in the year, but they now have scheduled a version of THE MABINOIGION by Lee and Gwynn THOMAS, illustrated by Alan LEE, and a new printing of the SENTINEL, the work of futuristic designer Sydney MEAD.

EVEREST HOUSE: THE FANTASY WORLD OF WALT DISNEY by Adrian BAILEY NFD

FARRAR, STRAUS & GIROUX: Presumably an sf novel is EASY TRAVEL TO OTHER PLANETS by Ted MOONEY.

FABER: VANEGLORY by George TURNER.

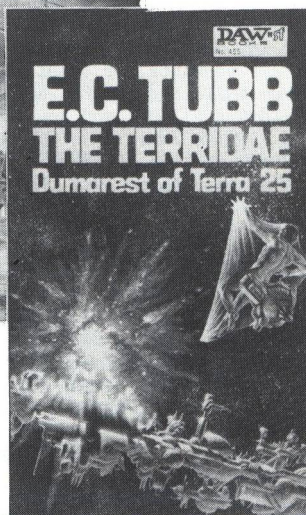
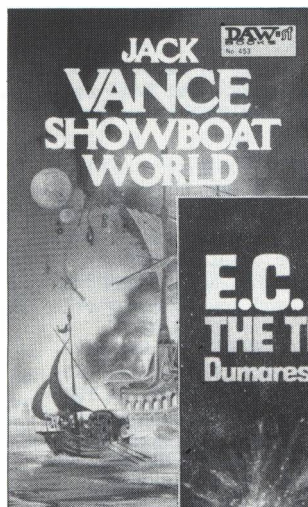
FAWCETT: A new sf novel in the Crest imprint, by Stephen GOLDIN, is ASSAULT ON THE GODS. GUARDIAN by Thomas F. MONTELEONE is from Popular Library with a reprint of CIRCLE OF LIGHT #1: GREYFAX GRIMWALD by Neil HANCOCK. EARTHWRECK by Thomas N. Scortia is in Gold Medal.

FONTANA: This publisher's sf titles are few and far between but they have two horror novels; THE SEARING by John COYNE and THE NAMELESS HORROR by Ramsey CAMPBELL.

FOUR WINDS PRESS: An original fantasy novel, THE MIDNIGHT SON by Steven B. MILLER will be published in HC & PB.

FUTURA: DARK FORCES edited by Kirby MCCAULEY is a collection of horror tales. Also in this line is THE FINAL CONFLICT: OMEN III, a reprint by Gordon McGill, and THE BIRTHDAY TREAT by Robert RUSH. THE ENTROPY EFFECT, Vonda MCINTYRE'S Star Trek novel is an October UK title.

GOLLANCZ: PLANET OF THE WARLORD is a juvenile sf novel by Douglas HILL. THE CERES SOLUTION by Bob SHAW is a new sf novel. TERRY CARR'S BEST SF OF THE YEAR 10, DEATHHUNTER by Ian WATSON, SF HALL OF FAME Volume 4 edited by Arthur C. CLARKE and THE MAN WHO HAD NO IDEA by Thomas M. DISCH, are due to be published up to January.



GRANADA: The speculative science, illustrated title, AFTER MAN by Douglas DOUGAL is a September release. (HC) In paperbacks in the MAYFLOWER imprint we have two Michael MOORCOCK fantasies, STEALER OF SOULS and LAND LEVIATHAN reprinted. In PANTHER we have: FAESE DAWN by Chelsea Quinn YARBRO, EARTHWORKS by Brian ALDISS (RP), STARWORLD by Harry HARRISON (3rd in series), THE FIFTH HORSEMAN by L. COLLINS and D. LAPIERRE and other reprints by HUXLEY, ALDISS and ELLISON.

DONALD M. GRANT: Titles announced by this publisher of high quality limited editions include the following to be published up to 1982: AS IT WAS WRITTEN by Clark Ashton SMITH, DURANDAL by Harold LAMB, TALBOT MUNDY: MESSENGER OF DESTINY by Donald M. GRANT & Others, CREEP TO DEATH by Joseph Payne BRENNAN, THE QUEEN OF HELL and Other Fantasies by R.J. KRUPOWICZ, THE LAIR OF THE HIDDEN ONES by Robert E. HOWARD and Darrell CROMBIE, KING KULL by Robert E. HOWARD and GUNSLINGER/ THE DARK TOWER by Stephen KING.

GROSSET & DUNLAP: VINCENT PRICE'S WORLD OF MONSTERS is a book on film monsters by actor Price and we believe his son.

ROBERT HALE: The following titles can be added to Hale's '81 list: STARLOOT by A. Bertram CHANDLER, THE LUCIFER EXPERIMENT by Adrian COLE, LEGACY OF THE STARS by Robert HOSKINS, and ONE HUNDRED MILES ABOVE EARTH by Raymond J. ROSS.

HAMLIN: THE SANCTUARY by Glenn CHANDLER is a previously missed horror title. DUNCTON WOOD the animal fantasy by William HORWOOD (already on sale here) was a Septmebr UK title along with VOLKHAAR by Tanith LEE.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS: ALIEN ENCOUNTERS is a non-fiction, critical book on sf by Mark ROSE. (Not to be confused with a short story collection announced with the same title).

HEAVY METAL: The publishers of the adult comic magazine present HEAVY METAL: THE INSIDERS FILM BOOK. Artwork etcetera from the upcoming movie. (US distributor New York Zoetrope and in Australia by All Books and Kingfisher.)

HOLT RINEHART & WINSTON: Already published we have THE SHAPE OF FUTURES PAST: THE STORY OF PREDICTION by Chris MORGAN, THE WINE OF VIOLENCE by James MORROW, HEIRS OF THE KINGDOM by Kennedy HUDNER, THE APOCALYPSE BRIGADE by Alfred COPPEL, SEARCH FOR LIFE ON MARS by Henry S.F. COOPER Jr., and THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS CALENDAR by Michael HAGUE.

HOUGHTON MIFLIN: LAUGHING SPACE by Isaac ASIMOV & J.O. JEPSON (SF/N-?), THE HIGH ROAD by Ben BOVA (N/F), THE GOLDEN TORC by Julian MAY (2nd in series), THE LETTERS OF J.R.R. TOLKIEN edited by H. CARPENTER and C. TOLKIEN.

HUTCHINSON: THE TIME BANDITS by Michael PALIN & Terry GILLIAM (Script of the movie plus.), THE GOLDEN AGE OF SCIENCE FICTION edited by Kinglsey AMIS, and a series of small art gift books, FAIRIES by Avril RODWAY, MYTHICAL BEASTS by Mark REDDY and BEHIND THE WIND by Patricia WRIGHTSON (Juvenile fantasy novel).

MICHAEL JOSPEH: MEGALODON by Robin BROWN is a novel about the discovery of a giant prehistoric shark. MISS PIGGY'S GUIDE TO LIFE by Miss PIGGY is one for all the MUPPET fans.

WILLIAM KIMBER: Further titles in their occult fantasy editions are DUTY TO THE DEVIL by A.G. SCUPHAM, GHOSTS IN THE COUNTRY by Denys Val BAKER and TALES OF DARKNESS by R. CHETWYND-HAYES. All short story collections.

ALFRED KNOPF: Another one for MUPPET fans is OF MUPPETS AND MEN: THE MAKING OF THE MUPPET SHOW by Christopher FINCH.

LEISURE Paperbacks: Current titles are HOUSE OF ANOTHER KIND by William FRITTS, SUBSTANCE X by David HOUSTON (SFN), SAVAGE STARS by Richard REINFORF (SFN), PREMONITION by J.N. WILLIAMSON (HN), and STARSPINNER by Dale AYCOCK (SFN).

LION: THE GOLDEN DONKEY, THE WISE WOMAN, THE LIGHT PRINCESS and THE GRAY WOLF all by George McDONALD and we presume just the British editions of the recent EERDMANS US editions. Also in boxed set.

MACDONALD: A new hard cover printing of THE LEFT HAND OF DARKNESS by Ursula Le GUIN was done in August.

MACMILLAN LONDON: THE BRAIN by Robin COOK is another medical science horror story out early this year. In October we see THE TRAVELLER'S GUIDE TO THE SOLAR SYSTEM by artist RON MILLER and William K. HARTMANN (NF/SC). THE APOCALYPSE BRIGADE is political future fantasy by Alfred COPPEL.

MACMILLAN USA: EARTHWATCH by Charles SHEFFIELD (NF/SC), WORLDS SPRING by Vladimir GAKOV (New title in Russian sf series. Anthology).

JULIA MACRAE: Two juvenile fantasy novels - PYRAMID POWER by Ann RUFFELL and THE ELF KING'S BRIDE by Sally SCOTT.

MAGNUM: In October we see THE HAWK OF MAY by Gillian BRADSHAW (Arthurian f), RETURN TO DARKNESS by Ellis MARSHALL (Actually an August HF/N), and a new edition of 334, the sf by Thomas M. DISCH.

MITCHELL BEAZLEY: Three outstanding books on space science are a new edition of THE ATLAS OF THE UNIVERSE by Patrick MOORE, JUPITER and THE MOON, both by Gary HUNT and Patrick MOORE.

MYSTERIOUS PRESS: A deluxe edition of Stephen KINGS new horror novel CUJO was scheduled for September.

NAL/SIGNET: A new sf by Ann MAXWELL is THE JAWS OF MENX. This is followed by a number of horror novels: VOICE OF THE NIGHT by Brian COFFEY, GILA! by Les SIMONS and THE JONAH by James HERBERT.

NEW ENGLISH LIBRARY: THE BROTHEL ON ROSENSTRASSE is a war time novel by Michael MOORCOCK, and mentioned for the completist collectors only. THE SONG OF PHAID THE GAMBLER is a fantasy novel by Mick FARREN. Both of these are in HC already and the latter is due for PB release. Other pbs include: THE REVOLT OF THE MICRONAUTS by Gordon WILLIAMS, CRABS ON THE RAMPAGE by Guy N. SMITH, THE PALACE by Chelsea Quinn YARBRO, THE BAMBOO DEMONS by Jory SHERMAN, and rps of CHILDREN OF DUNE and DUNE MESSIAH by Herbert.

OCTOPUS BOOKS: THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HORROR by Richard Davis is a mixture of material on witchcraft and other non-fiction occult subjects, plus movies. THE TOURIST'S GUIDE TO TRANSYLVANIA by Count Ignatius DE LUDES is a fiction presented as fact book, illustrated with second illustrations from various sources. These titles are published in Australia under the WATTLE imprint.

PAN Books: No F& SF in September, but in October Pan have LORD VALENTINE'S CASTLE by Robert SILVERBERG, THE 22ND PAN BOOK OF HORROR STORIES and a new printing of MEMOIRS OF A SURVIVOR by Doris LESSING.

PAPER TIGER: This art book publisher has announced the following titles to be published between now and early 1982:

AMARANT - THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF ATLANTIS by A LADY BOTANIST by Una WOODRUFF, THE WATER BABIES by Charles KINGSLEY illustrated by Susan ROWE, WALT DISNEY'S WORLD OF FANTASY by Adrian BAILEY, MEDIEVAL FABLES by Maurie de FRANCE, THE AGATHA CHRISTIE COVER STORY by Tom ADAMS, SILVER ARM by Jim FITZPATRICK (More pre-Celtic mythology) and WITCHES by Colin WILSON and Una WOODRUFF.

PENGUIN: Titles published in the U.K. up to October include: THE GIRL IN THE SWING

by Richard ADAMS, THE PENGUIN SCIENCE FICTION OMNIBUS Edited by Brian ALDISS, THE DAY IT RAINED FOREVER by Ray BRADBURY, and PEAKE'S PROGRESS by Maeve GILMORE.

PHILOMEL BOOKS: Two juvenile fantasy books, THEY CAME FROM AARGH! by Richard ADAMS and THE LAD FROM GAD by Alan GARNER, are followed by TOUCH MAGIC: FANTASY, FAERIE AND FOLKLORE IN LITERATURE OF CHILDHOOD by Jane YOLEN.

PLAYBOY Paperbacks: GALAXY: 30 YEARS OF INNOVATIVE SF Volume One and Two edited by Frederik POHL, M.H. GREENBERG & J.D. OLANDER. GRAYMANTLE by John MORRESSY, HORRORS edited by Charles L. GRANT.

POCKET BOOKS: The following titles are not in the "Timescape" series: DEATHBELL by Guy N. SMITH, THE PARASITE by Ramsey CAMPBELL, (Both HF/Ns), THE TROUBLE WITH MISS SWITCH by Barbara Brooks WALLACE (Juv. F/N), and THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY by Douglas ADAMS (1st USPB).

PROTEUS BOOKS: GALACTIC TOURS is another fiction as fact book by Bob SHAW with illustrations by the outstanding astronomical artist David HARDY.

ST MARTIN'S PRESS: STAR COLONY is a new novel by Keith Laumer. AFTER MAN: A ZOOLOGY OF THE FUTURE by Dougal DIXON. (The U.S. Edition.)

SALAMANDAR: THE ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY by Kenneth GATLAND. (Lansdowne Press Australia).

SHOCKEN BOOK: This publisher distributes the Allison & Busby editions of A. Bertram CHANDLER titles THE RIM OF SPACE and WHEN THE DREAM DIES, in the USA. They have done a calendar of the outstanding art work by Kit WILLIAMS for her book MASQUERADE. (Jonathan Cape UK).

SIDGWICK AND JACKSON: Titles due to be published up to October are: PROJECT POPE by Clifford SIMAK, THE CLAW OF THE CONCILIATOR by Gene WOLFE plus the omnibus volumes SF SPECIALS 37, 38 and 39, and QUANTAM SPECIAL # 3.

SIMON & SCHUSTER: HC titles not included in the "Timescape" series. PLANET OF THE DAMNED by Harry HARRISON, THE ENCHANTED LOOM by Robert JASTROW (NF Sci) and a trade pb, THE DECEIVERS by Alfred BESTER. (An sf novel, illustrated).

COLIN SMYTHE: STRATA by Terry PRATCHETT (NFD).

SOUVENIR PRESS: Two new titles in the Night Owl series: SATYRDAY by Steven BAUER and THE LAST BORN OF ELVINWOOD by Linda HALDEMAN.

SPHERE: WHEN THE DREAM DIES by A. Bertram CHANDLER (1st Br. PB edition), MASKS OF THE ILLUMINATI by Robert Anton WILSON (Tongue in cheek occultism), ALIEN QUEST by George H. LEONARD (A UFO novel published in April), THE CHAMELEON VARIANT by Carol K. MACK & David EHRENFELD, CHILDGRAVE by Jessica HAMILTON (HFN), DISEASES FROM SPACE by Fred HOYLE and N.C. WICKRAMASINGHE (Science N/F), BRAINFIRE by Campbell BLACK, THE MERMAN'S CHILDREN by Poul ANDERSON (F/N), and SILVER SKULL by Les DANIELS (F/N).

STACKPOLE: NEW EARTHS: RESTRUCTURING EARTH AND OTHER PLANETS by James OBERG (NF/Science).

STARBLAZE: THE DAWNING LIGHT by Robert SILVERBERG and Randall GARRETT, THE STAR SEED by D.C. POYER, JEWELS OF ELSEWHEN by Ted WHITE, MR MONSTER'S MOVIE GOLD by Forrest J. ACKERMAN, FRANKENSTEIN LIVES by Donald A. GLUT, ELQUEST Book One by Wendy and Richard PINI (Comic strip), WEB OF LIGHT by Marion Zimmer BRADLEY, and MALLWORLD by Somtow SUCHARITKUL. These titles are all due, but this publisher cannot be relied upon to stick to their schedule.

PATRICK STEPHENS LTD.: THE SHAPE OF WARS TO COME by David BAKER (NF).

J.P. TARCHER: MILLENIUM: GLIMPSED INTO THE 21st CENTURY by Alberto VILLOLDO and Ken DYCHTOWALD editors. (A collection of essays.)

THAMES AND HUDSON: TOLKIEN AND THE SILMARILLS by Randell HELMS (A literary criticism on "The Silmarillion").

TIMESCAPE: September starts off with THE FORMER KING: CANTO ONE OF THE DOOM QUEST OF ARA-KARN, a fantasy novel by Adam CORBY, WILD SEED by Octavia BUTLER, STARSHIP AND HAiku by Somtow SUCHARITKUL (His 1st novel), WHERE LATE THE SWEET-BIRDS SANG by Kate WILHELM (SF/N RP), FREE FLIGHT by Douglas TERMAN (NFD), KING DAVID'S SPACESHIP by Jerry POURNELLE, THE KLINGON GAMBIT by Robert E. VARDEMAN (Star Trek novel), PARTICLE THEORY by Edward BRYANT (SF/C), THE PRINCE OF THE MORNING BELLS by Nancy KRESS (F/N), and FAULT LINES by Kate WILHELM (Fiction R/P). They were all pbs. In the hard covers we have: OATH OF FEALTY by Larry NIVEN and Jerry POURNELLE (Set in the same universe as "The Mote in God's Eye"), and THE WAR HOUNDS AND THE WORLD'S PAIN by Michael MOORCOCK (NFD).

TOR/PINNACLE: THE CACHE by Philip Jose FARMER (SF/N-FE) and FANTASY by Poul ANDERSON (Fantasy collection) are the September releases. A new edition of THE GUARDIANS OF TIME by Poul ANDERSON and EARTH DESCENDED, a new novel by Fred SABERHAGEN are the October titles.

TOWER: Titles from July to October are: SOMETIME AFTER THE EQUINOX by Jorj BENT (SF/N), BRAK- THE SORCERESS and WHEN IDOLS WALKED by John JAKES (FNs-RPS), SPECTROS#4: THE SILVER CANYON by Logan WINTERS (Fantasy Western), THE HYBRID by Steve VANCE (SF/N), and a horror novel by Hans HOLZER, THE ENTRY.

VIKING: THE PSYCHIC AND THE SWAMP MAN by Kathleen Martell GORDON (Occ F/N), and FAIRY TALES OF HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSON, a new printing of the Kay NIELSEN illustrated edition.

WEIDENFELD AND NICHOLSON: A future war come political fantasy is SUBMARINE by John WINGATE.

WYNDHAM/STAR/TARGET: LORD TEDRIC- ALIEN REALMS by E.E. "Doc" SMITH (SF/N-FE), is followed by 9 DR WHO reprints and Volume two of the DR WHO PROGRAMME GUIDE by Jean LOFFICIER. Volume One was published July or August. BARBARIAN SWORDSMEN is a collection edited by Sean RICHARDS.

We believe that the new distributor of WYNDHAM books in Australia will be Gordon and Gotch, but this is to be confirmed.



I am still trying to catch up on a backlog of reviews, some of which I regret I will not be able to use simply because they are too out of date. If we make future reviews more concise and to the point, I feel readers will find them more useful. So after a catch up on the reviews on hand in the next issue, you can expect some changes in the presentation in the near future. M.B.

MOLLY ZERO by Keith Roberts
Gollancz; 222pgs; \$19.50
Reviewed by George Turner

Keith Robert's reputation is much bigger in England than in Australia, which is a pity because he is always worth reading even when you disagree with what he is saying. He is best remembered by an early alternate-time-track novel, *PAVANE*, yet his collections of stories are among the most literate and the most original in the genre.

After which, it seems a pity to record that *MOLLY ZERO* is good entertainment but an intellectual disappointment. Molly Zero is a child brought up with other adolescents in a segregated establishment in England, one where the outside world scarcely penetrates. Suspicious of sinister meanings behind this quarantine, she and a boy escape together, heading for mysterious, legendary London.

This is, of course, a post-holocaust novel with the usual preaching of a form of elitism (which really doesn't need to be the dirty word touted by our pseudo-intellectuals, most of whom readily form their own elites of disapproval) and the usual 'surprise' revelation of the real meaning of the quarantine.

Two thirds of the book is taken up by the trek south and this is the best part of it. Almost wholly non-science-fictional, this account of everyday people in the new culture, plus an intriguing excursion into the wiles and ways of those artists in survival, the gypsies, grips and holds. The final London section is by no means flat but is altogether expectable in its trite social analysis.

An entertaining novel but one with nothing fresh to say.

THE KRYPTONITE KID by Joseph Torchia
Macmillan; 184 pp; \$10.95
Reviewed by George Turner

This is not sf. It is, however, a psychological novel of considerable power which will interest sf readers because it deals with the impact of highly emotional comic strips on the

pre-adolescent mind, using 'Superman' as its pivotal example.

The Kid believes in Superman. The book consists mainly of his unanswered letters to his idol (like any obsessive, he works out marvellously ingenious reasons for his hero's failure to reply) and is wonderfully funny in its demonstration of blind faith in conflict with religion, education and the hostility of parents and society in general to the nonconformer.

The faith does not die with approaching adolescence and the end is a tragedy which grows almost imperceptibly out of the laughter. This novel asks quietly, Where next? After all, if you don't try to emulate your folk heroes, why create them? It asks also, Who suffers? And answers: Not necessarily the blind conformer, just as the drunk driver isn't always the one killed....

FIREFLOOD & OTHER STORIES

by Vonda McIntyre
Gollancz; 281 pp; \$15.95
Reviewed by George Turner.

Vonda McIntyre - Hugo, Nebula and all - is a hangover from a particular area of the 'new wave', that area which produced wispily oblique stories loaded with what the more sentimental fans called 'literary values' and 'human interest', and difficult to pin down as containing anything more substantial than a long sigh of disillusionment with everything.

There are two stories about winged people, heavily emotional and turgid about situations which are meaningless because we never discover what, where or when the protagonists are. There is a long sex-piece about space pilots who are fitted with mechanical hearts (why?) and lower-deck crew who spend the whole trip in suspended animation (again, why?). Pilot and crewman spend a night of purple passion, only to realise that cyborg and sleeper can never be one. Which they knew before they started. Even Mills & Boon might wince at that one.

There is another long, endlessly long, yarn about a spaceways tramp (female) who behaves like a perfect lady where her virtue is concerned (repelling advances of lecherous prison warden) and like a sturdy heroine in situations which are never sufficiently resolved to allow the reader to see her as anything but a stiff-upper-lip bore.

The real problem throughout is that the eleven stories are robbed of meaning by being set in a cultural vacuum; there is no universe around them, no background to lend meaning. Otherwise the most notable items about the collection are the general incompetence of the male characters and the author's preoccupation with cruelty (usually gratuitous) and degrading pain.

THREE TOMORROWS by John Griffiths
Papermac; 208 pp; \$12.60
Reviewed by George Turner

The original version of this essay in

criticism was written ten years ago and shelved. Contrary to some derogatory reports which have been passed on to me, Griffiths has not simply updated an old script but has made a study of the intervening ten years and extended his research and conclusions to cover the field up to 1980. And he has covered it excellently within the limits he sets.

He has no particular 'theory of science fiction' to advance but has concentrated on examining three lines of descent - American, British and Soviet - to expose and comment on the extreme differences between them as well as their clinging to common origins, and to draw some conclusions as to the reasons for the differing national approaches.

What he has to say about the American and English products may not greatly surprise (consider Heinlein and Ballard, for instance, as opposing representatives and the general argument is clear) but may give rise to some thought about why these polar differences appear. On Soviet science fiction, however, he is fabulously interesting, not only on the obvious influence of censorship and Marxist doctrine but on the remarkable freedom of expression which some sf writers seem to enjoy while other genres are forced to toe the line. I begin now to understand how and why the Strugatski brothers, for instance, get away with their savage attacks on bureaucracy. (They haven't gone totally unscathed but neither have they been silenced.)

Griffiths traces the national lines through utopias, wars, disasters, aliens and the rest of the major themes and has much of interest to say about each of them. His book is essential to those who would call themselves students of science fiction.

George Turner

THE GREAT SF STORIES 4 (1942) edited by Isaac Asimov, 448 pgs, Daw \$3.95
Reviewed by John J. Alderson

Let's not discuss these as SF. Suffice it to say that they stand, for the better part, up to rereading. The selection is good.

As a sociological study, this book is invaluable. Particularly in the light of the lies we've had about America's interest in "saving the world" since that time. One may read these stories, written in the darkest days of the World War, and be only vaguely conscious that the best part of the world was engaged in a life and death struggle. Asimov's own 'Foundation' gives the best clue, the Empire could be destroyed (with little regret) but the distant colony would rebuild it, all in record time. Or Boucher's "Barrier" where apparently the Nazi's won the war, but it is of no concern. Read this book if you want to know what contemporary America felt about the World War. How the Introduction differs from the text of the stories!

There are other sociological matters to be unearthed in this volume. SF writers keep their ear to the ground

around big business as well as science. This is the earliest reference to the start of what has become known as 'Woman's Liberation'. Nurse Brown, in Lester Del Rey's 'Nerves' comes in to help in an emergency. The emergency leaves a vacancy, so "...I'll take Brown in Jenkin's place..." for "Your wife likes working, kid." So the Nurse Brown's go back to work, pressured into believing they like working, not because they really wanted to, but because the business needed them. Guess who has been led up the garden path by the nose!

Read this volume. There's great sociological material in it.

THE PLANET OF TEARS by Trish Reinius
164 pgs, Bantam Books
Reviewed by J. J. Alderson

A dully written work, with virtually no plot, characters which are only puppets, and with an irreproachable moral. Shorter, better written and well illustrated it might make a children's book. The Planet of Tears seems a reasonably agreeable place, certainly not terribly tearful. Trouble is that the writer's got nothing to say, and as yet, cannot write in any case.

Writing fantasy is no excuse for shoddy backgrounds, illogical 'deus ex machina', magic and cardboard characters.

MOCKINGBIRD by Walter Tevis,
276 pgs, Bantam Books, \$2.95us
Reviewed by John J. Alderson

Tevis does not appear to have written very much. His, 'The Man Who Fell to Earth' ended more or less on a note of despair, but not so this book. It begins with a pretty hopeless situation, indeed it is as the book progresses that we realize just how hopeless the situation is. Mankind has been reduced to a handful and all the women are sterile...there has been no children for something like thirty years. Mankind exists in a totally drugged state with the food impregnated with steroids. Everything is done by robots.

The book ends with the establishment of a nuclear family heading out into the countryside. Dark as the prospect might be, they go in hope.

In this Tevis stands apart and opposed to the mainstream of American science fiction writers. Our opinion is that he is right, and secondly, has written a book worth reading.

THE ROSE by Charles L. Harness
158 pgs, Granada, \$4.95 Reviewed by John Alderson

As with so many such books the bibliographical information which is supposed to be on the verso of the title page is incomplete. This book though, does come as some surprise, a very welcome surprise. It was first published in Astounding 1953, and is so unlike most of the junk that journal published. The theme is simple, science v. art, with the advent of a new type of humanity thrown in. The latter is not

so convincing. The characters are vivid in their portrayal and talk in an affected arty manner but this mercifully does not extend to the author himself. It is significant that in the novel, the cold unimaginative scientist is a woman, and in a short story used to round out the book, the censor is an equally cold woman, both dedicated to preventing new art or thought.

The burden of the book is that art precedes science and it is obviously part of the debate of the 'fifties of the two cultures. Highly recommended.

A SWIFTLY TILTING PLANET

by Madeleine L'Engle

278 pgs, Souvenir Press, \$16.50

Reviewed by John Alderson

Written for the indoctrination and conditioning of juveniles, with a twisting of the past to suit the author's politics. It is a pity that this otherwise excellently written book could not be a little more honest. The events take place on the night of Thanksgiving, a time, apparently when all Americans of the family have gathered at the mother's home. As so often with American stories, particularly juveniles, the husband is away (overseas), and whether American men are always away or the novelists don't want them about is an interesting point.

The book is fantasy, based on the Welsh legends that a party of them sailed to America to avoid a fratricidal war in Wales. Surprisingly the author doesn't seem to know that Southey wrote an epic poem on the subject. Also the author seems unaware that in Wales primogeniture did not apply. Faulty, but nicely written.

WARRIOR OF MARS by Michael Moorcock (comprising, 'The City of the Beast', 'Lord of the Spiders', and 'Masters of the Pit',) 384 pgs, NEL, \$22.50

Reviewed by John Alderson

Moorcock wrote these three books in just over a week, a fact that no-one need doubt as they struggle through the junk. Written in obvious admiration of Burroughs, not a very high star to set one's sight upon, they are, to our way of thinking, somewhat better. The characters are highly cultured, witness the words of a bandit... "You speak bravely - but your words are hollow. You are all about to die." Such noble thoughts, just so nobly cast, abound in the books.

It is said, time and again at our conventions, that if a writer has talent, they'll get published. Ergo, Moorcock has talent! The book has a pretty cover.

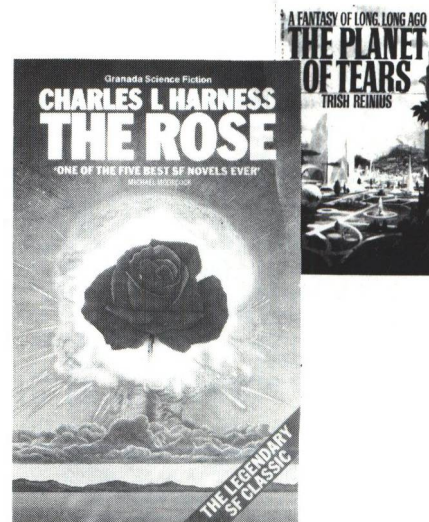
ROOMS OF PARADISE edited by Lee Harding
183 pgs, Penguin, \$4.50 Reviewed by John Alderson

Altogether too much store is set by anthologies. They reflect little glory on the editor unless he is also his own publisher, and nothing on him as a writer. In this case, with the typical courage of a multinational publisher, Penguin takes over a book originally published locally by Quartet books.

One must wonder at the half and half nature of this collection. Are the

Australian stories there by way of condescension and is the overseas material there as homage to our cultural cringe? We don't intend to discuss the overseas material, it varies from what may be the sublime to what is certainly, obscenely sick. The Australian stories with the exception of Turner's are dreadfully out of this world, indeed it is a toss up as to whether McKay's 'Pie Row Joe' or Wilder's 'The Downfall of Man' is the most remote from reality. We suspect the former, a bizarre mixture of strine and Nino Culotta. The whole thing, language, atmosphere, the whole imagery in fact, is false as hell, but apparently appeals to the mind of those who want to see Australia as a place of illiterate barbarians, and heaven knows we have enough of such, but at least we should expect a real one. Turner shows a grasp of individual realism, but as soon as his canvas extends to several players, his interactions break down. That Petri Dish Upstairs would have exploded, socially, in hours.

This anthology certainly reveals the weaknesses of its editor. It will probably sell well overseas where they don't want to know the real Australia and we warmly recommend it to all, here and overseas, who wish to hide their head in the sand.



The following books have been received for review. Hugh Cochrane's Gateway to Oblivion (W. H. Allen, 183 pgs, \$16.95) adds the Great Lakes of Canada to the list of places where things inexplicably vanish and suggests it may be due to energies created by rock pressures. Ronald D. Story in UFOs and the Limits of Science (245 pgs, NEL \$19.50) takes a fairly sceptical line and makes it clear that proofs or otherwise of UFOs by their very nature lie beyond the limits of science. Alvin Toffler, who previously worried everyone with Future Shock now presents us with sugary optimism in The Third Wave (Bantam, 537 pgs, \$3.95 US) which unfortunately doesn't cheer the present scribe up very much. For those who want to try magic Francis King and Stephen Skinner have written Techniques of High Magic (Sphere, 228 pgs, \$5.50) which purports to be a self-initiation into Alchemy but which however quotes

far too much from followers of the left-hand path, and has at least some of the symbols wrong and is thus unreliable. As a counterfoil Michelle Remembers by Michelle Smith and Lawrence Pazder presents the story of a young girl (Michelle) who was given to a cult of Satanists by her mother and ill-treated and tortured in an effort to get her to help in their rituals etc.. a rather terrible exposee of these dark cults.

By John J. Alderson



When it comes to the time for me to write this slanderous piece of drivel every month or so, I go to my desk, shoot a few cockroaches, bludgeon a rat or two to death, and scrape the mould off the accumulated books in a frantic search for something to review. Generally I miss reviewing those books I enjoyed and end up with some titles that I hated or disliked for some reason or another. This doesn't mean that the books I like are well-written or even morally uplifting, they are just enjoyable or else chock full of sex and action.

When it comes to picking out the titles I want to read I must admit to a preference to Ballantine Books. There are usually one or two good titles each month and an occasional classic reprint. Ballantine have introduced the novels of James P. Hogan, a writer who would have been a favourite of John W. Campbell, and printed several books by Lee Correy (G. Harry Stine) who also writes in the Analog style.

Ace Books are also one of my favourites because they published H. Beam Piper, and the excellent Lord D'arcy series by Randall Garrett. Daw can also be relied upon for one good lead title per month with Tanith Lee fantasy or the talented C. J. Cherryh, or even a Marion Zimmer Bradley.

If you are looking for rubbish then Charter Books, a division of Ace can provide blood thirsty action with CASCA THE BARBARIAN, a series with a hero who can't be killed due to his being cursed by Christ on the cross. He is doomed to live until Christ comes back to Earth and in four books published so far he has been to China and South America where he had his heart cut out by an Inca priest. All good, fun reading. I will get on with the reviews for now but in future issues of the news look for further comments on my pick of the series and what is bad in publishing.

THE RIM OF SPACE

by A. Bertram Chandler
Sphere; \$4.50; Volume 1 in The Rim World series.

One of my most persistent questions directed at various English paperback publishers over recent years has been, "Why don't you publish Bert Chandler's excellent Rim World series?" Finally Sphere Books has seen the light and have started out with THE RIM OF SPACE and WHEN THE DREAM DIES. I can't take the credit for seeing these in print finally, but I am pleased that Bert's series finally arrived. When a writer is so well thought of in both the American market and in Japan, it is nothing short of criminal that he is ignored in his own country of origin.

If you haven't read Bert Chandler then RIM is a good book to start with and if you have then renew an old acquaintance. Good science fiction like mother used to read.

THE JONAH

by James Herbert
New English Library \$19.50 HC

The British publishing establishment, has been turning out horror novels like cakes of soap for the last five years or more. Stories that deal with all types of rats, bats, bugs and spiders, snakes and things that are not mentioned except in nightmare or Lovecraft novels. This is all part of the British mania for destruction that has suffered via the written word. British writers seem to love to destroy Britain and the world by various means and J. G. Ballard has managed to do it by fire, flood and wind as well as several other means. Wyndham did it with a comet and Triffids and Charles Eric Maine did it with a drought. John Christopher did it with dead grass and a new Ice Age. In fact just about everyone has had a go at destroying England and James Herbert has been no exception to the rule. He has used rats, fog and the dark to do it and has given us goosebumps while he is about it.

THE JONAH is his latest novel and it is interesting story that will translate well to film. The story is simple, a policeman who has a reputation as a Jonah is sent to a small sea-side village to investigate some drug smuggling. What starts out as a police story gradually becomes a horror story as the policeman's life is seen in flashback and we are shown the reason for his reputation as a Jonah. Finally the horrifying truth is revealed amidst the destruction of the village by a freak tidal surge along the English coast. This is a good read for those with a taste for the unusual and the macabre as well as a lot of destruction and death.

A SPECTRE IS HAUNTING TEXAS by Fritz Leiber, Granada, PB \$4.95 is another reissue and is welcome as Leiber is one of the best sf and fantasy writers in the world. This one is satire written with a typewriter dipped in acid and should be on your must read list.

BEYOND REJECTION, JUSTIN LEIBER
Ballantine pb \$2.25 (US)

Justin Leiber, son of the above author has just had his first novel published by Ballantine and makes an impressive debut with a story that is always interesting and never boring though the ending leaves me a wee bit upset.

TOUR OF THE UNIVERSE by Malcolm Edwards and Robert Holdstock; Pierrot Publishing HC at \$21.50, is a large format book with plenty of colour which almost makes it worthwhile paying over \$20.00. The book tells of a galactic tour by a young couple and is full of strange worlds, weird beings and all sorts of dangers. Good fun and a must for the coffee table.

THE TRANSGALACTIC GUIDE TO SOLAR SYSTEM M-7 by Jeff Rovin; Perigee Books \$8.70 PB

A good deal smaller in size than the TOUR OF, THE TRANSGALACTIC GUIDE is a bad effort to be far more exotic than anyone else and as a result is far more boring and a waste of time. Jeff Rovin can't write non-fiction books on SF and horror and he proves that he cannot write fiction either.

THE DREAMERS by James Gunn
Gollancz HC \$19.50

A series of 3 novelettes linked loosely together that had some good ideas, well written but a bit of a downer.

BLACK EASTER and THE DAY AFTER JUDGEMENT by James Blish, Arrow PB \$5.50 is a reprint of two long unavailable Blish novels as one volume which certainly gives value for such a high price. High praise was given to these two stories back when they were first issued and who am I to disagree, so I will. If anyone can figure out the ending of DAY AFTER JUDGEMENT I would be pleased to hear from you as it left me scratching my head and muttering into my beer.

STAR TREK IS ALIVE AND WELL AND LIVING IN POCKET BOOKS

If I remember correctly, the last time I reviewed a Star Trek novel I was very unkind to both the fans and to the publisher responsible (Transworld) for foisting such drivel on the reading public. Now that Star Trek has passed on to another publisher (Pocket Books) I felt it only fair to dip into the pages of the new book if only to sneer at the Trekkies and poke fun at the author.

THE ENTROPY EFFECT by Vonda McIntyre \$2.50 is a cut above the last few Star Trek novels in that at least there is a decent plot hidden within the 224 pages though one does begin to get a little bit tired of Kirk and/or Spock saving the universe from destruction once again. This time Kirk gets killed and Spock must make a series of journeys through time in order not only to save Kirk but also the universe as well. He succeeds in a very well written story that avoids drippy romantic scenes between the two main characters and takes the reader back to the days when Star Trek was a fresh and new idea and trekkies didn't write fan fiction.

This should sell well and if you missed the Pocket (US) edition then a Futura (UK) edition will arrive by early 1982.

I wonder if the other projected novels in the series will be as good?

By P. Stevens.



Derrick & Christine
Ashby
PO BOX 175
South Melbourne 3205

2/7/81

Dear Murvinn,

You'll never win a Ditmar until you get into the habit of spelling people's names correctly the way Charlie Brown does in LOCUS. Roughly one in five of the names under the photographs in your last issue were wrong! Obviously you don't think that this matters, but to most people it is a question of common courtesy of the most basic kind. Anyway, if you spell Derrick's name wrongly (that's DERRICK) when you reprint this letter, he'll sue.

Your convention report was certainly thorough, though not exactly fannish. Did you have a good time? We found ADVENTION the most enjoyable convention we have been to for years; indeed, if we may apply your own criteria for judging conventions, lots of people turned up and they all enjoyed themselves so it was clearly a success. Agreed, it was rather over-programmed, but that was the result of a sincere intention to give value for money to attendees who came in off the street. There are too many rip-off merchants these days who will run a minimally programmed con on the grounds that "nobody goes to the programme items anyway."

We have to disagree with you about auctions. Conventions allow quite enough time for auctions - the trouble is that the auction material is not weeded out sufficiently beforehand.

Your idea of a fanzine devoted to conventions is a curious one. Do you mean to provide a forum for various people's convention reports, or are you thinking of something devoted to the nuts and bolts of convention-running? We think that the latter might have rather limited appeal, since it seems that everybody thinks they know how to run a convention already. Eric Lindsay has already put out the definitive guide to running conventions, for those who really do want some advice. As for philosophical debates about the wisdom of going broke bringing out a GoH from overseas, there's quite enough of that already without institutionalising it.

However did you manage to get a photograph of Joseph Nicholas and Lee Smoire sitting on the same couch?

No doubt George Turner can look after himself, but Nev Angove's letter can't be let go without comment. If we suspected for a moment that Nev had a sense of humour we would accuse him of having us on, but he does seem to be serious. After describing the ineffable

"Futuristic Tales" as "Fully professional", he then proceeds to defend himself against an attack which, on his own admission, has not taken place. He admits that he doesn't know good writing from bad when he sees it, but has to wait for the mystical effects of the justified margin to open his eyes. His writers suffer from the same problem - perhaps he should suggest that they try the old bottom drawer treatment, of putting the story aside for six months before reconsidering it, something which would be much cheaper and probably no slower than going into print.

Then we are treated to a very peculiar attack on George. On the basis that he doesn't like two of George's novels or any of his reviews Nev pontificates that George has "no moral right, and no acceptable credentials" to offer criticism of sf. Oh Dear, oh dear! And how many novels did F. R. Leavis ever write? Just what does Nev regard as constituting acceptable credentials, anyway? To cap it all, he then agrees with George's judgement of the magazines, but claims that the poor quality doesn't matter because George Scithers is no better. What a superb example of the cultural cringe!

Along the way Nev makes a few quite remarkable statements. For instance, he defends the publishing of sub-standard stories on the grounds that writers will only learn better by having them published! We agree that the only way to learn is by writing, but if an editor publishes stories he doesn't think are very good he is doing the writer a great dis-service. A great part of the learning process is indeed submitting stories to an editor, and having them rejected (with reasons). Nev goes onto defending the publishing of bad stories on the grounds that if only good stories were published there wouldn't be enough to read!

Another remarkable statement is that you shouldn't criticize people who are learning! Surely criticism is the major thing that such people need? And Nev accuses George of not being rational.

What we would like to see in Australia, since the Writer's Workshop area has been thoroughly mined, is for someone to bring to Australia a really good editor or two -- Terry Carr, perhaps, or Damon Knight, or Edward Ferman. We don't know how you would go about organizing an editor's workshop, but even getting Knight out here as a convention guest might achieve something.

Michael Hailstone is altogether more reasonable on the same subject. He puts the problems of his position quite well. Selling to overseas markets is not a good way to develop any but the best and most persistent of us. Yet how is a home market to be developed without the home talent to feed it? And how do we discover the home talent without a market for it to sell to? My points to Angove still apply, though. Publishing is no real part of a writer's learning process until he has achieved publishable quality. Then, and only then can he

learn the lessons that a wider exposure of his work can teach him. A good editor stands in the same shoes as the leader of a writer's workshop - on a permanent basis. (Thought - have we ever had an editor chair a writer's workshop?) The proof of the quality of Australian editors will be the improvement to be found in their writers in the next two or three years.

Derrick & Christine Ashby.

October 12th 1981

Dear Readers,

Well before I attempt to make any comments on what Christine and Derrick have had to say, I would like to thank the people that have written to me and apologise not replying to them in this issue. It is quite evident that some of you do not agree with me as to what should take preference in the NEWS, but I am taking all of your comments into consideration and some changes will be made.

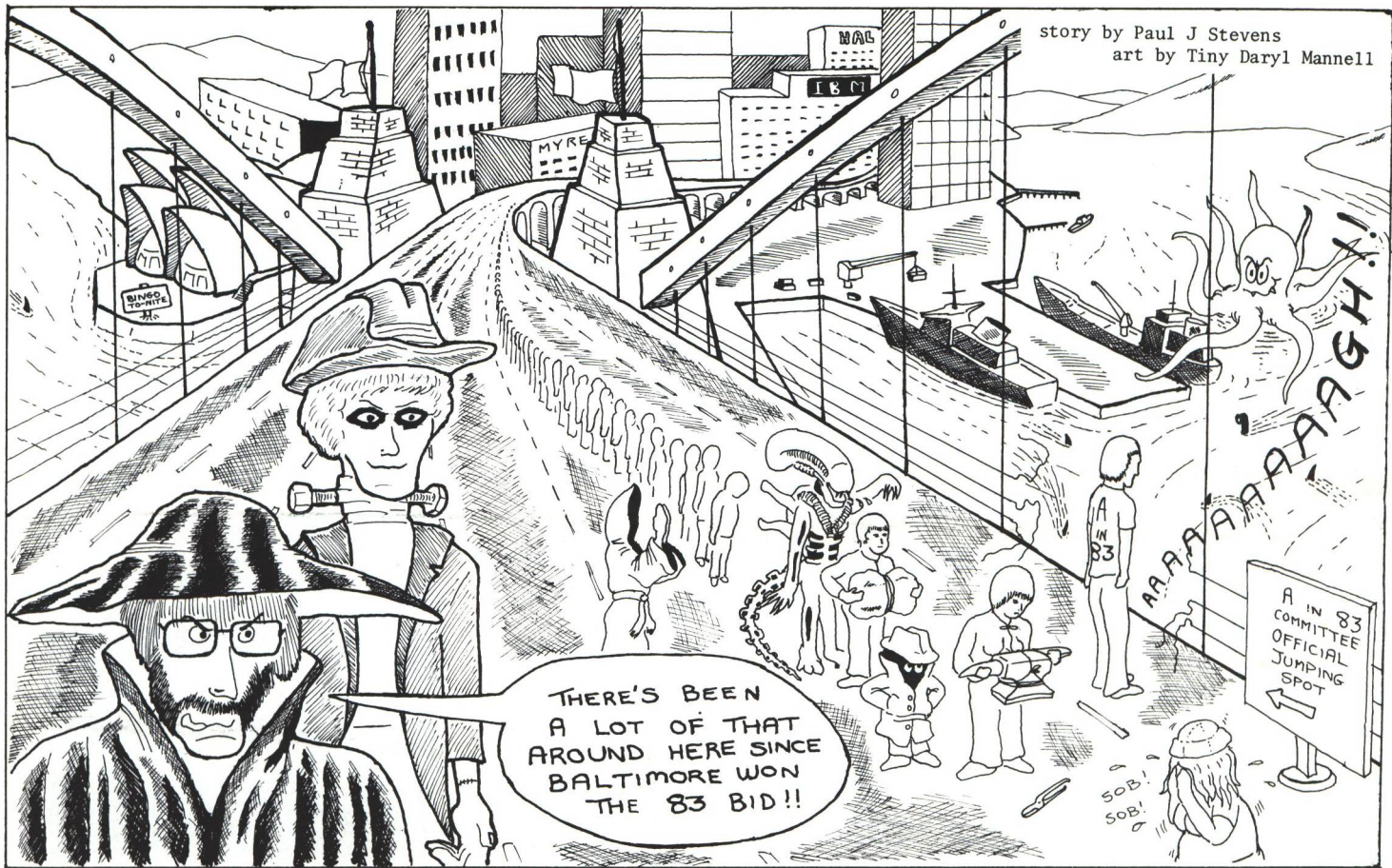
Top priority is the publishing scene and who has written what and who is publishing it. One of my main reasons for starting the NEWS in the first place was to help publicise conventions, so they will be reported and advertised despite the fact that a few very limited fanzines also report them. Book reviews are important, but they will be cut in length and only local and what I personally consider important titles will get more than a paragraph or two.

On the subject of local editing one or two other letters besides Christine's and Derrick's are to hand including one from Josephine Dorian, which I will cover next issue. Meanwhile to briefly answer the Ashbys I first take exception to the remark that I do not care if I spell people's name correctly. I most certainly do care as I care about all spelling, grammar and general presentation of the NEWS, and that is why I do have people go through it and it often takes me a day or two to make all the corrections. I make no pretence that I am a particularly literate person, and if I let myself worry too much about that I would not even publish the NEWS, but in the absence of anybody else taking on the job I will continue to produce it to the best of my ability. I feel that it has been reasonably successful in doing the job that I wanted it to do.

Space is running out so briefly: I stand by my comments that ADVENTION '81 was in many ways a boring convention. No I did not enjoy it overall for the reasons I think I clearly covered in my report. As little or no response has been received on my idea of producing a fanzine for those interested in running conventions, I will shelve the idea. I still believe there is a need and if anybody else shows any interest I will give more details on what I am suggesting.

The rest of your letter Christine and Derrick is aimed at the "publish and be damned" controversy, so I will leave that to other people to reply to. I have as I have said, more letters on the subject from Michael Hailstone and Nev Angove and others to publish next issue.

Merv Binns



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