

CHAT

MONTHLY NEWSZINE OF THE CHATTANOOGA SF ASSOCIATION
FREE TO MEMBERS OF CSFA; 25¢ TO FELLOW TRAVELERS

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"I never cease being dumfounded by the unbelievable things people believe."
....Leo Rosten

FEBRUARY MEETING - CLASSIC BOOK AND MOVIE....The Chattanooga SF Association met on Jan. 21 at 7:30 PM at U.T.C.. H. Beam Piper's Space Viking was discussed and a film of SF shorts instead of the scheduled Flash Gordon was shown, as the scheduled movie had not been returned to the library by its previous borrower. We'll try it again at some future meeting. Next month, the meeting will be on Feb. 17, the third Friday of the month at 8 PM at U.T.C. The meeting room will be the Signal Mountain Room instead of the Lookout Mt. Room. Please note these changes. The book to be discussed is Slan by A. E. Van Vogt. The program will be the movie The Day the Earth Stood Still, one of the 10 all time best SF movies. We are ordering books for future meetings at our meetings. March's book will be Mission of Gravity by Hal Clement, and April's book will be The Jargonian by Andre Norton. To get to U.T.C.: Take I-24 to the 4th St. Exit (last exit before Tennessee River bridge). Go on 4th St. for about 8/10 mile to Mabel St., and turn right onto Mabel. Go 2 blocks (bearing right) and turn left onto Vine St. (which is 1-way). Go 2½ blocks. The student center is on the left side; look for the sign. The meeting room is upstairs. For questions, Mike Rogers 266-0298. (NWL)

CSFA TREASURER'S REPORT....As of Jan. 15, income was \$158.20, from \$156 dues and \$2.20 interest income. Disbursements were \$57.96, from \$25.36 for newsletter mailings, \$18.60 for meeting/party refreshments, and \$14 for video tape reimbursement to Bill Hedrick. Total forward is \$100.24. (Mike Rogers)

CHATTACON 3 SUCCESSFUL....ChattaCon 3, Jan. 6-8 at the Sheraton-Downtown, was a great success. Attendance was over 300, almost three times that of last year, owing in part to co-operative weather---rain instead of snow and ice.

ChattaCon 3 opened Friday afternoon, with the opening of the art show, huckster room and ConSuite. This year's art show was spectacular, featuring metal sculptures by Kim Smith and part of the Moores' art show of works by pro artists. The ConSuite featured video tapes and, of course, refreshments.

The authors party began an hour after the pro guests A. E. Van Vogt and Perry Chapdelaine arrived. Many fans got a chance to speak with the pros; Van Vogt was kept busy autographing books, and both Van and Perry kept fans entertained well into the morning hours. A special feature was the "Strange Punch" (while it lasted) made by the CHAT staff with help from Tim Bolgeo.

A successful games room was run by Rich Morehouse on Friday night. Dungeons and Dragons and Chess were the most popular of a number of games offered; many people took advantage of them.

On Saturday, a second huckster room opened and fan panels were held in the main meeting room. Video tapes were again shown in the ConSuite most of the morning and afternoon. Van Vogt spoke on "The Meaning of Life, the Meaning of the Universe - Has SF Any Clues?" in the noon hour Pro's Corner. Afternoon featured an art auction that produced less sales but more revenue than had been expected.

The highlight of the Con, the Banquet, was a well attended event Saturday night. Perry Chapdelaine took over the MC duties as Arsen Darnay was unable to attend the convention. After a decent sit-down dinner, Van Vogt gave a short talk on his adventures in Hollywood. The Strange Fan Awards were also announced as were the Art Show Awards (1st to Kim Smith, 2nd to Bob Maurus, 3rd to Dany Frolich), and Van Vogt was given a memento of his visit to Tennessee. The dinner was concluded with remarks by Chapdelaine.

Following the banquet, films were shown. The featured film, Young Franken-
-continued-

CHATTACON (cont.)....stein was shown, along with a Star Trek blooper reel and Things to Come. Also after the banquet was the Star Trek subprogram, hosted by Janet Caruth in her suite.

Parties ran far into the night after the film program. While this reporter left about 2 AM, I understand the singing went on through the night.

Sunday wound up with the closing of the huckster rooms and art show. The annual CSFA Disorganization meeting was held in the empty huckster room and a ChattaCon 4 committee was formed and met after that. ChattaCon 3 closed with many good-byes and see-you-next-year wishes. The convention went well this year. There were a few gripes and a few problems, but in general, everyone had a good time. (NWL)

CSFA DISORGANIZATION MEETING HELD....The Annual Disorganization Meeting of the Chattanooga Science Fiction Association was held at 1:30 PM Sunday, Jan. 8, in the deserted huckster room of the Sheraton Hotel after ChattaCon 3, and was attended by CSFA and ChattaCon committee members. The main order of business was how to provide each month's selected book for the membership to read and discuss, as the bookstores and CSFA have been running on different levels. We discussed various ways of ordering books at a meeting and the desirability of someone to be in charge of such a system. We finally decided books would (1) be decided, with the aid of Books in Print, three months in advance, (2) be ordered at the meeting by the members with cash, and (3) be ordered by one member who would also distribute the books when received. Tim Bolgeo was named Scavenger and will use Northgate Mall's Waldens Book Store for book orders. A motion was brought forth that 2/3 majority would be needed to solve any serious hassles that might come up in the club, and was carried. A motion not to use Roberts Rules at future CSFA meetings was also passed. The title of Chief Anarch was abolished, and the current meeting places were accepted for another year. It was decided that a treasurer's report should appear each month in CHAT, and the staff of CHAT should be reimbursed for the vodka they used at ChattaCon in the "Strange Punch". The meeting was then declared over and the ChattaCon 4 committee met in a closed session. (NWL)

CHATTACON 4 FEATURED GUEST, MC ANNOUNCED....ChattaCon 4 has been scheduled for the weekend of January 5-7, 1979. We are pleased to announce our featured guest will be Alan Dean Foster, author of Midworld, Icerigger, the Star Trek Log series, and rumored to be screen writer of the upcoming Star Trek theatrical movie (assuming it is still on). Our MC will be Cliff Amos, well known Louisville fan and Chairman of the upcoming North American 79 SF convention. Memberships for ChattaCon 4 are \$5 for the time being; send your check or money order to ChattaCon, P.O. Box 21173, Chattanooga, Tenn. 37421. (DL)

NORTH AMERICAN 79 ANNOUNCES MC....North American 79, in Louisville Labor Day weekend 1979, has finally announced its MC: Lester Del Rey. He joins Fred Pohl as Guest of Honor and George Scithers (editor of Asimov's SF Magazine) as Fan Guest of Honor. Memberships are still only \$7 until the end of January. Act fast! (DL)

KNOXVILLE SF CLUB FORMS....A Knoxville Science Fiction Society has been organized by Chattanooga fan Ken Scott, with the first meeting set for 7:30 PM on Saturday, Jan. 28 at the University of Tennessee Student Center in Knoxville (ed. note: as many will receive this the day of this meeting, you are urged to drop everything and attend if possible--a Knoxville club would be a fine addition to Southeastern fandom, and needs dedicated fans in view of past attempts of organization in order to survive). An extensive list of door prizes will be given away, including a set of James Blish's Star Trek books, a 1952 Astounding Science Fiction magazine, a copy of Tolkien's The Silmarillion, plus original artwork by local artists. The program will be a video tape of The Forbidden Planet. (DL)

SCIENCE BRIEFS....More on "Chiron." The name "Chiron" has been given to the small planet-like object between Saturn and Uranus discovered by Astronomer Charles Kowal. It's diameter has been de-valued to between 100-400 miles, which makes it a large asteroid. It is still unusual in that it is by far the most distant asteroid known, and may be the first discovered member of a possible second asteroid belt between Saturn and Uranus.

Mars Life Experiments Concluded....All biology experiments aboard the two Viking landers on Mars have been concluded, with the result that there is most likely no life on Mars. Positive results on several of the experiments can be explained if one allows the assumption that ultraviolet radiation and oxygen from Mars' atmosphere have formed an inorganic peroxide compound in the Martian soil. The peroxide reacting with the biology experiments' special radioactive tracer tagged chemicals caused what many scientists first believed was a biological process.

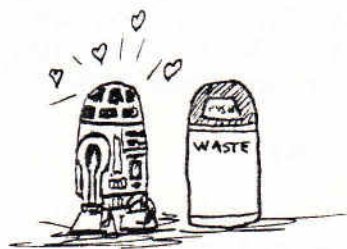
Lunar Experiments Packages Shut Down....NASA has shut down the three remaining lunar experiment packages left on the moon by project Apollo astronauts. The experimental stations had been operational far longer than had been hoped for, and was costing NASA \$1-2 million per year to monitor them.

"SUN DAY" UPCOMING....Solar energy advocates are organizing an international "Sun Day" for May 3 of this year, to increase public awareness of the potentials and benefits of solar energy. The sponsoring organization is Solar Action, 1028 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

NASA ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR TO VISIT CHATTANOOGA....NASA Associate Administrator for Space Sciences, Dr. Noel Hinners, will be in Chattanooga on Thursday, March 16, to be featured speaker at a banquet that night. Information and tickets are available from Dick Lynch (use CHAT address at masthead).

NEW STAR DISCOVERED....Kitt Peak Astronomers have discovered a new star in the Orion Nebula, newly condensed from the gases in dust in the nebula. This is proof that the Orion Nebula is indeed a place where new stars form, a sort of stellar breeding ground. (DL)

CHAT SUBMISSIONS POLICY....CHAT accepts book and movie reviews, essays, general correspondence, or even short fiction and art. We are interested in submissions under the following guidelines: 1) name, address, and phone number must be on the submission; 2) aim for a half page single spaced typed length, although longer submissions will be considered (as review in this issue shows). Try to be brief wherever possible--it will probable see print sooner; 3) payment for submissions consists only of a by-line and a free copy of CHAT, if you are not already receiving it on a regular basis. All material will be subject to editing. All stories will be directed through a story editor. CHAT also accepts advertising, at 15¢ per line (or equivalent area); include payment with ad. We can handle a 'composed' ad, as we photocopy for distribution, but we must have 'camera-ready' copy. Send all submissions to the masthead address or submit work at the meeting. CHAT deadline is the club meeting, unless other arrangements are made. (NWL)



REVIEW....by A. J. Barker

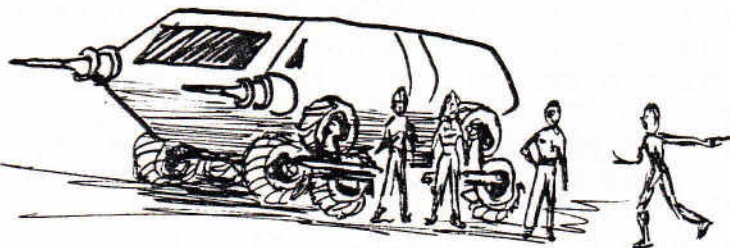
DAMNATION ALLEY: A Movie Review.

Earlier this year 20th Century Fox gave us the apple of our eye, Star Wars. Now they give us the worm, Damnation Alley. If it's Dollar Night and you've got nothing else to do, see Damnation Alley, but for \$3.50, you'd as well stay home and read. Loosely based on Roger Zelazny's novel, it once again proves to us that Hollywood never learns from its successes, it just profits from them.

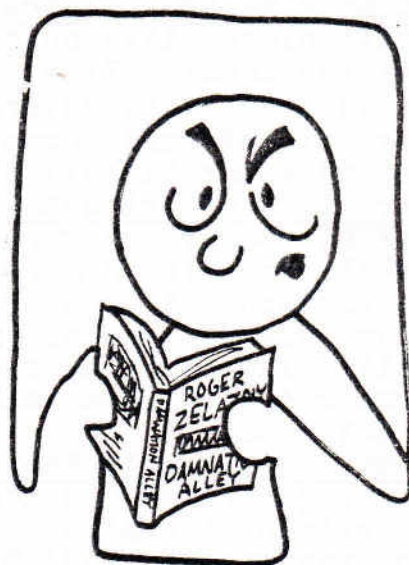
All of us who hoped to see a new era in movies, as heralded by Star Wars and Close Encounters, are still very disappointed by the 'trash' which is fended off on us under the guise of Science Fiction. After everything is considered, though, this movie will survive quite a while. It will, in fact, probably be very useful in cinematography classes as the finest example of what not to do in a SF film.

The plot revolves around five survivors of World War III trying to reach Albany, N.Y., from which they have been receiving the same radio message for two years. The world in which they find themselves is one gone mad, with freak storms and violent weather of all kinds. This is caused by the fact that the earth has been "knocked off its axis and everything can't return to normal until it is straightened back up". If you can accept that, then the giant, black scorpions and the armor-plated killer cockroaches are right up your alley.

The only really good special effect to the whole mess is the Land Master, a 35 foot long / 12 foot high armored all-terrain vehicle. Fully operational on land or water, this rocket and mortar-carrying Winnebago is too reminiscent of the Ark II, and is not to be the real wave of the future. There is a very good picture and description of the LandMaster in StarLog #8.



BACK IN THE CAR! - QUUK!
THEY'RE A MOB OF ANGRY
ROGER ZELAZNY FANS!



HARUMPH! I can't find the
part about the
KILLER COCKROACHES!

For characters, we have: one stuffed-shirt Major (USAF), who never gets dirty; one dirtbike-riding ex-Captain, who is the last of the anti-establishment heroes; one artist, ex-Sergeant, who is eaten by the killer cockroaches in Salt Lake City while yelling for someone named Sam (who wasn't in the final version of the script); one girl ex-nightclub singer, who was in the Fallout Shelter doing the manager "a favor for an introduction to Frank Sinatra"; and one rock-throwing wild boy,

who is smarter than all the rest, including anyone who paid more than a dollar to see this epic.

The smash finish of our quest occurs when good old Mother Earth says enough of this nonsense and returns to normal inclination, thus causing the Great Lakes to overflow and wash our motley group from Detroit to Albany. So it is under blue skies, birds singing, with green trees, grass, and paved roads, we find Albany. You remember Albany, N.Y., don't you? That small, rural farming community with white fences, horses, dogs and a rock music station that has always been our goal. So we all jump on our dirt bikes and roar into town for beer and pizza, ready to once again begin civilization's climb upward.

(Cartoons contributed by Shelby Bush)

REVIEW....by Nicki Lynch

LEGENDS FROM THE END OF TIME by Michael Moorcock, DAW Books, \$1.50

The British are known for their brilliant satire and fine story telling, and Michael Moorcock is no exception. Moving from his sword and sorcery

REVIEW (cont.)--LEGENDS FROM THE END OF TIME

works, Moorcock gives the reader a guided tour through his End of Time world.

Written under the guise of legends, there are three stories about the god-like inhabitants of the End of Time. The people of this era have control of all natural forces and reshape the world or themselves to suit their latest whim or Art. Being immortal, they are also bored.

The first story is about Wether de Goethe, the eternal optimist who searches for new feelings and experiences. He feels apart from the rest of the people, in that he has been a child (one of the few ever born in the End of Time). In his search, he finds innocence in the form of a runaway child. He tries to educate the child, but finds himself lusting to end the innocence he treasures.

The second story examines what happens to the Duke of Queens, a happy adventuresome Artist, and Lord Shark, the darkest of fatalists, when they decide to fight a duel to the death. What makes it unusual is that the loser must give up his immortality and stay dead.

In the third story, Dafnish Armatuze and her sixty-year-old son Snuffles arrive from the past. Much to her dismay, the people of the End of Time are too wanton for her sensibility, and she finds she cannot return to her own time.

Holding the three stories together and filling in the gaps, an "auditor" explains how these stories came to be. Because of the properties of time, one can travel but not stay long in any one time other than the End of Time. Due to sketchy knowledge of the future as told by mortal "auditors" in the present, stories of the future have become legends.

So visit the End of Time and meet the Iron Orchid, the Duke of Queens, Lord Jagged of Canaria, the Everlasting Concubine, My Lady Charlolina, Bishop Castle and the rest of the residents at the End of Time. It will be a pleasant visit indeed.

REVIEW....by Dick Lynch

DINOSAUR BEACH by Keith Laumer, DAW Books, \$1.50

Intricate plots are Keith Laumer's forte. For example, imagine yourself as a time-travelling secret agent, whose duty is to eliminate paradoxes caused by preceding agents, who unwittingly caused them while trying to set straight their predecessors' mistakes, who fouled up the scheme of things while cavoring through the past on exploring and mining escapades. Add to this renegade robot "timesweepers" who take potshots at you in various past eras, a base station located deep in a prehistoric period, and the fellows in a future era who work at clearing up the debris of your misadventures, and.....well, you get the idea.

Which is not to say that Dinosaur Beach is a hard book to read. Indeed not. It's a rip-roaring adventure story, told in first person, and reflects Laumer's wit throughout. But it is a difficult book to understand. The reader is exposed to so many pieces of pseudoscience about time travel that even a trained logic expert would have trouble following the plot. And this is where the book falls down; the plot is just too intricate....a few less contortions and a little more characterization would have been helpful.

However, I did like the book. If one lets the pseudoscience flow past without being inundated, and can stand some of the dialogue ("Are you all right?" Mellia said. "It's nothing that a month in the intensive care unit wouldn't clear up," I said.), Dinosaur Beach is a welcome change of pace over some of the current more serious SF that seems to abound everywhere. In fact, it is fun to read. And that's one of the things SF is all about, isn't it?

erik's universe



by Jeff Mahr

North- Americon

**The 1979
North American
Science Fiction Convention**

Guest of Honor
Frederik Pohl
Fan Guest of Honor
George Scithers

Louisville, KY - Aug. 30 - Sept. 3, 1979

Membership Rates

To January 31, 1978	\$ 7.00
February 1 thru June 30, 1978	10.00
July 1 thru December 31, 1978	15.00
January 1 thru June 30, 1979	20.00
July 1 thru NorthAmericon	25.00
Supporting membership	7.00

Committee

Cliff Amos (chairman), Vary Amos, Shelby Bush, Mark Edwards, Patricia Edwards, Mark Evans, Steve Francis, Sue Francis, Liz Gross, Bob Hillis, Irvin Koch, Ken Moore, Lou Moore, Ross Pavlac, Bob Roehm, and Larry Smith.

Etc.

Forthcoming progress reports will carry up-to-the-minute information about our hotel (Louisville's elegant Galt House) and our plans for an exciting and well-run convention. PR #1 will be ready January 15, 1978; #2 will follow in August, 1978; the final PR will be published in June, '79.

**NorthAmericon
P.O. Box 58009
Louisville, KY 40258**