

CHAT

34



NEWSZINE OF THE CHATTANOOGA SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

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CHAT is a newszine of Southern Fan News, and is supported by the Chattanooga Science Fiction Association. We encourage submissions of art, news, reviews, news, letters of comment, news, and news (especially news). Written material should be a maximum of one page typed, as it appears here. Please include name and address on the submission. While CHAT can not pay contributors, we provide a forum for fan writers and artists; a complimentary copy is given to all contributors who aren't already receiving it. Opinions expressed by contributors do not necessarily represent those of the editors, or of the Chattanooga Science Fiction Association (which doesn't usually have an opinion). All correspondence to CHAT will be considered for publication unless otherwise specified by the writer.

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DEADLINE FOR CHAT #35: Sunday, July 27, 1980. All articles and LoCs must be in by then.

"We can lick gravity, but sometimes the paperwork is overwhelming." - Wernher von Braun

MIDSOUTHCON! Midsouthcon '80, June 20-22, was by far the largest SF con ever in Huntsville; its 300 attendees nearly equalled the record of B'hamacon in 1977 for the largest SF convention ever in Alabama. Besides GoH Fred Pohl, Fan GoH Bob Tucker and MC Kelly Freas, other pros in attendance were Jack Chalker, Sharon Webb, Jerry Page, and Lynne Mims. Despite the unavailability of one of the scheduled huckster rooms because of construction in the hotel (a replacement was found) and the last minute cancellation of the NASA speaker, the convention ran smoothly; this was mainly due to the attention of sponsors Andy and Deb Purcell and programming head David Pettus. The autograph session on Saturday was very well attended, showing the increased popularity of these events. Kelly Freas did drawings of the con committee on Saturday night following the Art Auction (which totalled \$1600 in total Art sales). Room parties Friday and Saturday were splendid, featuring the Bowling Green and Knoxville convention groups. One hopes the convention will return for a repeat engagement next year. (DL)

MIDWESTCON. Rickey Sheppard reports that Midwestcon, June 27-29 in Cincinnati, was "the smallest in years", although no attendance figures were quoted. Apparently, there were some problems with the hotel this year, such as a rude hotel staff; a location switch for next year's Midwestcon across the Ohio River to northern Kentucky is reportedly being considered. Although Midwestcon is traditionally a relax-a-con, last minute GoH this year was Hoy Ping Pong, canine pet of Eva Chalker Whitley. One wonders about the dead dog party... (DL/NWL)

ROME FANDOM TO DISBAND? Deb Hammer Johnson writes us that Vati-Con, reported in last month's CHAT, has been shelved due to the imminent break-up of Rome, GA fandom. Chris Radney, president of the club, will be attending the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in the fall; Iris Brown (Sec.-Treas.) and Deb Hammer Johnson (V.P.) are also likely to leave Rome, for Atlanta. This leaves no one to organize the convention or run the club. (DL)

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WORLDCON UPDATE. Among the business items at Noreascon Two are two different motions to re-define the Fanzine Hugo to exclude zines that (in one motion) either pay staff/contributors or (in the other) serve as a main source of income to the editor. Also on the agenda are motions to drop the Gandalf Award and Dramatic Presentation Hugo from the ballot, add Non-Fiction Book and Best New Game categories, and eliminate North American site selection (when applicable) from WorldCon business.

The Fan Room at Noreascon is actively soliciting SF organizations for display packages for use in an exhibit on Regional Fandom. Included should be things such as a short history of the club, and examples of fan publications sponsored by the club. Interested organizations should send material (which should be considered as expendable) to Noreascon Two, P.O. Box 46, MIT Branch P.O., Cambridge, MA 02139 (attn: Fan Room), and then a postcard to Dick & Nicki Lynch (CHAT address) describing what was sent to Boston.

As of June 27, Noreascon had 3695 attending and 685 supporting memberships, for a total of 4380. 755 Hugo ballots had been received (cut off is July 15) and 395 valid site selection ballots (cutoff is August 15) as well. The attending membership fee rises from \$30 to \$45 on July 15 (actually, no advance memberships will be taken after July 15). One day memberships at Noreascon Two will be \$15, and will entitle the buyer to all at-the-con publications except the program book. (DL)

PRO AUTHOR GUEST AT JULY 19 CSFA MEETING. The June auction/party of the Chattanooga Science Fiction Association came off very well at the Rustic Village apartments. The club house there features a pool, tennis courts, and basketball court, all of which were used by CSFA members during the evening. After the initial set-up and snacking, the auction started after Rusty Burke and Vernon Clark made it in from Knoxville (they wanted to attend the auction). Tim Bolgeo and Andy Purcell served as auctioneers and, despite the poor acoustics, the bidding went well and many items found new owners (over \$90 was grossed). After that, Tim and company went out for pizzas, which didn't have a chance to get cold once they entered the room. The rest of the evening was spent around the pool in quiet conversation among members. There was also a card game at one point in the club house, with Linda Bolgeo reported to be the grand winner. All in all, the evening was low-key, but enjoyable. Attendance was about the same as the last meeting, with possibly a few new members joining in the fun.

The next meeting will be July 19, at 7:30 PM back at the First Tennessee Bank at Brainerd and Germantown Rds. There will be no book discussion, and the guest of the meeting will be pro author Sharon Webb. Ms. Webb has appeared in *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine* several times, plus a few anthologies. What her program is, well, you'll just have to come and see it. She will be available for questions during the course of the evening, as she will be our guest for the *whole* evening, so there should be some time to ask questions. Let's all turn out and give Sharon a big Chattanooga welcome! To get to the bank building, coming from I-75 west on I-24 take the Belvoir Ave. exit and proceed along North Terrace (which parallels I-24) to its end at Germantown Rd. Coming west on I-24, take I-24 to the Germantown Rd. exit (just after the hill over Missionary Ridge). Go north on Germantown to the first traffic light (the one at the interstate doesn't count) and turn right. The bank is on the right, one building past the intersection. (NWL)

ONE LINERS. Hugo and Campbell Award nominee Barry B. Longyear will be at Chattacon 6, Jan. 16-18, 1981, in Chattanooga.// And, according to *The Newsteller*, Barry has sold the Japanese rights to *Manifest Destiny*, will have a new novel *Circus World* from Berkley Putnam this summer, and will soon have a writer's manual *Science Fiction Writers Workshop-I* available from Owlswick Press. Now Longyear projects include "Catch the Sun" in the December Isaac Asimov's *SF Magazine* and a new novel in the Baraboo series, *The Bullhands*.

// Chattacon 6 guest Ralph Roberts has a story "A Sailor's Delight" in the May *Asimov's*, and will be featured in *Questar* #10 with "Future Fables" this fall.

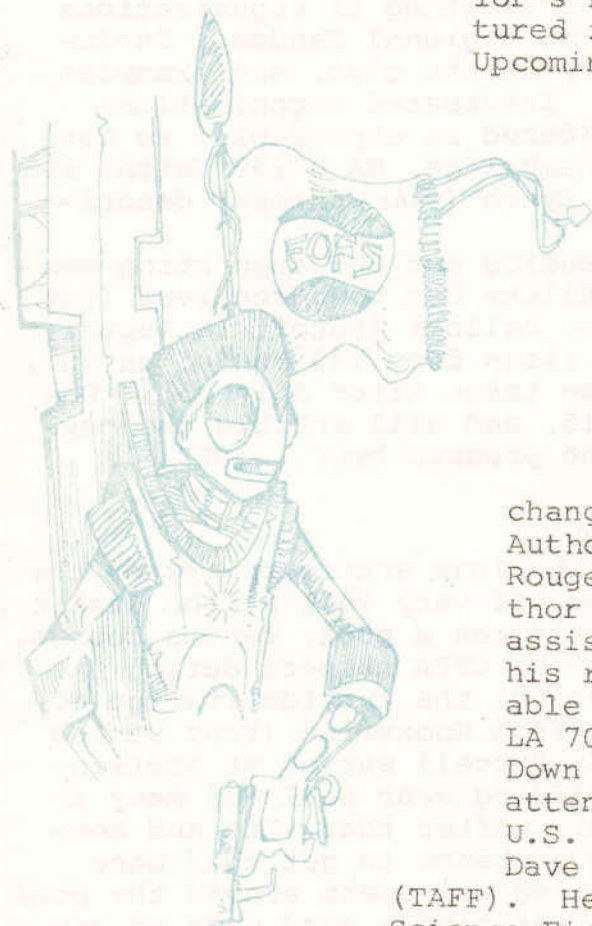
Upcoming for Ralph is the story "Oh, the Things Those Galaxies Say" in a future *Asimov's*, plus his first children's SF story in *Children's Digest*. // Sharon Webb's new story "Transference" is in the current (July) issue of *Asimov's*, and her story "Itch on the Bull Run" has been anthologized by Fawcett books in *Space Mail*. // Ken Moore reports that the Pro Guest of Honor for Kubla Khan 9 next year in Nashville will be Charles Grant, and the Pro Guest of Honor for Kubla 10 in 1982 will be Fred Pohl. // CSFA members Dick Lynch and Bill Zielke have recently

changed jobs, both joining the Tennessee Valley Authority. // The *BRSFL Newsletter* (from the Baton Rouge SF League) reports that a fund to aid author George Alec Effenger has been started, to assist in paying off a large debt incurred by his recent lengthy illness. Make checks payable to: Marilyn Alm, 2911 Eton St., New Orleans, LA 70114. // Australian fan Keith Curtus is the Down Under Fan Fund (DUFF) winner for 1980; he'll attend Noreascon in Boston and visit some other U.S. fan centers this fall. // And British fan Dave Langford won the Trans Atlantic Fan Fund

(TAFF). He'll also be at Noreascon. // The Los Angeles Science Fiction Fantasy Society sponsored a "Science Fiction Showcase" on May 10 in Los Angeles, and featured authors Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle, and Alan

Dean Foster. // New Orleans area fan Dennis Dolbear informs us his new address is: 217 Betz Ave., Jefferson, LA 70121. // *FOSFAX* reports that Apollo 13 astronauts Lovell, Swigert, and Haise were in Louisville, KY, on April 11, 1980, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the launch of Apollo 13. The Apollo 13 command module "Odyssey" is on display at the Louisville Museum of Natural History and Science. // Mike Brown, one of the organizers of the Memphis convention, Imaginitzacon, has apparently left that area and is no longer associated with the convention. The new address for convention information is: Chaos Lord Amateur Press, P.O. Box 735, State University, AR 72467. // CSFA member Mike Rogers was involved in a car accident on June 25 in Chattanooga that left him hospitalized for several days. He's had knee surgery since then and is now at his grandmother's recuperating. To contact him, call 624-2059. // *Atarantes* reports that Georgia fans Vince and Janet Lyons had their first child, Christopher James, on June 3. Congratulation! // The ABC genzine *Suncatcher* has been postponed to late 1980, due to lack of funds for publication. // *Locus* reports that the \$285,000 settlement due authors Harlan Ellison and Ben Bova from ABC/Paramount has been held up ap-

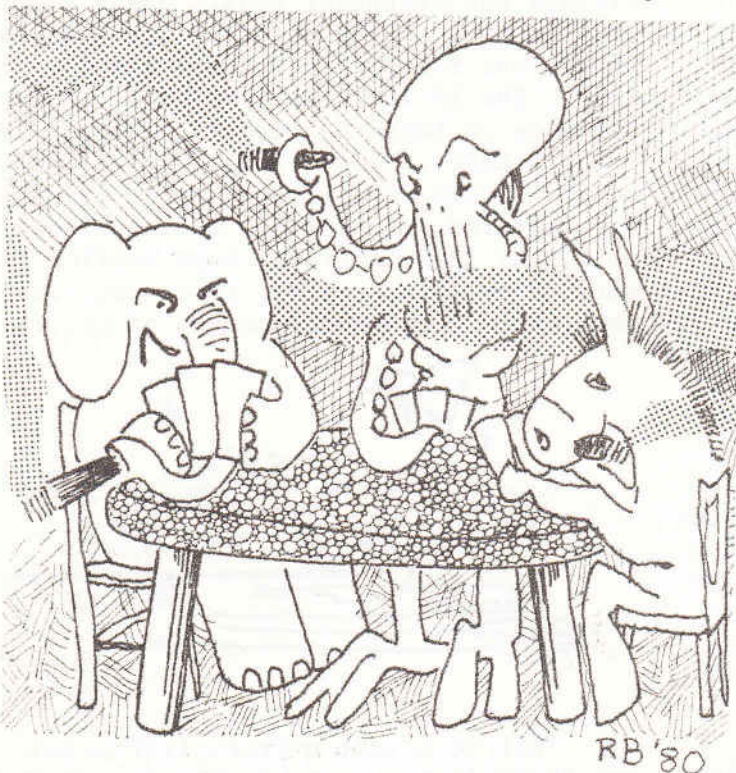
continued on page 5



A MODEST PROPOSAL AS REGARDS OUR ELECTORAL SYSTEM

COMMENTARY BY RALPH ROBERTS...

It's Election Year and the voice of the turtle befuddles the electorate with myriad appeals of "Vote Democratic", "Vote Republican", "Vote Whig", and whathaveya.



Arrrrgh! After paying astronomical taxes (had to sell my telescope to pay 'em), seeing inflation's speed of increase refute certain relativistic theories, being violently socked in the wallet by assorted gas pumps, seeing our foreign policy shimmer about like Silly Putty; I wanna go on record (tongue-in-cheek -- maybe, maybe not) as the advocate of a sea-change in our American system of government. The idea has been floating around cons for quite a while but its time is now. Arise SF writers and Fen. The Nation, nay, the World

calls desperately for our expertise.

Now wait. Hear me out. What group has more experience in the creation and modifying of human cultures? ... Right! SF Fen and Writers. You betcha! We have collectively discussed, cussed, admired, spit upon, denigrated more cotten pickin' cultures than any one person could conceive. We're used to flights of imagination and cultural manipulation. It's part of the territory, so to speak, in the realm of science fiction and fantasy. 'Sides, won't no Russians drink US under the table at diplomatic functions. 'Specially not if bheer is served. And you better believe we will! Lots!

In the day to day running of government, we shall doubly excell. Energy crisis? Inflation? Troubles with mass transit? We just reach into our literary bag of tricks and, presto!, an invention that negates said problem. And woe betide any foreign power, Terrestrial or Alien, that should initiate military hostilities. WHOMPFFF!! Up go our mighty defensive force shields (we can invent anything, remember). ZAP!! WHIZZ!! Unspeakable energies are released from our awesome weaponry. (read Doc Smith for more detailed description). And the Enemy is reduced to a mere spot of grease easily policed up by the mundanes. Gotta leave somethin' fer them to do.

Sigh... This article is too short to further expound upon the idea of rule by the SF elite (that's US, pay 'tention). But definitely is worthy of more discussion. And should we decide to take over the World (Worlds, Galaxies, etc.), we shall have need of a Supreme Leader (he of steely-jawed determined mein). I probably could (blush, hang head modesty) work it into my schedule.

On the other hand, maybe Sword and Sorcery would be a better, faster path to World dominance... Nah, I never could spell.

ONE LINERS (CONT.)

parently due to remarks made by Ellison in *Time Magazine* and on NBC-TV. // Los Angeles fan Bill Warren is writing a book on the 1950's SF movies, to be titled *Keep Watching the Skies*. // Nashville fan Frank Doss will be moving to Columbus, GA, as a result of a change in employment. // Louisville fan Shelby Bush III will be married on July 17, to Sharon Rose Haq, according to *FOSFAX*. Congratulations! Their new address will be: 1019 Jonquil Dr., Jefferson, IN 47130. // Chattanooga fan and U.T.C. professor Craig Barrow recently had his first book published: *Montage in James Joyce's Ulysses*. It should be currently be available in the Book Stack, here in Chattanooga. (DL)

REVIEWS
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MOVIE REVIEWS

BY KEN SCOTT

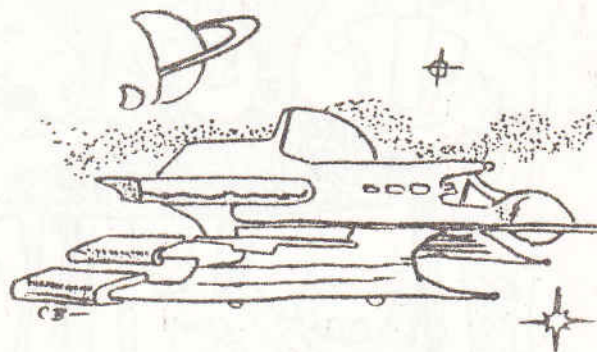
The Shining, Stanley Kubrick's adaptation of Stephen King's novel of ESP and psi is one of those films that I get mixed feelings about. It is a good film and well done technically, but the acting especially on the part of Jack Nicholson seemed lifeless and wooden. I mean, here he is, an Academy Award winner, for crying out loud, and he and Shelly Duvall sound like they're high school students in the class play.

Onward to the film itself though: A posh mountain resort closes for the harsh winter, and a man (Nicholson) is hired as caretaker; he and his family move in to be isolated for the winter. Ten years earlier another caretaker went 'round the bend and hacked-up his wife and two daughters. Nicholson's own son seems to have some sort of psi power which manifests itself as an imaginary friend named Mr. Tony. Mr. Tony receives negative impressions about the hotel and strange things start happening. These events take their toll on the father and he begins to menace his family.

Much more satisfying though is *The Empire Strikes Back*, the sequel to *Star Wars* and ironically the fifth in the ultimate *Star Wars* cycle of films. The plot is much more complex than the first film and difficult to summarize, but I'll try:

The Empire hunts the Rebellion. Luke gets lost and has a vision. The Empire

strikes and everybody runs. Han and Leia fall in love. Luke meets Yoda and learns more about the Force. Bounty hunters hunt Solo. The Millennium Falcon needs repairs. Han goes to Lando Calrissian. Vader plots against Luke. Vader plots against the Emperor. Lando is a traitor. Han and Leia are captured. Luke comes to the rescue. Solo gets freeze-dried. Luke battles Vader. Vader wins. Vader is... no, you're not going to get that one out of me.



This is a vast oversimplification, and there is much more to the film than is possible to describe here. One of the best parts is the sequence on Dagobah, where Luke meets Yoda, the 800+ year old Jedi master. Just as R2D2 and C-3PO stole the scene in *Star Wars*, so does Yoda steal the scene in *Empire*. This film sets the scene for the next episode, and there are several loose ends. But ya gotta see it, man! (Oh yeah, I don't buy Vader's revelation.)

THE SHINING: KING vs. KUBRICK

MOVIE/BOOK REVIEW BY DAVID PETTUS

In 1977 Stephen King gave us *The Shining*, a classic horror novel, extremely well written, with excellent characterization and plot development. Indeed... in a recent letter, Robert Bloch informed me that he considers *The Shining* one of the twelve best horror novels ever! And I strongly agree with him.

King, of course, is today's leading writer of horror/macabre/weird fiction. No one questions this fact; Charles L. Grant once told me that he doesn't even try to imitate King, rather, he only reads and re-reads King's books, each time discovering something new in the way that King puts words together. And I believe that this is something everyone does, for King makes use of a very special magic in telling a story. In fact, I do not believe that it is what King writes that most appeals to his readers. No sir. I believe King could write

continued on page 7

King vs. Kubrick (cont.)

Westerns, or mystery-detective stories, or romance novels, and people would still read his fiction. No matter. However, I am quite pleased that he chose to write horror. King is the 1980's version of H.P. Lovecraft; this is certainly not to say that King writes like Lovecraft, but like Lovecraft, King *is* American horror. If you approach the man on the street and ask him to name a science fiction writer, he'll most likely say Arthur C. Clarke. If you ask him to name a horror writer, he'll say Stephen King. It's that simple. Andrew J. Offutt will tell you to stay away from books that a *lot* of people read (bestsellers) on the tried and true theory that the mass intelligence is equivalent to no intelligence at all, and generally speaking, I agree with him. But King is the extreme exception. He is good, and a *lot* of people read his books! And well they should, for King is a fine, fine writer. A craftsman with words. And modest!

In a recent letter, I told King that I considered 'Salem's Lot' something of a masterpiece. But King was quick to reply, insisting that, though it is a perfectly good popular novel, it is certainly not to be regarded as a masterpiece. Well... I beg to differ. I was fortunate enough to meet and interview King earlier this year (you'll be seeing that interview in *The Silver Eel* #3), and he gave me the distinct impression that he does not consider himself worthy of all this attention. He does not appear to believe that people will be reading his work long after he is gone.

Hell.



People will be reading King for years and years to come. He is an exceptional writer, an exceptional talent. And it's a damn shame that he does not see this fact. Gee, you'd think that when people throw wads and wads of money at you, it would pretty soon occur to you that you were good at what you were doing. It would also occur to you to just keep on doing it. And I am hoping that King will continue to write horror, though recently, with novels like *The Stand* and *The Dead Zone*, he seems to be changing directions somewhat.

And I firmly believe that King could write a single paragraph and sell it for film rights. Fred Pohl and I were talking about this at MidSouthCon, and I made mention of King; Pohl agreed that some people have it and some people don't. Actually, a *few* people have it and a *lot* don't. King has it. So it's no surprise to learn that Stanley Kubrick picked a King novel on which to base his reputation in the production of a horror 'epic'. I understand that Kubrick spent around eighteen million dollars on the film version of *The Shining*; indeed, the sets were very elaborate, and the camera techniques appeared to me super-sophisticated, though I know very little about filmmaking.

The plot line is simple enough; Jack Torrance, his wife Wendy, and their son Danny travel to Colorado where Jack has found employment as caretaker for the winter at a resort hotel called The Overlook. There, Jack pursues his work on a book he is writing, Wendy pursues her role-model of happy housewife, and Danny rides his tricycle. Danny, however, is a very special kid, in that he has the gift of precognition, and is witness to terrors past and future at the Overlook. What Danny knows, of course, is that his daddy is going to try to murder him and his mother. But *The Shining* is more than just a story about the slow metamorphosis of one individual from sanity to insanity... there is the supernatural element also. *The Shining* is essentially a ghost story. Like the novel, Kubrick's film is not a "blood and guts" scare flick; rather, it can better be described as "quiet horror". Well done.

And yet, I feel sure that most people will agree with me that the book is better. The film version of *The Shining* is more a Stanley Kubrick film than a Stephen King novel (I swiped that line from Vernon Clark.) There are differences, to be sure,

continued on page 8

King vs. Kubrick (cont.)

but they are slight and do not hurt the film version in any way. The film is good. You should see it. Just for once Kubrick lets his actors act; Jack Nicholson will surely win an Oscar for his performance in the film. And the kid was great! I don't know how in hell Kubrick got the kid to do all that stuff. One very good thing that Kubrick did was sprinkle the film with sardonic humor, thus offering the viewer a tension release. But even with the humor the film is quite intense. And frightening.

But I would not call it an 'epic' in the strictest sense of the term. There is nothing heroic, grand, or majestic about the movie. It's just a lot of fun to watch. And if it was designed to frighten the viewers, then I feel it was suc-

cessful. It's a class act. One of the very best horror movies to come along in many, many years. Kubrick will have to be satisfied with that.

Highly recommended.



THE GIRL, THE GOLD WATCH, AND EVERYTHING

BOOK/TV REVIEW BY CHARLIE WILLIAMS

I came into this novelette backwards.

I'm an indifferent mystery reader, and so the name John D. MacDonald rang no bells when I received my SF Book Club announcements in May. I'd planned to order the new Zelazny novel but didn't want to blow three bills on SF by a mystery writer: it sounded too much like it'd be 'Sci Fi'. I forgot to mail back the card, though, so Saturday (7/5/80) I found *both* books in the mailbox, R.Z.'s *Changling* and a collection of three MacDonald stories under the title *Time and Tomorrow*. The middle story is "The Girl, the Gold Watch, and Everything".

Back up two weeks: Tuesday night 6/24 WGN in Chicago aired *The Girl, the Gold Watch, and Everything* (Good old Cable TV!). When I heard the premise I thought, "Remind me to tune in *Diff'rent Strokes*." After all, chase scenes, a magic talisman/watch, 'jiggle' beach scenes, and Pam Dawber...

Waitaminit - *Pam Dawber!*

I decided to watch. You *Mork and Mindy* fans know *exactly* what and who I'm talking about; the chance to see Pam play somebody a little less, well, *wholesome* should not be missed. The added bonus of Jill Ireland (Jill Ireland!) playing the villainess was enough to convince me.

Unfortunately, I tuned in late, missing

the set-up. But my 15-inch Zenith revealed Pam in bed with the lead character (a fine comedic newcomer I *know* I've seen on *Chips* or some other forgettable beefcake show), and her accent was sultry Southern, her demeanor aggressive and wanton... I got Sylvia to make popcorn and watched the rest of the program, transcending mere voyeuristic curiosity and moving on to delight in the broad spectrum of well-thought-out characters, and admiration for what turned out to be a finely-crafted science fiction adventure.

I figured I'd tell my friends to catch it when it's licensed to a local channel and then forget about it, except for a wistful longing for a magic watch myself.

Then the book arrived, and when I discovered that "...Gold Watch..." was written in 1962 and ran 197 pages I whooped with the delight of discovery. As I read through the novel today (one *long*sitting) I found just how much I'd missed by never reading MacDonald before.

Here's the teaser from the dust jacket:

"When financial genius/eccentric inventor Omar Krepps died, people expected his nephew to inherit a fortune. But all Kirby Winter got from his uncle's estate was a gold pocket watch...and trouble. Trouble, since no one believed that's all Omar had left him. The executives of Krepps Enterprises suspected Kirby had millions stashed away -- money they wanted badly.

continued on page 9

...Gold Watch... Reviews (cont.)

Two sophisticated con artists were convinced he knew the secret of Omar's incredible success -- a secret they felt was worth killing for. As for Kirby himself, he was as puzzled by the legacy as the rest, until the day he accidentally discovered the truth about that gold watch...and realized he didn't need a fortune to have the time of his life!"

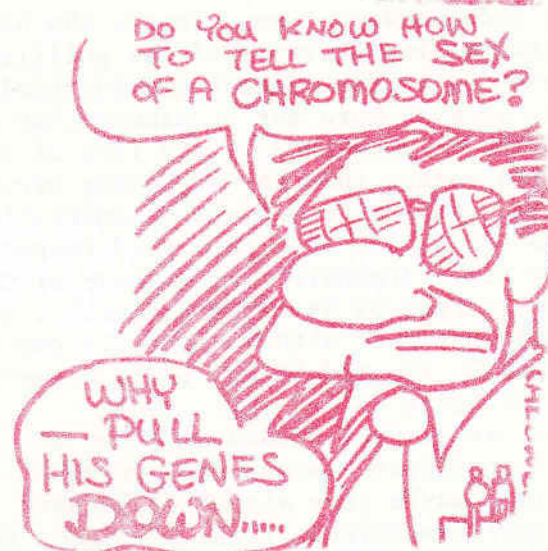
The gimmick is the watch, of course, which can speed up subjective time or slow down objective time, whatever. Light redshifts, inertia is magnified, everything freezes to a stop except the bearer of the talisman. For those not holding the watch, it seems that it's owner has suddenly become both Claude Rains and The Flash. How our hero uses his neat toy and his wits to escape, set things right, get the girl, and thoroughly humiliate the villains is a complete delight. More than just a conceptual or action story, "...Gold Watch..." is a scream. MacDonald is brilliantly funny, and yet has a sobering and admirably on-target view of male sexuality, a view I found sympathetic and that I could recognize in my *OWN* experience. Some examples:

Poor, shy Kirby meets the predatory Charla and makes a fool of himself: "...as he had the dim suspicion that such were the obvious riches of Charla that even a far more worldly man might have experienced a visceral tremor or two... Considering the wretched paucity of his experience and the extent of his carefully concealed shyness, he marvelled that when he had come upon (Charla) there, he had not merely given a cackle of laughter and vaulted the cement railing a hundred feet above the gaudy roofs of the beach cabanas."

After being gullible: "He wondered at his own degree of ninnyism."

Now put Pam Dawber in *this* scene: "He propped himself on the pillows so he could watch her. Her long legs were so tanned they looked carved out of redwood, shaped lovingly, sanded to sleekness, polished."

As she bent and moved and worked, he admired the smooth slench and slither of the young muscles of haunch and back and shoulders. And he felt the vast contentment of what he knew could be no more than a momentary ownership, and he wanted to find a heavy stone and chunk himself in the head for having deprived himself for so long of this kind of fatuous, arrogant smugness he had not realized existed."



MacDonald allows Kirby to grow as a character, too, not just in, er, experience. His mature handling of the heady magic provided by the 'watch' demonstrates Kirby's decency and perspective. The scenes wherein the 'watch' is used are haunting and full of detailed special effects (think about the resistance offered by an unmoving mass of air, what the texture of skin would be like if its atomic structure was slowed dramatically, or how fast you'd have to be to dodge a bullet in a universe where two minutes would equal one one-thousandth of a second..).

Finally, friends, how many SF stories have you read lately that had a happy ending? As I finished "The Girl, the Gold Watch, and Everything" I wanted a glass of champagne to join in the toast to hillbilly girls and eccentric uncles!

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Edited by Nicki Lynch

Barney Neufeld
2426 Girard Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55408

(on CHAT #31)
Your quote of the month (for April) strikes me as suffering from words-outism. Anyone who has been even minimally aware of the political inadequacies of the current Presidential contest is much more apt to assume that the human race is governed by its lack of imagination rather than the other way around. After all, with one candidate demonstrating all the brilliance of a tarnished teapot, and the other demonstrating a grasp of the obvious so tenuous as to be invisible, we are certainly left with a difficult choice, are we not? Too bad it has to be between worse and worst.

Hm, since your breakdown shows at least six different areas coalescing in Knoxville, maybe they should call their newsletter Hex Points. (Yes, I've seen the copy of INFINITY CUBED that John received. Haven't had a chance to ~~steal it from him~~ look it over yet, but the first impression is a stunning one.)

Why does Ken Scott (in his remarks on *The Aliens Are Coming*) assume that politicians and celebrities are the "key humans"? It's true, they are the most visible, and what they do has an effect on somewhat more than a handful of people, but I think he does a disservice to the clerks, typists, etc., among us by calling them "nobodies", just because their activities do not make front-page headlines. These "nobodies" are to politicians and celebrities as the river is to the waterfall; a prerequisite. Moving quietly through the daily repetitions, it is they who pay for the pipers to whom the others try to dance. They may not possess the kind of power which creates peace or war, and each individual may be immediately replaceable, but should they ever just stop not a politician in the world could move than the nearest rosebud.

Dave Pettus' review bothers me a little, too. Not that I believe Ursula LeGuin is incapable of doing a bad book. I don't. However, I think she would not consciously cheat her audience, as Dave seems to imply. Since I haven't read the book myself, I

can't say for certain, but perhaps Ms. LeGuin was experimenting with that genre of realistic fiction called "slice-of-life". From some of the things Dave says, this seems a reasonable assumption. ...

Nor have I read *The Unsleeping Eye*. But I would ask Dave who is supposed to be the focus of the story, a woman dying or the reporter covering the event. If it is the latter (and the title suggests this is so), his complaint is unjustified because that is what the author is supposed to concern himself with. The story of a woman dying (even given the background Dave explains) would be just that to a professional reporter--a story. The changes being wrought by his bionic implants would be of far more personal truth and concern to him.

((Good hearing from you and you should have received the copies that didn't get to you for review this time!))

((I had no idea Napoleon was commenting on the presidential elections. I like to think HUMANS as a whole have imagination. Watch children; to capture that as an adult is the mark of an artist.

((How about some book reviews?))



WELL....
GO ON! CALL ME A
RUBBERHEAD!!
EVERYONE ELSE DOES....

CALDWELL

Charles Seelig
1505 John Jay
Columbia University
New Your City, NY 10027

The cover on
#31 was fabulous.
Blew my mind. And
obviously having
mimeo means not

known to irk some of the Louisville people.
But they have a party anyway. With the con
being moved to another hotel, the date may
change. Cons do move their dates around.
((Good hearing from you!))

limiting your illos to one color. Bravo!

Continuing on the artwork, I liked Earl
Cagle's Big E and the Gilliland cartoon. And
what did Ken Scott and/or David Pettus think
about the representation of themselves as re-
viewers?

On "Another Fine Mess", why does David
Pettus believe it is necessary for us to
want to emulate Hugh and Irene in order for
the book to be good? The fact that we might
not want to emulate them means that they are
a bit different than most characters in books,
including LeGuin's. As for dealing with the
real world, many people don't or can't and
the use of the fantasy world of Tembreabrezi
as a place for the testing of the mind, body,
and spirit has parallels through much of liter-
ature. The child or adolescent escapes his
hometown or area and its problems, has ad-
ventures in kingdoms over the sea or mountains
and then returns, ready to face up to and
deal with the problems that were present in
the book.

On to #32. How does Charlie Williams
continue to do it? I mean really. Turning
the old *Star Trek* joke inside out with that
horrible pun. Aargh!

As for the gentleman on page six, what
would he have to comprise, his hat or his
prop. If Kubla Khan Ate was as great as Guy
Lillian's report made it seem, next year's
should be something to go see. (Unfortunately
it happens during the same week as finals
occur here.) Back to Dave Pettus once more.
I agree with is review of *The Snow Queen*,
I'm just wondering what was better about *Dune*
or worse about *Snow Queen*, since the two aren't
equal according to him. It sounds as though
Deb Hammer-Johnson could run the traveling
SF bookstore for all points in the South.

((That's one of the reasons to move from
photocopy to mimeo-the ability to do work in
color. Thank you.

((I don't think the illos of the reviews
were ment to be anyone other than the artists
imagination put on paper.

((How does Charlie do it? Well, for the
STAR TREK cartoon he had help from Ron Lee.
The cartoon, by the way was given to Pat
Molloy of Bowling Green, KY, as a present
from the Bowling Green club.

((Kubla was and IS that good a con! It
is also on Kentucky Derby day, which has been

I'M NO ROCK,
I'M AN ISLAND.



Lynne Holdom
P.O. Box 5
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442

First I am glad
The Snow Queen
isn't another
Dune. I disliked

Dune intensely. ... But I would recommend
The Snow Queen to anyone. I even got the
hardcover edition and I rarely do that.
Like Dave, I wasn't terribly impressed with
The Outcasts of Heaven Belt though I did
like *Fireship*.

Now, I suppose I should answer Robert
Barger on S&S. I do not equate S&S with
John Norman. Generally in the S&S that I
have read, the hero is anxious to rescue
the fair maiden from the various fates worse
than death that awaits her; he is not the
problem as he is in the *Gor* books. The *Gor*
books I wouldn't recommend to anyone. My
judgements on S&S were mostly formed by Co-
nan novels and various ERB books. I have-
n't read any of Karl Wagner's books because
I do not have time to read all the books I
want to read (*Born to Exile* has been sit-
ting there for ages) without getting books
in a subgenre that I have not been pleased
with in the past. I suspect that the fact
that I was raised as a Quaker may also con-
tribute to my anti-S&S bias as so much of
it seems to have an "if it moves, bash it"
mentality.

I do like fantasy. However, I gener-
ally consider S&S in a separate category
than fantasy which, to me, means *Lord of*
the Rings, *Harpist in the Wind*, etc.

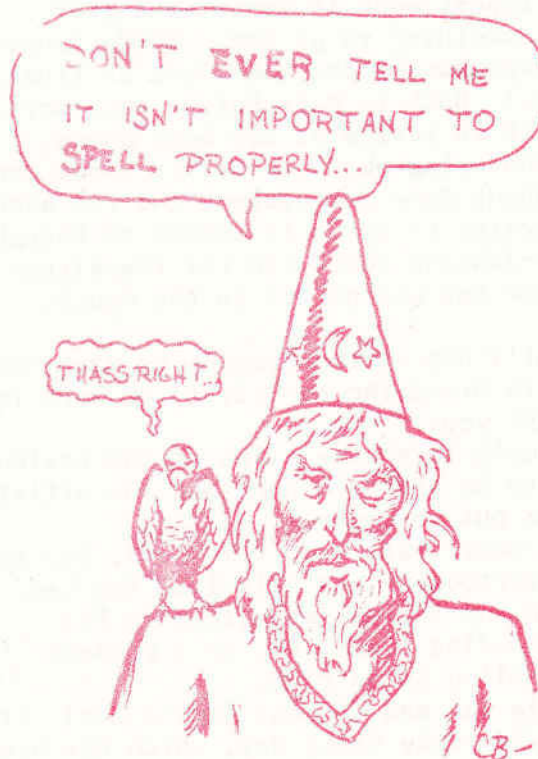
Furthermore most of the SF I like is
"soft" SF such as that written by Bradley,
Vance, Brackett, Foster, de Camp (the Via-
gens stories), Norton, etc. ... I also like
LeGuin, McCaffrey, Anthony, Dickson, Niven,
Farmer (though not his Tarzan and Doc Sa-

continued on page 11

"Writing by Computer" is a good article, but the terms secretary

Now that you're out of school, why don't you try to finish your novel? It would be nice to have a pro author who regularly attended the CSFA meetings.))

((Glad you liked the article; how about the political one Ralph has in this ish?))



Vernon Clark
6216 Janmer Ln.
Knoxville, TN 37919

Nice Harvia cover!
And the colored paper gives the illo a nice effect.

Brian Earl Brown
16711 Burt Rd. #207
Detroit, MI 48219

"Vati-con". I haven't heard that name in a long time, a long time. Really!

The June CSFA party was a real fine time. Burke and I were very grateful to all concerned for delaying the auction till our arrival. And it was good to get together with Pettus, Purcell, and Micheals. The only time they come at meetings is when free eats are offered. Hell, if I can make meetings regularly, so can you'se guys!

While I've got these guys on my memory-tape, I'd like to congratulate Dave (Pettus), Andy (Purcell) and everyone else for the really fine example of a Southern Con that they put on in Huntsville. Both those guys had a great flair for running things smoothly. And the art show was run as well as any of seen. Congrats Dick, all that worrying paid off.

Great illo by John Mayer on page 7.

Perry Chapedlaine's review of *The Romanticist* will do interested readers little good as he failed to list where you could order the journal. Interested parties should send \$5.50/issue to the F. Marion Crawford Memorial Society, Saracinesca House, 3610 Meadowbrook Ave., Nashville, TN 37205.

The large adverse selection of fan art/artists in this issue was real nice. CHAT attracts fandom's attention more and more and is only the best clubzine around.

((Thank you for your many fine words, Vernon!!

((MidSouthCon did come off well and, I understand, it will happen again next year, with most of the same organizers.

((According to Dick, who typed and edited Perry's article, the address was in the article and accidentally edited out. We're sorry about that.

((Harvia picked out the paper and did the printing for that cover. He did a fine job.))



Back when I was a neo there was this other neo, who wasn't quite as neo as I because she'd already pubbed her first zine. That zine was an OSFiC one-shot called "VATI-CON III Program Book". A real fake program book for a religious convention. I think that three years from now fannish bibliographers like Bruce Pelz are going to be tearing their hair out trying to distinguish between the real and fake VATI-CON program book. Somehow it comes as no surprise that Deb Hammer Johnson is involved in this. Deb seems to have finger (or at least a loc) everywhere. It's a good thing fandom isn't organized or she'd have taken it over by now.

I have my doubts about the Midwest fan Forum that Elst is trying to start. Basically I don't like to see fans compiling mailing lists of other fans. It seems to be such an easy step from mailing con flyers to con attendees to being inundated by unwanted ads for Star Trek toys and what-not. I prefer to be on as few mailing lists as possible if those lists are liable to be sold to junk mail hucksters, and I fear that for all of Elst's ideals that's just what will happen to his fan forum.

Kudos for John Mayer's cartoon on page 7. It is indeed a puzzling and depressing thought to wonder what aliens might save from a doomed Earth. Would the Mona Lisa be passed up for some moon-eyed kids? In *The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy* ((The Hugo nominated British radio series of 1978-ed.)) the Guide's one entry on Earth was "Mostly harmless", an appraisal Earth's sole survivor found...inadequate. It could be worse. The sole artifact of lost Earth could be a tape of *Battlestar: Galactica*.

"Writing by Computer". Don't we all lust after a small computer/word processor system. Just to have a machine to maintain my mailing list would be something to lust after. But 'inexpensive'? I don't call \$3000 inexpensive and I've yet to hear of any system that was significantly less than that unless one was an amateur electrician and built it from a kit.

Book reviews. I suppose I could do a few of them but the two books I feel most involved with call for lengthy articles. Tho I could just say in passing that Marion

continued on page 14

Brian Earl Brown LoC (cont.)

Zimmer Bradley's novel *Two to Conquer* is terribly overwritten (wordy and repetitive) and features a character so unappealing that one must wonder why Bradley wanted to write about him. It's one thing to get inside the mind of a Tarl Cabot type (*Gor* novels) but to spend 320 pages on him? Worse is that a number of interesting things are sloughed to one side. The adaptation of the Compact, the formation of the free Amazons, etc., happen off stage after the novel. MZB's book itself seems pointless.

The other book is CJ Cherryh's *Serpent's Reach* which seemed to be a great work for her but ends being destroyed by Cherryh's incurable romanticism. In the end we never find out just what was the motivation of the main characters, or the economic implications of what they did. It was just a story full of sound and fury signifying nothing. (a cliché I picked up in high school.)

But enough of book reviews. Well, one more. I'm part way through the novel of *Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and find it highly enjoyable. The sort of novel Robert Sheckley used to write.

Loved the Harvia cover. The mythos of CHAT continues to grow.

In the course of reviewing zines for WoFan I've come across a number of zines that are substantially better than average. these include: *FAST AND LOOSE* by Alan Bostick, 5022-9th Ave. NE, Seattle, Wash. 98105; *GENRE PLAT*, Allyn Cadogan, 251 Ashbury St. #4, San Francisco, CA 94117; and *MAINSTREAM*, Jerry Kaufman & Suzle Tompkins, 4326 Winslow Pl. North, Seattle, Wash. 98103. These are all fannish fanzines, that is they talk more about fans and non-SF related material (like Burma Shave signs, sour dough, and pinball). The level of writing is superior thought. A buck should send a copy winging you way.

((As you'll read in the news, Vati-con probably will not be. At least not this year.

((The South has a similiar fan organization-The Souther Fan Confederation-SFC. AS far as I know its purpose is for FANS to find each other and the lists have not been sold to 'hucksters'. Conventions trade lists of past congoers and some of those may have found their way into some huckster's list. However, the telephone

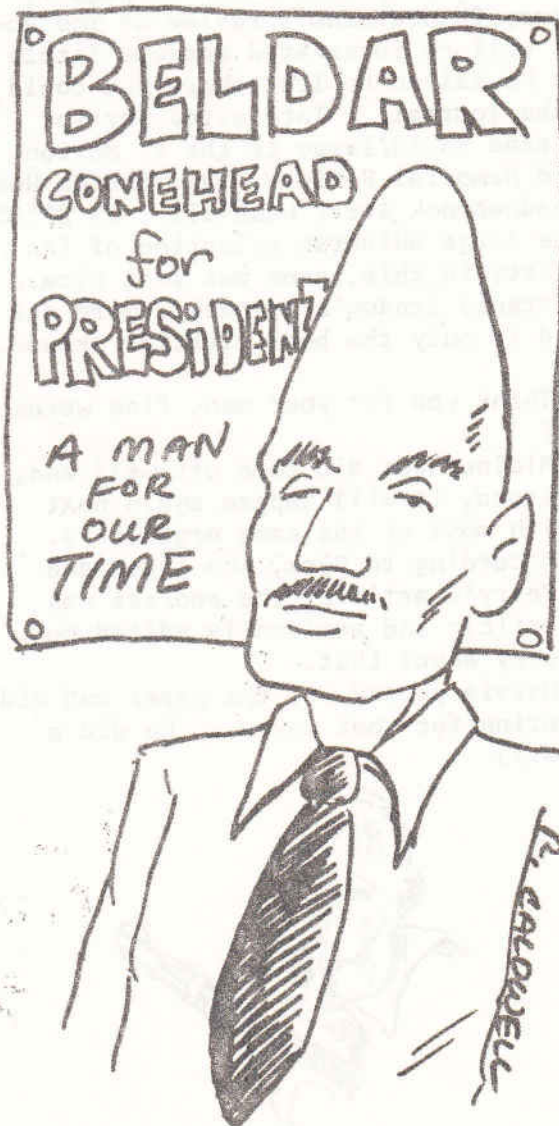
company sells its addresses, so you are probably on some of those lists. Also SF is becoming big and some sellers may be moving into that field.

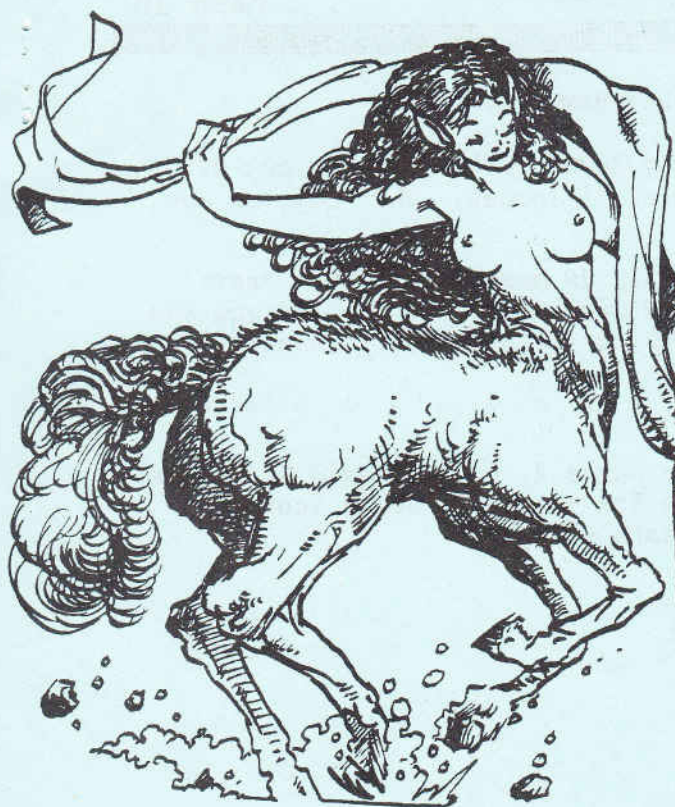
((Where did you FIND a copy of HHGG? It isn't out here. We've heard the first two episodes, so far. At least the entry for Earth was changed from "harmless". I think it is great irony that the Mayer illo expressed. Afterall, what if aliens had bad taste?

((We trade with the first and last zine mentioned and I agree entirely that they are fine, quality zines. Now to get some dead wood off the fan Hugo catagories... There are some fine fan things going on and I for one do not want the fan Hugo catagories dropped.

((If you think I typoed Vernon's "died in the wool"-you don't know Vernon!

((Thanks for the kind words. Thanks for the always interesting loc!))





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~~~~~

We also heard from: David Thayer, Andy Andruschak, Deb Hammer Johnson.

*Editors' Note: We no longer have access to a reducing Xerox machine, so we ask all artists to submit spot illos based on a column width of 3½ inches. That way, we can use them in the letters or reviews columns as is.*

*Also, we ask that CSFA members consider, before the July 19 meeting, if CHAT meets all your needs as a clubzine, and think of changes you wish to see in it. As you can see by this past year, we are more or less continually in the process of changing, and want to remain current with the club's needs.*

\* \* \* \* \*

ARTISTS CREDITS: Tom Walker - cover; Cliff Biggers - pages 2, 6, 12; David Heath, jr. - pages 4, 13; Rusty Burke/Bob Barger - page 5; Steve Fox - page 7; Julia Scott - page 8; Roger Caldwell - pages 9, 10, 14; Wade Gilbreath - page 11

NEXT CSFA MEETING:

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