



CHAT

NEWSZINE OF THE CHATTANOOGA SCIENCE FICTION
ASSOCIATION

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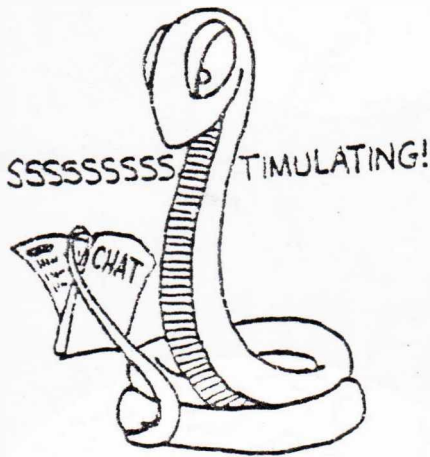
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re-subscribe, or attend next CSFA
meeting.

CHAT is a newszine of Southern fan news, and is supported by the Chattanooga Science Fiction Association. We encourage submissions of art, reviews, articles, letters of comment, and the like. Written material should be a maximum of one page typed, unless prior approval. Please include name and address on the submission. While CHAT doesn't pay contributors, we provide a forum for fan writers and artists; a complimentary copy of CHAT is given to all contributors who aren't already receiving it. All correspondence to CHAT will be considered for publication unless otherwise specified by the writer.

Opinions expressed by contributors to CHAT do not necessarily represent those of the editors of CHAT, or of the Chattanooga Science Fiction Association.

AD RATES: Pre-printed flyer inclusion - \$7.50 (copy count 120); Full Page - \$7.50; Half Page - \$4.00; Quarter Page - \$2.50; 25¢ per line equivalent.

"It is not necessary to understand things in order to argue about them." - Pierre Augustin de Beaumarchais (1732-1799)



TROUBLE IN MUSIC CITY. Controversy has developed at the Nashville Science Fiction Club over the use of their name and incorporation proceedings undertaken unilaterally by one of their members. At the October NSFC meeting, proposals were brought up by Perry Chapdelaine

and Ray Jones to have (1) formal election of officers, and (2) NSFC chartered as a non-profit organization. After at least one tie vote, both proposals were defeated; Chapdelaine reportedly left the meeting "in a huff" according to one NSFC member.

At the November NSFC meeting, it was discovered that on October 11, Chapdelaine had unilaterally filed a charter for the Nashville Science Fiction Club, in which it was specified that Chapdelaine would select a Board of Directors for NSFC, which in turn would elect club officers. The charter filing was reportedly paid by a check drawn on the account of Authors' Co-op, Inc., of which Chapdelaine is President. A letter of protest to the Tennessee State Attorney General was sent by the NSFC, which stated that at no time was Chapdelaine an officer of the club, and that club members by vote had declined applying for a charter, and requested the State of Tennessee not grant the charter.

Chapdelaine, who was one of the original founders of the club, claims that NSFC has deteriorated into a cliquish in-group; discussions got shut-off and programs had become an "old movies club". Furthermore, as one of the inventors of the name 'Nashville Science Fiction Club', he claims he has as much right to the name as anyone else, especially since NSFC never had any constitution or bylaws that called for official election of a president or other officers (Ken Moore, the current President of NSFC, had assumed office in a coup several years back). In short, Chapdelaine maintained that NSFC was possibly not a formal group in the legal sense, and had no official claim to the name.

At any rate, Chapdelaine intends to pursue the charter application as far as possible, in spite of NSFC opposition, as he wants the club to set up

continued on page 3

TROUBLE IN MUSIC CITY (cont.)

a constitution and bylaws, and have proper election of officers, even to the point of forming a competing Nashville Science Fiction Club if necessary. At their November, NSFC by vote affirmed Ken Moore as President, and not to charter the club with the state, both by a large majority. And the letter from NSFC to the Attorney General has placed the status of the Chapdelaine NSFC charter in limbo, at present.

CHAT invites letters of comment on this dispute from any interested party. (DL)

NORTHAMERICAN WRAP-UP, After all loose ends had been tied down, NorthAmerican '79, held over Labor Day weekend in Louisville, ended about \$8700 in the black, according to committee member Irvin Koch. As NorthAmerican was incorporated as a non-profit organization, the excess funds will be disposed of as follows: up to \$4900 will be used on a post-con publication (due out in February), featuring photographs, GoH speeches, an updated list of members, and the full financial report; it'll be sent to all members. \$400 will be set aside to run a Southern hospitality room at the Boston WorldCon. Up to \$1500 will be used to repair the 35mm projectors that broke down during the convention; the projectors will then be available for rental to other conventions. Remaining money will be split equally between the University of Louisville library (for SF books) and the American Red Cross. The art show hangings will be split among Southern SF conventions. Louisville's annual regional SF convention, RiverCon, will now be run by the Louisville Science Fiction Association, Inc., the legal entity that was NorthAmerican. (DL)

OTHER RECENT CONVENTIONS, Half-a-Con, the annual Southern relax-a-con, was held Nov. 9-11 in Birmingham, Alabama. In all, there were 103 paid, which made it one of the largest Half-a-Cons ever. Attending pros were Perry Chapdelaine, and DAW anthology editors Jerry Page and Hank Reinhardt. According to one committee member, it was close, but the convention came out about \$20 in the black.

Roc*Kon 4 in Little Rock, Oct. 26-28, attracted 155 registered members, although 142 attended. Margaret Middleton reports that the convention lost about \$200.

Bob Tucker reports that NovaCon 9 West in Albany, NY (Nov. 2-4) was a good convention, but only about 200-300 attended instead of the 400-600 expected. As a result, con organizer Jan Howard Finder finished over a thousand dollars in the red.

LosCon 6 was held in Los Angeles on Nov. 10-12. Marty Cantor informs us that about 700 attended, making it the largest LosCon ever. (DL)



FOR SALE: Heyer (hand-crank) mimeo, plus two pounds mimeo ink, about a quire and a half of 4 hole mimeo stencils, instruction manual, extra ink pad and rubber feed paper pads, plastic cover. Costs about \$150 new; best offer over \$70 gets it.

Send offer to CHAT (address at top of page 2), or call at 892-5127.

2063 AD CONTINUED: Aboard the pursuing shuttle, Hal, Maggie, and Brother Bob thrash things out...

...WE *KNEW* THAT THE "SPACE PEOPLE" WHO IMMIGRATED TO SOL SYSTEM IN 2021 WERE FROM *CLOSE BY*, SO WE GNOSTICS BEGAN A SYSTEMATIC SEARCH OF NEARBY SPACE WITH "CYCLOPS", HOPING TO LOCATE THE *HOMEWORLD* THEY'D FORGOTTEN OR MISPLACED.

WHAT WE *FOUND*...
WE NEVER *EXPECTED*...

IN THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST MILLENNIUM, ONE SPLINTER GROUP OF *CHRISTIANS* HELD THE BELIEF THAT ALL CREATION WAS THE IMPERFECT MINGLING OF PURE *SPIRIT* AND IMPERFECT, GROSS *MATTER*. *HEAVEN*, THE *SKIES*, WAS GUARDED BY SPIRITUAL BEINGS CALLED *ARCHONS*, IDENTIFIED AS THE *STARS*...

"GNOSIS" IS GREEK FOR "KNOWLEDGE"...

UH-HUNH.

SO WHAT DID YOU FIND!?!

WE REACHED OUT AND FOUND THE *ARCHONS*.

WHAT?
WHAT?

PERHAPS THOSE *ARCHONS* OF GNOSTIC LEGEND?

HUNH?

WE'RE A GROUP OF SPECIALISTS IN SOPHISTICATED *RADIO-ASTRONOMY*. WE GOT TO BE KNOWN AS *PIRATES* BECAUSE WE DON'T *SHARE* OUR FINDINGS--- WE *SELL* 'EM!

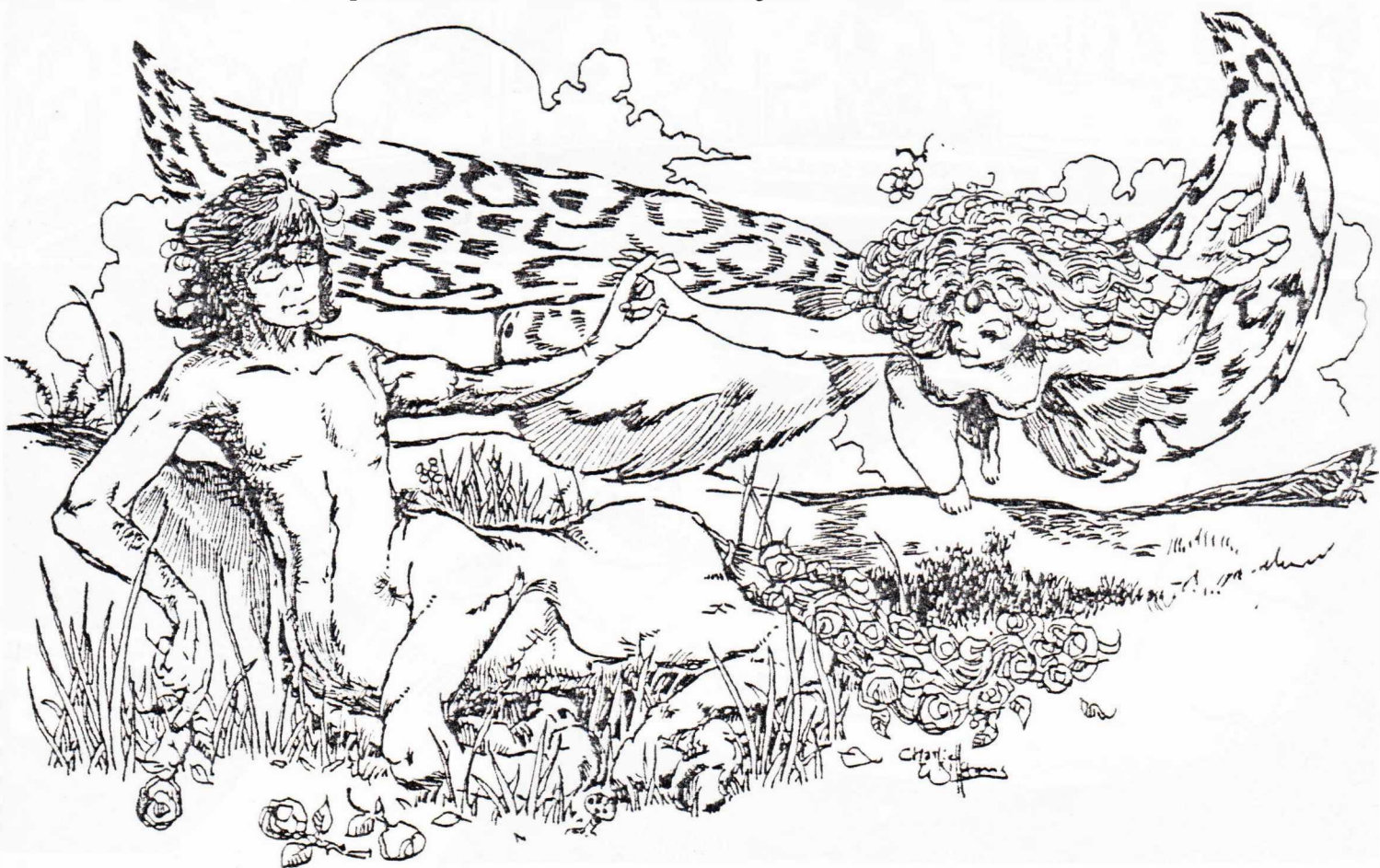
BESIDES---
YOU'RE THE ONLY GROUP THAT HANGS AROUND WITH THE *SPACE PEOPLE*...

YEAH; THE *GREAT UNWASHED* CALLS THEM "BEMMIES", BUT THEY AREN'T *BUG-EYED MONSTERS*, FOR *CHRISAKE!*

AND...
IT SEEMS THEY ARE *BUG-EYED MONSTERS!*

NEXT: ENVOY FRED

FILM BY SYNDICATE FEATURED AT DEC. 15 CSFA MEETING. The CSFA met at its usual place, the UTC Student Center, on Nov. 17. Due to mix-ups with money, the film that had been ordered and announced had not arrived. After announcements by Ken Scott and the showing of the *Star Trek* Blooper reel, the assembled group was given a choice of three video tapes. Despite the heavy sentiment toward *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Dark Star* was shown. For those not interested in the movie, there was a Hearts game in the lobby. Several out-of-town fans were in attendance at this meeting-Knoxville fanartists Charlie Williams and Rusty Burke, Knoxville fans Vernon Clark and Robert Barger, David Pettus from Loretto, and Birmingham fan Jim Gilpatrick. After the film, the party started in the Quality Inn South. Organizer Tim Bolgeo had stocked the bathtub with beer and soda, and arrived a bit later with eight large pizzas, which were quickly eaten. There was also some disco dancing to a tape recorder brought by Colin Wright and D&D playing that went on very late. For the most part, people sat around and got acquainted with new members or got into discussions with the old members. Also attending was pro author Perry Chapdelaine. It was a good party and everyone agreed that we should do it again in the future. The December meeting will be 7:30 PM, Saturday, Dec. 15, in the Lookout Mtn. Room at the UTC Student Center. The book to be discussed will be Robert Silverberg's *Up the Line*. The program will be *The Last of the Red Hot Mundanes*, a film produced, written, acted in and presented by the Syndicate. Should be a good evening! If you are looking for the books to be discussed in future meetings, *Spacial Delivery* by Gordon Dickson and *Persistence of Vision* by John Varley, check with our Book Scrounge Andy Purcell. He will be distributing books and setting up accounts at the meeting. To get to UTC: Take I-124 to the 4th St. exit (last one before Tenn. River bridge). Go on 4th St. for about 8/10 mile to Mabel St., and turn right on Mable. Go 2 blocks (bearing right) and turn left onto Vine St. (which is one-way). Go 2½ blocks. The Student Center is on the left side; look for its sign. The meeting room is on the ground floor, near the information desk. For questions, call Mike Rogers (266-0298). (NWL)





NOW, MAGGIE!

-- SABOTAGING Charon's 1Gravity Generators, HAL AND MAGGIE NOËL OUT-MANUEVER THEIR CAPTORS--

DROP 'EM!

HEAD FOR THE CHAPEL: BROTHER BOB WILL BE THERE...

-- BESIDES, I'LL BET THE ALTAR IS THE GHOSTICS' COMMUNICATIONS ROOM!



-- GOOD THING THEIR LINEAR ACCELERATOR WAS FULLY-CHARGED--

I'LL BE THERE IN SIXTEEN HOURS!

WHAT IN HELL WAS THAT?

A DOLPHIN IN A SPACE-SUIT!?

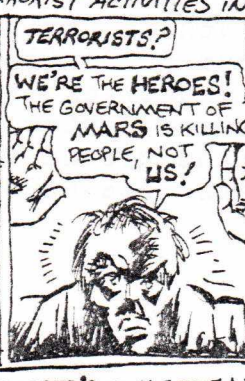
2063 A.D.
©1997 Charlie
Episode Williams
9

"THE GHOSTICS - A PSEUDO-RELIGIOUS ENCLAVE OF SCIENTISTS HAVE A MYSTERIOUS OUTPOST ON PLUTO-CHARON... ARE THEY THE SOURCE OF THE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN THE INNER-SYSTEM?"



FREEZE, BROTHER BOB!

WE'RE GONNA PUT A HALT TO YOUR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, STARTING WITH "SUPERCYCLOPS"!



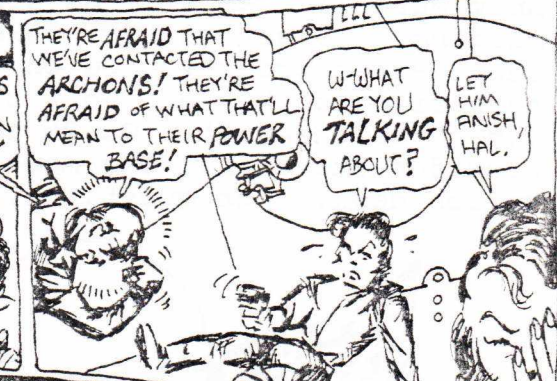
TERRORISTS?

WE'RE THE HEROES! THE GOVERNMENT OF MARS IS KILLING PEOPLE, NOT US!



DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND!?

WE'VE KNOWN FOR MONTHS WHAT THEY'RE DOING! THEY'VE GOT THE TERRAN COUNCIL CONVINCED!



THEY'RE AFRAID THAT WE'VE CONTACTED THE ARCHONS! THEY'RE AFRAID OF WHAT THAT'LL MEAN TO THEIR POWER BASE!

W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

LET HIM FINISH, HAL.

BY FLIPPER'S HOLY SQUEAL!

I HOPE MY PRESSURE SHEATH CAN TAKE THIS MANY G'S--



-- BUT I HAVE A BITCH OF A HEADSTART-- AND I'LL CROSS THE NINETY-MILLION MILES TO CYCLOPS BEFORE ANYONE ELSE FIGURES IT OUT--

-- AND I'LL BE FIRST!

NEXT: ARCHONS & EVOLUTION

UPCOMING REGIONAL CONVENTIONS.

CHATTACON, P.O. Box 21173, Chattanooga, TN 37412. Jan. 4-6, 1980 at the Downtown Sheraton. We will be featuring a Wilson (Bob) Tucker Roast and a Barry Longyear Writer's Workshop as well as all the features that were popular last year. GoH: Joan D. Vinge; MC: Wilson (Bob) Tucker; attending-Hal Clement; Jack Chalker, Dave Kyle, Barry Longyear, Forrest J. Ackerman and others. \$10 memberships, \$10 banquet tickets, now thru the door.

UPPERSOUTHCLAVE 10, P.O. Box 8423, Louisville, KY 40208. March 14-16, 1980 at the Red Carpet Inn in Bowling Green, KY. It will be a relax-a-con. GoH: P.L. Carruthers. \$5 memberships.

COASTCON '80, Box 6025, Biloxi, MS 39532. March 14-16, 1980. Write for info. Attending-C.J. Cherryh, George Effinger. \$10 memberships

KUBLA KHANATE, c/o Ken Moore, 647 Devon Dr., Nashville, TN 37220. May 2-4, 1980 at the Quality Inn in Nashville. Nashville has a quality con and shouldn't be missed. GoH: Stephen King; MC: Andrew J. Offutt; Attending-many pros and artists. \$7.50 memberships and \$10 at the door.

MIDSOUTHCON '80, c/o Andy Purcell, Rt. 1, Box 322-A, Leoma, TN 38468 (send SASE). June 20-22, 1980 at the Sheraton Inn in Huntsville, AL. This is one of the new southern cons. GoH: Fred Pohl; M.C. Kelly Freas; Fan GoH: Bob Tucker. \$8 memberships to June 1, 1980 and \$10 after and at the door.

MYSTICON, P.O. Box 12294, Roanoke, VA 24024. July 4-6, 1980 at the Sheraton Red Lion Inn in Blacksburg, VA. This new con is by the Nelson Bond Society. GoH: Gordon Dickson. \$5 memberships to Dec. 31 and \$7 after.

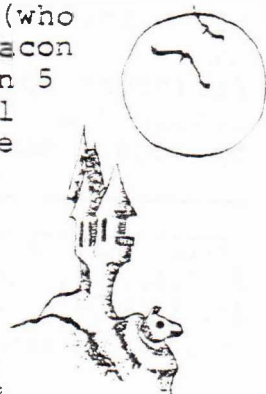
ASFICONI, 6045 Summitt Wood Dr., Kennesaw, GA 30144. Aug. 22-24, 1980 at the Northlake Hilton in Atlanta, GA. As this is the DSC, it is a con not to be missed! GoH: Ted White; Fan GoH: Mike Glyer; attending-should attract many pros and artists, as usual. \$7.50 memberships until Dec. 31 and \$10 after that.

NOREASCON II, Box 46, MIT P.O., Cambridge, MA 02139. The World SF Con. Aug. 29-Sept. 1, 1980 at the Sheraton Boston, Boston, MA. GoH: Damon Knight and Kate Wilhelm; Fan GoH: Bruce Pelz; Toastmaster: Robert Silverberg; attending; More pros and artists than can be counted at this time. All the excitement that a World SF con can have. \$8 supporting membership; write for the attending rates.

RIVERCON, should be near the end of July. There has been no announcement about the 1980 Rivercon, but there should be one by ChattaCon. For further info, write to: P.O. Box 8251, Louisville, Ky 40208

ONE LINERS. Los Angeles SF personality Forrest J. Ackerman (who was awarded the first Hugo ever presented) will Attend Chattacon 5. // Also, we understand that previously announced Chattacon 5 guest Jim Frenkel will likely not be able to attend. Frenkel is an editor for Dell Books. // The first distribution of the new clubzine amateur press association, CLAPA, has been collated and sent out by Cliff Biggers, 6045 Summit Wood Rd., Kennesaw, GA 30144. Five clubzines totalling 59 pages are represented. Clubzine editors who wish to join should contact Cliff for details. // CSFA members Dick and Nicki Lynch will be Fan Guests of Honor at Roc*Kon in Little Rock, Arkansas, Oct. 24-26, 1980. // Barry B. Longyear has contracted

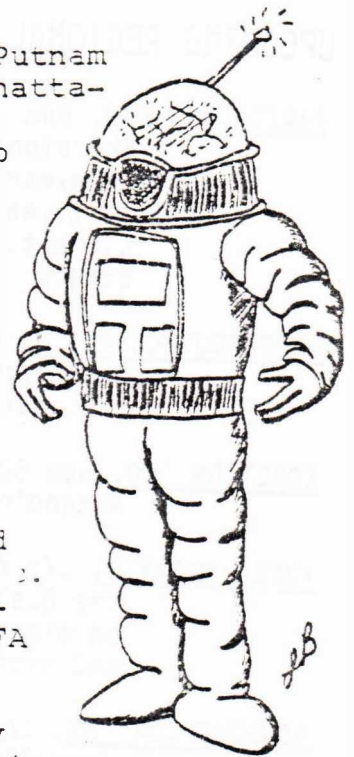
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MORE ONE LINERS.

two novels, *Lizard Ask Not* and *Tomorrow Testament*, for Berkley/Putnam books. He'll also be conducting a writer's workshop at Chatta-Con 5. // ChattaCon 5 M.C. Wilson Tucker has sold a novel *Rejoice! It's Resurrection Day* to Pocket Books. // Sharon Webb has sold a ghost story "The Presence" to *Gothic* magazine, plus another 'Bull Run' story to *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine* (for the January issue). Also, her story "Miss Nottworthy and the Aliens" will appear in *Other Worlds*, due out in December. // A new SF/fantasy organization, the Stellar Fantasy Society, has formed. Memberships are \$5 a year, which includes 4 issues of *The Stellar Fantasy Newsletter* and three issues of *Thru Black Holes*.

Send you membership money to Michael Roden, 982 White Oak Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45245. // The Birmingham Science Fiction Club will hold a Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 8. Contact CHAT for instructions on how to get there. // CSFA member Irvin Koch says that the latest issue of his personalzine *Maybe* (#55) will be out in January after ChattaCon. Speaking of Irvin, his new address is: 2035 Idlewood Rd #H6, Tucker, GA 30084. // Other CoAs: Ken Scott/Julia Wilhoit, 711A Mansion Hills Apts., Chattanooga, TN 37405; Tola Varnell, 2231 Brentwood Rd. NW, Cleveland, TN 37311. // CSFA member Dick Lynch's first patent will issue on December 4th, his 30th birthday. // The new art show director for ASFiCon, the 1980 DeepSouthCon in Atlanta, is Jeanne Corbin, who replaces Dan Caldwell. // CSFA member Mike Rogers recently was pianist with the U.T.C. University Orchestra for a performance of Copland's "Appalachian Spring". He says he played both the piano and harp parts, and had only one week to learn the parts before the performance. // The LASFS newzine *DeProfundis* reports that William Rotsler (who won a Hugo for Best Fanartist at Seacon) will have an upcoming 48 page photo story for *Heavy Metal*. This would appear to disqualify him for further consideration for fan Hugos (voters take note). // The Noreascon Two WorldCon committee has announced there will be no book length Gandalf fantasy award this year, as they feel it was in direct conflict with the Best Novel Hugo award. An addition to the Hugo ballot this year will be 'Best Non-Fiction Book'; eligible will be works of criticism, history, art, biography, bibliography, etc. // Speaking of Noreascon Two, as of Nov. 7, 2405 were registered for membership. The convention has also purchased all rights to "One Star in the Milky Way", as part of an investment program organized by the Boston Museum of Science. // *Star Trek the Motion Picture* will make its Tennessee debut in Memphis on December 7. Paramount spokesmen expect it to be in Chattanooga before the new year, and possibly by Christmas. // *Star Trek the Comic Strip* makes its debut in the Chattanooga Times on December 3. (DL/NWL)



A PRIVATE DEMON

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ARTIST CREDITS THIS MONTH: Earl Cagle - cover; Rusty Burke - pages 2 (top & middle), 7, 9 (top), 15; Kurt Erichsen - pages 3, 8 (middle); Charlie Williams - pages 4 (2063 AD part 9), 5, 6 (2063 AD part 10); Laurel Beckley - page 8 (top); Bob Barger - page 9 (*The Dragon in East Tennessee History* part 1); Teddy Harvia - page 16

REVIEWS

"ANOTHER FINE MESS" BY DAVID PETTUS

Well now... I understand that Pam Dawber of *Mork and Minda* is bitching because she gets only \$15,000 per episode when Robin Williams gets substantially more. Damn!!! Many Americans don't make that kind of money in a year! If you ask me,

America has its priorities all screwed up. Mindless idiots like Pam Dawber make the big bucks and bitch about it when it isn't enough. And the average American...you know, the guy who gets up in the morning to go to work and produce something, has to scrape by as best as he can. Entertainment is real nice. But what is most important?? People who can do nothing but play act, or people who produce the commodities which all of us consume? Hell, what is a celebrity anyhow? A celebrity is someone who is famous for being known (so says Studs Terkel). That's really all that they've got going for them, you know. A lot of people see them on the screen, a lot of people know them (indirectly) and, ergo, they are famous...a celebrity. Basically then, celebrities are folks who are famous for being famous. This makes no sense??? It makes about as much sense as people like Pam Dawber getting \$15,000.00 for each program she participates in when there are people doing something who can't get by on \$15,000.00 a year! Of course, your average celebrity thinks this arrangement is pretty good...except for the people. People always bothering them for autographs and personal appearances

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The Dragon in East Tennessee History

part 1

Of the many species of dragonkind to inhabit the EAST TENNESSEE river valley, the specimen illustrated below is one of the most interesting.

Future installments will focus on some of the more common species AND their influence in the colonization, economy, river trade AND etc. of our AREA.

HEAD OF DRACO
IGNUSEXAMINO
hostilious

Dredged from the bottom of the Tennessee River by mussel fishermen, this very large specimen (skull measures 1.5 meters in length) is of a previously unknown subspecies: note two separate sets of teeth.



©1979

by BOB BARGER

11-11-79

Also worthy of note is the ENORMOUS SINUS CAVITY. There can be little doubt as to why this particular subspecies is now extinct. With the rise of flowering plants, the creature was doomed. Done in by pollen, only massive doses of ANTIHISTAMINES could have saved it....

ANOTHER FINE MESS (cont.)

and such as that, and it interferes with their lives to the point that it is an inconvenience. Egads! No celebrity wants to contend with inconvenience...money-yes, inconvenience-no.

There are exceptions to the rule. I remember seeing Ricardo Montalban on the *Tonight Show* admit that the money actors received was ridiculously extravagant when compared to the actual work that they did and its social significance in America. Of course, I didn't see him offering to return any of the money he gets for doing *Fantasy Island*. He is all talk, but at least he did admit that a discrepancy exists. He is the only performer that I have seen do that. Aw, hell. Let's talk about books.

Santam Books has another Star Trek novel out now. *Devil World* by Gordon Eklund is the usual nonsense. Captain Kirk and the crew of the Starship Enterprise travel to a world called Hartland where live a race of devil-like creatures called Danons who threaten to take control of things via a collective intelligence that never dies. Frankly, a lot of the fannish Star Trek fiction has been better than the stuff that pros like Eklund and Joe Haldeman are doing. I think that fans may take it more seriously. Ergo, they tend to work harder on Trek-related stories. The adaptations by James Blish were extremely bland. About all he bothered to do was put the monolog on paper... no description or characterization to amount to anything. Blish did, however, write what I think is the best yet "original" Star Trek novel, *Spock Must Die*. I feel that the stories that Foster adapted for Ballantine Books were better in this respect. Foster attempted to make the people and situations in his stories more believable than did Blish. The screenplay for the upcoming *Star Trek* motion picture is based on a Foster story idea. I understand that Pocket Books will be publishing the novellization, written by Gene Roddenberry, sometime next month. Pocket Books has about 17 books planned for 1980 which are tie-ins to the Trek phenomenon. In addition they are planning to start a new series of Trek novels and are currently looking at forty potential "Star Trek" writers to start the ball rolling. I'm actually kind of looking forward to the movie. It could be quite good.

There is a Berkley book on the stands called *Alicia II*. It is written by Robert Thurston, who wrote *Battlestar: Galactica* in conjunction with Glen A. Larson. Now, everyone knows how Godawful bad *Battlestar* was, so I really wasn't expecting much from this book, and I was even dreading having to read it because it is all of 393 pages long; if reading a bad book is a waste of time, then reading a *long* bad book is certainly a wasted effort. But one of the really nice things about reviewing books is that, now and then, you run into a pleasant surprise. *Alicia II* was a pleasant surprise; it's one of the better novels I've read recently.

The plot is a love story that focuses around two people, Voss, who is an immortal, and Alicia, who is not. What really surprised me most about *Alicia II* is that not only is the writing above average, but the author has obviously put a lot of thought into the concept of immortality -- the social-psychological-legal implications and what it means to people who are and are not immortal. It is worth reading, and I recommend it.

Joan Vinge made her first big splash on the SF scene back in 1973 with a story called "Tin Soldier". Since then, she has been writing her own very special blend of SF, and the time has come for a short story collection. *Eyes of Amber and Other Stories* (Signet, \$1.95) is out now, and it's been well worth waiting for. The title story, "Eyes of Amber" first appeared in *Analog* back in 1977, and won a Hugo award for best Novelette; it's a fine story. "View From a Height" was on this year's Hugo ballot for best Short Story, but did not win. It should have. There are four more stories in this collection including "Tin Soldier", which is my favorite. All are well worth reading.

A World Between by Norman Spinrad (Pocket Books, \$2.25) is not the worst book that I have ever read, but it is way down the trash list. Spinrad seems to be thunderstruck by the effect that the media can have on individuals exposed to it. By now, the notion of media-hype is old hat. It's been overdone, and I feel that most readers are intelligent enough to see the direct and indirect impact of the media without having it pointed out to them by writers like Spinrad.

Pacifica is a planet colonized by earth. It is the galaxy's supreme example of an electronic democracy at work. Pacifica is a utopian world where men and women are equal

continued on page 11

ANOTHER FINE MESS (cont.)

and everyone can "plug-in" to the media. Everyone is equally well informed this way, so every man and woman can participate in making the decisions which effect them both individually and as a *true* democracy. Now, whereas Pacifica's thinkers are great politicians, they are lousy scientists. And so into this state of blissful existence come a band of outworlders who call themselves the Transcendental Scientists. They want to establish an Arkology, or university, on Pacifica for the purpose of teaching selected students the wonders of technology. But when the Arkology is established, only male students are allowed to enroll. An angry group of females, called the Femcrats, emerge and it's the war of the sexes all over again! Spinrad calls this the Pink and Blue War. Good God! The Pink and Blue War! This is stupid!! What does Spinrad take us for? Don't waste your time on this book.

Wheels Within Wheels by F. Paul Wilson (Dell Books, \$2.25) is easy reading and kind of fun. Wilson portrays an interesting group of aliens called the Vanek, who live on the planet Jebinose. The Vanek are incapable of aggression and can not lie or act in a deceitful manner; they are a religious folk who believe that it does no good to intervene in matters beyond their complete control. Rather, they believe that history is cyclical, like a wheel, so when things go wrong, one need only wait until circumstances travel full circle and right themselves. Wheels within wheels...this is basically a suped-up "don't give a damn" philosophy we're talking about here. And it appeals to me. Hell, I sometimes wonder what I'd do if something went *right* for a change. So next time everything goes to hell on you, just remember, wheels within wheels!

"IRREGULARITY"

MEDIA REVIEWS BY KEN SCOTT

Just a few quick notes this time as I'm writing to meet a deadline.

Currently at the Northgate cinema is *Sleeping Beauty* from Walt Disney. Bakshi should have paid more attention to this movie than to all those Terrytoons. This is how fantasy animation should look rather than the skimpy methods Bakshi used in *Lord of the Rings*.

CBS recently presented on successive Saturdays the four hour version of Stephen King's *'Salem's Lot* (which your author feels is the best addition to the vampire legend since *Dracula*). The adaptation was *good*, but not great, at least not as much as it could have been. This is mainly due to the representation of Barlow the vampire as a Nosferatu-type rampaging, mindless beast instead of the smooth talking tempter and schemer. I suppose that having paid all that money for James Mason as Straker, Barlow's handyman, they figured they should expand his part to be the "voice of Barlow". Among other things untouched or skimmed over is the corruption of the faith of the priest, and details of Barlow's existence before coming to *'Salem's Lot* which shows what a mean-eternal and malevolent menace he is. For those of us who have read the book, the film was slightly disappointing but entertaining nevertheless. To someone who has not read the book it was a fine program and an excellent inducement to read the book. I intend to reread it as soon as possible. (Stephen King will be GoH at Kubla Khan 8 in May.)

Media Blitz Dept: The bally-hoo-ha has begun for *Star Trek-the Motion Picture* scheduled to premiere in mere days now. The novel by Roddenberry is out, and electronic toy model of the new Enterprise is already available at various toy stores, Mego is scheduling a line of 4" action figures a la *Star Wars* and *BS:G* retailing for about \$2.50, large plastic model kit of the new Enterprise will be out soon at about \$12. It better be worth it, damn it. [Ed. note-Marvel Comics also has the comic book version of the movie out.]

And Another Thing Dept: Promos for Disney's *The Black Hole* look very nice! I have high hopes for it.

Caow.

OFF THE SHELF -- REVIEWS OF THE OUT-OF-PRINT

THE LONG LOUD SILENCE by Wilson Tucker

Reviewed by Jerry Alexander

Corporal Russell Gary decided to celebrate his ten years in the Army by having a good old fashioned "one man" beer bust. While he was sleeping it off in a rundown hotel, the U.S. was attacked. An enemy, never named, had attacked the Eastern part of the U.S. with

continued on page 12

REVIEW: *The Long Loud Silence* (cont.)

atomic and germ warfare. A few people did manage to survive due to having an immunity against the germ plague. Unfortunately, they became carriers of the germ and posed a problem to those who lived on the other side of the Mississippi. The Western part of the U.S. took the remaining part of the Army in the unattacked side and set up a barrier that ran down the length of the country along the Mississippi River. No one was to cross over from the Eastern side alive. Corporal Gary had now become the enemy. He had woke up in the wrong side of the river.

Tucker has made Russell not a hero but a man of survival, who uses his military training and experiences to stay alive in a dying, desolate land. In his travels up and down the country he has encounters with various other survivors. Through these adventures, Tucker shows a realistic view of people and society on the decline. Gary remains in constant conflict in trying to keep his standards up as a person, as all around him life becomes a savage game of survival. He becomes obsessed with his dream of crossing the barrier at any cost. As the years past he falls into the game. Now the only future is the next meal.

Wilson Tucker has written a very realistic look at the aftermath of atomic war. Though first published in 1952, this novel needs no updating, as is true with all classics, and stands the test of time very well. All the right elements are found inside to make this a great book. The action keeps the plot moving at a steady pace. The characters are truly portrayed and very human in qualities. This novel should always remain in print. Like I said, it's a classic.

A PLEASANT HALF-A-CONCONVENTION REPORT BY NICKI LYNCH

If you were anywhere else November 9-11 other than Birmingham, you missed a good Half-a-Con! A small group of a little more than 100 Southern fen gathered in the Birmingham Hilton Hotel to relax and enjoy each other's company.

While Half-a-Con is traditionally a relax-a-con and therefore has no programming, Half-a-Con had some light programming, mostly as an introduction to Birmingham fandom and as an outlet for those interested in video. The local SCA introduced themselves and provided a small buffet for those interested in sampling their fare.

The major feature was the people. Most of the South's noted fans, including Guy Lilian III who drove in from Greensboro, NC, were in attendance. The ABC's got together for a while to discuss the possibility of a Putt-Putt tournament between the clubs and other projects.

Half-a-Con was a success from the people point of view. It was a pleasant weekend with friends, and no one had to miss programming.

THE FUTURE OF SPACEFLIGHT OR WHERE CAN WE GO BUT UP?COMMENTARY BY D. WAYNE MARTINPart One: *The Near Future?*

With rapidly decreasing natural resources and increasing population, it is only natural to assume that Earth's future lies in space travel. As stocks of raw materials are depleted, space mining will come to the forefront. Moons and asteroids will be subject to intense searches for metals and minerals within the next 100 years. Man's present technology is sufficient to handle this need, but what of the future? What about deep space exploration? How do we get to the stars?

According to the physical laws of our Einsteinian universe, nothing may travel in excess of the speed of light -- there may be two possible exceptions to this but they will be explained in part two of this article -- so any effort that we may make along the lines of interstellar travel will have to conform to this rule. Remember, however, that the Theory of Relativity is just that, a theory; it has yet to be proven conclusively.

The simplest method for use as a stardrive would be the solar sail. Space craft having special aluminum coated sheets of film ride the "solar wind" which is actually protons flying away from the sun at near lightspeed. The radiation pressure of these protons

continued on page 15

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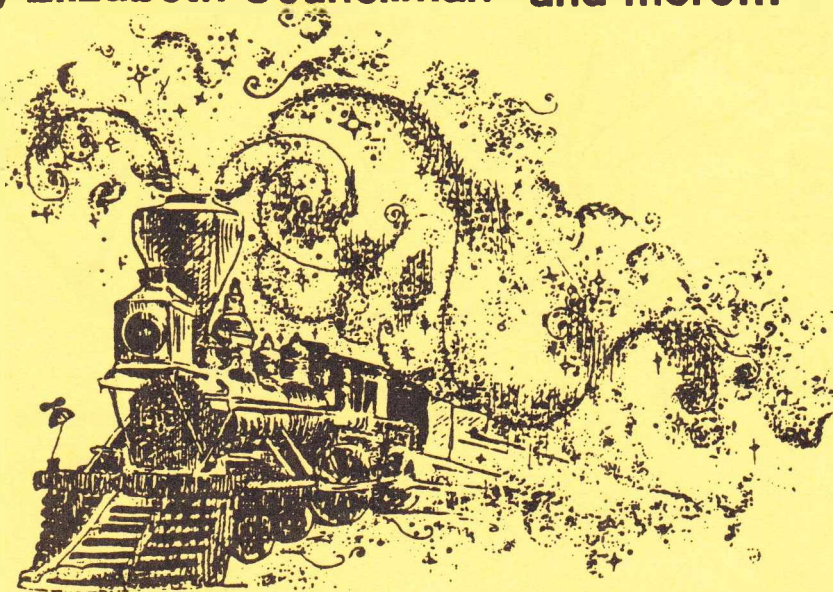
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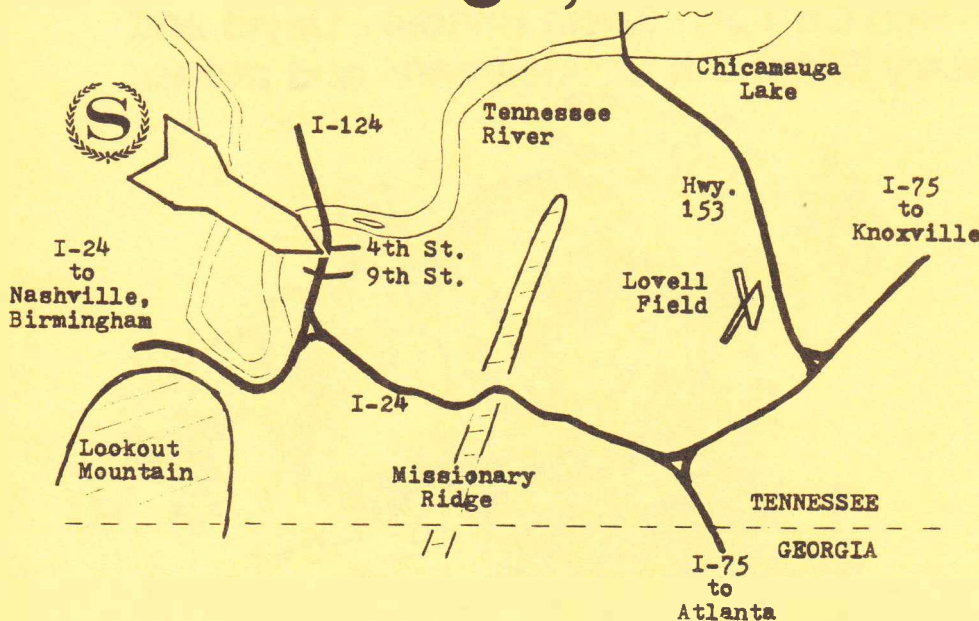
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THE FUTURE OF SPACEFLIGHT (cont.)

acts on the sails and propels the ship at approximately 140,000 miles per hour. This system would be very useful for interplanetary voyages, but forget about interstellar travel. Thirty-nine miles per second is little more than 0.002 percent of the speed of light, and several thousand years would pass before a solar sail powered craft could reach Alpha Centauri. Unless advancements are made in the field of cryogenics, this method may be considered useless.

A second path would be ionic propulsion. This is a reaction thrust achieved by electrifying copper rods. As a negative charge is applied to the forward ends of the rods, electrons build up and are thrown off the opposite ends. The result would be a slow acceleration eventually approaching the speed of light. The acceleration would be very slow; it might take as much as ten years to build up to light speed. This, also, might work well for interplanetary trips, especially as an auxiliary thrust for returning deep space sail ships.

Yet another method would involve the Bussard Ramjet, which would be a fusion fired spacecraft with the potential of lightspeed. Picture it; a Bussard Ramjet leaves an orbital spaceport. It fires up its fusion engine with stored liquid hydrogen. As the craft's speed increases, it extends an invisible net of electromagnetism and scoops up hydrogen (from space) for fuel. Fine. The only problem is that the ship would have to be extremely large to provide for the electromagnets which will generate the fuel net as well as to cover a wide area to catch enough free hydrogen to be of use. Let's say that the ramjet is a double ring construction. The outer ring would be a giant magnet, and magnets would run along radial spokes to the inner ring where the fusion reaction would take place. With a radius of a half mile, the magnetic field would cover an area of 21,784,544 square feet, definitely sufficient to provide fuel for the ramjet. Problem: the cost would be extreme and the benefits would be very low. The ship would encompass a lot of space, but the cargo would have to be small and compact and *light*, because the higher the mass of the payload, the more total mass the ship would have; thus it would be harder to move and would require more hydrogen fuel to move it. Still, this would be a highly useful tool in exploration of nearby star systems. Colonization by this method would be absurd unless a huge ramjet was constructed to carry the colonists to their destination and even then, the expense would be prohibitive.

Thus we come to the final possibility, gravity and inertia control. If the effects of gravity and inertia on a space craft can be diminished or completely neutralized, an object as simple as a flashlight could be used to drive the ship at lightspeed until the batteries went dead. This can be interpreted as the ideal action/reaction drive. Assuming that photons, light particles, have effective mass, the action of photons being released in a tight beam at one end of the ship would result in the craft moving at lightspeed in the opposite direction. Thus we have our stardrive.

In the concluding part, I will examine the possibility of long range voyages, and of faster-than-light drives.



with all due respects to Charles M. Schulz + Snoopy - REB 79 -

EDITED BY NICKI LYNCH

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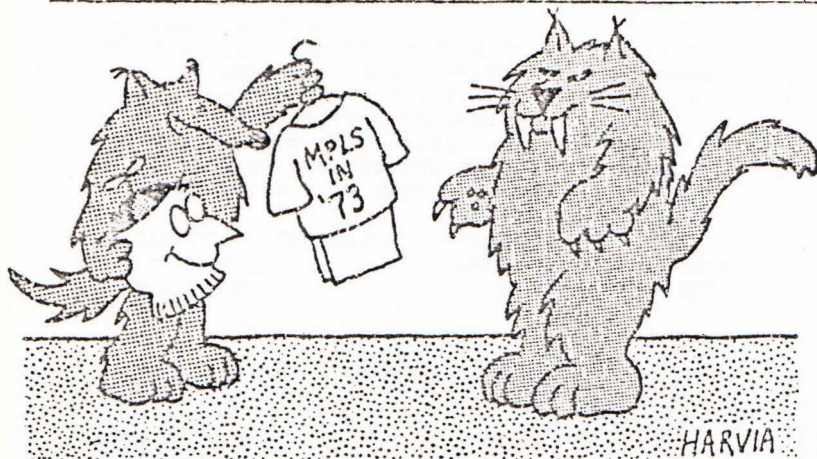
Again thanks for
CHAT. I have become
addicted and need
my fix every month.

I see Harvia has done it to me again--I broke up over the cartoon of the cats cradle, and what is his real name? (Harvia that is, not the alien in the cartoon.)

Enjoyed the movie and teevee reviews. When, by the way, is Hollywood going to catch up to 1979? By the turn of the century?..Which century?

((Harvia's real name is David Thayer, a Texas Tex who does cartoons and puts out his own zine, NEBULOUSFan.

I have that terrible feeling Hollywood will reach 1979 long after it has been forgotten. 'SALEM's LOT was on last week and it looked good. However, THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES has yet to air. I think it has been taken off NBC's schedule-again. Apparently, they have faith in Fantasy and horror, but not SF. Too bad.))



But you can't go to the masquerade
as yourself, Chat! How's about a
nice neofan disguise instead?

Harry "Andy" Andruschak
6933 N. Rosemead Blvd., #31 #26, much thanks.
San Gabriel, CA 91775

Received
Please an-

nounce that the
next issue of SOUTH OF THE MOON ((A rina that
lists all the APAs and how they are doing, who's in
charge, etc.-ed.)), #16, will be published as a
part of Mike Glycer's FILE 770 Annual listing
of Science Fiction Clubs and Fanzines. ((Glycer
needs info on clubs as badly as I need info

on apas. Pass the word.)) A 4 issue sub
to FILE 770 costs \$2.00 sent to Mike Glycer,
14974 Osceola St., Sylmar, CA 91342.

((Consider the announcement placed! I look
forward to the new SOUTH OF THE MOON. FILE 770
is also worth the money; Mike does a good job. CHAT
trades with him. Mike will also be the Fan God at
the 1980 SFC in Atlanta-ASFCCon.))

Vernon Clark
6216 Janmer Ln.
Knoxville, TN 37919

Glad to see Char-
lie's two install-
ments of 2061 A.D.

Having to wait for
the stories end is made easier with twice as
much story as we used to see.

I'd second Ken Scott's praise of TIME
AFTER TIME. While the movie's technical
effects are not as good as George Pal's
classics for THE TIME MACHINE, TAT makes up
for it by leaps and bounds with its story.
Finally, a movie where the story is all im-
portant! Sure, there are some mistakes in
the story, but damn it at least this movie
tries. I don't think the genre has had a
movie with this much attention paid to the
story since Kubrick's A CLOCKWORK ORANGE.
I wonder if it is only a coincidence that
both films star Malcolm McDowell. I hope
TAT is very successful, then mayhaps more
such well-written movies will come our way.

((Well, the last four installments of Charlie's
2061 A.D. are ready, too this time and the last two
next time. Glad everyone enjoyed them!

Maybe TIME AFTER TIME will start a trend. (MWL))

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