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CHARLES BEAUMONT DEAD

Charles Beaumont, active in the science fiction field since 1954, died February 21st at the Motion Picture Country Home and Hospital in Woodland Hills, California. He had been ill for three years, with a nervous condition which evidently caused rapid aging. When he died he was only 38.

Beaumont's writing in the s-f field began with a story, "Miss Gentilbelle", and continued for some 13 years. Published books included The Hunger & Other Stories, Yonder, and The Magic Man. In addition he did the screenplay, with Richard Matheson, of Fritz Lieber's "Conjure Wife". His own screenplays were for "The Intruder", "The Wonderful World Of The Brothers Grimm", "The Seven Faces Of Dr. Lao", and "Mr. Moses". He also did work for Twilight Zone, the Alfred Hitchcock Hour, the Alcoa-Goodyear Theatre, and produced a mainstream novel, The Intruder. He is survived by a wife, Helen, and four children.

HARLAN ELLISON TO QUIT HOLLYWOOD: Harlan Ellison, who has been active in Hollywood writing screenplays and scripts for Television, has apparently decided to break completely with the Hollywood scene. The details available indicate that Ellison submitted a script to Star Trek which was altered considerably by Gene Roddenberry, executive producer of the show. When Ellison found out about the changes, he fired off a sharp letter to Roddenberry. This resulted in a letter from Roddenberry to Ellison culminating in the announced break in relations between the two. Ellison has, however, announced that he is sick of the Hollywood grind and intends to pull out entirely. It is the opinion of this editor that either Harlan has over-reacted tremendously, or he became burdened with a surplus of book contracts and decided to pull out of one area, Hollywood, in order to devote his entire time to writing for publication, and do so in a manner which would suggest a sudden impulse. With Harlan Ellison it's difficult to decide which is more plausible.

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More Regionals Dept.: The Marcon II (where was Marcon I?) will be put on by several people, of whom Danny Plachta seems to be the leader, at the Holiday Inn North, 1821 E. Manhattan, Toledo, Ohio, April 8th & 9th. The Guest of Honor will be Roger Zelazny. In addition, there will be a pro panel, a fan panel, and an open party.

If I may editorialize here, I'd like to point out that there are too many supposed "regional" conventions being held. 1 in February, 1 in March, 3 in April, 1 in May, 1 in June, 2 in July, 1 in August, 1 in September, 2 in October, and 1 in November. This is too many. Even now Columbus, Ohio, is planning on starting their own regional -- this will make four local conventions held in one state, and that's too many. And this, of course, doesn't count the conventions of all the other fandoms -- comic, horror film, classic film, and flying saucer fandoms. I ask those concerned with planning these things to reconsider; wouldn't it be a lot simpler without having

a Marcon, a Columbuscon, a Midwestcon, and an OctoberCon all being held within several hundred miles of each other? Surely some consolidation of interests could provide more incentive for people to come from further away, instead of having so-called 2 day "conventions" held every three weeks or so. Why must Columbus put on its own convention when Cincinnati puts on a darned good one scarcely 2 months later? Why must Boston put on a convention every six months, so that they conflict with the Open ESFA, as it did last year? Why must Danny Plachta put on a convention to honor Roger Zelazny? I'm sure he'd be much happier with a bottle of scotch and a ream of rag content typing paper, rather than the expense of traveling from Baltimore to Toledo, Ohio. I have said enough; if you have comments for publication, they will be published.

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News From The Bay Area Boys: A surprise birthday party was thrown February 19th for Ed Clinton, whose age our correspondent didn't mention. In attendance were Bob & Margo Lichtman, Avram & Grania Davidson, Lou & Cynthia Goldstone, Vern Fergie, Ardis Waters, Carla Moore, Jesse Clinton, and a host of others. A good time was had by all and Ed was surprised as hell.

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Lin Carter Spends "An Evening At The Fanoclasts" (for publication): Lin Carter, who hasn't been to a Fanoclast meeting since I became a member (in 1964), attended a meeting with his wife, Noel. Mr. Carter was presumably being paid 2¢ a word for each moment he described in print for a certain Frederik Pohl (a recipient of this publication, who nows knows some one who can give an accurate picture of what it was like). Attendees included Stu Brownstein, Baird Searles of WBAI, Dave Van Arnam, Cindy Heap, Bob Whale-N (like Moby Dick, he keeps telling me), Alex Panshin, Pat & Dick Lupoff, Terry & Carol Carr, Jack & Phoebe Gaughan, Lee Hoffman, Ted & Robin White, Don & Jo Meisner, Perdita Boardman, and myself. If Robert Silverberg and Sam Delany had shown, we would have had a quorum and been able to vote Damon Knight out and Harlan Ellison in as President of SFWA. Or maybe not. For more news of the pro world, tune in next week when I publish Damon Knight's indignant letter of reply to the above paragraph...

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March Releases From Ace Books: A reissue of Galactic Derelict by Andre Norton (40¢); reissue as a single of The World Jones Made by Philip K. Dick (40¢); the second in the Agent of T.E.R.R.A. series: The Golden Goddess Gambit by Larry Maddock (50¢); an original, The Einstein Intersection by Samuel R. Delany (40¢); and the double, The Stolen Sun by Emil Petaja bound with The Ship From Atlantis by H. Warner Munn (50¢). This last is rather foolish, as it is now impossible to put the sequel with the prequel, which was issued as a single. Pick up the Delany single; its his best yet.

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Science Fiction Club of London news: The SFCoL, which has been holding monthly meetings this winter, recently heard George Locke speaking on the collecting of early sf. Other speakers included one from the UFO Research Association. The speaker for March is Sam Russell, who has been staying in London since before Xmas, and has become very popular in the London group.

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Posthumous Nobel Prize Urged For Disney: According to a press release, Saul Jeffee, president of a New York film concern has started a movement to award the Nobel Peace Prize to Walt Disney for his work in molding the children of the world. Degler! will bring you more news of this as it happens. Or maybe not, as we sometimes say.

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Steve Stiles for TAFF!!!
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