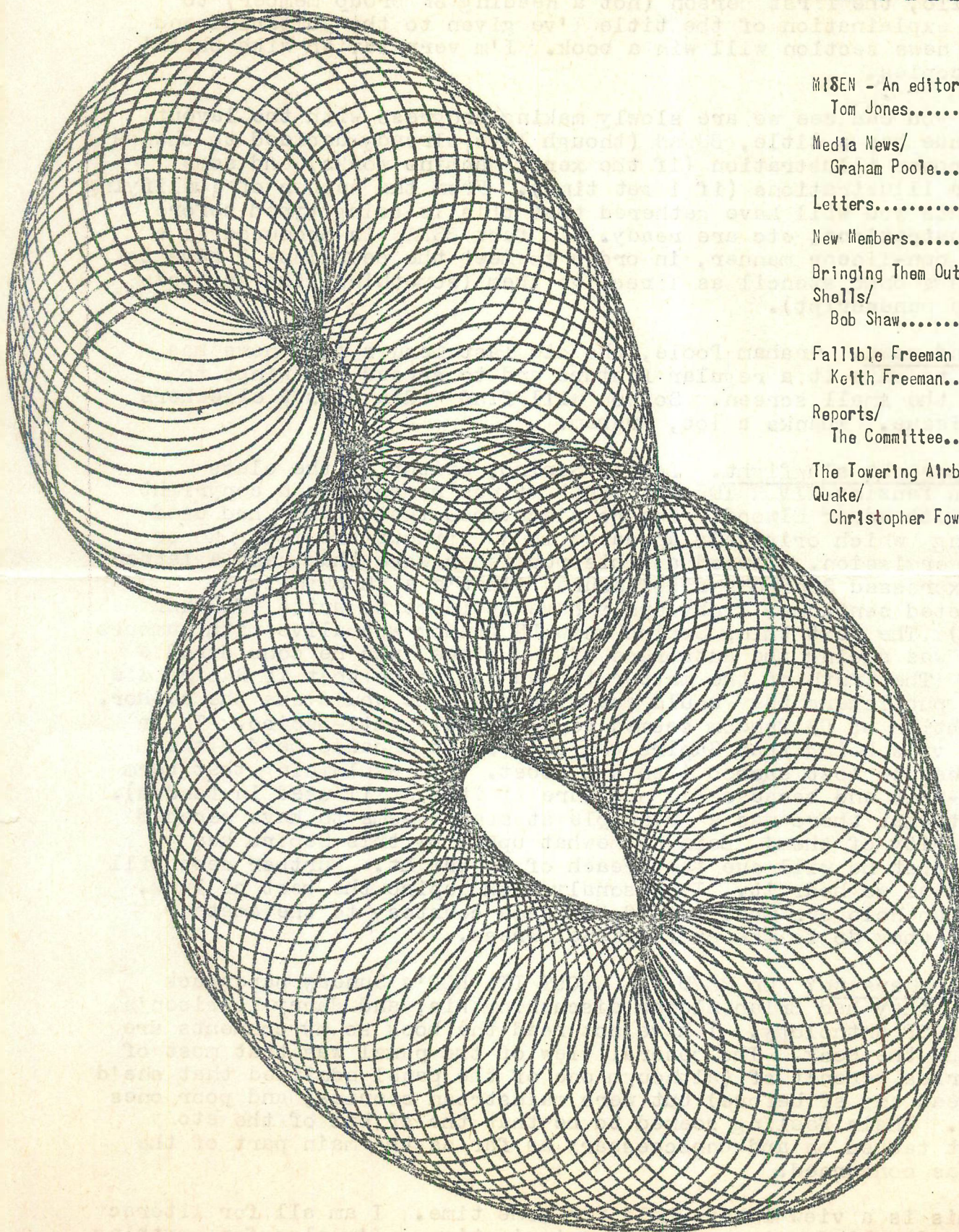


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Misen.....an editorial

Hello, the first person (not a Reading SF Group member) to give an explanation of the title I've given to the editorial and general news section will win a book. I'm very lavish with Chris' review copies.

As you can see we are slowly making progress with the layout. This issue has a title, BSFAN (though I've already decided to change it), a cover illustration (if the xerox machine works) and some interior illustrations (if I get time). From the number of qualifying statements you will have gathered that this is being typed before the illustrations, etc are ready. In fact BSFAN is produced in a totally non-linear manner, in order to meet the deadlines I have to put things onto stencil as I receive them (something like an early New Wave manuscript).

Good news. Graham Poole, who did last issue's film news has decided to make it a regular feature and to spread its wings to include the small screen. So you will find Media News 2 elsewhere in the issue. Thanks a lot, Graham.

Copyright slugfight. Leland Sapiro, editor of the class American fanzine RIVERSIDE QUARTERLY, finds himself in a copyright battle with Roger Elwood. Sapiro discovered that Elwood had used something which originally appeared in RQ without crediting RQ or asking permission. Elwood and his publisher were thus sent a letter which expressed Sapiro's displeasure. (That's a shockingly constructed sentence, I obviously have it in me to write STARTREK scripts) The next thing Sapiro knew US fandom was alive with rumours that he was suing the authoress of the piece, who he considered a friend. The truth of the matter turned out to be that if Sapiro did sue the publishers they would sue Elwood and he would sue the author. The reaction of US fandom seemed to be largely anti-Sapiro. Their general view being that Sapiro was only upset because he'd either lost money or lost ego (an ego boost. I'm explaining that term for non-fans and because I'm not sure if it's still used in fandom). The fact that there was a principle at stake seems to have escaped the majority of them! Being somewhat upset by this Sapiro has decided that he will sue for breach of copyright. Further news will be given as we hear it. I personally wish Sapiro the best of luck. The pro anthologues must extend the same courtesy to the amateur press as they do to the professional press.

SF, where to? On READ ALL ABOUT IT, BBC's Sunday paperback program, they had Brian Aldiss discussing his, and Harry Harrison's, new BEST SF anthology. I have not read the book so my comments are not about the book. The general view of the panel was that most of the stories weren't sf (although one of the panel admitted that she'd never read any sf before) but were mainstream stories, and poor ones at that. Their feeling seemed to be that the sf bit of the story was just tacked on and unnecessary as far as the main part of the story was concerned.

This is a view I have held for some time. I am all for literacy in sf. I'm all for improved characterisation. I'm also for anything else we can nick from mainstream, or any other branch of literature

which will increase the enjoyment of sf. But, some stories go too far. The authors adopt so much that their stories become mainstream with the odd bit of trapping from sf tacked on. Hopefully we are into another period of experimentation, in this period we must expect writers to go beyond the boundaries just so we can know where the ~~writers~~ boundaries are. Unfortunately it does mean we shall see a lot of sf which reads just like mainstream.

Rumour has it that SF ONLY, which started with a circulation above 100,000, which leveled off to about 50,000 has had its circulation drop to 16,000. I am not an avid fan of SFM, I find most of the fiction poor (but it's all short stories and most short stories are poor) but some of the articles and reviews are worth reading. Perhaps most people did buy it for the pictures and they've now filled their walls! Anyway working on the principle that ought's better than nought I hope SFM manages to struggle on.

Having just taken over the job of Membership Secretary (a job which everyone tells me isn't arduous, this boy'll believe anything) I have also inherited spare copies of previous publications. This pile included several "SF Writers Bulletin", No.7 and "SF Writer's Handbook", anyone who wants a copy of either or both should write to me enclosing a stamped addressed envelope (suitable for A4 material). As I have only a very limited number I'll dish them out on a first come first served basis. Should the demand be large then I'll see what I can do to get extra copies run off.

On with the show.

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Much thanks to Chris, Keith, members of Reading SF Group and all contributors for assistance in the production of the Newsletter. Also thanks to my wife who has put up with me bashing the typer during this trying period of moving house.

ARTWORK

Page 8 B. Mace
Page 13 Santos
Page 14 Schalles
Page 23 Daroll Pardoe
Page 24 B. Mace

All artwork, except page 14, comes from my ole PROTEUS files, so if anyone knows where the named artists now live would they please let me know so I can send them their complimentary copies.

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By GRAHAM POOLE

This is the 2nd of my, hopefully, bi-monthly lists on sf films planned, in production or on release. This time I have widened the scope to include telemovies and TV series which explains the change in title of this list.

In compiling these lists I naturally have to rely on many sources for my information, and these might not always be accurate. For example, upon SF FILM NEWS 1 Gordon Larkin commented "I just heard that Nimoy and Shatner have not signed anything for the BLANT TACK movie, although they will very likely do it. Bob Silverberg has been signed to do the screenplay...Incidentally the author of HERO'S JOURNEY is Sterling Lanier, not Silliphant as you mentioned." I have to rely on Gordon's first comment, but as for the Lanier/Silliphant error I'm not so sure. Granted that Lanier wrote the book HERO'S JOURNEY (Sidgwick & Jackson, £3.50, 1975. ISBN 0 283 98156 3), two of my sources state that Silliphant has scripted the screenplay (Films & Filming, Oct '75 page 8 and Cinefantastique, Fall '75, Vol 4 No.3 page 46). Perhaps both have had a hand in the film. Anyway from now on I'm going to give the source of each piece of news and the key will be found at the end of this list.

1: ROLLERBALL

Apart from Cinema 76 saying "Rollerball promises to be the film of the year" the film hasn't been treated too kindly by the critics. (14) Nevertheless it has been a hit, grossing over 5 million dollars in the States where it has been in the top 50 film chart for nearly (10) 20 weeks. Personally I thoroughly enjoyed the film for what it was, not so much an SF movie but an entertainment aimed at riveting the attention of the film audience, capturing its aggressive emotions and bearing it along on a tid of violence. So much so, in fact, that I found my heart uncontrollably pounding in one scene, virtually unprecedented for me, despite an intimate knowledge of the film's outcome from reviews I'd read beforehand. ROLLERBALL is well worth seeing.

2: THE SUCCESS OF STEVEN SPIELBERG

JAWS, the biggest box office hit of all time, recently awarded the Films and Filming best horror film and best editing awards for 1975 (7), has been breaking all records at our local ABC cinema where over 2000 people a day have been going to see it - the average weekly attendance is 2500. And now, apparantly a JAWS II is in production (12).

The success of JAWS is not altogether surprising when one realises that this film is directed by a young director who 3 years ago gave us that superb and tense film DUEL in which a large tanker terrorises a lone motorist as it drives across the wide, open highways of America. The tanker in DUEL is transformed into the shark in JAWS continuing the hunter/hunted theme that is also to be found in Spielberg's SUPERLAD EXPOSED. The same ingredients are there too, mystery, suspense, tension, shock. The tanker is like a living monster for at no time is it shown to be in the control of a driver, thus adding to the terror of the situation. And yet it repeatedly attacks this one motorist, ignoring the other occasional traffic,

just as a shark selects one victim out of a crowd and then attacks. The tanker is a King Kong figure, only more terrifying. Tankers exist, mammoth apes don't. Similarly sharks exist and so instead of the audience having to suspend their disbelief in giant apes they only have to overcome their disbelief, if any, that a tanker could run riot at the hands of a madman or that a shark could terrorise a seaside resort. The gulf between imagination and reality is therefore that much narrower.

And there should be plenty of scope for Spielberg to continue the hunter/hunted theme in his next film, CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE THIRD KIND - the official U.S. Air Force description of UFO sightings. There is enough uncertainty about UFOs to enable Spielberg to develop a believable and gripping film. Richard Dreyfuss, one of the stars of JAWS, will also appear in this new film.

3: THE IMITATORS

First Irwin Allen/Warner Bros answer to JAWS, SWARM. It is about millions of giant killer bees which invade the USA. Like BUG las year (based on Thomas Page's THE HEPHAESTUS PLAGUE) which tells of the antics of incendiary beetles, this new film seems to be yet another retrograde step for the film industry (12).

Talking about King Kong, is a new version on the way? KING KONG: THE LEGEND REBORN was announced for filming in May 1975 by Dino de Laurentiis for Paramount release this year. Two weeks later Universal filed a lawsuit for \$25 million against de Laurentiis and RKO Pictures alleging that RKO had reneged on a deal giving Universal the rights to remake King Kong with option for a sequel (9/10). Films & Filming Jan '76 states that Universal are now promising THE LEGEND OF KING KONG in sensurrounding so presumably everything has now been settled. Principal photography was due to begin on Jan 5th with Joseph Sargent directing (7).

Fo Fox-Rank's LEGEND OF THE WEREWOLF, now on release, is a rehash of the werewolf theme that has been given poor notices. Peter Cushing is apparently the film's only saving grace. (1/2/12).

Ringo Starr has produced and starred in SON OF DRACULA, a commentary on horror films. Harry Nilsson also appears as the rock singer son of Dracula. (3)

The rock musical PHANTOM OF THE PARADISE, voted the best musical award by Films & Filming and described as "In many ways superior to Ken Russell's TOMMY" by Cinema 76, is a parody by Brian De Palma of PHANTOM OF THE OPERA containing elements from FAUST, FRANKENSTEIN and THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY. (7/14).

ABBY is a black version of THE EXORCIST with the possessed victim being the young black wife of a minister. Another version stars Juliet Mills in DEVIL WITHIN HER. (3).

FRANKENSTEIN 1894 is being planned by producer Frank R. Saletri (3).

Warner Bros are remaking THE SPIRAL STAIRCASE starring Jacqueline Bisset, Christopher Plummer and Mildred Dunnock in the chiller about a mute girl menaced by a killer. (3).

4: THE ANIMATORS

A number of animation films have been or are being produced recently amongst them Jules Verne's THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND televised by CBS in November; ADVENTURESHIP DOWN to be done by John Hubley and Martin Rosen with a \$2 million budget; TARZON, LA HONTE DE LA JUNGLE (Tarzan, the shame of the jungle) the French-Belgian satire recently premiered in Paris; and WAR LORDS by Richard Williams, a sf animation feature. The BFS Bulletin mentions a sword and sorcery animation called WAR WIZARD from 20th Century Fox which may be another name for WAR LORDS. (10/12).

5: THE SMALL SCREEN

(a) Telemovies;

Glen Ford stars as a U.S. Air Force investigator of a UFO encounter in THE DISAPPEARANCE OF FLIGHT 412 - in anticipation of Spielberg?(2)

Cliff Robertson (CHARLY) stars as astronaut Buzz Aldrin with Shirley Knight in RETURN TO EARTH. (2).

Making the rounds of ITV at present is a telemovie called SATAN'S TRIANGLE about the Bermuda Triangle mystery. Having read a couple of books on this subject recently (keeping an open mind on the subject) this fictionalised account should be interesting. (12).

20th Century Fox is currently filming LAIEN LOVER, an 'invaders from outer space' sf thriller (inward groan). (10).

(b) TV Series:

THE INVISIBLE MAN was cancelled by NBC in Oct '75 due to poor performances - and it's not surprising! What is surprising, however, is that Universal's other sf series THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN is doing very well - it is fairly obvious who controls the knob in the American homes; kids. Obviously a series like SPACE 1999 will be a big hit in the States and despite bad reviews it is rumoured that several networks are bidding on it for a 2nd season. (10).

Meanwhile, as SPACE 1999 lumbers ponderously along where no prog has erred before a new 12 part TV mini-series is to be filmed in this country by the BBC called STAR MAIDENS. Christine Kruger, Susan Brown and Kate Mulgrew star. (10).

Finally, news of a possible new AVENGER series after the writer/producer team of Brian Clemens and Albert Fennell purchased the rights and formed "Avenger Enterprises". I have fond memories of THE AVENGERS with its ability to entertain, its tongue in cheek quality and the typical British atmosphere about it. Imitators like "department S", "The Champions" and "Jason King" weren't half as imaginative. The part of super-agent Steed will again be played by Patrick Macnee but no decision has been made for his co-star. Personally, no-one will be as good as Diana Rigg as Emma Peel for me. (11).

6: COMIC BOOK HEROES

If the 50s was the era of 'monster' movies, the 60s sf movies, then the 70s looks as if it'll be the comic hero movie era. After last year's DOC SAVAGE producer George Pal said he felt the audience was now ready for a "real hero" again. Accordingly a sequel is being planned with a Philip Jose Farmer script.

Then there's SINBAD AND THE EYE OF THE TIGER, the 3rd Sinbad film now in production. This has been given a budget in excess of \$3 million after large grossings from THE GOLDEN VOYAGE OF SINBAD and the re-release of the classic THE SEVENTH VOYAGE OF SINBAD. The film is due for release in Spring 1977. (9).

THONGOR IN THE VALLEY OF THE DEMONS is to be the first of a series based on Lin Carter's fantasy hero. Milton Subotsky, who has formed Sword & Sorcery Productions with Frank Duggan, will produce the film from his own script based on Carter's "The Wizard of Lemuria". Second in the series will be THONGOR IN THE CITY OF SORCERERS, based on "Thongor of Lemuria" and "Thongor against the Gods", and a third film is to be based on "Thar, son of Thongor", a novel presently being written by Carter. The overall budget will be \$7 million using the same cast, crew, sets and effects. Live action filming will begin this March. Release date is Summer 1977. Subotsky and Duggan also own film rights to SPIDERMAN and THE INCREDIBLE HULK. (9).

SUPERMAN goes into production this February and already it has been given much publicity. Additional news since last issue is that producer Ilya Salkind has bought 25 year rights on the character and the film may be the first of - you guessed it - a series. (10).

DAN DARE - THE RETURN OF THE WEREN is to be a big budget film, again hopefully the first of a series. (12).

Finally, William Friedkin (THE EXORCIST) will produce and direct a projected 3 hour NBC telemovie of the masked crime fighter THE SPIRIT. (9).

7: MISCELLANY

Friedkin is also shooting A SAFE DARKNESS in Los Angeles with a \$1 million budget. Keir Dullea (2001) and Anthony Perkins star in this horror film scripted by Walton Green (who directed THE HELLSTROM CHRONICLES). Friedkin has another horror film in the works with William Peter Blatty (could it be TWINKLE, TWINKLE, KILLER KAME, Blatty's new book?) and a finished screenplay about the Bermuda Triangle. (9).

Robert Altman will shortly direct Kurt Vonnegut's BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS for Paramount from a screenplay by Alan Rudolph. Apparently the adaptation will star Groucho Marx and Alice Cooper (!?) (7/12).

H.G.Wells is to have another of his books filmed, WHEN THE SLEEPER WAKES by American International. (12).

Irwin Allen, as well as SWARM, will make THE DAY THE WORLD ENDED, a multi-million dollar movie for release this Christmas. I hope the film's better than the title suggests. (12).

20th Century Fox is to make THE ADVENTURE OF STAR KILLER, a future space war film, in Britain. (12).

DEMON SEED, by Dean R. Koontz, has been optioned by Herb Jaffe. (10).

Robert Radnitz is considering filming Arthur C. Clarke's DOLPHIN ISLAND, a juvenile about dolphins with a mission! (10).

Sandy Howard Production's EMBRYO, about test tube reproduction,

has been completed. This Ralph Nelson movie stars Rock Hudson, Barbara Carrera and Diane Ladd. (10).

Jerome Zeitman is now preparing to produce Zelazny's DAMNATION ALLEY for 20th Century Fox. (10).

COLD WAR IN A COUNTRY GARDEN, a film about miniaturisation based on Lindsay Gutteridge's book of the same name, is also being produced by Zeitman, this time for Universal. (10).

Roger Corman will film CYBERNIA from a Charles Griffith screenplay. Labelled "A malfunctioning computer drama" it is obviously based on Lou Cameron's book of the same name (Coronet 1973). (10).

Production has just started in Europe on THE STAR WARS. Labelled "an outer spaceaction adventure", George Lucas will direct from his own screenplay and Gary Kurtz will produce for eventual 20th Century Fox distribution. (9/10).

THE BLUE BIRD isn't a film for the dirty mac brigade, only (8) Elizabeth Taylor's latest film in which she appears as a witch. This children's fairy tale film also stars Jane Fonda and Ava Gardner

One of the highlights of the 1974 London Film Festival was Chrichton's THE TERMINAL MA with George Segal. Warner Bros have sold the rights to another company who hope to release the film soon. (1).

Alfred Hitchcock's 53rd film FAMILY PLOT is about fake mediums and kidnappers. (8).

Douglas Trumbull will direct HIERO'S JOURNEY and will organise the film's special effects. Trumbull is well known for his special effects work on 2001 and THE ANDROMEDA STRAIN and in 1972 he directed SILENT RUNNING. According to the Sterling Lanier novel blurb "Hiero's Journey" is a fantasy chronicle of the future, equal in suspense and brilliance to Walter Miller's "A Canticle for Leibowitz" and Tolkien's classic "The Lord of the Rings". (9) ((It's nice to know that the publishers speak well of their book - TAJ)).

Trumbull is also doing the special effects for Quinn Martin Productions' THE GALAXY WITHIN. Described as a "Contemporary sci-fier dealing with para-psychology" filming begins early this year from a Stanford Whitmore screenplay. (10).

SOURCE MATERIAL

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1: Films Illustrated (Dec'75) | 8: Film Review (Jan'76) |
| 2: Photoplay (Jan'76) | 9: Cinefantastique (Fall '75 V4 No3) |
| 3: Monster Fantasy (Aug'75) | 10: Locus (181) |
| 4: Gloucestershire Echo | 11: TV Times (10.1.76) |
| 5: Sunday Times (11.1.76) | 12: BFS Bulletin (V3 No 4/5) |
| 6: Photoplay (Feb'76) | 14: cinema 76 annual |
| 7: Films & Filming (Jan'76) | |

Letters

((This is your editor speaking, any further bits within double brackets is me.))

R. P. HARRISON, 18 The Witham, Grange Est, Daventry, Northants, NN114W

I have just received BSFAN 3. I had not seen any earlier ones to compare it with but I must say I was impressed. After joining the BSFA I was expecting the newsletter to be just a couple of pages but I was pleasantly surprised to find it quite substantial.

My suggestion for a name for the newsletter is STARBOW'S END. I picked this because the paper use is of various colours and hopefully what is printed on it is precious (as is the gold found at the Starbows End).

((Thanks very much for the comments. Last issue was the first with coloured paper and I thought it was effective. I hope we manage to keep the BSFAN fat, our policy of including articles of a humorous nature will help to do that.))

D. M. WILSON, 3 Lothian Rd, Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, Scotland, TD86LA

I think the front cover and inside it is a waste of paper. Please keep the fanzine section as it is. I would like to see more SF magazine and book reviews, also some adverts from SF suppliers.

((I have run Mr Wilson's paragraphs together to save space. The front cover was an experiment to see how well photographs would litho, agreed the cover had nothing to do with sf but as an experiment in techniques it was successful. I too would like to see some reviews of the sf mags, anyone out there who subscribes to the mags who'd like to review them. We would all like to see more reviews but we rely on you to help in supplying them. We of course are ready and willing to accept adverts. A list of sf suppliers will be given in the Yearbook.))

DAVID LEWIS, 8 Aidis Ave, Stowmarket, Suffolk

Photographic front cover great. But what is the dolly's relevance to the contents? If I need photos of other people's birds I'll start subscribing to AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHER. How about a photo montage of the BSFA committee, I would like to see what they look like - more gratuitous advice. ((See above letter for reason behind front cover. As we're sf oriented and not a horror mag I can't in all honesty put a photo of the committee on the cover.)) No seriously though I like the idea of a cover frontpiece but something vaguely relevant to BSFA matters. OK so Chris knows this bird so it's vaguely relevant.

Interior artwork, yes please. I can only draw comparisons with a similar organ of an organisation on the edge of sf to which I subscribe which to put



it frankly knocks the spots off the production of VECTOR and BSFAN put together - 14 illos, distinctive logo, artwork by "bigname" illustrators in the field. But in your defence I must say VECTOR is moving in the right direction regards layout and illos and you are making noises to attract illustrators to your fold. Also 14 pages of news, it used to be one sheet now and then, so the new brooms are starting to raise the dust! I would like to be able to say in a few issues time that BSFAN is the best produced organ of its kind and I am sure given the support this will be so. ((BSFAN will never be a flash mag, we can only afford one of those and that should be VECTOR, but we will try to make it as good as the budget allows. As for VECTOR Chris has some very interesting plans which should do a lot for the mag but everything takes time and it's best to hasten slowly.))

Changing the name, how the old diehards must be fuming, but I agree NEWSLETTER is rather uninspiring. MERCURY RISING conjures up 2 or 3 meanings,

1. The message of the gods and all that.

2. The nearness to the sun analogy - daring to be radical and flying in the face of opposition et al.

I am not too good on symbolism so I have probably got it all wrong. ((Actually you're pretty close, Chris' thoughts were that Mercury was symbolic of the message bringer and Rising was indicative of the growth of the new BSFA.))

Yes I would like articles on various aspects of fandom in the BSFAN which to my mind would counterbalance the seriousness of VECTOR with a little more lighthearted fun of which fandom is so renowned.

Fandom is good for sf; it's its mainstay even in this period of shrugging off old labels and moving of writers into the larger arena of contemporary literature. Writers are produced in fandom which is unique to sf. Fans provide the cash by buying sf. It has yet to be proven fully that if sf fans stopped buying a writer's books and he had to rely on income provided by the contemporary literature reading public he would survive economically. I think many writers bemoaning their fate of having been labeled sf writers would not survive if this hard core of buyers of their work was eroded and dispersed. Who needs acceptance by the snobs of modern literature as a serious literary form? Not me! I read sf to enjoy it not because it is in fashion to do so. ((You raise many points here, most of which I have passed comment on in the editorial.))

I applaud the continuance of the practice of reports from the various officers of the Association an innovation which has the advantage of keeping us "backbenchers" up to date with "the state of the nation". Also the new members list has appeared again at long last - great!

Fanzine review - great! but how about some short reviews of current books to supplement VECTOR's longer reviews. As to the "Globe" sign, being a recent recruit to sf fandom (about 1970) this means nothing to me and considering the economic climate a waste of money, I vote against its purchase by the BSFA. Let others purchase it if they must. An annoying thing about sf, the literature of change, is its nostalgia for the past and its continual raking over of the ashes of the past. ((Chris is trying to put short reviews into VECTOR but he needs the reviewers.))

JAMES T. PARKER, 18 King William St, Old Town, Swindon, Wilts. SN13LB

Many thanks for BSFAN. It's a nice idea well carried out. Congratulations to all concerned in its production. I hope you can maintain the standard and prosper.

You ask readers to contribute their opinions and ideas concerning fandom, its structure, purpose and effectiveness. Obviously I can only speak as an individual and as something of an "outsider" as regards the fandom scene. So these are my thoughts. Hope they prove helpful.

For me, how much you believe in and pursue fandom is determined by how serious you take SF - in books, movies and all the other media where the genre, to varying degrees, is influential. To summarise the above: if you believe SF to be just an enjoyable, perhaps intellectually stimulating, diversion from so called grey reality, then it seems to me that fandom has little to offer. It's simply not essential to one's enjoyment and appreciation of the genre. The seriousness and dedication of fans would alienate. If on the other hand you believe SF - and imaginative, fantasy literature generally to be the only generally relevant fiction being written in the last quarter of the 20th century, then fandom must appear as some kind of religious calling; a holy crusade perhaps, to get the genre finally accepted as a sober, considered artform with something to say that is forceful and important. If you are one of the latter group - one of the 'crusaders' - then fandom will appear as a vehicle for the strengthening and propagating of the SF culture. Unfortunately fandom in its present form does not constitute such a vehicle. It comes over to the uncommitted 'outsider' as a low key propaganda exercise - more in love with its own tradition and exclusiveness. Fandom suffers from being too far removed from the realities and concerns of the real, happening world. I think this unfortunate trait has been inherited from the American tradition, for an oddly familiar and appealing immaturity still persists to this day.

SF as a literature has 'grown up' so 'they' say. I'm not too sure who 'they' arebut, anyway, I still feel there is plenty of scope for SF to develop into something truly menacing and elemental in its appeal. A literature, in short, that is stark and real for our times.

Bearing in mind the above sentiments I would like to see the BSFA relate itself more to the current developments in the Arts and Sciences - to judge these things from the standpoint of a committed, SF inspired awareness and consciousness.

I really see SF - at its best - as the theoretical, experimental culture of our times, not only in prose but through all its other manifestations.

Despite the atrocities that are inflicted upon the mass public as 'fantastic, amazing, mind-blowing SF' - '2001; A SPACE BORE', 'STARTREK' and the hopelessly pedestrian and sterile 'SPACE:1999' - I feel that the time is ripe for a new literature that reflects the paranoia and technological chaos of the 70s. Make no mistake - SF literature, movies, art, music etc have a future, but only if we abandon the past traditions of the genre, and get back to the real nature of it - the 'something' that is unique to SF, its elemental force. Let's see fandom - and the BSFA specifically adopt some new attitudes in tune with the above reflections. Yes?

((Thank you for a most interesting letter. I cannot agree with all you say. I feel sf has a dual pupose, first to entertain and second to be relevant. I must agree though that fandom as it stands (or in some cases lies down) is not the appropriate vehicle to publicise SF. A certain undergraduate silliness pervades certain sectors of fandom, who always seem to be the most voluble, especially if any press are nearby. I must disagree with your condemnation of 2001 which is not only a good sf film but a good film by any standards. Hope to hear from you again.))

ANDY SAWYER, 14a, Fifth Ave, Manor Park, London E12

((The first part of Andy's letter was about VECTOR, here goes the bit on fandom.))

....on the subject of fandom (I had this all worked out a month ago) it's obvious that the majority of people who read SF aren't fans - I'm not one (I subscribe to FOUNDATION and belong to the BSFA, don't I?...oh well...) or at least I'm not yet. It probably can turn into an incestuous group of would be literary pundits or god's gifts to writing - equally (in fact more than equally, for I tend slightly to this viewpoint) it can provide a useful critical forum for discussion. I think however article on fandom should be carefully thought out - discussions and reviews of conferences, fanzines, amateur activity in the SF field, I welcome. "Fan-gossip" I don't. My only real conclusion is that, in my limited experience of the field, I've seen some excellent material produced under fan auspices, which surely deserves a mention. Insofar as fandom brings people who enjoy sf together, it is an encouraging sign. I'm not sure how it actually affects SF itself but I don't think that the existence of a (very) loosely organised band of aficionados harms its 'acceptance' Who accepts it anyway?

((I am interested in seeing sf be accepted as good writing by serious critics, I am not interested in it becoming a shadow of mainstream. In the minds of the media I wish to see it disassociated with flying saucers and little green Venusians who give people criptic messages and then push off, ie the nut brigade. I have not once seen a good newspaper report of a sf con. Reporters can unerringly sniff out the so called fan who is likely to give them some juicy quotes to show that the rest of the sf readers are all nuts.))

GRAHAM POOLE, 23 Russet Rd, Cheltenham, Glos, GL517LN

A name for the Newsletter: I wuld suggest REVELATIONS, the name I gave my one-off attempted BSFAN before the 1974 fiasco. The first issue was distributed in March 75 with my questionnaire, THE FANNISH INQUISITION. I intended it to continue and was going to publish the questionnaire results in one issue (over 70 members replied). Then the rest of the committee and most other functional members went incommunicado and the rest is history. Writing this has reminded me that I all but finished compiling the questionnaire results - but they're very much out of date now to be of much use. ((I like the name and that is the one I shall probably use from now on. With regards to the questionnaire if you want to go through all that work again I can promise that the present set up will not fold before you could get the results out.))

British outlet for SF HANDBOOK, REVISED is Fantast (Medway) Ltd, Andromeda might also stock it too. It is an excellent book dealing with the basics, information that is obvious and not so obvious, and a potted history of SF.

Re the Globe sign. I think the BSFA should not buy it for two reasons. One, what would the BSFA do with it, where would it be kept, etc,etc. Two, some other SF group is bound to buy it so the sign will not be lost for posterity.

((Grahams LOC was culled from a letter he sent me. In the letter he also agreed to make the SF Fil News a regular feature, for which we're very grateful. Thanks a lot, Graham.))

ROBERT JACKSON, 21 Lyndhurst Rd, Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE129NT

One or two comments on Keith's fanzine reviews. I don't think Keith's been reading his fanzines very hard recently.

Firstly, and least importantly, his statement that my GOBLIN'S GROTTO 2 column is "on medical school shenanigans". He doesn't even notice that the shenanigans described take place in a hospital not a medical school. Rather different. Also, the shenanigans were not the point of the article; the article examined the contrasts between: (a) medical thinking and fannish thinking, and (b) and more importantly, one's attitude towards medicine before and after actually starting to practice it. The "shenanigans" were a light filler to soften the reader up before the crunch-point at the end.

Secondly, I'd like to take up Keith's idea that most of MAYA 9 was "self-congratulatory". The only part of a 20 page issue that can be taken as self-congratulatory is Ian Williams' 5 page article on the history of Gannetfandom. That leaves 15 pages. What was in them, Keith? Pete Weston on the troubles he has from amateurs submitting manuscripts to ANDROMEDA? Isn't that of any interest to BSFA members, Keith? My editorial on the bad PR sf gets? Isn't that of any interest to BSFA members, Keith? I am not qualified to judge whether they are or not - I published them + but I would certainly say they were intended to be, and are both aimed at the relatively general reader rather than the experienced fannish reader. I would have hoped that it was these aspects of the fanzine Keith would have chosen to present to BSFA members, because they are the parts that might be interesting to them.

Even the "self-congratulatory" look back over 5 years of Gannetfandom has been very well received by comparative newcomers to fandom whom I would have thought of as the typical BSFA member, because the message they got from it was "Look - you too can have fun forming a fan group." This was the message Ian was trying to get across; not "Look - aren't we great?"

In fact, Keith reviews 11 fanzines, and manages not to wax enthusiastic over a single one. He sounds bored stiff. If you're trying to introduce people to fandom - one of the avowed objectives of the BSFA, or so I thought - at least get somebody who sounds as if he likes fanzines to review them. Hurry up, Ian Williams.... Tell you what: I'll hurry Ian up at this end, and we'll see if we can get some fanzine reviews by someone who's interested in the subject. I see him every week, so can gee him up pretty quickly.

I don't think the most important aspect of Ian's fanzine reviews in SPI 4, the aspect of most interest to BSFA members, is his supposed inability to tell an electro- from a thermo-stencil.

My article also contains a review of Arthur Clarke's latest novel, the first I've seen in a fanzine. Isn't that of any interest

to BSFA members, Keith?

((((What can I say, except I haven't seen any reviews from Ian yet, you'll have to see him up some more. Now over to Keith for his reply.

I'll try to keep this brief - if a couple of sentences can elicit nearly 500 words from Rob will the postman be staggering under the weight of Rob's response to this?

I promised myself I'd put the column together slowly, as the fanzines arrive; as I read them so I'd comment.... alas like most other plans it hasn't worked - hence a couple of days before the deadline I got out the fanzines and went through them. Not thoroughly enough obviously. OK I was guilty of slipshod work referring to a medical school rather than a hospital... you actually called it "the teaching hospital of Newcastle University" hence my slip. My memory (obviously letting me down) of the article was on the light filler material rather than your serious intent. (See also Eric Bentcliffe's review in EGG 10 - he missed the point too!!).

Other people have asked for more details of contents and I'll do this where possible. MAYA 9, therefore would have had; "Editorial (2pp) on the image of sf plus review of IMPERIAL EARTH; Goblin Towers - Ian Williams (5pp) talking of the 5 years since MAYA 1; Peter Weston (3pp) on gathering material for an anthology; letters (8pp). Apart from the letters half the interior pages were Ian's - no wonder I got the impression it was mostly self-congratulatory... which wasn't meant as a criticism anyway. Letters can be the most interesting part of a fanzine (and often are) - but only if previous issues have been seen, otherwise the comments and references can become frustrating.

So surprised at Rob's remark ref the liking of fanzines I looked back at Ian William's 4 pages in SPI. Maya 8: "I don't think the written content is up to the standard of the previous issue... a great improvement in production and a slight drop in written quality... now easily the best British fanzine around." Mancon 5 PR: "It's a disgraceful job and the worst Eastercon progress report in several years." Egladil 2: "a personalzine without any personality", etc. My main point is the longer and more detailed a review one gives the more one can stress the good (and bad) points of a fanzine - though Ian doesn't give pages in the fanzines and (in the case of BLAZON) refers to one article only. That article (by Eric Bentcliffe) stressed the cost of using electro-stencils... which is why I stressed the relative costs of electro and thermo-stencils.

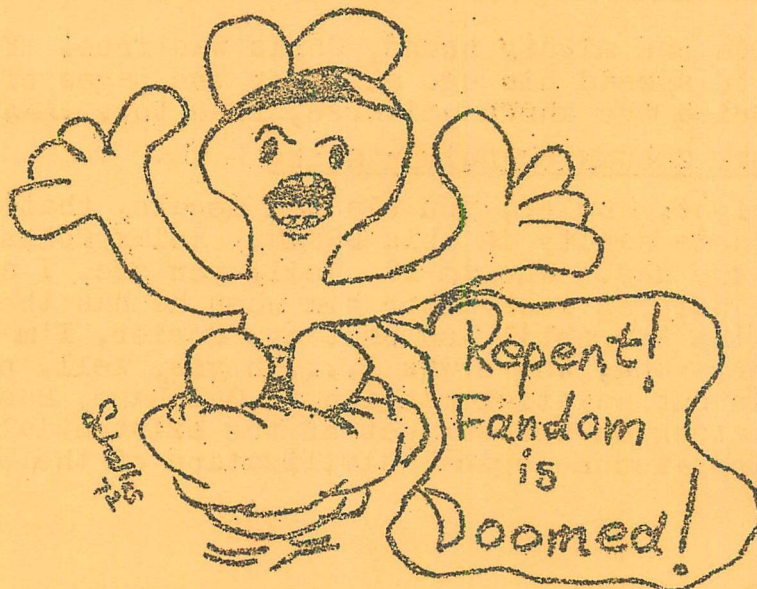
Thanks, Keith, it's surprising how large a fanzine review can seem when it says yours is the best in Britain.))



NEW MEMBERS

1465. Jim Barker. 218 Haugh St, Falkirk, Scotland, FK2 7QX.
Interested in writing to other members anywhere.
(How about doing some illustrations for us, Jim?)
1466. Pauline Brehony. 35 Rodborough Rd, Manchester, 23 8TL.
Interested in writing to other members anywhere.
1467. Raymond Peter Harrison. 18 The Witham, Grange Estate, Daventry,
Northants, NN11 4QW
913. John Featherstone. Hamilton Lodge, Led Hill Ave, Blackrock,
Co. Dublin.
1468. David Kemper. 1 Cherington, Yate, Bristol, Avon, BS4 17YA
Interested in writing to members anywhere.
1469. Mrs. Helen O. Brown. 18 Gordon Terrace, Blantyre, Glasgow, G72 9NA
1470. Raymond Owens. "Cherrys", 406 Bravel Ln, Southport, Merseyside,
PR9 8DB. Interested in writing to members in UK, Europe & USA.
1471. William Stewart. Skerryhill, Dunbar St, Lossiemouth, Moray,
Scotland. Interested in writing to members in UK and Commonwealth.
1472. Richard Seals. J6.47 Priory Hall, Priory St, Coventry, CV1 5FD.
Interested in writing to members anywhere.
1473. John Chapman. 73 Lathom Rd, East Ham, London E6.
1474. Ian Watson. 37 St. John St, Oxford, OX1 2LH.
1475. Martin Hatfield. Dept of Physics & Biochem, Reading Univ,
Whiteknights, Reading, Berks.
1476. Anthony Simon Tysall. St. Patricks Hall, Reading RG2 7HB.
1477. David Stuart Brinkman. 2 Pound Field Rd, Furze Platt, Maidenhead.
1478. Jane Markham. 1 Colepits Wood Rd, Eltham, SE9 2QJ.
1479. Reiner Wells. c/o Wessex Hall, Whiteknights Rd, Reading, RG6 2BQ.
1480. Hugh David. 37 Av, de la Republique, 92120 Montrouge, France.
Interested in writing to members anywhere.
1481. Robert Heath. 17 Lancaster Dr, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, ST6 8NG.
Interested in writing to members anywhere.
1482. Jeffrey Myers. 7 Snaresbrook Dr, Stanmore, Middx.
Interested in writing to members anywhere.
1483. Michael Hamilton. 38 Parkway, Etwell, Derbys.

I don't have questionnaires from numbers 1474 to 1479 but most of them are members of the Reading SF Club so I shall be distributing said forms at the next meeting.



SPECIAL LETTER COLUMN SUPPLEMENT

((This supplement has proven necessary due to a slight mix-up in the duplicating, caused by our editor's strange habit of not numbering the cover...CJF))

Helen Brown, 18 Gordon Terrace, Blantyre, G72 9NA

....About the title - does it have to have one? Won't it make it into a mind of fanzine? If you do find a name won't you have to subtitle it BSFA Newsletter - giving yourself more work? My vote is to keep it as it was. Mercury Rising as a name dosen't appeal. Does it refer to Mercury the planet or the messenger of the gods and why rising? I think it is mercury as in thermometer - meaning it would be a guage of BSFA members' feelings but perhaps you had better change it to alchohol, in case the BSFA freezes again - yet Alcohol Rising is not all that good, is it?

Freeman on Faazines I liked as done in V70 - short and sweet.

Something that comes across in the Newsletter is the amount of work done by BSFA officers, which is a good thing, and I'd like to add my humble words of praise and thanks.

John Welsh, 23 Kelvinside Gardens, East, Glasgow G20

...here are a few alternative names for Newsletter or Mercury Rising:
i) Starstuff (!!! Aren't you staggered!!!) ii) Phoenix Rising (though you must have thought of that) iii) Satan's Laughter, iv) The Devil's Pulpit, v) The Decline and Fall (after all, what followed the Golden Age of every other culture? Oh Well. vi) The Second Coming, vii) Spirits. viii) Free Fall, ix) Crying Inside (with apologies to a certain favourite author), x) Stormlight, and one for luck xi) Steady State (continuous creation of new material all the time and all that jazz) As with Mercury Rising, however, I don't much like any of them. But, what the hell, it is of little import.

What is of great import though are those absurd thoughts being entertained of buying the pub sign you mentioned with BSFA's precious coinage. Precious little!

((Actually, John, the idea was a non-starter, as others are bidding for the sign who have far more claim to it than the BSFA - CJF))

((Christopher Fowler talking again: That seems to have finished the few letters I had brought over as late additions to the lettercol of the Newsletter. Hmm, must get out of these brackets, so...))

A SHORT COLUMN by Christopher Fowler

...with one mighty bound, Chris was free! Yes, free to write again, free to spread his ego all over the pages of the BSFAN, free to terrorize the known universe, free to....AAAAAARGH!!!

A SHORT COLUMN by Melvin Spiby

All right, Fowler, you blasted megalomaniac, that's enough of that, let's have some sanity in this BSFAN. Relax folks, Spiby is here to save the day. Who am I? Well, you see, I am Christopher's amanuensis, and I help to look after him when he has these little attacks. Just take the Largactil and shut up, Fowler, I'm in charge now. That's better. Now, where was I....oh yes, well, over dinner the other day in our palatial mansion in Gas Lane, Basingstoke, I was cogitating on the subject of the existential dilemma of man in the post-technological civilization of the Western world, and I felt...

Bringing them out of their Shells

BOB SHAW

((I would like to thank Ethel Lindsay and Bob Shaw for giving me permission to reprint this article from SCOTTISHE 70.))

The Lake District, where, I've been living since Easter '73, could hardly be described as the hub of the fannish universe - hence it gives me a kick to be able to break one of the hottest fannish news stories since the announcement that RETRIBUTION was going over to copper-plated staples.

I picked up the story by accident when, during a recent visit to Manchester, I ran into Filbert Knutt. Filbert was a hyper-active fan in the North of England back in the Forties, but he dropped out of sight after his radical new transportation scheme, based on paving all the roads in the area with Alka-Seltzers and employing hovercraft powered by nothing more than water sprays, was bought up and suppressed by the Ribble Bus Company. It was popularly supposed that the experience had broken his mind and I was overjoyed, therefore, to learn that he was mentally just as sharp as ever, and that he has quietly been back in fandom for several years.

Not only was he with us again - he has actually succeeded in solving a problem which has often perplexed active fan groups and which lately has become chronic. Most groups like to have a regular publication and it has usually been difficult to select a suitable and reliable editor from the ranks of new, enthusiastic but untried Fen. Recently, with the way printing costs have been going, such decisions have become even more crucial - and this is where Filbert stepped in. Noting the value of management selection agencies to mundane industry, he decided to set up a comparable organisation in fandom with the aim of giving fan groups confidential and accurate assessments of the potentials of neofen.

If that's all there was to it Filbert's scheme would seem pretty derivative, but he has added a touch of originality which only his mind could have conceived. Because standards of merit vary so much with time and place, and are often influenced by personality factors, he hit on the idea of comparing the neofan's potential with a fixed impersonal standard which can be reproduced at will under laboratory conditions. For his reference standard - and this is where the true nature of his genius becomes apparent - Filbert chose the BNF potential ((BNF means big name fan, point of information for new readers, TAJ)) of the common oyster.

"The great advantage of my scheme is that it is obviously impartial," he told me over a pint. "Nobody can accuse a shellfish of any kind of bias, and a neofan has only himself to blame if he doesn't achieve a satisfactory Oyster Rating."

The way in which Filbert obtains an Oyster Rating is to add up the number of points awarded to a neofan for his personality and performance of certain tasks. This total is compared with that scored by an oyster in the same test. A good neofan will usually get the higher score, and it is quite common for somebody with BNF potential to clock up 3 times as many points as an oyster.

The table below was taken from Filbert's files and shows the results of a typical test.

	Seymour McVittie	Oyster
Cranking a duplicator	82	1
Stapling	73	0
Personal charm	28	40
Avoidance of distractions (like booze, women and conventions)	6	97
Editorial discretion and ability to stay out of feuds	87	100
TOTALS	369	338

Filbert calls his outfit Crustacean Comparison Services, and it is worth noting here that some dedicated CCS men feel that this test is unfairly weighted against the oyster. It does not, for example, take into consideration such qualities as patience, or talent for skinny dipping. Filbert, however, feels that in its present form the test is a good working compromise - in the early days a few neofan were drowned before they even had the chance to attend a meeting of the Kent Science Fiction Society.

Foolproof though the system appears, Filbert explained that great care is needed in applying it. It is vital that the oysters used in the test should be of average intelligence, ability and physical strength - and for this reason they are constantly compared with British Standard Oysters bred in the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington.

At one period, before the rigorous safety standards were introduced, an exceptionally gifted oyster got into the test batch by mistake, gave inferiority complexes to 23 prospective fanzine editors, and almost succeeded in landing itself a plum job in the Science Fiction Foundation at Dagenham. Now any super-oysters which appear are quickly winnowed out and disposed of at the Novacon banquet - an arrangement which helps offset the organisation's overheads.

"Security is one of my big problems," Filbert told me. "The intake of new fans in the entire North of England was halted for 3 weeksonce because a batch of our most experienced oysters were eaten. It was a revenge job done by a new fan because his Oyster Rating disqualified him from running the BSFA chain library."

But in spite of all the difficulties Filbert continues to run his organisation with all the qualities of mind such an undertaking deserves. We don't have to worry about the future of British fandom as long as there are men like him around.

FALLIBLE FREEMAN on FANZINES.....

This is my second attempt to get my feelings on the latest crop of fanzines on to stencil; first attempt was foiled by the typewriter jamming up - now, two hours later with oily hands and three screws staring me in the face (they must have come from somewhere !) I start again. To clear up a few points - I like fanzines, even the worst (which isn't mentioned herein), but here I'm trying to give as much detail as briefly as possible. I try to err on the side of pessimism (if that's the right word) so if you think my description of a fanzine makes it sound interesting try writing to the editor (enclosing money if appropriate) and I hope you won't be disappointed.... I think I've only used two abbreviations, pp=pages and qtly=quarterly.

After the Flood 11 - Dec 75: David Griffin, 83 Maple Rd, Horfield, Bristol BS7 8RF. Qtly costing 25p. Editorial (1½pp); (Michael) Bishop's Gambit (3pp); Science Fiction Forum (Scandinavian fanzine history) (5pp); ecology article (3pp); book reviews (4pp). The first couple of issues (it being numbered in binary) although undeniably fanzines had a difference - it's now becoming a good but unexceptional general fanzine. Worth trying.

Checkpoint 64 - Feb 76: Ian Maule, 8 Hillcroft Crescent, Ealing, London W5. Monthly (?), 5 for 40p, 10 for 70p. 2pp of news and 1½pp of fanzine reviews. Not yet fully in its stride after the recent change of owners.

Egg 10 - Dec 75: Peter Roberts, 6 Westbourne Park Villas, London W2. Annual with no price mentioned. Peter on today and yesterday (4pp) (Nostalgia nook ?); James Parkhill-Rathbone on Lovecraft (2pp); John Brosnan (4pp); Eric Bentcliffe on fanzines and the dangers of driving to work in Cheshire (3pp) and letters (11½pp). Nice, could be improved by coming out more often !

Erg 53 - Jan 76: Terry Jeeves, 230 Bannerdale Rd, Sheffield S11 9FE. Qtly and costs 50p for 3 or £1 for 7. Editorial (2pp); 3 people's views on Van Vogt (2pp); using colour in duplicated fanzines (4pp); letters (2pp); recent readings (6pp). Jeeve's illos, naturally.... one of the best and most regular British fanzines. Rumour has it that Terry is standing for TAFF, if so we should get a very good written (and illustrated) report after he's won.

Fanzine Fanatique 15 - undated: Keith Walker, 2 Daisy Bank, Quernmore Rd, Lancaster. Qtly (?), 4 issues for 35p, 10p per issue. This issue has 4½pp of fanzine reviews and 1½pp of letters. Also a front cover and editorial (?) which, on my copy, masqueraded as the back page.

The Forerunner Vol 1 No 3 - Sept 75: Shayne McCormack, 49 Orchard Rd, Bass Hill, N.S.W. 2197, Australia. The official fanzine of the Sydney SF Foundation (which has 40 members). Sub rates are given as \$A4.60 per year (monthly) or \$A3.50 per year (qtly). I guess this means that there are two fanzines with the same name ? News, in the monthly issue I received, of club activities, a spoof letter or two, a poem and 3pp of fanzine reviews. 10 pages in all.

It Comes in the Mail 18 - July 75: Ned Brooks, 713 Paul St, Newport News, Virginia 23605, USA. Qtly (?), no price (trade only ?). Personalzine with a lot of fanzines reviewed in it - scattered amongst the happenings and doings of Ned. Very interesting. (38pp including 2 of AusieCon photos). Can I steal the front cover cartoon sometime Ned ?

Logo 1-76: Kevin Easthope, 6 Ipsley Grove, Erdington, Birmingham B23 7SY. Qtly (?), no price (surely the editor doesn't expect me to put "priceless" ?). Editorial (2pp); review IMPERIAL EARTH (½pp); poem (½pp);

Dan Morgan's GoH speech (8½pp); letters (10 pp); fanzine reviews (1½pp); list of fan's appearances in SFM (1½pp). As a second issue Logo is showing distinct signs of promise and Kevin appears (to me) to be relaxing a bit and enjoying himself..... nice to see a revival of activity from Brum.

ManCon 5 PR3 - Jan 76: Info on the forthcoming Con... see VECTOR for details of how to join etc. This progress report is so shy it hasn't a name or address in it referring to the Con Committee !

New Books USA 29 - Jan 76: Joanne Burger, 55 Blue Bonnet Ct, Lake Jackson, TX 77566, USA. Bi-monthly, 50¢ an issue, \$1.50 per year. Invaluable to readers of SF who want to know what's being published when in America. (7½pp).

News from Bree 16 - Jan 76: Hartley Patterson, 'Finches', 7 Cambridge Rd, Beaconsfield, HP9 1HW. Last issue but splitting off News from Bree is a genzine (WEST FARTHING) leaving behind the gaming part. No price decided, no periodicty mentioned. This issue: letters (including some very interesting info on USA copyright laws - how simple (and cheap) our system is !) (3pp); reviews of several books on 'The Bermuda Triangle' plus others (not all sf) (4pp); skit on Winnie the Pooh (1½pp); Dungeons & Dragons (5pp), fanzine reviews (2pp). I'm not a war games buff but I found plenty to enjoy in NFB and look forward to West Farthing.

Nickelodeon 1 - Nov 75: Tom Reamy, 1131 White, Kansas City, Mo. 64126, USA. Qtly, \$2 each, 4 for \$7. Editorial (2pp), What is Time (Piers Anthony (3pp), Poul Anderson (4pp)); Chapter 13 of THE LONG LOUD SILENCE as Wilson Tucker wanted it (3pp); strip cartoon by Chris Carduff (2pp) and by Johny Chambers (2pp); The Aristocratic Imperative by David Wilson (4pp); Winslow on Dinosaurs by Steve Utley (1pp); pin up (?) of Steve Utley by Waldrop/Jorde (6pp); Limericks by Steve Utley (1pp); SF, the shape of the present by James Gunn (5pp); M.MMoamrath (parody article, story etc) (10pp); The Shape of the SF story by R.A. Lafferty (3pp); poetry (2pp). Rounded off by a page of photos of the contributors, Corben frontcover and Jeff Jones backcover (both 3 colour). At \$2 it's expensive but if you want "proffessional fanzines" you have to pay.

Orion 2 - Jan 76: Paul A. Ryan, 29 Morrith Ave, Halton, Leeds LS15 7EP. Qtly, £1 per year. Editorial (3½pp); On Discovering Fandom (2½pp); chat (2½pp); centre-fold artwork; letters (8pp). Like Logo (above) this is a second issue and shows improvement over number 1. It's A3 photo-litho'd, by the way. Real explanation of why number 1 was so bad is split between the editorial of this issue and a letter in Procyon 3. If Orion keeps improving it will be well worth getting.....

* Took a break from typing these stencils here and went to watch Space 1999,
* came back to find the next fanzine was produced by someone who LIKES S-1999,
* first reaction was to scream..... but, back to work

Procyon 2 (date ?) & 3 - Feb 76: John Collick, 12 Melrose Rd, Bishop Monkton, Nr. Harrogate, Yorkshire. 25p per issue, 4 for 60p, 6 for £1. No. 2 had fiction (7pp); record review (2pp); book reviews (1pp); article on sf (3pp) that's interesting despite being superficial and having some delightful typos ("When Gernsback started....stand out from all other mags so he gave them as garish a cover as humanely possible..."); review of a Norwegian SF mag (NOVA) (2½pp); chatty items of information (and misinformation) are scattered through the 20 pages. No. 3 (going from A4 to foolscap) has 4pp of fiction; article 'Beasts in SF' (3pp); reviews - fanzines (1pp), books (2pp), records (2pp), film (½pp), TV (½pp); more chatty items of info (such as the fact that VERTEX has turned into a kind of newspaper.... wake up John, VERTEX turned into newspaper format in June 75 and folded after 3 such issues (ie the Aug 75 issue. Is this what watching SPACE 1999 does for you ?).

SF Review 15 - Nov 75: Richard E. Geis, PO Box 11408, Portland, OR 97211, USA. Qtly. UK subs (to Wm Dawson & Sons, Cannon House, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5EE) cost £1.98 one year, £3.43 for two. The kind of fanzine that makes other fanzine editors weep - to try and list all the contents would take a page or two... highlights from the 52 (American A4?) packed pages:

Why Bob Silverberg is leaving the sf field - mainly Don C. Thompson but with others (4¹/₃pp); interview with L. Sprague de Camp (3¹/₃pp); Alter-Ego (who, we all know, really won the Hugo Dick picked up) (2pp); Ted White column (3pp); SF & Fantasy art commented on by Jon Gustafson (2¹/₃pp). Reviews galore, letters, editorial chat.... even with 7¹/₂pp of adverts and at a cost virtually the same as ANALOG it's well worth it.....

Spang Blah Vol 3 No.4 - see VECTOR 70 page 34. Still good, still free, but Jan will be going back to the States soon and changing SB to a genzine..... good luck Jan.

Supplement to the SF&F Journal 195/196 - Nov 75: Don Miller, 12315 Judson Rd, Wheaton, MD 20906, USA. In the throes of a reorganisation. The Supplement is ceasing, but will be replaced... Good round-up of American (mainly) news on the sf scene - a little dated by the time it gets to Britain. (20pp).

Tangent 2 - May 75, 3 - Sept 75: David A. Truesdale, 611-A Division St, Oshkosh, Wisc. 54901, USA. No subs but costs per issue run in the region of \$1. No. 2 had interviews with Poul Anderson (4¹/₂pp), Philip Jose Farmer (6pp), Don Wollheim (7pp), and Clifford Simak (4pp); survey of SF in the cinema by Mark Gruenwald (13pp) and an article on Doc Savage by Bob Sampson (5pp) provide the bulk with reviews (of books and fanzines) and an editorial all adding up to 64 pages. No. 3, with the same number of pages-less two, had interviews with Harry Harrison (7pp), Lester & Judy Lynn del Rey (7pp) and William Tenn (5¹/₂pp); 7pp of fiction, reviews, notes and editorial. Interesting material well laid out and worth a look.

Triode 22 - Winter 75: Eric Bentcliffe, 17 Riverside Crescent, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, CW4 7NR. Qtly, £1 for 3 issues. More of Eric than usual.... editorial (9pp); fan fiction ('Hal Roach' = EB ?) (7 pp in which mine own name appeareth... I still enjoyed it); New Whorls by the Irish John Berry new or reprint ? (4pp); the artist (Alan Hunter) writes (4pp); letters (12pp); Terry Jeeves column (4pp). Many years ago Triode was my introduction to the world of fanzines (and through that fandom) - I don't think a better way of attracting your interest has yet been devised.

* The observant amongst you will realise the above are in alphabetical order...
* thus allowing little bias to show (!). I then read over them - calamity... I
* remembered writing on OUTWORLDS.... where was it. My first perusal of the
* draft didn't reveal. Why I started it at the top of a new page and then
* (presumably) took it out I'll never know.....

Outworlds 25 & 26 - 4th Qtr 75: Bill Bowers, UK agent Terry Jeeves (see ERG for address). £2 for 5 issues. 25 had 37pp of letters plus illos/cartoons and 4 full page illos (including front and back covers). A little frustrating to have so many letters referring to points that were raised in previous (unread) issues. Also index to the first five years issues. As to 26... there's the editorial (3pp), David Gerrold's WesterCon Keynote Address (3¹/₂pp) and his GoH speech (1¹/₂pp); Poul Anderson column (1.1pp); a satire (?) by Neal Wilgus (.9pp); interview with James Gunn (2¹/₂pp); Robert A.W. Lowndes column (1¹/₂pp); Bill Wolfenbarger column (?) (3pp); Ted White column (5pp); Randall Garrett (1pp); Piers Anthony (4pp); Dean R. Koontz (1¹/₂pp). At \$1.25 it's expensive, but highly recommended.

* One fanzine passed to me by Phil Stephensen-Payne, hence the lateness

Rune 44 - Aug 75: Fred Haskell, 343 E 19th St 8B, Minneapolis, MN 55404, USA. Qtly 25¢. Minn-stf Society fanzine, contains letters (20pp); Don D'Amassa on Robert M. Green Jr (2pp); cartoon (5pp), fanzine reviews (5pp); Love & Killing by Dave Wixon (2¹/₂pp) on sf war stories; book reviews (3¹/₂pp); Cincinnati '75 Con Report (9pp) by Madman Riley & Reed Waller plus artwork etc. Although a clubzine Rune is more like a genzine than many genzines !

----- END -----

Reports

VICE CHAIRMAN - David Kyle

Easter weekend will be the most important date in 1976 for the BSFA. This will be the occasion of our Annual General Meeting at the Mancon 5 (University of Manchester, Owens Park, 17-18 April 1976). Preparations for this meeting are underway as noted in the paragraph of this report, following, labelled AGM.

The Council of the BSFA met at the Novacon, Birmingham, on 9 November 1975. Present were: Ken Bulmer, David Symes, Chris Fowler and Keith Freeman with David Kyle presiding. Topics discussed were:

- 1) the unresolved problems posed by being a limited company;
- 2) the assumption of the post of Treasurer by Keith Freeman, for an indefinite period, replacing Jill Adams who has retired with official Council appreciation for having extended her term of office in the emergency.
- 3) Dues are raised from £2 to £3 yearly, to take effect immediately for all new members and after the AGM for all old members' renewals. (So all old members must pay their £2 dues by the AGM at Easter weekend to save themselves the £1 increase.)
- 5) Membership will run from the first full month upon joining for 12 months, rather than always being adjusted for a fiscal year ending at Easter.
- 6) The Council officially thanks Chris Fowler for his excellent work in bringing VECTOR out so frequently.
- 7) the "Little Gem Guide" to fanzines will be purchased and distributed free to all members.
- 8) Current issues of "Science Fiction International News" will be purchased at cost and distributed free to all members.
- 9) Information on fanzines, including news and reviews of them will be carried in VECTOR.
- 10) As of that meeting there are 280 paid up members of the BSFA. Membership lists are, hopefully, complete and accurate.
- 11) Stock control will be instituted for BSFA property and supplies.
- 12) Button badges are being produced to be available at the AGM.
- 13) The Vice Chairman will also have the working title of Hon. Managing Director.
- 14) The Membership Secretary will also have the working title of Administrator.

The next Council meeting was scheduled for 5 February 1976 to precede the regular Thursday evening meeting at the One Tun public house in London for local fans. Because of poor attendance the Council meeting was not held.

AGM

There will be one more NEWSLETTER, being printed about 14th March for posting one week later, which will inform you of matters concerning our AGM. The official notice of the meeting will be given to you then. At that time all recommendations, proposals and nominations must be made for consideration at the AGM. If you have any suggestions which you wish to be considered at the AGM or any proposals or motions to be presented at that time, please send such in writing to D. A. Kyle, "Two Rivers", Hamm Court, Weybridge, Surrey. It must reach the Vice Chairman by 5th March in order to be considered by the Council on 7th March. All material considered suitable will be published in the March NEWSLETTER which will be posted about 22nd March. To repeat: send all suggestions, motions, etc. which you

wish the Council to consider for presentation at the AGM to David Kyle who must receive them by March 5th. Those ideas which are suitable for presentation as motions will be so prepared without the necessity of you finding a seconder. Simply indicate whether or not you expect your motion to be formally presented. The Proxy Form which will be sent at that time will permit members who cannot be present at the AGM to officially participate in the voting.

Even if you have no specific ideas to present, your Vice Chairman will appreciate hearing from you about what the BSFA might be able to do for you.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - Tom A. Jones

I and all the Council, and I'm sure all members, would like to thank David Symes for the job he did as Membership Sec. during those trying times following the re-birth of the BSFA. We are only sorry that personal commitments mean he cannot continue.

Last month editor of BSFAN, this month Membership Sec., any suggestions that I'm taking over the BSFA and intend to turn it into a dictatorship will be hotly denied.

I can report that the books are in good order and new members are coming in at a steady rate. A free (well Chris had to grovel a bit, but he's good at that) ad appeared in February's SF MONTHLY. Dave Symes' address was given and he intends to send me membership enquiries in one bundle each week so I don't yet know what the response has been like to the ad.

Next issue I intend to include a list of new members who would like to write to other members. I also intend to restart the small ads section if anyone has anything they want to buy or sell, this service will, of course, be free to members.

TREASURER - Keith Freeman

This report has to be short as, at the moment, I am both balancing the books for 1975 and dealing with the influx of renewals for 1976. I am very pleased that so many (over 100) have renewed but, at the same time, saddened by the number (nearly 170) who we've not heard from. If your renewal is due you will find a separate form to send back..... include it with letters to Tom Jones, Chris Fowler or David Kyle by all means. We are virtually offering you £1 for a 6p stamp, so why not do it now. Those who have renewed should get their membership cards with this mailing. Please get in touch with us if you have renewed and your card isn't with this mailing (unless you suspect your renewal could still have been in the post when this mailing was done - it's not impossible that the GPO could have allowed some letters to go astray!).

Although the state of the treasury is not as healthy as we could wish I'm sure you'll realise that we will be giving you the best service we possibly can commensurate with staying solvent!

LOST Does anyone know the whereabouts of;
Mario Bosnayac Corporal Chopping
David Copping Arthur Dunning
 ?

PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OFFICER'S REPORT - 15/2/1976

Now, I don't mind if none of you send me letters-of-comment on Vector, I don't mind if you don't enter my cunningly-contrived competitions, but the fact that none of you sent me a Valentine's Card yesterday has really upset me. I mean, there are about 400 of you out there, and not one of you thought of your poor old Vector editor on this special day. It wouldn't be so bad, but I've been spending so much time doing things for the BSFA recently that I've had no time for seeking out members of the fair sex. The result was that the nearest I got to a Valentine's Card was this conversation:

"Hi, Chris. Thanks for your card...I knew it had to be from you from the typed envelope and the "Ms"..."

"Well, there's nothing like being obvious, Ms W..."

"I thought of getting you one, but then, I, er, forgot..."

"Wow, that makes me feel really big..."

"Actually, I didn't get many myself..."

Note that - "many" - she should complain, I got none. Well, BSFA members, you can take it that I am miffed. Very miffed. So watch out for next year, I shall be expecting a heroic response from you all on Feb 14th 1977. I don't know, it's this kind of thing that makes a chap wonder if a chap is doing the right thing or whether a chap would be better off stopping this editing lark and concentrating on gels.

Well, enough of this self-pitying nonsense, what you really want to hear is what I've been up to as Publication and Distribution Officer. The answer is (now, you must be wondering what an "answer" is. Quite simply, it is the answer you get from a harried typist) that I've been publishing and distributing...and driving off to North Devon through some of the worst weather this country has experienced since the last glaciation I might add, to collect the Membership papers from Dave Symes, who has resigned, and handed over to good ole Tom Jones in Bracknell. It's a pretty full-time job, this Vector editing, even now that good ole TJ has taken the BSFAN off my hands. I'm trying to get the next issue ready - for distribution on March 15th or thenabouts - as well as no less than three projected special issues, all of which will be very exciting I can tell you. So there. Oh, and I've been immensely cheered by the response of fandom to my efforts. When I asked Malcolm Edwards what he thought of Vector since I'd taken over from him he backed away gibbering and whimpering. And nice little Ian Maule in his very little fanzine Checkpoint said that V under its new editor was still not achieving the standards of the previous editor. Well, screw you, Ian. We'll just wait and see what an intelligent person with some critical faculties like Susan Wood says in her column in Algol. Anyway, comparisons are invidious, any issue of V I produce is just different from what Mal would have done, not better or worse. Such terms are meaningless in such a context. Actually, maybe Gannetfandom has something against me; Ian Williams told me at Novacon how pleased he was to note that "you've got rid of ---- from the review column". The truth was that "----" is one of my favourite reviewers - because he is 100% reliable and writes good stuff - and was merely absent from one issue because I had no books to send him.

Yes, you're right, I'm over-reacting to negative criticism again. But I've got to put something in this column or you'd think I'd been idle all this time. And having nothing more to say, I'll stop here.

--- Christopher Fowler 15/2/1976

BACK ISSUES OF VECTOR WANTED

Thanks to the efforts of a few loyal people, we've acquired quite a lot of the missing back nos, of Vector, but our set is till not complete. If you have any of the following, to let us have, or loan us for the duration, please contact me.

1 - 8

14

16

35

38 - 42

I stress that all these are needed for completing the editorial complete set, We'll extend your membership by two months for each one you give us.

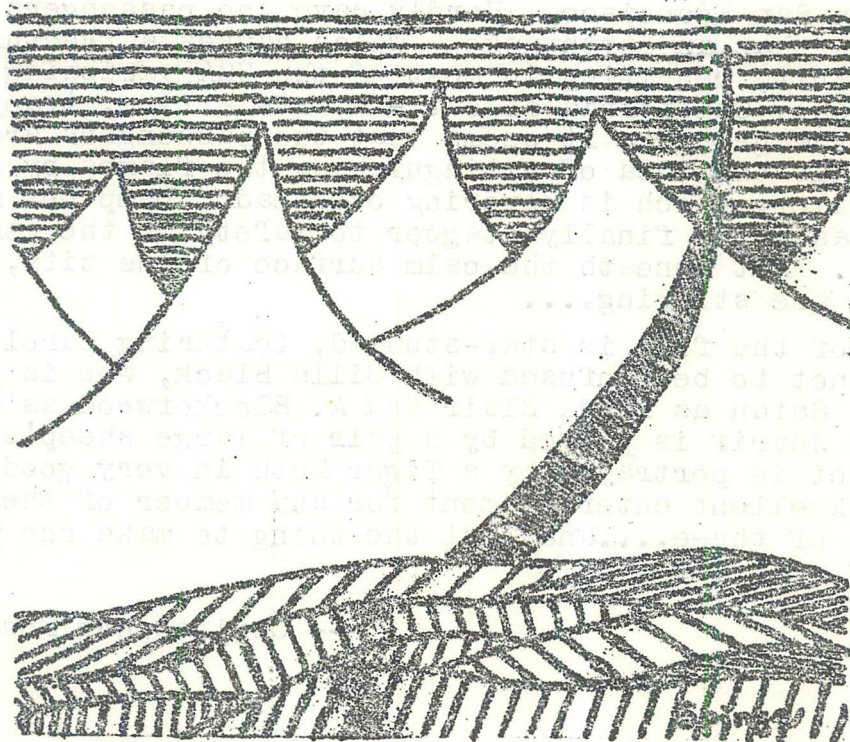
We have a slightly different problem with more recent back issues, especially from the Malcolm Edwards period. We've run out of the following:

62, 63, 66

We also have a request from a colleague for a copy of no. 58

If you have any of these, i.e. 58, 62, 63 or 66 and don't want them, then if you send them to us we can sell them to people who request back numbers for complete sets - people like libraries and so on. We'll extned your membership by two months for each one you send.

--- Christopher Fowler



THE
TOWERING
AIRBUG
JUGGERQUAKE
-CERT Z

Chris Fowler



In this ultimate disaster movie, panic breaks out aboard a 747 Jumbo jet of Receding Airlines when it is struck by an out-of-control air taxi piloted by a regional film theatre publicity officer experiencing a heart attack brought on by fiscal cuts. The 747 is holed and the flight crew killed, which terrifies the passengers, a group of film stars on their way to make a motion picture about a man-eating woodworm, Bores, until one of them, Karen Black, pluckily takes over the controls. Another pilot - the Japanese Toshiro Mifune, famous as the oft-cited "Nip in the Air", and himself a film star (best loved for his part as Clint Eastwood in The Magnificent Seven Sergeo Leone Rip-Offs of Kurosawa) - is winched aboard from his spirit-powered flying toilet (kamakaze), but no sooner does he take control than it is discovered that a bomb set to go off if the plane flies below 1,000 feet has been placed aboard by Basingstoke nationalists. Fortunately Mifune is able to crash-land the stricken jet on the top of a new 500-storey sky-scraper in San Francisco. Hardly have the passengers struggled from the plane than an earthquake - which causes a fracture along the San Andreas fault, resulting in most of the USA vanishing into the sea, leaving only California afloat - starts a fire, trapping them a mile above the ground. It seems that the passengers are doomed, until Mifune has the idea of extinguishing the flames by flushing his aerial toilet, which is hovering overhead. Damp but still smiling the passenger finally stagger to safety in the streets of San Francisco. But beneath the calm surface of the city, fire-breathing killer sharks are stirring....

The cast of the film is star-studded, featuring Carol White as Karen Black (not to be confused with Cilla Black, who is played by James Brown), Satan as Linda Blair and A. Blockofwood as Charlton Heston. Omar Sharif is played by a pair of large sheep's eyes, and the 747 jet is portrayed by a Tiger Moth in very good make-up. All-in-all, excellent entertainment for any member of the family.... under the age of three....and just the thing to make one appreciate the tedium of real life.

--- Christopher Fowler