



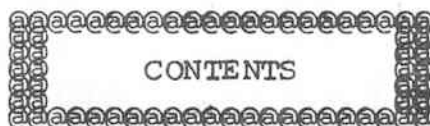
SHOCK

HUNT FOR

PROBE

++COMING
++NOW UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT++
++SOON++





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THE BSFA NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1980

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EDITOR: GRAHAM JAMES, 12 FEARNVILLE TERRACE
OAKWOOD LEEDS LS8 3DU
CHAIRMAN: ALAN DOREY, 20 HERMITAGE WOODS CRESCENT
St. JOHN'S WOOD
WOKING SURREY GU21 1UE

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%%%%%%%%%

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COPY DEADLINES for MATRIX 33, NOVEMBER 16

INTRO

IN THE BEGINNING

About 2½ years ago I set off for an SF Writers course; I read Science Fiction and wrote a little, but I wasn't a fan. Ney, I hadn't even come across fandom. 2½ years later I read some SF when I get the time but I haven't written another word of fiction - apart from the occasional lie in a fanzine. In between I have become a regular convention-goer; published 3 issues of OCELOT (with Simon); 4 issues of RUBBER CRAB; 1 issue of the infamous GONAD THE BARBARIAN; organised a 'mini-convention'; become a committee member for YORCON 2; and now..... Editor of MATRIX.

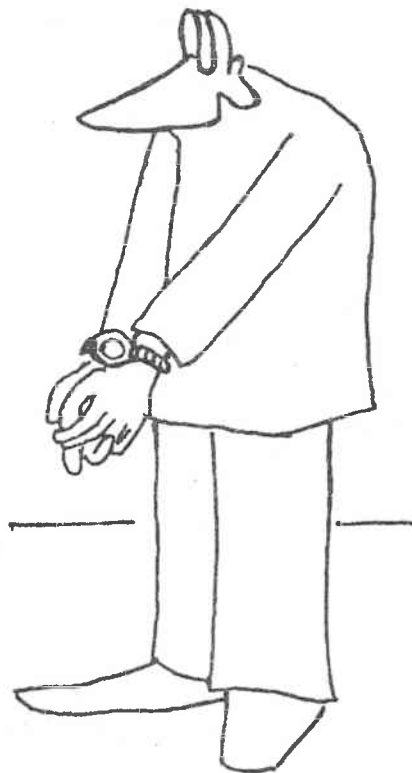
What went wrong!

Such is the power and attraction of fandom. And the writers' course? Well, it was there that I met Mike Dickinson, Alan Dorey, Paul Kincaid, Simon Ounsley (then a fresh-faced neo, like me), and Jeff Ryman (then a writer of greater output than now). You can imagine the rest - and let that be a lesson for all those who complain about 'getting in to fandom' - steer well clear of fans, unless you want your life taken over.

THIS HOUSE BELIEVES IN.....

That short introduction has told you a little about myself - the illo. opposite is not exactly a good likeness - I heard that - but it does represent how I feel at the moment - handcuffed. You see, as past editors of Matrix will tell you, the editorship is not so much a status symbol but more a period of imprisonment. It occupies a large amount of one's time; contributors' copy always arrives late (or sometimes not at all); your cats spread their muddy paws over your finished products; the typewriter decides to abandon its margin-spacer and then..... the carriage knocks over your cup of tea.... yes, all over the readers' letters on the last issue - so if you find that you have been violently mis-quoted, you'll know why.

I'm afraid that for those who think that a new editor is going to mean a radical change in MATRIX there will be disappointment. I consider that John and Eve did a first-class job on MATRIX and I intend to keep to much the same format. That means that I wish to retain Rob Jackson's



Fanzine reviews and Simon's LIFE ON MARS - I don't agree with Steve Ince's criticisms (see letters page).

I welcome contributions on virtually anything associated with SF, the Media, Conventions, Fandom, etc. - and especially welcome will be art-work, cartoons or illustrations. Unfortunately I shall not have the benefit of Jim Barker's CAPTIVE strip, at least not until he resumes his work, but in its place, and starting next issue will be a cartoon series by John Collick.

I feel that that is enough by way of introduction to my first issue - I'd better not commit myself too much before receiving your vitriolic parable. And now, to THE OUTRO; who better to ask for a contribution than the ex-editors. I mean...they could hardly refuse, could they?

THE HARVEY HONOURS LIST

The following honours are to be bestowed on those diligent, dedicated people who helped to make MATRIX the brilliant publication it was during our editorship.

JIM BARKER - C.B.E. (Captive of the BSFA Empire)
For unstintingly providing the black bits to break up the monotony of the white page.

ROB JACKSON - F.R.S. (Fanzine Reviewer Supreme)
For saving our sanity by reading all those products of non-'Enchanted Duplicators' and saving us the trouble.

SIMON OUNSLEY - NASA SPECIAL AWARD
For upstaging Viking and proving there really is 'Life on Mars'.

KEITH FREEMAN - B.M.A. (BSFA Mailers' Award)
For always being there before the pub opens at BSFA mailings and without whom we'd look mighty silly with over 7,700 copies of MATRIX at home. (Count it, over 700 copies x 11 editions!)

DAVE LANGFORD - THE BIG FULL STOP AWARD
For always being able to find the last word on long-winded, never-ending Mailbag discussions.

ALAN DOREY - THE BRIGHT LIGHT AWARD
For always coming up with bright ideas - for other people to carry out, and

THE KNIFE, FORK AND SPOON AWARD
For never saying no to second helpings - especially for the third time.

THE DUPLICATOR - S.O.B. (! ! !)
For unfailingly failing

And last, but not least

JOHN AND EVE HARVEY - THE MAÑANA AWARD
Which we'll award to ourselves 'real soon now'.

JOHN & EVE

O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O

Actually, it is not totally goodbye from John & Eve, since, as Official BSFA Litho-Machine-Minders, they will be duplicating MATRIX and VECTOR.

reviews

SOMETHING AWFUL THIS WAY COMES - being a short, retrospective comment on NBC's adaptation of Ray Bradbury's THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES.....

Terry Pyle

Ray Bradbury's The Martian Chronicles, known more widely in Britain, until recently, as The Silver Locusts, has been filmed, and the film(s) has come a cropper. This is a pity, not only because it is an interesting and original piece of fantasy (or, if you wish to be pedantic, a collection of several independent pieces set against the most slender thread of a background), but also because the teleplay was written by Richard Matheson, of whom one might expect better things. He has a very good track record in writing sf both as literature and for the screen. However, I think that he should have been wary of adapting an author such as Ray Bradbury, who writes in a very different style to Matheson himself.

It would have been nice to see Bradbury himself doing the adaptation, as that would have perhaps made the whole thing more palatable (and he can adapt for the screen - viz. his screenplay for Moby Dick, which was made 25 years ago now).

The director was one Michael Anderson, who could be the same Michael Anderson who directed the film of Logan's Run - in which case we should have been warned.

The miniseries came the proverbial cropper because its imagery was distinctly non-Bradbury. The Star Wars style prefabs that served for buildings, and the Star Trek style aliens who served as Martians, for example, were both foreign to Bradbury's Mars. A big mistake was made at the beginning of the first episode, 'The Expeditions', with a feeble, half-hearted attempt to combine the Mars of Bradbury with that of Viking and Mariner 9. One is led to believe that the producers had not conceived that the two places might be separate worlds, infinitely remote from each other. There are no canals on Viking's Mars; neither are there rain storms, or an atmosphere full of oxygen (or any oxygen, for that matter), in which the colonists who will never go there can inhale deeply to refresh their Earth polluted lungs. The low atmospheric pressure would make it impossible to fly an autogyro, as the first colonists were happy to do, after nonchalantly avoiding freezing in the subzero temperatures and exploding in the rarified air. There were the usual, laughable errors, such as instantaneous Earth-Mars communications, and stars of uniform brightness upon a cardboard sky, and eminently unflyable but elegantly aesthetic needle spaceships.

The producers should have stuck to Bradbury's Mars, and made no half-hearted efforts at reconciling the fantasy with the reality. On Bradbury's Mars it is not anomalous to find Earth-like gravity and atmospheric conditions; nor would you be surprised to find the canals and lost cities, and colonists, and rockets - real silver locusts -, and Martians. Yes, Martians. Dark they were, and golden eyed - not blundering guest stars in awkward and unmanageable makeup, uttering banal lines on a dreary terrestrial stage.

There were glimmers of Bradbury. Barry Morse, and his ever-so-lovely wife and daughter are a case in point. Yet there was also Rock Hudson's Colonel John Wilder, who bore no more relation to Bradbury than does Hudson himself. The final transgression, the ultimate blasphemy, occurs when 'The Million Year Picnic' is rendered into a piece of pretentious moralising.

Of course, the conclusion is one that has been reached many times before: television and cinema is best seen via original work, written especially for the medium. To adapt from imaginative prose is to risk creating a bastardisation that is guaranteed to annoy most of the people most of the time.

Dr Who: Meglos or Me Lost?

K. M. Jeary

And so to version two of the revamped Dr Who: Russian peasants, fifteenth century ladies, intelligent cacti and hair cuts straight out of U.F.O...... Entertaining? Well, yes, in a zany kind of way. The trouble is that the plot - always richly textured - seems to have failed to jell this time. When you have the conflict of technology and religion, trouble with the mechanics of time travel, sea-water and its effects on robots, a dodecahedron which looks like one of those laminated shell lamps and is worshipped as a god, all arriving in two episodes, the imagination is bound to boggle just a little, even the imagination of a Dr Who habitue. With the current series, the mind does not merely boggle: it is boggled, or bog-led, to put it in a different way. Whilst squelching around in the morass of the plot (not entirely helped, I must admit, by the fact that I missed the first eight minutes of the second episode) I breathed heavily and tried to work out just whose fault it was... Mine, for being stupid? The script-writer, for being too keen to stuff the script full of all the ideas that came into his head? Those responsible for the design of the Space Pirates' clothes? (Someone, I suspect, had purloined those Russians from Eisenstein's Boris Godunov.) Tom Baker's? Or the script editors and director for allowing all these to come to pass?

I have, I must admit, no firm conclusions. But I do have these points to offer....

Either we are seeing too much, or too little, of Tom Baker. His mordant wit has not been much in evidence this series, nor has he. (Caught in a time loop a time loop a) The designers seem to be editing him out of their scripts and allowing the background (weird cultures, vegetables and dimensional paradoxes) to take over. Perhaps, satisfying though the Tom Baker:Dr Who persona has been, the time has come for a re-assessment of the contribution that that particular combination has been making to the series - are the writers scared away from attempting to change or develop Dr Who as a character because of the very success of that combination?

Secondly, please God, can we have our original tune back? My ears, and hence brain, are set on edge before Dr Who actually begins....

Thirdly, although, I must admit, I'm not the most logical of people, is it technically possible for the brain to recognise the fact that it is trapped in a time loop? If the actions are repeated, then surely, the thoughts are repeated. Finally, I know its impossible, but couldn't we have Leyla, (a decorative but useful female) back? The series would automatically improve. Ah well. I'm only female.

MEMBERS NOTICEBOARD

FOR SALE: A small number of SF Hardbacks and Paperbacks. Please send S.A.E. for list to Tom A Jones, 39 Ripplesmere, Bracknell, Berks, RG12 3QA

'Science Fiction Fans Do It With A Sense Of Wonder' - Great Stickers, Bumper Size @ 85p incl. P & P from: Nigel Morland, 282 Cromwell Tower, Barbican, London EC2Y 8AB

WANTED: Did anybody record the most recent two stories from Radio 4 ? The first one was 'DRAGONFLIGHT' by Anne McCaffrey, on 23 June 1980. The second was 'THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS' by John Wyndham, on Women's Hour from 28 August. If you have these recordings, could you contact Mike Brown, 20 Huntsmans Way, Milton Ernest, Nr Bedford, Bedfordshire.
(((Ed. Note: Please remember recording from the Radio is illegal without a licence!)))

NEW APA BEING STARTED: APA-SFAF (which apparently stands for SF & Fantasy) Send a Stamp for details to: Simon Bostock, 18 Gallows Inn Close, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, DE7 4BW. The rules are; 1) Contributions at least 2 A4 pages; 2) 27 copies must be made - 25 for members; 3) Mailings - Bi-monthly, with the first due December 1st(hopefully); 4) Members must include 30p for mailing costs - any left over will be returned; 5) SF/Fantasy material only; 6) Any printing means may be used, although not carbon copies.

Simon is also planning a new zine entitled SUPERNOVA; send 35p to reserve a copy. 40 pages are scheduled with features on Tolkien; H. G. Wells by Alan Dorey; Fandom by Steve Green; Children's SF by Andy Sawyer; and More! Cover by Luke Rainford. Contributions wanted (free copy if accepted). Art welcome(SAE). Subscribe now - £2.50 for 6 issues.

FICTION/POETRY MAGAZINES: There are a number of Poetry/Fiction Magazines starting up, principally motivated (it would seem) by a new grouping called THE POETRY/FICTION MAGAZINE ASSOCIATION. Details are available from Steve Ince - address see below. I shall include a special feature on this in the next issue so I would appreciate any details from aspiring Editors/Writers. In the meantime, I include some info. below on zines requiring contributions:-

INCUBUS: Details available from Steve Ince 5 Otterburn Street, Hessle Road, Hull, HU3 5HE. Contributions and PRE INCUBUS send a S.A.E. Half the fiction will be SF and half anything else!

FUSION: Poetry/fiction, 7500 words or less. Subject matter; any subject, except SF/fantasy. Ken Mann 22 Pennethorne Road, Peckham, London SE15 5TQ.



(Contd.)

MEMBERS NOTICEBOARD - Contd.

IN DEFIANCE OF MEDICAL OPINION: (otherwise known as IDOMO) - Fiction/poetry is wanted - preferably of the non-Space Opera variety, more the Speculative/Experimental side. Needed are Horror stories for issue 6; fantasy for issue 7; and 'violence' for issue 8. Any length considered up to 8500 words - artists are also being looked for. Details from Chuck Connor, Sildan House, Chediston Road, Wissett, Nr. Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 ONF.

Chuck also requires Non-SF &F fiction for SABSS; any length and any style - Poetry also included in the above. Artists:- front and back covers only, and again, of the Non-SF &F variety.

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# Competition

## Results and Reports

There were three competitions set in MATRIX 31 and, no doubt this proved a little too much as only the 'Book shop' attracted a sufficient number of entries.

Firstly, the 'Who shot JB' attracted one entrant! What an unimaginative lot you are. Jim Barker tells me that the competition will be held over to the next issue - so if you want to win the book token and the original artwork for the episode, try some speculative writing and send it to Jim.

Great success was achieved with Ken Walton's Book Shop puzzle. The position was slightly complicated by the fact that there were 32 Authors in the list and not 31 as stated - however that did not deter most of you. There was a total of eleven entries, all of a very high standard. Paul Baxter, Jon Wallace, Heather Richmond and Paul Flatley all failed by one - they did not identify SHIPWRECK by CHARLES LOGAN. Mickey Poland also missed narrowly by excluding GREGORY BENFORD's IN THE OCEAN OF NIGHT. Paul Pembina forgot RICHARD MATHESON's I AM A LEGEND. it was excruciatingly tough for Huw Davies and Nigel Smith who omitted to mention that THE MOTE IN GOD'S EYE was by NIVEN and POURNELLE.

I find it really mean to exclude Jim Darroch, especially when the competition did not ask for titles, but he listed DRAGONSINGER and HARPER OF PERN separately and did not list DRAGONSONG - both by Anne McCaffrey - sorry, I've got to find a winner somehow, and standards in the BSFA are very high you know.

And so, on to the winner, who is .....well, try as I could, I was unable to separate Clive Woodley and R Nicholson-Morton (Nik, to his friends). So, we have two very worthy winners, and although the competition itself did not state that a prize would be awarded, a tie-breaker will be organised to find a winner - fair enough?

The list of authors is given opposite; should anyone be in dire need of details of the books, please send me a S.A.E. and I will oblige.



## COMPETITIONS - Contd.

Adams, Anderson, Asimov, Bayley, Bass, Bradbury, Benford, Clarke, Cooper, Cowper, Dick, Ellison, Gerrold, Haldeman, Harrison, Heinlen, Laumer, Lem, Logan, McCaffrey, Matheson, Miller, Moorcock, Niven, Pournelle, Priest, Simak, Stableford, Varley, Wells, Zelazny, .....and, oh yes, .... McIntyre.

ADAM & EVE - Dave Langford reports, as follows:-

"You miserable worms. Three stories is not what I call a response. Paul Baxter sends a tale in the manner of Harlan Ellison - ("Sonofabitch, thought Adam. So now I'm stranded on this ball of dirt with some half-wit chick. But then he saw her eyes, saw a look that went deep deep and, maybe, connected...."). Paul Williams gets a Fairly Honourable Mention for his Zelazny pastiche - 'The Man Who Loved The Figment'.

James Corley sent an analytical letter: "This was a tough competition. The obvious Adam & Eve theme casts Larry Niven as Adam (possibly Pournelle could be a butch sort of Eve). The plot concerns Niven eating the apple of the tree of knowledge egged on by a serpent called Dyson. Larry then goes up to God and tells him to scrap all the work that's gone into Genesis and start re-designing billions of planets as Ringworlds because they're more efficient. In a fit of pique God chucks them out of the Garden of Eden. - Obviously you spotted that everyone would latch on to this story and decided to weed it out by ruling that the entries had to copy a noted author's style. Since Larry doesn't have a style it's an impossible task. - So instead of that one here's a totally up to the minute plagiarism of the only TV programme that can make Buck Rogers look intelligent...."

Here it is - and this one gets the prize:

### DAR ES SALAAM

Hello. I've always been puzzled about why we need lady doctors as well as vets. Isn't it amazing that a chap who's been trained to cope with everything from white mice to elephants can't tackle a medium-size human being.

### JUPITER

When I invented the communications satellite a hundred years ago who would have guessed that within one man's lifetime archaeologists would be digging up polystyrene chicken legs from around the base of the Great Pyramid of Cheops. But what does the cryptic inscription "British Airways In-flight Catering" stamped by unknown means onto these primitive artefacts actually signify?

### WESTON- SUPER-MARE

Next week's mystery will be why I'm sheltering under an umbrella when it isn't raining. And now that everyone in the world has died of boredom from watching this programme will Meg Richardson and myself really start the whole tedious business of homo televisionus up again?

%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

The Competition for this issue is also set, and will be judged by Dave Langford. A prize of a book token will be awarded to the winner. Details overleaf.

## COMPETITION M32

Your task is to write a clerihew about an SF personality. This is the eccentric verse-form developed by Edmund Clerihew Bentley (as of course you knew); a sample goes:

Sir Christopher Wren  
Said 'I am going to dine with some men,  
If anybody calls  
Say I am designing St Paul's'

Looks easy, doesn't it? I've tried it myself:

Jerry Pournelle  
When his 'Mote in God's Eye' wouldn't jell  
Asked friend Larry to cure its failings  
By putting in some aliens.

Now you go and do it. Answers on a postcard please - not more than three enteries per person - deadline is November 26. I look forward to some interesting rhymes for 'Arkady & Boris Strugatsky', or even 'Joseph Nicholas'.....

DAVE LANGFORD: 22 Northumberland Ave. Reading, Berks.

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MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - SANDY BROWN - REPORTS

It is eighteen months since I took on the post as Membership Secretary, and now a few facts and figures to bore the membership and let them know where some, at least, of their money goes.

In the year (eastercon to eastercon) 1979-80, we took in 302 new and recycled members, in the process sending out 805 pieces of mail (details to enquirers; answers to queries; info leaflets; membership cards and lists, to new members). We have a joining rate of roughly 3 new members for every 5 enquiries. The most common sources of people hearing about the BSFA, in descending order are:- 1) An ad we took out several years ago in a paperback; 2) The Writers and Artists Yearbook; 3) Visual Encyclopedia of SF; 4) International Science Fiction Yearbook; 5) Word of mouth. Of course there are other sources, such as posters, ads in convention booklets, bookshops, etc. but the ones above bring them in steadily. (Tell a friend today about the BSFA!)

In the first half of the year 1980-81, we took 150 new members and sent out 367 pieces of mail. This doesn't mean we're having a higher success rate - it's due to us having more information on our current advertisements and also more of our application forms flying around.

And now, an unsolicited testimonial. Newer members may not have heard of, and longer members may have forgotten, all the work put in by someone who's not on the committee, by his own choice (he was Chairman once, or Vice-President, as it then was); he arranges the mailing list and gets the address labels printed for your mailing; prints the membership list and updates it; sends out sample mailings and stuff to new members who join between mailing dates; does the Information Leaflet; carts all the mailings (900 of 'em) to the post office; takes in your memberships; and makes my job a hell of alot easier.....
Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you - Keith Freeman.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

The Leeds Connection...

The old order changeth - a new Matrix editor, a new Vector editor and the new litho machine. This is an important time for the BSFA and of course, revitalised we'll storm into the future in a blaze of glory. Well, something like it. Graham James is at the helm of Matrix now, bringing to bear his variety of interests both in and out of Science Fiction. Heavily involved with YORCON 11, the 32nd British Easter Convention, he also publishes Rubber Crab (journal, of the Leeds Group) and Ocelot with Round the Clubs man Simon Ounsley. And, like John and Eve (who are now BSFA Official Litho Machine Minders), Graham has connections with Leeds which I'm sure everybody but everybody realises is the centre of Fannish activity and dynamism in the UK. John and Eve first met in Leeds, before drifting south, and Graham has floated northwards from Burnt Oak taking in exciting places like Chiswick and Ipswich on the way. The wonderment of it all never fails to amaze me. Where would we all be without the magnetic power of Leeds? You scoff at such statements - well, even I have been unable to resist returning to Leeds especially so that I could sit in Graham's house and pen this column. Secret powers, the sources of which I cannot reveal for the sake of the nation, have inexorably drawn me here and I now compile this testament exactly as it was related to me in the Snug of the West Riding.

Thinking Is The Best Way To Travel

The first of the BSFA monthly meetings in London got off to a pleasing start on September 19th. Over 60 people turned out for this auspicious occasion at the Rutland pub on the Thames Embankment in cosmopolitan Hammersmith, and appeared to enjoy themselves. I, regrettably, arrived somewhat later than I had anticipated, but there were good reasons, the nature of which I cannot divulge for fear of endangering the continued existence of the BSFA. Still, many BSFA committee people were there, and judging by the many favourable comments made to me as I circulated amongst the groups of members who'd made the journey, the evening was well received. The next will be on October 24th, same time, same place. Again, we'll have a guest speaker (with time for a discussion) and we'll attempt a triffic quiz, whereby BSFA committee members display their complete lack of knowledge of things Science Fictional, and the assembled multitudes can have a good laugh at our ineptitude. The meetings will continue to be held at the Rutland on the third Friday of each month and further dates are highlighted on a flyer in this mailing. Given time, perhaps we can start smaller regional groups going, providing each area with their own means of meeting fellow members and introducing new people to the fold (and taking their £6 of course!). Whilst that does lie a little in the future, our immediate aim is to consolidate the London meetings. To do this, we need able and willing volunteers to run the meetings. Ideally, there should be two people, one to book the room in the pub, set dates out and liaise with the BSFA committee to see that all is well. A second person could be responsible for the organised programme part of the meeting, arranging events and speakers

and keeping in close contact again with the committee to see what is and what is not possible. So, anybody who wants to lend a hand, please contact me at 20 Hermitage, Woods Crescent, St. John's, WOKING, SURREY as soon as possible. Great.

We Have Got Nothing To Lose

The response to my suggestion that the BSFA tries to set up an initial attempt to hold the 1984 Eurocon in the UK has been small, but favourable. Both John and Marjorie Brunner are keen on the idea; Arnold Akien from Sutherland feels that it is the very thing that the BSFA should be involving itself with. However, let us not get too carried away with the pleasurable aspects of the idea, there will be a lot of work that needs to be done to project the whole lurching vehicle into top gear. John Brunner feels, and I agree, that several British representatives should present themselves at the next Eurocon in Hungary to boost our chances. This could prove to be costly, but would undoubtedly be an experience for those determined to make the trip. again, I must emphasise that whilst the BSFA is happy at the idea of assisting with hosting a Eurocon, we must ensure that it is a convention along British Lines. This is not to say we won't be catering for the influx of Europeans, far from it. But, to most British conventioners, cons are splendid fun, not overtly serious or formal. Our European counterparts, by nature of some political pressures, are often obliged to take SF far more seriously as an idea than we ever would. Hosting a con that is along 'traditional' European lines (heavy emphasis on more serious programming and less informality and frivolity as enjoyed over here) would only serve to pander to their tastes and alienate British fans. This defeats the whole purpose of our holding the event in the UK. the ideal set-up would be one where both camps get a taste of how things are both within and without the UK; however, perhaps we will tip the scale in favour of British organisation, just to show that we can run such an event. This is perhaps the crux of the matter. What do we want? I have strong ideas but have no desire to prejudice your thoughts as yet. Perhaps you'll continue to let me know what you think. It's what you're write arm's for.

Lazy Day, Sunday Afternoon (Time to put your feet up, watch TV)

At last the sun has deigned to show it's face here at the Matrix Editorial Office in North Leeds. Within, there's a hive of industry as our intrepid band of brave reporters fearlessly go about their appointed tasks; the switchboard is jammed with incoming calls from the length and breadth of the nation; copywriters trail reams of paper covered in scrawls from in-tray to out-tray; the printing presses feverishly hammer out copies of MATRIX by the million, the smell of ink on hot type mixing with the aroma of Earl Grey tea just pressed into my hands by one of our gallant crew of secretaries. The fever-pitch has ascended to astronomic proportions, the atmosphere taut like a tightly stretched elastic band - can we take all this pressure and survive?

Actually, it's not quite like that, as I'm sure you've suspected. I exaggerate ever so slightly. The tea was Ridgeway's Lemon Scented. Many apologies.

If You Thought SEACON Was Big...

Paul Kincaid, our transatlantic man of letters reports elsewhere in this issue on the World SF Convention held in Boston, USA over late August, early September. Over 8,000 people signed up for it,

demonstrating the popular appeal of SF these days - and surely, if the demand is there, shouldn't the BSFA be prepared and ready to supply it? There has been a mixed reaction to the idea of the BSFA expanding, but now we have greater flexibility with our financial resources - costs of production having been reduced by virtue of the litho machine - we propose to go ahead with a fairly intensive advertising campaign. Trev Briggs, our Business Manager, has got together a list of quotes and display rates for a number of magazines. With Jim Barker's specially commissioned advert, we'll be going ahead very shortly. Perhaps just after Christmas, folk will have a little spare cash which they won't mind sending in our direction. Got to be on top of the ball-game, you know. Mention of Paul reminds me that our Anglo-American correspondent Rochelle Reynolds tells me of Mr. Kincaid's brush with pyromania. Is watching a car burst into flames any way for a valued BSFA member to behave? I think we should be told.

A Minstrel In The Gallery

Joyce Day, secretary of the Science Fiction Foundation at the North East London Polytechnic, called me at work the other day, with an update on the BSFA library which is housed there. Whilst the books have yet to be completely catalogued, most of them fall between the years 1950 and 1970 - so bear this in mind when writing to Joyce for any books. Should you wish to make use of this service, Joyce would like you to send an initial credit of £2, cheques and PO's made out to the Science Fiction Foundation. This will start off by paying for books loaned to a member (2p per paperback, 3p per hardback) together with the outward postage charge. Books should not be kept longer than 21 days if at all possible, and of course you are responsible for returning them by post to the foundation. If anybody would like to assist in cataloguing the books, perhaps you could contact Joyce direct at the Foundation, in addition to myself. The Foundation's address is; 'The SF Foundation, North-East London Polytechnic, Barking Precinct, Lengbridge Road, DAGENHAM, ESSEX.' Additionally, any book donations will be welcomed - if you do have heaps of books that are surplus to requirements, let me know and we'll try to arrange collection.

Twilight Time

Being at the Matrix editorial office as this award-winning column is written its benefits, like, I can read the rest of the issue before anybody else and make comments about the contents. So, though Simon Ounsley was suffering from post-poetic trip to Greece disease, he has now been sufficiently restored to accompany the rest of the Matrix staff to catch a movie. The film in question Being There (starring Peter Sellers and the evergreen Shirley McClaine) is a lovely creation - but for students of the serious side of life, why not compare the opening few minutes to Kubrick's 2001? You'll find there's very little immediately in common - but as was noted by Graham at the time, you can view it on a number of levels.

Excuse Me, Can You Tell Me Where I Can Get Some Lunch?

Right - I'll be signing off now, much to your collected delight, no doubt. In the next issue, a thrilling preview of subjects to be discussed at our AGM at YORCON, plus a few thoughts on diversification within the BSFA. And now? food calls, so I'm away.

See you at Hammersmith? Alan Dorey

INFORMATION



NEW BOOKS

- GOLLANCZ: Michael Bishop & Ian Watson: Under Heaven's Bridge (November, £6.50)
Terry Carr(ed.): Best SF of the Year 9; (November, £6.95)
Ursula LeGuin: Threshold; (October, £4.95)
Gregory Benford: Timescape; (October, £6.50)

Apparently, Timescape will be marginally different from both the US hardback and paperback editions and, indeed, the eventual UK paperback edition from Spere, which will stick to the original US text. The reason is that one or two of Benford's characters make passing reference to the private lives of the Royal Family, which is supposedly illegal, and the reason why Gollancz asked for a minor re-write of the 'offending' passages.

A great pity really - the resultant 'trial' could have been extremely interesting. The UK SF world could do with a decent controversy.

- GRANADA: James Blish: Mission to the Heart Stars; (November, price unknown) & Galactic Cluster; (November, ditto)

- SHERE: M. John Harrison: A Storm of Wings; (November £1.35)
Karl Edward Wagner: Conan: The Road of Kings; (November, £1.00)
Gregory Benford & William Rotsler: Shiva Descending (October, £1.95)

- TRANSWORLD: The Brothers Hildebrandt & Jerry Nicholas: Ushurak (October, £3.50)

- PIERROT: Emma Tennant(ed.): The Straw and the Gold; (illus. large format inc. stories by Angela Carter, Ballard, Peter Redgrove, Alison Lurie; date unknown, £8.50)
Rob Holdstock & Malcom Edwards: Tour of the Universe (illus. large format 'non-fiction'; date unknown, £7.95)

- ARROW: E C Tubb: Dumarest 17: Prison of Night; (October, £1.25)

- PAN: Richard Cowper: Profundis (October, £1.25)

EDITORIAL NEWS

Ted White has been booted out of Heavy Metal, apparently because he was de-emphasising the pictures in favour of the words (once again, illiteracy and the trend to pre-digested pabulum gains the ascendancy, observes Joseph Nicholas).

James Baen has also gone from ACE apparently because the Ace Management were less than happy with the relentless agitprop with which Baen was filling the list, and, in particular, Destinies.

OTHER NEWS

Moorcock is said to be writing fantasy again; projects include

a fantasy for Pocket Books entitled The Warhound and the World's Pain ; another Oswald Bastable novel and, possibly, some more Elric; also, another Eternal Champion novel. His non-fantasy novel (first of four volumes) - Byzantium Endures is due from Secker and Warburg in January. (source - Fantasy Media)

The North London Poly's interviews for 'Writer in Residence' have been concluded and my sources tell me that a certain Colin Greenland has been selected. Congratulations to Colin who has been a regular reviewer for Foundation.

Would you believe that a fourth 'Dune' novel is rumoured to be entitled 'Sandworms of Dune' - ye gods!

Better news is that John Sladek's new novel will be Roderick, due from Collins.

I note, according to the latest LOCUS, that "Forest J. Ackerman has announced the presentation of the ... '1980 Galaxy Award and Trophy for Best Novel of the Year consistent with the tenets of the Society for the Advancement of Science Fiction and Spirituality....' - We're not certain what all this means, but the award has been given to Donald F. Glut for The Empire Strikes Back." The mind boggles!

HUGO AWARDS

I shall not comment that they're not worth the paper they're written on - you either know that already or someone will soon tell you. Anyway, here they are, in all their glory, as presented at the 1980 World Convention in Boston:-

FAN ARTIST: Alexis Gilliland FAN WRITER: Bob Shaw

FANZINE: Locus PROFESSIONAL EDITOR: George Scithers

PROFESSIONAL ARTIST: Michael Whelan DRAMATIC PRESENTATION: ALIEN

NON-FICTION: The Encyclopaedia of Science Fiction (ed. P Nicholls)

SHORT STORY: The Way of Cross & Dragon - George R Martin

NOVELETTE: Sandkings - George R Martin NOVELLA: Enemy Mine -

Barry Longyear NOVEL: The Fountains of Paradise - Arthur C Clarke

OTHER AWARDS

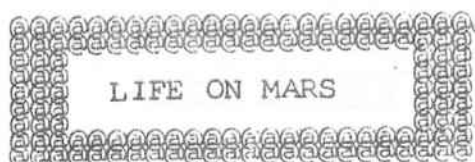
Tom Disch (YORCON US Guest of Honour) was awarded the John W. Campbell Memorial Award for ON WINGS OF SONG.

Congratulations also go to Dave Langford who added yet another plaque to his enormous collection, being the beneficiary of The FAAN Award for best Fan Writer. Well deserved I might add to Dave who, incidentally, is the YORCON Fan Guest of Honour.

CONVENTION UPDATE

1981 World Convention - DENVENTION 11 - Box 11545 Denver CO 80211 (Sept. 3-7) Guests; C L Moore, Simak, Hevelin, Ed Bryant.

Apparently, Keele University are planning another UNICON - in September next year - no further details available yet.



LIFE ON MARS

WHY NOT JOIN A GROUP?

Yes, I did have a good holiday, thank you. I went to Greece following in the footsteps of the immortal Lord Byron, who carved his name in the marble of the Temple of Poseidon at Sounion, then promptly sickened and died (of consumption, it was put about, though I have it on good authority it was really acute diarrhoea). For myself, I scratched my name on a lavatory wall on Thassos and came home to Yorkshire to sicken and die with home comforts around me (and not of consumption). Yes, I'm ill again (!), and once again braving my appalling symptoms to bring you another edition of this controversial and thoroughly tasteless column. (Pause for sip of Lucozade). Damned continental water!

Since I didn't make it into print last issue (except in the letter column at last, after all these months!) I've got a fair amount of info to impart this time, much of which I received several months ago, so apologies to all concerned for the delay. While I'm feeling apologetic, I'd better add a placatory note about the local club posters which aren't ready yet, I'm afraid, due to holidays, illnesses, the artist moving house, the weather, you know how it is etc, etc. As soon as they're ready, I'll announce the fact in this column (next issue, hopefully). Meanwhile, no more requests for them please, and profuse apologies to those who have already written in. You have not been forgotten.

And now, at the risk of sounding like Sue Lawley, it's time to catch up on what's been happening nationwide.....

BELFAST

I've often been heard to bemoan the fact the pubs in Leeds, that otherwise perfect example of a metropolis, close with sickening punctuality at 10.30 every night, even on Fridays and Saturdays so I can sympathise with Graham Andrews, who writes from Belfast that venues are difficult to find because many bars close at nine o'clock. At the time of writing (a couple of months ago), the Belfast group were meeting at a place called the Blackthorn bar, but the venue may well have changed by this time, so if you're interested in going along to this informal group (Graham is the secretary and James White is the president) contact Graham at 53, Columbia Street, Belfast, BT13 3HL or on Belfast 754919.

Thanks for the info, Graham.

BIRMINGHAM

The Brum group is Britain's largest regularly meeting SF society, so this mention is long overdue. Thanks to Chris Morgan of 36 Hollybrow, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 4LX, for sending me some of the group's newsletters. They meet on the third Friday of each month at the Ivy Bush pub on the corner of Hagley Road and Monument Road, Edgbaston, BIRMINGHAM 16. New members are always welcome - the subs is £2 per person, and this can be sent to the treasurer, Margaret Thorpe, at 36 Twyford Road, Ward End, B'ham 8. At a recent meeting, author Robert Holstock punctuated his talk by throwing copies of his books into the audience - presumably they weren't

paying attention. Other events have included a talk by literary agent Les Flood, a barge trip, and a Dan Dare special.

The newsletter includes news (surprise, surprise) about the club and SF in general, book and media reviews plus, in one of the copies I was sent, an article by artist David Hardy.

The Brum group, of course, is one of the oldest (probably the oldest) groups in the country and is responsible for organising the annual NOVACONS, conventions which are held in Birmingham every November. The forthcoming NOVACON 10 is to be chaired by Rog Peyton, the famous book-dealer and Brum group stalwart.

BOLTON

On the back of an envelope I've just found, there's a cryptic message from Steev Higgins.

Bolton group now meet 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in 'Old 3 Crowns', Deansgate. Barman is hon member, so ask him.

Hmmm, ask the barman what, I wonder? Is some secret exchange of code-words required to gain admittance? Perhaps just a sworn assurance that you're not Steev Higgins and are not going to throw up. (don't worry, Bernard, I was making jokes about Steev's sickly habits for many years before you wrote to me). There's more to Steev's message, but we don't reach that until M for Manchester. Everything in its proper place.

CARDIFF

The Cardiff and District group meets at the Crwys pub on Crwys Road in Cardiff on the third Sunday of every month (time 8.00 pm). They are eager to recruit new members and to contact other groups in the area. they plan to have guest speakers, produce a fanzine, hold a mini-convention next year, and to run a writers' workshop. If you need any more incentive to get in touch with them, their president is none other than the famous writer and fancy dress contestant Lionel Fanthorpe.

Secretary Tony Donovan can be contacted at 29 Llanbleddian Gardens, Cathays, Cardiff, CF2 4AT.

GLASGOW

There's no keeping those Glaswegians down, is there? (however much we try). I've heard from Harry Balen, president of the brand new Glasgow University SF Society. There should be plenty of publicity around the university, so if you're interested, get in touch with them. Harry, by the way, can be contacted at 69 Castlehill drive, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 5LB.

HARROW

Just a quick note to thank all of you at the One Tun meeting the other month who welcomed me to London by informing me that I'd inadvertantly suggested to P D Wright of the Harrow group that he get in touch with himself. I'm surprised nobody wrote in to complain. I'll pass on fairly quickly, pausing only to apologise and to mention that P D himself didn't seem too upset because he willingly bought me a pint when I suggested it. (Thanks P D.) At least it shows that people actually do read this column, if only while waiting for the One Tun to open.

HIGH WYCOMBE

Chris Lewis must have enjoyed the weekend he spent in Leeds a few months ago because he's gone down South again eager to get things moving in High Wycombe. The group meet on the fourth Thursday of each month in the rear bar of The Roundabout, Bridge Street, High Wycombe. They've already paid a visit to the Hitch-Hiker show and some members are going to Novacon. Anyone interested can contact Chris at 4 Southfield Road, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP13 5LA or telephone H. Wycombe 39022.

ILKESTON

Simon Bostock writes from 18 Gallows Inn Close, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, to ask about groups in his area. Know of any?

Simon is also planning a sercon-zine called SUPERNOVA, and is hoping to organise an APA - see elsewhere in this issue for details.

MANCHESTER

Alright Steev, you can stop holding your breath now,

.....the MaD (Manchester and District) group have moved to the William Shakespeare pub, which is just behind Lewis'.

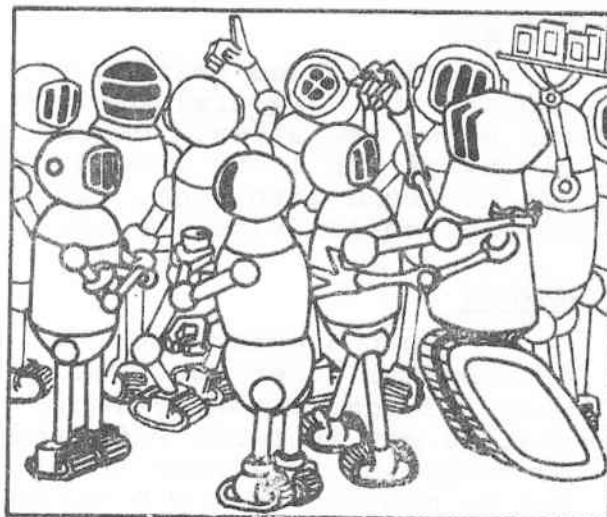
Thanks Steev. (The poor lad's turned a funny colour.) The times of the meetings are unchanged, I presume, so it should be.... (quick flick through the files)..... the first and third Wednesday of every month.

SALISBURY

I mentioned in my last column that Roger Whittington had got a group started in Salisbury but I didn't have time to mention that two members of the group are writing an SF play for the local Arts Theatre, and Matrix readers are invited to bid for the film rights! (Let us know how it goes, Roger.) He is also interested in getting kids to read SF, and to this end he's taking some reading groups for youngsters which are organised by the local library. Anyone interested in such altruistic activities?

SOUTH EALING

"The South Ealing Friends in Space Society (SEFISS) have been meeting unofficially for some months now in a local pub and have only recently decided to structure ourselves into a formal organisation. Being of sound minds and above average intelligence it is the belief of the SEFISS that so much of what is called science 'fiction' is indeed science 'fact'. In particular, we believe that there are intelligences not of our present earth who can and do influence the thoughts and writings of certain authors without the author being aware of it himself. Some of the descriptions of alien life that you may read are in actual existence.



Granted, most is poorly written but it is often true.

"Our members believe that it is essential for us to remain open-minded and receptive to possible contact, physical or telepathic, from these aliens. Someday one of us may be blessed with a vision and end up with a best-seller. To keep our minds receptive, we often practice the achievement of altered states of consciousness at our meetings. The nature of achieving these states is of course strictly a secret SEFISS-known ritual but let me say that it does work. Some members reach such altered states during meetings that they have to be assisted home. It is in these altered states that some of our most creative levels have been attained. We believe that this is when contact possibility is at its greatest.

"Because of the nature of our group and its practices we feel we can't let just anybody participate with us. As I said earlier, we are select. However, we do want to encourage those of like mind to join with us. We shall continue to meet every Sunday in the back section of the Queen Victoria, The Green, Ealing. Those who feel they'd like to join us should show up on Sunday evenings and give The Sign so that we may recognise you and decide whether or not you would be suited for the Friends in Space. The Sign is very simple: hold the back of your hand to your forehead with the fingers pointing straight up. If we decide to accept you, we will reciprocate the sign and introduce you to the True Way."

The above missive comes from someone called R.I. Sirius and there's no address. Thanks R.I. It must be murder down south trying to alter your state of consciousness at over 50p a pint.

STOUR VALLEY

Heartening news from Alex Stewart in Colchester, who writes to say that last column's mention brought 5½ members along to the newly-formed Stour Valley group and they've now found a suitable pub for their meetings. I guess it would be over-kill to mention again that Alex can be contacted at 11A Beverley Road, Colchester, but never mind, we're on to our last item.....

WEST MIDLANDS

Thanks to Geoff Boswell of 59 Sorrel Walk, Stour View, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, DY5 2QG, for sending me info on his new group. Sorry you're last, but if you'd called yourselves the Midlands (West) group this wouldn't have happened. (next time I'll probably hear from a group called Aardvark). The West Midland group want to attract members from Wolverhampton, Stourbridge, Redditch, Worcester, Wall Heath, Dudley and places like that. They're producing a fanzine called EVENSTAR and a news-sheet/progress report called LASERHEART, although the group itself is still in the process of formation.

The group has received much publicity in the local press, such as

"To boldly go where no man has gone" Dudley Herald, and
"Geoff's aim is a club that is out of this world"

Express & Star.

"There's still the County Express to come" boasts Geoff in the news-sheet, and reading between the lines I can trace scarcely a twitch of apprehension. Hmmm, sounds like meglomania setting in. I should know, I've seen the signs before - Alan Dorey used to live in Leeds before he was famous. Still the press reports seem to have attracted about half a dozen prospective members already so it won't be long before the group starts up in earnest. If you're interested, contact Geoff at the address above.

1981 CLUB DIRECTORY

I now have information on about thirty-five groups on file, so that the 1981 club directory should be a fairly comprehensive listing. To make it as up-to-date as possible, I'm going to adopt the following procedure.

1) If I've heard from you in the recent past then I'll assume that unless I hear from you, the information I have is up-to-date - in some cases this will just be a contact address. According to the Ounsley scale of temporal assessment, "fairly recent past" is defined as

this term	for university and college societies
since the start	for all others
of May (the approx.	
date of the last	
listing)	

This means I won't be contacting the groups at Belfast, Birmingham, Bolton, Cardiff, Dundee, Glasgow University, Harrow, High Wycombe, Manchester, Salisbury, Solihull (SOLARIS), South Ealing, Stour Valley and West Midlands. The entry for these groups will be based on the information I already have, though you're more than welcome to send in an update if you wish.

2) With the other groups, I will send you a copy of the entry I propose to make and an SAE. What I'd like you'd to do is to write back and confirm that it's up-to-date, or send me the appropriate corrections. If I don't hear from you at all, then there won't be any entry.

3) The letters will be going out in October to the appropriate groups and the deadline for replies will be 12th December.

OK? If anyone can think of a less complicated way of doing it, please let me know as soon as possible. Otherwise this contribution of mine to British bureaucracy will proceed as outlined above. The directory should be ready for the February mailing and will be plastered all over the walls of the YORCON 2 fan-room, along with a suitably colourful map.

And that's all for this issue. Any entries or updates for the directory, plus all other information (don't forget I'm always very grateful for material which includes more than just the bare facts - it helps to make the column more readable) should be sent to the usual address,

13A Cardigan Road, Headingley, LEEDS 6.

See you next time

Simon Ounsley

Rob Jackson looks at recent SF and fantasy-related small press publications, including fanzines. Covered this time are overseas publications received during June and July 1980, and all publications received during August and September. For review post to: 8 Lavender Rd., West Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT19 9EB.

On the Carpet

Abbreviations and symbols used:

- F* Recommended fanish fanzine (i.e. about fans' personalities and social lives).
Fic* Recommended fiction zine (i.e. largely containing stories and/or poetry).
G* Recommended genzine (i.e. about a variety of subjects including SF and fantasy).
N* Recommended newszine.
P* Recommended personalzine (i.e. largely editor-written fanish zine).
S* Recommended zine mainly about SF or fantasy.

- The Usual Available for trade (exchange) with other fanzines, letter of comment, or contribution of written or artistic material. If the editor gives a price, it is listed; if not, an initial sample is available free from most editors (provided they've got copies left): just write, politely, and ask.
Page sizes FC (foolscap): 13" x 8". A4: 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". USQ (U.S. quarto): 11" x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Q (quarto): 10" x 8". A5: 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 5 $\frac{7}{8}$ ".
Printing D: duplicated. L: lithographed. X: Xeroxed (photocopied). R: reduced typesize (like this, giving methods more words per page).

Corrections and Explanations Dept.

- (1) About the importance of fanfiction. I've had a couple of comments in letters from people who justifiably want to defend fanfiction but who don't seem to have grasped the implications of my prefatory remarks last time. I don't think I expressed my views clearly enough, so let me expand. My final sentence last time was "... those who do show talent in fiction writing in fanzines deserve our special attention." I said that the proportion of good fiction in fanzines is lower because fiction writing is a finer art than mere reportage. Therefore, fiction is more of a challenge to write, and those who are willing to submit their early works to public gaze deserve our encouragement when something goes right. That's why I've introduced the new category of recommended zine above. ... There, Chuck. Have I used some words right for a change?
- (2) One or two Matrix readers haven't realised that it isn't necessary to write a letter of comment on a zine they haven't seen in order to receive a copy. If no price is given, a polite letter saying "I'd like a copy of your fanzine if you've got any left" is fine. (If you read about the fanzine here, say I sent you, so the editor knows who to blame.)
- (3) More about letters of comment. One editor recently had a small grumble in his fanzine, a justifiable one that I'd like to tell you about. He'd run out of recent copies of his fanzine, so sent some of you back issues of a different fanzine with a similar flavour to his current one. However, at least one of those who received a back issue wrote back disappointedly because there wouldn't be another issue of that zine in which his letter could be published. That attitude begs the question of whether letterwriters have an automatic right to see their letters in print anyway. I think they don't. If you write a letter of comment, it's for the editor's benefit — after all, he did the work of producing the fanzine, and wants his reward; if he thinks your letter is of interest to the readership, and he's got room, he'll publish it next issue. The letterwriter's reward is primarily the next issue of the fanzine, and only secondarily to see his own letter in print. Matrix is a special case. It has tended to have a particularly long lettercolumn under each of its last three editors because they saw Matrix as a BSFA members' forum as well as an information service.
- (4) Finally, I must apologise to Paul and Cas Skelton for reviewing their zine Small Friendly Dog when they prefer it not to be reviewed. They must have said that in a very obscure part of last issue, as I didn't see it. So none of you send for it, now.

Now, the catching-up exercise on fanzines from overseas I received in June and July 1980.

North America and Canada

Airfoil 3, 7, 8 (Arthur D. Hlavaty, 250 Coligni Ave., New Rochelle, NY 10801, USA; editorial whim or SASE; USQ RL; 4, 2, 4pp.) Good little personalzine, largely conreports, with epigrams: "If power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely, where does that leave God?" and "Sue-Rae Rosenfeld says that brain damage causes disco. Others think it's the other way around, but the correlation is obvious."

Arecibo 8 (Darryl Williamson, 1207 Paquin St., Apt. A, Columbia, MO 65201, USA; \$1.75, \$9 for 4, or the usual; USQ ditto; 38pp.) The purple print of my copy is so faded as to be almost illegible. General contents, with lively discussions about recent films and TV series, plus letters and chat. Art that wasn't much good even before being badly printed. (No. 10 is better produced: see next section.)

The Diagonal Relationship 13 (Arthur D. Hlavaty, address above; \$1 or the usual; USQ RL; 16pp.) Genzine with rather chewy and paranoid political philosophising coming to the justifiable conclusion that you can preach, but if

you try to coerce others by converting them you're infringing their liberty. Also an essay in praise of good porn.

G* DNQ 25, 29, 30 (Taral, 1812-415 Willowdale Ave., Willowdale, Ontario M2N 5B4, Canada, and Victoria Vayne, PO Box 156, Stn. D, Toronto, Ontario M6P 3J8, Canada; £1.00 (cash) for 4 or 1-for-1 trades, 2 if you send copies to both editors; USQ D; 30, 22, 12pp.) Formerly the Canadian fannish newszine with an Anglophile slant; now becoming more of a genzine with a very strong awareness of fandom's past and traditions. They perform a very useful — and entertaining — service reprinting some classic articles from old fanzines; no. 30 is a complete reprint of Le Zombie 63, a fanzine Bob Tucker published as a runup to being fan GoH at the '48 Worldcon.

Driftwood — A Preliminary (Rochelle Reynolds, 1840 Middlesex St., Apt. 23, Lowell, MA 01851, USA; the usual, or contributed material for next issue; USQ X; 6pp.) Rochelle is very taken with British fandom, so wants to do a zine about (or as part of) it; she announces this here.

F* Fast and Loose 8, 9 (Alan Bostick, Brokedown Palace, 5022 9th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98105, USA; the usual; USQ D; 4, 12pp.) Another fanzine, like DNQ, with an awareness of fannish tradition. In no. 8 Alan advises everyone to vote in the FAAns (Fanzine Activity Achievement Awards), and Ted White reminisces about fan life in New York in the Fifties; and in no. 9 Ted enlarges on this — cockroach-infested life in New York. Also in no. 9 Allyn Cadogan describes something very up-to-date — how a group of San Francisco fans put together a regular weekly hour of SF material for public access TV — sometimes interviews, sometimes a loony SF serial featuring Princess Pooky-Wooky and a dry-ice volcano that nearly didn't work, among other things.

G* Graymalkin 4 (Denise Parsley Leigh, 121 Nansen St., Cincinnati, OH 45216, USA; \$1 or the usual; USQ L; 50pp.) Neatly produced and enjoyable large genzine. A fair amount of personal revelation, the most honeyed bit being Bob Tucker's piece about timebinding (a concept originated by Robert Heinlein in 1941 and taken on by fans, meaning the ability to see past and future as a coherent whole and where one stands in the present) in which Bob remembered a shy young man wanting to be introduced to an unfamiliar girl at the 1956 Worldcon. Bob introduced them in his inimitable way, though he hadn't met the girl either. Then last year their 19-year-old daughter introduced herself to him at a regional con. She wanted to; she owed her existence, indirectly, to him.

The Hog on Ice 9 (Creath Thorne, c/o Route 3, Box 202, Savannah, MO 64485, USA; for FAPA members and friends; USQ D; 10pp.) Personalzine that examines Destinies and finds it adolescent, and reprints an intelligent letter from an old fan (Redd Boggs) on a past issue.

Ibid 30 (Ben Indick, 428 Sagamore Ave., Teaneck, NJ 07666, USA; for the Esoteric Order of Dagon or editorial whim; USQ D; 22pp.) Fantasy/horror fanzine about a Walter de la Mare play, Lon Chaney, and yet more indexing of H. P. Lovecraft. Charming interior cartoons by Jerry Collins: a name to watch for.

Intermediate Vector Bosons 2 (Harry Andruschak, PO Box 606, La Canada-Flintridge, CA 91011, USA; the usual or \$1.00; USQ, ditto; 28pp.) Most noteworthy part of this genzine is the reprint of a 1972 Ray Bradbury article lamenting the loss of his Mars to the march of science: of interest to Harry because he works for NASA. In the letters Greg Benford says "Agree about SF writers getting their science out of a whisky bottle, mostly."

Lines of Occurrence 1 (Arthur Hlavaty, address as Airfoil; the usual; USQ RL; 6pp.) Personalzine more about SF and cons, less philosophical and illuminatus!-influenced than its predecessor Airfoil.

Love Makes the World Go Awry 3 (Fran Skene, 207 W. 21st Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 2E4, Canada; the usual or \$2 for 4; USQ L; 10pp.) From a brief catharsis-by-mail this has grown to a varied personalzine, and an enjoyable one at that. Fran writes of her success in using her nous to put together a slide projector setup no-one else knew how to deal with though the rest had used it before. Also lots of nice, sympathetic locs about going through bad patches.

Meinblatt! 45 (Dave Wixon, Box 8600, Minneapolis, MN 55408, USA; editorial whim; USQ L; 4pp.) Minneapolis fans have a crazy sense of humour. This shows up well in this zine in which Dave tells how he and Ken Fletcher nominated Woscar the (real) Wombat as the Marsupial Party's Presidential candidate and got a funny write-up in the local paper for it.

G* The Monthly Monthly 9 (The Gang of Four, c/o Robert Runte, 10957-88 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 0Y9, Canada; the usual (2 copies of your zine in trade) or \$9 per 12-copy year; USQ D; 18pp.) Reliable, lively genzine. Not only do they publish regular review columns on books (Doug Barbour) and films (Bill Beard) which are by fans good enough to get into their local paper and onto their local radio station respectively, but the editors themselves write very well and publish equally good, atmospheric stuff by occasional contributors (e.g. Taral's piece this issue on fantasies in the car on the way to a con). And it really is monthly.

Oxymoron 1 (Patrick Nielsen Hayden, address as for Fast and Loose; editorial whim; USQ D; 2pp.) This came with F&L and contains opinions as to how the FAAn Awards can be made more relevant and warning people not to take the possible revival of legendary fanzines like Energumen and Warhoon too reverently.

Raffles 3 (Stu Shiffman & Larry Carmody, c/o 19 Broadway Tce. #1D, New York, NY 10040, USA; the usual (2 trades, please) or \$1 or "old copies of Hyphen, Warhoon etc"; USQ D; 26pp.) A fanzine with a preoccupation with fan mythology: Taral on a fan who invented a whole fandom, Joe Siclari on Gary Farber's persecutory experiences Avedon Carol on post-Iguanacon financial rumours, Sandra Miesel on "The Passion and Martyrdom of St. Harlan Ellison", and twin editorials, the whole well illustrated by Stu Shiffman.

The Rogue Raven 29 (Frank Denton, 14654 8th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98166, USA; editorial whim; USQ D; 10pp.) Pleasant natter, reflecting Frank's personality. Subjects include various travels including Seacon, what his kids are up to (one is in a rock and roll band), and a spell of jury duty.

Skiffy Thyme (Ned Brooks, 713 Paul St., Newport News, VA 23605, USA; trade or editorial whim; USQ D; 42pp.) Pleasant hotch-potch genzine. Some letters, a good long Season report, comprehensive fanzine reviews, book reviews, including small press fantasy — Ned is a collector and huckster; and a list of things he has for sale.

TNFF (The National Fantasy Fan) vol.40 no.2 (Owen K. Laurion, 6101 Central NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108, USA for NFFF members and others whose fanzines are mentioned; 8½" x 7" RL; 32pp.) Clubzine of the (American) National Fantasy Fan Federation, which is smaller by far than its British counterpart the BSFA. Contains information on fanzines, contests for members, fan news etc. Not very lively; almost no feedback or discussion.

Typo 9 (Victoria Vayne & Taral, addresses as for DNQ, which it accompanies; USQ D; 8pp.) Lettercolumn supplement to its parent fanzine. Aussie fan Jack Herman complains about the Swedish '83 Worldcon bid taking his surname in vain; also FAAn discussions.

Undulant Fever 5 (Bruce D. Arthurs, 3421 W. Poinsettia, Phoenix, AZ 85029, USA; the usual; USQ D; 6pp.) Personalzine. Bruce's pleasure at his and his wife's new house is diluted by ravaging foliage, and he reports on the ensuing battle (and casualty — himself). He also comments on changing times: a short-haired kid young enough to be his son looked at his long hair in the street and said "Are you trying to be a girl?"

G* The Whole Fanzine Catalog 14/15 (Brian Earl Brown, 16711 Burt Rd. #207, Detroit, MI 48219, USA; 2-for-1 trades or 4 for \$2; USQ RD; 54pp.) Very useful fanzine listings make up this zine; it's particularly useful for US zines, containing many I can't list here as I don't receive them. This massive catch-up issue also includes unused sheets from Warhoon 28, and other adverts.

Xenolith 2:4 and 3:1 (Bill Bowers, 2468 Harrison Ave., Cincinnati, OH 54211, USA; \$1, \$4 for 5, or editorial whim; USQ RL & D; 12, 10pp.) Bill has sensibly decided it isn't worth pretending this is a genzine, as there is so much introspective, personal material in it. He looks back over his years of publishing Outworlds, and lists some very apocryphal future contributions, e.g. Bob Tucker preaching the smooth joys of temperance.

Other Countries

G* Giant Wombo 3 (Leigh Edmonds and Valma Brown, PO Box 433, Civic Square, Canberra, ACT 2608, Australia; Aus50¢ or the usual; A4 D; 20pp.) Varied contents, ranging from a few days on a diving boat caught in a cyclone on the Great Barrier Reef very well captured in diary form by John Litchen, to a con report and discussion of how women should be stereotyped in SF.

S* Noumenon 35/36 (Brian Thurogood, 40 Korora Rd., Oneroa, Waiheke Island, Hauraki Gulf, New Zealand (note new address; some of the usual (send direct to Brian) or 10 issues for £4 seamail or £7.50 airmail to UK Agent, Keith Walker, 2 Daisy Bank, Quernmore Rd., Lancaster, Lancs; 10" x 7¼" RL; 28pp.) How Brian keeps so up-to-date and energetic is beyond me. Excellent, informative and entertaining fanzine largely about SF — visual (art and films) as well as written. Scholarly but readable article by Roy Shuker on "H.G. Wells: Utopia, SF, and the World State" given as a talk at Wellcon. Artwork, already good, improving. My only gripe is Brian's habit of not giving the name of an article's author until the end: I like to know who is addressing me as I read.

S* SF Commentary 59 (Bruce Gillespie, PO Box 5195AA, Melbourne, Vic. 3001, Australia; Aus\$1 or \$10 for 10, or some of the usual; A4 RL; 16pp.) A thinker's fanzine. Chris Priest's article on SFWA, "Outside the Whale", is reprinted, there are lengthy, thoughtful reviews, and a good short piece by David Grigg on how difficult it is to be labelled a "promising" writer — you are inhibited by the thought of living up to that promise.

Spin 2/3, 4 (Turun Science Fiction Seura, Box 538, SF-20101 Turku 10, Finland; 70p each (roughly), or £2 per year; A4 RL; 20, 22pp.) I was kindly sent this by Tom Olander, a Finnish fan. It's published by the only SF club in Finland. Nicely produced, lots of good art (mainly reprints from old SF prozines), and I think the contents are mainly about SF — but it's all in Finnish. Anybody who can read this, let me know.

Well, that's the Finnish of the fanzines from June and July. Now on to August and September.

SMALL PRESS PUBLICATIONS

S* Foundation 19 (ed. Malcolm Edwards for Science Fiction Foundation, North East London Polytechnic, Longbridge Rd., Dagenham, Essex RM8 2AS; £4 for 3 issues (1 year); A5 RL; 112pp.) The most scholarly magazine of SF criticism I know that still remains mostly readable. At times Ian Watson and John Clute approach impenetrability, but others like Charles Platt, Keith Roberts, Norman Spinrad, Roz Kaveney and Colin Greenland write quite clearly. I liked Norman Spinrad's answer on a panel when asked where he got his crazy ideas: "I held up the glass of beer before me and grinned moronically." Subjects this issue include Michael Bishop, and Japanese SF. This was Malcolm Edwards's last issue as editor.

S* Locus 235 (ed. Charles N. Brown; in UK, 12 for £6.00 seamail or £9.50 airmail from A.C. Atkinson, 28 Duckett Rd., London N4 1BN; USQ RL; 20pp.) One of the two main newsletters reporting on the US professional SF scene, the other being SF Chronicle. This issue the Locus Award results (based on a readers' poll) are announced, and various professional conventions and changes at magazines are reported.

S* Starship 39 (ed. Andrew Porter; in UK, £4.75 for 4 issues (1 year) or £9 for 2 years to Ethel Lindsay, 69 Barry Rd., Carnoustie, Angus DD7 7QQ; USQ RL; 52pp.) The smooth semiprozine; beautifully produced as usual. Nice Paul Lehr cover. Silverberg on the writing of Lord Valentine's Castle, Ellison on that of "I Have No Mouth and I Must Scream" (both fascinating), Michael Bishop, George R.R. Martin and others contribute.

War in 2080 Corrections (Dave Langford, 22 Northumberland Ave., Reading, Berks. RG2 7PW; 20p or 2 IRC's incl. post, profits to TAFF; half-quarto L, 4pp.) A list of corrections to the various hardback printings. The paperback (out next month — free plug) has most of these put right.

FANZINES

United Kingdom

N* Ansible 11,12 (Dave Langford, address above; 4/60p UK, 6/£1 Europe, 5/£1 elsewhere, or 2/\$1 (cash) US; Q RL/D; 6pp including inserts.) The British fannish newszine, including foreign SF news in the form of the Hugo results in no.12, and "Infinitely Improbable" snippets: "A Dark Star poster sighted in London cashes in on Star Wars by the addition of blazing guns to the spacecraft, and clinches it with a sticker saying 'From the pen of Alan Dean Foster, author of 2001...'" Duhhh. So that's why Arthur Clarke hasn't been writing much recently — he's been too busy being Alan Dean Foster.

G* Chimera 2 (Ian Williams, 6 Greta Tce., Chester Rd., Sunderland SR4 7RD; 50p or the usual; A4 D; 32pp.) Good Harry Bell cover on a genuine change of format: an SF/rock culture genzine with only small snippets of personal chat. Books, local gigs by small bands (no, not bands as tall as Ian; unknown ones), radio comedy, junk films, and locs largely on the whither-fanzine-fandom part of the previous issue. Worth getting, and shows a wider range of interests than fannish fans are sometimes thought of as having.

P* 1 Dead Hedgehog (Jim Barker, 113 Windsor Rd., Falkirk, Stirlingshire FK1 5DB; editorial whim; Q D; 10pp.) Beautifully produced and illustrated catharsis for Jim, telling the horrible story of how a completely innocent attempt to make an electrified glass hand at work ended up with him being arrested: it looked like a bomb.

Evenstar 1,2 (Geoff Boswell, 59 Sorrel Walk, Stour View, West Brierley, W. Midlands DY5 2QG, & Steve Berrington, 59 Arthur Rd., Tipton, W. Midlands DY4 0NN; the usual, I expect; A4, onesided Xerox; 12,12pp.) Lots of enthusiasm; most of the rest is yet to come. The print of Paul Higgs's story in no.2 was so faded it was virtually illegible, which is frustrating as what words I could see looked strung together fairly well. No. 1 had a Xerox of a short-short story by a Big Three author (I'm not saying who, as he might be reading this, and would win if he sued for breach of copyright). Geoff has written to me saying he's since been told that copying like this is illegal even if not for profit, and asking me to apologise on his behalf. He certainly won't do it again!

Forty-Two 2 (ed. Andre Willey for Hitch-Hikers Anonymous, c/o Joy Hibbert, "Knouchley", West Bank, Winstler, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 2DQ; £1.50 for 1 year (4 issues') membership (£3.00 for airmail overseas); A5 RL; 12pp.) Better produced and more up-to-date newsletter than the first, containing HHG fan news, songs, silly illos, etc. Hints of a Terry Jones/Douglas Adams SF film not based on HHG.

Gannible (Brian Temple, c/o Ian Williams, address above; given out at Silicon, possibly also available on request; A4 D; 5pp.) Silly Gannet take-off of Ansible, with Gannetfanzine poll results, imaginary news, and Star Wars-based faanfiction with esoteric Gannet references, "The Revenge of the Jordi". Among the characters is a medical droid with tweed trim who is getting a refit: "...I'm getting inlaid with coral." Who could that be?

Gross Encounters 8 (Alan Dorey, 20 Hermitage Woods Cres., St. John's, Woking, Surrey GU21 1UE; the usual; A4 D; 14pp.) Rather a bitty issue, with "Barry N. Malzweg" on about falling Albacon chairmen, Ian Maule on how his job as a Customs man doesn't really involve sitting reading porn all day, and a piece telling us about the joys of sport as an aid to drinking. Though Alan's never seen me play cricket, his description of how I do so is un-nervingly accurate.

Fic* In Defiance of Medical Opinion 4, parts 1 & 2 plus lettercolumn supplement (Aleck Butcher & John Connor, c/o Sildan House, Chediston Rd., Wissett, Nr. Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 0NF; the usual or "large cheques"; A4 D; 34 + 40 + 16pp.) After the slugging I got from the editors in last issue for reviews of previous ones (when all I thought I was doing was pointing out, lightheartedly, a few elementary errors — now put right — and list what of the contents I had room for), whatever I say this time is wrong — if I say it's improved I'm being weak, but if I say it's still rubbish I'm still prejudiced. So all I can do is say what I actually think: which is, the zine is now very readable indeed. The biggest improvement is in presentation, which makes the material within so much more accessible. There are plenty of sensible-sounding book reviews, poetry, much of which says something worthwhile (which from me is high praise), art which varies from the scratchy to the competent, and fiction much of which is well written, particularly that by Paul Badaski, Steve Ince and Catherine Mason (though Paul's had a mildly disappointing, hackneyed ending). The "White Overalls" triptych was very striking — though most psychiatrists do at least know something about why people with schizophrenic sensory overload withdraw, the experiences themselves were sharply presented.

New Church (Cyril Simsa, 18 Muswell Ave., London N10 2EG; the usual; A4 D; 10pp.) Brief, very sensible look at the SF magazine publishing scene in the UK — both pro and amateur.

A New Optimism for the Eighties (Cyril Simsa, address above; 10p stamp; A4D; 12pp.) A series of quotes from various sources on war, peace, religion, aggression and the essential humanity that remains. Says a lot in a non-linear, McLuhanesque way. Came with a 2-page word salad by Ben Burr (or "Benjumble Burrp").

F* Out of the Blue 2 (Harry Bell, 9 Lincoln St., Gateshead, Tyne & Wear NE8 4EE, and Kevin Williams, 9 Whitton Place, Seaton Deleval, Northumberland; the usual (trades to both editors); Q D; 18pp.) Very good smut of different kinds from both editors; Harry writes of a train trip with a full bladder and the memories it kindled of a

piss-artist friend of his youth, and Kev gives the lowdown on what it was like to run the nerve-centre of Seacon '79 and put up with bossy US authors and dotty committee members, like Roy Kettle when a security man reported someone smoking pot: "Oh great - I'll go and join them."

Periphery 3 (Jeff Suter, 18 Norton Close, Southwick, Fareham, Hants. PO17 6HD; the usual; A4 D; 18pp.) Special Joe Nicholas issue: as Jeff's bete noire (or eminence grise) he crops up all over the place. Pleasant Albacon report, likewise an account of a trip to France. Lively letters, including a very good one from Arnold Akien which is too long to quote. Also the start of a pro-whale serial.

Pre Incubus (Steve Ince, 5 Otterburn St., Hessle Rd., Hull HU3 5HE; one SAE; A4 D; 4pp.) Brief flyer announcing the forthcoming arrival of Incubus, a part-SF fiction and poetry zine with art and letters. As a taster there are two short-short stories and some fanzine reviews, though the latter won't be in Incubus itself.

Rubber Crab 4 (Graham James, 12 Fearnville Tce., Oakwood, Leeds LS8 3DU; at the Northern Tun or by editorial whim; A4 X; 10pp.) Leeds gossip, including a faan-fiction parody of the Leeds lot's hero, J.G. Ballard; plus details of the Arnold Tharg School of Famous Writing.

Rule 42 1 (C.C. Hughes, Dept. Psychology, University of Keele, Keele, Staffs. ST5 8BJ; 30p or trade; A5 RX; 16pp.) Pleasant genzine. Article asking everyone to remember the good bits of Robert Heinlein, news, and a weirdly fascinating article about a rummage on someone else's bookshelf.

G* Secondhand Wave 42 3 (Alan Ferguson & Trev Briggs, 26 Hoecroft Court, Hoe Lane, Enfield, Middx; "1 Metric usual (=1.046 old usuals)"; A4 X; 28pp.) "Computers and New Technology are the themes we stray from in this issue." Computer art, plus interesting snippets, including an impassioned plea not to snarl at The Empire Strikes Back just because it seems to be the thing to do. Many letters, and a free Irish pocket calculator where you stick your fingers through a bit of cardboard with holes in. Trev and Alan don't mention it, but the "clear" function is a sharp knife on a bit of string.

Fic* Self Abused, But Still Standing 1 (Chuck Connor, address as for IDOMO; 40p, trade or contribution; A4 D; 28pp.) Zine of experimental fiction and poetry, partly non-SF. Neatly presented; the worst thing about the zine is its title. Goodish conventional story by Paul Smith on a gang of sewer workers who live through the Bomb, and Mark Stephens has a longish shocker on a brain-police theme. Overall quality similar to Macrocosm, Rob Holdstock's early 70's ficzine. Good Pete Lyons art on the back.

Stomach Pump 2 (Steev Higgins, 18 St. Austell Ave., Tyldesley, Manchester M29 7FY; the usual; Q D; 14pp.) Personalzine mainly consisting of an article grumbling about the inoffensiveness of many recent British fanzines. "All good criticism is mainly negative," he says, and proceeds to act on that thesis. More cerebral and less emotive than early Joe Nicholas, though.

Time to Pick Up A Gherbil 1 (Mike Scantlebury, 31 Bosworth St., Beswick, Manchester M11 4AD; the usual; A4 D; 14pp.) Much of this is a J's'p' N'''k'r' fanzine review ripoff subtitled "A penetrating critical analysis that quickly turns into mere personal abuse." Contents occasionally hit the mark. Also some more serious bits, for example about a friend who suddenly and unexpectedly got married.

F* Twll-Ddu 18 (Dave Langford, 22 Northumberland Ave., Reading, Berks. RG2 7PW; 50p (for TAFF) or the usual; USQ D; 14pp.) The famous Langford personalzine, more intermittent now. Biggest laughs this issue for me were the bit about collecting urine for radioactivity checkups, and a typical fruitless AWRE day. Back cover quote: "Just heard I've won this year's FAAn award as fanwriter, which is nice. An explanation of this odd event may be found in the words of Roz Kaveney as she watched me coo over a Clive James book: 'Yes, you would like James - he's very funny, clever and shallow, just like you...' " Good point.

United States and Canada

Arecibo 10 (Darryl Wilkinson, Mike Trull and Peter J. Lowry, 1207 Paquin St. Apt. A, Columbia, MO 65201, USA; \$1.75, \$9 for 4, or the usual; USQ L; 20pp.) Genzine with book reviews, a wish-fulfilment Beatles interview and reunion concert review, and a thought-provoking piece by Peter on how fandom pulled him out of a bad patch.

Debris 7 (John Boston, 225 Baltic St., Brooklyn, NY 11201, USA; 1 IRC plus self-addressed envelope, publishable material, or the usual; USQ L; 6pp.) The fanzine of nutty comments from newspapers. This time there's a lot of Pseud's Corner type verbiage, enough to make your head spin. One bit is by John Clute in Foundation 18.

The Diagonal Relationship 14 (Arthur D. Hlavaty, 250 Coligni Ave., New Rochelle, NY 10801, USA; \$1 or the usual; USQ RL; 14pp.) Begins with a long wordy bit about the engineer as writer, with special reference to Robert Heinlein. Ends with locs on religion and sexuality. Heavy stuff.

F* DNQ 28, 31 (Taral & Victoria Vayne, addresses & availability as a few pages back; USQ D; 10, 14pp.) Bits of fannish news and articles including D. Langford's "Fall of the Mouse of Usher", a John Berry piece on the fun he had visiting his senescent mother in hospital, Taral's sensible fanzine reviews, and other good stuff. They officially announce an impending change of title to RSN (Real Soon Now).

G* Holier Than Thou 7 (Marty Cantor, 5263 Riverton Ave. #1, North Hollywood, CA 91601, USA; the usual; USQ D; 44pp.) "A rather abbreviated issue," it says: Marty must believe in big fanzines. He also believes in well illustrated ones: fascinating, indescribable scenes and creatures by Marc Schirmeister among other good stuff. Mike Glyer writes about why the changes in fandom are not all bad (he implies fanzines fans are rather anachronistic as there are so many other ways of communicating); Gary Deindorfer reviews fanzines; and letters.

G* Janus 17 (c/o SF³, Box 1624, Madison, WI 53701, USA; \$8 for 4 issues, or some of the usual; USQ RL; 40pp.) Now edited by a committee, the US's leading feminist sercon clubzine continues otherwise not much changed. Science articles by Ctein, book, film and fanzine reviews, con reports; all very competent.

Lines of Occurrence 2 (Arthur D. Hlavaty, address above; editorial whim; USQ RL; 10pp.) Personalzine with con reports and a New Wave retrospective. One relaxacon is to be held "every Friday the 29th of February (a schedule which should prevent people getting too jaded with them)." Yes.

F* Mainstream 5 (Suzle Tompkins & Jerry Kaufman, 4326 Winslow Place N., Seattle, WA 98105, USA; 3 for \$2 or the usual; USQ D; 40pp.) Extremely enjoyable fanzine about lots of things. Jon Singer regales us with his extraordinary knowledge of science, particularly food chemistry; fannish myths are explored, lively locs explore the purpose of TAFF and other topics, and Suzle reports on how she enjoyed Seacon expensively. Good art too.

G* The Monthly Monthly 10,11 (The Gang of Four, c/o Robert Runte, 10957-88 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 0Y9; \$9/12 issues or the usual (2 copies of trade fanzines); USQ D; 18, 20pp.) The same recommendations as for TMM 9 apply, but also there is a funny, realistic article by Christine Kulyk on the tribulations of supermarkets and a thought-provoking one by Dave Vereschagin on being a graphic artist for an advertising agency, having his ideas straitjacketed by his boss, and trying to break out. Get this.

Phosphene 8 (Gil Gaier, 1016 Beech Ave., Torrance, CA 90501, USA; \$2 or the usual; USQ L; 56pp.) Gil Gaier is a middle-aged but young-at-heart teacher with an openness in print about his feelings for other people that can be very infectious, but if you're at all a private person rather unnerving to try to imitate. I find it fascinating, though. Long, good Seacon report, plus 14 pages of Gil's excellent portrait photos, including lots of British fans. Quote from an Arthur Hlavaty loc: "I would prefer to speak of people being homophilic, heterophilic or biphilic, depending on which sex they like. It's interesting (and, I would say, unfortunate) how many people are strictly heterosexual and strictly homophilic."

SF Echo 28 (Ed Connor, 1805 N. Gale, Peoria, IL 61604, USA; the usual, \$1.50 or 5 for \$6; 4 1/4" x 7" D; 108pp.) A paperback fanzine, duplicated despite it. Pleasant, typical contents: Ed's conreports, book and fanzine reviews and letters.

Stefantasy 86 (William M. Danner, RD1, Kennerdell, PA 16374, USA; editorial preference; 5 1/2" x 8", letterpress; 24pp.) Unique fanzine, largely preoccupied with the dottiness of the world, including the history of science. Brilliant cutting from a Chicago paper about a man whose garage became inhabited by a skunk: keeping the animal, disposing of it and selling it were all illegal.

F* Telos 2 (Teresa & Patrick Nielsen Hayden & Gary Farber, Brokedown Palace, 5022 9th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98105, USA; the usual or \$1; USQ D; 42pp.) Another Fabulous Seattle Fannish Fanzine. The letterbox is full of them. Dick Bergeron in his column describes some particularly savage Joe Nicholas fanzine review quotes as showing "the esthetic of the motorcycle goon squad", and editorial discussion of the nature of fannishness that interested me, though it mightn't interest all Matrix readers. Whatever this fanzine's got, it has elicited superb locs from Terry Carr among others.

This House 8 (John A. Purcell, 2726 Girard Ave. S. #B-1, Minneapolis, MN 55408, USA; \$1, the usual, "even your little sister"; USQ X; 32pp.) Genzine with long, interesting Seacon report by Barney Neufeld, book and fanzine reviews and locs. Barney says at the end of Seacon he bumped into me and I was going to meet a plane from Gatwick. Odd. I don't remember going to Gatwick (over 20 miles). Either he didn't meet me, or he met me and misheard what I was doing, or I was so far gone by the end of the con that I did drive 40 miles and can't remember.

Other Countries

Foreign Fanzine 1 (Roelof Goudriaan, Postbus 90255, 1006 BG Amsterdam, Netherlands; the usual; A5 RL; 12pp.) Enjoyable, well written, but too brief zine — superbly written, in fact, for someone writing in a language (English) foreign to him. Good report on an awful Perry Rhodan con, sharp capsule book reviews, and cartoons, rather hesitant in line but featuring a dragon with a Snoopyesque sense of humour who crashes out at room parties and knows Joe Nicholas. (And that's positively the last time he's mentioned in this column.)

The Mentor 25 (Ron L. Clarke, 6 Bellevue Rd., Faulconbridge, NSW 2776, Australia; trade, substantial loc, or whim; Q D; 28pp.) Book reviews, minutely detailed article on Aussie fan history 1943-50, poems and a review of a Satanic mass. (Honest.)

S* Noumenon 37, 38 (Brian Thurogood; address, availability & UK Agent as 4 pages back; 10" x 7 1/4" RL; 24, 24pp.) Approving comments also as 4 pages back. Themes include early NZ fanzines, Lord of the Rings, academia, and Futures/Alternatives.

Q 36 C (Marc Ortlieb, 70 Hamblynn Rd., Elizabeth Downs, SA 5113, Australia; the usual or "a naughty in the bushes"; A4 D; 40pp.) Genzine which looks at Alice in Wonderland, The Black Hole, electric fences, conreports, and Icelandic sagas. Lots and lots of silly illos by John Packer featuring triffids and other silly animals.

Sikander 2 (Irwin Hirsh, 279 Domain Rd., South Yarra, Vic. 3141, Australia; \$1 or the usual; Q D; 28pp.) Very enjoyable fannish genzine. Editorial about Irwin's trip to America, a long cricket (yes!) review by Jack Herman which suited me fine, and David Grigg on how he learned slowly to type. Or maybe learned to type slowly. This fanzine must be good; it got a complimentary and entertaining loc from D. West.

BRINGING IT ALL BACK HOME



As usual there was a fine response to M 31. The suggestion made by Alan Ferguson for a 'recommended' reading list has provoked a number of comments - both for and against. Nik Morton, Paul Pembina, Heather Richmond, Nick Winguard, and Andy Sawyer all wrote in favour - Clive Woodley wrote, against. The arguments can be summarised by the latter two contributors. I have chosen not to include any recommended reads in this issue as I would prefer to hear your thoughts on the last two named fans before I make a decision. Sitting on the fence nicely, eh? Anyway, choose for yourselves - it's supposedly a democratic world in the BSFA.

ANDY SAWYER
59 MALLORY ROAD
BIRKENHEAD
MERSEYSIDE L42 6QR

I quite like the idea of the recommended titles. Alan is quite right, of course, to complain about the 'negative (or even negative) criticism': yes, we should do a lot more to promote the kind of SF we

think is good. The trouble is that when you read a great deal of SF you eventually reach a point where the repetition of the same old thing drives you totally up the wall and you begin to realise that much of it isn't worth the paper it's written on. And, moreover, it is far easier put up a convincing argument against a book than for it; simply because there is no such thing as the perfect book and any book will possess faults, the relative magnitude of which depends largely on the tastes and prejudices of the reader. So you find that you like a book despite, say, its predictable plot; there are other things in it - say, a subtle bit of characterisation, a particular piece of invention, a mood that the writer creates through the use of language, - that in your opinion outweigh its faults. But any honest piece of criticism must take into account what the critic feels is wrong with the book; otherwise what we have is not criticism but fanworship, which does nobody any good.

If that sounds depressing, remember that one of the functions of the critic is to point out the good as well as to condemn the bad, and in my opinion the best piece of criticism is that which takes you into a work of art which the critic has enjoyed and

communicates that enjoyment with such skill that you want to share it.

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CLIVE WOODLEY
29 CRAMHURST LANE
WITLEY, GODALMING
SURREY GU8 5RA

The idea of starting a recommended reading list (r.r.l.) sounds, in theory at least, a very noble idea, but in my opinion, this guide would be virtually meaningless to the potential SF enthusiast. What will he think of it? Not knowing the recommender as would be the case well over 90% of the time, how can the new fan know if he will like a particular book just from a few lines explaining why the recommender enjoyed it? Their tastes may not be similar so apart from buying a book and reading it (which would be an expensive 'hit and miss' affair), the new fan is little better off.

In effect you are simply creating another review section, although at least it would be constructive criticism as opposed to unnecessarily destructive criticism as practiced by certain incompetent reviewers who appear unable to express an opinion without using swear words to emphasise their point. (Admittedly this is acceptable in spoken English, but is surely unnecessary in the written form when the person has time to think of other words just as suitable.) These reviewers allow their own likes and dislikes to run wild, heavily biasing the review and thus preventing a clear, concise, meaningful and useful criticism.

ooooo Clive goes on to say that a better guide for reading lists would be to use the last poll conducted by Richard Smith and select from that the 'top' 50 novels. Alternatively, an up to date poll could now be conducted. Any takers, or suggestions for an annual 'top twenty poll'? Clive concludes his argument by saying that, from experience, he has found Sturgeon's Law very applicable to book reviews, and not just to the books themselves.

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Ken Mann also appears to have generated a pro and anti brigade, as the following two letters demonstrate:-

STEVEN J GREEN
11 FOX GREEN CRESCENT
ACOCKS GREEN
BIRMINGHAM B27 7SD

I'd find Ken Mann's diatribe on fandom amusing if it wasn't so obvious that he meant it to be taken seriously.

Ken's sermon is similar to those delivered by the more persuasive fringe religions: create an evil (in this case the natural grouping of fans within fandom) and then appoint yourself spokesman for the 'silent majority' (silent mainly because they don't exist). Of course, if Ken's followers take his advice as gospel, his walk to the promised land of total individuality will be a slightly lonely one, but that's probably too much to hope for.

What he's totally forgotten (or perhaps, misunderstood right from the beginning) is the very nature of the beast he presumably belongs to. If fans sincerely wanted to avoid each other, why would they bother to get involved with fandom in the first place? And all this guff about cliques and BNFs: just how many are there in this country anyway? Presumably this is an attack on the Dorey/Nicholas/Langford/etc. band of fans who take an

exceptionally active hand in the running of British SF fandom, but that 'elite' is hardly a conspiracy, just a group of hard-working fans who care a great deal about keeping the damn thing alive. Ken not only advocates assassination, but dissection. As for being a BNF, I don't think he need worry about that in the least.....

One thought strikes me: this business about fanzine reviewers never understanding the truly innovative writers. This couldn't be a between-the-lines plug for your ficzine FUSION by any chance, could it, Ken? And no, I'm not saying that simply because you rejected one of my stories: looking at the kind of material you print, I count that as a lucky escape.....

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~~00000~~ And now, in keeping with the balanced approach of MATRIX, Chuck Connor takes a different view, after first taking John to task for his comments in M31. (Oh, by the way, Chuck also makes an apology to Simon for his comments on the TC47M hoax in M30.)

CHUCK CONNOR
c/o SILDAN HOUSE
CHEDISTON ROAD
WISSETT
Nr. HALESWORTH
SUFFOLK IP19 0NF

I'd like to pick up on your comments at the end of Cyril Simsa's letter (Matrix 31) You say; "If 'Star Wars type' fans don't want to discover 'real' SF then they won't, no matter what we do." Are you suggesting that we should all go forth and tell people that they're not 'true fans' -

whatever that is - unless they either read 'So-and-so' or are a member of 'such-and-such'?

To me this smacks of a 'Holier than thou' attitude - and all because some people enjoyed a film and (maybe) joined an Appreciation Society.

Hmmmmmm, and who would you suggest as the leader of this 'fannish' crusade?

I would agree with Ken Mann when he says that people are more important than the established cliques - but at the moment it seems to be cliquish to be anti-clique. You cannot destroy the clique without forming a concerted effort - viz., another clique - to do it with.

To say that fandom has outgrown itself and outdated itself is a load of caca (that's Spanish). The thing that disproves this 'theory' is the amount of minicons being staged around the country (Unicon, Polycon, Anglicon - to name a few recent events - Beccon '81 to come). This surely proves that fandom is moving with the times (and thankfully away from the 'commercialism' that now seems inherent in 'national' cons).

The 'fan' has always been an individual - it's only the people who are fond of labels who believe that cliques exist. And you're right; "Hell, that's what fandom is all about anyway." Right on!

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~~00000~~ On Chuck's final note about Cons moving away from 'commercialism' - I'm not so sure. Two projects of late would seem to indicate the opposite, namely SPACE-EX 1984 and PROJECT STARCAST (1982). Both of these can be viewed as attempting to

cash in on the Sci-Fi boom at present. I say 'cash in' because they are clearly not being run by fans in the traditional sense. Although there have been reports that SPACE-EX is in serious danger of financial collapse, it nevertheless, doesn't detract from my point; the moves behind PROJECT STARCAST are even more serious. There is strong evidence with the organisers of that event that they are appealing directly to fans or new fans and not just at potential Star Wars/Buck Rogers type freaks. Witness their first 'PR' which is aimed at fans with its promises of '24 hour bars', and the traditional events you normally find at British SF Cons. However the vagueness of their so-called progress report indicates the paucity of the plans. Most of the specific events are either half-worked-out ideas, such as "we hope to invite over twenty professional writers..." - yet not one single writer is named; or pretentious projects such as"We might be able to launch a small object into the inner reaches of Space..." - They continue"we still have many details to work out about this...." - Understatement of the year!! There is no information in their literature on who they are, but Simon Bostock has gathered some info. Apparently the company is called POWER-PULSE PRODUCTIONS, the same people who sell old SF comics, and who made the fanzine STAR-TREK - THE MAGAZINE, and the cassette SOUNDZINE (which Simon says never appeared). Michael Gould adds some further comments on the matter:-

MICHAEL R GOULD
67 SOMERHILL ROAD
WELLING
KENT DA16 1PF

Despite the fears expressed about the problems which may arise for fan organised conventions as a result of this event, I feel that the size and impersonal nature of such an enterprise could spur the hardcore fan, as opposed to the occasional fan or Post Star Wars

general public, to keep the smaller fan orientated conventions going as they are, and that these would be well supported by the hardcore of fans as personified by those who join the BSFA. If this convention is being run specifically to cash in on the SF boom and make large profits, it should be remembered that as soon as SF goes through a slump, such an event would probably cease to be organized regularly, while the fan network and small conventions will almost certainly continue to exist through the enthusiasm of the fans.

It is here I think the BSFA will have an important role as it acts as a link between fans and groups from all over the country. These links, and a greater involvement by more people in fandom will I think be strengthened by events such as the monthly meetings held at the Rutland on Friday 19th, which brought together both people already involved in fandom and those like myself who've been so far inactive, just receiving mailings, etc. It is to be hoped that such meetings will bring a greater involvement of people in British SF, and that if vast Monolithic conventions do grow up, hardcore fans will be sufficiently enthusiastic to keep the smaller events going, if necessary co-existing with the 'SF Circus' events. I think in the end it will be up to the fans whether to keep going or let the professionals push us out.

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~~~~~ I agree with Michael's remarks, but I feel that an active opposition to PROJECT STARCAST is necessary. If you agree, perhaps you might let me have some suggestions as to HOW.

STEVE INCE  
5 OTTERBURN STREET  
HESSLE ROAD  
HULL  
HU3 5HE

The last MATRIX was the best for some time. Simon Ounsley's over-long club column was missing and the fanzine reviews were cut down drastically. (There is a sort of need for these two items in MATRIX but their usual length tends to crowd out

anything else.)

One thing I disliked in MATRIX 31 was the way Rob Jackson looked down his nose at fiction fanzines. Even the sentence, "God knows, though, I want to like it." doesn't succeed in covering up your general disdain, Rob. What the hell do you want these writers to do? Sit in corners and do unmentionable things because they can't reach the exacting standards of someone like you. If they were of pro standard, they would be getting their stories published in paying magazines and there would be no need for them to put their stuff into the pages of a fanzine where their talents would not only not get the monetary reward they deserved, but also the friction they received wouldn't be worth the effort.

Fanzines exist for a very good purpose - and I think more people are realising this - and that is to provide a platform on which new writers can show their stuff and get some kind of feedback. In this way the writer will improve if he has the capability and the confidence (mostly confidence), and finally, hopefully these writers will go on to having their stuff published in professional magazines.

What you, Rob, are effectively saying is, "If these authors come up with the goods then I will like them - and ficzines." But instead of this you should try the approach of: "Perhaps if I gave these ficzines a little encouragement, they will improve their standards enough for me to like them." It may be too much to ask, to change your thoughts after you have been brainwashed by years in the realms of fandom, but ..... it seems to me that you are perpetrating the feelings of the Gannets by snubbing fan fiction. What about having feelings of your own? What about being your own person? Aren't your fannish friends friendly enough to remain so despite what you might think?

It may seem that I'm singling out Rob Jackson by the last remarks I have made, but if there are others that go along with Rob's feelings, then you can enter your own name where his appears and look at it from there. Fan fiction isn't all bad. And everyone has to start somewhere.

And just because it is easier to write about friends and the goings on at cons, does this mean that the actual writing itself is anywhere near comparable? Equating ease with standard is a very poor cop-out indeed!

~~ppppp~~ Hmmm, fan fiction is always a subject to provoke a good (or at least reasonably fair) argument. The case against has been more than adequately covered in many fanzines. I don't agree with Steve's comments on Rob's fanzine reviews; fanzines are a major interest for many fans and hence deserve a fairly wide coverage in MATRIX - I can think of few people better qualified than Rob to do the reviews. As for Steve's slight on Simon's LIFE ON MARS column, I think that Simon has done a great deal to promote the establishment of a number of groups up and down the country and

and this surely must be good for fandom.

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I Also Heard From:

June Laverick, Kevin Busby, Mike Curtis (who wrote a long treatise in defence of HHGTTG), Steve Wilson (in defence of Mick Holder), R T BEAN, Dave Watkins (in defence of Isaac Asimov), and William Bains, whose response to Joseph Nicholas has been duly passed on to the said person.

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NB: Page 10 also contains a report from Sandy Brown, sorry Sandy, but I did remember to include the following, as requested:-

BSFA MEMBERSHIP RATES: £6.00 per annum.

Renewals to: Keith Freeman, 269 Wykeham Road  
Reading RG6 1PL

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IN THIS MAILING

Vector 99  
Matrix 32  
Paperback Inferno Vol 4 No 2  
Amendment to Membership List