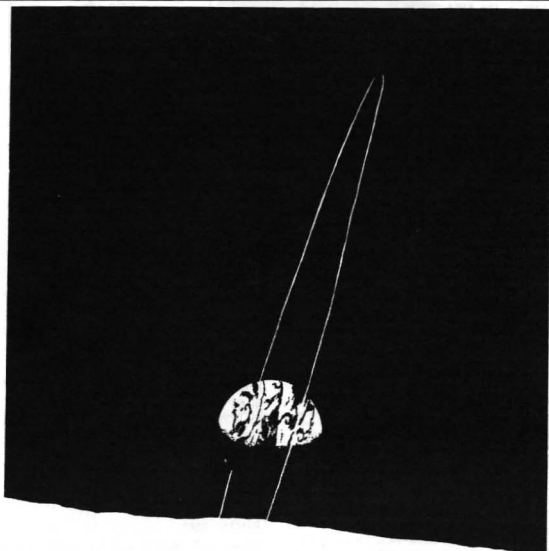




A·T·R·I·X

75P

THE · NEWSLETTER · OF · THE · BRITISH · SCIENCE · FICTION · ASSOCIATION



Ch. P. 200



Red Shift

I HAVE NOT BEEN ENTIRELY IDLE IN THE LAST COUPLE of months, though I sometimes wonder whether, given the ability to work without sleep, I could actually manage to do *Matrix* and fit in a few bits of the rest of my life as well. However, speculation of this sort never did good to anyone.

Matrix has been progressing reasonably well, but I've felt for some time that it has reached a plateau and I wasn't quite sure what to do next. I too easily get very despondent about the whole thing, and then go into a sort of decline for a while, before bouncing back with a few ideas. At the moment, the readers also clearly feel that *Matrix* is resting. The amount of post this time around has been disappointingly small, and yet again, no one has contributed film reviews. Obviously, I can't make you watch films and review them, but I do rely on people sending me reviews as it's not, so far, been terribly easy to co-ordinate any coverage of media news. This is partly because media news does not fall within my own areas of specialist knowledge, and partly because *Matrix* is turning into an even larger task than I first imagined. I don't mind that, but it's clear that the time is coming to start practicing the noble art of delegation, and to draw in more helpers, particularly in view of my forthcoming translation to the academic life.

To begin with, I'm keen to find someone who would be willing to assist me in co-ordinating media news and reviews, in the same way that Keith Mitchell works on the Clubs Column, and Elizabeth Sourbut takes care of competitions. It would obviously need to be someone who takes a close interest in media matters - this would include film, video, television and stage productions - and someone willing to invest a fair degree of time in locating and co-ordinating sources of information. Obviously, any volunteer would need to be able to string words together coherently, and be able to edit with confidence. As if this wasn't enough, the lucky candidate would hopefully be on the telephone, and might even, although this isn't strictly necessary, have access to an Amstrad PCW 8000 series, or have the wherewithal to dump ASCII files on a 3" disc, to save his/her editor having to type up everything a second time. But as I said, this is not obligatory. Potential candidates please contact me as soon as possible, outlining your thoughts on what we need to do, but bear in mind that media coverage is part of a wider whole, so grandiose plans for filling seven or eight pages will not be looked on favourably.

As I said last time around, I'm also short of material. No one responded - was it the shock of my asking nicely instead of jumping up and down, getting red in the face? I'm getting desperately short of material for the Soapbox Column. As you hopefully recall, the Soapbox Column is your column, not mine. The idea is to provide individual members with an opportunity to sound off on more or less anything they like. Articles don't have to be directly related to science fiction in all its infinite variety, although these are always welcome, but can be about anything which really gets your goat and which you think may interest other readers. Articles up to 1500 words long will be gladly received, but don't worry if your piece is shorter than that. I can always publish two shorter articles together.

I'd also appreciate some more artwork, mostly smaller pieces, but a few A4 pieces would be particularly welcome as I'm running low on suitable cover art.

Beyond that, please send reviews, information, anything which might be of interest. Clubs - advertise your forthcoming events. Bookshops - advertise your signings. Members - please contribute to the letter column. Perhaps we are running short of subjects? It's been suggested that the letter column would be more stimulating if members wrote about themselves.

It's one idea, but I'm not convinced that *Matrix* is the appropriate place for this sort of correspondence, although I'll gladly publish advertisements for penfriends, as well as advertising virtually anything else you might want to buy, sell or swap. Within reason.

And once again, I'd like to draw your attention to various appeals for information from myself and Keith Mitchell, for information on clubs of various descriptions. I'd also like to jog people's memories about sending review zines, please. I realise that reviewing has not been all it might have been, but the zines are also valuable for listing purposes, which constitutes free advertising, of course. I'd also like to do an update on bookshops and mail order services in the near future, so please send me any information you have about bookshops, preferably with addresses and opening times, where possible.

But, you want a subject? Here's one. What is science fiction? During a discussion I was involved in recently, one person was attempting to formulate very precise definitions for science fiction, fantasy, magic realist fiction, things like that. It set me wondering how I and other people distinguish between science fiction and fantasy, for example. Okay, so it's clear that 2001: A Space Odyssey is science fiction, that *Lord of the Rings* is fantasy, according to fairly widely recognised criteria, but what should one make of *The Affirmation* by Chris Priest, or Keith Robert's *Graigna*, or Lucius Shepard's *Life During Wartime*. I've seen all three variously described as science fiction and fantasy. I know what I feel about each one, but it is an instinctive feeling rather than anything based on reasoning. I look on the first two as fantasy, or speculative writing, if fantasy throws up images of quests and wizards, and the last as SF. And as you know, I have always preferred the idea of SF standing for Speculative Fiction rather than Science Fiction. So, what makes a book Science Fiction rather than mainstream. Should there be a distinction at all?

Now this is not a call to define categories of SF, please. That subject has been explored already in *Matrix*. What I'm looking for here is a more fundamental examination of the nature of SF and its relationship with other genres. Any offers?

And if that doesn't appeal, tell me what you would like to see in future issues of *Matrix*, and what you like about *Matrix* as it currently appears. I'd be grateful if we could avoid the 'why don't you get rid of the fanzine reviews/con listings/letter pages/news columns because I don't like them' school of criticism as quite a lot of other people find these features useful, but ideas for improvements, for extra features, etc would be gladly received, especially if politely presented.

It's perhaps a little late in the year for a good springcleaning, but no time like the present, I believe. I'm looking forward to moving on to the next phase of improvement in *Matrix*, which includes buying my production assistant a T-square. I hope you will all do your bit to help the process along. I must admit that editing *Matrix* hasn't turned out anywhere near as straightforward as I naively imagined when I started out two years ago. But as I move into my third year of editorship, I think I'm starting to understand some of what's involved. You've mostly been very patient although some people are very keen for me to run while I'm still loving myself to my feet. Still, it's good to know that the interest is there, if a trifle dormant at present.

Your next deadline is:

FRIDAY 16th SEPTEMBER

Please write - it cheers my postman and reminds me that the world is still out there.

WALKING ON GLASS

The BSFA Column

We are legally obliged to publish the accounts of the Association as approved by the Extraordinary General Meeting of 13 February 1988, and we are continuing to do so at the rate of one year's accounts per issue. This issue we're up to:

BSFA Accounts, 1985

Council Members' Report

Council Members

A.C. Clarke	President
A.S. Dorley	Chairman
T. Taylor	Secretary resigned 5 April 1985
P. Knight	Secretary appointed 5 April 1985
L. Flood	re-elected
B. Shaw	
J. White	re-elected
J.P. Harvey	re-elected
J.M. Nicholas	resigned 5 April 1985
A. Brown	re-elected
M.J. Edwards	
D.R. Langford	
S. Ounsley	
G. James	resigned 5 April 1985
F. Kincaid	
G. Rippington	
C. Greenland	
S. Thomason	appointed 5 April 1985
D. Hodson	appointed 5 April 1985
A. Sawyer	appointed 5 April 1985
D.V. Barrett	appointed 5 April 1985

The Council Members during the year ended 30 September 1985 were those listed above. L. Flood, J. White, J.P. Harvey and A. Brown retired by rotation and offered themselves for re-election.

Accounts

The Council Members submit the accounts for the year ended 30 September 1985. The excess of expenditure over income for the year was £2121, and is dealt with as shown in the Income and expenditure account.

Activities

The principle activities of the Association during the period were the promotion of science fiction and the publication and distribution of science fiction magazines.

Auditor

The auditor, F.J. Steward, FCA, has agreed to stand for re-election.

By order of the Council

Brett Cockrell
Secretary
40 Cyprus Road
Finchley
London
N3 3SE

Report of the Auditor to the Members of the British Science Fiction Association Limited

I have audited the financial statements of the above Association for the year ended 30th September 1985 as set out on pages 2 to 4. These statements have been prepared under the historical cost accounting convention.

I have been unable to verify the existence or value of certain of the tangible assets.

Subject to this, in my opinion the balance sheet and Income and expenditure account, prepared under the accounting convention stated above, give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association at 30th September 1985 and of the excess of expenditure over income for the year then ended, and comply with the relevant sections of the Companies Act, 1985.

(Signed) F.J. Steward
Chartered Accountant

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 30th September 1985

	Note	1985 £	1984 £
TURNOVER	2	6131	6224
COST OF SALES		(4893)	(4140)
GROSS PROFIT		1238	2084
Distribution costs		(2407)	(2632)
Administrative expenses		(1011)	(472)
Interest receivable			
Bank Deposit	45	72	
Building Society Deposit			
	-27	-72	-72

DEFICIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

BEFORE TAXATION 3 (2108) (948)

Taxation on interest received 4 (13) (22)

DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR (2121) (970)

STATEMENT OF RETAINED SURPLUS

Balance at 30 September 1984 3378 4348

Deficit for the year (2121) (970)

Balance at 30th September 1985 1257 3378

The attached notes form part of these accounts.

Balance Sheet as at 30th September 1985

	Note	30/9/85 £	30/9/84 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Assets	5	637	779
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors			
Trade debtors		233	518
Cash at bank and in hand		694	1425
Building Society Deposit	72	786	2475
		999	2993
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year			
Trade creditors	97	107	
Other creditors:			
Corporation Tax	35	22	
Other		38	
Accruals	220	352	367
NET CURRENT ASSETS		647	2626
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1284	3405
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Other reserves	6	27	27
Income and Expenditure Account		1257	3378
		1284	3405

Signed by:
P. Kincaid Director
B. Cockrell Director

Notes on the Accounts

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) The accounts are prepared according to the historical cost convention.

b) Depreciation is provided for on the cost of the library at one-tenth of the net book value each year and on office equipment at one-fifth of the net book value each year.

2. TURNOVER consists of the following sources of income:

	1985	1984
Subscriptions	5460	5723
Publications	73	99
Litho Service	124	-
Advertising	447	402
Magazine Chain	19	-
Badges	8	-
	6131	6224

3. SURPLUS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES is stated after charging:

	1985	1984
Depreciation on tangible assets	£142	£176
Auditor's remuneration	£20	£20

4. TAXATION

Corporation Tax provided at 30% on Bank Deposit Interest.

5. TANGIBLE ASSETS

	Library	Office Equipment	Awards	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost at:				
1/10/84	913	1679	27	2619
DEPRECIATION				
At 1/10/84	830	1010	-	1840
Charge for year	8	134	-	142
At 30/9/85	838	1144	-	1982
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 30/9/84	83	669	27	779
At 30/9/85	75	535	27	637

6. OTHER RESERVES consist of:

	1985	1984
Award Funds:		
Doc Weir Memorial Fund	15	15
British Fantasy Award Fund	12	12
	£27, £27	

CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

It's been a while since I've done one of these. It was never intended to be a regular item in *Matrix*, just a periodic opportunity for me to put my Co-Ordinator's hat on and step out of the shadows, still I did intend it to be a bit more regular than it has been.

So what has tempted me into the bright lights this time? A number of things, really. One of them is simply irritation with the whole damn lot of you.

Okay, you wanted a London Meeting. Okay, we went out and found a location for it (then went out and found a better one when the first place proved awkward). We got the meetings started, we've attracted a fair number of people along, and the whole event looks set fair to become a regular feature of the London fanish calendar.

So far so good. But we've said all along that the current committee is already doing too much. I've organised a few of them. Liz Holliday has organised a few of them. But it's just not possible to devote the time, energy and imagination needed to make the London Meetings a real success when we're busy doing unpetten other things for the BSFA at the same time.

Quite simply, the committee is not going to go on organising these meetings indefinitely. We have asked for people to help run the meetings. Do you know how many people have shown interest so far? NONE! Not one single solitary soul among you is prepared to help. We're not asking you to jump in at the deep end. We've already got the location. We've got a long list of ideas for speakers and events at future meetings. We're all prepared to help with advice, suggestions and contacts. But we must have someone to liaise with the pub on a regular basis, to approach possible speakers, and to maintain contact with people once they've agreed to come along.

And if we don't get that help, then we'll have no alternative but to let the London Meetings lapse. I'd hate to do it. I think the London Meetings are a bloody good thing, and they're the springboard for other regional meetings that some of you have been asking for. I do not want to see the London Meetings end once more. But as things are we cannot continue to run the meetings without help. And if you're not prepared to lend that help...

Well, on to better news. If you turn to the first item in the "Publishing" section of the News you'll see an item about a new British SF magazine. You'll also see that it's offering a special discount to BSFA members. And if that's not

good news, I don't know what is.

The publishers approached us a few weeks ago to seek advice about setting up the magazine. (And quite right too, I hear you all say!) And that means we've been able to get quite involved in the magazine right at the formative stages. Which is where the £1 discount on the annual rate came in. So come on out there, don't say the BSFA never does anything for you. If you care about the state of SF in this country, then a new magazine has got to be encouraged, so why don't you go out and subscribe.

And while you're at it, they're actively seeking stories by new writers as well as established professionals. So that means yet another opportunity for all of us budding writers.

There's another good deal for BSFA members at the moment as well. We have a long standing arrangement with the American National Fantasy Fan Federation, which means you can enter their annual short story competition at the same rate as NSF's own members. In other words £1 instead of £2. You'll find details at the end of the "Awards" section in the News column, and entry forms for this year's competition are available from Maureen or myself. So that's something else for all you writers to think about.

Paul Kincaid

*EGM*EGM*EGM*EGM*EGM*EGM*

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the BSFA is to be held on Sunday 5 November, at Novacon, in the Royal Angus Hotel, Birmingham. The purpose of the meeting is:

1. to approve the Accounts for 1987
2. to change the quorum for a general meeting of the BSFA from 15 to 3.

Full details of the time and place of the meeting will be announced in the next issue of *Matrix*.

*EGM*EGM*EGM*EGM*EGM*EGM*

THE LONDON MEETING

We've had two meetings since the last *Matrix* on 16 June and 21 July, so we've had a chance to settle in to our new home. There have been a few teething problems, which, I suppose, were only to be expected. The upstairs room at the Plough seems ideal for our purposes, it's a reasonable size, neither too large nor too small, and there's a big friendly bar in the corner. The only problem is, we discovered on our first evening there, we needed 20 people at the meeting before they'd put on a barman. Well, by the end of the evening we'd easily exceeded that figure, but by then it was too late. We thought we had that particular problem licked since the second meeting, (especially as we had more than 20 people there almost from the start), until we ran into an unhelpful barman who explained that the boss was away that night, and we'd not given a week's notice (we'd given two month's notice, but his memory didn't appear to be that long), and they didn't have enough staff in, and anyway it wasn't up to him, mate. So we had a second evening of people running downstairs to the bar every so often, but it didn't seem to crap anyone's style too much. Still, we're hoping we'll have finally got that little difficulty sorted out for the next meeting.

The other problem, of course, is guests. For the first meeting we'd spent so long finding the pub and setting up the meeting that we hadn't had time to find a speaker as well. We did try to con Mary Gentle and Dave Langford into giving impromptu talks when they turned up, but they didn't bite. So we let the evening take the course we'd intended and made it a rather pleasant social occasion. A few new members, and even a few non-members turned up, so it became a very good opportunity for people to get to know each other. And by the end of the evening, when Lisa Tuttle, Dave Garnett, Robert Holdstock, Chris Evans, John Brosnan and a few others turned up from a get-together elsewhere it had turned into quite a lively occasion.

In July, of course, we did have a speaker arranged. Chris Evans, whose book on how to write science fiction has just been published, was going to give a talk on that very subject. Unfortunately he had to call it off at the last moment, because with little more than 24 hours' notice his intended house move had been brought forward to the next morning. It was a great disappointment, particularly as with so little notice we didn't have the time to arrange a replacement, and we were once more thrown back upon our own resources. I suppose these are the sorts of ups and downs you can expect when you're trying to get something like this off the ground, but it doesn't make it any better at the time. Still, Chris has said that he'd be happy to come back and give the talk on another occasion, so we do have that to look forward to.

I can't pretend that the London Meetings are yet as smoothly organised and run as they should be, but we're getting

NEWS

- CONSPIRACY AVOIDS BANKRUPTCY
- NEBULA WINNERS / HUGO NOMINEES
- GARNETT'S BEST OF THE YEAR LIST
- NEW MAGAZINE OFFERS DISCOUNT FOR BSFA MEMBERS

Compiled by Paul Kincaid (with a little help from Locust and other sources)

CONSPIRACY RESCUE

Conspiracy, the 1987 British Worldcon, has been left with a substantial, but not enormous, deficit. At one point it seemed possible that the convention, under the corporate name "Science Fiction Conventions Ltd", would be declared bankrupt. However, in June the convention was able to negotiate with representatives of the Metropole Hotel and the Brighton Conference Centre, to stop these bringing bankruptcy proceedings.

In all, the shortfall is slightly under £7,000. Of this, around £1,500 is needed to mail out the convention Souvenir Book to all non-attending members. The remaining sum of around £5,000 is owed to a variety of people and organisations. Slightly less than half of the £5,000 is owed to the Metropole Hotel and the Brighton Conference Centre. The remainder consists of smaller amounts owed to individual fans, fan organisations and others.

The convention has acknowledged error, and two appeal funds have been set up to help clear the debt.

This debt has already been substantially reduced because the Customs and Excise Department has been convinced that a part of the convention registration fee was for the Programme Book, which is not eligible for VAT. As a result the convention is due a VAT rebate. The exact amount of this rebate is unclear at the moment, though it would appear to be between £1,500 and £2,000.

Offers of donations and fund-raising help have already been received from Jim Burne, Robert Holdstock, Geoff Ryan, Forbidden Planet and others, including many Conspiracy staff members. It appears that something between £700 and £1,000 has already been received, and with goodwill and a lot of effort it looks likely that Conspiracy will be able to clear its debts before the New Year deadline.

A general appeal for help from all of British fandom has been made. The convention says that: "Almost everyone in British fandom was involved in Conspiracy from its inception to on-the-day attendance, and although it would seem unfair to ask for more, unless we can clear the debt everything that was good and worthwhile about the British Worldcon of 1987 might be overshadowed by the present financial embarrassment."

Donations, ideas, and offers of help should be sent to: Linda Pickersgill, 7a Lawrence Road, South Ealing, London, W5 4XJ.

Just as the main debt is being reduced at a very satisfying rate, similar progress is being made with the problem over the Souvenir Programme Books.

The convention has said that: "To the Steering Committee's shame and regret the posting of these books has been delayed these several months since the convention because of a general uncertainty regarding the financial situation." In all, over 1,600 remained to be sent out, 1,100 to North America, 100 to Australasia, 300 within the UK, and the remainder to Europe and elsewhere.

The Programme Books for America are, at this moment, being shipped seamen to New Orleans, where as many as possible will be distributed at this year's Worldcon. The Los Angeles SF Group has kindly offered to bulk mail at cheap rate all the American Programme Books outstanding after the Worldcon.

However, something between £250-£300 is still needed to send out the copies to Europe and the UK. And there is still confusion about what is to happen with the Programme Books for Australia. However, Conspiracy reports that the gap between what is needed and what they have is narrowing all the time.

Meanwhile, further good news is that one American dealer has enquired about buying up all the outstanding Special Editions of the Programme Book. The deal has not yet been finalised, but if it goes through it could provide a substantial fillip to Conspiracy funds. However, it does mean that Special Editions of the Programme Book could become a rare item very quickly. So if you want a Special Edition you are advised to contact Mike Christie, Ty-Lyn, Llangoor, Powys, Wales, LD3 7UD as soon as possible.

And that is also the address for any contributions to the Conspiracy Programme Book Fund.

AWARDS

The winners of this year's Nebula Award are:

NOVEL: *The Falling Woman* - Pat Murphy
NOVELLA: *"The Blind Geometer"* - Kim Stanley Robinson
NOVELETTE: *"Rachel in Love"* - Pat Murphy
SHORT STORY: *"Forever Yours, Anna"* - Kate Wilhelm
GRAND MASTER: Alfred Bester

The 1988 Philip K. Dick Award has gone to *Strange Toys* by Patricia Geary. The award of \$1,000 is presented by the Philadelphia SF Society for the best original SF paperback of the year. *Memories* by Mike McQuay was given an honourable mention.

The Horror Writers of America have announced their First Life Achievement Awards. The recipients are: Fritz Leiber, Frank Belknap Long and Clifford D. Simak.

The nominations for the 1988 Bram Stoker Awards are:

NOVEL

Nisery - Stephen King
Swan Song - Robert R. McCammon
Ash Wednesday - Chet Williamson
Unassigned Territory - Ken Nunn
Live Girls - Ray Garton

FIRST NOVEL

Harvest Bride - Tony Richards
Damnation Game - Clive Barker
The Manse - Lisa M. Cantrell
Slob - Rex Miller
Excavation - Steve Resnic Tan

NOVELETTE

"Pamela's Get" - David J. Schow
"Resurrection Tech" - S.P. Somtow
"The Boy Who Came Back from the Grave" - Alan Rodgers
"The Pear-Shaped Man" - George R.R. Martin

SHORT STORY

"Day-Tay-Vac" - F. Paul Wilson
"Trapez" - F. Paul Wilson
"This Old Man" - Charles Grant
"The Deep End" - Robert McCammon
"Friend's Best Man" - Jonathan Carroll

BEST COLLECTION

Midnight Pleasures - Robert Bloch
The Essential Ellison - Harlan Ellison
Scared Stiffer - Ramsey Campbell
Why Not You and I? - Karl Edward Wagner
All About Strange Monsters of the Recent Past - Howard Waldrop

NON-FICTION

Mary Shelley - Muriel Spark
The Zombies that Ate Pittsburgh - Paul Gagne
Joe Bob Goes to the Drive-In - Joe Bob Briggs

The winners of the 1987 Analog/IASF Awards, voted by the readers of the two magazines published by Davis Publications, were announced on 22 April. The winners were:

Analog

NOVELLA/NOVELETTE: *"The Gift"* - Pat Forde
SHORT STORY: *"The Love Song of Laura Morrison"* - Jerry Oltion
FACT ARTICLE: *"Nanotechnology"* - Chris Peterson
COVER ART: *The Snake King* - Vincent DiFate

IASF

NOVELLA: *"Mother Goddess of the World"* - Kim Stanley Robinson
NOVELETTE: *"Rachel in Love"* - Pat Murphy
SHORT STORY: *"Why I Left Harry's All-Night Hamburgers"* - Lawrence Watt-Evans
COVER ARTIST: Bob Eggleton
INTERIOR ARTIST: J.L. Potter
POEM: *"The Famous Hospitality of Deo!"* - J.J. Hunt

The Writers of the Future Grand Prize of \$4,000 went to Nancy Farmer of Zibabue.

The 1988 Hugo Award Nominations have also been announced. They are:

NOVEL

The Forge of God - Greg Bear (GOLLANCZ)
The Uplift War - David Brin (BANTAM)
Seventh Son - Orson Scott Card (LEGEND)
When Gravity Fails - George Alec Efinger (no British publisher)
The Urth of the New Sun - Gene Wolfe (GOLLANCZ)

NOVELLA

"Eye for Eye" - Orson Scott Card (IASFM)
 "The Forest of Time" - Michael Flynn (Analog)
 "The Blind Geometer" - Kim Stanley Robinson (IASFM)
 "Mother Goddess of the World" - Kim Stanley Robinson (IASFM)
 "The Secret Sharer" - Robert Silverberg (IASFM)

NOVELETTE

"Buffalo Gals, Won't You Come Out Tonight" - Ursula K. LeGuin (Buffalo Gals/F&SF)
 "Dream Baby" - Bruce McAllister (In the Field of Fire/IASFM)
 "Rachel in Love" - Pat Murphy (IASFM)
 "Flowers of Edo" - Bruce Sterling (IASFM)
 "Dinosaurs" - Walter Jon Williams (IASFM)

SHORT STORY

"Angel" - Pat Cadigan (IASFM)
 "The Faithful Companion at Forty" - Karen Joy Fowler (IASFM)
 "Cassandra's Photographs" - Lisa Goldstein (IASFM)
 "Night of the Cooters" - Howard Waldrop (Omni)
 "Why I Left Harry's All-Night Hamburgers" - Lawrence Watt-Evans (IASFM)
 "Forever Yours, Anna" - Kate Wilhelm (Omni)

NON-FICTION

Anatomy of Wonder, 3rd Edition - Neil Barron Ed.
Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror: 1986 - Charles N. Brown & William G. Contento
Imagination: The Art & Technique of David A. Cherry - David A. Cherry
The Battle of Brazil - Jack Matthews
Michael Whelan's Works of Wonder - Michael Whelan

OTHER FORMS

The Essential Ellison - Harlan Ellison
 "I, Robot: The Movie" - Harlan Ellison (IASFM)
The Wild Cards Series - George R.R. Martin Ed.
Watchmen - Alan Moore & Dave Gibbons
Culture Made Stupid - Tom Weller

[This is a new category introduced for the first time this year and clearly a response to the controversy last year when *Dark Knight Returns* could only be accommodated in the Non-Fiction category. Although obviously designed to take *Watchmen*, which was almost certain to make the ballot in one category or other, the remit for Other Forms appears to be simply any item that does not obviously belong in any other category.]

The Carnegie Medal, the longest-standing British award for children's books, presented by the Library Association and judged by a panel of children's librarians, has been won by *The Ghost Drum* - Susan Price (FABER). Based on Russian folk-tales, it is about the training of a gifted baby girl to become a witch and shaman in the frozen north.

Other fantasy novels were among the runners-up, including *Wise Child*, a Celtic fantasy by Monica Furlong; *The House on the Hill*, a ghost story by Eileen Dunlop; and *King of the Cloud Forests*, about a tribe of yeti, by Michael Morpurgo.

The Kate Greenaway Medal, the companion award for illustration, went to *Crofton Chase*, an African folk-tale illustrated by Adrienne Kenney.

[Jessica Yates]

The winners of the Ditmar Awards, the Australian SF Awards, have been announced:

BEST LONG FICTION: "For as Long as You Burn" - Terry Dowling
 BEST SHORT FICTION: "The Last Elephant" - Terry Dowling
 BEST AUSTRALIAN FANZINE: *Science Fiction* edited by Van Kirk
 BEST AUSTRALIAN FAN WRITER: Perry Middlemiss
 BEST AUSTRALIAN FAN ARTIST: Lewis Morley

WILLIAM ATHELING JR AWARD FOR CRITICISM: "Mirror Reversals and the Tolkien Writing Game" - Van Kirk

DRAMATIC PRESENTATION

Predator
The Princess Bride
Robocop
Star Trek: The Next Generation - Encounter at Far Point
The Witches of Eastwick

PROFESSIONAL EDITOR

Gardner Dozois
 Edward L. Ferman
 David G. Hartwell
 Stanley Schaidt
 Brian Thomason

PROFESSIONAL ARTIST

David A. Cherry
 Bob Eggleton
 Tom Kidd
 Don Maitz
 J.K. Potter
 Michael Whelan

SEMI-PROZINE

Aboriginal SF
Interzone
Locus
SF Chronicle
Thrust

FANZINE

File 770
Fosfax
Lan's Lantern
Mad 3 Party
Texas SF Inquirer

FAN WRITER

Mike Glycer
 Arthur Klavety
 Dave Langford
 Guy R. Lillian III
 Leslie Turek

FAN ARTIST

Brad Foster
 Steve Fox
 Teddy Harvis
 Marie Isings
 Tarel Wayne
 Diana Gallagher Wu

JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD

C.S. Friedman
 Loren MacGregor
 Judith Moffette
 Rebecca Brown Ores
 Martha Soukup

*Second year of eligibility.

The winner of the Atorox, the Finnish Science Fiction Award, was announced at an award ceremony in Turku on 11 June 1988. The winner is S. Albert Kirvonen for his short story "Keskiyön metsäksiläinen" (The Worm of Midnight at Keskiyön, a horror fantasy dedicated to H.P. Lovecraft and belonging within the Cthulhu mythos set in Finland).

The Atorox, named after the robot hero created by Finnish SF author Aarne Hasepaksio, is given annually to the best Finnish science fiction or fantasy story published in the previous year. It is presented by the Turku Science Fiction Society, and was first awarded in 1983.

[Ben Bolmolai]

Controversy surrounds the Komarcic Prize, the Yugoslav SF Awards. The winner for Best Foreign Novel in Translation was Robert Silverberg for *Dying Inside*. Silverberg also won last year for the story "Selling to Byzantium". But he says that both of these were pirate copies. Both were published without his consent, or even his knowledge. In a letter to *Locus* he says: "My attempts even to obtain copies of the translations have been met so far with silence. To give an award to pirated material seems more of a sockery than a distinction."

The other Yugoslav Awards this year were:
 Best Yugoslav Novel: *The Universe Stealers* - David G. Ström;
 Best Yugoslav Longer Story: "Sokolar" ("The Falconer") - Vladimir

Lazovic; Best Yugoslav Short Story: "The Shit Stealer" - Dragan R. Filipovic; Best Illustration: Igor Kordelj for the cover of the Yugoslav edition of *Neuroancer*; Best Translator: Alexander B. Nedelkovich for "Prose Bowl" by Bill Proznin and Barry Malzberg; and Best Foreign Story in Translation: "Thor Meets Captain America" - David Brin.

The 1987 Japan Science Fiction Award went to *Teito Monogatari* (Tales of the Imperial City), a ten-volume historical fantasy by Hiroshi Aramata.

The Gryphon Award to be funded by Andre Norton. It is to be given to the best unpublished fantasy novel by a woman who has sold at least one story and not more than two novels. The Award will be a trophy, a cheque for \$500, and probable publication. Deadline for submissions for the first award is June 1989, and the winner will be announced at the World SF Convention in Boston in September 1989. Norton herself will be the judge for the first award, though in later years there will be a judging panel. Address for submissions is: Andre Norton, 1600 Spruce Avenue, Winter Park, Florida FL32789, USA.

Nominations have been announced for the Saturn Awards, which are presented by the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Films. The nominations are:

BEST SCIENCE FICTION FILM

The Hidden
Interpace
Masters of the Universe
Predator
Robocop
The Running Man

BEST FANTASY FILM

Batteries Not Included
Date with an Angel
Harry and the Hendersons
The Living Daylights
The Princess Bride
The Witches of Eastwick

The winners will be announced at Halloween.

Harlan Ellison has won an Edgar for the Best Mystery Short Story for "Soft Monkey".

The nominations for the 1988 Chesley Awards, presented by the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists, are:

BEST COVER, HARDBACK

Thomas Canty - The Sun the Moon and the Stars
James Christensen - Southshore
Leo & Diane Dillon - The Essential Ellison
James Gurney - On Stranger Tides
David Mattingly - The Rapture Effect
Michael Whelan - Being a Green Mother

BEST COVER, PAPERBACK

Roger Bendoricoff - Across the Sea of Suns
Jim Burns - The River of Time
Bob Eggleton - The Maze
David Mattingly - Angels in Hell
Michael Whelan - In Conquest Born

BEST COVER, MAGAZINE

Terry Lee - Amazing, 1/86
Hank Jankus - Amazing, 5/87

BEST INTERIOR ILLUSTRATION

Janet Aulisio - Amazing, 5/87, p41
Janet Aulisio - Analog, 8/87, p12-3
Etienne Sandorfi - Omni, 5/87, p57

BEST UNPUBLISHED COLOUR PICTURE

Patricia Davis - Tomorrow
Carl Lundgren - The Thing in Jenny's Barn
Don Maltz - Conjure Maltz

BEST UNPUBLISHED BLACK & WHITE PICTURE

Ingrid Neilson - Sherlock Bones
Dawn Wilson - Queen of the Snows

BEST 3D ART

John Longendorfer - Hawk Mountain

ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Tom Canty - body of work
Rusty Hevelin - most effective auctioneer
Frank Frazetta - physical and artistic comeback
Michael Whelan - Works of Wonder

The National Fantasy Fan Federation (NFFF) of America has announced its annual Amateur Short Story Contest. It is open to anyone who has sold no more than two stories to professional SF publications, and is for an SF or fantasy story of not more than 7,500 words. Entry fee is \$1 for members of NFFF and of the BSFA, \$2 for everyone else. The first prize is \$25, second prize \$15, third prize \$10. Honourable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a choice of paperback books available, and all entries will receive a critique of the story submitted.

The contest rules and entry forms can be obtained from Paul Kincaid at the editorial address. All entries must reach Donald Franson, 6543 Babcock Avenue, North Hollywood, CA 91606, USA, by 1 December 1988.

PEOPLE

David Gernett has announced the contents of the first *Orbit Science Fiction Yearbook*, which will be published by FUTURA in November at £4.99. This Best of the Year anthology includes: "Forever Yours, Anna" - Kate Wilhelm; "The Sun Spider" - Lucius Shepard; "Goodbye Houston Street, Goodbye" - Richard Kadrey; "Friend's Best Man" - Jonathan Carroll; "The Wound" - Lisa Tuttle; "E-Ticket to Namland" - Dan Simmons; "Ménage à Super-Trois" - Felix C. Gotschalk; "Rachel in Love" - Pat Murphy; "Agente" - Paul Di Filippo; "Lapidary Nights" - Marta Randall; "Murderers Walk" - Gerry Kilworth; "Thirty Minutes Over Broadway" and "The Annotated Jetboy" - Howard Waldrop. The anthology also includes an Afterword, "Opposite Numbers", by Brian Aldiss, a review of the year by John Clute, and an Introduction and 1987 Summation by David Gernett.

Other Edens 2, the anthology edited by Christopher Evans and Robert Holdstock, will be published by UNWIN in October. It contains original stories by Brian Aldiss, Scott Bradford, Graham Charnock, Michael Cobley, Ann Gay, Colin Greenland, N. John Harrison, Gwyneth Jones, Gerry Kilworth, Tanith Lee, Ian McDonald, Michael Moorcock, Kim Stanley Robinson, Josephine Saxton and Ian Watson.

Meanwhile Chris Morgan, who is editing a big original anthology of subtle horror for LEGEND, is trying to persuade his publishers to increase the size from an already sizeable 100,000 words, to 150,000 words because of the excellent stories by leading authors he will have to exclude otherwise.

For obvious reasons, therefore, the final list of contents has not been decided, but Morgan has already bought new stories by Brian Aldiss, A.L. Barker, John Brunner, Ramsey Campbell, Steve Gallagher, Gerry Kilworth, David Langford, Tanith Lee, Brian Stableford, Lisa Tuttle, Freda Warrington and Ian Watson.

The anthology is due to be published in time for Eastercon next year, where they intend to hold the launch party.

And still on the subject of anthologies, *Storia* is a new anthology of original short stories by women that is to be published twice a year by PANORA. The first volume will appear in November in simultaneous hardback and paperback publication. It is edited by Kate Figes, and as well as major writers has a policy of encouraging new and little known women writers. Among those featured in the first volume are: Kathy Acker, Sarah Baylis, Daphne DuMaurier, Ruth Rendell, Fay Weldon and Jeanette Winterson.

John Brunner, one of the contributors to Chris Morgan's anthology, reports that he has just signed a contract with BAEN to edit two collections of SF and fantasy by Rudyard Kipling.

Meanwhile DEL REY are shortly to publish *The Best of John Brunner*, with an introduction and commentary by Joe Haldeman, as well as a new novel, *Children of the Thunder*. He is now looking for a publisher for the novel he has just completed: *Tooth and Claw*. It also appears that his Zarathustra Refugee Planet novels are going to appear in omnibus form for the first time, probably under the title *Victims of the Atom*.

As a footnote on awards Brunner adds: "A few weeks ago I discovered from an 'About the Author' note in one of my Spanish editions that I'd won the major Spanish SF award, the Giganes Prize - in 1986! No one had got around to telling me." The award was for *The Jagged Orbit*.

Mary Gentle has sold a collection of short stories, including some previously unpublished, to MACDONALD/FUTURA.

Leigh Kennedy reports that she is currently "writing a semi-serious history of chocolate". The mind boggles.

Iain M. Banks has written to point out that his new novel, *The Player of Games*, just out from MACMILLAN, does not feature the same war as in *Consider Phlebas*. "It takes place 700+ years later, in peace time", though it is told from the point of view of someone on the "other side" from the central characters in *Phlebas*.

Meanwhile, in an interview with author Allan Massie broadcast on Radio 3 on 19 June, Banks revealed that his next novel, a political thriller set in Panama, is still at the research stage and as yet he hasn't even begun writing.

Iain Banks also crops up as the writer of an introduction to *Viriconium* by M. John Harrison, which is being published by UNWIN this autumn. This brings together in one volume his novel *In Viriconium*, and the short stories from *Viriconium Nights*, though it is not clear whether these are as they appeared in the British edition of the book, or the slightly different selection of stories that appeared in America under the same title. Harrison has long harboured a plan to bring all his *Viriconium* stories and novels together in one volume, arranged according to internal chronology. This volume would seem to be the first step towards achieving that.

Christopher Priest and David Langford, who together comprise Ansible Software, have been involved in a contretemps with one of the most successful computer companies in Britain. The telephone conversation apparently went like this:

"To you write software for our computers?"

"Yes," replies Priest.

"Well, we'd like copies of all of it."

"OK, we'll post you an order form and you can send it back with a cheque."

"Listen, sunshine, I don't think you heard who we are. We don't actually pay for software."

"Well, what a coincidence. We don't actually give it away."

It looks as if Ian Watson is not going to find himself on this year's Booker short list. Blake Morrison, one of the judges, writes disparagingly in *The Observer* (10 July 1988) of "another (novel) set in Babylon, on the Euphrates, Arizona (uh?), which contains sentences like 'the tentacles of his beard quaked at her bosom like furry fingers'." Sounds suspiciously like Watson's *Whores of Babylon* just out from PICADOR. Surely there can't be two novels around with that setting?

Keith Roberts is becoming the mainstay of the British small presses. Not only is there a systery novel, *The Road to Paradise*, coming out from KERONA later this year, but MORRIGAN is bringing out a collection of stories, *Winterwood and Other Hauntings*. These are previously uncollected stories from the same era as his first ever collection, *Nachines* and *Men*, in other words the mid to late 60s, and previously only available in rather obscure magazines.

The monumental *The Collected Stories of Philip K. Dick*, which came out in five volumes from the American small press UNDERWOOD MILLER, is going to have a more readily available publication in this country. GOLLANCZ are bringing out the first volume, *Beyond Lies the Rub*, in November. The second volume, *Second Variety*, will follow next year, with the other volumes coming later.

Neil Gaiman and Stephen Jones have finally completed their long-threatened anthology of "naughty verse" for children. *Now We Are Sick* contains poems by 30 SF, Fantasy and Horror writers including Clive Barker and Gene Wolfe. The anthology is planned to be published by DREAMHAVEN BOOKS in time for the World Fantasy Convention.

Author signings scheduled for The Book Inn, Charing Cross Road, London, all of which will take place between 6.30 and 7.30, are:

John Burt Foster - 5 August - signing *The Sky Lords*

Iain M. Banks - 12 August - signing *The Player of Games*

Mary Gentle - 2 September - signing the paperback edition of *Ancient Light*

Scott Bradford - 9 September - signing *The Secret Life of Horses*

Chris Fowler - 7 October - signing *Roofworld*

OBITUARIES

Michael Barry, one of the formative figures in British TV drama, died on 27 June 1988. He was 78.

Barry took over as head of the Plays department at BBC TV in 1952. His budget for the year was £250, and he invested the lot in a new writer, Nigel Kneale, who produced *The Quatermass Experiment*, one of the most influential SF dramas in the history of television. Barry was also the producer of the famous 1954 production of *1984*, which actually produced an outcry from MPs.

Hamish Hamilton, the publisher, died on 24 May 1988. He was 87.

Hamish Hamilton occupied the solid middle-ground of British publishing with a literate and acclaimed list which sometimes managed to include some of the most challenging and exciting books around. He established his company in 1930, and in the mid-60s sold it to the Thomson organisation in a deal which left him with substantial control of the company, so that the list always reflected his own tastes. Although Hamish Hamilton never had a science fiction imprint, it has often ventured into the genre and its outskirts, for instance with Peter Ackroyd's *Hawkmoor* and Paul Theroux's *O-Zone*.

Alice Martha Lightner, author of over a dozen SF novels for children, died on 3 February 1988. She was 83.

A.M. Lightner's first SF story appeared in 1959, and from *The Rock of Three Planets* (1963) until *Star Circus* (1977) she wrote 13 SF juveniles, though she continued to write non-SF for children almost up to her death. The most successful was *The Day of the Drones* (1969) which was also published as an adult novel. Set long after the nuclear war, it describes the clash of black African and white English survivors who both practice stringent social engineering, and gives an even-handed, matter of fact look at racism on both sides.

Michael Shaara, Pulitzer Prize winner and occasional SF author, died of a heart attack at his home in Tallahassee, Florida, on 5 May 1988. He was 58.

Shaara's stories appeared regularly in *Astounding*, *Galaxy* and *F&SF* throughout the 50s and 60s, and taught English at Florida State University from 1961 to 1973. His first novels were not SF, and it was for his novel about the American Civil War, *The Killer Angels* (1974) that he won the prestigious Pulitzer Prize. However in 1981 he published *The Herd*, about a scientist's attempt to depopulate the earth in the near future, and the following year he collected most of his SF stories in *Soldier Boy*.

PUBLISHING

A new SF magazine is offering a special discount to BSFA members. The new quarterly, paperback-size magazine is being published by W PUBLISHING of Peterborough. It will cost £2.25 per issue, or £8 for an annual subscription. BSFA members will get a special annual subscription rate of £7. The first issue is due in January.

The magazine, whose title has yet to be decided, will follow the time-honoured format of featured novella or novelette, several short stories, and the occasional review of items of interest to any SF fan. The stories will be illustrated and there will be a letter column.

The editor and publisher, Richard Newcombe, is currently looking for both stories and artwork for the first issue. Rates are £30 per thousand words, and they are looking for stories that explore the entire spectrum of science fiction, from hard SF to wildest fantasy. They are interested in work from new writers as well as established authors.

The address, for submissions (with a stamped, addressed envelope for return of manuscripts) and subscriptions is: W Publishing, 28 Saville Road, Westwood, Peterborough, PE3 7PE.

As of 8 September, LEGEND will be the imprint for all science fiction and fantasy published by CENTURY-HUTCHINSON. Which means that LEGEND will now be publishing hardbacks as well as trade and mass-market paperbacks.

They are launching their new expansion with simultaneous hardback and trade paperback publication of *Seventh Son* by Orson Scott Card, the first volume of his "Tales of Alvin Maker"; *Islands in the Net* by Bruce Sterling, his new novel set in 2023; *Roofworld* by Christopher Fowler, the first novel by a former Vector editor; *The Last Sword of Power* by David Gemmell, a new magical saga set at the dawn of the Dark Ages; and *Sleeping in Flame* by Jonathan Carroll, a new fantasy.

Fantasy Tales, the magazine launched 10 years ago which has gone on to win the British Fantasy Award on four successive occasions, as well as winning the World Fantasy Award once, is being re-launched as a paperback book by ROBINSON. Edited by Stephen Jones and David Sutton, it will be subtitled "The

Paperback Magazine of Fantasy and Terror", and the first of the new issues will be available to coincide with the World Fantasy Convention this autumn. Cover price will be 99p.

Interzone, which goes bimonthly from issue 25, as announced in the last *Matrix*, has also signed a contract with a new distributor. This means that its circulation has already leapt dramatically, and is continuing to rise. And it should mean that the magazine will now be available in W.H. Smiths and other newsgroups around the country.

They have announced that upcoming issues will include Thomas M. Disch's hard-hitting and witty analysis of the controversial UFO book *Communism* by Whitley Strieber, plus new stories by Kim Stanley Robinson, Bob Shaw and Brian Stableford among others.

MARVEL COMICS have launched a new comic in this country, *Dragon's Claws*. What's new about this is that it is the first time that MARVEL UK has published a comic created in the UK, rather than one whose characters have been imported from their parent company in the USA. It is MARVEL's first attempt to create characters here and then export them to the USA.

Dragon's Claws, launched on 16 June, will appear monthly. It is written by Simon Furman and the artist is Geoff Senior. It is set in 8162 AD, with the Earth moving closer to the sun, the seas drying up, animals dying out, and civil unrest rampant. To contain the unrest the violent "Game" was created, most of the game players have now turned renegade, and only the *Dragon's Claws* team now face the threat.

There has been a big shake-up among American Literary Agents. Two of the biggest agencies handling SF writers have amalgamated. From now on all the business of the Kirby McCauley agency will be handled through Curtis Brown Ltd. The change has not been as smooth as all that however. Ralph Vicinanza, who was foreign rights director of Kirby McCauley has left to set up his own agency, taking with him clients such as Robert Silverberg, Jack Vance and John Crowley. At the same time Kirby McCauley has left the Kirby McCauley company and is expected to set up her own agency.

NEW AND FORTHCOMING BOOKS JUNE - AUGUST

Lynn ARBEY *Unicorn and Dragon* (HEADLINE, pbk)
Brian ALDISSE *Earthworks & The Malacca Tapestry* (METHUEN, pbk)
Piers ANTHONY *Ghost & Being a Green Mother* (GRAFTON, pbk)
Isaac ASIMOV *Space Ranger & Pirates of the Asteroids* (LIGHTNING, pbk)
Isaac ASIMOV, Martin H. GREENBERG & Charles G. WAUGH (Eds) *Classic Science Fiction Short Novels of the 1930s* (ROBINSON, pbk); *Supernatural* (ROBINSON, pbk); *Intergalactic Empires* (ROBINSON, pbk); *Spells* (ROBINSON, pbk)
A.A. ATTAMASSIO *Arc of the Dream* (GRAFTON, pbk)
Paul AUSTER *In the Country of Last Things* (FABER, hbk)
Iain M. BANKS *The Player of Games* (MACMILLAN, hbk)
Peter S. BEAGLE *The Folk of the Air* (HEADLINE, pbk)
Gregory BENFORD *In Alien Flesh* (GOLLANCZ, hbk); *Great Sky River* (VGSP, pbk)
James P. BLAYLOCK *Land of Dreams* (GRAFTON, hbk & pbk)
Marion Zimmer BRADLEY *Ed. Sword and Sorceress 2* (HEADLINE, pbk)
John BROSNAN *The Sky Lords* (GOLLANCZ, hbk)
Richard BURNS *Troubadour* (UNWIN, pbk)
Jack L. CHALKER *Lords of the Middle Dark* (NEL, pbk)
B. CRETNEY-HAYES *Tales from the Hidden World* (KIMBER, hbk)
Arthur C. CLARKE & Gentry LEE CRODIE (GOLLANCZ, hbk)
John CLUTE, David PRINGLE & Susan ONSLEY (Eds) *Interzone: The 2nd Anthology* (NEL, pbk)
Hugh COOK *The Walrus and the Werewolf* (CORGI, pbk)
Louise COOPER *The Thorn Key* (CORCHARD, hbk) & *Indigo 1: Nemesis* (UNWIN, pbk)
Michael CRICHTON *The Andromeda Strain & Sphere* (PAN, pbk)
John CROWLEY *Egypt* (VGSP, pbk)
Lyndon DABRY *Bloodseed* (UNWIN, pbk)
August DERLETH *The Mask of Cthulhu & The Trail of Cthulhu* (GRAND, pbk)
Joe DEVER *Highway Holocaust* (BEAVER, pbk)
Philip E. DICK *Nick and the Glimmung* (GOLLANCZ, hbk)
Carole Nelson DOUGLAS *Keepers of Edanvart* (CORGI, pbk)
Ru EMERSON *To the Haunted Mountains* (HEADLINE, pbk)
Steve ERICKSON *Days Between Stations* (FUTURA, pbk)
Philip Jose FARMER *Dayworld Rebel* (GRAFTON, pbk)
John FARRIS *Wildwood* (NEL, pbk)
Alan Dean FOSTER *The Deluge Drivers* (NEL, pbk)
Nigel FRITH *Olympiad* (UNWIN, pbk)
Craig Shaw GARDNER *A Maledy of Magicks* (HEADLINE, pbk)
John GILBERT *Aiki* (GRAFTON, pbk)

Richard GRANT *Fumours of Spring* (BANTAM, pbk)
Ann HALAM *Transformations* (CORCHARD, hbk)
Simon HAWKE *The Zenda Vendetta* (HEADLINE, pbk)
Frank HERBERT *Eye* (NEL, pbk)
James HERBERT *Haunted* (GHOODER, hbk)
Carol HILL *Amade and the Eleven Million Mile High Dancer* (BLOOMSBURY, pbk)
William HOPE HOGSON *The House on the Borderland* (ROBINSON, pbk)
James P. HOGAN *Endgame Enigma* (CENTURY, hbk & pbk)
Robert HOLSTOCK *Where Time Winds Blow* (VGSP, pbk)
Cecilia HOLLAND *Floating Worlds* (VGSP Classic 26, pbk)
Shirley JACKSON *The Lottery* (ROBINSON, pbk)
John JAMES *Man Went to Catraeth* (BANTAM, pbk)
K.W. JETER *Internal Devices* (GRAFTON, pbk)
Diana Wynne JONES *The Lives of Christopher Chant* (METHUEN, hbk)
Richard KADREY *Metaphage* (GOLLANCZ, hbk)
Guy Gavriel KAY *The Darkest Road* (UNWIN, pbk)
Majoria Bradley KELLOGG with William B. ROSSON *The Wave and the Flame* (VGSP, pbk)
Katherine KEER *Daggerspell* (GRAFTON, pbk)
Cary KIDDER *Light Years* (PENGUIN, pbk)
S.A. LAFFERTY *East of Laughter* (MORRIGAN, hbk)
Tanth Lee *East of Midnight & Companions on the Road* (BEAVER, pbk); *The Book of the Damned & The Book of the Beast* (UNWIN, pbk)
Brian LUMLEY *Necroscope II: Wamphyri!* (GRAFTON, pbk)
Paul J. MCAULEY *Four Hundred Billion Stars* (GOLLANCZ, hbk)
Phillip MANN *Pioneers* (GOLLANCZ, hbk); *The Eye of the Queen* (GRAFTON, pbk); *Master of Paxux* (GRAFTON, pbk)
Anita MASON *The War Against Chaos* (HAMISH HAMILTON, hbk)
Michael MORROWCK *Wizardry and Wild Romance* (VGSP, pbk)
Ted MURPHY *The Shadow Hunter* (HEADLINE, pbk)
Rachel POLLACK *Unquenchable Fire* (CENTURY, hbk & pbk)
Tim POWERS *On Stranger Tides* (GRAFTON, hbk)
Keith ROBERTS *Pavane* (PENGUIN, pbk)
R.A. SALVATORE *The Crystal Shard* (PENGUIN, pbk)
Melissa SCOTT *Five-Twelfths of Heaven* (VGSP, pbk)
Robert SILVERBERG *At Winter's End* (GOLLANCZ, hbk)
Robert SILVERBERG & Martin H. GREENBERG (Eds) *Fantasy All-Time Greats* (ROBINSON, pbk)
Cordwainer SMITH *The Rediscovery of Man* (VGSP Classic 25, pbk)
Sperdyng *The Road and the Hills* (UNWIN, pbk)
Judith TARR *The Hall of the Mountain King* (PAN, pbk)
Roger TAYLOR *The Call of the Sword* (HEADLINE, pbk)
Sheri S. TEPPER *Dervish Daughter* (CORGI, pbk)
Harry TURTLEDOVE *Agent of Byzantium* (NEL, pbk)
Jack Vance *The Face* (GRAFTON, pbk)
Ian WATSON *The Fire Worn* (GOLLANCZ, hbk); *Whores of Babylon* (PALADIN, pbk)
Lawrence WATT-EVANS *With a Single Spell* (GRAFTON, pbk)
Margaret WEIS & Tracy HICKMAN (Eds) *Dragonlance Tales Love and War* (PENGUIN, pbk)
Connie WILLIS *Lincoln's Dreams* (GRAFTON, pbk)

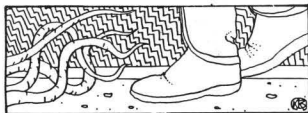
MEDIA

The Making of the Representative for Planet 8, the opera written by Doris Lessing and Philip Glass, and based upon Lessing's novel in the *Canopus in Argos* series, has finally had its premier in Houston, Texas, to less than ecstatic reviews. The general view seems to be that Glass has sacrificed the music to Lessing's words, and that the piece doesn't work as drama. We'll have a chance to decide for ourselves when the opera comes to the Coliseum in London in November for performances by the English National Opera.

Meanwhile, undeterred by any criticism, Lessing and Glass are already at work upon their next opera.

The sequel to *The Fly* is now being made, with Eric Stoltz (from *Mask*) taking the lead. It is expected to be released in America at the end of this year, or Spring 1989, with cinemas in this country probably taking it later in 1989.

Blade Runner as an animated TV series? That seems to be the plan, since Ralph Bakshi, who made *Wizards* and *The Lord of the Rings* apparently holds the rights to the film.



AUTUMN CATALOGUES

Compiled by Paul Kincaid

This is the time of year when publishers announce their titles for the autumn, so we thought we'd take a trawl through some of the catalogues that have come in to find out what we can look forward to between August and the end of the year.

BANTAM's list includes only three hardbacks this autumn, *Demon Lord of Karanda*, the third part of *The Mallorcan* by David Eddings is due in September, as is *Prime Evil*, a collection of 13 original horror stories by writers such as King, Straub, Barker, Campbell and Strieber, edited by Douglas Winter. While in November there's *Dragonsdam* by Anne McCaffrey, which tells the story of the first colonists to arrive on Fern, and so commence the events of her long-running Dragon series.

David Eddings also features on Bantam's paperback list with *Guardians of the West* and *King of the Murgos*, the first two parts of *The Mallorcan*, coming out as trade paperbacks in August. In the same month there's *Rumours of Spring* by Richard Grant about the one nearly forgotten forest left on Earth which suddenly begins to grow.

In September there's *The Dark Druid*, the conclusion of the story of Finn MacCushal, by Kenneth G. Flint. In October, *Forging the Darkworld* is the first part of a new trilogy by Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman. And in December Harry Harrison's *The Stainless Steel Rat's Revenge* is another episode in the long-running series.

CORGI, Bantam's stablemate at Transworld, offers *Keepers of Eden*, Book One of *The Sword and the Circle* trilogy by Carole Nelson Douglas in August. In October there's the final novel in Sheri S. Tepper's Jinian trilogy, *Jinian Star-Eye*. In November we finally get the paperback edition of *Mort* by Terry Pratchett. This is followed in December by *Track of the White Wolf*, the fourth of the eight-volume romantic fantasy epic *The Chronicles of the Cheyenne* by Jennifer Roberson. And in January 1989 comes *Dreams of Stone*, the first part of a new trilogy, *The Unbalanced Earth*, by Jonathan Wylie.

GOLLANZ has one treat in their mainstream list with *Forgotten Life* by Brian Aldiss, which follows Joseph and Clement Winter from Suffolk in the early 1930s, to Burma and Suetra during the war, and on to present day Oxford and America.

The SF list features several first novels that look very interesting. In *At the Heart of the Sky* Lords by John Brosnan who has already had a number of books about the cinema published, as well as being half of a horror-writing duo. This first solo SF novel is set long after the Gene Wars, when the devastated remnants of humanity have to contend with warlords who patrol their territory in mile-long dirigibles. *Four Hundred Billion Stars*, also due in August, is the debut of Paul McAuley, who has built up a reputation through his stories in *Interzone*. This concerns the mystery of a small planet that has, at some point, been altered by aliens in order to support life. The third debut comes in November with *Double Planet* by John Gribbin and Marcus Chown. Gribbin is one of our foremost science writers and occasional *Vortex* reviewer, Chown works on *New Scientist*, so their story of the effects of a giant comet coming close to Earth should be strong on scientific detail.

There are four sequels on the list also. *Lavondyss* by Robert Holdstock, with illustrations by Alan Lee, is the long awaited sequel to *Mythago Wood*. This novel takes us on to the ultimate realm, the source of all myths. That comes out in October, as does *Adulthood Rites* by Octavia Butler, the second volume in her *Xenogenesis* series which began with *Kindred*. And a third novel due in October is *The Ascension Factor* by Frank Herbert and Bill Ransom, the final part of their trilogy following on from *The Jesus Incident* and *The Lazarus Effect*, and the last piece of work done by Herbert. However we will have to wait until January 1989 for *Eternity* by Greg Bear, his sequel to *Eon*, which is about nothing less than the creation of a Universe.

Of course we shouldn't forget *Myrd Sisters* by Terry Pratchett, his sixth Discworld novel, and the one that features the return of Granny Weatherwax.

There are also four collections of stories on the Gollancz list. In September there's *The Rediscovery of Man* by Cordwainer Smith, which has already been published in paperback as VGSF Classic 25, a superb collection of Smith's stories that originally appeared in America as *The Best of Cordwainer Smith*. In October there's *Terry's Universe* edited by Beth Meacham, a tribute to Terry Carr in the form of original stories by LeGuin, Benford, Silverberg, Leibert, Wilhelm, Robinson, Zelazny and Wolfe. In November *Robert Silverberg's Worlds of Wonder* features classic stories by Bester, Blish, Cordwainer Smith and Aldiss, accompanied by Silverberg's autobiographical reminiscences, and

his essays on writing. Finally in November there's *Beyond Lies the Mub*, the first of five volumes of the *Collected Works* of Philip K. Dick covering stories from the beginning of his career between 1951 and 1952.

For some reason the GOLLANZ catalogue provides nothing more than a list of forthcoming VGSF paperbacks, without even indicating when they are due, or which are VGSF Classics. However, for what it's worth, this is the list:

Wizardry and Wild Romance - Michael Moorcock;
Egypt - John Crowley; *The Witches of Karres* - James Schallitz;
Spell of the Witch World - Andre Norton; *Imperial Earth* - Arthur C. Clarke; *Ship of Strangers* - Bob Shaw; *Berserker Man* - Fred Saberhagen; *Windhaven* - George R.R. Martin & Lisa Tuttle; *Lavondyss* - Robert Holdstock; *The Inhumanity of Mankind* - Cordwainer Smith; *Reign of Fire* - Marjorie Bradley Kellogg with William B. Rosemont; *Cryptozoic* - Brian Aldiss; *Worlds of Wonder* - Robert Silverberg; *Beyond Heaven's River* - Greg Bear; *The Affirmation* - Christopher Priest; *Wave Without a Shore* - C.J. Cherry; *Silence in Solitude* - Melissa Scott; *The Dosed Experiment* - Frank Herbert.

GRAFTON offers a simultaneous hardback and paperback publication in October of David Pringle's *Modern Fantasy: The Hundred Best Novels*, covering the genre from 1945, and ranging from Maryem Peake's *Titus Groan* to J.G. Ballard's *The Day of Creation*.

In fiction there's *Silver Tower* by Dale Brown about America's first limited nuclear war in space, published in August. *Tim Powers's On Stranger Tides*, also in August, is a fantasy about pirates and zombies, Blackbeard and the Fountain of Youth. In October Isaac Asimov both begins and concludes his epic Foundation series with *Prelude to Foundation*, which tells of the adventures of Hari Seldon before the events of *Foundation*, and which is intended to round off the whole series. Also in October there's *Faerie Tale*, a modern tale of terror and fantasy drawing on Celtic myth and folklore, by Raymond E. Feist. The third book due to appear in October is *Return to Eden*, the final part in his trilogy by Harry Harrison. And in January 1989 A.A. Attanasio steps into the same sort of territory as Tim Powers with *Myvren*, a novel of piracy and sorcery set in the 17th century.

HEADLINE, who still haven't provided hardback editions for any of their SF, are having a Science Fiction and Fantasy promotion in August, with *The Folk of the Air*, Peter S. Beagle's latest fantasy, *The Shadow Hunter*, sweeping its central figure from the prehistoric past to the distant future, by the latest double Nebula winner Pat Murphy; *Unicorn and Dragon*, set in 11th century England, by Lynn Abbey with illustrations by Robert Gould; *The Call of the Sword*, "The First Chronicle of Hawkland", by a new British writer Roger Taylor; and *To the Haunted Mountains*, Ru Emerson's first volume in a fantasy trilogy, "The Tales of Nedom".

Thereafter there's *Bright and Shining Tiger*, a new fantasy by Claudia J. Edwards and *The Warrior's Apprentice* - Lois McMaster Bujold's sequel to *Shards of Honour*, both in September. *The Nautilus Sanction*, *Time Wars* Book 5 by Simon Hawke and *A Multitude of Monsters*, Craig Shaw Gardner's sequel to *A Malady of Magicks*, are due in October. *Neat*, in which Ian Watson unleashes another ancient, bloodthirsty and carnivorous force upon the world; *In the Cave of Exile*, Ru Emerson's second Tale of Nedom; *Lowland Rider*, more chilling horror from Chet Williamson; and *Sword and Sorcery* 3, another in the series of fantasy anthologies edited by Marion Zimmer Bradley, all come in November. Finally, in December, there's *Almanac Dreams*, about the crumbling, corrupt empire of Tiban and the quest for a sleeping princess, by Marc Alexander.

KEROSINA continue to produce some interesting, and often superb, oddities. In August there's John Brunner's novel about the early days of CND, *Days of March*. The mainstay of the list, Keith Roberts, has come up with something unexpected this time, a detective novel, *Road to Paradise*, due in October. That will be followed in November by *Storeys from the Old Hotel*, previously uncollected stories by Gene Wolfe. As for the new year, they are offering Michael Bishop's third major revision of his first novel, *Eyes of Fire*, in February 1989; and in May, in time for Mexico, there will be *The Masters of Tolos* a new science fiction novel by D.G. Compton.

LEGEND, which takes over all the hardback and paperback science fiction previously published by CENTURY and ARROW in September, has a fairly short list for this autumn, all but one of which will be simultaneously published in hardback and trade paperback. They start in September with *Seventh Son*, Volume 1 of the Tales of Alvin Maker by Orson Scott Card, a fantasy that

goes back to the early days of the American pioneers, already familiar from his stories such as "Hatchet River". Also in September there's Jonathan Carroll's *Sleeping in Flame* which features "a chain reaction of bizarre encounters and chilling threats from some dark otherworld of dreams and legend".

In October there's the first novel from a former Vector editor, Christopher Fowler, *Roofworld*, a strange and horrific battle for control of London's rooftops. *Islands in the Net* by Bruce Sterling, his fourth novel, is set in 2030 when the Net provides a global telecommunications system, but a meeting with date-pirates goes wrong and the safe world slowly disintegrates. A complete contrast is *Last Sword of Power*, the latest fantasy by David Gemmell set as the Dark Age dawns over Roman Britain.

Finally there are two books due in November. *An Alien Light* by Nancy Kress involves a war between humanity and the alien God, and the God attempt to understand how humans can turn violence on themselves. The only one of these not to receive simultaneous paperback publication is *The Final Planet* by the Roman Catholic priest turned writer Andrew Greeley, a novel which involves the pilgrim ship *Iona* and its final landfall on planet Zylong.

There are, however, a couple of CENTURY hardbacks that are also likely to be of interest. In September there's William Horwood's *Dunston Quest*, the sequel to his mole adventure *Dunston* and in October there's *Transformation: The Breakthrough*, Whitley Streiber's follow-up to his account of meeting alien visitors, *Communion*.

ROBINSON venture into hardback in September with *Best New SF 2*, the nonseasonal best of the year anthology edited by Gardner Dozois, and featuring stories by Sterling, Catigan, LeGuin, Silverberg, Card, Robinson, Shepard and Wolfe among others. There is a simultaneous paperback edition of this. Also in September, but in paperback only, there's *The Mammoth Book of Short Horror Novels* edited by Mike Ashley and featuring ten short novels by the likes of Stephen King, Lucius Shepard and Arthur Conan Doyle. The late Robert Aickman has two books coming out, *Cold Hand in Mine* is the first paperback edition of his first collection, and *The Model* is a previously unpublished novel which receives simultaneous hardback and paperback publication, both appear in October.

Also in October, *Horror!* from *Fantasy Tales* edited by Stephen Jones and David Sutton is a collection of the best stories from 10 years of the magazine which is being relaunched in October as a Robinson paperback.

Finally there's *Christmas Ghosts* edited by Kathryn Cramer and David G. Hartwell, a collection of classic tales from Charles Dickens to Ramsey Campbell published in a de-luxe paperback edition with a gold foil cover.

UNWIN HYMAN hardbacks offer the first collection of short stories by Scott Bradfield, *The Secret Life of Houses* in September. In the same month there's the new novel by Gwyneth Jones, *Kalros*, in which the world starts to disintegrate, objective reality ceases to function, and magic and metaphor become "real". The new novel by Gary Kllworth, *Abandonment*, follows in November, when all the rich people disappear and the down and out inherit the earth.

In August, moreover, there's more J.R.R. Tolkien to look forward to, with a new edition of *Tree and Leaf*, and *The Return of the Shadow* which has the cumbersome subtitle: The History of The Lord of the Rings Part One, The History of Middle-earth Volume 6, which brings Christopher Tolkien's study of his father's work up to the earliest versions of *The Fellowship of the Ring*. The one-volume edition of *The Lord of the Rings* gets hardback publication in October.

Meanwhile Unwin Paperbacks present *Tree and Leaf* in August, *The Shaping of Middle-earth* in September, and *The Tolkien Calendar 1989* by Roger Garland in August.

Other Unwin Paperbacks to look forward to include *Viriconium* by M. John Harrison, which brings together *In Viriconium* and *Viriconium Nights* in one volume, with an introduction by Iain Banks. That's due in September, while in August there's *The Gods in Anger*, the fourth and concluding part of the Osaran Saga by Adrian Cole. There are a lot of fantasy series on the list. Louise Cooper's new series *Indigo* began with *Nemesia* in July, and is followed with *Inferno* in October. Spedding, whose first book, *The Road and the Hills* came out in paperback in July, has its sequel, *A Cloud over Water*, published in September, and the final part of the trilogy, *The Streets of the City*, comes out in November. Then there's Lyndan Darby's *The Eye of Time* trilogy, which had its second part, *Bloodseed* published in July, and which is concluded by *Phoenix Fire* in November. Also in November, Barbara Hambly seems to be taking of fantasy into the realm of steampunk with a thriller set in Edwardian London where someone is systematically hunting down and killing all the vampires, and Oxford don and sometime spy James Asher has to track down the culprit.

Also on the Unwin list is *Other Edens 2*, the second original anthology edited by Christopher Evans and Robert Holdstock.

An Appeal



EDWARD MARKOV

THIS IS AN APPEAL TO ALL FANS. WHILE YOU READ THIS AND CARRY out your fanish activities without restriction, you can help a fan who is in dire straits.

Some of you may remember that, about two years ago, a Jewish fan in the Soviet Union, Edward Markov, asked for help. The English fans responded by writing to him in large numbers, inviting him to conventions and generally causing a fuss. The result of an active public campaign was that Sergei, Edward's son, received permission to emigrate. During the process, Edward himself took the decision to take a low profile, and asked for fans' actions on his own behalf cease. He now asks for fans everywhere to support him publicly. Despite Gorbachev's 'glasnost' and the high profile of the USA's Human Rights concerns, Edward is still trapped without a visa.

Edward is 56 years old. He is a science fiction translator and unpublished writer. He has spent the last nine years trying to leave the Soviet Union for a culture and regime more suited to his ideas and writings. This is what Edward wants you to do;

FANS - write to Edward at:

Kostyushko 10/67
LENDGRSD 196240
RSPSR/USSR

Edward is especially interested to see copies of publications produced by independent and amateur presses in the West. Please understand that registered and recorded deliveries have a better chance of getting through to him, but such of what you send will never arrive. Whether they arrive or not, the number of letters sent is very important to those in authority in the USSR.

CONVENTION ORGANISERS - please invite Edward and his wife to your Cons. He asks that he should be sent a formal invitation (to his address above) and a copy should be sent to the Soviet Writers Union:

Soyuz Pisately SSR
Ul. Vorovskogo 52
Moscow 121825
RSPSR/USSR

Please also notify Dov Rigel (address below) of any action or invitation on Edward's behalf. In the event of Edward being able to attend a con (i.e. granted a visa to leave the USSR) all costs will be met by Dov Rigel.

Please pass this information on. If you have any questions or if you do get any response from any source please contact Dov Rigel at 80 Mill Street, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 2EF. Tel: 08675 78653 (home) or 01 439 7717 (work)

The Wanderground

LOCAL & REGIONAL GROUPS

compiled by Keith Mitchell

WELCOME TO MY FIRST SHOT AT THE REJUVENATED MATRIX CLUBS Column. The main reason I've taken this on is a belief that the relationship between the BSFA and your local group is too important not to deserve regular space in *Matrix*. To me, they have always had a lot to offer each other, and my aim, as this column develops, is to expand on this relationship. This will need involvement from you, the local group members, as much as myself, but I think the benefits to both the BSFA and local groups will make it all worthwhile.

How I intend to go about this has already been touched on by Maureen. The first priority is to get together a comprehensive and accurate directory of all the clubs currently on the go. I plan to publish this at regular intervals - the next one will come after I've digested all the updates to the listing printed in the last *Matrix*. After that, it can be an annual event, but I'll print updates as you send them to me in each *Matrix*.

Once things are on a steady footing, I should be able to send out a questionnaire to keep records up to date. Until then, however, I am relying on you to keep me informed about your local group. I am especially keen to hear about new groups starting up, and also, for the next issues, of University/College/Polytechnic groups - this is your big chance to get members for the new term.

Once we get up-to-date listings going, there are some obvious benefits. BSFA members can more easily find out where to get the social contact that the mailings deny them. What's more, local groups are a good place for us to recruit new members - just how many people in your local group are in the BSFA? Show 'em some of our publications if they're not convinced.

Speaking from personal experience, an important use of a clubs listing is for people who move and find themselves in a new town, and want to meet people. Listings were certainly a big help to me in getting my face round CUSPS, The Tun (now the Wellington), London BSFA, and Glasgow and Hampstead local group meetings over the past few years.

It was the Edinburgh group, FORTH, though, where I started in Fandom, learned about the BSFA, and still continue now (and perhaps forever?). If categorising people into types of fandom (e.g. Convention, Fanzine, media) is your bag, then perhaps I fit into the Local Group fandom slot. I'm sure there are plenty more out there.

Beyond doing a directory, I also want this column to provide a news function. If your group has any interesting events planned, has been up to anything recently, or even if you just have some juicy gossip, then let me know. An unfortunate upshot of the *Matrix* schedules means that I need to know about events at least three months in advance, though.

Anyway, on to business. First of all, some updates to the listing published in the last *Matrix*. The Warrington Group has changed its venue - it now meets at The Wheatheaf, in Oxford Lane. Meetings are still on 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. Contact: Margaret Tout, 2 Rosebank, Lym (0925 75 4463) for more information.

The Bristol SF Group meets every Thursday in Mr Pope's "Just off Park Street" at present, but apparently a change of venue is in prospect, so check first. Contact: Christina Lake or Peter-Fred Thompson at 47 Wessex Avenue, Horfield, Bristol, BS7 0DE (0272 514223). The group also gets up to other activities, including meals, picnics, video nights and discussions of SF writers.

Even though it's only been going since January this year, the Norwich SF Group is managing to produce a monthly 'zine by the title of *Star Pass*. They meet at least fortnightly, and for more information about where and when, contact: Sue Lewis on 0508 41 8380.

Closer to my neck of the woods, the regular meetings of the Edinburgh University SF Society are apparently

also open to non-students. These are held in The Quill, on George IVth Bridge every Thursday, though confirm this outside term-time before going. They also have more formal events, and recently had new Edinburgh resident, Iain Banks, as a guest speaker.

Despite omission from last issue's listing, and eviction from their previous venue, the Glasgow group, FOKT, or Friends of Kilgore Trout as they are known in polite company, are still alive and well and running Albascons. They meet every Thursday evening, but at present I have lost track of the venue.

If Indian Scout is more your cup of "Cha!" than the workings of the country's biggest convention-running machinery, then the Red Army Choir can of course be found on the same night in their secret basement, the Assegai and Voortrekker. How the South African Consulate feels about this concentration of ideological correctness just around the corner is another matter, of course.

That about wraps it up for this month - thank you to all those who wrote in with information, but I'm sure there are many more of you out there I've still not heard from. I can't make a column without your help, so please get writing, especially if you want your student group to be mentioned in time for the new term.

Anyone with information, please contact Keith Mitchell at 3FL, 43 Iona St, Edinburgh, EH6 6SP

Maureen Porter and Paul Kincaid would be interested in hearing from other fans in the Folkestone area, with a view to trying to get some sort of regular meeting going in the area. Write to the editorial address.

FAN CLUBS/LITERARY SOCIETIES/ETC

compiled by Maureen Porter

KEITH SEEMS TO HAVE DONE PRETTY WELL FOR RESPONSES. I, however, was not quite so successful, although my thanks to Jessica Yates for contributing the piece on The Tolkien Society.

I have come across a brief mention of a new Star Trek fanclub - Star Trek - The Next Generation FanClub is in the process of being set up. Further details available from Ms Linda Hepden, 85 Eastwick Row, Aysfield, Hasel Hempstead, Herts, HP2 4TQ. An SAE (9x4) or an envelope plus IRC if overseas, would be helpful. Indeed, when writing to any group or society for information, an SAE would be appreciated.

If you recall, my brief is for information on literary societies, such as the Tolkien Society, fanclubs, such as the aforementioned Star Trek group, media groups, film societies, you name it. Anything which doesn't quite fit into Keith's sphere of interest. I have some information to work on, but please don't assume that I know about your group. The kind of information I need is probably obvious, to some extent. What is your group interested in, who should a new member contact, how much does it cost? I'd also like to know, where appropriate, whether you produce regular publications, what they are, and whether you organise events, and anything else you think may be of interest. At the very least, look on this as free advertising.

THE TOLKIEN SOCIETY

The Tolkien Society, founded in 1969, is a registered charity dedicated to furthering interest in the life and works of Professor J.R.R. Tolkien, its honorary president 'in perpetuo'. The bulletin *Aeon* has been published approximately six times per year, the critical journal *Mallorn* approximately annually, and there is a lending library of fantasy fiction and fanzines for UK members only. There are three national meetings, the AGM and Dinner, the one-day workshop/conference, and the Osenoot - an autumn weekend in Oxford which includes a party (costume optional) and the traditional visit to Tolkien's grave.

Local groups, called Smials, are found throughout the UK, and give a friendly welcome to SF/fantasy fans who would like to join. The longest-standing group is the Northfishing Smial, which meets at The Bricklayers Arms, Gresse

St, off Rathbone Place, London W1, in the upstairs bar from 6pm onwards. Meetings in members' homes also take place regularly; usually the 'tenth Sunday of the month, including a simple buffet supper.

Of emails elsewhere in the UK, the picture is constantly changing as people move in and out of particular areas. Two well-established emails are Minas Tirith, the Cambridge University email, and Acon Sol, based in Halifax, and there are enough Tolkien Society members dotted around the UK for emails to form if 2 or 3 active individuals would like to organise them. Abroad, the Tolkien Society has contacts with the American Mythopoeic Society, and the Dutch and Swedish Tolkien Societies.

For the latest membership details, send an SAE to the Secretary, Anne Howard, 35 Amesbury Crescent, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 5RD.

For those interested in literary societies, I'm printing a list of others which might also be of interest. I'd be grateful for information about other literary societies, or for further details on those listed below.

GENERAL LITERARY SOCIETIES

THE BRITISH FANTASY SOCIETY Di Wathen, 15 Stanley Rd, Morden, Surrey SM4 5DE. Devoted to fantasy, horror and related fields, in literature, art and the cinema. Publications include *British Fantasy Newsletter*, featuring news and reviews, and *Dark Horizons*, featuring fiction and articles. Membership: £8 pa

THE EDWARDIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION High Orchard, 125 Markyate Rd, Dagenham, Essex RM8 2LB. Promotion of integrated approach to studies of Edwardians - Shaw, Wells, Conrad etc. Publishes *Edwardian Studies*.

Competition Corner

by Elizabeth Sourbut.

THERE WERE 21 ENTRIES FOR THE NUMBERS QUIZ. THE turnout gets better and better! They came from: Ian Oldfield, Mike Don, Andy Mills, Ronnie Blakey, R Smith, Stuart Falconer, Rod Cameron, Paul A Moran, P T Ross, David Boyce, Steven Tew, Margaret Tout, Steve Malone and John Spurrier-Davies. Runners-up with ten out of eleven, were: Malcolm Kinneer, Jenny Glover, Craig Marnock, Kev McVeigh, Jessica Yates and Marina McDonald. But the winner, by a short head, with all the questions answered correctly, was: Susan Francis. Congratulations! A £5 book token is on its way to you.

The complete answers were:

1. Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
2. Room 101, in 1984 by George Orwell
3. 666 in Revelations by St John, or
in The Number of the Beast by Robert Heinlein.
4. The Nine Billion Names of God by Arthur C Clarke (is that 10⁹ or 10¹¹?)
5. Aragorn, Boromir, Gandalf, Frodo Baggins, Sam Gamgee, Meriadoc Brandybuck, Peregrin Took, Gimli, Legolas. The Lord of the Rings by J R R Tolkien
6. Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut Jr
7. Corwin was one of the Nine Princes in Amber by Roger Zelazny. His brothers were: Random, Julian, Eric, Caine, Blye, Gerard, Benedict and Brand (plus Oeric and Flindo, deceased, for the pedantic.)
8. The Great Year on Helliconia. Helliconia trilogy by Brian Aldiss
9. MMLXII 2061, Odyssey Three by Arthur C Clarke
10. According to Spock, 17.9 years. The Trouble with Tribbles by David Gerrold.
11. 42. The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy etc by Douglas Adams

SPECIFIC AUTHOR LITERARY SOCIETIES

LEWIS CARROLL SOCIETY Ken Oultrem, Clatterwick Hall, Little Leigh, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 4RJ Tel: 0606 891303 (office hours). To encourage interest in the life and works of Lewis Carroll. Subscription: £3 pa

THE CHESTERTON SOCIETY 20 Valleyside, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP1 2LM Tel: 0442 61828. Secretary: P M S Pinto. To promote interest in the life and work of Chesterton and those associated with him, or influenced by his writings. Subscription: £10 pa, including the journal *The Chesterton Review* and newsletters.

THE ARTHUR MACHEN SOCIETY Rita Tait, 19 Cross St, Caerleon, Gwent, NP4 1AF. Tel: Newport 42250. Membership: £7.50 pa.

WILLIAM MORRIS SOCIETY Kelscott House, 26 Upper Mall, London W6 5TA. To spread knowledge of the life, work and ideas of William Morris. Publishes a *Newsletter* and a *Journal*.

MERVYN PEEKE SOCIETY John Watney, Flat 36, 5 Elm Park Gardens, London, SW10 9QQ. Devoted to recording the life and works of Mervyn Peake. Publishes a *Journal* and *newsletter*. Subscription: £8, £5 for students, £10 overseas.

THE JULES VERNE CIRCLE 6 High Orchard, 125 Markyate Road, Dagenham, Essex, RM8 2LB. Promotion of scholarship and research in the life, work and times of Jules Verne. Subscription: £2 pa

THE H G WELLS SOCIETY Department of Language and Literature, Polytechnic of North London, Prince of Wales Rd, Kentish Town, London, NW5 3LB. Tel: 01 607 2789. Promotion of an active interest in and encouragement of an appreciation of the life, work and thought of H G Wells. Publishes *The Wellsian* and *The Newsletter*. Subscription: £4 pa

CHARLES WILLIAMS SOCIETY 26 Village Rd, Finchley, London N3 1TL. To promote interest in Charles Williams' life and work, and to make his writings more easily available.



MATRIX QUIZ 77: ALIENS

Answer the following questions as fully as you can, giving title and author in all cases.

1. Name a race of two-headed cowards.
2. Describe a Hoolooovoo.
3. Who was Jomay Cross?
4. What is a DEDQ?
5. Who was Winter Wind?
6. Identify the following Martians: Zat Arrras, Valentine Michael Smith, Za Kraggash, Tweel.
7. What was unusual about the natives of Sigma Draconis III?
8. Who fought Bugs and Skinnies?
9. What alien race is so stupid, it thinks if you can't see it, it can't see you?
10. Who was Steigen-Sterben?
11. Who was Matthew Gore's invisible friend?
12. Where would you expect to find: a hross; a sentient ocean?

Send your answers, by the next mailing deadline please, to Elizabeth Sourbut, Trentholme Drive, The Mount, York YO2 2DG. (Yes, it really is the same address two mailings running!)

[Type on forcing Anstrads to do the impossible will be gratefully received at the editorial address.]

suggest that we offer something for everyone.

If the essentials of your convention include round-the-clock films, computer rooms, organised gaming, costume, or the choice of several programme strands, Mexico may not be for you. Mexico has none of these things. Others, better able, can deliver these at other events. What we will provide is a single track, tightly organised programme, specifically oriented towards the SF reader and the active and interested SF fan. There will be films and other entertainments, including a disco, quizzes and bars. Whatever the tenor of the programme, our intentions are to ensure everyone has a thoroughly socialised good time. (The people who stay in the bar for the entire event should feel they've missed something by not participating in the programme.)

As before, we will not have a Guest of Honour. As usual, we will aggressively encourage persons from all walks of the SF world not merely to attend the convention but to participate in the programme. Mexico has been notable in the past for attracting writers who otherwise had not participated in conventions."

Contact: Greg Pickersgill, 7a Lawrence Road, South Ealing, London, W5 for further information. Other committee names which might be familiar to BSFA members include Linda Pickersgill, Paul Kincaid, and Maureen Porter.

Conscription, the convention intended for those interested in all aspects of actually running a convention, is still on schedule for September. A second progress report is due at the end of July. For further information contact Henry Balen at the address given in the listing.

Finally, I need help from members. In the past I've tried to give some flavour of what conventions are about, with a few words, but this has not always been greeted with enthusiasms, and I've rather hung back in more recent issues. However, I've come to the conclusion that it's more important to disseminate as much information as possible and risk displeasing a few people. So, I'm going to try two things. Space permitting, I shall be trying to include paragraphs in this new section, digesting information from progress reports as I receive them, but I'd also like to tag each entry in the con listing, perhaps with a code, as I do in the fanzine listing column. But what do people want to know? Bearing in mind that I haven't got the space to include vast amounts of information, I could work out codings to note such things as masquerades, discos, gaming, that sort of thing, but it would be a simpler job if I could find out what it is that people need to know when making their choice of which con to go to. Star? Specialised or general? What sort of peripherals are involved? Get the idea? good, so would you please let me know at the editorial address, ideas for more substantial articles on conventions would be welcome, though the request does not necessarily ensure that an article will be produced. And any con committees reading, would you consider putting Matrix on your mailing list for information. Thanks

CONVENTION ROUNDUP

compiled by Maureen Porter

When writing for information, enclose an sse for the reply. Most cons run on a tight budget and this is always appreciated. If you are running a convention or know of one which I've missed, please send information to the editorial address. All listings are free, and will continue until the convention has taken place.

1988 CONVENTIONS

CONVINE 5-7 August, Oxford Polytechnic; Guests: Terry Fratchett; Membership: Supporting £4, Attending £9; Contact: c/o Ivan Towson, New College, Oxford, OX1 3BN

HUNGAROCON - The 1988 Eurocon; 10-14 August, Budapest Conference Centre; Guests not yet announced. Membership: BUS 50 in order to get hard currency to finance Western guests; Contact: Hungarian SF Society, PO Box 514, H-1374 Budapest 5,

WINCON - Unicorn 9; 19-21 August, King Alfred's College, Winchester; Guests: Patrick Tilley/Michael de Larrabeiti; Membership: Attending £8 Supporting £4; Contact: Wincon, 11 Rutland St, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 5JG

KOANCON - 19-21 August, Coventry Polytechnic. Contact: Paul Mason, Top Flat, 19 Rusholme Rd, Putney, London SW15 3JK. Games convention only.

RUBICON III - 26-28 August, Chequers Hotel, Newbury. Membership: £5 attending. Contact: Krystyna oborn, Bishop's Cottage, park House Lane, Reading, Berks, RG3 2AH. Small friendly relaxacon (little programming, lots of socialising)

CONFETTI - 26-28 August. Star Trek con but unconfirmed. Contact Kim Farey, 30 Woodcote House, Hitchin, Herts, SG4 9TL for further information.

GREENWOOD II - 27-28 August, Shepperton Moot House. Membership: £20 attending. Contact: Mr & Mrs Lee Bougourd, Bracknell, Grand Bouet, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands. 'Robin of Sherwood' con.

MOLACON II - The 46th Worldcon; 1-5 September, New Orleans, LA; Guests: Donald A Wollheim/Roger Sims; Membership: £19 supporting until 14/7/88 Attending £45 until 14/7/88. Contact: Linda Pickersgill, 7a Lawrence Rd, South Ealing, London, W5 4XJ.

PORTMEIRION 88 2-4 September; Portmeirion, NW Wales. Contact: Six of One, PO Box 66, Ipswich. A Prisoner convention. All outdoor events free (except for a small hotel toll to non-residents), indoor events open only to Six of One member (Prisoner Appreciation Society), membership £10 per annum.

NICON 16-18 September, Queens University of Belfast Halls of Residence. Guests: James White, Katherine Kurtz, John Flynn, Paul Campbell. Membership: £9. Accommodation: £9.20 per night B&B students, £12.65 per night B&B others. Contact: Joe McNally, 106 Somerset Rd, Belfast, BT15

PARIS SUR LA FUTUR 22-25 September; la Maison de la Mutualité, Paris, France; Membership: 200FF; Contact: Raymond Audernard, 118 Avenue de Stalingrad, 92700 Colombes, France.

ARMADACON 23-25 September, Ballard Centre, Plymouth; Guest: Katherine Kurtz; Registration: £10 for the weekend, £5 per day until Easter, then £15 for the weekend or £7.50 per day, also four 9" x 4" sses; Contact: c/o M Cornell, 4 Glenaele Avenue, Plymouth, Devon, PL3 5HL

CONSCRIPTION 24-25 September, Cobden Hotel, Birmingham; Membership: Attending £10, Supporting £6, Pre-con publications £2; Contact: Henry Balen, 8 West Ave, Walthamstow, London, E17 9QN; A convention designed especially for those involved in, or interested in, convention organisation.

UKCAC - UK Comic Art Convention - 24-25 September, Logan Hall, Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. Membership: £10 in advance, £15 on the door. Contact: UKCAC, PO Box 360, London WC2H 9TB

TWILIGHT 88 - 1-2 October, Great Hotel, Crawley. Membership: £15 attending, £8 supporting. Contact: Twilight 88, c/o Karen Fay, 5 St Aubin Close, Broadfield, Crawley, W Sussex. Blake's 7 and Dr Who con.

SPACE CITY - 1-2 October. Blake's 7 convention. Contact: Miss L. Bingham, 18 Bennister Road, Burghfield Common, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 3LG

DECAID - Shoestring Con 10; 21-23 October, Hatfield Polytechnic. For further details contact Decaid, PSFA, c/o Students Union, Hatfield Polytechnic, Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

HANSECON - 27-30 October, CVM Haus, Grosse Petersgrube, Lübeck. Contact: Dieter Schmidt, Haidrath 330, D-2055 Wohltorf, West Germany.

CONCEPT 28-30 October, Grosvenor Hotel, Edinburgh; Contact: Jette Goldie, 97 Harrison Rd, Edinburgh, EH1 1LT. Film & TV inspired convention.

WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION - 28-30 October, Ramada Inn, London. Guest: James Herbert; Membership: Attending £45 until 1 July, supporting £15. Contact: World Fantasy Convention, 130 Park View, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 6JU

NOVACON 18 - Annual Brun Group Convention; 4-6 November, Royal Angus Hotel, Birmingham; Guest: Garry Kilworth; Membership: £10 (£15 on door); Contact: Novacon 18, c/o Bernie Evans, 7 Grove Avenue, Acocks Green, Birmingham, B27 7UY

1989 CONVENTIONS

CONTRIVANCE - 1989 British SF Convention/Eastercon 24-27 March 1989, Jersey; Guests: Anne McCaffrey/M John

Harrison/Avedon Carol/Rob Hansen; Membership: Attending £18 Supporting £9; Contact: 63 Drake Rd, Chessington, Surrey

MEXICON III - 26-29 May, Albany Hotel, Nottingham. Membership: £15, cheques made payable to 'Mexicon 3'. Contact: Greg Pickersgill, 7a Lawrence Rd, South Ealing, London W5 4JX

ICONCLASH (formerly Lucon II) - 16-18 June, Griffin Hotel, Leeds. Guests: Diane Duane, Peter Morwood. Membership: Attending £9, Supporting £4. Contact: Jenny Glover, 16 Avary Place, Arley, Leeds, LS12 2NF

EUROCON, Republic of San Marino. Contact: Organising Committee, c/o Adolfo Morganti, Via Capellinini 14, 47037 Rimini, Italy.

MORSECON III - The 47th Worldcon: 31 August - 4 September 1989, Boston, MA; Guests: Andre Norton/Betty & Ian Ballantine/The Stranger Club; Contact: Colin Fine, 28 Abbey Rd, Cambridge, CB5 8HQ



UFF CON '88 - The 25th BRITISH STAR TREK CONVENTION
27-30 May, Metropole Hotel, Birmingham

reviewed by Kathy Shiel

OH HOW FICKLE FANDOM IS! UFF CON '88 WILL GO DOWN IN THE ANNALS of British Star Trek history as being the con which transported Trek fandom from the 23rd Century into the 24th, and sent Captain Kirk and his merry band of geriatrics sprawling into oblivion. Fans flocked to the dealers' room to buy anything and everything on 'The Next Generation'. 'Next Generation' costumes abounded. Bald heads were in! And fans swooned as Patrick Stewart uttered the immortal words from the Star Trek bible, "Spock, the final frontier...".

The convention was sizzling with excitement from the moment everyone stepped into the hotel foyer to be re-acquainted with old, and not so old, friends, and the first and most important item on the agenda was "is it 'The NEW Generation' or 'The NEXT Generation'?" Many fans meditated deeply all weekend in an effort to solve this riddle. This was something the Committee had obviously not anticipated, and they had consequently filled their guest list with original series actors, writers and hangers-on. Grace Lee Whitney (Yeoman Janice Rand in the original series) is, according to the blurb, no mean filk singer and songwriter, but Morwood, are all products of Star Trek fandom, with Arnold moving into merchandising after his big break as a fan extra in *Star Trek: The Motionless Picture*, and the others frantically producing yet more Star Trek novels of little consequence.

Having settled in, I consulted the pocket programme, which was produced on a foldover card, with illegible print and indecipherable times, a fact which led a number of people, myself included, to miss the beginning of some items. There were four video rooms, one showing the original series, one showing 'Next Generation', another showing actor-related videos, which the fourth contained general SF videos, with Sunday being devoted to media TV shows. UFF Con also had the benefit of a real cinema which showed all four SF films as well as others such as *Robocop*, *Innerspace* and *Species*. The main room was also busy with its usual panel items, guest speeches, games, quizzes and discos.

By 9.30 am on Sunday morning there was a real buzz going round the con. Messages were being passed around.

"Be in the main room at 10.30"

"Why, have you heard what I've heard?"

"What is it you've heard?"

"I'm not telling you, but I'm going to be in the main room at 10.30"

So there I was in the main room, listening to Richard Arnold talk about his all-important role in merchandising; suddenly, he was interrupted by a member of the committee, who walked up to the microphone and announced "Ladies and Gentlemen, Patrick Stewart!". The pecked hall rose as one to applaud as he entered; he was their new hero, their idol, and for an hour and a half, they sat transfixed.

By 4pm on Monday, shattered but happy people made their farewells and departed. For many, this had been a shot in the arm, and it would take many days for them to unwind.

CONGREGATE - 10-12 June, Peterborough

reviewed by Steven Glover

CONGREGATE '88 WAS HELD IN THE PETERSBOROUGH MOAT HOUSE HOTEL. Whilst there have been two previous cons in Peterborough, this was the first to be run by this committee. However, the consensus at the closing ceremony was that it shouldn't be the last.

Apart from the explicit theme of "Humour in Science Fiction", which couldn't really be missed with Terry Pratchett, Bob Shaw and Iain Banks as guests, there were two other concepts implicit in the convention, one of which was the atmosphere of sheer friendliness which enveloped the con, though how much of this was due to deliberate planning by the committee is hard to tell. Another was the idea of "New Fan Land", a cunning scheme devised to introduce people new to cons to all the multifarious forms of fun that are to be had. People were asked when they registered if they wanted to take part, and those who did were taken aside, bought a beer, introduced to each other and to the other folk in the bar, and filled in on what was going on. There were also some special programme items in the alternative programme.

Still, enough introduction. On with the con! Friday's events included a couple of films and a roleplaying game based on the Peterborough Development Corporation, as well as a Turkey Reading. I missed these, but went to the Opening Ceremony, which fulfilled its traditional role of introducing the guests and committee, as well as being a verbal programme book for the rest of the weekend, after which I returned to the bar until it was time for the filking.

Surprisingly, I was awake in time for the first "New Fan Land" item on Saturday morning, which was mainly a discussion of what it was like to start out in fandom, whether via fanzines or cons. There was a strong implication that the old-time cons were more welcoming, but that fandom in general was more of a "close-knit" community. This was followed by a discussion on what people thought about fandom, including the difficulties as much as the good points. The high point of the morning was Bob Shaw's interview, although I remember it more as a talk. In the afternoon, it was Terry Pratchett's turn, so we heard about the next few Discworld books. There were a few panels (rpgs, TV, clichés, and linguistics), a horror quiz and the Obligatory Silly Game, loosely based on The Generation Game, and won by Mr and Mrs Professional-Person, better known as Terry Pratchett and Alex Stewart. As is traditional for small cons, some function space was lost to a wedding reception in the evening, but this didn't cause any problems except during the masquerade, when some costumes received multiple second glances.

Very few people were up and about for the "New Fan Land" session on Sunday morning, so the first real item was a panel on alien physiology, which was beginning to get rather technical when time was called. The "planetary session" on Humour in SF, with all three guests, would have had people rolling in the aisles, had there been space, and if the audience hadn't been paralysed with laughter. Apparently, the panel entitled "That's Not Funny, That's Sick" was even funnier, but I wasn't sure if I could cope.

As most people were leaving that night, it was decided to hold the filking early, with a break for the Closing Ceremony, when no serious complaints were raised at all. As we left the hotel on the shuttle minibus, the dreaded Peterborough Over 27 Club were taking over the bar.

Fire & Hemlock

MAGAZINE LISTINGS

Compiled, with comments, by Maureen Porter

I'd appreciate some indication, beyond what I already give, and the reviews of course, of what people want to know about zines when I list them, bearing in mind, yet again, that space is at something of a premium, as ever.

DEFINITIONS

A **genuine** (g) usually has more than one contributor, contents include articles, reviews, fiction, letter. A **perzine** (p) usually has one author, contents vary. A **clubzine** (c) is produced by a group or society, containing a mixture of items. **Mediazines** (m) and **Fictionazines** (f) are self-explanatory, as are critical **journals** (j), **reviewazines** (r) and **newszines** (n). Anything else is probably indefinable (i). The usual (tu) varies: a letter of comment (loc), a contribution, the promise of either, a stamp. Trade means their zine for yours. Simply asking nicely often does the trick.

Review copies are appreciated, though please send two copies if Paul Kincaid or myself are on your mailing list. I don't use my own copies for reviewers.

Apologies for brevity of some descriptions. I've not had time to read everything yet.

LISTINGS

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #14 - Science Fiction Collective, GPO Box 1294L, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, Australia (c/j) £6 for six issues surface, or £12 for six issues airmail, cheque made out to Joseph Nicholas, 22 Denbigh St, Pimlico, London SW1V 2ER. This issue mainly concerned with reviews of *The Sea and Summer* by George Turner, winner of this year's Clarke Award.

THE BIG SLEAZE #5 - Terry Frost, GPO Box 1808, Sydney 2001, Australia (p/tu) 'photos for Sleazemate of the Month, carnal bribes and all good stuff'. Lively perzine, reminiscent of the work of our own Chuck Connor. Maybe not for the very fainthearted but worth a look.

EFLINKUDERIN #1 - Kev McVeigh, 37 Fire Rd, Milnthorpe, Cumbria LA7 7QF. (g/tu) Interesting contents though production a little idiosyncratic.

FACT SHEET FIVE #26 - Mike Gunderloy, 6 Arizona Avenue, Rensselaer, NY 12144-4502, USA (t/tu, \$2 per issue, \$8 for four issues). The essential listing magazine for anyone interested in zines of any shape, size or description.

GOOD TASTE IS TIMELESS #11 - Owen Whiteoak, Top Flat, 11 Horsell Road, Highbury, London, N5 1XL (g/tu). How to describe this zine. A unique, surreal description of Polypoon, among others. Learn what your editor can't remember doing at Novacon, and what your new Clubs Columnist can do to lightbulbs. Highly recommended fanwriting.

HOLDER THAN THOU #26 - Martv Cantor, 11565 Archwood St, North

FANZINE REVIEWS

by Gillian Barker

Fanzines seem to come in all shapes and sizes; A4, A5, photocopied, duplicated, typed, word processed, whatever the writer has to hand. It would be unfair to praise one size, one method to the exclusion of others. The point is to make the best use of what's available, if not push back the frontiers.

Kev McVeigh is a regular contributor to the **WRITEBACK** Column in *Matrix*. This seems to be his first excursion into fanzines, although his introductory article suggests that he is no stranger to them. In which case, it's a pity he didn't take more notice of them. His sloppy presentation detracts from a fairly solid little zine. Inaccurate folding, clumsy styling, wobbly layout on the title page, a title which isn't easy to read - it turns out to be *Eflinkuderin* (what?) - okay, maybe I'm splitting hairs, but it doesn't inspire me to read further. Inside, corrections are handwritten onto typescript, titles

Hollywood, CA 91606-1703, USA (g/tu, IBM Selectric Type I typeballs, or \$5) This issue devoted to a memorial of Terry Carr, fan and editor. Also some marvellous cartoons by Grant Canfield.

KAMERA OBSCURA #1 - Owen Whiteoak (see **GOOD TIMES...**) Another sample of the inner workings of Owen's mind.

LAMP'S LANTERN #24, #25 - George Laskowski, 55 Valley Way, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013, USA. (c/j/articles, art, locs, \$2, whls). Sercon would be a good description (serious & constructive) for this, a literary journal. Bit heavy going for my taste at times, but this might say more about the lacunae in my reading knowledge. #24 is an L Sprague de Camp special, #25 very seamy indeed. Worth reading.

LARRIKIN #16 - Perry Middlemiss (GPO Box 2708X, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, Australia) & Irwin Hirsch (2/416 Dandenong Rd, Caulfield North, Victoria 3161, Australia) (sort of genuine/tu). Cheerful zine, a good read, maybe confusing if you don't know some of the people involved.

LINCOLNSHIRE REWINDS #2 - Pete Watts, Room 12, Newton house, St Georges Hospital, Long Leys Rd, Lincoln, LN1 1EF. (p/locs, trade, sex, drugs, rock'n'roll and anything else I could possibly want') Notable for an interesting article on Quakerism.

THE METAPHYSICAL REVIEW #11/12/13 - Bruce Gillespie, GPO Box 519AA, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, Australia. (c/j/tu or £15 for six issues airmail) Another sercon zine, excellent production, contents somewhat more to my perverse literary taste, including articles on William Gibson, C S Lewis and Ballard. Also a consideration of the *Gor* series. Worth reading.

MINDOSA #4, #5 - Dick & Nicki Lynch, 4207 Davis Ln, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37416, USA. (g/tu). Interesting collection of articles including one from Bob Shaw.

PIRATE JEMMY #1 - Pat Mueller, 618 Westridge, Duncanville, TX 75116, USA. (g/editorial whls). News and articles from the Hugo Award-winning former editor of the *Texas SF Inquirer*. Worth reading.

PULP #9 ed. jointly by Avendon Carol and Rob Hansen, John Harvey, and Vince Clarke, this issue was produced by Rob and Avendon (144 Plashet Grove, East Ham, London E6 1AB) (g/tu). Letterful full of responses to Vince Clarke's comments on fanzine reviewing. Also a thought-provoking article from Avendon, and more from Chris Priest on the Harlan Ellison saga. A must.

SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN #1 - Terry Frost (see *Big Sleaze*). More general content, this time.

THYME #69 ed by LYN & Peter Burns. (n/sub available from Joseph Nicholas - see *Australian SF Review* for address, £5 for ten issues, cheques made payable to Thyme). Useful if you are interested in Aussie news.

VSOP #2 - Jan Dawes, 18 Burchett Place, Leeds, LS6 2LN. (g/tu) Very swoopy production, ditto artwork, and some interesting articles. Definitely for those interested in fanish fan writing.

hardly exist, and crime of crimes, a multiplicity of typefaces - it gets worse. However, the contents bear closer examination, including a lengthy, and fairly interesting survey of the cyberpunk phenomenon, drawing on a wide number of resources, and a bitter little sting from 'ZAK' on the two-parent family. Clearly written from the heart. Maybe I've been hard on the look of the thing, as it's an interesting zine, underneath, but maybe others wouldn't persevere.

So, let's move along to *Lincolnshire Rewinds* #2, from Pete Watts. Actually a first zine, despite the numbering (a device to give it some sort of fanish credibility, a peculiar notion), this is almost the ultimate minimalist zine. Clean, well laid out, the pale print gives it away as produced on micro-perforated continuous stationery, hence the one side only of writing each page. Oh what a giveaway, and incredibly wasteful on paper. But the austerity of the production belies the interesting content of the zine. The article on robots didn't so much leave me cold as non-comprehending. Was it a joke? And what's an MBF? On the other hand, I was very interested in Pete's description of

SOAPBOX

MAYBE SCIENCE FICTION IS DEAD

by Cecil Muraw

I'VE BEEN READING SF ALL MY LIFE, JUST ABOUT. ONE OF THE FIRST books I ever got out of the library was science fiction, I think. All I remember about it is that it was something about rockets and I couldn't get past the first few pages. I couldn't make sense of it. Maybe I was about nine then.

I'm not that old. I missed the heyday of the pulps, but I didn't miss the nostalgia for those happy optimistic days. I missed the techno-fiction of the fifties, but I didn't miss the orthodoxy that SF should be about putting one impossibility into the story and going from there. Extrapolation, it was; prophecy, if you were lucky; explorations of the vast alternative futures that seemed to confront mankind. I even missed the apparently dark and dismal days of the sixties, when technology lost its glamour, when it became a tool of the dark forces of Control. When I began reading in earnest, in the late seventies, SF was splitting up into "hard SF" and space opera, there was an "experimental" strand, there were calls for renaming SF "speculative fiction" to recognise the new preoccupations with sociological, psychological, political and philosophical subjects. I liked it. At heart, SF was a serious activity, it was about learning to think about the future, it was about living with the modern world, it was about learning to be imaginative in big ways. And then came D&D, and Star Wars, and suddenly the thing was Fantasy Trilogies, elves and demons and magic and worlds you could never get to from here. What happened?

I seem to remember "escapism" being a dirty word (though it may just have been in my family) until, I suppose, it became big business. But I don't think it has ever been about escapism. It's about optimism. (Now, there's a dirty word for you.) In the thirties and fifties, science was good, science was the answer, science and technology won the war, didn't it? It produced massive changes in our way of life, and SF wasn't escaping from that. SF was part of that optimism about the world, expressed in a fecundity similar to the fecundity of science itself. Then came The Bomb, the Cold War, and science began to lose its aura of metaphysical rightness. The new optimism of sex and drugs and rock-and-roll had nothing to do with science, and pretty soon became the source of vast new pessimisms. Then came relationships and junkies and disco, and then we began to be personally and individually overwhelmed by science and its fruits. TV and other mass media, plastic money, personal computers, unemployment, material over-abundance on the one hand and a greater awareness of the world's problems on the other; incredible medical technology on the one hand and an

increasing realisation that half of it is bad for you on the other. Science was still an answer to some things, but it was also a problem, a political problem most of all. SF was no longer such optimistic reading.

Once somebody asked me what was missing in modern science fiction, and I had an answer, to my surprise. It was that people in general, therefore including SF writers, could not imagine a future that they could look forward to. Science fact was already upon us with a vengeance, complex beyond all the visions of science fiction, and no longer wondrous but onerous, created in elite establishments and at the mercy of economics. And worse, for those of us who could welcome it all, it is fantasy. It is an existence similar to an adolescent with a large allowance from his parents, doomed to end one day, happy only if he does not look too far ahead. We can only see the holocaust ahead, when we will have to leave the secure family home and make our own way in the real world of third world resentment, desertification, extinction of species, the rise of fundamentalist ideologies. How can SF be optimistic when its very premise has become obsolete, is unavoidsably naive? Science has passed science fiction by. A book based around already existing technology, or a variant thereof, will become a best-seller, not because that's what mainstream writers are now able to do, but because it will be in tune with real attitudes to science and technology; we want to think about what has already happened to us, not what might come about in the future.

So fantasy has become the new speaker for optimism. The fact that it has less to do with the real world than science fiction is neither here nor there: the pulp era of SF was the same. In fact, what we are looking at is a new pulp era, for a new form of imaginative fiction. What is it about? Magic? Morality? First steps towards a new psycho-sociology? Maybe. There is a lot of scope for playing with unusual perspectives and attitudes in fantasy role playing games, and the same is true of fantasy writing. Science has been discredited, perhaps partly as a result of the work of SF writers, so throw it out. Who needs it? The question isn't what else we can invent, the question is who we shall become. When we were young we knew that a fairy tale could have more impact on our lives than an impassioned non-fiction piece for change, and we knew our parents who grumbled about "escapist" reading had forgotten what it was about.

I continue to read SF, in preference to fantasy, but I have a sneaking suspicion that science fiction is dead, that it died of terminal disappointment as long as ten years ago, as evidenced by the latest output of such famous undead as Asimov and Clarke. We try to recapture our youthful optimism, but the new generation knows that SF isn't where it's at any more.

Quaker meetings, and his comparison of it with 'noisy religions'. Altogether more thoughtful than his tale of watching a chair he is about to buy become contaminated by a rather unsavoury character. A trifle childish but very funny.

TRANSFER is a product of the Manchester University Science Fiction and Fantasy Society, and has obviously benefitted from the artwork of Ian Brooks, also a contributor to these pages. They even ran a BSFA advertisement. This zine describes itself as a collection of fiction, although comments on Star Trek - The New Generation, and Terry Fratchett's visit to the society also surface. I know that fan fiction is supposed to be beyond the pale, but who says? Admittedly, editors do seem to be in short supply in this branch of fan writing, but just because it isn't the real professional McCoy doesn't mean that some people aren't perfectly content to remain in the amateur arena. Highlights of the zine are a mood piece from Jenny Newton - *Return to Nowhere* (why aren't the authors credited at the beginning of the stories) and a wicked pastiche on Thomas Covenant the Unbeliever. Overlong, but so's the original.

SPHERICAL ABERRATION #3 from Richmond Hunt is a most superior production, a reviewzine, I think, but with a strong injection of the personality of its editor, something the other editors ought to consider. It's packed with items, zine reviews, interviews, but the layout is immaculate. On the other hand, I'd hate to insist that everyone do their zines this way. It would get pretty boring otherwise. In the meantime, subscribe, and make Richmond a happy man.

EPILIMNOSIS #1 - Kev McVeigh, 37 Firs Rd, Milnthorpe, Cumbria, LA7 7QF. Available for the usual?

LINCOLNSHIRE REVIEWS #2 - Pete Watts, Room 12, Newton House, St Georges Hospital, Long Leys Road, Lincoln, LN1 1EF. Available for the usual.

SPHERICAL ABERRATION #3 - Richmond Hunt, 51 Denes Rd, Exeter, Devon, EX4 4LS. Available for editorial whim, a contribution, 50p, or a three issue subscription of £1.50. Issues #1 & #2 still available for 50p each.

TRANSFER - Science Fiction and Fantasy Society, c/o The Students Union, Manchester University, Oxford Road, Manchester. Available?

THE LETTERS HAVE BEEN HELD OVER UNTIL NEXT ISSUE, MOSTLY because there were so few, and partly because we are a little strapped for space at present. Please try to keep letters fairly brief and to the point, as I would like to give everyone a fair crack of the whip.

Don't forget that the deadline for the next issue of *Matrix* is:

FRIDAY 16th SEPTEMBER