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INTERVIEW: DONALD A. WOLLHEIM

**HARLAN
ELLISON**
a profile



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#77

HE HAD A LONG BEARD, AND A
LONG, LONG NOSE, DARK GLASSES,
A TALL, POINTY HAT, AND A SCRUFFY
BLACK ROBE WITH A HIGH COLLAR.
HE SEEMED UPSET WITH OUR GUIDE-
LINES FOR
PL 94-613.



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#79

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Next Issue.....

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FRED SABERHAGEN

BARRY MALZBERG ON SCIENCE FICTION

THE CURSE OF CONAN
BY NEAL WILGUS

PLUS MORE AND EVER MORE GEIS REVIEWS
PLUS THE REGULARS

ALIEN THOUGHTS



BY THE EDITOR

10-26-79 SFR #33 went into the mails two days ago, the bookstore copies are on the way...and we start another issue. All's well with the world.

About half the bookstores who had sold SFR on a credit (pay later) basis have purchased copies of SFR on the new pay-with-order basis. So, indeed, a lot of those who bought SFR at their local sf bookshop will indeed find it there no longer.

I expected about a 50% response, by the way. The New York distributor predicted a 3% response to my new approach.

Am I losing a lot of money?

Not really. This way I know within a hundred copies how many to order from the printer, I have virtually no returns (there may be a few flawed copies to replace), and I have a four-to-five hundred dollar bulge in my account to help with the printer's bill, the postage bill, etc. when I need it.

Also, I don't have to write letters asking for payments, and I don't have a huge accounts receivable file.

My actual profit is less by a few hundred dollars, but the peace of mind is worth it.

I see that the subscription list expanded by 24 since last issue---a nice, conservative growth which is fine with me. But as noted last issue, I anticipate a slow decline in total subscriptions (barring a miracle like a review in TIME or something similar) over the next year, as the recession deepens.

On the other hand, could be that as fans are forced to make choices ---SFR or ANALOG?---SFR or STARSHIP

---they may choose SFR. I like to think that's what'll happen, anyway.

A bit of recanting is due here, on my part, in re and concerning the comment I made about sf editors being difficult to talk to on the phone...at least for me...as they rush and dominate and don't let me get a word in edgewise.

(Not only editors are this way, of course; I could name a few authors....)

Since I wrote that entry I've talked twice to Hank Stine, who now edits both GALAXY and the Donning sf line, and I must say that Hank's phone manner has eased up, become relaxed and calm...a pleasure to speak with.

The latest GALAXY news is that the publisher mandated a cut to 128 pages to conform with several of the firm's other magazines, and as a result my book review column and some other items were necessarily cut from the September/October issue which was distributed earlier this month.

Hank gave permission for me to run those reviews in SFR, so here they be, leading off my "And then I read..." column.

This new GALAXY has a different look---a more fact/fiction cover layout, and contents. A move toward the OMNI format? Except that GALAXY's artwork has suddenly become small and amateurish again, with the exceptions of the JEM illos, which are merely small.

A new GALAXY is due in the Nov-Dec. period. We'll see if the transition from JJ Pierce to pure Hank Stine continues.

LETTER FROM TED WHITE
635 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022
November 19, 1979

'It's interesting that you find GALAXY's editors all talkers; I wouldn't know about Baen; Stine certainly is and always has been, for as long as I've known him (15 years?); Pierce always struck me as rather shy in person. But I don't think you can blame it on "the high-pressure atmosphere of New York or big-mag editing in general..."

'GALAXY simply isn't in that league. Gold edited it from his apartment; Pohl from New Jersey. I

don't know about Jakobson, Baen or Pierce, but Hank Stine was doing it from Baton Rouge, and now from southern Virginia. In fact, no SF magazine has ever been in the Big Time of New York publishing -- not even ANALOG -- and I doubt any of their editors ever felt that kind of pressure. Other pressures -- deadline pressures, asshole publisher pressures, yes.

'But it's hard to think of any editor I know who fits your image of the New York Editor. Most of the book editors are shy, introverted sorts; editing is a profession one comes to out of a love for the printed word in its various manifestations, and we all know what kind of person reads.

'The closest thing to "the big-time of SF editing" in the magazines these days is OMNI. Ben Bova just moved up to Executive Editor, and now Bob Sheckley is the fiction editor -- Ben's former position. Bob's a pretty quiet guy, too.

'I think the problem is that you have this image of the The New York Scene. One visit here would disabuse you of it.

'I haven't seen what I assume are the most recent pair of AMAZING and FANTASTIC issues -- they aren't on any of the stands I check out any more, either in NYC or Virginia -- but I must say I've been amazed (yes) at your reaction to what strikes me as sleazy packaging and inept art. You can call it "radical" but I'd call it reactionary: a return to pulpish garishness and low artistic standards. It's impossible to know how their readers are responding to the magazines, since the publisher firmly believes in publishing only favorable letters (one of his complaints against me was that I ran the unfavorable letters), but I've heard only negative comments. (Chip Carter stopped buying them when they changed...)

'In theory the more lavish use of art is a good idea -- in fact, a number of the changes of the magazines are ones that I suggested, in theory, to the new publisher -- but the execution is pretty lame, with the exception of Fabian's work. A lot of the art is recycled, too: the same illo is blown up and then cropped into two or three different illos. The reprints were apparently chosen at random, the new fiction was dreadful -- slush pile stuff that I would have rejected without hesitation -- and the idea of running the type in a single column across the page hurts readability, although it improves the wordage per page.

'Oh, well.

(I suspect the new AMAZING is following ASIMOV's in the "book page" look, and perhaps in other respects, too.

(The latest word is that AMAZING and FANTASTIC are now into all-new-fiction policies.)

Your interpretation of my editorship of the magazines is pretty far off beam. I'm referring to your statement that "When Ted White tried, briefly, to open up the magazines with some challenging, disturbing, "offensive" stories, all hell broke loose. A few fans and perhaps the publisher cried out in agony. He stopped."

My "brief" attempt to publish challenging and maybe offensive material began in 1969 or thereabouts. It ended when I left the magazines. I have no doubt that had I tried to continue my "no taboos" policy under the new publisher, he'd have objected, but in fact, that never occurred.

Look, Dick, an editor publishes what he gets from writers. Sometimes writers come up with some pretty strange stuff, but often they don't. I published a number of my own stories largely in order to show other authors what I wanted, but I rarely got it. The last story I published which probably fits the category you describe was Rich Brown's "Two of a Kind". But I also published three other stories by Rich which, although they had their virtues, were not "strong" in that sense. "Two of a Kind" was inspired by my own "Things Are Tough All Over", which I'd published several years earlier.

I had a John F. Carr story in inventory that was pretty strong stuff. Had the magazines continued under my editorship it would be in print now.

(I remain unconvinced that an editor cannot get the kind of material he wants. I do---at 14 a word, and I'm sure I could get close to what I want if I edited a fiction sinez---at 14 a word. But too many editors don't have a strong editorial policy. Campbell did. Ferman does. Most editors of sf hide behind the old canard of wanting "the best stories I can find/get/buy."

(I also know that editors are usually locked into a more-of-the-same-old-shit policy by publishers who are afraid to tamper with what makes them money.)

When I did publish a story like "Two of a Kind" we definitely did get a lot of mail from people who hated it and didn't think it belong-

ed in a science fiction magazine. ("When I want to read pornography, I'll buy ..." etc.) But "a lot of mail" translates to "less than two dozen letters". It's just that I published a lot of them. And that brought out mail from readers who liked the story -- as I'd known it would.

Sol Cohen never read the stories -- either before or after publication. And he never told me to stop publishing stories of any type at all. His response to the fiction we ran was one of benign indifference, God bless him. So I had no pressure from the one person who could have applied pressure legitimately, and I remain grateful to him for that.

On the other hand, Arthur Bernhard wanted me to send him the entire inventory so he could "read it and size it up". I didn't care for that -- I don't care to have someone reading over my shoulder, second-guessing me from a position which I consider to be one of ignorance -- and that was one factor in my quitting.

From the point, about six months after I became the editor of A/F, and I had developed an idea of what I could do and wanted to do, I publicly declared on any number of occasions that I had a "no taboos" policy. This policy held firm for the remaining 9 and a half years of my editorship. It included a Silverberg serial, a number of stories by Lisa Tuttle, and a lot of other fine stories. So I can't agree that it was "brief" or that I stopped.

Finally, while I have often agreed with John Brunner about the iniquities of copyeditors, I have read both "My version" and "Her version" and I honestly can't see the superiority of his version over hers. Perhaps the fact that both versions are shorn of their context blinds me to the virtues of John's version, but "Her version" seems clearer and more concise. If John honestly feels that this pair of examples reveals anything other than the fact that his version is sloppier, I'd say he's too close to his story to view it dispassionately.

Then too, by destroying the copyedited version of the ms., rather than "decopyediting" it, John has cost his publishers money and guaranteed himself nothing, since the fresh copy of the original ms. he supplied will simply have to be copyedited all over again, and who knows how much of an improvement that will be.

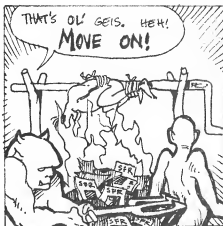
Here at HM I have the first time a copyeditor who works for me. (I copyedited all the mss. for A/F myself, of course.) She is a stickler for The Rules as exemplified by one of the Holy Tones, and occasionally I catch her in a boner (based on her ignorance of the subject being written about), or what I consider to be an unwarranted intrusion on the author's legitimate style -- but more often what she does is to take the twisted syntax of an author's muddy prose and straighten it out into a superior clarity, something I appreciate. So I am no longer unalterably opposed to copyeditors.

I could argue with your political predictions -- as I have for twenty years (you'll notice that your dire predictions of doom over the last 20 years have failed to come true) -- but why bother? I think you enjoy stirring people up, and I can't argue with that.

(I was merely ahead of my time. Also, I didn't have enough perspective and knowledge. Age has that advantage over youth.

(We are now facing a variety of social, economic, political and cultural disasters brought on by an accumulation of mistaken, short-sighted, expedient policies, some based on do-gooder philosophy, some based on sheer rip-off greed. Chickens are coming home to roost, and we shall reap what we have sown.)

I am "happy as a clam" here at HM, by the way. It's a pleasure to work in a decent office for a publisher who has decent budgetary standards. (The editorial budget for a typical issue of AMAZING or FANTASTIC was never over \$1,000, including salaries; here we try to stay within a per-issue budget of \$20,000, exclusive of salaries!) It's also a pleasure to meet old idols like Will Eisner, and work with talented new artists as well.



My first issue as editor is the January, 1980 issue. On sale first week in December. Pick up a copy and check it out; I'd like your reaction to it.'

LETTER FROM GEORGE HAY
388 Compton Road, London, N21
United Kingdom
October 5, 1979

'Those who were present at the Brighton SeaCon just passed may have noticed, or perhaps utilised, the 'computerised SF' programme set up by Brian R. Smith, of INTELLIGENT PROGRAMMES and George Hay of STARLIGHT RESEARCH LTD. The program consisted of an adapted version of Fred Pohl's GATEWAY, which was fully interactive, one of Olaf Stapledon's STAR-MAKER, which was mildly so -- in effect, it talked to itself -- and one of Arthur C. Clarke's THE NINE BILLION NAMES OF GOD which simply permuted five-letter words indefinitely. In view of the latter item, and to ensure the safety of all present, if not of the entire Universe, I had obtained Brian's assurance that this program could not be exhausted for several days....

'Brian and I would like to acknowledge the permissions and active assistance given us in this project by Victor Gollancz Ltd and Eyre-Methuen Ltd. As an historical note we would add that, to the best of our knowledge, this was the first-ever public presentation of the interactive SF novel.

'Attention, all authors. You have been warned. The Reader can now Strike Back.'

*(I don't believe in literary democracy; let readers write their own damn books. They can keep their thoughts out of mine.
(As for God; His name is mud.)*

LETTER FROM GEORGE HAY
388 Compton Rd
London, N21, England
November, 1979

'The purpose of this letter is to announce an important new project in science fiction scholarship: THE LETTERS OF JOHN W. CAMPBELL, to be published in several volumes by Authors' Co-op Publishing Inc. The letters will be edited for publication by George Hay, in consultation with Malcolm Edwards, Administrator of the Science Fiction Foundation in London.

'The importance of John W. Campbell's influence on modern science fiction need hardly be stated. Many of the writers whose work appeared in ASTOUNDING/ANALOG have testified to his remarkable editorial contribution. Campbell's letters, in which his influence is made apparent, are central to an understanding of the development of modern SF.

'Unfortunately, Campbell did not start to keep copies of his correspondence until after 1950, and then only of his official editorial letters. We therefore request anybody holding Campbell letters from before 1951, or later personal correspondence, to forward copies to the publisher (address: Route #4, Box 137, Franklin, TN 37064). All letters will be copied and the originals returned promptly. Although the books will only feature Campbell's letters, where possible we would appreciate receiving copies of both sides of a correspondence, for purposes of annotation. (Nothing from letters not written by Campbell will be quoted without specific permission.)

'It is our intention to establish two depositories for copies of the letters: One will be housed at the Science Fiction Foundation, the other at a suitable American institution. Access in both institutions will be strictly controlled. Anyone not wishing their letters to be deposited should so state.

'It should be added that this project is undertaken with the permission of the Campbell Estate, and had the enthusiastic support of his widow, Mrs. Peggy Campbell, before her recent death. We welcome any help in tracking down Campbell's letters, and would appreciate any publicity you can give to this appeal. All general correspondence concerned with the project should be addressed to George Hay, c/o Reception, London House, Mecklenburgh Square, London WC1.'

LETTER FROM HARRY ANDRUSCHAK
6933 N. Rosemead Blvd., #31
San Gabriel, CA 91775
1979

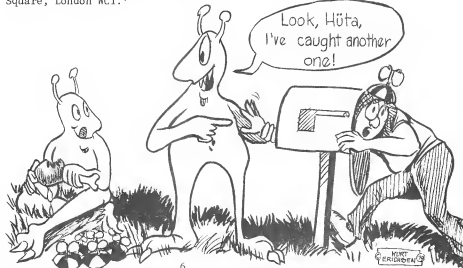
'Please announce, in SFR, that I am the new editor of SOUTH OF THE MOON, the compleat ((ho ho)) index to the fannish apas. Lester Boutillier turned it over to me when he was unable to get the next issue, #16, out. It should have been out in September. I am now trying to get the info I need to get that issue out in December, probably as a part of Mike Glyer's annual listing of SF clubs and Fanzines. I welcome any and all information about any kind of apa.'

(Hmmm. There was once a Pornographic Amateur Press Association (PAPA); is there anything comparable now? And if not, why not? It might be fun.)

LETTER FROM GREG BENFORD
1105 Skyline Drive
Laguna Beach, CA 92651
December 13, 1979

'Beautiful article by George Martin. I heartily second his suggestion that we begin nominating book editors for the Hugos. The immense change in the face of published SF in the last five years has come from a handful of people -- Hartwell, del Rey, Frenkel (and Don Bensen, the oft-neglected name at the Quantum office), Baen ... It is criminal that we don't even give them a nomination.

'I look forward to the rest of the Charles Sheffield interview. 1



female is always referred to as a "girl" regardless of whether she is four or forty-four, beautiful or ugly, dumb or competent, and whether she has a name or a number, while one seldom finds people -- of either sex -- referring to males as "boys" if they're of post-puberty age) as you call it, syndrome which provides the plot upon which many TV and film stories are based in one case in point.

'It's not only the sense of "unconscious male hatred" but that the rape-murder syndrome is used as a source of hooking viewers through sexual titillation which gets to me. The idea of the "good girl degraded" including the recent rash of prostitution themes on TV seems to be something that is getting more prevalent instead of less so. The entertainment media is in a rut! -- to put it nicely. And why is it so popular?

'I notice that the world of SF is no exception. (And you know why I say that!) I wonder why a male writer can in one breath profess to support women, or seem to support their dignity, and then in the next breath announce the completion/publication/availability of a novel which deals with the age-old theme of female prostitution with the fond notion that that's the way it will be in the future. I am not a prude, recognizing that prostitution will probably never be out of style, regardless of what era the human race makes it to, but is there some reason that SF writers -- as well as anyone else -- seem to like to omit in their visions of the fantastic future such things as homosexuality, bestiality, etc. (with a few exceptions)?

'If there is a current conflictual movement to recognize the gay community as human beings who deserve no less equal treatment than heterosexuals, for example, why should it be assumed that the future will hold only, say, male asteroid miners starved for sex who employ only female galactic whores to satiate their carnal needs? (Has anyone brought up this argument before, by the by?) Is the common female pin-up such a cherished notion among men that they feel compelled to keep it alive regardless of how liberal-minded they profess to be? (Women: How about cherishing the notion of the male pin-up?)

'My strong suspicion is that the future will hold a variety of sexual preferences -- even as today's society does. Perhaps genetically-bred prostitutes, including two of everybody so they can have sex with their cloned selves, who knows? Or sex with the ultimate computer. These aren't revolutionary or com-

pletely original ideas, I admit: Mr. Geis, you can probably think of some really kinky ones if you put your (and Alter's) mind to it.'

((Here I go on the weary defensive again... Many/most of my editorial and authorial decisions are simply masculine based; I like to write about heterosexual sex and I like to see/print female nudes. There is a small commercial element, too.

((Beautiful female bodies are sex objects. So are beautiful male bodies to others, but not to me. I have and will publish male nudes, of course, as good art and as beauty.

((In STAR WHORES I do not see a future radically different sexually from now; 200 years isn't enough time, in my view, for sexual mores to change significantly. Too, the reason for three members of the Companions Guild to be employed by a giant interstellar corporation



to serve the sexual needs of a starship load of all-male miners and crew is explained thusly: experiments with mixed-sex crews were failures because of sexual problems on long voyages. The sex-pressure needs of the men were met by the Space Guild insisting on contracts with sex clauses calling for Companions on board, and calling for X-number of visits per month.

((In STAR WHORES Tot King, a Companion Two, is the leading character, a competent person, and is proud and happy in her profession. She is treated with respect and is admired.

((One of the Companions had to be killed to make the story viable. She is killed not because she was a Companion or a woman, but because --- I don't want to give away a key element.

((I might someday write a story or novel detailing the variety of sexual preferences and life in such a society that might develop with

gay liberation and child sexual liberation and kinky liberation fully legitimized. BUT I think heterosexuality will always be the majority sexual orientation.))

10-31-79 Since I've opened up this area---trying to sell ONE IMMORTAL MAN to a major publisher---for your inspection and information, I'm duty-bound to continue.

When last we left OIM it was on the way to Playboy Press. Sharon Jarvis is the s-f editor there, and she responded with a letter that is encouraging: she thought it a good read, wasn't turned off by the sex and violence, and was interested in taking the book...except that she wants revisions in re information about Vik and his motivations. At the moment she is overbooked, and would be interested in seeing the novel again in six months.

In the meanwhile, she suggests I continue trying to sell it to another publisher, if I wish, who may take it as-is.

Or, I suspect, may want revisions, too.

So...I'm at the moment baffled as to which editor to send it. I'm not at all conversant with editorial needs and taboos.

An agent would know these things, you say? Yup. But I have not yet found (after three tries) the agent for me. I want and need feedback, some guidance in my career, and a feeling of worth. Most agents haven't time for that if they're any good, and I end up impatient, pissed and on my own again.

So it goes.

Whattthehell, I'll send OIM to Ballantine and see what happens.

UPDATE 1-3-80 Judy-Lynn send OIM back, saying it isn't the kind of thing Ballantine has been publishing, and she's surprised I offered it.

I'm surprised, too, in retrospect.

I sent OIM to Avon, next. It has been there for six weeks as of today.

LETTER FROM GEORGE H. SMITH
4113 W. 180th Street
Torrance, CA 90504
November 7, 1979

'A slight correction, please... only one small letter but an important one to me. In your Book News section of SFR #31, you list the author of THE SECOND WAR OF THE

WORLD'S to George O. Smith. It should have said George H. Smith. I don't believe George O. has written any science fiction in years but still this mistake continues to be made.

'THE SECOND WAR OF THE WORLDS is a reissue by DAW of the book published in October, 1976. It is a sequel to KAR KABALLA and the third one in the series is THE ISLAND SNATCHERS, all belonging to my Chronicles of Amnun. The reissue will be seeing light again the same month as THE DEVIL'S BREED, the first volume in my American Freedom series for Playboy Press.'

LETTER FROM DR. DEAN R. LAMBE
10 Northlake, Route 1
Vincent, OH 45784
November 7, 1979

'Mundane Thoughts about #33: I disagree with most of Sheffield's notions of science vs. SF, save for his statement that scientists tend to be idea-oriented and find it more difficult to write a story qua story well.

'What the hell is that Steven E. McDonald record review column and is it (I hope not) going to become a regular feature?! Not only does it overlap your own record reviews, but you seem to be listening to entirely different recordings by the same title. ROLLING STONE stuff mayhaps, but what the hell is it doing in SFR?

'Enjoyed your large number of movie reviews: Avoid METEOR at all costs (many of the disaster scenes therein are clips from previous, bad movies!)

'Appreciate the end of Archives, would appreciate more the end of similar efforts in Elton T. Elliott's column. Should LOCUS ever drop such lists, of course, then you might consider bringing them back; as it stands now, SFR and LOCUS complement each other well, and those who care should support both zines.

'I am no longer amused at Darrell Schweitzer's repetitiously inane putdown of his betters in ANALOG. Not at all surprised that his LOC advocated prior censorship!

'Was all hot and lathered for "Railroad" Martin's piece on nasty editors, and thought it started off very well, but oh, what a piss-ant second half! Sure, t'was easy to kick soft targets like Hoskins and Elwood; they don't matter any more. But did he grab balls and name names? Noooooo. Did he say, "Hey, you anthology and paperback magazine editors, howcum you sit on MSS so

fucking long?" Nooooo. Did he mutter curses about the ass. eds. who sign the editor's name to rejections? Nooooo. What he did say is that editors is overworked and underpaid and we all gotta be nicer to them. Geezeus Aith Kayrist, Martin, what are you, anyhow, somebody who writes for a living, somebody who's gotta take all this shit, kiss all this ass, just to make a buck? Yeah, me too ... fun, ain't it.

'Pleased to discover that John Brunner is also a car nut -- funny I never noticed that in his fiction.

'News of the Day: Am very disappointed with the GALILEO people. Still haven't received my November issue, even though it went on the newsstands two days after I got the Sept. ish in the mail -- this is a bimonthly? My letter of 3 Oct. remains unanswered, with regard to the above situation, and more importantly, my polite request for either a copy of the mythical SCIENCE FICTION TIMES (for which they cashed my check in June ... yeah, June!) or a return of my money. Given that level of discourtesy on their part for a SCIENCE FICTION TIMES that they began advertising back in May, I'm wondering whether I have any other recourse but a claim of mail fraud at the Post Aww! All this certainly supports the very good policy you have stated with regard to single-copy-only prices in your SMALL PRESS NOTES.

'To buy a copy of STAR WHORES or not to buy a copy of STAR WHORES: The question is, can I spare a hand from this typewriter long enough to read it straight ... ah, through? H'mmm, Playboy Press for OIM? Well, I sure hope so, but doubt it, as they're on record as wanting sexy stuff from a "galaxy far, far away", not future Earth. The problem, methinks, is not the sex, but the race.

'I'm aghast at the crap I see in the liberal press these days about how race relations have ever so improved; shit, they've gotten worse! The turds of anti-nigger wisdom I heard on CB radio while driving to Cincinnati last week were ample confirmation; and that was before the Klan shot down the "commie niggers" in North Carolina. With years of politics as usual and economy as bad joke ahead of us, I worry a lot. I'm afraid your problem with OIM is the same problem the NBA has with its predominantly-black basketball teams: Power junkies and middle class ain't buying no more ... sour ending.'

ALIEN THOUGHTS CONTINUED PAGE 47

STAR WHORES

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BY
RICHARD E. GEIS



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COME IN PLEASE, NUMBER 666: YOUR TIME IS UP

*A Review of Robert Heinlein's
New Novel,
THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST*

BY PETER PINTO

heinlein-knocking has been fashionable for a long time now even though some of the most popular new authors openly admit setting out to copy --- and hopefully improve on --- one or other of his periods. it's been an awfully long time since anyone's stood up to say "THE MOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS is a superb SF novel" (or DOUBLE STAR, or ORPHANS OF THE SKY), or "i really enjoyed STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND" (or CITIZEN OF THE GALAXY, or I WILL FEAR NO EVIL), or even "there are parts of TIME ENOUGH FOR LOVE that really did make it worth reading once."

heinlein's more recent books have come in for harder knocks than his earlier, of course, and with good reason. they are over-long, short on believable characters other than the central patriarch and tend toward the maudlin. however, it is possible to make out a case that heinlein has been attempting, in his adult novels since STARSHIP TROOPERS, to perform a feat he has several times declared impossible: taking the bible-belt out of the boy.

in STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND heinlein re-examined as many of the learned "gut-reactions" of his culture as he could and ended up throwing out the vast majority as both barbaric and senseless. in GLORY ROAD he went further and decided that any way of living is fine as long as it is acceptable to those who live it --- and that uptight, middle-class, white america fails this test more comprehensively than most other cultures tried or imagined.

FARNHAM'S FREEHOLD, a novel i found thoroughly nasty, manages to dismiss worries about incest and illegitimacy --- i'm sure more people will have been put off by this than the casual overt bigotry that so annoyed his critics (and myself).

THE MOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS, possibly heinlein's best novel to date (although some swear by the juveniles, and DOUBLE STAR has a strong claim too), shows heinlein talking himself into further advances (or relapses) from the morally strait-jacketed thinking his upbringing gave him, including a dismissal of fears about inter-racial miscegenation, and a clear statement that any family arrangement that gives a stable and loving environment to kids is a good one, and in

I WILL FEAR NO EVIL he manages, finally, to accept homosexuality

cally (in his major attack on traditional values, STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND, the most he could manage was to avoid condemning "the poor in-betweeners" --- and even then he was sure he was possessed of "a 'wrongness.'").

I WILL FEAR NO EVIL and TIME ENOUGH FOR LOVE both approach the ultimate taboo of heinlein's culture --- and still, of our own world, too --- i think the world of sf has still something to learn from a man who can discuss death coolly and reasonably, even if he is restricting himself to monologues.

and heinlein remains one of the at-most-a-dozen SF authors most paperback buyers will have hears of. Together with asimov, moorcock, clarke, wyndham, verne and wells, heinlein is SF to most people.

so THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST is important to us. for good or ill, it will be the best SF seller of 1980-81 and will showcase just how much more than STAR WARS SF has to offer --- as far as the trade is concerned.

which is: bugger all.

STAR WARS comes out ahead on plot and characterization, and even in inventiveness and originality there's nothing to choose between them.

there is no point in my advising you not to read this book --- it is predestined to be the most widely-read story of '80-'81 simply because it bears heinlein's name --- but at least i can explain why i recommend you to borrow a library copy rather than waste the £10/\$20 you'll have to shell out for a hardback copy, or the £2/\$3 or so the paperback will eventually cost.

oh, and one last word before we're off. the plot precis i start with is less of a spoiler than the actual book --- you needn't worry about me giving away any surprises.

the number of the beast robert a. heinlein

686 pp typescript --- to be published by fawcett/columbine as an illustrated trade paperback spring 1980, U.K. edition to be published by new english library.

professor jacob burroughs has invented a device that shifts between all possible continua --- universes that have/do/will exist, haven't/don't/won't exist, and fictional creations also. wishing to gain the services of the foremost mathematician in the world, in order to puzzle out what it is his invention is doing, and how, and why, professor burroughs uses his sexy and beautiful daughter, deety, as man-trap bait at a party thrown by his old flame hilda conners.

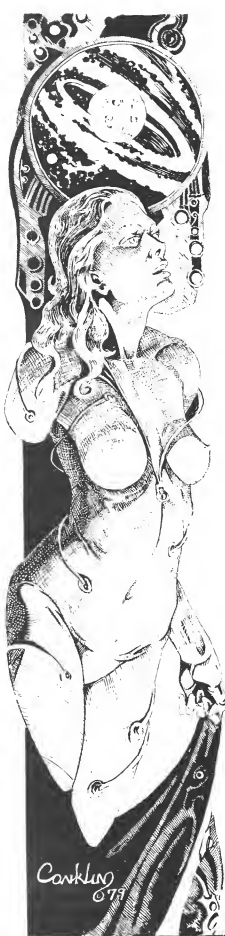
on the basis of a couple of minutes verbal fencing, and mutual lust, zebediah carter and deety decide to get married --- after which jacob burroughs discovers that his man-trap has misfired. he's caught the cousin of the man he wants. nothing daunted, the professor invites zeb home with deety and himself and they are being walked to the burroughs' car by their hostess when it explodes. zebediah rushes them all to his supercar (all-but-a-spaceship, complete with computer "programmed to sound intelligent." it isn't, we are told, but it acts precisely as though it were.) and after they narrowly miss being nuked when zeb's home mushroom clouds in front of them --- together with the rest of the city --- professor burroughs directs them to his hidden laboratory complex, where both women get impregnated during a twice-over nuptial night.

shortly after, while finishing off preparations to take zeb's all-but-a-spaceship through the continua, they kill someone dressed as a national parks' ranger because he seems "wrong." they then discover "he" is not human, and immediately flee into the unknown continua looking for a safe haven where the two baby-factories can set up shop. (it has taken about one-third of the book to get this far.)

to begin with, they search through "real" alternate universes. the differences may be great or small, but the only one we are shown at length has a mars on which imperial russia and great britain maintain penal colonies. a pleasant interlude turns into an almost-adventure when the party gets caught up in the russians' attempt to gain control of the entire planet. but with their vastly superior technology (super spaceship vs. ornithopters and balloons), our gang is never in any danger --- except from themselves. there is in fact as much hot air expended over internal disagreements as anything else --- the four find it almost impossible to sort out the problems of ship-board life. four back-seat drivers in search of someone to pester. but the absence of advanced medical facilities rules out this universe from consideration as the safe haven they want.

they move onto the fictional continua they share memories of --- oz is safe, but no good to them for a reason implicit in the original books --- pass rapidly through lilliput and the gray lensman's universe without stopping.....

....and end up in heinlein's future history universe with lazarus future. marriage into the long family, the "rescue" of maureen smith



of a bloody drawn battle for primacy between their captain and the patriarch himself.... end up with attendance at the first intercontinental meeting of heinlein's favorite people. real or fictional, his own or other authors' creations, if heinlein likes them, they're there.

during the course of the jamboree, they spot that alien --- you know, the one they killed previously --- and chase it. but they don't catch it.

comment

although i found nothing original or exciting in the plot (such as it is), it does offer enormous scope for adventure and the development of characters' personalities as they survive and interact. unfortunately, none of the endless opportunities [is/are] taken: all five "major characters" (zebediah, deety, hilda, jacob, and gay deceiver---zeb's car) are reflections of the same person. presumably heinlein, since they all spout forth the ideas set out in previous books --- sometimes in the identical phraseology --- indistinguishably from one another and equally unbelievably.

in fact, the final celebration is advertised as "the first centennial convention of the intrauniversal society for eschatological pantheistic multiple-ego solipsism." could all six hundred and eighty-six pages have been intended as one long, drawn-out joke?

towards the end of the book lazarus long, his twin sisters, his household computer and maureen smith are added to the list of major talking parts --- but they, too, are interchangeable with one another and the first group.

opportunities for development of this one character are bound to be limited: all conflicts being between reflections of itself reduces them down --- once the necessities for life are sufficient to provide for all --- to failures in communication. the sole possibility for the role of antagonist --- the mysterious alien --- is abandoned as soon as created.....possibly because of the enormous effort that would be demanded of heinlein by re-inventing manichaeism, or catharism, or simply because heinlein can no longer put himself in another person's shoes. his utterly unbelievable treatment of deety and hilda as women --- people --- is just one facet of this latter problem.

the resultant overall effect is amazingly similar to john brunner's realisation of catalepsy from the inside (the "catapathic" groupings

of brunner's excellent novel, THE WHOLE MAN a.k.a. TELEPATHIST): a closed fantasy world in which nothing harms, happens to, or intrudes in any way on, the central character and his "real" reflections. cardboard cut-out spear carriers walk on stage to die, or to walk off again.

but even allowing for heinlein's apparent conviction that we are all "the other end of the same earthworm" (or, possibly, that only he exists --- and everyone else is either him in disguise or not a real person), remarkably little happens in THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST. there are only two "real" conflicts in the six hundred odd pages --- one of which is evaded by lazarus long's fooling everyone into believing he's given in when he has not --- and both of which arise from the failure of the "characters" to realize they are identical. The first conflict arises from the inability of the four individualists who flee earth in "gay deceiver" to shake down into a tight crew/survival/combat unit. all are sure they know better than the others --- and sometimes one is on top, sometimes another. The other conflict occurs, or fails to occur, when sky yacht dora and gay deceiver meet and their captains fail to agree who has precedence.

that's nothing like enough to write some two hundred thousand words round. and since all the ideas have had interesting stories written round them, THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST is an object lesson to those who proclaim "SF is about ideas, to hell with characterisation and style."

i hope you'll take notice of this review. as i said, i don't expect to put people off reading a new heinlein --- but the only way people in the trade will ever change their ideas of SF, and which authors to stock, is when the old known names cease to sell. There are plenty of excellent new novels, new authors and new points of view coming into print --- and a couple of massive "bombs" from the authors the trade recognises is the only thing that will get the new titles distributed.

borrow your copy from the library --- you probably won't bother to finish it.

why "the number of the beast"? oh --- for no very good reason heinlein has decided that the number of possible continua is six to the power six, all to the power six again, (6⁶)6, and revelations reveals 666 to be the number of the beast.

as i said at the very beginning of this piece --- come in please, number 666: your time is up."

you're boring us.

Geis Note: The above review was possible because, as editorial consultant to Hamlyn Books, Peter Pinto was able to read a ms. copy of the new Heinlein novel. This review first appeared in FEETNOTES #4, Peter's fascinating personal journal. His address:
42 Breakspears Road
London SE4, England



AN INTERVIEW WITH DONALD WOLLHEIM

SFR: You are the dean of science fiction book editors, with more years and experience than anyone. What is your short-run opinion of the health of book publishing in the genre?

WOLLHEIM: At this point of time, June, 1979, science fiction/fantasy as a genre in paperback books seems to be enjoying its greatest boom ever. Obviously it is healthy -- for the moment. Space allotted to science fiction in paperback shops is more central and with more slots than such formerly strong and staid categories as mystery, Gothics, Westerns...

Whether it will continue to stay strong and multifold remains to be seen. There are some signs of a leveling off and even a drop-off showing -- note Ace's pulling back a bit. On the other hand, some imprints announce increased entry to the field -- Pocket Books, Berkley, etc. Can the genre stand it? I think it must retrench at some point, though I also believe that when it does find its normal level it will be a lot stronger than it had been at any previous leveling-off point. DAW is remaining conservative, holding to five releases a month and will not venture into hardcovers or "trade" paperbacks. We intend to hold our own, no matter what happens to the latecomers.

SFR: If you intend to stand pat with five releases, this suggests that you are content with DAW's position and market share and also, I'd guess, that you don't want to add to your workload. True? This leads to a question of your retirement. When do you retire, does that mean DAW stops?

WOLLHEIM: DAW is holding its own quite nicely and has been profitable to both myself and my co-partners, the New American Library. I see no sense in adding to my own workload or helping to overload the already overloaded racks of book shops. As for retirement, the thing is that after carrying a list of up to 20 books a month for many years (for Ace and Avon), my present workload is a snap. I consider this to be something of a retirement job already! I work my own hours; I can



THERE'S NOTHING TODAY TO THREATEN THE WORLD WITH LEFT?

knock off a week every month without worry. If I were to officially retire, what would I do? Not being athletic, I would probably publish books. And what am I doing now? Exactly that! As for DAW stopping there is no such likelihood while it is profitable (and it is).

My daughter Betsy is working with me, understudying what I do and what I buy, acting as associate editor, and preparing herself to take over control if and when I might have to step down for physical reasons. So I expect DAW Books to continue someday under her control -- and if then she wants to expand or add other lines, why that will be her decision. Being young, I assume she would want to do things of her own choice. NAL, by the way, knows all this and is allowing for it.

SFR: Do you feel that hardcovers and trade paperbacks are more vulnerable to a "bust" in SF than paperbacks? If so, why?

WOLLHEIM: If there should come to be a "bust" in science fiction, obviously it would hit the most expensive products first -- and hardcovers and "trade" paperbacks are more expensive than the standard mass market books.

As it is, it is probable that fifty per cent of the SF hardcover books fail to make their costs ... and I suspect that many of the trade

paperbacks will eventually prove to be losers. I noticed that in the Fall-Winter, 1979, catalogues from Harper & Row and St. Martin's (recently received) that no SF hardcovers seem to be listed -- although both these publishers have produced many in the past years and some that presumably went for high prices to reprinters. Could this be meaningful as to the real financial bottom line returns for the last couple years?

SFR: For the benefit of editors who might like to submit to DAW: Do you have any advice about manuscript preparation? Should the complete ms. be sent? How many manuscripts does DAW receive per week?

WOLLHEIM: We have a form letter which we send to writers who ask how to go about submitting a manuscript. If anyone would like a copy of this, send a SASE to DAW Books, Inc. and ask for it. It contains simple answers to the often elementary queries people ask about the publishing business (which is a deep mystery to most would-be writers).

The flow of manuscripts varies according to the season. However, consulting our entry book I see that 75 manuscripts were clocked in from August 1 to August 30, 1979. Most of these were complete novels. I prefer complete mss. to outlines requiring answers. Many such outlines sound very good, but then it too often develops that the party cannot write well or even cannot write at all.

CONDUCTED BY RICHARD E. GEIS

SFR: You seem to have discovered and exclusively published some very good new (to science fiction) writers, such as Tanith Lee and C.J. Cherryh. Do you have them under long-term contracts; do they prefer to write for you alone, or is it that no other editor would them?

WOLLHEIM: That question is really poorly worded. I don't much care for its implications. I have discovered many new writers and I am proud of the fact that writers realize that I am a rarity among SF editors -- a fixed star. I am going to be here as I have been for the past eight years and I trust for the next dozen years. Unlike other publishers, writers are not going to find a new wet-behind-the-ears editor at the SF slot every time they submit a new novel or a new outline. They are going to find the man who gave them a break and will continue to do so. That is why DAW writers are loyal. Add to your list the names of Moore Norton, Marion Bradley, Michael Moorcock, E.C. Tubb, Lin Carter, Ron Goulart, Ian Wallace, Doris Piserchia, Ken Bulmer, Mike Foster, Bertram Chandler, John Brunner, Jo Clayton, Brian Stabelford, etc., etc.

Some write for us only, some write for others as well. We have nobody under long-term contracts whatever that means, though we have given multiple-book contracts on occasion. Our rates are competitive, our royalties on time and regular, our credit rating is the best. We are always open to reason and discussion. As for other editors wanting them, you can just bet they do! Sometimes they even get them. But we like to think that our authors are also our friends -- and the feeling is mutual.

SFR: Could you give us a fairly detailed look at your workday?

WOLLHEIM: This is a rather tricky question since no two days are ever exactly alike in this field. However, in general I drift into the office about 9:40 AM, read the mail, answer pertinent letters, and take care of essentials of the day. Lunch at 12 noon sharp (because of the congestion at mid-Manhattan restaurants) usually with Elsie, sometimes with authors or agents, returning about 1:30 PM. Continue with essentials of the day -- coffee break and business chat with Elsie and Betsy (my assistant editor, first reader, daughter and eventual successor) at 3 PM -- and after 3:30 back to whatever is the day's essential. Leave at 4:30 PM.

The key to all this is the term "the day's essentials". Our work schedule calls for the production of four original works a month, plus one reissue of an older and out-of-print but in-demand DAW title. This means that during one month we must contract or arrange for four new works -- which means a certain amount of manuscript reading or book reading (much of which I do at home). Betsy is now first reader and when she turns up something interesting in the unknowns and unsolicited, this she reports on and I must read. I also am usually first reader for works by our regular writers or works that come in that have been on "project" contracts -- though sometimes I may let her read them in advance.

Essentials of the day then also include the actual buying of these works, assuming that I have previously asked for revisions or written to say I want them, which means doing contracts, determining advances, possible publication dates (we work eight months ahead -- and having an inventory on hand plus various assured products like "years' best" anthologies, and space open for series novels such as Dumarest and Dray Prescot -- this may mean in practice twelve to fourteen months ahead) which is done by the writing of contracts which I do personally and mail out. (When signed, checks for the advances are sent by Elsie, who handles the accounting dept'.)

Since each book to be published requires a cover painting, lettering for the front and back cover (blurbs), this is my responsibility, so I am usually seeing artists at various times during the month, checking sketches, accepting finished paintings, haggling over payments, etc. I do the blurbs and cover lines -- I also do the front matter pages for the books (the first four pages must be written and I do this) and any ads that may be called for. The manuscripts due the first of the following month must be copy-edited, which is done by another person on my staff or farmed out to NAL's copy-editing department (as our contract with NAL permits us to do).

Our busy weeks are the last and first of each month. The last week winds up the preparation of the work to go to the book designer the next month and via him (NAL's chief designer) to the printer (W.F. Hall in Chicago). Also this week must have all the cover paintings on hand and they go, with cover copy, to our cover designer (a free-lance agency) to style, select type faces and sizes -- which must be okayed by me usually the second week of the month.

The first week of the month the covers go out, the manuscripts delivered to NAL production, the books for the next month to be scheduled (eight months in the future) finalized and ISBN numbers assigned and our own sales numbers assigned, too. Manuscripts due for that month gathered and taken for type analysis and page approximations (by NAL staffers), and covers assigned for what must be ready by the first of the following month (assuming the covers have not been done in advance -- which they usually are -- but there is always a laggard somewhere that has to be worried about).

Payments for books published are worried about by Elsie. Likewise books received are sent for review for that month (by another staffer), and all sorts of things.

So ... at any particular day, an artist may be coming with a sketch, a writer may be delivering a manuscript or a suggestion for a future novel, and of course, proofs will be coming in, both in galley for the bodies of novels coming out two months later, and the front matter proofs (which come separately). Proofs are read by NAL staff, and gone over by Betsy or another DAW staffer -- front matter proof I read personally. Cover color proofs and type may come in about the middle of the month and must be checked -- if I'm around, I will do it, if I'm not around someone else will.

In quieter times (the second and third weeks and spare afternoons) I will read manuscripts or books, sometimes take them home to finish. Since this is all old stuff to me -- I've been doing this for 35 years -- this really takes up not too much time, and I could take the third week off -- and about eight times a year, my wife and I do just that and go off on trips to conventions, or just to visit. We go to Europe about four times a year (for nine-day spells, no longer), usually England and Italy, and occasionally France or other parts of Western Europe. Otherwise, California or some place else in the USA or Canada.





I may have forgotten something, probably have, but as you may suspect, life for me is really not very hectic. This is probably as close to a retirement job as I am likely to get.

SFR: It's been said by a few critics that DAW's covers are "bad", in the sense of too much action, too raw in color ... Yet I suspect a canny policy in the DAW cover style. Would you care to confirm that, and explain the reasoning behind it?

WOLLHEIM: A few critics? Since when does one card make a full hand? However, all kidding aside, we constantly get praise from readers, book salesmen, and retailers for our covers. And if you stop and think about them, are they any different in style and approach from the covers on ANALOG, F&SF, and the other magazines? Our "canny" policy is simply to present what SF readers prove by their Hugo nominations to want. Our first years at DAW relied extensively on Kelly Freas and Jack Gaughan, who have enough Hugos between them to make a picket fence. We introduced, before DAW's founding, the first paperback covers of Frazer, Thole, Krenkel, and Jeff Jones. These days we continue the tradition by using Barry, Michael Whelan, Don Maitz, Josh Kirby, Doug Beekman, Froud (yes, that Froud), Richard Hescox. Our only problem is that when we start using an artist, all our paperback SF competitors sit up and take notice -- and try to sign them up for their own products.

SFR: I was thinking primarily about your use of yellow in the DAW cover/spine package. It's said that yellow is a strong attention-grabber color; is that why you use it? Has it proved out?

WOLLHEIM: Yes to both questions.

SFR: Is the Cap Kennedy series defunct now? I haven't seen a new one since #13 in 1974. Are you in a position now to let us know who

the author, Gregory Kern, really is or was?

WOLLHEIM: The Cap Kennedy series has been defunct for a long time now. The last one was #16, December, 1975. Gregory Kern was a pen-name for E.C. Tubb who wrote the entire series single-handed. It may be of interest to know though, that Cap Kennedy is alive and well and living in Japan ... with a television series in the offing.

SFR: You were a leading science fiction fan in the thirties and early forties before turning professional. You were one of the original Futurians and one of the founders of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. What is your opinion of fans now? Has fandom changed significantly?

WOLLHEIM: I really do not think that fans have changed. After the publication of THE FUTURIANS a number of young fans talked to me about it and told me they enjoyed the book because they kept finding similarities between the Futurian antics of the Thirties and Forties and the people they met and the things they did in their own 1970s fan clubs. Obviously, fans are a type and the type has not changed.

But what has changed significantly from my viewpoint, is how the sex balance has adjusted. In my day, fans were about 90% male. Today they seem to have equalized ... and girls are no longer closet SF readers, but present and active on their own account on an equal basis. I recently had the experience of being a guest at the Darkover Grand Council convention in New York -- with over 300 registrants and about four-fifths female! Out-numbered on all sides! And you know what -- the con seemed no different from any other with the same bounce and vim and enthusiasm. You could spot every type of fan there as at any other general gathering -- except they happened to be non-males.

SFR: Are you content with the picture of you as a fan in the late Thirties presented by Harry Warner in his ALL OUR YESTERDAYS and by Fred Pohl in THE WAY THE FUTURE WAS? Any clarifications or additions you'd like to make?

WOLLHEIM: I don't feel any pain at reading these accounts of myself in my fan days, including Damon Knight's THE FUTURIANS. I do not think the picture is as I saw myself, but then nobody sees himself as others do. Having become a sort of living legend (that is when today's fans are even aware of my history), I suppose I must endure it. Obviously, I did a lot of dumb things and also I did a lot of good things ... as what active fan cannot also say.

Anyway, it's interesting to be a character in someone else's book.

SFR: In your 1971 book on science fiction, THE UNIVERSE MAKERS, you showed an optimistic view of the future and of humanity. Have your views changed any in the last nine years?

WOLLHEIM: No, why should they change? Just because the temporary condition of the world is in crisis in 1979 does not alter the long-range picture of the future. We are, humanity, at the beginning of The Beginning. We are into space, and going to go into it more in the next century or so. Science continues to unveil more of the secrets of the universe that, when mastered, will continue the advance of human society that has gone on more or less continuously since the dawn of recorded history.

As for 1979, just ask yourself if you would rather be in the last month of 1939, 1929, or 1919, instead of 1979? Sure, we have an energy crisis but not a disastrous one. There's time to solve it and solve it we shall. Perhaps we shall have some temporary hardships for the next few years -- but consider again 1939, 1929, 1919 -- and what they meant for those who had to confront the years that immediately followed. I remain what I have always been -- an Unreconstructed Utopian.

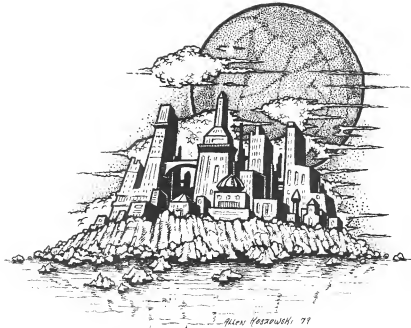
SFR: Thank you, Don Wollheim.



WHAT IS HARLAN ELLISON REALLY LIKE?

a profile

By Charles Platt



The house is full -- every niche occupied, all surfaces covered, with books, art, ornaments, records, sculpture, curios, awards, objets collectables, knick-knacks, mementoes, trophies, toys, gifts, gadgets, treasures and trivia. Walls are completely hidden behind paintings crowded up against one another -- there are even paintings hung on some of the ceilings. And there are 37,000 books, some stacked in drawers because all available shelf space has been engulfed. And there are conversation pieces -- a 1940s jukebox, a genuine subway-style candy vending machine, a photograph of Mars framed in red neon tube, a complete framed set of Kellogg's Pep giveaway buttons. In the master bedroom there is a waterbed atop a platform upholstered in red shag carpet, in the attached bathroom a Jacuzzi, an art-deco lamp and ceramic tiles imported from Italy.

There's a guest room, a secretary's office (full of unassembled plastic model kits and Japanese monster toys), a living room (with bizarre modern sculpture, giant TV and two video recorders), a newly-built library featuring a beige competition-size pool table color-coordinated with the walls, long shelves of heavy reference tomes, boxed collections of *ESQUIRE* and *PLAYBOY* and Marvel Comics back issues. Behind one bookcase is a secret soundproof grotto with walls of genuine volcanic rock and a soft floor, like one big custom-fitted contoured mattress.

Upstairs, the writer's work space, featuring a desk on a dais, tiers of filing cabinets, arrays of awards (seven-and-a-half Hugos, three Nebulas, two Jupiters, one Edgar) along with certificates, signed photographs, plaques and testimonials. Outside on the roof, past the Paolo Soleri wind chimes and an authentic British dart board, our tour ends amid the Robert Silverberg memorial cactus garden.

Daily life here is a Los Angeleno carnival of people and phone calls, diversions and discussions, women and dinners out, sudden arguments, impulsive decisions and mad errands. While gardeners spray fungicide on the lawn and spread nets over the peach tree, builders and craftsmen debate the architectural complexities involved in the \$20,000 kitchen extension, all glass-brick, neon and stainless steel, now under construction.

Usually there is one long-term house guest (a fellow writer or protege) as well as various acquaintances passing through. Ellison trades quips, smokes one of his 400 exotically carved pipes and plays pool with his full-time assistant, Linda Steele. Then, a conference with lawyers to finalize his metamorphosis into The Kilimanjaro Corporation for tax purposes.

The day, mired in trivia, seems timeless and yet it devours time. Suddenly it's 5:00 and Ellison is still wrapped in his brown bathrobe with "Don't Bug Me" embroidered on the back of it. They do bug him,

though, constantly. They tie up his telephone lines, they jam his mailbox with letters, they accost him, nag him and pick fights with him, when all he wants is some peace and quiet. Here he is now, at 5:30, still attempting to secure this peace and quiet. He is calling the distributors of a free local newspaper, which is thrown onto the doorsteps of home owners in this area. Ellison hates the newspaper. He becomes enraged. He demands that the free deliveries must stop. He's called them about this before, several times. Once they did stop delivering the paper, but apparently out of spite they then threw hundreds of rubber bands onto his driveway instead. Now the deliveries have started again. It's driving him crazy, he can't stand it, he warns them he will sue, on grounds of invasion of privacy if the unwanted newspaper deliveries do not cease.

He adjourns for another game of pool. The phone rings. He answers; the calling party immediately hangs up. This happens frequently; it's some kid in San Francisco who likes to bug Ellison. Why? Why do these crazies home in on him? Once, he says, he spotted someone in the distance on the hillside overlooking the back of the house, aiming a rifle at him as he stood in the kitchen. He had to sneak out and circle around behind the guy, to catch him. Then he had to have all his windows specially coated, like mirrors, to be sure that he wouldn't be seen as an indoor target in future. And now here's another phone call -- from some weird woman who

looked him up in the phone book, has read his stories and intuitively knows he is mystically inspired -- just like her. Perhaps she could meet him...? Politely, he declines and hangs up on her.

He must answer the doorbell. Tonight's date, a Hollywood-esque creature in thigh-hugging Levis and a red satin blouse, has just arrived in her own Porsche. Ellison receives her, wearing only a towel around his waist. He explains he was on his way to the shower, but first, he has to Xerox one of his own stories in his library. She accompanies him, docilely, and sits watching him, demurely, as he feeds the copying machine. It goes clunk, click, clunk, click. She sits and watches. Clunk, click. A fragment of conversation is exchanged, but most of the time she sits and watches. Then he adjourns to the delayed shower, but first he must pause in the immaculate kitchen to reposition a couple of ornaments that someone has carelessly shifted out of alignment and then he turns the knives on the magnetic knife rack so that their blades are all facing the same way, and -- what's this? Ants have invaded the mansion. He thumbs them methodically, one by one, then stops to polish the white ceramic stove top with a special cleaner, then opens the refrigerator or vegetable drawer, which is crammed full of an obscure brand of soft yellow candy that he enjoyed as a child. When he heard the manufacturer was going broke a few years ago he bought up their last stocks, so now, here, in this refrigerator, is the only remaining supply of this candy anywhere in the world. He allows himself to eat one piece. The phone rings. A couple of New York friends are in town ... meet for dinner? Why not? A foursome ... he knows the perfect barbecue restaurant in the valley ...

And so on. The question is, when does Harlan Ellison, the writer, find time to do any writing?

Sometimes, he does it in bookstore windows, for Ellison is more than a writer, he is an entertainer. It is as important for him to reach people in person as it is via print. He is aggressive, even hostile -- he insults his audience, ridicules their simple ideas and tastes, complains about their intrusiveness. But his life seems intentionally structured so that he is seldom alone, and his hostility is an act of courtship: The more he badmouths his audience, the more they love him for it. I have seen him tell 5,000 science fiction fans that they are stupid and illiterate; they give him a standing ovation and gather around him for autographs.

He has been known to treat his house guests as though they are raw recruits and he the drill sergeant; they shyly ask to stay on for an extra week of basic training. (He knows he has 37,000 books because he once detailed an idle guest to count them for him.)

By setting up his typewriter and producing stories in bookstore windows, or in a plastic pyramid at a world science fiction convention, he has converted even the most solitary act of creativity into a social event -- and an exercise in one-upmanship (I'm on this side of the typewriter and you're not). On-lookers gather, muttering "Who does he think he is?" but they gather, nonetheless, as he knows they will.

The stories themselves cry out for audience response. They are often melodramatic, angry and controversial in their advocacy of extremism. The writing style is direct, reaching out to accost the reader, and its rhythms are conversational, so that each piece is like a stand-up monologue (indeed, Ellison often reads his work in public). And the stories are frequently prefaced with introductions; after all, any entertainer likes to have the audience warmed up before he starts his act.

Ellison is frank about his need as a writer to reach people. "It is very necessary for my work to have an impact. The most senseless cavil that's ever been leveled against me is, 'Oh, you only wrote that to shock.' I say, 'Of course, you idiot, of course that's the reason I wrote it. What do you expect me to do, lull you into a false sense of security? I want people's hair to stand on end when they read my work, whether it's a love story or a gentle childhood story or a story of drama and violence.'"

He is sitting behind his desk, on its dais, overlooking the grand panorama of the upper level of his library. I'm on a collapsible wooden chair to one side of his desk. It's an inferior, slightly uncomfortable position, but it is the closest I could get to spatial equality with my interviewee. The alternative would have been to sit on a contemporary modular couch, fifteen feet distant and one foot lower in altitude.

I ask if it bothers him when people are amused by his acts of writing in public or when they say, in effect, "Who does he think he is?"

"I think I'm the guy who can write a story that's as good as 'Count the Clock that Tells the

Time' while sitting in a goddam pyramid while thousands of people are trying to break my bones", he snaps. "I think that's who I am, you bet your ass I am, I love pulling off the trick no one else can pull off, I love it, man. I mean, my fantasies are not of -- of sleeping with the entire Rockette line from Radio City Music Hall, they are: Suddenly, while the jazz band is playing, I get up and say to the sax player, 'Can I borrow your ax for a minute?' And I begin blowing better than Charlie Parker. Or: There stretches the rope across Niagara Falls and I say, 'Oh, excuse me for a moment', and walk across it. My fantasies are pulling off the stunt that every one said couldn't be pulled off.

"I love it, and I know it pisses people off, because people hate an over-achiever, because when they see someone is capable of doing the grand thing, they realize how little they have demanded of themselves. I take great pleasure in that, in saying to them, you poor fucking turkey, you could have done it too, all you had to do was do it, but you didn't. And the stories that I write in those windows are good stories, man, they're not shit, they're good stories. I wrote 'The Diagnosis of Dr. D'arqueAngel', which is one of my best stories, sitting in the window of Words and Music, in London.

"'Hitler Painted Roses', for Christ's sake, which is a dynamite story, I did that over the radio, two two-hour sessions, sitting in a radio booth. The story that was in HEAVY METAL magazine a couple of months ago, 'Flopp Sweat', I wrote that in one afternoon to read on a radio programme that night. If people want to laugh, that's fine; let them try it and see how easy it is."

Tough talk, frequently backed up by tough actions. At age 45 Ellison has built a formidable reputation as a fighter in print and in person. Caution and compromise do not figure in his life-style, and he does not usually allow himself the option of retreat.

'KEND A NERD' WEEK?
WHO THINKS UP THESE
GOODIES?



"My background is that I came from Painesville, Ohio, which was a very quiet town, but within it I was the object of an awful lot of violence and an awful lot of hatred and bigotry and alienation. I don't take this as a singular state, most people go through a similar thing in one way or another. But there was never a niche for me when I was a kid, so I was never able to get complacent.

"Early on I learned to take risks, doing the things that a kid does to gain attention, to prove that he's as good as anybody else. And I learned that I can't really be damaged. I can be momentarily hurt, I can feel emotional pain, my heart can be broken, but as I was saying the other day, real pain only lasts twelve minutes; the rest of the time is spent in justifying it to yourself to make what you went through seem valid and important. So I always took risks, and when I saw how it shook up everybody around me, because I was a kid seeking attention, I would do it all the more. Climbing a sixteen-story building on steamblasters' ropes, bare-handed, just to do it -- they called the fire engines. It was always my intention to be noticed.

"Now, as an adult, that's a very bad thing; seeking attention is a very childish thing. But I still do it. It manifests itself in other ways."

One big risk that he took at the start of his writing career was to join a Brooklyn teenage gang in order to write about gang life and gang warfare. It culminated in a knife fight in which he was almost killed.

"Joining the gang came naturally to me, because I had read Hemingway, who wrote 'One should never write what one doesn't know'; so I figured if I wanted to write about juvenile delinquency I must go and do it. These things seem to other

people like a death wish or something, but it's not, it's stretching myself to the absolute limits of my abilities and finding out what new boundaries there are for me. Taking risks is urgently important; I see around me the people who don't take risks, who worship security and comfort, and I see that as a living death.

"Left to their own devices the human race would settle into a soft Gerald Ford -- like him, a state in which they would just mmmmm along. I think that entropy keeps the society going along the path that it wants to go, and big systems and big units, multinational corporations, armies and governments will keep things pretty much in line, and it's only the occasional firebrand or troublemaker who shakes things up enough to get a few people thinking. Those mavericks advance the cause of history. You know that thing from Thoreau that I'm so fond of quoting, 'He serves the State best who opposes the State most'."

I ask if he is arguing that any kind of radicalism is good and change is desirable for its own sake.

"There is good change and there is bad change, but I think all change eventually brings about an advancement of one kind or another. Clausewitz said, 'any movement is better than no movement at all'. If you sit still you die, you atrophy, your legs fall off. And besides, I don't think I'm important enough, that any change I make is really going to shake things up. I'm not Ralph Nader, and I'm not Eve Currie, and I'm not Joan of Arc. I'm just a paid liar, and my perceptions of the world seem minuscule by comparison with the work of any of the really, really great writers,' like Isaac Bashevis Singer or Tom Disch."

This sudden note of modesty is injected casually and yet I think it is deliberate. Ellison reminds himself to be humble now and then much as a high-living sinner reminds himself to confess to his priest occasionally. His modesty, when it crops up, is certainly sincere -- There truly are writers whose work he admires more than his own, and he is constantly quoting these people -- "because they're wiser than I, and they know the way to say things".

In fact, his house (Ellison Wonderland") is named in tribute to one great fantasist, and his corporation is named after a Hemingway short story. Ellison is a fiercely independent individual, and the style and mood of his writing are unique;

paradoxically, he is in awe of the words of other writers, to the extent that he embosses their epigrams on bits of Dymo tape and sticks them on walls and work surfaces around his desk. It is as if he needs the wisdom of elder statesmen of literature around him as he works.

So he pays homage to his heroes; but he has only impatient scorn for those who don't dare to be great. As an entertainer, or as an activist he hates his public to be unresponsive and apathetic. He despises the notion that people might be happier leading lazy, unimaginative lives.

"Are they happy? I don't think they are. Anybody who settles for anything less than the moon, anything less than painting the Sistine Chapel ceiling, or voyaging to the center of the earth, is taking less than what the world holds for him. This thing about ignorance is bliss, and they're happy as drones ... I don't think so. Circumstances and indoctrination and a lack of self-esteem are the deterrents that keep people from doing whatever that golden thing is within them to do.

"I've seen the meanest clay do the most remarkable things. Look at the Watts Towers (a huge piece of sculpture built in a back yard in the Watts district of Los Angeles). Here was an uneducated, illiterate day laborer, Simon Rodia, who built something considered great art, with his own hands. All you need to see is one of those, and you say, 'Everybody's got it'. I do truly believe that in every human being there is the capacity, from birth, to reach the stars in some way. When we don't we are denying our heritage, what we can be. So I struggle toward that....

"I have been many things in my life. I was not always a writer; I was an extraordinarily fine actor when I was a kid, with an opportunity to go to Broadway. I was a sing-

MAY YOU CHOKE TO DEATH ON YOUR FURY!



AND YOU... MAY YOUR RIGHTeous INDIGNATION INDUCE TERMINAL CONSTIPATION!



and, and can still sing, and could have made a living, not a terrific living, but a good living, as a singer. I'm very good with my hands, I was a bricklayer and that's noble too. There is nothing to which I could have turned my hand at which I would not have excelled. Because that's what I strive for -- excellence. Very early in life when I read Robert Heinlein I got the thread that runs through his stories -- the notion of the competent man. I've always held that as my ideal. I've tried to be a very competent man. When I fuck up, which I do regularly, I pillory myself far more than I pillory anyone around me, because I feel I should be above error, above stupid mistakes."

Indeed, one senses that Ellison rates himself, critically, and imagines how others might rate him, in his ability to live up to his ambitions and ethical standards. It's a preoccupation with looking good in two senses: First, as a stylish gadfly with an inimitable image, and second, looking like a good boy who has conscientiously done no wrong. He often makes a point of "doing the right thing" and doing it publicly; he has ostentatiously supported such causes as the anti-war movement of the 1960s, civil rights for southern Blacks, and, most recently, the Equal Rights Amendment. As guest of honor at the Arizona world science fiction convention in 1978 he publicized the fact that Arizona had not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment, he advocated that attendees at the convention should camp out rather than spend money on hotel rooms (he himself slept in a van parked outside the hotel and spent no money at all in Arizona on anything) and he used the convention to campaign for the E.R.A. and raise funds for a local feminist organization. Many science fiction people hated him for politicizing their field, but they had to admit, here was someone being true to his principles, looking so good, it hurt.

Ellison has no false modesty about the event. "I came back with the sure and certain knowledge that I had done something heroic. I really felt like an honest-to-god hero. I had stood up for my principles, I had done something that I knew in the core of my being was ultimately good for the human race, and I had put my body on the line and nothing had deterred me. The convention was enormously successful. I was enormously successful, and we got \$2,000 for the Arizona E.R.A. women and did a thing that was a good thing, it was a good thing that we did, and I just burn with pride in it, that I was able to do it. There are so few occasions when one is presented

with a clear-cut choice of being courageous or cowardly, and I was courageous. I don't take all the credit -- if it had not been for Linda Steele I probably wouldn't have done it. But she held me to it, frequently, which is why I treasure her friendship, because she is a woman of great conscience, not afraid to say to me, 'You're acting in a cowardly fashion, you're talking the talk and not walking the walk'."

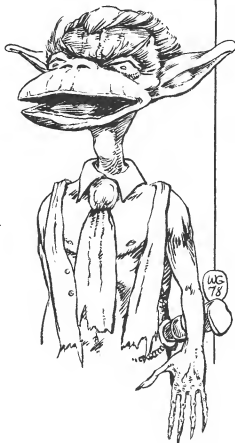
He adds that ethical questions are a frequent preoccupation, in his life and also in his fiction. "I don't put much stock in morality; it's ethical behavior I care about."

I ask if he has ever been criticized on ethical grounds for a lifestyle that some would call extravagant or self-indulgent.

"Well, I feel I've paid my dues. I came from a poor background. My father died intestate, I paid off his bills, I supported my mother for the last ten or eleven years of her life, so I know what poverty is and I know that it is not necessarily true that poverty is noble and if you live in a garret you will write better than if you live in a nice house. For me, to write well, I must be in an environment that pleases me. I got my home, I got my nest, for myself, and it's filled with my toys and my music and I can come back to it when I need to. The house is an outward manifestation of me, an extension of me. I don't pay much attention to people who say, 'Well, gee, if he was really such a humanitarian he'd be living like Ghandi or Albert Schweitzer'. That's bullshit. I don't live in an exorbitant fashion. I make an awful lot of money but I give a lot of that money to places each year where I think it should go."

Organized charities?

"You never know what you're supporting these days. Everybody is owned by somebody else. I prefer to invest in individuals. Like Dawn Johanson who carved the sculpture, the gargoyles, out in the back yard. I bought it from her and sent her to art school with the money. Octavia Estelle Butler, the novelist whose work I have supported -- I encouraged her career and sent her off to Clarion so she's now a successful writer. There are no actual organized causes to which I would subscribe or give large amounts of money, but then I don't want to be rich. I really don't. I used to think \$10,000 a year was a lot of money and that was the pinnacle to which I aspired. I'm alarmed that I make



as much money as I make now. They are postulating that I'm going to make \$200,000 this year and I've had to incorporate. I've spent all my life distrusting and fighting against corporations," he smiles, "and now 'I am one'. I personally find it distressing and disturbing."

This from the man building a \$20,000 extension to his kitchen. And yet -- the architect of that project is a woman who just finished college, and this is her first project, a unique opportunity to enjoy total creative freedom. The builder runs a small business and is a friend. A young Chicano, newly in business, has been hired for his talent working in stainless steel. And so on. Ellison's whole house is full of art and artifacts commissioned or bought from artists who could not survive without his kind of rich patronage. Truly, he invests in individuals; he might not like the label, but he's the image of an enlightened capitalist as a positive social force.

An old-fashioned notion, but in some ways Ellison is old-fashioned. His references are often to 1950s culture (the Rockettes, Charlie Parker); he hates fads (he ridicules disco rollerskating and dislikes

most modern rock music); he is liberated in the sense of the Playboy Philosophy but staid by the standards of Penthouse Forum. And yet, of course, he is more fashionably dressed, more aware of contemporary culture than most other science fiction writers -- whom he mocks for their old-fashioned attitudes and resistance to change.

It's another paradox, but then, entertainers are seldom easy to sum up in simple terms. The need to be loved by an audience is clear, yet denied, as is the need for drama in daily life, the need to be impressive without seeming to strive for it.

At the end of my interview, he sat back and said wearily, disappointedly, "I was hoping I could come up with a terrific revelation which would just wipe you out". He had given his best performance, yet it still wasn't good enough to satisfy his own cruelly demanding standards. Like most performers, he finds it unbearable to disappoint himself or his public.

Of course, the rewards for his obsessive efforts are great: He lives well, is a virtual myth-figure to thousands of readers, is revered and admired, and has a unique place in the fields where he has been active -- science fiction, TV, movies. His talent and his charm, his vitality and his directness, his integrity and his generosity, all are remarkable, and have rightly won friends and influenced people.

Even when there are bleak moments -- when the writing does not go easily, in public or in private, and despite the wealth of names in his huge address book he feels he has few real friends, and it so happens that there is no house guest to talk to, no assistant or handyman around to give a sense of activity, and not even a girl staying overnight ... even then there is some consolation. Because even then, the house is full. Crowded with those 37,000 books, all their titles shouting together off the shelves. Crowded with all the objects, many in the form of animals and cartoon characters and little people. And crowded with art, most of which depicts human figures and faces. Always, the house is full of faces, the perpetual audience, looking down from every wall.

(This is one of 30 profiles of SF writers that will be published by Putnam-Berkley in May, 1980, in one volume tentatively titled PROFILES IN SCIENCE FICTION.)

AND THEN I HEARD....

BY THE EDITOR

THE WHITE DRAGON

Read by the author, Anne McCaffrey
Caedmon TC 1596

To get the most from these THE WHITE DRAGON chapters (3,4,5, and 6) you will have to have read at least one of the Dragonrider books. There is much background of this alien world unexplained in the context of what is given in the record.

Anne McCaffrey speaks clearly and pleasingly, with good dramatic emphasis and timing. I was impressed. However, she tends to give some of her dialogue a tone of cuteness ---like children trying to speak as adults in a school play---and there is in some parts of her writing a soap-opera quality involving intricate personal relationships exhaustively worried-over that is just Too Much and a drag to listen to.

JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH

Read by James Mason
Caedmon TC 1581

James Mason is a professional actor, of course, and a professional reader of highest quality; he has recorded ten other classic books for Caedmon.

His work in JOURNEY is at that high level. His voice seems to lend itself to narration that does not require much dialogue, though he handles dialogue by means of a deepening of the voice, an accent...just enough to tell the listener another character is speaking. Some readers go to heroic, throat-rending lengths to give each character's voice distinction and an excessive differentness. Mason does not say to the listener, "I'm the star!" He lets the text be paramount.

The text was, for this recording, abridged, necessarily.



SMALL PRESS NOTES

BY THE EDITOR

THE RABELAISIAN LETTERS OF JACK WOODFORD Edited by Jesse E. Stewart

JACK WOODFORD ON WRITING Edited by Jesse E. Stewart

Woodford Memorial Editions, Inc.
POB 55085, Seattle, WA 98155.

Jack Woodford, whose real, legal name was Josiah Pitts Woolfolk, spent the thirties, forties and fifties writing how-to-write books and 45 sex novels. Sex novels that were considered hard stuff in those days.

He sold well, was the backbone of several publishing houses, and was a very contentious, neurotic, hated/feared/loved guy in the writing game.

His letters, especially those to agent Donald MacCampbell, show a man who was eaten alive by rip-off editors and publishers, who knew it, ragged against it, fought, retaliated, roared, threatened... Jack claimed to have a network of spies and agents in the publishing/editing/distribution business, and claimed to be able to ruin various and sundry of his antagonists... He was full of gossip, charges, contempt, anger, prejudice and (let's face it) paranoia. I suspect the paranoia was grounded in reality about 60%. You can't blame a writer going that route when publishers steal mss, violate contracts, spread lies to cover their sins....

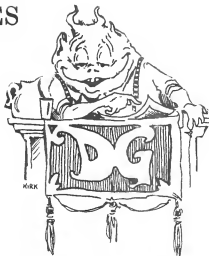
I have been similarly ripped off, too: novels published without a contract, missed payments, foreign rights sold and no payment, no royalties when due, second and third printings and editions never reported or acknowledged...

So I believe Jack in his endless railings and rages about his endless problems with lying, cheating editors and publishers.

He had a very close attachment to his daughter, Louella, who sank into the pit of incurable hebephrenic schizophrenia and was a terrible emotional and financial burden to him for many years.

He went to federal prison on a tax rap and spent his last years in a state mental hospital---in a geriatric ward...senile. At the end he had completed a book on "tel-esthesia", a form of hypnotically administered thought-control via mental telepathy.

The letters from prison to Jess Stewart are sad; he seems a lonely, half-broken man reduced to asking for small monies to spend on needed fruits, foods, cigarettes, etc. But he was ever helpful to Jess, with



advice and comments on life's problems.

His letters to Arnold Gingrich, long-time editor of *ESQUIRE*, show a more professional man, a writer seeking work, who also discussed his interest in mental disease (he was an expert due to his intense, wide-range reading of the literature due to his daughter's disease) and who was himself suffering from high blood pressure, aphasia attacks, and side-effects. He shows a man of declining writing powers putting up a front of books almost/probably sold, etc.

For many years after he left prison on parole (after one year of served time) he lived in a \$21-a-week hotel room in a small town and apparently spent very little money on food. He sold articles here and there...(I vaguely remember seeing/reading some of his writing in *ADAM*, *SIR KNIGHT*, etc. when I was selling short sex fiction to them. I was both surprised and happy to be in the same magazines with the man whom I considered to be my Teacher.) And he sold a book to a small-time, very-low-pay publisher in Chicago on his year/life in prison. He sold an article to *ESQUIRE* on the same theme.

THE RABELAISIAN LETTERS OF JACK WOODFORD costs \$6.95 postpaid. It's worth it to anyone who has read and admired Jack in the past---or present. What was Jack Woodford really like? Here's a partial but revealing look.

JACK WOODFORD ON WRITING includes the complete text of *WRITER'S CRAMP*, and long excerpts from *TRIAL AND ERROR*, *HOW TO WRITE AND SELL A NOVEL*, *HOW TO WRITE FOR MONEY*, and *PLOTTING*. Plus samples of Jack's fiction, including his motion picture treatment of his novel, *DELINQUENT*.

Jack's instruction/advice/com-

mentary on writing, selling, selling, selling in these books is, for the person who wants to know how to write commercial fiction, superb. I read them repeatedly in my teens and twenties, and when I started to write fiction I sold my first story and kept on selling and selling and selling...

His advice, his observations are of timeless value, because the dynamics of fiction are timeless, because they are based on the needs/demands of the human psyche.

You can take with a grain of salt if it suits you his diatribes against Communists, gays, politicians...but his writing about writing is conversational, absorbing, funny, and oh-so-accurate.

JACK WOODFORD ON WRITING costs \$8.95 and is worth every cent!

PANDORA #4

Edited by Lois Wickstrom

At \$2.50 per single issue, *PANDORA*, a Feminist s-f/fantasy zine, seems expensive. 64 pages plus covers, half-size offset format.

The cover subtitles it as "an original anthology of role-expanding science fiction and fantasy." But the stories are all feminist in viewpoint, and are all by women. Some of the artwork and poetry is by men. The roles expanded are primarily female, in this publication.

It's okay by me.

The fiction is uneven, with "Death Ring" by Janet Fox of a quality worthy of any zine.

Address: 1150 St. Paul St., Denver, CO 80206.

THE IRON LAW OF BUREAUCRACY

By Alexis Gilliland. \$4.95
Loompanics Unlimited, POB 264,
Mason, MI 48854.

For many months readers of *SFR* have suggested I gather the best cartoons of Gilliland into a book.

I was too busy.

Now Mike Hoy of Loompanics has done it. Two hundred Gilliland cartoons! But not THE best cartoons...two hundred of his best, a vital distinction, because Alexis is so prolific, so fertile in mind and humor, that there are easily another 200...400...best cartoons extant, waiting.... With Alexis, I doubt there are many true 'best' cartoons, because each editor is tickled by different aspects of the Gilliland wit and satire.

This offset volume has a fine Introduction by Bill Rotsler.

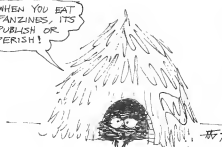
Buy a copy.

THE BEST OF ELMER T. HACK
By Jim Barker and Chris Evans
BSPA/Hack Press, 113 Windsor Road,
Falkirk, Stirlingshire FK1 5DB,
Central Scotland. \$2.25 postpaid.
[Autographed, with a small cartoon
added just for you. Mention SFR.]

Elmer T. Hack is a cartoon character whose life incidents (insults, put-downs, disasters) have been appearing in VECTOR for several years. He is a hack writer with some residual dignity and who definitely gets no respect.

Jim Barker is a professional-quality cartoonist. Chris Evans conducts a funny interview with Hack in the beginning of this collection. At the back of the book is "A Day in the Life" of Hack, and a review of Hack's new novel, LUCIFER'S BRADAWL, written by Christopher Priest. Very good humor...and some devastating satire.

WHEN YOU EAT
FANZINES, ITS
PUBLISH OR
PERISH!



Ha! He is a FAAN! He dates back to the legendary Walter Willis era and that legendary willis-zine, HYPMEN. And in THE BEST OF THE BUSHEL are collected 13 of his deliciously humorous columns from HYPMEN.

The collection is delightfully illustrated by cartoonist Jim Barker.

THE EASTERCON SPEECHES (also illustrated by Jim Barker) consists of marvelously interesting and funny convention speeches from 1974-78.

I urge you to discover this other Bob Shaw...or BoSh as he is known in fandom.

ETERNITY SCIENCE FICTION #1

Edited by Stephen Gregg and Henry L. Vogel II.

POB 510, Clemson, SC 29631. \$1.75.

A shakedown issue: good basic format, balance between fiction, science and features. Big names present with fiction: Roger Zelazny and Andrew Offutt.

An attempt, I presume, to follow the route of GALILEO to bookstore distribution, then national west-and display.

And, like GALILEO in its early issues, the artwork is the only breakdown. The cover of ETERNITY is bad! Amateur drawing, poor color choices. If a cover sells or kills a magazine (gets it picked up and looked through) then this cover sent a dose of cyanide into this issue---it messages corny amateurism and implies the interior of the magazine is on the same level.

The interior art, with the exception of Steve Fabian's work and a few of the headings, is of the same good-amateur level of technique and skill.

To survive, this magazine MUST acquire better artwork.

FANTASY NEWSLETTER (JAN. & FEB.)

Edited by Paul Allen

1015 West 36th St., Loveland, CO 80537. \$1.50.

In contrast, Paul Allen shows

a shrewd understanding of the importance of cover art---Steve Fabian is used for both months---and he knows exactly what he wants FANTASY NEWSLETTER to be and how to do it. He uses a lot of photos of book covers, of s-f and fantasy personalities, and very little artwork in the interior.

He probably rightly includes s-f in the NEWSLETTER, reasoning that s-f is a part of the larger body of fantasy...in a literary definition.

His 32 page format (large-size) on a monthly schedule is going to cause him problems: the workload and the money overhead will soon get to be hard to manage.

He does cover the news well, and attractively, in a professional manner. Give this a try, but I'd be wary of a long-term subscription.

SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE (JAN. 1980)

Edited by Andrew Porter

Algol Press, POB 4175, New York, NY 10017. \$1.00.

S-F CHRONICLE is another news-zine, more restricted to writing, editing, publishing news, media news, a few letters, a few reviews.

16-page format, set up in the true newsletter style--no cover as such, no art--just lead stories.

Andy and his staff do a thorough job (as do LOCUS and FANTASY NEWSLETTER. He uses a few photos of covers, and no interior artwork.

LOCUS is the leader of this pack of news-zines, and will likely survive as long as Charley Brown wants to publish it. I haven't seen a copy of LOCUS lately, since Charley doesn't want to trade, and I don't see any point in subscribing.

But I wonder if there are enough buyers/subscribers to support at least three sf/fantasy news-zines? The end of the recession year of 1980 should answer that question.

I SEE I HAVE RUN OUT OF REVIEWING ROOM. OKAY... NEXT ISSUE WILL HAVE REVIEWS OF:

STARSHIP
STARSWARM NEWS
SHAYOL

THE CARTOON HISTORY OF THE
UNIVERSE, VOL.III.

STJERNEBORG #1

NIGHT MUSIC

BRAIN CANDY

NEW WORLDS

XENOPHILE

QUESTAR

...AND OTHERS.

THE RUNESTONE by mark E. Rogers
Burning Bush Press, POB 7708, Newark, NJ 07111.

[Limited Edition--170 copies---signed by the author. \$5.75 per copy.]

I didn't expect much, but this novelette in booklet offset format, is a hell of an exciting, gripping read---if you like blood, guts, a supernatural menace...in present-day New York city. Rogers can write!

FOUNDATION 17

Edited by Malcolm Edwards

Available from the Science Fiction Foundation, North East London Polytechnic, Longbridge Road, Dagenham, Essex RM8 2AS, U.K. [Three issue subscription to U.S.: \$8.00. Make cheques payable to Science Fiction Foundation.]

By far the most professional and best s-f commentary-zine in England--and perhaps the world. This issue has articles (all excellent and absorbing) by Philip K. Dick, Fritz Leiber, Brian Aldiss, Ba-rington J. Bayley, Charles Platt; reviews by Ian Watson, Brian Stableford, John Clute...

And D.G. Compton writing about science fiction as a profession.

A superior magazine about s-f.

THE BEST OF THE BUSHEL By Bob Shaw
THE EASTERCON SPEECHES By Bob Shaw
[Available from Joyce Scrivner,
2528 15th Av. S., Minneapolis, MN 55404. \$2.20 each.]

Most of you, I suspect, think of Bob Shaw only as a fine science fiction novelist and short story writer.

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HALF THE TIME I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, AND EVEN WORSE, I DON'T KNOW WHICH HALF.



AN INTERVIEW WITH CHARLES SHEFFIELD

PART TWO

SFR: Concerning the matter of the relationship between the worlds of science and science fiction, you mentioned earlier that there's a kind of one-way membrane that exists between the two -- that it's easy for a scientist to move into SF but that it's virtually impossible for an SF writer to move into science. I didn't know if anyone has ever tried to make the move from SF to science....

SHEFFIELD: Yes, the father of us all: H.G. Wells. In the 1930s, Wells felt that he should be a respected scientific figure because many of the things he had predicted had in fact happened. His life's ambition was to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. But he never was. They said he was not qualified, that he did not have the appropriate training, that he didn't have the right degree, that he wasn't wearing the right college tie.

So that's a glaring example. He probably was infinitely more qualified to be a Fellow of the Royal Society than 90% of the people who were Fellows of the Royal Society, but he didn't have the "club card" to be let in.

SFR: To what extent would you say that this "club card" is still important? To what extent would you say that this rejection of SF by science is a consequence of an unreasoned -- unscientific -- prejudice against SF, and to what extent it's a matter of science fictioneers being not really scientific?

SHEFFIELD: Let me quote you an example. About three months ago I was sitting in an Executive Committee session of the American Astronautical Society, discussing a forthcoming meeting. Somebody said, "Why don't we get Asimov as the kickoff speaker?" And the reaction of several present who are considered qualified scientists was, "No, no, no. We don't want anybody like that standing up giving our guys half-baked ideas".

Now, Asimov is somebody I've

been reading and admiring as long as I've been reading science fiction and he has excellent scientific credentials, too. What I should have done was stand up and walk out -- no, stand up and punch 'em in the nose. But, since I'm a coward, I didn't do anything at all like that. Instead, after the meeting, I got together with the then-president of the AAS and said, "Don't get guys like that to control meetings, and let's get them off the Executive Committee." And we agreed that the way to solve the problem is to make sure boneheads don't organize our meetings or set out policies.

The whole point is, there is no acceptance of science fiction writers in science, that I know of -- with two curious exceptions. Arthur Clarke is accepted by scientists, but not because of his science fiction. He's accepted because he is recognized as the father of communications satellites. It's his scientist role that he's accepted by scientists. They permit him his other foibles.

The other exception, curiously enough, is at the very highest levels of science. I'm not talking about the middle level of scientists, I'm talking about the Nobel Prize winners. You get people like Gell-Mann, who was asked by the government to come in for a special session and predict the nature of technology as it would be in the next hundred years. Gell-Mann said, "You've got the wrong people. You should have asked science fiction writers. They're the ones who are able to make predictions. But guys like us, who are into science, are too busy proving what you cannot do."

What he meant was that scientists become enslaved by the constraints of their theories. After a certain time, a theory ceases to be an abstract concept; it becomes a basic belief, almost like a religion. And when an Einstein comes along with something radically new, many of the older generation never do accept it. It finally gets accepted when the older generation dies off and the newer comes along, having no preconceived notions that prevent them from accepting.

At the highest levels of science, science fiction and science fiction concepts are much more accepted than at the middle level. At the middle level, people have learned a little bit and can't go beyond that bit. And, in a sense, their refusal to accept SF ideas is consistent with a very basic principle of biology: The territorial imperative. You've carved out your little patch of jargon, your little area of expertise, and you're sure as hell not going to let some "unqualified" outsider come in and pee on your peapatch. At the highest level, people don't need to defend their territories; their territories are much bigger than they could ever occupy.

SFR: What sort of reaction have you gotten from your scientific colleagues as a result of your success as an SF writer?

SHEFFIELD: There's been very little reaction. The most frequent question I've had is, "What name do you write under?" That's quite common. They don't read SF usually, and they assume that I wouldn't write it under my own name. They think that would be like signing into a motel for a "dirty weekend" under your own name.

I don't go around saying, "Hey, I write science fiction", to people that I meet. So a relatively small number of people know I do it, and most of those are people who already read it.

Even so, I do find I'm constrained in my SF activities. I think I mentioned to you that I was asked by Ace Books if I would contact some of my colleagues in the non-SF world -- the president of Rockwell Inter-



IT GIVES ME
GREAT PLEASURE
TO INFORM YOUR
MAJESTY THAT
I WILL SELF-
DESTRUCT IN
30 SECONDS!
29 - 28 -

YOU MIGHT WANT
TO STEP BACK.
26 - 25 -

Conducted By Karl T. Pflock

national, a couple of astronauts -- and ask them for their opinions on THE WEB BETWEEN THE WORLDS. I did not say anything at the time, but afterwards, I realized I couldn't do that because I had the wrong relationship with those individuals. I had a certain equity with them, and that equity I could expend only for something very important -- like trying to get a certain clause put into Fuqua's space industrialization corporation bill. But I couldn't use it to get one-liners for the cover of one of my SF books. In that respect, I'm as two-faced as anybody.

SFR: The most recent annual meeting of the AAS had as one of its co-sponsors the Science Fiction Writers of America. How did that come about?

SHEFFIELD: For the 25th anniversary meeting in Houston, I arranged that the SFWA and the L-5 Society should be joint sponsors, with L-5 running a session. That proved very unpopular with the AAS board of directors and officers -- to the point where the people running the Los Angeles meeting this fall don't want any of those associations.

SFR: Why?

SHEFFIELD: They say the people are flakey. They say they stand up and make technically unsound statements -- which is often true -- that they don't have the right, "reverential" approach to science -- which is true but good -- and that, basically, they don't know what they're talking about.

The problem is, the way these meetings are usually run is that the local AAS chapters are relied upon to do all the leg work. And you can't afford to say, "We're going to impose our profile of the meeting on you". If you do that, you get no cooperation and no meeting.

What has to be done is to get the right balance between controversial and noncontroversial, from meeting to meeting. You can hold meetings in San Francisco that you could not hold in Houston, because of the different profiles of the two aerospace communities. So the national AAS office (mostly me) has the jug-handle problem.

All these things that are said about flakiness, lack of technical competence, lack of reliability, lack of engineering, lack of physics, lack of mathematics -- they are often all true. And they're not relevant. The time scale we're looking at is such that the objectives of our technology are more important than our ability to project the technology.

What I mean is, we can project from now to twenty or thirty years out -- but it's going to be wrong. So the objectives are what count -- the things you're going to try to do with whatever tools you have, rather than getting there with the specific tools you have now. We know the tools are going to change, and no one knows quite how.

For these reasons, I'm very interested in having SFWA, L-5 and the National Space Institute as sponsors and co-sponsors of AAS meetings because I want that thinking, the thinking that's out thirty years and more. But it's quite hard to sell, because there's a very conventional and conservative core in the AAS which you have to have too -- otherwise you can't build the damned things. You've got to have the right engineers to make rockets that get off the ground. So it's complicated. Space may be the High Frontier, but first and foremost, it's a high-technology frontier.

SFR: So the problem is to bring about a symbiosis between the enthusiasts, the visionaries and the hard-headed practical men, the nuts-and-bolts guys?

SHEFFIELD: Yeah, that's exactly the problem. And there is a division -- which is a strange one -- a division of generations in many cases. The problem with the U.S. space program is that in the last twenty years it has been phenomenally successful, but the people who carried it for those twenty years are not going to carry it for the next twenty years.

If I look at the people in the AAS, at the people in the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, at those running Houston, they're not going to be working in twenty years. They'll be retired. So who's going to carry the next twenty years? And who's going to have the enthusiasm and new ideas to make the next twenty years as interesting as the last twenty?

That has to come from men and women who are in college now. And the AAS has the specific goal of being interesting to that student community -- and students are not conservative. But the people who are running the programs, who control the funds, are, because they're 55 years old. Don't get me wrong. Some 55-year-olds have younger views than some 20-year-olds. But as a generation, they're not ready to consider concepts which won't mature until 2020, because they expect to be dead. Whereas the students in college expect that their working



careers are going to be spent in that time frame -- and they want interesting things to do. They want to talk about solar power satellites, industrialization of space, permanent space stations, lunar colonies, manned Mars missions, unmanned missions to the fringes of the Solar System -- they'll grab for them. And they'll do so without any constraint of respectability or conventional approach.

There is one thing that, in retrospect, may have been very significant about my own academic background. As I said, I attended St. John's College at Cambridge and read mathematics, quite a conservative institution and subject. But my supervisor at St. John's, was Fred Hoyle. At that time, Hoyle was not writing science fiction, and yet in a curious way, when I now look back to that period, the science fiction influence was very much at work.

The way things were, twice a week two students at a time would get one hour with their director of studies to cover any problems with the mathematics courses or to ask any questions they might have. Now Hoyle is an extremely fertile mind, who will speculate at the drop of a hat. We would ask him a question, which involved, say, Coriolis force or something. Hoyle would take off from there into a discussion of fictitious forces that arise in rotating reference frames, to a discussion of the Newtonian view of the universe with absolute space and time, to a comparison with the Einstein view with no absolute space and time, and so on. And these things, in a sense, were the highest form of science fiction. You don't get stories like that because the readership is not there for them, but they're fascinating. They're 99% mathematics, pure intellectual speculation.

Hoyle's a very extraordinary man. I was lucky to have him as my

director of studies. What's curious to me is that there are people -- fans -- who know him only as a science fiction writer. Yet he is probably the most innovative theoretical astrophysicist to have appeared in Britain since the Second World War.

SFR: The attitudes of those in the sciences, pure and applied, toward SF writers and science popularizers seem to be similar. Why is this, do you suppose? For instance, Carl Sagan seems to be looked upon with some disfavor by certain of his colleagues in the sciences. Interestingly, Sagan has recently written, in the NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE, I think, an article about how reading SF as a kid inspired him to go into a scientific career.

SHEFFIELD: The somewhat cool attitude of scientists toward science popularizers is there, but for a different reason than the one behind the similar attitude toward science fiction writers.

It's there because they're jealous as hell of the fact that Sagan can get a forum for his ideas that is a thousand times as big as they can get in the professional journals. So I think there is a good deal of simple envy. The people I know whom I consider to be good scientists have a high regard for Sagan. For them, the fact that he popularizes doesn't make him less of a scientist. In a sense, it makes him more of a scientist because ideas, if they're good ones, should be expressible to a very large audience.

Sagan is an example of someone who is resented by his less articulate colleagues and respected by those who don't have any pretensions to be like him. The latter don't underestimate the value of the popularizer, the man who can push the idea. The L-5 Society took O'Neill's ideas and put them out to a larger audience, but O'Neill began the popularization. You can't ignore the importance of that. The popularizers are, in my opinion, as important as the doers.

Which brings to mind NASA's big problem: It has a pitiful public relations campaign. It has not understood the need to explain the importance of the doers by suitable use of the popularizers.

SFR: I think it was Robert Heinlein who noted that, putting aside the fantastic achievement of putting men on the Moon, NASA's greatest accomplishment was making one of the most exciting events in the history of mankind over into one of the dullest damned things you can think of.

SHEFFIELD: I have my own version: NASA discovered the Inverse Philosopher's Stone, which will turn gold into lead.

SFR: I recall at just about this time last year, being on a panel at the AAS meeting here in Washington, sitting between Jerry Pournelle and Brian O'Leary. O'Leary was talking about the mass driver and its applications, while Jerry "whispered" in my ear: "They're doing it to us again!" What Jerry meant was, these are ideas that SF writers have been thinking up, kicking about and using for a long time, working out the difficulties of application in their stories, and now here we have a scientist coming along and introducing it as being a new notion out of science without giving due credit



to SF writers. Have you noted this kind of thing yourself? And why do you suppose this happens?

SHEFFIELD: I think Jerry assumed malice where there was only ignorance. The reason that no credit is given is that the scientist has never heard of the prior "discovery". And this not only happens to science fiction writers, it happens to scientists!

All the time somebody is re-inventing the wheel, and when he finds out that Tsiolkovsky talked about the same idea in 1890 or that

Lord Rayleigh had used the same technique in 1902 or whatever, then he gives attribution to it. I don't believe that O'Neill stole the mass driver concept from Heinlein. I believe that O'Neill may have been influenced by people who talked to Heinlein, but that certainly doesn't make O'Neill a villain, any more than a scientist who rediscovers a theory or discovers it independently at the same time as someone else is a plagiarist. Generally, what happens is that over the years the sequence of discoveries is traced back

Let me give you an example that goes back to Beanstalks, or Orbital Towers. The first Western reference to Orbital Towers was given in 1966 in a paper by a group at Woods Hole, who were interested in lowering long cables down into the sea. And then a Russian, Lvov, wrote a letter to SCIENCE magazine, saying, "Hey, wait a minute. This idea was invented by a Russian, Artsutanov, in 1960!" And it was. You can't really blame Isaacs and his people at Woods Hole for not giving an attribution -- theirs was an independent rediscovery.

Then in 1974, a fellow at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Jerome Pearson, who did not know of the Isaacs paper or the Artsutanov paper, also wrote a paper about Orbital Towers. Now, you can argue that's irresponsible, but it's not.

I had the same experience myself. I developed an analysis for resonances of orbital satellites with gravity harmonics of the Earth's field. I wrote a paper on it. Then I had a letter from Kaula, who is at the University of California. He wanted to know why I didn't reference his earlier paper, which did the same thing. I wrote back and quoted Samuel Johnson, who when asked why he had defined the pastern as the "knee" of the horse, said, "Ignorance, Madam, pure ignorance". I had never heard of Kaula's paper. That goes on all the time.

But I think SF people believe they are unusually susceptible to getting screwed. The reason for that is a simple one: The scientists read the journals, but they don't read the science fiction magazines. Occasionally, you get a scientist who does read science fiction, and he writes to a journal, saying, "With reference to such-and-such a device mentioned in Professor So-and-So's paper, see..." and then you get a reference to a story by Clarke or Asimov or Heinlein. So things do eventually get the attribution.

SFR: With fairness to O'Neill he does give credit to SF writers -- I think particularly of his book

THE HIGH FRONTIER. But SF writers do seem particularly sensitive to this sort of "theft". I wonder if it's the "ghetto mentality" at work

SHEFFIELD: The idea of science fiction as a ghetto is not one I've seen used by scientists. Yet your comments about that Jerry Pournelle said indicates that perhaps he's in a ghetto, because if he were publishing in *PHYSICAL REVIEW* or the *JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICAL PHYSICS* or the *JOURNAL OF ASTRONAUTICAL SCIENCES*, he would get a very different response to new ideas. And the answer is, those journals are available for anybody to publish in. If you have a good idea, something that conceivably could be done, there's nothing to stop any author from writing it up as a scientific paper and presenting it to the conventional journals. It's seldom done. I don't know why.

SFR: But don't you have to have the right credentials? Jerry could do it; he's got a Ph.D and so on. But what about a guy like Murray Leinster, who was an inventor, a holder of many patents, but who, as far as I know, never graduated from high school. Could he get published in a scientific journal?

SHEFFIELD: He'd probably find it impossible, for a really original idea. But if he wrote a paper which was a development of ideas which were already considered acceptable and if it were a paper with good mathematics and well written, it wouldn't matter if he did or did not have a Ph.D or whatnot. It's when someone has an idea that bucks wildly against convention that you really run into problems. What happens is that the reviewer, who is human, gets a paper from a guy who doesn't have academic credentials, a paper written in a language which is unfamiliar, not written in the right secret language, the Secret Signs of the Mickey Mouse Club; it requires a lot of thought and it's hard to read, and then it's very likely to get bounced very quickly. A really unconventional paper requires somebody with exceptional talent to see it for what it is.

Let me give you an example: In 1905 Einstein wrote papers in three fundamentally different areas. All of them were great departures from anything anybody had ever seen before, and it required somebody who really was a great man to accept them for publication. Einstein was someone who was not part of the community; he was a patent examiner in Bern. However, read the Born Einstein letters.

Born was a young man then, and when he and his fellow workers saw

Einstein's papers, they realized at once, Born said, that a genius of the first magnitude had arisen.

What that says is, if you've really got it and you have something profound to say and know how to say it well, you'll get published. If you have something profound to say, but you can't say it in the language people can understand, you might get published. But if you go too far away from what people are used to seeing, and if you have the bad luck to get someone who is not one of the top people in the field to read it, then the chances are you'll never get published if you come from outside the field. I think it is much harder now than it was in 1905 to get published if you don't have the right "calling card". But the Ph.D degree is depreciating to the point where you will soon need it to collect the garbage. When that happens it will perhaps be easier to get along without credentials.



SFR: Shifting gears: The space program is at a very critical juncture today. It could be renewed with great vigor, it could go down the tubes. A two-part question: Where do you think it will go? And if you had your druthers, where would it go?

SHEFFIELD: That question is worth about an hour and a half of answer. Let's do it in pieces.

How's the U.S. doing compared to other countries? Well, the U.S. is doing badly. And the antitechnology movement in the U.S. means that in twenty years the Soviet Union, Germany, and Japan will have space capabilities that we lack. But in the long haul, considered over many generations, humanity is moving off the Earth extremely fast. To say that the space program is dragging, even in the United States with

its reduced effort, is not true from any sort of multigeneration perspective. We're exploding off Earth, and we're exploding around the Solar System. So from that point of view, we're going fast.

But you have to measure that against how much time we have. In my opinion, the critical problem of humanity is not that of getting into space quickly. It is population. Without population control, and soon, anything you do in space becomes irrelevant. The one thing that's absolutely guaranteed is that you won't be able to use space as a place to put extra people. We can breed too fast. Therefore, we may have only two generations before we begin some sort of technological slide backward. I don't know how far it will go; it depends how bad it will get. But if you talk in terms of populations of 10 to 12 billion, I don't think Earth can support that with anything like the lifestyle to which we are accustomed.

It's a very complex question, but I think that if I were to put my priorities on one problem, it would not be space. The space program is great. I think it's fascinating, the most interesting thing that has happened to the human race in hundreds of years, but it is not the solution to mankind's worst problem, which is excess people. And unless we can get some handle on that, and get a limit defined on the number of people that the Earth can rationally support, and then move to achieving that goal of population control, we won't get anywhere much in space. We'll play games in space, we'll try to solve the problems with space solutions, but we'll keep losing.

To look at some specific space programs that I think we should have, I'll go back and quote from congressional testimony I gave a year ago, in which I defined three near-term goals. One is the reusable Space Tug. The Shuttle gets you to low Earth orbit and back. The Space Tug gets you to geosynchronous orbit and back, and will allow you to carry humans up there. But it requires a significant technological jump, almost certainly a liquid-propellant Inertial Upper Stage.

The second thing to get the space program reactivated is an active manned lunar exploration program. We haven't finished with the Moon; we've only really just started it. We have to set some goals to get back up there, because I feel sure that within the next ten years the Russians will be developing spacecraft to take people to the Moon, and perhaps developing



permanent colonies there.

The third thing is a combined applications platform for weather, Earth resources, and communications which will sit at geosynchronous altitude and be staffed by a permanent crew. A space station, to look down.

Now, to achieve all these goals, there's one enormous hurdle that we have yet to get over: man's long-term ability to live without drastic physical damage in a low-gee environment. I was speaking a couple of months ago to the head of the medical programs for the European Space Agency, who has access to the medical records of the Russians and the longest manned space missions. There have been severe medical problems, which have not been discussed in any detail in this country. There's the long-term loss of calcium, which still goes on. And then there are these peculiarities of the vestibular functions of the inner ear, which does not get right at once when we come down and which stays wrong for quite a while.

These problems must be sorted out. Otherwise, you can't decide whether or not you must have an artificial gravity environment or whether you can get away with the Skylab type of environment. So, to reach my three goals, you also have to lick the biomedical problems.

What worries me about the proposals introduced in Congress is that they hardly say anything about biomedical problems. The three bills, two in the Senate and one in the House, virtually ignore these matters.

SFR: Of the three bills in Congress at the moment, which do you consider the best?

SHEFFIELD: Well, I think what will happen is that the Schmitt bill will be combined with the Stevenson bill

to get one with less ambitious objectives than Schmitt's. Schmitt proposes a NASA budget of \$11 billion a year to start with, two-and-a-half times the current NASA budget, with no specifics on how to absorb it into NASA programs. That would blow NASA's mind. They might love the money, but I'm sure they couldn't use it effectively.

So modify that -- it has to be more realistic -- and accept the idea of long-term objectives in space, the idea that you will not have programs that will be on-again-off-again, that there will be ongoing projects. Then take the Stevenson bill and give it some emphasis on medical activities, the continuous survival of man in space, and that's a good bill.

SFR: One of the problems with the space program is that it's subject to political whim. The Fuqua bill is directed at trying to get private industry up there. As Jerry Pournelle has often said, once you get the entrepreneurs up there making money, there's no way in hell you're going to stop space development. That'll give you your continuity. What do you think about that?

SHEFFIELD: It sounds great -- but ... I wish we had Don (Fuqua) here with us. But, anyway, there's no evidence at all that industry is willing to put more than token money into space right now. There's a very simple reason: They can't see the return on investment, because the risks are too great and the benefits are too ill-defined. True, once people are sure they can make money, they'll go up there and do it. But we're a long way from that.

One of the things that really worries me about the space program is that it can't attract and hold guys like Rusty Schweikart. There is a really interesting guy, not at all one of those carbon cutouts the public thinks of when it thinks of astronauts. Once, NASA was it. There was no place someone like that would rather be. Now, NASA is beginning to look like a branch of the Social Security Administration.

SFR: Shifting gears: Dick Geis has suggested that despite all the new writers, the Big Boom, etc., very shortly the whole SF racket is going to come apart? Where do you see SF going?

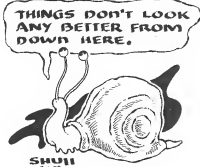
SHEFFIELD: Well, first of all, I agree with Geis, perhaps for different reasons. Science fiction will probably go through its boom peak and back down before too long.

That because my own experience tells me that a lot of what's being published is real garbage. Losing that garbage doesn't weaken the field, but it means there's less money in the field. So hard times may come -- one, two, five years from now -- and the people who couldn't write it but were being published anyway ought to disappear, in any logical world. But it could be that the people who can write it, and write it well, will disappear; I don't know. There will be an attrition process when hard times come, and the people who stick around will be those readers that want to read. Of course, it's possible that the readers will prefer the junk to the good stuff, and we'll be left with the Perry Rhodans of 1987. I don't think that will happen.

I have never seen a time when hard science fiction, really good hard science fiction, didn't sell. There have been times when it's been hard to get published, but Niven arose in the midst of the New Wave. And he will tell you he was very lucky, because -- paraphrasing him -- he was the only one who was writing anything of that style worth reading in that period, so he got off to a flying start. But you will continue to get the Nivens, the Varleys, the Clarkes, the Andersons, the Benfords, the Haldemans, the Asimovs, the Pohls and the Hoggans, who will be writing good hard science fiction. And there will always be a good market for them.

The ideas won't dry up, and as long as there are people who are interested in ideas more than anything else, that's what they'll prefer to read.

I agree with the old statement, science fiction is the literature of ideas. And the people whose lives are primarily focused on ideas, quite often young males, I'm not knocking young females, but young males, at a certain time of their lives seem to go through a phase when they're only interested in ideas to the exclusion of all



else. They'll always want to read good science fiction. I have a character in a book whose motto is "Ideas, things, people", and he believes in them in that order. Well, there are many people like that. They're not well represented in the literary field, because they tend not to write. They tend to be mute inglorious engineers and tongue-tied physicists, but they certainly read. And that audience will be there.

How much fantasy will survive is hard for me to tell, because I'm not a fantasy specialist. I suspect good fantasy will survive, because it too serves a real need.

My hope is that there will be hard times and a shrinking of the field, to the point that the average person can hope to read what is produced in a year, and not be flooded with so much material that he can't possibly read it all.

SFR: This brings to mind the problem of awards in the field ---

SHEFFIELD: The Nebulas? They're supposed to be the SFWA members' personal best book, novella, novelette, and short story of the year. That's absolute nonsense, because people who are so busy writing, the SFWA members, don't have time to read it all. They didn't have time to read enough ten years ago, when there was a tenth as much stuff being produced as is being turned out today. It's a farce.

The Nebula Awards should be quietly disposed of, because they represent an unreal situation. They no more are a true reflection of what really is the best of the year than the president of the United States is the person best qualified to run the country. That isn't the way it happens. Awards that are as artificial as that shouldn't continue. We have recently rationalized the membership requirements for SFWA. We next should rationalize the Nebulas -- perhaps by rationalizing them out of existence.

SFR: How about the Hugos?

SHEFFIELD: I generally approve more of the Hugos, because they're voted on by people who have more time to read simply because they're not, most of them, writing. I know from personal experience that if you're not writing, you have a hell of a lot more time to read. I'm sure you know that too.

SFR: Well, what's Charles Sheffield working on in the time he doesn't have for reading?

SHEFFIELD: I'm catching up on the short fiction that I couldn't write when I was working on THE WEB BETWEEN THE WORLDS. I have an accumulation of a few stories to do. There is the much-delayed Henry Carver/Waldo Bumeister, "Parasites Lost", which is written in first draft, plus two more shorts, a novelette and an article.

Also I've been wasting lots of time recently doing useless calculations for a planetary doublet, rotating about each other just outside the Roche Limit. I doubt if any of it will get into the story (tentatively entitled "Summertime") but it is a good way of not writing. I have the plot and all, but the calculations of the surface shapes are more fun. The programmable calculator I have can just about handle the necessary programs, but I keep having to shoehorn them in. Pleasing, but not very productive. To quote Tennyson, "Why should life all labor be?" I now see why Hal Clement, Poul Anderson and others so enjoy world-building -- it allows you to not-write but still feel virtuous.

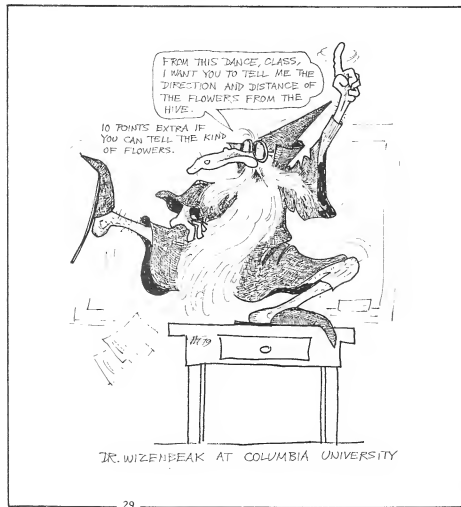
SFR: To wrap up, let me ask you

impressions of your first contact with fandom in conclave, Disclave '77.

SHEFFIELD: It struck me as a unique opportunity for people to behave irresponsibly without guilt. And I thought it was great, because I'm always looking for opportunities to behave irresponsibly without guilt. It was like Mardi Gras. I had a wonderful time there. And I've had marvelous times at all conventions since.

My only problem is that I can't stay up all night for three days in a row, which represents some feature either of my advanced age or my natural makeup. I can't take it. I wish I could. Since my motto in life is *carpe diem*, anything that allows you to have a good time is approved of. Cons are a great idea. It's a pity it took me so long to find out they existed; I would have attended them long ago, whether or not I wrote. That's a very immature view, of course, but by now the reader will have come to expect that.

SFR: Thank you very much.



IR. WIZENBEAK AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

THE VIVISECTOR

A Column By Darrell Schweitzer



WATCHTOWER

By Elizabeth Lynn
Berkley/Putnam, 1979, 251 pp., \$9.95

This is the book that was allegedly rendered an instant collector's item by a flood at the Berkley warehouse a while ago. Until it was discovered that more were available, there was quite a run on it. I imagine many SFWA members grabbed copies in order to read the thing by Nebula time, since by all indications it's going to be a finalist, which is just as well because WATCHTOWER should be read. It deserves attention as something other than the target of a natural disaster. It is a superb novel, although not the sort one would expect to see nominated for a science fiction award, or even published as science fiction/fantasy prior to the past five years or so when the practice of disguising non-SF books as SF in order to insure their sales became common. (Remember when the reverse was true?)

But enough of that. If you're one of those sorts who demands lots of wizardly magic, heroic swordsmen, monstrous critters and the like in your "fantasy", head for the hills. Aside from a hint of prophecy, there is no fantastic element in WATCHTOWER aside from the setting. It is a "historical" adventure set in an imaginary land, rather on the order of Leslie Barringer's JORIS OF THE ROCK, etc. It is also very, very good. Lynn is an extremely polished stylist with a touch of poetry. Anybody can describe a bunch of thatched houses, but she sees them as the back of old men hunched in a row, which strikes me as a novel but fitting image. She is deft with understatements. A chapter begins, "It was an ugly fight", and it is indeed, ugly and intensely real.

Her greatest gift is for characterization. All the major figures and some of the minor ones come alive as believable people without black and white stereotypes. The man who would be the "villain" in a pulp novel has his own motivations and is even sympathetic at times.

The background is a very loosely organized feudal society, and for the most part it is well realized. Apparently there is no government beyond the level of the local warlord. (The obvious question is why someone doesn't try to conquer the castles one by one and set up an empire. Not only has Lynn thought of that, but most of the plot derives from it. A prince is deposed and must win back his realm, and happily few of the expected developments of a conventional swashbuckler actually develop.) The place has a gritty, down to earth feel about it, and one is convinced.

The only thing that bothers me is a total absence of religion or, aside from the few followers of one man still living, any belief system at all. Not only are there no gods to swear by, but nobody seems to have any ideas about humanity's place in the universe, where people go after death, or why things happen. Such are present in every known society, even though sometimes there are no deities involved (as in Communism or pure Buddhism), and usually at the stage of development Lynn describes, the supernatural abounds, as it did in the Middle Ages of our world. Because no attempt is made to fill this niche, the picture of the societies is incomplete.

This is not to say the novel is without social ideas. It can best be described as quietly Feminist. Most of the women are married to men, have families, etc., but there are a few who chose otherwise, and Lynn is clearly saying that's their business and no one else's. The messenger, Sorren, who wants to go off and have adventures is able to do so, breaking free of the traditional roles, and this is seen to be a Good Thing. But there are no preachments, even in a section which borders on utopian. I am reminded of THE DISPOSSESSED at times, in that all this comes across as the story moves along, instead of being part of a lecture tour.

This is only Ms. Lynn's second novel. She will go far. (Most re-



cently into a sequel, THE DANCERS OF ARUN, which Somtow Sucharitkul tells me is "sublimely good". I'm eager to find out.)

TALES OF NEVERYON

By Samuel R. Delany
Bantam, 264 pp., \$2.25

I don't know what to make of Samuel Delany these days. It's easy to say that he's lost it, that he has grown hopelessly self-indulgent (What was IVALGREN except 800+ pages of a writing exercise exploring ways to depict sensory experiences?) and unable to reach the levels he did ten years ago, but one must keep in mind that if an author chooses not to do something anymore, that doesn't mean he is no longer capable of doing it.

What Delany has stopped doing is telling stories. Since this is the primary function of fiction, I don't think TALES OF NEVERYON is of much interest to the story-reading

public. Had it been by John Doe, I doubt it would have been published, brilliant as some of its parts are, because it is a collection of fragments which don't add up to anything, rather like the sort of thing authors leave behind in their papers after they die.

Sometimes such works are published as curiosities. Sometimes they are farmed out to other writers to complete. In this case, the other writer would have to do most of the work, because what we have is a prologue, a few episodes, and various bits of exposition which could be either digressions or appendices. Probably the best comparison is to Peake's *TITUS A-LONE*. It is a tantalizing glimpse of a novel that might have been, had the author completed it.

However, even if it has little to offer to most readers, I think fantasy writers practicing and would-be should read it. You see, *TALES OF NEVERION* is nothing short of the reverse-image of the average fantasy novel. It contains all the elements which are usually omitted, and vice versa. A typical book of this type is strongly plotted.

Delany's vestigial plot only begins to move at the very end, and when it does, it gets silly fast. We have a handful of people taking castles and freeing slaves so easily that if it were really possible, no one would have ever kept slaves or built castles. The final section, for sheer stupidity, is surely the worst writing Delany has ever done, and the only part which actually suggests that his talent may be failing him. Otherwise, maybe the book is a series of false starts, and it never jells, but it's often fascinating along the way.

Your typical sword and sorcery novel takes the hulking barbarian hero as a given, and as a result he is completely cardboard. "The Tale of Gorgik", which is better than the rest of the book put together, the only part which actually works as a piece of fiction instead of a writing exercise, explores in splendid, wholly human detail, how a society would produce such a character and then comes to the conclusion that he's not a "barbarian" after all:

"...the optimum product of his civilization. The slave mine, the court, the army, the great ports and mountain holds, desert, field, and forest: each of his civilization's institutions had contributed to creating this scar-faced giant, who wore thick furs in the cold winter and in the heat went naked ... an easy man in company and yet able to hold his silence. For the civ-

ilization in which he lived he was a civilized man." (p. 55)

The average sword and sorcery novel is usually set in a kingdom, where a king sits on a throne and the political system is no more complicated. Delany produces an intricately structured court which is one of his finest creations. You may wonder what scar-faced giants do for kicks. You find out. There are fascinating social situations, a marvellous parody of the concept of penis envy, a creation myth which is fully as female-chauvinist as *GENESIS* is male-chauvinist, and lots more. Delany can bring across the actual experience of a fictional event, what it felt like, tasted like, smelled like, better than almost anyone else, certainly better than many of those writers who are still story-tellers.

Which is why "The Tale of Gorgik" promises so much and the book as a whole is such a disappointment: the skill is there; the prose is a joy to read, but Delany isn't doing anything with all the ingredients. I think fantasy writers should read this so they can see how Delany does so many things well, so they can learn from him, and go on to the things he hasn't bothered to do at all.

The cover, by the way, has nothing to do with the text. Nobody battles huge dragons in the book. The only dragons are tiny ones, mentioned in passing. The painting is superficially attractive, but awkward in its details, including a man holding a bow in an impossible fashion. Well, Bantam art direction has been none too smashing of late, as their Conan books show.

HEAVENLY BREAKFAST

By Samuel R. Delany
Bantam, 1979, 127 pp., \$1.95

An account of Delany's life in a New York commune, 1967-68. Bohemian squalor seems to have gotten less hygienic of late. Those of you who read fanzines frequently encounter articles about everyday experience in which the writer is just recording what he did (went to a con, went on a trip, moved) or else trying to understand the same and draw some larger meaning out of it. This is the same sort of writing, only at a professional level of competence and a lot longer. I enjoyed it and read it with interest. Delany gives a definite sense of what it was like to live with about twenty people in a four room apartment, how the interactions between individuals subtly

shifted, and how such a situation can be supportive and worthwhile if you can stand living in someone else's armpit.

A counter-cultural period piece, of literary interest because it shows where a lot of the material in Delany's work comes from. Certainly anyone who thinks *DMALGREN* is a great novel will devour this religiously. (A curious phrase, "to devour religiously". Ritualistic bibliographic cannibalism?) My feeling is that perhaps this is the book *DMALGREN* should have been, or even a book which by its publication renders *DMALGREN* unnecessary.

At \$1.95 it is badly overpriced. Thin, high-priced books don't sell, of course. If this were an Ace book it would have huge print and be twice as thick, martyring trees. Doesn't anyone have the courage to publish a thin, low-priced book?

THE DYING EARTH

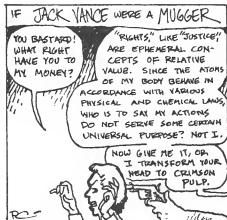
(A noteworthy reprint)

By Jack Vance

Pocket Books, 1979, 156 pp., \$1.75

This collection of six related stories is one of the authentic classics. The first edition began to command fabulous prices after its very limited release in 1950, and there were those who doubted the work even existed. Happily it has been more available in recent years, and more happily yet the new Pocket Books edition has the most attractive cover it's had in quite a while.

THE DYING EARTH is the tale of a time so distant that all we know has been forgotten, science has turned into sorcery, and this world is a magical realm. Sometimes Vance's writing is very beautiful; sometimes it shows a sparkling wit. His images and ideas can be astonishing. While Clark Ashton Smith



may have done the far future fantasy before him in his Zothique cycle, Vance's version is the classic which has given birth to a whole subspecies of successors, and, sure enough, are often referred to as "DYING EARTH type fantasies". Some are very good, but first read the original.

JUNIPER TIME

By Kate Wilhelm
Harper & Row, 1979, 280 pp., \$10.95

This is not Kate Wilhelm's best novel, and I don't even think it's as good as the last one of hers that I read (THE CLEWISTON TEST), but it is certainly worth reading. It is one of the better novels of the year, although admittedly that isn't saying much. Maybe I am getting bored, cynical and jaded, but I doubt it, and am convinced we really are living in an era of blandly competent science fiction. The archetypal magazine of the late 70s might be called JUST OKAY SF. Terry Carr might edit THE YEAR'S AVERAGE. Still, JUNIPER TIME has strengths which would be outstanding even in the best of times.

Wilhelm doesn't write pretty; she writes well. Her prose is vividly descriptive when there is something interesting to describe. It is lean where it should be lean. The dialogue sounds like people talking. She knows how to depict human beings so that their humanity comes across to the reader. In this novel there are easily five or six well-developed characters and a host of plausible spear carriers.

What goes wrong? Certainly the subject is worth writing about. We have a world plagued by vast climate changes, droughts which render most of the western United States all but uninhabitable. In the face of this an international space station is abandoned before it is completed. But several of the characters are obsessed with it and revive interest. They are the dreamers, the doers, the pioneers. They are also the sort of people who will stop at nothing to get what they want, and in the end everybody has been compromised and the ideal is sadly tarnished. This is an important and timely theme: Long-term goals in space contrasted with the immediate needs of the people down on earth. It is handled with intelligence. There are no easy answers, no heroes riding out of the sunset, no marvelous inventions which save the day. Certainly everything that goes on is convincing.

One problem is that the book is

too talky. The long explanations of how the seeming alien message was deciphered bored me, and there are perhaps too many discussions of what everything is all about (including the title of the book) which tend to stop the novel dead when it should be moving. Now I can understand why an author might go to these lengths to be clear. If she has something to say, she will get it said, since communication is the whole point of writing. But showing is better than telling sometimes.

Possibly the cast is too large. The book lacks focus. Repeated shifts in viewpoint, often within a scene, tend to dilute the characterizations to the point that when one of the less well developed characters undergoes an important change at the end, it seems like a rabbit out of a hat. The best parts are

Despite the fact that the book is printed on non-acid paper, the characters are still so much cardboard.



those from the viewpoint of the linguist, Jean Brighton. Her experience in the Newtown (a refugee center) are nightmarish. Her perception of American Indian culture as an admirable, but alien way of life is sensitively portrayed. At least one other viewpoint (Cluny, one of the space-obsessed ones) is needed in the interests of the plot, but besides these two the rest suffer by comparison.

At least the book does have its high points. It is a worthy effort, though not a flawless one.

A DREAMER'S TALES (Important Reprint)
By Lord Dunsany
Owlsick Press, 1979, 160 pp., \$12.75
Illustrated by Tim Kirk

This may very well be the best fantasy short story collection available in English. I can only think

of a few nearly as good, and they are all by Dunsany and tend to contain much of the same material. Extravagant praise? Well, Dunsany has commanded the same for the better part of a century now. Lovecraft went on at length in THE SUPERNATURAL HORROR IN LITERATURE. Yeats, writing about one of the stories in this book, said that if he'd read it as a young man, he would have looked on it as the creation of his world, and his whole career might have been different.

Whenever anyone talks about Dunsanian-style fantasy, or says that a writer went through a "Dunsany period", as so many have, it is the material in the early fantasy collections, of which many consider A DREAMER'S TALES to be the best, that they are referring to. In brief, it is one of the parameters of fantasy. Now, fantasy, in my experience, does not appeal to everyone, and it may not even be able to reach as many people as science fiction, but when it moves a reader, it does so like nothing else. Give the beginner A DREAMER'S TALES, Tolkien, the Earthsea books and maybe Peake, and if he doesn't like any of them, give up.

All these stories are beautifully written and some are just outrageously good. They achieve what few other writers can, even though many may have tried. In a few pages Dunsany could build the impression of a magnificent city, then wipe it away with a comment that a stone from that city found by the author, may be one of four yet discovered ("In Zaccarath"). He could have commonplace articles in a dump tell their stories and make those stories epics ("Blagdaross"). On a bet, he wrote a brilliant story about the mud at the side of the Thames or, more specifically, about a restless corpse which lies there, watching eternity pass by, until at last nothing wrought by mankind drifts on the river ("Where the Tides Ebb and Flow").

Then there is "The Hashish Man" which drew a fan letter from Aleister Crowley, but had little to do with real drug experiences and was all the more fantastic for it. Some of the stories would, with more pedestrian handling, seem like sketches and fragments, but then so do those of Borges. One has to be a Dunsany or a Borges to pull some of these things off. Only the right phrase will do. Only a Dunsany would describe a desert as: "all yellow it is, and spotted with shadows of stones, and Death is in it, like a leopard lying in the sun". Need anyone say more?

AND THEN I READ....



By The Editor

MILLENNIAL WOMEN

Edited by Virginia Kidd
Delacorte Press, \$8.95

You can forget the first four stories in this anthology; they are so-so shorts that fill out the book. The real quality comes with the novelle, "Phoenix in the Ashes" by Joan D. Vinge, and the short novel, *THE EYE OF THE HERON* by Ursula K. Le Guin.

Joan Vinge writes powerfully of the love that develops between a social outcast in a medieval California after-the-Collapse, and a crashed Brazilian who had been mapping and exploring. The basic story is as old as time, as these two--Amanda from a deeply religious, superstitious culture, and Hoffman from a sophisticated, technological society--at first seek to adjust, to help each other, and then knowing love, manage to make a place for themselves in this "backward" society of farmers and merchants and God.

Vinge reached deep into my guts with this story; I salute her.

Ursula K. Le Guin is becoming a bit of a specialist in telling the story of an oppressed people seeking freedom. *THE EYE OF THE HERON* shows how an overclass exploits and rationalizes its use of an underclass, and it shows how non-violence and persistence and love and a dream can triumph over greed, brute force and unperceived lies.

But this novel isn't a polemic. Ursula works through a discontented young woman who feels wasted in the house of her father on this colony planet, through a wise older woman from the underclass, and through men and women of both classes. There are tragedies and victories...you can see both sides, all arguments...and in the end the underclass which had been expelled from Earth for political reasons finally resumes its March to freedom. There's lots of room; it's a vast, empty planet.

A powerful, idealistic novel.

THE COSMIC TRIGGER by Robert Anton Wilson

And/Or Press, \$4.95

This man is incredible. He is vastly learned in the occult, in paranormality, in psi science, on everything on the fringe of what we're so sure of...and he is in tune with the underground sea that is the individual and collective unconscious.

In *THE COSMIC TRIGGER* he weaves this knowledge and personal experiences into a mosaic of speculation and assumption into a kind of unified field theory of the unspeakable. Through it all runs the feeling/belief that there is a Plan, a Secret Group, a Destiny for humanity, for Earth. There are hundreds of major and minor clues pointing to this, and Robert Anton Wilson has discovered many of them and is pointing the way.

He reaches back into prehistory ---Babylonia, Egypt, Sumeria, you-name-it, incorporates the John Kennedy assassination, the murder of Christ, UFOs, the Sufis, witchcraft, the mysterious Illuminati, the Sirius mystery, sex magic, tunnel-realities and imprints... Every odd phenomena seems to fit into this jigsaw puzzle that seems to make breathtaking, mindblowing sense.

Wilson makes you gulp and think seventeen times about this safe, solid world we live in: is it all a facade, a thin veneer? Are there entirely ugly/lovely/alien/good/evil Things Going On?

THE WICKED CYBORG by Ron Goulart

DAW, \$1.50

In this one Ron uses the young-man-cheated-of-his-inheritance plot skeleton upon which to festoon his usual fun and games---with this time an extra-large number of satirical slices at society, politicians, entertainers....

Ron Goulart is an expert puncturer of inflated egos and fatheads, and as time goes by I think his outrageous plots and all-too-human robots, machines and people (and all his combinations of these) are mere vehicles for his scalpel.

The man writes of people, cultures, governments, movements---as they really are: sex-mad, money-mad, prestige-mad, gullible, cunning, criminal...and that's why he's so popular. He doesn't dwell on these flaws, he simply records them, accepts them, holds them up to the light in funny ways, and goes on.

THE ESPER TRANSLATION by George W. Proctor

Major Books, \$1.50

The familiar elements are here: the galaxy-spanning empire dominated by powerful aristocratic families...a newly colonized planet with intelligent humanoid natives who-have-powers, a human freeman struggling to make a living for himself and his wife on the inhospitable desert after years of indentured servitude to a ruling Family....

Mix with a renegade native who is wanted for murder, and give the freeman the task of tracking down the renegade....

What is surprising is the skill Proctor brings to this warhorse of a formula plot, and his ability to involve the reader. I cared about Kraal and his rage at the injustices of the humans, and I cared about Greybar and his need to save his freehold from the vindictive Family. And I was vitally interested in the psi abilities of the natives who, it turns out....

The final secrets are yours if you read the novel. It's a better-than-expected novel, and George Proctor is a better writer than perhaps he realizes.

THE LOST ONES by Raymond F. Jones, adapted from his novel *THE RENEGADES OF TIME*.

AudiSee audio-visual production, \$3.99

This package is a 30-minute audio cassette plus a booklet illustrating the spoken/acted drama (with music).

It's like listening to a radio drama (sound effects, music, very fast pace, extremely short scenes...) while you assist your visualization by referring to the 36-pages of full-color drawings which also tell the story.

The tape drama is professionally one, with good voices speaking clearly, with effective sound background. But the action is so fast, and the dialogue so brief and devoted to necessary information, that no real characterization survives and no motivation for many plot twists is given. Why Will and Joel are willing to risk life and limb to find and rescue Tamarina is never explained. It is enough, I suppose, that she is young, pretty, and a woman. And it is also hard to believe that Joel could fall in love with her after a few of these thirty-second exchanges of shouts and commands.

The story illustrations are very well done by James C. Christensen.

An unfortunate aspect of the package these cassettes & booklets come in is that its destruction is virtually required to free the

contents. After that--there is still time left to keep them in or keep them together.

There are six of these AudiSee packages available: THE TIME MACHINE, THE STAR PRINCE, THE WAR OF THE WORLDS, THE REBELS OF EMPIRIA, and THE VOYAGE TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH.

These were all timed for [1978] Christmas sale, and I think over-priced. You may want one--or the set--for collecting, since I doubt this project will survive. If you don't find them in department stores, write Bonneville Productions, 130 Social Hall Avenue, Salt Lake City, UT 84111.

ON THE BRINK by Benjamin Stein with Herbert Stein
Ballantine, \$1.95

This disaster novel of the new sub-genre dealing with financial catastrophe for either the world or the U.S.A..

This time, in the very near future [1981] a fanatic Chairman of the Federal Reserve combined with a cowardly President manage to flood the country with gargantuan amounts of debt money and trigger an inflation of horrendous proportions---weekly raises to compensate for the price rises---100% over three months and worse come....

The good people are the economists in the White House who try try to dissuade the President from this course, futilely, because he is afraid of becoming the "new Hoover" by plunging the country into depression if he tries to stop the inflation engine.

This was copyrighted in 1977, perhaps written in 1976...perhaps before Carter was elected. Herbert Stein was, if I remember correctly, a high economics advisor to Nixon. His contempt for Presidents shows in this book. He is the source for the fascinating arguments between the Good Economists and the Bad Chairman and President in this novel.

In the end the inflation becomes so bad that people go crazy and others riot---as the glue of a society dissolves: stable, "hard" money is the bedrock of a stable society, and when a government debauches the currency, that progressively undermines all other morality in the nation.

There are sub-plots and some sex and some interesting characterization here, but it is essentially a lesson in basic economics---and basic morality.

The miraculous ending is pure fantasy.

THE COURTS OF CHAOS by Roger Zelazny
Doubleday, \$7.95
Avon 47175, \$1.75

This is the fifth and final vol-

ume of the Amber saga. At last! Now you can find out what really happened to King Oberon and why... And will the forces of evil and confusion triumph over the Pattern that is the bedrock of order, coherence and cause-and-effect relationships in the universe? Will Brand, the evil son of Oberon be foiled in his alliance with the Courts of Chaos? Will Amber, the true and only center of reality, be dissolved?

Who cares? I do. I like Roger Zelazny's unique style of writing. He seems to write with great casualness, almost sloppiness at times, but there is that fantastic, subtle easy-read dynamics, the involvement, the ability to make fantasy real because his characters---especially Prince Corwin, the central figure of the saga---are downright human: warts, flaws, selfishnesses...and noble aspects, too. Zelazny's people are not just cardboard cutouts---they fold this way and that for a three-dimensional effect.

In this final volume Corwin spends an awful lot of time in the Shadows, fleeing a Chaos storm, being attacked, attacking in turn. The Shadows are alternate, progressively strange variations (Shadows) of the one real land---Amber. Earth as we know it is one such Shadow. But our Earth is not a factor in this final Amber novel.

The third and fourth volumes of this saga were disasters as novels, being so obviously mere continuations of the saga and very dependant on previous volumes. This last volume has problems, but it's good enough to merit a recommendation from me. Read it, but it would help tremendously to have read the first four volumes.

PULSAR | Edited by George Hay
Penguin Books, 65p. (U.K.)

This is a singularly good-idea anthology; it pairs s-f stories with non-fiction articles and commentary on the themes of the stories.

A.E. van Vogt's "Death Talk" is followed by David Langford's "The Still Small Voice Inside" dealing with the probabilities and possibilities of "wiring" the body-brain with a computer to monitor our selves.

Ian Watson's "Immune Dreams" brings "Infectious Science" by John Taylor, an examination of the relationships between cancer, the brain, dreaming, reality, and catastrophe theory.

In the middle of the book is "The Time Travellers," an interview with Isaac Asimov: Isaac is not optimistic about mankind's fu-

ture as a civilized, high-technology creature; he sees famines, raw-material depletion, wars...

"Small World" by Bob Shaw, and "The Skytank Portfolio" by Chris Boyce deal with life in space habitats, their likelihood of coming to pass, and their future.

Michael Coney's story, "In Search of Professor Greatrex," is the most intriguing to me: the idea that mankind's reasoning ability is dependent on a long childhood, and that if childhood is shortened or is gradually shortening, mankind's ability to solve problems will diminish...and we will devolve back to the cave---or worse.

Stan Gooch, in "Once More, With Feeling," discusses intelligence, intelligence tests, and the TNT possibility that intelligence differs between men and women.

Josephine Saxton's "Woe, Blight, and in Heaven, Laughs: a Grim Household Tale" is a convoluted, fascinating "story" about the travail of writing, living, and what we've been taught to expect of life.

In "The World as Text: the Post-literate World as Meta-narrative" Angela Carter juggles words at mercifully short length; she had nothing to say.

The final item is a discovered

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REG #1 nearly ready for mailing

text of an H.G. Wells talk on radio in 1938, titled "Fiction of the Future" in which he discusses the problems of writing science fiction. He warns of the cultural/social/technological blinders writers wear when trying to foresee the future.

Altogether, a very good book is this; worth reading for the stories and especially for the following explorations of the science and "science" in the stories.

I hope Penguin issues it in this country.

MALAFRENA by Ursula K. Le Guin
Putnam, \$11.95

This new novel by Ursula Le Guin is not science fiction or fantasy in the true sense of the words.

It is a true-to-life story about a fictional mid-European country, Orsinia, in the early 1800s.

It concerns itself with Le Guin's favorite themes: gaining political freedoms, gaining personal freedoms for women, the emergence of strong, competent women in a male-dominated society, character development to wisdom and maturity (though some men break and fail the tests).

on the surface it is the story of idealistic Itale Sorde, heir to Malafrena, a large estate in the country, who feels wasted and who goes to the capitol, Krasnoy, to write and agitate against the puppet government controlled by neighboring Austria.

Eventually, after arrest, imprisonment for years, a revolution in which he participates, and after involvement with a lovely baroness,

SURE WAR IS
IRRATIONAL.
SO IS PEACE.
YOU SHOULD HEAR
MY BROTHER IN
THE CIVIL SERVICE!



he returns for good to Malafrena.

But Itale is the center only; around him and his concerns orbit the women in his life, and they are the real focus--their struggles, their development, their eventual triumphs.

In a real sense, this is written in the 19th century style--great detail, much interior thinking about life and politics and personal relationships...yet an almost complete absence of sex and physical concerns. That aspect of life is always implied, understated, ignored. It is, in this novel, not a fit subject for polite discourse.

This is an intellectual's novel, dealing with the lives of aristocrats and (at the lowest) the upper middle class. It is a very readable novel, and it contains wisdom, but it does seem like a building without a basement, and for all its thinking seems curiously empty...and pointless.

THE DOUGLAS CONVOLUTION by Edward
Llewellyn
DAW UEL1495, \$1.75

The story of an ex-marine, a mathematician, who discovers a "convolution" of forces which makes occasional time-travel possible.

He investigates--and is caught in the time warp.

The novel details his survival in the future of 2170: he assumes the identity of a Guard Captain and helps fight the onslaught of mind-warped savages as the East coast of America struggles to maintain a semblance of civilization.

There are leftover machines and technology from our near-future before a Final War, and the world of 2170 is ruled by a matriarchy/religion and local "autarchs".

There are/have been other time travellers, it seems... One of whom is an extremely evil man who wants to overthrow the existing status quo.

Interesting plot technique: telling 99% of the story by way of a woman pilot assigned to the "Captain". She gradually loses her intense mental-set conditioning and falls in love with Douglas.

There should be at least two sequels to this novel; the potential of this future world and the time convolutions virtually demand it.

Pretty good for a first novel. In fact, Llewellyn's writing skills are impressive.

LAGRANGE FIVE by Mack Reynolds
Bantam 12806-X, \$1.95

The main interest in this display of life-in-huge-L-5-space-islands is the philosophy of elitism and exclusiveness stressed to insure only the best minds and bodies for space colonists.

The plot involves the attempts by a private detective to find a missing VIP in the extant space islands in Earth orbit. Reynolds does his usual good job of pacing and structuring, but he is a hack and his dialogue and narrative is reflexive and often careless and dumb.

THE ROAD OF KINGS (a new Conan adventure) by Karl Edward Wagner
Bantam 12026-3, \$1.95

The formula is familiar: Conan gets into trouble with the local city/kingdom authorities (desperate trouble, this time--he's got the noose around his neck!) escapes or is rescued and finds himself embroiled in a rebellion. He is the key fighter/actor in the upheaval, in spite of himself, and in the end goes his way--to further adventure in the next novel.

The only question the would be reader asks is: how well is this story told?

Very well! Karl Edward Wagner ranks with Andrew Offutt as an excellent choice to continue the high-tension, bloody, dramatic, and realistic life of the mighty Conan.

It may be heresy, but I think Offutt and Wagner do better Conans than Robert E. Howard. But we'll never know how well Howard could have done in today's world of writing freedom.

WINDOWS by D.G. Compton
Berkley/Putnam, \$10.95

This is a sequel to THE UN-SLEEPING EYE. Compton continues the story of the man whose eyes had been replaced with miniature TV cameras and transmitters, and who, in terrible guilt and rage at what he was doing to people as a reporter, blinded himself.

WINDOWS is a drag as Rod spends huge chunks of the book feeling sorry for himself, goes through character/personality changes due to his blindness, and finally runs away to the home of an old friend in Italy. There, with his wife, he is gradually involved in espionage, murder and smuggling. In the end he and his family escape the isolated estate and Rod has reconsidered his decision to stay blind. (Advanced surgery can do wonders.)

AND THEN I SAW...

BY THE EDITOR

LORD OF THE RINGS (PG)

is an abortion committed by Ralph Bakshi on the body of Tolkien's work. All the excesses and misjudgements evident in Bakshi's WIZARDS is in this movie.

Clearly, as the movie progressed, it was obvious that Bakshi's love for using human actors with hideous masks and grotesque color effects in endless violence scenes overcame his critical judgement and his obligation to the material. The story was lost in battle after battle, and Frodo's quest and mission receded to occasional short, time-wasting bits.

The animation sequences, and even some of the human/animation scenes were very nicely done. Character, personality and motive emerged and were consistent. There was beautiful artwork.

But Bakshi butchered the movie as it progressed--whether due to a need to reduce costs or simply because he indulged his obsessions--is beside the point. The result is a boring, distasteful botch. And the movie ends incomplete, in mid-point of the story. Will there ever be a completion? I hope not, if Bakshi is in charge.

WATERSHIP DOWN (PG)

seemed a bit awkward and childish at first, but the story triumphed (though simplistically) over the less-than-perfect animation and script.

Martin Rosen wrote, directed and produced this version of the best-selling Richard Adams book.

I enjoyed the film, made allowances for the sometimes garbled dialogue and confusion, and sniffed at the end. (I cried as a child when, in RAMBI, Banbi's mother was killed.)

It has a couple admirable heroes, some vicious villains, and a happy ending. So what if it's essentially a translation--humans in rabbit form. It extolls freedom and says boo/hiss to tyranny. [It also encourages revolt and disrespect for established authority, but wotthehell!]

METEOR (PG)

convinced me that any Samuel Z. Arkoff movie is going to be second rate. This one is full of scientific howlers and plot cliches.

Sean Connery plays a pissed-off scientist who left govt. employment because his pet nuke-armed satellite, intended to point outward to guard the planet against alien threat, was instead aimed at Russia by his superiors.

So a comet hits an asteroid and sends the asteroid on a collision course with Earth. [Dramatic License is abused to show the asteroid belt so crowded it looked like the Santa Monica freeway.]

Arkoff likes to use aging (cheap) actors who have Names. Karl Malden, Natalie Wood, Brian Keith, Henry Fonda.... They all walk through their parts for lack of a decent script.

About eight days before the five-mile wide asteroid is due to hit Earth (with its family of "splinters" leading the way) the govt. suddenly gets busy and hauls Connery off his boat during a race. After some unconvincing preliminaries with a stubborn, short-sighted American General (Martin Landau, who did as good a job with the role as possible) and the suspicious Russian govt., Connery and Brian Keith (an unconvincing Russian scientist) manage to cooperate and aim both the American nuke-armed satellite as well as the supposedly secret Russian equivalent satellite.

The days dwindle down...and the "slivers" start hitting Earth like hydrogen bombs. Some good footage (though too obviously fake) showing a huge town-destroying avalanche, a tremendous tidal wave, a direct hit on New York....

Then endless shots of the satellites firing their rockets at the asteroid, of the rockets rocketing through space, of the asteroid coming closer...closer and ever closer....

In the meantime a New York hit has destroyed the New York control headquarters....

I won't give it all away. I will say this movie is almost a total waste of time. Wait. It'll be on TV in a year or two.

STAR TREK - THE MOTION PICTURE (PG) is a big, super-deluxe STAR TREK TV episode padded by an endless exterior dry-dock examination of the refitted Enterprise in the beginning of the film (as Capt. --now Admiral-- Kirk returns to take command), and in an even longer entry into the symbolic vagina of an alien, space-faring creation whose size and true shape are never made too clear---except it is (naturally) huge!

The basic story: three Klingon spaceships are destroyed by a mysterious alien presence in a vast space cloud. The cloud/entity/force is headed straight for Earth. Admiral Kirk assumes command of the Enterprise and gathers the old key crewmembers to help in this save-the-Earth voyage.

There are a few engine problems and one memorable breakdown in the Transporter---two crew members, being "beamed up" are scrambled and the machine in unable to reconstruct their true human matrix. They seem to warp and become misshapen in the vari-colored Transporter chamber fields...then are lost.

Good-old-Spock (looking magnificently fierce and not-human at first) joins the Enterprise in space and takes over the movie.

The sense-of-wonder and awe inspired by the Klingons, by the renewed Enterprise, and above all by the alien "ship" is warp-factored into the ground in the last few minutes as the puzzle of the alien creation is explained and Earth's danger is removed. What a letdown!

The last five minutes of the movie deteriorate into ludicrous sophomoric wish-philosophy and clowning by Kirk and others---the old comedy relief that Roddenberry must have felt was necessary to release tension. What tension?

Ah, but I am perhaps too picky-picky. The special effects were well done; I believed in this future high technology. And I was fascinated by the Klingons and their spacecrafts; a pity they had only get-killed parts in the first minute or two.

The beautiful, bald woman navigator and the deposed Enterprise Captain were expendables.

Unless you're a Trekkie, this movie will take your \$5. and leave you feeling a bit of a sucker.



THE THIRD WORLD WAR -- AUGUST 1985
By General Sir John Hackett and
other Top-Ranking NATO Generals
and Advisors
Macmillan, 1978, 368 pp., \$12.95
Hardback

Reviewed by Nicholas Santelli

TTWW has been in print in Europe for over two years and has received considerable acclaim and derision. In this country it has been on the best seller list for 22 weeks and is still going strong. While marketed strictly as a mainstream novel, its title (subject) may attract quite a few SF readers, particularly when it appears in paperback in '80 or early '81.

TTWW is not a novel in the usual sense. There is no plot, no character development, in fact there are hardly any people at all. It is a "report" drafted in 1987 by a group of British Generals on the recently concluded war between the Warsaw Pact and NATO. The "report" is thorough, containing numerous battlefield maps, charts and tables. There are some good, realistic "battlefront accounts". (The book opens with U.S. Sheridan tanks slugging it out with some Russian T-72s.) It also reveals the authors' awesome knowledge of modern weapons and warfare.

Unfortunately the "report" is also dry and didactic, the battlefront accounts are too few, and the brief encounter between a U.S. Shuttle and a Soviet Soyuz is unimaginative. The final chapter in which a single nuclear exchange ends the conflict is unconvincing and too pat. General Hackett's main reason for writing the book is contained in the "report's" numerous conclusions. These conclusions are actually thinly veiled pleas (some quite persuasive) for the U.S. and Britain to increase defense spending, strengthen NATO, and reinstate the draft.

Conclusion: If you are looking for a good novel, SF or otherwise, stay away from this one. If, however, you're militaristically inclined and interested in/worried about U.S. military strength...OR...you are looking for good source material to lend accuracy to some of your own stories that may have a military theme, TTWW may well be worth the price.



THE STARFOLLOWERS OF COROMONDE

By Brian Daley
Ballantine Books, \$1.95

Reviewed by Lynn C. Mitchell

If you enjoy fantasy with demonic birds and mystical swords, then Brian Daley's THE STARFOLLOWERS OF COROMONDE is for you. A sequel to THE DOOMFARERS OF COROMONDE, Daley's new fantasy continues the adventures of the American Gil MacDonald in the alternate world of Coromonde.

Although the plot at times is quite confusing (too much of the novel depends on its predecessor), the story combines political turmoil with quest motifs and wizardry. Resurrected from DOOMFARERS, Yardiff Bey, master wizard and archvillain, has captured Gil's friend Dunstan. Additionally, Bey is obsessed with finding the ancient Arrivals Macabre whose contents would unlock for him all the black magic of the universe and provide him with the power to conquer the world.

Daley's heroes are beset by many conflicts. On the one flank is Bey's consummate villainy; on the other, Prince Springbuck's suzerainty is troubled by rebellious states within Coromonde. Thus Gil's mission is two-fold. With the en-

chanter Andre DeCourteney, Gil must head South to return an infant of royal lineage and her mystical sword to her kingdom. This restoration will help re-establish peace to the South lands. Secondly, Gil plans to join Springbuck's warriors in order to rescue Dunstan and to destroy Yardiff Bey at Salama.

STARFOLLOWERS is not without its problems. Fantasy purists will object to the 20th century armory. Yet compared to DOOMFARERS, most of this equipment has disappeared. The main flaw in the novel is Daley's too facile use of Berserker rages to extricate Gil from inescapable situations. These blood-bath solutions are poor devices to resolve the plot.

Despite these objections, STARFOLLOWERS contains a solid array of enchantments, spells and magical events. The forces of good and evil are controlled by wizards and by other supernatural figures which promise exciting confrontations. In fact, the good enchanter Andre battles Yardiff Bey with spells so powerfully binding that he could destroy the world he struggles to save. And Daley weaves these fantasy motifs into an intricate plot that is usually successful.

THE HAUNTED MAN: THE STRANGE GENIUS OF DAVID LINDSAY

By Colin Wilson
Paperback, 63 pp., \$2.95
The Milford Popular Writers of Today Series, Vol. 20.

COLIN WILSON: THE OUTSIDER AND BEYOND

By Clifford P. Bendau
Paperback, 63 pp., \$2.95
Milford Popular Writers Series, Vol. 20
The Borgo Press, Box 2845, San Bernardino, CA 92406.

Reviewed by Neal Wilgus

Colin Wilson is a writer with an obsession and he's written compulsively about it for more than 20 years now, producing 33 books on an amazing variety of subjects, yet managing always to relate his latest variation back to the basic underlying theme. That theme is the prob-

tem of the Outsider/Outsideer appropriate the title of his first book was *THE OUTSIDER* (1956), the first of a six-volume Outsider cycle in which he worked out a basically optimistic philosophy of evolution which he calls the New Existentialism. The Outsider may be poet, artist, magician, scientist or visionary mystic, but in every case his main problem is to get past the sleepwalking state of daily "reality" and down to the underlying meaning of life and the rational management of evolution.

Wilson remains somewhat of an outsider himself in the science fiction community, but he has turned to SF and fantasy from time to time, both as critic and as novelist. *THE HAUNTED MAN*, his latest publication, is typical of his critical essays and is of interest both as another variation on the Outsider theme and as a critical evaluation of one of the strangest fantasy writers yet.

David Lindsay (1876-1945) is best known for his SF "classic" *A VOYAGE TO ARCTURUS* (1920), but according to Wilson, his other novels (*THE HAUNTED WOMAN*, *SPHINX*, *DEVIL'S TOR*) also contain important fantasy elements which make his neglected works worthy of wider attention.

Lindsay was certainly the archetypical Outsider, a sort of cross between D.H. Lawrence and William Blake, seeing visions of the "reality" beyond everyday life yet somehow always unable to communicate what he had seen. Colin Wilson seems to take delight in seizing on total worldly failures such as Lindsay or Lovecraft and turning their negative philosophies around to serve his own optimistic New Existentialism. It's ironic sometimes to hear Wilson's "Lovecraftian" novels (*THE MIND PARASITES*, *THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE*, *THE SPACE VAMPIRES*) criticized as reshapes of HPL's gloomy work, when in fact they are glorious transformations of eldritch doom into existential glory. Significantly, in discussing what he calls "the existentialist temperament", Wilson comments in *THE HAUNTED MAN* that "it is extremely common among writers of science fiction... so common that I am tempted to describe it as the driving force behind science fiction".

Borgo Press has followed its analysis of Lindsay by Wilson with an analysis of Wilson by Clifford Bendau and for anyone with an interest in Wilson it's a valuable reference to have around. Alas, Bendau is not much of an Outsider and *THE OUTSIDER AND BEYOND* is pretty tame, academic stuff. The first half of the booklet is an unimaginative rehash of the Outsider/New Existentialism theme which is unnecessarily

repetitive and only marginally rewarding. The remainder is a book-by-book discussion of Wilson's work and although you may not always agree with his comments they are usually to the point. The only thing missing is reference to Wilson's short novel, *THE RETURN OF THE LLOIGOR* in August Derleth's *TALES OF THE CTHULHU MYTHOS* which, though entertaining, is of marginal importance in any case.

In the long run Colin Wilson will probably turn out to be a literary figure of first importance, comparable to Shaw, Huxley and Orwell as 20th century writers, and perhaps more important, he writes in a crisp, entertaining prose that is often difficult to put down. Borgo



Press has done Wilson enthusiasts a real favor in bringing out these two titles. Outsiders of every stripe should find them of more than passing interest.

MINDSONG

By Joan Cox
Avon 43638; c. 1979; 1st printing,
April 1979; \$2.25, 282 pp.

Reviewed by Steve Lewis

A curiously split novel. The first half is slow and leisurely paced, with a hint of swords-and-

sorcery thrown in for seasoning. The adventures of a renegade misfit and a gift for prophecy are told lyrically and well, and at times with a surprising amount of delicate sensuality.

In the second half some of the more mysterious things that have been happening are gradually explained, but on a scale of reference suddenly blown up ten times the size. Before the book is done our hero and his friends have been whisked back and forth across the galaxy more times than you can shake a transgalactic portal at.

This is a novel of epic proportions, and there's a lot going on. If you're a reader and you stick around long enough, you're going to be challenged and rewarded and delighted for taking the trouble.

Overall, I still can't call it altogether successful as a novel. It's worth the time put into it, but perhaps its greatest failure is that of simply not measuring up to its own ambitions.

THE WEIRD GATHERING & OTHER TALES

Edited by Ronald Curran
Pawcett Crest, 574 pp., \$2.50

Reviewed by David A. Truesdale

This exhaustive tome is certainly not for the average science fiction or fantasy buyer. It is best suited to the college classroom, ideally in any one of a number of Women Studies courses, either integrally or peripherally. The subtitle says it all: "SUPERNATURAL" WOMEN IN AMERICAN POPULAR FICTION, 1800-1850. The material is arranged under headings such as: *Witches, Covens & Sabbats*, *The Solitary Sorceress*, *Water Spirits & the Demonic Power of Women*, *Diabolical Fairies & the Romantic Spirit*, *American Indians & "Natural" Passion*, *Shrews, Vixens & Viragos*; *The Villainous Women*, with many of the archaic and hard to read pieces listed as anonymous.

The source material is culled from magazines of the period and is listed in a lengthy, but representative bibliography running from *The Period of Beginnings: 1741-1794 to The Period of Nationalism: 1794-1825 to The Period of Expansion: 1825-1850*. Gift-Books and *Annuals*, *Articles and Excerpts on*, *by*, and *about Women*, as well as *Witchcraft* are covered mainly from esoteric periodicals, women's magazines, portfolios, journals, and more respected national and English monthly magazines and gazettes of

the period. Pretty dry stuff to wade through, but a good research source for the scholar or historian wishing to learn how women were thought of, treated, and written about during this limited period of our literary history ... at least from the standpoint of "The Enchanted World of Dark Legends".

SONG OF THE PEARL

By Ruth Nichols
Bantam for June, 1979, 120 pp., \$1.75
Original pub. date 1976.
Cover by Elizabeth Malczynski
Reviewed by David A. Truesdale

Sparked by an allegedly true occurrence on the evening of April 4, 1935, Ruth Nichols relates the fictional account of Margaret Redmond, who died at an early age to find herself in an otherworldly, romanticized dreamheaven where she comes to grips with herself, and the conflict between heaven and the mortal world. Margaret confronts private sexual guilt, comes to free herself of its harmful effects, is introduced to an enigmatic lover and is subsequently involved in his family's internal intrigues, all part of the process of cleansing herself in order to ready herself once more for life.

The slim volume closes with the words, "We will return to Earth, where lovers lie together and children are born, and some men, having forgotten their true nature, walk in fear of death. The time has come to resume our pilgrimage".

A soft, sensitive, young-adult tale of self-awareness set in a life after-death framework, it aptly reflects the author's own interests. Nichols is completing her Ph.D in Religious Studies at McMaster University in Canada.

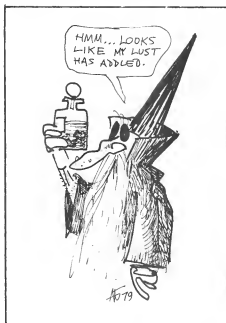
THE PURPLE DRAGON AND OTHER FANTASIES

By L. Frank Baum
Fictioneer Books, Ltd., Lakemont,
GA 30552
Hardcover, 201 pp., \$8.50
Reviewed by Neal Wilgus

In a roundabout way, L. Frank Baum is probably responsible for more SF fans than anyone short of H.G. Wells. Although he wrote little outright SF, most of Baum's work is definitely in the fantasy realm and since the Oz books and his other surviving fictions continue to be popular juvenile fare unto the fourth generation, more often than

not it's a Baum fantasy that first turns young readers onto the intoxication of freewheeling imagination. He was a Wiz.

Unless you're a real Baum fanatic and member of the International Wizard of Oz Club, however, you are probably not familiar with the Master's short fairy tales, and it is this gaping gap that THE PURPLE DRAGON goes about filling. It fills that gap very well indeed, for there are selections here from Baum's four fairy tale books and editor David L. Greene has skimmed off the cream of each, probably saving us considerable boredom which might have accompanied a Complete Fairy Tales of L. Frank Baum. Boredom, let me hastily qualify, stemming



from the fact that these are fairy tales, after all, and for most adult readers a fairly small amount tends to go a long way.

Briefly then, THE PURPLE DRAGON contains representative tales from A NEW WONDERLAND (1900), MOTHER GOOSE IN PROSE (1897), AMERICAN FAIRY TALES (1901) and ANIMAL FAIRY TALES, which were published around 1905 in various periodicals and collected into an Oz Club edition in 1969. Baum gets better as you go along, for the NEW WONDERLAND tales of Phunmyland are rather too simple and sickening-sweet and the Mother Goose material, while imaginative, doesn't really rise to the level of the originals. But the AMERICAN and ANIMAL tales more than make up for this, especially gems such as "The Glass Dog", "The Dummy that Lived" and "The Forest Oracle".

Baum was a real American origin-

al and needs to be more widely appreciated for his short fiction, which has always been overshadowed by the Oz books. Fictioneers has done a fine job in bringing together his best tales in a first class package, complete with illustrations by Tim Kirk. So if you want to do yourself a favor -- go get Baumed.

LEGION

By Charles L. Grant
Berkley, 1979, 215 pp., \$1.75
Reviewed by Dean R. Lambie

The casual reader is treated more than a bit unfairly by this third novel in the "Parric family saga", for that reader enters LEGION in the middle of the story -- and stays there.

Matthew Parric, grandson of the man who did his best to preserve civilization after the Eureka War and PlagueWinds devastated the Earth, continues the efforts of his forebears. At the insistence of ContiGov Chairman Robbins, Matt sets out from Town Central to capture the renegade Solomon Quilly. Quilly's forces represent the only challenge to ContiGov's attempts to reunite scattered towns and re-establish the former cityplexes. In the company of android Will Dix -- essentially a Parric family retainer -- and four humans, Matt hunts through wild country around the Delaware River. The party is attacked and separated, the ensuing battle reveals the real murderers of Matt's wife and children, and the secret of the Quilly plan is finally discovered.

Since this book does not stand well alone, only the motivation of the central character makes much sense. There is action enough, and fairly routine plot twists, but overall, the writing seems tired. Once upon a time, the distinction between android and robot was clear; Hollywood has hopelessly muddled the waters and Grant is not helping with this series.

GATEWAY TO LIMBO

By Chris Lampton
Doubleday, \$7.95
Jacket by Robert Silverman

Reviewed by Steven Edward McDonald

The book is passable, the sort of semi-filler that used to turn up beneath the Ace logo, someplace below Zelazny's less impressive work. Take one self-possessed cynical

young bastard with high-level mental-
 ality, kick him in the ass, and
 progress from point A to point B,
 not necessarily in a straight line.
 In that sense, it's workable; the
 writing is competent and fairly con-
 cise, and the story is no worse than
 a few dozen others of its type, and
 certainly okay for a rainy day sit-
 down.

Problems do abound, however.
 The character of Allison Carstairs
 (clumsy name) is described as a gen-
 ius of a cyberneticist, yet he's nev-
 er seen to do anything that defines
 him as such -- he's just there to be
 in the shit. The Leech, a computer-
 ized djinni of sorts, I can take, as
 a gimmick. Various other things
 I can take. However, the book has
 a bad habit of reading like the
 James Bond of 1990, rather than a
 zapgun thriller set a few hundred
 years away -- a security compound
 is ringed by machine guns that fire
 in a preprogrammed pattern, rather
 than relying on computer-guidance,
 radar and infrared sensors; the
 "Sherlocks", mini-robots reminis-
 cent of the Hunter in THE PRISONER,
 have everything but hearing, which
 would allow them to catch the hero
 rather inconveniently.

And so forth. It might make a
 nice low-budget movie, and it makes
 a moderate hour's entertainment,
 but, despite a slightly fascinating
 alien race that is culturally con-
 ditioned towards its own extinction,
 the book is ultimately forgettable.

SOVEREIGN

By R.M. Meluch
 Signet (NAL), 1979, 230 pp., \$1.75

Reviewed by Dean R. Lambie

Any writer who, just as an as-
 side, can put an aardvark aboard an
 interstellar warship, and make you
 believe it belongs there, is some-
 thing above the norm. References
 to M.Z. Bradley, Leigh Brackett,
 and Zenna Henderson would seem apt.

At least four stories are pres-
 ented in SOVEREIGN, spanning over
 50 years. On the planet Arana, Teal
 Ray Steward, 33rd generation Bay
 Royalist, heir to the Royalist
 crown, is tortured in his soul at
 his father's rejection. Kaela, Teal
 Ray's father, is challenged for sov-
 ereignty over the selectively-bred
 Royalists by the rival Brekk line.
 In wider scope, the whole Royalist
 people must battle the Northern Cau-
 cans for living space during climac-
 tic changes that occur throughout
 the 40.6 year "Star Year" of Arana's
 binary star system. And, in broad-

est scope, Arana -- with her two sepa-
 rate human species -- is an intergalactic pawn between the forces of
 Earth and her allies, and the human-
 old Uelsons. Teal Ray flees the
 emotional chaos of his father's
 house, and the Royalist war with
 Caucan dictator Tras, and secretly
 joins the defense of Earth against
 the Uelsons in Armageddon I. Teal
 loses his ship, is captured and tor-
 tured by Uelsons, escapes, and suc-
 cessfully passes into service with
 the United Earth Fleet. Interper-
 sonal entanglements, love, hate, and
 his indelible Royalist roots plague
 Teal throughout the final resolution
 of these complexly interwoven con-
 flicts.

The details at the beginning and
 the ambiguity of the ending cry out
 for prequels and sequels -- perhaps
 the reason for Signet's unusually
 good promotion of this first novel.



Sure, there are warts and pimples --
 Meluch must choose more distinct
 character names (conversations be-
 tween Teal and Terrel drove me nuts).

Read this book; pray for more.
 You're going to love that aardvark!

THE GENTLE GIANTS OF GANYMEDE

By James P. Hogan
 Ballantine/Del Rey 27375; c. 1978,
 1st edn July 1978; \$1.75, 246 pp.

Reviewed by Steve Lewis

Back in 1977 I called Hogan's
 first published novel, INHERIT THE
 STARS, the "SF puzzle of the year",
 and I think with some justification.
 In that book the discovery of a
 space-suited 50,000-year-old corpse
 on the moon is the opening of a de-
 tective story plain and simple, but
 one for which the greater part of
 the solution is a greatly revised

history of the entire solar system.
 This is the sequel.

One of the things that Hogan
 would have us believe is that the
 planet Minerva once existed in its
 place around the sun where the as-
 teroid belt is now. (Yes, I know
 that's not a new idea. Of course,
 there's more to his theories than
 that.) Although the rest of the
 Minervan civilization mysteriously
 disappeared over 25 million years
 before, even before the destruction
 of their home world, a ship of sur-
 vivors miraculously finds its way
 back from an ill-fated expedition
 across the galaxy. This time the
 surprising discoveries that are made
 as a consequence are about the very
 origin of mankind, which has some
 far-reaching implications for the
 homeless aliens as well. Hogan is
 fying no small potatoes, folks.

The nature of a sequel being
 what it is, before you start this
 one I think you're better off read-
 ing the full version of the part of
 the puzzle that's already been solved.
 Maybe you can piece both of
 them together at the same time, but
 since there's an easy alternative,
 I don't believe you're going to
 find it worth the effort. With
 fewer details still left to fall in-
 to place, you'll also miss out on
 the mind-dazzling depth of ideas
 that dominated the first book -- but
 never fear, the same bold scientific
 extrapolation that also character-
 ized that first book is just as con-
 vincing now as it was before.

And in the meantime Hogan has
 also increased his skills as a writ-
 er, enough so that his scientists
 from Earth are finally recognizable
 as people (well, almost!), and so
 that the tremendous empathy that
 builds for the plight of the unhappy
 and embarrassed refugees is what it
 is that works to make this a true
 rarity, a sequel that rates a notch
 higher than the original.

THE YEAR'S BEST HORROR STORIES: SERIES VII

Edited by Gerald W. Page
 DAW Books #346 for July, 1979.
 221 pp., \$1.95
 Cover by Michael Whelan

Reviewed by David A. Truesdale

Fourteen stories are again col-
 lected in this fine annual collec-
 tion. As a matter of curiosity
 eight of them have varying "Contem-
 porary" settings (USA or England),
 four take place in sword & sorcery
 milieus, one could have taken place
 anytime, and one takes place with-
 in the confines of a frightening
 future-world arcade.

Dennis Eichen tells the tale of a Vegetamite (Variveger) salesman who removes the safeguards from the slicing blades after selling forty of them to unsuspecting housewives at a kitchen appliance demonstration.

Stephen King, Charles Saunders and Lisa Tuttle offer three variations on the "switcheroo" gimmick, where, generally speaking, a demon or beast or android assumes the shape of a human, only to revert to their true form upon death. In Tuttle's case, it is more precise to say that an android believing herself to be human is found to be the machine she is.

Manly Wade Wellman turns in an average vampire story dealing with a troupe of actors staging a Dracula play in a Connecticut town where they find that their lead actress is a vampiress who must eventually be destroyed.

Tanith Lee gives us an inventive little morality piece involving an unwary warrior who enters a monastery where he is duped, then drugged by two ersatz nuns. They seek to exchange his soul for that of their dead master, who has lost his during a prolonged astral projection. The ending is quite fitting.

Janet Fox, a relative newcomer with several impressive stories to her credit, writes a touching piece about an aging wife in the midst of a bout of psychological reminiscing on all the many boys she freely made love to as a young girl. The sadness of the tragedy comes from her total self-delusion as she seeks the innocence and beauty she can never recapture. You can't go home, try as you might.

Jack Vance sketches youthful, carefree islanders as they one by one discover the horror that life is not an endless series of fishing, loving, laughing in a perpetual paradise, when they confront "The Secret" --- that all must eventually perish.

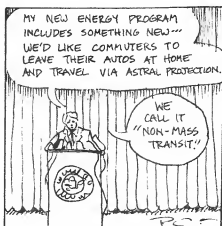
Charles L. Grant has written one of the most powerful, and best pieces (there are two or three) in the book. An overprotective, but loving father must watch helplessly as his wife is wounded and one of his three beautiful daughters is shot and killed by vengeful hooligans while on a peaceful picnic. The horror is in the randomness, the unreasoning, blind aspects of this sort of crime, and his inability to come to grips with it.

Darrell Schweitzer envisions an army of disembodied hands strangling the populace of a terrified countryside, and our heroic knight

Julian finding himself in the middle of it all, held captive and near death by the sorcerous Tiki-tos and The Master. Well told, but more of a sword & sorcery effort than straight horror, though the latter is certainly evident.

Ramsey Campbell gives us the shortest and possibly best story in the book. It is a classic, excellently told shocker you will not forget. The title, "Heading Home", is hilariously appropos, and is all I'm afraid I can tell you about this one.

David Drake takes us on an excursion with a pair of adventurers seeking a fortune in lost gold, only to find it has a deadly life of its own due to the artificial nature granted it by a long-dead wizard.



Michael Bishop is again in top form with his touching, sensitive, slyly humorous account of a two-headed mutant wishing to be treated as a normal human -- and the kinship developed between the two "brother" heads and the body they jointly term The Monster. A highlight.

Robert Aickman, a virtual master of the macabre and an underrated craftsman, ends the book with the psycho-sexual reinterpretation of Oedipus (ala Freud). An adult virgin in "momma's boy" falls in with a pair of kinky female roommates, one who screws him silly, the other who tempts him endlessly. He prefers, however, his safe, secure mother, who while seducing him croons, "You know who loves you best of all". Now, that's a horror story, right?

Traditional themes, new treatments ... a few gems evincing originality in theme and treatment make this one again a good buy.

GATHER, DARKNESS!

By Fritz Leiber
Ballantine Books, \$1.50

Reviewed by Lynn C. Mitchell

Brother Jarles, Priest of the First and Outmost Circle, thought he was going insane. His world was being ravaged by the dying throes of a decadent scientific theocracy and the resurgent powers of superstition -- a "myth" fabricated by the theocratic Hierarchy itself. Now what had been merely an illusory tool for the Hierarchy to control the masses was suddenly real -- but worse, these rebelling dark forces offered the only moral solution to end the cruel injustice and hypocrisy of the Priesthood.

Fritz Leiber's GATHER, DARKNESS! is a suspenseful account of the struggle between magic and science. In this future world scientists maintained their privileged status by devising a new religion "powered by science". Using scientific gadgetry, the Hierarchy created a "regimented, monastic paradise" complete with serfdom and superstition. The Hierarchy contrived supernatural events and devilish tricks in order to control the Commons with fake miracles and to provide emotional outlets for the superstitious nature of an ignorant populace.

The real subject of GATHER, DARKNESS! is man's use of science. In this power struggle between theocracy and magic, science is a device for either freedom or slavery. As science offers man the means to gratify his craving for power and control, we are never quite sure, even at the conclusion of GATHER, DARKNESS! if the rebel leaders are but envious and power-hungry theocrats in devil's clothing.

GATHER, DARKNESS! contains all the elements of good suspense SF. The clash between science and magic in this future world is framed by a tight plot that takes unexpected turns. The major characters have depth as they resist simplistic polarities: Goniface is a villain yet he becomes an instrument for good. Jarles, labeled an "Idealist", betrays his allies. And the Dark Man, the rebel seeking justice, enjoys the power his successes earn him.

But more, the moral ambiguities of these characters underline an ethical crisis for science -- that is, in how man uses knowledge for social engineering.

GATHER, DARKNESS! is a warning, and I strongly recommend it!



arena -- against a huge snake-like sannak. He loses but his fight attracts the love interest of Ellain Kiran, a singer who chafes under the thrall of a ruling family member. Finally, the only hope for money and escape for Earl and friends is an expedition to sannak lairs, the only place where valuable tranek stones may be found. Predictably, Dumarest battles the elements, snake-things, and his fellow man, and gets the girl at the end.

Tubb is just going through repetitious motions here. Earl Dumarest has not moved any closer to Earth or any further from the evil Cyclan since #15. Cover art and blurb are inaccurate; and it's past time for Dumarest to retire.

THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE

By Colin Wilson
Wingbow Press, 2940 7th St., Berkeley, CA, 94710
Paperback, 268 pp., \$4.95

Reviewed by Neal Wilgus

Colin Wilson is one of the best mainstream writers to turn his hand to science fantasy in a long time and THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE is a first rate addition to the Cthulhu Mythos originally created by H.P. Lovecraft and his disciples. First published in 1969, STONE is the story of two men obsessed by the same philosophical riddles Wilson has written so often before -- the problems of the Outsider and the potential for superhuman achievement which somehow eludes our best efforts at self improvement. Through a simple brain operation the goal is at last achieved and Wilson's philosophical supermen at last perceive the alien conspiracy that has for so long hindered human development....

Essentially the same story, with different characters, was the meat of THE MIND PARASITES (1967) and an improved version of the theme is to be found in THE SPACE VAMPIRES (1976). This Wingbow reissue of STONE lacks the introduction by Joyce Carol Oates to be found in the Warner paperback edition at \$1.95, but for collectors and libraries, at least, the Wingbow quality paperback is the one to have.

Colin Wilson has written better books, both fiction and non-fiction, but PHILOSOPHER'S STONE is still several cuts above the average and is well worth reading if you enjoy anything above the grossest sword-and-sorcery. Highly recommended.

THE DOPPLEGANGER GAMBIT
By Lee Killough
Del Rey/Ballantine, 1979, 261 pp.
\$1.95

Reviewed by Dean R. Lambe

Police procedural SF is rare -- that makes Ms. Killough's fun romp all the more appreciated. For all the advancements in computerized gizmos, late 21st Century police work is likely to be much as it is today -- patient, methodical sifting of clues and hours of legwork among reticent witnesses.

That is just what Killough gives us here in a well-detailed portrayal of the Shawnee County (Kansas) Crimes Against Persons squad vs. Jorge Hazlett. Sgt. Janna Brill, blonde and tough, investigates the apparent suicide of Andy Kellener, a colonial contractor who dies of an overdose of the illegal drug "trick" after the colony ship Invictus exploded. At first it seems that Kellener fraudulently short-changed the 400 colonists who were aboard the lost ship. But Jann's screwball partner, Mana Maxwell, has a gut feeling that Kellener was killed by Hazlett, even though the suspect has an iron-clad alibi. Thanks to the near-universal ID/credit card system, Hazlett can prove that he was nowhere near his associate in the colonizing firm when Kellener died. Sgt. Brill discovers evidence of a doppelganger ring using unregistered societal dropouts, and she must struggle to contain Maxwell's violations of official procedure in order to convict the murderer. Within herself, Janna Brill also debates whether to continue with the frustrations of police work, or take her former, now injured, partner's advice and ship out to a new colony world.

The characters, plot, indeed the whole future society, are very well developed in this novel. NO CRIME AND PUNISHMENT, but closer than most, and well worth reading.

EMPIRE OF THE EAST

By Fred Saberhagen
Ace paperback, 558 pp., \$6.95

Reviewed by Neal Wilgus

Fred Saberhagen is probably most widely known for his Berserker series, which is unfortunate in a way, for his best work is outside the Berserker framework. Probably his best yet is EMPIRE OF THE EAST which, if you must categorize, falls into the swords-n-sorcery genre -- and lord knows there are plenty of swords

WEB OF SAND
By E.C. Tubb
DAW, 1979, 156 pp., \$1.75
Reviewed by Dean R. Lambe

The Dumarest quest for lost Earth is surely one of the longest-running single hero, single author series in SF.

In #20, Earl Dumarest and five fellow passengers are stranded by a dishonest ship captain on yet another hostile world. Harge, a planet of sand and one city, is ruled by five degenerate families who hold the rest of the people in economic slavery. Two stranded passengers have wealth, and disappear from the story, but Earl and the others band together to raise money for off-world passage. Typically, the gladiator-hero tries his skills in the

and lots of sorcery to go around. Far from being an airy fantasy, however, *EMPIRE* is done in a realistic style with all the convincing detail found in Saberhagen's hard SF books, and although there are some magic devices that are sometimes a bit hard to accept, the overall effect is that of a gripping, fast-paced adventure.

EMPIRE is a trilogy, actually, consisting of three previously published novels -- *THE BROKEN LANDS* (Ace, 1968), *THE BLACK MOUNTAINS* (Ace, 1971) and *CHANGELING EARTH* (DAW, 1973). Although somewhat revised for this "omnibus" edition, the three novels are still essentially separate entities and each stands alone as a separate adventure. This large size (6x9) trade edition, with a Prologue by Roger Zelazny and illustrations by Enric, is one of the initial volumes of the new Ace line of quality paperbacks.

The main characters in *EMPIRE* are Rolf, a young farmer who becomes a soldier when the armies of the East invade his home in the Broken Lands of the West, and Chup, who begins as one of the Satraps of the East and eventually joins Rolf and his allies of the West. The action takes place in the distant future when technology is a forgotten relic of the Old World and when magic and brute strength rule the day. This unusual play between magic and technology is one of the things that gives *EMPIRE* a unique flavor not to be found elsewhere.

In *THE BROKEN LANDS*, for instance, the magic is to be found mostly in the powerful demons and elementals that both sides (but especially the East) can conjure up and in the two stones of the desert which have powers that strain reader credulity, while the technology is in the ancient nuclear powered tank which Rolf learns to master and turn against the invading Easterners.

In *THE BLACK MOUNTAINS*, the magic is in the form of two gigantic creatures, Draffut and Zapranoth, who engage in a fight to the finish while Rolf and his allies invade the Eastern citadel; the technology is found in the balloons which Rolf uses to aid the invasion. And in *ARDNEH'S WORLD*, the retitled final book, the magic is summed up in Orcus, the ultimate personification of Eastern magic and evil, while Ardneh itself is the ultimate in technology -- a super computer with near magic powers which is the force behind the eventual Western triumph.

But there is much more to it than that. Despite some minor flaws, *EMPIRE OF THE EAST* is one of the best science fantasy epics to come along in years and Fred Saberhagen can

be justly proud of this addition to his canon. Highly recommended.

IN SOLITARY

By Garry Kilworth
Avon, 1977, 125 pp., \$1.75

Reviewed by Dean R. Lambe

Rarely do I wish that a novel had more pages. This English writer, whose work is just now reaching these shores, could have used far more detail in this tale of a conquered Earth. Over 400 years prior to the beginning of the story, the birdlike Soal escaped their dying planet and moved into man's home. A prequest earthquake drastically lowered sea levels, and the remnants of humanity are relegated to mudflats and islands, while the Soal control all major land masses.

Soal law restricts human intercourse (both meanings), but when young Cave is exiled from his house pet status in Soal-ruled England, he meets the mysterious Stella, and becomes involved in a revolution against Earth's masters. Cave, Stella, and one other escape to Polynesia via a pneumatic tube system, and join with Tangia in an attack on the Soal's "mushroom tower" climate control/defensive system. The ending has several nice twists.

While there are holes in the plot, and in the science, large enough to accommodate a brontosaurus, real people are found herein. Use of a dating system of months, rather than years, is unexplained and irritating. Cover art is good, but cover graphics which obscure the name of a promising new writer are inexcusable.

STAR TREK -- THE MOTION PICTURE

By Gene Roddenberry, Pocket Books
1979, \$2.50, 252 pp., Novel.
ISBN 0-671-83088-0

Reviewed by James J.J. Wilson

I think *STAR TREK* fans will not be disappointed with this book, and if the movie is anything like the book, they will not be disappointed with that either.

The first few chapters are very weak but after that I found the novel almost impossible to put down. I had a hard time getting into the characters at first, but about halfway into the book I felt I was watching an episode of the old *STAR TREK* TV series.

I'm sure the general public is in for a real shock: This is *Science Fiction*, folks. There is no mistaking this for the "sci-fi" garbage that Hollywood has been feeding us for the past several years in the form of *SPACE: 1999*, *STAR WARS* and *BATTLESTAR GALACTICA*. Hopefully, someone out there will realize from this that you can give the public meaningful SF. For this reason I hope this movie is a hit.

About the content: Fans familiar with the old *STAR TREK* episodes will undoubtedly note similarities between this story and the episodes, "The Doomsday Machine" and "The Ultimate Computer", with much of the plot coming from an episode entitled "The Changeling".



Here are a few questions for people who have seen the movie and/or read the book (I am writing this two days after the release of the book and three weeks before the scheduled release of the film): At the end of the book Kirk never belays the self-destruct order; why didn't the ship blow up? Why is the self-destruct order so much simpler to invoke than it was before? And lastly, why didn't Kirk mention having been in a very similar situation before ("The Changeling")? He could at least have said, "Hey, Spock. This happened to us before. Remember Nomad?" Oh, well, I hope these flaws are not in the film.

I found this an extremely enjoyable book. It is far above the quality of most film novelisations.

THE QUEST OF EXCALIBUR

By Leonard Wibberley
Borgo Press, Box 2845, San Bernardino, CA, 92406
Paperback, 190 pp., \$4.95

Reviewed by Neal Wilgus

Leonard Wibberley is the author of THE MOUSE THAT ROARED and its companions, which I haven't read, and this 1959 King Arthur fantasy, which I have. Judging by EXCALIBUR, I can see no reason for ever looking into the Mouse books at all.

The idea of EXCALIBUR is a good one -- King Arthur's return to modern England to search for the lost sword Excalibur. Unfortunately, Wibberley does nothing with it whatsoever. Yes, there are some wacky characters -- Cibber Brown, Sir Timothy Bors, Princess Pamela, Chuck Manners -- who become involved, sort of, with Arthur and the search, and yes, there is a mild bit of satire directed against the British bureaucracy. Alas, it doesn't go anywhere or do anything and the reader often wonders why the author bothered to write the thing in the first place.



Borgo Press has the right idea in establishing a line of Discovery books to resurrect forgotten classics. But this book is no classic and is better left forgotten. Recommended only for Wibberley fans and King Arthur completists.

OTHER CANADAS: AN ANTHOLOGY OF SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY

Edited by John Robert Colombo
McGraw-Hill Ryerson Ltd, Toronto,
1979, Cloth, 360 pp., \$15.95
ISBN 0 07 082952 7

Reviewed by Terence M. Green

OTHER CANADAS is an outstanding volume for many reasons. It is the first anthology of Canadian science fiction and fantasy, and it is edited by John Robert Colombo -- a major name in Canadian publishing and letters. Colombo has written, compiled or translated more than 30 books, and is nationally known for such popular reference books as COLOMBO'S CANADIAN QUOTATIONS (1974) and COLOMBO'S CANADIAN REFERENCES (1976); he is a poet in his own right, and has done much to create a Canadian consciousness by collecting the thought and literature of the country. The publisher for this book, McGraw-Hill Ryerson, has provided him with a magnificent physical product and major national distribution -- both tributes to his established reputation as a serious anthologist.

Colombo, a reader of SF&F from his teens, has responded wonderfully to the challenge and the opportunity. The book is a large one, containing excerpts from 4 novels, 17 short stories, 27 poems by 13 poets, 2 critical articles, 1 prophetic essay (written in 1883 about the Dominion in 1983), and a film script (the National Film Board's UNIVERSE). What we have here is the definitive retrospective survey of Canadian SF & F.

There is a brief preface by Colombo in which he confronts the question: "Canadian science fiction and fantasy -- is there any?" He decides that not only is there such literature, but that it is worth a serious reader's attention. He then proceeds to point out that there are over 600 separate books which fall into the category of Canadian SF & F, and heroically suggests what he considers to be the 4 characteristics of Canadian SF & F: The theme of the Polar World, the theme of the National Disaster Scenario, the theme of the Alienated Outsider, and the observation of the Prevalence of Fantasy over Science Fiction.



Colombo is perhaps generous in his definition of what constitutes Canadian SF & F: "By Canadian SF & F I refer to writing in prose or poetry form by all of the following: Canadian citizens, new Canadians, former Canadians, even non-Canadians (when their work is set in Canada)." Using this criteria, we have fiction by Cyrano de Bergerac, Jules Verne, followed by such as Stephen Leacock, A.E. Van Vogt, Laurence Manning, Gordon R. Dickson, Phyllis Gotlieb, Michael G. Coney and Spider Robinson; there are also extremely fine pieces by such authors as Hugh Hood, Margaret Laurence, Yves Theriault and Stephen Scobie -- all known primarily as serious writers of non-SF in Canada.

Poetry is represented by Archibald Lampman, Bliss Carman, James Reaney, Jeni Couzyn, Judith Merrill and Douglas Barbour, to name some. The two critical articles are by Margaret Atwood (probably the dominant writer in Canada today) and David Ketterer (Ketterer's "Canadian Science Fiction" is invaluable to anyone doing serious research into the field).

There is even a brief annotated bibliography of some 36 books -- a virtual excerpt from CNF SF & F, A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY (Toronto: Hounslow Press, 1979), compiled by J.R. Colombo, M. Richardson, J. Bell and A.L. Amp-rimoz....

What more can I say? This book accomplishes what it set out to do; it is highly recommended to anyone who thinks that he/she might be interested. Every library should have a copy as well. Hopefully, there can be more collections of this calibre from Colombo -- perhaps surveying the current scene more fully next time. The potential for such a book still exists.

STAR-ANCHORED, STAR-ANGERED
By Suzette Haden Elgin
Doubleday, 182 pp., \$7.95
Cover by Ben Stahl

Reviewed by Steven Edward McDonald

This book started out by assaulting several of my senses, demolishing my sensibilities completely, and making me howl with laughter. Ms. Elgin's hero, Coyote Jones (who has appeared in three previous works -- THE COMMUNIPATHS and FURKHEST from Ace, and AT THE SEVENTH LEVEL from DAW) is a rather naive, awfully innocent type of character, despite being a spy, and is vulnerable to characters such as Dean Shandalyne O'Halloran. Who is a character. Victims of this book will never again be able to face a Playtex advertisement without wincing.

Ms. Elgin isn't prolific. Periodically, she will produce a book or a story (spending the remainder of the time in her job as linguistics professor, or taking care of the SF Poetry Association), said book or story being a welcome entertainment -- worth the wait.

STAR-ANCHORED, STAR-ANGERED approaches the subject of psi powers again (Ms. Elgin's work generally being concerned with said subject), this time with the accent on the possibility of divinity -- it's Coyote Jones' mission to observe Drussa Slush, with the idea of proving psionic fraud, and thus allowing the Tri-Galactic Intelligence Service to arrest her and try her (at the instigation of the rulers of Freeway). Despite misdirection and attempts to swerve him, Jones begins observing

And Elgin manages to produce something interesting and new from a well-mined field. It's a fun book, a fascinating book, laced with humor and tragedy and a remarkable usage of language that never gets out of place once. Highly recommended.

Ben Stahl's cover is plain, but well-handed, very subtle. One of Doubleday's better jackets, and matching the book marvelously.

THE GENTLE DRAGON

By Joseph K. Coates
Lane & Associates, POB 3063, La Jolla,
CA 92038, 1979, 329 pp., \$4.95.
Paper. ISBN: 0-89882-001-4
LC 79-84574 Novel, 12 up.

Reviewed by Frederick Patten

This charming fantasy is set about the time of the spread of Buddhism. A young dragon, Quick Fire, develops a thirst for human civilization. He befriends a small Japanese village and becomes its protector against more predatory dragons. The story develops episodically as the dragon and the villagers hesitantly come to know each other. Quick Fire barely survives the attack of the vicious Lightning Flash. He finds a mate and introduces her to human ways, and they and their children are eventually adopted as disciples of the Faultless Master to spread His teachings throughout the world.

According to a biographical note, Joseph Coates is a retired naval commander who spent years living in Japan and researching its culture. THE GENTLE DRAGON is certainly the most authentically Oriental fantasy that I have read by an Occidental author, other than the works of Lafcadio Hearn. The story contains an acknowledgment to Tolkien, and there is an impression that Coates has tried to write an adventure similar to THE HOBBIT, utilizing Oriental cultural roots as Tolkien utilized Anglo-Saxon and Nordic roots.

This is both the novel's strength and its weakness. Its success may make it too alien for some American readers. The story is slowly developed and elaborately mannered. Some of the dialog reads like Japanese translated too literally into English. There are unfamiliar cultural nuances. As a result, the writing may require a comprehension level more mature than is customary for this type of adventure.

Speaking as a fantasy addict who is getting jaded with the unending stream of novels that are too faithful to Tolkien, I found THE GENTLE DRAGON to be excitingly fresh.

The richness of the Oriental setting makes it a secondary universe unlike most, yet completely believable. The unusual relationship between the dragons and the humans evolves both of them in intriguing ways. The characters are likeable and the story is intelligently developed. THE GENTLE DRAGON is the type of book that may not be for all tastes, but those who like it will like it very much indeed.

Readers who enjoy it enough to want other genuinely Oriental heroic fantasies might be steered to Wu Ch'eng-en's THE PILGRIMAGE TO THE WEST, also called MONKEY or THE MONKEY KING (apparently available currently only in Arthur Waley's translation as MONKEY, from Grove Press).

STARS OF ALBION

Edited by Robert Holdstock and Christopher Priest
Published by Pan Books, Ltd.,
Cavaye Place, London SW 10 9PG.
London, Toronto, Sydney
238 pp., \$4.50, 1979.

Reviewed by W. Ritchie Benedict

"For richer, for poorer, for better, for worse, until death do you part" -- these words are part of the traditional marriage ceremony, but they also serve to describe an avid SF fan, particularly a British SF fan. This new book contains 12 stories, and was brought out specially by Pan to coincide with Seacon '79, the 37th World Science Fiction Convention, held in Brighton, England. The names of the authors, besides the aforementioned editors, include such luminaries as Ian Watson, Keith Roberts, John Brunner, Bob Shaw, and J.G. Ballard.

Generally, anthologies are a pretty mixed bag, but I will say the standards in this one are higher than most. There is one absolute knockout of a story, "Warlord of Earth" by David S. Garnett, which is a serio-comic tale of a sword-and-sorcery type of barbarian transported to present-day California. Another strong vivid entry is "Weihnachten" by Keith Roberts, and it describes a present-day version of an alternate world where the Nazis won World War II by crushing the British at Dunkirk. The atmospherics are very vivid, as the story takes the reader into a post-war British Christmas.

Several stories probe the relationship of mental stability in a schizoid reality, or at least a reality that is unpleasant, such as Aldiss' "Sober Noises of Morning in a Marginal Land", Christopher Priest's



"Whores" and "Dormant Soul" by Josephine Saxton.

The piece by Robert Holdstock, "The Time Beyond Age: A Journey", is a particularly horrifying tale of an experiment to study the aging process beyond 100. Bob Shaw contributes an amusing vignette on the real story behind the smile of the Mona Lisa, and in "The Vitulists", John Brunner gives an insightful look into the East-West cultural differences on the day that the world runs out of fresh souls.

If you prefer more traditional fare, albeit with a variety of new twists and turns, you might try "The Radius Riders" by Barrington J. Bayley, which features a voyage into the depths of the earth (it is a long time since I have seen something new in this area). If there is a common theme that runs through these stories, it appears to be war and the mind, or perhaps war in the mind. The humorous stories stand by themselves.

Although I have seen one or two of these stories anthologized elsewhere, most of them will be unfamiliar to readers in North America, and as such, the collection is well worth buying for your library. I thought the balance was nicely wrought between those stories of a rather grim and foreboding nature and those which were lighter in tone. If these stories are an example of what the British have been doing in the field of science fiction lately, it is no wonder that the 1979 convention was held over there.

There is also a concise introduction and afterword by Holdstock and Priest discussing the British scene as regards SF, and why they selected these examples as typical. The cover features a robot with a steaming cup of tea, just so there will be no mistake where this book comes from. A rare and valuable paperback to add to anyone's collection of unusual and highly crafted science fiction.

AN OLD FRIEND OF THE FAMILY
By Fred Saberhagen
Ace Paperback, 256 pp., \$1.95

Reviewed by Neal Wilgus

This book has been referred to as a sequel to Saberhagen's earlier THE HOLMES-DRACULA FILE and in a way it is -- but not really. That is to say in both books the central character (if not exactly protagonist) is Count Dracula. There the resemblance ends. HOLMES-DRACULA took place in 1897 and involved, in

addition to Holmes and Watson, a fantastic plot to blackmail London and a fairly loose approach to plotting which resulted in an ending that somehow seemed contrived.

OLD FRIEND OF THE FAMILY, in contrast, is a story of modern Chicago and the fantastic elements are limited to straight-forward vampire paraphernalia. Saberhagen seems much more in control of FRIEND than he was HOLMES-DRACULA and everything is tighter this time around -- writing, plotting and ending. Though the Old Man is never specifically called Dracula in FRIEND as he was in HOLMES-DRACULA, he is surely the same character and in many ways he is a more attractive personage than the air-breathing non-vampires in both books.

No Sherlock Holmes this time around, but instead we have Joe Keogh of the Chicago Pawn Shop de-



tail who is engaged to Kate Southerland, an upper-crust socialite whose family Dracula is the Old Friend of. When Kate is found dead and her younger brother is kidnapped and tortured, Clarissa Southerland, their grandmother, and her youngest granddaughter, Judy, manage to summon Dracula without really knowing what they're doing. Identifying himself as Dr. Emile Corday, the Old Man soon begins to take a hand in the affair, tracking down the family's enemies (who also happen to be his own) and eventually teaming up with Joe Keogh and others to set things right again.

As was the case in HOLMES-DRACULA, the Old Man in FAMILY is a bit too invincible to be completely convincing, but this time around he does have his setbacks and up till the last prolonged chase scene there remains a certain tense doubt as to who will win. The Old Man's Old Enemy, Morgan, is less than convincing and in fact, Saberhagen's villains in general are his weakest

links. But the rest of his characters are believable enough and the fast pace and smooth style carry the reader along through an entertaining entry in the Dracula sweepstakes that suddenly seems to have swept the nation.

If you're only going to read one more vampire story in the next decade or so, Saberhagen's OLD FRIEND is probably the one you'll want to read.

THE PROPHET OF LAMATH
By Robert Don Hughes
Ballantine, \$1.95, 1979

Reviewed by L. Craig Rickman

Ballantine continues to deluge the paperback market with epic fantasies under the Del Rey trademark. The quality of these releases usually do Mr. del Rey credit -- especially considering that, for the main part, they come from the pens of little-known writers.

Such is the case of THE PROPHET OF LAMATH by Robert Don Hughes, a fellow Kentuckian.

THE PROPHET concerns an actor by the name of Pelmen the Player (that being but one of this more mundane professions) and his meeting with a rather typical two-headed dragon, Vicia-Heinox. This beastie is the force which keeps three nations -- Lamath, Chaomonous, and Ngandib-mar -- from each other's throats. It accomplishes this task with little politics -- by simply straddling the only access through a range of tremendous mountains. Only merchant caravans who are willing to pay a hefty toll in plump slaves are allowed to pass.

The action centers around Pelmen's quick tongue causing an identity crisis in the dragon (which head is the real dragon!), and his foiling of a merchant scheme to destroy, internally and externally, the governmental structures of the kingdoms. Naturally, the merchants wish to sit themselves on the three thrones -- for the betterment of their profits. Pelmen wins -- so the merchants do not; and the dragon doesn't fare so well either.

In THE PROPHET, Mr. Hughes delves a bit into mercantilism and religion, but very wisely does not allow it to "overcome" the novel. He also presents some solid characterization, and a plot of good substance

Overall, not an award winner, but fun to read.

11-15-79 ORYCON, on the 9-10-11th of this month was a nice, though mildly stressful experience for me.

Paulette and I showed up on Friday, were registered, and greeted. We wandered around like lost souls for a while... Said hello to a few people, visited the art show which was still being set up, had coffee, tea and coke with Elton Elliott, met F.M. Busby and his wife and a few more people...

Already my memory fades...

That night Paulette came down with the flu---a particularly severe, bout---and she couldn't make it to the con on Saturday.

I, however, mounted my trusty horse (a Schwinn 3-speed) and pedaled myself to the Sheraton and spent another hour and a half first listening to a well-attended, funny panel discussion of "Erotica In S-f." I observe that in fact the talk and the Q. & A. period were about sex in s-f, not erotica. There is practically no erotica in s-f, except perhaps what I am beginning to write.



I then met some fans and pros and was suitably crogged when various people came to me [having discovered who the gink in the blue all-weather coat was] and introduced themselves and wanted me to autograph some copies of my 1960s sex novels they had bought or purchased.

But then I began to feel ill, and swiftly said to old Paint, "Git on home, fella!" Old Paint didn't move until I muttered the magic words, "Feet, don't fail me now!"

Once home I made the mistake of eating some lunch and promptly lost it in the toilet. [I didn't have time to rush outside and vomit in the compost box.]

Alas, I spent that night and all day Sunday shivering and moaning piteously while cursing the Fates. I missed the rest of the con.

I'm very sorry I missed so many of the activities, and missed meeting so many people. I hope the Portland S-F Society does it again some year. I'll be there.

One suggestion to the next con committee: don't type or print the name of the member on the membership badge in one corner---leave room on the card for BIG PRINT! It's embarrassing for all to have to lean over and peer to read a name. The member's name should be clear from a distance of six feet, at least. In fact, let's go to sandwich boards.

LETTER FROM HOWARD THOMPSON Publisher, METAGAMING Dec. 1979

The opening letters of SFR #33 clicked my cogitator. Where S-F is going and what public taste will accept is crucial to me since we sell 300,000+ S-F game titles yearly. If the public won't go for quality reading matter cause it's too hard work to read, that goes in spades for games where you actually have to understand what's read.

Irwin Prohlo says, "... the public would soon zero in on the publisher and stop buying", when dreg got published frequently. Taint true, Mr. Prohlo. Game buyers must have about the same level of taste and discrimination as other buyers, given their area of interest. Gaming is currently experiencing a boom of publishing regardless of quality. Why? Because the game publishers see that their growth and sales most strongly correlate to the number of new titles they can keep cranking out. Stores won't drop their line cause gamers still want the new stuff coming out. Gamers don't seem to be phased by poorly written, poorly conceived and basically unplayable games. After all, there is the new crop of games out this month to distract their attention.

The pressure on book publishers must be an order of magnitude worse than in our little industry. Publishers have to keep cranking to keep their share of titles in the limited display space. I've seen stores with two or three editions of different publisher's offerings of the same reprint titles. The problem has worsened in the last two years with the advent of the ENGLISH version of many of the same books, often with different titles.

Publishers also have to charge a high price for their bland offerings. They expect to get 50% of what they send out returned, or at

least they have to price in that expectation. If book industry marketing practices even approximate the hobby industry's, that means the production cost of most paperbacks is on the order of 5% of the cover price. Authors tend to get proportionally more than game designers, and discounts in the marketing chain take up to 60% of the retail price, sometimes more.

The pressure is on to get the new stuff out, in books or games. S-F is hot now and it may be too late in a few years. Also, proportionally more of the public is getting interested in S-F. That means a dilution of the interest level and discrimination of the average reader and game player. Science Fiction should hope that we never get to the point where S-F attracts consumer female marketers. If that happens, S-F as we know it will be flooded out by Gothic, Gossip and Romance S-F. In volume everything else will be so less important it will virtually cease to exist.

If you don't believe me just look real hard next time you're in one of those fancy enclosed shopping malls. Count the proportion of the space devoted to consumer females as opposed to anything else. When they get onto a topic they so out-buy any other market segment it becomes peripheral.

Ah, well, I digress. I guess my summed-up response is, "things are why they are because that's what's made the money". There's gold in that thar dreg! It almost makes me want to get into something natural, ecological and honest, like septic tank cleaning.

12-26-79 I was very optimistic when I promised that STAR WHORES would be available in late December. I have barely finished writing and editing the manuscript. It will take at least another month to stencil it and run it off, collate it, etc., and mail it. You may get this issue of SFR before you do the book.

The novel turned out pretty good, I think; I found myself diverging from the plot outline due to some unforeseen plausibility problems, and had to continually revamp as I went. But I stayed parallel to the original plotline.

The sex and work philosophy of the heroine, Toi King, came off as I wished it, and the corporate/guild future I foresee in this book has credibility. I like the confrontation at the end between the killer and Toi, with the final laser gun battle showing her tougher than even she suspected.

'Ronald Lambert's attempt in SFR #33 to demonstrate the existence and the operation of moral laws in history displays a misunderstanding of the facts and the nature of history. He offered the following chain of cause and effect as proof:

'1) To bring America into World War I Wilson and Churchill entered into an immoral conspiracy to effect the sinking of the Lusitania which brought America into the war.

'2) America's entry into the war was unnecessary because the British development of the tank made Germany's defeat inevitable. American aid only served to enable the Allies to impose a harsher peace on Germany.

'3) The humiliating and ruinous Treaty of Versailles created the climate in Germany that made possible Hitler's rise to power and thus WWII, death camps and genocide.

'4) Out of desperation after America's entry into the war the Germans aided Bolshevik revolutionaries which led to a communist Russia, the Iron Curtain and the Cold War.

'In summary, Lambert argues that the sinking of the Lusitania, arranged by Wilson and Churchill, led to WWII, death camps, genocide, the Iron Curtain and the Cold War. I will address these arguments in order.

'Although there is circumstantial evidence (see Colin Simpson's THE LUSITANIA, 1972) that Churchill knew of the danger to the ship, may have done less than he should have to prevent it, and perhaps hoped that it would be sunk bringing America into the war, there is no evidence to implicate Wilson or substantiate the charge of conspiracy between them. Also such an act would have been utterly inconsistent with Wilson's foreign policy objectives and his character. Furthermore, this incident, May 1915, did not bring America into the war. It was not until 23 months later, in April 1917, that America entered the war. America's declaration of war followed the exposure of the Zimmerman Telegram in which Germany offered Mexico the states of Texas, Arizona and New Mexico if she would join with Germany in making war on America when and if war broke out between the latter two (see Barbara Tuchman's THE ZIMMERMAN TELEGRAM, 1958).

'America's contribution was critical to Allied victory. 1917 to early 1918 was a period of ex-

treme crisis for the Allied cause contrary to Lambert's assertion that their victory was inevitable. The Allies were near financial collapse and the continuation of the war required \$7 billion in American loans. The French draft pool was empty and the failure of Nivelle's Arras offensive in April left 16 corps of the French army in mutiny; the French, at that moment, no longer constituted an offensive force. By June the Russian army was no longer an effective fighting force of any kind. Italy was routed in October at Caporetto losing 700,000 men.

'Although the limited Allied success at Cambrai in November demonstrated, in principle at least, that surprise and tanks could break the trenchlines, 3/4 of their gains were lost and their army threatened with disaster by a swift German counterstroke. The tank was a weapon with enormous potential, but it did not guarantee victory to anyone. Also in March-June 1918, Ludendorff's "Michael" offensive on the Somme, using newly developed "infiltration" tactics, narrowly missed inflicting a decisive defeat on the allies. That is not a description of a cause whose victory is assured; without America's ships, troops, dollars and the moral effect of her entry into the war, Allied victory would not have been possible.

'It is also misleading to over-emphasize the extent to which the Versailles treaty accounts for the rise of Hitler. The rise of fascism was a worldwide phenomenon resulting from the stresses of a worldwide depression and a catastrophic war on socially, politically and economically backward societies which were also undergoing the vast transformations inherent in industrialization and modernization (see Ernst Nolte's THREE FACES OF FASCISM). Fascism also came to power in Italy, Japan, Portugal, Spain and elsewhere (in a certain sense in Russia) -- none of which were

victimized by the Treaty of Versailles.

'Also Germany did not decide to aid the Bolshevik revolutionaries in response to America's entry into the war. Although Lenin's "sealed train" did not leave Germany for Russia until April 10, the decision to take advantage of the Tsar's abdication (March 15) by aiding the Bolsheviks was made by March 26 -- a week before Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war (see Michael Pearson's THE SEALED TRAIN, 1975). Germany's move was part of an all-out effort to achieve a decisive victory in the west which included resuming unrestricted submarine warfare (Jan. 9), dispatching the Zimmerman Telegram (Jan. 16) and sinking 3 American ships (March 18). The decision to aid the Bolsheviks came before, not after, America entered the war. Thus a communist Russia, the Iron Curtain and the Cold War cannot be attributed to America's entry into the war let alone the sinking of the Lusitania.

'Lambert's argument contains a philosophical error as well as factual ones. It errs by reducing exceedingly complex events and their relationships to a single, simple cause -- the sinking of the Lusitania; this is known as the reductionist fallacy. Contrary to popular belief it is far from easy to draw lessons from history or to determine cause and effect relationships. Giving too simple answers to hard questions is as popular as it is easy, but doing so fails to do justice to the complexity of the subject and to the truth. It also confuses more than it enlightens.'

(I suspect there are three versions of history----the popular, simplified version, the scholarly, researched version, and the real version which is different because of lack of records, destroyed records, and destroyed people whose memories were dangerous.)



LETTER FROM RON LAMBERT
2350 Virginia
Troy, MI 48084
November 7, 1979

'You said: "When the surpluses shrink, when the wealth diminishes ... then we'll be on the long way back to 'savagery' because we'll no longer be able to afford certain moral luxuries."

'That sounds to me very similar to what apologists for right wing dictators in Central and South America say: "Your democracy is very nice, senior, and we applaud your commitment to freedom and human rights, but you see, in our country we are very poor, and we cannot afford such luxuries."

'These Latino fascists are full of frijoles, and so is a certain libertarian fanwriter if he doesn't know any better.

'The institution of democracy and libertarian freedoms in America preceded prosperity, not the other way around. Clearly, they caused the prosperity -- a lesson that is mystifyingly lost on the Somozas of the world.

'It was not natural resources that made America wealthy. Spain looted half the New World, but where are all those tons of gold today? The imperialist nations of Europe literally plundered the natural resources of a planet. Yet today, we are wealthier than all of them put together. Why? Because our system works better. Because righteousness is the most profitable, wealth-creating, survival-efficient policy of all in the long run. We would be even better off if we strove to approach closer to righteousness.

'So what if we run out of oil and suffer an economic depression? Bad as that would be, it would not cause civilization to fall and start us down the long road back to savagery. The Great Depression of the early 1930s didn't. And the coming depression -- if it is not averted -- would only last as long as it would take the synthetic fuel industry to tool up sufficiently to satisfy our fuel needs from coal.

'Only if we voluntarily forsake the moral principles that produce civilization could civilization fail. Nothing else is able to make civilization fail, save maybe a nuclear war that blasts us clear off the planet. Even in the event of holocaust, if there are survivors they would still probably preserve civilization, because that would be the most sensible, survival-efficient thing to do. Most aftermath novels are a crock.

'P.S. I deny that fiction is a literature of lies. In its finest tradition at least, it is a literature of truths. Especially science fiction, which is the only genre which deals with the whole of reality -- including the element of radical, transforming change, which mainstream (per se) ignores.'

((In colonial times in America there was great economic freedom, but social and cultural religious moral dictatorship. There was no true democracy. There was a republican form of government---and the poor were not allowed to vote.

((As I try to follow and absorb your arguments, I suspect you want a return to the moral religious dictatorship of the past. You're not happy with personal sexual and religious freedoms...or the revamping and junking of a lot of past religious garbage.

((I've never heard 'righteousness' described as a superior one-and-only econo-political-moral philosophy before. Your version of what is 'righteous', of course, is what you mean. Wow.))

LETTER FROM WAYNE KEYSER

1111 Army-Navy Drive, A-710
Arlington, VA 22202
November 13, 1979

'Just a short and (I'm afraid) disappointing note.

'I was eager to see Peter Ellenshaw, longtime Disney matter artist and production designer of THE BLACK HOLE (a Disney film slated for December release in 70mm Dolby stereo). He appeared at the American Film Institute at the Kennedy Center last night, bringing with him a reel of BLACK HOLE for its first public screening.

'I'm sorry to have to say that this movie looks as easily avoidable as did THE CAT FROM OUTER SPACE. Ellenshaw's basic designs are interesting -- certainly not space-worthy, therefore not believable, but interesting. The film is obviously intended to be viewed as pure fantasy beyond the question of belief or unbelief, and as such it may work when viewed as a whole.

'Blue, glitter-filled interstellar space, a quarter-mile-long spaceship that seems more like one of those Victorian glass palaces than a workable vehicle, candy-colored kiddy-toy instrument panels everywhere, all work to defeat any identification from viewers who have lived through the era of genuine space voyages. The typical wooden Disney characters abound, and come off even worse than ever.

'Most disappointing of all is the appearance, amid settings at least reminiscent of the SF we all know and love, of a cutesy-poo robot (R2D2, go to hell!) with big, friendly, puppy-dog cartoon eyes, matched against a candy-flake-lacquered "evil robot" who looks more fit for the pages of Donald Duck comics than for the screen.

'There's been a lot of ballyhoo from Disney about the wonders of BLACK HOLE. This was supposed to be the flashy film-buff's reel that was shown, and I am less than impressed. It might have come off better had not Ellenshaw shown, in the same lecture, long scenes from 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA and MARY POPPINS, both of which were made possible by his effects artistry. The first was a deadly-serious, wonderfully successful adventure film, the second a pure flight of enchanting fantasy.

'Common to both was a basic honesty, a commitment by the filmmakers to take their stories and their audiences seriously. This commitment is woefully lacking in BLACK HOLE, and I think any self-respecting paying audience will feel a gnawing sense of being cheated by BLACK HOLE's insincerity.'

((I've not had time nor real zest for seeing BLACK HOLE; and I've read a series of down-putting reviews and heard knowledgeable sf fans decry it in strong terms: "SHIT!" is a fair assessment.

((Your letter is fair warning to the readers of SFR as to BLACK HOLE's quality. I'll see it eventually, of course. And write a review for SFR. But I suspect my opinion will echo others'.))

1-8-80 Since this is probably the last entry for this issue, let me say this about that: I didn't get as much reading done as I wished because I was neck deep in STAR WHORES and struggling to keep up with REG. Ahh, well...who needs excuses? I don't plan a self-published novel for 1980 until maybe the fall, so from now on I'll be digging into the piles of the unread with vim, vigor and vituperation.

I have some good letters here and as usual no room for them: letters from Richard Dodge, Wallace A. McClure, and Darrell Schweitzer will be in the May issue.

GEORGE WARREN wrote to announce he is starting a paperback book re-

view column in the LOS ANGELES TIMES in that paper's Times Book Review section. He wants paperback originals only---mass paperback only, no trade editions (which go to a different editor). He'll review all genres---romances, westerns, sf, nonfiction....

His address: P.O. Box 3830
Pasadena, CA 91103.

EARTHLIGHT PUBLISHERS sent out a postcard Dec. 21 saying: 'Due to numerous production problems (a full explanation of which would take more than the space of 20 postcards) the release of SAN DIEGO LIGHTFOOT SUE will be delayed until the first of January. Orders are being processed and will be shipped in the order of receipt. We ask for your patience and understanding in this matter. It will be a very beautiful book, one that you will be proud to own.'

(Thanks to Jim Sanderson.)

JERRY POURNELLE wrote November 15 to advise: 'ENDLESS FRONTIER, Volume Two, is being assembled now. I could use at least two short contributions. The theme is life in space (as opposed to life on planets). I could also use humor; even short anecdotes. For vignettes I will pay a flat rate rather than pro rata royalties; short stories will receive shares.'

Interested parties would probably be advised to query Jerry on his needs now; but he is a market to keep in mind. His anthologies sell well.

His address: 12051 Laurel Terrace
Drive,
Studio City, CA 91604

MARK J. MCGARRY reports that he has sold his third and fourth novels to Signet/NAL and will be devoting himself full-time to writing beginning in January, 1980.

Apparently EMPIRE, his semi-prozine, will continue under new editor and publishership.

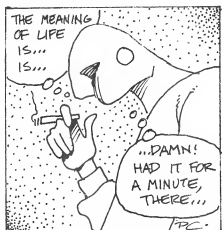
I REFUSE TO AGONIZE TOO MUCH, or bleed all over this issue, but an apology is due the man who wrote the review of THE AMERICAN MONOMYTH which I ran last issue. I noted that he had neglected to put his name on the review ms. and I had forgotten his name.

He wrote and gave me his name.
& I have misplaced his letter and still cannot remember his name.
The ghods are against us, sir.
But if you'd care to try again....

IAN COVELL sent word that John Brunner now acknowledges that his first novel was GALACTIC STORM using the pseudonym Gill Hunt in 1951.

AN HOUR WITH HARLAN ELLISON, VOLUME 1 is a 60 minute cassette tape selling for \$4.98 plus 50¢ postage & handling, from Hourglass Productions, 10292 Westminster Av., Garden Grove, CA 92643.

James JJ Wilson, reviewer, loved it: 'It will be of interest to those who want to know what it was like to be a struggling writer in the mid-50's ... and only sf fans will understand the references to John W. Campbell, Horace Gold, Ed Valigursky, Robert Silverberg, The Futurians, and others. This tape is very light and I guarantee you'll laugh out loud as you listen.'



THE NOMINATIONS FOR THE 7TH ANNUAL S-F, FANTASY & HORROR FILMS AWARDS ARE:

SCIENCE FICTION

ALIEN
THE BLACK HOLE
MOONRAKER
STAR TREK
TIME AFTER TIME

FANTASY

ARABIAN ADVENTURE
DINNER FOR ADELE
NUTCRACKER FANTASY
THE MUPPET MOVIE
THE LAST WAVE

HORROR

THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
DRACULA
LOVE AT FIRST BITE
THE MAFU CAGE
PHANTASM

BEST ACTOR

GEORGE HAMILTON---LOVE AT FIRST BITE
FRANK LANGELLA---DRACULA
CHRISTOPHER LEE---ARABIAN ADVENTURE
MALCOLM MCDOWELL---TIME AFTER TIME
WILLIAM SHATNER---STAR TREK

BEST ACTRESS

PERSIS KHAMBATTA---STAR TREK
MARGOT KIDDER---THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
SUSAN SAINT JAMES---LOVE AT FIRST BITE
MARY STENBURGEN---TIME AFTER TIME
SIGOURNEY WEAVER---ALIEN

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS
ARTE JOHNSON---LOVE AT FIRST BITE
RICHARD KIEL---MOONRAKER
LEONARD NIMOY---STAR TREK
DONALD PLEASANCE---DRACULA
DAVID WARNER---TIME AFTER TIME

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

VERONICA CARTWRIGHT---ALIEN
PAMELA HENSLEY---BUCK ROGERS
JACQUELYN HYDE---THE DARK
MARCY LAFERTY---THE DAY TIME ENDED
NICHELLE NICHOLS---STAR TREK

DIRECTION

TIME AFTER TIME---NICHOLAS MEYER
THE MUPPET MOVIE---JERRY JUHL &
JACK BURNS
THE LAST WAVE---PETER WEIR
STAR TREK---ROBERT WISE
DRACULA---JOHN BADHAM

WRITING

TIME AFTER TIME---NICHOLAS MEYER
THE MUPPET MOVIE---JERRY JUHL &
JACK BURNS
ALIEN---DAN O'BANNON
LOVE AT FIRST BITE---ROBERT KAUFMAN
THE BLACK HOLE---JEB ROSEBROOK &
GERRY DAY

SPECIAL EFFECTS

ALIEN---BRIAN JOHNSON & NICK ALLDER
THE MUPPET MOVIE---ROBBIE KNOTT
MOONRAKER---JOHN EVANS & JOHN RICHARDSON
STAR TREK---DOUGLAS TRUMBULL, JOHN DYKSTRA, & RICHARD YURICIC
BLACK HOLE---PETER ELLENSHAW

There are also nominations for MUSIC, MAKE-UP AND COSTUME. For a complete list and other info, write: The Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films, 334 W. 54th St., Los Angeles, CA 90037.

1-10-80 We've had a freezing rain and snow storm here in Portland the last few days. The streets are virtually impassable and more snow is forecast.

I doubt I can get the copy for this issue into the hands of the printer in Forest Grove, down in the valley. Normally they send couriers into the Portland area to pick up copy from customers. But I suspect it'll be Monday (today is Thursday) before they can make a pickup. Which means the delivery of the new SFR to me will be delayed three or more days, which means it may be the first week of February before I can get the sub copies into the mails.

So now you know why SFR was maybe a week or more late.

Blame God; this delay is due to an act of His. But then, I always did believe He is a bad actor.

HUGO Nominations Ballot

BEST NOVEL

(author and title)

(source)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

BEST NOVELLA

(author and title)

(source)

1. _____
2. _____
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5. _____

BEST NOVELETTE

(author and title)

(source)

1. _____
2. _____
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BEST SHORT STORY

(author and title)

(source)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
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BEST NON-FICTION BOOK

1. _____
2. _____
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BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION

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BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST

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BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR

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BEST FANZINE

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BEST FAN WRITER

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BEST FAN ARTIST

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Non-Hugo Awards**JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

GANDALF AWARD

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MUST BE INCLUDED:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE

- ☐ I am a member of **Noreascon II** (MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____)
- ☐ I enclose \$_____ for a _____ Membership.

(Supporting Memberships are \$8.00, entitling the member to all publications and the right to vote on the Hugos and 1982 site selection. Attending Memberships are \$30.00 until July 15, 1980, and also entitle the member to attend the convention. Make checks payable to Noreascon II.)

send ballots to: Noreascon II, Box 46, MIT Branch PO, Cambridge MA 02139

ballots must be mailed by March 15, 1980

Reproduction of this ballot is encouraged, provided it is reproduced verbatim (including the instructions) and includes the name of the person or publication reproducing it. We would appreciate receiving copies of all such reproductions, if possible before publication (so we can check for errors).

YOU GOT NO FRIENDS IN THIS WORLD

A Review Of Short Fiction By Orson Scott Card

Quite apart from the stories, there are things about the magazines and anthologies that need to be said, if only because sometimes I get so damn mad. Like, for instance the subscription department at the Asimov magazines. I subscribed when the magazines first came out -- and ended up with two concurrent subscriptions. Neither address label was correct, and despite several letters, I kept getting both subscriptions until both ran out. Then, after letting them lapse for several months, I subscribed again, specifically asking for the subscription to begin with the December issue. Well, they sent me an issue in December -- but it was the September issue, which I had reviewed months before.

Another pain -- the hideous typesetting at Zebra. The CHRYSLIS, SWORDS AGAINST DARKNESS and OTHER WORLDS anthologies are usually very good -- but it is infuriating to see moronic mistakes time after time, issue after issue. Every magazine has its share of errors -- but at Zebra, they manage to invert whole passages of type. Is there no one there who can do a simple continuity check?

The art in GALAXY. The F&SF covers. The untrimmed pages at Doubleday. The reviewers who dare to dislike my books. Gripe gripe. MURMUR MURMUR.

After a year at this business of reading and reviewing almost all the short SF around, the irritations only get more irritating. But I have also begun to regard these publications as friends, sort of. I know their foibles, but I also know their strengths, and there isn't one of these magazines and anthologies that I don't turn to with expectation of finding something I will like.

GALILEO has often had, in its fiction, a trait that I once described in print as "amateurishness" -- thereby incurring the righteous wrath of Charlie Ryan. I didn't change my opinion -- some of the stories still feel clumsy to me -- but I did learn that Charlie wasn't buying stories that he didn't like but had to settle for to fill in an issue. He was buying what he liked. And gradually I have come to see, even in the stories that annoy me, the qualities that Charlie is looking for, the good points that are present in every story in GALILEO. I mean, Charlie and I may

not agree, but he knows what he's looking for and he finds it, and I am coming to appreciate that more and more.

OMNI constantly delights me with its exciting but accessible science, its stunning visuals, its professional approach to publishing that is refreshing in a field with heavy apron-string ties with pulps and fanzines. Yet, despite its highest-in-the-field rates, I find that it has no better an average in fiction that pleases me than, say, ANALOG or the ASIMOV magazines. Always there is one story an issue that I like very much -- but some of the others are downright terrible, in my view -- and some of those are by people who can do better. It is a surprise to see that despite its high payment rates, OMNI is not necessarily getting the best out of its contributors -- though, of course, when OMNI is good it is very, very good.

For all their emphasis on hard science fiction, ANALOG and the ASIMOV magazines do have one or two stories an issue where the hardware takes a definite back seat to other values, like character and genuine epiphany. Invariably those are the best stories, the ones with the strongest reader response, and I wonder two things: Why they don't publish more of the emotional, powerful stories, and why SF readers don't realize that their favorite ANALOG stories aren't "ANALOG stories" at all.

And, to my surprise, ASIMOV'S SF ADVENTURE MAGAZINE published a higher proportion of good fiction than its parent magazine. Now that

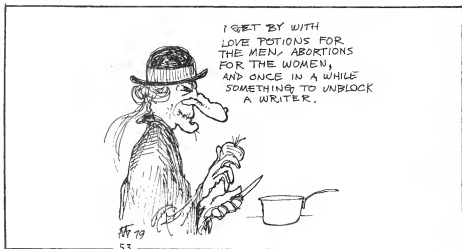
the large format quarterly is folding, I'm glad Scithers is putting fantasy into the monthly digest magazine, beginning with Vinge's "Snow Queen" -- in part because good fantasy needs a vehicle that reaches a broader audience, and in part because it will only improve the magazine.

The newest magazine, ETERNITY, shows great promise, though with the low payment rates the fiction is inevitably uneven. Darrel Anderson and Stephen Fabian set a high standard that most of the other illustrations don't come up to. But the features are excellent (after all, I review books for them ...) and the editorial slant is broader than any of the other magazines. I hope it doesn't narrow with age and the magazine's deserved success.

GALAXY still struggles along, a new issue limping out to the stands every six months or so to sit and rest until the next one finally arrives to take its place. But still -- good stories now and then, and at last, with its new affiliation with GALILEO, perhaps this grand old mag can get back to its old high standards.

And FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION goes on putting out the most consistently good fiction of any of the magazines, while Ed Ferman keeps a low profile and must take his rewards in the form of the respect of writers and readers while other editors keep walking off with the Hugo.

The anthologies? NEW DIMENSIONS 10 will be the last edited by Robert Silverberg alone; it will be interesting to see, in a couple of years,



what Marta Randall's influence does to the anthology. UNIVERSE goes on publishing good-to-excellent fiction.

But, for me, the most exciting anthology series around right now is Roy Torgeson's GHRYSALIS, which will soon be jumping from Zebra to Doubleday -- a surprise, since Doubleday also publishes UNIVERSE. But there won't be much conflict. Roy Torgeson has found an area of fantasy/science fiction that no other publication is regularly covering. It happens to be an area that I find exciting to read; exciting enough that despite higher payment rates elsewhere I've been submitting some of my strangest but most favorite work to Roy. Is it because I believe there are higher things than money? Hell no. It's because I like the company I keep in those anthologies. (Is GHRYSALIS an anthology or a magazine? After all, it comes out more often than GALAXY and it has more fiction each year than DESTINIES. Well, between hard covers it will doubtless settle down into comfortable middle age and get a bit stodgy.)

I didn't really plan to start this column with a magazine overview, but as I write this, New Year's Day is staring me in the face, and since, being an irresolute person, I do not make resolutions, this is about as close as I'll let myself come to summing up anything about 1979. Except that, at the end of this column, I will be listing my choices for the year's best science fiction and fantasy. This is instead of doing a best-of-the-year anthology. I would do a b-o-t-y anthology, if anyone would pay me to do it, but so far (sob) no one has ever let me near one of them...

THE STORIES:

(Yeah, I'm Getting Around to That)

There's something sweet about all those old stories about kids longing to get to the moon. Now that a couple of kids did grow up to get to the moon, though, it seems no one writes that kind of story anymore. Nobody except Donald Kingsbury, that is, whose novella, "The Moon Goddess and the Son" (ANALOG Dec) is one of my favorite stories this year. Kingsbury actually does have a kid who takes the name Diana because she wants to grow up to live on the moon -- and she makes it. But the story is a lot more than that, of course, or it would be unbearably sentimental. Unlike most hard SF writers (and this story is, by most definitions, hard SF), Kingsbury is very good at creating characters; he also manages very well a difficult structure, with the plot skipping from one point of view to

another almost painlessly.

Best of all, however, is his exploration of the influence of parents on children. Perhaps it's just my bias (which shows up in my own writing perhaps too much) but I firmly believe that the best fiction imitates biography more than history, keeping a tight focus on a character, not an event. I like it a lot when a character's whole life is taken into account, from childhood on, instead of picking up at the onset of a major event and ignoring the most important influences in his life. After all, our childhood is what made us who we are -- and yet too many writers create characters who seem to have been born at the age of thirty-eight, without parents.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELING:

Kingsbury's story isn't the only one dealing with family ties and parent-child relationships this quarter. David Bunch has come up with a family that makes the folks in Kingsbury's story look like Ozzie and Harriet. In "A Little Girl's Spring Day in Modern" (GALAXY 39:11), Little Sister cheerfully takes her father apart in the effort to discover the meaning of the word dirty.

Lisa Tuttle's story "Wives" (F&SF Dec) is a well-told, heart-breaking story of alien females who have survived a war with human beings, only to end up in the role of precious little sweethearts to satisfy the connubial longings of the soldiers. If they show any of their true, unwifely, inhuman character, they are doomed. The story would be even better if there weren't just the slightest hint of self-righteous generalization in this.

If Lisa Tuttle means only what she actually says in the story, then it has integrity; if, however, she is trying to use this as an allegory of the way men and women usually relate together in marriage, then I can only conclude that either Tuttle has had the misfortune of seeing only very strange marriages or she is stretching the truth a bit. In my experience and study, marriages are as likely to be wife-dominated as husband-dominated, and equally poisoned either way. And while "Wives" is powerful and well-written, it does not contain a true picture of inevitable male-female relationships. (How's that for starting another argument?)

After all the unloving families in these stories, it might be cheering to see a father who really loves his son -- if it weren't in the brilliant and ugly story "My Father's Head" (GHRYSALIS 5) by Timothy

Robert Sullivan. Jarrass is an adult male in a society where women, because they usually die at puberty, are supreme. In order to avoid having too many fertile men around, a son is required to behead his father immediately after he first has intercourse with a woman. Jarrass, however, loved his father, and so endured eighteen years of humiliation and ostracism because he let his father live. The story is about Jarrass's efforts to win the love of his own son -- and despite the hideous cruelty of the story, it is beautiful.

TAKING THINGS APART TO WATCH THEM BLEED:

Cruelty is one of the devices writers can use to good effect -- or for gross exploitation. Used

I DID GIVE HIM
A PIECE OF MY
MIND... BUT HE
THOUGHT IT WAS
COTTAGE CHEESE.



properly, cruelty inflicted by or on a character the reader identifies with serves to engage the reader's emotions still further; it can often be a climax or prepare for a climax as no other technique can. However, in less talented hands cruelty serves only to immerse the reader in gore. A good example of the latter is ALIEN, a silly film where stupid and unsympathetic characters spend two hours getting taken apart by a meaningless monster; a good example of the former is Timothy Robert Sullivan's work -- the just-mentioned "My Father's Head" and Sullivan's first sale, "The Rauncher Goes to Tinker Town", in NEW DIMENSIONS 9. It is a strange story of a man kept alive only to inflict welcome death on the immortals who preserve him. Sullivan is a writer to watch -- he is doing exciting work.

No one does viciousness like Karl Hansen, however. I sat with him at a banquet at Penitencin, and a sweeter, funnier man it would be hard to imagine. Give him a typewriter, however, and he'll rip your balls off and eat them right before your eyes. "Portrait for a Blind Man" (CHRYSLIS 5) is about soldiers who must face an enemy weapon that makes them retreat into autism. To keep them from going crazy in battle they are trained to be monstrous human beings, so that they literally cannot bear to be alone with themselves. Makes them tough to live with -- but it also keeps them functional.

Cruelty is taken to absurdity by James E. Thompson (OTHER WORLDS 1) in "The Birdchaser", a painfully funny little tale about a reporter trying to understand the men whose mission is to capture and chop in half all the little birds flying around in the pipes.

HEAVEN SUCKS!

Utopias usually irritate me, primarily because what some writers think is desirable coincides pretty well with my idea of hell. Such is the case with Paul Novitski's "Nuclear Fission" (UNIVERSE 9). It is very well written, with plausible characters, but I found their way of life so repulsive that I had a hard time rooting for them when they had trouble accommodating to it. Susan Anderson's "Returning to Center" (CHRYSLIS 5) works a little better for me, if only because her ecologically aware society isn't so intrusive; the more personal story isn't overwhelmed by the utopianism.

Population control is often part of utopia; Jeff Hecht, in "Crossing the Wastelands" (NEW DIMENSIONS 9), shows an underpopulated world that clings to the old overcrowded slum buildings, keeping them frozen though no one ever visits. It is a lonely world, a sad story of a man who comes out of cold sleep to find that they have preserved the things he hated worst about New Jersey -- and worse yet, the lower population has made people even less friendly and loving than they were in the old overcrowded cities.

John Varley's stories have often included routine sex-change as part of the society. In "Options" (UNIVERSE 9) he shows the problems people face as sex-change first becomes possible. Unfortunately, it is a one-sided presentation of the ideas; Varley makes the enormous assumption that sex-change will just naturally make people happier and better, and he focuses only on the problems caused by a man who refuses to change sexes when his wife does. Like the psychopathic defense strategy of de-

nial, this voluntary blindness ultimately does not work. I found myself at the end feeling a bit cheated, as if a clever scam had been played on me. It is, of course, well-written; it's by John Varley, isn't it?

WHAT? NOT PERFECT EVERY TIME?

My negative response to "Options" may be just part of the great-author syndrome that plagues a lot of fine writers. What law says that Varley or LeGuin or Martin or McIntyre has to come up with a masterpiece every time? But having read great stories from all four of them, I find myself disappointed when they write stories that are merely above average.

I was disappointed in Vonda McIntyre's "Fireflood" (F&SF Nov) because the ending was more a surrender than a fulfillment -- the story ended up going nowhere. Yet if an unknown had written "Fireflood", I'd review it with glowing praise for the tremendously good writing in the beginning, for the fascinating superwoman the writer had devised. But who could get excited about good writing from Vonda McIntyre? I mean, what else can you expect?

Similarly, while George R.R. Martin's "A Beast for Norm" (GALAXY 39:11) is a roar-roaring outsmart-the-assholes tale of a genetic manipulator who makes some competitive families pay for the privilege of destroying themselves, I was irritated by a self-righteous prig of a protagonist and more than a little annoyed at the underlying philosophy that seems to value animal life above human life. Martin can do better than this! I cried in indignation. Most writers, however, can't do as well.

And "The Pathways of Desire" (NEW DIMENSIONS 9) by Ursula K. LeGuin is beautifully written, a story of three scientists struggling to understand an alien people that seem to speak a corrupt form of English. However, she throws the whole thing away with a sophomoric ending that reduces the story to the kind of plot that friends are always coming up and suggesting to me. "Hey, Scott, why don't you write a neat story about how the whole world is being dreamed up by a thirteen-year-old boy?" Silly, silly, and beneath LeGuin's talents. Those characters deserved better treatment than that.

One-punch stories, where the climax is the sudden revelation of a fact at the end, usually fail miserably, and I think one could make a good case for the idea that the better the writing, the worse the

damage such an ending will do. Jane Yolen's "Angelica" (F&SF Dec) would have been a perfectly successful story if she had revealed right at the beginning that the little boy was Adolf Hitler. But by withholding that fact until the end, she made everything that went before seem trivial. Michael Bishop's "Seasons of Belief" (SHADOWS 2) beautifully showed the touching credulity of children; but the ending was so absolutely pedestrian that I couldn't believe Bishop could have thrown such writing away to so little effect. Fortunately for T.E.D. Klein's story "Petey" (SHADOWS 2), the scenes in an upper-middle-class house party were so well done that the weak one-punch ending didn't overshadow the rest of the tale, which seems designed to prove that ordinary human beings are far more horrible than the monster lurking outside.

DISCOVERIES

Every editor gets a secret delight out of discovering an exciting new talent and watching his career blossom. George Scithers is rightfully proud of Barry Longyear; Ben Bova has been soundly cursed for unleashing me upon the world of science fiction; and GALILEO's Charlie Ryan has every reason to be busting buttons over Connie Willis. Willis's quiet but powerful stories have been a pleasure to read over the last year; "Daisy, in the Sun" (GALILEO Nov) is her best yet, the story of what happens to the people who are destroyed when the sun explodes.

Who discovered Somtow Sucharitkul? It doesn't matter -- he has work appearing everywhere, and I'm delighted. Two of his stories this quarter deal with time travel. In "Fire From the Wine-Dark Sea" (OTHER WORLDS 1) a father who inexplicably loves one of his twin sons and dislikes the other finds the problem painfully solved for him by a time-traveling Odysseus, who gave up on Penelope and now roams the oceans of the world in search of -- something. And in "Comets and Kings" (CHRYSLIS 5), Sucharitkul brings a time traveler in contact with Alexander the Great -- an idea that, less skillfully handled, would have been terrible. Sucharitkul makes it great. A third Sucharitkul story "A Day in Mallworld" (IA'sFM Oct) is a fun, silly story about a scavenger hunt for the meaning of life.

Two other stories deal with time manipulation. John M. Ford, who is quite good at humor, is even better when he plays it straight. His story "Mandalay" (IA'sFM Oct) is about time travelers struggling to get home again, after a massive

fracture broke up the system. They travel along a seemingly endless tunnel that never quite leads home; they follow a more than remarkable leader. And in "Rent Control" (OMNI Oct), Walter Tevis tells almost a fairy tale about a couple of lovers who literally make time stand still. But they pay a price for it in this excellent story.

BETRAYAL AND UNCERTAINTY

The most moving love affair I've read about in a long time is in Tanith Lee's "Deux Amours d'Une Sorciere" (SWORDS AGAINST DARKNESS IV). In this tale of misplaced love and misplaced magic, the language always verges on affectation -- but stops short. Are all women sorcerous? Perhaps yes. But the magic finds its own painful course.



The universe doesn't always make sense -- but it still works. So do a few strange and ambiguous stories. Barry Malzberg's "Demystification of Circumstance" (F&SF Nov) belies its title and gives us a protagonist who is at the mercy of a sentient rock who may or may not be an enemy -- and may or may not be real. Malzberg expertly turns his character -- and his readers -- inside out several times, with betrayal after lie after trick. Roger Zelazny's "Go Starless in the Night" (DESTINIES Oct-Dec) also refuses to let the reader know the truth. His protagonist, who has been entrusted with secrets, finds himself utterly at the mercy of strangers -- and just suspicious enough not to take them at face value.

There is nothing ambiguous about Philip Dick's delightful "The Exit Door Leads In" (ROLLING STONE COLLEGE PAPERS 1). Bob Bibleman is involuntarily recruited into a top-secret military academy and gets just as involuntarily booted out. But in the process, Dick turns the tables on readers who expect it to be an anti-establishment story. It isn't exactly pre-establishment, either -- it does, however, force you to think about the meaning of trust.

FRIENDLY ALIENS

Two old men find warmth and

friendship on a concrete bench in Cleveland -- only the bench turns out to be a sentient creature involved in a vicious high-stakes contest with still another alien race in "Old Friends" (ANALOG Nov), by Kevin O'Donnell, Jr. It's a well-crafted, cheerful little story, unlike the brooding "The Faces of Man" (CHRYSLIS 5) by Glenn Chang, one of the best stories of the year. Versola is an anthropologist (of sorts) who deliberately "goes native" -- only to discover, to his great pain, that the natives completely misunderstand his role among them and eventually leave him in unwelcome solitude.

Sentient creatures also play a role in "Frost Animals" (UNIVERSE 9) by Bob Shaw. This story is a hard SF mystery the way they should always be written. The protagonist steps off his first starship flight to discover that he is suspected of committing a murder -- the murder of the fellow spaceman who got him into an orgy just before he shipped out. Good characters, good mystery, and a perfectly satisfactory ending.

Alien machines are saving the world in "Last" (NEW DIMENSIONS 9) by Michael Conner. Or are they? It's the brittle story of the last man on earth -- a death-wishing madman who loves the role he has to play, and wants no supporting cast. Machine intelligence is not so alien, however, in Gene Wolfe's bitter little Christmas present to us in the December OMNI. The story, "War Beneath the Tree", is about what happens to last year's toys when the new batch is brought by Santa Claus. It is written by Gene Wolfe, which is recommendation enough. Wolfe, at least, has never disappointed me -- he gets better with everything he publishes.

HUMOR

Already into the quick takes under category headings? Oh, well. There's never enough space to say all that these stories deserve to have said.

Humor is hard to do, and most attempts at it succeed only in being light. Often that's enough, as it is with Brian Lumley's "Cryptically Yours" (SAD IV), the epistolary story of a battle between a powerful sorcerer and his unsuspecting colleagues. Barry N. Malzberg and Bill Pronzini do an excellent send-up of Poe in "Clocks" (SHADOWS 2), which wavers between being serious and funny. Funny is better, in this case. And in "Life Among the Brain Stealers" (ANALOG Dec), Frederick William Croft finds a diabolically clever advertising method -- that has side effects.

David Bunch's "Through a Wall and Back", (ETERNITY 1) is a brittle story in a strange voice. So you work hard and get luck and God on your side and finally break through to heaven, only to discover that heaven is a boring cocktail party. Bunch's poetic style makes for slow reading -- but it's worth it, especially since the density allows his stories to be very short.

Donald Barthelme spends a lot of time savaging the press in "The Emerald" (ESQUIRE Nov), and his style is affected -- but effective. Usually Barthelme, a mainstream writer of note, leaves me cold; this time, however, his pyrotechnics came off just right, and this story of a woman who mates with the moon god (Deus Lunus) and gives birth to an emerald is one of the best fantasies of the year.

MODERN FANTASY

Three modern fantasies this quarter dealt with children, with surprisingly good effect. Kids are hard to write -- they tend to turn out as small adults. Not so in Greg Bear's "White Horse Child" (UNIVERSE 9), a haunting, nostalgia-invoking story of how some children find their way into their imagination -- and how most are forced to choose another life. Ramsey Campbell turns the cruelty of children around quite effectively in "Wacintosh Willy" (SHADOWS 2), the story of children who face their imaginary fears and find them not quite so imaginary. And Pat Murphy writes about two twins -- only one of whom has a soul -- in "Nightbird at the Window" (CHRYSLIS 5). It is a strangely compelling story in which one twin discovers his emptiness the hard way -- and loses his mother in the process.

Not since Peter Beagle's A FINE AND PRIVATE PLACE have I read as good a treatment of the life of the dead as Peter Pautz's "The Closing Off of Old Doors" (SHADOWS 2), in which Carver, dead for twenty-seven years, finds his way to the funeral home where his future awaits him. "Dead End", by Richard Christian Matheson, also in SHADOWS 2, is like one of the best of the old TWILIGHT ZONE stories: A couple, who are not doing so well in their marriage, find themselves endlessly wandering the hills near Los Angeles, always running into the same dead end.

Unlike the bulk of the stories in SHADOWS 2, Manly Wade Wellman's "The Spring" isn't really trying for terror or shock. His Appalachian folk are too lovable, even the villains, for a reader to fear them much. It's a warm if dangerous world he has created, and I love

every visit there.

Steve Rassic Tem is a poet; I'm glad to see he is also an excellent writer of fiction. He has two stories in OTHER WORLDS 1, and both are good. In "Hideout", McMahon goes back in time to try to get his young self to avoid the miseries he knows lie ahead -- but he finds that his old self is impenetrably bull-headed, and even nastier than he had remembered. And "The Painters Are Coming Today" is a strange but wonderful story about housepainters who come unbidden to beautify a neighborhood, residents and all.

Paul H. Cook is another poet, with a respectable reputation in little literary magazines. He has also sold an excellent novel, TINT-AGEL, to Berkley; his story "Character Assassin" in OTHER WORLDS 1 is a foretaste of the originality and good writing that can be expected from Cook in the future. In the story a lover of literature finds that every world that a writer creates really comes into existence somewhere -- and a madman named Faraday is going around ruining the endings of the stories.

Alan Ryan explores the horrors of getting stuck, day after day, in the linens department of Macy's in "Sheets" (CHRYSLIS 5), while David Bischoff gives us a delightfully perverted performance of HAMLET in "All the Stage, a World" (CHRYSLIS 5). When the show is over, however, the improvisers don't necessarily get applauded.

Another fine story about a performer is Alan Ryan's "The Last Performance of Kobo Daishi" (OTHER WORLDS 1). First published by Roy Torgeson, Ryan has found many other editors who appreciate his gifts; this story, however, is his finest. It is a delicately wrought Japanese fantasy that creates a jester and the intriguing emperor he performs for.

HEROIC FANTASY

Joanna Russ doesn't like heroic fantasy, for perfectly valid reasons of taste. In fact, the reasons she has expressed in reviews in FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION are precisely the reasons why I hate so much heroic fantasy myself. Unfortunately, she has somehow got herself in the awkward position of expressing her tastes as if they were absolute standards -- as if, because she can't get over her problems with the genre, no intelligent person should. And nowhere is the result of this more unfortunately expressed than in her silly parody "Dragons and Dimwits or There and Back Again: A Publishers' Holiday or Why Did I Do It? or Much Ado About Magic or

Lord of the Royals or ... or ... or" (F&SF Dec). The title is sufficient review of the story -- it never gets above that level. The main problem with Russ's view of heroic fantasy -- and the problem with many reviewers' tendency to ridicule what they do not understand -- is that all fiction requires a willing suspension of disbelief. Some people can suspend their disbelief for some things, others for others, but there is no fiction whatsoever that cannot be ridiculed with equal unintelligence by someone who is incapable of understanding it.

What Mark Twain did to Fenimore Cooper could with equal ease be done to Mark Twain. Ridicule is the most useless and self-debasing form of criticism. Joanna Russ has often proved herself capable of much better -- she should leave the childish antics to reviewers of less ability.

A story that would be quite despicable to Russ is Charles Saunders's "Mai-Kulala" (SAD IV), and for pretty good reason. Saunders writes well, and the story is very entertaining; but I keep wishing his main character would turn into a human being who once had parents and who isn't always so damn strong and so remarkably purposeless -- a common failing in heroic fantasy.

Another frequent problem with fantasy is the attempt at high language. Ursula LeGuin may have called for formal English in her essay "From Elfland to Poughkeepsie", but I assure all would-be fantasists that high language is not achieved by tossing in a few *forsooths* and convoluting the grammar of your dialogue. Despite some unfortunate dialogue that falls into such absurdities, Jayge Carr's "The Pavilion Where All Times Meet" (OTHER WORLDS 1) is a well-written, compelling fantasy about the man without a past and the woman without a future. (Carr also wrote a Malthusian nightmare story entitled, appropriately, "Malthus's Day", which appeared in the November OMNI. She is a very talented writer who does not always stick with the trendy viewpoint when she deals with 'pertinent social issues'.)

With space waning, I can only briefly mention four other fine heroic fantasies: Roger Zelazny's "A Knight for Merytha" (ETERNITY 1) in which the maiden in distress is not all she seems to be; Gordon Linzner's "The Ballad of Borrelli", the story of a father with two sons, one of his body and one of his heart; Diana Paxson's "The Dark Mother", in which a woman sacrifices something far more valuable to her than life in

order to save the life of the son of her friends; and Manly Wade Wellman's "The Edge of the World" is a rollicking good swashbuckler that would be the envy of Rafael Sabatini. (The last three appeared in SAD IV.)

As usual, I have a couple of stories left over after I've run out of categories. Jay A. Parry is a friend and sometime collaborator of mine; I admit the bias and still recommend to you "Gods in the Fire, Gods in the Rain" (CHRYSLIS 5) as a sensitive portrayal of what life might be like after a complete economic collapse in America. Marta Randall posits an equally oppressive, deprived society in "The Captain and the Kid" (UNIVERSE 9), a sentimental but not maudlin story about an aging ship captain who is sick to death of earthside life and wants her spaceship back again.

OK, Dick. Come out with the nails. I see the cross is ready. Carr went over the space limit again, worse than ever, and the column is a week late. This time, at least, can I have the middle cross?

((I was reserving that spot for Elton Elliott. But if you insist...))



STORIES REVIEWED THIS ISSUE
Listed by publication in which the story first appeared.

MAGAZINES (genre)

ANALOG

Nov. "Old Friends", Kevin O'Donnell, Jr.
Dec. "The Moon Goddess and the Son", Donald Kingsbury; "Life Among the Brain Stealers", Frederick William Croft

DESTINIES

Oct.-Dec. "Go Starless in the Night", Roger Zelazny

ETERNITY

No. 1. "A Knight for Merytha", Roger Zelazny; "Through a Wall and Back", David R. Bunch

GALAXY

39:11. "A Beast for Norn", George R.R. Martin; "A Little Girl's Spring Day in Moderan", David Bunch

GALILEO

Nov. "Daisy, in the Sun", Connie Willis

FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION
Nov. "Demystification of Circumstance", Barry N. Malzberg
Dec. "Wives", Lisa Tuttle;
"Angelica", Jane Yolen; "Dragons and Dimwits ..." Joanna Russ

ISAAC ASIMOV'S SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINE

Oct. "Mandalay", John M. Ford;
"A Day in Mallworld", Somtow Sucharitkul

OMNI

Oct. "Rent Control", Walter Tevis
Nov. "Malthus's Day", Jayge Carr
Dec. "War Beneath the Tree", Gene Wolfe

MAGAZINES (Mainstream)

ESQUIRE

Nov. "The Emerald", Donald Barthelme
ROLLING STONE COLLEGE PAPERS
No. 1. "The Exit Door Leads In", Philip K. Dick

ANTHOLOGIES

CHRYSLIS 5. (Zebra, Ed. Roy Torgeson), "Returning to Center", Susan Janice Anderson; "Sheets", Alan Ryan; "My Father's Head", Timothy Robert Sullivan; "Portrait for a Blind Man", Karl Hansen; "Nightbird at the Window", Pat Murphy; "Comets and Kings", Somtow Sucharitkul; "All the Stage, a World", David F. Bischoff; "The Faces of Men", Glenn Chang; "Gods in the Fire, Gods in the Rain", Jay A. Parry

NEW DIMENSIONS 9. (Harper & Row, Ed. Robert Silverberg), "The Pathways of Desire", Ursula K. LeGuin; "The Raucher Goes to Tinker Town", Timothy Robert Sullivan; "Crossing the Wastelands", Jeff Hecht; "Last", Michael Conner.

OTHER WORLDS 1 (Zebra, Ed. Roy Torgeson), "Fire from the Wine-Dark Sea", Somtow Sucharitkul; "The Bird-chaser", James E. Thompson; "The Pavilion Where All Times Meet", Jayge Carr; "Hideout" and "The Painters Are Coming Today", Steve Rasnic Tem; "The Last Performance of Kobo Daishi", Alan Ryan; "The Character Assassin", Paul H. Cook.

SHADOWS 2 (Doubleday, Ed. Charles L. Grant): "The Spring", Manly Wade Wellman; "Mackintosh Willy", Ramsey Campbell; "Clocks", Barry N. Malzberg and Bill Pronzini; "The Closing Off of Old Doors", Peter D. Pautz; "Dead End", Richard Christian Matheson; "Seasons of Belief", Michael Bishop; "Petey", T.E.D. Klein.

SWORDS AGAINST DARKNESS IV (Zebra, Ed. Andrew J. Offutt): "Mai Kulala", Charles R. Saunders; "The Ballad of Borrelli", Gordon Linzner; "Deux Amours d'Une Sorciere", Tanith Lee; "Cryptically Yours", Brian Lumley; "The Dark Mother", Diana L. Paxson;

"The Edge of the World", Manly Wade Wellman.

UNIVERSE 9 (Doubleday, Ed. Terry Carr): "Frost Animals", Bob Shaw; "Nuclear Fission", Paul David Novitski; "The Captain and the Kid", Martha Randall; "The White Horse Child", Greg Bear; "Options", John Varley.

CARD'S CHOICE

or
THE ONES I'D PUT IN A BEST-OF-THE-YEAR ANTHOLOGY IF I WERE DOING ONE
By Orson Scott Card

With the hundreds of stories published every year, very few SF readers bother trying to read them all. Most stick with one or two magazines, or an occasional anthology, or an occasional issue that contains a story by a favorite writer. Unfortunately, this means that few readers have a feel for the genre's short fiction as a whole. I began writing this column a bit over a year ago in order to provide a handy-dandy guide to the short fiction. I have deliberately not limited myself to my own preferences; I have tried to point out the best stories each quarter in every camp and subgenre of science fiction and fantasy. Even when I hated a story, if I suspected that one group would like it, I said so. In short, I have tried to enable the reader who wants to keep up with the best in short fiction to do so without spending all his time reading everything.

Whether I have achieved that objective is one of the great unknowables. But now, at the end of my first full calendar year of doing this, I want to point out to you the ones that I think are the very finest. Award material. The most important stories you could read, if you were only reading a few dozen. And, just to get it off my chest, I have also included my personal choices in several other Hugo categories. All of it just this writer's opinion, of course, but these were the works that pleased me most this year.

SHORT STORIES

Science Fiction:

"Can These Bones Live?" Ted Reynolds (ANALOG, Mar.) The last woman on earth is given one wish.

"Go Starless in the Night", Roger Zelazny (DESTINIES 1:5, Oct-Dec) A frozen man is brought to life without any of his senses -- and asked to trust strangers.

"The Thirteenth Utopia", Sontag Sucharitkul (ANALOG, Apr.) He is called to destroy a perfect society -- and finds that this one is indestructible.

"Hero", Neal Barrett, Jr. (F&SF, Sep.) He comes back from the wars, but his life can never quite be normal again.

"The Emerald", Donald Barthelme (ESQUIRE, Nov.) A noble alien sires a sentient emerald on a simple American woman, who must struggle to preserve her child.

"When the Metal Eaters Come", David Bunch (GALAXY, Oct.) To achieve immortality, they have made their bodies metal. They just didn't figure on death evolving, too.

Fantasy:

"Deux Amours d'Une Sorciere", Tanith Lee (SWORDS AGAINST DARKNESS IV, Zebra): She uses sorcery to win the love of a man she doesn't know; and finds she has chosen the wrong subject.

"The Hero Who Returned", Gerald Page (HEROIC FANTASY, DAW): He believes his wife despises him, and embarks on a quest from which none has ever returned.

"Jumping the Line", Grania Davis (F&SF, July): Life is a line waiting for God knows what or how long; but don't count on getting in when you get there.

"The White Horse Child", Greg Bear (UNIVERSE 9, Doubleday): That old man and that old lady know stories -- if your aunt will let you hear them.

"Rent Control", Walter Tevis (OMNI Oct.): They find that when two lovers touch, time does indeed stand still.

NOVELETS

Science Fiction:

"The Faces of Men", Glenn Chang (CHRYSLIS 5, Zebra): There's a danger in going native -- even the natives might not want you.

"The Way of Cross and Dragon", George R.R. Martin (OMNI, June): He went to stamp out a heresy, and found it beautiful. (Martin's "Sandkings" in the August OMNI is more likely to win awards, but in my opinion, "Cross and Dragon" was the more difficult story to bring off well, and the more rewarding to read.)

"Palely Loitering", Christopher Priest (F&SF, Jan.): A boy plays games with time, and somehow just misses finding his destiny.

"My Father's Head", Timothy Robert Sullivan (CHRYSLIS 5, Zebra): It doesn't pay to love your father when you have to kill him the day you lose your virginity.

"Camps", Jack Dann (P&S, May): There are many kinds of pain you can suffer in a hospital.

"Chrysalis Three", Karen G. Jollie (CHRYSLIS 3, Zebra): He loves his friend, not because he is a superhero, but in spite of that.

Fantasy:

"The Tale of Gorgik", Samuel R. Delany (ASIMOV'S SF ADVENTURE, Summer; also, TALES OF NEVERON, Bantam): He rose from slavery to power -- losing freedom all along the way.

"The Man Who Walked Through Cracks", R.A. Lafferty (CHRYSLIS 3, Zebra): Reality just isn't what it used to be -- but it can be fun messing it up.

"The Last Performance of Kobo Daishi" Alan Ryan (OTHER WORLDS 1, Zebra): With grace and restraint, both Ryan and the court jester create their finest works to date.

"The Things That Are Gods", John Brunner (ASIMOV'S SF ADVENTURES, Fall): Beware of what you dump in lakes; and don't grant wishes that might conflict with each other.

NOVELLAS: (There are too few here to bother with categories)

"Enemy Mine", Barry Longyear (ISAAC ASIMOV'S SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINE, Sep.): A man and an alien, enemies, are forced to depend on each other for survival.

"The Dancer in the Darkness", Thomas F. Monteleone (NEW VOICES 2, Jove): She longs to dance the one flamenco dance that will kill her.

"The Moon Goddess and the Son", Donald Kingsbury (ANALOG, Dec.): The moon is all she has dreamed of, in this story where fathers bend their children's lives.

"The Story Writer", Richard Wilson (DESTINIES, Apr.-June): His tales bend the fabric of reality.

BOOKS:

(I don't pretend to have read every novel published this year, but these are my favorites)

Science Fiction:

ENGINE SUMMER, John Crowley (Doubleday)

THE ROAD TO CORLAY, Richard Cowper (Pocket)

TRANSFIGURATIONS, Michael Bishop (Berkeley)

Fantasy:

HARPIST IN THE WIND, Patricia McKillip (Atheneum)
THE DEAD ZONE, Stephen King (Viking)
TALES OF NEVERON, Samuel R. Delany (Bantam)

Commentary:

THE LANGUAGE OF THE NIGHT, Ursula K. LeGuin (Putnam)

Art:

A TOLKIEN BESTIARY, David Day (Del Rey)
AGE OF DREAMS, Alicia Austin
MASTER SNICKUP'S CLOAK, Alexander Theroux/Brian Froud (Harper & Row)

EDITORS:

Roy Torgeson, CHRYSLIS, OTHER WORLDS

Ed Ferman, FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION

David Hartwell, Pocket Books.

ARTISTS:

Don Maitz, cover for THE ROAD TO CORLAY (Cowper, Pocket)
Richard Anderson, interior art for ANALOG throughout 1979
Ian Miller, in A TOLKIEN BESTIARY (Day, Del Rey)

NEW WRITERS:

Karen G. Jollie, "Chrysalis Three" (CHRYSLIS 3)
Timothy Robert Sullivan, "My Father's Head" (CHRYSLIS 5); "The Raucher Goes to Tinker Town" (NEW DIMENSIONS 9)
Barry Longyear, "Enemy Mine" (IA's fm Sep.); and forgiving the entire Momus series in IA's fm.
Connie Willis, "Homing Pigeon" (GALILEO July); "Daisy, in the Sun" (GALILEO Nov.)
Jay A. Parry, "Gods in the Fire, Gods in the Rain" (CHRYSLIS 5)
Paul H. Cook, "The Character Assassin" (OTHER WORLDS 1)

So if you're wondering what in the world to read; if you stare at your stack of magazines and anthologies wondering where to begin; then these are my suggestions as to good stories, good writers, good books and good editors to begin with.

It was a good year for science fiction and fantasy. But judging from galleys I've already read of books coming up, 1980 is going to be even better. In particular, I suggest that you watch for the release of Gene Wolfe's new novel, THE SHADOW OF THE TORTURER, when it comes out from Simon and Schuster next May, with a wraparound cover by Don Maitz. I have read it, and without doing a whole review right here, let me simply say that it is the best science fiction or fantasy novel I have ever read; and I don't say that lightly.



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S-F NEWS BY ELTON T. ELLIOTT



Remember the address for this column is: Elton T. Elliott, SFR, 1899 Wiessner Dr. N.E., Salem, OR, 97303.

SPECIAL MAGAZINE SECTION

ANALOG (Monthly)

The January, 1980 issue, marked the 50th anniversary of ANALOG, first published by Clayton as AS-FOUNDING STORIES OF SUPER SCIENCE, then as ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION and later as ANALOG. Under the editorship of John W. Campbell Jr. from 1937 to his death in 1971, the magazine became the leader of the SF field. Campbell found and shaped many of the most famous SF writers. Ben Bova took over until mid-1978, when Stanley Schmidt became the fifth editor in the magazine's history; both continued Campbell's goal of developing new writers.

In the upcoming anniversary year, Editor Schmidt has decided on a year-long gala with appearances of many authors and artists associated with the magazine. On file are stories by Clifford D. Simak, Gordon R. Dickson, George O. Smith and Mack Reynolds and others. The anniversary issue itself contains fiction by Isaac Asimov and Ben Bova and has a cover by Paul Lehr. Other artists include Kelly Freas, Vincent DiFate, John Schoenherr and others.

According to Editor Schmidt, ANALOG Books will continue. The contract calls only for paperbacks, through Ace Books. Baronet will not be involved in the new line, edited by ANALOG's Editor Schmidt.

AMAZING & FANTASTIC (Quarterly)

The latest AMAZING is totally original, and it is said they are phasing out all reprints, and are buying new material.

ASIMOV'S (Monthly) (Non-Subscription)

They are maintaining their sales lead over ANALOG. However, the companion magazine, ASIMOV'S ADVENTURES, has been postponed because of poor

sales on the third issue. Davis Publications indicates that sales figures on the fourth issue will determine the magazine's future.

DESTINIES (Quarterly)

DESTINIES #6 has been moved from January to February, the third postponement since the magazine's inception. Being through a paperback publisher, they can afford this luxury that a newsstand magazine, with distribution orders to fulfill, cannot.

ETERNITY (Bimonthly)

The second issue includes novellettes by Orson Scott Card, John Shirley and Benton McAdams, and short stories by Grant Carrington, Janet Fox and Robert Anthony Cross. Featured is an interview with Gregory Benford, a film column by Ed Bryant, Science column by Karl T. Pflock and Books by Orson Scott Card.

By subscription only: 4 issues/\$6 to: ETERNITY SCIENCE FICTION, POB #510, Clemson, SC, 29631.

FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION

A fire at the fulfillment house, which mails subscription copies for them and for ISAAC ASIMOV'S, caused problems with the October issues.

OMNI

Ben Bova has been named Executive Editor replacing Frank Kendig, who resigned in favor of a writing career. Robert Shekley has taken over as Fiction Editor.

SF CHRONICLE reported in its January issue: "Current readership studies indicate OMNI's readership stands at over 3,000,000 readers." Bova maintains it will increase. Note: The three-million figure relates only to estimated readers, and has nothing to do with an actual near-million sales figure, still a



healthy number considering "experts" were predicting its demise within a year of its first issue.

STARLOG/FUTURE LIFE (STARLOG -- Monthly) (FUTURE LIFE -- 8 yearly)

Rumors indicate that publishers and staff are spread too thin, with 5+ magazines and multiple projects. Several sources (not connected with the STARLOG staff) say they are considering going into full-feature films, requiring enormous capital and a larger staff.

THE STARLOG SF YEARBOOK is out.

ARES

Simulations Publications, Inc. has announced a new bi-monthly magazine, ARES, subtitled THE MAGAZINE OF SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY SIMULATION, to start with the March/Apr issue. The 8 1/4 x 11" 40-page magazine will have a process cover, two-color interior with full-page illustrations and will contain:

1. A fantasy/science fiction simulation game with an 11" by 17" playing map and 100 counters.
2. A background story, possibly illustrated, to accompany the game.
3. Two or three 3,000 to 6,000-word short stories with payment of 6¢ per word paid on acceptance to "established writers" for first North American serial rights. Notice of acceptance within 45 days.
4. Articles on science fiction/fantasy simulation games -- criticism, hints on play, new scenarios, etc.
5. A number of regular columns -- book reviews, media reviews, philosophy, etc.
6. Science fact articles.

This info provided courtesy of Managing Editor, Michael Moore, who adds, "We're hoping that some of the

stories might develop as simulation games (with royalties, to the author).

Address: ARES, Simulation Publications, Inc., 257 Park Avenue South, New York, NY, 10010.

MOVIE NEWS

According to CBS news, David Begelman, of illegal check-writing fame, was appointed head of MGM. Begelman previously was an independent producer. One of his latest projects was AIR RAID from the Hugo- and-Nebula-nominated short story by John Varley. Varley was working as script consultant at the time of Begelman's appointment. Mr. Begelman saved Columbia Pictures, with the help of Steven Spielberg's CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND, but lost his job when it was found he had forged checks against Cliff Richardson and others.

No word on how Begelman's new job will affect AIR RAID, which Doug Trumbull is set to direct.

STAR TREK was packing them in to the tune of \$12 million in the first three days, with BLACK HOLE drawing considerably less, although both received very poor movie reviews.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Ferry Ackerman donated his multi-million-dollar collection of SF/fantasy, movie books, films and memorabilia to the city of Los Angeles. L.A. City Librarian Wyman Jones termed it "priceless" and "the world's best". L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley officially commended Ferry and the December 8 Los Angeles Times carried the story.

As SF literature becomes more accepted, SF collections will gain in value.

The Perry Rhodan series at issue #137 in America, is dead. According to Wendayne Ackerman the Germans simply wanted too much money.

Correction: From Elaine Hampton of KCET: "In re: SFR #33 -- Cosmos is a KCET/BBC production -- the same (or at least some of the) people who worked on THE ASCENT OF MAN series."

David Lubkin has just sold a story to F&SF. He edits a 'zine, CLARITY, and runs a workshop for "Midwest Would-be Skiffy Pulp Authors", open to anyone with a "demonstrable interest in selling SF professionally". If interested, contact: David Lubkin, 416 S. Francis, Lansing, MI, 48912.

Brian W. Aldiss recently returned from China, where he interviewed Premier Deng Xiaoping.

Pennames: "John Norman" is really John Lange, Professor of Philosophy at Queens College of the N.Y.

City University. Other pseudonyms: "Alan Burt Akers" is Kenneth Bulmer, as reported in the January 1980 issue of FANTASY NEWSLETTER. The Buck Rogers adaptations from the TV series, was written for Dell by Richard A. Lupoff, under the name of Addison E. Steele, according to a Dell ad. Is "Bill Starr" really Brian Daley? If anybody has info on unknown pseudonyms, please write me and I will try to authenticate.

Speaking of "John Norman": A 22-year-old male, Robert Terhune, has been accused of murdering a 16-year-old female, Paula Ashbaugh. During the trial Terhune testified that he was an avid GR reader, and then "had fantasies of tying up and dominating neighborhood girls" (from an article in LOCUS #228). The name of the town was not given.

Roger Lovin, 38, SF novelist, including the recent novel, APOSTLE, (Starblaze) was arrested in New Orleans on obscenity charges. A prior arrest was on pornography charges.

PUBLISHER'S NOTES

Random House, owners of Ballantine Books and its SF imprint, Del Rey Books, is up for sale by its parent company RCA, reportedly as an RCA consolidation effort.

Ballantine Books, in the meantime, has signed a distribution agreement with Warner Books.

Anne McCaffrey's books, DRAGONSONG and DRAGONSLINGER, (Bantam Books) have totalled 600,000+ copies in print.

Lou Stathis left the assistant editorship at Dell Books.

Darrell Schweitzer has signed a six-book development contract with Starblaze Books, says Hank Stine, new Starblaze editor.

St. Martin's has bought a new novel by Allen Wold, STAR-GOD.

NAL/Signet has started their hardcover line again. No info on whether they will publish SF again. DAW Books, also part of NAL, now has a hardback option, although DAW's publisher, Donald A. Wollheim has repeatedly denied these rumors.

Rumor has it that Dell, Berkeley and Ace are cutting back their SF programs.

Britain: Penguin has bought the first three Well World books by Jack L. Chalker: MIDNIGHT AT THE WELL OF SOULS, EXILES AT THE WELL OF SOULS and QUEST FOR THE WELL OF SOULS. A fourth, THE RETURN OF NATHAN BAZIL, was published by Del Rey, January, 1980.

In February, New English Library

will publish the first edition of Robert A. Heinlein's latest novel, THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST.

BOOK NEWS

ACE

February:

Ursula K. LeGuin & Virginia Kidd ... (Eds.) (Trade Paperback) .. INTERFACE
Lynn Abbey .. DAUGHTER OF THE BRIGHT

.....MOON

William E. Cochrane...CLASS SIX CLIMB
Axel MadsenUNISAVE
Gordon R. Dickson DORSAL!
Colin Kapp ..THE WIZARD OF ANHARTITE

March:

Lynn Abbey THE BLACK FLAME
(Trade Paperback, unrelated to the Stanley G. Weinbaum novel of the same name.)

Jerry E. Pournelle JANISSARIES
Reginald Bretner (Ed.)...THE SPEAR OF
.. MARS: THE FUTURE AT WAR VOL. 2
Robert W. Prehoda ...YOUR NEXT FIFTY
(Non-fiction)YEARS
Gordon R. Dickson.. SOLDIER, ASK NOT
James Patrick Baen (Ed.)...THE BEST
.....FROM IF: VOL. 4

April:

Larry Niven THE PATCHWORK GIRL
(Trade Paperback)
Charles Sheffield .. THE WEB BETWEEN
.....THE WORLDS
Spider Robinson THE BEST OF ALL
..... POSSIBLE WORLDS
Bill Adler & Co.FUTURESCOPE!
Robert Silverberg.....INVASIERS FROM
... EARTH-TO WORLDS BEYOND
Marion Zimmer Bradley:
..... STAR OF DANGER
.....THE PLANET SAVERS
.....THE SWORD OF ALDONES
.....THE WINTS OF DARKOVER
..... THE WORLD WRECKERS
James Patrick Baen (Ed).DESTINIES #7

Upcoming titles: THE PURPLE PTERODACTYLIS by L. Sprague de Camp, a collection of stories featuring Willy Newbery, and EXPANDED UNIVERSE by Robert A. Heinlein.

AVON

Page Cuddy is now Editor-in-Chief of the science fiction line, in addition to being Senior Editor. She is an experienced publishing editor, has attended many SF conventions and is building up the Avon line by several book purchases, including MACROLIFE by George Zebrowski.

BANTAM

February:

Anne McCaffrey DRAGON DRUMS
Jack C. Haldeman II...PERRY'S PLANET
David Brin SUNDIVER
Thomas M. Disch...CAMP CONCENTRATION
Ray Bradbury...THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES

March:

John Crowley ENGINE SUMMER

April: Arkady Strugatski ... SNAIL
.....ON THE SLOPE
(Intro by Darko Suvin)

April:
Frederik Pohl JEM
Robert E. Howard...THE ROAD TO AZREAL
L. Sprague de Camp ... CONAN AND THE
(Tentative title).....SPIDER GOD

ICQUAKE, a thriller disaster novel by Crawford Killian, is scheduled for February. Killian's first book was SF, THE EMPIRE OF TIME, Del Rey, 1978. MAN PLUS by Frederik Pohl will be reissued this spring.

Other upcoming titles: ON WINGS OF SONG, the new novel by Thomas M. Disch, and an anthology edited by Disch and Samuel R. Delany; LITTLE BIG, a novel by John Crowley; a Conan novel by Poul Anderson. First in a series inspired by E.E. "Doc" Smith's Lensman tales, is WORSEL LENSMAN, by David Kyle.

BARONET
Baronet will begin a series of 12 Harlan Ellison titles in the spring, with the GLASS TEAT AND PAINCOG AND OTHER DELUSIONS. The ELRIC ILLUSTRATED will be done in the same fashion as their other illustrated books.

FAWCETT
They have purchased a Thomas F. Monteleone novel, NIGHT THINGS, for \$17,500. From Fawcett Gold Medal, THE JANUS MAZE and FIRE AT THE CENTER by George Proctor.

HARPER & ROW
February releases: THE BEGINNING PLACE, a fantasy by Ursula K. LeGuin, NEBULA WINNERS: 13, edited by Samuel R. Delany and GALAXY MAGAZINE: THIRTY YEARS OF INNOVATIVE SF, edited by Frederik Pohl, Martin Greenberg and Joseph Olander. Hank Stine, still GALAXY editor, says "It does not contain what I believe are GALAXY's best stories".

In April: LORD VALENTINE'S CASTLE by Robert Silverberg.

BERKLEY
February: FAITH OF TAROT, the third in Piers Anthony's Tarot trilogy. The first title, GOD OF TAROT, written as one long novel, was broken into three books by Jove editors and published in April, 1979. Berkley published the second, VISION OF TAROT, in January. MAGIC TIME by Kit Reed will be published in hardcover by Berkley-Putnam.

March: Lead title will be TITAN by John Varley. Varley's WIZARD, set in the same world as TITAN, will be released in hardcover -- the third book of the series is scheduled for 1981. Varley's second short story collection will be out in the fall.

April: WATCHTOWER, paperback, by Elizabeth Lynn, the first book in a trilogy; the second, THE DANCERS OF ARUN, will be in paper in July. The concluding volume, THE NORTHERN GIRL, will be in hardcover in May.

Upcoming titles: WINDOWS (paper) and ASCENDANCIES (hardcover) by D.G. Compton. Book Four in the Riverworld series, THE MAGIC LABYRINTH by Philip Jose Farmer, will be a June hardcover. Damon Knight's first novel in a decade, THE WORLD AND THORIN, will be a fall hardcover.

DAW
Daw will be moving to the same address as Signet/NAL: 1633 Broadway, New York, NY, 10019.

SABELLA, by Tanith Lee is to be released in the spring, and a new novel by Stephen Tall, THE PEOPLE BEYOND THE WALL, plus Ron Goulart's new novel, LOST ILLUSIONS.

DELL
February:
Spider & Jeanne Robinson...STARDANCE
(The first part of this novel won the Hugo and Nebula awards for best novella of 1977 -- it's the second Dell SF title marketed as a Dell Science Fiction Special.)
James Frenkel (Ed.)...BINARY STAR #4
"Legacy"... Joan D. Vinge
"The Janus Equation"....
...Steven G. Spruill
Philip K. Dick...THE PENULTIMATE TRUTH
Manly Wade Wellman.... WHO FEARS THE
.....DEVIL?

March:
F.M. BusbyZELDS M'TANA
Bob Shaw MEDUSA'S CHILDREN
(Re: The blurbs on this book, the publicity release got one important plot detail wrong)
Hugh B. Cave THE NEBULON HORROR

DIAL BOOKS
April:
Jeffrey Carver PANGLOSS
Phyllis Eisenstein....BORN TO EXILE
Marvin Kaye THE INCREDIBLE
..... UMBRELLA
Keith Laumer & Rosel George Brown...
.....EARTHBLOOD

March:
John Jakes & Gil Kane EXCALIBUR
(By Dial Books, a hardcover house associated with Dell)

April:
Joan D. Vinge THE SNOW QUEEN

Other upcoming releases: KINSMAN by Ben Bova, FIND THE CHANGELING by Gregory Benford and Gordon Eklund, CITY COME A' WALKIN' by John Shirley, CIRCUMPOLAR! by Richard Lupoff, and A PLANET CALLED TREASON by Orson Scott Card.

DOUBLEDAY
February:
A.E. Van Vogt...THE COSMIC CONNECTION
Jack Dann TIME-TIPPING
H. Warner Munn THE LOST LEGION

POCKET
February:
Pamela Sargent WATCHSTAR
(Hardcover in May by SF Book Club)
Jan Mark THE ENNEAD
D.G. Compton ... THE UNSLEEPING EYE
Charles L. Harness THE CATALYST
Keith Laumer THE BEST
.....OF KEITH LAUMER

March:
F.M. Busby THE DEMU TRILOGY
L. Sprague de Camp...THE GREAT FETISH
Robert Stallman THE ORPHAN
Jack Vance...THE EYES OF THE OVERWORLD
John Sladek...THE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

April:
Chelsea Quinn Yarbro...ARIOSTO FURIOSO
David Skal THE SCAVENGERS
Gardner R. Dozois & Jack Dann (Ed.)...
.....ALIENS!
D.G. Compton ...THE STEEL CROCODILE
Jerry E. Pournelle ...THE MERCENARY

SIMON & SCHUSTER
March:
Gene Roddenberry.....STAR TREK:
.....THE MOTION PICTURE

April:
Alfred BesterGOLEM 100

Upcoming titles: SONGS FROM THE STARS by Norman Spinrad, THE VAMPIRE TAPESTRY by Suzy McKee Charnas and THE SHADOW OF THE TORTURER by Gene Wolfe, also Gregory Benford's TIME-SCAPE.

APOLOGIES:
Apologies for my comments on GALAXY last issue. I did not mean that Hank Stine was at fault for GALAXY's lateness or lack of payment. An editor must have full cooperation from the publisher.

I apologize for my comments in SFR #31 about Andrew Porter and SF CHRONICLE. Hindsight has shown that Mr. Porter was right and SF CHRONICLE has evolved in four issues, into an excellent news magazine.



GALAXY MAGAZINE UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

IN AN AGREEMENT DATED DECEMBER 13, 1979, Universal Publishing and Distributing Corporation has transferred its right to publish GALAXY Magazine to GALILEO Magazine, Inc., a company organized in Boston and chiefly owned by GALILEO Magazine. Under the contract, GALAXY Magazine, Inc. receives the current and past subscriber lists, the right to use the name, and whatever reprint rights are owned by Universal in previously published material. The new company has had to commit a portion of the magazine's income to Universal, but there has been no cash payment.

THE NEW COMPANY IS OWNED 90% BY GALILEO, a temporary custodial arrangement according to GALILEO's publisher, Vincent McCaffrey. "We hope to attract new investors to the venture," said McCaffrey, "in order to build capital and provide a broader input into the management." The other 10% of the company is owned by Universal.

GALILEO WILL BE PROVIDING THE management for the new company and has announced that Floyd Kemske of the GALILEO staff is being installed as GALAXY's Editor. In addition, GALILEO plans some other changes. The new GALAXY is bimonthly (published on the alternate months with GALILEO, which is also bimonthly). It is in a large (8 1/2 x 11) format, rather than its traditional digest size. It is being designed for a college-age readership, addressing a group averaging five to ten years younger than the GALILEO audience (which is approximately 29 years old on the average). The magazine will stress adventure in its fiction and the selling price, being somewhat lower than that of GALILEO, reflects the lower average income of the younger readership.

FLOYD KEMSKE, GALAXY'S NEW EDITOR, has been with the GALILEO organization for over three years. He has worked for GALILEO as Review Editor and as "Coordinating Editor" and has been involved in virtually every aspect of GALILEO's production at one time or another. GALAXY will boast an enlarged science section in the magazine, to be edited by Ed Teja, the newly appointed Science Editor. Reviews will be edited by Noralie Barnett, who has been appointed Review Editor for both GALILEO and GALAXY. Hank Stine, Editor of GALAXY before the reorganization, has been asked to be a contributing editor with duties in the area of manuscript acquisition and evaluation.

A UNIQUE STRATIFORM DESIGN HAS been developed for GALAXY's new large page. A horizontal grid comprising three information layers makes the magazine graphically exciting without necessitating a surrender toward the growing industry trend toward shallow, rapid-fire copy. "This is not design for design's sake," says McCaffrey. "We have important reasons for the strataform approach. This type of layered page lends itself to modular construction." According to McCaffrey, modular construction is well suited to a small staff and enables the magazine to cover topics in depth without having to publish long and dense-looking articles.

EACH OF THE THREE STRATA ON GALAXY's page carries independent copy which is closely related to the copy in the other strata. A reader can follow a particular article along its band (which remains the same from page to page), but is encouraged by the layout to sample the material which arises in other strata.

FLOYD KEMSKE, THE NEW EDITOR OF GALAXY, is implementing an editorial plan which complements the strataform design. He divides the magazine into virtually independent sections, one for fiction and one each for science and science fiction commentary. Each section is something of a magazine unto itself.

THE FICTION SECTION WILL FUNCTION much as it has for thirty years, using the strataform page for visual effect only. The other two sections, however, will each be based on a feature article addressing a single topic in some depth. This lead article will generally occupy the uppermost stratum on the page. In the other two strata, there will be modules of copy which can be read either as independent "shorts" or as glosses on the feature.

GALAXY'S SCIENCE EDITOR, ED TEJA, builds the science section of the magazine around a single concept. For his main feature of each issue he is looking for nontechnical but well-informed writing addressed to the adventure of the future. He then surrounds the feature with five modules. Three of the modules---Careers, Words, and Movers and Shakers---are planned as regular columns, while the other two are flexible. Teja tailors each of the five modules to the main feature.

EDITOR KEMSKE ASSEMBLES THE SECTION on science fiction on a similar plan. The feature article is an interview with a science fiction personality, an entertaining review essay, or a nontechnical account of a science fiction concept. The modules are then book or film reviews, photo essays, short biographies, SF history, or anything else which relates to the future.

THE FICTION SECTION CONSISTS OF five to six short stories. Kemske does not anticipate serializations (although he is interested in "series-type" stories). He seeks a balance in each issue among humorous and serious work, space adventure and robots, aliens and sports activities, strange planets and the far future. GALAXY is not in the market for fantasy. The editorial emphasis is on adventure, but not to the exclusion of thoughtful stories. "My own taste," says Kemske, "does not run to pure space opera, but I do like adventure fiction."

THE EDITORIAL BUDGET OF GALAXY is higher than it was under the previous management. Kemske pays \$100 to \$250 for First World Serial Rights (including a non-exclusive option on anthology publication) on short fiction, depending on the needs of the magazine. Stories average 5000 words but Kemske emphasizes a need for shorter stories. GALAXY does not pay by the word.

REVIEWS ARE ACQUIRED BY THE NEW Review Editor, Noralie Barnett, who is seeking freelanced reviews of 500 to 750 words for both GALILEO and GALAXY. Those accepted for GALAXY will be paid \$15 to \$25, depending on the needs of the magazine.

ED TEJA WILL START PAYMENT ON features for the science section at \$100 for First World Serial Rights with a non-exclusive option on anthology publication. Articles about science fiction for the commentary section are purchased for \$100 on the same basis. GALAXY will sometimes be able to pay more than \$100 for outstanding articles, but it observes a \$100 maximum on interviews. GALAXY makes payment on publication.

SAMPLE COPIES CAN BE OBTAINED for \$1.50 (which includes postage) from GALAXY, 339 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02115.

BACK ISSUES

THE ALIEN CRITIC SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW

NO OTHER BACK ISSUES ARE
AVAILABLE

\$1.25 per copy

EACH ISSUE CONTAINS MANY REVIEWS.
EACH ISSUE CONTAINS LETTERS FROM
WELL-KNOWN SF & FANTASY WRITERS,
EDITORS, PUBLISHERS AND FANS.

THE FOLLOWING LISTINGS ARE OF FEATURED CONTRIBUTIONS

THE ALIEN CRITIC #5 Interview
with Fritz Leiber; "The Literary
Dreamers" by James Blish; "Irvin
Binkin Meets H.P. Lovecraft" by
Jack Chalker.

THE ALIEN CRITIC #6 Interview
with R.A. Lafferty; "The Trenchant
Bludgeon" by Ted White; "Trans-
lations from the Editorial" by
Marion Z. Bradley.

THE ALIEN CRITIC #8 "Tomorrow's
Libido: Sex and Science Fiction"
by Richard Delap; "The Trenchant
Bludgeon" by Ted White; "Ban-
quet Speech" by Robert Bloch;
"Noise Level" by John Brunner.

THE ALIEN CRITIC #9 "Reading
Heinlein Subjectively" by Alexei
and Cory Panshin; "Written to a
Pulp!" by Sam Merwin, Jr.; "Noise
Level" by John Brunner; "The
Shaver Papers" by Richard S. Shav-
er.

THE ALIEN CRITIC #10 An Inter-
view with Stanislaw Lem; "A Nest
of Strange and Wonderful Birds"
by Sam Merwin, Jr.; Robert Bloch's
Guest Of Honor speech; The Hein-
lein Reaction.

THE ALIEN CRITIC #11 Interview
with Avram Davidson; "Founda-
tion On S..." by J. Alder-
son; "..." to Fan History"
by La. ...

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #14 Inter-
view with Philip Jose Farmer;
"Thoughts On Logan's Run" by Will-
iam F. Nolan; "The Gimlet Eye" by
John Gustafson.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #15 Inter-
view with L. Sprague de Camp;
"Spec-Fic and the Perry Rhodan
Ghetto" by Donald C. Thompson;
"Uffish Thots" by Ted White.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #16 Inter-
view with Jerry Pourhelle; "The
True and Terrible History of Sci-
ence Fiction" by Barry Malzberg;
"Noise Level" by John Brunner;
"The Literary Masochist" by Rich-
ard Lupoff.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #17 In-
terview with George R. R. Martin;
Interview with Robert Anton Wilson;
"Philip K. Dick: A Parallax View"
by Terrence M. Green; "Microcos-
mos" by R. Faraday Nelson.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #18 Inter-
view with Lester Del Rey; Inter-
view with Alan Burt Akers; "Noise
Level" by John Brunner; "A Short
One for the Boys in the Back Room"
by Barry Malzberg.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #19 Inter-
view with Philip K. Dick; Inter-
view with Frank Kelly Freas; "The
Notebooks of Mack Sikes" by Larry
Niven; "Angel Fear" by Preff; "The
Vivisector" by Darrell Schweitzer.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #20 Inter-
views with Theodore Sturgeon
and Joe Haldeman; "Noise Level" by
John Brunner; "The Vivisector" by
Darrell Schweitzer; "The Gimlet
Eye" by John Gustafson.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #21 Inter-
views with Leigh Brackett & Ed-
mond Hamilton, and with Tim Kirk;
"The Dream Quarter" by Barry Malz-
berg; "Noise Level" by John Brunner.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #22 Inter-
view with John Varley; "S-F and
S-E-X" by Sam Merwin, Jr.; "After-
thoughts on Logan's Run" by Will-
iam F. Nolan; "An Evolution of Con-
sciousness" by Marion Zimmer Brad-
ley.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #23 Inter-
views with A. E. Van Vogt,
Jack Vance, and Piers Anthony;
"The Silverberg That Was" by Rob-
ert Silverberg.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #24 Inter-
views with Bob Shaw, David G.
Hartwell and Algis Budrys; "On Be-
ing a Bit of a Legend" by Algis
Budrys.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #25 Inter-
views with George Scithers,
Poul Anderson and Ursula K. Le
Guin; "Flying Saucers and the Sty-
mie Factor" by Ray Palmer; ONE
IMMORTAL MAN--Part One.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #26 Inter-
views with Gordon R. Dickson
and Larry Niven; "Noise Level" by
John Brunner; "Fee-dom Road" by
Richard Henry Klump; ONE IMMORTAL
MAN--Part Two.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #27 Inter-
views with Ben Bova and Stephen
Fabian; "Should Writers Be Serfs...
r Slaves?"; SF News; SF film news;
The Ackerman Interview; ONE IM-
MORTAL MAN--Part Three.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #28 Inter-
view with C.J. Cherryh; "Beyond
Genocide" by Damon Knight; ONE IM-
MORTAL MAN--Conclusion; SF News;
SF film news & reviews.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #29 Inter-
views with John Brunner, Michael
Moorcock and Hank Stine; "Noise
Level" by John Brunner; SF News,
SF film reviews.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #30 Inter-
views with Joan D. Vinge, Stephen
R. Donaldson, and Norman Spinrad;
"The Awards Are Coming!" by Orson
Scott Card; S-F News; Movie News.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #31 Inter-
view with Andrew J. Offutt; "Noise
Level" by John Brunner; "On the Edge
of Futuria" by Ray Nelson.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #32 Inter-
view with Andrew J. Offutt, Part 2;
Interview with Orson Scott Card;
"You Got No Friends in This World"
by Orson Scott Card; "The Human
Hotline" by Elton T. Elliott.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #33 Inter-
view with Charles Sheffield; "A
Writer's Natural Enemy--Editors"
"Noise Level."

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