

Satish



"DON'T WORRY.... OFCOURSE YOU'LL BE RESCUED.... AS SOON AS YOU OPEN THAT
REGISTRATION DESK THERE'LL BE 400 TO 1500 PEOPLE HERE IN NO TIME AT ALL"

Scottish — 65

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nibblings

DERYNI RISING by Katherine Kurtz. PAN Paperbacks. 40p. A new name in the Adult Fantasy series. It is an imaginary world romance, a world that has roots in our own Wales and England of the ninth to eleventh centuries. The Deryni are a part-mortal race with more than human powers. Lord Morgan is the protagonist who is half-Doryni. He is brought up with the young King Brion and becomes his friends and guardian. This is badly needed when Clarissa who is a full Deryni challenges the young King. Well told in the grand manner.

DERYNI CHECKMATE by Katherine Kurtz. PAN Paperbacks. 40p. Part 2 off the story of the Derynis tells of the continued trouble that comes to them because of their occult powers. Young King Kelson finds his position threatened because the priests distrust the influence of the Deryni. Fine romantic story with plenty of intrigue to keep the action going.

GOLD THE MAN by Joseph Green. PAN Paperbacks. 30p. An alien 300ft high - is quite a conception; but the author also has the imaginative idea to make his alien suffer from such extensive brain damage that earth science is used to scoop out the brain and instal a computer that can control the body! Right behind the eye is a chamber in which two scientists can live. The idea is to instal them there and send the body back to spy upon the alien society. Very ingenious!

THE BEST OF JOHN W. CAMPBELL Sidgwick & Jackson. £2.25. In a foreword by James Blish Blish there is a tribute to Campbell's influence upon the field of SF; and the information that under the title of Don A. Stuart he wrote 16 stories. From this is chosen THE DOUBLE MINDS which tells of two Earthmen helping to start a revolution on an alien planet. FORGETFULNESS again introduces aliens and their effect upon the humans who meet them. WHO GOES THERE is naturally included, as this is one of the classic tales of 'monsters' taking over humans. OUT OF THE NIGHT and CLOAK OF AESIR are two stories of earth's struggle against the domination of the Sarn. All good straight SF and the kind of stories that shaped the genre.

EARTHLIGHT by Arthur C. Clarke. Sidgwick & Jackson. £1.75. This book was written whilst the author was training for the Air Force; and his thoughts turned from the present war to what war would be like on the moon! There are many battles on the moon vividly described. Little did the author think when he wrote this in 1941, that within thirty years men would be walking on the moon; and over the terrain he describes. An interesting book.

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THE PROBABILITY MAN by Brian N. Ball... A very complicated plot! The author shows a future in which Frames are a way of life. Each Frame has a planet as a stage; the actors are involved in historical and fictitious dramas. The protagonist, Spingarn has been a Plot Director, and now finds himself an Actor in a Plot. From there it gets more complicated and ingenious and the author has an idea that is worth exploring. Sidwick & Jackson. £1.60

A CHOICE OF GODS by Clifford I. Simak. Sidwick & Jackson. Fascinating as THE DISAPPEARANCE was! One day all the people were gone from Earth; all that remained were a small group gathered in one house and a small tribe of American Indians. Also left behind were the robots. The Indians went back to living close to the earth. The others found themselves able to move anywhere in space by a force of will. It was hardest, at first, for the robots with no one to serve till they too found a Project. I give you here only the bare bones of the story; Simak has filled it out with philosophical reflection of a high order; and gives the reader much food for thought. £1.75

THE TRALL OF HYPNO: Perry Rhodan. No 20. ACE books. 95¢. Another adventure for the Perry fans, this time a battle against the Mutan Master who can enslave men's minds and is determined to rule over all. This is the lead novel in what can only be described as a magazine looking like a paperback. Other short stories and articles are added as is a letter column by the readers.

THE WORLDS OF ROBERT A. HEINLEIN. ACE Books. 95¢. A fine collection which is preceded by a lengthy introduction from the author; therefore a must for the collectors. There are five stories the best known being BLOWUPS HAPPEN. They are all pretty military in scope from FREE MEN describing America after an invasion to SOLUTION UNSATISFACTORY where the question of who shall watch over the guardians of peace is posed.

THE MIGHTIEST MACHINE by John W. Campbell. ACE Books. 95¢. Described as SF from the Great Years, it is a story of an experimental spaceship which reaches out so far that it meets up with the alien Tefflans. I found it dry going.

QUEST FOR THE FUTURE by A.E. Van Vogt. ACE Books. 95¢. I don't know which I admire more - the intricate plot structure that weaves backwards and forwards through time and probability worlds - or the characterisation of the protagonist Caxton. I certainly can't call him a hero; but I got as interested in him as in any SF character for quite some time. Peter isn't a nice guy and once he glimpses the fact that immortality could be his - he sets off fairly ruthlessly to get it. Nice or not, the reader becomes involved and that's the best test of a book I know.

FALCONS OF NARABEDLA and THE DARK INTRUDER and OTHER STORIES by Marion Zimmer ACE DOUBLE. 95¢. The novel half concerns Mike who is a radio engineer involved in a weird accident. He finds himself suddenly as Adric Lord of the Crimson Tower in a fantastic future. The short stories are also rich in fantasy; the title story for instance describes a man's adventures in discovering the lost race of Mars.

BEYOND THE GOLDEN STAR by Hannes Bok. Pan/Ballantine Books. 40p. Lin Carter writes a warm appreciation of Bok in his introduction. This is fantasy but the characters are unusual for the genre. Although they pass into a magic land they remain stubbornly human - even when they meet with fantastic fates. Fine imagery that one might expect from this man who was such an excellent painter.

THE SORCERER'S SHIP by Hannes Bok. Pan/Ballantine. 40p. Again an ordinary man finds himself caught up into weirdness. He is picked up by a Viking ship and

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finds himself in a strange world where, although alien, he becomes enmeshed in a maze of strange events and struggles.

THE BOOK OF BRIAN ALDISS. DAW Books. No 29.95¢. A collection of 9 tales. In COMIC INFERNO we see a future in which robots are beginning to influence men. IN THE ARENA gives a stark picture of humans on an alien world who are pushed into arenas to fight for their lives. ALL THE WORLD'S TEARS is a chilling story of a future's design for coping with undesirable genes. There are some others I found less readable, guess, sigh, for want of a better expression I must call them 'new style'.

UNDER THE GREEN STAR by Lin Carter. DAW Books. No 30.95¢. A young man is paralysed, rich, and very lonely..till he discovers the way to free himself from his body and enter a new world where he finds adventure and danger. Told in the true Burroughs tradition.

MIRROR IMAGE by Michael G.Coney. DAW Books. No 31.95¢. An interesting story of a new planet being colonised and all going well till it is discovered that the natives are amorphs and can take the shape of whatever threatens them. As the shape they take is that of something most desirous to the beholder..the colonists find themselves in for a very intriguing time. I enjoyed this one very much, well thought out and original.

THE HALCYON DRIFT by Brian M.Stableford. DAW Books. No 32.95¢. Grainger is a crack space pilot who was a castaway for months and in that time acquired a second - and alien mind. He didn't want it at all, but when he had to enter the Halcyon Drift - a dark nebula- in search of a lost treasure vessel, he found the extra mind very useful. Rather an intriguing story.

TRANSIT TO SCORPIO by Alan Burt Akers. DAW Books No 33.95¢. Swashbuckling adventure for Dray Prescott who is used by the Star Lords to enter the planet Antares and there meet Delia of the Blue Mountains as a part of the adventurous plan for him. Again..in the Burroughs mold.

THE WANDERING VARIABLES by Louis Trimble. DAW Books. 95¢. This one is not quite the routine adventure story it seems at first. Jano is lent to Special Branch and his job is to protect Dr Tandy Venner who has taken off on vacation without knowing she is scheduled for kidnapping because of her knowledge. So starts there trek across an alien planet; but the twist is in their discovery that the natives they meet are somehow 'programmed'. Quite an original ending.

TALES FROM THE GALAXIES Edited by A.Williams)Ellis and M.Pearson. Piccolo Original. Pan Books. 25p. 5 SF stories, one a picture strip. This strip shows two men stranded on a planet who help the natives to evolve quicker, rather superficial. John Wyndham is represented with THE RED STUFF a chilling tale of what could go wrong if something alien is picked up by a spaceship. Amabel Williams-Ellis is represented herself with MISS INMAN AND THE KLOOTS a not very original story of 'kloots' being victimised by brutal men, but it is told sympathetically. The standard picks up with Sheckley's THE ODOUR OF THOUGHT where his postman of the future tries to outwit a planet full of telepathic predators. Lastly EXPLORATION TEAM by Murray Leinster is a neat story of a planet where bears are more useful than robots! Very unusual bears that is!

ISLE OF THE DEAD by Roger Zelazny. Arrow Books. 35p. This is the story of Sandor who, although human, becomes a god of the alien Pei'ans. As this he is known as Shimbo, shrugger of Thunders. Although he knows he has some powers - such as the power to shape a world such as his own Homefree. Still he does not

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really believe that his own personality can merge with that of the god's. Only when he returns to one of the world he has made called Illyria..and particularly to the Isle of the Dead, does he realise that he desperately needs to be able to merge with the god. Facing him is an ancient enemy of Shimbo's, another god called Belion. This is roughly the plot of the book, but it cannot adequately describe the richness that Zelazny produces in which to tell it. He can conjure up an atmosphere like no other; and grab the reader's attention right from the beginning.

BACK TO THE STONE AGE by E.R.Burroughs.Ace Books. 75¢.Original title. '7 Worlds To Conquer.Another adventure of the inner world of Pellucidar where List.Von Horst has been left when his companions escaped to the surface.

THE COSMIC DECOY by K.H.Scheer.Ace Books.75¢.Perry Rhodan No 21.Lead story is of an alien invasion of Earth.Additions are an article by Ray Bradbury, a short story and letters.

ORDEAL IN OTHERWHERE by Andre Norton.Ace Books.75¢. This follows the trials of Caris who to escape from a colonist planet gone mad, contracts herself to a trader. Again she is traded off to act as an agent on a planet that is inimical to men. Keeps you guessing.

THE MOON IS HELL by John W.Campbell.Ace Books.75¢. An early Campbell story of what it might be like on the moon is accompanied by THE ELDER GODS which first appeared in the late lamented magazine UNKNOWN. Both for the collector.

FOUR FOR TOMORROW by Roger Zelazny.Ace Books.95¢. A fine collection by a fine writer. FURIES a modern day version of the Four who pursue makes a good start.

THE GRAVEYARD HEART tells of the 'Set' who awake only from deep-freeze to have another party.THE DOORS OF HIS FACE,THE LAMPS OF HIS MOUTH won a Nebula award and as a highly descriptive piece of writing well deserved it.A ROSE FOR ECCLESIASTES is also a lovely, though sad tale.Highly recommended.

THE MEN AND THE MIRROR by Ross Rocklynne.Ace Books.95¢.5 story collection which mainly feature two characters..one the outlaw and the other the hunter.

OPERATION UNMANAQ by John Rankine.Ace Books.75¢. As an under-cover agent, Chevron is puzzled by the seemingly puposeless death of a girl working on the satellite station where he has been sent. Neatly-moving plot.

ALIEN PLANET by Fletcher Pratt.Ace Books.75¢. A fine story from the 1930's with the tale of an alien visitor to Earth who takes a human back with him.

CODE DUELLO/COMPUTER WAR.by Mack Reynolds.Ace Double.I liked CODE DUELLO best as it was an amusing story of a bunch of agents sent to a planet to find the underground group that was threatening stability. A real mixed bunch whose various talents are headed by Jerry whose talent is for being 'lucky'! The other half, COMPUTER WAR concerns two groups at war, one side has infallible computers, and the other side uses illogic! Again entertaining but not quite so humorous. I like the way Reynolds allows his heroines as much scope as his heros.

SOLARIS by Stanislaw Lem.Arrow Books.35p.When men first discovered the planet Solaris it gradually became apparent' s sole sentient life was its ocean.So men studied it for years. Kelvin joins the investigation team as the story opens.The nature of the ocean is the puzzle of the book; and the trials of Kelvin only reflect a small part of man's attempts to understand the ocean. I can see why this book has given rise to a spate of articles that speculate about it.

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AT THE MOUNTAINS OF MADNESS by H.P. Lovecraft. Panther Horror. 40p. This has a fine introduction by August Derleth. It also contains other powerful stories. The Dreams In the Witch-House, ... THE STATEMENT OF RANDOLPH CARTER, ... THE DREAM-QUEST OF UNKNOWN KADATH, ... THE SILVER KEY, ... THROUGH THE GATES OF THE SILVER KEY... all classics of horror. A real nightmare experience, and it seemed to me the price makes it a real bargain.

ALL THE SOUNDS OF FEAR by Harlan Ellison. Panther SF. 30p. 8 stories which, in his introduction, the author states deal mainly with the subject of alienation of man. The first I HAVE NO MOUTH AND I MUST SCREAM must be one of the most ghastly stories I've ever read! The others can never top this for grimness; but they are certainly in the same mould.

COUNT BRASS by Michael Moorcock. Mayflower Science Fantasy. 30p. The first volume of the Chronicles of Count Brass. The hero is Dorian Hawkmoor, the Duke of Koln; and this tells of his adventures in the Kamarg which is dominated by Castle Brass. Fine fantasy and saga-making.

THE BADGE OF INFAMY/THE SKY IS FALLING both by Lester Del Ray. Ace Double. 95¢. The first is interesting with its theory of what could happen if a Medical Lobby became powerful; and with a protagonist who has been made a pariah by it so that the reader can see just what the effects of this could be. THE SKY IS FALLING is a different kettle of fish - in this a man called David finds himself suddenly where magic is the rule, and himself in some strange way of vast importance. A nicely balanced couple.

1 MILLION TOMORROWS by Bob Shaw. Pan SF. 25p. An intriguing future where immortality is gained easily enough; the snag being that the men then become "cool", no longer virile, and unable to father children. Seen through the eyes of Carewe who is chosen to be a guinea-pig for a new drug which will not have these "cool" side-effects. The fact that he then becomes the subject of murder attacks adds to the mystery. A nicely observed scene.

TOMORROW LIES IN AMBUSH by Bob Shaw. Ace Books. 95¢. 13 stories all the kind that keeps you reading to see what the answer can possibly be! Some are sad and some are gay and some are a neat little puzzle. Recommended.

SCIENCE FICTION: THE GREAT YEARS edited by Carol and Frederick Pohl. Ace Books. \$1.25. Starts with a bang AND THEN THERE WERE NONE by Eric Frank Russell - one of the best I've ever read, both amusing and thought-provoking. A really chilling one that also stays in the memory is Kornbluth's THE LITTLE BLACK BAG. & good long novelettes here and a real bargain.

THE BEST FROM FANTASY AND SF. 19th series. Edited by E.L. Ferman. Ace Books. 95¢. 15 stories - a very mixed selection. I thought LONGTOOTH by Edgar Pangborn the most interesting; and GONE FISHIN' by Robin Scott Wilson the nicest.

BAPHOMET'S METEOR by Pierre Barber. DAW Books. No 35. 95¢. A parallel world story with a difference. In this world the Knights Templar have to help them, not a demon called Baphomet, but an extra-terrestrial whose technological knowledge gains a great advantage in a medieval world.

DARKOVER LANDFALL by Marion Zimmer Bradley. DAW Books. 95¢. To all the readers who have enjoyed the Darkover stories this will be a must.. as it tells of the first landing on the planet of humans. How these humans were changed by the alien planet makes way for the many other stories that are to follow.

A TALENT FOR THE INVISIBLE by Ron Goulart. DAW Books. No 37. 95¢. Jake is an agent of the Wild Talents Division; and his talent is to become invisible. His job is to catch and stop the Sandman who is bringing dead people back to life. His adventure is told in typical whacky Goulart style; with the usual amusing and

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infuriating machines.decorating the background.

THE LION GAME by James H.Schmitz.DAW Books.No 38.95¢.A Telzey Amberdon story so there is plenty of excitement and fast-paced action. Telzey herself, is always a fascinating personality. Her psi powers are what takes her into these adventures, but a quick and nimble brain adds entertainment to her story. I like the gal, and look forward to more of this series.

THE BOOK OF FRANK HERBERT.DAW Books.No 39.95¢ 10 stories by the able author of the award-winning DUNE.This author proves here to be a lot more versatile than I frankly thought he was! I got a few surprises. I particularly liked the future where psi talent is the norm..and it is dying out! Then there is a particularly sad one called ENCOUNTER IN A LONELY PLACE proving that the talent of telepathy need not always be a wonderful thing.

PLANET PROBABILITY by Brian N.Ball.DAW Books.No 40.95¢. The Frames, are the central idea of this book. They are the latest in a long line of experiences that runs from books, films, tv, total experience. Now whole countries of people are moved into new Frames. A new element enters though--an alien Frame-maker. An engrossing concept.

CHANGLING EARTH by Fred Saberhagen.DAW Books.No 41.95¢. Fifty thousand years in Earth's future sees magic working and science dead. Rather a gruesome beginning ushers in a challenge to the rule and tyranny of the present Empire. What I would call high fantasy mingled with sf elements.

A SPACESHIP FOR THE KING by Jerry Pournelle.DAW Books.No 42.95¢. Colonel MacKinnie is approached to undertake a dangerous task. He has to bring back the technological knowledge stored in a library on a planet gone primitive and which treats the library as a Temple. The Colonel has to get these documents regarded as sacred objects without arousing the suspicion of an Imperial Fleet. Without the knowledge, the Colonel's planet will be graded by the Empire as a mere colony, with the knowledge they could be graded Class I and at least achieve as much freedom as would be going! Guile is needed as much as force in such a situation.

COLLISION COURSE by Barrington J.Bayley.DAW Books.No 43.95¢.A Time story with a new twist in that it explores the theory of whether the present moment is coextensive throughout the universe..or not! In one group of characters we see them moving forward; and in another group of characters we see them moving backwards..and both groups are set on a seemingly collision course.Chopping backwards and forwards between the groups is apt to break up interest in the characters; but the overall pattern is a fascinating one.

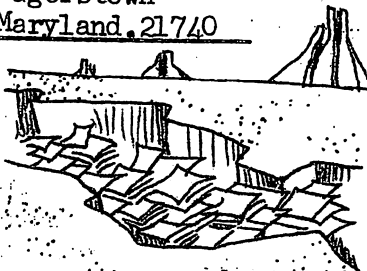
THE BOOK OF PHILIP K.DICK.DAW Books.No 44.95¢.9 stories. The first story, NANNY sets the tone, here is explored the idea of a future where Nanny is a robot and all seems well in a happy household..till Nanny has to do battle with newer models! Tart, sometimes tongue-in-cheek, always provocative, this writer gives as always, very good value for your money.

Looking back over these pages, I don't think anyone could complain of a lack of SF publishing. Admittedly some are reprints, but then there is a large, young readership who should welcome the opportunity to catch up with such lovely stories such as AND THEN THERE WERE NONE. The only thing I would have liked to have seen with that--was the original cover painting of the man on the bicycle and the spaceship in the background!

Ethel Lindsay.

Letters

Harry Warner
423 Summit Ave.
Hagerstown
Maryland, 21740



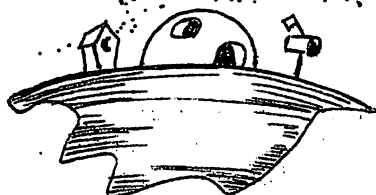
"There is no solution to the fanzine collection problem. I've been thinking about my own collection. You don't know what to expect from libraries over here. A big name collector and researcher told me horrifying tales about the Library of Congress. He found that some rare old pulps it was supposed to own are missing altogether, and other issues had had certain stories removed. A big collection of mundane apocryphal material that had been given to a Philadelphia institution, so it would be easily accessible to amateur journalists in the most populous part of the nation, was recently shipped to another institution in Colorado. A local church

organist had a hobby of collecting hymnals, and presented the Hagerstown public library about twenty years ago with a large collection. They were stuffed into paste-board boxes and left in a corner of the basement, uncatalogued, for years, and I don't know what has happened to them since the library moved into a larger building. I suppose the best way to make certain that a fanzine collection survives is to sell it to mature fans who have families who understand the monetary as well as esthetic value of the publications and won't burn them in case someone dies. But that could be a tedious task, after the most-wanted publications have been sold.... I wish a lot of bigots around here could read Ken Cheslin's article and be convinced by it. Some people will not believe that it's circumstances rather than innate potential that cause so many black people to live the ghetto-type life.... Ella's travelogue ended very well. I wasn't quite as depressed as I'd expected to be by the end of the Apollo series, was fascinated by the fact that all the technicians at the CBS network couldn't be sure what would happen to their cameras when that blast of light hit them during the first night launch even though they could solve all the technical problems involved in transmitting from the moon, and I taped some highlights of the last flight to go with my tapes of the first lunar landing. Incidentally, Ella's amazement at the spacesuits

Letters 2

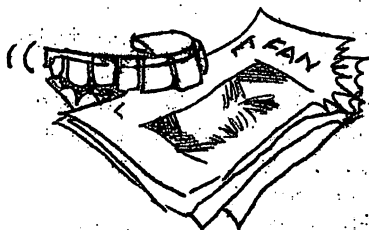
caused me to remember that this is one matter which hasn't been written about very often, as a way reality has improved on science fiction. Most stories of pioneering space flights that I recall put the travelers into spacesuits more clumsy than the ones that **actually** were used, apparently influenced by deep sea divers' garments. I also seem to remember an awful lot of space travelers in the prozines who were in constant danger of ripping holes in their space suits or being hit by meteors the first three minutes outside the spaceship, and weren't there some stories about the helpless men on the moon who fell and couldn't get up again? None of these terrors became real during the Apollo series."

Tommy Cobb
Box 3767
Dallas, Texas
75208



"One thing lacking from the NASA public relations announcements is the mention of what should be the ultimate goal of the space program, the exploitation and colonization of the planets. The only goals that are expressed via the news media are furthering scientific information and increasing technological prowess. Perhaps no mention is made of actually settling on the planets because NASA officials believe the idea is too fantastic for the citizenry to conceive....You might be right in thinking a library would not lose fan material IF the personnel were conscientious. Employees who fall into that category are rare it seems. I've majored in library service and worked in libraries on a clerical level. I was surprised at the number of workers who care little for any kind of reading material. Many of them consider it merely another job. So reading material was not well cared for and could be lost easily. A library would really need to hire sympathetic people to enable rare materials like fan-zines to be kept safely." ***I have been amazed at the number of people who have spoken to me on these lines about libraries. I suppose I have subconsciously expected that people working in libraries must be people who love books.***

Mary Legg
20 Woodstock Close
Oxford, OX2 8DB

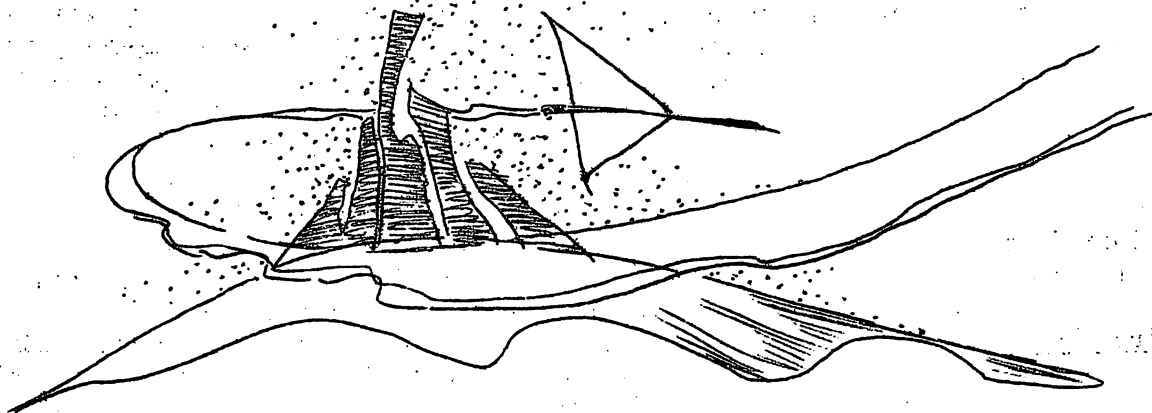


"There was a little less to get the teeth into this time(chomp, chomp) but some tasty titbits here and there.(My subconscious must be hungry!). Dave Rowe's Loc had be boggling somewhat - a British con with 400 attending - it's good news in one way so many are interested enough to come to a con (and hopefully a few more will stay active after it - there can't be 400 really active fen at the moment) but I do hope it will not signal the end of our rather "cosy" British cons. Perhaps I should change "cosy" -no, I won't despite its tea and chintz-curtains image. Heaven fobid we should

get to the stage of cons with 2,000 attending, as rumour hath it some US cons do! It is a good idea to help new fen orientate themselves and ever since I was so helped myself at my first con (for which I can never repay really, since one's first con is all important in forming one's attitudes to fandom) I've done the same as much as I can. Though I sometimes feel - am I intruding? However can't say I've ever had my head snapped off! Roger raises some interesting points in his loc. May I add too there is the fact that one never has to

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Letters 3



Mark Mumper
1227 Laurel St.
Santa Cruz
CA 95060

"SCOT 63 once again put me in a space-travel-alla

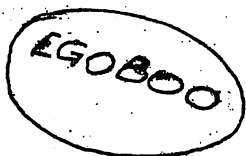
NASA mode of thought, inspired a bit also by the recent "flight" of Apollo 17. It was a big disappointment(not to mention an aggravation)to hear everyone calling it "the last manned adventure in space" or similar ridiculous things. I do think the manned space hiatus(excepting the Skylab series)we're entering may be beneficial in letting us really decide what we want to do in space; I don't think it bodes ill for continued exploration. I feel is a strange position, having been mentioned in the lettercol of No 63 as proposing a "united fannish effort" behind the space program(which I indeed did propose and still support) and at the same time, in my letter, coming out apparently against the US space efforts. This doesn't seem incongruous to me, but I should explain it, I guess. I don't agree with the governments'use of NASA and the moon as porpaganda objects or military-industrial complex energy exponders, which to a certain extent I believe they are. I do believe strongly that mankind should escape this planet at least in spirit if not in a unanimous physical exodus; only by having a universal perspective can we really begin to see our place on this planet, and perhaps start changing our more dangerous attitudes toward the earth. Space exploration versus, say, environmental healing is not an either/or question -- the two should optimally go hand in hand. However it seems to me the minds behind the space program--the political and administrative minds--represent more the technologically destructive corporate forces in America than they do the scientifically and socially visionary forces. NASA's efforts are much too coldly political for true value to come from them; why, Nixon's signature dwarfs those of the astronauts on all the plaques that have been left on the moon, and the names of the men who actually achieved the event, the scientists and , yes, poets, are not even mentioned. This is a shame, if not an outright evil. I will never take patriotic pride in the moon flights, Ethel, but I will take great human pride in the knowledge that, despite nations and politics, man can reach the moon and the stars. It's up to science fiction and its people, if nothing else(and let's hope we're not alone, feeble as we are), to keep our forward scientific and social strides in all fields on a human track rather than masks for what may be their opposite."

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justify one's love of SF, something the 'outer' world's reactions all too frequently forces upon the reader. Theoretically this also means if all else fails as a topic of conversation, the fan has SF to fall back on - rather like the Englishman and his weather. So far as anonymity goes, I remember when Julia Stone and I were still going around in a trance after discovering fandom we were known to exclaim in tones of wonder "But does no-one realise there's a whole fannish world out there no-one knows about?" Sort of a fannish under-world, in a way - part of the 'outer' world, but not really known about by 'ordinary' (i.e. non-fan) people; a premise one can develop quite well if one has an idle moment - it has its own language, for example. What a lot of 'ones' there are in this letter! I'll sign off before I do another one! "

Manfred Kage

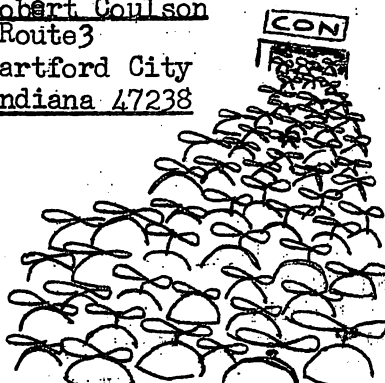
8 Muenchen 45,
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Germany



"Reading your comment on a fanzine I found a hint that HEICON was voted to be the outstanding event of 1970 in the Egoboo Poll. No, Ethel, nobody has told me about it yet. Thank you for doing it. Although I have no idea what stands behind the term "Egoboo Poll" really. Are you able to give me some information about it? I was glad to read it. Being a member of the "elder-fan-generation" I don't fear to confess that part of my motivation for taking an active part in fandom is the wish to gain egoboo. I have mentioned the 'elder-fan-generation' because

it seems to be the trend of our younger fans to show a strong 'public' aversion to egoboo. At least in German fandom have I recognised this trend and all those foolish shows of the 'ancient' fans as often as possible hoping that a lot of 'progressive' cofans will agree with it and praise the writer for it. Well, times in fact never change really - it is a matter of calling it with different names only." ***The Egoboo Poll chooses the best this, that, and the other and is strongly fannish in that it is more interested in choosing the best fanzine than the best prozine. It was first started by Ron Ellik and Terry Carr when they ran a newszine. The latest one came out through the energy of Arnie Katz what a pity no-one thought to send you a copy..and goodness knows where my copy is now! Perhaps some reader can pass a copy on to you?****

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"400 whole people (not to mention partial people) expected for the Ompacon in 1973? You poor fans, overwhelmed by vast numbers of convention attendees The last Midwestcon had between 300 and 400 people, and the Worldcon had 1950 attendees. "Star Trek" cons are going as high as 8,000 people, but I don't attend those. Liked your reply to Rowe, I have yet to see anything in fandom that wasn't "loosely" organised no matter what the intentions of the organisers were. To add to the circulation figures; YANDRO 219 had a print run of 314, and an immediate circulation of 307. 249 within the US; 58 foreign. On to HAVER. Suddenly British fan editors

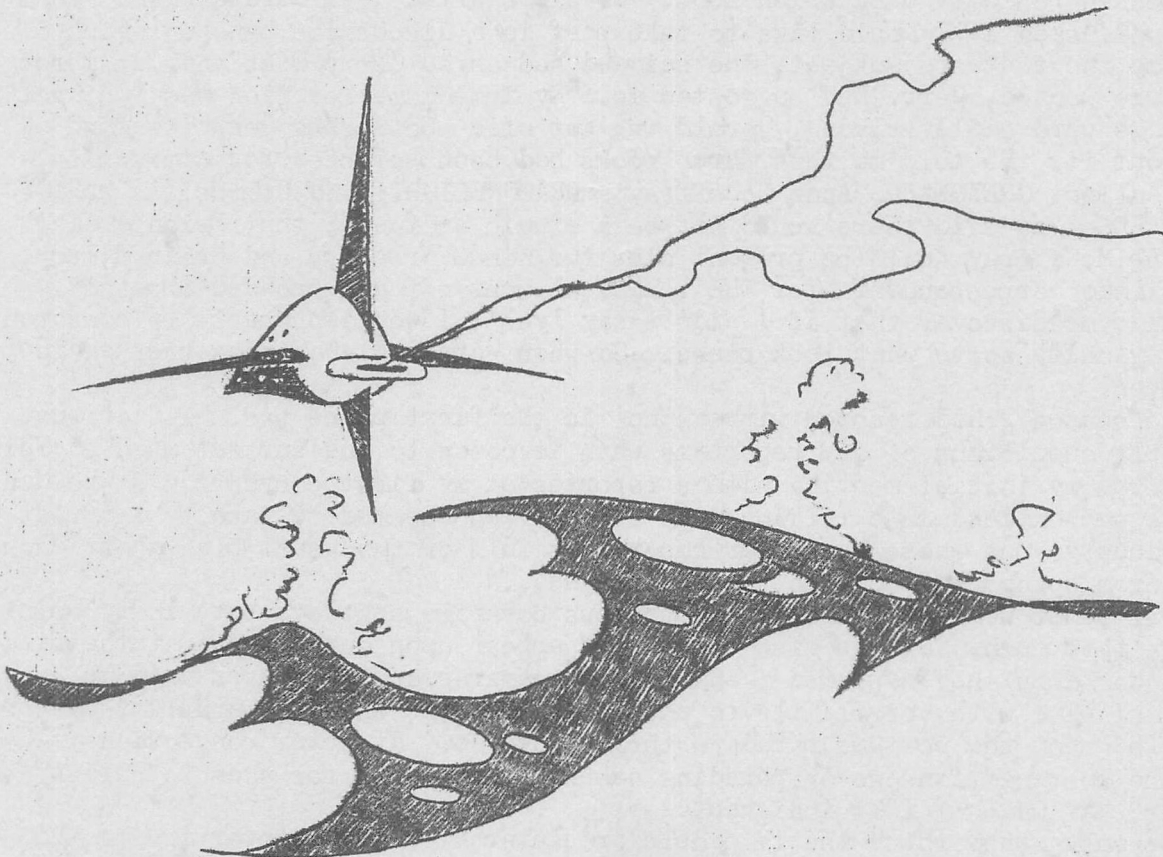
are sending me copies (do they always do what you tell them?) but I'm sure much of that will stop once they read "the truth about their zines" (and discover that YANDRO is largely frivolous matter not at all connected with the serious business

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of fandom). Guy called me up on the phone the other night and offered to punch me in the mouth; people get upset at my honest opinions. I had problems because I couldn't immediately recall who the hell he was; I offend so many people that I can't remember them all. By the time I had remembered and begun to get mad myself, he'd calmed down and rung off. Frustrating.****Frankly, there are plenty folks in fandom who can write hurtful fanzine reviews, but yours have the merit of being concise, and highly entertaining as well. On the whole though, fanzine reviewing takes up more time than most fan editors are prepared to give. Most fanzine columns tend to be very patchy in their coverage.***

We also heard from and wish to thank...Gray Boak, Mike and Susan Glickson, and Sid Birchby. That was a nice letter Sid, but I'd rather have an article!

Ethel.



Nattering

This month I had an interesting experience by appearing on a TV discussion show. It all started when Gerald Bishop rang me up and asked if I would like to take part in a discussion panel on which SF would be the featured subject. He said he had asked Gerry Webb and, as three fans were wanted, Gerry had suggested me. My immediate reaction was "Oh, no!". Whilst we were still talking, Gerald was cut off. So I rang Gerry to find out all about it. He told me that three books had been selected for discussion - Brian Aldiss' GREYBEARD; Anne McCaffrey's DRAGONFLIGHT; and H.G.Well's WAR OF THE WORLDS. He said there would not be a studio audience; that Brian Aldiss and Anne McCaffrey would be present plus two non-SF readers and Brian Silcock, the Science correspondent for THE TIMES. I went off and brooded about it. That made me discover that if I didn't say 'yes'; I would probably be consumed with curiosity as to what took place. So when Gerald Bishop rang back again I said 'yes'!

The reason I had reacted with a 'no' in the first place was the fact that I am deeply suspicious of any reporters when it comes to the subject of SF. This stems from my initial meeting with a reporter at my first convention - the Mancon. There I was enticed into talking to a reporter who seemed to take my interest in SF seriously; but whose newspaper report was full of the usual blah about "monsters from space" and "off to the moon ha ha..."

I'll admit we get a little more serious coverage nowadays but, in my opinion not all that much. I have also watched TV appear upon our scene. At the first London Worldcon they appeared; and the BBC cameras and reporters used up a vast amount of time with very little to show for it in the end. Naturally they concentrated upon the costume parade - they always do. At later conventions I have seen the costumed fans go on parading around in a circle for ages to satisfy the cameras. At which I felt indignant.

The only other thing the TV people are interested in is interviewing the authors; but it seems to me they can do this at any time - why take them away from the convention to do so? Publicity being a matter of bread and butter to the authors they are hardly in a position to ~~spurn~~ TV time. Also I have detected, to my satisfaction at least, an arrogance among TV people that seems to say

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anyone will fall over themselves just to appear on TV. I would not be at all surprised to find some of them think the public should pay TV just to appear upon it!

In that frame of mind I went off to the initial meeting with a representative from London Weekend Television at a hotel in London. We were asked to meet in the evening to have coffee together. The person who met us was a Miss Lucy Harrington who said she was a researcher for the programme series to be called COVER TO COVER. She said this was part of the educational section of LWT and so they had a limited budget and could only offer expenses. "Ha!" I sniffed to myself...

We were told that we would be supplied with copies of the three books. I was glad about that. I had DRAGONFLIGHT and somewhere, but goodness knows where, a copy of WAR OF THE WORLDS. However I did not have a copy of GREYBEARD and I had no desire to meet Brian on a program and not having read his book! Whilst talking about the program we inevitably got onto the subject of SF fandom and Miss Lucy - like everyone else who hears about it for the first time - was quite fascinated. Gerry has more of a crusading zeal than I and waxed enthusiastic about the history of SF.

We were told that they wanted us to choose a passage from our favourite SF book and to read it out as an illustration of what we liked about SF. Finally we were told, with a disarming smile, that really they only wanted two of us, not three. I guess I was only mildly indignant about this because it reaffirmed my ideas about the arrogance bit. Nothing like having your suspicions confirmed for making you purr - it makes you feel so clever.

The program was to take place on a Tuesday from 10am till 1.30pm. Gerry could get the day off, I could get the time off, but Gerald was dubious about getting away from his work. Because of this I was not surprised to find that the chosen two were Gerry and myself. No use blinking the obvious, Gerry and I could talk the hind leg off a donkey, with Gerry (I say it modestly) having a slight edge on me.

On the day my main concern was the trains as we were having strikes and go-slows. I had to be back at Courage House for a Garden Party Committee Meeting at 3pm. TV or no TV, the Garden Party Must Go On.

LWT has just moved into a new building on the south bank of the Thames near Waterloo Bridge - and every window has a magnificent view. It didn't look as if any part of it could be at all hard up for money. I got there first, I always do, and eventually found my way to the reception area. From there I was given a key to a handsomely furnished dressing-room which I was to share with the two non-fans. They arrived shortly, the younger woman was a university student who didn't seem to like SF at all. The older woman had enjoyed reading the books and found GREYBEARD a very timely warning story. I discovered that her firm had been approached for volunteers to take part in COVER TO COVER and about 30 had put their name down. They had visualised all going together, but in fact one was chosen each week. As a few others had been before her, she knew pretty well what to expect. The young girl was rather tiresome about the fact that no drinks were being offered other than coffee. Frankly at 10 in the morning, anything else would have made me shudder.

We went down to the coffee area and found Gerry and Gerald both. Then Brian Aldiss and Anne McCaffrey appeared. Both enthusiastically greeted Gerry and smiled vaguely at me. I discovered they did not recognise me wearing my

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new bifocals. Sweet anonymity..I wore them through all the programme. Well, I should wear them more than I do. Ah yes, and then there was the other Brian from THE TIMES, I thought he looked rather uneasy about it all.

Just as I was noting that time seemed to mean very little around there, we were taken off to the studio. It was as large and bleak as a warehouse with a small circle of settees in the middle flanked by two screens. On these were two backgrounds, one a vaguely SF scene, and the other..naturally..a monster. Cameras were all around in a circle as were a few TV monitors and when one looked up into the high roof there was a positive jumble of machinery.

We were introduced to the moderator/compere of the show, Pauline; and we got started on a rehearsal discussion. On reflection I think the rehearsal was better than the actual programme but I may be wrong. The latest revelation had just come out; this was to be a 20 min. programme. The thought of trying to cover these three books, or the subject of SF(it got fairly vague as to which we were doing)was filling me with hidden(I hope)glee.

After the rehearsal we all trooped off for more coffee and were then paid our expenses. Next we were taken to the make-up room. It seemed to me that very little make-up was put on, a light stroking with a Brush and my lipstick was wiped off and a paler shade substituted.

The actual recording time just whizzed by and I sure will be interested to hear what I said. All I can remember now is one remark "after all if one man can make a difference so might one book"; and I'm pretty sure that was when I spoke at the same time as Gerry..and kept on talking!

They dropped the idea of our reading from our favourite book after the rehearsal. I don't know how they had ever expected to pack all that into a 20 minute programme anyway. I had spent quite a bit of time mulling over my books in trying to find a passage to read out. I kept coming back to EARTH ABIDES and had finally chosen the last half page. Gerry had a speech in which he said that this choosing was impossible as SF was not that type of genre. He had proposed to read an extract about science which gave him a sense of wonder. They really ought to have Gerry back on his own to tell something about SF - particularly its history.

After the programme was finished we waited around ~~four~~ awhile whilst Pauline had to say "See you next week" in a hopeful tone about two dozen times before she got the OK. What I had seen on the TV monitor was everyone else except myself which means I have a treat to come. It will be shown in the summer on a Sunday about lunchtime which is just about where you would expect an educational item to appear.

I was pleased with the opening shot from WAR OF THE WORLDS -an impressive-looking sequence that perhaps will make up for the fact that the book was hardly mentioned. One thing I discovered on re-reading this book was how much the film had filled my mind obscuring the book completely, so that some of the details I had forgotten. I think the programme closes with a passage from 2001. The credits then roll up for the two Brians and Anne, the rest of us remain mercifully anonymous..

The others were bent on the restaurant where, no doubt, they might see some of the cast from ON THE BUSES which was being shot at the other studio. I hightailed it for the station with worry about trains on my mind. I got back in time to bolt down some lunch before appearing among the ladies of the committee. First though, one of the sisters informed me that the makeup

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looked very nice; and I realised I had an orange streak down both cheekbones.

Once I had wiped that off, I was in fine fettle to discuss the burning question of what kind of trestle tables should be hired for the Fete this year.

Just call me Dr Jekyll.

Ethel Lindsay.



