

BRINGING THEM OUT OF THEIR SHELLS.....by Bob Shaw
NIBBLINGS.....SF REVIEWS.....by Ethel Lindsay
LETTERS.....by The Readers
HAVERINGS.....FANZINE COMMENTS.....by Ethel Lindsay
NATTERINGS.....idle thoughts from an idle editor.....

All artwork by ATOM

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bringing them
out of their
Shells

Bob Shaw

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

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

Not

only was he with us again -- he has actually succeeded in solving a problem which has often perplexed active fan groups and which lately has become chronic. Most groups like to have a regular publication and it has usually been difficult to select a suitable and reliable editor from the ranks of new, enthusiastic but untried Fen. Recently, with the way printing costs have been going, such decisions have become even more crucial -- and this is where Filbert stepped in. Noting the value of management selection agencies to mundane industry, he decided to set up a comparable organisation in fandom with the aim of giving fan groups confidential and accurate assessments of the potentials of neofen.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

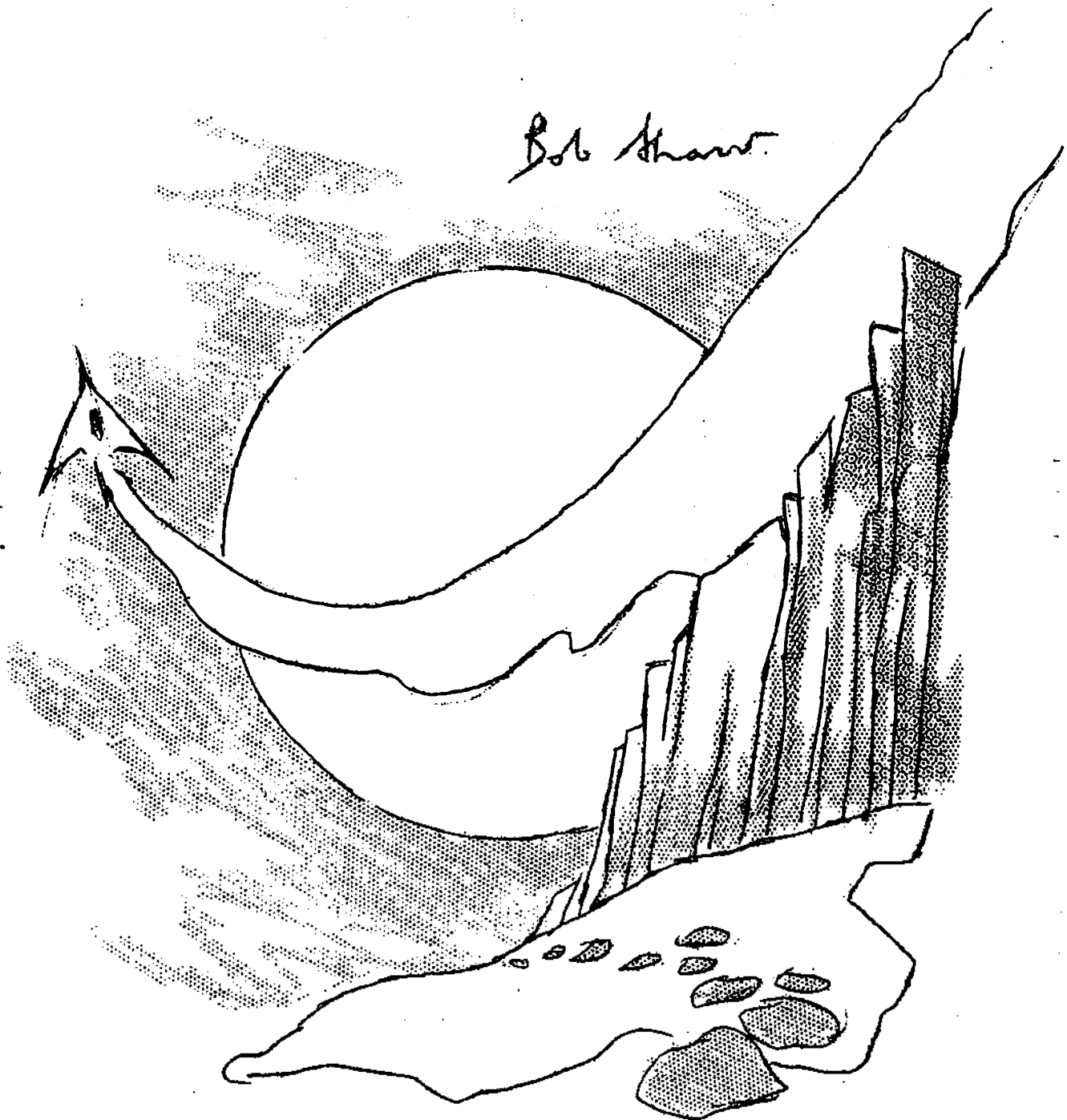
"Security is one of my big problems," Filbert told me. "The intake of new fans in the entire north of England was halted for three weeks once because a batch of our most experienced

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oysters were eaten. It was a revenge job done by a new fan because his Oyster Rating disqualified him from ~~running~~ the BSFA chain library."

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

Bob Shaw



SF reviews

THE GODWHALE by T.J.Bass. Eyre Methuen. £3.70. This author is as teeming of ideas as the sea is not teeming with life in this future he postulates. In fact the abundance of ideas gives the book a chaotic atmosphere. The opening chapters are full of futuristic jargon which fortunately lets up a little as the story moves on. The Godwhale of the title is a cyborg, part whale part ship—a Harvester of plankton when the seas are empty of life. However the main thread follows Larry who awakes after freezing to find this state of affairs in the sea and a very horrendous state on land. There is a driving quality about the book that keeps the reader going. I imagine the author has a medical background!

HARD TO BE A GOD by Arkadi & Boris Strugatski. Eyre Methuen. £3.35. Translated from the Russian by Wendayne Akerman. Anton is sent to infiltrate an alien planet and help to humanise its barbaric society. The descriptions of the brutal feudalism are good and the feelings of Anton having to live in such conditions are well realised. However, I could not see much attempt to humanise being made, other than the spening of gold. It is interesting to see this Russian book but I should have expected it to linger less on the brutal society and more on the possibilities of social change.

NEW WRITINGS IN SF. Edited by Kenneth Bulmer. Sidgwick & Jackson. £3.25. 9 stories. New names crop up here alright, staying faithful to the original conception. Michael Stall with RICE BRANDY ~~has a story~~ and an intriguing story of how by changing one man one can change a world. There are still some of our old favourites here though. Sydney Bounds with TALENT SPOTTER shows he ~~can~~ will find a new twist to an old theme.

10,000 LIGHT-YEARS FROM HOME by James Tiptree Jr. Eyre Methuen. £4.60. This has 15 stories. Very gruesome start with the idea that humans will react to aliens in slavish fashion. The most poignant is THE MAN WHO WALKED HOME. The most humorous concerns Cymmerling 'a nice Terran boy' who lands on a barbaric planet and, whilst all the time protesting no desire to interfere, manages to change the whole culture. Very amusing with a sharp ending. On the whole, though, the stories are rather harsh.

THE PORTALS by Edward Andrew Mann. Sidgwick & Jackson. £3.25. This one kept me going for a while—tracking the mystery of the deaths in closed rooms of scientists who try to decipher an ancient book. Not really a psychic story although at first I thought it was heading that way. Ending rather rushed, I thought, particularly as up till then the telling had been very leisurely.

CEMETERY WORLD by Clifford Simak. Sidgwick & Jackson. £3.25. I liked this one, telling of a future where Earth is used as a cemetery by scattered mankind. When Fletcher arrives he is accompanied by a robot and his intention is to explore Earth beyond the cemetery part..which grows larger every year. He naturally meets a weird assortment of the kind of characters in which Simak revels. Highly entertaining.

HIRO'S JOURNEY by Sterling E. Lanier. Sidgwick & Jackson. £3.50. This one should delight all Tolkien lovers for it is very much in the same mould. A journey and a quest to overcome the forces of evil. Per Hiero is, however, a priest and telepath in an America full of mutants both animal and human. His journey on a giant steer in the company of an intelligent bear is full of adventures, some horrors and also romance. I think this will appeal to both the fantasy and SF lovers for it has strong elements of both. The background is as interesting as the many characters that swarm across it.

DAW PAPERBACKS

THE R-MASTER By Gordon R. Dickson. No 137. \$1.25 This explores what would happen if there was a drug one could take which would increase mind-power. And how people would react if in taking this drug there was the chance that one would either be a super-genius or a vegetable. More than just a good adventure story, seriously explores whether this would be a good thing for society or not.

AS THE GREEN STAR RISES by Lin Carter. \$1.25. 4th novel in the Green Star saga. Swashbuckling fantasy in the grand manner, where the narrator - a cripple on earth - now inhabits the body of another adventurer who lives beneath the Green Star.

THE BIG BEAK MARK by A. Bertram Chandler. No 139. \$1.25 Oddly enough this is the first Grimes novel I have encountered. I can see the fascination it must have for readers, the detail's of ship's life, following the career of Grimes, and becoming interested in his character. This plot features a mutiny, and makes me wish I'd started at the beginning of the series.

THE NOT-WORLD by Thomas Burnett Swan. \$1.25. Placed in the 18th century and in the Bristol area--or at least in the forest outside it. A nice blend of fantasy and folk-lore with some echoes of Cabell.

THE GHOSTS OF EPIDORIS by Gregory Kern. Cap Kennedy No 14. 95¢. Cap is sent to a planet whose people believe in ghosts, Kennedy has to investigate the weird disappearance of a whole building. More mystery than action this time.

HUNTERS OF GOR by John Norman. No 96. \$1.50. 8th book about Tarl Cabot, with more adventures in the slave culture of Gor. Very repetitious.

MARAUDERS OF GOR by John Norman. 9th book in the saga..more of the same. I really cannot evaluate these books..they are very much masculine fantasies.

2011 AD OR THE KIND KONG BLUES by Sam Lundwell. \$1.25. Lots of SF authors these days paint a very gloomy future, and this one has a dire future. It is told with humour though, and the point that the whole world is owned by a giant conglomerate that can only be traced to a secret bank account, is richly worked out. If anything, this book is rather overloaded with material!

ELOISE by E.C. Tubb. Dumarest of Terra 12. Dumarest continues his search for Earth, but has more details on the workings of the Cyber which I found fascinating. Very clever the way the series is opening out.

THE JAWS THAT BITE THE CLAWS THAT CATCH by Michael Coney. \$1.25. Sagar tells his story of a time when people choose bondage instead of jail--and their bondage includes body insurance. If their master loses a part of their body

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then they must supply the missing part. Sagar has never questioned this until he fell in love with a bondsmaiden. A rather weird and unusual future described with conviction. I should have enjoyed it much more had the hero been a little less wet. I suspect Coney prefers anti-heroes, but there is no need to over-do it! Most fascinating character in this is the ageing TV star who owns the bondsmaiden.

FLIERS OF ANTARES by Alan Burt Akers. Dray is once again sent off by the Star Lords to find out the means by which aircraft of the continent of Havilfar are operated. Adventure style of writing.

FLOW MY TEARS THE POLICEMAN SAID by Philip K. Dick. \$1.50 Like all Dick novels this grips the attention. Jason, who is a famous star, wakes up one morning to find himself completely unknown. Not a new idea, but treated so that you become absorbed in Jason's predicament. Background is skillfully woven in many ways a pretty horrific future. goodness aren't there any cheerful SF authors left?

MULTIFACE by Mark Adlard. Sidgwick & Jackson. £3.50. 3rd novel in this author's vision of 22nd century England. Everyone can have their basic needs without work. The bulk of the people are crammed into walled cities and they are ruled by a genetically improved executive class. There are nightmare scenes of the cities though it is never explained why so many have to be travelling the corridors at once. We focus on an experiment to re-introduce work and watch the result of this on the lives of a few people. The work ethic under scrutiny!

SOLUTION THREE by Naomi Mitchison. Dennis Dobson. £2.95. The authoress mentions that she writes SF from the point of view of the biologist. Solution 3 is to remove aggression from the human race by replacing heterosexual relationships with homosexual, and Clones of such a relationship are to take over. The Professorials are the misfits who cling to the old ways. The question posed is can this new society be as perfect as it seems? Although the outcome is left clear enough there are a lot of details left vague, particularly how it all started! Fascinating and exasperating in equal measure.

OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN by Clifford D. Simak. £3.25. All over the world 'holes' appear and people from the future pour forth in their thousands. They bring problems of course, how to provide for them all for a start. The bigger problem is from what are they fleeing? Rather pedestrian in the telling with the suspense kept to a minimum.

THE SECRET GALACTICS by A.E. Van Vogt. £3.25. The author's disconnected style of writing seems even more apparent here, and the tangial approach to the story line began to irritate me. The idea of secret aliens who become married to human women has strong possibilities though. You'll enjoy it if the style does not out you off.

MORE DAW BOOKS

No 147 BESERKER PLANET by Fred Saberhagen. The story of a hunting-party on a backward planet who land in lots of trouble. Eventually they find out that one of the computer-robots called Baserkers has been hidden on the planet. The characterisation is good and it has adventure without flummery. \$1.25

UY1169 Transit to Scorpio by Alan Burt Akers. Very much in the Burroughs mould where one man, Prescott, is used by the Star Lords to intervene in a conflict on the planet Mregan. Use of a device like the Star Lords is what I call flummery. Swashbuckling romance.

CAP KENNEDY No 15 MIMICS OF DEPHENE by Gregory Kern. Ever on to new fields, this time Kennedy meets a life-form that can literally mimic anyone, and so poses the usual deadly threat to mankind.

No 148 The 1975 Annual World's Best SF edited by D.A. Wollheim. \$1.50. 10 stories. The editor points out that 'future shock' has never affected SF writers. He

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says they are now busy speculating about alien ways and wonders if they may have some answers. Starts well with A SONG FOR LYA by Geo.R.Martin by showing a race whose 'God' Man can join if he pays a terrible price. Bob Shaw lightens the atmosphere with his rich man's 'club' which traffics with aliens. Brian Stapleford uses irony well showing man in space looking for he knows not what. These are typical of a good selection.

No 149 SWAN SONG by Brian Stapleford. \$1.25. A Star-pilot Grainger story, six in the series. Looks as if it may be the last as Grainger loses his mind-parasite at the same time as he solves a nebular mystery. A lot of the technical matter goes over my head and there was more than usual this time.

No 150 THE ENCHANTRESS OF WORLD'S END by Lin Carter. \$1.25. 2nd in the Gondwane epic. All the trappings of fantasy here.. magic, sentient flying vehicles, a sentient city even! We follow a band of adventurers and I am happy to say there is some humour to lighten the fantasy.

No 151. THE TRANSITION OF TITUS CROW by Brian Lumley. \$1.50. Billed as being in the Lovecraft tradition, it seems to me to have a firmer SF background. Told in the grand style and with conviction-the story of a man who discovers that good and evil do war in the universe.

No 152 MERLIN'S MIRROR by Andre Norton. \$1.25. Very clever retelling of the story of Merlin and Arthur with an explanation of it all that will entrance any SF reader.

No 153 THE BOOK OF FOUL ANDERSON. \$1.50. Good to have the chance to read the double award-winning THE QUEEN OF AIR AND DARKNESS, this is enhanced by a critique from Patrick McGuire. This not only enriches the story but it is a scholarly discussion of the uses of archetypes. Excellent examples of the author's thoughtful view of humanity. In EPILOGUE he can engage sympathy for man and opposing machine both.

No 154 THE BIRTHGRAVE by Tanith Lee. \$1.50. The device of a person awakening and not knowing who they are has never been put to better use! This time it is a woman and the story is told in the first person. 408pp! She moves through a rich detailed background. From her first emergence where she is taken to be a Goddess to her final encounter with a computer one becomes very involved with her. She becomes goddess, warrior, nomad priestess and slave. She dies and is reborn, has power and loses it. Sometimes I became very exasperated with her! How this book will appear to the mainly male readership will be interesting. You could look on it as a handy antidote to the GOR novels!

UY1164 WE CAN BUILD YOU by Philip K. Dick. \$1.25. Told by Rosen whose firm builds simulacra of famous people like Lincoln. I got stuck with this book, it seemed to me the characters spoke and acted without any logic, and what the author was driving at I'm sure I don't know.

UY1174 DINOSAUR BEACH by Keith Laumer. \$1.25. Neat time travel story. Complex plot which twists and turns to a satisfactory conclusion.

No 155 THE YEAR'S BEST HORROR STORIES. Edited by Richard Davis. \$1.25. 13 stories. They really are horrors too.-about the only one that didn't make me feel squeamish was S.F. by T.E.D. Klein. No gothics here either, they are mostly thoroughly contemporary horrors, such as the Ellison story that starts by a woman being cut to death whilst apartment-dwellers watch and do not help. If you like grue there is lots of it here!

No 156 THE ENCHANTED PLANET by Pierre Barbet. \$1.25. A new planet appears in the Galaxy and Captain Setni is sent to explore it and finds it identical with a fantasy epic. Knights and dragons and demons abound and the dialogue matches.

No 159: THE TWILIGHT OF BRIAREUS by Richard Cowper. \$1.50. Unusual and gripping. A super-nova affects Earth and the changes in weather seem to be bad enough. It

takes time to explain. The story is told in a way that is both interesting and informative. The author's style is clear and concise. The book is well written and easy to read. The story is a good one and the characters are well drawn. The book is a good read and I recommend it to all who are interested in science fiction.

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takes time to realise that everyone has become sterile and that the end of humanity is in sight. The plot is well worked out, but it is also very well written and the central character is likeable and believable. As the protagonist gropes his way to the truth of what is happening, and the realisation that he is going to have to make a choice on behalf of humanity, the reader becomes involved and apprehensive. A real tribute to the writing ability of this author. And I know I'll want to re-read this one.

NEW WRITINGS IN SF. Edited by Kenneth Bulmer. Sidgwick & Jackson. £3.50. Chris Priest's story of TV in the future, sounds too plausible to be comfortable! The use of future technology is also highlighted in MURDERS by Ramsey Campbell but he takes the theme of a telepath on future TV towards a grimmer ending. On the whole a good batch except Brian Aldiss of course, if he doesn't want to tell his story - why does he bother with these snippets? The editor calls them "fevered landscapes drenched with meanings". Well, of course, if you put your mind to it, you can find meaning in everything, but I can never feel that these little splashes of prose are worth the trouble.

TWO EYES by Stuart Gordon. Sidgwick & Jackson. A successor to ONE-EYE. I found this one rather hard to get through, of course it is fantasy. One of my troubles is with the names..to distinguish between Guinneale, Clarai, Chimalus Tochee, Tschea, Tscherner etc makes very hard work! And there are dozens more for this is a book with plenty of characters and plenty of movement between them. I enjoyed most of the descriptive passages -and at least this fantasy is not wholly bound up in a travelling slog. Instead we have to visualise a land where there are mutants and people with strange customs and trouble which will last till the Zuni Bird sings. But don't ask me what the Zuni Bird is.

NINE HUNDRED GRANDMOTHERS by R.A. Lafferty. Dennis Dobson. 21 stories told in inimical Lafferty style. These should not be read in one sitting, I tried to do this and stopped. The ideas are so outrageous that one becomes surfeited. One must marvel at the ingenuity..a speeded-up world where a man could earn and lose a dozen fortunes a night! The title story is of a race who never die and whose ancestors grow smaller and smaller till they are kept on basement shelves! £3.50

THE TIME BENDER by Keith Laumer. Dennis Dobson. On the surface a fantasy; but there is a background of SF. O'Leary finds himself in Artesia and the start of a swash-buckling adventure among princesses and dragons and himself as a wizard. Told lightly and humourously. £2.75

UNIVERSE 1 Edited by Terry Carr, Dennis Dobson. 12 stories most of which I did not like very much such as the future where everyone burned themselves to death. I am tired of SF that can only see worse getting worse. Most valuable from Joanna Russ's POOR MAN BEGGAR MAN where she tries to show what a ghost would feel like. Cleverest comes from Wilson Tucker's TIME EXPOSURE where we watch a policeman photograph the past to find a murderer.

THE WRONG END OF TIME by John Brunner. A future America is like a fortress against the world when a Russian spy enters the country. Apart from the tension of his cover story we also follow the weird actions of the American Danty who has the answer to the Russian's quest-without knowing it. Sombre background of course. I think its high time some SF authors found a future one might care to live in! John Brunner always makes his sound so probable. This from Eyre Methuen at £3.25

THE BEST OF CLIFFORD D. SIMAK. Sidgwick & Jackson. £3.95. 10 stories. Most interesting tells of an alien cure for all disease, that has a chilling side-effect. A good autobiography by Simak has him happily agreeing that he is a "pastoral writer"; and in dealing with landscapes he certainly fills this description. There is often sadness in his stories that goes along with a gentleness of approval to alien life.

THE MAN WITH A THOUSAND NAMES by A.E. Van Vogt. Sidgwick & Jackson. £3.25 The protagonist is Steven, spoiled son of the richest man in the world. He is an outsize stinker-yet the author gets the reader firmly involved with him. He travels to the planet Miltend and becomes enmeshed in a dizzying exchange of bodies. A complex plot sizzling along, but the abiding interest is in the character of Steven, following his thought processes is fascinating.

ALIEN SEA by John Rackham, Dennis Dobson. £2.75. The action takes place on a planet entirely covered with water, land having been submerged by war. Dillard is a man who supplies the 'feeling' for sensor tapes. In search of material he boards an alien ship and so is launched into adventure. I found it rather dry with too many little technical lectures and the lead characters never came alive for me.

THE BEST OF FRANK HERBERT. Sidgwick & Jackson. £4.40. His story MARY CELESTE MOVE predicts a day when car travel will be so hard on the driver that there will be scores of cases of "panics" There are two extracts from novels, one from DUNE and one from THE HEAVEN MAKERS. 13 stories that range from 1952-1970 with an excellent biography.

...a few pbs to finish up...

THE WAR OF THE WORLDS by H.G. Wells. Pan 50p It looks as if Pan has started a uniform edition of the works of Wells for this is followed up by THE ISLAND OF DOCTOR MOREAU. Both have attractive covers. Needless to say any SF fan should have read these books from which so much else has stemmed. However if you do not have them this would be a good way to start a Wells collection.

THE RAKEHELLS OF HEAVEN by John Boyd. Pan SF 60p Original in conception. A mis-matched space team of O'Hara, the stereotype Irishman and Adams the evangelist land in a culture wide-open to their manipulation. Not in the least believable but enjoyable for its gusto.

That is all the books this time round but I do have two advance publications to note. One is from the firm Thames & Hudson and announces THE SCIENCE FICTION BOOK, An Illustrated History by Franz Rottensteiner. £4.95 with a pb edition at £2.50. The other is a book-list from Gollancz It lists 160 SF titles so pardon me if I don't quote them all!

Ethel Lindsay

Letters

Robert Coulson: "Harry Warner saying " No fan would take the time to read a track on what life will be like in Heaven."....in the first place, I rather imagine a lot of fans have read such tracts - I have - and in the second place such tracts are generally pretty dull, as opposed to Riverworld which is improbable but interesting. But hardly original; Mark Twain wrote "Captain Stormalong's Visit to Heaven"? Robert Ntahan wrote There is Another Heaven, Charles Erskine Scott Wood wrote Heavenly Discourse (in which the characters are the resurrections of real people). These are fantasy, rather than science fiction -but as far as I can see, so is Riverworld. There have probably been dozens of books and hundreds of short stories - and quite a few movies- about life in Heaven, and fans soon seem to be acquainted with a good many of them"

Geoffrey Rippington: "First thanks for SCOT and secondly please forgive what I am about to write; dedicated to Gerry Webb...."

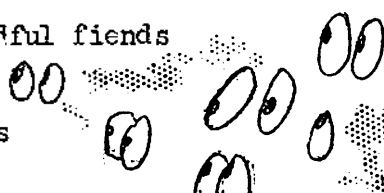
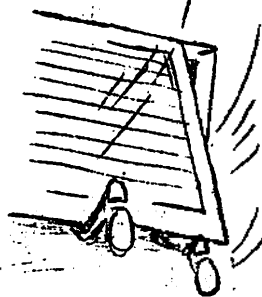
The Battle of the One Tun

I wept to hear such suffering
The old hands dying
Up turned empty beer bottles
Playing the dreadful dirge

One gave a long mournful sob
As the cobwebs were torn
From his face revealing below a
dark abyss stretching out,
floating everywhere

The movement, an eyelid, a finger
at last, at long last they moved
A cry went up, the beer turned
white, the tables, floor, walls shook
silence surrounded the room
Battle began

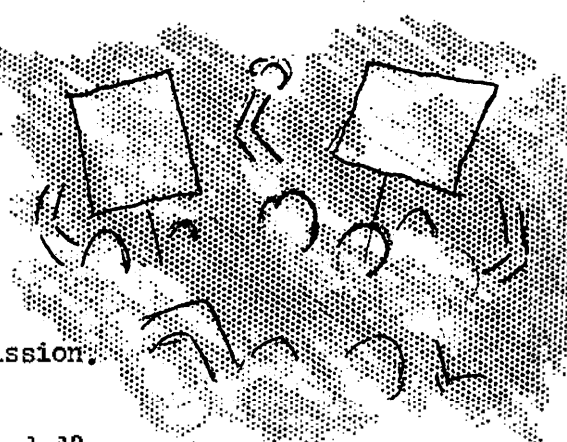
"Begone, Begone now thou Dreadful fiends
from the sofum
Go-Go Back to your homes
Go Back to your Glossy covers
Go Back to Sofum



Letters 2 and poem (sic) continued.

The stillness vibrated through
The One Tun as the ancient sat down

Thomas one sofum rose,
Their cries smashing the stillness
They rushed up to the circle
crying their dreadful chant
"Gosh-Wow, Boy oh Boy"
Suffocating the Ancients into submission.



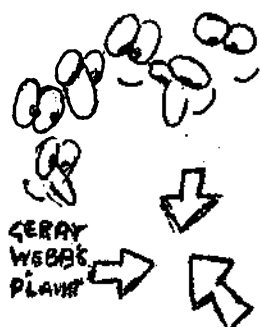
The Finale

Q: I thought this place was too crowded?

A: The ancient looked at the familiar faces of the London Circle and beyond into the half-empty room. Then at last he answered "It was?"

Well at least chuckle! " ***Well...it could have been funnier you know! ***

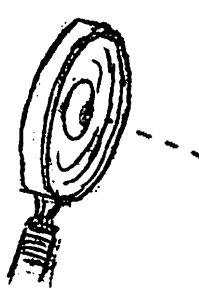
Harry Warner: "Gerry Webb's plaint is awfully familiar nowadays. He can multiply the problems he is encountering in London by ten and he will have a good notion of what it's like in the US, with fandom and prodrom having mushroomed beyond belief. It's hard to see where it will stop but it's easy to see some changes already, like Kansas City's daring attempt to keep attendances down by penalizing late-joiners. I feel comforted at the knowledge that someone else has trouble reading the radically reduced type in some offset zines. In the absence of Bishop-Harmon glasses, I've been toying with the notion of buying myself an opaque projector. I hope the people involved in the Mars project have reason to hold that optimism over the chances of finding some kind of life. The problem is, this could



be the last chance for me to hear about the existence of life somewhere other than this planet. Unless the US or some other nation starts a crash program for star ships, or unless there's some kind of tremendous breakthrough in space travel methods, it's doubtful if even unmanned spacecraft will reach planets around other stars during the remainder of my lifetime. Prospects for finding life elsewhere in this solar system are growing dimmer, unless it happens to exist on one of Jupiter's moons or science has made a terrible booboo about conditions on the surface of Venus. I'd love to know before I die that there's life sufficiently widespread throughout space for it to be found during the first steps of this planet's exploration of space" ***I guess I'll let Gerry answer the last part of your letter, I know he sounds very enthusiastic!***

Mary Legg

"I have received several of the fnz you review. In fact, many of my docs lately have marvelled at the resurgence of fnz. Maybe in the Spring the young fans fancy turns to thoughts of fnz!..Juanita also plays 'Spot the anachronism' then. Another one is "Spot the mistake" - some which spring to mind are the venturian with wristwatch mark on bronzed wrist. Well, a slave girl could wear a bangle, but...Or the vapour trails in ancient times. Then there are the unfortunate ones due to odd camera angles. One which I have heard of (but not seen) was the reflection of a jeep in Castle Dracula's moat!"



Letters 3

Dave Rowe



"Actually I think it's a darn good idea to include HAVERINGS That way we get the whole fannish thing in onepackage, altho' over a six month period won't it mean most of SCOT being eaten up by Nibblings and Haverings? I can see Jean Berman's point about the ONE TUN, perhaps she would enjoy the somewhat lesser surroundings of a Kitten meet. We need a few more trufen. Just think, you can watch Fred Hemmings trying to railroad everybody into making his next film, Jhim Linwood meditating on the floor and trying to look superior, Ian Maule trying not to look bored, Brian Hampton looking nonplussed, and Chris Bursey playing the fool. Seriously its quite pleasant so don't forget, last Saturday of the month at Bernie's place(6 Hawks Rd

Kinsagton)"

David Griffin

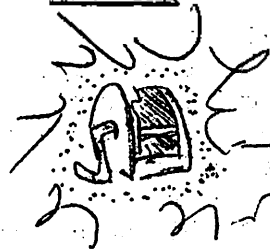


"I agree with Bob Shaw that it is a bad sign of British Fandom when a zine editor receives hardly any Locs. My opinion is that when a zine editor has gone to the trouble of publishing a zine the least I can do is let the editor have my opinion. After all it needn't take more than 30 mins, only costs 6p and there's the chance of getting another copy. Sam's "Launch" was an interesting article, it conveyed the feeling of disappointment and disillusion now that the American space program has been cut back. I can see the day, 20 or 30 years hence, when Cape Kennedy is just a museum celebrating that short delirious period when it seemed mankind would finally get free of its ties to

Mother Earth. Perhaps Sam could tell us more about the actual experiments he does with the meteorological rockets?"***There is no maybe about getting another copy for a loc..you always do, its an unwritten fannish rule!***

Sam Long:

"Hm, you're right, the enchanted photocopier doesn't hack it. Neither does the enchanted photolith or the enchanted offset-duper, though they have the correct number of syllables. Even the Enchanted Mimeograph leaves something to be desired. I think Walt hit it just right."



***** WE ALSO HEARD FROM AND WISH TO THANK..

Mike Glicksohn..it was nice to meet you too..and thanks for telling me I did not look as old as you had expected..it made my day!Alvin R.Wild..thanks for telling me your found the book reviews useful...Archie Mercer thanks for writing even though I did not give you anything to get your teeth into.....

Ethel.

HAVERINGS

This is a column for fanzine editors in lieu of a letter of comment. I also try to make it helpful to fans who are shopping around for zines to which they will subscribe. Usually it is best to sub for one issue till you see what you like. Zines come not only in all shapes and sizes but also in different attitudes to SF and fandom. There is a small clutch of first issues here that can set the ball rolling. CELTIC WARRIOR No 1: From: Jim Campbell, 33 Spiers Rd. Bearsden, Glasgow. For trade etc. No subs mentioned, so ask if you are interested. This is a rare bird, a Scottish fanzine and a Scottish Nationalist fanzine at that! A very welcome newcomer. However, Jim, don't be surprised if you have to explain a lot of things you take for granted. Most English people, for instance, are not really aware of the implications of Scottish Nationalism. Feel flattered, I rarely read fan fiction, but couldn't resist this SF tale built on Scottish history.

AFTER THE FLOOD: No 1. From: David Griffin, 83 Maple Rd. Horfield, Bristol, BS7 8RF. 25p or trade. My main complaint would be that David doesn't bother to introduce himself at all... so that I am left wondering why he is also aiming at Swedish fandom and so including some translations into Swedish. Apart from that this has a check-list of SF Monthly as the main item with some reviews. The addition of some personal history which have made this a good first issue.

THE INVERTED EAR TRUMPET: No 1: From: Richard McMahon, 287 South Lane, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 5RR. Free for the asking. Mostly reviews 4pp. Again, no personal introduction, but he is a member of the SF Society.

PARKER'S PATCH: From: Brian Parker, 11 Fairfield Rd. Bradford 8, Yorks. 15p or trade etc. I sigh with relief, Brian does tell us something about himself. He had wondered what to put in his first issue and sensibly decided on a canreport. I say sensibly, because it is always best to stick to something you know about when you first start to write. His spelling of Simone as Simon throughout distracted me quite a bit at first. Unfortunately it is not the enlightening sort of report for anyone who wasn't there and confines itself to one aspect - the effects of intoxication. "Friday was unbearably boring until I managed to get smashed out of my skull." I think that is sad.

EMERITUS INTELLIGENCER: No 1: From: Michael Everling, 17-413 Univ. of Fla. Gainesville, Fla. 32612, USA. This comes from a member of Southern fandom and it acts as a newsletter to keep in touch with his friends. A note underlined telling me that MOONRIGGER is not defunct is where I seem to make contact. Some of it is in a foreign language to me and I don't mean Swedish. What would you make of this?—"Although I had all the pre-requisites for Architecture, my GPA was too low so I took the last boat for Journalism!" There is a good recipe for

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broad in this, but on the whole is too geared to his near friends for wider distribution.

ZIMRI:No 7:From:Lisa Conesa,54 Manley Rd,Whalley Range,Manchester.M16 8HP.
25p.or trade etc. Production is very handsome with an attractive Harry Turner cover, and all the layout is done with loving care, so that it is a pleasure to read. The articles are as interesting, particularly the one by Harry Turner on art with his own original artwork. There is also a good interview with John Brunner. Lisa reviews fanzines herself, and I find myself agreeing with her a lot! I also liked her answers in a excellent letter column, she has a nice objective way of thinking. This zine deservedly won the NOVA award last year.
No 16:From:Ruth Berman,5620 Edgewater Blvd,Minneapolis,Minn.55417.35p or trade etc. Another zine produced by a femme fan, and again one with an original turn for material. First article is on "Jewish SF" and prompts some interesting discussion. There is a description of a tour of Venice by John Berry, but it is very pedestrian, not like the John I recall. Ruth also has an article on the use of chess in SF.

UNIVERSE SF REVIEW:No 2:From:Keith L.Justice,Rt.3,Box 42 Union,Miss.39365,USA
The aim here is to provide "a critical zine that reflects serious critical-review interest in sf as a literary form". Apparently he had not known about fanzines when he produced No 1. Makes it very interesting as one wonders how he will make out. Keith has the object of making this eventually pay for itself, I know others have found this a rocky trail to tread. Anyway..here we are at p8 and he is still talking about his plans. But then he starts to write about book-reviewing and this gets more enjoyable as he chews over the difference between good and bad reviewing. Then he produces a review of an after-the-bomb novel and proves that he can write a good review.

THE GRIMLING BOSCH:From:Harry Bell,9 Lincoln St.GATESHEAD,Tyne & Wear,NE8 4EE
Harry calls this zine a letter-substitute so no subs and a friendly atmosphere. In discussion of the BSFA there is a suggestion that it be used as a clearing house for new fans. Harry queries would the BSFA people then be satisfied by a continual turnover. Well, fans could stay in as a sort of thank you. I note that Mary Legg in the letter column here obviously feels like this.

also from Harry is NESFIC NEWSLETTER:No 2..which is the official newsletter of the North-East SF Group.Fine round-up of news, and I notice they have a program for their Group. Can any other British Group vie with this?

INFERNO:No 7:From Paul Skelton,25 Bowland Close,Offerton,Stockport,Cheshire,SK2 Skel, as he obviously prefers to be called, amused me by writing "this fanzine is an ego trip and no ego trips over its feet more than mine". So he rambles on about fan visits, some letters for commenting, all aimed at his circle of friends. It is a relief to turn to Cas his wife as she does not assume that I know all about her. When it comes to the letters, it would be useful if Skel used " to indicate the end of the letter and beginning of comments!

MAYA:No 7:From:Robert Jackson,21 Lyndhurst Rd,Benton,Newcastle upon Tyne,NE12 4EE. 30p or trade etc. You would almost think Robert had been reading the above as he starts off by discussing British fandom and says "Fannish fandom two years ago was more descriptive and analytical, and more accessible to an observer". I found his thoughts on the subject very good, particularly where he points out that fandom is not a competitive world. Notable contributor is Bob Shaw who entertains with some con recollections. Ian Williams has a fine piece of writing about taking part in a demonstration. I liked this one very much.

GANNETSCRLPBOOK:No 2:From Harry Bell again.. no price, for trade etc. This starts off with a descriptive article by Kev Williams, but the most memorable

part for me is a Harry Warner letter. He remarks that the first issue of this zine reminded him of watching a soap opera in the middle! His efforts to sort out just who is who I can sympathise with. There is someone in this circle called Dwarf and I'm sure I don't know who he is! It is odd really, because there are lots of American fans whom I have never met, yet I know them very well.

CYNIC:No 7:From Gray Boak,2 Cecil Ct.Cecil St.Lytham St Annes.Lancs.FY8 5NN
Gray outlines his proposal for a programme-less con in Blackpool, I like the idea and have joined already. 5 pages of zine reviews mostly one-liners, made to look oddly blank because of the use of spacing. In fact there is a great deal of space here considering the use of foolscap size paper. The material is alright, but all that space makes it seem slim.

LURK:No 7:From:Mike & Pat Meara,61 Borrowash Rd.Spondon.Derby.DE2 7QH. An interview with John J.Pierce on New Wave writing, it seems as if he has cooled off a lot and so makes a more reasonable platform for his ideas. I liked a piece by Dave Piper in which he ruminates about his own thought processes. An A-Z fanzine listing here in which Mike uses the word 'fannish' so often I would rather like a definition from him. I don't know how Mike can afford this production, coloured paper for each section, that can be expensive, but it makes it very attractive. Nice to get back to a letter column which indicates the end of the letter and beginning of the comments!

MALFUNCTION:No 7:From:Pete E.Presford,10 Dalkeith Rd.S.Reddish.Stockport.SK5 7EY. Another seventh issue..must be something in the air! Pete says he thinks it is 'snobishness' to spell the English 'tounge' correctly. He argues that the English language has been changing all the time. That's true..what I cannot account for is..some of the changes look attractive..some look illiterate! Some discussion of the two year con bid plan..I missed that part of the programme but this doesn't tell me what happened. Letters and reviews, but not anything very substantial.

SF NEWS INTERNATIONAL:No 1:From:Keith Freeman & David Kyle,128 Fairford Rd Tilchurst.Reading.RG3 6QP. 10p. They hope to provide a news service..and have a questionnaire to be filled in to help them identify what is wanted. I'd like to know more about the Ted Carnell Society they mention.

CUTWORLDS:No 23:From:Bill Bowers,Box 2521,North Canton,Ohio.44720. \$1. An SF essay by Robert Lowndes is to be expected here, but I dunno what a lot of extracts from another zine for..no explanation is given. There is a very comprehensive autobiography of John Brunner. The letter column is shorter than usual, but there is the usual marvellous artwork.

PHOSPHENE:No 1:From:Gil Gaier,1016 Beech Ave.Torrance,CA 90501,USA.Looking for trades for this personalzine. He tells of a dream come true..a bookseller who wanted to get rid of SF hardbacks and Gil got them for 25¢ each..300 plus! Gil is a high-school teacher as well as a lucky guy. It is interesting to read of the impact that fandom is making upon him..he has just joined the N3F.

GUYING GYRE:No 2:From Gil again..As a teacher Gil has compiled a book valuation sheet for his students, and reproduced it here. He also wants help with this Project and seeks SF readers who would be willing to fill in charts. Lack of time will probably be the problem. Still Don D'Amassa has come up with some very good listings.

REQUIEM:Vol.1No 5:From:Norbert Spehner,455 Saint-Jean Longueuil.P.Q.Canada.This is in French, and a very handsome production. It contains fiction, articles and reviews.

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FILM INDEX: 27, 28, 29: From: John Howard Reid, 2E Mosman St, Mosman Bay, Australia 2088. \$12 for 12 issues. I get more enthusiastic about this as we have so many old films on TV. The TV programmes often do not give a complete casting which is very annoying sometimes. This index is at No 29 and just started on the C listings. Not only complete castings and credits, but there is also a short piece about each film. Very highly recommended to all film fans.

CHECKPOINT: Nos 58, 59, 60, 61: From: Darroll Pardoe, 24 Othello Close, Hartford, Huntingdon, PE18 7SU. 12/£1 or trade etc. Free sample on request. Inflation hits even fandom, the rates for this went up between nos 59 and 60. I think it is worth it though, as this is an excellent fanzine giving up-to-date news from all over. Darroll has opinions as well as news which makes it even more interesting. I also have from him STULTICIAE LAUS: No 1 This he announces will take the place of LES SPINGE, and will give a greater sense of freedom. He has carried on the fine personal style of LS, and I particularly enjoyed his description of seeing a rainbow. Letter column though short was high in interest as they discussed the commercialisation of child-bearing.

WARK: Nos 3&4: From Rosemary Pardoe, this shares the smart appearance of all the Pardoe zines. 25p or the usual. Rosemary's intention was to produce a fanzine about fanzines..but not just reviews. She has invited editors to give their publishing history, and has managed to have Dave Sutton write about his SHADOW and Joe Harvey about his BALTHUS. The most entertaining history comes from Terry Jeeves as he mulls over his 20 years of fan publishing. No 4 begins with a very helpful article by Rosemary on how to produce a fanzine mentioning the various methods. To tell the truth though, I have never been clear in my mind what is meant by mimeo and ditto. I use an electric Gestetner and talk about duplicating my zine - where the other terms come from I do not know. Jon Harvey continues with his history of BALTHUS, not a zine I know so interest is limited. I agree with the letter-writer who would like to see more of Rosemary herself in this, but can well appreciate space being limited.

KARASS: Nos 10, 12, 13, & 14: From: Linda E. Bushyager, 1614 Evans Ave. Prospect Park, PA, 19076. 4/\$1 or trade etc. The first two had covers but I liked better the second two which feature a catchy slogan about this being a newszine. News is very comprehensive not just confined to American fandom. Short reports on cons I found helpful, and she has lots of news about people...who is being sued, who has moved, who has been published where. Some sad news..deaths, some funny too. She is as able to give news of fans in Birmingham as in Los Angeles, and when she voices opinions I like her style.

SONE: No 8: From: H. Rosenblum, 7 Grosvenor Park, Allerton Hill, Leeds LS7 3QD. We are introduced here to an sf writer who has rarely been published. Reading this I see he had an exciting life nevertheless. Following this is a short story by the writer James Canterbury. Interesting as all this is..what is left unexplained is how Howard came to know this man. Book reviews follow, but the zine reviews leave a great deal to be desired as they are nearly all unread!

THE JDM BIBLIOPHILE: No 20: From: Len & June Moffatt, Box 4456, Downey, CA 90241. 50¢ This journal is devoted to the works..and to the readers..of John D. MacDonald. John D. himself appears first with an interesting reply to a question about the ageing of his characters. A nice surprise is a long article by Dean Grennell on the McGee books. I also enjoyed the report on the Bouchercon. For the mystery fan as well as those interested in JDM.

FANZINE FANATIQUE: Nos 8, 9, 10 and one that is as like SKYRACK as good be. 10p or trades. A fanzine reviewzine, one of the very few, and so welcome. Short comments only, but very wide-ranging. No 9 is devoted to a talk given by Keith on fantasy zines. No 10 has an excellent re-printing of Bruce Polz's ON THE CARE AND COLLECTING OF FANZINES..when Bruce gets to the stage where he mentions the

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name "complotist"..I get a pang..oh I know that dread state! I don't need Bruce to tell me the completist is a first class nut! Keith has a struggle with his reproduction but doesn't let it defeat him, and covers an enormous amount of fanzines.

ALTERNATIVA: Pubblicazione Amatoriale Critica Di Science Fiction: From: Giuseppe Cairmi Via S. Calodero 2, 20123 Milano Italia. In Italian

NOTIZIARIO CCSF: No 24: From: Gian Paolo Cossato, Caselle Postale 423, Venezia 30100 Italia. Also in Italian. Most Italian fans like to swap fanzines.

REQUIEM: No 3: From: Norbert Spehner, 455 Saint-Jean, Longueuil, P.Q. Canada. In French.

STUPIFYING STORIES: No 101: From: Dick Eney, 6500 Fort Hunt Rd, Alexandria, Va 22307. A zine for statisticians...in which Dick produces the results of a prediction poll he tried out on fans. \$1. The questions asked were on the probabilities and desirabilities of future trends.

DRIFTGLASS: No 24: From: Jostein Saakvitne, Ekornrudv. 27b, N 1410 Kolbotn, Norway. In English, and very good too. Jostein writes about herself and on the place of women in SF. She also describes the work of Finnish artist Tove Jansson, who produced the fantasy world of Moominvalley. Much to be commended.

THE SPANG BLAH: From: Jan Howard Finder, PSC Box 614, US Air Base, 33081, Aviano, Italia. Free to any fan who drops a line and requests it. Its intent is to provide information to Americans living in Europe and also to serve as a link. Very full of useful information.

SUPER SPI: No 2: From: Graham R. Poole, 23 Russet Rd, Cheltenham, Glos, GL51 7LN. For trade or contributions. A good letter column with much discussion of the BSFA and general fannish topics. There is also a discussion of convention bidding that covers a lot of useful points. Very good around zine, my only complaint that it is hard on the eyes.

THE FORERUNNER: From: Shayne McCormack, 49 Orchard Rd, Bass Hill, N.S.W. 2197, Australia. 25¢. This is the official fanzine of the Sydney SF Foundation, and contains club news.

PARANOID: No 5: From: Ian Maule, 8 Hillcroft Crec, Ealing, London W5. Mainly news of his move to London, but he also writes about attending the BSFA meeting. In two paragraphs he manages to be rather nasty about what he calls "hangers-on" I suppose he means people who have worked very hard for the BSFA in the past.

CYNIC: No 8: From: Gray Boak, 2 Cecil Court, Cecil St, Lytham, Lancs, FY8 5NN. Gray here announces that he has found a hotel for his convention and makes it sound a good one to attend. Rather a slim C with book and zine reviews taking up the bulk.

EGG: No 9: From: Peter Roberts, 6 Westbourne Park Villas, London, W2, for trades or contributions. Peter mentions that what he likes is a nice turn of phrase. I too like this and would congratulate him on his... "If Spring has arrived, I shall pub my ish". I found John Brosnan highly entertaining as he selects from a film catalogue. Fascinating is Peter's dissertation on the perils of organisations in fandom, and he reproduces a COSMIC CIRCLE bulletin to give some idea of where over-enthusiasm can lead. On the other hand what he wants to see the BSFA pared down to is a newszine..and fandom already has an excellent crop of these. I had to laugh at Greg Pickersgill's account of not being able to make a late registration at a Star Trek Con, and having Fire Regulations quoted at them. I can well believe they were all so stunned they meekly allowed themselves to be ushered out! As I did not spring up with glad cries about the Fanzine Achievement Awards, I was pleased to see Eric Bentcliffe out into writing his objections which clarified my own. I really wasn't happy with "best" fanzine, and think his suggestions much better. Now if they had a "Most readable" category, I'd put EGG in it.

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SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW No 12: From: Richard Geis, P.O. Box 11788, Portland, Oregon. 97211. \$1.25. I also have No 13. Distinguished for good layout and artwork. From Richard Delap comes an excellent picture of Harlan Ellison, written with real skill. The rest of the magazine is devoted to the subject of SF. Both Dick and his correspondants debate and discuss the many aspects of SF. In no 12 there is quite a lot said, one way and another, about "literary SF" Writers to this zine feel free to be scathing in their opinions; and though you might not always agree, you have to admit they make you stop and ponder. On the other hand no 13 has a great deal about Roger Elwood and whether or whether not he is a good editor. If you are wondering whether to buy the Tuck Encyclopedia then you will find the discussion of it here illuminating. RICHARD GEIS A

PERSONAL JOURNAL was also published by Dick but he has announced its discontinuation. It was a very personal journal and notable for its frankness. I imagine many people read it and then thought more about why they do what they do, which could have been salutary.

FIRST DRAFT: No 1: From: John Bangsund, Box 357, Kingston, ACT 2604, Australia. John can sit down and write with easy chram of whatever he is thinking or doing at the moment. I also have his PHILOSOPHICAL GAS Nos 29 & 30 which tells of the demise of FIRST DRAFT and that this will take its place. He has a thing about starting and stopping zines, personally I don't care what he calls them as long as he keeps writing. In a letter, John Foyster points out shrewdly that Bangsund writing is very reminiscent of Walt Willis. Certainly has the same quality. Good contributors too such as George Turner writing about the Frankenstein theme and John D. Berry with a con report that actally describes the fans he met! A\$2 per year and well worth it.

SF ECHO: No 22: From: Edward C. Connor, 1805 N. Gale Ave. Peoria, IL 61604. \$1. Still in book form but larger and handsomer. Starts well with Bob Tucker talking freely about himself to Paul Walker who sets up a neat interview. I enjoyed an article about RIVERWORLD which is answered by Farmer himself. Mae Strelow is interviewed too which shows the fascinating personality which sparked a Fund for her. Too much meat to itemise.. and a particularly good letter column.

UNIVERSE SF REVIEW: Nos 2&3: From: Keith L. Justice, Rt. 3, Box 42, Union, Miss. 39365. 75¢ In the 3rd issue, Keith is telling us about himself, I wish him luck in his hope to make this pay. Contains 'in-depth' reviews, the material chosen does not always justify the time spent. The aim however is laudable.

STARLING: Nos 30&31: From: Hank & Lesleigh Luttrell, 525, W. Main, Madison, WI. 53703. 50¢. This calls itself a muti-media fanzine, and it does make a change from SF as the only focus. There is Leigh Couch writing about the era of big bands and Lesleigh on comics and best of all they make no 31 a mystery issue. Susan Wood writes a review of SUCH A STRANGE LADY. As a dyed-in-the-wool D.L. Sayers fan I appreciated being told this biography can be avoided, I also liked Susan's defense of Sayers. This was a Hugo-nominated zine, deservedly so.

PROFANITY: Nos 8&9: From: Bruce Pelz, 15931 Kalisher St. Granada Hills, CA 91344. 25¢ I'm pleased to see Bruce return to genzine publication, and his introduction of himself to newcomers is a model of how it should be done. TOWER TRIVIA is his column done as a diary a la INCHMERY DIARY. Show a fannish life, of course he had the advantage of the lively social group of LA. Seems to be a constant stream of parties, that would make any other group feel envious. It is often quite humorous (Bruce.. I am thinking particularly of "Stage Five is Larry Niven") Lots of tips too for the fanzine collector, and plenty entertaining.

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DYNATRON: Nos 61&62: From Roy Tackett, 915, Green Valley Rd. NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87107. An article on Kafa did not surprise me but a page of poems did. Still I really liked LOVE ANTI-POEM by Darrell Schweitzer, but it did remind me of Rupert Brooke's "Love would be merely you". Roy is asking me how does one do the fling..and my answer is I hope you will come over and I will show you! He is nominated for TAFF. My name is not among the nominators because I took a vow that this year -for the first time since I went TAFF-it should be absent. I like Bill Bowers OK..but ROYTACK for TAFF, he is a Good Man and puts out a nice green zine that entertains year after year.

GEGENSHEIN: Nos 18&22: From: Eric B. Lindsay, 6 Hillcrest Ave. Paulconbridge, NSW 2776, Australia. 35¢ or 20p. Special note to Eric..look at the Moffatts review for the JDM thingie you want. This zine is pervaded with the editor's fine sense of humour; and his contributors get their teeth into the SF discussions.

YANDRO: Nos 230, 231, & 232 Plus DEVILINS REVIEW: From Robert & Juanita Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348. 75¢ or 30p. Their home must be a hive of industry for these zines are all thick; and they are both selling professionally as well! Have read Juanit's novel STONE OF BLOOD, and found it very good. Fine to see Liz Fishman back here, although she forgot to close a bracket in a disconcerting way. Buck has decided to stop his zine reviews which is lamentable, and I am only slightly consoled by Bruce offering to follow in ~~him~~ father's footsteps (foot-trumpetings?) Fortunately the book reviews continue; I get lots of titles from it, they are well-written and useful. Buck did a grand round-up of zine reviews in DEVILIN'S REVIEW and you can get it for 50¢. I confidentially predict that this will become a collector's item.

GODLESS: Nos 9&10: From: Bruce D. Arthurs, 920 N. 82nd St. H-201, Scottsdale, AZ 85257. 50¢. There is a long Discon 11 report which I enjoyed except that the red ink made reading difficult. No 10 had blue ink and made life easier so that I could enjoy a good letter column.

TOMORROW AND: No 9: From: Jerry Lapidus, 54 Clearview Drive, Pittsford, N. York 14534. 50¢ Full of good thing..analysis of A CLOCKWORK ORANGE; Ted White comparing today's zines with yesterday's..unfavourably, and Andy Offutt writing about writing. Rosemary Ulyot is entertaining and Harry Warner enlightening. Layout of high and professional standard.

DAGON: Nos 101, 102, Lo3: From: John Boardman, an APA-Q zine. One sheet mostly a parody of fantasy fiction and funny in spots.

PHOTRON: No 12: From Steven Beatty, 1662 College Terr. Drive, Murray, KY 42071. 40¢ Mike Glycer has the lead with SATIRE INTO SF, another article on the works of Swann is by Barry Eysmen. Typical of the articles presented, all good but in total seemed rather dull.

VORPAL: No ??: From: Richard Brandt, 4013 Sierra Drive, Mobile, AL 36609, 35¢ Didn't there used to be a zine called VORPAL GLASS? There are a lot of blank pages in this almost giving me heart failure as I think of the cost. Mostly book, music and film reviews. There is a short gothic story by Ann Breedlove..but I thought the essence of a gothic was length!

QUERYUIOP: No 8: From: Samuel S. Long, Box 4946 Patrick AFB, Florida, 32925. For trade etc only. Sam writes engagingly and having a vast area of interest can do so on many subjects. Books he has been reading can set him off on such ideas as a fannish Disneyland. There is also a model of a con-report giving the details launched for by non-attendees.

ESLAPRIL No 2: From Stuart & Rosie Clarke, Tlirion, 36 Valley Rd, Liver pool 4.4

After I'd put my special specs on I discovered this hadn't come from the Pardoes although it is very like in style and reproduction. The editorial puzzled me, it praises the use of litho and says "to stay mimeo is to risk extinction". No reason is given for this opinion..I wonder if they think we are in a rat-race! This is aimed at fantasy-lovers but book reviews are very catholic in range. Slim neat, done with care.

MAYA: No 8: From: Robert Jackson, 21 Lyndhurst Rd, Benton, Newcastle on Tyne, NE12 9NT 30p. The print is minute..where will this all end? If I have to take a zine into the operating theatre to read it through the microscope there I hope you will all feel I've done my bit! Marsha Jones describes game-playing with the use of a computer..trying to land spaceships, it sounded like fun. Malcolm Edwards reviews two zines, so can take his time and give a personal view of them. I guess it isn't humanly possible to do this for every zine. Best item is the letter column with long comments by Rob. A well-edited column, about the best in this batch. He got 53 locs which explains why I spotted Roger Zelazny in the WAHF column. It has an attractive Harry Turner cover.

OUTWORLDS: No 24: From..as before. More small print..sigh. But excellent contents. This issue is devoted to the subject of fanzines and has both Bob Tucker and Robert Lowndes writing about the early ones...tales of the '30s. There is a symposium for faneds which quite enthralled me as I read their different reactions to the questiones posed them. Best writing though, comes from Dave Locke who contrives to be highly amusing about fanzine production and instructive at the same time. If you want to know the dos and don't of a letter column..try this.

SF COMMENTARY 41/42: From: Bruce Gillespie, GPO Box 5195AA, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, Australia. A60/ US\$1.40p. This is the one I read on holiday 102pp of SF critique and discussions. I can remember being awed at the industry and thinking helplessly that all one could say was that it was excellent. The books that are mentioned take 4 foolscap pp to list! The only recompense (other than to urge you all to get it) that one could offer is to join in the discussions and I do not have enough time to spare for that.

SIMULACRUM: No 1: From: Victoria Vayne, Box 156, Stn D, Toronto, Ontario, M6p 3J8, Canada Very nice production, but I don't think I am on the same wave-length as this gal. There is quite a bit of fiction and it is aimed at being light-hearted, instead I found it rather heavy-handed.

RATAPLAN: No 17/18: Leigh Edmonds, Box 74, Balacalva, Victoria, Australia. \$1.60 for 4 Is also a Fapazine. Roger Swan's article on the retrieval of information from libraries told me a lot I hadn't known about the storage of information. Then Don Ashby is ingenious in proving that the increase in divorces shows an increase in Romantic Love! Don D'Amassa has what at first I thought were Tall Tales from Vietnam, but on reflection I guess they were true-which is pretty weird. Yes I liked this zine, in fact I haven't seen a bad Aussie zine yet.

STEFANTASY: Vol. 31: No 1: From William M. Danner, R.D. 1, Kemmerdell, PA. 16374. Stef is celebrating its 30th anniversary. At first sight it doesn't seem to have changed much since I first received it-still beautifully produced by hand-set type. The contents have changed a little though, less parodies of adverts and more articles of general interest, and the letter column becomes more interesting with every issue. Well, Bill, congrats on the anniversary!

Ardes: No 1: From: Andrew Dunlop, 34 John Grundy House, Howard Pl, Hyde Cheshire. SK14 2TB. Beyond telling us that he is married and an accountant, not many details in the editorial. Plans and pleas of course. The spelling is a bit shaky..oddly enough in STEF above there was some discussion of it being time schools got back to teaching the three RRRs. Still it could be typos, goodness knows I make enough of them myself!

RELATIVITY: No 4: From: Bryn Fortey, 90 Caerleon Rd. Newport, Gwent, NPT 7BY. For trade or contributions only. Odd sort of item..I agreed with the editor when he was tilting against male attitudes to femme fans, though I thought he put it a bit too strong, but then he gets all excited about whether or whether not someone should approve of a poetry soiree (honest, I last heard soiree used by my grand-

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BLAZON:No 2:From:Keith Freeman,128 Fairford Rd.Tilehurst,Reading.RG3 6QP.35p
Lovely cover by Eddie Jones. I liked best Eric Bentcliffe's IT JUST ISN'T
FANNISH in which he gives his views. I agree with his saying that just to
write about fans isn't necessarily fannish. Letter column not very good reviews
are. A con report by Chris Fowler is informative about what happened but not
about the people involved, other than mentioning their names.

AFTER THE FLOOD:No 10:From:David Griffin,83 Maple Rd.Harfield,Bristol.BS7 8RF
25p.This has links with Swedish fandom, and it lists the Swedish zines.There
is also a report of the Stockholm con; and the editor promises some translations
from Swedish zines. A good effort.

GRIMELING BOSCH:No 2:From Harry Bell,9 Lincoln St.Gateshead.Tyne & Wear,NE8 4EE
Cheerful personalzine, but with news of Gannettfandom

GOBLIN'S GENZINE:From:Ian Williams,6 Greta Tce.Chester Rd.Sunderland.SR4 7RD.
The editorial scoop is Bob Shaw's speech at Tynecon '74, lovely stuff. Ian
wants to see less British personalzines and the "return of the genzine". Well,
this is a good genzine some SF material and some good writing on other subjects
The amount of each was nicely judged.

SUPER SPI:No 2:From:Graham R.Poole,23 Rasset Rd.Cheltenham.Glos.GL51 7LH.Trade etc
no price.Mostly letters, much discussion of the BSFA in them and ideas for the
recruiting of new fans. One letter from Darroll Pardoe has a mistake, he says
that SCOT is the 2nd oldest surviving fanzine beaten only by VAGARY. SCOT was
being published before Bobby entered fandom..and Graham..do you ever see her?
Discussion of British cons follows, with some information of next year's
accommodation. Seems a very lively zine.

VAGARY:No 69:From:Christopher Fowler,72 Kenilworth Ave.Southcote,Reading.RG3 3DN.
Journal of the BSFA.50p. As neat as ever and managing the transition of editor's
very well. After all the heart-burning in the last zine this must have come as
a nice surprise! Starts off sadly with an obituary for Sam Russell, and an art-
icle from James Blish whom we have also lost. I enjoyed Aldiss writing about his
early days at book-selling. Also liked Tony Dudbery's astute criticism of Aldiss.
As usual all the reviews are excellent.

THE WSFA JOURNAL:No 84:From:Don Miller,12315 Judson Rd,Wheaton,MD.20906.Don is ably
supported by members of the Washington SF Assoc., and this produces the thickest
zine that comes my way.\$2. A joy for the fan who likes to get all the facts.
This has a section titled '73 WRAPUP and this really does give all the major SF
happenings as good as any almanac.I also liked an animal art folio, The other
sections cover Fan Fiction,Bookworld,Fanzines,and a good letter column.SON OF THE
WSFA JOURNAL also comes from this group and I have issues that run from 169-190
that contain the most comprehensive coverage of SF in all its forms one could
wish to see. THE GAMESLETTER also comes from Don Miller, I have the theory that
Don has four arms to get through all this work. Naturally this is for the games
fan and keeps up to date with all the correspondence games.

TABEBULIAN:Nos 18,22:From:Dave & Mardee Jenrette,Box 330374-Grove,Miami,FL 33133
\$3/15 issues.Smallest zine that comes my way, but always welcome for I never
know what it will hold next.Would you believe a description of a visit to a VD
clinic? A trading card that features Mike Meara? A complete course outline for
teaching SF? Besides things like that are a witty editor and good letter hacks.
Guid gear comes in sma bundles..or did I write that about this zine before?

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Glimpse:No 2:From:Paul Hudson,102 Valley Road,Rickmansworth,Herts.25p. The artwork is good with very definite black areas, very much in the comics zine style. Letters are very dull, but a piece of fiction by Steve Sneyd is of superior value.

KNOCKERS FROM NEPTUNE:No 1:From:Mike & Pat Meara,61 Borrowash Rd.Spondon,Derby. DE2 7QH.\$1 A personalzine..whose editor struck a chord in me with the remark "Why do I bother collecting. I wish I knew". This is done in diary style..odd thats two in this batch, it's a format I like.

RUFF CUT BLUNT:No 4:From:John Grigg,8000 München 5,Papa Schmid Sreasse 1/V.Bavaria Deutschland.no price. This is using spirit duplication which has the advantage of coloured illos, but the disadvantage of odd pages too faint to read. A couple of con reports are spoiled by this! Ina Shorrocks starts to write about LIG but stops too soon; its is such a pity for she must have so much to tell. However one can clearly read a very good GOH speech by Ken Bulmer.

SF FANTASY TRADER:No 16:Ron Bennett,36 Harlow Park Cres.Harrogate.HG2 0AW.Yorks. 50p for 6.Listings of sf, mystery and fantasy for sale.

Andromed Cat,No 32:From:Roger Peyton,57 Summer Row,Birmingham.B3 1JJ. More books and mags for sale to the SF collector.

FANTASY CENTRE:V3:Station Rd.Harlesden,London.NW10 4UP.More books and mags for sale. Regular listings

MAGNUS:No 1:From:Eric Batard,Rue Kléber,37500.Chinon.France.SF zine in French

REQUIEM:No 6:From:Norbert Spehner,455 Rue St-Jean,Longueuil,Québec.Canada.75¢

In French from the French-speaking fans of Quebec.

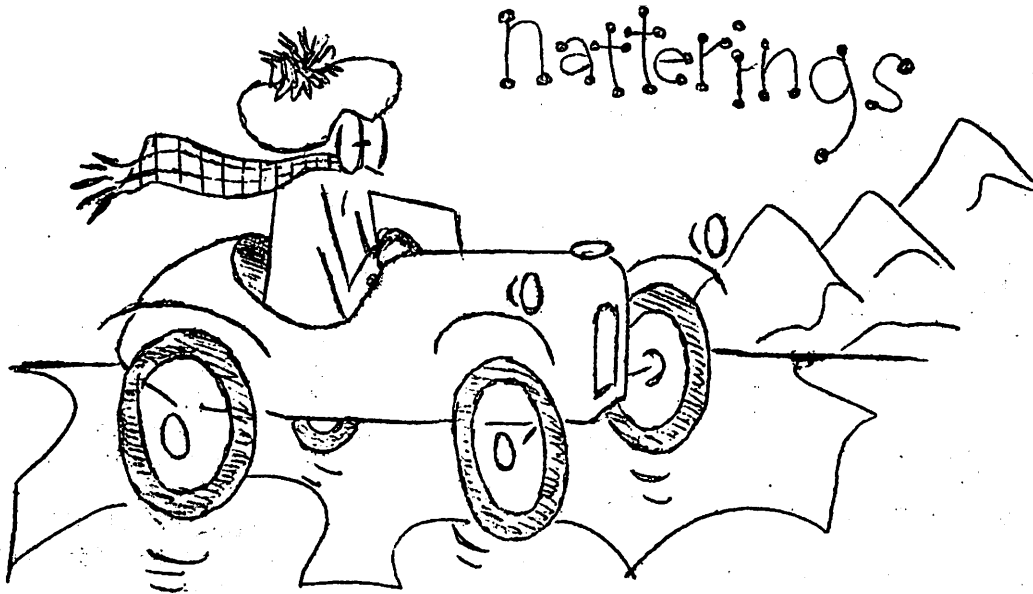
KARASS:No 15:From:as before.This issue contains letters continuing the discussion on the size of the Worldcons in the US. Some ideas for dealing with it are presented; and some are pessimistic that anything can be done. Of interest to us over here are our cons are just beginning to burgeon too.

PHOSPHENE:No 2.GUYING GYRE:No 3..A FLYER FROM GUYING GYRE..all from Gil Gaier address given earlier.The first is a personalzine in which he tells something of himself and reveals that some folks wrote saying they didn't like him once they knew he was a teacher..how weird! The flyer contains news of his Project to "utilize the evaluative judgment of some of the most knowledgeable science fiction and fantasy readers in the world..those found in fandom" This is to help the new highschool SF/F teacher. There is much discussion of the Project in GG; and it is nice to see that many people agreed to help.

SCIENCE FICTION NEWS:No 1:From:Keith Freeman & Dave Kyle,128 Fairford Rd.Tilehurst,Reading RG3 6QP. Dated May, and I haven't seen another 10p. 4pp.news and a questionnaire. I wonder what response they got. Mention here of the Ted Carnell Society Award. I never see this mentioned anywhere else.

And that's it..six months of fanzines received. I can't keep them all of course, so have passed most of them(aha not all) on to Gerry Webb with whom I have a general swapping agreement. However, it does seem a shame that there is not some sort of Fanzine Foundation in this country as there seems to have emerged an efficient SF Foundation.

Ethel Lindsay September 1975 and not an un-read fanzine in the house!



In the last issue I promised to publish SCOT twice a year—in the Spring and Autumn. I thought, way back then, vaguely of October, I see I am going to have to get a spurt on! Where did all that time go? Yesterday was the 12th September and I had the central heating put on, that's the latest I have ever waited since I came here. But this glorious summer has lingered on and on and set a record for sunshine. I might have waited even later but I have a houseful of nurses from abroad and cannot expose them to the chilly mornings.

My summer holidays this year were a bit experimental. I had three weeks end of July and beginning of August. I decided to spend quite a bit of it on my own to find out if I was as self-sufficient as I thought. So I set off in leisurely fashion up the ML and stopped overnight at a couple of motels as I drove towards Scotland. My last stop was at Carlisle and I set off on a Sunday morning for Carnoustie. I had all day to get there so early on I deviated to look at Gretna Green and at Lockerbie. This was Scotland's Sabbath with a vengeance; both towns were closed up tight and the only thing moving was other tourists. I couldn't even buy a Sunday newspaper. The day was one of the hottest I had and by the time I had crossed the Forth Road Bridge I was thinking longingly of a bath. I had been on motorway till then, but now I was back on ordinary roads that twisted and turned till I began to feel someone had moved the Tay Road Bridge and I would never reach it. Why can't it be motorway from one bridge to the other? My brother says it is because both bridges are Toll bridges and that straight motorway would deprive them of the tolls!

It was nice to get back to Carnoustie being beside the North Sea it is always pretty cool. I spent nine days there with my brother David and his wife Ina. My niece Moira had started work in Edinburgh after getting her university degree (presented by the Queen Mum.) and my nephew had passed his first year at the University. Young David is always enterprising at his vacation jobs and was on the night shift at a local fruit-wanning factory. Angus is a great county for fruit from the rasp to the goose. Both David and Ina were on holiday too so each day we would drive out to some part of Angus. First to St Andrews where we went through the Woolen Mill and I came out with a mohair skirt and Ina with a tweed length and all of us enraptured with the glowing heather colours. This mill is placed strategically opposite the first tee of the golf course!

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I like St Andrews, it has a bustling air what with the golfers from all over the world, the students with their red cloaks and the families with children that crowd the beaches. I always make at least one trip to it when I am home. We also went to Brechin, Forfar, Montrose, all quiet little towns grey-stoned and sometimes cobbled with distinct centres either a Cross or a Square with the streets ranging out. There are always lots of little shops, very few of the chain-stores, they are the kind of shops it is interesting to poke around. The prettiest place we visited was Edzell which is entered by a large gateway that looks very imposing. Inside you find a very small town, very few people in sight, and a short main street that leads out to the hills and wanders into Tarfside valley. In this valley is a museum devoted to re-creating an old-fashioned Scottish home. It is full of people touring round saying happily - "Oh, my grandmother had one of those!"

We explored the ruins of Edzell Castle, something my brother had wanted to do for it was the home of the Lindsays. It was built in the 16th century by Sir David Lindsay. David was keen to decipher the coat of arms. It held the lions of the Crawfords (who are sept to Lindsay although Lord Crawford is now head of the clan), then there are the chequers of the Lindsays which explains the chequered brickwork round the garden walls. Lastly on the crest is muzzled bears, the arms of the Forbes, for Sir David married an Isobel Forbes. The motto is DUM SPERO SPERO which means "Whilst I breathe, I hope". Brother David was much taken with the motto. The Castle was very much in ruins though there were still a couple of staircases that could be climbed and the grounds were beautifully kept. Apparently the Lindsays were an improvident lot though!

Once I left Carnoustie I was on my own. I spent the major part of my time at a Motel called the Moota Motel which is on the main road between Carlisle and Cockermouth in the Lake District. The Motel was originally a POW camp for Germans and Italians. It also housed displaced persons from Hungary and Lithuania. Afterwards it became a ghost town till a local farmer saw its possibilities and bought it. Although it is a very comfortable motel one can still see the skeleton of the original underneath. It reminds me of the temporary hospital I worked in during the war - all long low buildings with a measured amount of space between. Although cheered up by patches of gardens and lots of roses in bloom, there is still the sense of conformity I associate with government planning. There is a main lounge-dining-room and I saw with interest that it had originally been a chapel built by the German prisoners.

On that first week on my own what I noticed most was that every now and then I was attacked by the feeling that I should be "doing something". Very odd as I had lazed away the previous week with Ina and David without any such feeling. Driving around the Lake District was a far cry from London traffic. There ability is needed to negotiate narrow and bendy roads and to remember to keep the speed down. It was very hot so that as I drove around I would watch out for a shady spot in which to park and make a cup of tea. There was plenty choice; I could find a spot all to myself, or range alongside the many other parked cars that lined the lakes such as Buttermere. When I felt like a change I could drive into places like Keswick. I was steadily reading my way through the works of Nicolas Freeling. His detective Van de Ven was introspective enough to suit my mood and there was something piquant reading about the back-grounds of Holland in the hills of the Lake District.

One part of my stay was