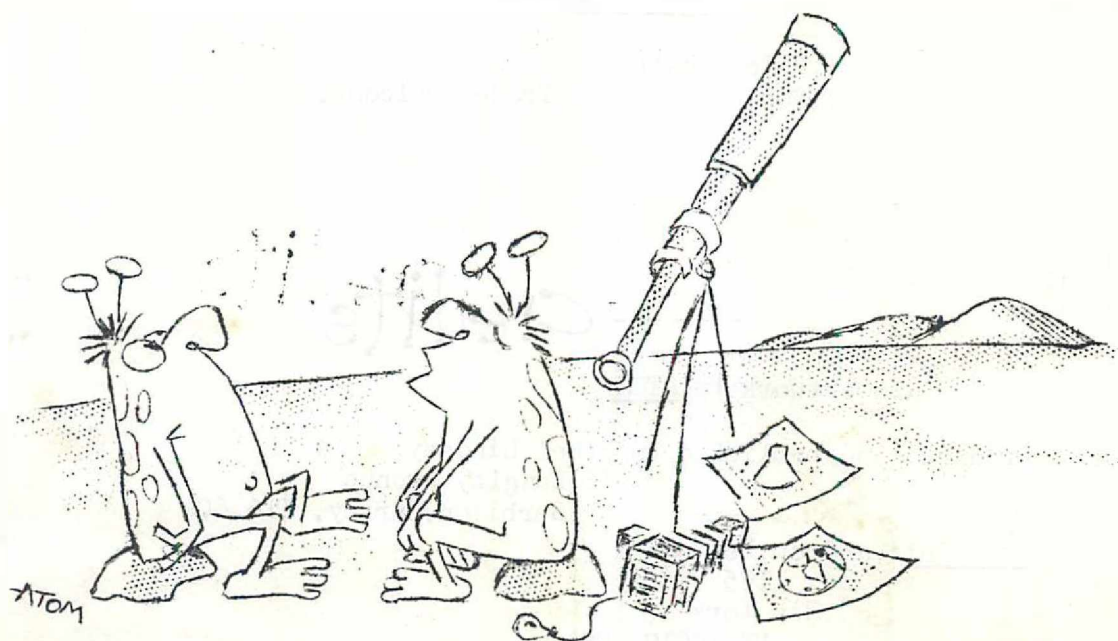


SCIFI



"DO YOU SOMETIMES WONDER IF THEY EVER WILL COME?"

Scottishe ----- No 71

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JUNE 1976

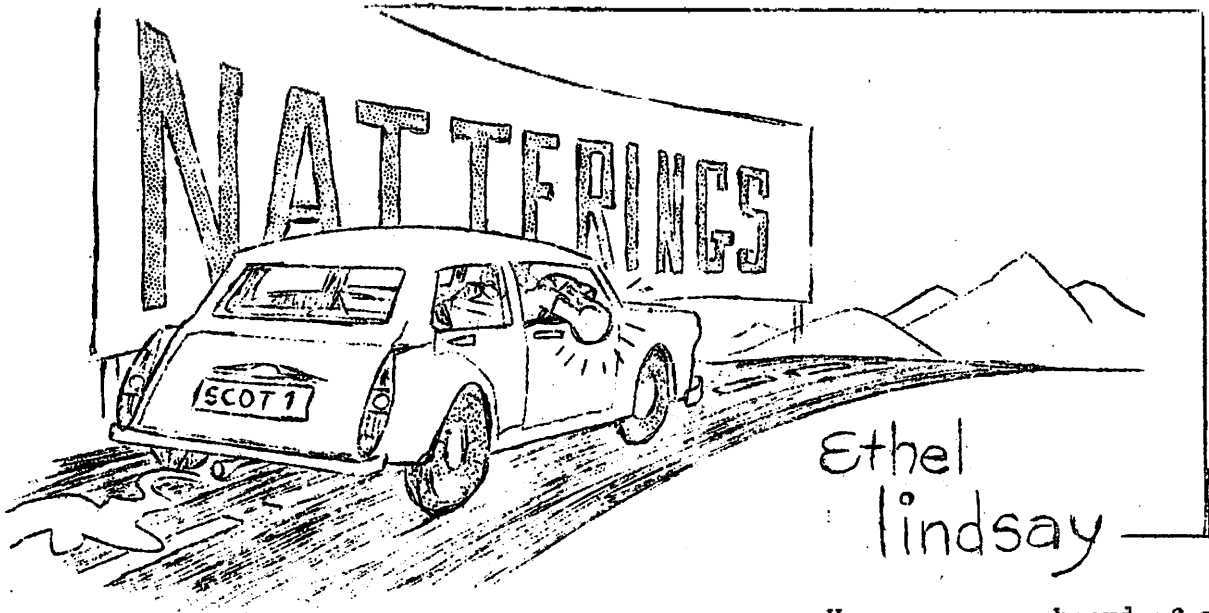
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-----Credits

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Produced and published by Ethel Lindsay
6 Langley Avenue
Surbiton.Surrey. KT6 6QL

US Agent: Andrew Porter,
Box 4175
New York
NY 10017. USA



Have you ever heard of a fanned who contracted 'tennis elbow' as a result of fan publishing? Well, I did, and I wonder if it is some sort of record? I sat one evening and stapled up a pile of my other zine THE MYSTERY TRADER, I had to use a giant stapler and it took both my hands to push it down. At times like this I grit my teeth and wish I had the strength of a man. Two days later I woke up with a painful elbow which I assumed was a "touch of rheumatism". Eventually a visit to the doctor confirmed it was 'tennis elbow' and I have had a injection of hydrocortisone into the muscle..without much effect so far. Something else will have to be figured out for getting this issue of SCOT to you. Envelopes are out as this raises the cost of postage which is turning my hair white enough already.

I had two weeks holiday in April and a very enjoyable time. First of all I drove up to Lytham. St Anns to visit my cousin Alison. I like driving up the M1 and the M6 but have my own peculiar way of doing so. Not for me the rush of leaving London and hard driving to arrive late the same evening. I like to stop about 5pm and book into a motel. This time it was to be Charnock Richard. When I informed my cousin of this leisurely schedule, her husband Jim protested. Only a little longer and I'd be there, he said urgently. I informed him that taking my time and using the motels was part of the holiday for me. I like the convenience and self-sufficiency of motels. Jim was very scornful and was equally so about my automatic-drive car. Most British men seem to think that if driving is "too easy" and there are no gears to play with it is somehow unmanly. Men are a queer lot sometimes, it seems to me there are certain activities which are labeled in their minds as being masculine- such as driving with gears and interminable boasting about beer-drinking. However I must admit I envy their being able to use a stapler without getting tennis elbow!

After that I attended the Mancon. I think it is a pity that the first time we used a university for a con we were not able to have one of the newer ones. I have attended an ophthalmic nursing conference at Canterbury University and it was lovely there. For one thing, each room had their own wash-basin. Manchester had communal wash-basins in a row, showers

Natterins 2

with only a curtain between you and the outside world, and two tiny bathrooms without a stool, bathmat, or any convenience. It was all pretty spartan. One bright spark was that each floor had a kitchen and boiling water always on tap. The committee had provided tea and coffee which was a nice thought. In that instance I was better off than at the Royal Angus in Birmingham. The Royal Angus is a lovely new hotel-but the only electricity points in the rooms are for small two point plugs and I could not use any of my tea-making facilities. Hotels that provide points for electric shavers and none for electric curlers make me mad.

I enjoyed the Mancon because I had ample time for talking to all my friends, but it certainly wasn't the best con I have ever attended, and there was one thing that made me very cross. This was the way TAFF was handled. In the programme booklet there are two articles about Bob Silverberg GCH and two articles about Peter Roberts the Fan GCH, but not one mention of Roy Tackett the TAFF delegate. In the small detachable programme his name appears on an item scheduled for 2pm on Friday. This was to be THE ROLLING THUNDER TAFF PANEL and others listed were Ken Bulmer, Eddie Jones, Pete Weston, Ron Bennett, with Eric Bentcliffe presiding. This was the first item of the programme to be cancelled, because most of the panelists had not arrived by 2pm on Friday.

It was announced that this panel had been re-scheduled and would now take place at 5pm on the Sunday. This turned out to be a real farce. The preceding item, a panel of authors finished with no effort made to retain the audience which streamed out and down to the bar. The TAFF panel waited and waited and in the end this took place in front of a pitifully small audience.

The trouble was that the majority of people at the con had never heard of TAFF-there was nothing in the con programme booklet to tell them about it. It may well be that the committee didn't know too much about it! One couldn't blame them if this were so for the lack of publicity about TAFF in Britain for years now is disgraceful. I do think that if a thing is worth doing-it is worth doing well.

Recently an Australian con had Bob Tucker as a guest of honour. Very shortly indeed after Bob had got home I received a special edition of LE ZORIE from him which gave a fascinating description of his trip. Now this is a man who is a professional and whose time must be limited; but I think he must have broken all records in getting his trip report out quickly. This is the sort of thing that used to keep interest in TAFF alive, and which has been sadly lacking on this side of the Atlantic. TAFF is a good thing, it is something of which fandom can be proud, but it needs a constant re-introduction to newcomers so that they can know what it is all about.

It was grand meeting Roy and Crystal Tackett again. Roy and I eyed each other a little unsure at first- well we have both put on weight since we last met; but I did not think Crystal had changed much at all since 1964 when I visited them as TAFF delegate. I was on my way from Chicago to Los Angeles by Greyhound bus in the company of a group of fans. We stopped off at Albuquerque and were met by Roy who took us all to his home for the day. We found Crystal in the kitchen with a huge stack of waffles ready for our breakfast; she kept making them as fast as

Natterings 3

we devour them. It is at times like this, when fans go out of their way to greet and make welcome a visiting TAFF delegate, that one gets the feeling that, yes, fandom is a family that is world-wide. On the whole there are many things about fandom of which we can be proud, and TAFF is one of them. Please don't let the goodwill it engenders be frittered away!

Since the last issue of SCOT, I have lost a very good friend- Fred Parker. Most of you know him as the brother of fan Ella Parker, and quite a few of you who have visited her will have met him. It would not be true to say that Fred was not a part of fandom, for he took an interest in all Ella's activity there and provided hospitality to all visiting fans..and they were many. Fred was a very kind man- I think kindness was his main characteristic. He was always very happy doing things for other people. Those who knew him will miss him a lot. He reminded me a lot of my Father, for each in their own way were very contented men. To be content with your lot, and to live in happy content, may not seem like a very great virtue. Yet I have to listen to so many people who continually grumble about their lot; and I watch so many striving ambitious people who fret their way through life that I am quite convinced that people like Fred are the salt of the earth and have known its savour.

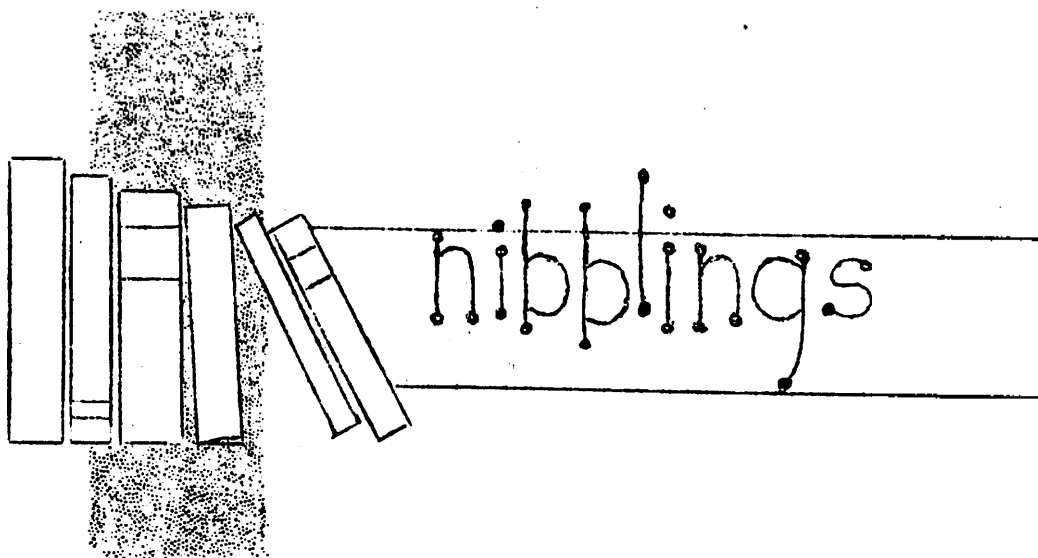
Ethel Lindsay

OPHTHALMIC WARD

by George Coombs

I walk softly among them
They are all asleep
As I walk in the breathing
Darkness I think of
The other darkness, the
One that they fear, the
Darkness that could take
From their eye's sights
Like tonights full moon
And all the atten'ant stars

Then, after a while
Morning will come to their
Eyes, a newly created day
Will mean more to them
Than it ever has to me.
Light, if only barely perceptible,
Could fill some here with joy.
But now they sleep, peaceful
Unaware of any dark, or me as
I walk softly among them.



THE SILENT INVADERS by Robert Silverberg. Dobson SF. £2.95. In this we follow the fortunes of an alien sent to Earth in disguise. His mission is to enlist Earth support for his people against their deadly enemies, the Medlins. He finds his loyalties sorely tried when both the Medlins and the Earthmen try to persuade him that his people are the villains. Fairly predictable, but with a few surprises at the end. Goes without saying really, competence throughout.

THE FOURTH CONNECTION by R.D. Bagnall. Dobson SF. £2.95. This is a series of connecting stories based on a concept worked out logically to explain the fourth dimension. The author is much more interested in the scientific theory than in telling an interesting story. So it is all very dull—unless you are stimulated by the concept. Some scientific knowledge will help your enjoyment here.

THE MOON MOTH AND OTHER STORIES by Jack Vance. Dobson SF. 5 stories. The first — THE WORLD BETWEEN is about a battle of different ecologies which I found rather dull. THE MOON MOTH refers to a mask worn by Thissell as he tries to adhere to the strange customs of the planet Fan, and at the same time try to find a dangerous criminal. The mores of FAN are very intriguing, but reminded me a bit of the Chinese way of looking at things. BRAIN OF THE GALAXY made me think Vance is too inclined to cram too much into a short story, this one is definitely over-crammed. THE DEVIL ON SALUTATION BLUFF describes a planet where everything is completely random, no proper day or night and no way to guess which is coming! THE MAN RETURNS is really weird showing Earth after an upheaval which leaves two kinds of men..one substantial, logical and dying, and one ethereal, illogical and prosepering. Good value..each could easily be stretched to novel length. THE BRAINS OF EARTH by Jack Vance. Dobson SF. £2.95. Alien minds and landscapes open this story—and then we meet Burke being brutally kidnapped by the aliens. He is shown by them that he has a mind parasite that can only be removed by torture. He is told that all Earth is infested and that unless he helps to destroy this parasite—the nopal—the aliens will destroy Earth. Back on Earth without his nopal he finds that every other human detests him on sight. He has been given an impossible task and the author shows ingenuity and imagination in finding a solution.

A SCATTER OF STARDUST by E.C. Tubb. Dobson SF. £2.75. 8 stories. THE BELLS OF ECHEPON is poignant as is ANNE which tells of the death of a man and his ship.

Nibblins 2

RETURN VISIT gives a very new twist to the conjure-up-a-demon theme. THE SHRINE is a neat vignette of the human race looking for some pride whilst scattered among aliens who think little of them. SURVIVAL DEMANDS poses-when all the races Brathmen meet are telepathic will it be necessary to destroy them for survival? LITTLE GIRL LOST is a real chiller. THE EYES OF SILENCE has another problem, can man live alone in space? ENCHANTERS ENCOUNTER goes back to giving an original turn to an old notion, that of the hexing of a man. Ingenuity and imagination make a good mixture.

RETIET'S RANSOM by Keith Laumer. Dobson SF. £2.95. Retief of the Corps Diplomatique returns with another perplexing race with which he has to deal. This is the Lumbagans who have the ability to assemble themselves. Once he penetrates why this is possible he finds a fiendish scheme by the Groaci to use this strange ability. Very far-fetched but told in the humorous manner that allows the reader into the joke. One quite outrageous pun towards the end!

WORLD WITHOUT STARS by Poul Anderson. Dobson SF. £2.50. A party of Earthmen are stranded on a planet and need the help of the natives to get their spaceship going again. They discover that one of the races the Ai Chun consider themselves gods and do not believe the Earthman's story of the universe. As the Ai Chun are also able to enslave minds and have done so to the other races, a pretty problem arises. Before they can leave they must shatter the whole culture of the planet. Interesting parallels made with the American Indians.

Dobson SF have also issued a series of books all at £2.95 which are based on the TV series Space 1999.

1. BREAKAWAY by E.C. Tubb. Naturally this one describes the breakaway of Moonbase Alpha and also takes in their first adventure - the encounter with an anti-matter world. This also serves to introduce us to the main characters such as Commander Koenig and Dr Helena Russell.

2. MOON ODYSSEY by John Rankine. This one sees the stage set, the people on Alpha at least appreciating that they are alive. They have a life support system and one of their number is expecting a baby. But, never a dull moment on Alpha as this seemingly good event brings an alien threat. Then when they encounter a planet whose inhabitants provide them with atmosphere - hope comes up, only to be sadly disappointed again. A couple of other adventures end in the same way but the Alphans become more reconciled to their way of life.

3. THE SPACE GUARDIANS by Brian Ball. This has a personal adventure for Koenig when aliens use him as an experiment. He falls in love with one and has to choose between her and Alpha - with the latter naturally winning. This leaves him depressed and the next crisis to hit them has to become serious before he snaps out of it. In the following episode his dealings with the aliens and their mind control techniques is a help when the other Alphans are lured to a planet by the Goardians.

4. COLLISON COURSE by E.C. Tubb. Told mainly from the viewpoint of Koenig. Again there is a series of adventures which even includes confrontation with a psychotic immortal. The last episode has the Alphans testing out another planet and once again being disappointed. The author manages to infuse quite a bit of life into the scripts.

5. LUNAR ATTACK by John Rankine. By this time the Alphans are very wary..no wonder..for the number of things that "appear from nowhere" are quite considerable by now. This time they are helplessly between two warring planets. Seen

Nibbles 3

week by week on the TV screen these adventures can be absorbed, but with hardly a pause for breath in the books I already feel the pattern of hope-disappointment is too rigid.

6.ASTRAL QUEST by John Rankine. The opening plot is the best so far..they meet a machine called Gwent whose 'companion' dies and as its arrogance is as great as its power they are in trouble again.

On the whole these books faithfully reproduce the scripts but the abruptness of one crisis following another is disconcerting. Less scripts per book would give the authors more elbow room. I understand the publishers are considering this for the next series.

FUTURE GLITTER by A.E.Van Vogt.Sidgwick & Jackson.£3.50 There is indeed a glittering quality to this novel, and the plot is less hectic than the usual Van Vogtian one. He says that he has based it on the life of Stalin-and certainly the dictator in this future is as ruthless. The downfall of this dictator is supposed to come through a new communication device. The working out of it all is profoundly interesting. I felt, however, a lack of logic towards the end and was a bit disappointed at how it all winds up.

THE FOUNDATION TRILOGY..FOUNDATION..FOUNDATION AND EMPIRE..SECOND FOUNDATION by Isaac Asimov. Sidgwick & Jackson. £4.95. All this packed together certainly makes a large book! Personally it is one of my favourites, one of the books I can re-read with pleasure. Lately it has been fashionable to scoff at these books - at the idea of the future planning that Asimov describes. Yet this tale which spans planets and centuries remains vastly entertaining. I consider it one of the classics of SF and warmly recommend it.

ENCHANTED PILGRIMAGE by Clifford D.Simak.Sidgwick & Jackson.£3.50. Although this is the story of three cultures beginning to merge-at least this is the ending-it starts with a journey being undertaken by a scholar, a refter goblin,Gib the Marshman,Hal of the Hollow Tree and a gnome. On their way they meet hell-hounds, a witch, and there is even mention of fairies though they never appear. In short, a world where magic works that has a puzzle.All worked out nicely enough but gnomes and ogres leave me cold, and fantasy voyages have me skipping pages. Definetly for the fantasy fan.

BADGE OF INFAMY by Lester Del Ray. Dobson SF. 22.75. I found this as much a horror story as anything else. For this future world has a medical association in power which can turn a doctor into a parish because he treated a patient outside a hospital! This is the hero and we meet him in a flophouse. From there by dint of stolen papers he gets himself to Mars. I read it all in quite fascinated horror - that doctors could ever be so callous towards suffering. I'd like to think this could never come true!

NEW WRITINGS IN SF 27:Edited by Kenneth Bulmer. Sidgwick & Jackson.£3.95. The first story by Michael Coney uses an exotic background..sharks and barracudas kept as pets is only one of the wealth of details he manages to pack into a short story.Vera Johnson's story of a student agitator went one way when I was expecting it to go another; I'm not sure just who she was getting at! Another 3 Enigmas from Aldiss have more of a story core this time, when he writes so well, I wish he would sometimes write something for someone like me. Bob Van Laerhavan has an original love story in a circus which involves a genetic experiment.HEATWAVE by David Langford is very satirical, too much so rather spoiling a good idea. Lastly by Colin Kapp is a real horror story, well it involves rats and that is always a horror to me! These stories all seem selected with care and with a real desire to find new SF.

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THREE EYES by Stuart Gordon, Sidgwick & Jackson, £3.95 Third novel in the trilogy started with ONE-EYE. One the whole I think one would do well to read all three at once. I have done it the other way and only with this last book can I make sense of it all. In this one learns that the Mutant has not been his own master as he thought. This tells how a section of humanity set out to counter this and regain their humanity. There is again many fine scenes of imaginative power.

UNIVERSE TWO, Edited by Terry Carr, DORSON SF, £3.50. There are 13 stories that are chosen with originality in view. Bob Shaw starts off with RETROACTIVE where humans meet up with a race who can travel through time; he uses the idea to give flesh to his characters in his usual thoughtful way. RA Lafferty has the idea that we are all telepathic and do not know it; and has two scientists invent an inhibitor that produces real shambles. Harlan Ellison surprised me with a delicate tale of unicorns and ghosts. The most amusing to me was Joanna Russ's mock guide book USEFUL PHRASES FOR THE TOURIST.

Now some more DAW books...

No 181 DORSAL by Gordon Dickson, \$1.50. One of my favourites, Donal is a protagonist who one can follow with complete sympathy from the day he leaves his home planet to follow his training as a soldier till he becomes complete commander. For centuries the Dorsai have been the best soldiers in the known galaxy, but Donal has something extra and watching his use of it is highly entertaining.

No 182 THE MINIKINS OF YAM by Thomas Burnett Swann, \$1.25. A tale of Ancient Egypt, high fantasy with a young Pharaoh as hero who is threatened by his sister and who escapes into a marvellous journey where he meets the minnikins.

No 183 TOMORROW KNIGHT by Michael Kurland, \$1.25. I enjoyed this one, and look forward to a sequel! Carl is a soldier and quite accustomed to fighting whilst Guests hover above watching. He does not question his world till he meets up with Alyssaunde who gives him a lift in her Flitter. Because of her interest he gets caught up with two men escaping and finds that not only is his world a very odd affair, it even isn't the Earth that he had thought it was. Highly entertaining characters.

No 184. DON'T BLTE THE SUN by Tanith Lee, \$1.25. Another enjoyable one, lead character is a young woman who is still Yang. Its jang to be young and do all sorts of reckless things, like die and get a new body, like sabotaging the robots, like getting married for a whole afternoon. However she begins to feel dissatisfied, she is bored and starts to make a search for something fresh to do. This way one can survey the amazing future in which she lives; and see the reality behind it all that eludes her. Very interesting!

No 185 TRIBESMEN OF GOR by John Norman, \$1.50. Tenth book of the saga of Tarl Cabot. I'd say for the male fans, but who knows, maybe there are some women who enjoy them. I find the rather boring and the slavery theme morbid.

No 186 THE WRATH OF DR FU MANCHU, \$1.50. This produces some unpublished manuscripts of Rohmer, and some stories that had only appeared in magazine. So a real find for the Rohmer collectors.

No 187 IRONCASTLE by J.H. Rosny, retold by Philip José Farmer, \$1.25. Originally published in France in 1922 and is one of the early 'lost race' stories. Rather in the Burroughs mold - a hidden valley in Africa and apemen to be found by the bold explorer. A valley taken over by something from outer space so this one for the Sf and well as the fantasy fan.

Nibblings 5

Daw Books contd.

No 188 EXTRA OF IVREL by C.J.Cherryh.\$1.25. I think I liked this one because although it is more fantasy than SF the hero is believable. He is a king's bastard who, in defending himself, kills one of his brothers and maims the other. For this he is banished and so is there when Morgaine appears through a Gate from which she had vanished years before. Nicely paced adventure.

No UY1222 GREEN PHOENIX by Thomas Burnett Swann.\$1.25. Which is described as the last stand of the pre-humans. Dryads we meet first and then the humans and watch to see which way of life will prevail. Entertainingly told.

ROBOT No 1 is a new magazine of SF published in Italy. Very neat format and a formidable list of contributors - Leibor, Damon Knight, Ellison, and Harry Harrison, and our own Peter Weston. Nice blend of stories and articles. Cost: £1.700

DREAMS MUST EXPLAIN THEMSELVES by Ursula K. LeGuin. From ALGOL PRESS P.O.Box 4175, New York, NY 10017. \$3. A first-rate article under the title gives quite a lot of illumination to the way this author works. Also included is a map of Earthsea. Then there is a short story THE RULE OF NAMES which is about a wizard and a dragon and is rather cute. Next comes the Le Guin acceptance speech after the National Book Award. Lastly there is an interview conducted by Jonathan Ward which is highly useful when reading THE DISPOSSED.

THE YEAR OF THE SEX OLYMPICS and Other TV Plays by Nigel Kneale. £4.25 Ferret Fantasy Ltd, 27 Beechcroft Rd, Upper Tooting, London SW17 7BX. The other two plays are THE ROAD and THE STONE TAPE. Published for the first time, and a good thing too as the original TV tapes have been wiped clean. THE ROAD first, which really makes a great impact, set in 1770 in which we meet an early scientific investigator trying to understand what appears to be a supernatural phenomena. THE STONE TAPE also has the scientific and the supernatural entwined. It is a more devious story however. Lastly THE YEAR OF THE SEX OLYMPICS a truly frightening story of the use of TV in the future. If you saw these plays you will be pleased to have the scripts to hand, and if you did not, I can promise you a rare treat.

NOW YOU SEE IT/HIM/THEM by Gene DeWeese & Robert Coulson. Doubleday. \$5.95. This is set at an SF Convention and is, on the surface, a mystery story. At least it opens with a dead body that of an author who has been specialising in de-bunking cults. When he is found by Joe, a reporter who has the knack of just being there at the right time, he has been murdered by someone who vanishes. So, a nice blend of SF, mystery, fandom, weird talents and humorous characters is then handed to the reader, and this reader enjoyed it all tremendously. As Wilson Tucker says "Someone will nominate this weird tale for the Hugo awards and a whole new category will have to be invented to accommodate it."

GATES OF THE UNIVERSE by R. Coulson & G. DeWeese. Laser Books 95¢. This couple have a nice style of writing that never takes itself too seriously, and always has a humorous note that is never belaboured. In this Ross Allen who is operating a bulldozer is unexpectedly catapulted through a Gate into another world. The fact that he is an SF writer on the side is sometimes a help and sometimes a handicap.

Halcyon Drift by Brian Stableford. Pan SF. 50p. The adventures of Star-pilot Grainger no 1. Which starts with him being stranded on a barren planet which he leaves with a mind-parasite and a debt of thousands of dollars. He has not

Nibblings 6

really learnt to adjust to the first by the time the story ends.

RHAPSODY IN BLACK by Brian Stableford. Pan SF.50p and Grainger story no 2. in which he is still paying off his debt by piloting THE HOODED SWAN to risky assignments. He meets a culture which keeps away from light as much as possible - a weird idea imaginatively explored. But the constant playbacks are irritating.

THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH by Walter Tevis. PAN SF.60p. An alien comes to Earth to use his superior knowledge, not an adventure story but essentially a sad one. For those who like their SF 'significant'. I didn't like it.

FARTHEST STAR: by Frederick Pohl & Jack Williamson. PAN SF.60p. Ben allows his duplicate to go out into the galaxy on a mission. A pretty peculiar concept.

NON-STOP: by Brian Aldiss. PAN SF.60p. One of this author's best. The long voyage in a spaceship which eventually has generations who do not even know they are in a ship..has never been better done. Imagination and extrapolation.

and here I must come to the end of detailed reviews and list what is left...

THE BROMIUS PHENOMENON by John Rankine. Dobson SF. £2.95

CANDLE IN THE SUN by Robert Wells. Sidgwick & Jackson. £3.95

THE LION GAME by James Schmitz. Sidgwick & Jackson. £3.95 a Telzey story..look forward to reading this one.

Some DAW books...

THE SHATTERED CHAIN by Marion Zimmer Bradley..a Darkover story \$1.50

ARMADA OF ANTARES by Alan Burt Akers. Dray Prescott story no 2. \$1.25

ANCIENT MY ENEMY by Gordon R. Dickson. 9 short stories. \$1.50

HUNTERS OF THE RED MOON by Marion Zimmer Bradley \$1.25

There is also:

SCIENCE-FANTASY CORRESPONDENT a very handsome magazine which is published in a limited edition. \$10 per copy. published by Carrolton Clark, 9122 Rosslyn, Arlington, Virginia 22209. USA. Willis Conover's editorial does not tell a lot about the origin of this magazine. However there are pages reprinted from a 1936 edition which include such names as David Keller, Jack Williamson, Kuttner. From today comes the names of Aldiss and A.C. Clarke. There is also fiction and some Lovecraftian material. All very intriguing.

WORLDWORKS New Writings Quarterly: is another magazine, glossy cover and very spacious layout. Lots of artwork. According to the editorial this aims at being weird. The poems and stories are all very intent on having the reader puzzle out the meaning or inject their own meaning. I am far too matter of fact a person to appreciate any of this. To me this is all posturing and none of it real. I do them an injustice, no doubt. However one can only speak as one finds. It comes from Michael Butterworth, 10 Charter Rd. Altrincham, Cheshire. £2.80 for 4. US Agent: Charles Platt, Box 556, Old Chelsea Station, New York. NY. 10011. \$7 per annum.

LETTERS

Dave Rowe,
8 Park Drive
Wickford, Essex
SS12 9DH

"I would have thought by now you'd have learnt to take any reference to 'getting smashed' in fandom with a pinch of salt. I've probably seen as many tipsy fen as I've seen Sunday dinners, but really 'smashed' are few and far between. Anyhow I still wouldn't criticise too heavily if I was you,

seeing as you manage to review SPI 2 twice and give a different review each time, and then claim VECTOR is VAGARY!!! Wheee, what are you on baby?"

I was on humble pie to Chris Fowler afterwards anyway. I could do with a proof-reader to catch the typos and mistakes around here..as well as a stapler wielding strongman.

Mary Legg

soon to be
Long for
which
congrats!

"Bob Shaw's mention of skinny-dipping-I recently came across this term for the first time. However my weight being what it is, if I did indulge in skinny-dipping, no-one would be able to prosecute me under the Trades Descriptions Act. What I would like to know it, though, would an oyster have to take its shell off in order to skinny-dip and if so, should its score be reduced accordingly to say, 98?"

Bill Hill,
41 Highfield Rd
Buckie, AB5 1BE

and fantasy. Why are not more of them dealing with other topics, such as politics, the collecting hobbies, sex, sport, food drink? Who were the other pinoncers?" ***Phew! a tall order..the history of fanzines. I see that I answered your letter, so I hope I gave you the main points. Which were, for the benefit of newcomers, that fanzines arose from the pulp magazine letter columns, and that indeed there are other areas that spin off fanzines. Apart from coin and stamp collecting, there is also mystery and comic zines. I have lately received fanzines from THE KENNEDY SOCIETY OF EUROPE!***

Geoff Rippington,
15 Queens Ave
Canterbury, Kent
CT2 8AY

"Harry Warner's letter was interesting in that he hopes to meet life from other planets. I do not wish Earth to meet life from other planets for at least 100 years. The reason for this? Well, think about it. What do you think would happen? Great influxes of information? Greater happiness will come over the world? The world government will come at last? Will it hell! It will become another five day wonder, everybody out to get what they can, not caring how its got....What I hope will come out is a new way of living, a new spirit-and I don't mean a new religion, we have too many already, no I mean a way of life that will help so that present-day stupidity of famine war, violence in the young and old will never be heard. Let us meet aliens, but not now. I would be ashamed to show them round the planet."

Letters 2

Roy Lavendar
2507, E. 17th St
Long Beach, Calif
90804

"Computer has become an unfortunate word with most company executives. The price of a given size has been dropping by 20% per year for several years.

There is no way of writing off capital investments at that high rate, so any executive who OK'd the purchase of a new computer last year is standing with egg on his face... Aussicon really started with the going away party on Friday evening. All the fans from around the US and Canada who were going gathered there. And continued the whole flight, there was even a one-shot put out on the plane. Bob Tucker was among those going and the flight crew was a bit puzzled by the whole group going "Smoooooth". Especially since Air New Zealand serves orange juice at every opportunity and soon everyone was going "Smoooooth" every time a fresh glass appeared. The people we met were all very friendly and helpful. Not only the fans, but just about everybody. Even the small delays, such as a late start were turned into a whole new fannish tradition by Susan Wood with three bunches of daffodils. Daffodill fandom was again triumphant when Shayne McCormack continued the tradition at the Sydney airport as the group left for Auckland. The train crew and the sellers of souvenirs were much puzzled by this strange crew, all wearing a daffodil. But they were much too polite to ask. There were even more strange looks from the plane crew when most of the fans gave their daffodils to the stewardesses along with thanks for a most pleasant trip. Those who carried theirs off the plane and declared the strange import to the agriculture officials got even stranger looks. We got out to see Ron Graham and his new library addition to his house. In fact we were driven out in his Rolls Royce. Class! The library is quite extensive. Colleges giving courses in SF should have one half as large! More remarkable, he's read it all and has a large file card giving a short synopsis on each one."

Sam Long,
Box 4946
Patrick AFB
Florida.
32925

"I'd read the article by Bob Shaw in MOTA--and sent him a LOC full of fish jokes as you may read just for the halibut. I'll spare you that fate, and content myself with saying that I disagree with Bob's promise, which is that Oysters are a Measure of Fannishness. The only things oysters are good for

is testing the strength of one's stomach. Since they don't have any appendages you can't even say "Fandom is a way of life". Ah, here's a bit for Dave Griffin. The weather rockets we launch at the Cape are for data not experiment, and for climatological purposes not forecasting. They're used to collect wind and temperature data from the upper atmosphere in the region between weather balloons and satellites, that is to say, 100,000ft- 400,000ft. The ones we usually launch go up to about 250,000ft. The data they get are used not so much by forecasters (since almost all the 'weather' in the atmosphere occurs below 40,000ft) but more by atmospheric physicists for theoretical purposes. What they do is provide us with an in-dep'h view of the atmosphere, and since (a) there are several dozen weather rocket launch sites around the world, and (b) the extreme upper atmosphere doesn't change very rapidly, we can, by correlating surface weather data and weather balloon data and rocket data, get a pretty good idea of what the atmosphere looks like from day to day. Other people that use rocketsonde data are rocket launchers (I mean the chaps who launch the big ones) and certain artillery officer and very high-altitude flyers. And other scientists too. Here at the Cape (it's Canaveral now, not Kennedy, if you please) the rockets are launched three times a week; and they're tracked by radar and that and the data from the instruments aboard are fed into

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a computer which does all the dull calculations faster and better than a human observer could, and prints us out a data sheet that has all kinds of useful information on it: altitude, wind velocity, temperature, density of air, speed of sound at that altitude, index of refraction (useful for radarmen), the amount of wind shear, pressure..all the good stuff."

Bruce Pelz

15931 Kalisher St
Granada Hills
CA 91344. USA

"There will probably be at least a dozen half-wits who will accuse Bob Shaw of having a shollfish attitude to neofaneds, so I might as well be one of them...Re: your statement to David Griffin about getting another issue of a fanzine for a loc on a current issue, it may be true that "you always do" as far as SCOT is concerned...and as far as most fannish fanzines are concerned---especially the personalzines. But there are getting to be a fairly large number of zines published that don't follow the 'unwritten rule', either because they aren't really in our field or because they cost so much to produce that the editor deesn't think he can afford free copies for locs, or because their purpose is display rather than vommunication. Exempla gratia: NICKOLODIAN; PHANTASMAGORIA"

Adrian Mellor

49 South Grove
Erdington.
Birmingham.B23 6NT

"You'll be pleased to know that HAVERINGS succeeded in being the uscful fanzine guide that you'd intended. Regarding fandom and academic life, you might be interested to know that Scottishe entered academic life just a week ago, when I used it as illustrative material in a lecture I gave to postgraduates in the local School of Education at Birmingham University. Next thing you know you'll be on the 'O' level syllabus, eh?"
Not merely interested to know..fascinated to know! Lecturing on SF has gone on for some time now..but lecturing on fanzines..never thought I'd live to see the day.

Keith Freeman,

128 Fairford Rd
Tilehurst
Reading.RG3 6QP

"Chris Fowler rang me this morning and mentioned he'd got SCOT too, he was disappointed that VECTOR 69 was not mentioned. I found a review of VAGARY 69 which leads me to wonder how-come everyone else calls it VECTOR? Obviously your mind was still on the previous review... You mention the lack of a Fanzine Foundation. As far as I know the BSFA Fanzine Foundation is in the hands of Keith Walker. I won't go into the loss of the BSFA Fanzine Foundation No 1 here but Keith Walker took over FF No 2. Lack of publicity then ensued because of the complete collapse of the BSFA committee rather than anything Keith did nor did not do....Mimeograph = duplicator, but I too am confused by 'ditto'. Could be spirits duper?" ***I was so glad to get this letter, for then I was able to write and apologise to Chris for an exceedingly careless mistake. Now that the BSFA is together again, perhaps some information could be given out about the Fanzine Foundation. I would be very willing to support it given some assurance that it was worthwhile. I have not got the space for all the fanzines and am constitutionally unable to fling any out***

David Griffin

83 Maple Rd
Horfield
Bristol BS7 8RF

"Do you really read all of those books? At around 200 pp per book that's 10,000pp-at 1p per minute it should take you about 170 hrs or six days of continuous reading....Here is a plea you might be kind enough to run.. I am a great I'M SORRY I'LL READ THAT AGAIN fan, and would like to get hold of some of the early episodes. If anybody has recorded any of them I would be

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grateful if they could contact me." ***I am a very quick reader and my usual quota is to read a book a day..sometimes two. I know the reviews are short and not 'critiques' but my aim is to give enough detail to let anyone know whether this is a book they would wish to buy. It would be very easy to take one book and go over it in detail, but that would be at the expense of the others***

Mike Glicksohn

141 High Park Ave
Toronto, Ontario
M6P 2S3

"It's silly to argue personal preferences in fanzine material but I do want to point out that while I felt you didn't learn enough about people like Skel from their diary type zines I've found myself able to feel

a part of their fan circles even though we've met for only five minutes at SEACON. And I felt I knew them before that con, through zines like INFERNO and KFN etc. Different strokes for different folks, et al...The act of correcting two hundred mis-printed copies is surely far beyond the call of duty, but it shows the heart of a trefan doesn't flag, regardless of how infrequent its endeavors may be!" ***I met you at the SEACON too and you at once advanced into the ranks of my favourite fans by saying "You look much younger than I expected!"...***

I also heard from and wish to thank...Roger Waddington who enjoyed the contrast between ALGOL and SCOT and would like to see more foreign zines with agents who can be paid in the local currency, welcome back from GAFIA, Roger. Terry Jeeves who, always generous, took the trouble to praise the ATOM cover. Roy Tackett who agrees with Harry Warner that finding life elsewhere in the solar system in their lifetimes is extremely slim. Jan Howard Finder who asks me to remind everyone to join the 77 Worldcon so they can vote for Britain in 79. Graham Poole who quips..."Thanks for SCOT 70...just think thirty more issues and you'll be getting a telegram from the Queen"... Alexander Yudenitsch who tells me that THE TOWERING INFERNO when shown in São Paulo had the audience breaking into applause at two or three particularly tense rescue scenes..he wonders if this was a world-wide phenomena..São Paulo did have two major skyscraper fires with dozens of deaths and hundreds of wounded. Er A.D. Walker of Louisiana kindly explains some of the initials used in American education such as GPA being Grade Point Average Harry Warner thinks that the Bob Shaw article will be one of a handful of fannish classics and adds "The subject matter won't become outdated by whatever happens in the future, because the habits of fans and oysters seem to be somewhat like Scottishe, firm and stable in an otherwise chaotic universe" He also explains that mimeo and ditto were originally trade names. Sid Birchby sends a nice long letter who points out "There aren't any problems if you twist them around a little. Take the last time I started to write an article for SCOT. Title: "How to solve the Energy Crisis". I think this was 1972. Well, I never finished it, because the candle burnt out. We were having power cuts because the power stations couldn't keep up with demands. Today the problem is solved. Power prices have been so raised so high that they are now going to close down a lot of the power stations for lack of demand. A good energy-saving solution." I hope Sid does not wait so long to write again!

Ethel



HAVERINGS

Comments upon Fanzines received.....

A few first issues as a start...

ORION EXPRESS: No 1: From Paul Ryan 29 Morritt Avenue, Halton, Leeds LS15 7EP. 25p
Paul describes this as a personalzine and asks for criticism. He has filled this first issue himself and obviously spent time and money, as the production is very good. His artwork is better than his fiction, but as he is a commercial artist this is understandable. Nothing particularly wrong with the fiction; but nothing original either.

TITAN: No 1: From: G.D. Rippington, 15 Queen's Ave. Canterbury. CT2 8AY. Very colourless as the editor gives hardly any personal details at all. He gives a biography of Poul Anderson and lists books and obs published. There is one piece of fiction which is pretty feeble, I'm afraid.

DRIFT: No 1: From: Gary Farber, 1047 E. 10th St. Brooklyn, N.Y. 11230. For trade etc no price. His opening pages are pretty chaotic and dart from subject to subject in a bewildering way. Somewhere along he starts putting dates and one is in the midst of a con report..he doesn't mention which con. Here and there I pick out names I know, but it is all written under the assumption that he is writing to someone who knows him well. One really good thing in this is the artwork, particularly the cover, but the artist's name isn't given.

GUNPUTTY: No 1: From: Samuel S. Long, Box 4946, Patrick AFB, Fla 32925. USA. For trades etc. A sigh of relief at the sight of a proper colophon..and he even takes time to explain the title (tho he does go on about it) Sam has an urbane style which enables him to cover a laudable amount of ideas. Fun is given with a fannish cookbook. I laughed most at 'David Quail with Wallnuts'!..and sniffed "such cheek" at his article on the "haggis bird". His slew of con reports are informative and entertaining..however he calls a femme fan "polynymous" and has held me up for 10 mins trying to find it in a dictionary without success..blow the man. Easily the best of the first issues..but then its not his first..and the experience tells. An announcement here of his engagement to Mary Legg makes me think that this should be a good combination for fannish publications!

NICKELODEON: No 1: From: Tom Reamy & Ken Keller, 1131 White, Kansas City, Missouri 64126. \$2 per copy. Completely professional in appearance with some excellent artwork. The contributors line-up is very impressive..Piers Anthony and Poul

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Anderson debating the meaning of Time; and Bob Tucker gives "the way it really ended" to THE LONG LOUD SILENCE. The editors don't say why..but they want to produce nude centre-folds and start off with Steve Uttley, they are looking for fannish volunteers to continue this. Not all the articles are serious, in fact they are in the minority..tongue firmly tucked in cheek would best describe the remainder.

A SHORT STOP AT THE TRANSYLVANIAN BRAIN SURGERY:No 3:From:George Barnett and Graham Pearce,3 Coleford Bridge Rd.Mytchett,Surrey.GU16 6DH.20p..cheap as it is very expensive-looking, and is profusely illustrated. It is mostly comics-oriented but I found highly interesting a article by Alan Hunter on the relationship between fan and editor. All comic fans would want this one.

WEIRD TALES:No 2:From:John Moffitt,520 W.31st St.Houston.Texas 77018.\$1.50

The surprise isn't the price but the quality paper used and the..again..very professional appearance. However this is really an odd one..a black humour fanzine is the best way to describe it. Highly literate and intelligent, but the humour is so wry it makes my lips pucker.

So let's have a look at some British zines... a more complete contrast one could not have than from the next...

THE INVERTED EAR TRUMPET:No 2:From:Richard McMahon,287 South Lane,New Malden Surrey.KT3 5RR. 10p. The reproduction is amateur alright, he has had some trouble with the inking, I sympathise! There is an article describing the recent books about SF, but the rest is fanzine reviews mainly. Very much a fan editor feeling his way..and doing it all by himself.

KI:No 2:From:Bernie Peake & Dave Rowe,6 Hawks Rd.Kingston-upon-Thames.Surrey KT1 3EG.25p. Now this one has no trouble with the duplicating though it sadly lacks some artwork, but it has the advantage of coming from a group and has brought the friendliness of the group into it. Both editors produce good material, and they also have Jhim Linwood who always writes well. A newcomer to me is Coral Clarke whose article about the types one meets at room parties is both funny and acute. Let's hope we will see more of this one.

Ardees:No 2:From:Andrew & Ruth Dunlop,34 John Grundy House,Howard Place,Hyde Cheshire.SK14 2TB.Trade etc. A natural tendency to brood over the first issue in this..so that the editorial and letter column are mainly concerned with this. A few zine reviews and a rather strained attempt at humour finish off. Very little information about themselves which might have helped to put some meat on this one.

THE GRIMBLING BOSCH:No 4:From:Harry Bell,9 Lincoln St.Gateshead.Tyne & Wear, NE8 4EE. Harry gains from having a definite aim for his zine..to let his friends know what is happening in Gannetfandom. So he can tell of a trip in an entertaining fashion. Letter column is good too, short but well edited.

Malfunction:No 8:From:Pete E.Presford,10 Dalkeith Rd,S.Reddish,Stockport.SK5 7EY.For trade etc. This is another one that is dated as it goes along,composed mainly of comments upon the letters and zines he receives. A good idea but not well carried out here. It all reads as if composed straight onto stencil.

EGG:No 10:From:Peter Roberts,6 Westbourne Park Villas,London W2.For trade etc. It was with relief that I turned to Peter's thoughts on the uses of crudzines; he had a point to make and he made it nicely and I bet he wrote it out before putting it on stencil too. He has good writers too..James Parkhill-Rathbone (who produces a very good magazine of his own)and John Brosnan. Its an odd thing if I don't laugh outright when reading Brosnan, and this is no exception.

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as he toys with the idea of a writer in residence at the public library. Fanzines are reviewed neatly by Eric Bantcliffe. The letter column is the best yet carrying informative stuff on the Degler phenomena and a discussion of the Fanzine awards.

ERG:No 52:From Terry Jeeves,230 Bannerdale Rd,Sheffield,S11 9FE.3 for 50p Terry doesn't like the kind of poetry he terms 'hogwash' so rife in zines these days. He advocates your saying so to the faneds. I agree with his judgement; but usually just pass reading it! Mind you he uses a whole page of this ERG to produce a simply dreadful pun; and ought to hang his head over that! However, I am with him once again over book reviews, so often I agree with his opinions. There is another article of useful hints on zine production..which Terry means to eventually publish as a separate booklet. As costs mount and mount this ought to be welcome.

NEWS FROM BRIE:No 16:From:Hartley Patterson,'Finches',7 Cambridge Rd. Beaconsfield,Bucks.HP9 1HW.Trade etc. This is to be the last issue as a gen-zine, in future it will be devoted to SF/Fantasy. This one is a mixture of games news, zine comments,a good review about the Bermuda Triangle. Best of all is a parody of A.A.Milne that is truly delightful.

GOBLIN'S GROTTO:No 2:Ian Williams,6 Greta Tce,Chester Rd,Sunderland,SR4 7RD Tyne & Wear.35p. A very good column here from Moht Jackson telling some of his experiences as a newly qualified doctor. I can't remember ever seeing anything like this in a zine before, but oddly enough there are very few doctors in fandom. Not surprising really..as a breed they are not very interested in non-medical matters. The editor wants femme fans to write about being female..and had only one reply from Fat Charnock. Her piece was interesting about herself as a person-but not very illuminating about feminism in general.

MAYANo 9:Robret Jackson,21 Lyndhurst Rd,Fenton,Newcastle upon Tyne.NE12.9NT Rob has provided a real editorial, very refreshing. It is also well-written about the subject of PR in the service of SF. I liked Ian William's history of Gannetfans, and enjoyed Pete Weston's tale of his editorial tribulations. These would be rather unbelievable (someone who couldn't spell 'story'!)if I hadn't heard the same from other editors.Excellent letter column with much discussion of 'what is fandom?'. Nothing particularly original said but always intriguing to read other people's views. I side with the people who think that 'communication' rather than SF is the core of fandom.

PARKERS PATCH:No 2:From:Brian Parker,Warren Spring Laboratory,Gunnels Wood Rd.Stovenage,Herts. Very self-conscious writing from both the editor and D. West who writes the zine reviews. West appears more concerned with his own image than in writing much about the zines themselves. Pity-because when he does discuss something he does so with common sense.Letter column has a very confusing layout-no clear indication of the end of the letter and the start of editorial comments. Not as good as letter column as MAYA by a long shot.

ATROPOS:Nos 1&2:From:Dave Cockfield,31 Durham Court,Hoburn,Tyne & Wear.NE31 1JX.For trades etc.Starts disarmingly with OH TO BE A BIG NAME FAN in which the editor introduces himself. He also writes most of the first issue, some of the material was thin but evidence of care in writing..Vast improvement in production with No 2 and he tackles a con report. However here is another con reporter taking a vast amount of time to describe how much beer was drunk. British fandom goes on so about beer, is it supposed to be very masculine? There is an article by a Rosicrucian, very intriguing!

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TRICIDE:No 22:From:Eric Bentcliffe,17 Riverside Cres.Holmes Chapel,Cheshire.
CW4 7NR.£1/\$2.50 for 3. Eric writes about holidaying behind the Iron Curtain and gives a very good insight into a different way of life. I liked this a lot. I found the fiction very laboured however. John Berry gives a fascinating description of a research project that involved taking fingerprints from chimps and monkeys. I'd call this a proper genzine that improves all the time.
OUR FAIR CITY:Nos 2&3:From:Martin Easterbrook,Physics Dept.Royal Holloway College,Egham Hill,Egham.Surrey.This is the journal of the British SF & Fantasy Society. Has a handy description of their society plus the BSFA, and The British Interplanetary Society. 2nd issue has a Benelux report and indeed seems to be mostly devoted to SF with only a piece of fiction for the fantasy side.

LOGO 9 75:From:Kevin Easthope,6 Ipsley Grove,Erdington,Birmingham.B23 7SY. I do think it is a bit much when an editor writes "First of all the apologies. 1.To fandom for bringing this zine out at all." I have no time for false modesty. On the whole an interesting offering, best item describes the weird happenings in Birmingham during its Festival of Performing Art.

AFTER THE FLOOD:11:From:David Griffin,83 Maple Rd.Horfield,Bristol.BS7 8RF.25p Rather humdrum, though its nice to see Ken Cheslin contributing again.

THE PANELOLOGIST:No 3:From:George Barnett,3 Coleford Bridge Rd.Mytchett,Surrey 9½p+5½p in stamps. Newspaper in format, mainly aimed at comics fans. Lots of letters and news, very lively and with excellent production.

GLIMPSE:No 3:From:Paul Hudson,102 Valley Rd.Rickmansworth,Herts.Essentially a comics zine, so exceptionally good artwork and comic strips and articles that sometimes edge into the SF field. A good article on William Burroughs.

KNOCKERS FROM NEPTUNE:No 3:From:Mike & Pat Meara,61 Borrowwash Rd.Spondon. Derby,DE2 7QH.£1 or trade etc. Mike is a real optimist, he is looking for 150 people to respond to his zine in some way! He uses the diary layout to advantage here. Letters and reviews make up the bulk and it is a bulky zine.No 2 has 60pp and I note Mike suggests reading it in bits. Trouble is if I put it down it will get lost in the pile. No 3 is slimmer though. It also says that he does not want reviews like this, only letters or trades or £1. He does not say why.

INFERNO:No 10:From:Skel & Cas,25 Bowland Close,Offerton,Stockport,Cheshire.SK2 5NW.For trade and active response only. This is very like KNOCKERS FROM NEPTUNE in fact it reads like a continuation of it. Same diary format and there is no Cas to turn to this time. Engenders a great senselessness. Not that the material isn't of interest, but one has to take it in small doses..

TITIAN:No 2:From:Geoff Rippington,15 Queen's Ave.Canterbury,Kent.CT2 8AY. There is some fiction and some poetry which I didn't like very much. Still there is a very comprehensive Van Vogt checklist.

Now a batch of neat small size zines...

RIVERSIDE QUARTERLY:Vol.6.No 3.60¢. Leland describes in his editorial what happened when he discovered that his copyrighted material had been used. As this was published in Aug.75(which shows how far behind I am)a lot must have happened since. I think I sympathise with him even if I am unhappy at the thought of lawsuits.This issue contains articles on Ballard,Heinlein, and Burgess-all analytical and rewarding to the scholar.Bill Blackbeard traces the to-be-continued comic strip back to Dickens, this is part of a longer work to come. As usual a very good zine of serious SF criticism.

STEFANTASY:Vol.31:No 2:From:William M.Danner,R.D.1,Kennerdell.Pa.16374.No 2.

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A highlight of this is the column by Dean Grennell, which is full of his highly individual opinions..good to read. Bill tops this though with his mock advert to celebrate the American Bi-centennial year. "Little Houses That Made America Great". Awful thought is..these privys might sell if the advert were real! As always a very nice fanzine to receive.

LE ZOMBIE:No 67:From:Bob Tucker,34 Greenbriar Drive,Jacksonville,Ill.62650. I must say I am impressed with the speed with which this has come out..Bob's Trip Report after his visit to Australia. This is a joy to read, it is well-written, of course, but also amusing, entertaining and informative. It is also a model of how a con report should be written. Oneto keep!

SPI:No 4:From:Graham R.Poole, 23 Russet Rd.Cheltenham,Glos.GL51 7LN.For trade etc. Another one without a price, more and more fans seem to feel that the publication is so expensive they may as well shrug the whole thing off! This zine has a nice atmosphere about it, relaxed and friendly. In the letters lots of people told about what happened when they tried to form local SF groups, I was impressed by the amount of effort they gave to their projects. Ian Williams zine review column is very good indeed. Best item was a GOH speech transcript by James White.

EGLADIL:No 3:From:Stuart & Rosie Clarke,36 Valley Rd.Liverpool.L4 0UD.15p or trade etc. A general fantasy zine with very good artwork.I could not finish a large chunk of fiction though, writing was too turgid for my taste.Stuart is still parising the benefit of litho over mimeo, but doesn't persuade me I could afford it. Rather slight in interest, particularly in the letter column.

THE FILLOSTRATED FAN DICTIONARY by Elliot Weinstein. In 2 volumes.Peter Roberts is British Agent.No price mentioned and I forget how much I paid. Elliot's address is 7001 Park Manor Ave,North Hollywood.CA 91605. Peter's is Flat 4,6 Westbourne Park Villas,London.W2. If you write enquiring remember a stamped addressed envelope makes you very popular. Sometimes the words that are listed are really useful..sometimes they are amusing..such as..Ad Hoc - Put more German wine in the punch-bowl. Sometimes even though I have known the meaning of a word, it is interesting to see just where it came from. There is a Spear saying..I HAVE A COSMIC MIND-NCW WHAT DO I DO? which is funny enough in itself. Here I learn it was first used when he put it on postcards and posted it to Degler from all over the country. That rocks me up. Very highly recommended.

PREHENSILE:Nos 13.5 & 14:From:Mike Glyer,c/o Dept.of Popular Culture,BGSU, Bowling Green.OH 43403 and Milton F.Stevens,14535 Saticoy,No 105.Van Nuys.CA. 91405. \$1, money to Stevens.The first is mostly composed of letters, irritating as Mike breaks into them without clearly indicating where. Most interesting is discussing the payment of pros attending conventions.No 14 has 125pp! Mike is good when discussing the value of fan reviews of SF. Then there is an interview with Ray Bradbury. This has, indeed, a good mixture of serious sf content and entertaining articles. Big value is a letter by Ted White discussing the Hugos and throwing in a potted history of New York's SF clubs.

OCTAZINE:No 1:From:Science Fiction club de Namur,8.P.29 & Namur 2,Belgique.25ff for 6.None of this in English so pardon me if I have not got it right. Looks very professional and sizeable.

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Chao:No 16,17,18,19:From:John J.Alderson,Havelock. Victoria.3465.Australia
4 issues and he has not had a word from me..John is a very patient fan. I am glad because I like his zine very much, it never sticks to a pattern and he is off into many new byways. Such as a very complicated history of the way religion became sectionalised. He uses a similar theme with literature. His reviews are good and the letter column always interesting. It is all well leavened with a good editorial sense of humour. For \$1 Australian

Syndrome:No 4:From:Frank Lunney,421S.4th St.Emmaus,Pa.18049.\$1 or trade etc.
There is a lot in this issue about Frank attending Mind Control classes. It goes on for pages but does not, in fact, give much details of the actual techniques involved. I was very sceptical though!

XENIUM:No 2.5:From:Mike Glicksohn,141 High Park Ave.Toronto.Ontario.Canada.
M6P 2S3. The blue paper and neat reproduction remind me strongly of WARHOON. This is a special 'pet' issue so Mike entertains us first about his own tortoise. He doesn't say who wrote the tongue-in-cheek anti-cat article, so I guess I give him the credit for being very clever. Joe Haldeman gives a good description of the various Writer's Workshops. Quite something this zine - it has even got a piece of snakeskin. Funniest thing is an article by John J. Alderson on how he 'uses' his illness.

JANUS:No 2:From:Janice Bogstad,Madison Book Co-op,254 West Gilman,Madison. Wisconsin.53703.50¢. A long article THE CITY AS IDEA by Jeanne Comoll reads like a set paper for an SF class. The fiction is rather heavy-handed. After this I am confused by a letter which calls JANUS "a nice bright newszine". Editor has some sensible things to say about the GOR novels though.

The National Fantasy Fan:V.35.No 6:From Joanne Burger,55 Blue Bonnet Ct.Lake Jackson,TX 77566. Interesting to me to see this after quite a few years, the N3F is still a very active organisation and helpful to new fans.To join send \$3 to Janie Lamb,Route 1,Box 364,Heiskell,TN 37754.

No 17:From Ruth Berman, who says this is the last issue. I am sad about that as this was never a conforming zine. Original touch this time is from Deborah Collin with some ironic material about Winnie the Pooh.

SIMULACRUM:Nos 2 & 2A:From:Victoria Vayne,PO Box 156,Stn D,Toronto,Ontario. Canada.M6P 3JB.For \$1 or the usual.74pp in the first and 48pp in the second, very well produced with stiff covers, but rather a daunting sight..or maybe I am rather tired tonight! However her statement that she is "probably the only fan who takes a single room,all to myself" made me blink. There are 3 good reports on the Toronto con. Dave Jenrette has an extremely funny piece. There is lots of discussion in the letter column about sex in SF, quite a variety of opinions, even one from a transsexual!

ALVEGA:No 2:From:Alyson L.Abramowitz,Box 3-C-4,1060 Morewood Ave.Pittsburgh,PA 15213.50¢. Very pleased with this one as it had a Jodie Offutt article, not quite so humorous as the last I read but giving a good glimpse of small-town life in the US. The editor provides a nice breezy atmosphere in the letter column.

PHOTRON:No 15:From:Steve Beatty,1662 College Ter.Dr.Murray.KY 42071.50¢.This consists mainly of reviews, enlivened by a vignette from John Alderson and a too short discussion of 'women's lib'.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW:Nos 14,15,16:From Richard Geis,PO Box 11408,Portland Oregon,97211.\$1.25. No 14 has a long and fascinating interview with Philip Jose Farmer, and gives the good news that another RIVERWORLD book is coming. No 15 has a Sprague de Camp interview and lots of meaty SF reviews. No 16

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made me blench; I had been getting on quite nicely with the microprint and then he switches to red, the hardest colour on the eyes, Dick! However I liked Dick's thoughts on small-press publishers who retain their freedom. Offhand there is not much one can say about good reviews, but they do make mesometimes have second thoughts on my own judgement.

OUTWORLDS: No 25, 26, & 27: From: Bill Bowers, PO Box 2521, North Canton, Ohio. 44720 \$1.50. Very nice round-up of material - such as Ted White on the art of stencilling. There is one of those hassles between Dean Koonz and Piers Anthony which makes me think it is always a mistake for one author to review another! Poul Anderson is writing about the Vietnam war that may bring forth arguments. 25 consists completely of letters, as large a bunch as I've seen representing a large segment of fandom. Although there is lots of good writing in both issues, I was most impressed by Robert Lowndes who writes an appreciation of James Blish. Most amusing comes from Jodie Offutt who has a fine dry humour. Highly superior contents though I turned away from the micro-elite with relief. Goddless: 11 & 12: From: Bruce D. Arthurs, 920 N. 82nd St. H-201, Scottsdale, AZ 85257. An article about his adventures in Iceland & Scotland by D. Gary Grady was not to my taste, a very male view of life. Predictably No 12 has some folks protesting at the chauvinist attitude of that article. In fact the second issue had a very good letter column indeed.

SF COMMENTARY: No 44/45: From: Bruce Gillespie, GPO Box 5195AA, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, Australia. \$1. 104pp in micro-elite. I always read Bruce's own column first; and by the time I have done that and read the meaty letter column I

am apt to think I have read the whole issue! However the real meat of this lies in the SF criticism which is of high order. Authors taken apart this time are Chris Priest, Le Guin, P.K. Dick, Gene Wolfe, Van Vogt and John Wyndham. GEGENSHEIN: No 24: From: Eric B. Lindsay, 6 Hillcrest Ave. Faulconbridge, NSW 2776. Australia. 18p. An odd mixture, very little from Eric, a view of SF on TV by Blair Ramage, and two pieces by John Alderson. The first is about death by car crash as it relates to Australian law, and the other is a bit of a diatribe

against Americans which put me out of sympathy with him. FORERUNNER QUARTERLY: No 1: Produced by the Sydney SF Foundation, 32 Spurwood Rd. Warrimoo, NSW 2775. 50p. This was produced for the Aussiecon and is a sort of a Combozine. So lots of variety and very well mixed.

THE NEW MILLENNIAL HARBINGER: No 14: From: John Bangsund, PO Box 357, Kingston, ACT 2604 and John Alderson. With only 8pp one hardly believes this comes from Australia! But it is good to hear from John Bangsund again, even if this is all far too short. More please.

LUNA MONTHLY: Nos 59 & 62: From: Frank & Ann Dietz, 655 Orchard St. Oradell, N.J. 07649. 50p. An excellent digest-sized zine which I note is also sold on newsstands in the US. The format is usually an interview with an SF author and a large amount of reviews and SF listings. The latter shows a fantastic amount of SF films coming out. Useful for keeping up-to-date on events too.

STARLING: Nos 32 & 33: From: Hank & Leigh Luttrell, 525 W. Main, Madison, WI. 53703 50p. A zine to delight any book-lover which covers the mystery field as well as SF. Juanita Coulson writes a most entertaining article about how to write gothics. Leigh writes on the delight of finding a "series" author and expands from that to a discussion of series characters. The first issue has a very fine tribute to the late Rex Stout. The second is outstanding for a good critique of the author Mabel Seeley. Highly recommended.

KARASS: Nos 16&17: From: Linda Bushyager, 1614 Evans Ave. Prospect Park, PA 19076. 3/41. A newszine that not only lists coming cons but gives brief reports of them afterwards. Nice to see one from Bob Tucker on the Aussiecon. Fanzine reviews are good as is the round-up of fanzine news.

YANDRO: Nos 233&234: From: Robert & Juanita Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, IN. 47348. USA. British Agent: Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd. Hoddesdon, Herts. 756 or 30p. The zine where you get three good editorials...but I am puzzled at Buck saying he had bought a "morningstar from Anduril Arms". Bob Tucker here shows how a good writer can take a dull and dusty subject and turn it into two sparkling pages. The first issue has a lot of book reviews, but the second has less so can include more articles. Y always has a good stable of article-writers and this is no exception, from Dave Locke on the perils of getting friendly with the neighbours to Marian Zimmer Bradley on the basic SF plots. As I had just been reading a Darkover novel I found the latter particularly interesting, and Dave is always a treat to read. Someone should give Buck an award for best reviewer in fandom.

DYNATRON: Nos 63&64: From: Roy Tackett, 915 Green Valley Rd. NW. Albuquerque. New Mexico. 87107. 35p. This contains a nice blend of personal chat and SF news and opinions. It will be interesting to see what Roy writes about his TAFF trip; he has never written anything dull yet so I look forward to it.

MOTA: Nos 12&13: From: Terry Hughes, 866 N. Frederick St. Arlington. VA 22205. No price..trades etc. Terry says he likes fanish zines and aims for that..a few puns lend strength to his claim though naturally the best one comes from Bob Shaw. There is also a lovely piece by James White THE EXORCISTS OF IF which combines nostalgia for the past with acute observation of the present.

A real scoop for which Terry is to be congratulated.

THE SPANG BLAH: Nos 1,3,4: From: Jan Howard Finner, PSC Box 614, APO, NY 09293. The first thing I do with my copies is put a staple in! Free to everyone. It is a very efficient newszine that covers every country.

FANZINE FANATTIQUE: Nos 13-18: From: Keith & Rosemary Walker, 2 Daisy Bank, Quernmore Rd. Lancaster. 4 for 10p. No 13 is devoted to reproducing material from past Con programme booklets, and is fascinating stuff, useful to the fan historian too. The other issues are devoted to zine reviews and a very large amount of them are covered. Quality is suffering a bit from quantity here but if anyone should be sympathetic to Keith about this it is myself as I begin to wonder if I will ever finish this column!

CYNIC: No 9: From: Gray Book, 2 Cecil Court, Cecil St. Lytham, Lancs. FY8 5NN. For trades etc. First I am shocked by some revelations from Gray about money and fans, and I admire his decision to write about it. I also liked his letter column which was well edited. Jim Linwood has fanzine reviews in here again perceptive as ever, and I was pleased that Gray wrote about the Blackpool con..I am sorry I had to cancel attending the first no-programme con, and glad to hear it was voted a success.

STOP BREAKING DOWN: No 1: From: Grge Pickersgill, 4 Lothair Rd. S. Ealing, London W5. Greg writing about the motive that gets a zine editor going was good but I shuddered at the admission he sometimes tears up stencils..at 8p each! That is 1/7d in real money! Graham Charnock, Peter Roberts, and Rob Holdstock are all writing of their early days and sounding a bit more portentous than their ages would allow. Greg has a zine review column which reveals how seriously he seems to take fandom. He mentions elsewhere that his Civil Service job is boring which may account for his attitude. Good luck to Simone Walsh who

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has started her first column here, she is amusing about having to re-write for her sternly critical editor.

ZIMRI: No 8: From: Lisa Conesa, 54 Manley Rd, Whalley Range, Manchester, M16 8HP. 50p. Handsomely produced so that Harry Turner's cover illo is done proper justice. I thought the best item by Ted Tubb who has a nicely ironic tale. There is a long article about cats, now I like cats but I can live without these kind of cat histories. A personal foible, I know they are popular.

SIDDHARTHA: No 7: From: Ian Williams, 6 Greta Terr, Chester Rd, Sunderland, SR4 7RD. Ian calls this a 'personal piece of ephemera'. It is all very pleasant though.

REQUIEM: Nos 82-9: From: Norbert Spehner, 455 Saint-Jean, Longueuil PQ, Canada. 6/\$5. Lovely production and artwork. In French.

MAISON D'AILLEURS: From: Piere Versins, Maitre de Maison, Rue du Four 5, 1400 Yverdon, Suisse. which tells about the opening of the HOUSE OF ELSEWHERE, a museum of Utopias, Extraordinary Voyages and SF. Sounds marvellous.

XUENSE: No 15: From: Alain le Bussy, 40 route de Méry, 4050 Esneux, Belgique. Sigh. I can't read this one either..but it has useful book listings.

VECTOR: Nos 70-74. Journal of the British SF Assoc. 6/£3.30 or \$6. Production and regularity back on schedule and so congratulations to the editor Chris Fowler, 72 Kenilworth Ave, Southcote, Reading RG3 3DN. Material keeps a high standard too.. Ursula Le Guin's GOH speech, Bob Shaw's entertainment, and the GOH speech of Dan Morgan are some highlights..and lots of good letters.

MAGNUS: No 7: From: Eric Batard, Rue Kléber, 37500 Chinon, France. In French.

TABEULAN: Nos 23-28: From: Dave & Mardee Jenrette, Box 330374, Coconut Grove, Miami, FL 33133, US. The one sure thing about an issue of TAB is that it won't be like any other..apart from a strong editorial sense of humour. Always interesting, of course, and particularly so when Dave describes how the Lamaze 'method' of Natural Childbirth nearly killed him! Nice to know that all turned out well with the birth of a baby daughter.

BAKKA: From: Bakka Bookstores, 282-286 Queen St. West, Toronto, M5V 2A1. Catalogue of for sale items that combines with some good articles and comic strips.

NESFFIG NEWSLETTER: From: Alan Isaacson, 39 Weldon Cres, High Heaton, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 15p. Chiefly notable for a history of British conventions, well done this.

THE WSFA JOURNAL: No 85: From: Don Miller, 12315 Judson Rd, Wheaton, MD 20906, \$1.50

The most thorough coverage of the SF scene that is humanly possible. Films and books covered in depth. Magazines are dissected issue by issue. The letter column is full of SF discussion ..it is thick in pages and good in content. With this comes SON OF THE WSFA JOURNAL at 30¢ money's worth in up-to-date news. but Don is branching this into two publications so write him for details first. He also produces THE GAMESLETTER 30¢ for those interested in games by mail

.....I get three regular catalogues I can recommend for good book-buying...

FANTASY TRADER: from: Ron Bennett, 36 Harlow Park Cresc, Harrogate HG2 0AW, Yorks. 60p/6..also lists comics and mystery. FANTASY CENTRE: From E.W. Ball & D.G. Gibson

43 Station Rd, Harlesden, London NW10 4UP. Mostly SF, current and out of print. Ferret Fantasy Ltd: From George Locke, 27 Beechcroft Rd, Upper Tooting, London SW17 7BX. Specialises in early SF and some mystery.

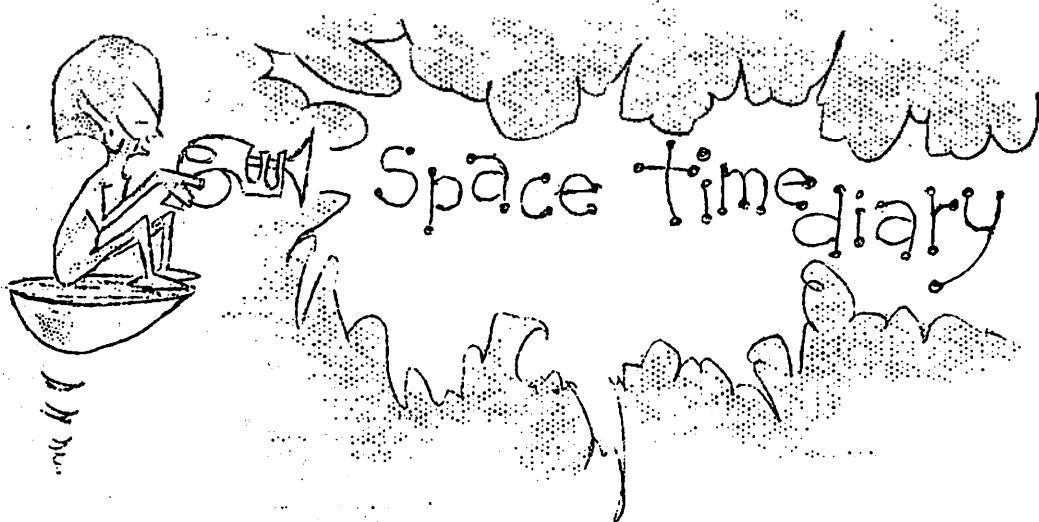
DE PROFUNDIS: Nos 79-83: Official Newsletter of the Los Angeles SF Society. 11360 Ventura Blvd, Studio City, CA 91604. \$3 per year. Makes all other fan groups look moribound-they have so many activities scheduled. Ideas galore for groups. No reason why they shouldn't be copied.

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and what doesn't get on here gets left...

CHECKPOINT: Nos 64&66: From: Ian Maule, 8 Hillcroft Cresc. Ealing, London. W5 2SG. 5/40p or trade etc. The newszine that I am glad to see kept on, have one complaint though..it is not nearly big enough. AMAZING STORIES: From: Eric Bentscliffe, 17 Riverside Cresc. Holmes Chapel, Cheshire. CW4 7NR. Nos 1&2. Eek.. I have just found CHECKPOINT 65 lurking behind..and it has a lot more meat on it..which is a Good Thing. but back to Eric..he has some sage things to say about fanzines; and I would echo many of his opinions. Again I found another CHECKPOINT lurking behind (one must admire an editor who hides his zine with another's..that's real modesty!) which has a neat and snappy Mancon report. CHELTEMHAM SF GROUP: No 1: From: Graham Poole, 23 Russet Rd. Cheltenham. Glos. 30p/\$1. Sorry..I find inside that it is called SPACES and is published by the Cheltenham SF Group. Fine start in introducing the members and then there is a nice mixture of material. Best writing comes from Susan Clarke but most interesting to me tales of early days at the White Horse by John Cameron. There is fiction and even a crossword! THE GRIMBLING BOSCH: No 5, I enjoyed very much, Harry has a nice discursive style and covers quite a lot of ground. SE ECHO: No 23&24: From: Edward C. Connor, 1805 N. Gale Ave. Peoria, IL 61604. \$2, a combined issue rightly named A FANTOME. Very bulky but comfortable to handle because of its binding. Because of its length the editor has plenty of space to explore a theme..such as the Poll results that were answered by many fans. Many other good articles, I liked Mae Strelkov's best. DRIIFT No 2: From: Gary Farber, 271 E. 197th St. Bronx, NY. 10458. Very much a New York zine, and it seems a long time since I've seen one, I enjoyed it very much. PROFANITY: No 2: From: Bruce Felz, 15931 Kalisher St. Granada Hills, CA 91344. 25¢ Has the funniest cartoon cover of the whole bunch. Bruce's diary-type I like because it is so informative of Lasfs doings..and had to laugh at his saying that it had one of the "worst cases of 11th hour disease I've ever seen" It is also interesting as Bruce discusses his fanzine collection. TWILL-DDU: From Dave Langford, Boundary Hall, Tadley, Basingstoke, Hants. RG26 6QD. Has a very good Mancon report, a personalzine of just the right length. DAISNAID: No 1: From: D. West, 48 Norman St. Bingley, Yorks. Consists of fanzine comments, and reminded me strongly of OMPA. GEGENSHEIN: No 26 where Eric says this is the last issue as a genzine has lots of good book reviews. TANDSTIKKERZEITUNG: No 9: From Don Markstein, Box 53112, New Orleans, LA 70153. 25¢. Absolutely compulsive reading - is manager of a hard porn movie-house and starts off describing that, he is a good writer with a tart humour I liked. THANGORODREM: No 26: From: Patrick Hayden 206 St George St. No 910. Toronto. Ont. M5R 2N6. 25¢. Some talk about EXPO, it will be salutary to see which fans attend and which do not. O'RYAN: No 2 & 3: From: Paul Ryan, 29 Morritt Ave. Halton, Leeds LS15 7EP. 25p. Artwork particularly good as Paul is a commercial artist. His 2nd issue has micro-elite that just defeats me though..this is just too small. MAYA 10: As good as ever, thought the zine reviews were even better this time, and was awed that the last issue of this zine had cost £80. There is also a lovely piece by Bob Shaw of his days in Canada. Discussion of PR for SF among the letters brought some thoughtful stories from various fans. This one still deserves the high regard it has..... Which leaves.. AFTER THE FLOOD: From David Griffin and KNOCKERS FROM NEPTUNE No 4 and THE INVERTED EAR TRUMPET No 3 that I cannot cover here, but at least I have managed to mention them..and the fanzine basket is empty!

Ethel.



by Jerry Webb

Two things formed my ambition to become a space scientist. One was Harold Wilson, burbling something about "the white heat of technology" that would solve our country's needs. But that was much later - my mind was really made up by the fact that my astigmatism would prevent me ever becoming a pilot, let alone a space pilot and - Dr Blasco. Dr Blasco was the calculating evil mastermind who planned to conquer the Earth and nearly did so - only failing by sheer bad luck and an unfortunate accident. He lived pretty well, with his own luxury flat, observatory, library and valet ("hairy-pawed blundering churl"), while the "Space-Fleet dummies" worked themselves into early ulcers developing a super-spaceship to his science-team's design in order to ferry him to Saturn. Only to have it effortlessly commandeered when his plans departed from their's - "after all, you are only space-ship drivers"! In addition he wore suits with lace cuffs and smoked exotic-looking cigarettes through a diamond-studded holder, spoke in an affected, presumably upper-class accent and always seemed to have a 3-D chess set and a sword-stick handy. He had all the fun.

When and where was my formative meeting with this remarkable character, and countless others, all equally detailed and well drawn? Every Friday in 'Eagle', of course, as I followed the adventures of DAN DARE, PILOT OF THE FUTURE during my school days in the fifties.

My squarely English culture, cricket, boy scouts and so on made it natural for me to root for the public school Colonel Dare, his batman Digby and their chums in the struggle against the cads, terrestrial and otherwise, who sought to desmireh the humour of the obviously British-run Space Fleet. But Dr Blasco and his contemporaries, moved in a world far removed from the austere early '50's. Although there were signs that all was not a bed of roses in the 1990's, food rationing, rioting, etc., yet how I wished I had been born

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forty years later!

But it could not be helped - my parents could not do anything about it by the time Frank Hampson, creator of the strips, had burned the wish to travel in space into my brain. Meanwhile, science was obviously the game, and it did not seem to require any particular qualities in terms of class, parentage, physique, or even mentality - just an over-riding interest.

So here I am, actively engaged in space research, meeting deadlines, writing reports and filling in forms. I forlornly hope that my talents and my work will place me in such a position that Her Majesty's Government will see fit to finance a trip aboard the NASA Space Shuttle now being built. Unfortunately, Britain is not longer a top contender in space research and it looks as though the first European into Space will be a German. Ah well; I remember a time when it was taken for granted that Britain would rule the ether as naturally and serenely as she had once ruled the waves.....

Gerry Webb

Who, you may ask, is Gerry Webb? He is a London fan who has been around for quite a few years now. I have been patiently waiting for weeks and weeks for the rest of his column - and have put the deadline back for its appearance till I am dizzy. This SCOT had been sitting here all collated waiting for the last pages from him for two weeks now.

When I last phoned his home the telephone was answered by the lovely and long-suffering Anne. I told her I was contemplating using up the rest of this stencil with a few descriptive passages about Gerry. When Anne stopped laughing she said "It would serve him right!" Taking that as permission to go ahead.....

Gerry is tall, wears glasses and is one of the few good-looking men in fandom. He has a strong collecting instinct and books line almost every room in his home. He even collects comics. On one wall is a huge poster showing man in space. At the time he bought this he was wearing a beard that Anne disliked. So she agreed to allow one wall of her living-room to look like something from 2001 on condition the beard was shaved off. Gerry duly shaved, being a dyed-in-the-wool fan.

He has a bubbling enthusiasm and can talk the hind leg off a donkey to say nothing of being able to keep pace with Ted Tubb. I remember once being the recipient of this enthusiasm as he arrived armed with a diagram and wiring to show me how to wire up my garage... "Simple"... Fortunately I am a realist about my abilities or I might have been electrocuted.

He is really very kind-hearted and will go out of his way to help some one... however there is no blinking the fact that he procrastinates.

He has, in fact, brought procrastination to a fine art. Well, I suppose I should say a fine science as he is a physicist as well as an SF fan. I suppose the reason for this particular delay is a desire to write well, I hear he has the first draught done.

I guess he will be horrified to know that this has been composed straight onto stencil..red hot!

Ethel.