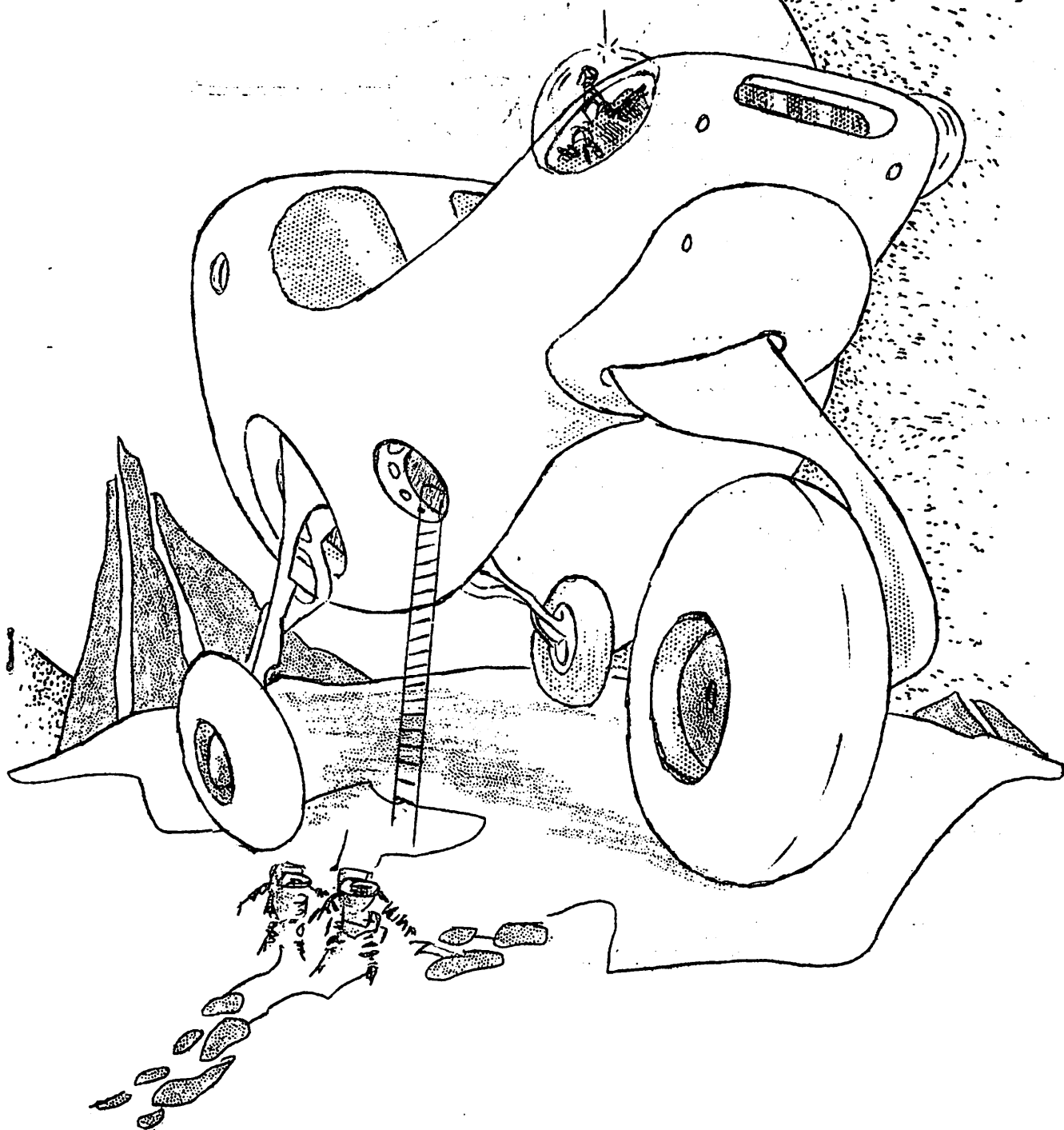


Scotsie



Satisfye No 75

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THE

PRIMULA

COLUMN

ROY PRIMULA

Some time ago there was a writeup in New West magazine about the Longevity Research Foundation, founded by Nathan Pritikin. They feature a very low fat diet that has shown some results in reversing artery sludging. Including some airline pilots that had been rejected for flight duty. Since the job carries a \$70,000 insurance policy against such rejection, the insurance company has been willing to finance the pilots through a month at LRF. Eight out of ten returned to work and there is still progress on the other two. Anyway, I got interested and spent a full day with them, sampled their diet. I think they have got something there, but they cost too damn much. About \$100 per day

If you happen on a book, To Kiss Earth Goodbye, by Ingo Swann, try to read it. Ingo is a literate psychic, for starters, and in the book is a chapter on some work he was doing with researchers at Stanford. They used a Quark detector and actually got results when he turned his attention to the gadget. It is one of the cleanest scientific experiments I have ever heard of in actually measuring a psychic effect on scientific hardware, with repeatable results.

A sort of con report...We flew to Vancouver, the city is beautiful and green, with lots of parks and lots of big trees all through the city. That was especially appreciated since we were from dry southern California area. Nice to take a shower without being concerned about the water. Robert Silverberg mentioned that the first thing he did on entering his room was to flush the toilet three times just to prove to himself that he hadn't lost the technique. The way we look at it, if the students can stand the dorms and the "Spartan" life the rest of the year, we could take it for a few days. Turned out that there was no problem. Never any waiting in line to brush our teeth. The costume bacchanal showed plenty of creativity, with a high percentage of the costumes accompanied by a verbal (or pantomime) skit. The Vaughn Bode group from Sunspot, with Belinda Bump was the barest of the costumes. Apparently a first for Vancouver. It seemed a bit inconsistent to us foreigners that there would be comment on a costume involving pasties when Wrech Beach (a nude beach) is just over the cliff from Totem. I don't pretend to understand the attraction of Dungeons and Dragons and the Georgette Heyer Tea, nor their connection with Science fiction. But then, where's the connection between belly dancing and s-f and who's complaining? The con committee had run a short story contest that netted them eight entries. These were screened down to three and submitted to a panel of editors and writers that included Robert Silverberg, Kate Wilhelm, Damon Knight and Mildred "Bubbles" Broxon. They were pretty rough on the stories...much in the same vein that writer's are to each others work at a writer's workshop, where it is to be expected. How it felt falling on the

heads of the non-pro writers—I hope they were not discouraged beyond recovery. We had a ringside seat for the SCA tourney. It took place right below our room window. The tourney seemed rather slow paced, as there was no fill-in entertainment for the rather long periods while the various warriors were getting ready. Several of the hucksters had horror stories of the customs service at the border, some even vowing never again to even try to bring anything across. They were of the opinion that the customs had never heard that our two countries are at peace. Now Suncon...The Fountainbleau was Miami Beach's finest twenty-odd years ago. Now it is a bit threadbare but still a lot of hotel. Marble floors and imported statues. They still do not allow female fans to sit with their feet up on the lobby coffee tables. However such censorship does not extend above the first floor. On our floor filksongs with bongo drum accompaniment were ignored by all. At the banquet the first Hugo award to get a standing ovation was for best dramatic presentation. It went to No Award. The expressions on the faces of some Hollywood types who were right down front was heartwarming. I hope they got the message. The committee helped to make the point when they gave a special non-Hugo award to STAR WARS. The art show was wonderfully well done. If I'd had \$600 I'd have had a nest in a branch in which several small hatchlings were being fed something rather crawly-looking by their mother, a small winged dragon. This was sculptured in silver and bronze sheeting. As the fans were checking out and the next convention was checking in, a certain contrast was evident. The out going fans were at the end of a five day, 24 hours per day convention. Some were still wearing costumes from the ball a day and a half earlier. The ones checking in were a black, Southern Baptist convention. The hotel, which has only 1200 rooms of its own, was serving as a central checking point for 40,000 of them. Wall to wall luggage and dressed in their Sunday go-to-meeting best like you would have to see to believe. There were 35 chartered busses lined in the street outside.

I was at work on a proposal for two weeks prior to Suncon. Our top management did their usual thing and delayed making a decision to go ahead for two weeks, on a proposal with a 45 day response time. So I went on vacation. By the time I had returned they had their decision and had selected the satellite configuration that they wanted to run with. Another two weeks of turning out quick sketches and we had the internal arrangement of black boxes, the heat balance and the artists had converted our cartoons into a reasonable-looking satellite. Most of the systems people ran on several more days with their descriptions so during the last week they had every secretary from two divisions of the corporation that had the required security clearance in there typing. 26 of them, and some of them put in 80 and 90 hours that week. Some of them were executive secretaries for vice-presidents and such, so you can imagine the uproar as they were asked to be mere clerk-typists. Plus the injured howls from the execs who were required to hunt their own files and get their own coffee. Plus the customer made some snide remarks about all the different type fonts. Result, we now have a go ahead to look into Word Processing(WP). Not buy, you understand. The brass are not ready yet for the decision that we are either in the business of making satellites and are going to come up to date, or we are not.

WP is the ideal way to put out a fanzine. The material is rough typed on a terminal with a keyboard just like the one on an IBM Selectric 11 typewriter, plus about another dozen control keys set a little apart. The material appears on a screen and the operator makes such corrections as she spots. She can then let the printer run off a rough draft copy for the engineer to check or the engineer can sit at a terminal and do his own corrections. When the copy is satisfactory, the system respaces the lines, arranges the words into columns (if that was what was ordered), inserts hyphens as required, leaves blank spaces where illos are to go, and runs off a complete final draft at 45 characters per second. Why should the Space division, supposedly a high technology business, be behind the truck axle division in making use of WP?

Last week Comsat people were in the building and parking lot with a

demonstration system using a portable satellite terminal on a trailer and two way television to tie between our auditorium and the corporate offices in Pittsburgh. Demonstrating "the business communications of the '80s". We had a part because the communication satellite involved represents possible future business. For the demonstration the Canadian Technology Satellite was used.

It was interesting. Even with a two frames per second rate there was an entirely different feeling as compared to a telephone voice only conference. I used the chance to talk with the man back in Pittsburgh who has the responsibility for setting WP standards for the entire corporation. Rather boggled some of the brass sitting around chatting back and forth that I would actually be so brash as to transact business on the demonstration system. I looked at it as an old fan and tired and said as much--if fans have been doing this for fifty years.

For the last few years the corporation has been trying to sell the building we work in at Seal Beach. Finally they gave up on that and decided to move the West Coast corporate offices into this building. Now corporate offices occupy six of the eight floors. We have the sixth and seventh and they are trying to get us out. It would be nice to have a newly painted area but not at all nice to lose our windows. Being on the sixth floor we are high enough to be considered secure from that direction. There are certain advantages to having corporate officers in the building. In the washrooms all the faucets run with smooth streams--no little trickles and no splashing all over your pants. Nor do you have to look into three stalls to find the one with the paper. Such are the trappings of success!

One of the other aspects of having corporate in the same building, they brought all the West Coast computing together in this building. Two floors completely occupied by them. Large computer installations have been targets for terrorists of late, so they also built in more security--television cameras in a number of places, special glass in all the lower floor windows, more guards and so on. They were in such a rush to get ready to make the move that they forgot that there is a lead time of about six months on solid state power supplies for large computers to keep them alive through power shortages. So now there is a row of old style rotating-type generators in the room next to the elevators and behind the lobby which roar and vibrate just like old times. They are supposed to be replaced by the solid state kind in a month or so.

The fun part--the vibration from these generators shook the newly installed television camera right out of its concealed mounting in the ceiling and it almost hit the extra guard. Security!

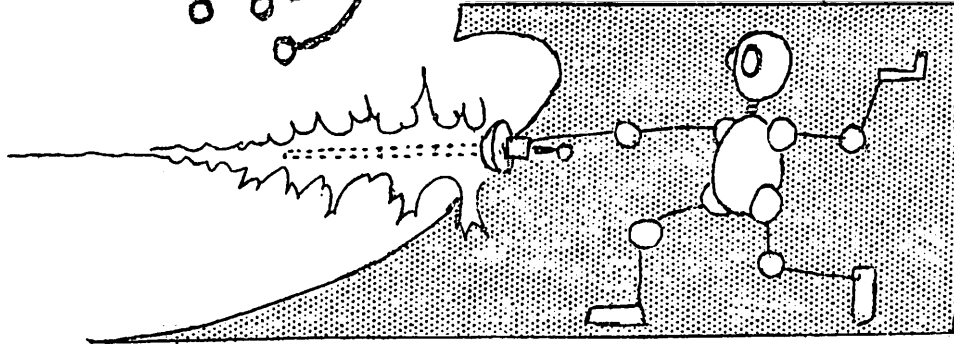
My collection of catalogs on the subject of WP now fills two file drawers. One of the items that is moving very fast is the field of OCR (Optical character readers) OCR allows bringing in a bunch of secretaries who rough draft type the material in the usual way. It is then fed through the OCR and is then recorded on a magnetic disk just as though some operator had re-keyboarded it at the typing terminal. Much faster than using the terminal as a \$10000 typewriter. Now the terminal tv screen can be reserved for editing functions. One OCR can absorb the work of two dozen fast typists. And after the material is in the system it never has to be re-typed. Just edited. The system can arrange line spacing, justify both edges, do columns etc.

There is also computer-aided drafting (CAD). It applies to getting ideas on paper and turned into perspective drawings that can be interpreted by political types who never learned blueprint reading. Saving the artist some 40 hours of exercise in descriptive geometry per drawing. Plus any detail like a star tracker that has once been put into the system can be recalled, turned over into the position needed and installed on a satellite without being redrawn the hard way.

The GPS (Global Positioning System) Satellite got off OK yesterday. It is scheduled for final orbit insertion burn sometime Saturday. Assuming it works and all the rest of the satellites get built and launched the final system makes possible navigation anywhere in the world to within 30 feet. In three dimensions. Lots of funny side issues. For instance, the LA police were horrified at the thought of having the cruisers report back their actual location to the dispatcher!

ROY PRIMULA

nibblings



THE RUNESTAFF by Michael Moorcock.DAW SF.\$1.25.158pp.The fourth and final story of the Runestaff, the new and revised edition. Sword and fantasy.

THE SIEGE OF WONDER by Mark S.Geston.DAW SF.\$1.50.190pp. Aden is a spy in the Wizards world sent by the Special Office of the world of the scientists. He is to be part of the attempt on the part of science to reduce magic to their understanding so they may defeat it. Quite powerful in the images presented.

ALDAIR, MASTER OF SHIPS:by Neal Barrett,Jr.DAW SF.\$1.50.158pp.Continues on from ALDAIR IN ALBION and is as good, if not better. On the surface a swaggering adventure where the hero collects from other races to join his journey. The underlying theme is of men who discover they are not-but beasts made as men-and the point of the journey is to discover more about this. I expect more books about Aldair..a likeable character. Dialogue is particularly good.

THE FORBIDDEN TOWER by Marion Zimmer BradleyDAW SF.\$1.95.364pp. A Darkover story powerfully told which further describes the society there. Four people - Andrew, the telepathic Terran, his wife Callista who gives up being Keeper to wed, her sister Ellemir and her husband Damon discover it is no easy task for Callista to lose her Keeper conditioning. The efforts to overcome this are what causes the Forbidden Tower to be built. The role of women in any society comes under scrutiny by the author, which is a bonus!

THE LOST TRAVELLER by Steve Wilson.PAN SF.70p.245pp.After a nuclear disaster one group of people who still are much as they were are Hell's Angels..and with their motorcycle culture. Very violent of course, and proud they are on the fringes andtolerated by a society only as long as they can be used. Some of the story concerns the three Angels who make a journey to rescue a man who is supposed to know how to restore life to the wastelands. Quite an unusual story, I didn't like the violence, but had to admit a lot was logical.

OMEGA SF - came to me from Italy, at first I thought it was a magazine, but then realised it was a paperback slightly larger than our own. The novel is IL MONDO DEI SONNAMBULI by Gordon R.Dickson -which is of course SLEEPWALKERS WORLD.

Nibblings 2

DARGASON by Colin Cooper. Dobson SF. £3.95. 191pp. A really odd one! Told by Digby, a music critic, it has a nervous jokey style that hovers between horror and farce. The idea of 'modern' music being used to affect people's emotions is grim enough and the author does not shirk that. However the narrator does blunder and horse around in a way that is barely credible. His sudden infatuation for the composer who appears to be the cause of all the trouble does not ring true - but if it were, it seems to me he deserves the ending he got! The scientific explanation for the music's strange effect does, however sound all too plausible.

THE SURVIVAL GAME by Colin Knapp. Dobson SF. £3.95. 184pp. Two Star Lords made a wager that involved Col. Bogey being dumped on an empty and dangerous planet. However all sorts of things go wrong and he ends up there having to look after a Royal family of three as well as himself. The planetary politics that surround this plot are intriguing, as Terrans probe their way into the savage Kingdoms of the Star Lords. Vivid descriptions of the planet's dangers keep the reader tense and the characters involved engage the sympathy. As to the background politics - we Terrans seem to have got very wise in this future!

MONSTERS IN ORBIT by Jack Vance. Dobson SF. £3.95. 119pp. For a change, Vance introduces a female protagonist. Jean is young, full of vitality and ready for anything. She takes a job that will net her two million if she succeeds. Using all her wits she manages this - then sweeps off in search of the parents who had abandoned her. A surprise ending opens up wide possibilities for a sequel.

NIGHT OF DELUSIONS by Keith Laumer. Dobson SF. £3.95. 190pp. Frankly it is hard to tell what is real in this story and what is made by a dream machine. Florin is asked to bodyguard an important Senator who, he is told, is being subjected to a dream reality to restore his sanity. From there the adventures become more and more bewildering. I'm not sure I understood it all, but it's quite fun.

WAR OF THE WINGMEN by Paul Anderson. Dobson SF. £3.95. A Van Rijn yarn - where he is stranded on a planet with his engineer and an aristocratic lady. The inhabitants are winged and are at war. The only way they can reach rescue is by help from these winged men, so first Van Rijn must settle the war. It is a boisterous tale with the ecology of the planet firmly worked out.

DREAM CHARIOTS by Manning Norvil. DAW SF \$1.50. Odan is a half-god, son of a god and a mortal woman and this is the story of his life among the first men. One for the fans of Conan as it is written on the same grand scale.

THE PRODUCTIONS OF TIME by John Brunner. DAW SF \$1.50. This at first appears the conventional story of a theatrical star who had hit the bottle, struggling to return to work. He is given the chance to work in an avant-garde play where the actors were to make the drama as they rehearsed. He gradually realises there is something really sinister happening and struggles to find the truth. This works up to a really good climax with a logical explanation. Should interest mystery as well as SF fans.

PASSING FOR HUMAN by Jody Scott. DAW SF \$1.50. It is interesting to note that it takes a female author to write a really tough SF story. This is humanity seen through alien eyes - and they do not see one good thing about us. To them we are morons, and in the end only fit for euthanasia. I found it fascinating though not enjoyable. Being human, I had to cringe at the scathingly critical remarks of the aliens.

WILDEBLOOD'S EMPIRE by Brian Stapleford. DAW SF. \$1.50. Third landing of the re-contact ship DAEDALUS shows a colony that appears successful. It had been started by Wildeblood who was both leader and biochemist. The crew of the DAEDALUS become suspicious that something lies behind all the tranquility. This one keeps the reader nicely guessing.

STORMBRINGER by Michael Moorcock. DAW SF. \$1.50 There is an author's note to point out that this is the first edition which is completely unabridged and that the book has been revised by the author from the original magazine text. The magazine was SCIENCE FANTASY published 1963-1964 and long defunct. This is the 6th and final novel in the Elric of Melniboné saga.

NONE BUT MAN by Gordon R. Dickson. DAW SF. \$1.75. In this mankind meets the alien Maldaug and the inability of one to understand the other, threatens war. Cully is a 'frontiersman' who finds himself in trouble. The old worlds are convinced the Frontier planets can take them over..the Maldaug are laying claim to the worlds beyond the Peiades on which his people are settled..and only cultural understanding will sort the trouble out. He has his hands full!

THE YEAR'S BEST FANTASY STORIES No 3. Edited by Lin Carter. DAW SF. \$1.50. 11 stories...EUDORIC'S UNICORN by Sprague de Camp. SHADOW OF A DEMON by Gardner Fox RING OF BLACK STONE by Pat McIntosh..which is the one I liked best. THE LONELY SONGS OF LOREN DORR by George Martin. TWO SUNS SETTING by Karl Edward Wagner. THE STAIRS IN THE CRYPT by Clark Ashton Smith. THE GOBLIN BLADE by R. Garcia Capella. THE DARK KING by C.J. Cherryl which I thought the most original. BLACK MOONLIGHT by Lin Carter. THE POOL OF THE MOON by Chas R. Saunders.

ANDROMEDA 1. Edited by Peter Weston. DOBSON SF £3.95. 10 original stories. Aldiss first on the dissolution of life as exemplified by two messages from the past a sad but well-told tale. Michael Coney writes of alien contact with a twist in the tail. Bob Shaw has the most cheerful story in a macabre fashion. Robert Holdstock has a very convoluted story of Time Travel. Naomi Mitchison has an odd story of an odd planet. Chris Priest has the most original story of people who are frozen in time and how one, becoming free, tries desperately to join his love. Terry Greenhaugh has a strange idea-a planet where humans need another life-form to keep their existence safe. George Martin's story is the most predictable but it is told with gleeful satisfaction. Andrew Stephenson has a grim story and Harlan Ellison has a gruesome story. I thought it a rather masculine collection.

ANDROMEDA 2: Edited by Peter Weston. DOBSON SF. £3.95. Tom Allen has a 'first's story about dragons that gets quite nasty towards the end. Ian Watson has a grisly tale of Japan in the future. Bob Shaw brings a breath of fresh air with a heart-warming story of a boy and his dog. M. Scott Rohan has an awesome story of the Hindu religion in the future. Scott Edelson has a very stark story of hunger and survival in a nasty future. Robert Holdstock writes of a future where human talents are very powerful. Power -its use and misuse shrewdly shown. Wm F. Wu gives the picture of a society in chains. Highly imaginative but very depressing. Robert Rickard shows a crippled protagonist kept alive by machinery who allows his curiosity to release a 'vampire god'. David Langford has a really fresh idea-a mythical city written about by so many it becomes real. Richard Geis has the tale of an immortal man in a richly embroidered adventure. This is one of a projected series which might knock GOR for six, as it is less self-indulgent. My impression of ANDROMEDA 1 is reinforced by this..a very masculine collection. ALIEN CULTURE by Peter Macey. DOBSON SF. £3.95. The title is very apt and not trite. The author is a research chemist and uses his knowledge to tell a skillful and absorbing story. Aliens who are microbes in form -but able to enslave the whole human race pose a fascinating problem. How to resist them? There is a good deal of ironic humour. Enjoyable!

ANYWHEN by James Blish. ARROW pb 65p. 7 stories. The first & STYLE IN TREASON appears to have too much background crammed into a short story, enthralling but leaves you full of questions. Most of the stories concern man's meeting with aliens and the impact of one upon the other. The author explores this sometimes sadly, sometimes wryly, sometimes with genuine anger. His own basic intelligent compassion shines through it all.

Nibblings 4

IN DEEP by Damon Knight. Methuen Paperbacks. 75p. 7 stories. Starts off in a jolly fashion with the story of George who fell into something on an alien planet. Another George, only this time he is the alien, entertains by sounding so happy. This cheerful start is good for the stories of alien contact grow grimmer. The last one THE BEACHCOMBER has a chilling climax.

THE EXILE WAITING by Vonda McIntyre. PAN SF 75p. A very skillful picture of Earth after a holocaust. All that is left is the city Centre, wholly underground and with another underground system in which live the outcast mutants. An absorbing cast of characters is headed by Misch a believable heroine both thief and telepath.

COSMIC KALEIDOSCOPE by Bob Shaw. PAN SF. 70p. 9 stories. A visitor from outside our time may not be a new idea but here it is given an original background - the American West.. There is a humorous tale which goes some way - an outrageous way - towards explaining the Yeti. A more quietly humorous tale demonstrates crook meeting alien crook. With THE GILA CONDRA CAPER Shaw pokes fun at the Private Eye genre. I was impressed by the last story which is about a traffic cop of the future having to deal with humanity flying the skies as we now motor the roads.

BILLION DAYS OF EARTH by Doris Piserchia. DOBSON SF. £3.95. This book is crammed with ideas: an Earth in which man has become god, rat become man, species have been intermingled in dizzying fashion. Then comes Streen - the irresistible force and chaos reigns. The author often jerks the reader roughly from one scene to another; nor will she allow the reader to stay with one character too long. A powerful novel written in compelling style.

THE WITLING by Vernon Vinge. DOBSON SF. £3.95. Two humans are stranded on a planet whose population can teleport. To them those who can teleport are normal, all others are 'witlings'. They find that the heir to the Kingdom is a 'witling' without the talent and this factor saves them in the end. Very engrossing background and culture and the characters have enough depth to carry the reader with them on their travels.

THE ANYTHING TREE by John Rackham. DOBSON SF. £3.95. Nice to see a female protagonist! Selena finds herself stranded on a strange planet and befriended (to a certain extent) by an equally strange man who has adapted to the planet's odd lifeforms. The Tree of the title can produce anything but Selena is pursued by a couple of really evil people - and the question is how will all this affect the Tree? There are many good descriptive passages.

THE EYES TRILOGY by Stuart Gordon. Sidgwick & Jackson. £5.95. This comprises 3 novels ONE-EYE (224pp) TWO-EYES (240pp) THREE-EYES (268pp) but I found this easier to read all in one than I had reading them separately. This is fantasy-SF and my trouble with fantasy is I keep trying to make sense of it. The author does make sense of it all in the end. However the power of these books lies in the fantast element, and one has to carefully correlate the three books to find the SF. It all starts with the birth of a baby who is one-eyed and as the Mutant brings chaos and book one shows how this affects the city of Phadraig. Book 2 shows other complex societies being shaken apart and ends with the emergence of those who call themselves the Children of the Zuni Bird. The last book shows the Children setting out to face their enemy, and the reader can discern that the old Enemy Within is the most formidable foe of all. It is colourfully descriptive in narration but the movement of events often dwarfs the characters. It takes concentration to read and one becomes immersed in the saga. It has elements of surrealism. I think it is one that will slowly grow in reputation.

THE MAGICIANS by James Gunn, Sidgwick & Jackson, £3.95. Casey is a private detective who is offered £1,000 to discover the real name of a man who calls himself Solomon. He finds out that Solomon is a magician and is amazed to discover that magic is real! Casey finds himself in the middle of a power struggle between white and black magic. As Casey is no super-hero and needs all the help he can get from the friendly magicians ..the reading of this story makes pleasant entertainment.

WHERE LATE THE SWEET BIRDS SANG by Kate Wilhelm, Hutchinson PB, 90p. After the Cataclysm men were sterile, women were barren. A small group in a research station use genetic engineering to produce cloned children. They hope by this means to preserve humanity-but the last of these Elders finds to his dismay that the children are quite alien to him. The bulk of the story concerns the clones and how they evolve until one is born who can see clearly just what is wrong and where it may lead. This winner of the HUGO award tells her story sympathetically and yet is very clear-eyed about the worth of the individual. Kate Wilhelm, in fact, can be sympathetically ruthless with her characters!

PROMISED LAND by Brian Stableford, PAN SF, 60p. The 3rd HOODED SWAN adventure in which Grainger (complete with his parasite mind acquired on an earlier voyage) has to land on a planet whose colonists think of it as paradise. He has to journey across it and try to understand to fulfil his mission. Lively adventure blended with philosophy.

THE PARADISE GAME by Brian Stableford, PAN SF 60p. The 4th Grainger adventure where he becomes caught up in the tussle between the Companies who want to exploit new worlds and those who would prevent it. Again the planet poses a puzzle and there is the underlying theme of the author's concern for what humans could do out in space. Less adventuresome - more thought-provoking.

SO BRIGHT THE VISION by Clifford D. Simak, Methuen Paperbacks, 70p 4 stories.

The first is about alien encounter which is lightly told with an underlying serious theme. The second has an engaging rascal as hero whose hobby of collecting alien stamps gives him a new lease of life. The third is a wistful story of a time when Earth is just a story machine exporting fiction to the aliens. It takes a real writer to think up this one! The last is frankly sentimental about the good that aliens could do for us.

THE ALCHEMICAL MARRIAGE OF ALISTAIR CROMPTON by Robert Sheckley, Michael Joseph, £4.50, 200pp. Crompton is a cured schizophrenic who had been cured by the device of dividing his personality into three separate bodies. His decision to find the other two and reintegrate marks the start of the story. The missing parts live on two distant planets, and he journeys off to find first the hedonist Loomis and then the homicidal Stack. There is plenty of the psychological insight necessary to tell this story, and it moves against a background that is almost wildly surrealistic. It is told with sardonic humour.

STARBRIDGE by Jack Williamson and James Gunn, Sidgwick & Jackson, £4.50, 213pp. This describes a future Empire which controls the Tubes that go between the planets. This gives them the power, and as the story opens it has become corrupt. Horn is a man who begins to fight against the Empire with the help of Mr Wu who claims to be ageless. The mystery of Mr Wu and the secret of the Tubes is well plotted. The love interest has a distinct 'tacked on' appearance.

VAZKOR, SON OF VAZKOR by Tanith Leo, DAW SF, \$1.95. I must say at the start that this one disappointed me. I'd come to expect believable women from this author, and the main female makes me squirm. However the protagonist is male and the story is told solely from his viewpoint. Vazkor is the son of a chief who is different from the others of his tribe. His adventures are well-told and there are many magnificent passages. The ending convinces me there will be a sequel.

THE BEST OF THE REST OF THE WORLD by Donald A. Wollheim, DAW BOOKS \$1.75 The introduction gives a good coverage of European SF country by country and shows how SF grew there in different ways. There are 14 stories and they come from France, Holland, Italy, Norway, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Sweden, and Denmark. It would be very hard to choose but I think I was most fascinated by THE KING AND THE DOLLMAKER by Wolfgang Jeschke where the writer uses the theme of blending time past and time future. It spins a fine puzzle, and I am not too sure that I really figured it out!

SECRET SCORPIO by Alan Burt Akers, DAW BOOKS \$1.50. Dray Prescott No 15. This is to launch a new cycle in the history of Krogen and new adventures for Dray, a series that continues to bid for the Burroughs fans.

CRY SILVER BELLS by Thomas Burnett Swann, DAW BOOKS \$1.50. It is sad to think that shortly after sending this book for publication the author died. He specialised in fantasies of the past - the mythical past. In this he has a tale to tell of Minoan Crete which has two humans meeting Zoo the dryad and of Silver Bells, the last of the Minotaurs. Well up to standard in skill.

PRISON OF NIGHT by E.C. Tubb, DAW BOOKS \$1.50. Dumarest novel No 17 which sees him still on the planet Zakym and living with the Lady Lavina. The peculiar effects of this planet that is shared by aliens begin to take a central part in this latest adventure. Once more a Cyber appears which is usually the signal for Dumarest to move on. Very little hints gathered this time as to the place where he may find Earth, but plenty of plots and intrigues.

THE WAY BACK by A. Bertram Chandler, DAW BOOKS \$1.50. This Grimes adventure opens with his ship and crew having been thrown out of their proper time. The amount of convolutions in the plot necessary to get them back safely takes the real ingenuity this author possesses.

NECROMANCER by Gordon R. Dickson, DAW BOOKS \$1.75 To those who liked the Dorsai books (and I am one) this will be a profitable prelude. I have been intrigued by the idea that a superman would be an empath, and intuit, it does sound much more reasonable than the conventional notion. Anyway, here it is explored again and I found it very enjoyable.

LAMARCHOS by Jo Clayton, DAW BOOKS \$1.50. Aleytys is the heroine of this series (it is sub-titled a Novel of the Diadem) and here she is embarked on a series of fantastic adventures. This time the company in which she travels contains Maissa, a killer and man-hater who in the end proves to be the biggest enemy of all. Fast-moving and imaginative.

THE SHAPE OF SEX TO COME: Edited by Douglas Hill. Pan SF. 60p. I rather like Hill's phrase in his introduction "we have seen a general loosening of stays regarding the consideration of sex as a legitimate subject for the speculating mind of the SF writer". There are a lot of clever stories here but the most perceptive is by Hilary Bailey (Could someone tell me is that another name for Mike Moorcock or not?) SISTERS is the name of the story and it points out the dangers of extremes. I felt this was a thoughtful story and of all of them the most likely to really happen.

MIND OF MY MIND by Octavia E. Butler, Sidwick & Jackson, £4.50. Doro has lived for 4,000 years and in that time had practised controlled breeding until at last he has Mary, who is possessed of enormous telepathic power. Doro can control all his people but allows Mary to create a telepathic pattern that enables other telepaths to live in comfort together. Doro has no conscience. Doro is a killer. Mary starts as a fierce young woman who becomes ethical..this leads to the grand confrontation between herself and Doro. The blurb says.. "A frightening, chilling novel" which is a description I cannot better. I could not put the book down till I had reached the end. Highly recommended.

SUPERMIND by A.E. Van Vogt, Sidwick & Jackson, £4.50. As usual there is an abundance of plot. Start with a race called Dregghs who have a disease that makes them use other races as a life force in vampire fashion..then add Kluggs.. another race almost as lowly as humans..and then there are the Great Glactics. There is never a dull moment!

Nibblings 7

THE SCIENCE FICTION OF ISAAC ASIMOV by Joseph E. Patrouch. DOBSON SF. £5.50

The author is a college teacher and, obviously, a fan of Asimov. The reader of this book must be a reader of Asimov too, if he is to get anything from the book. The writings are taken in turn and examined methodically and criticised, it seemed to me, fairly. 276pp and there is a lot of work in this that anyone who appreciates the craft of writing should enjoy.

A HERITAGE OF STARS by Clifford D. Simak. Sidgwick & Jackson. £4.50 This is a 'Journey' story which I do feel has been overused in sf books. However I will admit that once the hero, Tom, gets going with his assorted companions of Meg (a sort of witch) and her "fey" horse, Rolo the robot, etc it gets interesting. This is the time after the "Collapse" after mankind has destroyed all his technology and the journey is to the "Place of Going to the Stars", and curiosity is the spur. One complaint: no real explanation is given for the "Collapse".

THE CUSTODIANS by Richard Cowper. PAN SF 60p. 4 stories. The title is one concerning precognition and is very atmospheric. PARADISE BEACH describes a new invention used for what seems like a very ingenious murder. PIPER AT THE GATES OF DAWN a mystic rather than an SF story, with strong religious feelings. The last is a very clever addition to Wells's THE TIME MACHINE. A good mixture.

TRAVELLER IN BLACK by John Brunner. Magnum Paperbacks. 75p A fantasy tale of a time of chaos in which one man can bring order to it. He is the traveller who can bring reason and this is his task. Colourful and imaginative.

THE BRASS DRAGON by Marion Zimmer Bradley. Methuen Childrens Books Ltd. £2.95 The hero, Barry, is 18 years old when he awakens after an attack of amnesia..so it is not a very childish book and many adults would enjoy it. The only clue he has to a missing year is a pair of overalls of unusual material and a brass dragon that appears to have no value. The first part of the book is taken up with his search for what had happened and an explanation of the weird dreams he is having. The second part provides a very exciting explanation. Very neatly produced pocket-sized book..just the thing for train journeys! 191pp

CHARLES FORT NEVER MENTIONED WOMBATS by Gene DeWeese & Robert Coulson: Robert Hale £3.75. 173pp. A group of fans on their way to the SF convention in Sydney - and Joe Karns (the reporter with serendipity of NOW YOU SEE IT/HIM/THEM) becomes involved with them. Strange things begin happening strongly redolent of many a space opera. Much of the fun of this book comes from the reaction of fans to aliens, spaceships and a disc that talks. Skepticism is large-scale and hilarious and in the end plays quite a large part in dealing with the aliens. Enjoyable on more than one level. All fans should love it!

PISCES RISING by Peter Cave & Margaret Wredde. Sidgwick & Jackson. £4.95. How much man depends upon the sea is well brought out in this original story of a war between humankind and fish. Quite a few gruesome events happen before it is seen that this is one war man cannot win.

THE OPHIUCHI HOTLINE by John Varley. Sidgwick & Jackson £4.95. 235pp. The subject is cloning - Lilo was executed but because she was illegally cloned finds she is not only alive but that there are several of her. The story concerns what happens to the different Lilos, and is set against a future in which humanity has been driven from Earth by the Invaders. The man who is responsible for the illegal cloning is determined to fight the Invaders and a complex plot unwinds around this. Very absorbing reading, not one to race through!

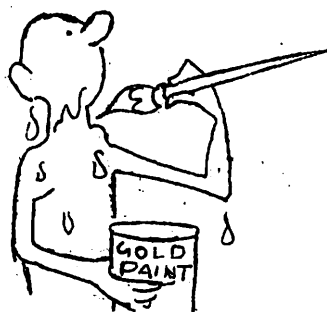
IN THE OCEAN OF THE NIGHT by Gregory Benford. Sidgwick & Jackson. £5.50 333pp. This book asks as many questions as it answers and so is a challenge to the reader. Nigel is an astronaut, the first to discover aliens. He is soon in disgrace because he does not follow instructions, but manages to retain a place in the space programme. Richly detailed background and Nigel is a real three-dimensional figure.

THE DEVIL IS DEAD by R.A. Lafferty. Dobson SF. £4.25. Rich fantasy..the reader travels with Finnegan to discover that in our world are the humans and the Other humans. Finnegan himself is Another but is against those who would destroy the humans. Quite impossible to encapsulate further, the story side-slips, meanders and stops at provocative places..great story-telling though!

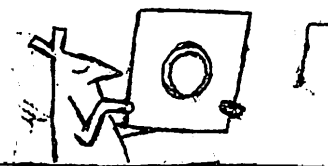
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LATERS

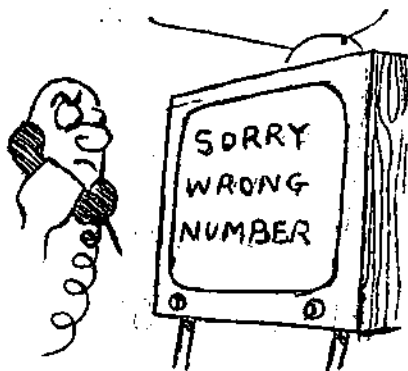
Mike Glicksohn: "I'm feeling guilty, this is another in a series of "I really don't have anything to say but I wanted to thank you and let you know I read and enjoyed what you did and would like to keep getting it" postcards for which I'm so famous. Actually, there's another reason I'm a little sad I haven't anything witty or even constructive to say about this issue and that's because I'm thereby denying myself the opportunity of having some amusing Atom illo of, say, a hairy beaver drinking a bottle of scotch to adorn my comments. However, I'm no Bob Shaw quick-winded and full of long-witted puns, even if his "rigid" wasn't supposed to come out "right".



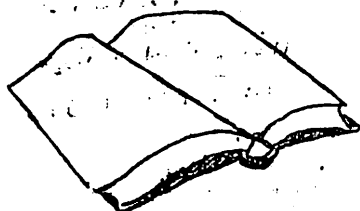
Sid Birchby: "Bosh's carefully set-up gag about the midget and the yokel set me laughing. I shall use it without acknowledgement at the office booze-ups this Christmas. Together with the one about the night-club compere who announced that there was an Irish group in the audience and would they do something typically Irish? So they walked out and dug up the carpark."



Graham England: "Dick Geis says he'll publish an article I wrote about Viewdata, the Post Office's newest toy. Viewdata users can call pages of information onto TV screens using the telephone service. The method of calling permits remote form filling etc., so that you could book an airline flight, or a hotel room using the system. Equally ask for your bank balance, pay people, or charge them, for this verges on electronic mail. There is another big change coming, as big as the mass use of motor cars and look what problems, as well as advantages that has caused." ***What I, and every fan editor, would like from the Post Office is a drop in charges..now that would really make the PO popular!***



John Brunner: "SCOTTISHE continues to be much too interesting for me to make progress with my work-schedule. Lang may y'r duper leak, or whatever. Sid Birchby, like many of my SF friends, forgot to mention the influence of If it had Happened Otherwise, ed. J.C. Squire, first ed'n 1932 (I think - mine is simply called 'Reissued 1932'), with Churchill, Maurois, Belloc, Chesterton etc. All these were parallel world stories. The book is not indexed in New Maps of Hell, Billion Year's Spree, Faces of the Future Anatomy of Wonder, SF-History Science Vision, or most



of the allegedly complete academic surveys I possess. One wonders why?"
 ****Maybe George Locke can answer your query....If you were not a chappy, who writes for a living, I'd be begging you to write and tell me about the South Petherton Folk Festival you advertise on your postcard..sounds intriguing.....

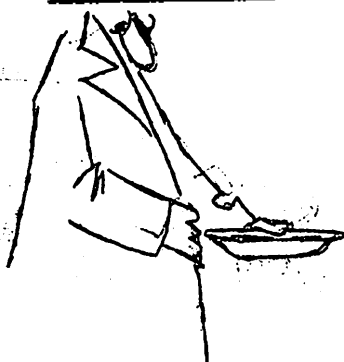
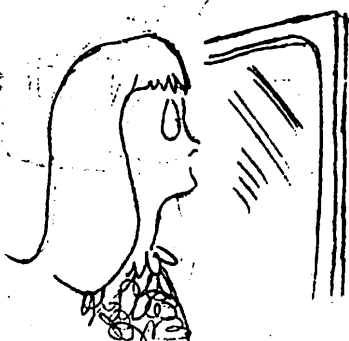
Jim Linwood:

"I was surprised at Sid Birchby placing the origin of time-travel and parallel world stories more-or-less in the early part of this century; hopefully this will provoke George Locke into penning a definitive repudiation, naming the particular issues of Strand Magazine or Chum's Weekly in which the themes were first introduced. There is, for instance, a well known novel in which the central character, a young girl, enters a parallel world whose natural laws are the rules of chess. She becomes a white pawn in a game of cosmic chess, eventually being transformed into a Queen, and overcoming the forces of evil on the eleventh move. No not Van Vogt; Charles Dodgson wrote it in 1887. As for time-travel;

in 1889 - 6 years prior to The Time Machine - Mark Twain's A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court was published. In both stories time travel was used merely as a device for social satire, but the more practical Wells preferred Victorian engineering for transportation to Twain's less ingenious physical concussion. These two examples would suggest that both themes were widely accepted in the popular novel before 1900, but without any of the pseudo-scientific rationales of later writers. An early Hollywood use of the alternative world theme was in Frank Capra's comedy It's a Wonderful Life. James Stewart, believing his life has been worthless, attempts suicide, but is saved by his guardian angel who transports him to a world in which he was never born so he can judge the worth of his existence. Much of it is sickly, sentimental, but the sequence in which Stewart tries to prove his identity to his alternative world family and friends and the way in which an "upright American community" (circa 1946) has become corrupt without good ol' Jimmy's guiding hand has a chilling quality that should be familiar to Phillip Dick readers. Like Sid I'd like to use Scot to ask does anyone out there know when space travel by rocket propulsion was first recognised by pulp writers and editors? Fritz Lang's film Die Frau im Mond (1929) is the first non-whimsical use of the rocket for space travel (forget about boring old Cyrano) that I know of; presumably Gernsback & Co took their cue from this. Surely Gerry Webb knows the answer? Graham England take heart; the fannish maxim is: it is 2 years before anyone notices you and another 2 years before anyone speaks to you! I agree with your verdict of "tosh" on the neo classification; the best thing about fandom is that, unless your name is Pete Weston or Rob Jackson, fans are mere mortals who will expound upon any subject under the Sun with anyone - although they invariably don't know what they are talking about..." **There was no word from George after the last issue..but now that his name has been mentioned twice in the letter column..he may take his head out of whatever book it is in.***

Donald Malcolm:

"---and Sir Richard D. B. of British Leyland, thought that: he had troubles...One of the best-kept secrets of the underworld of convention banqueting has been pitilessly revealed by the machinations of a ~~taxing~~ roving fanzine reporter and a jealous Cumbrian scribe of Irish extraction: that I - I can hardly bring myself to write the cruel words - "dip my roll into my soup". Now that my nickname has been exposed, my clandestine job of writing concentrated prose for the labels of soup cans will gradually be diluted..I can see how the plot was hatched. It was a combination of convention soup in a slow glass plate. How dastardly can things get. The



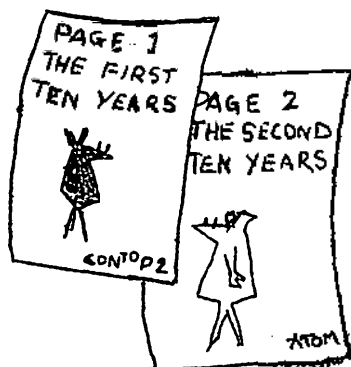
slow glass increased the co-efficient of viscosity of the soup(which is difficult enough to dunk anything into at the worst of times), so that the finesse and blinding dexterity of my forefinger-and-thumb action was reduced to the point where it could actually be observed. From now on, I shall have to suck up soup through a straw (not a glass one). I felt at the time, Ethel, that I was making a mistake in giving you these menu cards!".***Actually it was the best convention banquet I have attended as far as entertainment value went!***

Robert Coulson: "Tackett is a bit off about health costs here. The people who cannot afford treatment are the self-employed or those working for small companies. The rich can afford the cost, the poor get charity treatment, employees of most companies are part of group insurance policies, and ex-servicemen and government workers get reimbursed by the government. Personally, it has affected me by providing an excellent reason for not quitting my job and trying full-time writing. In addition to everything else against free-lancing, I average about \$500 a year in medical payments(mostly prescription drugs) of which well over \$300 is paid for by my insurance policy which comes free with my job. Tabakow received an award for "Sven" but I don't recall anyone until now calling it a Hugo.(and yes, I was dere Sharlie)It was one of the better jokes of the era, the forthcoming publication of his story widely advertised and its non-appearance equally well publicised. Actually "Sven" did get printed in a later issue of OW, but all



the fun was over by then...Well, if Dundee does get left out, it has one claim to fame; John Prebble wrote an entire book about the Tay Bridge, titled Disaster At Dundee. I don't recall any similar volumes about Edinburgh or Glasgow (Gloom at Glasgow?..Epidemic at Edinburgh? What's necessary to cure the problems Rick Sneary mentions is a good dose of "noblesse oblige". I don't feel like a cog in a machine, and I know I'm better than the rest of you(and my immediate family, my friends, my geographic area and my political area, in descending order are superior to the rest of the world.) But, considering what can happen with the sort of idiots running around loose in less exalted places,I'm right with Rick in wanting One World, if only for the protection it would give its most valuable members, such as my friends and I".***I was brought up on the story of the Tay Bridge Disaster. We lived about a stone's throw away from where it happened. On dark windy nights folks would always say -"It was on a night like this..."***

Terry Jeeves: "My own retirement is lined up for 1982..only five more years..and happily, out of the blue, I just got up-graded in my teaching job. Which means a higher retirement pension and a higher lump sum when I kick out of harness. Like thee, I have plans to use part of that sum to re-visit the USA. Re-visit? Well, as you probably know, First Fandom are raising a fund to get me to the 1978 Woldcon in Phoenix Arizona.Heading up the Fund is Dave Kyle, Box 1587,Hobe Sound,FLA. 33455. Like ATOM's lovely heading for the lettercol. Now do you think I could get him to write and illustrate a two page article on 'Twenty Years of Fan Illustrations? Now if you were to ask him for me? Re the dancing..we just got our silver medals in Waltz, Tango, Quickstep and Slow Fox Trot!"***I will let ATOM give you his answer here..***

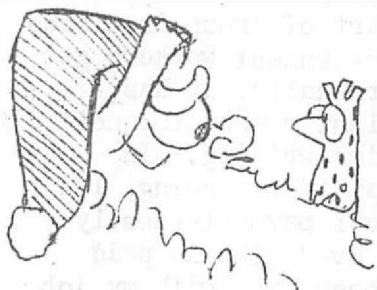


Billy Hall



"At last Eastercon I picked up 20 SCOTTISHE, numbers from 45-68. Put together they give me some idea of 10 years of fanish history, its interesting for a neo like me to read up a bit on the background of people I'm beginning to meet. Past arguments, back stabbing, subtle intrigue emerge." ***Are you sure you were reading SCOT? It is the subtle intrigue that puzzles me..dashed if I have ever seen anyone subtle about their intriguing in fandom!***

Mary Long

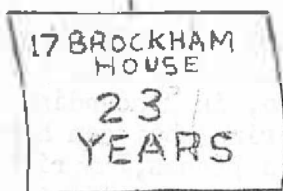


"Sid's mention of CHRISTMAS CAROL ..over Christmas here they showed MIRACLE ON 34th STREET and the wonderfully-named SANTA CLAUS CONQUERS THE MARTIANS. Then there was the wonderful classic SIM CHRISTMAS CAROL. A nice bit of nostalgia in that the young Scrooge was played by George Baker who has just got his come-uppance in I CLAUDIUS. I feel very ambivalent toward Dickens. On the one hand, his writing is pretty powerful. On the other hand, I feel he tends to gloat a bit over the terrible things he describes..About the hairstyle of the Princess in STAR WARS..when I was at school in

Newcastle, our headmistress had just that style ..this was in the late 50s Your account of 'Three Fen in a Boat'..the thought of the three of you - bad back, fractured leg, and you Ethel, on the slight side in the barge somehow raised a smile - but an affectionate one. It was interesting to compare your experiences with those in the current issue of YANDRO. The account of the visit to hospital there would make your blood run cold." ***Yes that Y finally got here - held up, I expect, by the New York dock strike..In fact I darkly suspect there are peices of mail that will never get through now.***

Harry Warner:

"I don't have a good sense of rhythm and so ballet has never had a great appeal. But there seems to be a great increase in interest over here. In a recent magazine there was an article speculating that this trend may have some connection with the fact that ballet is still a disciplined, rigidly controlled form of art. According to this theory, it's one of the last ramparts in the whole field of art for people who dislike what has happened to painting and photography and composing and many other forms of art which are now dominated by creators who brag about their improvising and regression



to primitive ways of doing things....STAR WARS..I feel happy about one thing. It isn't significant. I think it is important that someone was able to make a good non-significant movie. Many mundanes must have been suspecting that all science fiction is meant to teach a lesson, after a long series of SF movies which depicted what awful things would happen if current trends in population increase, government control, or whatever should continue. Science Fiction is really more than exaggeration of today's circumstances...Just think: after you retire and move, I might move up to first place in longevity of the same address among fans!" ***Och, I declare, you exaggerate, I've only been here 21 years.. I wonder if the theory about ballet is correct..yet ballet is not longer as rigid as it was..if you want to have some fun about ballet..read A BULLET IN THE BALLET by Brahms & Simon.***

Alan J.Freeman: "I liked the cover and the rest of the artwork as well.



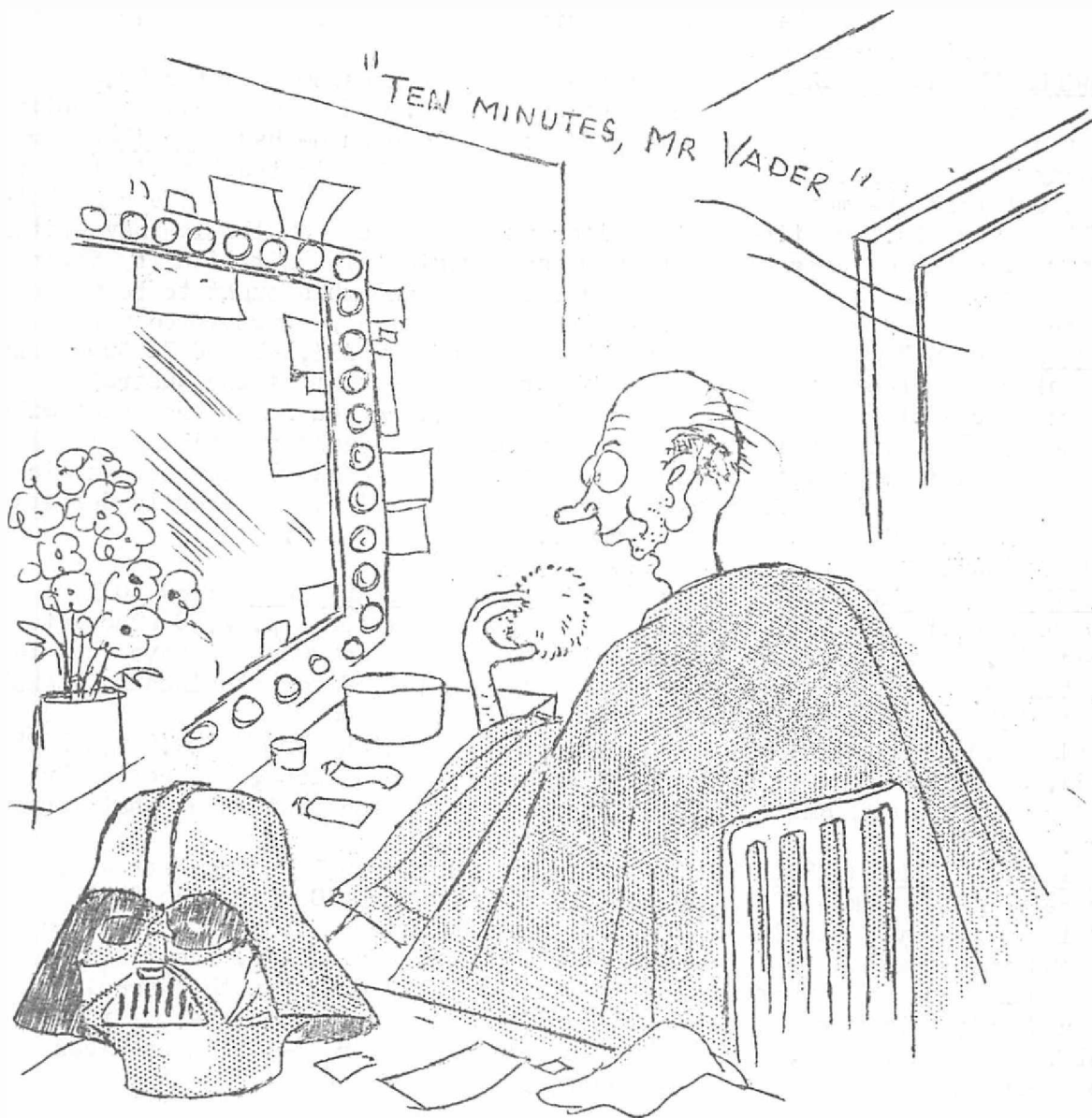
Although ATOM could not have been more wrong with his picture of me, 'cause I've got long hair which everybody keeps telling me to cut...You say that young people probably miss a lot by not knowing any disciplined

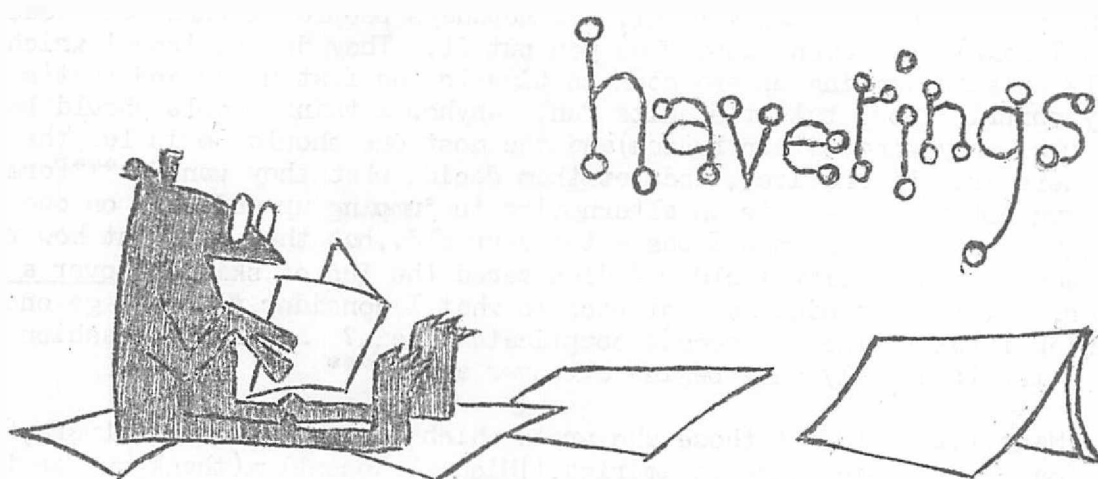
Letters 5

dancing and you are probably right, but nowadays people at Punk Rock Concerts (which I like) don't even "weave" as you put it. They do the 'Pogo' which roughly entails jumping up and down in time to the fast music and that's it. It may surprise you, but it's quite fun. Anyhow I think people should be able to do what they want (within reason) and the most one should do is let them know that there are alternatives, and let them decide what they want" ***Permit me to suggest that there is an alternative to jumping up and down on one spot! I thought that was fun when I was a two year old..but then I learnt how to skip! When I grew a little older I discovered the fun of skipping over a rope! However, now that fashion has got back to what I consider to be stage one..do you think it will start to become complicated again? After all, fashion never stays still it usually only begins all over again.***

Many thanks to all those who wrote which included Warren Silvera, Pam Boal (have a nice time in America.) Mich. L. Rosenblum (thank you for the nice enclosure!) and Harry Andruschak who kindly listed for me the bids for the Worldcon in 1981..I hope to see you there!

Ethel





The first group of fanzines I pick up are from Australia.

GEGENSCHEIN: 31: From Eric Lindsay, 6 Hillcrest Ave. Faulconbridge, NSW 2776, Australia. This is a personalzine that is studded here and there with episodes from his trip to the US. As he can write well these are usually illuminating. Thoughts on public transport lead him to contrast various systems..must say he made Washington sound the worst..a place I hope to visit some day. I enjoyed this and also found his short sf reviews useful.

STRANGLER ELEPHANTS GAZETTE? No 1 : From Paul J. Stevens, 305 Swanton St. Melbourne, Australia. Paul had attended 7 conventions in '77..and here he gives a swift report of them all. This was quite good, but I do wish he had described some of the many fans he met. In lieu of attending a con this is the bit I'd like to hear about most. He met Rotsler, for instance, however he did get a good batch of illos from him. Christine Ashby writes a fine article on the fantasy writer 'Leonard Tope' who turns out to be a woman. Original illustrations by Howard Pyle are reproduced. Paul is standing for DUFF, and this ought to be a good recommendation for voters as he obviously has an nicely extroverted personality.

PARERAGON PAPERS: Nos 4, 5, & 6: From John Bangsund, PO Box 434, Norwood SA 5067, Aust. This makes a welcome return as I consider John the best of the Australian writers. For a start he usually makes me laugh..then you never know what will come next. This time a letter from the author John James describing himself in a way that makes me vow to go and find his books. In the letter column Dick Bergeron struggles to define the Bangsund "style". As it apparently defeats him, I'm not worried that it defeats me..but style he has!

Now to Canada...

THE EDMONTON SCIENCE FICTION AND COMIC ARTS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER: Box 4071, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 4S8, Canada. \$5 per year full membership. \$2.50 associate membership. Editor Robert Runté. This is the first place where I have read the news that Robert Silverberg will replace Elwood as editor at Pinnacle books! Mostly club news but some fine tidbits like that quoted.

MARK: Nos 2.9 and 3: From John Mansfield, 410-240 Brittany Dr. Ottawa, Ont. K1K 0R7 Canada. A letter-substitute mainly about gaming conventions, he certainly gets around to them..America, England and gives a good picture of what happens there.

THE SATURDAY EVENING KENIUM: No 2.7: From Mike Glicksohn, 141 High Park Ave. Extremely clever take-off of a Rockwell cover by Derek Carter. As DOUBLE STAR is one of my favourite books, I was highly pleased to read the shrewd and fond review of it by Joe Haldeman. This is the main item, the rest is mostly Mike being as entertaining as ever. I would call him the Canadian Bangsund only I have the horrid feeling I've written this before. I repeat myself, I'm getting old, and I repeat myself. However..get this one 'cos Mike doesn't. He even gives a lagniappe to each reader.

Haverings 2

Now, a few foreign language zines...

POZITRON:No 77/1:From Kysonti Tudományos Fantasztikus Klub,H-1428 Budapest 8 Pt.15 HUNGARY. 108pp of serious SF discussion that includes current space technology. There is a report of the Eurocon 111. They are anxious for trades,so please send your zines.

OCTAZINE:No 9:From The SF Club de Namur,BP 29 àNamur 2,Belgique. The editor is Claude Dumont. This carries quite a lot of articles, I have managed to decipher that there are zine reviews..so again send your trades!

REQUIEM:Nos 18 &19:From:Norbert Spehner,1085 St Jean,Longueuil,P.Q.Canada J4H 2Z3. \$1. This is the most impressive with colour and excellent production. The artwork is particularly noteworthy, and reproduction of covers and film stills being done with care. Lots of reviews and articles, for the serious sf reader.

Now comes an odd one..

SPACE OUTLOOK:Nos 2&3:From:Duncan Lunan,17 Bridgegate,Irvine,Ayrshire KA 12.8BJ This is the newsletter of the European Space Association and is aimed at all interested in promoting a common policy for a European space policy.It gives news of various society meetings, reviews of relevant books. No 2 has an very good photograph of the Space Shuttle Orbiter 'Enterprise'. Membership is £1 per annum..to Ian F.Downie,32 Carment Dr,Ardeer,Stevenson,Ayrshire.

Which leads me into the rest of the British zines..

FLEDGLING:No ?:From:Andy Firth,185 Osbourne Rd,Jesmond,Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The editor is determined to be jocular not communicative. A lot of it made me wince .."The Washer Ships of Ipon by Vincent Van Yeuk"! It is a Gannet zine.

GANNETSCRAPBOOK:No 3:From Harry Bell,9 Lincoln St.Gateshead,Tyne & Wear.NE8 4EE No price, but they do trade. Various Gannets..Ian Williams with a newsy column AndyFirth with some fiction. Highlight from Rob Jackson describing a car journey in America. Dave Cockfield contrasts Bhristmas as achild with Christmas as an adult, quite interesting. Mike Hamilton describes his struggles with his first fanzine and engaged my sympathy..it is always the unexpected that trips you up! However, I do think he was brave cutting holes for illos on his first try.

KAMIKAZE:From Harry Bell,9 Lincoln St.Gateshead,Tyne & Wear NE84EE. I turn with relief to this one as immediately I see an editorial hand at work in setting the atmosphere for the zine. Harry has shrewd remarks to make on the Jubilee, and amused me highly by the time he had finished his editorial.Harry Turner's column would be very use ful for any fan historian as he recalls his early days with the Leeds and Manchester groups.The remainder consists of the letter column and some discussion of convention art shows. I thought it was nice that Terry Jeeves took the time to thank the organisers, yes there is a lot of work involved. So, a good genzine from Gannetland..and a model for the others.

NABU:No 2:FromIan Maule,18 Hillside,163 Carshalton Rd,Sutton,Surrey.SN1 4NG. 20p or trade etc.Ian's own column was short but entertaining. I enjoyed Kevin Smith more as he was being amusing and informative about his profession as an accountant. I wonder if he has ever thought that one could make an excellent series of mystery novels using an accountant as the protagonist? Horror films and their aim or otherwise is discussed well in the letter column. Another good genzine.

GET FOKT:No 1:From Bob Shaw,Top Flat Left,11 Barrington Drv,Kelvinbridge,Glasgow G4.25p or trade etc.It is a long time since a fanzine came out of Glasgow and at least the production is streets ahead of the early HÆOGOBLIN that I remember. I found that first article by Gordon Jackson on SF in public libraries very uesful, particularly where he informs that it is now becoming a practise to sell off stock! As soon as I get home I will join the library there..Bob Shaw gives a very haunting picture of seeing the last Apollo launching. After that the quality of the articles dips quite a bit. Still this is a very energetic group who enclose a programme of events that is enviable. I wonder if the city of Dundee will ever copy them?

BARTREK No 3: From M.J. Dickinson, Flat 7, 301 Chapeltown Rd. Leeds LS7 3JT. David Pringle writes about the notion that all sf fans are teenage boys and makes some (but not all) valid points. There is a fanzine review column by Greg Pickersgill in which he does not review any fanzines but manages to cast aspersions on the intelligence of quite a lot of people. I wish I had some of his energy - he gets so heated about it all. Mike himself does what he calls THE REAL FANZINE REVIEWS. I enjoyed him better in his editorial where he contrasts SF fandom with the groups he met at folk, poetry and jazz groups.

FANZINE FANATIQUE: Nos 28 & 29: From Keith & Rosemary Walker, 2 Daisy Bank, Quernmore Rd. Lancaster, Lancs. Devoted to zine reviews which are useful capsule affairs. Added is an article describing the 'rip-off' of a comic convention. The re-print of Bob Shaw's FANMANSHIP shows it has not dated. 29 has Eddie Bertin writing on the occult (not for me!) and an interview with Buster Crabbe! In view of the recent FLASH GORDON serials..very timely.

MALFUNCTION: No 5: From Pete E. Presford, 'Tw Gwyn' Maxwell Close, Buckley, Glwyd Cymru. Roger Pile writes on exploring the difference between SF and ghost stories and touches briefly on Shirley Jackson. She is an authoress who deserves an article to herself. This is well produced, particularly the vivid cover, but the contents are rather slim.

DOT: No 3: From Kevin Smith, 26 Hawks Rd. Kingston-upon-Thames. Surrey. KT1 3EG. A personal-zine with a few reflections on the Novacon, a few letters, and some friendly digs at his friends. Almost a letter substitute.

ERG: No 61: From Terry Jeeves, 230 Bannerdale Rd. Sheffield S11 9FE. 50p £1/6 for \$2 Terry speculating on a scientific idea usually loses me quickly..here he is figuring out a 'ringworld'. I enjoyed Don Malcolm writing about Irish fandom but it is far too brief, I am sure he could do better than that with more space. The story of the death of VORTEX is told succinctly by Keith Seddon which points out just how much capital is required for publishing ventures. Not so much from Terry himself this time, so this issue seemed rather tame.

CIDEREAL TIMES: No 3: From Allen J. Boyd-Newton, 42 Church Lane, Bicknoller, Via Taunton, Somerset. 30p or trade etc. Issued by the Cidereal SF Society. This starts with an article on the SF magazines--did you know there are 11 prozines now? When you deduct VORTEX, that still leaves 10! As this is produced by a club there are fairly predictable views and reviews; but they have quite a scoop with their contributors. Brian Aldiss describing a book that influenced him in childhood.. and Marjorie Brunner writing about a convention held in France. I cannot recall seeing Marjorie in a fanzine before!

JABBERWOCKY: No 2: From Jean Frost, 113 Abbey Rd. Erdington. Birmingham. B23 7QQ. Best in this is a reprint of Art Rapp's FOREVER FANDOM written in 1961! Still, I did have the subject of a fanmeet in the middle of a war! Jean does not tell enough about herself for my liking but produces a good effort for only a second issue.

LONDON SF: No 1: From Elke & Alan Stewart, 81 Albert Rd. Walthamstow. London E17 7PT. Alan's editorial is a plea for more SF and less fantasy. Well, I'd back that because I prefer to read SF..but I doubt that it would have the good effect that Alan hopes it might. This one has a really hefty letter column and the subjects of women's lib, profanity, fictions in fanzines..all well discussed. The contents are varied enough so that there ought to be something here to please everyone. I liked Pete Presford's thoughts on fanzines best.

STOP BREAKING DOWN: No 6: From Greg Pickersgill & Simone Walsh, 74 Lawrence Rd. S. Ealing. London. W5. 30p (instamps) or trade etc. Greg's editorial surprised me a bit. I tend to think of him as a person with strong views yet here I felt as if he were thinking to himself "but on the other hand..." quite a bit. However when he reaches the subject of what the Eastercons should continue to be, and points out a threat to them, he becomes firm again. Must say I agree with every word he says and would vote for Leeds obediently, but I'll be working that Sunday am. Simone's column is excellent, she has some good material as she

describes the visit of some earnest people to the Silicon. She also takes the subject of name-dropping and is shrewdly funny about it. The letter column is lively-the kind that usually inspires other writers. It is ended up by Greg having some sage thoughts about the BSFA. I have always supported the BSFA as an organisation..but have in the past bristled at the thought of them running the conventions..being a firm believer that con committees should be left to get on with it.

VAGARY:Nos 32-36:From Roberta Gray,14 Bennington St,Cheltenham,Glos GL50 4ED. An Ompazine. These date from Oct '76 to Oct '77. I was very interested to see them as a former member of Ompa. To be honest I was surprised to find that it was still going as I have not heard it mentioned anywhere for ages. As our only apa this is rather surprising. VAGARY was always one of the better zines there. It is written completely by Bobbie, and her subjects range far afield. She is interested in just about everything. Being in an apa is useful experience for a faneditor. Perhaps the reason that so many of today's faneditors do not join OMPA is that to a certain extent there is a sort of apa among the genzines of this country. Well, if you want to join I am sure Bobbie would help you.

A special thank-you now to Dave Rowe and Dave Langford who sent me a calendar they had assembled which illustrates THE NEPTUNE ADVENTURE..a novel by Pamela Boal.

Now to the American bundle...

KARASS:Nos 33,34,35:From Linda Bushyager,1614 Evans Ave,Prospect Park,PA 19076. Linda announces that this newszine is coming to an end and it will fold about No 38. I feel very sad about this as it is excellent at the job of news reporting. Linda has never just put out news but has also commented upon topics of interest to fandom, sometimes I have agreed with her, sometimes not but I liked the fair way she went about discussing things, and she has never hesitated to say so if she found she was wrong about something. I hope she continues publishing in one way or another. These are typical, full of facts, dates that are necessary in such a big thing as fandom has become. There are also good reviews and reports of such events as the Suncon. I find it invaluable for reference.

THE SPANG BLAH:Nos 15, 16/17:From Jan Howard Finder,PO Box 428,Latham,New York 12110. This one is the nearest in concept to KARASS..and has the added bonus that it gives international news that goes as far afield as Hungary. Jan wants help in compiling AN AMERICAN'S GUIDE TO BRITISH FANDOM AND THE UK..in preparation for the Worldcon here. Articles are also included..Shaw, MZ,Bradley to mention only two.The combined 16/17 is a special women's issue and apart from the usual news reports there is a whole heap of articles. Easily the best is by Jennifer Bankier on the function of SF, I found this very impressive. Nowhere can I find a price for SB, so write Jan and enquire, this one is a must for the active fan.

APRIKOS:No 8:From Steven Allan Beatty,Box 1040, ISU Station,Ames,IA 50010. An apa-zine. I cannot recall having received this before, so I am handicapped in not knowing much about the editor. However he gives reports on two conventions and takes the trouble to describe the fans he met. As most con reporters assume that this isn't necessary-I found this very good and helpful.

My thanks to Harry J.Andruschak(Andy)who sent me what he called "leftover stuff from my place of work". This was beautiful photographs from NASA!

STEFANTASY:No 8:From William M.Danner,R.D.1 Kennerdell,PA 16374. Bill cares about about correct word usage and gives examples of fractured English that annoy him. I would pick "listenership" as the worst new word he had discovered! I think this must be the only type-set fanzine which is done with loving care. Most of the small illustrations this time are of steam engines and I am quite fascinated by the amount of detail that can be shown. There is the sad story that type will soon be unobtainable as offset is killing the factories that had produced it. Fortunately, Bill has stocked up well!

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MOTA:No 29:From Terry Hughes,4739 Washington Blvd,Arlington,Virginia 22205.\$1 or trade etc. Terry first writing about the Suncon, but rather on the brief side. In fact this MOTA seems to have lost its fizz! Everything in it is quite good, but one had come to expect so much more. I guess that is a bit unfair, but I sure hope the next issue has the fizz back in.

SPECULATIVE POETRY REVIEW:No 2:From Bob Frahlner,30 Pleasant St.Nantucket Island,Mass.02554. I am by no means sure that I have the surname correct as it is only hand-written, and I have difficulty reading it. The selection of poetry is very varied and the line-up of names quite impressive..Benford, Brunner,Zelazny,LeGuin,Lafferty. Anyone seriously interested in poetry will find this well worth the cost -\$1.50.

SIMULACRUM:No 7:From Victoria Vayne,PO Box 156,Stn D,Toronto,Canada,M6P 3J8 \$2.50 or trade etc. In the letter column there is much discussion of individual liberty, and a long letter from John J.Alderson which thoroughly explores the meaning of myths. The letter column is given in sections according to the subject..now here is one headed sexism and I find some very sensible thoughts from Jodie Offutt. 86pp and mostly of letters but well worth reading. The production is very handsome. Victoria wastes more space on the subject of production than I would..but it is her zine!

JANUS:No 9:From Janus c/o SF3,Box 1624,Madison,WI 53701.\$1.Editors Janice Bogstad and Jeanne Gomoll. The back cover features a cartoon that show the 17 people who are connected with the group behind this zine. For some reason I started to count how many of them wore glasses..and found 11! The print at times becomes so small I need a magnifying glass, does this have anything to do with it? A very handsome production with really good artwork. The letter column is highly interesting with the reactions to the feminist discussion of the last issue. I got the urge to read WALK TO THE END OF THE WORLD after reading this zine but thought I would have immense trouble finding it. Then the first time I visited Ella Parker, I found it on her shelves..I might have known. Do not be thinking this is purely a feminist zine, it has reviews of a high standard and when they run a con report(this time Suncon)it is done in small vignettes by various people that is so much better than the standard report of what the writer ate and drank. Certainly every femme fan should be reading JANUS,but it is a fine and intelligent zine that should be read by all. I must say I envy these gals and wish I'd had their chances. When I became involved with FEMIZINE the editor turned out to be a man(and one of fandom's best hoaxes), which rather deflated my aspirations.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW:No 23:From Richard E.Geis,PO Box 11408,Portland,OR.97211. \$1.50. In his own column Dick says "If there is no Heaven or Hell, there is no sin. There is only situational ethics and force. What you see is what you get so get what you can while you can, because there ain't no pie in the sky.This is the true operating morality going in the world today" It sounds very true, doesn't it..and made me a mite depressed. Among the many letters the one I found most fascinating came from a "Avedon Carol"(that can't be real surely?)who writes in a very bitter way about doctors. I found the part where she states that Flagyl can cause cancer hair-raising.Funniest bit is by Greg &Jim Benford who hand out Nebulous Awards, I liked their Dogged Persistence Award to Frank Herbert and their kindly suggestion for his next--Lorna Dune. Lots more meat of course.. interviews on Vance, Van Vogt,Bradbury and Piers Anthony! Plus lots and lots of reviews. And oh yes..it won the HUGO Award again..Congratulations, Dick!

ALGOL:No 30:From Andrew Porter,PO Box 4175,New York,NY 10017.3 times yearly. 1 year \$4.50. I am British agent again..single copy \$1.15 payable to me. 15th Anniversary year..so congratulations to Andy too. He has a beautiful article from Marion Z.Bradley on her life in science fiction and what it has meant to her,and I find myself echoing so much that she says. There is also an interview with Mike Moorcock. I wish the interviewer had not cut him off as he started to talk about the days when he edited a Tarzan comic. Mike had a lot of fun then and I'm sure could be very entertaining about it.Fred Pohl describes his feelings

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about the teaching of SF in college and makes me realise it might not be too bad. Brian Aldiss is writing about the world of SF and, it must be the influence of JANUS, I noticed most the fact that he talked as if it were a completely male world! The Lupoff book reviews are still entertaining and educative, and the letter column is full of good SF discussion. Superior production shows that this magazine well deserves to now be titled a prozine.

YANDRO: No 241: From Robert & Juanita Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, IN 47347.

British Agent: Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd, Hoddesdon, Herts. 756 or 45p. As an example of what the New York dock strike did.. this December issue arrived here 25th Feb! It is nice to hear of Juanita's novel sales and I did admire her choice of what to buy.. a videotaper! Dave Locke has a horror tale of a stay in hospital. If this is what the nurses are to be like, I am glad I am retiring. With this comes

DEVLIN'S REVIEW No 2. 756 in which Buck reviews fanzines 40pp. This represents a 7-foot tall pile gathered over two years, and I don't envy Buck the work involved. I kept it to last so that I wouldn't let my admiration for the reviewing technique influence my own comments. A fantastic offering of real interest to faneds.

DAGON: Nos 79-83: From John Boardman, 234 E. 19th St. New York 11226 who publishes it on alternate Fridays for APA-Q, approx 4pp. He has been running a parody serial in this -STREAK GORDON which is sometimes funnier than others. Apart from that he ranges over a great deal of subjects having a very catholic selection of books read. With it comes TIME MACHINE: No 83. which, this issue, is mainly devoted to limericks. Non-members of the apa must ask for copies of this.

Northwest SF Society Newsletter: No 13: From Box 24207, Editor: Gregory Bennett.!

Mostly club news but also con listings and news of a forthcoming Norwestcon.

DE PROFUNDIS: Nos 93-95: From The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, 11360 Ventura Blvd, Studio City, Calif. 91604, which was the old address they have now moved to their new clubhouse 11513 Burbank Blvd, N. Hollywood, Ca. 91601. Fortunately this is a very active club for there was lots of work to be done on the new building.

Congratulations.. and may you all enjoy it as much as ever. This always has lots of news and is worth having. It is available for trades and subscriptions but the editors have forgotten to say how much. Try a dollar...

THE PANELCLCGIST: No 9: From George Barnett, 3 Coleford Bridge, Rd, Mytchett, Surrey, GU 16 6DH, 20p. An amateur loss-making magazine for fans of the comic genre. Lists other comic zines, has news and good photography, reviews, strips, excellent in artwork and production.

VECTOR: Nos 83 & 84: Free to all members of the BSFA 75p. 83 is the last from Chris Fowler who has had to resign because of lack of time. He certainly had done a good job. Apart from numerous reviews there is also an article by Brian Stableford and another about Philip High. With 84 the editorship is taken over by David Wingrove. In his editorial he points out that he is not obsessed by SF and invites comments. There are again plenty reviews, but an article on Borges to show that the editor means what he says. The pages are all loose inside the usual glossy VECTOR cover. I await with interest what happens next! Well.. I have just found it down at the bottom of a heap of paper.. VECTOR 85 and looking more like its old self. David's address is 4, Holmside Court, Nightingale Lane, Balham, London SW12 5JW. and this second issue is highly promising. The heap I referred to consists of.. a review index, and information booklet for BSFA members, a nomination form for the BSFA award. Then there are the magazines.. PAPERBACK PARLOUR from Philip Stephenson-Payne Payne, 'Lindon', 1 Lewell Ave, Old Marston, Oxford OX3 0RL. 10p to non-members. A bi-monthly review of all British pb SF. The other magazine is MATRIX: Nos 14-16 which also has a new editor, Andy Sawyer, 59 Mallory Rd, Tranmere, Birkenhead, Merseyside, L42 6QR. An interview with Peter Nicholls gives a lot of information about the SF Foundation, found this illuminating. This is the newzine of the Assoc. and from that point of view is very useful.

Gannet Scrapbook: No 4: From: Kevin Williams, 9 Whitton Pl, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland. PE25 0BJ. Kevin gives a description of a visit to Edinburgh and oh my! spells Princes Street there Princess Street. However I was very awed to read that they found an Armenian restaurant in Edinburgh! Nicely mixed lot in this.. they seem a friendly bunch.

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YCZ:No 1:From:R.I.Baryce,16 Musgrove Rd.New Cross Gate.London SE14 5PW.for trade etc. This is in very small print without paragraphs, no introduction of the editor. It is as if the editor had taken a deep breath and then not stopped talking for hours. It made me dizzy!

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW:No 24:From Richard Geis,address as before.\$1.50. I always read Dick's ALIEN THOUGHTS first, but I do wish..as I am pursuing them through the magazine, that he would put them altogether. I note from the news part of this column that the emergence of a STAR WARS fanzine...Of the interviews this time, I enjoyed the one with Bob Shaw best. There is a series of cartoons "Cover-up Lowdown" which is fiendishly funny over the post-Watergate hysteria. As ever an excellent issue full of meaty sf criticism.

TRIODE:No 26:From:Eric Bentcliffe,17 Riverside Cresc.Holmes Chapel.Ceshire CW4 7NR, 50p or trades etc.Most interesting part is a long letter from Don West in answer to Eric's remarks on fanzine reviewing. Oddly enough, Eric makes the most elementary mistake here by not showing clearly where his own remarks are inserted. Puzzled me a few times. I agree with some of what Don says, but not all. I like the way Eric sticks to his genzine approach and feel he does well with it.

TIDFART:No 1From:Dave Cobbledick,245 Rosalind St.Ashington.Northumberland.NE63 9AZ. No price. It is well laid out and the contents are well mixed, but it lacks an editorial presence Dave having used his editorial space to write about Heinlein! An article about genetic engineering was the most interesting part.

FANTASY TRADER:No 21:From Ron Bennett,36 Harlow Park Cresc.HarrogateHG2 0AW N. Yorkshire.6 for £1. Books,mags,pulps,comics for sale.Plus an amusing piece from Ron describing his comic-hunting days in Singapore.

You can receive regular catalogues from FANTAST(MEDWAY)LTD run by Ken Slater,39 West Street,Wisbech,Cambs. This is still going strong in sales in spite of the flooding they endured this past winter. At least I hope it is winter past now.

FERRET FANTASY LTD, 27 Beechcroft Rd.Upper Tooting.London SW17 7BX. also issues catalogues, George Locke who runs this specialises in rare books but has a very varied listing.

DARKOVER NEWSLETTER:Nos 6,7,8:From:Ted Bryan,Friends of Darkover,Box 72,Berkeley CA 94701. 50¢. I am to be British agent..but I still don't know how much to charge you all. Very much for the Darkover fan. The first thing useful I found was a listing of the books as written by Marian Zimmer Bradley and then a listing in chronological order. I hear they are all to be issued by ARROW Books this year. There are 12 books and two more to come from DAW Books quite soon.

and here I come to a stern halt..I can only list what comes in now...

Hungarian fanzine from Kősponti Tudományos Fantastikus Klub,H-1728,Budapest 8.PF 15

DARKOVER NEWSLETTER nos 10.CHECKPOINT No 38Peter Roberts,38 Oakland Dr.Dawlish, Devon..that excellent newszine. MONGOOSE(Hawaii's first fanzine)from Seth Goldberg c/o Dept.Chemistry,Bilger Hall.Univ.of Hawaii,Honolulu,HI 96822. \$1. TWILL DHU 8&9

From:Dave Langford,22 Northumberland Ave,Reading Berkshire. THE NEW FORERUNNER

From Gary Mason,Box 258,Unley?S.Australia 5061.FANZINE FANATIQUE No 30. REQUIEM

No 20.YANDRO No 242. HABU No 3. DYNATRON No 67 from Roy Tackett,915 Green Valley

Rd NW,Albuquerque,N.Mexico 87107.LUNA No 67 from Frank & Ann Dietz,655 Orchard St

Oradell,N.J.07649.75¢. CIDEREAL TIMES No 4...though how that got behind no 29

don't ask me..it is a funzine.A CATALOGUE OF SF AND FANTASY From Fantast(Medway)

Ltd. 39 West St,Wisbech,Camb. ARENA No 7 from Geoff Rippington,15 Queens Ave.

Canterbury,Kent.40p/\$1(Good serious sf discussion). FANTASY CENTRE April catal-

ogue,from 43 Station Rd,Hoodesdon,London NW10 4UP.VECTOR No 86...comes with

MATRIX No 17 from the BSFA. TANGENT No 4 a fictionzine from Ian Garbutt, Benach-

oile Lodge,Loch Kathrine,by Callander,Perthshire.30p but free to BSFA. ZEALOC No

2 from Ragnar Fyri,Solliveien 37,N 1370 ASKER Norway..he prints all locs..STILL

MORE DANGEROUS CRUDZINES -personalzine from Elst Weinstein,7001 Park Manor Ave

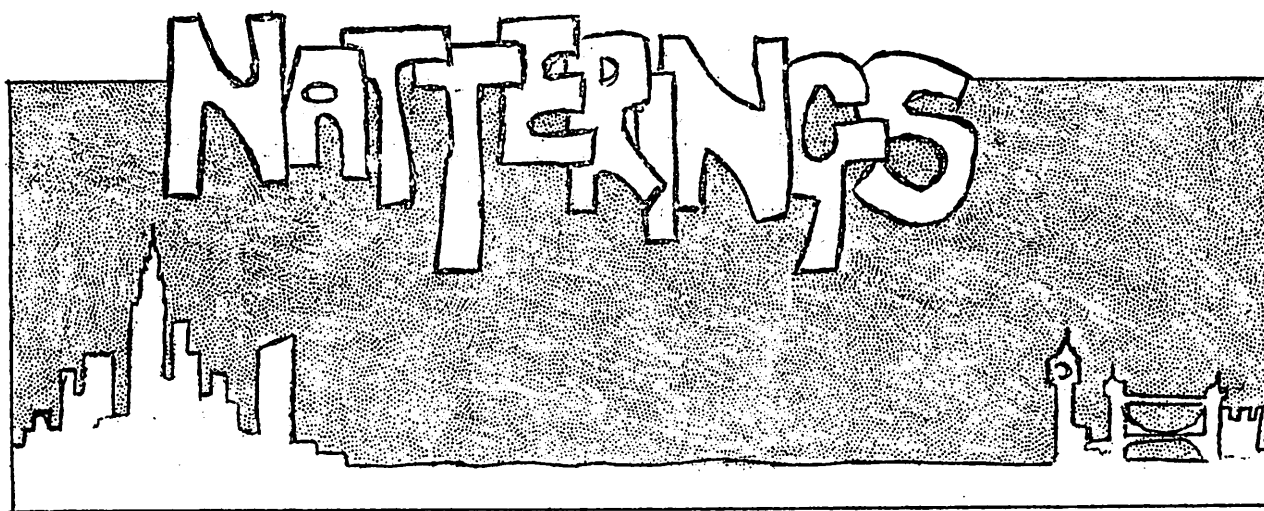
N.Hollywood,CA 91605...good-humoured and wide-ranging. Last..I say determinedly,

but by no means least JANUS No 10 which has been one of the most interesting of

the fanzines that has come my way lately..it makes me want to contribute..but

that will have to wait till I have more time.

Ethel Lindsay. May 1978



Reading through the fanzine pile for my column in this issue, led me to thinking about TAFF. There had been criticism and discussion of the fact that lately TAFF delegates had not been producing TAFF Trip Reports. There was the suggestion that perhaps it is because people are voted TAFF too late in their fannish career; that by the time they come back from the TAFF trip they have gone on to other things. Well, I am not sure this is the reason. Writing a TAFF report is quite a large job and it is not surprising that it is shirked... unless the fan has writing and publishing at the heart of his fanac. When one looks at the people who did produce reports you will see that they were writing for fanzines before they went - and are still at it in one form or another. They are, after all, fanzine fans who put that particular activity first. They are the ones who are most likely to attempt a TAFF report.

This involves keeping notes all the time you are away - too much happens too swiftly to be able to remember it all without notes. I carried a small notepad with me everywhere from whose bare bones I erected a report. This was one piece of writing I wrote and re-wrote and had criticised by friends before the final draft was published. It took a lot of spare time!

A TAFF report is the best publicity for TAFF, but there are other things the TAFF administrator can do. Now here I am going to boast - the time when Ron Ellik and I were administrators was the time when TAFF was given the most publicity. This was due to Ron who sent out to everyone who had voted a quick news sheet. One person wrote him and said that it was the first time he had been given any return on his donation! I carried on Ron's tradition - that it was not enough just to send out ballot papers but that constant news should also be issued. Nowadays the people who most help TAFF are the newszines put out by fans like Linda Bushyager and Jan Howard Finder.

Of course, TAFF was originally meant to help the impoverished fan, but we were all pretty poverty-stricken in these days. Now, when so many fans can afford to cross the Atlantic this idea has less potency. Still, I do hope the idea of TAFF never fades away. I have read that Peter Roberts has said he will write a Trip Report - so I wish him well in what I know is an arduous task, but hope he will stick with this resolution.

It is now the 26th May. I have waited this long in the hope of having a firm address to give you all. As that is still not forthcoming I really must wind this SCOT up and mail out. June promises to be a very hectic month! Check with the Contents page which I will do last. However if it is

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still the Courage House address in Surbiton, please do not hesitate to send any mail there as I have someone very dependable who will re-direct everything for me.

I leave here on July 1st and arrive in Carnoustie Scotland on July 2nd. After that I hope to have lots of time to do lots of things -including my usual publishing. Occasionally someone asks me if I won't find retirement boring.... but obviously the questioners are never fans!

Ethel Lindsay

NIBBLINGS contd.

LIFEBOAT by Harry Harrison & Gordon R. Dickson. Dobson SF £4.25. Giles is an Adelman travelling in a spaceship of arbites who are a lesser (and smaller) breed of humans. After an explosion he finds himself aboard a liferaft that can only be piloted by two aliens and as Adelman he has to control the arbites. The plot studies class differences, not just an adventure story but putting aliens and humans under a microscope.

CASTLE KEEPS by Andrew J. Offutt. Methuen Paperbacks. 85p. This predicts a very violent future in the USA and consequently is a very violent story. Far too much so for my liking. Over-population and pollution are blamed for the effects here. I would put it under the heading of post-Vietnam cum Watergate American neurosis.

A MESSIAH AT THE END OF TIME by Michael Moorcock. DAW \$1.50. The central character Mavis, is a supremely silly woman and so it is hard to care what happens to her. I find the background fascinating and would prefer to know more of the 'eternal' characters.

DYING FOR TOMORROW by Michael Moorcock. DAW \$1.50. 7 stories. Contains the award-winning BEHOLD THE MAN. In many of the stories the theme is martyrdom, and I found them a grim lot.

A SPECTRE IS HAUNTING TEXAS by Fritz Leiber. DAW \$1.95. Scully is an actor, born in free-fall, only able to visit Earth wearing an exo-skeleton. His adventures among the weird folk of this future are told with humour, and Texans are savagely caricatured! Acting in free-fall, one is only given tantalising glimpses of this!

THE GODS OF XUM or BARSOOM REVISITED by David J. Lake. DAW \$1.50. Take the premise that the universe is infinite and somewhere, somewhen there might be a 'real' Barsoom. The author has fun and uses the idea with ingenuity.

CALLING DR PATCHWORK by Ron Goulart. DAW \$1.50. Pace and his wife Hildy of the Odd Jobs Inc. set out to discover who has made a super-frankensteins monster that is terrorising the entertainment world. Incredible and funny, an extravaganza!

QUEST FOR THE WHITE WITCH by Tanith Lee. DAW \$1.95. 217pp. The last in a series about Vazkor who has discovered that his Mother killed his Father and then abandoned him. He realises now that he has Power and uses it to track his Mother down. Again, very powerful though I cannot sympathise with the hero.

WHETTED BRONZE by Manning Norvil. DAW \$1.50. Pre-history when astronauts from space ruled barbaric humanity. The hero is Odan the half-god, a Conan-like characters allied to Van Daniken ideas. Quite a mixture!

BEASTS OF GOR by John Norman. DAW \$1.95. The 12th Gor book in which more educated females find themselves loving slavery. The biggest wish-fulfilment fantasy of them all!

WELL OF SHILAN by C.J. Cherryh. DAW \$1.95. Continues from GATE OF IVREL, here there is another Gate for Mprgaine to close-on a drowning world. Fantasy and Sf well blended by this winner of the J.W. Campbell award.

TOMORROW MAY BE EVEN WORSE, An Alphabet of Science Fiction Cliches. Verses by John Brunner, Drawings by 'L.TOM'. From The NESF Press, PO Box G, MIT Branch PO. Cambridge, MA 02139. Very finely produced and the writer and the artist complement each other perfectly. Both are witty and humorous and what they do with all these cliches is hilarious. A must for the afficionado.

There are more DAW books I have not had time to read yet, so will just list them.

A TOUCH OF STRANGE by Theodore Sturgeon. \$1.95. SAVAGE SCORPIO by Alan Burt Akers \$1.50 (Dray Prescott No 16)... THE JOAN OF ARC REPLAY by Pierre Barbot

Ethel Lindsay May 30th 1978