

Science Fiction



SF EVENTS

No 76

December 1978

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nibblings SF Reviews

FAR OUT by Damon Knight. Methuen PB. 90p. 13 stories most of which have down-beat endings; not my favourite fare - but the writing is good. I kept on reading another one! Alien contact, alien machines, and humans who are not very nice form the basis of these stories told with ery irony.

A WREATH OF STARS by Bob Shaw. PAN SF. 70p. This author's knack of good characterisation shows in Gil who, after a lifetime of not being involved with people, becomes involved with people from another world. Set in Africa where ghost-like figures start to appear in mine-shafts. A down to earth yet entertaining story.

THE FERRIS DEVICE by Brian Stableford. PAN SF. 60p The 5th Hooded Swan story. Star-Pilot Grainger is still likeable -- with a symbiotic 'wind' that at times argues with him. Grainger takes an believable amount of fear into the descent of a gas planet which is the main feature of this adventure.

SWAN SONG by Brian Stbelford. PAN SF. 6th Hooded Swan adventure. Rather an involved story this time, much of the time Graniger is a pawn among rival groups until he hijacks a spaceship and sets off on his own mission.

LAST AND FIRST MEN by Olaf Stapledon. Methuen PB. £1.25p 314pp.

LAST MEN IN LONDON by Olaf Stapledon. Methuen PB. £1.25. 269pp. Two neat editions of these well-known classics that ought to be in every collection.

THE MAN WHO JAPED by Philip K. Dick. Methuen PB. 85p. 158pp. I found this future highly unlikely... a tight moral regime against which the hero rebels. It does not read like a fresh idea... not one of the better Dick books.

I see that Methuen are producing cases library editions of their pbs and they are very handsomely prepared. Librarians with budgets should welcome this.

ODD JOHN by Olaf Stapledon. Methuen pb. £3.75. This is one of the library editions. Again it is a classic for the collector... the first story of a superman that is treated in serious fashion. From this springs a long line of books!

SHINY MOUNTAIN by David Dvorkin. Methuen pb. 95p 279pp. Earth as seen by Antique Tours seems an ideal planet for exploitation even if this mean extermination of the people there. However one of the surveying group, Mash, throws in his lot with the natives and leads them to a technological heritage they had forgotton. The swiftness of the educational progress made is a little hard to swallow but it is surrounded by a wealth of convincing detail. Quite an original!

Arrow Paperbacks are putting out the Darkover series by Marion Zimmer Bradley and I have here the first four..

THE SPELL SWORD 80p 156pp. This gives a good background to the planet of Darkover as we see it through the eyes of Terran, Andrew Carr. He becomes telepathically involved with Callista who is imprisoned. He joins with two other Darkovians to free Callista who he has grown to love. By this he joins the Darkovian world for good.

STAR OF DANGER. 80p. 160pp. Again we see Darkover through Terran eyes; this time young Larry whose curiosity takes him out of the safe spaceport and into friendship with Darkovian Kennard. Larry is kidnapped in mistake for Kennard and his many subsequent adventures reveals the history of Darkover and how the Seven Domains began.

THE SHATTERED CHAIN. 95p 287pp. On Darkover there is a band of women known as the Free Amazons, the opposite of the women of the Dry-towns who wear ceremonial chains.

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The Amazons are available for hire and undertake to free Jaella, who then chooses to join them. Another thread of the story concerns Magda, a Terran agent who also becomes involved with the Amazons. This gives a comprehensive view of women's roles in both Darkover and Terran cultures. All the women and their dilemmas are sympathetically surveyed.

THE BLOODY SUN. 80p. 191pp. This one gives a lot of detail about the Darkover use of matrix work that enables them to do without Terran machinery. The number of Comyn who are capable of this are growing less. When Jeff, who is half-Darkovian is accepted into a matrix circle he finds there are still mysteries to be solved. The question posed is - can workers for the matrix only come from inherited genes or can this be a science? Kerwin becomes crucial to the answer. Arrow pbs have another nice-looking series..that by E.C.Tubb THE DUMAREST SAGA. I have here two copies..

ELOISE: 2th in the series. 80p 156pp. Whilst Dumarest continues to seek his home planet of Earth, he is pursued by the Cybers. I find the latter a fascinating concept..men who have deliberately turned themselves into machines without any emotion other than pleasure at intellectual achievement.

EYE OF THE ZODIAN. 13th in the Dumarest Saga. 80p. 176pp. When Dumarest meets a boy who says he comes from the planet North his hopes rise that this may really be Earth. Although it isn't he does find some vital clues there, but only after once again having to battle the Cybers who still pursue him.

Now for some DAW books..

THE WIZARD OF ZAO by Lin Carter. \$1.75. 176pp. Heroic fantasy. The Wizard is apple-green, quite fat, with a jolly smile. His tale is told with humour as well as panache.

THE FLEED SUN: KESRITH by C.J. Cherryh. \$1.95. 252pp. The Terran Federation is taking over the planet Kesrith as arranged by the Rogul. What neither has taken into account is the race of mri who have made Kesrith their last stronghold. Plenty of imaginative detail about the three races and good characterisation to enlist reader sympathy.

PURSUIT OF THE SCREAMER by Andell Diboll. \$1.95. 270pp. A long and engrossing book packed with detail about a world with groups of strange beings. One has to puzzle out the meaning of the Teks (the deathless), the Valde maidens and the many others with which the book teems. Even the lead character, Jannus whose curiosity starts the story off is no ordinary human. I found this one fascinating but also often very puzzling.

HOOR OF THE HORDE by Gordon R. Dickson. \$1.50. 159pp. Galactic warfare..but unlike others from this author. The hero is a painter who is chosen to represent Earth in a battle against invaders of the Galaxy. What he has strived for in his painting is what is most useful in the battle..and this is what makes this book unusual.

THE PANORAMA EGG by A.E. Silas. \$1.75. 224pp. The title describes an egg with a peep-hole in one end. Inside you can see whatever has been painted there. A very special Panorama Egg is one that contains a whole world. One such is presented to Archer who finds he can enter it. Dreams coming true are always persuasive as is this story.

THE CITY OF THE SUN by Brian M. Stableford. \$1.50. 189pp. 4th landing of the Daedalus mission to the planet of Arcadia. To the crews astonishment they find that the colonists who landed there have built a Utopia modelled on one of the classic Utopias--The City of the Sun. The crew's duty is to find out is this too Utopian, too perfect? Does it pose a threat to human culture. Interesting!

STORMQUEEN! by Marion Zimmer Bradley. \$1.95 363pp. There is a time in the history of Darkover known as the 'Age of Chaos'; a time when the Comyn did selective breeding to fix the telepathic and other gifts in their gene heritage. It was a time of great distress to many of the people who were the products of this breeding as this story shows. There is Allart who can foresee so many different futures he is almost afraid to move and there is Dorilys who has so much laran power she can kill almost without meaning to do so. Very absorbing.

THE 1978 ANNUAL WORLD'S BEST SF. Edited by D.A. Wollheim. \$1.95. 270pp. Selection of 10. Editor's introduction discusses the current SF boom and his advice is to enjoy it whilst it lasts. The most spine-chilling is THE SCREWFLY SOLUTION by Raccoona Sheldon with its idea of humanity being disposed of as if they were insects. Most fascinating is EYES OF AMBER by Joan Vinge which tells of alien

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contact through music. The most heart-warming is by Demon Knight (naturally) which tells of the brother who stayed home and the brother who went into space. THE THREE DAMOSELs. A Trilogy by Vera Chapman. Magnum PB. £1.25. 352pp. This is Arthurian fantasy extremely well done. The author has not taken liberties with the original legend but has produced some pleasing additions..such as the supposition that Arthur had a daughter.

THE UNKNOWN SHORE by Donald Malcolm. Laser Books. 0.95p. 191pp. When disaster hits a hospital ship the people on board are suddenly like castaways in space. Their dilemma is heightened by the fact that there are tanks full of limbless people waiting to be revived and have their limbs regenerated. A good picture of a group of people under pressure to make decisions that involve lives..who shall live and who shall not? Tense and well-plotted.

THE FAR CALL by Gordon R. Dickson. Sidgwick & Jackson. £5.95p. 414pp. The next big leap in the space programme-to Mars-is the subject of this almost documentary book. It covers the Marsnauts, the people of Cape Canaveral and the politicians who are all involved in the planning of this multinational effort. There are many characters but we watch the growing disaster mainly through the eyes of the American Undersecretary-for-Space. One would hope this would be a timely warning to programmers who programme too much work for future astronauts.

UNDER A CALCULATING STAR by John Morressy. Sidgwick & Jackson. £4.50. 186pp. There are two protagonists here..Jorry, master of his vessel and Lxxal, the lowest member of the crew. We follow their respective fortunes as each tries to gain their ambition. Jorry has no loyalty to anyone but himself, but Lxxal is one of a downtrodden people. Both set out on dangerous courses. Good adventure.

THE ANARCHISTIC COLOSSUS by A.E. Van Vogt. Sidgwick & Jackson. £4.95p. 248pp. Very complicated, even for Van Vogt, as there are two levels of story-what the humans are doing and what the alien watching them thinks he sees. This is told in parallel and is apt to cause confusion to the reader. Earth has a brand of anarchy controlled by computers. At first this seems as if it should make it easy for an alien invasion, however after a series of bewildering events the opposite happens.

SCIENCE FICTION FIRST EDITIONS by George Locke, Ferret Fantasy, 30 Sackville St. London. WLX 1DB. £3. Introduction by Nelson Bond who points out that this book is not only an admirable piece of bibliography, but also "opens the minds of the science-fantasy collector to the problems involved in the identification of first editions". The section at the end under the heading of 'Notes' contains more valuable material, particularly the author's thoughts on the practicality of collecting modern Sf firsts. At the very end there is THE BOOKCASE OF MORLOCK TOMES in which a bibliographic detective explains how to figure out which are first editions and a great deal of finickety patience is required! For all collectors and those who want to know what lures them on, and how much detective work is involved.

TOMORROW MAY BE EVEN WORSE: An Alphabet of science fiction cliches. Verses by John Brunner. Drawings by ATOM. The NESFA Press. PO Box G. MIT Branch PO. Cambridge MA 02139. My favourite is -

THE ROBOT TRIED TO LOVE A HUMAN
ALL HIS BEST ATTEMPTS WERE FOILED
THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULD DO, MAN
THAT IS WHY HE'S GETTING OILED.

Great fun!

THE NIGHT SHAPES by James Blish. Arrow PB. 80p. 125pp. Only marginally sf, but a good atmospheric tale of Africa, very authentic-sounding.

SURVIVOR: by Octavia E. Butler. Sidgwick & Jackson. £4.50. 185pp. Alanna is the survivor, first as a Wild Human adopted by a Missionary couple then, when they emigrate to a new planet, as a member of one of the warring tribes of aliens who take her prisoner. Her ability to adapt and yet remain herself becomes a vital factor in the question of whether the Missionary colony will survive. Well told from various viewpoints that really puts both alien and human culture under the microscope.

UNIVERSE FIVE: Edited by Terry Carr. DORSON SF. @4.25. 181pp. 12 STORIES. F.M. Busby starts with the problem of a man who has to live his life in different time snatches. Le Guin has Earth falling into a state of uncertainty, and very uncomfortable to read! Liebeck amuses with the tale of a beetle convention. J.J. Russ

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has a chilling tale of population control. Another chiller is PASSION PLAY by J.M.Reeves in which a human leech meets an alien leech. Some light relief comes from a parody by Gene Wolfe, but Hilary Bailey ends with a story which ends with a scream. Naturally the writing is excellent, but a fairly depressing collection. UNIVERSE SIX:edited by Terry Carr.Dobson SF.£4.25.184pp. 7 stories..therefore all longer.Starts with Aldiss giving the story of a man studying dreams. The reader is given two different endings from which to choose. My thought was that Aldiss seems to want to write SF and not want to write SF and this story lets him have his cake and eat it too. Eklund and Benford collaborate to use the immortality theme and its resultant boredom, quite fashionable these days. Ellison also uses ennui as a theme. Then there is John Shirley's idea of the essence of death being useful which is macabre a thought as one could have. Glenn Chang, on the other hand, produces a nightmare. To be honest I found the last one SHIFTING PARAMETERS IN DISAPPEARANCE AND MEMORY quite incomprehensible.

WE WHO ARE ABOUT TO—by Joanna Russ.Magnum Books.75p125pp. A very unusual treatment of the passengers marooned on a planet. It is told by one of the women of the small group. I found it engrossing and believable although I could never get into the skin of the narrator. She is the only one who accepts that from the minute they crashed they were dead, but she is the last to die. I found her a fascinating subject even although I could not identify with her.

THE GODS FROM OUTER SPACE based on the works of Erich von Däniken.£1.25.50pp but it is A4 size. It is in comic form, full colour, handsomely drawn. It is the first of a series and starts with the approach of a spaceship to Earth in the days when there was no intelligent life on our planet.

Forthcoming publications:

On Dec.4th STAND ON ZANZIBAR by John Brunner.Arrow Books £1.75 573pp

On Dec 4th.THE SWORD OF ORLEY by Steward Farrar.Arrow Books 85pp235pp

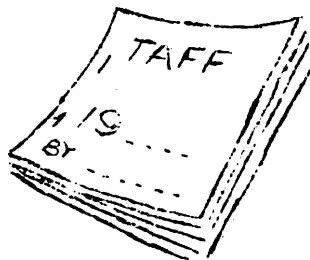
On Dec.8th DOWNWARD TO EARTH by Robert Silverberg.PAN SF. 75p 173pp

On Dec.7th CLANSMAN OF ANDOR by Andrew J.Offutt.90p.190pp

Ethel Lindsay

LETTERS

Pamela Boal
4 Westfield Way
Charlton Heights
Wantage
Oxon. OX12 7EW



"I'm glad the Davids sent you a copy of the calendar. There's a heart-warming story behind that. You may have heard about my newspaper, that was brought to an end by my having a stroke and by the greedy machinations of a husband & wife team of con artists. Some men of goodwill decided that the ideals with which I had started the paper and the need to which it was a partial answer should not go unheeded. They formed a charitable trust called Association for Independent Disabled Self Sufficiency. I found that the Davids had sold copies of the calendar to raise money for A.I.D.S. I always knew that fans were good and caring people. One of A.I.D.S functions is to help disabled people establish themselves in employment. The first major project has to be to raise money for a place suitable for disabled people to attend and stay over for courses....I do think TAFF delegates should attempt a report even if it is only in the form of a letter sent to zines with a comprehensive circulation. I know that if I were so honoured my first thought would be to thank those who helped and really what other way is there of so doing? ..Word Processing with its potential for accuracy and time saving would cause many a secretarial empire to crumble.."

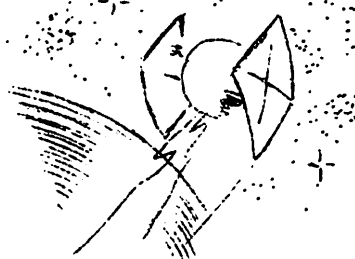
Roger Waddington
4 Commercial St
Norton, Malton.
N.Yorks. YO17 (ES)



"If you haven't been enlightened before, Hilary Bailey is Mike Moorcock's wife. She is a novelist in her own right, and I've seen some glowing reviews of her work. I've never actually met the lady, which does raise a flicker of doubt in me. That is considering the tradition of anonymity as exemplified by Ted Tubb with his handful of pen-names, and remembering how Mike got rid of James Colvin with a bout of pneumonia or a loaded filing cabinet (depending on which version you read) how are we to know she isn't a figment of his imagination? Thus the paranoia that sf fans are heir to! Though I am very suspicious about 'Barrington, J. Bayley' in the same NEW WORLDS context..."

I have met Mike's wife so I assure you she exists..but as to whether she writes well Terry Carr is convinced for one. He has chosen a story by her for his latest collection of the UNIVERSE collections published by Dobson.

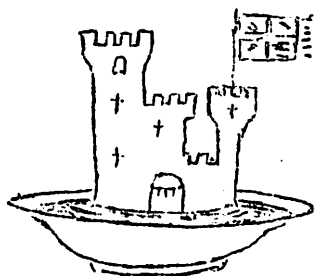
James T. Parker
18 King William St
Old Town, Swindon.
Wilts SN1 3LB



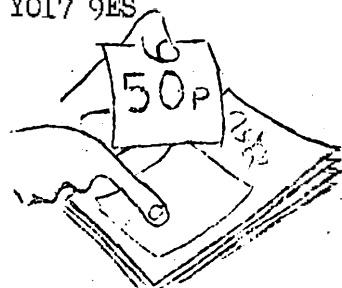
"Roy Primula's column was amusing and informative. I was particularly interested in W.P. Ah, what would a fan give for such technology! 'Star Wars' has been in town several weeks. Every performance packed out. What is the significance of this? The age range of the audience appears to be pretty wide. Kids, teens, adults and even CAPs are flocking. Is it just a mass reaction against reality? Likewise CLOSE ENCOUNTERS. Another massive success. Both movies suggest to me that America is entering into a second childhood. Maybe its because of Vietnam and Watergate but there does seem to be a mass wish to return to more 'innocent' days"***That would not explain the British success though, would it?***

Letters 2

John Boardman
234 E.19th St
New York 11226



Roger Waddington
4 Commercial St
Norton, Malton.
N. Yorkshire
YO17 9ES



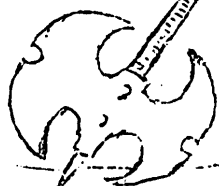
Mike Glicksohn
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Toronto, Ont. M6P 2G3
Canada



exactly the method used for the letter column by ATOM and myself. I leave a blank square and await with interest to see what gets filled in. Many and many a time I have burst into laughter on seeing what he has produced for some hapless letter-writer. He is a genius, of course. There was a retirement party for me, held by Ella Parker, and Arthur came and presented me with two specially done drawings. They were of my favourite SCOT cover and my favourite cartoon. I am having them framed and then one wall of my living-room will be devoted to ATOMillos. Lucky, am I not?*****

We also heard from and wish to thank for the kind words, Terry Hughes and Claud Dumont

Bruce Feltz
15931 Kalisher St
Granada Hills
CA 91344 USA



"After reading the 5 Darkover novels it has occurred to me how well they fit into science fiction in particular and literature in general. The theme is like that of Chekhov's THE CHERRY ORCHARD, Goncharov's GELOMOV, or Faulkner's novels of the Deep South. All of them deal with the decline of aristocracy. That's what aristocracies do best-- decline!" I have recently re-heard some classic Coen Show records. What is Brown Windsor soup, and why is it always a subject of humor in British comedy? **I really don't know where the name for this soup originated..however it is plain brown without any vegetables, rather like a thin gravy and usually tastes of glup!***

"I've never really discovered, whether you, like the rest of fandom, use that 50p price tag as a warning to the curious that they've to make some fannish effort, or pay for the privilege; but now you are approaching retirement I suspect that such a monetary system might prove very useful" **Yes all money will now be doubly welcome, I'm not sure how or if I will be able to continue publishing, however I certainly won't make any decision before the end of next year. So that is two more issues for sure to come yet. For one thing I have yet to find where I can buy stencils here and am glad I stocked up on paper before I left Surbiton. I should have enough for this issue. However I rather dread finding out how much paper is going to cost me here.***

"Very fascinating column by Primula but it's decidedly unfortunate that he should make--and you should allow -- such an unenlightened error as to automatically assume (in his discussion of WP at the bottom of page 2) that every terminal operator will be female and every engineer male. What would the editors of JANUS have to say about that? How exactly do you and ATOM handle the lettercol? Do you leave blanks in the stencils that he fills in with drawings? That would appear to be the only logical explanation. In which case one must marvel additionally at how adept he is at actually illustrating most letters within such small confines. You've never called me a Canadian Bangsund before: I'd remember that for sure because I cannot think of a higher compliment to receive! there are a few writers I admire as much as John but none I admire more.*** You have described

"You were talking about TAFF in your Natterings. I think there are other reasons why various TAFF winners don't write reports --not that they are (1) elected too late in their fan careers, or (2) didn't have publishing in their scheme of fan activity. The first of the non-reporters was Wally Weber in 1963, and he was certainly active enough, and had enough involvement in fan publishing, to have done a report. ATOM published his 1964 report, but he was followed by Terry Carr, Tom Schlueck, Steve Stiles, Eddie Jones, Elliot Shorter, and Mario Bosnyak--all non-reporters (At least as of now. There may be still a possibility of

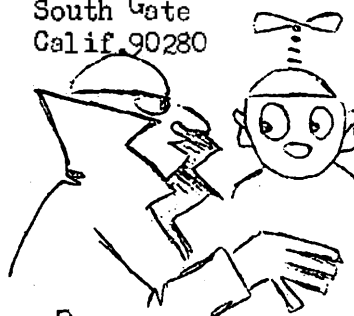
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getting reports out of a couple of them. And the first four were all involved if fanzine publishing before they won. To complete the list, the Moffatts published their 1973 report, there's nothing been heard from Weston or Tackett, and Peter Roberts has begun his 1977 report in EGG. I have heard -- second or third-hand in each case ---that several of the TAFF reports were unwritten because the TAFF winners felt that accurate reporting would result in bad feelings because of what had transpired during the trips(I have also heard, in one of these cases, that the 'bad feelings' excuse is covering laziness. Second and third-hand information isn't an extremely valid source of data on which to base opinions.) What I know is simple: lack of reports kills the continuity of TAFF...And while on the TAFF subject would you be willing to sign for..."

I made a vow that I would no longer be a nominator for TAFF as I had been one in every case for more years than I care to recall. I got sick of seeing my name on the listas if I thought I owned the thing. So everyone..please ask someone else to nominate --there are heaps of British fans more active these days than I

Rick Sneary

2962 Sta Ana
South Gate
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PSST.....OPEN
PARTY.....

MOORCOCKS ROOM

"In the recent MAYA, Moorcock is lamenting the passing of the open room parties--as though there was a touch of snobbishness that had crept into fandom. Nuts! In 1958-59 I could go to a World-con and know just about half the people there. Now, with cons hitting 3,000-4,000 and reginals up to 1500, not even the most active fan could know half the people. How could anyone in their right mind open a party to so many strangers? Of course, Moorcock appears to be so against every thing organised or traditional, I find it hard to see him complaining about something : individual as giving parties. Why doesn't he give his own open party?..Speaking about your reviews. One remark struck me , not so much of itself but the fact that I made a mental note of it. It only showed how all this talk about sexism in SF by the militant feminist have sensitised even the thickest of skins among us(mine!) How else would you explain my noticing your remark about

Pete Weston's collection being "a rather masculine collection"and thinking it rather a sexist remark? Coming from someone so traditional and mild mannered and loth to criticism, it amounts to a flaming condemnation. I know what you meant,so don't take me too seriously. In a non-sexist world, it wouldn't matter if the stories were about men or women, and your implied criticism suggest you think the collection would have been improved by having more stories about women. As a matter off taste you are perfectly correct if you are tired of masculine centred stories, just as I am tired of depressing stories about emotionally upset people who end the story worse off than they started. If I remarked about a book that it was bloody depressing, people might jump on me and say I was making onto-tragic-ending stories, and that whether a story had a tragic ending or not had nothing to do with whether it was a good story or not--and did I not like HAMLET, merely because all the right people get killed. So as a matter of personal taste you are perfectly correct, but as literary criticism, it is a very sexist remark."

+++I have naturally been interested in the growing influence of femmofans. It is odd to me to see so many of them flourishing in fanzine fandom. I meant to study the phenomena longer before holding forth though! I have been receiving A WOMANS APA, but feel until I have time to reply to them directly, I should not write about it here. However, the remark I made about a "masculine collection" owes nothing to the rise of sexist propaganda. It is a natural adjective to use. One could say "He has a decidedly masculine air about him"..one could say "The coat is in a deep red with strong masculine shoulderline"..and in fact the adjective in this way has been normal usage. I grant though, that nowadays, we notice and criticise its use more***

Harry Warner

423 Summit Ave.
Hagerstown, Maryland
21740



"I'm destined to encounter a gadget similar to the word processing equipment Roy Primula describes. The newspapers here are due to move into a new building some time next year. After the move, the writers of local stuff will use a keyboard which is linked to a computer, with the results visible on the screen and capable of undergoing later editing, worse the luck. This will reduce the

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amount of work for the people who now covert into punched tape from the typewriters, because the writer's keypunching will lead directly to the material being set into type. A letter from a former local reporter who now works for a daily in New York State laments the day someone developed this system. Her newspaper has it in operation and the reporters there sit around for hours waiting for their turn to use the computer, she says."

Mervyn Barrett

Flat 4, 151 Abel Smith St
Wellington 1
New Zealand.



"I've got SCOTTISHE 74 beside me as I write this and I was just about to say that I was glad to find that there was nothing in it that I felt impelled to comment upon which was just as well since you've probably done the next issue by now and so my letter wouldn't get printed on account of being out of date and where the Hell's the egoboo in that when I just noticed your review of the SIMULACRA by Philip K. Dick Ethel--you've got it wrong. It's not a depressing book. It's a funny book and a sad book. There's a genuine moving wild pathos there - like the Baroque Jug act that is about to play the White House when it all goes wrong and they're arrested. I don't think Dick is saying the future is doomed. Even when things go completely wrong for Dick's characters - as they seem usually to - they nevertheless seem to get themselves together in some way that'll let them hang in there. I may have said it before but I'll say it again, it's damned hard to write letters from New Zealand. Nothing happens here. I am still unmarried. I seem to remember there was a vague sort of wager..." ***Yes, I remember, I bet you a £1 you would get married once you returned home (having sowed all your wild oats here in London was no doubt my thought) still I can't remember the date I set by which this extraordinary event would take place. So I will hang onto my £1 for a while yet.***

Two more letters came in as a result of my mentioning I hoped to visit the US in 1981. From Graham England, 1 Fleetway, Didcot, Oxon. OX11 8BZ comes the news that he is British agent for DENVER IN '81. He is selling pre-supporting memberships for 50p. Also for Seacon he is running a rescue service for fans without friends in Britain. He is asking for fans who could put up fans from the US for the weeks around the SEACON. I have also heard from Harry J. Andruschak who has kept me au fait with '81 plans. He says the Hawaii bid has dropped off, most fans shying away from "long-range bids". As the site will be chosen at the SEACON, British fans should know something of what is being offered. There is also a bid by LA and Seattle. As at September, Harry reckoned the odds as Seattle 1-1, LA 2-1, Denver 6-1. The reasons given are that fans in the US are giving more emphasis to experience over enthusiasm. and LA has lots of experience of putting on conventions. The other note from Harry is that FAPA needs waiting-listers, and would like to have some from Britain. He is now the Official Editor. To join the waiting-list send \$1 to Jack Speer, 2416 Cutler NE, Albuquerque, N. Mexico 87106. They expect 8 pages per year.

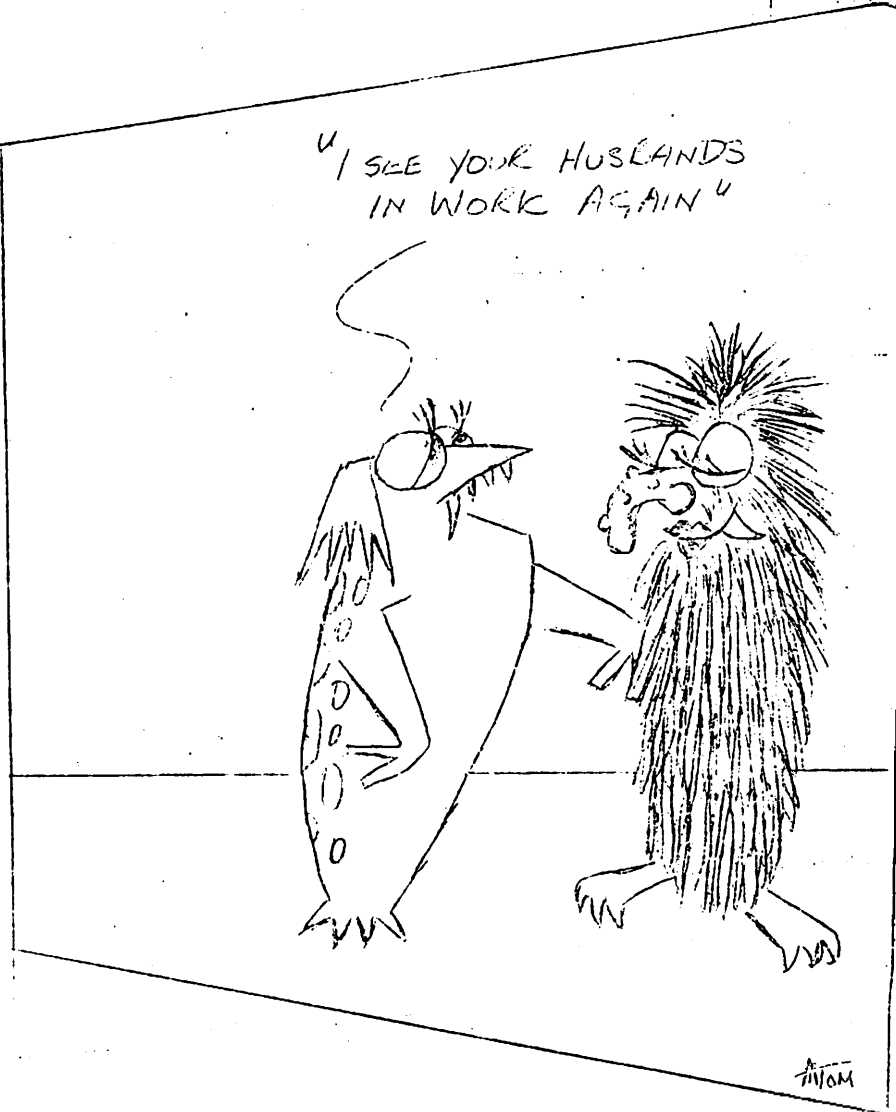
Ethel.

I, Ethel Lindsay, am British Agent for ALGOL. Issue No 33 has just arrived and it has a beautiful Kelly Freas Cover. Contents are WOMEN AND SCIENCE-FICTION by Susan Wood, an interview with Suzy McKee Charnas, ON PERNOGRAPHY by Anne McCaffrey, a column by Fred Pohl, article by James Gunn, Art by DiFate, reviews by Dick Lupoff plus news and letters. Excellent value and a handsome production. Subscriptions: USA 1 year \$8. British 1 year £4.75 Quarterly. Readers who wish to subscribe through me should make all cheques and money orders payable to me.



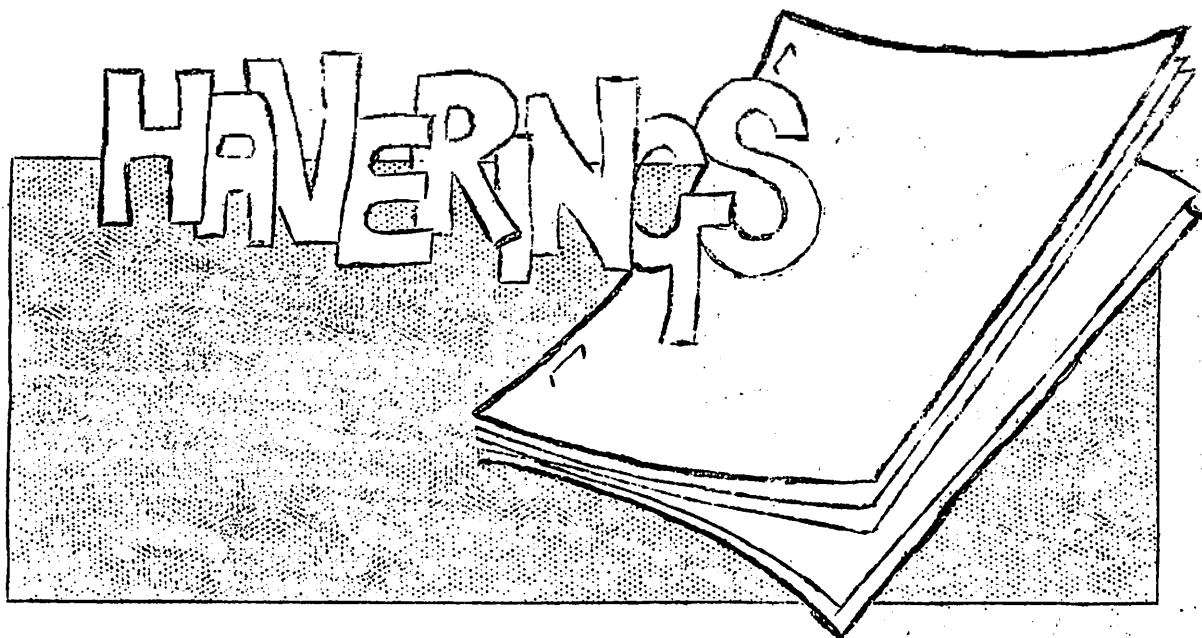
LOVE IS.....
...making his friends
welcome

ATOM



"I SEE YOUR HUSBANDS
IN WORK AGAIN"

ATOM



comments on fanzines received....starting with some

British zines...

Cidereal Times:No 4:From:Elizabeth Nightingale,The Gatehouse,Combe Florey,Via Taunton,Somerset. 3Op.Interested to see she would like to do an all-female issue. There are fans here telling how they first encountered sf and I liked this. The book reviews are good but marred by having no publishing data. The Eastercon report tells very little of what happened apart from what the writer ate and drank. I do wish British fandom would make a New Year resolution to omit the word 'beer' from any 1979 conreport!

TWLL DHU:Nos 12 and 12-and-a-bit:From:Dave Langford,22 Northumberland Ave,Reading,Berks,RG2 7PW,SAE for one sample only,Very much a personalzine, no 12 being mostly about a fan party, lots of letters and chat. Good of its kind.

From the same source comes DRILKJIS No 3 with Kevin Smith as co-editor. More of a general-zine with a good start in Bob Shaw's Skycon talk. Glad to see this as I missed it, and it is enhanced by clever cartoons from Jim Barker. This really is the direct opposite of TWLL DHU as it contains critical articles on sf, very critical in the form of Joseph Nigholls. The book reviews are particularly readable.

FANZINE FANATIQUE:No 32:From:Keith & Rosemary Walker,2 Daisy Bank,Quernmore Rd,Lancaster,Lancs. Fanzine reviewing. I do wish they could lick their production problem, as I do enjoy it otherwise, but it is so hard to read.

DAISNAID:No 6:From:D.West,43 Norman St,Bingley,W.Yorks. Quite a lot of trenchant criticism mainly aimed at the BSFA committee. Whether his arguments are correct or not, I was struck by the fact that he did not put forward any specific measures to improve the BSFA. I can't really think that it helps to call all the committee cretins, without coming up with more than vaguely saying that the BSFA needs to arouse enthusiasm. I think D.West should now volunteer to edit VECTOR!

GANNETSCRAPBOOK:No 5:From:Dave Cockfield,57 Wilson Ct,Hebburn,Tyne & Wear.Trades. A good way for this group to keep in touch, they takes turns editing and each can contribute. The best this time comes from Kevin Williams with the tale of a lost passport. The others are rather inclined to be long-winded.

MAYA:No 15:From:Robert Jackson,71 King John St,Heaton,Newcastle upon Tyne,NE6 5XR.5Op. Robs report of his American con visit is excellent, highly digested but really descriptive. Pete Weston's report also gives enough highlights to make me wish he'd take the time to still write his T&FF report. There is a section of Ted White versus Charles Platt that is interesting in a macabre sort of way. The letter column is extremely good and the very high standard of this zine is well maintained. It gains most of all from a calm editorial personality.

ARDONI:No 2:From:Pete E.Prosford,'TyGwn',Maxwell Close,Buckley,Clwyd,Cymru.No price. A poetry zine of varied selection, the majority of which I thought pretty poor, only one, by Pamela Beal, told me something. Some cogent remarks, however on poetry by Dave Colton pin-pointing the weakness of the non-rhyme variety.

HAVERINGS 2

ERG:No 63:From:Terry Jeeves,230 Bannerdale Rd.Sheffield.S11 9FE.5/£1 or 6/£2
Now in its 20th year! Steady and reliable with every now and then a big surprise. This time it is Robert Bloch who made my eyes pop with his title...
I WAS ETHEL LINDSAY'S SEX SLAVE(my..I should be so lucky..)Mind you I thought Bob had defecated, yet here he is showing how to grab the interest, keep it short, make a valid point, and be witty. Ah, they don't make fan writers like that any more. Eric Bentcliffe is also featured, now there is a fan whose work steadily improves as the years roll on. I enjoy Terry's short SF reviews tho' I try to avoid reading when I am writing my own as I feel that might be cheating. Happy next 20 years, Terry.

SEAMONSTERS:No 1:From Simone Walsh,7a Lawrence Rd.Ealing.London.W5 4XJ.Trade or letter of comment.Most interesting part is Simone writing about secretarial work and wondering if anyone who reads SEAMONSTERS gets job satisfaction. I had it for years yet I am one who worked to live not the other way round. I think for job satisfaction it is essential to have satisfaction away from it, otherwise one becomes lop-sided. Chris Priest is very funny when writing about conbores. I liked the "American writer bore who..tells you the one about Harlan" best.This is a good first issue, showing previous experience, and the editorial personality comes through well to give cohesion.

NABU:Nos 5&6:From:Ian & Janice Maule,18 Hillside,163 Carshalton Rd,Sutton,Surrey SM1 4NG. Trade or a large self-addressed stamped envelope.In this Peter Roberts has revived the admirable practise of putting his TAFF report in instalments in various zines prior to full publication. This instalment is gratifyingly descriptive of the fans he meets.Ian Williams writes of a trip to visit Bob Shaw which should have been lively but omit every reference to beer and there is little left. The letter column discusses the Fan Room without anything very constructive coming out.Joseph Nicholls has a zine review column quite critical hampered by the fact that he knows no faned need pay any heed.No 6 has a Skycon report by Ian Williams.In the first paragraph he manages to insert "beer, fart and loo"..and he hasn't left the station yet.This is the usual what I ate and drank report-to be complete this type of report ought to have a diagram of the alimentary system. More discussion of the Fan room, does seem as if folks are vague as to its purpose. Surely it is meant to explain fandom ..but then that would mean making it a Fan history room. What about the fan slide shows that were so very popular?

CRYSTAL SHIP:John3BDF@com,22 Coniston Way,Bletchley,Milton Keynes.MK2 3EA.25p or trade etc. The production of this is immaculate. There are two articles on rock music which I skipped. Joseph Nicholls is very fierce in his criticism of THE SILMARILLION, good say 1, now I needn't try to read it.

THE FRIENDS OF KILGOUR TROUTMAGAZINE:No 2:From:Candy Brown,18 Gordon Terr.Blan-tyre.G72 9NA.Co-editor:Bob Shaw.25p or trade etc. I have been enjoying the cartoon work of Jim Barker so was interested to see here that he can write well too. His subject is dieting and he makes it interesting and funny. Some Skycon reports a little better than the last lot but not much. More of what the writer sees and less of what he feels(particularly digestively)would be helpful to recent con-reporting. Bob Shaw is quite funny about helping with a fan removal, even if it is a bit exaggerated. A cheerful zine reflecting a group of fans who meet in Glasgow.

SMALL FRIENDLY DOG:No 15:From:Skel & Cas,25 Bowland Close,Offerton,Stockport,Cheshire.SK2 5NW. A pleasant personalzine mainly describing a holiday but with reflections and opinions scattered through. I balked at one statement..when the subject of Feminism arises. Skel says.."Apparently every active female fan is pissed off". Too sweeping a generalisation..although apart from that his words on the subject seem reasonable enough.

EGG:No 11:From:Peter Roberts,38 Oakland Drive,Dawlish.Devon.50p or trade etc. Nice to see this back again.There is the start of Peter's TAFF report which is really excellent. He gives a graphic description of his arrival in New York and also of the fans he meets. An article by John Brosnan about his try at film-making is another example of good writing. As the letter column is also good regular publication will soon give MAYA a run for its money. With this Peter also regularly(in spite of his trip)puts out the newszine CHECKPOINT: I have here nos 87-91. Good news roundup, handy address changes, and amusing editorial personality makes it a must for every fan.

Haverings 3

Now for a clutch of Australian zines..

THE MENTOR: Bo 24: From: Ron L. Clarke, 6 Bellevue Rd. Faulconbridge, N.S.W. 2776. For trade or A\$1.50. A good generalzine. It has John Alderson on the "SF Hero" but his generalisations are so sweeping I reckon he is looking for an argument. Jack Wodhams has a long poem about a city cemetery which should be enough to make everyone opt for the crematorium when the time comes.

RATAPLAN: No 19: From: Leigh Edmonds & Velma Brown, PO Box 103, Brunswick, Victoria 3056. They would rather have contributions or trade than money. It does seem as if, these days, Australians are effortlessly good writers. Here is a good line up of them.. John Alderson, John Bangsund, Douglas Barbour and Gary Mason. There is also two con reports one from Lee Harding and the other from our Chris Priest. The latter wins hands down for his powerful descriptions. But my goodness... 58pp!

BOY'S OWN FANZINE: No 3: From: Leigh Edmonds, PO Box 76, Carlton Victoria 3053. Trade or contribution. Amusing comment from the editor that the title is now out-of-date. However the suggestion that he change the name to YOUNG PERSON'S OWN FANZINE, led him to think he did not want to be that up-to-date! A good issue for fan historians containing memories from Lee Harding and John Foyster of early Australian zines. Included with this was the Fapazine of John Foyster. Most fascinating part to me was to see the names of the members who are still in FAPA and those who have joined since I left.

GLASS KEYS: No 2: From: Perry Middlemiss, PO Box 98, Rundle St. Adelaide 5000. Any enquiry will receive a free copy. The production is nice and it contains a fair amount of SF reviews that are more detailed than my own. An interview with Aldiss.. sorry that's wrong.. it is the transcription of a lecture at Adelaide University on LIFE IN THE GHETTO which is given. In it he seems more subdued than usual and more likeable. Also from Perry comes AUTO DELIRIUM: No 1: 50¢ SF in 2001 is set as a question and answered by DeCamp, David Compton, Alexei Panshin and Ursula Le Guin. These were actually written in 1971. There is also a long article on Ballard.. nothing very fresh.

GECENSHEIN: Nos 33&34: From: Eric Lindsay, c/o 6 Hillcrest Ave. Faulconbridge, NEW 2776.. 33 has quite a lot of letters, news items and some SF reviews. Loved a bit to find he reads an average of 500 books per year! In 34 Eric says he thinks there is no such thing as absolute moral standards and then has an interesting time trying to figure out a new society with one. There are some colourful cartoons. A philosophical and readable zine. Just realised that 35 is here as well where Eric discusses the phenomena of Des Wilson.

SF COMMENTARY: No 53: From: Bruce Gillespie, GPO Box 5195, Melbourne, Victoria 3001 5 for A\$5. Good value for the serious SF reader and the discerning fan. Bruce gives his '77 list of best books, this is always interesting.. he has CLARA REEVE and THE OWL SERVICE among the top ten. I hope Bruce gets to see the BBC production of THE OWL SERVICE which was excellent. Letters here are long and absorbing and there is good value in the editorial comments. This zine not only produces good SF criticism but also questions the value of it. People here really care about SF.

AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS: No 1: FROM: 305/307 Swanston St, Melbourne, 3000, Victoria. \$4 for 10. Up-to-date news, particularly good on film and TV news but also has publishing news that is useful. Thorough coverage of Australian fanzines too. Now a couple from Canada..

REVET:FWL: A one-shot on Westercon XXX from Robert Runtz, 10957-83 Ave, Edmonton, Alberta. T6G 0Y9 combined with NOCTA from Dave Vereschagin, 8833-92 St, also of Edmonton. This is, then, two long con reports by, I gather, fairly new fans. It is well produced and illustrated and, on the face of it, detailed. However it suffers from the same fault as so many British con reports. The writer will describe what he eats, drinks, minutiae of travel, and at all times what he feels... but very, very rarely what he sees. Of the two Runtz is the better but typical of what I mean is where Dave writes that he watched the SCA tourney from his room.. and describes not one bit of it!

ZOSMA: No 11: From: Steve George, 94 Brock St. Winnipeg, Man. R3N 0Y4, Canada. \$3 per year or trade etc. Mary Long has an article here about the American habit of proclaiming their town the Capital City of... she gives some fascinating examples.. 'the Ear Muff Capital of the World is Farmington, Maine! Mainly a personal-zine, nice style and friendly.

Haverings 4

Now for the American group..starting off with..

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW: Nos 25-27: From: Richard E. Geis, P.O. Box 11408, Portland, Or. 97211. \$1.50. Sets the highest standard of SF reviewing, mainly by Dick himself. Specialises in interviews this time with George Scithers, Poul Anderson, Gordon Dickson, Larry Niven, Ben Bova, Stephen Fabian, approx. 2 per issue. ALIEN THOTS is a letter column with extensive comments by Dick which involves much SF discussion. I also enjoy this part when Dick comments upon the American political scene. These show three instalments of Dick's novel ONE IMMORTAL MAN. The larger than life hero moves through a fast-paced tale that grabs the reader. The background detail is excellent. All in all, much more than your money's worth!

DYNATRON: No 68: From Roy Tackett, 915, Green Valley Rd. NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107..no price. Personalzine that hauls in lots of letters. They are introduced here by subject matter to which Roytac adds his comments- a good idea. Topics covered are SF films, The Space Program, SF as Religion, and of course general SF discussion. Always welcome in this house.

KARLASS: No 36: From: Linda Bushyager, 1614 Evans Ave. Prospect Park, Pa 19076. Trades. An excellent newszine that often catches the most up-to-date news. Linda is a very sensible commentator on fandom's happenings. Alas, it is to fold soon.

MOTA: No 25: From: Terry Hughes, 4739 Washington Blvd. Arlington, Virginia 22205. \$1 or trades etc. Hailed as a fannish zine this continues to deserve the title. Terry himself is fun to read and is gathering in like-minded fans. Gary Deindorfer amuses with his idea of turning SF themes into Westerns, and there is a short piece involving Boyd Roeburn which makes me wonder if Terry can lure him out of the apeworld into which he disappeared.

WESTWIND: Nos 17-19: From: Gregory R. Bennett, 13001-79th Pl. NE, Kirkland, WA 98033. Newsletter of the Northwest SF Society. \$5 per year which includes membership. An active group who are chartering a plane for our Season! They are also bidding for the 1981 worldcon. This publication is good for SF film news.

XENIUM: No 11: From: Mike Glicksohn, 141 High Park Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6P 2S3..no price, by editorial whim. Interesting exchange of views between Harlan Ellison and Bill Bowers on Harlan's idea of using his GCH to publicise the Equal Rights Amendment. There is a frightening account by someone 'anon' about being arrested in Mexico. A beautifully produced but rather slim issue with not nearly enough by Mike himself inside. It's not that he is shy....

STEPFANTASY: Vol. 34 No 1: From William H. Danner, R.D. 1 Kennerdell, Pa. 16374. Bill's ideas of giving away large chunks of America was wryly amusing. His mock advert this time isn't very mock as it is for The Society For the Abolition of Music in Public Places. He mentions banks and stores but having recently been so assaulted in a hairdresser's, I'd join this society! Good letter column too this time.

YANDRO: Nos 243&244: From: Robert & Juanita Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348. British Agent: Alan Dodd, 77 Stenstead Rd. Hoddesdon, Herts. 756 or 40p. I must say it's nice to see both editors doing well with their novel-writing and yet continuing to put out Y regularly. Very pleased too, that Buck has recommenced his STRANGE FRUIT fanzine reviews as they are the best in the business. I find the book reviews valuable as they are not confined to SF and I often pick up a useful title. As always, an enjoyable letter column.

THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN edited by Joanne Burger, 55 Blue Bonnet Ct. Lake Jackson, Texas 77566. Official organ of N3F. Free to members. to join send \$3 to Janice Lamb, Rt. 1, Box 364, Heiskell, TN 37754. This organisation has many departments

ranging from Games Bureau to Tapes and Photos. Appears to get more active each year now after a spell in the doldrums. It has many dedicated fans who give much of their spare time to it, and have done for years. Good for new fans.

CULLOWHEE COMMENTS: No 3: From: Richard Llewellyn, PO Drawer BP, Cullowhee, N. Carolina 28723. 35p or trade etc. Slim and neat, film and book reviews by the editor who is asking for help with material as he wants this to be a genzine not a personalzine. So send your material here.

RAINY DAY THREE-SHOT: From: Brian Earl Brown and Denise M. Hudspeth, 16711 Burt Rd No 207, Detroit, MI 48219. This reports Brian's move to Michigan and I see he had trouble changing his bank account. Banker's Orders I had trouble with, the two banks managing to pay the same insurance twice! The other interesting part is where Brian describes being interviewed by a reporter, but that was not as painful as it could have been!

DIRECTORY OF MULTILINGUAL FANS: No 1: From: Allan Beatty, Box 1040, Ames, IA 50010. 20¢ Very handy for fans who wish to send out their zines to people who will be able to read it. Ranges from English to Turkish!

NEWS FOR HEYER FANS this is a growing interest among some fans. First of all there is FRIENDS OF THE ENGLISH REGENCY, 5228 Miles, Oakland, CA 94618. Then THE ALMACK'S SOCIETY FOR HEYER CRITICISM, 33 Unity Ave, Belmont, MA 02178. From this one I received 4pp which included a recipe for Ratafie, there are also some useful geneologies on the Heyer novels. Then there is ON DITS which gives news and articles, and this is the official organ of the Friends. Recommended. is fun!

STRABLAZE EDITIONS of SF are being edited by Pelly & Kelly Freas, 4216 Blackwater Rd, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23457. All the books are designed and illustrated By Pelly and samples shown look beautiful. They can sell directly to the readers at \$4.95..first book is SOME WILL NOT DIE by Algis Budrys. From Richard Bergeon, 11 East 68th St, New York City, NY 10021 comes news that the WILLIS ISSUE OF WILHOON is now ready. \$20, but this will be a collector's item. 600pp, hardcover binding. Contents are fabulous and should be worth having for THE ENCHLNTED DUPLICATOR alone.

THE GAMESMAN: No 8: From: Don Miller, 12315 Judson Rd, Wheaton, MD 20906. \$1.50. A fat issue full of news and reviews of the complete GAMES world. Efficient and comprehensive. Is accompanied by THE GMS NEWSLETTER which covers boardgaming but also a wide range of other interests such as sf and mystery, 4/¢1, this is chockful of information on just about every subject that could interest a fan. As if this were not enough Don also issues THE SF&F JOURNAL and with it goes THE SF & F INFORMANT. I have a copy of the latter here (60¢) and it has a string of excellent SF reviews. Don is a fantastic publishing phenomena!

FANTAST (MEDWAY) LTD, 39 West St, Wisbech, Cambs, PE13 2LX, UK. issues regular catalogues of books and mags for sale. Reasonable prices too.

VECTOR: Nos 87&77: From: David Wingrove, 4 Holmside Court, Nightingale Lane, London. SW12 8TA. 75p. Official organ of the BSFA. Reviews strongly featured but 88 has also a long interview with Frank Herbert. With this comes PAPERBACK PARLOUR and also MATRIX which is the newsletter.

DARKOVER NEWSLETTER: Nos 6,7,8,9/10: From: The Friends of Darkover, Box 72, Berkeley, Cal. 94701. 50¢ except for the double issue of 9/10 which is \$2. I found this very useful as MZBradley lists the Darkover books in the order in which they were written and also in chronological order. I am to be British Agent for this but due to my move I have not had time to contact them and make financial arrangements. So write direct until I get this settled. There is lots of interesting material about Darkover and allied fantasy interests. There is news of the various 'Towers' that are being formed. I have also had two additional magazines ..STARSTONE no 1 which contains fantasy stories including one from Marion herself. There is also the DARKOVIAN LANGUAGE REVIEW no 1. Special emphasis here on words as exemplified by Walter Breen's article on the effect of language on the Darkovian structure, both scholarly and well-written.

OCTAZINE: Nos 8,9,10: From: SF Club de Namur, B.P. 294 Namur 2, Belgique. Well-produced, contains articles about French authors. The club has 1000 members. Editor is Claude Dument. Good for fans studying European languages.

REQUIEM: Nos 21&22: From: Norbert Spehner, 1(85 St Jean, Longueuil, P.Q. Canada J4 2Z3. In French, very handsome, fiction, articles, artwork excellent.

UNIFAN: No 1: From: Ellen Pederson & Niels Dalgaard, Tohubohu Press, Horsokildevej 13, IV dør 3, DK-2500 Valby, Denmark. For trade. English and excellent. High on humour but also has a welcome description of Danish fandom which is booming. With it came CRITIFAN flyer (also in English) subs wanted for this serious zine One year-£3/£6.

STARWARD HC!: No 1: From: Jean Milbergue, 17sq des Carrières, La Clairière, 78120 Rambouillet, France. English edition wanting trades or 20FF/year. Features articles and interviews with French authors, this time Pierre Pelot. Very good.

FANZINE DIRECTORY: Vol. 2: From: Alan Beatty, PO Box 1040, Ames, IA 50010, USA. \$1/60p Bibliography of fanzines produced in 1976. Very comprehensive

Available from Howard DeVore, 4705 Weddel St, Dearborn, Michigan, 48125 is a HISTORY OF THE HUGO, NEBULA, and INTERNATIONAL FANTASY AWARDS. \$3 Overseas \$3.50

THE WHOLE FANZINE CATALOG: No 2: From: Earl Brown, 16711 Burt Rd, No 207, Detroit, MI. 48219. 35¢ or trade. Attempt to cover the whole fanzine field. Detailed reviews.

AND THAT'S ALL.....Ethel.

natterings

This SCOT has only me in'tilt, although next issue will have an article by John Boardman. Of course there is still the incomparable ATOM without whom this would be a dreich publication. As I write this I am also busily reading through the piles of fanzines I have received. Somewhere among them -but I cannot now find it -I read a remark about short SF reviews written only so that the writer can receive review copies. I don't for one moment think that was aimed specifically at me, but it made me want to spell out what I feel about my own SF reviews.

I like to read the books I get, I like to keep in touch with the current output. Some books I like much better than others, lots are fairly predictable and routine, some are aimed at a male teen-age audience of which I am not a member. I try to be objective in the reviews and give a potted version of its contents, the remarks are aimed at the reader with a limited amount to spend who wants to know if this particular book will be his or her particular cup of tea..I suppose to be fashionable I should say..brand of beer! I make no pretensions in my reviews. I leave critique in depth to ALGOL and SF REVIEW and the many others who can do it much better. I can get enthusiastic enough about a book to write a long article but I find myself wanting to quote chunks of it which isn't the form a critique should take!

The main reason for the size however, is the reason that applies to the size of the zine comments -when only a selection is taken, the same books and zines tend to be chosen and the bulk ignored. I am interested in the bulk of SF as it changes and evolves and then goes back to its beginnings again. The enormous upsurge of fantasy into the field is very striking and one wonders how long this will last. In the fanzine field the fashion is much more rigid and what is 'fannish' one year becomes old-fashioned in the next. Yet this too is enormously interesting-to watch how a fan changes the longer he publishes. How often too one sees someone blaze across the scene only to vanish just as quickly. On the whole the 'stayers' like Terry Jeeves are few and far between. Every now and then someone bewails the fanzine scene and exhorts fanods to do something about it. Usually they sound so keen and deadly earnest I have to go and lie down for a while.

Well here is another SCOT, no changes, no great upheavals, I just pootle along doing my own thing happily. I hope you like it.

I left Courage House at the end of June and stayed in a Guest House until I had prised this flat from the Housing Department. It is in a block of four so I have only one person below me (a widow) and no one above. I have my own outside staircase and a large badly neglected garden. I have yet to decide what to do with the latter! I was pleasantly surprised by the size of the rooms, a long hall leads into the living-room, there are two bedrooms off to the left and the kitchen and bathroom off to the right. Thank goodness for all this space, I don't know what I would have done with all my things in someplace smaller. The amount of books (I hid the zines from sight) caused some comments among relations and friends. Disbelief too, when I said that I could live without them. Not one showed any desire to examine them. It was a relief when Doreen and ~~Full~~ Rogers arrived for a visit, for their reaction to my books was what I thought -

Natterings 2

as normal. They sort of plunged into them.

I am still not completely at one with my home even though I beam at it with pride. For one thing I have not got all the noises it makes identified. In Courage House after 21 years I knew every creak and groan, being an old house it had plenty of those. The noise which is easiest to absorb and not 'hear' is the sound of gunfire! Across the links towards the sea is ground owned by the Army who have practice shooting ranges there. Nearly every afternoon I hear the distant crackle of gunfire.

The quickness with which I sank into life in Carnoustie surprised me a little. One of the factors that contributed was that, after years of being addressed as 'Miss Lindsay', I found myself being greeted "Hello, Ethel" by quite a large amount of people. There are a certain number with whom I went to school, and there are seeds who were friends of my parents. I went back to Church as I was still a member of the Erskine United Free Church of Scotland. Should you know your J.M. Barrie you will recognise this as the 'Wee Frees'. I drive an elderly couple there most Sundays. They were very good to my Father when he was left a widower and are, in addition, very lively and good company. I suppose I went back to Church because it was expected of me and seemed to complete a pattern. It is a small Church, very plain service with no frills which suits me. My Mother worked hard for it, my Father was an Elder, I suppose I think they would like to see me sitting on the cushion they bought from Lord Robert's Workshop for the Blind. I'm afraid I can't say I find it spiritually uplifting - but I do find it soothing.

So this is retirement! Well why is it that I still find lots to do, why am I so late in starting these stencils? Got lots of excuses - first there was the chaos of unpacking, carpet-layers, joiners, electricians, furniture to be chosen and bought and my ability to change my mind three times about where something should be placed. Then there was one bedroom that had to be decorated and I decided to tackle that myself. However no doubt it is the feeling I have that there is plenty time - a most insidious and untrue notion. It will be Xmas before I can turn around. It may be of some interest to those of you who will be following in my footsteps to know the fact that I rarely give a thought to the job I left behind.

This issue is likely to stagger in with the Xmas mail, so I will take the opportunity to wish you all a Merry Xmas.

I am looking forward to 1979....

hoping you are the same.....

Ethel Lindsay. Nov. 1978.

