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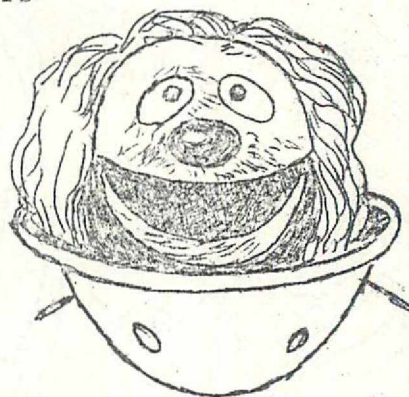
Winter '79.

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Cover.....by ATOM
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Natterings.....which natter about SEACON



credits

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57 REVIEWS

Hodder & Stoughton publications:

JUPITER LAUGHS AND OTHER STORIES by Edmund Cooper. £5.50. 220pp. 15 stories and, on the whole, a fairly grim lot. From the concept of a world without Christianity to carnivorous butterflies by way of a Domsday story, the author does not seem to visualise many cheerful futures. There is one story of a landing on Mars with hope in it but, if anything, it seemed too hopeful to me. All well told and, in many instances, highly convincing.

A CALLER FROM OVERSPACE by John Lymington. £5.25. 189pp. James, Marchant & Wives Ltd are four people who have bought an old church and are living in the Old Vicarage in a small Cornish fishing town. Leo, Sue, Arthur and Rowena are a bit 'kooky' to begin with and their friend Elsie is a rather unconventional lady to boot. So they ought to have been well-prepared for the series of unusual happenings - the unexplained appearance of a small female figure, a weird force that is seductive to the women, and optical illusions that ensnare the men. In fact they do try to handle what seems to be a most unusual alien invasion with insouciance. The author manages to poke fun at quite a few human foibles and has produced believable characters.

THE MAN WHO RODE HIS 10-SPEED BICYCLE TO THE MOON by Bernard Fischman. £4.25. 98pp. Beautifully produced with an enticing cover and enchanting interior illustrations. The man is Stephen who, into his forties, begins to feel as if he were invisible. When he tries the new bicycle first he is pretty hopeless, but as he begins to learn to use the ten-speeds, he gradually feels as if he could bicycle to the moon. One day he does, finding a freedom that is intoxicating. This is a fable that applies to all those who live in dreams and do not admit it. It is told with a very gentle approach.

Weidenfeld & Nicolson publications:

TOTAL ECLIPSE by John Brunner. £2.95. 187pp. In this future, Earth manages to send out one starship which finds signs of a previous race on Sigma Draconis. They are alerted to this by a giant telescope. We follow the newest arrival to the scientific base, Ian a specialist in ancient languages. They are all trying to discover why the Draconians became extinct after showing a rapid rise in technological ability. Conditions back on Earth make haste essential but the mystery is seemingly insoluble. A sombre story that does not hesitate to present a logical ending.

Sidgwick & Jackson publications:

THE RIDDLE-MASTER OF HED by Patricia A. McKillip. £5.95. 228pp

HEIR OF SEA AND FIRE by Patricia McKillip. £5.95. 204pp

HARPIST IN THE WIND by Patricia McKillip. £5.95. 256pp.

These three books should be read together to enjoy them properly. This is about a land whose Kings rule over their country by the heritage of land-rule bound into them by the High One. Hed is a small island off the mainland, a place of farmers whose peaceful way ensures that even the Prince of Hed, Morgan, cannot kill. Yet Morgan had been born with three stars on his brow, his curiosity had made his Father send him to the College of Riddle-Masters. On the death of his Father he inherits the land-law but he still tries for a 700-year-old riddle game and wins. From that beginning he is drawn out of Hed and acquires first a harp and then a sword both with the three stars motif. Unwillingly he is enmeshed with legendary figures and riddle after riddle. Volume 1 records his discovering

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that the High One is not as he had imagined. Volume 11 describes the effect of Morgan's growing power upon Raederle, daughter of the King of An who is promised to Morgan because of his riddle-mastery. As he has not been heard of for a year and word comes that he is dead, Raederle sets out to discover who killed him. It is only towards the end of the book that she learns he is still alive. The last volume has Morgan solve the many riddles and achieve peace. The books contain brisk dialogue that I enjoyed, as I did the mixture of mystery and fantasy. Although the books are peopled with Kings, shape-changers, and dead Kings who want to war all over again - it is presented in such a matter of fact way that makes it all seem highly plausible. There is a wealth of detail in the background and indeed I have read these books twice now and found them even more enjoyable the second time round. Highly recommended.

Dobson SF publications:

UNIVERSE 7: Edited by Terry Carr. £4.25. 184pp. 3 stories. Leiber produces a fantasy with the game of numbers. Aldiss is very good but too short. Julian Reid is kooky in a way I found boring. Robt Chilson is the cleverest - a critic's column of the future, very scathing. G.F. Effinger has the "eerily quiet" story of a woman learning to grasp reality out of unreality. One Wolfe is another clever one about a chess computer. Lafferty thinks up a new way of showing what fads are and how they work. Carter Scholz has an interesting variation of the time travel theme when composers go back into the mind of Beethoven. You get your money's worth!

UNIVERSE 8: Edited by Terry Carr. £4.25. 185pp. Bidhop has a study of old age in the future, very melancholy. Cynthia Felice probes telepathy from a new angle. Eklund has the interesting idea of an artist able to become Vermeer. Greg Bear confuses me by having a woman whose name is spelled Francis instead of Frances, but otherwise is a vivid personality. Charles Ott has a real horror story of a too-perfect house. Michael Cassutt considers the problem of immortality with shrewd observation. Greg Benford has a very short story but cleverly shows a complex future. Lafferty gives a new history of television, this one was amusing if incomprehensible to me! Again good value.

THE WORLDS OF SECTOR P: by K.D. Franklin. £4.25. 185pp. A space Captain and his crew are missing and his friend Pranger sets off to find him accompanied by Don a police man. They find a friendly robot, a planet governed by a sick robot mind, and the last survivor of an alien race. Crisp dialogue between humans and robots the best ingredient.

THE TRIUNE MAN: by Richard A. Lupoff. £4.25. 219pp. After a very complicated start it becomes apparent that the protagonist has a multiple personality. There is Buddy, the comic-strip artist, Roland the nazi-like figure, and Auburn, an engineer. It is a dazzling conception - as mixed in with all this are beings from another world who insist that an integrated personality is required to save the galaxy. A most unusual mixture of psychology, comic-strip characters and science fiction concepts.

ANDROMEDA: edited by Peter Weston. £4.25. 240pp. 9 stories. Tom Allen has an argument against Einstein's theory in a quick-paced adventure. David Langford left me behind as I do not understand physics but would have liked more about the woman narrator. W.F. Wu has a nasty tale of the future mud-dwellers versus the dry people. David Redd shows Earth under alien dominion which was rather too patchy to be enjoyable. Chris Priest gives a horror story that really made me grue! Ian Watson forsees a weird ending to a planetary colony. Leiber gives a haunting story that could be time-travel or could be just old age. The teller is not too sure! Darrell Schweitzer gives time-dilation where true love triumphs over immortality. Larry Niven describes a planet invented by a group of authors. Interesting but I would hate to live there.

THE HORDE: by Joseph Green. £4.25. 191pp. Leo and Misty approach a new planet and are attacked by the Shensi - a sexless race that are also expanding into space. Most fascinating part of this book is the descriptions of the Shensi who all derive from three Mothers. The end of Leo's journey to try and rescue Misty is at Birth Mountain and the picture drawn of this is truly imaginative.

THE PRISONER: No 2: by Hank Stine. £4.75. 158pp. I do not think this is as good as the first one by Thomas Disch. At least I did not find the same weird atmosphere that Disch managed to convey. This describes a series of events to the Prisoner that follows the events of the TV series, but are so sparse in detail as to make this rather boring.

Pan SF Paperback publications:

THE BEAST THAT SHOUTED LOVE AT THE WORLD: by Harlan Ellison. 90p. 215pp. These 12 stories are all experimental and brilliant; this author has the greatest ability to invoke horror and empathy both. This contains his classic A BOY AND HIS DOG.

STARS OF ALBION: Edtd by Robert Holdstock & Christopher Priest. £1.20. 238pp. This collection of 12 stories are all by British writers and it is designed to show how varied they are. It certainly is an interesting mixture from Aldiss with the story of a masochist (at least that's how I read it) to Ian Watson with a fine tale of a Jane in Bath told with the Austen flavour but of such a different world. I also liked Brunner's blending of SF and the Hindu belief in the soul. The only woman in the collection is Josephine Saxon with a real terror story of alien invasion. Designed to show how British SF is different from American.

DECADE THE 1960's: Edtd by Brian Aldiss & Harry Harrison. 18 contributors from Aldiss to Vonnegut, and the editors concluded that in the 1960's "life ceased to be quite so much fun". I would pick out Vonnegut being merciless in his tale of a future where everyone must be equal. Gordon Dickson being ironic over the age of the computer. Most horrific is by Disch, but there is also a grim story of poverty in India by Aldiss.

Arrow Paperback Publications:

THE SODOM & GOMORRAH BUSINESS: by Barry Malzberg. 85p. 126pp. I did not like this book. It tells of a future which holds nothing good; it is told by two characters who are pretty ghastly men. An Institute that is now quite mechanical teaches humans who become either those cast out or those retained as Enforcers. Much casual violence here may be intended as a dreadful warning; but I suspect it may pander more than it warns.

HUNTERS OF THE RED MOON: by Marion Zimmer Bradley. 95p. 176pp. Dane is captured by a slaver and discovers what lies outside the Earth, and eventually is taken to a planet where a 'hunt' is organised. He and his companions are the 'sacred prey' who are given a sporting chance, however no one knows what the Hunters look like and this is the biggest difficulty. Well told adventure with added puzzle about the Hunters and characters that entertain.

Magnum SF Paperback publications:

DR FUTURITY: by Philip K. Dick. 85p. 157pp. Dr Parsons is kidnapped into the future and finds that his profession is not wanted in a culture that thinks of death as leading to life. Interesting as this all is - the main plot concerns the desire to go back, kill, and have Red Indians rule the USA. Intricate and absorbing.

COLONY: by Ben Bova. £1.35. 470pp. Prophetic story of population explosion, greedy men and a space colony. Mainly seen through the eyes of David, born in the Colony who visits Earth and is appalled at the misery he finds there. A wide background ranges from the Colony to New York and Baghdad. The dire possibilities of weather control are shown very well.

OF MEN AND MONSTERS: by William Tenn. 95p. 251pp. This tells of Mankind still living on Earth, but in burrows in the walls of the houses of Monsters who think of them as vermin! Well thought out possibility and one that should make any reader think of how Mankind acts now. Eric the Eye is the one whose adventures are shown as he is the first human to escape from the Monster's cage. Exciting and thoughtful.

CONFESSIONS OF A CRAP ARTIST: by Philip K. Dick. £1.25. 220pp. A very American book with a major female figure that would frighten any sane person. But then the idea is that everyone is nuts. I can't relate to anyone in this because, in my opinion I am not nuts. It is the description of a group of people, in California, written mainly by Jack, who goes to live with his dominating sister, Fay. Fay seems able to manipulate everyone; not that this makes her particularly happy. Engrossing, if unpleasant reading.

SARGASSO OF SPACE: by Andre Norton. 70p. 191pp. We follow the adventures of Dane, apprentice Cargo Master on his first assignment to a Free Trade spaceship. Brisk action, juvenile-oriented. Very competent.

THE MASTERS OF SOLITUDE: by Marvin Kaye & Parke Godwin. £1.50. 397pp. A book to get your teeth into! It begins with Judith leaving the City and encountering the people Outside. She falls in love with Garick and her son, Singer, is left as a misfit when she dies. Singer's step-brother Arin is then the figure we follow, or so it appears. Lots of tantalising clues as to the background of the various

coven peoples, of their ability to link minds. Only towards the end of the book do we learn what lies inside the City. Not a swashbuckling adventure. A serious probing of human thought lies at the heart of the book.

STAR MAKER: by Olaf Stapledon. £1.25. 267pp. This is, of course, an SF classic but I must admit I find it very hard going. It does not tell of individuals but of whole cultures; of the vast expanse of space. The narrator describes the cosmos through which he travels. One is awestruck at the breadth of imagination shown by the author. But I found it a cold book to read even though I believe it was written with passion.

DAW Paperback publications:

No 342 SERVANTS OF THE WANDERER: by Jack Vance. \$1.75. 157pp. Another visit to the planet of Tschai and its three races, the Dirdir, the Chasch, and the Wankh. Reith continues his attempt to return to Earth. As humans are not of value to the powerful races that struggle against each other - he has his work cut out just to stay out of trouble!

No 343 MORLOCK NIGHT: by K.W. Jeter. \$1.75. 156pp. The Time traveller went back to the future at the end of Well's story. This envisions what would happen if the Morlocks got hold of the Time Machine and returned with it to London. Freely blending Well's vision with Merlin and Arthur, the author does not hesitate to make an excellent sequel.

No 244 MAEVE: by Jo Clayton. \$1.75. 220pp. A novel of the Diadem, the heroine, Aleyts is still trying to find her lost son and lands on Maeve.. and bang into a forest-tribe battling with the Company. Quite a complicated plot with a very complicated and likeable heroine.

No 345 HELLER'S LEAP: by Ian Wallace. \$2.25. 315pp. A dense plot, at its centre the planet of Iola which is surrounded by 'black holes'. St Cyr is a female detective trying to solve the murders of Klaus and his sister who have returned to Earth from Iola. Very interesting writing style.

No 346 THE YEAR'S BEST HORROR STORIES. Series VII: edited by Gerald Page. \$1.95. 221pp. 14 stories which all deserve the title of horror. I found the most haunting by Janet Fox; and the weirdest story (about Siamese twins) is by Michael Bishop.

No 347 THE DIRDIR: by Jack Vance. \$1.75. 160pp. Reith is on, what he hopes, is the last leg of his attempt to get off the planet of Tschai. Having dealt with two of its races, he now has to deal with the Dirdir who are the worst of all. Brisk action among a well-thought out alien scene.

No 348 WEB OF SAND: by E.C. Tubb. \$1.75. 156pp. Once I had got over the excitement of seeing that this Dumarest adventure was for me - I found that Harge, the world on which Earl is now stranded, was the kind that I like to see thoroughly thwarted! Five families rule through a iniquitous debt system; and the sand of this world makes life outside the City impossible. The only way off the planet is to gather the Singing Jewels left by sand monsters. On the whole a very nasty planet with plenty of trouble for Earl and plenty of action for the reader to follow. Thanks Ted!

No 349 ELECTRIC FOREST: by Tanith Lee. \$1.75. 159pp. Magdala is ugly in an age where this genetic mistake should just not happen. She lives a solitary life of ostracism until Claudio forcibly enters her life and shows her how she can become beautiful. A fine puzzle at the centre with characters that involve the reader, and a really surprise ending. Good solid SF told with humanity.

No 341 FIRE OF AZEROTH: by C.J. Cherryh. \$1.95. 236pp. This is the climatic novel in the Morgaine trilogy full of the clash of warring groups as Morgaine and Vanye try to close the Gate of Azeroth. Some fascinating details about the Quhal race and the humans who live in harmony with them. The best of the three novels.

No 250 ISAC ASIMOV PRESENTS THE GREAT SF STORIES: No 3: \$2.25. 350pp. 16 stories. Amusing comments on the authors by Asimov. He points out that INTO THE DARKNESS by Ross Rocklynne written in the 40s could easily have been termed 'New Wave' in the 70's. One of my favourites is Asimov's own STRANGE PLAYFELLOW. This also has the Harry Bates' FAREWELL TO THE MASTER which was the basis for the film THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL. A collector's item.

No 251 THE PNUME: by Jack Vance. \$1.75. 158pp. Fourth and final novel in this series. with Reith at last encountering the original race of Tschai who live underground and think only of being historians. In the end though they are his greatest barrier to leaving for Earth:

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No 352: A SWORD FOR KREGAN: by Alan Burt Akers. \$1.95. 206pp. In this, the 20th in the Dray Prescott series, Dray finds himself a living chessman on a real-life board! Every move is accompanied by violence and upheaval. A rousing serial!
No 353: QUAG KEEP: by Andre Norton. \$1.95. 192pp. This ought to be very popular with war-gaming fans as six such find themselves transported into other characters in a fantasy world and realise that they are now figures in someone else's game!
No 534: HESTIA: by C.J. Cherryh. \$1.95. 160pp. There is a colony on Hestia and Sam answers their SOS for an engineer. A lively story of a colony struggling to survive and alien contact; with Sam in the middle of it all and trying to get some sense made out of a what seems a hopeless task.
No 355: THE TIME FILLER: by Michael Moorcock. \$1.75. 172pp. 9 stories. An unusual medley mostly printed originally in NEW WORLDS. I found them depressing but have to admit they all evoke strong images.
No 356: THE STOLEN SUN: by Emil Petaja. \$1.95. 223pp. In Finland there is a mythic legend called the KALEVALA which is used here as a source for a cycle of novels. There are two here. Fantasy..but because of its base, rather unusual.

STAR BRIDGE by Jack Williamson & James E. Gunn. Magnum Books. 95p. 213pp. A neat idea - communication between worlds only possible through Tubes that all lead to the planet Eron. So an Empire is born and becomes oppressive and naturally stirs rebellion. Horn is hired to assassinate the Head of the Empire and while doing so meets an enigmatic pair - Mr Wu and the parrot Lil. Told with verve and plenty of action, with the puzzle of Mr Wu into the bargain.

A HERITAGE OF STARS by Clifford D. Simak. Magnum Books. 95p. 219pp. Tom sets out to find the Place of Going to the Stars. As he lives in a time when there is no technology; it is strange that the first travelling companion he acquires is a robot. After that he finds Meg, a kind of witch with her "fey" horse and Ezra who listens to flowers, and Elayne who listens to the Universe! They are an unlikely bunch to change the world. This one makes it easy for you to identify with the characters.

THE DOOR THROUGH SPACE by Marion Zimmer Bradley. Arrow Books. 95p. Cargill is a Terran Secret Agent on Wolf, able to mingle in the life of a planet which teems with both human and non-human races. His sister has married a "Dry-Towner" and asks his help to trace where her husband has taken their child. The background is almost too profuse and the action moves swiftly across it. 141pp

THE STRAYED SHEEP OF CHARUN by John Maddox Roberts. Dobson Books Ltd. £4.95. Charun is a newly discovered world which, after the Decadence, had reverted to an aristocracy supported by slaves, gangsters and androids. The people are kept amused by gambling and arena fights. Into this comes a Jesuit priest from the fighting arm of the Church and a Franciscan priest who plans to convert among the poor. Both are determined to bring this world back to faith and freedom. Original idea and well-thought out. 183pp

BLINDFOLD FROM THE STARS by Philip E. High. Dobson SF. £4.95. 192pp. Earth is attacked by mutated micro-organisms which attack the brain. The unexpected result is that psychic powers are released which cause thousands of deaths. This is the fascinating part watching how humans learn to cope with the phenomena. After this begins to sort itself out there is the added puzzle..the survivors learn that they were not really new powers at all..and so who had removed them from the human race thousands of years ago? Very enthralling notion.

THE VORT PROGRAMME by John Rankine. Dobson SF. £4.25. 191pp. Secret Agent Cain is sent to the Ficton Poltechnic and finds a conspiracy that involves the use of androids. Fast-paced with lots of technical jargon. It is told in a clipped manner that I found irritating. Everyone talks like a cross-talk comedian.

THE UNORTHODOX ENGINEERS by Colin Kapp. Dobson SF. £4.50. 216pp. For anyone who complains about the lack of "hard science-fiction". The Unorthodox Engineers tackle engineering problems that require real unorthodox thinking..such as trying to build a railroad on volcanic ground. Liet. Van Noon is head of the UE squad and there are 5 stories here describing their methods. I found it rather dry reading.

Some of you may know that Dobson's publish other than SF material... But one subject they cover extremely well is music..and in fact one of these books is well up on the best-seller list. They also do books that amuse..such as..

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HOFFNUNG'S HARLEQUINADE. Dobson Books. £1.25. (95p in pb). 51pp of his drawings in which Hoffnung has fun with a weird 'teas-made', elephants, new ways with beds, and weird drinking habits. I laughed most at the ballerina who danced a hole in the stage!

I expect a lot of you are watching the new QUATERMASS on TV. ARROW Books have published a pb of the story and also have issued the scripts of the first three QUATERMASS productions.

THE QUATERMASS EXPERIMENT; by Nigel Kneale. 95p. 192pp. The first in the series in which three men go up in a rocket and only one comes down. Quatermass is in charge of this Rocket Research. Must admit in the light of what has happened since it appears a little old-fashioned but it must have been well done. Alas I had no TV then..1953. The BBC had no special effects dept. then so a great deal of ingenuity was involved. The Cast list is given and also 4 photo pages.

QUATERMASS II. by Nigel Kneale. 95p. 174pp. Most interesting is Nneale's introductions. In this one he explains the BBC said to him.. "Let's have another". This was 1955, a less confident time. Kneale points out that in the original 1960 edition he consistently mis-spelt the word 'computer'. No one noticed-it was a new word then! A different alien invasion is described here, even a more terrifying idea. Again, cast list and photos are provided.

QUATERMASS AND THE PIT by Nigel Kneale. 95p. 188pp. Neale says he took the idea for this because of the many excavations in London at that time..1959. He mentions the special effects team, now rich in experience. The story concerns a cylinder found during excavation and Quatermass being involved in trying to discover what it signifies. This leads up to scenes of disaster all over London, and the action quickens up to quite a climax. No wonder folks stayed home in droves to watch!

QUATERMASS by Nigel Kneale. 95p (hardback edition by Hutchinson £5.50) 271pp. I must say I missed Neale's own introduction, would have liked his reaction to this one. A powerful story in which Quatermass, now an old man, searches for his granddaughter in a world where civilisation is breaking down. Gradually he begins to recognise that the Planet People-gangs of youngsters - are being acted upon by an outside force. Then he is witness to the horrifying disappearance of thousands of the Planet People. There are many scenes of desolation and despair and some very touching scenes of old people trying to survive among the madness. I both enjoyed the book and the TV presentation.

THE LAST DANCE by John Briley. Arrow Books. £1.10p. 217pp. In Germany a man dies of severe radiation poisoning, this is followed by the death of the doctor and coroner involved. Then the policeman investigating this is killed..and this is only the beginning. Slowly a plot is uncovered to set off atomic bombs as an awful warning to mankind who, the plotters feel, are not alive enough to the dangers. In Moscow Bombay and Dusseldorf, different groups are working towards this end. A very gripping story that does not mince matters and so moves to a scarifying conclusion. Highly recommended.

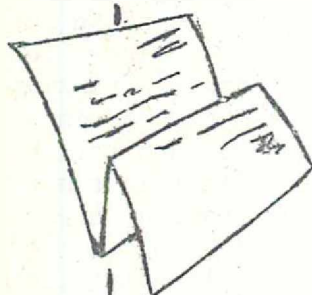
STARSHIP: Nos 35 & 36: From: P.O. Box 4175; New York, NY. 10017. \$8 per year. I am British Agent. £4.75 per year. cheques should be made payable to me. Both have gorgeous colour covers, one by Eddie Jones and the other by Di Fate. No 35 contains - FRITZ LEIBER & EYES by Justin Leiber; INTERVIEW RICHARD LUPOFF by Jeffrey Elliot; THE REALITIES OF PHILIP K. Dick by Richard Lupoff; ON WORKING METHOD by Robert Sheckley; THE MAN IN THE HIGH TOWER by Sandra Miesel (discussing Randall Garrett's Lord Darcy) SKETCHES by Vincent DiFate (discussing surrealism in sf art); GOSH, a column by F. Pohl; FILMEDIA by Robert Stewart; LUPOFF'S BOOK WEEK; DEREK CARTER'S CANADIAN HISTORY; Letters; and a Convention Calendar. No 36 contains - Two Interviews by Jeffrey Elliot (Jerry Pournelle and Larry Niven); REBELLION: THE NEW WAVE AND ART by Lester Del Rey; EVERYTHING BUT THE NAME IS ME by James Tiptree; THE AUTHOR STRIKES BACK by Frederick Pohl; SKETCHES by Vincent DiFate; FILMEDIA by Robert Stewart; LUPOFF'S BOOK WEEK; LETTERS and the CCLLOG. Both are profusely illustrated and there are also good photographs. The letter column gets better and better. A must!

SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE: No 3: The Monthly Science Fiction News Magazine. I had earlier, stupidly, listed this among the fanzines. It is, of course, a really professional magazine full of publishing and other news for the serious sf reader and writer.

Ethel Lindsay.

Letters

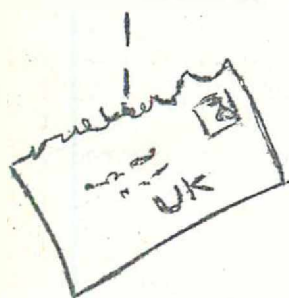
Rick Sneary



"I'm sorry to read in Pardoe's letter that the Doc Weir awards are not getting the respect they deserve. I suppose it is the same problems that confront the Order of St Anthony, the new fans are apathetic, and the administrators do not go out and beat the gong. I'm sure TAFF would go too, if it were left to its administrators. I would be very sorry to see the Order folded, though it would seem it does need to be re-directed. Maybe the fancy dress and ceremonials should be dropped and the Knights limited to those who have served well and true, through more than one convention...Mary Long is quite right, there are a lot of rules about how the American flag can or should be flown, and if so moved the law can come down on you. For example an old flag cannot be thrown away or used as a dust rag,

it must be burned..and no touching the ground either. It has been pointed out several times that Britain does not go in for several of the mandatory signs of patriotism that the US does, such as a frequent recital of a pledge of allegiance.. due, I think, more to a slowness of growth on the UK's part, and a slightly more self-satisfied attitude. We were starting something new and, as any fan knows, when drawing up a new constitution, one gets carried away at times."

Donald Franson



" The discussion of UK in the letter column reminds me of that old wartime song:

There'll always be a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

And the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland shall be free,

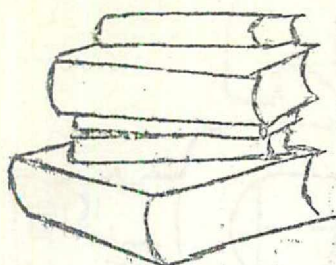
If the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland means as much to you,

As the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland means to me.....What I am saying is that it's silly to be serious about all this. After all, one of the United States of America isn't in America(Hawaii); Turkey is a member

of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, etc. Anyway, the general post office rule is to use your own language for the country names..Sweden not Sverige etc. So I'll cover all bases by writing "Scotland,UK". I bet you don't know the origin of the term "cover all bases". It's from baseball. "Soeee" is an old farmer's hog-call, but I didn't know it was Latin until now. You learn a lot from fanzines" ***Don't you though! I do know some baseball terms though..such as "he struck out" although one does not hear that so much any more. About the UK business..like all Americans you won't use the correct analogy. Try everyone saying Indiana when they mean America...***

Letters 2

Peter Singleton:



"You certainly get through an incredible amount of SF and you must hardly have any time for any other genre of literature though I'm sure you diversify your reading matter to some extent. I've just re-read BLACK ALICE by Disch and Sladek which you could regard as sociological SF though the only Sf element is a mysterious pill that turns a little girl jet black after being kidnapped. This unlikely plot is a thin disguise for an anti-racist tract, which however meets with my full approval because I agreed with the views expressed, otherwise this bare-faced technique would have been unpalatable. An enjoyable ish as always, particularly John Boardman's bit on mindless superstitions." ****Reading confined to SF would send me up the wall. I also like mysteries, reference books, and some historical novelists..the good ones--that is...****

Roger Waddington:



"Well, speaking as one who is practically dry, I must admit that what's chiefly kept me away from the company of other fan - apart from the distance involved - has been the multiplicity of reports of carousing at the club meetings, the gatherings at the One Tun, and even the feats of drinkmanship at the more annual Cons; and with them the growing opinion that a fan isn't worth much unless he can hold his beer with the best of them. I'd say rather that it's more likely to signify that we can't meet other people unless we're supported and fortified by the glow of alcohol, but either way it's not a state of affairs that I particularly would subscribe to; but perhaps science fiction is such a dry and dusty subject that we have to come to it lubricated....about dust..Well, as you probably might half-remember through your training as a nurse, most household dust is composed of the minute flakes of skin that we shed daily; I forget just how many layers we go through in a lifetime! So if you want to banish dust for ever, just ask the scientists how we can keep our skins from fraying; though personally I'd hate to keep the same epidermis all the time; imagine having to keep it clean... And I must admit, I enjoy looking for the typos in SCOTTISHE! They're never like the lesser variety you find in other zines, and that are so patently contrived... Who else could think of Golden Scorpion, and instantly bring to mind the means of retribution to Alan Burt Akers for his interminable series, and Michael Moorcock would be proud of City of the Beats; they're sometimes unusual, always inspired and never dull." *** Oh my..maybe I should dedicate my typos to you..not that you see the half of them..every stencil has its pink correctine decoration. Not that missing out the s from Beasts is the least I can do..I have just correctined out susty instead of dusty in the last paragraph. Maybe I should have perservered with my typewriting lessons!***

Harry Warner:



"John Boardman's article caused me to recall reading somewhere that man's ancestors seem to have been around much longer ago than science had previously believed. So I wonder if dragons which we ascribe to legends could actually be another of the reminders of the distant past which John writes about, going all the way back to when the earliest men coexisted with the last of the big dinosaurs. In fact it would be thoroughly ironic if the movie ONE MILLION B.C. which was so derided for showing cavemen battling with dinosaurs, turns out to be based on solid scientific fact after all. I also read that mothers in India still try to frighten small children into obedience by warning that Zandor, a sort of bogeyman, will get bad little children. Zandor is supposed to be a corruption of Alexander and a survival from his conquests so long ago. Next I would like to prove that humans once had six fingers on each hand. This would be a logical discovery, inasmuch as I can't think of any other explanation for the way we have twelve persons on a jury, twelve inches to a foot, and if a dozen fans are occupying the same bed

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to save money at a con, there are 12 of them economizing"

Brian Earl Brown:



not so much the drinking itself but the assumption that one can't be a true fan without alcohol consuming in mass quantities and the tendency to turn into drunk fans. I suspect that this is a holdover from the days when fans were mostly male and mostly in their teens and early twenties. Getting plastered every weekend was a macho ritual I couldn't see then or now. Besides why travel hundreds of miles and spend scads of money just to sit around getting stupid on beer?"

Sid Birchby:



"..on how traditions survive: my favourite one is that the British income tax year starts 5th April, a relic of the old Julian calendar abandoned in 1752 and devised for Julius Caesar by an Egyptian. In turn, the Egyptian New Year was in the Dog Days of July when the annual Nile floods took place and started the crops. The Julian calendar had the New Year in the astrological sign of Mars because he was the especial Roman god. All this makes me feel better about paying tax, you understand. All those little old taxmen devoted to Julius Caesar! To Mike Moorcock: although I haven't been to a con since Gerns-

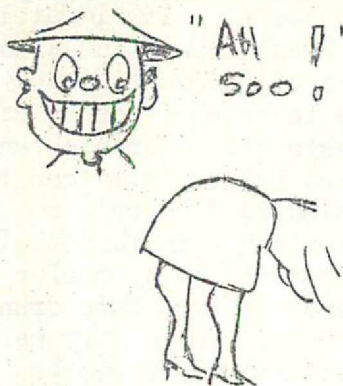
back was a lad, I agree that there is a tendency for SF circles to form social pyramids, although the mind boggles at the metaphor. A great fannish mind once meditated on this didn't you, Ron Bennett?...and came up with a quote-card saying roughly: "I read Vargo Statten and claim admission to your room-party! To Bob Coulson: The use of UK raises too many hackles these days. Not just because of mutters about Untied Kingdom from the tribes around the edges...indeed, the solidarity is probably greater than in the USA..but because that type of patriotism was abused during the world wars. As Archie Mercer remarks in ONFARM 9. two Scots during the last war are said to discuss a rumour that England was thinking of surrendering. "In that case," said one, "it will be a long and weary fight for Scotland". I feel somewhat the same after living for 30 years in a region remote from London. By adoption, I am inclined to favour home rule for Mercia, whilst retaining, of course, any financial aids from Central Government. Ethel.. what causes cataracts. One of my engineers at work had a blow over his eye playing football and was warned that when he got older it might become..what was your word?...cataractous. Last word on social gaffes: at a recent gathering of civil engineering contractors a certain lady introduced herself to one of them as follows: "Hello! I'm from the Dept. of the Environment. I send you forms!" My source (THE NEW CIVIL ENGINEER) acidly comments that as a social gambit it seems

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doomed to failure. No wonder the Kingdom is Untied."

There are various types of cataract..the ordinary one is called Senile ataract, the one you quote is a traumatic cataract, and there is also the congenital cataract. The lens is delicate and trauma can cause it to become opaque.

Pamela Boal: "John Boardman did well in his choice of examples. It is difficult to treat such a vast subject in so few words. Religious sects borrowing from more ancient beliefs is by no means confined to Christianity. Many people get the impression that Eastern religions form an unbroken chain. I found talking to Chinese in Singapore that the more learned are aware that in all their major religions much is borrowed and symbolic of other times, but frequently find it difficult to trace the exact origins because their culture is so ancient. My favourite example was the Chinese New Year when I went to sweep away the carpet of red paper left by the celebratory fireworks. My neighbour rushed out to stop me explaining they had deliberately laid it as a token of appreciation for my good neighbourliness. That such a thick carpet was highly propitious the longer it took the elements to clear it away the better. We tried to find the origins of the custom; the best anyone could come up with was an educated guess. The red paper represented the blood of slain enemies who would therefore not be in a position to bother one in the coming year...I don't dispute Michael Moorcock's pyramid image but you are so right that the wonderful thing about Fan-don and SF writers is the number of nice to know people who seem to be oblivious of boundaries both real and imaginary."



Michael Moorcock:

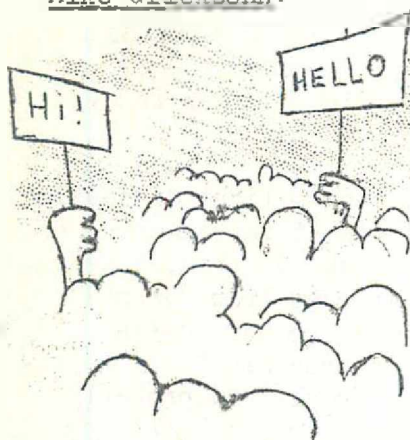
"City of the Beats? Sounds like a horrific fantasy of a place inhabited entirely by Jack Aerouacs. Generosity? Listen, I remember how kind you and Ron and Atom and Vin; Clarke and others were to me when I was a callow horror and fantasy machine. One lives by emulation, I hope. Actually, Ron appears to turn up every five years when there are actually other people in the place. By and large I live much more quietly than I did(which makes it that much harder to attend conventions, of course...). Was it my fault Bennett told Jill that "Brian Burgess was here to see him" and made Jill behave horribly rudely before I began to suss the ploy(I was hiding under the table) and Bennett had chosen to turn up the day I had Sophie, Katie, and Max, Mike Harrison, Di Boardman, John Clute and an entire

TV team from Carlisle in the house, that wasn't generosity, I assure you, it was desperation, but doubtless you'll see the result sometime in October: they're doing Clarke flippering, MacAffrey riding, M. John Harrison rock-climbing, me fell walking--what else? Aldiss yoga-ing and jogging, Brunner cycling(I don't know if he ever used the bike) and Pohl pohling....? The most athletic series about science fiction ever seen on television. Everybody trying to convince the TV people that the last thing they'd be seen dead doing would be writing. I hope the result will be worth all that exposure. At least Cumbrian camera-men don't seem to jib at hanging over cliffs while insane writers of fantasy try to kill themselves indulging in contortions a Zen Buddhist octopus would jib at. "Do what you do naturally", they said to me (I was out for a walk like some rotound Ruskin at the waterfalls) so as I neared the camera I picked up speed and dodged right past it. They asked me why I'd done it. 'If I was out for a walk and I came across a bunch of buggers like you in my way, I'd get past you as soon as I could,' I wittily replied. Conventions? What we should do is just have some kind of veteran's reunion convention(everyone who was at the '57 Worldcon?); then I'd be decidedly cheerful. You remember -- before I became a Prophet of the New Wave and used to put the names of my friends into Tarzan comic strips instead?"

I'd apologise for the Beats/Beasts, only it seems to have amused my friend Sid. I remember, I remember..good times..good times!

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Mike Glicksohn:



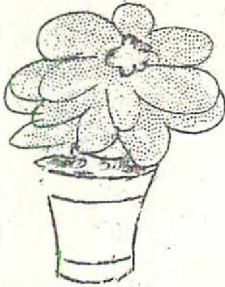
"Well, I guess it just wasn't to be! For the first four days of SEACON, I didn't see you at all; and when I did spot you a couple of times on Sunday and Monday, you were busy and I was busy. Perhaps in Denver..... Actually, that pretty well summarizes SEACON as far as I was concerned. I found it just too damn big and busy and I was never really able to relax. More and more I find I enjoy the smaller, quieter cons where one can actually meet most of the attendees. At a three-ring circus like SEACON, one tends to stick to one's familiar circle of friends out of self-defense! As others have undoubtedly told you, the enfant terrible of current British fandom is Joseph Nicholas, not Nicholls, and anyone further from Foundation's Peter Nicholls would be hard to imagine. If you want to avoid a serious credibility gap you've got to stay au courant with what's going on in fandom. There's no need to provide

additional ammunition for those who are inclined to shoot you down in the first place. I can sympathise with D.West's sort of con report because to a large extent D. and I approach conventions in the same way. Just because we spend a large amount of time drinking in the Fan Room doesn't mean we aren't enjoying the convention: it's a classic case of "Different strokes for different folks", I suppose...I think Ron Bennett has to accept that the very nature of fan funds has changed since his TAFF trip. There was a time when TAFF was aimed at active fans who couldn't afford a transatlantic trip on their own but nowadays this aspect of financial need has very much dwindled away. There are few if any active fans who couldn't put aside the money for a trip across the ocean if they really wanted to go so it really isn't surprising that unsuccessful fan fund candidates sometimes make the trip anyway. What concerns me more, though, is that we seem to be getting more and more candidates I don't really consider should be running. I talked about this in an issue of John Foyster's CHUNDER! and was severely stepped on for suggesting that candidates for TAFF or DUFF really ought to be active fanzine fans. My argument was that a fan fund candidate should be someone who had been active in fandom on both sides of whatever ocean was to be crossed (so that the fans in the country to be visited would have a real desire to meet the winner of the trip) and that this more or less meant a fanzine fan. Perhaps I too am old-fashioned in my ideas about TAFF and DUFF but I have to agree with Ron in looking askance at people who seek to get a free trip from fandom without ever really having made a significant contribution to international fandom. (The emphasis there is on the idea of participating in inter-national fandom: many recent fan fund candidates have been good folks who have been active on one side of the Atlantic ---or Pacific --- but there are few fans who consciously seek to be a part of fandom in more than one country. Terry Hughes, of course, was a perfect choice as this year's TAFF winner because of his considerable activity in English fandom as well as his steady production of the vastly superior NOTA) Perhaps, though, I'm in a minority on this and the entire concept of who should run for TAFF or DUFF needs to be re-thought? I don't know Moorcock so I don't know if he made it to Brighton or not but if he did I wonder if he still thinks that open parties ought to be a feature of cons with thirty two hundred people at them? As it happens, I found the party circuit at SEACON rather poorly established and wandering around at night trying to find the people I'd come to see just added to the general feeling of frustration that the con created in me...I also heard that Brian's speech about Mike Rosenblum was a most moving tribute and that further reinforces what I said earlier about our tendencies to see stereotypes instead of people. For all their supposed cosmicness and broad mental horizons, fans can be pretty mundane much of the time. And I admit to being as guilty as the next fan in that regard, though I'll learn as I get older." ***Thanks for such a long and interesting letter, Mike, I hope we do meet at a smaller con. The idea that the fan funds should be for fanzine fans only has come up a few times before..but nothing ever comes of this idea. You know what fans are like when it comes to organisation and the wonder is really that these funds keep going so well and for so long! Fans have always

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drank at cons - the new thing is the way it is written about. Loud shouts of "He's in the bar!" at GOH introductions, is one of fandom's oldest jokes...but the amount of emphasis put on this particular con-activity is now way out of proportion. Still:fashions come and fashions go - whatever happened to interlineations? Another standing joke to a certain proportion of fans is my wayward memory with fan names. That was how Roy Primerose was born.***

Roy Lavendar:



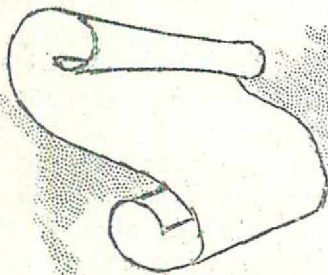
For a really old reference, look into some of the records that the scribes made of the "gibberish" during the Inquisition. Of course they wrote it as they heard it, in either Latin or Norman. But take the words as "sounds like" in Basque or Georgian(those two ancient languages are very alike)which are most ancient languages, once much more widely distributed and probably dated from Cro-Magnon.

Eko:Eko:Azarak,
Eko:Eko:Zamelak
Bagabi lacha bachabe
Lamac cahi echababe
Karrellyos

Lamac,lamac bachalyas
Cabahagy sabalyos
Baryolos
Lagoz atha cabyolas
Samahac atha famolas Hurrahya.

That seive is an old friend. It's the same one that Macbeth's witches sailed in at a much later date. After all old Bill Shakespear knew his audience. And if you look among the leaves and fronds at the top of the columns in many of the old country churches you will find a friendly face peering through. After all, when that new religion from Rome impressed the local stone masons into building a church, they built a place where they could be comfortable in their worship, so they included the Green Man, otherwise known as Robin Hood or by his old name Kernunos. He's the very same figure on the Cathdral of Notre Dame, the gargoyle with horned head who sits with his chin in his hands staring out over Paris.

Eric Needham:



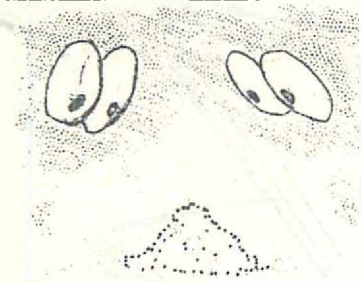
"Just been wondering what Pam Boal means by poems
One of the most puzzling verses I know goes:

I heard him then, for I had just
Completed my design
To save the Menai Bridge from rust
By boiling it in wine.

It says "I heard him then". The rest is just a subordinate clause of stupefying complexity. Oh yes, it rhymes, but as to what it says, I'm not sure."

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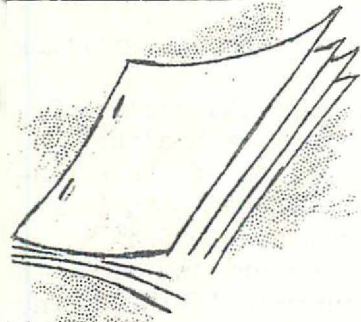
Harry Andruschak:



"As you know, Denver won the 1981 Worldcon. Still I hope you can stop by Los Angeles. Maybe I can take you round JPL. If you know Jerry Fournelle at all well, we might even be able to get you on lab for the August encounter with Saturn. On your second page of letters in SCOT 77, you ask why science cannot come up with a cure for dust. We have. Lots of them. Filters to a small extent..and electrostatic percipitators. These last are marvelous. The SAF at JPL (SAF = Spacecraft Assembly Facility) is dust free for over one year at a time as we assemble

the spacecraft. Of course, this dust free environment is achieved at heavy cost. Science can do just about anything you want...IF you can pay the cost. "As a fan I am sure you would rather put up with the dust and have money to mail your fanzine. But if a cheap way to keep a room dust free comes along, the odds are 9 out of 10 that it will come from the USA space program."

Robert Coulson:



"Technically, I suppose you should say that I have equal status with Juanita in YANDRO, rather than the other way around; it was her fanzine originally. Is it the male-oriented society that makes many people presume that I'm the "real" power behind Y, or is it just that I'm more controversial and thus get mentioned more frequently? It could also be pointed out that in the 1950s, well before feminism was fashionable, Juanita, Lee Tremper (Lee Lavell, then) Noreen Talasca (now Noreen Shaw) and Honey Wood (now defunct) ran an all-female club and fanzine. Noreen and Honey officered the club, Lee and Juanita edited and published the fanzine. And when

the club and zine eventually folded, fanzine subs were filled out with YANDRO, which gave Y a larger-than-normal readership for the times. Well, small-name authors like me don't have bigger problems than others at conventions. 'boorcock probably does. As for his pyramidal idea; yes, it happens' But then, as far as I'm concerned, the entire world is a pyramid with me at the top, so I ignore other groupings. I'm seldom offended (they don't know any better) and couldn't care less about giving offense, so pyramids don't bother me. I'm beginning to think British fans must have beer, if only because there is never anything else to drink at cons. Except hard liquor, of course. I saw no evidence of soft drinks at SEACON outside of our hotel room. (We went out and bought some). Stiles did write a partial TAFF report. Not sure where it appeared" ***Fortunately SEACON lasted longer than the usual con or I'm sure we would never have managed to get together for that nice long chat. I find the new feminism in American fandom a fascinating thing to watch..no signs of it over here, of course.***

We also heard from and wish to thank...Gil Gaier, Jessica Amanda Salmonson, Don Malcolm, and Dave Rowe....also Ian McKeer.

Should any of my American readers know of a James L. Ewing of Chicago...could they please explain to him that fanzine editors like myself work on a shoestring. That means we cannot answer letters like the one he sent to me. It asked me to send a sample of SCOT so that he could "determine if I want a subscription"!! I doubt if even professional magazines can afford to do this nowadays!

Ethel Lindsay



Comments on fanzines received.... starting with a bundle from Australia.....
CHUNDER: Nos 6-9 Vol. 3: From: John Foyster, GPC Box 4039, Melbourne, Victoria 3001 ten for \$2. A genzine with an interesting variety of material. 8 had the description of an Eastercon, a writer's workshop, and discussion of the Worldcon rotation system. 7 had fanzine reviews by John in depth. 8 had more folks on the Worldcon as interest in this grew in the letter column. 9 had as a highlight, Leigh Edmonds writing about the difficulty of fan-writing other than straight on stencil due to lack of time. A "gimmick" to promote AUSTRALIA In '83 - is a form to obtain a passport for the SHIRE OF BURKE. Quite a lot of news is also included, and I await with interest the next issue when John should be giving his SEACON impressions.

SPECTRE: No 2: From: Perry Middlemass, PO Box 98, Rundle St. Adelaide 5000. 75¢. The editor took advantage of the fact that Terry Carr was in Australia and got a good long interview that is enlightening concerning his editorial work. Perry writes about the DITMAR awards and a listing of them shows how well A. Bertram Chandler dominated the Australian fiction award. The book reviews are well done and leads to discussion in the letter column. I found the latter particularly illuminating on the topic of DREAMSNAKE.

AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS: No 10: From: Mervyn Binns, 305/307 Swanston St., Melbourne. 3000. \$5 for 10. There is a factual report of the Melbourne Eastercon, the type one sees so rarely these days and the type that is most helpful to a non-attender. Book and film reviews of a high standard, advertising helps to give this one a very professional appearance. It also contains the first review of BLAKE'S SEVEN that I have seen!

WAHF-FULL: No ? : From: Jack R. Sherman, 7b Kingsbury St., Croydon Park, NSW 2133. 4 for 3. Jack introduces himself as a 30yr old teacher, and the material concerns the teaching of SF to a interesting degree. Best though is his discussion of the theme of matriarchies by male writers, which left me jotting down titles for the future.

GIANT WOMBO: No 2: From Leigh Edmunds and Valma Brown, PO Box 103, Brunswick, Victoria 3056. This has a very informative article by Jean Eber on FEMINIST SCIENCE FICTION: A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS? which also has a handy reading list. I was amused by David Grigg's tale of his hypochondria, but the con report was rather tame. So.. good in spots.

BUNCHY WATCHES FANZINES: No 1: From Leigh Edmonds as above. \$1 per issue. This has Leigh commenting on fanzines.. over 30 of them.. in a good readable fashion. He says he is aiming at the editors themselves and they ought to be grateful for such thoughtful coverage.

GEGENSHEIN: No 38: From: Eric B. Lindsay, 6 Hillcrest Ave., Foulconbridge, NSW. 2776. No price, but he trades. Billed as a "personal journal". A history of Foulconbridge at last satisfies my curiosity about how it got its name. In musing

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over the act of writing, Eric quotes from someone named Carpentier a quote that describes me perfectly... "he was afflicted by that peculiar form of laziness which consists in bringing great energy to bear on tasks that were not precisely those he should be doing". All fan-editors are becoming worried about the cost of postage and Eric makes it plain just how onerous it is becoming. I enjoyed most his reflections on the books he has been reading. He has my sympathy in that he is wrestling with a large Trip Report and has already 100 stencils cut!

SF COMMENTARY: Nos 54 and 55/56. From: Bruce Gillespie, GPO Box 5195AA, Melbourne. Vict. 3001. \$1 except 55/56 which is a double issue to mark the tenth anniversary ..this costs \$2. I find cat stories boring but usually just ignore them..but I never thought to see Bruce retail them! After this he expects to be flooded by reader's stories..and it would serve him right! However he makes up for it with a long and excellent interview with Aldiss, and then a transcription of a speech by Zelazny. The latter gives some wonderful word pictures of other authors such as Philip K. Dick. Issue 55/56 has 68pp. In his own column, Bruce is very impressive as he reviews the past ten years--he covers an enormous amount of ground so very compactly. As he has a wide range of interests this is, I find, very helpful. The rest of this issue is taken up with serious SF discussion and there is a particularly valuable coverage of Australian SF. This one gives much more than your money's worth!

Please note that in these Australian zines where I have quoted dollars they are, of course, Australian dollars.

CANADIAN FANZINES

REQUIEM: No 27: From: Norbert Spohner, 1085 St-Jean, Longueuil, P.Q. Canada. J4H 2Z3. \$1.50 This has slick paper, excellent layout and illustrations, articles on all aspects of SF. Written entirely in French so that I can only look wistfully at the contents page. Very reliable production schedule.

SOLARIS: No 28: From: Norbert Spohner again..but he is acting with a group in both cases. \$1.50. Same high production standard. Contents appear as varied but this has the addition of fiction, and four photograph pages from the 1969 Congress. Again all in French.

THE MONTHLY MONTHLY: No 1: From: Christine Kulyk, c/o Robert Runte, 10957-88 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6G 0Y9. 75¢. They will trade all for all but want two copies of your fanzine. Published by the Gang of Four..who should know that it isn't so much giving the extra issue..as the postage that will hurt! First is Rosanne Charest who in telling of her entry into fandom hits the nail on the head when she analyses what happens to "small close-knit groups". Robert Runte gives one of the most fascinating articles I have read in ages when he describes trying to recruit in his University for the SF Club. His decision that recruitment should be wide-open is ethically as well as logically correct and he ends up with as clever a hook to get people writing in as I've encountered! Christine writes about the dangers of too large conventions; but she really ought to ponder what Rosanne was saying about small closed circles. In my experience they atrophy or splinter and that could happen to fandom if it tries to get smaller. Still.. good talking points here for all fans.

ZOSMA: No 13: From: Steve George, 94 Brock St., Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3N 0Y4. Canada. \$3 for 12 issues. Mary Long describes the worst dinner party she ever attended and it really did sound weird. Apart from this the zine seems to be suffering from an editor who wants to publish but doesn't really have the energy to do a proper job of it. Perhaps next time will be better when he tells about his visit to Mexico.

Now for the Americans...

MEGAMART: Nos 1&2: From: PO Box 1248, Inglewood, Calif. 90308. \$3 for 4. Foreign \$6/4. This is described as "something between a fanzine and a prozine". Bjo Trimble is editor but the Managing Editor is John Watts. No doubt it is Bjo's touch that makes the layout so good. They have lots of adverts and it is amazing how many are for conventions. California is a good place for news..they are able to tell of the work of a professional stunt-woman. A service they are running is to describe the various fandoms and they naturally start with SF and have Len Moffett write the article. There is also descriptions from a couple of fans of what it is

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like to be an extra in the film STAR TREK. A department has been started showing how to make your own masquerade costumes, and the first in this series is for LOGAN'S RUN. The designs for this are nice and clear. The reader's letters consist of queries which are efficiently answered. Recommended.

LOCUS:No 220: From:Locus Publications,34 Ridgewood Lane,Oakland,CA 94611. \$1. Editor:Charles N.Brown. I bought this at SEACON after I had got over my surprise at seeing Charlie there. Sure have been a lot of changes since I last saw this magazine. The colour cover is a beautiful photograph of Jupiter. There is a report on the meeting at the Jet Propulsion Lab. for the sighting of Jupiter. Lots of publishing news, of course, but also con reports with good photographs. A letter from A.C.Clarke says he is now retired and can't imagine how he ever had time to work. I keep trying not to say the same thing as I'm aware it must be very irritating! I'm sorry I cannot afford to get this regularly because it is extremely interesting.

QUINAPALUS:No 3:From:M.K.Digre,1902 S.4th Ave.No 14.Minneapolis.MN 55404.\$1/50p A humorous fanzine which somehow didn't make me laugh. It is fannish in atmosphere alright, but silly animal stories are not a favourite of mine. Nor are cat stories and cats disguised as quats still leave me cold. Well, maybe I wasn't in the right mood for this one.

MAD SCIENTIST'S DIGEST:No 6:From:Brian Earl Brown,16711 Burt Rd.,No 207,Detroit.MI.48219.\$1. Mary Long produces some memories of British fans and it is beguiling to watch Mary wander off down side-paths--easy to see she is interested in everything.Ian Williams gives part 2 of his GOOD TIME GUIDE TO BRITISH FANS, very helpful I found it..mind you he calls me a "grand old lady" and I wonder if I get called that at 59 what on earth will they call me when I am in my seventies?You think I won't be around that long? Ha! I enjoyed the letter column and there is a tale of childhood days by Eric Mayer that is charmingly told. I'd call this one real fannish in that it is relaxed.

MONGOOSE:No 4:From:Seth Goldberg,5952 ~~Marina Blvd, San Jose, CA 95120~~ ~~Marina Blvd, San Jose, CA 95120~~ I should have read the flyer first and so seen the change of address..PO Box 7309 Menlo Park,CA 94025. \$1. Seth's main item is WHO WATCHES TV..which is a very easy target to aim at and Seth's aim is as scathingly accurate as one might expect.Not that I agree with him, I reserve my right to watch silly programs if I feel like it! Anyway this has DETECTIVE STORY by Jon Slobins which read silly to me..and an article on biology in relation to Larry Niven's work that was enlightening once I'd got past the fright of reading "a steady supply of transplantable parts"

XENOLITH:No 2:From:Bill Bowers,(513) 481-3613 PO Box 3157,Cincinnati,Ohio.45201. \$1.50. Bill gives a non-linear convention report. Apart from being a Grand Old Lady, I am Old-fashioned and prefer to go from A to Z without mucking about with Ls and Ms out of order..so the only reason I liked this is because Bill can write well. Even so I could not understand a lot because I do not know the people he mentions, At least not all of them. Only the magic of good writing keeps me from being exasperated by all this. As usual the production values are high and special congratulations should go to the reproduction of San Francisco sketches.

DYNATRON:No 70:From:Roy Tackett,915 Green Valley Rd,NW,Albuquerque,N.Mexico.87107 50¢. Someone called Deinis (what a pretty name!) writing about SF and saying what I have always felt about short SF..that most does not bear re-reading. Roy, as always is entertaining particularly when he is debunking some piece of rubbish or other..and he is never short of material like that! Mysterious Happenings..he makes short work of these all right.

DEBRIS:No 3:From:John Boston,225 Baltic St.Brooklyn,N.York 11201.Available for a stamped self-addressed envelope. Consists of quotes from newspapers etc some of which are the kind of English Usage to make you wince..and some of which are quite fantastic and even hair-raising!

WESTWIND: No 30:From:Gregory R.Bennett,PO Box 24207,Seattle,WA 98124.Newsline of the Northwest SF Society.They are predictably engrossed by their Worldcon bid here, the size of them continues to awe me as does the courage of people willing to cater for over 4000 attendees. There is speculation here by Greg of this being taken over by professional organisers, I agree with his conclusion that he hopes it will never happen. There are 3pp of Bill Warren cartoons that are very good. Good general zine.

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Stefantasy:No 84:From:William M.Danner,R.D.1,Kennerdell,Pa.16474. This long-lived zine continues to flourish starting with a fine ATOM cover. Printing is still lovingly done with the neat little illos I like so well. I am happy to see the letter column growing as various readers help Bill out in establishing what fools are politicians and other petty power-holders. STEF has a particular type of glee with which they report such goings on as the postmistress whose position has gone to her head. Then there is Rick Sneary's ingenious idea of what to do with New York. Bill gives this his approval except he wanted to know what Rick had against the Atlantic Ocean. Fun!

The National Fantasy Fan:No 4:From:Owen K.Laurion,1609 Roma Ave.,NE Albuquerque. N.Mexico.87106. \$1. From the National Fantasy Fan Federation. Like all organizational zines it suffers from frequent changes of editors, but they usually are an efficient lot. If you want to find out more about this international club this is a good place to start as it lists the many activities of the N3F and gives comprehensive reports of the various activities.

THE FANTASY AMATEUR:Vol.42.No 4:From:Harry Andruschak,6933 N.Rosemead, San Gabriel CA.91775. Official Organ of FAPA. It lists the 168th mailing which consists of 220pp. There are 64 members; but they are voting to raise this number to 80. There are 34 names on the waiting-list..if you are interested..write Harry.

GARLIC MILKSHAKE:No 9:From Harry..address as above. Mainly aimed at the fans in Australia and mostly about Fapa. Stapled inside is a fanzine review zine which is followed by Harry describing the various apas he has joined. He works at JPL so can include a Voyager Bulletin with some fine photos taken by Voyager 2. Harry says he is lazy! That I'll never believe!

THE WHOLE FANZINE CATALOG:No 8:From:Brian Earl Brown,16711 Burt Rd.,No 207, Detroit,MI.48219.5 for \$2.Specifically a fanzine review zine with a rating system. Brian also gives a good explanation of what he thinks makes a good zine. 80 zines are reviewed. Meant as a "service" and is a good one.

YANDRO:No247-248:FromRobert & Juanita Coulson,Route 3,Hartford City,IN.47348.

British Agent: Alan Dodd,77 Stanstead Rd.,Hoddesdon,Herts.5 for \$3 or £1.50.

This indefatigable pair have produced a double issue of 75pp before taking off for the Season. They promise to write about their experiences which I do look forward to with glee. There are 19pp of entertaining and useful book reviews from Buck..you will easily find something for your reading list here. There are also 36pp of letters the valuable kind that Y seems to attract. A long one from Derek Nelson describing his views of S.Africa is a highlight as is Susan Schwartz writing about life in academia. Dave Locke's column concentrates on the horrors of tv watching and cinema-visiting and at times is grimly amusing. It has rather put me off trying to go to the cinema!

JANUS:No15:From:Janice Bogstad & Jeanne Gomoll,c/o SF3,Box 1624, Madison,WI.53701. \$1.50.The production is extra-good and this is very handsome to look through.

The review section is also commendable, the kind that make you want to seek out the book or go see the film. I enjoyed the letter column which ranges wide and there saw the first mention I've seen of the way we women are advised not to go out alone at night. Even here in quiet Carnoustie, if I have to walk home from my brother's(five minutes away)he always walks with me! This, of course, is the zine which first really explored the sexism in our society and it continues to be concerned about thiswithout sounding abrasive. Jessica Salmonson reviews a selection of non-sf feminist small magazines, and she has taken care to choose the best of them for recommendation. There are interviews with Elizabeth Lynn, John Varley, and Suzy McKee Charnos. Highly recommended.

THE SCIENCE FICTION VOLARY:No 8:From:Steve Ferran,2920 Meridian St.,Bellingham. WA 98225.25¢. 8pp of letters with the editor's brief comments. Not too interesting except in spots.

THE SF & F JOURNAL:No 90:From: Don Miller,12315 Judson Rd.,Wheaton.Maryland.20906 \$1.75 in US \$2 elsewhere.Alexis Gilliland is first with an article spying out the future that would scare anyone silly..except I hope I won't live that long! There are a few letters but the bulk of the material(68pp)is reviews of film,radio,tv, books, plus checklists. Invaluable for the reader and collector fan.With this comes - THE SF&F JOURNAL SUPPLEMENTS:Nos 1-4.30¢. Which brings the reviews up-to-date...this is where one finds listings for the prozines and zine reviews.

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Details are given on various clubs, and also book clubs. Invaluable.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW: Nos 31&32: From: Richard E. Geis, PO Box 11408, Portland, OR. 97211 \$1.75. 64pp and in in micro-elite type. Dick's own column ALIEN THOTS includes listing of books and letters received. This does cut down his own comments and I feel the lack. Probably most of what I miss goes into his other zine RICHARD E. GEIS. A PERSONAL JOURNAL. \$3 for 5. 31 has an interview with Andrew Offutt, John Brunner's column NOISE LEVEL, another column by Ray Nelson, and book reviews which is titled OTHER VOICES as many people review here. Film reviews are by Bill Warren. 32 finishes off the Gilliland interview and then has a complete interview with Orson Scott Card. For sheer volume of SF comment this zine is hard to beat, it is all on a high level as is the discussion in the letters. Once again it has won the HUGO. It is still in the fan category, in my opinion, so the only reason why Dick should bow out would be on the grounds of letting someone else have a chance; but until he feels like that I see no reason why he should refuse to be considered.

MOTA: Nos 28&29: From: Terry Hughes, 606 N Jefferson St., Arlington, VA. 22205. \$1. for a sample copy, after that he wants loc or trade. It is nice to see Terry win TAFF, I have a hunch he will produce more publicity for TAFF than we have seen in years! Dave Langford has an article which makes a joke of VAT - now that is genius! This is all good fun, complete with Bob Shaw articles and most of the humourists in fandom today. I enjoyed it all, but the bit that made me laugh out loud was in a letter from Harry Warner in which he describes a new use for cat litter.

DE PROFUNDIS: Nos 107-112: From: Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society Ltd. 11513, Burbank Blvd. N. Hollywood, CA 91601. Monthly. \$3 per year. Contains not only news of the manifold activities of the club, but also news items from all over.

SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE: Nos 1&2: From: Starship Magazine, PO Box 4175, New York, NY 10017. \$1. Editor is Larry Carmody, Editor and Publisher is Andrew Porter. A very efficient news magazine that focuses on publishing, authors, conventions and all hard news likely to interest the professional writer and serious sf reader. A bonus is the column CINEMA FANTASTIC by Chris Steinbrunner. A further bonus is the artistic layout and numerous photos.

DAGON: Nos 204-216: From: John Boardman, 234 E. 19th St. Brooklyn, NY. 11226. An 4Pa-Q zine. There are mailing comments, of course, but John is interested in everything and is a good reporter. My favourite snippet was the news that lots of people ask Bloch to autograph shower curtains! John is very good at discussing any book that takes his fancy. With this comes ANAKREON No 2 which is devoted to 'filk singing' and which gives the words of some of the songs. STONED HENGE No 14 in which John writes tongue-in-cheek about beer, Stonhenge and secret societies. TIME MACHINE Nos 17-21 is the last of the publications and this is devoted to reprints from the fan press. But the best one is from D.L. Sayers! Busy man, John... and he also encloses cuttings to me which are greatly appreciated.

LOGO: No 5: From: Kevin Easthope, 113 Abbey Rd., Erdington, Birmingham. B23 7SY. Nowhere is the name of the editor or his address given. I have deduced that it came from Kevin Easthope because of another zine called THE PICKERSGILL PAPERS that accompanies it. Kevin writes quite a bit himself and ranges over a variety of topics concerning British fandom. One of the topics concerns the rules of the artshow at SEAICON but I do not know enough about the organisation to know whether what he is saying is correct. An answer from one of the organisers would be good. There is a good long letter column and an article by John Owen. John starts off by saying he is for the rights of the individual; but then makes some very sweeping generalisations about British fandom. Best bit comes from the transcription of a talk by Bob Shaw on humour in SF. THE PICKERSGILL PAPERS is actually a letter written in 1977.. 52pp foolscap. It concerns some feuding and fussing between Greg and Kevin and I doubt very much that it was fair to Greg to publish it this long after the time it was written.

CHECKPOINT: Nos 95-100: From: Peter Roberts, 18 Westwood, Cofton, Starcross. Nr Exeter Devon. With the 10th issue this excellent newszine comes to an end. It is now Dave Langford who will produce a newszine.. to be called ANSIBLE at 4/50p. Not a continuation of CHECKPOINT but a newszine to take its place. Peter has made this a hard job to follow as CHECKPOINT has maintained an admirable consistency. Peter managed to blend factual news with his personal opinions in a pleasant and

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humorous manner, he neatly avoided being too in-groupish. In fact it is the nearest thing to Ron Ellick's STARS/PINKLE that I have ever seen, which is the highest praise I can give. Thank you, Peter, for trading with me all this time. NABU: No 8: From: Ian and Janice Maule, 5 Beaconsfield Rd., New Malden, Surrey. KT3 3HY For trade, loc or 2 international reply coupons. Alan Dorey gives a vivid tale of being a convention committee member. Joseph Nicholls writes about British fanzines with a seriousness that would do justice to THE RISE AND FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE. The letter column is also obsessed with fanzines, but here mainly about the difference between British and American zines. It has been pointed out that in the States there are a lot of apas which are filled with 'personal zines' and this is something that few British fans see. I feel that it is impossible to assess the whole American fanzine scene without knowing what all those apazines are like.

GROK: No 7: From: UMIST Science Fiction & Fantasy Soc, Students Union, PO Box 88, Sackville St, Manchester, M60 1QD. Ian McKeer is the Chairman and Steve (no second name given) is the editor. The aim is to produce fiction and encourage writers. Some club and other news given, some reviews, an article on comics, and some fiction make up the contents. I enjoyed most Ian's description of meeting SF authors and the information for budding writers that he gained from them.

SEAMONSTERS: No 4: From: Simone Walsh, 7a Lawrence Rd., Baling, London W5 4XJ. In her editorial Simone is being very apprehensive about SEACON, it will be interesting to read her reactions afterwards. Her FURTHER ADVENTURES OF SUPERTEMP are once again engrossing, Simone has the knack of describing people well. David Pringle produces Molly Bloom-type monologue supposedly from his wife. I must admit it is very clever but leaves me feeling that if I was his wife - I'd clock him one! Other contributors are Bryn Forsey with a sympathetic vignette about a mental patient; and Cathy Bell giving her impressions of British fandom. Quite a large letter column which focuses on near escapes from death and skinny-dipping. This zine gets better and better.

LES SPINCE: Nos 34 & 35: From: Darroll Pardoe, 38 Sandown Lane, Liverpool, L5 4HU. In both issues Darroll writes well but in 35 he takes to task the male chauvinism in British fandom by giving some quotations. I noted with interest that one of the quotes by Alan Dorey about "aged spinsters" had made me wince. I hadn't made any comment about it, but here Darroll uses it to show that there is often an assumption that there are fans who are naturally male and then femme-fans! Quite a lot of letters telling how people first encountered fandom, and the whole has a very pleasant atmosphere.

FEETNOTES: Nos 3 & 4: From: Peter Pinto, 42 Breakspears Rd., Brockley, London SE4 1UL When I came to this one in the pile I was abashed to realise that an accompanying letter had not been transferred to the letter file. Nice letter too, thanks Pete! However, I deplore the lack of capital letters, I find it definitely spoils what Peter writes. He was a sf reader for Hamlyn's and here gives the first review I have seen of the new Heinlein. His HOW NOT TO MOVE TO LONDON makes one gasp at such a series of disasters.

ERG QUARTERLY: Nos 67 & 68: From: Terry Jeeves, 230 Bannerdale Rd., Sheffield, S11 9FE. 4 for £1 or \$2. In 67 Terry speculates on the future use of science such as test-tube babies and cloning. He figures out a nicely decadent use for the first! Apart from his regular book reviews, Terry also writes THE TRUTH ABOUT SPACE TRAVEL. His idea of using falling trousers to illustrate G force is amusing. In 68 I liked his heated reply to a critic who seems to be anti-science and I felt that Terry defended his views well. A genzine with emphasis on science that is often enlightening without being too serious.

DON'T PANIC: From: Graham England, 1 Fleet Way, Didcot, Oxon. OX11 8BZ. 20p. A newszine which consists of full convention listing, news items, letters, and which is easy to read because of the clear printing. Very efficient.

FOKT: No 5: From: Jimmy Robertson, 64 Hamilton Rd., Bellshill, Lanarkshire, ML4 1AG. For The Friends of Kilgour Trout Club. 30p. Bob Shaw leads off and is entertaining as always in his description of being a judge at a beauty contest. Bill Carlin runs him a close second in the entertainment department with his musings about 'shop talk'. Otherwise there is a fair amount of what I would term 'schoolboy humour'. Letter column picks up though. Terrible-looking nude on the cover!

THE FANZINE: No 1: From: Graham England, 1 Fleet Way, Didcot, Oxon. OX11 8BZ. 20p. A newszine which consists of full convention listing, news items, letters, and which is easy to read because of the clear printing. Very efficient.

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ANOTHER BLOODY FANZINE:No 1:From:Alan Dorey & Joseph Nicholas,20 ⁴ermitage Woods Crescent,St Johns,Woking,Surrey.GU21 1UE. Full of sound and fury about fanzines Such energy! A long diatribe against SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW by Alan makes me wonder-does he read it?

ARENA:No 9:From:Geoff Rippington,6 Rutland Gardens,Birchington,Kent.50p/\$1. This is devoted to serious sf criticism and reaches its target smartly. An interview with Robert Holdstock is excellent and he answers the questions generously.This is followed by Paul Kincaid on the Novels of Robert Holdstock. The letter column shows that there are many people who are interested in carrying on the discussions Geoff welcomes the academic interest shown in America and wishes to see something like it over here at the University level. He mourns the zines that do come out of our Universities..but these are done by the students and have very rarely any official backing..or cash!

THE NORTHERN GUFFBLOWER:No 3 and ?:From:Dave Langford,22 Northumberland Ave.,Reading,Berks.RG2 7PW. The one without a number gives the results of The Worst Poll. This ends with Dave saying he will give an award to anyone who takes it seriously. As the results were voted on by 26 people it does seem unlikely that anyone would. Unless they were mentioned of course, that might hurt their feelings..but poo..Dave will say..can't you take a joke? No 3 was much more worthwhile as it dealt with the GUFF Fund.

DEADLOSS:No number.From:Chris Priest,1 Ortygia House,6 Lower Rd,Harrow,Middsx . HA2 0DA. I wrote a letter to Chris after receiving this..the first time I have done so for years. Of course, being retired had something to do with it. I read it over breakfast,felt my blood pressure go up and wrote straight away. If I had been working I could not have written till night and by then would be feeling it wasn't worth bothering about! Well, I did expect to find some new experiences in retirement, but I didn't realise one of them would be writing a rude letter to Chris Priest. What made my wrath rise was a remark about the Hoyer Tea at Brighton. It was assumed that this was condescension on the part of the American fan organisers. Now that I have cooled down I realise that of course Chris would not know of Hoyer fandom(most men dislike her books, many feminists do)or that to miss the opportunity of using the Pavilion would seem silly to a Hoyer fan. As to why Hoyer fandom -- my answer is that a person attracted to Science fantasy will also be attracted to other fantasy worlds, Hoyer being only one of them. After all the winning costumes at SEACON were taken from the Tarot. I also felt there was a distinct anti-American bias in this zine; but there is also much discussion about SF values which ought to produce another stimulating letter-column.

CIDEREAL TIMES:No8:From:Allen Boyd-Newton,The Gatehouse,Combe Florey,NrTaunton. Somerset.30p.From the Cidereal SF Society. Clubzine that has a large chunk of fiction, three good book reviews and some letters. Only sign of real life comes from Allen indignantly demanding proper accounts from convention committees. Just be thankful they are there, Allen, I can remember a few years when no-one wanted to take on the thankless job. Does anyone nowadays ever write and thank a committee for a good con?

FANDOM:No 8:From:E.Walsh, PO Box 53,16 Wibleton Parade,London SW19 1PR.To my surprise this turned out to be a sale list of comics. They also take subs for some magazines like HEAVY METAL..Ted White has just taken over that as editor.

DRILKJIS:No 4:From:Dave Langford,27 Northumberland Ave.Reading,Berks.RG2 7PW and Kevin Smith. 50p.Kevin Smith impressed me by his article on "series" books. Mainly I suppose because he did not confine himself to SF but used examples outside that genre. Was very tickled to see that Dorothy Dunnott got the highest praise for herLymond series as I have recently become engrossed enough with her 'world' to re-read the books. A lot of discussion here about criticism and its scope and possibilities.

INCA:No 1:From:Robert Jackson,8 Lavendar Rd.,West Ewell,Epsom,Surrey.KT19 9EB. 50p. David Langford on being Welsh, and Jim Barker on artwork are a good start to any genzine, so I was relieved having mourned the passing of MAYA. However after that comes an incredible piece by Alan Dorey writing about the lowering of standards in British fanzines in such tones of doom as would do for the whole loss of the British Empire. However the letter column cheered me up although

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a discussion of feminism in fandom seemed to me to be rather missing the point all round. This issue could do with more of Rob himself in it.

FANZINE FANTIQUE: No 35: From Keith & Rosemary Walker, 2 Daisy Bank, Quernmore Rd., Lancaster, Lancs. 4/50p. Keith reports the death of OMFA and then suggests the beginning of a new British apa! My feeling is that it isn't really needed, and in any case apas deprive the general stock of fanzines. Keith has his usual large amount of zine reviews and it is more legible this time! I enjoyed his way of receiving the Worst Fanzine Award.

ELEGANT SEXTARIUS: From: Skel & Cas, 25 Bowland Close, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire. SK2 5NW. Called a con-shot and, supposedly, aimed at the American visitor to Brighton, but I guess English fans will find it funnier. Skel is fairly predictable about TV, Terry Hughes is funnier on British fans. Dave Rowe's cartoons are funny too and helpful. Dave Langford, for once, is a bit heavy-handed in his humour, but on the other hand Ian Maule amuses with his help over Customs. Mike Gliksohn's advice on beer to the Americans is aimed at stereotypes. Well, in the large gathering at SEAICON there was bound to be some stereotypes..

WOOF From the Worldcon Organisation of Faneditors has 20 faneds participating. Bruce Polz gives a brisk run-down of LA news and Fred Patten tries to figure out when one would celebrate the beginning of fandom. After that it rather tails off and the others are all rather like the one-shots that come out of parties.

VECTOR: Nos 93&94: Official Organ of the BSFA. Editorial address: Mike Dickinson, Flat 7, 301 Chapeltown Rd., Leeds. LS7 3JT. 75p. The first focuses on Christopher Priest with a long article on his fiction by David Wingrove, plus bibliopgraphy. This is followed by Chris himself in a revealing article on being a writer. Chris Evans then discusses the short stories of Thomas Disch. A slight issue yet with meaty material. 94 has some fine photos of authors on the cover in time for the SEAICON. So naturally the two COH are featured. Aldiss is interviewed and there are there are two articles by him. For the other COH, Fritz Leiber there is a bibliography. The book reviews are fair but stringent and there is a good article on SF in the cinema by Steve Grainger. It was so small in comparison to the others I almost missed VECTOR 95. In it I am impressed by Roz Kaveney writing about SF IN THE 80s. An introduction to this writer by the editor would not have come amiss. More good reviews and publicity for the BSFA award. Quite a bundle comes with this. FANTASY TRADER.. which appears to be samples.. PAPERBACK PARLOUR which is now edited by Joseph Nicholas. VECTOR SUPPLEMENT of more book reviews. MATRIX the Newsletter of the BSFA which seems to get better all the time. FOCUS This is a new magazine 75p edited by Rob Holdstock & Chris Evans who wish this new magazine to be "an sf writer's magazine for everybody". Lots of valuable advice for beginning writers and a short piece of fiction which I found admirable. Lastly .. Science Fiction Media News No 1. 25p which concentrates upon the cinema. Wow.. can anyone now say that the BSFA does not give money's worth?

FERRETT FANTASY LTD: Catalogue No 31, from 27 Beechcroft Rd. Upper Tooting, London SW17 7BX. Rare and out-of-print books.. sf to mystery and all stops betweEn.

FANTASY CENTRE Monthly catalogues from 43 Station Rd. Harlesden, London. NW10 4UP good selection of sf books and magazines.

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THE SKYRACK FANTASY TRADER from Ron Bennett 36 Harlow Park Crescent, Harrogate. HG2 0W. Also for the SF reader with a large selection but also has lots of comics for sale. Even still has PICTUREGGER for sale..

Another issue of THE WHOLE FANZINE CATALOG, No 10 comes in from Brian "Earl" Brown. He covers 89 zines and adds a column on fanzine production.

Also.. another issue of SF COMMENTARY slimmer than usual not so many letters this time, but lots of good book reviews from many different fans.

Ethel Lindsay



I did think that after SEACON there would be a rush of convention reports..instead there has been a rather deathly silence. I started off dutifully enough by making notes of what I did on the Wednesday and partly the Thursday and after that there isn't a scrap of notes anywhere. Registration was to start on Wed.at 2pm and when I walked into the Metropole on the dot, my first surprise was to see the long queues already started. Intellectually I had known of the large numbers but emotionally I was not prepared for this sudden impact. The hotel had a big foyer but I never saw it otherwise than packed. Registration was handled quickly and efficiently and on the whole this was apparent all the way through. Some masterly planning had gone on behind the scenes. As I looked around I frankly thanked my lucky stars that it was the last British Worldcon for which I'd had responsibility.. not this one! Nowadays the only convention responsibility which I grasp firmly is to see that tea is always available in my room.

I enjoyed the opening ceremony with its bravura display and the band headed by bagpipes marching down the aisle..admittedly their choice of music was a bit weird; at one point I heard them play AMAZING GRACE..which is a gaelic hymn tune, but I have to admit that appropriate SF music might be a leetle difficult on the bagpipes.

The programme had so many goodies going on at once that I missed a lot; but on the Thursday I did go to see the advance presentation for STAR WARS II, and was very impressed by the photography and the enjoyable commentary. The main activity that day however, was meeting friends I hadn't seen for ages such as Irene Carnell, Bruce Pelz, Fred Prophet, and Bob Tucker. I also visited the Art Show which was tremendous and got lost for ages in the Book Room.

Friday was the day of the Heyer Tea for which Doreen Rogers and I had tickets as did Dee-dee Lavendar who was to accompany us. Doreen and I had decided to dress in Regency style and to make suitable hats.Marg Edwards had also made a hat..much more authentic than mine..and gave it to me to wear as she had not gained a ticket. We were in the foyer waiting for a taxi when a photographer asked Doreen and I if he could take our photographs with two men dressed as Star Wars Troopers. Then we discovered that he not only wanted to take this outside but on the pavement which runs down the middle of Brighton front dividing the traffic. We protested that we would never get across the traffic. At this one of the Troopers strode out and held up the traffic with his hand. The traffic all came to a grinding halt and I shall never, ever forget the goggling face of the leading motorist. The photographer said he was from a Dutch newspaper and promised us copies..but they have never materialised. What I would really like would be a cine-film!

The Regency Tea was prefaced by a tour round the Brighton Pavilion; as this is featured in so many Heyer stories it was very appropriate. I suppose the reason I am attracted to Heyer books is that her heroines always have a sense of humour, are usually quick-tongued, and very rarely beautiful. Her

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Regency world is a true fantasy one even if her historical research of the period was formidable. Although the Pavilion is crammed with precious objects, what I like best are the fantastic Chinese-style wallpapers and the gorgeous dragons and serpents that decorate the rooms.

After the tour we were served with a delicious tea and then amused ourselves by photographing each other on the balcony and looking at the tourists looking at us. Some of the American costumes were lovingly authentic and, for once, the male costumes out-did the women's. Should you think that an American fan dressed as a Regency Buck incongruous, I think it is no more so than an Englishman dressed in full Wild West costume practising with his six-guns!

That evening was the Meet The Celebrity Party which had the novel idea of giving each celebrity a hat to wear as they were introduced; so that they could be easily seen in the crowd afterwards. A good idea - spoiled by the fact that as soon as the introductions were finished and I tried to talk to the Coulsons - a loud blast of music was let loose. I cannot bear loud music, it drives me mad, and I had to flee although there were many people there with whom I wished to talk. It is just as well that the modern hearing aids are unobtrusive and efficient considering the numbers of people who will have to be wearing them long before the usual age..

I went off then to a Regency Dance at which I found the noise level of music much more congenial. Regency dancing is mostly 'walked through' in an intricate pattern so I was lucky to have Bruce Palz as a partner to keep me right. Considering that it is walking and not dancing as such, I was surprised to find how tired I became after an hour and a half of it; and I gladly sat down to watch a waltz. I have always loved to dance so that it makes me very sad that nowadays the volume of the music prevents me from doing so. I was so very pleased that once again at a convention I was able to dance,

This was the only night where I attended a Room Party. It was given by Bob Tucker and he made sure I knew where to go. A very friendly party at which I was taught by the Master himself how to go "Smoooth!". The only other party which I really intended to visit was the one given by Florence Russell. However she could not give me the room number. I did make a half-hearted attempt in the direction she had indicated, but soon decided that I was too old to be wandering up and down hotel corridors looking for a party. Gone are the days when I cheerfully stayed up until 5 in the morning, truth to tell I'd just as soon, come midnight, seek the comfort of my own room.

Saturday, I made sure I had a good seat to listen to Bob Tucker's talk on A NEW DISCOVERY IN ARCHAEOLOGY during which he was highly entertaining about being a Toastmaster. That evening I was again at the Pavilion attending the Gollancz reception where I was delighted to see Bill Temple with Joe and Anne Patrizio. I was able to apologise to Joe and Anne for never having been to visit them..time seems to have been compressed in this last year. Very fine refreshments at this affair which was crammed with celebrities chief of which to me was Elsie Wollheim determined to see that I got fed. Apparently I was caught by TV cameras I have not seen it myself; but my niece reports she heard me say.. "I'm not a feminist but after the first chapter of his book..." From this I deduce I was caught talking about John Norman.

I travelled back from this with Joyce and Ken Slater and sat with them on the balcony to watch the Fancy Dress parade. I thought the most amusing was the Dr WHO accompanied by a real K9 swathed in a cardboard box; but the Star Wars spoofs were amusing too. Certainly the King and Queen from the Tarot were the most beautiful costumes I have seen since I saw Karen Anderson win first prize at Chicago.

Sunday is memorable for attending a Darkover meeting as Marion Zimmer Bradley is such a spell-binding speaker. Once again I promised to be agent for their organisation and once again I have not heard any more. I think Marion herself is far too busy to have to bother with this, but hope there is someone active in the Darkover circle who will organise an agent over here who need not necessarily be me. According to a scribble on the side of my programme I then met Daphne and Roy Mortimore and had a long chat over coffee. I certainly can't see any notes that I attended programme items! I did, however go to the Banquet and shared a

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STARSHIP(formerly ALGOL)

I have three copies left of ALGOL No 25.Winter 1976 at 75p
Also 4 copies left of ALGOL No 24.Summer 1975.60p

STARSHIP No 37 came in as I was running this off I can tell you that this issue has a brilliant coloured fantasy cover by C.Lee Healy.

Contents are:

BEATLE JUICE; editorial by Andrew Porter

HISTORY AND SCIENCE FICTION by Poul Anderson

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RANDOM FACTORS ..Letters

STARSHIP CONLOG Convention Calendar.

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FROM SCOTTISHE....

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A GUID NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR READERS.

Natterings 3

table with Elsie and Don Wollheim, Daphne and Roy Mortimore, Joan and John Newman, Gerry Webb and Anne Keylock, Tanáth Lee, and C.J. Cherryh. I was most enchanted with Tanith who told me she is writing for BLAKE'S 7 and gave me some interesting news of this programme. There was a bit of a squeeze afterwards in the hall to see the HUGO presentations but otherwise this went smoothly until the award for the best fanzine. This went again to SF Review and no one would go up to accept it. I do not know why someone had not been nominated to go up and accept it for it surely must have been obvious that this was possible. Anyway, as you all know, DREAMSNAKE won the main prize and I was pleased that THE WHITE DRAGON won another.

On Monday I did go to a programme item SF AND THE REST OF THE WORLD which featured Don Wollheim, John Brunner, Sam Lundwall, Maxim Jakubowski and Waldemar Kummig. My notes resume here, I was sitting next to Doreen Rogers and I wrote to her.. "If we want to see the closing ceremony which is scheduled for 4pm - we would need to get seats early - it will be like last night at the Hugo ceremony."

Doreen - "Not quite. Several hundred people have left. How about a cup of tea?"

Me - "Gosh, yes - but what about Don's eagle eye? This finished at 3pm"

Doreen - "We wait!"

Actually it was an interesting panel reviewing SF in European countries, the panellists all being knowledgeable about that.

The closing ceremonies could only be anti-climatic as Peter Weston suggested that the whole thing was going to start again. I wouldn't have minded I might have seen more of the programme second time around. On Monday night I was able to have a quiet dinner with Buck and Juanita Coulson and Doreen and so was very pleased that we had finally got together for a good talk. I never did get together properly with Joyce Scrivner and I am dashed to think how little time I spent talking to Boyd Raeburn after all those years.

I stayed on another day and so on Tuesday morning sat at the open-air cafe drinking coffee and was entertained by watching Brian Aldiss pack the boot of his car. Nothing like watching someone else work! I then walked all round Brighton's narrow streets and poked into all the small shops. It really is a fascinating town and I'm glad I took the time to do that.

To sum up..I had a grand time although no matter how many years one has been in fandom, it is still a daunting experience to look around at so many unknown faces. If I manage a visit back to the States maybe I should aim for a Regional. My favourite part was the Book Room - to walk in and see two floors of booksellers was just gorgeous. It was the finest sight in Brighton! It was colourful and full of my favourite things. I was being very canny though and keeping my buying spree within decent limits until I came to George Locke's stall. George, who is a friend of mine as well as being a foul fiend in human form had brought with him a copy of Al Rubin's THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CRIME FICTION 1749-1975. Although I dithered for a little I really could not resist it and finally brought out my cheque book. I have fallen into another collecting mania -reference books - and where it will all end, goodness knows! Not that I regret buying the Rubin book but if my relatives here find out how much I paid for it - they may have me committed.

But.....

"...a jollie good Book wheron to looke
Is better to me than gold".

Ethel.