

SON OF THE WSFA JOURNAL

SF/Fantasy News/Review 'Zine -- 1st Dec. '73 Issue -- (Vol. 20, #4; Whole #118)
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In Brief --

Eye operation set for 6 Dec., so...this may be the last SOTWJ before Jan. It could be only a couple of weeks before we can start typing again...or it may be a month or more. ## Some of TWJ #82 has been run off, but the rest of it will have to wait until after the operation & recuperation. Final deadline for material is now 15 Dec. '73; and pls. start thinking about #84, with the 1973 wrapups, etc. No recent word on #80. ## Don't forget the polls set forth in SOTWJ #113; they opened 1/12/73, and will close 31/1/74. ## Still having mimeo problems. Between the eyes and the reproduction situation, future remains uncertain.... ## All recipients of this issue of SOTWJ are urged to complete and return the attached reader-feedback questionnaire as soon as possible; if you can't make the 31/12/73 deadline, return it late; it will still help. ## Since not all WSFA members will get this WSFA issue (because of our operation, we won't be at the 1st Dec. meeting, and therefore couldn't wait to bring this issue out--there's too much happening in Dec. of local interest to delay it any longer than necessary), we urge those that do to bring the info therein to the attention of the rest of the club. (Those members who are getting it are those who had one or more WSFA issues left over at the end of the last quarter, or who have separate subs.) (We might note that not one member in the former category responded to our request in #114....) ## Some of you may skip the "Media Notes" section of "The Local Scene" because you don't care about old-time radio; don't skip it this time!

THE LOCAL SCENE (Media Notes, Continued) --

TV: If you enjoyed Clouds of Witness on WETA-TV a while back, you'll not want to miss the new Lord Peter Wimsey adventure by Dorothy L. Sayers, a 4-parter which starts Sun., Dec. 2 at 9 p.m.: "The Unpleasantness at the Bellona Club", with Ian Carmichael as Lord Peter. (Episodes are repeated on Fri's at 9 p.m.) ## Cinema Club 9 has suspended publication of its program notes. The Sat., Dec. 8 feature (11:30 p.m., WTOP-TV) is the 1932 classic, Vampyr, a masterpiece of horror which "treats the supernatural as matter-of-fact". ## No room for remaining notes....

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 Publisher's Address: D.Miller, 12315 Judson Rd., Wheaton, MD U.S.A. 20906.

THE LOCAL SCENE

New S.F. Course -- Les Mayer will teach a non-credit course for the Takoma Park Campus of Montgomery College. The course will consist of eight sessions, Mondays 7:30-9:30 p.m., from Jan. 14-March 11 1974. Entitled "Science Fiction--An Illustrated History", it "will discuss the beginnings and growth of science fiction; the influence of author/originators of major themes and concepts. Sessions will also deal with the people who read science fiction, publish and write for amateur 'fanzines' and host national conventions." Course will be at the Takoma Park Jr. High School, 7611 Piney Branch Rd., Silver Spring, MD. Tuition is \$16, and advance mail registration is recommended. (Don't have exact address, but try Community Services, Administration Bldg., Takoma Park Campus, Montgomery Community College, Takoma Park, MD; or call us (301-933-5417) & we'll have address for you by then.)

New Book Stores -- Les notes that a new used book store (with lots of books) has opened on University Boulevard in Wheaton, across from the News Agency; we'll provide more info on this as soon as we have a chance to pay them a visit. ## Also rec'd flyer announcing the opening, on Dec. 1st, of "the area's first true collector's bookstore, Imagination Galleries". They have a large stock of general hardcover & paperback books, & plan to carry EC & Marvel Comics, Pulp, Monster magazines, Disney memorabilia, Big Little Books, original art, Playboy magazines, Arkham House books, posters, fanzines, old radio shows on cassettes, movie material, etc. In approx. one month they will be carrying "all new comic titles issues by all publishers . . . /coming/ directly from the publishers . . . on sale the same day as in New York." They are located at 946 Sligo Ave., Silver Spring, MD, around corner from Gifford's & 1/2-block from Silver Spring RR Station. Hours: Sat.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri.'s 'til midnight.

Media Notes --

Radio: WTOP will depart from its all-news format to carry CBS Radio's new Mystery Theater series, starting Sunday, Jan. 6. The series will be hosted by E.G. Marshall, and will run from 11:07 p.m.-midnight seven days a week. The series will consist of newly written stories, starring Zero Mostel, Celeste Holm, Ruby Dee, Arthur Hill, Martin Balsam, Jack Klugman, & others. ## WAMU-FM will present a series of lectures & discussions by SF writers & experts entitled "Speaking of Science Fiction", on Mondays from 10:30-11:00 a.m., starting Dec. 10. Schedule for Dec.: 10, "Overview of Science Fiction", by James Gunn; 17, "History of Science Fiction", by Damon Knight (before 1938) & Isaac Asimov (1938-present); 24, "Science Fiction Plot", by Poul Anderson (explains how plot is developed) & as a demonstration, Harry Harrison, Gordon Dickson, & John Campbell mapping out a plot; 31, "Why Do You Write Science Fiction?", with several authors. The series is on tape, and originally appeared on a Boston radio station. WAMU also has a series of Dec. specials: "We Hold These Truths", by Norman Corwin (14 Dec., 9:30-10:30 p.m.; orig. broadcast 11/12/41, in observance of 150th Anniv. of signing of the Bill of Rights; starring Edward Arnold, Walter Brennan, Bob Burns, Walter Huston, Marjorie Main, E.G. Robinson, & Orson Welles); "J.R.R. Tolkien: A Retrospective" (23 Dec., 7:30-8:30 p.m.); "A Christmas Eve Recollection" (24 Dec., 7 p.m.-midnight; traditional Xmas shows from old-time radio, incl. Lum 'n' Abner, Phil Harris & Alice Faye, Fred Allen, Amos 'n' Andy, & many others). ## WETA-FM's (90.9) Friday night (8-8:30 p.m.) "Radio Revisited" will have the following in Dec.: 7, "Beulah" (says "Counterspy" in another place, so, wait and see....); 14, "The Judy Canova Christmas Show"; 21, "The Jack Benny Christmas Program"; 28, "Jack Armstrong". Their old-time radio schedule for the other nights is unchanged. ## WBJC (91.5) still has "Sounds Like Yesterday" weeknights 7-8 p.m.; a few highlights for Dec.: 3, "Lux Radio Theatre"; 4, Phil Harris/Alice Faye; 5, "Lone Wolf"; 6, "Mr. First Nighter"; 7, "Dimension X" ("Mars Is Heaven"), "Jack Armstrong"; 11, "Duffy's Tavern"; 12, "Green Hornet"; 13, "Sherlock Holmes"; 17, Gene Autry; 18, Jack Benny; 19, "The Whistler"; 21, "X Minus One", "Jack Armstrong"; 25, "Amos 'n' Andy"; 26, "Space Patrol" ("Monster From the Past"); 27, "Big Story". ## WGTS-FM (91.9) will broadcast "The New Old-Time Radio Show" Sats.; 11:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.

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Cybernia, by Lou Cameron (Fawcett Books). /Reviewer, DON D'AMMASSA/

This is excellent borderline SF reminiscent of many early British SF novels. A young man visits the experimental town of Cybernia, which is administered, maintained, and governed by an enormous bank of computers. It appears, however, that the computers have launched a concerted attempt to isolate the community from the rest of the world, and the hero's attempts to discover just what is going on results in a series of suspicious accidents, each of which almost costs him his life. The elements of suspense and growing mystery are remarkably well done.

The Space Magicians, ed. A.H. Norton & Sam Moskowitz (Pyramid; '71). /KEN OZANNE/

"The Venus Adventure", by John Wyndham (under pen name). Originally in WONDER STORIES of May '32. Novella-length story dealing with the relations between the warring descendants of the first expedition to Venus and the personnel of the second, long afterwards. Shows its age, but still readable.

"The Black Sun Rises", by Henry Kuttner (SUPER SCIENCE STORIES '44). After-the-war story that was probably much fresher when it was written. Slight.

"Half-Breed", by Isaac Asimov (ASTONISHING, Feb '40). This is a story I'm surprised not to have seen previously. A good Asimov story (well, fairly good) that hasn't seen book publication. (You should see the stinker he had in the next issue, though!)

"The Call From Beyond", by Clifford D. Simak (SUPER SCIENCE STORIES, May '50). Set on Pluto. Has a gateway to elsewhere, a means of achieving superhuman status, a deadly danger.... Poor story.

"Bitter End", by Eric Frank Russell. These stories are supposed to be appearing for the first time in book form, and I don't think I have read SCIENCE FICTION PLUS for December, 1953. But I had read this story before. (Don't take this too seriously--maybe I do have the magazine somewhere. I own a chaos of books and the 1,500 or so I have catalogued are just a drop in the ocean.) Fair story, but it's not one to compare with "Diabologic" or "Plus X".

"Constant Reader", by Robert Bloch (UNIVERSE, '53). I liked this one, with its concept of an intelligent (well...fairly intelligent) planet.

"In Search of the Unknown", by Robert W. Chambers (Dates back to 1904). Have recently read Lin Carter going into ecstasies (almost) over Chambers, and therefore looked forward to reading this. I am less anxious to read more. Sure, the thing is still readable after almost 70 years, but that's all.

Overall, I think you could spend your 75¢ better. If you buy it, you buy it for the Asimov and the Bloch.

The Missionaries, by D.G. Compton (Ace Books). /Reviewer, DON D'AMMASSA/

Compton is an eminently skillful writer whose books are often crippled by their poor plots. His earlier novels were filled with conspiracies of one type or another. Initially it appears that The Missionaries might be another of the same. Extraterrestrial visitors to Earth announce themselves as missionaries of the One True Religion. The central characters and the reader suspect they plan to use superscientific gadgetry to gain some degree of control over Earth. Eventually we learn that, as in Farmer's Night of Light, the alien religion is in fact the true religion. Which doesn't stop humanity from destroying the aliens. The Missionaries is an unsettling book, because it portrays humanity unfavorably, because characters alter their personalities radically when exposed to the aliens, and because it opens the possibility that there might in fact be a true religion, and that it might not originate on Earth.

Pandora's Planet, by Christopher Anvil (DAW Books). /Reviewer, DAVID STEVER/

This novel takes its name from the excellent story of the same title that Anvil wrote in the mid-fifties, and develops the situation several steps beyond the invasion of Earth that was the setting of the original story. I would have

(Over)

S.F. PARADE (Continued) --

to suppose that if one were to look for a reason for Harry Crosby to write under the name of Anvil, it would be because of his tendency to be heavy in his handling of the action of his stories. The invasion that the Centrans staged was the most costly they had ever undertaken, and the sheer contrariness of the humans gives the invaders as much trouble as their ability to fight. By bringing in some twenty million more troops, the Centrans subjugate the planet, but then they (rather stupidly, in my book) allow the humans to pass within a certain section of the Centran Empire, with dire consequences to all, until the Centrans manage to pull a rabbit out of a hat to stop the humans. Sorry, it just doesn't wash with me.

Star Trek 9, by James Blish (Bantam Books).

[Reviewer, DON D'AMMASSA]

I suppose it is worthwhile to have prose versions of the complete screenplays of the late TV show, but was it really necessary to tie up such a good writer on such an uninspired project? Blish's treatment is adequate, but this book suffers from the fact that all of the more interesting plots were used in the earlier books in this series. As Blish scrapes the bottom of the barrel, one can only hope that he won't decide to do a similar series for the dismal Starlost.

Final Solution, by Richard Peck (Doubleday).

[Reviewer, WILLIAM HIXON]

In this, his first novel, Mr. Peck leaps forward to the future of America. Creating an alternative national image, he molds a horribly detailed casting of ultimate equality. Instead of Vonnegut-like sandbag weights or noise-filled headphone devices, drugs maintain the status sub-quo of near idiocy for all but the rebellious minority. These idiots, however, all hold "university"-granted Bachelors and Masters degrees, having mastered color recognition and simple number systems. The language in force is our "modern" urban-black street idiom; social customs have a similar origin.

Into this madness awakens the cryogenically maintained Dr. Robert Kiley. He lives despite a sniper's bullet, because of both the surgical skill and the experiments of a colleague. Revived in 2044, he is unaware that the papers on the modern university are the basis for the world into which he has returned.

Beyond all this a whole society exists, polluted to the point of domed cities, with their generations never having seen "opensky", and the nation's capital city recycled as a super Disney World of ex-presidents' homes and mementos.

With all the wit and satire, a firm underlying structure and plotlines keep everything moving along nicely. This is a frightening look at a still-possible dead-end for a world sickened by its own by-products and mad with technology. The author makes it all too plausible. An exceptional first outing.

Civil War II, by Dan Brittain (Pinnacle Books).

[Reviewer, DON D'AMMASSA]

There have been many novels recently of Black nationalist movements staging a revolt, most notably Corley's Siege and John Williams' Sons of Darkness, Sons of Light. Dan Brittain approaches this theme with so little skill at writing, so little insight into current events, so little knowledge of military logistics, I'm amazed that any publisher would have touched this piece, despite its relevant theme.

The Moon Is Hell, by John W. Campbell, Jr. (Ace, '73; Orig. '51?). [KEN OZANNE]
(Also contains The Elder Gods--same author, but dates back to 1939.)

The Moon Is Hell is a classic and is much better than the real first moon landing. The Elder Gods is minor.

This is old-style SF and damn good of its kind. Damn good of any kind. Everyone should read it, if only to find out what SF meant to Campbell.

This you must have. Nobody's SF library can do without it.

((Reviews welcome from anyone; longer ones usually go in TWJ, rest in SOTWJ. --ed.))

THE NATIONAL SCENE

THE CLUB CIRCUIT --ESFA REPORT (Minutes for 4 Nov. '73 Meeting of the Eastern S.F. Assoc.):

The meeting was called to order at 2:50 p.m. There was an attendance of 17 persons. The Secretary's minutes and Treasurer's report were given and accepted.

Mark Owings informed us that Baird Searles has opened a full-line SF book shop at 56 Eighth Ave., New York City. It is open six days a week from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. (closed Mondays).

Owings talked on the subject of SF paperback novels with emphasis on sex. He knows of some 80 titles, most of them written under pseudonyms. Pay for the authors usually ranges from \$400 to \$750. Owings classifies them as not pornography, but soft-core sex novels. These appeared from various publishers up until 1968, when hard-core really came into its own and cut out the market for this stuff. In the main the writing is pretty poor, with only occasional half-way decent characterization. The cover art was usually good enough to attract SF readers. Owings displayed and passed around a number of these novels, with such titles as: Konga; Orgy of the Dead; The Love Machine; and The Sin Funnel. There were also takeoffs on Jules Verne titles, including Roburta the Conqueror, and parodies of Dracula and Frankenstein. Starship Intercourse was designed to appeal to Star Trek fans, and Her was inspired by Haggard's She.

Richard Hodgens conducted an "Unpopularity Poll", devised by Paul Walker and presented in John J. Pierce's RENAISSANCE, Vol. 5, No. 3, Summer 1973. The poll consisted of 31 questions relating to the reader's recollection of the worst SF and fantasy he has encountered. Some of the questions were: What is the worst novel by your favorite author? What story or novel that is regarded as a classic do you find unreadable? What novel did you enjoy very much, that still was pilloried by critics?

Answers were collected by Hodgens and forwarded to RENAISSANCE.

Samuel Boltax reported that he had contacted Newark's Downtowner Gateway Motor Inn. It seems likely that the club can get a room for the first Sunday in March. Luncheon prices range from \$3.95 to \$5.95.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

-- ALLAN HOWARD, Secretary, ESFA

MINN-STF MINUTES (For 3 Nov. '73 Meeting, held at Lessingers' home):

Business meeting called to order at 4:15 p.m.

Chuck Holst asked for Old Business, but settled for New Business.

Caryl Bucklin asked if the Minicon still owed anyone money; if so let her know so records can be cleared. She also asked why Minicon had paid Don Nelson \$4.88, mostly because Don Nelson didn't have the faintest idea and had asked first. Bev Swanson said that Don had purchased emergency art show supplies out of his own pocket. A Treasurer's Report followed: roughly, we have \$110 in checking account, \$440 in savings, \$5 or \$6 cash on hand.

Denny Lien announced that Lancer has gone down the drain, and that the third issue of WEIRD TALES is out and on the stands at Shinder's.

Chuck Holst said that tapes of some Noreascon speeches and panels were held locally, and asked if Minn-STF were interested in purchasing tapes of Torcon. Margie Lessinger asked how many were available, to which Chuck replied about ten worth getting. Chuck asked if anyone had heard Asimov's speech; Denny announced that he had and thought anyone who had read Asimov's F&SF article on overpopulation wouldn't need the tape. John Brunner's speech might be a better purchase. However, no one showed any great eagerness to purchase tapes, and thus we moved on.

Bev Swanson asked about future meeting places, and solicited contributions for RUNE. Joan Verba volunteered to do a Star-Con report. Chuck Holst tried to scare up a Torcon report or a Minicon report, then stooped to suggesting a gossip column or the Best from Board of Directors' Notes. Denny Lien flatly refused to write a gossip column, but agreed to do something or other which he has since forgotten.

(Over)

THE NATIONAL SCENE (Continued) --

Chuck Holst brought up a major problem, which I quasi-quote: "Lots of people aren't interested in coming to meetings." Possible reasons, if so: cliques, size of the group, noise, games and gameplayers, collation of Minneapa. One possible solution might be to devote scheduled time to a discussion of SF. Gerry Wassenaar suggested that meetings be oriented to people's tastes, as opposed to officialness. Caryl Bucklin added that if the host's place were large enough, there was no problem in accomodating both. Margie Lessinger pointed out that few places in Minn-STF were big enough by that standard.

The discussion was interrupted by Benjy Lessinger, who announced that Joel was using the phone to talk to a computer and nobody should fool with the extensions.

The activity-at-meetings discussion resumed. Dick Tatge suggested that we might regularly schedule a half-hour program or movie. Margie Lessinger asked if this would be announced in advance so that people interested could plan to attend. The question of size and space again arose--did we want to emulate Los Angeles fandom and start a building fund (not especially)?

Chuck Holst suggested a Minn-STF meeting every four weeks, with special interest groups meeting every two weeks. Denny Lien asked if that meant that said "special interest groups" would not be meeting at regular meetings. Margie Lessinger suggested programming every four weeks, à la today's party for Gordie Dickson (birthday-variety).

Chuck Holst asked if we wanted Minn-STF to be primarily a social club. Caryl Bucklin responded--essentially yes, but programming would be okay too. Chuck said that many people interested in SF but not in fandom existed in the area; Minn-STF could be a clearinghouse for SF information. Jerry Stearns said that he already felt out-of-touch with the upcoming Minicon (for example), even though he was a regular Minn-STF attendee. Chuck asked how many people wanted to see RUME be a clearinghouse (some)? How many were willing to do the required work thereto (a few)? Someone again brought up the idea of a gossip column and someone else asked if any non-attendees would be likely to be interested in doing one, etc. Nate Bucklin suggested a discussion of Bode's Law and Denny Lien volunteered for RUME a list of SF writers' birthdays. Chuck said the next RUME would have pictures from Torcon.

Holst moved and Larry Nichols seconded adjournment; meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

-- DENNIS LIEN, Secretary, Minn-STF

((Accompanying the minutes was a note from Dennis dtd. 15/11/73, in which he noted that, since the appointment of present officers on April 7 '73, Minn-STF has had only four (general) business meetings: May 5, June 16, Aug. 4, & Nov. 3. The May 5 Minutes were published in SOTWJ #92, and the June 16 and Aug. 4 Minutes were enclosed with the letter and the Nov. 3 Minutes. We decided to publish only the Nov. 3 minutes, as the other two were too badly outdated. ## Dennis also corrects his previous Minicon announcement: The 1974 Minicon will not be held at the Hyatt Lodge; when a hotel is selected, he will pass the info on. Other Minicon info stands as given. --ed.))

CLUBZINES RECEIVED --

BASTARD OF GRAFAN #1 (10/11/73) (Graphic Fantasy & S.F. Soc., %Walt Stumper, 8764 New Hampshire, St. Louis, MO; 40¢ ea., 4/\$1.50; mimeo; approx. bi-monthly) -- 26 pp. / contents page; ed. by DeV Hanke; column on producing a comic book (thish, on "Delivery"), w/additional commentary; lettercol; a couple of short electrostencil-ed comic strips; short fiction; illo by Hanke & McFadden. ### For comics fans.

COSMIC BONES #1 (undated) (Immortality Inc., %GRAFAN, address above; ed. W.C. Rhomberg; mimeo (offset covers, by Rhomberg; 30¢ ea.; no schedule given) -- 10 pp. / covers; spot illos (by Rhomberg?); editorial; short fiction; puzzles; title listing of "Highly Improbably Acc Doubles". ## Nice 1st issue; look forward to more.

(Cont. next page)

THE NATIONAL SCENE (Continued) --

THE AMATEUR PRESS (misc. fanzines received) --

DYNATRON #56 (Nov. '73) (Roy Tackett, 915 Green Valley Rd., N.W., Albuquerque, NM 87107; mimeo; 25¢; no schedule given) -- 8 pp. / 1974 TAFF Ballot; report on Oct. meeting of Albuquerque S.F. Club; "Watch Out World, We're Under Attack!", by Mike Kring; book and fanzine reviews/notes; misc. editorial chatter. ## Relaxed and enjoyable, as usual.

GODLESS #5 (Nov. '73) (SPh Bruce D. Arthurs, 527-98-3103, 57th Trans. Co., Ft. Lee, VA 23801; mimeo; irregular; cover offset; 35¢ ea.) -- 20 pp. / covers (by Sheryl Birkhead); illos by Birkhead, Bruce Townley, & Bruce; Editorial; "Black Fedora" (letter-series), by Lord Jim Kennedy; Book Reviews, by Bruce; lettercol. ## The editor says this is a "pretty weak issue of GODLESS". Perhaps so, by his standards--but as far as most fanzines go that we see in preparing this column, it's not too bad--a shade above "average", in fact, in content, layout, & repro.

LOCUS #150 (9/11/73) (Dena & Charles Brown, POBox 3938, San Francisco, CA 94119; approx. bi-monthly; mimeo; 40¢ ea., 18/36 (UK: 18/43 from Peter Weston, 72 Beeches Dr., Erdington, Birmingham 24, UK; Continental Europe, 18/48 from Michel Feron, Grand-Place 7, B-4280 Hannut, Belgium; Australia, 18/46 from Robin Johnson, Box 4039, Melbourne, Vic 3001, Australia; elsewhere, 18/50)) -- 8 pp. / flyer for The Science Fiction Book Shop in N.Y.; spot illos by Steve Stiles, James Shull; misc. news; sections on: Markets, People, Conventions, Books, British Book News, SF Scheduled for Oct., British Books for Oct., Media Notes, SF Book Club Selections for April, Original Anthology/Magazine Contents; Milehicon 5 Report; short book reviews by Baird Searles & Dave Hartwell. ## Welcome back, LOCUS! Still the #1 SF newszine.

MAYBE #33 (Sept. '73) (Irvin Koch, 835 Chatt. Bk. Bldg., Chattanooga, TN 37402; approx. bi-monthly; offset; 50¢ ea., 6/32.50) -- 30 pp., incl. covers; front cover by Sheryl Birkhead; illos by Birkhead, Dave Jenrette, John Neal, Cy Crosshatch, Tom Foster, Adrienne Fein, Shayne McCormack, Bill Guy; Editorial notes; Rick Cross column; "Is Magic Real of a Fantasy?", by E.L. (Gene) Comeau; "The Case for Gnostic Elitism", by Ray Nelson; Editorial; Sheryl Birkhead art folio; lettercolumn. ## With this issue, Irvin cleans out his files; he says future issues may be few and far between; even-numbered issues will be "reviews-of-fanzines-plus all kinds of info", and odd-numbered issues will be "personalzine type, mostly".

NOSTALGIA NEWS #21 (undated) (Larry Herndon, POBox 34305, Dallas, TX 75234; offset; no schedule given; 5/3, 10/5.50, 20/10) -- 32 pp., incl. covers; Editorial notes; lettercolumn; reprints of the following comic strips: "Inspector Wade" ("The India Rubber Men", by Edgar Wallace); "Blondie", by Chic Young; "Secret Agent X9", by Robert Storm; "Barney Baxter in the Air", by Frank Miller; "Thimble Theatre" ("Starring Popeye"); "Flash Gordon", by Don Barry; "Alley Oop", by Hamlin; article: "The Rex's of Western Filmdom", by Buck Rainey (Part I: Rex Lease, the Congenial Cowboy; w/Partial List of Film Credits for Rex Lease); Classified Ads; columns: "Movie Villains", by Gary J. Levinson (Ch.5: Robert Phillips: Meanest Face in Films Today, w/Filmography), & "Book Reviews", by Tom Harricks; misc ads. ## Repro suffers a bit this issue (some pages run off the bottom), but the comic strips bring back many memories, and we look forward eagerly to next issue....

ORACLE #12 (Nov. '73) (Al. D. Cockrell (Box 125, Bronson, MI 49028) & Leo Wagner; no schedule given (monthly?); mimeo; 15¢ ea., 10/51) -- 8 pp.; Editorial notes; lettercolumn.

PERCEPTIONS #3 (Nov. '73) (Warren Johnson, 131 Harrison St., Geneva, IL 60134; mimeo; 50¢ ea., "The Official Organ of the Science Fiction Fan's Correspondence Club" (in future SOTWJ's, will therefore be included in "The Club Circuit" rather than "The Amateur Press"); no schedule given) -- 41 pp., incl. cover (by Sheryl Birkhead); illos by Birkhead, Bill Breiding, Johnson; Editorial; Johnson analyzes Gene Wolfe's "The Fifth Head of Cerberus"; fiction by Janet Fox; Book Reviews by Frank Balazs, Brett Cox; Ken Ozanne Questionnaire; poetry by Bill Breiding, Warren Johnson; Film Review, by Roger Sween (Westworld); lettercolumn; short fanzine reviews, by Johnson; short ads; short fiction (in both French & English), by Sween;

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THE NATIONAL SCENE (Continued) --

rules for PERCEPTIONS Contest. ## The best issue to date of this rapidly-improving fanzine, which, with this issue, becomes official organ of the SFFCC; for info on the SFFCC, contact Darline Haney, Rt. 3, Box 195, Elma, WA 98541.

SYNDROME #3 (undated) (Frank Lunney, 212 Juniper St., Quakertown, PA 18951 (during school year, at Box 251, Lehigh Univ., Bethlehem, PA 18015); couldn't find a price or schedule; mimeo, w/offset covers) -- 40 pp. / covers (front cover by Jay Kinney, bacover by Kinney, Dan Steffan, & Grant Canfield; illös by Steffan, Ken Fletcher, Canfield, Bill Rotsler, Kinney, Joe Staton, Ray Nelson, Bill Kunkel, Randy Bathurst; Editorial; "EC/DC: It All Started with Pud", by R. Meltzer (Part I; concluding portion will appear in Bill Kunkel's RATS); "How I Got There from Here", by Jay Kinney (trip report); Cartoon folio, by Canfield & Kinney; "The Difference Between Men and Women", by Darrell Schweitzer; lettercolumn. ## A welcome return by Bill to the fanzine scene; hope he narrows the gap between future issues...but please, Bill, no more articles split between different fanzines!

THE MYSTERY NOOK

BOOK REVIEWS (Reviewer, DON D'AMMASSA) --

The Bloody Moonlight, by Fredric Brown (Bantam Books).

Fred Brown's fourth mystery novel featured his young detective, Ed Hunter, with overtones of SF. Hunter is hired to investigate a recluse who claims to have received radio signals from another planet. En route, he discovers a body with its throat torn out, and hears what may or may not have been a werewolf. Two more mysterious deaths occur before Hunter solves the mystery of the radio signals, and the murders. Except they may not have been murders after all. Highly recommended.

The Lenient Beast, by Fredric Brown (Bantam Books).

This novel, which originally appeared under the title Line of Duty, is one of Fred Brown's least effective mysteries. It concerns a psychopathic killer who feels that God has elected him to painlessly kill people who are suffering physical or emotional pain. The identity of the killer is revealed to the reader almost immediately, and the novel concerns the painful efforts of the police department to learn the same. This type of theme has been used remarkably well by other authors, e.g., The Glass Cage by Colin Wilson, but in this case, the novel is tedious, trite, and totally lacking in suspense.

BOOKS RECEIVED (Reviewers, pls. note, & let us know which you'd like to review) --

Best "Thinking Machine" Detective Stories, by Jacques Futrelle (ed. by E. F. Bleiler) (Dover Publications, Inc., NY; '73; quality paperback; 5 3/8" x 8 1/2"; \$3; cover photo of Brattle St., Boston, looking toward Tremont Row, 1860; 242 / ix pp.) -- Collection of 12 stories about The Thinking Machine, Prof. Augustus S.F.X. Van Dusen, one of the most interesting and unusual detectives in fiction. Contents: "The Problem of Cell 13", "The Crystal Gazer", "The Scarlet Thread", "The Flaming Phantom", "The Problem of the Stolen Rubens", "The Missing Necklace", "The Phantom Motor", "The Brown Coat", "His Perfect Alibi", "The Lost Radium", "Kidnapped Baby Blake, Millionaire", "The Fatal Cipher"; plus Introduction, by Bleiler, & Postscript. ## If you're not familiar with The Thinking Machine--if you've been unlucky enough to miss "The Problem of Cell 13" on the recent TV series, The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes and have never read this famous story--then, by all means, buy this book--you're in for a treat! (And if you are familiar with the Professor's exploits, we need say no more--you probably bought this volume as soon as you saw the notice of it in an earlier SOTWJ.) /Note: Be sure and read the "Postscript" in the back of the book, and comply with it ASAP./

BOOKS ANNOUNCED (This issue, Walker & Co., 720 5th Ave., NY, NY 10019; Jan. '74) --

Dangerous Quest, by John Creasey (\$5.95; 192 pp.) -- 4th story of Dr. Palfrey and Z5, "the Allied Secret Service organization which performed miracles during World War II, and which, in this book, begins to plan for the deadle dangers and difficulties that come with peace".

BOOKWORLD

BOOKS RECEIVED (Reviewers, pls. note, & let us know which you'd like to review):

HARDBOUND:

The Stone That Never Came Down, by John Brunner (Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, NY; '73; 206 pp.; d.j. by Roger Zimmerman; \$5.95) -- Novel of a not-too-distant future when "Europe trembles on the brink of holocaust", and the "only hope for civilization lies in a mysterious new drug, VC, with the unparalleled power to heighten sensory awareness and create total consciousness of what mankind had done for good or ill".

QUALITY PAPERBACK:

Supernatural Horror in Literature, by Howard Phillips Lovecraft (Dover Publications, Inc., NY; '73; 111 pp.; cover design & photo by Theodore Menten; \$1.50) -- "A critical history of supernatural horror in literature that has yet to be superseded as the finest historical discussion of the genre. . . Lovecraft here formulates the aesthetics of supernatural horror, and summarizes . . . the range of its literary expression from primitive folklore to the tales of his own twentieth-century masters. Following a discussion of terror-literature in ancient, medieval and renaissance culture, he launches on a critical survey of the whole history of horror fiction from the Gothic school of the eighteenth century . . . to the time of De la Mare and M. R. James. . . ." An "unabridged and corrected republication of the work as published by Ben Abramson, New York, in 1945." New Introduction by E.F. Bleiler replaces Foreword by August Derleth in the 1945 edition. Contents: Bleiler's Introduction to Dover ed.; Chapters: "Introduction", "The Dawn of the Horror Tale", "The Early Gothic Novel", "The Apex of Gothic Romance", "The Aftermath of Gothic Fiction", "Spectral Literature on the Continent", "Edgar Allan Poe", "The Weird Tradition in America", "The Weird Tradition in the British Isles", "The Modern Masters"; Index.

Varney the Vampire or, The Feast of Blood, by James Malcolm Rymer or Thomas Peckett Prest (Dover Publications, Inc., NY; '72; 2 Volumes; 445 / xviii pp. & 424 pp.; cover design by Edmund Gillon, Jr.; \$5. ea.) -- "An unabridged republication of the work originally published by E. Lloyd, Salisbury Square, London, in 1847." It was orig. published in one volume, and is the "most famous of the popular penny dreadfuls". The Dover edition includes a title page from the 1853 edition, plus a new introduction by E. F. Bleiler; it is a facsimile of the original, and includes numerous woodcuts. Consists of episode after episode describing the "long, thrill-laden history of Varney, a dreadful being who afflicted early 19th-century England", chronicling "the horrible fate of his victims and the terror-laden experiences of the band of comrades sworn to destroy him. Inexplicable deaths, impossible escapes, stakes through the heart at midnight, revivifications continue an inexhaustible flow of adventures . . ."

MISC. PAPERBACK:

The Eternal Frontiers, by James H. Schmitz (Berkley Pub. Corp., NY; #02458; 143 pp.; cover not credited; 11/73; orig. pub. '73 by G.P. Putnam's Sons; 75¢) -- "Non-stop adventure on a deepspace world at war with itself. The descendents of earth . . . struggle for control even as factions within factions fight their own battles. . . ."

The Sheep Look Up, by John Brunner (Ballantine Books, NY; #23612; 11/73; orig. pub. '72; 457 pp.; cover by Mark Rubin & Irving Freeman; \$1.65) -- "In chilling detail, Brunner evokes a terrifying future where man's greed and complacency have made the Earth an ecological no-man's land from the stagnant Mediterranean to the Rocky Mountain West where the water supply has been flooded with poisonous gas."

The Soft Kill, by Colin Free (Berkley Pub. Corp., NY; 11/73; 159 pp.; cover by Vincent DiFato; #02459; 75¢) -- Martin Clay is transferred from the orbiting research station where he has spent all his life to High-Town for a "vacation" on an overpopulated, drug- and surgery-calmed Earth under a "secretive, cunning totalitarian government . . ."

(Over)

BOOKWORLD (Continued) --

The Suicides, by J.T. McIntosh (Avon Books, NY; 11/73; 159 pp.; cover not credited; #17889; 75¢) -- "Technological space warfare with an unexpected super-weapon--witchcraft!"

Traitor to the Living, by Philip José Farmer (Ballantine Books, NY; 11/73; #23613; 220 pp.; cover by Hans Ulrich & Ute Osterwalder; \$1.65) -- A novel of "possession . . . mixing the transference of souls with action-filled elements of murder and political intrigue. . . ."

BOOKS ANNOUNCED (Announcements received by SOTWJ) --

DOVER PUBLICATIONS, INC., 180 Varick St., N.Y., NY 10014:

Dreams of the Rarebit Fiend, by Winsor McCay (Paperback; \$2; 8 1/8" x 11 1/4"; 62 / xiii pp.) -- "A classic of American graphic humor", by the creator of Little Nemo. 60 complete strips by McCay that appeared in the NY EVENING TELEGRAM in 1905.

The Rejected Lovers, by William Steig (Paperback; \$1.50; 5 3/8" x 8 1/2"; 153 / vi pp.) -- 76 "psychological cartoons" from the NEW YORKER, all on "the theme of the rejected male", in the "class of Steinberg and Thurber".

The Wood Beyond the World, by William Morris (Paperback; \$3.50; 5 5/8" x 8 1/8"; 261 / x pp.) -- Unabridged facsimile of 1894 Kalmscott Press edition; printed in two colors; ornamented with appropriate wood-cut initials and page decorations. "A fantasy set in a medieval never-never land, brimming with high adventure and fancy flights. . . ."

FANCETT, 1515 Broadway, New York, NY 10036:

The Secret People, by John Wyndham (#M2890; 208 pp.; 95¢) -- An ancient secret civilization living deep beneath the earth is threatened with destruction by an incredible engineering feat.

More Stories from The Hugo Winners, edited by Isaac Asimov (#P2020; 320 pp.; \$1.25) -- Contents: "Weyr Search", by Anne McCaffrey; "Riders of the Purple Wage", by Philip José Farmer; "Gonna Roll the Bones", by Fritz Leiber; "I Have No Mouth, and I Must Scream", by Harlan Ellison; "Nightwings", by Robert Silverberg; "The Beast That Shouted Love at the Heart of the World", by Harlan Ellison; "Time Considered as a Helix of Semi-Precious Stones", by Samuel R. Delany; plus an appendix listing the Hugo Awards from 1968 to 1970.

POCKET BOOKS, Rockefeller Center, 630 5th Ave., N.Y., NY 10020:

The Nightstalker, by Jeff Rice (\$1.25) -- The book version of "the most eerie and blood-chilling vampire film ever made for television". A vampire "is stalking the streets of an American city . . . a relentless newspaperman sets out to track down this ghoulisish creature and succeeds in a most chilling way." The story has earned three major awards: the Writer's Guild, Georges Melies and Edgar awards; it will be followed in January by another Rice story, The Night Strangler.

WALKER & CO., 720 Fifth Ave., N.Y., NY 10019:

The Comic-Stripped American: What Dick Tracy, Blondie, Daddy Warbucks and Charlie Brown Tell Us About Ourselves, by Arthur Asa Berger (\$7.95; 224 pp.; 6" x 9"; illust.) -- "Analyzes the comics as the collective daydream of the American imagination. Berger's thesis is that comics are a mirror of culture, and he traces the changing American consciousness and psyche from The Yellow Kid to Zap comics. . . ."

Omega, ed. Roger Elwood (\$6.95; 224 pp.) -- "A Collection of Original Science Fiction Stories. . . unusual and haunting paths through the future to the endpoint /the "Omega" of the title/ . . ."

DOUBLEDAY S.F. BOOK CLUB, Garden City, NY (Jan. '74):

The Mastermind of Mars and A Fighting Man of Mars, by Edgar Rice Burroughs (2.98) -- Two John Carter novels, with six illos & jacket painting by Frazetta.

Forward in Time, by Ben Bova (\$1.49) -- Collection of ten stories.

Plus eight alternates (all previous SFBC releases).