

SON OF THE WSFA JOURNAL

SF/Fantasy News/Review 'Zine -- 3rd Feb. '74 Issue -- (Vol. 21, #6; Whole #126)  
Editor & Publisher: Don Miller ----- WSFA Issue #10 $\frac{1}{2}$  ----- 25¢ ea., 10/\$2.00

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In Brief --

This issue will go to the 1/3 to 1/2 of the WSFA members who still had one or more issues coming to them after we had published our allotment of five WSFA issues for the current (Dec.-Feb.) quarter.

The next issue will be a bit of an experiment--it will be a double-issue of 22 pages, numbered 127 and 128, and counting two issues on all subs; it will also be mailed 3rd-class, so if you get #129 before #'s 127 and 128, don't worry. We have been toying with the idea of publishing an occasional 3rd-class double-issue containing the type of material which doesn't date as rapidly as most of the news and reviews published in SOTWJ. (The savings in postage would help us to keep the subscription rate a bit lower than it would otherwise have to be.) The double-issue will contain the TWJ/SOTWJ Survey Results, Nov. '73 Delap prozine review column, Index to SOTWJ Vol. #16 (probably), and other miscellany. Comments appreciated.

Newest subbers will receive Hyperion Press flyer with this issue (better rush to beat pre-publication deadline....); ref. fanzine sale ad on back, following have been sold: QUIP #6; all RACHE's but #26; THE REJECTED CANON; ROVER #13; WARHOON #'s 8 & 9; YANDRO #'s 128, 167; STF TRENDS #13; STARLIGHT #1; TWILIGHT ZINE #18; ZEEN #12; VIPER #1; QUIESCENTLY FROZEN #2; THE ROGUE #4. (Some good items still remain, such as the TRUMPETS, VENTURA, SF REVIEW #36.) New list soon.

SOTWJ #129 will contain book reviews & news, letters, fanzine reviews, and the like. Results of the Hugo suggestion and "most significant" polls would be in #130. Number 131 will be 1st March issue, contents unknown at this time. No word on TWJ #80 (hope to get word at Balticon--maybe even rest of 'zine); #83 should be run off and ready for mailing by first week in March; material needed for #80 (long reviews, articles, art, letters, columns, wrap-ups of various phases of SF/Fantasy in '73, poetry, fiction--you name it, we need it....).

SOTWJ is approx. weekly; subs: 25¢ (10p) ea., 10/\$2 (80p) or multiples thereof (will go up Mar. 1); all subs incl. any issue(s) of THE WSFA JOURNAL pubbed during sub (count as 3 or more issues, dep. on length). For info on airmail, "Collector's" (3rd-class) subs, Overseas Agents, ads, Trade/Subs., etc., write ed. For Address Code meaning, see #122 or #127/128 (check pg. 3, this issue, for any explanatory notes which may be addressed to you).

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The Local Scene --

Disclave '74 News (thanks, ALEXIS GILLILAND): "The first confirmed item on our program will be Dr. J. Murray Mitchell, Jr., of the Climatology Section of the U.S. Weather Bureau, speaking on the once and future glaciers. Dr. Mitchell is one of the top men in the field of climatology, and will be speculating on the changes in weather you would observe as the climate reverts to glaciation. Also, perhaps, on how probable and how soon the glaciation might be. As you may have read, there is quite a bit of speculation that the world is, in fact, about to enter a little ice age, such as the period of 1550 to 1700, when the Thames used to freeze over regularly." (Remember, Disclave is 24-26 May, at Sheraton Park Hotel, Conn. Ave., Wash., DC; GoH: Kelly Freas; \$3 adv., \$4 at door; info & memberships from: Alexis Gilliland, 2126 Penna. Ave., NW, Suite 3, Wash., DC 20036.)

Discon II Notice (thanks, RON BOUNDS): "After many difficulties with the printer, Discon II PROGRESS REPORT #3 has finally been published. It is in the process of being mailed out to all current members. By the end of this mailing, all members should have received copies of PROGRESS REPORTS #'s 1, 2, and 3. The Discon II Committee welcomes any suggestions or complaints any of you may have, and we will try to answer them all. Please send any complaints or suggestions to: Discon II, POBox 31127, Wash., DC 20031." (Discon II is the 32nd Worldcon, to be held Aug. 29-Sep. 2, same hotel as Disclave, above; memberships: \$3 Supporting, \$5 Attending.)

Fortfest 74 (from flyer): "The second annual convention of the International Fortean Organization (INFO) and the centenary celebration of Fort's birth, will be held in Washington, D.C. at the Shoreham Americana Hotel on August 9, 10, and 11, 1974. Registration is \$10 for members, \$16 for non-members. For more information on Fortfest 74 and/or INFO, write: INFO, P.O. Box 367, Arlington, VA 22210, U.S.A. Telephone: (703) 528-1263 or (703) 979-5179."

Radio Notes: Just received WAMU-FM's (88.5) Feb. Program Guide. Of particular interest to SF fans are: "Speaking of Science Fiction" (Mondays, 10:30-11:00 am; 18, "Jack Williamson on H.G. Wells"; 25, "Science Fiction on Television"); "The Sealed Beam" (Weds., 10:30-11:00 pm; programs of 13 Feb. ("X Minus One"--"How To") and 27 Feb. (bloopers which have never been aired before) (don't ask what bloopers have to do with SF....); "Recollections" (Fris., 9:30-10:00 pm); "Tales of Time and Space" (Suns., 6:30-7:00 pm; SF readings by Drusilla Campbell. ## The WAMU Business Secretary, Drusilla Campbell, would like some feedback on the "Speaking of Science Fiction" series; if any of you have been able to listen to any of these, or can find the opportunity to do so soon (10:30 am Mon. morning is a bad time for we who must work....), write to her and let her know what you think of the series (Dru Campbell, WAMU-FM, The American Univ., Wash., DC 20016).

The National Scene --

GARY MATTINGLY reports that Kansas City is bidding for the 1976 Worldcon site. For more info., write: Ken Keller, 1131 White, Kansas City, MO 64126 (816-483-5610).

CoA's -- Camille Cazedessus, Jr. (ERB-dom), Rt. Two, Box 119, Clinton, LA 70722; Sgt. Michael D. Riley, 213549279, Box 186, APO Seattle, 98736; Jack Haldeman, II, 710 3rd Ave., N.E., Largo, FL 33540; Gary S. Mattingly, 7529 Grandview Lane, Overland Park, KS 66204.

Book News -- BOB BRINEY writes: "Volume I of Donald H. Tuck's Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy has finally been published. This covers the first half (A through L) of the alphabetical entries on authors, editors, artists, etc.; 298 pages, 8 1/2 x 11 inches, double columns of small print. Priced at \$20.00 per copy, from Advent: Publishers, Box 9228, Chicago, Illinois 60690." ## New Dimensions Books sent a flyer on Strange Phenomena: A Sourcebook of Unusual Natural Phenomena (compiled by William R. Corliss; professionally printed, in hardcover ring binder, 7x9 inches; 277 + vi pp., w/10 drawings; 1st ed., '74; \$6.95, post-paid, from: New Dimensions Books, POBox 323, Arlington, VA 22201 (1137 N. Highland, Arlington, VA; 703-528-1263); 1st in a series of sourcebooks dealing with unusual geophysical events (includes over 350 accounts, most of them eye-witness).

(dissecting)

^ THE HEART OF THE MATTER:  
Magazines for Oct., 1973

Operational Procedures  
Supervised by  
Richard Delap

October presents us with a very broad range of fiction, from the near-future of the Brunner and Dickson novels to a selection of SF and fantasy that ranges from the dead serious to burlesque. Though nothing quite of classic stature appears this time, four of the six magazines have some quite worthwhile selections, and the month settles into a comfortably good average.

F&SF and GALAXY both celebrate with anniversary issues, the former marking 24 years, the latter with 23. The newest title, VERTEX, is reported to be racking up good sales before its first year is even completed, but its fiction content keeps it bottom-most on any critical totempole. IF lists a story on the cover, Laurence Yep's "Earth's Body", which doesn't appear inside. (Wha' happen, Jakobsson?)

The magazines continue to struggle against the ever-growing influx of "original" anthologies; but dedicated editors and the hard-core readership seem to be keeping them afloat, and both are rewarded with an amazing growth of new writers (note stories in these issues by F.M. Busby, Vonda M. McIntyre, and Geo. Alec Effinger).

I have a marvelous love-hate relationship with the magazines, and if I may be allowed to wax sentimental, the comfort and security of the marriage far surpasses the anger sometimes displayed in the column. I count myself a member of those hard-core readers, a position I delight to hold.

#### AMAZING STORIES -- October:

##### Serial:

The Stone That Never Came Down (part one) -- John Brunner.

##### Novellette:

The Gods of Zar -- William Rotsler.

Bob Carr, a spacer stranded on the planet Zarkan, does a few tricks for the natives (like zapping birds in mid-flight with his blaster) and finds himself elevated to godhood. His situation is cozy until the other men who survived the spaceship crash along with Carr reappear and plan to end his liberal reign with their own Puritanical rule. Were this story no more than merely silly one could dismiss it with a shrug; but Rotsler is offensive with his gross view of morality and ethics, while Carr is a comicbook creation who doesn't even appeal to the wish-fantasy instinct in us because he hasn't a shred of human character. Worst of all, Rotsler's so-called humor is tacky and tasteless, coupling snickering leers at sex with a chauvinistic attitude towards women that is disgusting even in the light context presented here (or perhaps more so because of that context). Such drivel is no more than prepubescent trash of the worst sort.

##### Short Stories:

The Sun-Hunters -- Daphne Castell:

Plagued by mysterious dreams in which he watches unknown creatures building some object in space, Antrim finds his dreams are a captivating reality which he and selected other humans share. Castell holds the reader's interest by slowly revealing the creatures' activities, and the story's climax, even though weakened by too large a dollop of obscurity, is abrupt and somehow stimulating in its implications. Castell's writing is good enough to make one tend to overlook the hazy points of the plot.

Abdication -- C.L. Grant.

Grant examines the emotional turmoil of one man who has been to the moon and understands the effect that lonely expanse can have on the mind of a human. At least, that's the way this odd and fussily written story begins. But as

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DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --

Grant drops notes of conflict casually along the way the reader comes to see that there is more than a hint of madness here. I find I cannot pass a judgment on this story, for while I find it cold and unmoving I'm not at all sure that isn't the effect Grant wanted. A strange item.

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ANALOG -- October:

Serial:

The Far Call (conclusion) -- Gordon R. Dickson.

Novelette:

Whalekiller Grey -- William E. Cochrane.

Robert Grey prepares himself for a stupendous worldwide televised ocean battle with a great sperm whale. Depressed by the thought his missing wife is likely dead, he is determined to die himself in the forthcoming battle. Grey is ordered to win the battle, in deference to financiers and the demands of fans, but it is not until he faces the giant whale that he determines for himself that he really wants to win. Cochrane's story is punctuated (or, I might say, punctured) with literary references that are more corny than meaningful, and Grey's monologues serve less to reveal his character than to show the author's loss for a way to carry his story through to the highlight battle sequence. The futuristic background is skimpy, the symbolic preparations of the whalekiller thin and derivative (ever see a bull fight?), and the story little more than commonplace elaboration.

Short Stories:

Notes from Magdalen More -- L\*z\*r\*s L\*ng /Susanna R. Jacobson/.

If you read Heinlein's novel excerpt here last June, or even if you didn't, you'll find some amusement in this funny little takeoff that gives a peek into the notebooks of a female. Her views are as determined as those of Lazarus Long, and as knowing, but the viewpoint is not only different--and by "different", I do not mean merely feminine!--but purposefully armed with some satirical jabs at both Heinlein and Long that are very cleverly set up. One thing for sure, feminists will agonize over the content a great deal unless they pick up on double-edged humor. Amusing.

An Earnest of Intent -- Alfred D'Attore.

There are several disturbing things in this tale, several more that are quite interesting, and the final effect is puzzling. It tells of a Communist attack on a U.S. ship and the resultant high-level conference which gives a cross-section of reactions as officials try to agree on a method of retaliation. The characters flash briefly into focus to bring clarity to the process of governmental action (or inaction), a technique D'Attore carries through to the end for conviction in his "surprise" finale, which is emotionally satisfying but makes the author's purpose a rather hidden one. Odd, but readable.

Of Mist, and Grass, and Sand -- Vonda N. McIntyre.

Although McIntyre does not give a distinct time and place for this story, one finds the lack of such detail a virtue rather than a hindrance as the author describes a dry desert world in which scattered groups of humans have developed their own customs and manners. In one such tribe a small boy lies dying with a tumorous growth, and in desperation the elders have summoned Snake, a woman named for her medical methods that involve the use of live snakes and their venom. Snake must not only struggle to save a child perhaps already too close to death, but also must control the fear these people feel for her and her fanged companions. McIntyre leaves many clues to a society and a world--not to mention Snake's own history and destiny, for she is a fascinating character--that hopefully pre-  
sage further stories or a novel. Very entertaining.

Antalogia -- Walt & Leigh Richmond.

The "Incredible Being" relaxes on board his spaceship and marvels at the wonders which surround him, especially the "microrobots" who diligently carry out

(Cont. next page)

DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --

their micro-duties under his gaze. This is the setup the Richmonds give the reader at the start of this very short story, which tries to startle with a sudden revelation and will likely only outrage the reader with its forced contrivances. It takes a very clever writer to make this ploy work; the Richmonds aren't that clever, merely desperate.

The Hand Is Quicker -- Kevin O'Donnell, Jr.

Mr. Jones has learned over the years to turn a profit with his telekinetic ability, and at last in Las Vegas, controlling the roll of the dice, he starts after the big-time money. Carelessness, however, gets him barred from the casinos, and a chance meeting with a stranger gives him one final bid for wealth through a bold robbery plan. Moving quickly and smoothly, the story nevertheless loses its punch when O'Donnell pulls a fast cop-out by suddenly introducing an "organization" behind the concluding double-cross. Not that Jones doesn't deserve his fate, just that the way in which he meets it is a pat setup that doesn't carry much conviction.

Guest Editorial:

Experiments in Utopias /excerpt from book: The Cosmic Connection/ -- Carl Sagan.

Science:

A Program for Star Flight -- G. Harry Stone.

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FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION -- October:

Novelettes:

Old Uncle Tom Cobleigh and All -- R. Bretnor.

A quarrel between two professors, Addlewood and Davey, the first a true scholar, the second a young, trendy boor with misguided talent, leads to a proof-of-the-theory adventure when they get an opportunity to travel back in time with the use of a speculum. Travel they do, uncovering not only the true theory but a sudden discovery about witchcraft and sorcery that makes for a smashing climax. This is Bretnor at his near-best. The characters are saucy and sparkling, the humor pervading and often scampering off in entirely unexpected directions, and the story, though simple, is embellished and enriched by a hearty variety of subplots and rich detail that practically pick the reader up and bodily carry him through to the finish. It's a marvelous lot of fun, the kind of fun which seems to get more rare as the years go by, and I think you should read it. Very well done.

Color Me Deadly -- Randall Garrett.

Edward Chang, returned to Earth from a twenty-year exploratory mission to Sirius, is a hated and hunted man, believed to be an alien by Earthmen yet actually as human as ever, though now endowed with superhuman mental powers. His mission is a risky and difficult one--to find the crew from the first starship, men and women also with superpowers whose objective is a rather dimly explained domination. Although the story is almost pure melodrama, Garrett sweeps the plot along with a nicely balanced series of suspenseful episodes interlaced with relievedly brief explanations. The first-person narrative is smoothly handled--with one brief switch to another's p-o-v, used for an effective and very clever shock--and while the characters are not memorable they are serviceable without being dull. Okay of kind.

Lights Out -- Geo. Alec Effinger.

A tour de force of the story-as-reflection-of-the-author, and vice versa, Effinger once again sets out a maze of complexities that will likely confuse as many readers as it pleases. So be it. Even if one cannot follow all the instructions on the road signs (written in Effingerese, which, I suppose, is only fully understood by Effingers), one can still enjoy the scenery, here some views from the mind of an SF writer who falls into a world of his own creation, a world which seems to pry more into him than he does into it. It's filled with moments that appear a studied blend of the banal and the brilliant--"he felt a peculiar thrill of emptiness, like a rush of nothing, an edgeless boredom where he should

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DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --

have felt desire, and not even a sadness to mark lust's passing"--and which support the abstraction of the author's relationship to his art. It's a quite readable piece, packed with numerous obscurities but very hard to put aside once started. Effinger's mysteries, however, may be more frustrating than entertaining, which makes his work interesting but perhaps too personalized at this stage for a powerful hold on the general readership.

Short Stories:Cat Three -- Fritz Leiber.

If You're a cat fancier as I am, and as Leiber is, you will surely find an extra bit of pleasure with the keenness of Leiber's observation of them in this story of an old lady and her three cats. The story seems little more than an observation, fascinating though that is, until the unexpectedly grisly climax that brings notice to the care and careful writing that has gone into the story from the start. There are hints of a dozen more stories here, all reduced to brief comments that imbue this one with a sense of mystery, a half-seen vision that is, truly, how the world of cats appears to man. Very good.

Whatever Happened to the Olmecs? -- Kate Wilhelm.

Here's a strange one from a writer who deals in the strange as if it were dirt common. As usual a plot synopsis will miss all of the small nuances which are so important to Wilhelm's stories, but this one is about a man who has made contact with aliens (perhaps), of his young niece whose love for him confuses her (perhaps), and of the long arm of government which in reaching for control strangles its body and never realizes its act (definitely). Wilhelm creates another of her excruciating slow buildups of suspense, which will leave the reader biting his nails as the inevitable conclusion sneaks up on quiet feet. Very well done.

Dead Man's Chair -- Manly Wade Wellman.

Tales of the supernatural are sparse these days, one of the reasons being, I suppose, that the genre has been well mined over the years, so that ghosts and resurrected horrors simply don't hold enough surprise and suspense to prick the skin of today's readers. Wellman's horror tale might have been written fifty years ago and the reader could hardly tell the difference. But if you still like an old-fashioned ghost story this one is short and fast, making no attempt to hide its direction and building to a moment of terror fans will expect. Unoriginal but okay if you still dig it.

London Bridge -- Andre Norton.

The cities have sealed themselves off from the dying and polluted world, until at last their resources begin to give out and plague brings increasing deaths. As always children are the only hope of the future, but the children are disappearing when they follow the mysterious, glittering form of the Rhyming Man. One teenage boy uncovers the secret of this stranger but Norton, despite the colorful visions she conjures, fails to merge a realistic backdrop with the unexplained magic (science?) of her stranger, who seems to support a back-to-nature scheme though seems hardly to live by it. In addition the story seems only half-finished, and as such is not very satisfying.

Reprint:The Last Wizard (1972) -- Avram Davidson.Verse:Forecast From an Orbiting Satellite -- Sonya Dorman.Science:The Mispronounced Metal -- Isaac Asimov.

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GALAXY -- October:Serials:The Dream Millennium (part one) -- James White.Rendezvous with Rama (conclusion) -- Arthur C. Clarke.Short Stories:

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DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --Agnes, Accent and Access -- Theodore Sturgeon.

Mr. Merrihew is called in to investigate the computer errors which have been fouling up the operation of M & H, a company which specializes in creating office equipment suited to each buyer. As he waits for an interview with a company executive, he passes the time speaking with the lovely secretary-receptionist, Agnes Kuhli, fascinated by her expert control of M & H's own office computer. The reader may begin to feel that he's merely being side-tracked as Merrihew ogles both Agnes and her desk equipment, but the problem is being solved right before his eyes nonetheless. No startling new concepts here, I'm afraid, but the approach to an old one is, as Sturgeon suggests at the opening, "slantwise". Okay of kind.

Cold Friend -- Harlan Ellison.

Ellison, who seems to specialize in unpleasant tales, has another one here, this time about a man who "dies" and reawakens to find himself in Hanover, New Hampshire--or, actually, a part of Hanover, three square blocks suddenly severed from the rest of the world. For most of the story the man is alone, until at last a woman appears and gives a clarity (if not much purpose) to the plot. Ellison makes too much demand for acceptance of the man's character flaws but gives little reason to excuse the character's self-centeredness. Such a man can only be accepted when we understand his past and how he copes or fails to cope with himself. To present him flat out with his fantasies full-blown and unexplored is only a misleading diversion, not a story. Fair.

Field of Vision -- Ursula K. Le Guin.

After discovering an inexplicable "city" on Mars, three astronauts return to Earth--one dead from "heart failure", one a near-catatonic, and the last, Hughes, suffering a sort of blindness in which he claims, even in darkness, that subjects him to unbearable "light". The meaning of the Martian discovery becomes known at last, but not before Le Guin has explored a very frightening concept of the meaning of God and Truth in a startling confrontation of philosophical and physical reality. Le Guin makes the danger of such a meeting brutally realistic by examining the inarguable facts which make (and keep) us human. The final moral dilemma, the very real fate of Hughes against the suggested destiny of humanity, will leave the reader examining his own judgment, and the choice is grim indeed. Very well done.

Verse:

Ode to Electric Ben -- Ray Bradbury.

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WORLDS OF IF -- September-October:

Serial:

Inheritance (part one) -- Robert Wells.

Novelette:

The Hornets of Valora -- William Lee.

Valora is a planet with problems. The humans who have settled there are not prepared for the sudden appearance of the "hornets", huge leaping creatures that sting their victims to a gruesome, painful death before devouring them. One wishes Lee were more adept at plotting, for his story is very barely without a plot, its ill-structured form reducing worldwide catastrophe to a mere incident. The Valoran dilemma is explained in a pedestrian opening lecture on board the starship hurrying towards the planet; the horror on-planet is presented in a sequence of repetitious and dramatically valueless death scenes; and the conclusion is the ship's arrival and the rescue of one person--hooray? Read it fast if you read it at all. It has absolutely nothing of worth to slow you down.

Short Stories:

Sentience -- Lee Killough.

This one takes place entirely at an alien "board meeting", in which Preservationists and Commercial interests clash over the fate of the planet Nira. The vital question is--are the natives an intelligent species or not? Dr. Cian re-

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DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --

ports that they are intelligent, but proving it demands more than an intuitive guess. Killough tries to make the situation dramatic, but the meeting--like any human counterpart--is simply a lot of talk and becomes interesting only with some quick detail about the Niraans' social structure. Routine.

The Learning of Eeshta -- F.M. Busby.

A sequel to Busby's novelette, "Cage a Man" (F&SF, Sept.) and a sequence not included in the novelization (SF Book Club & Signet), this tells of the human, Barton, and his return to Earth after escaping the Demu, lobster-like aliens dedicated to surgically altering every other race to resemble themselves. A kidnapped Demu child, Eeshta, is the key to finding a defense against the Demu purpose, but breaking through Eeshta's cultural conditioning takes time, dedication, and a good dose of understanding. As before, Busby gives his story forceful momentum through meaningful characterizations, fine dialogue, and solid, sure plotting. Top-class fiction.

Time of the Cetis -- Gene Kilczer.

The Cetis have invaded Earth, using the great land masses for farms, living luxuriously in opulent glass cities, and keeping humans in place with "death-looks". A small group of humans discover the Ceti power is centered in a secluded "booster" machine, and they vow to destroy it and free mankind. As they accomplish their mission, however, Kilczer throws up no obstacles more difficult than sneaking down a few city streets and knocking off some aliens, all of whom are piggish, lazy and, certainly, apt targets for death. It's a silly and depthless story, much too short for the detail needed to flesh it into a convincing form.

The Merchant -- Larry Eisenberg.

I've never been one to much enjoy Eisenberg's weird sense of humor, which tries to inject a sly sense of satire into a setpiece of juvenile humor. Here he has the U.S. President wheeler-dealing his way into getting his hands on alien merchandise then weaseling out of his end of the trade bargain. Of course the aliens could never be as stupid as our President, and in the end the guilty, greedy and gullible humans are carted off to an alien zoo--which leaves the human side of the problem totally discarded for a weak bellylaugh. Ha ha?

Space Bounce -- Stephen Tall.

Once again a story of aliens--or rather an alien, the Rangaporn, stranded on Earth, lonely and unsure of rescue and at last compelled to make friends with a young human. The bait for friendship is food, some of the most succulent meals ever seen on our world. This thin concept is never used for more than a method to reach a sentiment-choked climax to a story that should have been titled "Housewife from the Stars". If I were Tall, in the future I would carefully avoid any Women's Libbers who might have read the story. As for me, I side with the Libbers.

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VERTEX -- October:Novelette:Max -- E. Michael Blake.

Max is the ordinary man at the mercy of his potential in this story of the near-future where government interest in genetics is implied to be a genocidal fear caused by a massive Asian immigration. If correctly mated, Max will father a super-child whose powers will be phenomenal--a child who, the government hopes, will be totally under its control. Max, however, has a wife (who is not to be the child's mother), and suffers a loyalty crisis, recurring nightmares, and a basic distrust of any scientific interest in his progenitive power. It's difficult to ignore Blake's inexcusable ignorance toward genetics and human reproduction--his scientists understand the genetic power in Max's sperm yet find artificial insemination "isn't sophisticated enough yet"--but it isn't nearly as offensive as his stereotype characterizations and hackneyed plotting. In all respects, a poor effort.

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DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --Short Stories:The Stars Have All Gone Out -- Alan Brennert.

The idea here is that a hundred years from now the country is totally dedicated to a social system based on astrology, a system which has made each person slave to his star sign. Brennert concentrates on the breakdown of this system, but the fall is pretentious and preposterous because the rise is equally so. The advent of computerized astrology is never conceptualized (except for an unsupported brief reference that tells us it has put an end to wars and war-based economy) and its fantasy hatches ridiculously from today's reality like a dragon from a chicken egg. Pure nonsense, too awful even to be unintentionally funny.

Gerald Fitzgerald and the Time Machine -- William Rotsler & Charles E. Burbee.

Yes, it's that old bugaboo time machine again, and this one sits in the corner while Fitzgerald and his friend Rotsler (!) spend the entire story fussing inanely over how the damned thing will be used. It's hard enough just to read halfwit humor, but you'll find yourself gritting your teeth in agony when the authors fizzle out at the end because, obviously, they had no idea what they were doing at the beginning. Utter drivel.

The Death of Life -- Anthony Lorenti.

After a brilliant career as a scientist, Finchman is spending his declining years in seclusion. His one companion, named Life, is Finchman's own creation--blackhaired, six feet tall, and with "the curiosity of a child". But Finchman is dying, and knowing the world will regard his creation a monster, he prepares to take Life to the grave with him. Lorenti writes this short piece skillfully, and it will take a sharp reader to catch the slickly injected surprise before the end. Good of kind.

Cynthia -- Tak Hallus.

Garraty is a man with an odd job--his body is a host body for visitors from other worlds, human visitors who have been altered to withstand alien environments and can only come to Earth by having their minds transferred across space and into a Host. Hallus doesn't try to explain the mechanics of the transfer, and is very vague about the mental process which allows both Host and Guest to inhabit the one body simultaneously. Such fuzziness wouldn't matter so much if the plot weren't so loaded with bittersweet sentiment that the reader is forced to take notice in trying to avoid the sloppy sob story. Mediocre.

A Special Kind of a Flower -- Walt Liebscher.

Six-year-old Lonny Dempster discovers that he has an inherited mental talent. His parents are originally from another world and telekinesis, teleportation, and other inherited powers are his to control. Lonny reacts in fright and sorrow when he discovers his talent is waning, and it takes the insight of an empathetic little girl to show him that his talent is more than he knows. Liebscher tries to weave an emotional net around the reader, but the symbolism and sentiment dissolve in a messy gush of glycerine tears. Blah!

World War Two -- Geo. Alec Effinger.

One of the more distinctive and popular SF writers to appear in recent years, Effinger carries with him a wild, sometimes mean sense of humor, neatly exemplified in this stinging satire on the working-class hero in the midst of social forces beyond his comprehension. Although ostensibly taking place on an uncharted island in the Atlantic--where shipwrecked men spend year after year shoving geometrical forms into holes in the wall of a featureless building, in exchange for subsistence food rations--the story obviously reflects a much larger picture of social dedication to self-perpetuated mindlessness in the work ethic. Grim but amusing.

The Missionaries -- Herman Wrede.

Wrede's short-short brings alien missionaries to Earth, where they tell John Snell what he must do to prevent the world's headlong plunge to self-destruction. Readers with a sense of history will not be much surprised by the conclusion, and neither should anyone who reads carefully. The point of the story is philosophical and debatable, and I don't think Wrede has carried it off particularly well.

(Over)

DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --Interview:Vertex Interviews Frank Herbert -- Paul G. Turner.Articles:The Biography of a Star -- Igor Bohassian.Geothermal Power--Mother Nature's Home Remedy -- James Sutherland.Radio Astronomy Today -- Jay Arrow.Project Cyclops -- James Benford.Supercivilizations -- Gregory Benford.Atlantis: Fact or Myth? -- Jerry Pournelle.-----  
MAGAZINARAMA: Contents of Selected Proazines

FICTION (Editions OPTA, 24 rue de Mogador, Paris 9<sup>e</sup>, France; in French (French Edition of THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION); monthly; 5 1/4" x 7 1/2"; 5F ea., 50F/yr. in Franco; elsewhere: 5 FS ea., 43 FS/yr. Switzerland (from M. Vuilleumier, 65, Av. du Bois de la Chapelle, Case 85, 1213 Onex (Geneve), Suisse); 50 FB ea., 560 FB/yr. Belgium (from M. Mulatier, 40, rue Général Gratry, 1030 Bruxelles, Belgique); 56 F/yr. elsewhere; Editor, Alain Doremieux) -- #237 (9/73): 192 pp. / covers; cover by Moro; no illos; Fiction: "Tarzan N'est Pas Mort!", by Mack Reynolds (translated by René Lathière; orig. pub. '67 as "Relic"); "La Peau en Feu", by Philip José Farmer (tr. Bruno Martin; '72 as "Skinburn"); "Luana", by Gilbert Thomas (tr. Lathière; '66 as "Luana"); "Des Choux et des Hommes", by Dean R. Koontz (tr. Martin; '71 as "Cosmic Sin"); "Justice Supérieure", by Lloyd Biggle, Jr. (tr. Martin; '71 as "The Frayed String on the Stretched Forefinger of Time"); "La Creature de L'Abime", by Joseph Payne Brennan (tr. Jacques Papy & Alyette Guillot-Colli; WEIRD TALES '53 as "Slime"); "Variation Sur un Thème", by Curt Siodmak (tr. Michel Deutsch; '72 as "Variation of a Theme"); Features: "Portrait" of Curt Siodmak, by Alain Garsault; Film Reviews (8 pp., 5 films); Book Reviews (27 pp., 13 books); ads. ## #238 (Oct. '73): 192 pp. / covers; cover by Michel Payot; no illos; Fiction: "La Reine de L'Air et des Ténèbres", by Poul Anderson (tr. Deutsch; '71 as "The Queen of Air and Darkness"); "Sombres Vacances", by Josephine Saxton (tr. Martin; '71 as "Black Sabbatical"); "Prison Mentale", by Michael G. Coney (tr. Martin; '71 by John Carnell (NEW WRITINGS?) as "The Mind Prison"); "Brillantes les Etoiles et Noir le Ciel", by Dennis Etchison (tr. Martin; '67 by Carnell as "Bright Are the Stars That Shine, Dark in the Sky"); "Le Trophée", by John Christopher (tr. Martin; '72 as "Specimen"); Features: Book Reviews (15 pp., 5 books); Film Reviews (3 pp., 1 film); TV News/Reviews; "A la Recherche de Pinocchio" (in series "Chronique Littéraire et Cinématographique"), by Jacques Lourcelles; "La Presse d'a Cote", by Bernard Blanc; "Delicieuses, Matin, Midi et Soir", by George W. Barlow; ads. ## #239 (Nov. '73): 192 pp. / covers; cover by Caza (reminiscent of Finlay); no illos; Fiction: "Le Pays des Ténèbres", by Catherine L. Moore (tr. Denise Hersant; credits say it was orig. pub. '36 by the Popular Fiction Pub. Co. as "The Dark Land"; Jirel of Joiry tale); "Réflexe de Défense", by Vincent King (tr. Martin; '66 by Carnell as "Defence Mechanism"); "Locogringo Troisième", by Bernard Mathon (original); "Fin de Parcours", by Larry Niven (tr. Lathière; '68 as "Dry Run"); "Rencontre Nocturne", by Gilbert Thomas (original); "Au Bout Du Rêve", by Gary Jennings (tr. Hersant; '68 as "After All the Dreaming Ends"); "Pour L'Honneur de la Terre", by Greg Benford (tr. Lathière; '65 as "Representative From Earth"); Features: Book Reviews (21 pp., 9 books); "A la Recherche de Pinocchio", by Lourcelles (pt. 2); TV news/reviews; LoG; ads. ##### Very fine magazine, with good fiction and lots of general material.

TERRA ASTRA SCIENCE FICTION #80 (Feb. '73) (Ed. by Pabel Verlag, 8 München 2, Augustenstrasse 10, W.Germany; weekly re Perry Rhodan; 6" x 8 3/4"; DM 1,20 ea. (Italy, 300 Li; Belgium, 20 FB; France, 2,20 F; etc.); 68 pp. incl. covers) -- Color cover; report/editorial; Fiction: "Die Erde in Gefahr", by Hans Kneifel; cartoon; ads; in German. ## Ea. issue apparently consists of one complete Perry Rhodan novel..