

SON OF THE WSFA JOURNAL

SF/Fantasy News/Review 'Zine -- 4th & 5th Feb. '74 Issues -- 25¢ each, 10/\$2.00
Editor & Publisher: Don Miller -- Vol. 22, #'s 1 & 2; Whole #'s 127 and 128***

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In Brief --

Well, here's the first of the SOTWJ double-issues. In it, we attempted to use only material which (a) was already so late the third-class mail delivery didn't make that much difference, and (b) was of such a nature that the slight delay caused by third-class mail wouldn't affect its value. Since most of the material which appears in SOTWJ is of such a nature that first-class delivery is imperative, there shouldn't be too many third-class issues. But there will be one, occasionally--unless the feedback from this one is so negative that we change our mind. Speaking of feedback, this issue should be mailed on Thurs., Feb. 21; please let us know the date you receive it, so we can determine just how much longer third-class mail does take to reach you than first-class. Also, let us know what you think of the idea of an occasional third-class issue containing the less urgent material which we've in the past been putting into the first-class issues. Finally, let's have some feedback on the TWJ/SOTWJ Survey results.

SOTWJ 129 was mailed out two days before this issue (on Feb. 19); some subs expired with #129, so don't be confused when you receive this issue after you've received #129 with a "last issue on sub" notice and a big red "X".

One problem with a double-issue is that some subs end with the first half of the issue. We'd considered (a) skipping this issue entirely and sending them #129 instead; (b) breaking this issue at pg. 12 and sending them only the first half; (c) sending both halves, with the proviso that if they renewed their subs, the second half (#128) would count as the first issue on their new subs. We chose alternative (c) as the simplest solution. Please note, ye with the "X"'s....

#130 should go out sometime within the next few days. TWJ #83 is still on schedule for completion by end of Feb.; #80 still remains at publisher's.

SOTWJ is at least weekly; subs: 25¢ (10p) ea., 9/¢2 (12/¢1) or multiples thereof (rates on masthead good 'til 1 March); this issue is 50¢; all subs incl. any issue 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, ads, Overseas Agents, Trade-Subs, etc., write ed. Address Code meaning in #122 or (hopefully) #130. ... NFM

TWJ/SOTWJ

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REVIEW EXTRACTS (from the press)--

SF/Fantasy: A Touch of Infinity, by Howard Fast (Wm. Morrow & Co.; 182 pp.; \$5.95) /Jack Burgess, STAR-NEWS, 23/8/73: 13 short fantasies, which, taken together, "form an inquiry into the nature of man and his weaknesses . . . Fast maintains a light and cheeky touch. The result is sometimes lively and always sharply focused on the ordinary and not-so-ordinary people who inhabit his stories. . . concentrates on mankind as an institution builder.". Ten of the 13 stories are touched with a "pervading sense of awry institutions that somehow separate man from his humanity . . ."; the book is said to be a "depressing chronicle of modern man's loss of hope and faith", & is "recommended as a mild, non-addictive downer for the excessively euphoric." ## Exterminator!, by William S. Burroughs (Viking, \$6.95) /POST, 26/8/73; reviewer not named: ". . . a series of sharply etched vignettes, held loosely together by common themes (extermination of roaches, wolves, people; power and its abuses; sex; strange, half-realized science fiction motifs) and by the occasional emergence in one story of a character from another. It has the familiar violence and elegant semi-coherence that are Burroughs' specialties." ## Gravity's Rainbow, by Thomas Pynchon (Viking; 760 pp.; \$15 hardback, \$4.95 paper) /Mark Gibbons; clipping from unnamed Boston paper, sent to us by one of our readers (David McGirr?), whom we thank: A review which is almost impossible to quote from, as it appears to be a rather unusual book: According to Gibbons, Gravity's Rainbow "takes off from V.", which was Pynchon's first novel (published in '63, winner of the Faulkner prize and "probably still . . . the best first novel published in English since The Sun Also Rises"; a novel that "coursed itself through a quest for the place where two parallel lines meet"), "not simply because it talks mainly about the German V-2 rockets . . . , but also because some of the characters in Gravity's Rainbow appear, variously disguised, as pre-incarnations of themselves in their later, and first, appearances in V.". Gibbons then goes on to state that "Both novels are world ranging adventures, entertaining and instructive because they are summary books which have survived the havoc and wreckage of Western history to which they often allude. . . ." Pynchon affects a "scenario prose style" as he "simultaneously re-writes old favorites and comic books into a warped fabric of his own formulas for coincidence", and the book is "energized" by references to movies, old songs, etc. "It's useless to even try talking about the 'plots' of Gravity's Rainbow here. Suffice it to say that they are lots of fun. Yes, people run into each other in the most peculiar places. Coincidence, in fact, is Pynchon's main preoccupation. . . He awkwardly, but successfully, lifts the V-2 business of Gravity's Rainbow directly, and without the affectation of shame, from a basic text on Probability Theory. But Pynchon turns random distribution into a plot and not a problem. . . Past and future tenses provide imaginary realms for Pynchon, who moves into them and reads his books. But a sense of the present . . . these interferences with a reader's sense of self give Gravity's Rainbow its propelling force. Pynchon has made a nice fiction of science and leaves it behind as a present for his readers."

And now, quickly, noting a few reviews (for the record) of some more familiar works: Rendezvous with Rama, by Arthur C. Clarke (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich; 303 pp.; \$6.95; STAR-NEWS 21/8/73, Clark Smith; "Folks who think of science fiction as future schlock should rendezvous with Rama. It will reinforce their prejudices. . . . Readers and fans have come to expect more from Clarke" (Smith found the characters "wooden and lifeless", the plot too familiar, and the book much too bogged down in technical detail)); When HARLIE Was One, by David Gerrold (Ballantine; 247 pp.; \$1.25 pb; STAR-NEWS 15/11/72, Ann Randolph; "Gerrold seems to be a better scientist than writer. His most interesting and intelligible scenes occur between Auberson and HARLIE; he doesn't handle himself nearly as well when he tries to deal exclusively with human beings" (citing bedroom scene between Auberson and Annie as example); despite its drawbacks, however, the reviewer found it to be "quite a good book", with a sound premise and fascinating creation (HARLIE)); Catholics, by Brian Moore (Pocket Books; \$1.25; POST, 30/12/73, reviewer not named; "brief, austere and touching novel" (source of Playhouse 90 TV production)).

BUT...THAT'S MUNDANE!

SCANNING THE NEWS MEDIA (A few items of possible interest, taken at random from our huge file of newspaper clippings) --

A Swedish doctor, Nils-Olof Jacobson, in a recent book claims that he has experimental evidence proving the human soul weighs 21 grams. He placed the beds of terminal patients on very sensitive scales, and when they died, he says, the needle dropped 21 grams as their souls left their bodies....

Article: "Asimov: Intellectual Protusions", by Joel Dreyfuss (WASH. POST, 22 Oct. '73) -- A look at the Good Doctor, with special focus on his humor and philosophy.

Inspired by Diet Smith's magnetic space coupe in Dick Tracy, Arlington computer technician John Ecklin is attempting to convert magnetism to energy. He constructed a small demonstration project (cost, 25¢), but can't get anyone to take him seriously. (WASH. POST, 10/1/74).

Monsters on the prowl: Arkansas has its Fouke ("a hairy cretin" who haunts the woods near the town of Fouke) monster, as well as an "aquatic thrasher", the White River monster, said by some to be as big as a boxcar. Carroll County, Maryland has a Snallygaster on the loose ("between 7 and 10 feet tall, thin of build with long grayish-brown hair and big, big feet"), and possibly a second creature, "Son of Snallygaster, or Dwayyo", hatched from one of its parent's eggs (this one "about 6 feet tall, with a big bushy tail and black hair"). (Snallygaster reports in WASH. STAR-NEWS of June 12 & 13 '73.)

Article: "UFOs and Mangled Cutlery: The Amazing Uri Geller and 'Extraterrestrial' Powers", by Judy Bachrach (WASH. POST, 20/10/73) -- Geller is a 26-year-old Israeli psychic, who claims to have numerous powers which come from extraterrestrial forces, called Spectra, which have counseled Jesus, Moses, Mohammed, and others.

Article: "A Chilling Chance for Immortality", by Jerry Oppenheimer (WASH. STAR-NEWS, 5/8/73) -- About cryonics and the Cryonics Suspension Generation--as of the date of the article, a group of 17 known persons around the world who have been frozen after their deaths to await "cures" for what killed them. (Three of the 17 were later ordered thawed by relatives.)

Once in a while something happens which really stirs up the public and the press (not necessarily in that order). A few of the recent flaps (remember?) were: (1) The sudden spurt of Atlantis explorations which took place in mid-1973 (remember the claims by a group from AMRA (the Ancient Mediterranean Research Assoc.), who reported they had found the ruins of Atlantis on the ocean floor near Cadiz, Spain (guided in their search by "psychic vibrations out of the void of milleniums"), and later had to retract said claims and move on to a new site off the west coast of Ireland?); (2) The Texas "blob" found in the backyard of Marie Harris of Garland which kept on growing no matter how hard and how many different ways she tried to kill it (later said to be a fuligo septica, a type of fungus); (3) The spate of UFO sightings in late 1973 (this one really churned up the media--almost as much coverage was given the sightings, theories, etc. in the newspaper and on TV as that received by the 1973 champion, Kohoutek's Comet; just a few of the press clippings in our files: "UFO Sightings Spread, Space Visit Claimed" (STAR-NEWS, 16/10/73); "UFO's: Wildly Varied and Persistent" (POST, 20/10/73; notes that current wave is largest since the 1950's); "UFOs: Local 'Sightings'" (STAR-NEWS, 18/10/73); "UFO's: A Pilot's Report" (POST, 27/10/73); "UFO Blinded Trucker" (STAR-NEWS, 5/10/73); "UFOs: Is Anybody O-o-out There?" (STAR-NEWS, 17/10/73); "Jesus, St. Peter and Those UFOs" (STAR-NEWS, 20/10/73 (yes! even in the religious section....)); "UFOs Buzzing and Blinking" (STAR-NEWS, 20/10/73); "Who's Panicking?" (POST editorial, date missing); and then there were those two Pascagoula, Miss. shipyard workers who said they were taken aboard a "glowing blue spacecraft by buzzing creatures with silvery, wrinkled skin", and whose stories (or, at least, what they believed they saw) were later "verified" by a Polygraph test (reports in STAR-NEWS 13, 15, and 31 Oct.)); (4) Film, The Exorcist spawned a raft of articles on the book, the film, and the rite; (5) And, of course, the fizzle of the decade, Kohoutek's Comet, filled an inch-thick folder with all kinds of material on comets, and had its own daily TV spot / a couple of specials.

(Over)

BUT...THAT'S MUNDANE! (Continued) --

Turning to the more serious side of the news, we'll dip into our astronomy/space research folder and see what we come up with.... Here's a pile of clippings on Pioneer 10. Starting with an article in the POST (25 Feb '72), "Pioneer F Bears a Hello to Space Aliens", by Thomas O'Toole, about the plaque Pioneer 10 (which apparently began its life as Pioneer F when it was launched in March '72) had fixed to its antenna support struts on the off-chance it might eventually be found by an intelligent and advanced civilization (the plaque, which formed the basis for a recent contest in Donn Brazier's fanzine TITLE, bears the images of a naked man and woman, with the man's right hand raised in friendship, and the pair standing in front of a scale drawing of Pioneer; to their right (on the left of the plaque) is a radial pattern of lines depicting the 14 pulsars in the Milky Way Galaxy, with a 15th line symbolizing the "center of the galaxy where Earth is located"; in addition, the plaque has diagrams showing the path of Pioneer past Jupiter, and the number and alignment of planets in the solar system). Feb. 16 POST article tells of Pioneer 10's passing unscathed through the asteroid belt. The STAR on 11 Nov., anticipating the imminent fly-by of Jupiter, discusses new evidence of possible life on Jupiter. On Nov. 20 the STAR discusses the accomplishments and findings of Pioneer 10 to that date, and expectations for Pioneer's findings in its Jupiter fly-by (one finding was that the dust between the asteroid belt and Jupiter was 100 times denser than expected). The PARADE section of the Sunday POST (4/11/73) discusses the Pioneer project and its future (Pioneer 11, launched 5/4/73, is expected to reach Jupiter Dec. '74; Pioneer 10 should cross orbit of Uranus in '79, Neptune in '83, and Pluto in '87 as it leaves solar system). The STAR's FAMILY WEEKLY section of 25 Nov. has a cover painting of Jupiter as seen from one of its moons, by Don M. Dixon, and a feature article by Isaac Asimov, "What if You Were Aboard Our Incredible Flight to the Planet Jupiter?". On 26 Nov., the STAR reports on the final firing of the craft's thrusters for final course adjustments. The POST, on Dec. 4, reports on Pioneer's Dec. 3 fly-by; it passed 81,000 miles from Jupiter at its closest approach, reaching a speed of 96,400 mph; Jupiter's radiation zones were reported to be 10 times stronger than expected (100,000 times higher than Earth's Van Allen belts). Dec. 7th's POST reported on some of Pioneer 10's Jupiter findings--the planet and its moons were said to look like a miniature solar system, with Jupiter being "almost star-like"; Jupiter's surface temperature was higher than expected--between 215 and 230 degrees below zero Fahrenheit, and, surprisingly, was uniform around both the day and night sides of the planet; the densities of Jupiter's four largest moons, Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto, decrease as their distance from the planet increases (as do the sun's planets), and Io was found to have an atmosphere. On Dec. 5, the POST discusses some of the findings (same as in Dec. 7 article, including the fact that Jupiter gives off $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as much energy as it receives from the sun, and speculation that, because of temperature differences found on the major moons, that Ganymede may also have an atmosphere); next on Pioneer's agenda comes Saturn; it is eventually expected to reach the constellation Taurus, a trip of some 8,000,000 years.

Quickly skipping thru the folder.... With the discovery of a quasar more distant than anything yet observed (12 billion light-years), scientists believe they may have seen the "edge of the universe" (STAR, 8/4/73); An extremely sensitive low-light-level image intensification tube developed to detect enemy troops in Vietnam is proving a boon to astronomers by increasing the acuity, speed and efficiency with which they can aim their large telescopes on faint celestial objects; A team of radar astronomers at JPL has discovered that the surface of the planet Venus is pocked with large, shallow craters--some as large as 100 miles across, but none found so far deeper than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile (POST and STAR, 5/8/73); Three Pasadena astronomers reported discovery of an "embryo star" which has a temperature of only 170 degrees, but emits 30,000 times more energy than the sun (POST 26/1/73). We'll keep the rest 'til another SON, as space has run out.... (And sometime we'll do a special feature on "Black Holes", so send us any clippings, references, etc. you may have.)

TWJ/SOTWJ SURVEY RESULTS

We've waited long enough, so here goes.... (We'd still like to receive questionnaires from anyone who has not yet returned his, and would like commentary from our readers on the results and opinions expressed below.)

Question 1. "Do you read SON OF THE WSFA JOURNAL?" (Yes, 38; No, 0; an unnecessary question--but at least it does give a count of returned questionnaires). "From cover to cover?" (Yes, 22; No, 6; Sometimes/usually/etc., 9; no answer, 1). Of the 38 respondents, 6 were current or former WSFA members.

Question 2. "Do you find it informative?" (Yes, 34; No, 0; Often/Sometimes/etc., 3; no answer, 1). "Interesting?" (Yes, 31; No, 0; Mostly/Sometimes/etc., 6; no answer, 1).

Question 3. "Have you read either of the last two issues (#'s 81 or 82) of THE WSFA JOURNAL?" (Yes, 35; No, 3) "If so, which do you prefer, TWJ or SOTWJ?" (SOTWJ, 13; TWJ, 8; No Comparison/Don't Know/etc., 14).

Question 4. "Please consider the following SOTWJ departments, and place a "1" by the one you like best/find most useful, a "2" by your second choice, etc. If you dislike something and would like to see it dropped, place an "X" by it. If you have no opinion or are not familiar with it, place a "0" by it.

Bookworld -- 1, 9; 2, 4; 3, 4; 4, 2; 5, 3; 6, 1; 8, 1; 10, 1; 11, 2; 0, 2; X, 2; no answer, 7.

Dissecting the Heart of the Matter -- 1, 7; 2, 6; 3, 1; 4, 1; 5, 1; 6, 1; 7, 4; 8, 1; 9, 2; 0, 2; X, 4; no answer, 8.

En Passant -- 1, 3; 2, 1; 3, 6; 4, 3; 5, 1; 6, 1; 7, 2; 8, 1; 9, 3; 10, 3; 0, 6; no answer, 8.

The Foreign Scene -- 1, 1; 2, 2; 3, 2; 4, 2; 5, 4; 6, 2; 8, 2; 9, 2; 12, 2; 14, 1; 0, 6; X, 2; no answer, 10.

The Local Scene -- 1, 2; 2, 1; 3, 4; 4, 2; 5, 2; 7, 4; 8, 2; 11, 1; 12, 1; 13, 1; 14, 1; 0, 7; X, 5; no answer, 5.

But That's...Mundane -- 2, 2; 4, 2; 6, 1; 10, 1; 12, 1; 14, 1; 0, 17; X, 1; no answer, 12.

The National Scene -- 1, 1; 2, 6; 3, 2; 4, 5; 5, 5; 6, 2; 8, 1; 9, 1; 11, 1; 0, 4; no answer, 10.

The Amateur Press -- 1, 5; 2, 6; 3, 1; 3, 1; 4, 3; 5, 2; 6, 1; 7, 2; 8, 2; 0, 3; X, 2; no answer, 10.

The Club Circuit -- 2, 2; 3, 2; 4, 1; 6, 2; 7, 1; 8, 2; 10, 1; 13, 1; 15, 1; 0, 6; X, 6; no answer, 13.

The Con Game -- 2, 1; 3, 3; 4, 1; 5, 5; 6, 4; 7, 2; 8, 1; 9, 2; 10, 1; 11, 2; 16, 1; 0, 4; X, 1; no answer, 10.

ESFA Report -- 1, 3; 2, 2; 3, 1; 4, 2; 6, 2; 7, 2; 9, 1; 13, 1; 14, 1; 15, 1; 0, 4; X, 5; no answer, 13.

Magazinarama -- 1, 3; 2, 1; 4, 1; 6, 2; 9, 2; 10, 1; 12, 1; 0, 8; X, 10; no answer, 9.

S.F. Mart -- 1, 2; 2, 2; 3, 1; 4, 8; 5, 1; 6, 1; 7, 1; 8, 1; 9, 1; 10, 2; 12, 1; 0, 8; X, 1; no answer, 8.

The Mystery Nook -- 1, 1; 2, 4; 3, 1; 4, 3; 5, 2; 6, 2; 7, 2; 8, 2; 9, 1; 13, 1; 0, 5; X, 6; no answer, 8.

Quarterly Prozone Index -- 1, 3; 2, 2; 3, 1; 4, 1; 5, 1; 6, 4; 7, 3; 12, 1; 13, 2; 0, 4; X, 8; no answer, 8.

S.F. Parade -- 1, 13; 2, 6; 3, 6; 4, 1; 5, 2; 6, 1; 0, 1; X, 1; no answer, 7.

Based on the above results, we have already made some changes (plus we have made other changes to facilitate use of SOTWJ), so the sections currently appearing in SOTWJ are not necessarily the same as the ones listed above ("Bookworld", e.g., now includes "S.F. Parade" (which no longer exists separately); "The Mystery Nook" has been distributed in other sections (book reviews to "Bookworld", e.g.); all fanzine reviews now appear in "The Amateur Press" (they used to be spread between

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TWJ/SOTWJ SURVEY RESULTS (Continued) --

several sections: "The Amateur Press", "The Club Circuit", "The Foreign Scene", and "The Mystery Nook"; "Tidbits" has been revived as a general news section, and the remainder of such sections as "The Local Scene", "The Foreign Scene", "The National Scene", "The Con Game", etc., will appear thereunder; "The Media Morgue" has been added, including TV/Radio/Movie/etc. reviews and miscellany from the newspapers.

For statistical purposes, we have weighted the results as follows: 10 points for a number "1", 9 for a "2", 8 for a "3" . . . 2 for a "9", 1 for a "10", "11", "12", "13", "14", "15", or "16", 0 for a "0" or no answer, and -10 for an "X". The results (with the number of "1" and "X" responses, resp., in parentheses following the point totals) are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| S.F. Parade -- 246 (13-1) | The Foreign Scene -- 85 (1-2) |
| Bookworld -- 181 (9-2) | The Local Scene -- 63 (2-5) |
| The National Scene -- 161 (1-0) | The Mystery Nook -- 54 (1-6) |
| The Amateur Press -- 144 (5-2) | ESFA Report -- 43 (3-5) |
| En Passant -- 139 (3-0) | But That's...Mundane -- 30 (0-1) |
| Dissecting the Heart of the | Quarterly Prozone Index -- 24 (3-8) |
| Matter -- 133 (7-4) | The Club Circuit -- 4 (0-6) |
| S.F. Mart -- 115 (2-1) | Magazinarama -- -38 (3-10) |
| The Con Game -- 99 (0-1) | |

(Note: Some persons gave the same rating to more than one section, so the totals for a given rating will most likely not add up to 38.)

Question 5. "Please consider the following types of material appearing in SOTWJ, and place a check by the ones you find useful &/or interesting, an "X" by those you dislike, and a "0" by those on which you have no opinion" (in the results, we will denote a check by a "1", and "0" will also include the no-answers):

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Articles: 1, 28; X, 4; 0, 6. | Fanzine Reviews/Contents Listings: |
| Book Notices/Announcements: | 1, 26; X, 2; 0, 10. |
| 1, 28; X, 5; 0, 5. | Local News: 1, 15; X, 10; 0, 13. |
| Book Reviews: 1, 36; X, 0; 0, 2. | Foreign News: 1, 10; X, 3; 0, 15. |
| CoA's: 1, 15; X, 3; 0, 20. | Letters: 1, 34; X, 0; 0, 4. |
| Classified Ads/Flyers: 1, 26; | Newspaper Extracts: 1, 22; X, 5; 0, 11. |
| X, 1; 0, 11. | Prozone Reviews: 1, 26; X, 5; 0, 7. |
| Columns: 1, 28; X, 3; 0, 7. | Polls: 1, 25; X, 1; 0, 12. |
| Con Reports: 1, 22; X, 1; 0, 15. | Prozone Contents: 1, 11; X, 13; 0, 14. |
| Con Schedules: 1, 26; X, 1; 0, 11. | Play Reviews: 1, 23; X, 4; 0, 12. |
| Club Minutes: 1, 17; X, 11; 0, 10. | SOTWJ Indexes: 1, 16; X, 7; 0, 15. |
| Club News: 1, 16; X, 9; 0, 13. | TV Reviews: 1, 27; X, 4; 0, 7. |
| Editorials: 1, 32; X, 1; 0, 5. | WSFA News/Minutes/etc.: 1, 14; X, 4; |
| Film Reviews/Notes: 1, 32; X, 1; | 0, 20. |
| 0, 5. | |

Other: "Ads", "More People News", "Prozone Index", "Info. on Mystery & Det. Fiction", "Old Radio" were each named once.

For statistical purposes, we have weighted results as follows: "1" for a check, "-1" for an X, and "0" for a "0" or no answer. Results (with number of check and "X" responses, resp., in parens following point totals) are as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Book Reviews -- 36 (36-0) | Fanzine Reviews/Contents | Foreign News -- 17 (20-3) |
| Letters -- 34 (34-0) | Listings -- 24 (26-2) | Newspaper Extracts -- |
| Film Reviews/Notes -- | Articles -- 24 (28-4) | 17 (22-5) |
| 31 (32-1) | TV Reviews -- 23 (27-4) | CoA's -- 12 (15-3) |
| Editorials -- 31 (32-1) | Book Announcements -- | WSFA News/etc. -- 10 (14-4) |
| Con Schedules -- 25 (26-1) | 23 (28-5) | SOTWJ Indexes -- 9 (16-7) |
| Classified Ads/Flyers -- | Con Reports -- 21 (22-1) | Club News -- 9 (16-7) |
| 25 (26-1) | Prozone Reviews -- 21 | Club Minutes -- 6 (17-11) |
| Columns -- 25 (28-3) | (26-5) | Local News -- 5 (15-10) |
| Polls -- 24 (25-1) | Play Reviews -- 19 (23-4) | Prozone Contents -- -2 (11-13) |

(Cont. next page)

TWJ/SOTWJ SURVEY RESULTS (Continued) --

Question 6. "Please consider the following types of material, & place a check by those you would like to see continued in or added to TWJ, an "X" by those you would like to see dropped/omitted, & a "0" by those on which you have no opinion" (in the results, we will denote a check by a "1", and "0" will also include the no-answers):

Articles: 1, 33; X, 2; 0, 3.
 Art Folios: 1, 19; X, 6; 0, 13.
 Bibliographies: 1, 28; X, 3; 0, 7.
 Con Reports: 1, 25; X, 2; 0, 11.
 Cover Art: 1, 26; X, 2; 0, 10.
 Columns: 1, 32; X, 2; 0, 4.
 Editorials: 1, 28; X, 0; 0, 10.
 Fanzine Reviews: 1, 26; X, 3; 0, 9.
 Fiction: 1, 4; X, 24; 0, 10.
 Book Reviews: 1, 33; X, 1; 0, 4.
 Film Reviews: 1, 32; X, 1; 0, 5.
 Illustrations: 1, 23; X, 2; 0, 12.

Cartoons: 1, 24; X, 3; 0, 11.
 Letters: 1, 34; X, 1; 0, 3.
 Problems/Puzzles: 1, 7; X, 7; 0, 24.
 Poetry: 1, 7; X, 20; 0, 11.
 Science Shorts: 1, 10; X, 13; 0, 15.
 TWJ indexes: 1, 15; X, 8; 0, 15.
 Other Indexes: 1, 17; X, 7; 0, 14.
 SF/Fantasy Games/Rulesheets: 1, 11;
 X, 12; 0, 15.
 Other: "Trivia Quizzes", "Criticism
 rather than Reviews" were each
 named once.

For statistical purposes, we have weighted results as follows: "1" for a check, "-1" for an X, and "0" for no answer or a "0". Results (with number of check and "X" responses, resp., in parens following point totals) are as follows:

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Letters -- 33 (34-1) | Cover Art -- 24 (26-2) | TWJ Indexes -- 7 (15-8) |
| Book Reviews -- 32 (33-1) | Con Reports -- 23 (25-2) | Problems/Puzzles -- 0 |
| Film Reviews -- 31 (32-1) | Fanzine Reviews -- 23 | (7-7) |
| Articles -- 31 (31-2) | (26-3) | SF/Fantasy Games, etc. -- |
| Columns -- 30 (32-2) | Illustrations -- 21 (23-2) | -1 (31-12) |
| Editorials -- 28 (28-0) | Cartoons -- 21 (24-3) | Science Shorts -- -3 (10-13) |
| Bibliographies -- 25 | Art Folios -- 13 (19-6) | Poetry -- -13 (7-20) |
| (28-3) | Other Indexes -- 10 (17-7) | Fiction -- -20 (4-24) |

(Note: It is probable that a few of the respondents didn't notice that Question #6 referred to TWJ rather than SOTWJ.)

Question 7. "Place a check by each of the following subjects in which you have an interest and which you would like to see covered in SOTWJ and/or TWJ" (in the results, we have ordered the categories by rank rather than by the way they appeared on the questionnaire; numbers refer to number of checks given category received; numbers in parens are those for which a qualification was given by the respondent (these are included in category totals)):

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| "Hard" SF: 32 | Astronomy: 16 | "Nostalgia": 11 | Historical Fiction: |
| Fantasy: 28 | Pulps: 14 | (1) | 5 |
| Films: 23 | SF/Fantasy Games: | Plays: 11 (1) | ESP: 4 |
| S&S: 22 | 13 (1) | Comics: 11 (2) | Occult: 4 |
| "New Wave" SF: 19 | Records: 12 | Art: 10 | Other: "Fanzines", |
| TV: 19 (1) | Radio: 12 (1) | Children's Books: | "Criticism of Cri- |
| Mysteries: 18 | Adventure Fiction: | 9 (1) | ticism", "Geology" |
| Weird/Horror: 17 | 11 | Poetry: 5 | were ea. named once. |

Question 8. "Are you agreeable to reprints in some issues of SOTWJ and TWJ from: U.S. Magazines?" (Yes, 31; No, 2; qualified Yes, 4; no opinion, 1) "Foreign Magazines?" (Yes, 31; No, 1; qualified Yes, 4; no opinion, 2).

Question 9. "Should we combine TWJ & SOTWJ into a monthly 20-50 pp. magazine sent 3rd-class or book rate as soon as repro problem is solved?" (Yes, 18; No, 11; No opinion, etc., 6; no answer, 3).

Question 10. "If TWJ were to go offset, it would probably increase in price. Mimeo costs come out to approx. 1¢/page, & the estimate we have for offset is 2¢/page. Thus, a 50-pg. offset TWJ would cost between \$1 & \$1.25/copy. Would you be willing to pay such a price for an offset magazine, or would you rather it remained mimeo? [Note: If TWJ & SOTWJ are combined, subs would be in units of 10 pp. to let us vary size as necessary & keep costs under control.]" (Because
 (Over)

TWJ/SOTWJ SURVEY RESULTS (Continued) --

of the way in which this question was presented, the results were impossible to accurately interpret. E.g., some people answered "Yes" ("Yes" what? "Yes, I would be willing to pay such a price for an offset magazine.", or "Yes, I would rather it remained mimeo."), others "No"; some "Mimeo", others "Offset"; plus a variety of other replies. Overall, we would estimate the results were approx. 50-50. ## We should also note that offset rates were based on some quoted to us by a professional publisher; once we are able to do the offset repro ourselves, costs will be considerably lower--possibly even lower than mimeo, which is constantly going up. Our goal is to bring SOTWJ and TWJ to you at the lowest possible cost consistent with decent reproduction and an adequate and dependable schedule.)

Question 11. "What name would you suggest for a combined TWJ/SOTWJ? THE WSFA JOURNAL? THE S.F. RECORD? Or what?" (THE WSFA JOURNAL, 12; S.F. RECORD, 8; No opinion, 6; no answer, 8; other: "THE WORLD S.F. JOURNAL", "WHAT?", "SF ENERGY", "ALL OUR TOMORROWS", "THE INCESTUOUS CHILD OF THE WSFA JOURNAL", "SF EXPONENT", or something more general, if you go in that direction (i.e., SUPERSCRIPT); "SF MONTHLY", "THE MSFA JOURNAL (to thine own state be true)", "THE GENRE PARADE or GENRE RECORD", were each suggested once.

Question 12. "What can we do to improve TWJ and SOTWJ?" (see Commentary, below)

Commentary --

(Our reactions at end of this section.)

Barry Gillam -- "Prozine index vs. contents: Since I subscribe to most of the prozines, I have no need of a contents list. But an index of the kind you do is most useful in finding things among the stacks. The Quarterly Proxine Index is indispensable. Please continue it. ## "Bibliographies: Mark Owings' bibliographies are excellent and very useful when I sit down to consider a single author's work. I've been disappointed that his bibliographies have not been present in TWJ since 76. I also appreciated Dennis Lien's checklist of bibliographies in 79. ## "Fanzine reviews which list the contents are very useful to me because all too many fmz reviews are short, subjective evaluations which have no indication of what's in the fmz and whether I'd want to get it. ## "TWJ: The parts I find most valuable and enjoyable are the Owings bibliographies when they appear, Harry Warners' column, Alexis Gilliland's illos and I suppose the fanzine reviews. It may seem odd for me to say it (because I have contributed book reviews), but the book reviews in TWJ and SOTWJ are useful only to tell me what a book is about. It's not your fault that the reviewers are not of the quality of those appearing in SFC, VECTOR and SPEC. ## "These are my prejudices and preferences. But I'm quite satisfied with the zines as they are now, with the exception noted (bibliographies). I'll accept any reasonable schedule and method of reproduction. The main choice as I see it is not the will of the readers, but your own convenience, since it is you, after all, who has to do this staggering load of work in getting out the zines."

Hal Hall -- (6) Longer Book Reviews; Keep Fanzine Reviews in SON rather than TWJ; Good art, not fillers. (8) Reprints needed to give wider circulation of good work. (9) Current system gives more flexibility. (11) I like SF RECORD for what you do--why not switch to it, esp. if the WSFA situation doesn't clear up. (12) SON--OK; TWJ--Smaller issues more often.

Tom Cobb -- "Extended comments... (3) Could that be a loaded question, Don? Are you considering suspending one of the publications if one is less popular than the other? Quite frankly, I like/enjoy both; they fill two different needs. SOTWJ as a source of current material, such as radio and tv news and book reviews. TWJ as a source of more durable material, such as essays and long articles. I realize your time, the most important factor, may be limited and may make producing one publication more advisable. ## "(10) The only advantage to offset repro, and I'm speaking from the viewpoint of a reader, would be in the area of illustrations.

(Cont. next page)

TWJ/SOTWJ SURVEY RESULTS (Continued) --

More intricate and varied art work could be included by going offset. Otherwise, I'd vote for staying with mimeo. I, however, would pay the difference to receive an offset creation. ### "(11) If you plan to continue covering other specialties besides sf, you might use a title that would encompass all interests. . . . ## "I'm looking forward to SOTWJ/TWJ in whatever form it takes. Since you cover so many kinds of material, SOTWJ/TWJ is one of the most valuable fan creations coming off the 'presses'."

Mark Olson -- (4) & (5) "The only major objection I have for SOTWJ is that it has too much local news, but since this is inevitable I won't complain. I particularly like to see material about books (reviews, etc.). I also don't mind the TV & radio info--it's a little hard to find sometimes (too crowded). Keep it general...."

Floyd Peill -- "(3) and (9) I continue to think TWJ and SOTWJ should be combined because of the erratic appearance of TWJ. Many of us, though, would like to receive the combined mag as often as we now get SOTWJ. Could you not keep SOTWJ on its present schedule and now and then include one or more of the longer articles now published in TWJ? You could mimeo the meatier TWJ articles as received, set them aside, and occasionally send along with SOTWJ. This would mean some issues of SOTWJ would be slim (no long articles); other issues would be thick (you may wish to include two related long reviews, essays, etc.). As an example, 1972 SF/FANTASY MAGAZINE WRAP-UP and FANZINE FRICASSEE (both in TWJ #81) should have been published in SOTWJ to prevent dating. Further, I tend to feel that all letters and book reviews should appear in one mag. ## "The thing to keep in mind is to maintain the timely reporting of events, books, reviews, etc. which would soon date otherwise; SOTWJ is unique in this respect and we would hate to see it go monthly. ## "(4) ESFA Report: Would love to see this section greatly expanded. Some of the talks appear extremely interesting; transcripts would certainly be welcome. And then we're always fascinated with SaM's reports. ## "Magazinarama: There would be no cries of anguish if it were dropped. Most fans buy all issues of a particular mag anyway to keep their files complete. ## "Quarterly Prozone Index: Useless. NESFA is doing this with its yearly volumes; and Hal Hall is indexing the book reviews, also in a yearly publication. ## "The Mystery Nook: Would consider it of value only if it reviewed reissues of old favourites (such as the Dover reprints of Dr. Thorndyke, Max Carrados, and The Thinking Machine). . . . Many fans do have a marginal interest in the mystery field and would probably find something of value here, but SOTWJ is an sf mag and so this column should be kept restricted to brief reviews of outstanding works. ## "Bookworld: Who can afford to buy many hardbacks these days? If you're certain the softcover will come along, probably it would be best to save the review for the paperback. (This, of course, would not apply to specialty house publications as cheaper reprints are not published.) Drop 'Misc. Non-SF Books Received for Review'; a waste of time and space. ## "The Local Scene: Of interest to local fans only; I suspect most other readers pass it by. I wonder if you can find two subbers who derive anything of value from the Isis Center News. ## "(5) SOTWJ Indexes: Useful only to locate book reviews; otherwise, a waste of space. I can see, though, that the editor should have an index to both TWJ and SOTWJ for his office use, but doubt there's much value in publishing it. ## "(7) Children's Books: I try to get reissues (or new editions) of some of the well-known fairy tale and fable collections, illustrated by old masters. Dover puts out many of these classics in unabridged volumes, and Viking Press is beginning to print new editions of these stories. I'm charmed and delighted with some of these illustrations; Arthur Rackham's illos themselves sell the book. ## "Well, all this is of marginal interest to the fantasy fan only, I suppose, although most sf fans do have wide and varied reading tastes. . . . ## "(10) I'd hate to see SOTWJ/TWJ go offset as the mag would lose some of its personal touch. If you've got to keep putting the mags out by yourself, Don, with not much extra help, then by all means go offset if it will cut down on your work load. I don't think too many
(Over)

TWJ/SOTWJ SURVEY RESULTS (Continued) --

would object to a price increase, but 2¢/page would be about the limit as I assume sub rate would then double. . ."

Warren Johnson -- (12) " . . . I don't like the idea of a combined SOTWJ/TWJ because SON is the most frequent newszine around, and I find it quite valuable for that fact. I don't see any great advantage in having the genzine and newszine combined again; maybe there's some editorial reason, but I don't know of it. . . ."

George Fergus -- "I don't see any reason why foreign fanzines in English should be segregated from U.S. fanzines in your reviews. My 'X' re 'The Foreign Scene' refers to the contents listings of foreign-language fan- & prozines. ## "I very seldom agree with Richard Delap's opinions, but I used to enjoy his column because he writes well and gives a good idea of what's going on in the prozines. But now that all the action is in the original anthologies, I have lost interest. ## "I would prefer that 'Bookworld' omit coverage of common paperbacks and deal exclusively with those new hardcovers and quality paperbacks that I am less likely to be aware of. You have been doing a good job in this regard. Please ask Don D'Amassa to do a monthly column consisting of an annotated list of all SF paperbacks published each month. ## "Your indices to SOTWJ appear so often that it's more work to look thru back issues for the ones with the indices in them than it is to just look thru the issues themselves. Your table of contents on the front page is what really makes your indexes redundant, I guess. A few quibbles: if you're going to list individual books, prozines, & LoCs in the table of contents, why don't you list the fanzines reviewed? Also, the book titles & authors are hard to read at a glance when listed sequentially--is there any chance of your adopting a columnar format for listing there? Such as:

S.F. PARADE: Book Reviews by

DON D'AMASSA:
The Silver Warriors
by Michael Moorcock
The Time Before This
by Nicholas Monsarrat
Triage
by Leonard Lewin

DAVID STEVER:
The Suns of Scorpio
Warrior of Scorpio
by Alan Burt Akers :

BARRY GILLAM:
A Russian Beauty and Other Stories
by Vladimir Nabokov

"Your quarterly prozine index is too often, except for the book review index which is not often enough--this should be appended to Delap's monthly column. ## "I seem to get 3rd-class mail pretty fast, so wouldn't mind receiving SOTWJ that way, but others may. You should have polled us on dates of receipt of TWJ instead of SOTWJ. I would, however, prefer to receive a combined zine in clumps of no more than 20 pages. SOTWJ has spoiled me. ## "What possible reason is there for color-coding sections of TWJ? It certainly doesn't do anything for me. ## "10' ratings on Articles, Con Reports, Film Reviews/Notes, etc, are because it depends on who's doing them & what the subject matter is. Publish some and then ask again with respect to subject & writer. If your purpose in asking is to determine what material should go in TWJ and what in SOTWJ, I think all reviews should appear in SOTWJ as they involve recommendations on action we should take, and all reports and other after-the-fact information can appear in TWJ. Although, personally, big fanzines tend to put me off and I would really prefer that TWJ-type material were sent out more often in smaller lots like SOTWJ. I still think that putting out an occasional 3rd-class 'Special Issue' is the proper way to handle the less-dateable material, if you continue SOTWJ as is." ##### Also, re (11), opp. "THE WSFA JOURNAL", George notes, "Why not? The Wheaton SF Assoc."

Al Lopez -- (9) "Prefer 20-30 pages tri-weekly rather than 40-50 monthly. Easier to pick up and get through." ## (12) "Most of what you do satisfies me or I would not subscribe. You can't satisfy everyone with everything you publish so I won't complain about the things I don't like. I don't have to read them!"

(Cont. next page)

TWJ/SOTWJ SURVEY RESULTS (Continued) --

Ken Faig, Jr. -- (7) "I think you have a good blend now in SOTWJ, certainly don't reject good stuff in any of the other areas, tho." ## (9) "Really, convenience for you must be the determining factor. ## (10) "\$1 a month is not an inexpensive magazine; but based upon the quality of past issues of TWJ and SOTWJ, I would probably continue to subscribe." (11) "I think SF RECORD is excellent-- certainly don't retain WSFA JOURNAL if there is any chance of a controversy with WSFA over the matter. Controversy is never worth its price, even if you feel you are in the right, in my opinion." ## (12) "I think your own wide-ranging interests will continue to improve TWJ and SOTWJ better than any individual suggestions I could make? ...but ## "Did you have a columnist on 'gothics' a while back? I seem to remember one...perhaps not from TWJ or SOTWJ. Amidst all the trash there has to be some good stuff, though, and it'd be nice to have coverage as part of the coverage you give weird/horror and mystery fiction, both of which border on the genre. ## "My low ratings of prozine reviews and indexes are purely personal. I've lost interest in most prozines. But keep em--they serve a valuable archival function... Speaking of archives, how about ARCHIV FÜR SF for the title of your German edition? ## "I am of the debased collecting sort, and I'd also find a chatty column aimed directly at collectors nice...perhaps written by Mike Shoemaker, Ned Brooks, or some other such notable? ## "How about getting Jack Chalker to write for you a paragraph on the Mirage schedule every quarter or so? It's a shame not to see the latest dope on Mirage in a magazine from the Washington area. ## "I've always enjoyed NOTES AND QUERIES and similar magazines. How about a NOTES AND QUERIES section for SF RECORD or TWJ or --? 'Can anyone tell me the name, author, and place of publication of the one where the giant green beetles...?' and all that kind of spiffy stuff. ## "I bet your library includes just about all those academic journals, and I'd like to see their tables of contents regularly reproduced in your magazine."

Beth Slick -- ". . . The only thing harder than figuring out a valid questionnaire is figuring out what the answers mean. ## "The basic things I enjoy about your zine are: (1). It comes out often. (2) The book reviews allow me to quickly scan them and decide what I want to read. (3) The fanzine coverage. ## "The one thing that I really don't like is the indexes and lists. (Some people might enjoy them, but I don't.)" ## (12) "Just keep it coming out often."

Jim Ellis -- (7) "I have at least a passing interest in most of the subjects listed but would prefer TWJ/SOTWJ to stress SF-Fantasy subjects 90% of the time. ## (9) & (10) "I would prefer to see the two mags combined under one title (TWJ) and issues, say, six times a year; more frequent publication would entail a heck of a lot of work for you, plus I doubt too many subscribers would hold still for long if the zine's sub rate went to \$12.00 or more a year--based on a single copy price of \$1.00 or more. As a reader, I'd be glad to pay \$6.00 or \$7.00 a year, but my eye would go sort of jaundicial, looking at a \$12 or \$15 yearly outlay for a fan mag!" ## "AFTERTHOT: My interest in the doings of WSFA appears to match the WSFA's membership's interest in TWJ/SOTWJ. Are those people really that indifferent?" ## (12) "Just stay healthy."

John Stith -- (10) "I would be willing to pay, but I really don't care about the type of repro as long as I can read it. (Which I can now.)"

Steve Lewis -- (7) "Don't expand beyond means; emphasize info rather than general articles."

David Stever -- (10) "This is entirely up to you Don--if you have the time to run off 20-50 pages a month, then go ahead and mimeo the zine. If, however, you would rather do something else with your time, then by all means have it off-set printed. I, for one, would still be willing to pay a higher price for the mag."

Norm Hochberg -- (6) "I could dig more art if it's not all by Gilliland."

Don D'Amassa -- (12) "Talk Joe Sanders into doing reviews for you."

(Over)

TWJ/SOTWJ SURVEY RESULTS (Continued) --

Quickly, to finish (all on #12) -- Jack Collins: "Less indexes, CoA's. More letters & articles. Better con reports." ## Alex Eisenstein: "Drop unnecessary info in lists & reviews." ## Dennis Lien: "Make sub policy less complicated." ## Dean Abel: "TWJ: More regular publication schedule. SOTWJ: Fewer indexes and content listings." ## Mike Riley: "Keep bringing out SOTWJ, with currency the main objective." ## Richard Delap: "Fine as is--no complaints (except for occasional editorial censorship, Don, you old prude)." ## Maureen Leshendok: "Add Market Reports." ## Ross Peterson: "Learn how to write a questionnaire."

Also responding (but no extended comments): Don Livingstone, Reg Smith, Jim Landau, Bob Briney, Gene Wolfe, Nick Jones, Kim Weston, Gary Tesser, Jim Boskey, Doug Drummond, Martin Williams, Robert Bowie-Reed, Mike Shoemaker, Bill Hixon. Thanks to everyone who participated--your comments will be carefully considered.

Editorial Response --

Gillam: We, too, regret that Mark's bibliographies have not been appearing more frequently in TWJ; he has been tied up in various projects of late, and has been unable to contribute to every issue--but we do have Owings' bibliographies in TWJ's 80 and 83, and hope they can once again become a regular TWJ feature. ## Cobb: As things now stand, both 'zines will continue for at least the rest of 1974; if the current effort to involve others in the production of TWJ is fully successful, the main problem--our own lack of time and dying mimeo--will be resolved. We shall have to wait and see (and, hopefully, will not have to ask #3 in the 1974 survey). ## Peill: Even if TWJ and SOTWJ do remain separate, it's probable that there may still be some larger, 3rd-class issues of SOTWJ. See our later comments, below. As for ESFA Report: we, too, would very much like to get the full text of the ESFA talks; we tried this a while back, but the recording we received of the talk was largely inaudible and impossible to transcribe from. Perhaps something can be worked out, though...Allan Howard? We, too, would like to publish reviews of reissues of old mystery favorites--all we need are the reviews (we have the books, if anyone's interested....). "Misc. Non-SF Books . . ." is likely to be dropped (especially as Berkley has apparently stopped sending anything but their SF). The Isis Center used to have some very excellent lectures..but they seem to be doing less lately, and are no longer receiving detailed coverage (however, if they should at some future time present something which we feel is of importance to the field, it will be covered). ## Fergus: Foreign fanzines are no longer segregated from U.S. Joanne Burger currently publishes lists of all paperbacks announced, and LUNA MONTHLY also has pretty comprehensive lists. Such an annotated list as you suggest would probably be quite a task, but we're receptive if D'Amassa or anyone else has the time to prepare same. We no longer list the books covered in the contents page; with the new "Bookworld" format, this would make the ToC too long. The SOTWJ Indexes are published in such a way that they can be separated from the rest of the issue and filed separately. Eventually, we hope to publish separate indexes on specific topics (such as book reviews or prozine reviews) which would cover a much larger number of issues than the current 6-issue indexes. The next Q.P.I. (Oct-Dec '73) may be the last; in the future, we will either increase the period covered (say, six months) or drop it completely. And we will consider appending book review index to Delap Jan. '74 column, when it appears. Will try 3rd-class with this issue (with date-of-receipt poll included). ## Faig: Since we now receive no review copies of "Gothics", we must depend entirely on receipt of such reviews from "free-lance" reviewers. We are certainly receptive to receipt of reviews of "Gothics", mysteries, etc., and encourage their submission to SOTWJ. Good title for your German edition--if we ever get one (see editorial remarks in TWJ #83 re TWJ Translator situation). Collectors' column sounds like good idea. Ned? Anyone? Ditto for "Notes and Queries" (so far, this has been taken care of thru lettercol). Re Mirage--we've been trying to get Mirage news--any kind, even a current catalogue--from Chalker for two years.... We don't get all academic journals, unfortunately--but would welcome xerox of contents pages from our readers for SOTWJ. ## Ellis: Only six WSFA's responded to questionnaire: three while visiting us.... So there are six who care.... ## No more room....

(dissecting)

▲ THE HEART OF THE MATTER:
Magazines for Nov., 1973

Operational Procedures
Supervised by
Richard Delap

It's one of those months where publishing schedules conspire to supply the least number of magazines (four) we can find in one month, which gives us all a rest before the year-end onslaught of seven magazines in December.

Ted White does us a service by offering Gardner Dozois' Guest of Honor speech at Disclave but lets his editorial duties fall by the wayside by not cleaning up an ungodly number of spelling errors that blight the transcript--some of which are so ridiculously obvious it seems as if no one bothered to read it before or after it was typeset. (I might also mention here that someone sent me a copy of the November FANTASTIC, I would guess for review, but did not point out what I should note in this issue and gave no name or address. Thank you, whoever you are, but such expense on your part is not necessary--though a postcard to bring something to my attention is always welcome--as I buy all the magazines regularly for review in this column.)

GALAXY has tried an unusual experiment this month, publishing the magazine with two different covers to assess the selling power of cover design. One has the Brian Boyle Studios picture-cover, the other features the contents page surrounded by Gaughan interior illos. I've not heard what the results are of this shot-in-the-dark, but it would be nice to hear a report. I could only buy the Gaughan edition in my city and have not seen the Boyle cover--anybody have an extra copy?

FANTASTIC -- November:

Short Novel:

Junction -- Jack Dann.

The purgatorial town of Junction is seen through the eyes of Ned Wheeler, but the vision presented is something outside our usual concepts of time and space. Religion has taken on a reality formed from its mythic foundations--Hell surrounds the town with an unpredictable melange of tundra, mountains and unexpected creatures of shadow; formalized prayer continues in a neighborhood of bars and whores; and Ned, who is interested in questions that others ignore, at last is whisked away to a new world, a New York where his dreams affect every living person and he himself becomes an idol, a god. There are momentary scenes here that are so bizarre and puzzling that one is driven to read on and uncover some thread of rationalism beneath. But rational thinking is lost to a clutter of indistinguishable pieces in a "reality" that comes apart before it ever settles into a system--"physical laws have become indeterminate. . . Time can no longer be thought of as a progression or a straight line. . . cause and effect are only pieces that happen to fit together." The idea behind all this is clever but difficult to adapt for dramatic purposes since it makes character relationships fall somewhere between the objective and subjective and therefore gives the reader very little to react toward. Sometimes engaging, sometimes downright dull, it just doesn't have a structural support to hold it together. Fair.

Short Stories:

Trapped in the Shadowland -- Fritz Leiber.

Obviously intended as a short linking episode in the adventures of Fafhrd and the Gray Mouser, there is just enough plot to keep this story enjoyable for fans either well-read or only-initiated into the best and one of the most popular series in swords-and-sorcery fiction. Very new readers may find the proceedings a bit dense, but hopefully it will persuade them to catch up on the series through the Ace paperbacks as they wonder about Death, Ningaule of the Seven Eyes, Sheelba of the Eyeless Face, and all those marvelously distinct women.

(Over)

DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --Triptych -- Barry N. Malzberg.

Editor White calls these three short-shorts "delightful conceits", and I'm afraid I can't think of a description more apt than that. They all deal with psychological relationships, human-to-superhuman, human-to-alien, and the ever-connective human-to-human, with the final story perhaps the most amusing for SF fans who will see that Malzberg is admitting a writer's slavery as compulsive as the Campbellian "human supreme" conceits. Lively and fresh, though obviously not suited to every taste.

Chang Bhang -- Jack C. Haldeman, II.

The future is brisk, bright and full of adventure--that is, if you are very rich and can travel around to see the marvels of other galactic races and especially the city of K'lang. This marketplace city is wondrous. Why, you might even buy a slice of time, which is exactly the transaction a human happens to witness in this tale. Actually it's an awful lot of buildup to a weak ending, and while the potential promises good the author is never able to do much with it. Tsk, tsk. War of the Magicians -- William Rotsler.

And here's another one with color and adventure, as a man finds himself in the midst of a raging battle, surrounded by magicians, dragons, witches, ogres, centaurs, creatures from the far reaches of mythology and magic, all thrown into the maw of an unnamed, unknown confrontation. We soon discover that it's all a nightmarish dream, an obsession the dreamer is desperate to halt. Well, give Rotsler credit--his "dream" is ferocious and expensive. It's too bad he couldn't create a story in which the eerie battle had a place or meaning. Routine.

A Matter of Time -- Jim Ross.

Time travel stories are usually farce or adventure tales that seldom seriously approach the moral aspect of the results of altering the past. Ross' protagonist, a self-admittedly "mediocre" man, here presents a document that reveals his fame as a world-renowned author is a falsity, that using a super-computer to correlate data into the invention of a time machine he has escaped to the past and copped the fame from a writer not yet born (by taking that writer's books and delivering them to his younger self). It seems a very commonplace idea but Ross' exploration of the character, his desperation and his thoughtless grasp for happiness, is carefully and lovingly dissection and, at the end, moving. Very well done.

Article:

Mainstream SF and Genre SF -- Gardner Dozois.

ANALOG -- November:

Serial:

The Sins of the Fathers (part one) -- Stanley Schmidt.

Novelette:

We Are Very Happy Here -- Joe Haldeman.

The sexually integrated combat team, who impressed (and in some cases annoyed) readers in last year's "Hero", is back once more in this sequel which opens with a badly written but pivotal deep space catastrophe and segues into a guided tour of the social stratum back home on Earth. We see the world as two of the returnees see it--a technological miracle of food and housing for nine billion people, a surface beauty so impressive it almost hides the cracks and chains of the framework. As lovely as it seems, it survives by distorting the truth for the citizen masses, subverting human progress by early brainwashing and lifelong government doles, and (horrors!) stinting on medical care for the aged whose "class" rating is too low. The reader's curiosity may carry him through Haldeman's extensive explanations of how such a society functions, but it soon becomes apparent that the author is taking too long to do too little, and one will not find the conclusion more than a foregone cul-de-sac. It reads like an information-packed interlude of a novel, and by itself the story is simply a wheelchair victim of dramatic sclerosis.

(Cont. next page)

DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --Short Stories:Regarding Patient 724 -- Ron Goulart.

Goulart's Tarragon is one of those wacky planets where everyone is involved in everyone else's espionage. Here we have an assortment of hospital staff, androids, and robots, all tossed helter-skelter to make a noisy buzzing background for a murder plot. As ever, Goulart is so busy shuffling his farcical characters through a maze of half-hearted comedic one-liners that he fails to see the reader will quickly become bored when the desperation shows through. In this one it shows through, unmistakably.

The Sons of Binaloo -- Sonya Dorman.

Though Dorman chooses an alien world as background, her story is very much tied to human responses as she tells of Pettrey and his place in a society where individuals are licensed in the world of art according to their talent. Dorman has a question that she neatly employs in an equivocal manner--who's to judge the worth of art? The response of the artist and the audience is contrasted by a computerized system of values, and Dorman proposes two very different sorts of sensitivity yet never enjoins either one to the point of falsifying the other. It's an interesting tale, the kind which prompts the reader to really think. Nice. Epicycle -- P. J. Plauger.

A malfunctioning booster system gone "hot" causes problems for a ship in Earth orbit, a problem compounded by the fact that of the three persons aboard one is not only a civilian but a woman. As she tells the story we see that her credentials are impeccable and her help much needed in the dangerous situation, but when you're a woman trying to make headway in a male-oriented system the problems are more than ones of competence. While the dialogue is sometimes amusing, the plot is never quite able to shake off its trivial nature and merely adds up to a pedestrianly altered casting of the ANALOG mold. Routine.

Science:Styx and Stones: And Maybe Charon Too -- George W. Harper.

* * * * *

FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION -- November:Novelettes:Mother Lode -- Phyllis Gotlieb.

Those who enjoy stories of astonishing alien creatures will find Gotlieb's giant space animals, the Amsu, exactly their cup of tea. The author also ties in some energetic speculations on various galactic species (Zaf, a horned worm-like creature, is quite a character), ESP powers, interspecies relations and, of course, humans in the middle of it all. Her story centers on a group riding the inside of a giant Amsu, which excretes precious ores that are collected by a following ship, and a strange, suddenly dangerous psychological dilemma that presents a solid core of crisis for a fast, sometimes confusing story. The large background that Gotlieb only implies herein is good enough to make one hope she is considering a series. Entertaining.

The Beasts in the Jungle -- Gordon Eklund.

Editor Ferman says this story is presented to satisfy readers' requests for "more irrelevant sf", a comment which must be taken with a tongue-in-cheek as crowded and exploratory as Eklund's own. He gives us an unsettled, as well as unsettling, satire which shipwrecks a group of humans on an island where a mad scientist experiments with vivisection. The doctor hopes to adapt humans into animals, a race which will take the place of men on the battlefield in a world war he predicts will shortly occur. His creations, however, are pacifistic, his funds excruciatingly low, and time is running short. Eklund's salute to H. G. Wells and Dr. Moreau is both a homage and a backbite, his technique ranging from a burlesque of social/cultural slurs to a careful and rather clever time-sense misdirection that proves to be a very calculated aspect of the satire. The story rambles a bit and sometimes gets tangled in its padding, but overall it's an amusing piece that revels shamelessly in its funny vulgarity.

(Over)

DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --The Pugilist -- Poul Anderson.

Dowling is a political pawn in a deadly game of the next century, a game which Anderson uses for a tense extrapolation on the American disintegration of freedom in a progression of tyranny through steps of socialism and communism. Dowling is an underground revolutionary whose training has been so distorted with perverse lies that he cannot see the purpose of what he fights for. His body is turned into a deadly weapon (his penis is a miniature laser gun), and he is sent to destroy the man who threatens the future with his "radical" program, which in the end is revealed as a regression to the concepts espoused by the American Constitution. The politics of the story demand close attention to forestall disorientation, but Dowling's own confusion and misdirection gives the plot a tight dramatic grasp. Good of kind.

Short Stories:Thirst -- Bill Pronzini.

In their haste to send a chill of terror down the spine of readers, authors sometimes forget that when mishandled horror can slide very easily into an unwanted chuckle. Pronzini's tale concerns two men crossing the desert on foot, a third partner having absconded with the jeep and water, and their chances for cashing in on the wealth of a rich ore deposit increasingly slender. How they make it back to civilization and the aftermath of what they must do to survive comes across in a knifeblade slash that unfortunately tickles the funnybone.

Big City -- Herbie Brennan.

Guided by ancient maps, an expedition treks high into the Andes, hopeful of finding a long-lost city but hampered by inexperience, desertion by their guides, an attack by guerrilla fighters, and an inhospitable terrain. They reach their goal but once there Brennan seems rather at a loss for drama and reverts to tiresome essay drawn from Blavatsky- and Daniken-like theories that urge us to consider "wild" concepts in a sad finale that could certainly use a little wildness to liven it up.

The Galaxy Travel Service -- Leonard Tushnet.

Harry Bernstein recounts the tale of how, retired and unhappy with his lack of activity, he accepted a job with a small travel agency. A nice job with nice pay, but it disturbs him to discover the teenage manager tosses uncut jewels into the trash, holds mysterious meetings on Sunday afternoons, and at last admits to running an agency for extraterrestrial visitors. The late Dr. Tushnet attempts to sweeten this snack with a pastry of Jewish humor, but it's really so very thin and uninspired that it degenerates into unleavened sour dough. Routine.

Closed Sicilian -- Barry N. Malzberg.

It is the 23rd century and two opponents in a game of chess are playing for high stakes--the Universe. The moves are made, the players contemplate their past, their present strategies, and the future. Whether you understand the mechanics of chess to a great degree or not (and I'll admit I don't), it's hard to miss the emotional undertow in the players' thoughts and reactions, the symbolism of balance (good/evil, yin/yang) and the necessity of ambiguity. Difficult but fascinating.

Article:The Decline and Fall of Adam -- L. Sprague de Camp.Science:The Figure of the Fastest -- Isaac Asimov.

* * * * *

GALAXY -- November:Serial:The Dream Millennium (part two) -- James White.Novelettes:Think Only This of Me -- Michael Kurland.

Kurland gives us an era-spanning background for a love story--a man and woman meet in Seventeenth-Century London, fall in love in the New York of 1938, and to-

(Cont. next page)

DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --

gether discover each other's destiny tied to mankind spread among the stars. Reading much like unrefined Zelazny, the story occasionally dazzles the reader with an aura of romantic mystery that gracefully shifts into an explanatory focus as the plot unfolds. The characters (especially the appealing Diana Seven) are both intelligent and emotional, and while their dialogue gets a bit stagey near the climax they retain conviction in spite of it. If Kurland never quite captures the passionate drama he tries for, one can be grateful that he's rejected the easy traps of soap opera. Nicely done.

A Suppliant in Space -- Robert Sheckley.

Since the publication of his first delightful collection, Untouched by Human Hands, Sheckley has been considered by many a true master of SF humor. In this comedy of the absurd he once again demonstrates his special talent as he writes of Detringer, an alien banished from his home planet for unspeakable crimes of asocial bent, Detringer's loyal servant, Ichor, who tells his master "I love you, sir--but I cannot approve of you", and the Earthman whose eventual meeting with the alien sparks an hilarious spoof of one of SF's oldest clichés. The plot is a crazy little dance of delight punctuated with a successful and highly comical line of wisecracks and rejoinders. Very good.

Mayflower Two -- Ernest Taves.

Taves' series of "moon" stories continues to be a dramatic and provocative one, each new episode exploring aspects of human relationships, dedication to duty and isolation, with the emphasis on psychology rather than hardware. This time there are two married couples and the plan is to have each couple conceive a child during their moon-stay. With all the intricate timing and regulations imposed on them, however, the people still display those sparks that fly when personal desires and hopes clash head-on with the hard wall of facts. A bit less developed than previous stories, its scale narrowed down by plot necessity, this one will nevertheless delight fans of the series and continues to keep Taves on the list of the more satisfying of the newer writers. Very well done.

Short Stories:And No Birds Sing -- William E. Wilson.

A middle-aged businessman is disturbed but not particularly frightened when he finds people disappearing temporarily from his sight and he can only see their clothes molded to invisible bodies. Concerned for his safety and sanity, he isolates himself only to find that time also is distorting, changing, repeating. Wilson writes very well and his story is fascinating right up to the moment when he reveals the reason for the man's problems in a strange conclusion open to a variety of interpretations. Some may like it, some not, but Wilson's writing talent is undeniable.

Some Joys Under the Star -- Frederik Pohl.

Pohl is usually quite good with satire but with this comedy of errors he puts a strain on the reader's good will in a series of dramatic incidents twisted to show their ridiculous backsides. It seems the alien Arrogating Ones, warring with an insectoid race, have initiated a sideline destruction of humanity, whom Pohl chooses to show in a variety of violence-laden vignettes. Destruction on every side, and all of it goes haywire with humanity accidentally (?) holding a winning flush in the whole screwy card game. Sometimes funny, I'll admit, but awkward and forced as well.

By the Seashore -- R. A. Lafferty.

If a Lafferty story seems to reek of symbolism (as this and many others do), the reader is put to the test in bringing coherence to the strangenesses the author employs. Here we have a story of a dull-witted boy and his prized possession, a seashell, which as time goes by looks like the boy and thinks for him--or is it the boy who begins to look like the shell? The boy's wealthy family takes him and his shell with alternating patience and impatience, until the day arrives when they learn that the shell is other-worldly--and so, too, is the boy? Don't ask me what it all means. If you're a Lafferty fan, enjoy; if not...well, don't give up trying.

Science:Eclipse Expedition Into the Sahara -- Ernest Taves.

FRANCE:

GALAXIE (Editions OPTA, 24, rue de Mogador, Paris-9^e, France; monthly; 5 1/2" x 7 1/2"; ed. Michel Demuth; French edition of GALAXY (in French, naturally); 4 F ea., 6/21,80 F, 12/43,20 F in France; in Belgium, 40 FB ea., 6/225 FB, 12/445 FB, from M. Mulatier, 40, rue Gl-Gratry, B-1040 Bruxelles, Belgium; in Switzerland, 4 FS ea., 6/19,45 FS, 12/38,60 FS; from M. Vuilleumier, 65, Ave. du Bois de la Chapelle, Case 85, 1213 Onex, Geneva, Switzerland; elsewhere, 6/25,10 F, 12/49,80 F) -- #113 (Oct. '73): 160 pp. / covers; front cover by Michel Desimon; illos by "Gachignard", "Fal", "Caza"; Fiction: "Où cours-tu, o mon adversaire?", by Ben Bova (translated by Ben Zimet; GALAXY 1/69, as "Foeman, Where Do You Flee?"); "Black Baby", by Piers Anthony (Tr. Arlette Rosenbaum; IF 10/72 as "Black Baby"); "Forteresse", by Fred Saberhagen (Tr. Bruno Martin; IF 1/63 as "Fortress Ship"); "Le pime ne craie pas", by Keith Laumer (Tr. J.-M. Boissier; IF 1-2/71, as "Pine Doesn't Cray"); Departments/columns: "Michel Pilotin (1906-1972", by Aime Mory (w/Bibliography); "Signal du Surmonde", by J.-P. Fontana; "Cinema: 3 Films de SF Soviétiques", by Serge Laughlin; ads ("Fal" is François Allot). ## #114 (Nov. '73): 160 pp. / covers; front cover (quite handsome!) by Raimondo; illos by Jack Gaughan, "Klei", ?; Fiction: "Le Sorcier d'Anharitte" (Pt. 1), by Colin Kapp (Tr. Jacques Polanis; IF 12/72, as "The Wizard of Anharitte"); "Vingt-six jours sur la Terre", by Joe Haldeman (Tr. Philippe R. Hupp; GALAXY 11-12/72, as "26 Days on Earth"); "La fille qui n'existait pas", by Michael G. Coney (Tr. Polanis; IF 2/73 as "The Never Girl"); "Cette nuit-là...", by Robert Bloch (Tr. Nicole Balfet; IF 7/60, as "Talent"); "Météorhomme", by James Sallis & David Lunde (Trans. J.-F. Kresser; NEW WORLDS #181 (4/68), as "Weather Man"); Depts/Columns: "Invitorial", by Patrice Duvic; Lettercolumn; "Litteratron"; ads. ## #115 (12/73): 160 pp. / covers; Fiction: "Le Sorcier d'Anharitte" (Pt. 2), by Colin Kapp (IF 2/72); "Project Harlie", by David Gerrold (Tr. Chantal Plancon; GALAXY 5/70, as "The God Machine"); "L'envers de la chose", by Gordon Eklund (Tr. Rosenblum; IF 9-10/72, as "Underbelly"); Departments/Columns: "Trieste 1973" (report), by Sandro Sandrelli; Patrice Duvic interviews Norman Spinrad; ads; cover by Caza; illos by Barthélémy. ##### Another fine magazine from France; particularly liked the cover on #114, and the illos in #113. Not as much non-fiction as in FICTION, and no original fiction, but still worth getting if you can read French.

JAPAN:

UCHUJIN #172 (I/1973) (Takumi Shibano, 1-14-10, O-kayama, Meguro-ku, Tokyo, Japan; quarterly (was monthly up to this issue); offset; 6" x 8"; in Japanese (with ToC and "News from Japanese Fandom" section in English); 400 yen(?) -- Articles: "Fan Journal #27", by Tetsu Yano; "History of Japanese SF #1", by Mitsauki Shimamoto; "Fanacs of Youth #4", by Hiroyuki Namba; Fiction: "SF Sai-yu-ki #9", by Eisuke Ishikawa; "A Die Against Genocide #1", by Masatoshi Yamada; "Problem Child", by Peter Oldale (Tr. Yumiko Saji); Report: "SF Festival '73", by Yoshiyuki Kato; Fanzine Reviews; Lettercolumn; 1973 Nebula Awards Winners & Runners-Up (in Eng.); News from Japanese Fandom section. (News: SF Festival '73 (Terracon-2) was held May 5-6 '73 in Kyoto, with approx. 150 attending; Japanese film promoter/critic Shoji Ohtomo died 27/1/73 of heart attack at age of 36.) (FYI: Oldale story was repr. DAW's The Year's Best Horror Stories #1 (ed. R.Davis).)

U.S.:

CHARLIE CHAN MYSTERY MAGAZINE I:1 (Nov. '73) (Renown Books, Inc., 8230 Beverly Blvd., L.A. CA 90048; quarterly; pub. Leo Margulies, ed. Sylvia Kleinman; 75¢ ea., 12/\$9; 5 1/2" x 7 1/2"; 160 pp. / covers) -- Cover by Bill Edwards; illos not credited; New Charlie Chan Short Novel: "Walk Softly, Stranger", by Robert Hart Davis; Nov-lette: "Death on Deck", by Jim Duke; Short Stories: "The Siesta Special", by Robert W. Alexander; "She Waits", by Andrew Bogen; "Buttermilk", by Bill Pronzini; "Bernard and the Bust of His Father", by Pauline C. Smith; "Going Straight", by George Antonich; "The Innocent One", by Lawrence Treat; no features,

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| #122 | 4th Jan. 1974 Issue | 10 | A,C,G,P,R |
| #123 | 5th Jan. 1974 Issue | 10 | A,N,R |
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III. SUBJECT INDEX.

A. Books.

(SOTWJ 121,122,123,124,125,126)

1. Reviews (by Author).

/Reviewer's name is in brackets/

a. SF/Fantasy.

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 Alexander, Lloyd: The Truthful Harp (Holt Owllet Books) /Don D'Ammassa/ 122:3
 Anderson, Poul: The Day of Their Return (Doubleday/SFBC) /Goldfrank/ 125:4
 Anthony, Piers: Sos the Rope (Pyramid Books) /Don D'Ammassa/ 124:3
 Var the Stick (Bantam Books) /Don D'Ammassa/ 125:3
 Asimov, Isaac: Lucky Starr and the Big Sun of Mercury (Signet) /D'Amma./ 122:3
 Lucky Starr and the Moons of Jupiter (Signet) /D'Amma./ 123:3
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 Barbet, Pierre: Baphomet's Meteor (DAW Books) /Ken Ozanne/ 122:3-4
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 Baxter, J. (ed.): The Second Pacific Book of Australian SF (Pacific) /Ken Ozanne/ 124:4-5
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 Campbell, John W., Jr. (ed.): Analog 6 (Pocket Books) /Mike Blake/ 125:3
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- Haggard, H. Rider: People of the Mist (Ballantine Books) /D'Amassa/ 125:3
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- Moskowitz, Sam (ed.): Futures to Infinity (Pyramid) /Ken Ozzanne/ 121:5
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- Lafferty, R.A.: Okla Hannali (Pocket Books/Doubleday) /E.D. Gilliland/ 121:7
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d. Non-Fiction.

Kipling, Rudyard: Sixty Poems (Hodder & Stoughton) /Ken Ozanne/ 121:7-8

Ozanne, Ken: Who's Who in Fandom ((Not yet Published)) /Ken Ozanne/ 121:8

Sellar, W.C. & Yeatman, R.J.: 1066 and All That (Methuen) /Ozanne/ 123:5

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Howatch, Susan: Call in the Night (Stein & Day) /Jeanne Hines/ 122:2

Manners, Alexandra: The Stone Maiden (Putnam's) /Jeanne Hines/ 122:2

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1. Reviews. /all written by Richard Delap except where otherwise noted/

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AMAZING -- 10/73 (126:3-4) GALAXY -- 10/73 (126:6-7) (126:8-10)

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| Alfred D'Attore (126:4) | Fritz Leiber (126:6) | E. Burbee (126:9) |
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