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In Brief --

The last three issues have been two days apart; but #81 will not be out until after Feb. 1 (no more paper, and no money to buy more with until then).

Correction to In Brief in SOTWJ #79: We misunderstood Les Mayer re The Night Stalkers. The film shown was The Night Strangler, a sequel to The Night Stalkers, with Darren McGavin looking for a murderer who's been killing every 20 years for over 100 years in Seattle; and it has been shown, this past week (don't know where we got "Jan. 30").

We are currently firming up plans for a poll for the best material appearing in fanzines during 1972. We hope to make this an annual event, and to use the results in deciding upon which material should appear in annual "fanthologies" (a revival of the old series, the 1964 edition of which Terry Carr recently sent thru FAPA, and which was reviewed in SOTWJ #77). It is probable that the fanthology will be offset, and will go out as an issue of TWJ, with TWJ having two issues a year--one fanthology, out by Disclave (don't know if '72 ed. will make Disclave, as we don't have the offset yet), and an issue with original material appearing by Worldcon. But this is by no means final. (We want to use SOTWJ for all dateable material, and TWJ for general material which doesn't date and wouldn't be hurt by publishing delays.)

Norm Hochberg: Labels (at the present, at least) don't save us any time, and just cost us more; address info enables us to pass along info w/o notes/letters.

Our comments on pg. 2 re "Chung Kuo" didn't mean we didn't enjoy the special; it was outstanding in places--just over-long, with insufficient explanatory notes.

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-- DLM

TWJ/SOTWJ

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THE BARONY OF MYRKEWOOD: A HISTORY  
FROM ITS INCEPTION TO THE BARONIAL DINNER OF DECEMBER, 1971

The first whispering that a Barony of Myrkewood was about to be born occurred in either October or November of 1970, when the Lady Signy Dimmridaela (Tracie Brown), then Baroness of the North Woods, M.K., was instrumental in securing the appointment of the Lady Elen of Buckland (Karen Townley) as Seneschal. At that time the Lady Elen was residing in Alexandria, Virginia.

At the 12th Night Revel in New York City, on January 9, 1971, the Barony of Myrkewood was formed and was officially given its Charter. Lady Elen was its first Seneschal. Lord William of Jutland (Ron Bounds) was appointed Baron of Myrkewood. Also, Lord Alain du Rocher (then known as David of Kent and having the mundane name of Dave Halterman) was appointed Pursuivant. Another Myrkewodian present on this august occasion was Theodorus the Dissolute Monk (Ted Pauls). In addition to the above four, Myrkewood's Official Charter was signed by Valdaric of Prince George (Barry Newton).

Myrkewood's first event was a Revel held on Saturday, Feb. 13, 1971; it was held during the Balticon in the Lord Baltimore Hotel in Baltimore, Md. At this Revel, I, Wilhelm of Bothnia, was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer of the Barony of Myrkewood.

In the early part of May, 1971, the Lady Elen resigned as Seneschal of Myrkewood. She was succeeded by Myrkewood's present Seneschal, the Lady Sita, Begum of Oudh.

On Saturday, May 29, 1971, Myrkewood held its first Tournament. This took place during the Disclave at the Shoreham Hotel, Wash., D.C. About half-way thru the Tournament it started to rain. Consequently, the Tournament was concluded indoors. The winner of the combats and Champion of the Day was Thomas the Wrestler (Tom Bulmer); his Lady was the Dlle. Zurelia (Lynda Gallion).

Myrkewood's first event not connected with a SF gathering, was the Tournament held at Patapsco State Park on Saturday, August 14, 1971. Myrkewood's winner of the combats that day, and its first Champion, was Lord Alain du Rocher; his Lady was the Dlle. Anne of Narnia (Betty Berg).

Myrkewood held no further events until the Baronial Dinner in December of 1971; this dinner is reported more fully in Volume 1, Number 1 of YE MOUNTAIN STREAM.

Lord Wilhelm of Bothnia (Bill Berg),  
Chancellor of the Exchequer of the  
East Kingdom

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TIDBITS: Misc. News Notes

Radio Notes: Am listening to WAMU's radio nostalgia program, "The Big Broadcast", as we type this; ah, such a pleasure--and such memories as are evoked as we listen to Edgar Bergen & Charlie McCarthy, William Conrad's "Gunsmoke", Fred Allen, etc., etc. ~~###~~ WAMU is entering the lists with a 2-hour program of old radio broadcasts every Friday at 8:30 p.m.; and, on Sun., March 4, at 7 p.m., they will broadcast the first of 40 weekly programs of William Conrad's ("Cannon") "Gunsmoke".

TV Notes -- If you missed the recent NBC special, "In Search of Ancient Astronauts", be sure and catch it if/when it is repeated. Based on Erich von Daniken's Chariots of the Gods, it's one of the more interesting and thought-provoking programs we've seen in a long time. Whether or not you agree with his premise that space voyagers visited Earth centuries ago, the photography is excellent and the range of mysteries covered quite far-reaching (you'll see many of them as you've never seen them before). ~~##~~ NBC's special on Peking, "The Forbidden City", was the best program on China we've seen yet; photography was outstanding, and the program provided an excellent blend of the old and the new China's. (Would love to excavate one of the 13 remaining tombs of the Ming emperors.) Program contrasted very favorably with Michelangelo Antonioni's rather dreary, dragging 2-hour ABC special, "Chung Kuo".  
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Beyond Apollo, by Barry N. Malzberg (Random House, 1972; \$5.95; 138 pp.).

Since the publisher has emblazoned "A Random House Science Fiction Novel" on the dustjacket, it's obvious that they are pushing sales toward an already interested audience, while Malzberg is actually writing for the mainstream, for those people who still need an instruction course. He has produced a fictional essay about the sad state of space exploration which turns a jaundiced eye to the hypocrisy and exploitation necessary to make even a little headway in today's mixed-up world.

The novel is written as the diary of Harry M. Evans, co-pilot on the 1981 two-man expedition to Venus, who is now institutionalized as insane. Under the direction of neurologist Claude Forrest, Evans is questioned, cajoled and threatened in a determined effort to extract from him the facts which lie behind the expedition's failure. The commander of the mission has disappeared and Evans' memories present several versions of the circumstances, including both suicide and murder, which led to the commander's supposed demise. There are stories of mind-control by a mysterious race of Venusians, glimpses of psychotic and irrational behavior by both Evans and his commander, a recurring thread of sexuality which has brought in complications unforeseen by the officials. Evans' diary is a technologically-oriented portrait from the mad eyes of a modern Hieronymus Bosch, painted in never-dry watercolors that run all over the surface, blending occasionally into bright spots that catch the eye but eventually settling into a muddy brown that comes from either a lack of control or too much control (both work to the detriment of the watercolor artist).

Exactly what readers are supposed to obtain from all this innuendo and half-truths I'm not at all certain. We are not allowed to take anything Evans says as factual reporting, so we must try to move outside Evans (as Evans himself does at times in his own narrative). But this puts us in the position of Forrest and his hospital attendants, an army of heartless and faceless goons, and at an obvious disadvantage until Evans' fantasies bring them into the matrix of his illusions--at which time we're right back where we started. Malzberg gives no handholds and seems to delight in making the floor disappear, leaving the reader floating helplessly in a nearly formless void.

Complicating matters further is the mysterious failure of a Mars expedition in 1976 in which there were no survivors, varied chapters devoted to conflicting theories of rationality about the space voyages, satirical histories of the solar system and the universe and Harry M. Evans, and incisive (is there any other kind these days?) social comment which gives Malzberg (not Evans!) a chance to lash out at the politicians who have rejected the universe for problems at home: "Some of /the hungry children/ are sated, but on the other hand, some of them are dead." (p. 114)

Still yet are the anagrams that Evans compulsively works out from the names of the people who have had an influence over the direction his life has taken--which I gather is some murky sort of symbolism about the lines of probability and how they do or don't work, do or don't appeal--and occasional bit-ter owns such as the one where Evans is having sex with his wife and penetrates her "mound of Venus" while she remembers an interviewer who told her that her husband's space flight "would pave the way to Venus".

Also, there is Evans' plan to write a novel that "will be divided into short chapters. . .which will illuminate some speck of an overall situation so large that none of us can comprehend it"--the book the reader is now perusing, of course, with an overall situation so large that he can't comprehend it. There are scattered symbols of impotence, allusions to homosexuality, and a variety of hallucinogenic visions that tell us a lot about what it is to be a human being with the infinite and sometimes maddening choices of acceptance or rejection; but in the end we are not really made aware of the

import of these choices, only shown that they exist for one man whose madness has driven him to new depths (for him) of personal contemplation.

Evans is sure that "for at least a while they will think I am mad. . .and I can lead them thus ever so gently into understanding", but as Forrest's therapy continues, Forrest thinks "it's working" as Evans despairs "nothing is working at all". The schizoid-split in personality that Evans increasingly evidences throughout the story finally reaches a conclusion in which "Evans and I meet"--though whether the "I" is yet another part of Evans' own brain or a decidedly outside and alien personality is never explained. The reader is left with only the explanation that "the conditions were intolerable" and that "this will never work".

It's a nice try, Mr. Malzberg, but the conditions were intolerable and it just didn't quite work. While I don't believe this is a totally worthless book, as compared to so many books which are just poorly written and/or tritely plotted, it is unsatisfying in that it ranges widely within a context that is too amorphous. Most readers will hold still for some tantalizing bafflement, but to give them little more than endless arabesque seems to me to be very self-defeating and pointless.

-- RICHARD DELAP

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Strange Life of Ivan Osokin, by Petr Ouspensky (Penguin Books; \$1.45).

This book, which isn't SF but is part of the "Penguin Metaphysical Library", is called by the publisher "a mysterious work of bewitching power". Briefly, it concerns "an embittered young man in turn-of-the-century Russia (who) visits a magician and is given the chance to relive twelve years of his life" in order to correct his past mistakes. Supposedly the problems of infinity and "eternal recurrence" are important parts of the novel. In fact the book is incredibly shallow. The young man drifts from one mistake to another with only a casual "unwillingly" from the author by way of explanation. Now if only I could relive those few moments when I picked this book off the rack....

-- TONY WATERS

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 THE BOOKSHELF: New Releases, etc.

TRIDENT PRESS, Simon & Schuster, Inc., 639 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10020 --

Have just received Trident's Spring '73 flyer on forthcoming books; while only a couple of the titles are SF, we pass them all along to you in case any of you are interested in reviewing any of them (we must check off the titles we'd like to receive for review and return the form, so please let us know as soon as possible if you're interested in any of the titles).

- Feb: The Devil's Knee, by Irving Shulman (\$8.95; completes trilogy of "delinquency, crime and morality in the United States" started by The Amboy Dukes).
- Mar: Strange Games, by Heller Toren (\$5.95; novel of the "Beautiful People").  
Maggie D: A Sexual History, by Adam Kennedy (\$8.95; novel).
- Apr: Skyline Queen and the Merchant Prince, by John P. Nichols (\$6.95; "The Woolworth Story").
- May: The Idolaters, by William Hegner (\$8.95; life & loves of "tragic sex goddess").  
Eros In Orbit, ed Joseph Elder (\$6.95; SF anthology on sex in the future).
- Jun: The Cowboy and the Cossacks, by Clair Huffaker (\$8.95; American cowboys in Czarist Russia in 1880).  
My Secret Garden, by Nancy Friday (\$8.95; "Women's Sexual Fantasies").  
Confessions of a Corporate Headhunter, by Allan J. Cox (\$6.95).
- Jul: It Was Fun While It Lasted, by Arthur H. Lewis (\$7.95; the Hollywood that was).  
Future City, ed. Roger Elwood (\$7.95; 24 SF stories on Man's urban future).



III. Astronomy/Space Research.

During the past months we have been accumulating newspaper clippings on various subjects of possible interest to SOTWJ/TWJ readers. We have covered some of these news stories in detail in TWJ, but the piles are getting pretty thick, and TWJ doesn't come out often enough any more, so we're going to clean up our den a bit by running brief notices (with occasional commentary) of some of the more interesting clippings in our files. (If anyone would like more detailed coverage of any of these clippings, let us know and perhaps we can devote an entire column to it in a later issue of SOTWJ or TWJ.) For this column, we will cover items of possible interest in astronomy and in space research.

At a recent local meeting of the American Chemical Society, Drs. Cyril Ponnamperuma and Peter Molton reported on their efforts at the U. of Md. Laboratory of Chemical Evolution to study Jupiter's atmosphere in preparation for the 1977-79 Mariner 11 fly-by of Jupiter. They stated that they had succeeded in duplicating the chemical compound of Jupiter's atmosphere, and that this had proven capable of forming twenty compounds which were "one step away" from being able to sustain life (this one step being a "series of enormous electrical discharges (lightning bolts"; a phenomenon quite common in the Jovian atmosphere). The orange-red color of the artificial atmosphere was similar to that of Jupiter's Red Spot, and to one of the colors found in the atmosphere of Saturn's Titan satellite. They suggested that it was quite possible that some form of life exists in the atmospheres of both Jupiter and Titan.

Astronomers Carl Pilcher and Thomas McCord of MIT and Stephen Ridgeway of SUNY/Stoney Brook reported, in a recent issue of SCIENCE, that they had "conclusively" identified the presence of water frost on Jupiter's Europa and Ganymede satellites. They stated that the surface of the former was 50-100% frost-covered, and that of the latter was 20-65% frost-covered. ## As-yet inconclusive evidence from Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona indicates that Jupiter's Io and Callisto may also have frost-covered surfaces.

Dr. Carl Sagan, director of Cornell's Laboratory for Planetary Studies, in discussing some of the results of his work on the Titanian greenhouse effect, reported that he now believes Titan may be a "miniature of what the earth was like in its early history". Although Titan is almost 10 times further from the sun than the earth, this "greenhouse effect" is believed to make its surface warm enough that it might possibly be able to support life in some form.

The National Bureau of Standards, using an infrared laser, has revised the speed of light to 186,282.3960 miles/second (or - 3.6 mps), a figure "100 times more accurate" than the one used for the past 15 years. Among the benefits anticipated in the not-too-distant future from this new degree of accuracy in the light-speed figure was a "1,000-fold increase in the number of communication frequency bands".

A recent symposium of scientists, social scientists; theologians, and communications experts, sponsored by NASA and the Boston Univ. Dept. of Astronomy, was held in Boston to consider the "social and philosophical implications of contacting other beings in space". All participants agreed that humans are probably not alone in the galaxy, and are certainly not alone in the universe, but there were varying views expressed on when (if ever) contact might be made, and what the implications of that contact might be. Dr. Sagan reported on current efforts to make contact. Ashley Montague suggested we "get our house in order" before making such contact. Theologian Dr. Krister Stendahl said that "contacting other beings may help man to stop viewing God in his own image, with all its limitations". Biologist Dr. George Wald found the thought of such contact "terrifying", but doubted



the possibility of such contact ever being made because "the speed of light limits physical space travel as well as the speed of radio communication". Physicist Prof. Philip Morrison predicted actual contact after many false claims of such contact being made, and said the message received would probably be a "very technical, scientifically coded communication that would probably come in bit-by-bit over many months or even years".

Astronomers at Hale Observatory in California have discovered new evidence that Cygnus X-1, an x-ray pulsar which emits no light, is a "black hole" (a star whose gravity is so strong that light cannot escape). By studying a blue star 10,000,000 miles from Cygnus X-1, they found a bright blue line near Cygnus X-1, which they believe might be the result of superhot gas being drawn by the enormous gravity of Cygnus X-1 from the blue star into itself. If Cygnus X-1 is in truth a black hole, it will be the first one ever found in 33 years of searching after their existence was predicted 56 years ago by Einstein in his theory of relativity.

Radio astronomers were stunned by a 200-fold increase in energy by Cygnus X-3, making it one of the six strongest sources of radio waves in the sky. This was the first time an increase of more than four-fold had been observed in the radio energy of a source "star". Scientists speculated on whether this increase were caused by a "starquake", a "supernova", or the influx of energy into a "black hole". (This news item appeared almost two months before the one on Cygnus X-1; we wonder if they're both talking about the same object? Perhaps this sudden increase is what caused astronomers to study the blue star for "black hole" evidence?)

Earth's "other moon", a small asteroid named Toro, made its closest approach to Earth in its centuries-long orbit on Aug. 9, 1972, when it came within 12.6 million miles. Only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles long and one mile in diameter, Toro will next come close to Earth in January, 1975. Toro was discovered in 1964, by Dr. Samuel Herrick of the Univ. of Calif. at Los Angeles. It alternates between being a satellite of the earth and a satellite of Venus every few hundred years. Immediately prior to 1580, it was "locked in on Venus"; from 1580 to 2200 it has been and will be "locked in on Earth"; it will return to the control of Venus in 2200, to Earth again in 2350, then back to Venus in 2800.

With space getting short and the distance backward in time getting greater (we've now gone back six months in our science files), we'll quickly skim thru the rest of the astronomical/space research material. Remember, anyone wanting more details on any of these news items should write to us promptly. ~~###~~ A new pulsar was found in the Milky Way which pulses for nine days and then stops pulsing for 27 days, a phenomenon for which there is no known reason (scientists expect this pulsar, found in the constellation of Hercules, may be part of a binary system). ~~###~~ Discrepancies in the orbit of Halley's Comet have led scientists to speculate that a planet almost as large as Jupiter, "Planet X", is six billion miles away and awaiting discovery by some "sharp-eyed" astronomer. ~~###~~ The sun has been found to be one of the most stable stars in the universe. ~~###~~ As the sun ages, its heat gradually increases, in turn leading to a gradual increase in the temperature at the earth's surface. As the temperature increases, more water vapor is released into the atmosphere, the resulting increased greenhouse effect in turn accelerating the heat increase on the earth's surface, eventually dooming all life on the planet. (If pollution doesn't do us all in first, with its own greenhouse effect.) ~~###~~ The Milky Way galaxy is believed to be rapidly losing its gravitational energy, the binding force which keeps it from flying apart. ~~###~~ Radio astronomers observed two objects in distant space which appear to be flying apart at a speed ten times that of light (a theoretically impossible velocity). They are (naturally) puzzled by their findings. ~~###~~ A British astronomer reports the finding of a planetary system evolving around a large star, Epsilon Aurigae (some 5,000 light-years away). ~~###~~ Patrick Moore interview appears in 25 Nov '72 issue of THE WASHINGTON POST. ~~###~~ More in Part IV ("Misc. Scientific Dev't's") nextish.

SOTWJ SURVEY RESULTS

We've held up these results long enough; any not in by now (incl. from overseas readers) would still be appreciated, as we have not yet made up our mind on some of the questions involved; and any commentary on the results/commentary below would also be welcome.

Question 1. "Do you read SON OF THE WSFA JOURNAL" (Yes, 19; No, 0; actually, this was a bit of a needless question for SOTWJ readers...we were aiming more for traders and people receiving courtesy copies than we were our regular readership). "From cover to cover?" (Yes, 7; No, 5; Sometimes/usually/etc., 6).

Question 2. "Do you find it useful?" (Yes, 14; No, 1; Sometimes, 4). "Do you find it interesting?" (Yes, 14; No, 0; Sometimes, 5).

Question 3. "Have you read a 'recent' issue of THE WSFA JOURNAL?" (Yes, 16; No, 4).

Question 4. "Which do you like best, SOTWJ or TJJ?" (TJ, 12; SOTWJ, 5).

Question 5. "Please consider the following SOTWJ features, and place a '1' by the one you find most interesting and/or useful, a '2' by your second choice, and so on. Place an 'X' by those which you don't like, and a '0' by the ones on which you have no opinion."

The Con Game -- 1, 3; 2, 3; 3, 1; 4, 3; 5, 1; 6, 2; 9, 1; 0, 5.

The Foreign Scene -- 1, 2; 2, 2; 3, 1; 4, 2; 5, 1; 6, 1; 7, 1; 13, 1; 14, 1; 0, 8; X, 1.

The Club Circuit -- 1, 3; 2, 1; 3, 1; 4, 1; 6, 1; 7, 3; 10, 1; 14, 1; 0, 4; X, 2.

SF Parade -- 1, 6; 2, 4; 3, 1; 4, 1; 5, 1; 6, 3; 7, 1; 0, 4.

Tidbits -- 1, 1; 2, 3; 3, 2; 4, 2; 6, 1; 8, 1; 9, 1; 12, 1; 13, 1; 0, 5; X, 1.

Con Reports -- 1, 4; 2, 3; 3, 1; 4, 2; 6, 1; 7, 1; 8, 1; 11, 1; 0, 3; X, 1.

The Amateur Press -- 1, 4; 2, 3; 3, 4; 4, 2; 5, 1; 9, 1; 10, 1; 0, 3; X, 1.

The Steady Stream -- 1, 1; 3, 3; 4, 2; 5, 3; 7, 1; 9, 1; 13, 1; 0, 4; X, 3.

The Bookshelf -- 1, 2; 2, 4; 3, 1; 4, 2; 5, 2; 6, 2; 0, 2; X, 4.

On the Move -- 7, 1; 8, 1; 9, 1; 10, 1; 12, 2; 0, 10; X, 1.

The Paper Parade -- 1, 2; 4, 1; 5, 1; 7, 1; 8, 1; 9, 1; 10, 2; 0, 7; X, 1.

Dateline--SF -- 3, 1; 5, 1; 8, 2; 11, 2; 0, 10.

Magazinarama -- 1, 1; 3, 2; 4, 2; 6, 1; 7, 2; 9, 1; 15, 1; 0, 3; X, 6.

Dissecting the Heart of the Matter -- 1, 7; 2, 2; 4, 2; 5, 1; 7, 1; 8, 1; 10, 1; 11, 1; 0, 3; X, 2.

ESFA Report -- 1, 1; 2, 1; 3, 2; 8, 1; 10, 1; 11, 2; 15, 1; 16, 1; 0, 8; X, 2.

Indices -- 1, 2; 4, 1; 6, 1; 7, 1; 11, 1; 12, 1; 0, 12; X, 1.

Question 6. -- "Do you find the occasional FAPA issues of any interest at all?" (Yes, 5; No, 4; Sometimes, 5).

Question 7. "If we are forced to combine SOTWJ and TJJ in some way, which would you prefer: (a) 10-page, bi-weekly, 1st-class issues w/an article or feature and the usual SOTWJ material (w/o art); (b) 22-page, monthly, 3rd-class issues w/o art but with articles/features and the usual SOTWJ material; (c) 26- or 28-page, monthly, 3rd-class issues w/covers and (very) occasional art, in envelopes, w/articles/features/SOTWJ material; (d) Other (please specify)?" (a, 4; b, 6; c, 7; d, 1). (Over)



Question 8. "What can we do to improve TWJ and SOTWJ?" (see Commentary, below)

Question 9. "Comments, etc. on combining the two." (see Commentary, below)

Commentary --

(Our reactions at end of this section.)

Floyd Peill -- "I read through SOTWJ but skip Magazinarama (I get all these prozines by sub anyway). I particularly value the book reviews and fanzine reviews (U.S. and British zines only). Your own comments on the various zines are interesting, but I wonder if you have to go to such great detail in your descriptions of each zine (e.g. page number, size, who drew which illos, etc). Perhaps it would be of more interest if you talked about one or two of the more interesting articles and/or letters in each zine in addition to your overall comments.

## "By all means keep SOTWJ coming out bi-weekly so as to present timely info on books and fanzines published (which is what I really value in SOTWJ). I think that I would be inclined to drop TWJ and publish material normally presented in this zine in the various issues of SOTWJ. That is, as you receive articles, features, indices, poems, pieces on nostalgia, etc. which would be destined for TWJ, I would include them, as received, in SOTWJ. Now this would mean some issues of SOTWJ would be thin and others would total perhaps 15 or so pages. Letters from subbers should go in SOTWJ, but I think the artwork can be forgotten. Combining TWJ and SOTWJ would alleviate subber fears that they have somehow missed receiving an issue of TWJ. ## "The main thing is to keep SOTWJ coming out on a bi-weekly schedule."

Esther Balin -- (8) "More S.F. Book Listings and Reviews." (9) "Prefer SOTWJ."

George Fergus -- (8) "I don't find the book & prozine listings very useful. Their only advantage over listings in LOCUS is the inclusion of the blurb, which is usually either useless or misleading as to whether or not I would like the story. In most cases I would prefer a brief categorization. The contents/sources listings for collections & reprint anthologies are useful, however."

Bill Berg -- (8) "Publish more often." (9) "It would be a good idea."

Ken Faig, Jr. -- "Thanks very much for the information regarding the future of TWJ and SOTWJ. I think you have made a wise decision, since SOTWJ is evidently the kind of small fanzine which you can get out with tolerable regularity without undue stress on your own health and time or your mimeo. I hope you will also enjoy putting it out, too, since when that element leaves, a fanzine must surely only become a burden. I hope you will excuse my not returning the questionnaire, but now that you have made the basic decision concerning the future of TWJ-SOTWJ, it would be superfluous. Of course, I would like to see TWJ continue in some form, too--there are all too few good genzines these days--but you are perfectly right this ought to continue only if, as, and when you are able to get out issues. Actually, though, I don't think the alternatives 7b, 7c of your questionnaire were bad ideas at all--if you're still considering those alternatives. Doing this would insure a uniformity of your fanzine output and a steady continuation of at least some TWJ features. For a magazine of twenty-some pages, bimonthly, six a year, would probably be more than enough--I myself don't think the best of SOTWJ ages that fast. Really, though, I will be glad to see a continuation of your publications in any format which you may decide upon--certainly, a steady flow of the newszine SOTWJ and an occasional TWJ--perhaps an annual for Disclave or a semi-annual--would be great. Things I like best in SOTWJ are book reviews, tidbits, fanzine listings and reviews, ESFA (and WSFA?) minutes--I just love to hear what Sam Moskowitz is currently up to in the way of research, etc., and also Delap's prozine reviews--these latter are virtually unique--I don't think Lewis' in LOCUS compare--and I would urge you to continue them in any format which TWJ/SOTWJ may adopt. (I include among the fanzine listings the foreign listings, which I especially like.) Among other features, I



think "Magazinarama" is a little superfluous, particularly if Delap gets up to date. (But then again there may be a lot of people who really like to know fast what's in the latest prozine.) The clubzines and con reports--rather than con listings--I don't care too much for. (Regular con reports, as a feature, rather than mere listings of cons, are something I enjoy.) Listing of recent books for review--and contents--is all right although I don't think the 'blurbs' are really too enlightening. May be useful for your reviewers, though. LOCUS, LUNA, and Joanne Burger really have better coverage of books--in terms of listings--but occasionally something of interest shows up in 'Bookshelf', etc., too. ## "The only important thing is to determine how much material you can reasonably expect to publish and what format you would prefer. (If SOTWJ becomes your predominant publication, perhaps it ought to become TWJ; and any genzine-like productions THE WSFA JOURNAL or somesuch.)"

Dale Donaldson -- (8) and (9) "Just keep it coming."

Al Lopez -- (8) & (9) "Shorter mags more frequently published are better for me--when I get a 75-100 pager fanzine, it may sit on my desk for weeks before I get a chance to read it. A ten or twenty pager can be fit in a lot more easily."

Alex Eisenstein -- (8) "Drop or at least minimize mere listings. And get rid of Delap!"

James H. Schmitz -- "I wanted to respond to this, but your list of headings to check off threw me. Evidently headings are one thing I don't tend to read. So I went over the current issue as I normally would to find out what I do. The first page I skimmed. The Foreign Scene I skipped. I read the SF Book Parade (always do) and the report on Myrkewood's Grand Autumnal Revel. Probably I don't read more than one in three Con reports in any detail, but this one sounded like fun. Dissecting the Heart of and Magazinarama I read (always do). Amateur Press I skipped (almost always do). ## "Generally then, I read all book and magazine story reviews, frequently in preference to the original material for which I don't have much time. Also market news and notes about people with whose names I happen to be familiar. I rarely read straight fan news, movie reports, art discussions or foreign news, not being active in those areas myself, nor bibliographical material including indices. However, you don't have to change the mag for me; I'm happy with what you're presenting. I'll probably be equally happy with any changes you make. And I frankly couldn't tell you what the difference between SOTWJ and TWJ is, except that the latter is fatter and arrives less frequently. I read them as they come."

Mark Olson -- (7) "Combine them so as to keep as much of the TWJ character as possible."

Tony Waters -- "As noted on other side, I've never seen a copy of TWJ so my opinion can't be worth much. ## "The Steady Stream turned up so low because it includes so few books. And all that d.j. material needn't be listed verbatim. ## "The Myrkewood reports and the like are interesting. I include them in The Club Circuit to give it its high rating."

Mark Owings -- "If you can meet a monthly schedule combination would be best."

Norman Hochberg -- (8) "Your historical things (listing books, zine contents etc) are extensive. I find them boring and you usually duplicate LOCUS anyway. For 'Steady Stream' don't use publicity quotes. They rarely tell me what the book's about anyway. I strongly dislike the lengthy SCA meeting reports. The one in SOTWJ 72 bored me to tears. I'd like to see longer fanzine reviews." ## (9) "Well, okay. First I like SOTWJ as a news purveyor. What I liked about TWJ were its indices and fmz reviews. Combining the two gives you bi-weekly SOTWJ's with occasional expanded issues (either sent 3rd class or count-

ing as two issues). Like LOCUS I think you should emphasize SOTWJ's uniqueness and not try to make a genzine out of it. ## "You might make things easier on yourself in a number of ways. (1) Use labels for addresses; this enables you to make 3 or 4 or 5 labels for one person at one time. (2) Stop trying to be an historical newspaper. There's no need to publish all of that info in 'The Steady Stream'. Maybe the title, author and a one-line blurb would do. For 'The Bookshelf'--no need to list prices, quotes, etc. (3) Cut down on the number of address categories (thereby saving yourself work in bookkeeping). Like, for instance, cut out 3rd class mail subs. ## "And, I'd like to see more of 'In Brief'; but then, I suppose it wouldn't be in brief, would it?"

Hal Hall -- (8) & (9) "I'd like to see you go to the monthly 22 p. zine (#7b). I like the monthly combo zine, & it seems it would be no more work than doing two. I like the idea of one zine to read for everything rather than 2 as now...."

? (no name) -- "I enjoy it the way it is."

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Responding were 22 people: Peill, Hochberg, Berg, Balin, Fergus, Donaldson, Hall, R.Christian, Lopez, Olson, Owings, Pat Potts, Schmitz, John Stith, Gene Wolfe, Waters, Faig, Eisenberg, and four forms w/o names. Very poor response from large WSFA membership.... ## Totals shown on pg. 7 will not add up to 22, as most questions weren't answered by all respondents. We shall address our comments to ques. 5-9 and comments thereto (esp. 5).

Some of the responses to #5 were not particularly meaningful, as some of the headings listed therein were very infrequent and may not have been seen by some of the respondents. But overall, the results were of considerable value once they are ranked (to do this, we'll count all 1's as 5 points, all 2's as 4, all 3's as 3, all 4's as 2, and everything from 5-16 as 1's; we'll count X's as minus 3's): S.F. Parade, 56; Amateur Parade & Dissecting the Heart of the Matter, 48 ea.; The Con Game & Con Report, 40 ea.; Tidbits, 29; The Foreign Scene, 27; The Bookshelf, 25; The Club Circuit, 22; The Steady Stream, 18; The Paper Parade & ESFA Report, 15 ea.; Indies, 13; Dateline--SF, 8; On the Move, 3; Magazinarama, 2. The most firsts were garnered by Dissecting..., SF Parade, Amateur Press & Con Reports; the most X's accrued to Magazinarama, Bookshelf, & Steady Stream. ## We'd like very much to increase the number of reviews in SF Parade--but first we need to receive more reviews. We urgently need more regular reviewers (both in special categories and general reviewers), and welcome "free-lance" reviews and reviews as short as a sentence or two, ## We try to cover all fanzines, books, etc. received as quickly as possible after they come in, to insure timely notice of them; we can't read all or even most of them, because of our eye trouble, so our reviews are mainly attuned to contents listings/general descriptions (which many people say they find of more value than subjective reviews, anyway). The idea is to give them all quick notice when they come in, and, hopefully, to have them reviewed in depth later by our reviewers. ## We quote the blurbs in "The Steady Stream" because we feel this is better than nothing at all--and may at least give our reviewers and potential readers some idea of what the book's about. But perhaps we're wrong on this? ## Most of the low-rated items are there because of their unfamiliarity to so many of the respondents. But not so for "Magazinarama"--this appears to be the weakest item in SOTWJ. Question: Have the changes we have recently made in this section (such as quoting blurbs on some of the stories) helped any? Can we do anything to salvage this section? Or should we drop it entirely? ## What do the rest of you think about our "historical things"?

Our current plan is to continue with SOTWJ, picking up most reviews and other dateable material from SOTWJ, with occasional TWJ's as material on hand, etc. warrants. But it is likely the two will eventually merge completely.

Our thanks to all who responded; your comments were most helpful (although on some questions many of you were, as we expected, diametrically opposed). We hope some of you will comment on these comments/results, and that SOTWJ/TWJ will become/continue to be the kind of magazine(s) you want. If not, keep on writing....

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