

S O N   O F   T H E   W S F A   J O U R N A L

SF/Fantasy News/Review 'Zine - - - - - 1st June, 1973 Issue (#91)  
Editor & Publisher: Don Miller - - - - - 25¢ per copy, 10/\$2.00

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In Brief --

Still running behind--only one May issue, and this issue not out 'til mid-June. There will be some changes made to our overall publication schedule to enable us to get a better handle on SOTWJ & THE GAMESLETTER. For one, we are resigning, effective 15 June '73, as Managing Editor of THE WSFA JOURNAL. The future of the JOURNAL, the relationship (financially and otherwise) between SOTWJ and TWJ and WSFA, our future role re TWJ, etc. will be decided at the 15 June WSFA meeting, so we should have full details in the next SOTWJ.

No further word on TWJ #80; will let you know as soon as we hear something from Brian Burley; last article for TWJ #82 (J.K. Klein's SFWA Banquet report) just arrived, so we can wrap up the typing of this issue shortly and start running it off as soon as our order of paper arrives. This will probably take 4-6 weeks.

A regular staff of reviewers (especially books) is urgently needed for SOTWJ. Look at "Bookworld" when it appears in SOTWJ and let us know what we can send you for review; or agree to review one or more books a month, and we'll automatically send them to you. Conditions: please return books when finished with them, as many of them are books we bought for our own collection but put up for review before reading them ourself; make review as long (or as short) as you feel is necessary to say what you feel needs to be said (but don't pad it); no deadline, but please try to get review back to us as quickly as possible so it won't be dated by the time it appears; all contributors get an issue added to their sub for ea. issue in which their material appears.

The Rozman article in this issue was originally scheduled for TWJ, back in the days when we had Science Consultants. But there was always something else on hand which we had to get out to avoid its becoming too dated.... Sorry, Bob!

SOTWJ is at least bi-weekly. Subs: 25¢ ea., 10/\$2 (UK: 10/80p) or multiples thereof; all subs incl. any issue(s) of THE WSFA JOURNAL (at least thru #82) pubbed during sub (count as 2 or more ish on sub, dep. on length). For info on airmail, ads, Agents, etc., write ed. Address Code meaning in #84 (and maybe in #92).

-- DLM

TWJ/SOTWJ

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TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Transvection Machine, by Edward Hoch (Pocket Books).

Edward Hoch is a regular contributor to ELLERY QUEEN, and it shows. This novel might almost have appeared there. Vander Defoe, inventor of an experimental matter transmitter and member of the President's cabinet, is murdered during a computer-directed appendectomy. Carl Crader, director of the Computer Investigation Bureau, personally investigates the case. The suspects include Defoe's wife, his ex-business partner, and members of a revolutionary group who oppose all technological innovation. I won't reveal the guilty party, in case Hoch's transparent devices fool anyone, but the murderer should be obvious by page 80. You'll never guess the technique, however, because Hoch cheats and introduces a drug with previously unmentioned properties during the last chapter. Had the plot hinged on murder by matter transmitter, this might have been a better novel. As it turns out, the transmitter is a fraud. So is the novel.

The Cloud Walker, by Edmund Cooper (Ballantine Books).

This is easily Cooper's best novel yet, following on the heels of the nauseating Who Needs Men?. It is set in England in the feudal post-catastrophe culture of the Third Men. Machine-based civilization having twice destroyed itself, the anti-progress Luddite church dominates the country. Kieron Joinerson, apprenticed artist, dreams of reconquering the skies. His experimentation leads to his condemnation as a heretic, but before the death sentence can be carried out, an army of brigands lands on the coast, bringing slaughter and disruption. Kieron directs construction of a hot air balloon from which he drops fire bombs on the invaders' ships. Cooper's light-handed style lifts this novel above the level of straight adventure story. His handling of characterization is much better than usual, though his dialogue continues to sound contrived.

Messenger of Zhuvastou, by Andrew J. Offutt (Berkley Books).

Contrary to the cover blurb, this is not an "heroic fantasy". Offutt's latest is pure SF, a trek story reminiscent of de Camp's The Search for Zei or Vance's Big Planet. Moris Kenniston, rich son of a successful politician, journeys to the planet Sovold in pursuit of the woman who killed his brother. Since Sovoldians hate Earthmen, he disguises himself as a messenger for the emperor of Zhuvastou. There follows two hundred pages of swordfights, besieged cities, sexual encounters, and the like until he reaches his goal. The last hundred pages detail his organization of a revolution against a matriarchal society. ~~####~~ Offutt's story is well-written and fast-moving. His development of Kenniston's character is particularly well done, although the ease with which he wins converts is sometimes a bit hard to accept. The treatment of women is not as admirable. The "good" females love to get laid by powerful men, preferably with a beating thrown in for spice. The "bad" women enter the male professions such as banking, soldiering, and ruling. Nonetheless, this is a big, entertaining novel well worth 75 cents.

Friends Come in Boxes, by Michael G. Coney (DAW Books).

This novel consists of five episodes, two of which ("The Never Girl" and "A Woman and Her Friend") appeared previously in WORLDS OF IF. The remaining three are either originals or were published originally in England. Individually, they are competent stories of a future in which the population has become relatively stable, the brains of the old being transplanted into the bodies of the young. Together, they beat the proverbial dead horse mercilessly. Coney presents us with five different episodes of members of this society who attempt to break the rules to their own advantage. He pads with extraneous matters, such as androids and an underground. None of Coney's heroes succeed, and frankly, the reader is just as likely to be cheering on the villains.



## THE METABOLISM OF DRUGS

by Bob Rozman

Most people think of drugs in terms of what they do to the body. Does this preparation ease pain, lower blood pressure, prevent conception? The other side of the coin is--what does the body do to the drug? How well is it absorbed, distributed, excreted? And, often paramount in duration of drug action, how is it changed chemically by body enzymes? Since these changes usually inactivate the drug, this is important to the patient.

First, why does the body structurally modify drugs? The responsible enzymes, located mainly in the liver, are present in most mammalian, and many lower, species. Presumably they didn't just materialize a couple of centuries ago, when drug use became widespread. Presumably animals weren't created with these enzymes solely in anticipation of drug development. Why are these "detoxifying" enzymes present?

Perhaps a look at some renal physiology is in order. Foreign substances, some very complex chemically, are usually ingested; any omnivore takes in an enormous array. Most of these molecules tend to be more soluble in fats and other non-aqueous systems than in water. This is fine for gastrointestinal absorption. This is bad for renal excretion. The kidneys find it easier to shove water-soluble compounds into urine than they do the fat-soluble ones.

Therefore this whole complex of enzyme reactions is aimed at one prime function--change the foreign molecule to a more water-soluble form so that the body can get rid of it easier. Although some exceptions exist, this holds for the vast majority of compounds. Class reactions have developed over dozens, hundreds of millenia to handle ingested compounds. Since these fall into broad categories, why shouldn't they be able to handle most synthetic organic compounds, as well as naturally-occurring ones?

The phrase "detoxifying" has been used for decades simply because most reactions decrease the toxicity or other pharmacologic activity of foreign compounds. Of course exceptions have been found. Some compounds are metabolized to more toxic substances. Fluorocitrate being converted to fluorocitrate and plugging the body's energy machinery is a classic example.

Not all changes inactivate or make the compound more toxic to the host. The discovery that the dye "Prontosil" is an active anti-bacterial in the body but not in the test tube, culminated in the sulfa drugs. The body changes the inert compound into the prototype of this group--sulfanilamide.

On the whole, however, compounds are modified to less active, more easily excreted congeners. How this is accomplished is the second question we shall try to shed light on.

In liver cells one finds very small interconnected three-dimensional structures, collectively called the endoplasmic reticulum. These can be isolated by centrifuging ruptured cells at certain speeds. The drug-metabolizing microsomal fraction, a part of this reticulum, can be recovered and studied. These microsomes are rich in drug-metabolizing enzymes and have been extensively studied. A number of nonenzymatic cofactors have been found necessary to the proper functioning of these enzymes.

In addition, drug-metabolizing enzymes have been found in other cell fractions, tissues other than liver, and indeed even in blood plasma. The liver, however, is the major site of biotransformation of foreign compounds.

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THE METABOLISM OF DRUGS (Continued) --

Four major types of biotransformation reactions can be listed. They are oxidation, reduction, hydrolysis and synthesis (often called conjugation). Oxidation reactions utilize oxygen in the enzymatic process. Many examples exist: oxidation of barbiturates; oxidative removal of nitrogen (e.g., in Dexedrine); oxidative removal of carbon fragments, as in the conversion of heroin to morphine; and many other types.

Reduction is less common. The conversion of Prontosil to sulfanilimide has been mentioned. This type of reaction usually involves the addition of hydrogen atoms to the molecule.

An example of hydrolysis is the addition of water to and splitting of the local anesthetic Novocaine. Hydrolysis of most drugs tends to be a minor pathway to detoxification, however.

Conjugation (synthesis) is a common way for the liver to handle drugs. The conjugated compound is then excreted either via the bile or the urine--often both. Sulfa drugs are combined with acetate. The antibiotic Chloromycetin is conjugated with a sugar similar to glucose. The naturally occurring amino acid, glycine, is hooked onto many foreign organic acids (including benzoic acid found in prunes).

While the list is not endless, many books have been written on the topic. From a practical viewpoint, the subject is important to all of us. Many drugs have very prolonged action in people with liver disease. The usual dose in these cases may be so high that severe toxicity and even death may occur. Most people metabolize the sleeping drug Nembutal very well. The usual dose is 100 milligrams. If the person has a liver dysfunction he may sleep 24 hours from the dose.

As already pointed out, metabolism of drugs may be a mixed blessing. Some cancer-producing chemicals must be metabolized by the body to be carcinogenic. Otherwise they are practically harmless. It is probable that the tragic malformations in fetuses associated with Thalidomide were caused by a metabolite and not the ingested drug.

Whether or not we want foreign chemicals to be metabolized in the body, most of them are. Fortunately, most of them are inactivated or reduced in potency by this. The important point is that we need to know the effects of metabolism so that we can pick up the dangerous few before they can do serious harm.

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THE CON GAME (info from SOG-23, LUNA MONTHLY, LOCUS, & misc. flyers) --

June 21-24 -- VUL-CON I (Star Trek Con); Jung Hotel, New Orleans, LA; GoH, Ruth Berman; registration, \$4.50 advance, \$5 at door, \$2 supporting; for info: Vul-Con I, POBox 8087, New Orleans, LA 70180.

June 21-24 -- HOUSTONCON (Comics); Marriott Motor Hotel, Houston, TX; GoH's: Kirk Alyn, Frank Coghlan; many VIP's in field; serials, old films, etc.; regis., \$7.50; for info: Earl Blair, 2511 Pennington St., Houston, TX 77016.

June 22-24 -- MIDWESTCON XXIV ("The Relaxacon"); Quality Motel Central, 4747 Montgomery Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45212; relaxed atmosphere, lack of formal programming; swimming, etc.; regis. \$2; banquet (smorgasbord featuring fried chicken & ham), Sat. 23 June at 7 p.m. (price \$5); rooms \$15 single, \$20 double, \$3 extra for ea. additional person in room; for info: Lou Tabakow, 3953 St. Johns Terrace, Cincinnati, OH 45236.

Rest of June and many July cons in SOTWJ #92.



(dissecting)

^ THE HEART OF THE MATTER  
Magazines for Feb., 1973

Operational Procedures  
Supervised by  
Richard Delap

A few quite good stories this month, a more than necessary number of bad ones, so the average remains a bit low on the scale. Once again, however, there is a great deal of interest to be had in the features and articles. FANTASTIC coughs up a deservedly bitter appraisal of the U.S. Postal Service by Ted White, who tells you exactly what you should do to correct it, along with the latest installment of Alexei and Cory Panshin's controversial study of SF. Joanna Russ returns to the F&SF book column--that damn woman's so smart I'd hate her from jealousy if I didn't love her so much--Baird Searles is pretty much horrified at the quality of current horror films, and Isaac Asimov takes a small dip into microbiology. Nice covers on all the magazines this month, but I'm beginning to wonder if the cover paintings really have any effect on sales--to my knowledge no editor has ever discussed the matter or tried anything really different with logo graphics and design. Maybe one day....

FANTASTIC -- February:

Serial:

The Fallible Fiend (conclusion) -- L. Sprague de Camp.

Short Stories:

Nightmare Syndrome -- Ed Bryant.

[White classifies this a "novelet", which is a disgusting lie.]

Arthur Jason tells a psychoanalyst of his frightening dreams and the physical traces he finds of them when he awakens. The doctor is skeptical, then--after discovering Jason's ESP powers--interested in discovering the range of the powers, while Jason--a black man--finds a sudden surge of racial pride leading him to less than ethical uses of his talent. Bryant never takes time to explore Jason in any depth, so his actions are not only morally reprehensible but psychologically unjustified and therefore meaningless dramatically. The story's a sop for blacks, one I doubt many of them will appreciate.

As Dreams Are Made On -- Joseph F. Pumilia.

A sort of distilled Philip K. Dick, Pumilia's story of a young man's experience with an experimental drug, Metamorphium, is a simplified but occasionally engaging introduction for newer readers to the "reality" theme in SF. There are some hints at the true characters lurking beneath the stereotype exteriors, not enough to flesh them out to satisfaction but enough to make the reader wish Pumilia had taken the room to explore them (and the plot) more fully. But, then, who can explore this realm to satisfaction? Heavy subject, light exploration, but okay of kind.

Wizard of Death -- Juanita Coulson.

"A new sword-and-sorcery series...set upon an alien world amid a war of wizards", explains White in the blurb. Actually, there's not much else to say about it--three characters confront a wizard who has powers over death, seeking to return life to the beautiful Kandra, the dead love of their ruler. The methods are fraught with perilous evil, and Coulson accents the mysterious atmosphere and setting to diminish, I suppose, the meagre plot. If you don't mind the somber heavyhandedness, you may like it; for my tastes, it's a little hard to choke down.

Rod Marquand's Jungle Adventure -- Geo. Alec Effinger.

The latest Marquand story has this superhero in the midst of the African jungle with a lovely young lady and her sturdily moral father, in search of the cause of a "mysterious epidemic". As the editor notes, Effinger has moved the target of his spoofing from the comics to the adventure pulps; yet rather than

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DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --

stuffing the tale with corn and easy laughs, Effinger has tried for a subtle satirical flavor that knocks the old clichés just a smidgen out of kilter. He didn't succeed in writing anything very interesting, but it's only a very minor story anyhow, easily dismissed and forgotten.

Art Portfolio [reprint]:

Virgil Finlay.

Article:

SF in Dimension: The Search for Sense (1947-1957) -- Alexei & Cory Panshin.

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ANALOG -- February:

Serial:

The People of the Wind (part one) -- Poul Anderson.

Novelette:

Force Over Distance -- Tak Hallus.

Jenson, returning to the U.S. from Mexico, is kidnapped by a group of Mexican bandits who discover he carries the plans for a matter-transmitter. Discarding the idea of collecting ransom, their leader, El Buitre, implements a series of murderous raids to gain the expensive materials needed by Jenson to build a supersized m-t. Hallus whips his tale out at high speed, zooming through the improbable plot loops with such gusto that one is willing to accept much that looks downright silly on close examination. On the plus side, also, are some engaging characterizations--Jenson, whose desires and fears are cleverly mixed into a believable personality, and El Buitre, a Mexican stereotype revolutionary who persists in countering his ignorance with delightful perceptions. It may not have the most convincing plot of the year, but for a quick-to-read, actionful entertainment it fulfills its purpose well enough. Good of kind.

Short Stories:

Biological Peacefare -- W. Macfarlane.

A protest group looses a mutated breed of gnat from a university laboratory, which heralds a period of nuisance, danger, and finally a new world order. Macfarlane is just the author to pull off a light satire such as this, but here he shows a tendance to over-juvenilize the humor (specifically for ANALOG?) and lessen the value of his remarkable stylistic and constructive gifts. I like Macfarlane usually, but this story...blah!

The Guy with the Eyes -- Spider Robinson.

Fans of the Gavan's Bar and White Hart stories may enjoy this one, which models itself on the easygoing style of those series and emerges a reasonably good imitation--if you don't particularly mind imitations. This one holds an Americanized, slightly whitewashed viewpoint as it examines the customer's of Callahan's Place, a friendly in-group that has sympathy for an ex-junkie and compassion for an alien who informs them they are all doomed to be obliterated by the "Masters".

Modus Vivendi -- William Walling.

In a research station orbiting Jupiter, three men are suddenly faced with a survival problem, following a collision which leaves them with limited oxygen that cannot last until a rescue operation reaches them. Such a standard SF tale must depend on more than its plot to hold the attention, yet Walling's execrable dialogue and last!-minute!-miracle! don't even make good use of its gosh-wow storyline, and the enveloping boredom is unbearable. Awful.

Trade-Off -- R.A. Beaumont.

With man's help ecological disaster seems to lurk around every corner, and in trying to solve the problem man must recognize the other problems (both biological and social) that will result. Things do get out of control and Beaumont attempts to show just how it happens; but it's a shame he settles for that favorite ANALOG technique of letters, articles and transcripts, since this method

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is difficult to handle with dramatic strength. Needless to say the story comes off thin and without much impact.

Science:

The Third Industrial Revolution (conclusion) -- G. Harry Stine.

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FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION -- February:

Novelettes:

The Problem of Pain -- Poul Anderson.

I certainly can't deny that Anderson is an SF writer of note--so why, do I wonder, do I find so many of his recent stories so unsatisfactory? This one, for instance, gives a small look at the Ythrians (winged bird-people, also featured in ANALOG's current serial, "The People of the Wind") and one man's difficulty in accepting their religious beliefs while clinging to his own Christian outlook. While I am receptive to the basic concept, the awesomeness of the variety to be found in the universe and the difficulty man faces in accepting the seeming conflicts therein, I am not at all satisfied with this presentation. The central dramatic event of the story is a flashback embedded in the conversation of two men, a conversation which serves only to add words, not depth. Oh, well, maybe this is meant to form a part of the novel version to be published in book form by Signet....

Pages from a Young Girl's Journal -- Robert Aickman.

No doubt about it that Mr. Aickman has proven himself the modern master of the supernatural horror story, and here's a fine example of the talent editor Ferman rightly terms "graceful and elegant". A young English girl, traveling with her parents through early nineteenth-century Italy, keeps a daily record of her experiences, a journal which reveals a precocious child of Victorian influence and pretended worldliness--her favorite word is "farcical"--and whose approach to womanhood takes a sudden but subtle shift from romantic dreams to a perversion of both body and soul. Aickman captures the period-sense of both decadence and pretention, and uses all the familiar horrors of the vampire story without once succumbing to the easy blood-shock tactics of most modern writers. Very well done.

Da Capo -- David S. Garnett.

Garnett has the human race (or what seems left of it in the form we know) only barely surviving on metal islands strung about the ocean, fighting for the fish supply against one another and against the fearful "fishmen", merman mutations who have no qualms about eating humans as well as fish. Against this picture of a slowly dying society, we find the plot centering on the adventures of a young human, Craylix, a symbol of the struggle to win against depressing odds. The accent is on action and violence, and fans who like the simple excitement of such stories will perhaps enjoy it. Dismayingly, it doesn't offer much in the way of characters and reads like an excerpt from what may be a novel (meaning that it doesn't conclude but merely stops). Not very satisfying.

Short Stories:

Wally a Deux -- Carol Carr.

Two young women--roommates--one a lovely model, the other a plump but sharp-minded medical receptionist, fall head-over-heels for the same man. But wait--is it the same man? And does he sleep with his eyes open? And is that a spaceship in his backyard? Mrs. Carr has a good ear for witty dialogue and makes fine use of it in this generally frothy but good-natured story that recalls the better page-fillers of fifteen or so years ago. Amusing.

Song -- Leo P. Kelley.

An old man with a song on his lips, somewhere in the backwoods of Tennessee, tells his young visitor the story of Sheba Mawdeen, who in the summer of '92 met a young stranger, fell hopelessly in love, turned him over to the "scientists" in Memphis with a machine that could send him into the future where his terminal cancer could be cured, and finally followed him there herself. An old-fashioned

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DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --

story, full of nostalgia and homey sayings--an extremely pleasant and imaginative item, quite free of the mawkishness that cuts down many such works. Very nice.

Dollburger -- Lisa Tuttle.

Tuttle tries to wring something sinister and terrifying out of childhood fears and fantasies--in this case, a young girl who takes to heart her father's story about hungry men who creep in the night and make dollburgers out of dolls who haven't been left in their proper place--but even the sudden twist at the end fails to shock or surprise. The threatened dolls are never given personalities and remain only objects, so the terrors of their owner can't ignite similar terrors in the reader. Fair.

Droodspell -- Paul Darcy Boles.

If you even wondered how Dickens' "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" ended, Boles answers your question here. Well, not exactly, but he does tell how Dickens did/does/will write the ending in his "other" self which is transported to the future from 1870 by pressing on a time-travel floorboard invented by Cagliostro. If that sounds a bit silly, the story is at least consistently silly right up through the mildly satirical conclusion--all right, I guess, if you demand nothing more than mere consistency. Nice try, but not quite....

Science:

Through the Micro-Glass -- Isaac Asimov.

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WORLDS OF IF -- January-February:

Serial:

The Wizard of Anharitte (part two) -- Colin Kapp.

Novella:

Death and Designation Among the Asadi -- Michael Bishop.

Bishop has here created one of the beauties that keep SF readers (like you and me) searching through hundreds of mediocre stories to find--a truly alien society, filled with mystery and intellectual tease that provides enough challenge to stimulate the curiosity of any but the most simplistic audience. Cultural xenologist Egan Chaney's journals have been edited and arranged by his associate to provide the dramatic story of Chaney's experiences among the Asadi people on the planet BoskVeld. The challenge is to find if the Asadi are really an intelligent society or only a primitive, tribal-like group of animals. By day the Asadi mill about a small clearing, by night they disband and disappear into the jungle, and in no way do they seem to have any true communication except perhaps by a strange indecipherable flashing of colors in their eyes. But Chaney senses that their vague rituals hold secrets of a depthful nature, and his original evaluation--"What they have done, in fact, is to institutionalize the processes of alienation"--is elaborated and mutated bit by bit until his perception edges into the realm his associates (and, by the story's end, rescuers) consider madness. Especially interesting are Bishop's characterizations of the aliens--the mysterious chieftain, Eisen Zwei; the shunned outcast, the Bachelor; and the grotesque symbiotic creature, the huri--along with their infuriating but always fascinating obscure social structure. The conclusion, in which Bishop offers a variety of clues to the Asadi question but no clear-cut answers, may be controversial to some but thankfully avoids the vagary ascribed to "cop-out" endings. The only flaw at which I might point would be Chaney's excess, slightly too-literary allusions made during his concluding stream-of-consciousness mad (?) ramblings. It's a very minor objection, however, and doesn't really harm the story's major strength, the exquisite, fully-realized depiction of a civilization totally removed from the transplanted human societies we so often find posing as "alien". An impressive work.

Novelette:

The Never Girl -- Michael G. Coney.

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DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --

Coney shows the world approximately 300 years from now as a very unpleasant place, a society in which immortality is gained by placing adult brains into children's bodies, so that each person grows to physical maturity again and again but retains his original mind. With the body shortage, however, many are placed into "Friendship boxes" to await retrieval, sometimes waiting for years. While there are some intriguing ideas behind this story, it is irreparably marred by thoughtless contrivances--the unacceptability of android bodies because of "skin discoloration", among others--and a gagging load of sentimental corn about a young girl with no "legal" identity, bodiless parents, a rapist out to strip the girl of her virginity, and the ever-present threat of Total Death. While Coney packs in information with a literary shovel (he even uses a half-page footnote at one point!), he only manages to dig himself into a deadend of mushy melodrama.

Short Stories:Construction Shack -- Clifford D. Simak.

After the first probe ship sends back confusing information, three men land on Pluto to discover that it is not a planet at all but a huge steel ball bearing a series of framework domes. The eventual discovery of secreted "blueprints" gives rise to the speculation that our entire solar system is a construct, built by unknown beings in the distant past. Though Simak's story is swift and to the point, I'm afraid the astronauts' discovery is simplified to the point of absurdity, and the implausibility rather efficiently negates the philosophic point. Fair.

Ghosts -- Robert F. Young.

Retiring to a planet of Arcturus, Professor Tom lives with his gardener and housekeeper, Jim and Jenny, who upon the old man's death seek to find fulfillment by emulating the actions they've seen in Tom's collection of old movies. They find the "ghosts" on the screen bear little relation to themselves, for they are robots and can never truly discover the human angle on love and sex. Young's stab at irony is defeated by a lack of principle, since there seems to be no purpose to the robots' failure except that irony, which in itself is just not enough.

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THE MYSTERY NOOK

Fanzines Received --

THE ARMCHAIR DETECTIVE VI:2 (Feb '73) ("A Quarterly Journal Devoted to the Appreciation of Mystery, Detective and Suspense Fiction"; offset; 4/86 U.S., 4/87 elsewhere; Allen J. Hubin, 3656 Midland, White Bear Lake, MN 55110) -- 96 pp. / cover (by J. Randolph Cox); "Mystery Master: A Survey and Appreciation of the Fiction of George Harmon Cox", by J. Randolph Cox (w/photo); "The Parables of H.C. Bailey", by Thomas D. Waugh (w/biblio. of "Mr. Fortune" short stories); "Movie Note" (The Four Just Men), by William K. Everson; "All You Need is a Comfortable Chair", by Jon L. Breen (TADpoll results ("select 10 favorite mystery novels & 12 favorite authors")); "Sports and the Mystery Story" (II: Prizefighting and Bullfighting), by Marvin Lachman; "The Randolph Mason Stories", by Charles A. Norton (excerpt from forthcoming Norton book, Melville Davisson Post); "Try to Find It", by E.F. Bleiler (two notes on "criminous books ancient, obscure and excessively rare"); "Bouchercon III", by R.E. Briney (con report); William White reviews Best Max Carrados Detective Stories, by Ernest Bramah (Dover); "The Paperback Revolution", by Charles Shibuk; classified ads; filler material; "A Checklist of Mystery, Detective, and Suspense Fiction Published in the U.S., September-November 1972", by George J. Rausch; 12½ pp. of book reviews; 13 pp. of interesting/informative letters; "Book Exchange" (short ads); Bibliography of Crime Fiction (continued from earlier issues; this, pp. F-21 thru F-31, G-1 thru G-15). ##### Can't think of any superlatives good enough for TAD, so we'll just say that if you're a mystery fan, you can't afford to pass this by. Only wish we could find someone out there willing to part with some back-issues....

ALGOL #20 (15 May '73) (Andrew Porter, POBox 4175, New York, NY 10017; semi-annual; offset; 80¢ ea., 6/\$4; UK: 4/£1.25, from Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Ave., Surbiton, Surrey KT6 6QL, U.K.; Continental Europe: 4/9 DM, from Waldemar Kunning, D-8 Munchen 2, Herzogspitalstr. 5, W.Germany; Australia, 4/A \$2.50, from Mervyn Binns, 317 Swanston St., Melbourne 3000, Vict., Australia) -- 44 pp., incl. handsome wraparound cover by Stephen Fabian; illos by Terry Austin, Grant Canfield, Vincent DiFate, Connie Faddis, Dany Frolich, Jack Gaughan, Mike Gilbert, C. Lee Healy, Shari Hulsa, Alan Hunter, Jonh Ingham, Bill Kunkel, Jim McLeod, Walt Simonson, Steve Stiles; Editorial ("A Requiem for the Fanoclasts"); Special Section: "Exploring Cordwainer Smith" (Introduction by John Bangsund; "Paul Linebarger", by Arthur Burns; "Cordwainer Smith", by John Foyster; "John Foyster Talks with Arthur Burns"; Sandra Miesel on "Dead Lady of Clown Town"); "Science Fiction as Empire", by Brian Aldiss; Dick Lupoff's Book Review column; Ted White's column; lettercolumn; several short items. ##### Beautifully-reproduced 'zine with some interesting material. While not our favorite fanzine, it's right up there near the top, and is deservedly on the '73 Hugo Ballot.

THE LITERARY MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND TERROR I:1 (undated) (Amos Salmonson, Box 89517, Zenith, WA 98188; offset; bi-monthly; 6/\$6, 12/\$11, 24/\$20; sample of #1 avail. for half-price (50¢); scheduled to start regular publication around July) -- 34 pp., incl. covers ("Earth Void in Color" and "Symbol", resp., by Salmonson); illos. by Dawn Smith, Jenny Hunt, Gabby, Cam Broze, Salmonson; Editorial; fiction by Mel Horman, Josiah Kerr, Amos Salmonson; Phobia Quiz; Art Feature; Story-Poem by Patrick Lean. ##### We should have noted above that this 'zine is loose-leaf, black-and-white; it is a publication of the "Fellowship of Odysseans", and is intended as a "showcase for rising new authors in this genre"; all subs start with issue #1. ##### It's hard to review a magazine on the basis of one issue, particularly a new fanzine which aspires to become a full-fledged prozine. It has the appearance of a semi-pro, a very eager editor, and a variety of fantasy material ranging from fiction to music. We'll be interested in seeing future issues (and hope one of our staff will give the fiction a proper review for SOTWJ).

PREHENSILE #8 (combines #'s 7 & 8, published separately but with combined contents page) (March '73) (Mike Glycer, 14974 Osceola St., Sylmar, CA 91342; bi-monthly; mimeo (offset covers: #7, Mike Gilbert; #8, Jim Shull); 35¢ ea., 3/\$1 (assume this double-number is 70¢)) -- #7: 53 pp., incl. cover; illos by Shull, Bill Rotsler, ATom, Jeff Schalles, Grant Canfield, David Birdsong; editorial pages; LACon Report, by Glycer; Paul Walker on "the ancestry of reviewers and pro writers"; "Putricon I", by Elliot Weinstein; poem by Richard Wadholm; Wadholm on The Iron Dream (by Norman Spinrad); Leon Taylor replies to Wadholm's column in PRE #6; lettercolumn; Book Reviews by Don Keller, Mike Glycer, Craig Miller, Richard Wadholm; #8: 38 pp., incl. cover; illos by Shull, Rotsler, Freff, Kees Van Toorn; editorial pages; "Collaboration", by Larry Niven; "Dark Alleys of Fanhistory", by Dan Goodman; more on Silverberg, by Paul Walker; "Captain Neo Says", by Aljo Svoboda; Stan Burns introduces his book reviews; Book Reviews by Burns, Jeff Clark, Richard Wadholm, Don Keller, Cy Chauvin; Film Reviews by Bill Warren; European news from Kees Van Toorn; lettercolumn. ##### One of the most improved fanzines of recent months--with lots of good reading. But it would have been better to actually treat it as two issues. Well worth the price.

TITLE (Donn Brazier, 1455 Fawnvalley Dr., St. Louis, MO 63131; monthly; no subs (LoC, trade; sample 25¢); mimeo) -- #14 (May '73): 22 pp., incl. cover; #15 (Jun '73): 22 pp., incl. cover (by Sheryl Birkhead). ##### The fanzine that's impossible to review; one can only read and enjoy. Letter-articles, article-letters, bits and pieces of art, etc. Letters selected and arranged by subject-matter; interlineations by editor. A good idea. (and lots of work for the ed!); perhaps the most interesting lettercolumn going today (with the largest number of contributors). Maybe someday we will break down the contents of a given issue....