

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 Mar. '74 Issue -- (Vol. 22, #4; Whole #130)
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In Brief --

S.F. Mart will appear in either #131 or #132, so get your ads in as soon as possible (max. 10 35-character lines per subber or trader). Ads will be run a max. of three times in a row if advertiser so requests at the time he send in his ad. S.F. Mart will appear at least once a month--more frequently if there are enough ads on hand. Ads for others than subbers or traders are 2¢ per line (min. 25¢), and lines in excess of 10 are 2¢ ea. for subbers/traders. No ads in excess of 25 lines at these rates. Flyers are \$1.50/printed side (\$1 for subbers/traders), and we must receive a minimum of 200 copies. Note: Announcements of new books, cons, etc. are published free as a service to our readers.

No more mystery reviews in our files. Help!

We're also getting very short on SF/Fantasy reviews. Again, help!

The gasoline shortage is keeping the people involved in putting out TWJ from getting around as frequently as necessary, so TWJ #83 will be delayed approx. two weeks--look for it around end of March rather than March 15th. (The issue is very close to completion; now all we have to do is put it all together....) We'll try to run a contents listing around middle of March; anyone who subs to SOTWJ will automatically receive #83 when published, unless he rejects the issue before we mail it out to him. We are still uncertain as to whether #83 will count four or five issues on SOTWJ subs. Again, should have price set by middle of March.

Last chance for polls--results will start appearing in SOTWJ #131 or #132.

SOTWJ is approx. weekly; subs: 25¢ (10p) ea., 9/\$2 (12/11) or multiples thereof; all subs incl. any issue(s) of THE WSFA JOURNAL pubbed during sub (count as 3 or more issues, dep. on length). For info on airmail, "Collector's" subs, Trade-Subs, Overseas Agents, see #130 or #122. Address Code: A, Overseas Agent; C, Contributor; H, L, or M, WSFA Honorary, Life, or Regular member, resp. (# = # of WSFA issues left on sub); K, Something of yours is mentioned/reviewed herein; N, You are mentioned herein; R, For Review; S, Sample; T, Trade; W or Y, Subber via 1st- or 3rd-class mail, resp. (# = # of issues left on sub); X, Last issue, unless...

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Announcement Recently Received:

"CINCINNATI FANDOM LIVES!"

"Watch for the first issue of LAUGHING OSIRIS, a bi-monthly fanzine published by some of the Cincinnati Fantasy Group's more vocal members. LAUGHING OSIRIS will be photo-offset, with a slant toward fantasy, though science-fiction will be included. We plan to publish short fiction, poetry, articles, or almost anything, and we are badly in need of artwork.

"LAUGHING OSIRIS is co-edited by George Wagner, Reed Andruss, Leo Borgman, and Arthur Metzger. Bea Mahaffey, former editor of OTHER WORLDS, is art editor. All contributions and correspondence should be sent to LAUGHING OSIRIS; Post Office Box #3; Fort Thomas, Kentucky 41075. Subscriptions are \$4.00 for six issues, or 75¢ for single issues.

"The first issue of LAUGHING OSIRIS will be out by March 15th, in time for Marcon, and will contain an article on Algernon Blackwood's John Silence stories; a Cthulhu Mythos story by Arthur Metzger and Rita Borgman; reviews; poetry; and, if all goes well, the first half of the 'long lost' fantasy classic, The Ship That Sailed to Mars by William M. Timlin.

"We will greatly appreciate any contributions, comments, and suggestions."

Media News:

Radio: WAMU-FM (88.5), as noted in SOTWJ #129, will switch its old-time radio show, "Recollections", from Fridays at 9:30 p.m. to Sundays at 7 p.m., in place of "Gunsmoke", and in its place will be the "new" version of "X Minus One" (stories mostly from GALAXY); both shows are one-half hour in length. March schedule: 1, "A Gun for Dinosaur", by L. Sprague de Camp; 8, "Reesling"; 15, "Hello, Tomorrow"; 22, "Knock"; 29, "Chain of Command" (very funny!) (this schedule for "X Minus One"; main item of interest for SF/Fantasy fans on "Recollections" occurs on 24 March, with complete episodes of "I Love a Mystery" ("Temple of Vampires") and "Jack Armstrong"). The excellent "Speaking of Science Fiction" series appears to have ended, its place being taken by a humor show from the BBC, "Round the Horn" (10:30 a.m., Mondays). Also of interest to SF/fantasy fans are "Tales of Time and Space" (Sun., 6:30; readings by Drusilla Campbell), "Sealed Beam" (Wed., 10:30; scheduled during March: 6, "Strange as it Seems"; 13, Robert Parish on Pinball Machines; 20, "Superman" (1st adventure) & "Captain Midnight"; 27, Special on Short Wave Radio), and original drama on Sundays at 7:30. ## WETA-FM (90.9) has some good news: in place of the just-completed "Gangbusters", they'll be broadcasting shows from the old "Suspense" series (Thurs., 8 p.m.; 1/2-hour). "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (with Sir Ralph Richardson and Sir John Gielgud) still holds forth on Wednesdays at 8 p.m.. Their "Earplay" series of contemporary drama (Sun., 8 p.m.) has one on the 24th which may be science-fictional: "The Sound of the Planet Dissolving", by Ann Leaton. Their Friday night (8 p.m.) "Radio Revisited" series has the following March episodes: 1, "Mr. District Attorney"; 8, "My Friend Irma"; 15, "Escape" ("Leinengen vs. the Ants"); 22, "Suspense" (Agnes Moorhead in "Sorry, Wrong Number"); 29, "The Hermit's Cave" ("Hanson's Ghost"). And, of course, there's still "The Green Hornet" and "The Great Gildersleeve" (Mon. & Tues., resp., 8 p.m.). ## WBAL-FM (97.9) has "Sounds Like Yesterday" daily, 7-8 p.m.; highlights for 1st part of March: 4, "Flash Gordon", "Orphan Annie", "Charlie Chan", & "Chandu"; 6, "Escape"; 13, "Peril" ("The Curse of Ramses"); 15, "Escape"; 20, "Quiet Please". ## WGTS-FM (91.9) has "The New Old-Time Radio Show" Sat. at 11:30 p.m.; Fantasy & SF March highlights: 9, "Escape" & "Lights Out"; 30, "Lux Radio Theatre".

Movies -- Of special interest to SF/Fantasy fans are Marat/Sade (Feb. 24, 9 p.m., & Feb. 26, 6:30 p.m.) and Theater of Blood (Mar. 4, 9 p.m.; starring Vincent Price, Diana Rigg, Robert Morley, etc.; received good reviews when it came out) in the American Film Institute Theater's "Play Into Film" Series at the Kennedy Center (17 Feb.-16 Mar.), plus their "Children's Series" Sats. (11:30 a.m. & 2 p.m.) & Suns, (2 p.m.), w/such films as Journey to the Center of the Earth (Mar. 10), Forbidden Planet (Mar. 23, 24), Gulliver's Travels (Mar. 30, 31), The Time Machine (Apr. 13, 14), and (already shown) Mighty Joe Young & The Day the Earth Stood Still. With each showing are an episode of Captain Marvel serial & a cartoon.

BOOK REVIEWS -- SF/Fantasy:

Reviewer, DON D'AMMASSA:

Our Gang, by Philip Roth (Bantam Books) -- President Tricky Dixon proposes the enfranchisement of fetuses, and the Boy Scouts march on Washington. Angry, Dixon herds them all into concentration camps, and announces that they have been provoked by the pornography peddlers of Copenhagen. Shortly after U.S. forces have occupied Denmark, Dixon enters Walter Reed Hospital for removal of sweat glands in his upper lip, but is soon found drowned in a giant baggie, the victim of an assassination. Roth has written a sardonic, hilarious parody of the Nixon administration. It's worth the \$1.50 cover price.

A Life for the Stars, by James Blish (Avon Books) -- Although chronologically second in the Cities in Flight series, this was the last story written. Young Chris Deford is shanghaied aboard the city of Scranton when it uses its spin-dizzies to leave Earth and roam the stars. Deford is eventually transferred to New York City, where he meets John Amalfi and finds his life's work. There are a few good moments in this book, but it was apparently meant primarily to prepare the reader for the culture in Volume 3, and is consequently over-descriptive.

Phase IV, by Barry Malzberg (Pocket Books) -- This is the novelization of a screenplay of what appears to be a rather dismal movie. An alien entity brings about the transformation of the common ant into an organized, sentient gestalt creature. Two scientists are sent to a small southwestern town which has been evacuated because of undisclosed incidents involving the ants. Malzberg has spent a good deal of effort in developing the characters, but the predetermined plot hampers him, fatally.

The Hills Were All Liars, by Riley Hughes (All Saints Press) -- A nuclear war destroys the world with the exception of seven men, all of whom are Catholics. They spend the entire book trying to decide which of them should be Pope. Even for a review, I find it difficult to believe I read this entire book. Hughes seems to have absolutely no perspective on anything, and the fact that this isn't designed to be a realistic novel makes little difference.

Reviewer, ERIC LINDSAY:

Allright, Everybody Off the Planet, by Bob Ottum (Bantam Books; 5/73; 214 pp.; 95¢) -- An alien invasion novel by a senior editor of SPORTS ILLUSTRATED. According to the cover blurbs "s-f" stands for "sublimely funny", "science fiction" and "sex fantasy". I'd describe it as unfunny, science fiction only by courtesy of the theme, and certainly not sexy. The story concerns one Bing, an alien with all sorts of "funny" gadgets built in (like a tape recorder in his stomach), going to Earth to panic the population by putting an alien invasion story in TIME MAGAZINE as a cover story. There are a few SF trappings, such as when Bing converts a computer into a sentient being; a few funny pieces, such as when the computer has itself shipped to Bing's apartment; but in general, it is a boring, trivial book.

Reviewer, KEN OZANNE:

Tales From the White Hart, by Arthur C. Clarke (Ballantine; 8th Printing '72; stories from mid-fifties) -- These are probably familiar to most of my readers. They are designed to be humorous tales and there is seldom any great regard for plausibility. Rather they are "tall stories" designed to please by their very exaggeration. ## Quite a successful format really, but it does impose limitations on the significance of the stories. You should not look for any classics here--the format precludes the possibility. On the other hand, if you are looking for pleasant reading that makes little demand on the reader, this might suit you exactly. Clarke never slips from the smooth superficial plausibility that is essential to such yarns. ## Recommended for some easy reading, though it may be better not to read all the stories in one sitting.

The Druid Stone, by Simon Majors (Paperback Library '67, '70) -- I kept putting this aside while I read other things (which indicates what you would expect it to).

(Over)

BOOKWORLD (Continued) --

The book claims to be a novel of modern witchcraft, but is not so in any strict sense. There is plenty of magic, but it occurs in the protagonist's repeated "visits" (in another body) to the parallel world where all the interesting action occurs. ### The book is broken up into dull sections set on 20th-century Earth and more exciting ones set on a parallel world, from which may come invasion led by magicians. It all took a lot of believing. ### Not recommended unless you are a nut for this kind of thing.

City of the Hidden Eyes, by P. Levene & J.L. Morrissey (World Distributors; London pg; '60) -- If you can swallow a high civilization several thousand feet underground moving against mankind because of our nuclear tests, which can think of nothing better to do than resort to individual kidnappings (of which the victim remember nothing when returned) and slow attacks on water supplies, then this may be your book. ### Not recommended. I payed 10¢ for this and wasted my 10¢.

Mystery/Suspense/Gothic:

Dark Satanic, by Marion Zimmer Bradley (Berkley) [Reviewer, DON D'AMASSA] -- Bradley's fourth pseudogothic involves a cover of witches in New York City who use their supernatural powers to kill the man who has written a book exposing their existence. When the publisher refuses to suppress the manuscript, they turn their incantations in his direction. This is the best of Ms. Bradley's non-SF novels, despite the inefficiency of her villains, but it still travels a path that has been long since worn smooth. Not even Dennis Wheatley has found anything original to do with this plot lately.

Murder at the Savoy, by Maj Sjöwall & Per Wahloo (Bantam 11/72, translated from a Swedish novel published in 1970) -- The original title was Police, Police, Mash-ed Potatoes, which makes about as much sense as the rest of the book. It is the fifth novel, incidentally, in the Martin Beck series, which includes the Edgar-winning The Laughing Policeman, recently made into a movie with the locale changed from Stockholm to San Francisco and the story altered out of all recognition. ### It seems to me that a crime novel should have either a clever puzzle, engaging characters, or lots of excitement and suspense. I don't know what earlier novels in the series, which I have not read, may have boasted, but this book has none of the necessary qualities. The detectives spend a significant part of their time sitting around doing absolutely nothing. The general air of ineptitude is supposed to be amusing, but mainly just falls flat. ### There are a couple of good spots: they spend a long time asking ridiculous questions of a suspect after breaking his jaw so he can't talk, and they compile an enormous silly list of possible murder weapons based on the characteristics of the recovered bullet. (Does anybody know the difference between a Hawes Texas Marshall and a Hawes Montana Marshall? Do you wonder what particular characteristics led to the naming of the Iver Johnson Sidewinder and the Iver Johnson Viking Snub?) But on the whole it's pretty dull, and the characters are often actively boring. [Reviewer,

Non-Fiction: [Both books reviewed by KEN OZANNE] [GEORGE FERGUS]

Horse Nonsense, by W.C. Sellar & R.J. Yeatman (Methuen, London; hb, '63; 11th ed.) -- All that Sellars and Yeatman know about horses. About as much as any persistent village idiot who had never seen a horse could be expected to know. ## But not the riot of humor that 1066 and All That [rev. SOTWJ #123. --ed] is. If you have read the former, you probably will want this. It's not half as good, though. ## Recommended, but read 1066 first. ## Oh, one gem to share: Press comment quoted in 1066 blurb: "This slim volume."

And Now All This, by Sellar & Yeatman (Methuen '56; 16th ed.) -- Being Vol. I of the Hole Pocket Treasury of Absolutely General Knowledge. ## A quote on Geography: "Thus, as everybody agrees nowadays, Geography is the most practical thing in Education: most important of all, perhaps, it tells you where things are, so that if you want a Delta, or some Archipelagoes, or a Bunyan tree, or as much Exporto grass as possible, then by means of Geography you know at once where to go

(Cont. next page)

BOOKWORLD (Continued) --

and get them." ## Again, this is not up to 1066. But it is pretty good. ## Recommended, but read 1066 first.

BOOKS RECEIVED (Reviewers and potential reviews, pls. take note):--

SF/Fantasy Novels & One-Author Collections:

Atta, by Francis Rufus Bellamy (Pocket Books, NY; #77692; 3/74; orig. pub. '53 by A.A. Wyn; 172 pp.; cover not credited; 95¢) -- "A microscopic man fights for survival in a world of ants." (Paperback)

The Bull and the Spear, by Michael Moorcock (Berkley Medallion Book #02508; NY; 2/74; 159 pp.; colorful cover not credited; 75¢) -- Book #4 in the Chronicles of Corum (first three were: The Singing Citadel, The Knight of the Swords, and The Queen of the Swords; still to come are The Oak and the Ram and The Sword and the Stallion). "A heroic fantasy", set in an age "before time began when the old Gods were abroad in the Earth". (Paperback)

Denver is Missing, by D.F. Jones (Berkley Medallion Book #02509; NY; 2/74; orig. pub. '71 by Walker & Co., Inc.; 256 pp.; wraparound cover not credited; \$1.25) -- "The whole earth may be shrivelling up like a punctured balloon." And the survival of mankind on Earth is threatened.... (Paperback)

Kai Lung Unrolls His Mat, by Ernest Bramah (Ballantine Books #23787; NY; 2/74; stories orig. pub. '27 & '28; 244 / xi pp.; beautiful wraparound cover by Ian Millar; \$1.25; in "Adult Fantasy" series) -- Introduction: "Mandarins and Magicians", by Lin Carter; Part I: "The Protecting Ancestors", consisting of nine chapters, in five of which Kai Lung relates one of his marvellous tales; Part II: "The Great Sky Lantern", with one chapter containing one tale; and Part III: "The Bringer of Good News", with one chapter and one tale. Bramah writes about the adventures of Kai Lung in a China of his own imagination, in a manner full of wit and satire. (Paperback)

Orbit Unlimited, by Poul Anderson (Pyramid Books #N3274; NY; 1/74 (4th prtn; orig. pub. '61; 158 pp.; cover not credited; 95¢) -- "Earth had no room for them--their only escape was the most dangerous voyage of all time!" (Paperback)

The R-Master, by Gordon R. Dickson (J.B. Lippincott Co., Phila.; SFBC Ed.; '73; \$1.49; 186 pp.; d.j. not credited) -- In the "utopian" world of the 21st Century, Etter Ho takes an intelligence-stimulating drug R-47 in the hope of gaining the necessary intelligence to help revive his brother. He becomes a supergenius--and discovers that he lives not in a Utopia, but in a "perpetual prison for mankind". (Hardback)

Spacehounds of IPC, by E.E. "Doc" Smith (Pyramid Books #N3300; NY; 12/73 (3rd prtn; 1st Pyramid ed. pub. 1/72; orig. pub. '31 in AMAZING STORIES; 220 pp.; 95¢; cover not credited). -- "A Tale of the Inter-Planetary Corporation." (Paperback)

Walk to the End of the World, by Suzy McKee Charnas (Ballantine Books #23788; NY; 2/74; 214 pp.; cover by Gene Szafrin; \$1.25) -- To give themselves the drive to survive and reconquer the world, the few men who survived the "Wasting" needed a common enemy--and the contemptible degenerated creatures known as "fems" were the ideal scapegoats. (Paperback)

The Wall Around the World, by Theodore R. Cogswell (Pyramid Books #N3278; NY; 1/74; 2nd prtn; orig. pub. '62; 160 pp.; cover not credited; 95¢) -- Two novelets and eight short stories by Cogswell, plus Introductions: "Fantasy and/or Science Fiction", by Anthony Boucher, and "Fantasy in Science Fiction--No", by Frederik Pohl. The stories: "The Masters" ('54); "The Specter General" ('52); "Wolfie" ('54); "Emergency Rations" ('53); "The Burning" ('60); "Things" ('58); "Test Area" ('55); "Prisoner of Love" (?); "Invasion Report" ('54); "The Wall Around the World" ('53). (Paperback)

The Witchstone, by Victoria Graham (Pyramid Books #V3289; NY; 2/74; 254 pp.; cover by Pepper (?--can't make out signature); \$1.25) -- "In a netherworld of grotesque spells and sensuous pleasures, she had reigned supreme for five hundred years!" Into this world come the wizard Fenrulf, seeking the stone for the powers it will give him for revenge and destruction, and Rothric the king, seeking the stone to gain unending power for evil (and to make the much-vaunted eternal beauty of the underworld his captive queen). (Paperback)

(Over)

BOOKWORLD (Continued) --

SF/Fantasy Anthologies:

Omega, ed. Roger Elwood (Walker & Co., NY; '73; 190 pp.; d.j. design by Thuy Le Ha; \$6.95) -- An anthology of original SF stories depicting various paths through the future to Omega--the end. Included are: "Running Around", by Barry N. Malzberg; "The Empty Field", by Morio Kita; "Od", by Jack Dann & George Zebrowski; "Amfortas", by Laurence M. Janifer; "After King Kong Fell", by Philip José Farmer; "Symposium", by R.A. Lafferty; "Swords of Ifthan", by James Sutherland; "Beast in View", by Miriam Allen deFord; "Slide Show", by George R.R. Martin; "Rabble-Dowser", by Anne McCaffrey; "The Serpent in Eden", by Poul Anderson; "Beachhead in Utopia", by Lloyd Biggle, Jr.; "Geraniums", by Valerie King & Barry N. Malzberg. (Hardback)

SF: Authors' Choice 4, ed. Harry Harrison (G.P. Putnam's Sons, NY; SFBC Ed.; '74; \$1.69; 271 / x pp.; d.j. by Paul Lehr) -- Fourth volume in the series where the authors represented choose their own best efforts in the short story field, each with a personal afterword "illuminating the writer's fascinating craft". Contents: Introduction, by Harrison; "Old Hundredth", by Brian W. Aldiss ('60); "Fair", by John Brunner ('56); "The Forgotten Enemy", by Arthur C. Clarke ('49); "Warrior", by Gordon R. Dickson ('65); "Et In Arcadia Ego", by Thomas M. Disch ('71); "But Soft, What Light...", by Carol Emshwiller ('66); "The Misogynist", by James Gunn ('52); "All of Us Are Dying", by George Clayton Johnson ('61); "The Fire and the Sword", by Frank M. Robinson ('51); "Bad Medicine", by Robert Sheckley ('57); "The Autumn Land", by Clifford D. Simak ('71); "A Sense of Beauty", by Robert Taylor ('68); "The Last Flight of Dr. Ain", by James Tiptree, Jr. ('69); "Ullward's Retreat", by Jack Vance ('58); "The Man Who Loved the Faioli", by Roger Zelazny ('67). (Hardback)

Under the Moons of Mars: A History and Anthology of "The Scientific Romance" in the Munsey Magazines, 1912-1920, ed. and with a History by Sam Moskowitz (Holt, Rinehart & Winston; NY; '70; 433 / xiii pp.; d.j. by Roger Hane; \$7.95) -- Preface; the Stories (ea. with an introduction by SaM): "Under the Moons of Mars", by Edgar Rice Burroughs (THE ALL-STORY MAGAZINE, 2-7/12); "Darkness and Dawn", by George Allan England (THE CAVALIER and THE SCRAP BOOK, 1/2/12-1/20/12); "Polaris of the Snows", by Charles B. Stilson (ALL-STORY WEEKLY, 12/19/15-1/1/16); "Palos of the Dog Star Pack", by J.U. Giesy (ALL-STORY WEEKLY, 7/13/18-8/10/18); "Friend Island", by Francis Stevens (ALL-STORY WEEKLY, 9/7/18); "The Moon Pool", by A. Merritt (ALL-STORY WEEKLY, 6/22/18); "The Girl in the Golden Atom", by Ray Cummings (ALL-STORY WEEKLY, 3/15/19); "The Mad Planet", by Murray Leinster (THE ARGOSY, 6/12/20); "The Blind Spot", by Austin Hall & Homer Eon Flint (ARGOSY ALL-STORY WEEKLY, 5/14/21-6/14/21); plus a long and detailed history (pp. 289-433) by SaM, including the following chapters: "The Discovery of Edgar Rice Burroughs", "Science Fiction in THE ARGOSY", "Competition--THE POPULAR MAGAZINE", "Frank A. Munsey", "Robert H. Davis and THE ALL-STORY MAGAZINE", "THE SCRAP BOOK--Strangest of All Magazines", "The Advent of THE CAVALIER", "George Allan England and 'The Scientific Romance'", "THE ALL-STORY MAGAZINE Loses Tarzan", "THE ALL-STORY MAGAZINE and THE CAVALIER Combine", "H.P. Lovecraft and the Munsey Magazines", "The Pulp Woo Women Readers", "The Challenge of the Detective Pulps", "The Development of the Burroughs' Imitators", "The Dawn of the 'Different' Story", "Torrent of Fantastic Talent", "Golden Age of the Scientific Romance", "THE THRILL BOOK", and "ARGOSY and ALL-STORY WEEKLY Combine--End of an Era". ## Most of the stories in this volume are established classics, and as such should be familiar to at least the old-time fans. Buy the book for SaM's History--and get a bonus in the stories and SaM's introductions. (H-back)

Mystery/Detective/Suspense/Gothic Novels: (all Berkley Medallion Books; pb)

Be a Good Boy, by Joan Fleming (#02488; 191 pp.; 2/74; orig. '71 Putnam's; 95¢).
The Blue Hour, by John Godey (#02515; 176 pp.; 2/74; orig. '48 Doubleday; 95¢).
Masquerade at Monfalcone, by Dorinne Moore (#02507; 2/74; 159 pp.; "Large-Type" ed.; 75¢; "Gothic") -- Jewel theft; evil spirits, madness, and murder....
The Sexton Women, by Richard Neely (#02514; 2/74; '72 Putnam's; 224 pp.; 95¢).

THE MEDIA MORGUE

Steve Lewis, in response to our request for reviews/comments on any of the new CBS Radio Mystery Theater episodes that our readers may have heard, writes:

"... I listened only to the first two; it runs at 11:00 here also, and I can't take a schedule like that any more. . .

"First show was broadcast January 6; entitled 'The Old Ones Are Hard to Kill'. It starred Agnes Moorhead, who is famous among radio buffs for her many repeat performances in 'Sorry, Wrong Number' on the old Suspense series. Probably her appearance on this premiere episode was designed to take any slight advantage of this recognition factor. This time she played an old lady in an old house who hears her sick boarder make a dying confession of murder which he was paid to commit. Since whoever hired him is still alive, he is unlikely to let her go to the police with the story. The plot is artificial; she could have gone to the police immediately. Her second boarder plays his role so broadly that everyone knows he is up to no good. And the story was spoiled for me entirely because both the doctor and that second boarder were played by Leon Janney--once you've heard his voice, you'll know whom I mean. It sounded cheap. Agnes Moorhead was very good, however, as expected.

"Second show was 'The Return of the Moresbys' and starred Patrick O'Neal, who was, as far as I know, never involved with 'old-time radio'. Man, with rich wife, resents her interest in a cult which believes that souls live on after death in the bodies of animals. Wife changes her will to cult's favor, or intends to before husband intervenes with murder. Consider the title again and finish the story. Cast is larger this time, though, and plays effectively. My wife didn't believe it was Patrick O'Neal, however, since 'he wasn't old enough to be on radio'. Overall, better than the first night's work.

"So far . . . the concept is only uplifted slightly from the old-time radio tradition. First show could have played on Suspense, the second on something like Inner Sanctum. The plots are the same (and as obvious), played in modern times. Author Henry Slesar (for both) is and has been involved with television, but the faults of the show are not television's. Most of the people involved are left over from radio, and they carry with them the old concepts. So what was bad is still bad, but what was good is still good. You could picture Miss Moorhead's large, mostly empty house as you like. You could feel O'Neal's panic when harmless animals attack him. The most horrible things live in your own imagination.

"Radio fans will think this series is great without question, but there are only a few of them. Interest, network-wise, is high, sponsors are committed to the year's run. Expansion is possible; it depends on response from the listening audience.

"Incidentally, I don't know if there are any new concepts. I would like to have dialogue carry the action less. Try listening to a TV or movie soundtrack without the picture; it can be done, unless the show is taking full advantage of its visual medium. . ."

((Thanks, Steve. We haven't managed to catch a single episode--they're on too late (we have to get up too early for work)--and, as we noted in an earlier SOTWJ, they've had rather poor reviews in the local press. Also, we called the local radio station to try to get copies of their press releases, and were told to write their New York office--which we did, with no response whatsoever. So, we've given up on the series, and will concentrate on all the interesting revivals going on in the area (see pg. 2 of this issue for the latest exhumations). --ed.))

Richard Delap writes: "Don't know if you got to see the TV production of Brian Moore's Catholics, but if not, watch for a rerun. Excellent soft SF, with Moore adapting his own novella with care and a uniformly excellent cast doing a marvelous job at making his complex characters come across. I voted it a recommendation in the new dramatic presentation of the Nebulas, and expect to do the same in the Hugos if no good movies come out before year's end (and at this point I see nothing particularly interesting scheduled)." ((We did miss it first time. --ed.))

A few quickie letters and comments from our readership: (rec'd in Jan.)

GEORGE FERGUS (3341 W. Cullom Ave., Chicago, IL 60618) -- "In case you didn't get a chance to check the credits on the rerun of The Night Stalker, it was indeed based on 'an unpublished story by Jeff Rice'. Whether this is Hollywoodese for novel, or Richard Matheson filled in the details is unimportant, and I'm sorry to have slighted Mr. Rice. Now would someone care to come forward and volunteer the same information regarding the credits for The Night Strangler? ### "Next time someone sends you a review of a British textbook on hydraulics, please do not publish it. Argh. ## "You left the letter "x" out of my review of You Die Today in SOTWJ 121, which made my sentence explaining the title sound rather strange. Don D'Amassa's review of Reduction in Arms in the same issue says that in the book, U.S. agents suspect the Russians of doing secret nuclear research. This is untrue--secret research on bacteriological weapons is suspected. ## "Ken Ozanne's reference material is indeed inadequate. The Year of the Quiet Sun (reviewed in SOTWJ 121) was on the 1971 Hugo ballot, and the Nebula ballot too. It came in 4th on both, however. Knight's The Other Foot, incidentally, was previously paperbacked by Berkley under the title Mind Switch. ## "Your quotes from reviews of hardcover gothics serve little purpose that I can see. Even if I liked gothics I wouldn't shell out 7 or 8 bucks for one. ## "I tend to think you should segregate SF and non-SF reviews for the convenience of those who are interested only in the former, tho merely putting the SF reviews first would probably be sufficient." ((Credits for The Night Stranger, which we just saw, were: "Screenplay by Richard Matheson, based on characters created by Jeff Rice." Sorry about the missing "t"; that's what comes of doing one's own proofreading. We wouldn't buy a hardcover gothic at 7 or 8 dollars, either; but if one which had an interesting-sounding review popped up for \$1 or so, we might buy it. The reviews have been segregated, as you suggested. --ed.))

DEAN ABEL (1332 Vermont St., #4, Lawrence, KS 66044) -- "Received SOTWJ #122 today. It is DAW Book 15--The World Menders by Lloyd Biggle, Jr.--which quotes TWJ. On the front: 'Definitely deserves a Hugo'. Back cover: 'Certainly the best novel in the last few years'. There is also a quote by John Campbell: 'Going to be one of the classics'--this sold the book to me. Pretty high praise for an only slightly better than average novel. Also: Review Extracts do less than nothing for me. If it can't be reviewed, forget it." ((Thanks for info; and thanks, too, to Martin Williams, who sent similar information. --ed.))

DEAN ABEL -- "Recent paperback copies of Night of Delusions by Keith Laumer are in error. The covers and title page are OK--but the text (pages 5-159) is a different book: some espionage thriller. Berkley bound how many 1000 copies wrong? Is Mr. Laumer going to be upset?" ((Don't have NoD, so can't check our copy. Guess some espionage fans are going to be surprised.... --ed.))

LLOYD BIGGLE, JR. (Ypsilanti, MI) -- "Belatedly, my thanks for the copies of WSFA publications that contain reviews of my books. SF reviews in general publications are pathetically haphazard and uneven. Too frequently the same is true of the SF magazines. The scope and consistency of WSFA reviewing constitutes a genuine contribution in this unfortunately neglected specialization. All SF writers should be deeply appreciative. Considering the frequency with which I see WSFA JOURNAL reviews quoted on book jackets, I know that publishers are!" ((Reviewers, please take note--your efforts are not in vain! --ed.))

STEVE LEWIS (62 Chestnut Rd., Newington, CT 06111) -- "It seems that many of your reviewers are dumping unnecessarily on Don Wollheim in their reviews of DAW books. I think he has a fantastic project going; not all the books can be winners, but all I have read have been at least entertaining. I suppose it's the chance he takes when he puts his name (by way of initials) on every one. Still, I remember the days (early fifties) when 4 paperback SF books in one month, from all publishers, was a rare treat." ((Reviewers, we suggest you field this one--we are thankful for the DAW project, but our eye problems have restricted our reading to the point that we've read very little that has appeared in the past few years. --ed.))

THE AMATEUR PRESS

GENZINES -- U.S.:

THE DOC SAVAGE READER #4 (undated) (Mark J. Golden, 2791 N. Quebec St., Arlington, VA 22207; final issue (although it may be revived this summer on a yearly basis by former co-editor John Cosgriff); 25¢ (#1 is oop; a few covers are avail. for an SAE; double-issue 2/3 is still avail. quantities limited) for 75¢); offset(?) -- 11 pp. / cover (by Lin Davis); illos by Jim Downs, Lin Davis, R. Snyder; Editorial; "An Original 'Savage' Artist", by Albert Manachino (interview with Rafael DeSoto); "Savage Comments", by Gene Christie (on "Abbreviating Doc Savage" / Bantam titles, i.e. 7); "The Girl Who Loved Doc Savage", by Bill Murray; Mark Golden reviews Phil Farmer's Doc Savage: His Apocalyptic Life. ## Some interesting reading for fans of the Man of Bronze. (The only other Doc Savage 'zine we have seen is BRONZE SHADOWS, which is no longer being published. Have there been any others?)

GODLESS #6 (Feb. '74) (SP4 Bruce D. Arthurs, 527-98-3103, 57th Trans Co., Ft. Lee, VA 23801; irregular; 35¢ ea.; mimeo (offset cover)) -- 26 pp. / cover (by Bruce Townley); illos by Townley, Brad Parks, Sheryl Birkhead, Bruce Arthurs; Editorial pages; "A Story to Remember", by Donn Brazier (some stories remembered); Doug Leingang on "Having Fun"; excerpts from Philip Wylie's Finnley Wren; "Darkover: an Informal Appreciation", by Sheryl Birkhead (w/Addendum by Marion Zimmer Bradley); "A Dearth of Criticism", by Mike Shoemaker; Roger Elwood replies to Bruce's review of Ten Tomorrows (w/remarks by Bruce); lettercolumn. Plus DUFF flyer. ## A nice selection of material--well worth the 35¢ asking price.

MOPERY #1 (undated) (John Robinson, 1-101st St., Troy, NY 12180; no price or schedule given; ditto) -- 14 pp.; Editorial commentary and editor-written miscellany; Robert Werner reviews Heinlein's Time Enough for Love; John's choices for Best Fanzines of 1973; review of Bill Rotsler's Contemporary Erotic Cinema; Raymond Bowie reviews Gerrold's The Man Who Folded Himself; Worldcon (Torcon) Report; miscellany. Plus a two-page addendum re the film Westworld. ## A personalized genzine (or a generalized personalzine--take your choice....)

OUTWORLDS #18 (Oct. '73) (Bill & Joan Bowers, POBox 148, Wadsworth, OH 44281; mimeo; at least quarterly; \$1 ea., 5/\$4; rec'd 2/74; 7" x 8½") -- 72 pp., incl. covers; front cover by Gregg Davidson; bacover by Carleton Palmer; centerspread by Dan Steffan; illos by Steve Fabian, Tom Foster, Dany Frolich, Mike Gilbert, Norm Hochberg, Bill Bowers, Jonh Ingham, Jim McLeod, Andy Porter, Bill Rotsler, Dan Steffan; lettercolumn (½ the issue); "Dragged into the Future", by Tom Collins (repr. FORT WAYNE JOURNAL-GAZETTE; re space program); Robert A.W. Lowndes' column (on "weird" fiction); "Crime and Punishment", by Dave Locke; 13 more pp. of letters (all pros, this time); editorial pages. ## OUTWORLDS continues to do its own thing--this time, a change in format. Interesting letters, good general material, excellent reproduction, fine art, and a firm and capable hand at the editorial helm. Doll Gilliland plugs OUTWORLD as deserving a Hugo; she may well be right....

STARFIRE #1 (Feb. '74) (Bill Breiding, 2240 Bust St., San Francisco, CA 94115; mimeo (offset cover); 25¢; bi-monthly) -- 17 pp. / cover (by Bruce Arthurs); introductory editorial; Sutton Breiding suggests abolishing Hugos and Nebulas; Dale Donaldson column; word games by Chris Sherman; Warren Johnson reports on 1993 Worldcon; "What Fandom Means to Me: A Personal Essay", by Roger Sween; humor by Gene Young; Gary Warne on why he is interested in "phantasmal and speculative literature"; poetry by Jim Zychowicz and Sutton Breiding; another editorial. ## Above average in content for a first issue; however repro is poor, and reading therefore difficult. (Oops! Should have noted above: illos by Dave Shank, Gene Young, Sheryl Birkhead.)

WILD FENNEL #8 (undated) (P.W. Frames, 205-A W. Holly, Bellingham, WA 98225; irregular; no price given (apparently avail. only for trade, contris, or LoC's); offset (on newsprint); 8" x 11¼") -- 24 pp., incl. covers, / 2-pg. centerfold illo by Bob Urso; front cover by Ron Miller; bacover by John Palmer; illos by Jeff Schalles, Mike Gilbert, Grant Canfield, Bob Williamson, Bob Urso, Dan Osterman, Pauline Palmer, John Palmer, Alexis Gilliland, Ron Roach; "Girl Fen" (column), by (Over)

THE AMATEUR PRESS (Continued)

Pauline Palmer; Clifford Wind reports on BelliCon; Ed Cagle column; Mary Magnuson on Zucchini; Daniel Say interviews D.G. Compton; short fiction by Jeff Schalles; poem by Michael Carlson; "...wild fenDumb!" (P.W. Frames vs. Sidney Lurcher....?); Dale Donaldson on "Astral Philosophy"; short fiction by Ron Roach; short letter-column; "Double Dactyls" by Bob Steelquist; fiction by C.R. Wind; ads. ## The first issue we have seen of this unusual cross between a genzine and...well, at least it looks like an underground newspaper.... Largely a humorzine, with some serious material popping up here and there. It may not appeal to everyone, but has enough variety to make it worth a look-see if you're not already familiar with it. And if humor is your bag--well, read W.F., and have a ball!

WYRD #2 (Fall '73) (Al Cockrell & Irvin Wagner, eds.; pubbed thrice-yearly; offset; 7" x 8½"; 60¢ ea., 4/\$2.25) -- 42 pp. / wraparound cover by Jim Erskine; illos by Cliff Kurowski, Jim Erskine, Steve Swenston, Randy Holmberg; Editorial; fiction by David Madison, Theodore Kriner, Brian Crist, Charles Collier, Jr. & Steve Swenston, William H. Stout, and Ron Nance; short lettercolumn. ## Very good repro; there aren't many fanzines around today devoted entirely (well, almost entirely) to fan fiction, and WYRD would appear to be an excellent vehicle for same. If you write fan fiction, contribute; if you like to read it, subscribe.

YANDRO #224 (Dec. '73) (Bob & Juanita Coulson, Rt.3, Hartford City, IN 47348; UKAgent: Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts., U.K.; irregular; mimeo; 50¢ ea., 4/\$1.80, 12/\$5 (UK: 20p ea., 4/70p, 12/£1.80)) -- 34 pp. / cover (by Dave Piper); illos by Jackie Franke, Juanita, Dave Jenrette, Freff, R.E. Gilbert, Jim Cawthorn, Bjo Trimble, Arthur Thomson; Editorials by Bob & Juanita; column by Bruce Coulson; parody: "Conan the Emasculated", by Dave Jenrette; poem by L. Sprague de Camp; article: "That Old Time Religion", by Ross Peterson; Christmas Story: "Colonel Santa", by Dainis Bisenieks; "Fort Yukon Yule" ("a seasonal article"), by Tom Collins; lots of short book reviews, by Bob; lettercolumn. ## "Old Reliable" keeps rolling right along--always good reading, always informative.

ZINE REVIEW (Warren Johnson, 131 Harrison St., Geneva, IL 60134; 25¢ ea., 4/\$1; mimeo (#1 was ditto); monthly) -- #1 (undated): 4 pp.; reviews of 16 fanzines (titles, i.e.; some had more than one issue); #2 (undated): 9 pp.; illo by Sheryl Birkhead; reviews of 21 fanzines (titles). ## The former fanzine review section of his genzine PERCEPTIONS. Useful.

Foreign:AUSTRALIA:

GEGENSCHEIN #12 (undated) (Eric Lindsay, 6 Hillcrest Ave., Faulconbridge, NSW 2776, Australia; no schedule given; mimeo (offset bacover); 50¢ ea. (Aust., 30¢; UK, 25p)) -- 14 pp. / bacover (by Grant Canfield & Freff) and "rip-off" mailing cover; DUFF info/ballot sheet; Editorial notes/calendar of events and things received in the mail; more on DUFF. ## This was the "special rushed pre Torcon-report issue", and is mostly a personalzine rather than a genzine, consisting almost entirely of a long editorial. What Eric says, though, is interesting.

SF COMMENTARY #39 (Nov. '73) (Bruce Gillespie, GPO Box 5195AA, Melbourne, Vic. 3001, Australia; special American ed., produced w/publishing help of David & Betsey Gorman; mimeo; no price given for this issue (future issues will go up in price--probably to \$1 ea.); irregular, until Bruce returns to Australia) -- 24 pp.; Editorial/partial U.S. trip report/diary; nice, meaty book reviews by George Turner, Gerald Murnane; short reviews by Bruce; Philip Dick letter. ## U.S. postage costs/limitations held the size of this issue down; but SFC is still one of the best serious SF fanzines around.

UNITED KINGDOM:

LES SPINGE (Darroll & Rosemary Pardoe, 24 Othello Close, Hartford, Huntingdon, PE18 7SU, England; bi-monthly; offset; 6" x 8¼"; no subs (LoC, trade only)) -- #30 (Nov. '73): 10 pp. / cover (not credited); illos by Harry Bell, Harry Douthwaite, Pete Colley; the eds. on Novacon, film Jesus Christ Superstar, Alan Garner's Red Shift, fanzines BLUNT-2 & NO-14; lettercolumn. ## Good reading throughout.