



LONELINESS IS A WRITER

Looking, searching  
Can I find what I seek  
In mind's dark corner  
I lie without sleep

Is it fame, is it fortune  
What is the urge  
Can these trembling fingers  
Form the magical words

Sitting, staring  
Sweat streaks my brow  
All the words I once knew  
I know not now

The quiet that comforts me  
Haunts me in pain  
Once flowing words  
Are like clouds without rain

A glimmer of thought  
Another, just one simple phrase  
Rejoice! I have it  
Like a torch ablaze

The words come pouring  
And I'm reborn again  
The emptiness is gone  
The world is my friend

Until next time, shouts silence  
As fingers fairly fly  
Never again, I fling back defiant  
But I know it's a lie

-- C.C.Clingan  
1254 Leah Court  
Oroville, Calif 95965



# THE BARBEQUE PIT

TITLE #29 August, 1974  
Edited & published by  
Donn Brazier  
1455 Fawnvalley Dr.  
St. Louis, Mo. 63131

SCIENCE IN THE NEWSPAPER, a 32 page booklet published by the American Assoc. for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), 1515 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC 20005, is available free on request from the AAAS. The printed booklet, described as an occasional paper, will be of interest to any of you who have ambitions to be a science writer, either free-lance or with a newspaper or magazine. It also serves to satisfy the curious who like statistics about newspaper coverage of science and technology.

For instance, 3.1% of 193 scientists surveyed said that such science coverage was of no public importance! And 26.7% were not too keen on the humorous treatment of science in the news.

In 1963 the St. Louis Post Dispatch devoted 38.4% of its science coverage to space travel, whereas in 1973 it had dropped to 6.2%. It's interesting that in the biology field, the New York Times and the St. Louis Post Dispatch had reversed trends: Times in 1963 had 23.8% on that subject whereas the Post had 7.7%; then in 1973 the Times was down to 12.5% and the Post was up to 25%. The Times covered more science areas than the Los Angeles Times and the S.L. Post. The Post, for instance, in 1973 didn't have anything about nuclear energy, cybernetics, aeronautics, or industrial applications.

If you are free-lance, and want a by-line, avoid the Post; they gave none in either 1963 or 1973, whereas the L.A. Times gave 25.9% and 18.1% in the two years cited. Also, in 1973, the Post had zero science articles on the front page, and the two Times cited had 9% and 6.2%.

How long should a science article be? The greatest percentage were in the 6-20 column inches for all three papers, with the Post next favoring 1-5 inches and the other two papers favoring over 20 column inches.

In the first article, a study of the science material in the NATIONAL ENQUIRER, there was one of these slips in English which I mention only because of Michael Shoemaker's recent article, quote: "Glued to her copy of the ENQUIRER, her world was a melange of Liz and Dick..." But's that immaterial. What interested me was that the scientists quoted and pictured in the sensational newspaper are REAL, and some are happy with the reporting! (Some are not.) One of the common faults in this newspaper, as in all others, was the misleading headline. It is this writer's (me, folks) view that once the headline has captured your attention, wipe it out of your head completely!

Some readers have said that my editorials do not and should occupy themselves with one subject. Just to keep the performance up to my standards, let it be known that I am a grandfather for the second time, a first granddaughter and my daughter's girl, and now a son to my son, Michael. Since I have three other children not yet entered in the derby, I am out to break a fandom record! Sort of grampfanac!

\* All parts of LoCs not marked DNQ are fit  
\* subject for the figurative scissors of  
\* the editor as he lays out the copy; no  
\* guarantee is made to print all or any  
\* part of any letter. Some lengthy LoC  
\* material may, at times, be simply ignored  
\* because of space shortage; on the other  
\* hand, such material may be presented as  
\* an article in itself. The reader should  
\* gather from this that the editor is hard-  
\* headed, cruel, opinionated and also mod-  
\* erately handsome.

\*\*\*\*\*

\* The cover is by Tody Kenyon  
\* Whitney Animal Laborator-  
\* ies  
\* Aurora, NY 13026

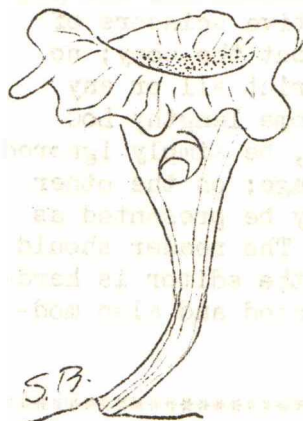
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\* This issue dedicated to Bob Tucker, young  
\* author and smo-o-o-o-thie.

\*\*\*\*\*

# B E M

dash'74



Comment on Eric Mayer's  
"Attack of the Human BEMS"  
in TITLE #26

"Fascinating"...

Brett Cox, Jim Meadows,  
Jodie Offutt

"most interesting"...

Sam Long

"interesting"... Ray Bowie

"just my cup of tea".... Hank Jewel

David

"enjoyed".... Gary Grady

"interesting points".... Singer

"tackles a big subject".... Robert Smoot

"pretty good".... Michael T. Shoemaker

"immensely enjoyed".... Mike Glicksohn

"best thing in the issue - it's the sort of thing I wish I had  
for NOTES" ... Denis Quane

"places me to questioning".... David Shank

"most enjoyable thing in this issue".... Bill Breiding

"thought provoking to say the very least" ... Nesha Kovalick

"fascinating, by far the best thing in either issue 25 or 26"  
.... Barry Gillam

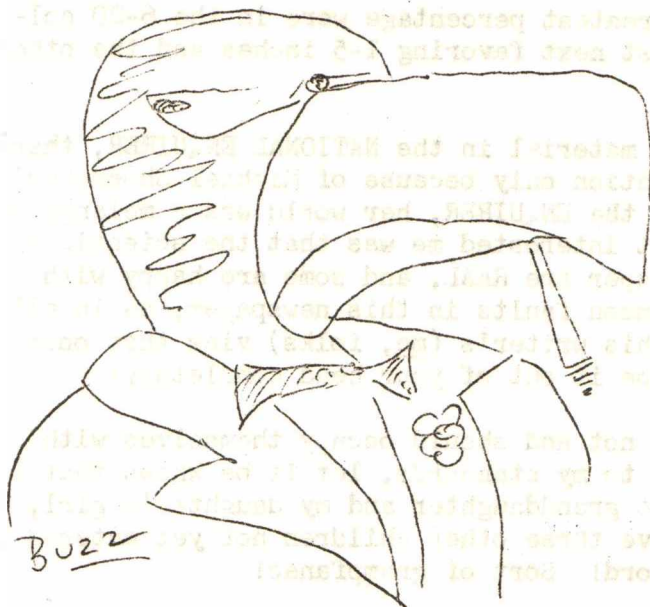
"thoughtful, insightful, & challenging - the kind of material  
I'm seeking in fanzines" .... Gil Gaier

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Brett Cox: "This is what got me about Stephen Goldin's anthology THE ALIEN CONDITION;  
in almost all of the stories the 'aliens' were no more than humans with  
scales, or tentacles, or wings. Indeed, the only story that was successful in pre-  
senting a truly alien viewpoint as well as being successful as a story was Tiptree's  
'Love Is the Plan the Plan Is Death' - an excellent story on all levels. "

Sam Long: "I saw a Jaguar on the M4 mot-  
orway near London in April,  
license number BEM 7. Truth will doubt-  
less be stranger than fiction when man  
meets Bem, for it's already so when man  
meets man. There is a town called Bem-  
bridge on the Isle of Wight, by the way."

Denis Quane: "One thing struck me forc-  
ibly - perhaps because of  
my recent reading of the book HUNTING  
THE DIVINE FOX which deals with a close-  
ly related problem - how to use human  
language to talk about God. Human lang-  
uage and concepts must be used - they're  
the only kind we have - but we must con-  
tinually recognize their limitations.  
Eric does point out that sf writers con-  
vey alienness by artifacts, while keep-  
ing the aliens off-stage. In 2001 I un-  
derstand they had considered showing the





aliens, or at least the alien city, but then decided not to - a very wise decision, as it turned out."

David Shank: "Can non-mammalian life have even a vestige of developing sentience like fur bearing creatures? I have argued with Tony Cvetko on this, that mammals may be the only vertebrate capable of evolving sentient forms. And are Cetaceans really that sentient?"

Robert Smoot: "If alien life is to be incorporated into a story, what choice have we but in the limits of human imagination? I've yet to find a chimp or pig or octopus with author potential. Grand animal painters, but no writers."

Jackie Franke: "I can't see why Eric's worrying about it. We cannot truly depict an alien intelligence in fiction; I doubt if anyone has tried to do so. Aliens are used as a plot device, not as a straight scientific extrapolation. Where alien contact stories have any degree of 'realism', it's the human reactions to the aliens that matters. (Though I might mention the aliens

in William Tenn's 'Firewater' which were done quite well until the latter part of the story.) We should not avoid aliens in SF. We don't exactly know what form far space travel will take either, but we still like to read about it. SF does not have to predict in order to be enjoyable or valid. And who knows; aliens may be more like us than not."

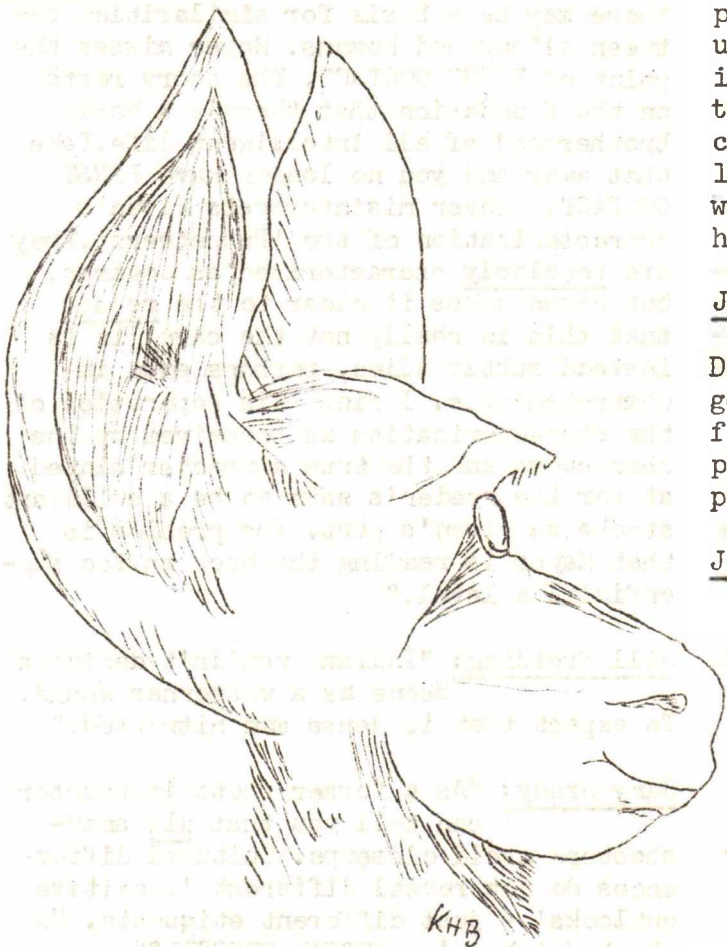
David Singer: "Perhaps aliens that we'll ever have significant contact with are those which are much like us? I don't mean alike enough to interbreed (I, too, find the idea of the BEM abducting the best-looking girls ridiculous), but enough alike that the societies have developed in roughly similar lines."

Joe Woodard: "Eric says it might be impossible to treat aliens in anything but an anthropomorphic manner. I remember: 'The possible is what has been done, the impossible is what has not been done yet.'"

Mike Glicksohn: "I'm surprised Eric did not mention Terry Carr's 'The Dance of the Changer and Three' as one of the most successful attempts at portraying an alien culture. I didn't understand the story but felt moved by it nevertheless. No other example comes to mind, which tends to support Eric's contention. As he says, though, the problem may well be unattackable as long as writers and readers are restricted to human experience and insight."

Jodie Offutt: "I have just finished Carlos Castaneda's books about Don Juan, in which he tried very hard to get into the Indian mind. It is so hard for us to start from a truly objective point of departure. It might even be impossible to be anything but subjective."

Jim Meadows: "Eric's right. A writer shows aliens better through their artifacts than in person. TOTAL ECLIPSE, by John Brunner, does just that. But even here, there's a human base to the aliens. I don't think any sf author will ever come up with a truly 'alien' alien; he can only rearrange what he already knows of, and what we know of doesn't go far past this planet."



Barry Gillam: "Eric's synopsis of THROUGH NAVAJO EYES is intriguing; I shall have to read the book. The values that different cultures place on the various elements of storytelling are of particular interest. And as a film buff, I find the researcher's use of movies an especially interesting experiment in the point of view of the filmmaker."

As for sf, the problem is twofold. First, sf is predominantly a reaction against modern literature and the modern age. Where most major authors in the 20th Century take chaos (Beckett), entropy (Conrad, Pynchon) or personal memory (Proust, Nabokov) for their subjects, sf authors bend over backward to discover a rational system at work in the universe -- a kind of updated Deism. This is a little enclave of Reason and a totally alien viewpoint would only serve to show how relative (and therefore uncertain, unstable) that Western heritage-based reason is.

Second, the lack of literary skills among sf authors has rendered the attempts at an alien viewpoint either ludicrous or boringly opaque. Examples of both, but especially the first, are legion. Even a writer of Joanna Russ's ability came a cropper in her attempt to portray a telepathic culture: AND CHAOS DIED.

I must ask how radically different Eric requires his aliens to be. For an examination of differing human or hominid cultures is not all that unusual. Notice the theme of cultural relativism that runs through de Camp's fiction. Note that his latest novel, THE FALLIBLE FIEND, is the first person narrative of a demon. Despite a number of other pertinent works (Capek's WAR with the NEWTS, Panshin's Anthony Villiers novels, Wolfe's THE FIFTH HEAD OF CERBERUS, Silverberg's 'Sundance') Eric's point still stands. The unsuccessful attempts just confirm the lack: Carr's 'The Dance of the Changer and Three'."

Raymond Bowie, Jr.: "We interpret everything in terms of what we already know. It would be next to impossible to do a story from a totally alien viewpoint. We come close."

Gil Gaier: "NOW you've done it. I was happy just riding along watching all the nice people airing themselves. Then came the 'Attack of the Human BEMS'. Look at it: a well thought out

premise, developed with specific and artful examples, capped with a punch-line conclusion. If Eric Mayer's 'Menace' is not too long, please print it. The more I think of it, the less satisfied I am with the monsters/aliens/strange visitors from afar that I've met in SF. I'm looking forward to following the comments re this article with great pleasure."

Nesha Kovalick: "I suspect that a totally alien mind is not possible to imagine. If realities do not touch at some point, they are not accessible. Even God has to be offered up in analogies. But what about Clarke's Overlords? We do not really meet them, but they are presented as non-human minds. Even what mankind becomes in CHILDHOOD'S END is very not-human. When presented with a really superior intelligence, we can only grasp the lower, human part of it and a little of the flavor of the non-human part. I think Heinlein's Motherthing is something like this. Even a child cannot grasp the way an adult's mind works - too many abstracts involved."

Michael T. Shoemaker: "A view of the universe as a cosmos rather than a chaos would suggest that there may be a basis for similarities between aliens and humans. Mayer misses the point of FIRST CONTACT. The story rests on the foundation that there's a basic brotherhood of all intelligent life. Take that away and you no longer have FIRST CONTACT. Mayer misinterprets Niven's characterization of the 'Puppeteers'. They are popularly characterized as cowards, but Niven makes it clear to the reader that this is really not the case; it is instead subtly alien, perhaps even incomprehensible. I find this separation of the characterization as perceived by the characters and the true character hinted at for the reader's sake to be a brilliant stroke on Niven's part. The problem is that Mayer is reading the book on too superficial a level."

Bill Breiding: "Indians wouldn't depict a scene as a westerner would. To expect that is dense and nitwitted."

Gary Grady: "As a former photo instructor I can tell you that all snapshooters avoid closeups. Cultural differences do not reveal different 'cognitive outlooks' - just different etiquette. How about Weinbaum's MARTIAN ODYSSEY?"



# CLIP JOINT

John Robinson attached this note to a clip about hypnotized athletes: "Do you remember the use of self-hypnosis by troops of the Mobile Infantry in Heinlein's STARSHIP TROOPERS? Well, perhaps premonition has struck again!" The April clip from PARADE's INTELLIGENCE REPORT details Dr. Grant's use of hypnosis in giving athletes "an overpowering concentration and desire to win." Mike Shoemaker take note: "Many trackmen hypnotized by Grant have become consistent winners in Australia during the past five years."

No clip-mail would be complete without at least one UFO message. So here's one from Hank Jewel taken from the NAT.ENQU. of April 28 which tells of the "enormous, vibrating UFO" that appeared three times in one week over France. It was seen by 40 people including Police Sgt. Robin who watched it through field glasses for 45 minutes. He said, "It was at least 900 feet long and 300 feet wide, a round disc of bluish-gray with three orange crescents beneath. It was traveling slowly, much more slowly than an airplane."

This sounds like fun at a Worldcon-- a clip from Mike Shoemaker on a phony who was given fictitious credentials and spoke to three groups (psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers) on "the mathematical game theory as applied to physical education". Part of an experiment, the actor spoke nonsense and was well received. Not one listener realized they'd been had. What this meant is that satisfaction with learning may represent little more than the illusion of having learned.

Mike Shoemaker also sent a long review of his own in newsprint about LOVECRAFT AT LAST. This is a book I ordered a very long time ago from Carrollton Clark and have not yet received; supposedly it has yet to appear. Anybody have any details of the book or its publication?

Hank Jewel sent some data about the mysterious steel sphere found near Jacksonville, Fla. Size: 8-inches. Wt.- 22 lbs. Possesses magnetic poles. X-rays show a number of smaller spheres inside which appear to be peculiarly suspended. The sphere is perfectly balanced, and it was reported to roll and vibrate by itself. It has not yet been cut open. Anyone hear anything since about May 15th on this?

John Robinson sends a card reporting the answer Carl Sagan gave to this question: "Are you still able to enjoy science fiction?" The reply: "I used to, but I haven't found any in about 10 years. I used to read a lot of Heinlein, Asimov, Clarke, Sturgeon -- I liked those guys a lot. But it's gotten very dull. It never had much literary merit, in my view, but the thing about it was the concepts; and since science is now so imaginative and so far ahead, science fiction isn't doing well in terms of concepts. The guys I've just mentioned are all very good friends of mine, but the most ballyhooed recent work of the most famous science fiction writers is very disappointing."

Don Ayres sends info that Wertham's book, THE WORLD OF FANZINES, is one of 51 Top Honor Books chosen from 225 titles of 28 publishers. The award and exhibit was at the 25th annual Chicago Book Clinic.

A variety of oddities... Diamonds made from peanut butter (George Fergus), an 18 month old boy who swallowed a poisonous snake and lived (Ned Brooks), sleeping nude in the moonlight won't help arthritis (Dorothy Jones), note about an occult cookbook with black magic soups, etc. (Don Ayres), a long semi-sceptical analysis of Uri Geller's 'powers' (Marci Helms), ducks that froze to death while flying overhead and fell into someone's front yard (Ned Brooks), yeast grown on ethanol derived from petroleum (Sheryl Birkhead), a berserk computer that overpaid Missouri welfare people (Jeff May), 18 whales that apparently committed suicide (Ned Brooks).

Nesha Kovalick photocopied Henry Littlefield's article "The Wizard of Oz: Parable on Populism", and John Robinson sent a glowing review of the Albany State Univ. production of THE WIZARD OF OZ in their debut in Moscow.

Black holes from Marci Helms, Chris Hulse, Jackie Franke, and Reed Andrus.

# I HEAR A MURF

A TRIO OF COMMENT ON MICHAEL SHOEMAKER'S "AM I HEARING THINGS..." - TITLE #25

Item: The Totemization of Illiteracy:

NIKE GLYER

Not everybody runs around trying to be an intellectual. Nor is prescriptive English exactly a guarantee of brilliant communication. The ability to write effectively is, beyond a certain point, a matter of practice. Effective writing is an ability not once acquired never to be lost.

Item: "You know?" "You know."

...a case of protesting too much..

Item: Feeling vs thinking

This is bullshit sociology rampant. "I think" people have learned to play the game of education, whereas those who say "I feel" are at least motivated by honesty.

Item: The Disappearance of the Renaissance Man

Milton's erudition is almost exclusively literary. I daresay Poul Anderson is more Renaissance Man than Milton. The problem may not be with the paucity of genius, but the impatience and ignorance of the audience.

Item: An Indicative Quote

Mike's sudden recognition of anti-intellectualism makes him ripe for a book on the subject whose title escapes me at the moment.

ERIC MAYER

Grammar has little relationship to literacy. The science of linguistics has demonstrated that language is a living, constantly changing thing that cannot be tied down with arbitrary rules. But I agree with Mike that sloppy language reflects sloppy thinking.

Boy, this is a sore point with me, you know? ..never been able to break myself of the habit.

I usually say "think" because "feel" sounds pompous. The "feel" people assume (conscious or not) that it is indicative of greater commitment than to merely "think".

..the Renaissance Man has not disappeared, but if there are fewer the explanation is in changing circumstances rather than declining intelligence. Today, specialization is a necessity.

Yes, a certain kind of person is hostile to books and literate people. This is the kind who is being catered to by mass media and politicians. Those people too ignorant to question anything are honored as "patriots".

ROBERT SMOOT

...the "danger" of less than grammatically correct writing doesn't go into the communications difficulties far enough. So I and my neighbors understand one another. But will a New Yorker or St. Louis zine editor? If the apathy were widespread, perhaps it'd mean the end of a national language, and the re-establishment of dialects.

I fear not their being a threat.

He feels it but doesn't think it may delude the listener into assuming he really doesn't know it to be true.

While there is no Milton today, we did, however, recently have Sandburg and Frost.

This issue is one of conformity. The "in" thing of my group is to reject books and studying. I wonder if this isn't an extended rejection of authority that school represents?



MIKE GLYER

ERIC MAYER

ROBERT SMOOT

Item: A Possible Cause

..how can one stand in the middle of a nation that has more televisions than bathtubs, etc. not to mention billboards, skywriting, or Goodyear blimps and pretend that nothing supplementary to formal education serves to transmit the "traditional culture"?

With a little practice and conditioning an intellectual can dig ditches, but the average ditchdigger can not take the intellectual's place. If the masses are poorly educated today, just imagine how badly educated they've been throughout history when they weren't educated at all!

...academic interest in my high school is shown by the widespread popularity in cartoons on the TV set in the lunch room...sophies, juniors, seniors watching Deputy Dawg, Hercules, Daffy Duck, and Looney Tunes. It is no longer a room for study.

Item: Concerning the Revolution

Have you stopped beating your wife yet?

Mike equates the cultural revolution with madness. I can't buy that. There are real aesthetic considerations behind pop art and atonal music. It's easy to put down what you don't understand. How far back do we go for traditional values -- back to the Cro Magnon?

I've not read "The Marching Morons", but I am curious about "genetic pollution". I found this particular section uncertain and so Mike is more correct than he realizes about 'treading on the thin ice of uncertainty.'

Item: Some Cold Statistics

I keep remembering one of my favorite books from junior high, "How to Lie with Statistics."

So SAT scores have declined? So what? They aren't measures of intelligence.

I wouldn't doubt those figures, myself.

Item: A Quote

Round goes to Shoemaker.

Revolution stifles genuine creativity? Would Mike prefer that painters adhere to the rules of the French Academy for the next ten-thousand years? What a bore that would be!

((no quote))

Item: Hoffer on Revolutionary Change

Round to Shoemaker with hesitant comment that his conclusions are not so marvelous for the way they coincide with modern conditions.

I think it's dangerous for a sf fan to throw around charges of juvenilization.

((no comment))

Item: Postscript

And here all along we thought risus sardonicus caused the grin on dead Shelley's face...

SF is a product of our "mad" 20th Century. Fans form a small minority. It frightens me.

Pity Shelley.

"Shoemaker's article in #25 is probably one of the best things that T's ever published."  
an aside by FRANK BALAZS

# IRKS

What? Another department? Yes... Hang out your irks. Paul Walker created a furor with his 'Fans -- What Irks Me', but most importantly his words made me and others conscious of some careless practices. As far as possible this department will not deal in personal likes or dislikes such as 'Con-reports gripe me' or 'Why do faneds waste a lot of space with so-called editorials'; instead, let's try to keep the IRKS confined to possible faulty fannish habits.

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A BRAZIER IRK: There's something wrong about the practice of paying to vote in the Hugo balloting. This is especially true when it comes to fan awards voted by con-attendees or con-members who do not read fanzines or care about that aspect of fandom. There should be a national association of faneds who nominate and choose best fan-writer, etc. Perhaps someone interested in organizational rules could work out a trial balloon. Would it work if, at the end of the year, all the faneds nominated several items for each category (article, story, poem, loc-champ, artist, etc.) and the fmz-readers than balloted?

A WALKER IRK: What about faneds who send me 'samples'? What is a 'sample'? Is it a request for material; an expression of affection or admiration; or simply a request to subscribe? Frankly, the handwritten 'sample' on the zine always dampens my enthusiasm for the whole thing. It is cold and uninviting, and the best excuse I can think of for not having to loc the zine. No one yet has sent me a zine saying 'I don't give a damn if you loc or not, I'd simply like you to read my stuff.' -- Paul Walker

AN OFFUTT IRK: Maybe I tend too much toward the if-you-can't-say-anything-nice-don't-say-anything way of thinking, but I can't see giving something hell the way Gorra reviewed DIEHARD. Rather than coming across as constructive criticism, it's merely put-down and discouraging. I can't see any point in that kind of attack. -- Jodie Offutt

"Martyrs all!" screamed Freb as he slashed at the masses with his eight-foot scimitar. Larry Lowwarts, who had been cowering in the corner, rushed to the front with his trusty garbage can. "Die, pagan!" shrieked he as he himself was skewered. Suddenly, the High Priest of Herbie crashed through the roof on his ftl, battery-operated spaceship and three-way deodorizer. "Scum!" shouted the newcomer, signaling the masses to retreat, as he faced Freb.

Meanwhile, young Miss Adams, dedicated nurse, hadn't had word from Chicago for three weeks. Mayor Daley held groundbreaking ceremonies over Lake Erie.

"Blasphemy!" Freb was outraged.

"'Blaspheme me'?" (The High Priest is kind of slow.) Whipping out his solar-powered and lemon flavored lollipop, he set the handle on licorice. Freb, not noticing, sounded the attack.

In Nosebleed, Arkansas, Bilbo Baggins discovered Judge Crater had come home. In a greasy-spoon joint near Teaneck, New Jersey, Earl Browder ordered an omelet and grinned.

As the mounted Good Humor men dashed forward, lances in hand, the earth erupted as Alfred E. Newman directed the laser-equipped Flying Carpet Division in the underground airwar.

Jack the Ripper and Lizzie Borden, each in a particularly bad mood and unable to care less about the jihad, were about to collide on a dark street corner in Liverpool near "Mary Shelley's Used Parts and Grocery Stand."

Freb, realizing all was lost, attempted suicide by stuffing a pickle up his nose, but ceased when Arlo Guthrie demanded royalties.

Rod Serling emerged from the Twilight Zone, took one look around, and left with a Hollywood contract, noting, "There's something bloody weird going on here."

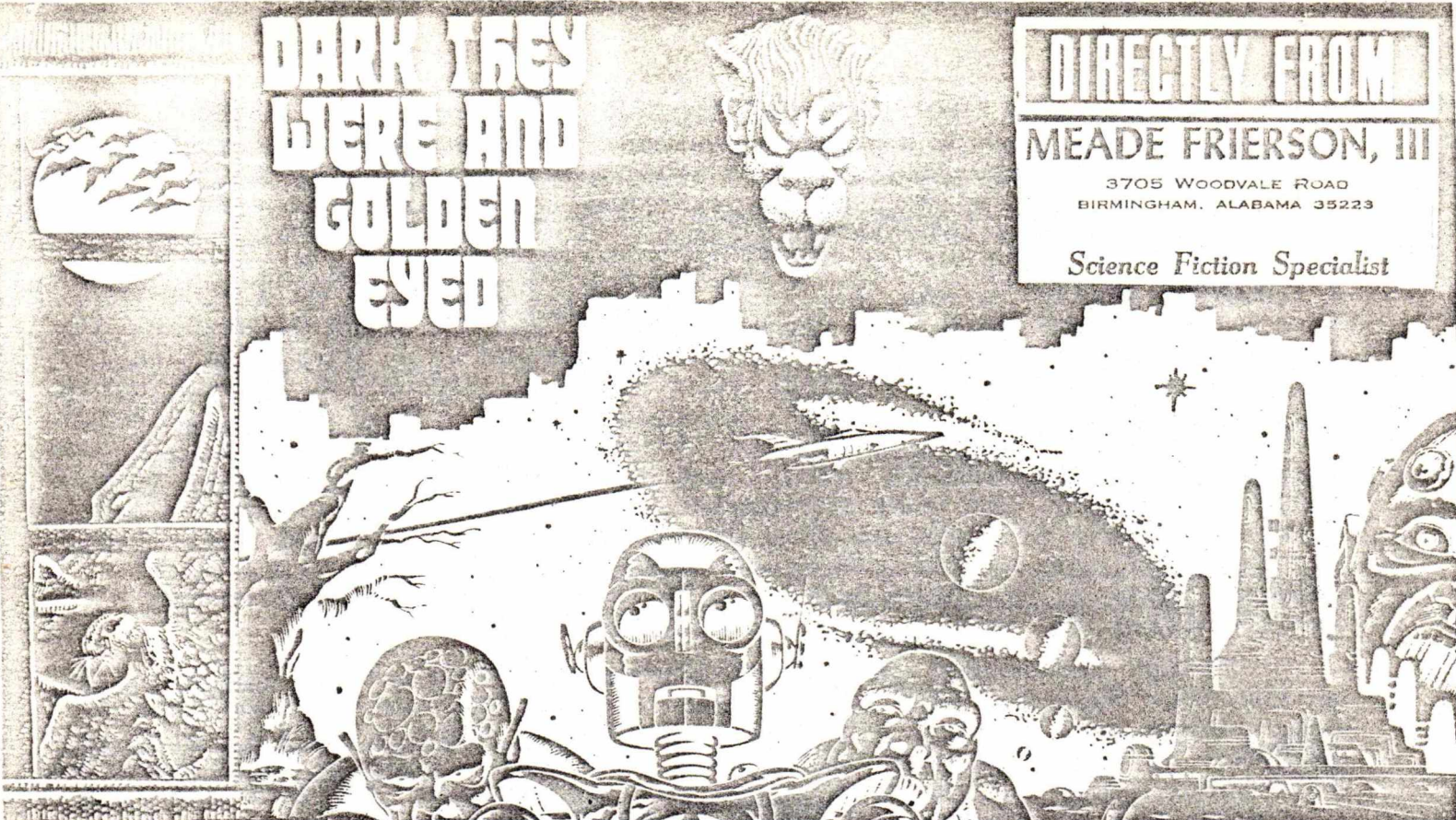
HUMOR (?)...AS OPPOSED TO HUMOR (!)\* to be continued.

\*Due apologies to Lord Jim Kennedy



# DARK THEY WERE AND GOLDEN EYED

**DIRECTLY FROM**  
**MEADE FRIERSON, III**  
3705 WOODVALE ROAD  
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35223  
*Science Fiction Specialist*



OR P.O. BOX 9032, CRESTLINE HTS., BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35213

May 4, 1974

Dear Donn,

Have just finished enjoying Title 26 - I was particularly interested in Eldon Everett's recollection of SF on TV. Eldon's been sending me macabre fiction for my apazine, THE UNNAMABLE, and the HPL Supplements but we've never corresponded and I knew nothing of his interest in sf.

Concerning SF on TV, the diligent researcher must piece together information from all over. Chris Couch penned some interesting historical comments in STARLING 23, but both Chris and Eldon missed a show I remember from 1953 called Atom Squad, live, 15 minutes, and poor sf (although not space-y).

As with my researches into SF on Radio (culminating in the still-in-print SCIENCE FICTION ON RADIO, 54 pp., \$1.50), there are collectors and researchers more knowledgeable than me who feed me the information. I have no information to offer on Men into Space and Atom Squad which previous writings have overlooked but I can offer the following insight into some adult TV sf offerings:

Out There premiered, live, on CBS-TV October 28, 1951 at 6 p.m. on Sunday. Only 11 shows were presented but they included the then-popular ~~outer limit~~ Outer Limit by Graham Doar (four times performed on radio during the early fifties); Misfit; The Green Hills of Earth and Ordeal in Space by Heinlein; Mewhu's Jet by Sturgeon; The Man by Bradbury; The Sense of Wonder by Mild Lesser; 7 Temporary Moons by Leinster; and Guest in the House by Frank Belknap Long (the final show on Jan. 6, 1952).

In August 1951 ABC premiered its adult sf series called Tales of Tomorrow, Fridays at 9:30, which ran for 78 shows until June of 1953. There were some adaptations of old standards: Frankenstein (Jan. 18, 1952 with Lon Chaney, Jr.); 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (Jan. 25- Feb. 1, 1952); Fitz-James O'Brien's The Diamond Lens (March 14, 1952); Nickolai Gogol's The Window (Nov. 7, 1952); The Picture of Dorian Gray (which I remember seeing on Jan. 23, 1953) and The Crystal Egg by H.G. Wells. Other adaptations from were from the pulps, such as John D. MacDonald's A Child is Crying (Aug. 17, 1951); Henry Kuttner's The Dark Angel (Sept. 28, 1951); Strand Boy by William Tenn (Sept. 7, 1951); C.M. Kornbluth's Little Black Bag (May 30, 1952); Kuttner & Moore's What You Need (Feb. 8, 1952); Leinster's Red Dust (May 2, 1952); Arthur C. Clarke's All the Time in the World (June 13, 1952); and Ray Cumming's Ahead of His Time (July 18, 1952). The most impressive shows, and those on which I can find no further information than my aging memory, were from early 1953: The Great Silence starring Burgess Meredith; The Cocoon with Jackie Cooper; "Read to Me, Herr Doktor" with Everett Sloane and Mercedes MacCambridge; and Past Tense with Boris Karloff.

Though interested in terror/horror, the producers of Lights Out!, on NBC from July 19, 1949 on, managed some sf fare like Nelson Bond's Conqueror's Isle (Nov. 7, 1949), Leinster's The Strange Case of J. Klingman (Mar. 6, 1950); another version of MacDonald's A Child is Crying (June 19, 1950); Henry Kuttner's The Martian Eyes (October 30, 1950 and June 4, 1951); Ray Bradbury's Zero Hour (July 23, 1951); Al Bester's Of Time and Third Avenue (Dec. 31, 1951); and Kuttner's The Third Door.

Compared to these great adaptations, Science Fiction Theatre in October, 1955 was incredibly dull and adaptations were not offered again until Rod Serling's Twilight Zone beginning in October, 1959. His best ones, in my opinion, were again the adaptations, although original scripts by Matheson and Beaumont were often superb. Great adaptations were like Bradbury's I Sing the Body Electric; Knight's To Serve Man; Matheson's Third from the Sun; Bixby's It's a Good Life. My own favorite among Serling's personal product is Monsters Are Due on Maple ~~23~~ Street.

Our last TV anthology was, of course, Outer Limits. Ellison's scripts like Soldier and Demon with a Glass Hand were high points, as was the two-part feature, The Inheritors. However, it is interesting to note that 3 Hugos were bestowed on Twilight Zone while none went to Outer Limits in its two eligible years.

So, one more drop in the bucket of nostalgia - a tear drop, for the inability to find anyone in the TV field who can give information as to the whereabouts of the earlier kinoscopes, film or whatever of Tales of Tomorrow, Lights Out and Out There. What fine convention fare these would be!

Best wishes,

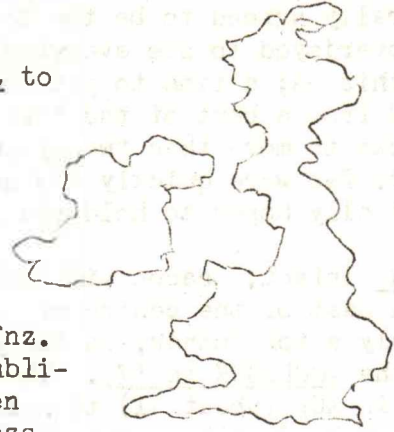
*Made*



FROM THE SAFETY (?) OF THIS COL

An irregular and more or less off the cuff view of U.K. fandom  
by Dave Rowe

BEFORE: I keep asking myself what possessed me to suggest to Donn that I write such a column. The answer is that for about a year TITLE has been regularly arriving at the beginning of each month, just in time for me to read whilst travelling to the Globe. For this, Donn has been receiving the odd, unquotable loc. Then at the beginning of this year a few things were happening (or in some cases weren't happening) which made me want to scream, at least on paper, and paper contained within a fnz. But one of the things that 'weren't happening' was the publication of U.K.-fnz. I had no where to scream. For between the Eastercons of '73 & '74, most of Britain's leading fnzs (Egg, Maya, Speculation, etc.) had not seen print, and those published seemed few and far between. Even Pete Robert's fortnightly newszine, CHECKPOINT, had all but folded.



If fan-pubbing was in a state of depression, then the appearance of the pro-pubbed SCIENCE FICTION MONTHLY was enough to submerge us. The mag is unwieldy; the fiction abominable (one piece was rejected by Moorcock's NEW WORLDS nearly eight years ago). Art is the essence of this magazine, BIG full colour A2 posters, usually backing each other, so you'll have to buy two copies if you want them all. The artist gets a miserly 10 pounds each, which is why the delayed Eddie Jones ish will only contain his below par German Covers. Some photographs in the firstish are credited to me... and I haven't even got a camera. The thirdish had a circulation of 150,000 and it will be on the American stalls, Real Soon Now. You have been warned.

The Globe is to be demolished. In Dec we celebrated its 20th year as the monthly meeting place of the London SF Circle. A new meeting ~~place~~ pub must be found, but efforts were slow and at the time unsuccessful.

Eurocon II (our continental mini-worldcon) had folded, after slowly being piled onto the shoulders of one Belgium fan. And nobody, but nobody, was bidding for the Eastercon in '75, which meant THE annual British gathering would suddenly cease to exist or be handed over to the BSFA Ltd. and more or less suffer the same fate. The British SF Assoc Ltd. (our N3F) was in its usual state of void. At the end of Feb., its then V-Chairman, Keith Freeman, sent an open-letter to the membership reporting what rumours he'd heard about the non-appearance of the official journal, VECTOR and the rumours that its editor, Malcolm Edwards, was thinking of resigning. When communications are that bad in a 'limited' company, you know you've got problems. Not that anybody seemed to notice; such a state is usual for the BSFA, and I'm not being sarcastic.

The British Science Fiction Award hadn't been presented in '73 because only 13 of the 230 membership had bothered to vote. This year the BSFA ltd issued a 'pre-eminent' list of ten titles to 'encourage voting'. The list was made by three members reading all the 149 eligible books and awarding marks to each. The 10 with the most marks were: Clarke: RENDEZVOUS WITH RAMA; E.Cooper: CLOUD WALKER; R.Cowper: CLONE; Dickson: THE ALIEN WAY; W.Guin: BEYOND BEDLAM; Niven: INCONSTANT MOON; B.Shaw: TOMORROW LIES IN AMBUSH; Silverberg: TIME OF CHANGES; J.White: DARK INFERNO; Zelazny: THE DOOR OF HIS FACE, THE LAMP OF HIS MOUTH. (Needless to say Clarke won, damn it! I enjoyed reading the book, but if it keeps winning awards the way it has been, I'm gonna end up hating it. It doesn't deserve one.)

It was just before Tynecon that we heard of the death of Gillon Fields. She was only 35 and could easily have been mistaken for 14 years younger. A short, stout, smiling, happy girl in a wide brimmed cowboy hat, she was very active in the Birmingham SF group (Britain's largest SF group), helping to organise both the last and future Novacon, and arranging the nomination, judging and actual award of the 'Nova', Britain's only fnz award. Gillon is greatly missed by those who worked with her.

DURING: Then it was time for Britain's annual Eastercon, Tynecon (organised this year by Cannet Fandom). Largest so far (509 registered, 415 attending), it was also generally agreed to be the best, capturing the flavour of bygone cons where everybody was overjoyed to see everybody else. It was a time for me to collect the latest info, for this Ms; a time to get the dope on fandom. Instead, I got doped. Or, rather, suffered from a bout of the 'dreaded lurgi'. Most of the con is a haze to me; I doubt if I spoke to more than twenty people! But no less than four bids for Eastercon '75 emerged. Two were quickly and quietly withdrawn, and the vote went to SEacon. It was originally hoped to hold the con at Brighton or some South East Area seaside resort.

AFTER: Infact, Seacon will take place at the De Vere Hotel Coventry, which is just South East of the centre of England. The guest of honor is Michael Moorcock. Seacon is only a forerunner, as the committee have for some time been planning a British Bid for the WORLDCON in '79. The slogan: BRITAIN'S FINE IN '79. Pre-supporting membership is 40p (about \$1) to Malcolm Edwards, 19 Runmoor Grds, HARROW, Middlesex, HA1 1UQ, England. (Also, Malcolm is Chairman of the Seacon, supporting membership 50p) Also on the '79 committee are Pete Roberts and Pete Weston. Give your support, please! (Weston, you know, beat Roberts in this year's Taff race. Pete will be going without Mrs. Weston, as she's presenting him with a second child, due to arrive at the same time as Discon! Pete, you've got nothing to worry about; since when has a fan ever arrived on time?

Some saves! Eurocon by the ultra-sercon French fans - only it's now the "Ile Convention Européenne De Science-Fiction" (as 'Con' is a very rude word in French) at Grenoble, July 8-13, 1974. The 'Globe' -- or rather we've at last found a new meeting place for the London SF Circle. John Brunner gets the credit for finding "THE ONE TUN", 125 Saffron Hill, London E.C.1. Remember that. If you're over here, we meet on the evening of the first Thursday of each month, and everybody's welcome. CHECKPOINT has been saved! The only British fannewszine is now in the hands of Darroll Pardoe, 24 Othello Close, Hartford, Huntingdon, PE18 7SU, England. (litho: A5:4pp, 10 for 50p)

The BSFA ltd. is in as much trouble as usual, if not more. Malcolm Edwards has resigned as editor of VECTOR. Up to a par with SPECULATION and SFR, it'll probably fall back to an irregular crudzine, and just when the Assoc. has received a flood of membership enquiries from SF Monthly readers. However, there is one ray of hope. Chris Fowler will be taking over the VECTOR editorship. I've only met him once, but he struck me as having a keen mind, and he's obviously very active (reports for LOCUS, U.K. agent for RS, active in the Reading SF Club, and film reviewer for VECTOR), so I'm keeping my fingers crossed, whilst biting my nails. (And the BSFA now has a committee full of "new blood" and enthusiasm, but it gets that every other year, and it still makes no difference.)

The only bad news since Tynecon has been the death of Jean Muddoch, one of the stalwarts of the London SF Circle. She emigrated to New Zealand at the end of March and had to be carried off the plane, suffering from cancer and which killed her a month later. A humourous, quiet woman with drawn features and a slight Scottish accent, it is sad not to see her at the meetings anymore.

COMING YOUR WAY SOON: Then suddenly in the middle of May, the British fanzines started to appear again, and should be reaching the states about the time you read this. All exchange and send sample copies.

((Dave then reviews the 'fnzs', which I don't have room for and will print in the next issue. But herewith the ones to watch for....))

CYPHER 11 - US agent: Cy Chauvin  
ERG 47 - Terry Jeeves (address in T28)  
LURK 6 - Mike & Pat Meara, 61 Borrowash,  
Spondon, Derby, DE2 7QH, England

ZIMRI 6 - Lisa Conesa, 54 Manley Rd,  
Whalley Range, Manchester, M16 8HP,  
England



Sheryl Birkhead: "Some of the things I enjoy most -- sitting down back on one of the big rocks, listening to the evening. Hearing the water whisper over pebbles and gurgle to the cattle grazing patiently. Talking to Snappy and Winston ((her horse & dog)) while life goes on at its crazy pace right up over and beyond the top of the hill. The quiet and solitude that lets you live a moment and love it in its simplicity. Or a walk in the woods - away from a crowd. A warm fire in a cabin, while rain beats an audible tattoo on the roof and you know how good it is to be alive and in from the storm. Basically being honest with myself and not having to worry about what others think or say."

Karen Burgett: "Some of my favorite things -- Italian food, fanzines, SF, some fantasy, some rock, Cat Stevens and sometimes Harry Chapin, much of the classical music, including baroque, romantic and 'true' classical. My favorite actress & actor are Katherine Hepburn and Charlton Heston. I like libraries, especially old libraries & old books - art books, science books. People. Impressionism. Writing poetry & stories. Looking thru the telescope, especially at Jupiter. Stars. The sea. The desert & wide open places. Wildlands, forests and fields. Candlelight. Dreaming of the future and of the Universe and of Life. Talking with one person. Snow. Gray skies and rainy days. Clear cool nights with stars and moon. Romanticizing about everything, perhaps unrealistically. Old movies. Baseball. Tennis (although I'm a lousy player). Mythology, especially Greek and Biblical myths. The ancient Mayan civilization and speculating on the past. Shakespeare. Tic Tacs and Juicy Fruit gum. I could go on forever; I guess I just like everything!"

Roger D. Sween: "I did not set out to be a librarian although I was always fond of libraries from the time I can remember. I wanted to be a historian but took library courses in college as insurance against failing to get a job teaching history. As it turned out, there have been plenty of jobs for librarians but few for history teachers during the years I've been working. Becoming a librarian has markedly affected the way I think and my approach to problems. I am, I believe, a dyed-in-the-wool librarian, viewing most things from that perspective. However, I retain my love for history and also do quite a little writing, indexing, and other general fanac now that I have discovered fandom."

Kevin Williams: "Who me? Well, I'm 6'2", eyes of brown, kootchie kootchie kown, has anybody seen George Pal? In addition, I weigh in or out at 165 lbs., most of which is concentrated in my right ear lobe due to the sebaceous cyst. I get these things frequently, alternating between my right and left earlobes. I have a theory that Ghod is punishing me for entering fandom. Everybody knows that Ghod is a mundane. Continuing with the guided tour of my body and self, my hair is brown and long enough to arouse the ire of my parents, who consider H.R. 'Pufnstuf' Haldeman to be a long-haired hippy freak. So much for my body. As for my self, I am 17 years old and a student, in spite of the fact that I go to school. About the only thing I have learned from school is that I haven't learned much from school. I am presently unemployed. I have been offered many jobs, but I've been waiting to hear from you about the position in your barbeque chain. Next summer ((that's right now, folks)) I may get a job with an insurance company, making use of my interest in math. When you exclude sf and fandom, you take a big chunk out of my life. FIAWOL! "

Tony Cvetko: "I helped out at the Warner and Swasey Observatory. They're concerned with stars in the galactic plane, but they also take spectra outside of the plane, just for the record. I go through these 'All Sky' plates and look for early A or B type stars, plus emission line stars and carbon stars. All these are unusual at the high latitudes where I'm looking for them. After I find them I identify them in the catalogues using some star charts. It's pretty interesting, and I figure I'm at an advantage now because I don't have to learn this stuff later on because I know it now."

# SEX

AND THE SCIENCE FICTION FAN

A Survey by Drs. Mahnson and Jassterrs

Abstract by TITLE's Teaneck Correspondent, Ben Indick

Preface: For many years science fiction fandom has been haunted by rumors involving its sexual mores. As recently as its Dec.17th issue of 1972, TIME magazine stated: "Science fiction conventions may be disallowed due to the wildness of attendee conduct." And, as long ago as May 30th of 1941, the same magazine said: "Science fiction conventions have been rumored to be orgies."

In addition, NEWSWEEK, NEW YORKER, THE ATLANTIC, FAMILY CIRCLE, etc. have warned concerned parents that, even if they allow their children to read science fiction, they "should shun having them meet their companions in literature," as READERS DIGEST succinctly put it.

Former editor, Ed Cagle, himself well-known as an apostle of chastity, decided some time ago that this ill-spoken and malodorous ghost should be laid to rest.. He assigned the famous research team of Drs. Alberta Mahnson and Gerrold Jassterrs to examine the entire field of sexuality in fans of science fiction. If the rumors proved true, we must accept them, and, however unhappily, live up to them. If, as Mr.Cagle fervently hoped, they were untrue, then we would proudly and factually deny them.

Fortunately, Ed Cagle was able to print the three volumes by The Noquet Press (\$38.85 for the handsomely bound set) but the abstract, originally destined for KWALIOUA, lay in Mr. Cagle's outhouse papers and was rescued by a stroke of good luck, a story too long and too irrelevant to tell here. Therefore, a TITLE EXCLUSIVE!

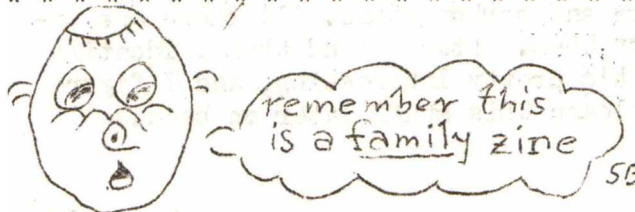
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## COLONISATION OF LEDA IX

by Steve Sneyd

With loss like atmosphere  
the snow duck's hair  
will brush you there  
into the darkness,  
pleasure-tumbling  
into freefall...  
A 9 month's rumbling..  
And by your work,  
o bird and dear,  
a planet that was barren  
heaves  
to breathing and to seas  
and so becomes,  
like spring,  
a flowering nest,  
an arabesque,  
of breasts and feathers.

\*\*\*\*\*



## I. THE STATISTICS

\* Actual fans interviewed: 315  
\* a. 301 male b. 14 female

\* Age break-down: (male)\*  
\* a. Below 10 years of age: 52  
\* (one fan was 7½)  
\* b. 11-15: 27\*\*  
\* c. 16-21: 94  
\* d. 21-25: 107  
\* e. 26-40: 17  
\* f. Over 40: 4

\* Marital status: Of the 301 males, 21 were  
\* married; two of the 14 females were married.  
\* Five of the males had been married before  
\* and divorced. One of the females had been  
\* divorced and remarried. In no case was a  
\* fan married to a fan, although several had  
\* spouses who occasionally indulged in read-  
\* ing sf, but rarely accompanied them to con-  
\* ventions or one another's homes.

\*The 14 females' ages are unknown as they refused to answer.

\*\*The cause of the dropoff is unknown, but there was a measurable drift to comic books in the 10-year olds.

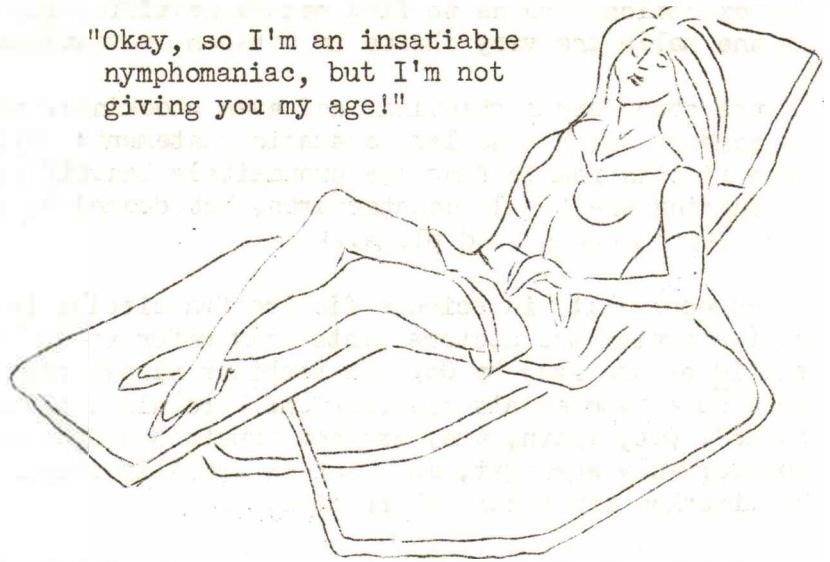


## II SEXUAL ACTIVITY

1. Science fiction male fans are entirely asexual\*, except at Conventions.

It was found that, at home, in college, or, later, in workaday jobs, the males are very much loners. They generally are to be found in their free time writing or reading fan magazines (Drs. M&J rightly refer to these publications as fanzines, and quote Dr. Wertham's study of the term). Male fans rarely read science fiction literature (either in hardcover or what Drs. M&J erroneously call

"Okay, so I'm an insatiable nymphomaniac, but I'm not giving you my age!"



"pornoazines", meaning, of course, "prozines"). The exception to this avoidance of science fiction literature occurs only when the male fan seeks to write reviews for fan magazines (hereafter called fanzines), in which case such reading becomes unavoidable, though certain publishers include enough promotional information (blurbs) to enable the male fan to write three to six pages.

The male fan's evenings are no different than their daytime freetime. One fan was quoted: "I have no time for women; I have nothing against them, in fact, never have I held anything against them, but I'd have no time to read my zines (fanzines)." This typical fan explained that he received an average of seventy-three (73) a week, each of which, being poorly reproduced\*\* on ditto or mimeograph, needed much time for reading and replying (in one Drs. M&J footnote, the investigators reveal their initial misinterpretation of the phrase "to loc a fanzine" before they knew the true meaning of either word.)

2. Science fiction female fans never indulge publicly, in speech or writing, in sexuality, but their confessions in interview prove them to be, with few exceptions, insatiable nymphomaniacs. In addition, at conventions (a subject to be discussed more fully later on) they share the general orgiastic air by using costume balls to display ecdysiast tendencies, commonly referred to as "strip-teasing". ((As an editorial representative, I wish to state that the views of the eminent research team are their own, and do not reflect my own or those of the Editor, Mr. Donn Brazier, although I'm not sure about the latter, or, for that matter, Mr. Ed Cagle who originally hired Drs. Mahnson and Jassters. However, their facts are carefully backed up, as a study of Pp 61-93 in Vol. 2 of the complete study amply demonstrates.))

The female fans, while indeed true fans of science fiction, seem to be in it (with

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\*\*A term constantly employed in fandom that refers only to the manner of making duplicate copies of fanzines; all male fans seem unaware of its compensatory function.

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\* There was an interesting exception to this rule: a small number of so-called male-fans did engage in sexual activity with females (which Drs. M&J erroneously term "fanac".) However, these "fans" were less interested in science fiction than in women, and, as will be seen, female fans were a good source of gratification for them. When examined by several "truefans", it was discovered that the science-fictional background of these "fakefans" was nearly nil; most had read 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea and when asked to name a sf writer, named Ray Bradbury. They were totally unversed in essential knowledge: Harlan Ellison's collected works, Barry Malzman, and Andrew Offutt (the editors have erred again here, for Mr. offutt prefers lower case.) It was determined that these men utilized the fan arena simply to get (sic) "a piece of the fanac."

few exceptions) so as to find sexual gratification easily. This is ironic, inasmuch as the males are very chaste in between conventions (see below).

If the above seems startling and even shockingly impolite, the team of M & J assuages it somewhat with a no less dramatic statement: without even a lone exception, science fiction female fans are exquisitely beautiful; highly intelligent persons, easily outshining their male counterparts, but doomed by a hierarchy traditional to the field to occupy second place.\*\*

3. Homosexuality in science fiction fan circles is unknown. Any fan who is threatened (an action the doctors mistakenly refer to as "egoboo" in the sense of frightening the id of the fan) by Gays or Lesbians always rejects such advances. It is possible that some homosexuals are fakefans here also, thinking to get (sic) "a piece of the fanac", but, again, they are not truefans and have no place in this survey. Fans are unreservedly straight, and what is actually sexual apathy (see conventions below) may be mistaken for sexual aberration.

4. We now come to Conventions\*\*\*, the Dionysiac Rites of science fiction fandom. These are the sole occasions when sexual promiscuity is the norm.\*\*\*\* The reader may wonder how male fans could maintain sexual calm during the long period between conventions, and why beautiful, nubile, consenting ((dutiful?- editor)) females could be so patient. The answer is remarkably simple: there are conventions every other week, or even oftener! A major "con" is held in an accessible major city annually (efforts to hold a major con semi-annually in Leon, Kansas, failed when Mr. Cagle departed the scene.) Minor cons occur with the frequency of new novels by Keith Laumer and anthologies by Robert Silverberg. At the con, a Guest of Honor (GoH) provides a suitable "cover"; however, behind his or her back, an orgy of sexual and alcoholic miasma goes on. Male and female fans alike stagger through several days of frenetic activity before they leave. (Here the Drs M&J err again as they use an incorrect verb, "gafiate". The word means, in deed, to leave, but it is "never to return". M&J interpret it as a special "auf wiedersohn" farewell, i.e. I'll leave now, but I'll see you again later.) Many cities vie for these cons as the liquor revenue is high, and the request for duplicate hotel rooms is inordinately high.

### III CONCLUSIONS

In the absence of a greater sampling of females, it seems clear that SF represents a wish-fulfillment world; not only fantasies are satisfied in sf reading, but their sexual frustrations are gratified in frequent conventions. (Psychiatrists should consider the therapeutic possibilities for their lay patients, i.e. non-sf fans.) Likewise, male fans, while enduring a Spartan routine, are enabled to release their energies periodically. It is clear that marriage per se is an unnecessary and even unwanted institution among fans; and few have indulged in it. Many charts and tables justify these conclusions. However, 315 fans may be an inadequate sampling. There are, after all, 350 fans in this country. Significantly, Australian fans were not interviewed.

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\*\*\*\* "Norm" for "normal"; not Norm Hochberg, necessarily. - editor

\*\*\* Mr. Indick's phrase indicates recency when, in fact, fans have been coming to conventions since 1939 -- editor.

\* Questioned by telegram, Mr. Indick confirms the spelling and intent of the word "beautiful"; in contextual view, this editor supposed the word to be "dutiful".

\*\* From 1926, the first year of active "scientifictional" publishing, to 1939, there were no female fans at all, although several female writers plied the field. In 1939, Eleanor Pflursk became the first fan of the distaff side when a letter of hers appeared in SENSATIONAL SPACE STORIES, a "prozine" whose rupture/truss advs. were its best plotted & illustrated items. In it she asked, and it foreboded today's situation, for "male pen pals who live in my home town, have a car, and like drive-ins."



# VECTOR

Mike Gorra: "I know you're not very much concerned with T's visual aspects, but it seemed you almost went out of your way to get off to a bad start with that horrible Parks' cover. Ghod, but it's bad...why not get Sheryl or somebody to do regular covers for you?" ((I am concerned with visual aspects, though not to the same extent as content; anyway, I use what comes in, and I thought Brad's cover on T28 was stylistically sfish and, bonus-like, fit Ben's tale.))

Bruce Townley: "Don't get insulted when I say I'm pleased and amazed that you have done so much with so little. No electrostencils. No flashy graphics tricks. And yet you're one of the best editors around 'cause you do edit." ((How could I be insulted? What's really happened is that I was lucky to hit a method that brings excellent response in quantity & quality.))

Don Ayres: "One happy trend I notice is that you're picking up a bunch of new readers, to whom my name will be a mystery for awhile. (This frees me to make all sorts of wild remarks). Second, I see that the number of femmefans seems to be on the rise." ((This is an opportunity to list previously active Teople who disappeared: Terry Lee Dale, Norman Hochberg, Elaine White, Patti Sobrero, Matthew Schneck, Ken Ozanne, Harry Morris, Ed Lesko, Sean Summers, Aljo Svoboda, Mark Mumper, Tom Mullen, John Leavitt, Dan Goodman, Cy Chauvin, Larry Carmody, Bill Bliss, & Bill Marsh. ???))

Chester Cuthbert: "Your readers and commentators are a friendly and intelligent group; I hope that TITLE will continue to provide a forum for them far into the future."

Brett Cox: "It's an excellent idea to have two people doing fmz reviews, as the contrasting views of the same zine are much more informative than the usual single-author column." ((With Warren Johnson's gaffiation from T and from fandom, too, will someone volunteer to take WJ's place?))

Denis Quane: "Two different fanzine review columns seems a bit much. As to the 'I feel' rather than 'I think' - what does Mike think about those who say, as I tend to do, 'it seems', or 'it appears to me'? "

Hank Jewel: "a highlight is the editor's mundane affairs. How about making that a regular feature?"

Frank Denton: "Enjoyed the Brazier mundane page. There's so much of everybody else in Title (all enjoyable) that an occasional peek at DB helps to put things into perspective."

Mike Shoemaker: "Two fanzine columns in the same issue? Bad, bad." ((I feel, think, and it seems to me that I'm in the fanzine section of sf fandom, and thus, who knows, someday I may have three fanzine columns - four?))

Marci Helms: "Andrew Darlington's poem was intriguing." ((Andy says he more interested in poetry than anything else, and you'll be seeing more of his work.))

Jim Meadows: "I found Joe Woodard's trip to Denver interesting. Thru Darkest Kansas was a fine conrep. Good. Keep printing that type." ((Ordinarily, I place conreps very low on my print list unless 1) recency 2) interesting 3) done by a beautiful femmefan!))

Bruce D. Arthurs: "Censorship of science? Of course, what about the Scopes monkey trial? He was found guilty, remember? Though he never did pay his fine...Religion has always been one of the major obstacles placed in the way of the search for truths." ((Though I do agree, let's be fair and say any group with a vested interest in the status quo will resist anything rocking the boat.))

Sheryl Birkhead: "Looks as if the people you get in TITLE are a good (albeit 'different') bunch which persists in cropping up in other zines." ((A sign of the fanzine sub-genre?))

# POST

28/11/11

A card from Ben Indick (6-20) was in the same day as a letter from Eric Mayer. Ben liked "the beautifully screwball cover - a delight" and Eric says "two nice covers but not really much to the bacover except it's a pretty good design and I like color." Ben says of his photo: "Alas, that chair is gone now -- a guest plopped his tuchus into it so hard he broke the seat; we had to throw it out."

Eric says: "I'm still bugged by the same problem that confronted me with my first TITLE. There's just too damn much to comment on. Where to begin? Where to stop? I..uh..loved Ben Indick's article. It was both humorous and honest. I don't have his problem, but then I'm not married. I wish you wouldn't refer to TITLE as TIT. And TIT-people makes it sound like the zine is either a pornzine or has a totally female readership." ((Has there ever been a zine absolutely for womenfans? My name "Brazier" is often mispronounced in a way that conjures up the objects that Eric mentions as unsuitable for TITLE's nickname.))

Now here's a string of letters (6-21): Tony Cvetko, Eldon Everett, Kevin Williams, Brad Parks, Karen Burgett, John Robinson, and Michael T. Shoemaker -- all commenting on T28.

John Robinson's letter is largely unquotable because I don't "get" it, like his Cybernetic Kama Sutra of which he asks: "How many cyborgs out there would read it? Send along the usual?" Mysteriously, to me, he says: "I like Mike Blake's art technique. And now that I've mentioned him...perhaps he'll mention me." Of my photo he says: "...looks like Ted Knight with a broader chin. You're sure you don't do the Six O'clock News?"

Elden Everett writes: "Gary Grady's joke reminds me of a similar one. A teacher at Vassar was criticised for recommending

Descartes to her class. She was told you shouldn't put Descartes before the whores!" He adds: "Shaver's latest missive reminds me of an article Ray Palmer ran in the old 'mystery' days, claiming that flat-topped plateaus in the Southwest were all the stumps of giant trees. Must have used a helluvan axe!"

"You made my last loc," says Kevin Williams, "look like I had constructed it by going through a table of random digits and choosing words from a dictionary accordingly. Hey, that would be weird; I'll try it sometime. But the point is that I didn't do it that time."

"I disliked your #28 added to my cover," says Brad Parks. ((I didn't like it there either.)) "The story my cover was for was not so great, but funny." ((Brad, I had tears in my eyes when I finished that mss. from Ben Indick.)) Brad astounds me with this: "I'd like to see a movie where the man takes the woman in his arms, says 'I love you', then shoots her head off." He then says to Jackie Franke: "...your cover flowed but not much. Mine did."

Karen Burgett devotes a lot of a long letter to Kevin Williams' request for guidance in classical music, which I guess I better send to him. However, after 5 pages of classical stuff Karen said: "I was terribly depressed to hear of the death of Duke Ellington. I had only just begun to appreciate his work." She liked my review of Warren Weaver's life, but "I still do not understand what Shaver is talking about. The Titledom map was silly." More: "Parks' cover was strange. I loved the story by Ben Indick. Very well written, with a nice smooth flow to it."

Mike Shoemaker's favorite thing in the issue was the photopage. Dave Szurek could play the title role in 'The Mask of Dimetrios'."

\*\*please take note\*\*

ATTENTION: Tony Cvetko, 29415 Parkwood Dr., Wickliffe, Ohio, 44092, has reservations at Discon for a triple room and Warren Johnson backed out. He wants a volunteer to take up the slack, your body & a little cash, of course! Aug.28-Sept 1 A.M. He says: "Brad's cover is a bit odd..but then Brad is a bit odd. 'I Love You' has to be one of the best pieces Ben has ever written. I chuckled, laughed. Excellent! Fortunately, Ben had a happy ending. As for James Houser, he ought to be put away."



SKEWERED.....The Editor Fills in with Some Fanzine Reviews ....why? Because Warren Johnson has gaffiated and Mike Gorra sent a card, saying: "Sorry, but I can't get you a zine column this month."

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Since I have just a page, and I received 27 fmz in June & 32 in May, I will first of all give a list of the most recommended publications:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| DILEMMA 5 Jackie Franke Box 51-A RR2<br>Beecher, Ill 60401              | NO 15 Ruth Berman 5620 Edgewater Blvd<br>Minneapolis, Minn 55417             |
| AWRY 7 Dave Locke 819 Edie Dr, Duarte<br>Calif 91010 (new address)      | PHANTASMICON 11 Jeff Smith 1339 Weldon<br>Ave. Baltimore, Md 21211 (new)     |
| YANDRO 226 Buck Coulson Rt 3 Hartford<br>City, Ind 47348                | KRATOPHANY 5 Eli Cohen 417 W 118 St<br>New York NY 10027                     |
| CHILDREN OF AHASUERUS Ben Indick 428<br>Sagamore Ave, Teaneck, NJ 07666 | OXYTOCIC 10 Michael T. Shoemaker 2123<br>N. Early St, Alexandria Va 22302    |
| GODLESS 7 Bruce D. Arthurs 57 Trans Co<br>Fort Lee, Va 23801            | WSFA JOURNAL 83 Don Miller 12315 Judson<br>Rd., Wheaton, Md 20906            |
| KOSMIC CITY KAPERS 3 Jeff May PO Box 68<br>Liberty, Mo 64068            | PARENTHESIS 7 Frank Balazs, 19 High St<br>Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520         |
| BANSHEE 8 Mike Gorra 199 Great Neck Rd<br>Waterford, Conn 06385         | IT COMES IN THE MAILS Ned Brooks 713<br>#10 / Paul St, Newport News Va 23605 |
| MAYBE 40 Irv Koch 835 Chatt Bk Bldg<br>Chattanooga, Tenn 37402          | ASH-WING 14 Frank Denton 14654 8th Ave<br>SW, Seattle, Wash 98166            |
| DON-o-SAUR 32, 33 Don Thompson 7498<br>Canosa Ct, Westminster Col 80030 | S.F.ECHO 20 Ed Connor, 1805 N. Gale<br>Peoria, Ill 61604                     |

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After preparing the above, I see that I have forgotten some, so here we go again:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| NOTES FROM THE CHEM LAB Dennis Quane #5 /<br>Box CC E. Texas Sta, Commerce Tex 75428 | DYNATRON 58 Roy Tackett 915 Green Valley<br>Rd NW, Albuquerque NM 87107    |
| SWOON 1 Arnie Katz, 59 Livingston St<br>Apt 6B, Brooklyn NY, 11201                   | KARASS 4 Linda Bushyager, 1614 Evans Ave<br>Prospect Park, Pa 19076        |
| ERG 47 Terry Jeeves, 230 Bannerdale Rd<br>Sheffield S11 9FE England                  | BLACK WOLF 3,4,5,6 Sutton Breiding 2240<br>Bush St, San Francisco CA 94115 |

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Special notes: ERG has a page of 3 illoes showing hand-cut, brush, & ditto duplication samples & a piece of nostalgia about Cagle. KRAT has a Canfield offset cover of sexy/fantasy interest & a sercon linguistic article by Cohen. Good Bradbury info by Mike Glycer in OXY. Ben Indick's publ. is not really a fanzine but a 33p essay, with Xeroxed illoes, of Jews in Fantastic Fiction. (#7 from Balazs has autobiog. info on Mae Strelkov. DILEMMA, this ish anyway, has grown to a genzine plus all of Jackie's normal perzine material. Quane and Greg Benford exchange letter-talk in NOTES. DYNA-TRON is short (8pp) but it's all by Tackett (which is good!). Gary Grady livens up GODLESS with his brand of science-talk about astrology, etc. KARASS is newsy & has a Rotsler folio, and an amusing Bathurst cover. YANDRO is YANDRO-- none much better than that, always. AWRY is normal size but with reduced offset, 54pp of excellent classified discussion. May's KcK has 'slanguage' and a whacky thing by Dave Hall ostensibly about 'wildlife'(?). BANSHEE is highly improved both in a variety of genz material and in its repro. MAYBE thish a factfountain for fanzine fandom. ICITM from Brooks - news, addresses, fmz revs - & incomparable Brooksonian comment. ASH-WING very faanish. Jeff Smith's PHAN is 100pp & has oodles of everything which needs a whole page by itself & will get it in T 30; send \$1 to Jeff if you can't wait. WSFA from Don Miller has about 125pp & a 2pp ToC! Costs \$1.50.

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Two new zines:

ASCELLA 1 Terry Floyd, 506 Holman Lane, Canyon Texas 79015. A genzine with usual first issue problems: content and repro. Terry says he is just learning the intricacies of the mimeo & it shows.

THE DIVERSIFIER 1 C.C.Clingan & A.B.Clingan 1254 Leah Court, Oroville, Calif 95965  
Poetry & fiction, mostly by the Clingans. Somewhat like BLACK WOLF, though not as 'arty'.

JET-SETTING WITH MR. J.

The sky is watching me.  
Sometimes  
I feel so  
exposed.  
So vulnerable.  
I hide under tables,  
and occasionally in sewers,  
but when I emerge,  
its  
still there.  
watching.  
Precariously suspended  
- above me.  
Waiting.  
Sometimes  
I get scared.  
I asked a man on the street,  
he said  
'Tis all right,  
Atlas is on double-time.'  
But what can you do ?  
Where can you run  
when the sky  
is  
watching  
you ?

-- Andrew Darlington

TITLE #29  
Donn Brazier  
1455 Fawnvalley Dr.  
St.Louis, Mo. 63131  
USA

NOTED IN PASSING by Gary Grady

\* 264,000 bottles of Scotch recently fell into the Detroit river from a barge. They were recovered undamaged, but the FDA nonetheless ordered them destroyed because, "Anything that has been submerged in the Detroit River is contaminated."

\* Solid state researchers are excited over the possibility of metallic hydrogen, which many feel may turn out to be a room temperature superconductor. There is a catch, though. The state may be meta-stable, which would make the substance 30-40 times as dangerous as TNT.

\* The worst American earthquake occurred in the Midwest in 1811. The fault, while not as well known as the San Andreas, is still there. ((& when I was in Texas in June, St.Louis had a nighttime tremor -- Brazh))

\* This must be a landmark in stupidity-- Eugene McCarthy on the Apollo Program: "In truth, the scientific and technological fallout was limited to how the human body behaves in a vacuum, and the economic fallout has been trivial."

\* L.L.Jones, the Smithsonian's Curator of Worms!

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