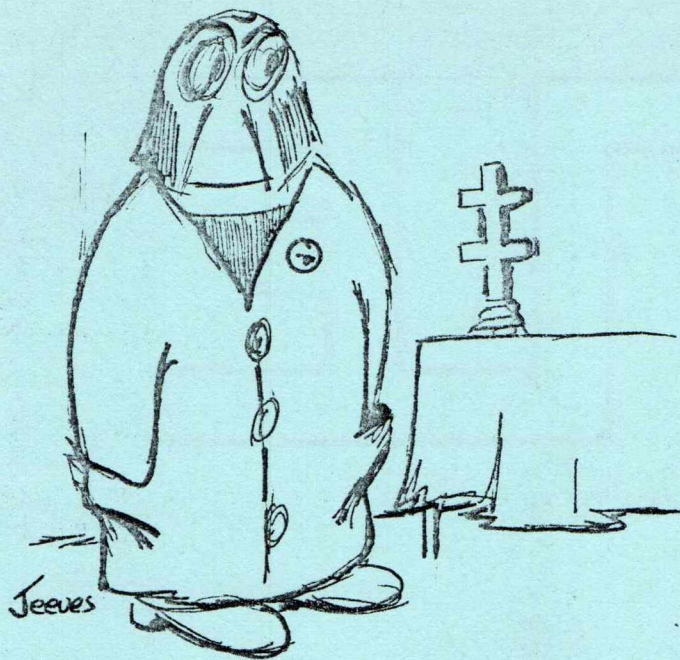


# ELITE







# Atot

Jan.19,1976... The Bloch interview in this by Philip A. Shreffler is one of several that Phil managed to get of fantasy authors at the First Fantasy Con in Providence... Phil, at the meetings of the Noble Bachelors (Sherlock Holmes sci-on), is Lord St.Simon... Last Saturday night 21 of us toasted Holmes on the occasion of his 122nd birthday, then sat down to a genuine old-English dinner of mulligatawny soup, fillet of Dover sole wrapped around asparagus & covered with masseline, tossed salad, spit-roasted prime rib, yorkshire pudding, stuffed-baked potato, and English trifle. My wife (the Holmes expert) and I shared a bottle of Beaujolais.... Of interest to sf fans was one of the papers about Holmes whose takeoff peg was credited to H.P.Lovecraft for devising and exploiting the "lurker" concept. All in all an enjoyable evening (and rather expensive, too).

Must tell you about the surprise package that came from Bill Bliss; it preceded his letter of explicit directions, and I had many hours trying to figure out how the intriguing gadget worked. In fact, I've darn near worn out the battery that sends current to the small light bulbs mounted behind the magnifying glass. The whole "POP ART MACHINE", Model 1, #000 002, is mounted in a shiny aluminum box 4x5x6", with a viewport (I belatedly discovered after hours of trying to get the machine to project an image on a screen) just above the angled magnifying glass. Under the lens (functioning as a combination refractor/reflector) is a clip attached to a rotatable knob on the face of the box. In the clip one puts a variety of several twisted, colored wires and knotted wires, obligingly sent by Bill, though I can now manufacture my own topological objects to image through the lens. Although there is some magnification of the wires, this is not the point. In a way I have yet to determine, various levels of a knot, say, come into strange levels of focus but in a flowing, continuous way so that one sees interlocking doughnuts, spheres, peninsulas, etc. which shift into alien formations as the knob is slowly turned, thus rotating the wire strands. Bill Bliss, I hope I have done justice in my description of your contraption.

I feel fortunate in knowing Bill. There are lots of TITLERS who have influenced my mental set by giving me fresh views of reality; in fact, if you forgive a burst of sentiment, I find the LoCs so graciously and profusely sent my way to be a topological equivalent of the best of SF stories. And with an added plus-factor: these contacts have an element of personal reality. Bill Bliss, for instance, tinkering away in his little TV and radio repairshop actually exists. As did Richard S. Shaver, Alma Hill, Verne O'Brian, and Arthur Louis Joquel. As do Ed Cagle, Dr.Fredric Wertham, Gary Grady, Don Ayres, Claire Beck, Sheryl Birkhead, Sutton Breiding, Ann Chamberlain, Hank Heath and oh, just all of you, like Ben Indick who generates a special sort of warmth, like Bruce Townley, Simon Agree, & Brad Parks who constantly toss me riddles of such genius that often I wonder if I understand. There's no end to it, folks, and I just do not have the room to print my whole circulation list. And there're some who used to get TITLE I sorely miss....

Wow! Am I glad I ordered the SCIENCE-FANTASY CORRESPONDENT from Carrollton-Clark! Restrained quality, nostalgia & new, a labor of love just as was their LOVECRAFT AT LAST. And I do believe Bill Bliss (and TITLE) scooped the illo on page 60. Refer to Bliss' tinfoil image in TITLE 44, last page!

The enormity of my projected review of the year 1975 in fanzine activity has chilled me off. I've toyed with various ways of easing the task, mulling over lists and statistics for hours on end. I chopped an original list of over 1,500 names down to only the fanzine editors, but that wasn't fair because some active writers and loccers do not produce a fmz; also there were over 300 names right in that list. So now I have some "scores" arrived at in methods of some questionableness, but the scores do take into account 5 factors: fanzines produced, written material summed for all issues, written material counting only different fanzine titles in which the material was printed, total locs, number of different fanzines locced, and cover art produced.

I don't want to make a big thing of this, but you might be interested in the results. Factors 1,2,& 3 above were given a weight of 2x; items 4&5 were weighted as is. The score is the summation.

Don D'Amassa 274, Mike Glicksohn 171, Ben Indick 153, Harry Warner 152, Sam Long 132, Donn Brazier 130.

Jodie Offutt 119, Sheryl Birkhead 96, Gary Grady 95, Paul Walker 90, Bruce Arthurs 85, Roger Sween 83, Eric Lindsay 82, Cy Chauvin 78, John Robinson 76, Jon Incuye 74, Brett Cox 72, Gil Gaier 71.

Doug Barbour 70, Jessie Salmonson 70, Steve Beatty 69, Eric Mayer 68, Mike T. Shoemaker 68, Mike Gorra 67, Wayne Martin 66, Rich Bartucci 65, Jackie Franke 64, Al Sirois 64, Dale Donaldson 62, Neal Wilgus 60, Dave Rowe 58, Frank Denton 55.

Leah Zeldes 54, Patrick Hayden 51, Buck Coulson 51, Andy Darlington 50, Dave Romm 50, Bruce Townley 50, Terry Jeeves 49, Taral MacDonald 49, Brad Parks 49, Ed Cagle 49, Laurine White 47, Frank Balazs 46, Bill Breiding 46, Sutton Breiding 46.

Peter Roberts 46, Bob Tucker 46, Darrell Schweitzer 45, Mae Strelkov 44.

Well, that's the top 100, but my list of scores goes on for a total of 179 names. Let's now move on to other listings.

These were the ten who had printed in other fanzines than their own, if any, the most written material: D'Amassa 41, Jon Incuye 19, Paul Walker 17, Brazier 17, Jodie Offut 15, Darlington 12, Wilgus 12, Sween 12, Indick 11, Gorra 11, Grady 11, and Beatty 11. The sequence shifts somewhat if only different zines are counted.

I thought a wider spread of an author should count extra because it means more active participation in all of fandom. D'Amassa still heads the list with an appearance in 27 zines. Paul Walker, who appeared in only 9 different zines, came down a little.

Let's go on to the loccer list. Mike Glicksohn had 81 locs in 54 different zines-- the top. D'Amassa beat out Harry Warner in numbers of locs, 79 to 75, but Harry appeared in more zines than Don did, 51 to 47. Ben Indick was a very strong fourth in both categories, 67 & 40. Sam Long was breathing down his neck with 61 & 37.

Jodie Offutt and Sheryl Birkhead will have decide who takes the next spot:

Jodie 43 - 24

Sheryl 37 - 28

Had enough? I could go on and on with my lists. If there's a show of interest, perhaps I could mimeo a couple of legal sheets to mail back to anyone sending me a SASE. For all I know nobody really cares....?

For the record, in case the facts got lost in the statistics above:

#### CHAMPION LOCCERS OF 1975:

Mike Glicksohn	81 - 54
Don D'Amassa	79 - 47
Harry Warner	75 - 51
Ben Indick	67 - 40
Sam Long	61 - 37

#### CHAMPION WRITERS of 1975:

Don D'Amassa	41 - 27
Jon Incuye	19 - 17
Paul Walker	17 - 9
Donn Brazier	17 - 15
Jodie Offutt	15 - 11

#### CHAMPION COVER (Back & Front) ARTISTS:

Al Sirois	12
Sheryl Birkhead	9
Grant Canfield	9
Brad Parks	5

Admittedly, the scores do not reflect any quality ratings, thus becoming meaningful only in exactly what they measure-- how much exposure in fanzines. And left out (because getting the count was too horrible to contemplate) were all the interior illos.

Anyway, were there any surprises? Another survey, using a different set of fanzines, might be very different.





In December, for showing several times on the educational channel KETC during 1976, I was invited to prepare and appear on a thirty-minute segment of a series on career opportunities in the natural sciences. Above, I am shown with the series moderator, Chris Moore. The two highschool students, who also appeared on the show to pose questions, were selected from the museum's Science Career Program, and obviously do not appear on the photograph above.

The passage of time is shown from a comparison of myself below, doing one of my weekly experiment shows in Milwaukee, 1950-58, on the commercial station WTMJ-TV. To buy supplies and try to pocket a little cash, I was paid the sum of \$50 per program.



## REPORT TO PLIMST

#1 11/111/11/1

Touched down in flat target area. Planet has more oxygen in atmosphere than we calculated from xirchu-lines on Plimst. Corrosive coefficient of better than 11/1/111111. Duration of site observation necessarily of short duration.

Sending via xirchu the evidence of life observed. Hoping for plus-1 transmission conditions.

Perhaps after near-space scrubdown, we can return for more observations and resultant xirchus.

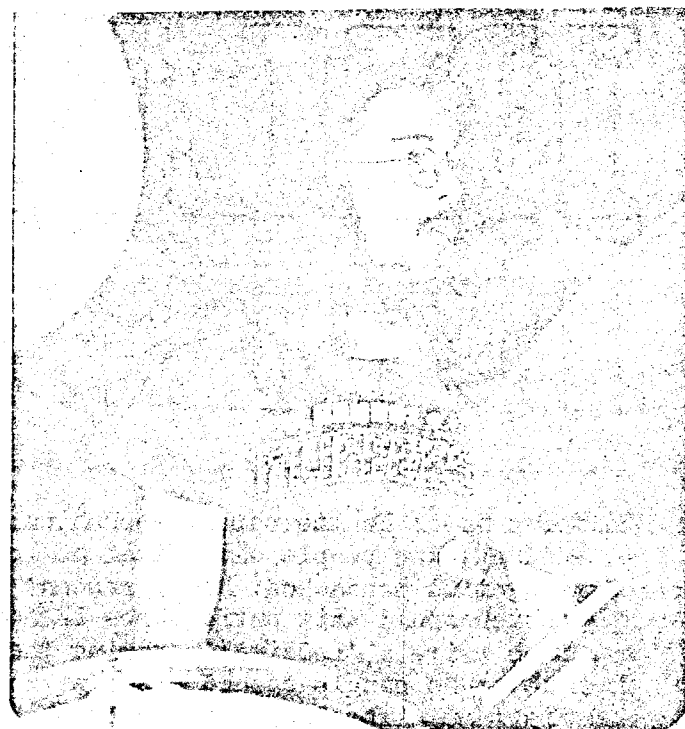


Notes on the xirchu. The intelligent life-form on the right (bearing an astounding resemblance to us plimsters) is performing some sort of ritual dance with its slave on the left. The line connecting the two resembles our own heelax, though, of course, with such a rapid observation we witnessed no passage of heelaxen.

The slave was uttering a series of gibberish similar to our sapindex, whereas the intelligent being was xxfgh kl///;8...#mmbn



K. ALLEN BJORK



AL SIROLS

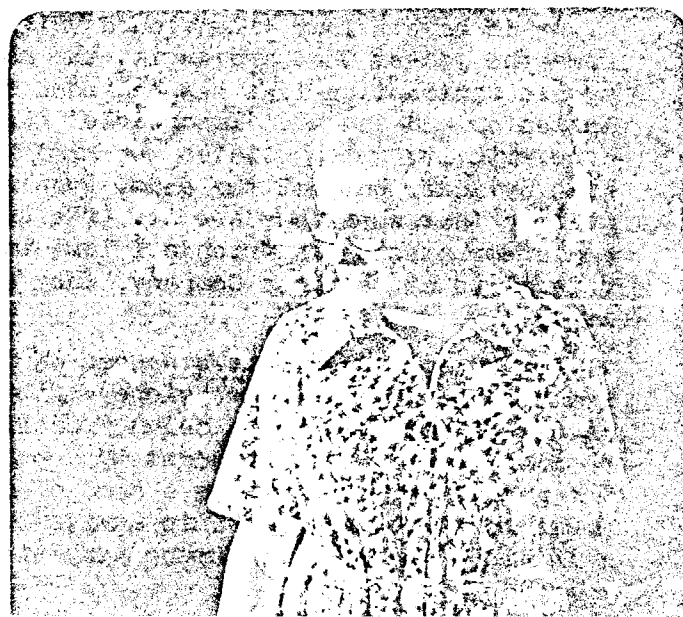


JON  
INDUVE  
←

↓ ROBERT E. BLENHEIM



DON DANASSA → MESTREKOV



# BILL BLISS

Editor's note: In the purely mechanical problems of editing, two people have given me the greatest of delightful headaches: Don Ayres and Bill Bliss. The former would wait until three issues had gone by, then write a 'LoCzine' covering them all in from 10 to 20 single-spaced pages with decorations and diagrams. The latter mails me what he calls 'continuing locs'; they cover everything -- and more -- of all issues in from 2 to 6 singlespaced pages decorated with diagrams, etc. and accompanied with photographs. Since October, for instance, Bliss has mailed me 16 such letters, four letters and a package already in the first half of January! I wish I could duplicate all the photos-- even the one of three punching bags stacked in a corner of the room, looking for all the world like three onions in a vegetable bin. You can see my problem with the genius of Bill Bliss; whatever I select for this brief report is only the tip of the iceberg.

\*\*\*\*\*

How many old tv sets would an archeologist have to study before he found one with a channel 1? A few had it. A couple dozen thousand years from now somebody might find a medallion with the familiar Russian hammer and sickle....obvious tools...but that is only a political hammer...no way at all to deduce that meaning from the glyph.

...we do have a four dimensioned universe, and I have the gadget that proves it, the notorious wire puzzle Contraption that has had some small circulation around fandom. 'Impossible' things can be done with it, which rotates the middle of a long thin cylinder but not the ends. People do fail to believe that when they see it. ((He sent me this and after amazing my friends I lent it to some scientists at Monsanto Company; they still have it.))

...relativity is dual..two spaces in the same space (which means 8 dimensions). Fixed space - 'etherial world' or more scientifically, 'universal imagery'. I have a gadget that proves that. The gadget (which utilizes a kind of matrix image) would make a good space ship navigating device to maintain an accurate reference any place in space.

"Bill Bliss....if everyone had a mind like his the world would be one hell of a chaotic place...but fascinating as well."

-- Eric Mayer

"The way Bill Bliss tosses out ideas like a popcorn machine, he'd be giving me a headache."

-- Jackie Franke

"I thought the Bliss type was nearly extinct, and I'm heartened to know a few individualists still exist. Let's breed him to someone properly similar and prolong the better strains of the human race. Hell, I'll bet he'd even go for that!"

-- Ed Cagle

"Has Bill Bliss ever heard of Le Petomane, a French nightclub entertainer of the turn of the century? He could whistle the French national anthem thru his anal sphincter...a PARTA-PHONE?"

-- Sam Long

"...self-taught genius like Bill Bliss...his intelligence is obvious, and I regret that he is not armed with a scientific background. What wonders might he discover! Hyperdrive, maybe?"

-- Gary Grady

"...the sort of great things you print and no other faned does... the pages about/by Bill Bliss...."

-- Marci Helms

"...so let's hear more about or from Bill Bliss...he seems to have a random/associative mental process... a sort of one-man think-tank."

-- Fred Moss



The other kind of space is difficult to describe. Put simply, anything that has a different motion has its own space that is its own space and different. How can anything in motion also stay in the same place be made to sound reasonable? When the observer relates at a ratio of .5 to the fixed relative space? Argh.

There are easily seeable pictures in some emulsions as well as rocks. Best I have found so far are in near-empty or empty bottles of Kaomagma from the drugstore. The images are best seen & photographed by lighting from the inside with a small bulb dropped down the neck of the bottle.

SAGA had an article with illos of a lot of rock walls (the article was about a survival course) out west. One pic turned sideways was a very plain picture of a very plain young and very pregnant girl. I cut out the illos and made a paste-up that brought out the rock images and sent it to them. Got a note back that they didn't think it was quite worthy of an article.

How many major inventions have you seen since 1942? I've seen only one - a transmission for electric vehicles by Kiddera. It looks trivial, using the motor itself for a differential, but what is new there is that it's a self-acting mechanism, requiring no reaction mass coupling to act. Be jim dandy for space station telescope aiming.

Lasers new? He has passed on but I used to know an old neon tube bender who made one in 1911. He was trying to find a way to hop up gas discharge tubes; he had mirrors in the ends which also served as electrodes. It was water cooled. He gave up the research as being too dangerous when he melted a hole in a brick wall you could toss a cat through, and scorched the side of a nearby building.

Even Nicola Tesla himself wouldn't stand the chance of a fart in a whirlwind these days - especially if an invention or discovery conflicts with large vested interests. Crackpot is a safe label for the great herd mind of the world

...might be worlds that do not have a causality like ours does. They could never change except to be added to. A very difficult sort of creation to be sure- needing to be correct the first time around. It's a very likable idea I've had for a long time.

One study of plants hooked up to the lie

detector might be valuable to farmers. How plants get along with one another. How would a test plot of lettuce react to a cabbage being transplanted into it? Can goats be used to breed weeds into humanly edible plants? Parts of a weed patch could be harvested and fed to a goat and another part left to grow its wild way. Would that part get the word and start seeding off more edible weeds? The polygraph could be used to check to see if the non-harvested patch became less worried when the goat was around.

Could be there is no real respiratory hazard on a lot of planets except they might stink like a skonk works. That would be a fun sf theme to explore.

There's a great deal about shapes. Read somewhere that experimental hexagon beer kegs weren't good for the flavour. Dr. Wilhelm Reich did a lot of research on the effects (especially medical) of various shapes.

The difficulty with depicting aliens is if they are too alien they are too alien to be understood even by readers of over 220.6 IQ. So they end up humanly alien. Anything that luvess, hates & faunches is at least 22% human.

On Spock's Volcan all baseball games end in ties since baseball is played logically there. They always have two umpires who argue with each other and so do not disturb the game.

Fight fire with fire...produce things that blow the minds of critics, literary and such, and leave them fomenting & faunching & talking to themselves in the dark of night?

Found out what was causing 99% of the typos afflicting me the past few months- sexual frustration. I had been putting off writing a sf whorey story. I took a page of a letter utterly ruined by typos and typed all of the typos out on another page. ERGO! They were little snippets of that X-rated tale. Now I wonder-- has anybody had sexy typos before? One such 'natural' typo is spelling function as fuction.

Lots of things in life usta be free-- street car transfers, cheese boxes, old barrels. I built my first successful radio on a wooden codfish box. It was a bit aromatic when the two tubes warmed it up.

Do wolves and dogs bay at eclipses?

Does the CIA decode my letters to Argen-

tina?

My earliest memory was mundane enough... sitting on a piano stool getting vaccinated for small pox with a phonograph needle.

In a dream an old school principal set up a thing that looked like a weird hotrod exhaust system. He struck an old-fashioned match and turned on a valve. A flame spouted from a center orifice in a nest of rusty steel tubes. It made singing sounds that were like an orchestra warming up, and it was since it turned out to be a mechanical flame organ. There was just enough gas left in the tank for it to play a minute. But WOW! That old contraption played perfect maximum music-- the only tune they had was Sweet Adeline. But a complete roundo. I have studied my dream for several years, and have much of the mechanism well defined-- it runs with a simple heat engine and is a monoflame model. Now, does this world have any suitable pipe?

I accumulated 19 bushel of antique light bulbs in '40-- sold 18 bushel out too early at only 60¢ each. Retail they run about two clams apiece currently. Found a lot of them because they made TV interference. They acted as oscillators on or close to channel 5. Gads, if the common light bulb had been researched better earlier, electronics would have got a big shot in the arm early. Such a simple thing working so well as an rf oscillator--just a hot loop of wire in a semi-vacuum..... ((Wasn't that the so-called Edison effect which he and everyone else neglected to study?))

An inventor or discoverer always at first is the only available expert. That brings an interesting legal situation to mind. Supposing a sf author wrote a super sexy whorey story and ran afoul of blue laws. But it was a story that did not concern humans at all, and was depicted as being in a far place and future time. The author would be the only available expert for the court.

What would happen if the sun suddenly were missing? The planetary bodies would take off into space, probably retaining their satellites. Could our moon be converted to a large heating plant? Are there starless planets like that? Would there be binary pairs of planets? .... and wot if all this was a carefully maintained bit of staging - my own research reveals that depth information outside of binocular is carried by electromagnetic waves -like

actually going and tromping around on the moon is evidently the only way to verify something off planet really is there. So somewhere a jiffy order is issued- 'QUICK Get a real moon out there in place of the cheap projection-- a couple of humans are headed for it in a combustion powered contraption!'

Leftover Title Royales ((a drink concocted by Jodie Offutt)) can be simmered at low heat on the back of the cookstove for five hours and then used for sepia-toned mimeo ink or imitation walnut stain..... TREE FROG BHEER is so called because if you drink three quarts of it at one sitting, you shinney up a tree and croak.

TITLE ROYAL - Jodie Offutt Mar.'74

1 jigger Kentucky Straight Bourbon  
1 jigger Tequila  
dash of simple syrup  
dash of bitters  
shake over ice & strain

Did a couple pages on death last night, but discarded it-- all too morbid. My theme was we have a design (especially of brainbox) that obviously was designed for an extremely long service life. But we have a fast turnover of individuals in the population. Why? Likely because this is a lousy planet & something should have been done about that ages ago.

Wonder how Tody Kenyon painted her new steps...It might be interesting psychologically to letter UP with an arrow going up on the left side and DOWN with an arrow going down on the right side. Most people are right-handed and go up & down steps to the right. ((Would this be true in some foreign countries where driving habits are different?)) Watch to see if people obey the signs. For a bit of humour UNDECIDED could be lettered in the middle of the steps.

A number of different colored paint tanks could be connected to random dripping nozzles...set up on the wringer of an old washing-machine and run teletype paper through the wringer to print ever changing patterns.

Some of my favorite things include Claude Rains, a few old phono records like Bennie Moten and the Kansas City Night Hawks playing Slow Motion Stomp, books by humorists, sometimes grisly stuff by Ambrose Bierce, fanartist Ken Fletch. (Where the heck are you hiding out these days? In Tolkienville?)



If Thoreau were alive today and still had his frog pond, the Federal Environmentalists would make him chlorinate it in case somebody trespassed and went swimming.

...morgues are all put out in orbit to make room for more people on Earth.

Think tanks bomb out without a consulting crackpot.

...sometimes I get sidetracked. Maybe my life is a sidetrack. Last week a portly lady dropped by my shop and offered any amount of money for a photograph of the original creation. Only two clues-- it would have absolute perfection and be in primary colors only.

...energy saving invention. Two thin pads worn in the armpits and containing thermocouples hooked up to a small storage battery which is hooked up to a small room heater when one gets home. It's just flea power--but if millions of people do it... Will dandruff and crotch sweat ever have a practical use? Of course, human exhaust is well known to contain gas of good fuel value. In fact, it can be an inflammable hazard- fortunately a rare accident - resulting in a scorched derriere. A common household could have a piping system hooked up to all chair seats - including der can of course. When the seat occupant feels exhausting is imminent, pushes a button and a pump & filter system in the basement starts up and compresses the gas into a cylinder, later used instead of gasoline in the car. The filter system is necessary, or everyone in or near a car would have to wear a gas mask. A typical homey family scene, the family at supper and der Mama says: 'Little Herman, you be sure to eat all your beans- we got to make a long trip in der Volkswagon tomorrow.' Such gas collectors could be installed in busses, and if a passenger made a substantial contribution to the vehicle's fuel supply they would receive a small refund on departing the bus. An advertising slogan might be: ~~MERRILY~~ WE FART ALONG.

No doubt tradition has limited the fandom beanie to merely having a propellor spinner, but things like a Crooke's radiometer could be affixed up there as well as weathervanes, aerometers, lightning rods, flying saucers, or small neon signs that say NEO, KOMICS, BNF, etc. If the fan wearing a beanie with radiometer was standing on a surface of low coefficient of friction, the little heat engine could counter-rotate the fan.

That late great depression...When my sister was born, all we could afford for a cradle was an orange box. We had a small Majestic radio that sat dead for 6 months because we couldn't afford a 90¢ tube for it. I got 2¢ for the first repair job I ever did, in '33. They were Indian head pennies; I still got 'em. My pappy got a brief spurt of prosperity and we got a Ford in '32 for \$50, but later had to trade down to an old Durant. Heated bedrooms wuz a luxury. The thing that made that depression so ghastly was it lasted so long.

Let us all hope that OSHA doesn't find out about the meteorite hazard, or the birdbath hazard. I dunno what ever hazard a birdbath could have, but with enough study one probably could be ascertained. Will OSHA require that bowlers grease their fingers to insure that a finger will not get hung up in a ball?

My favorite FM longhair moosic station just announced that the Cleveland Orchestra is being brought to you live on tape!

...the modern high revving short stroke auto engine obviously is just to reduce mfg cost - obviously less material - and the faster any machine runs, the quicker it waers out.

...there is the phenomena of secondary images to any image (not counting the amorphous ones). They can be easily seen by inverting almost any image and viewing it intently in dim light at distances of 6-ft plus.

...much of so-called sf is weak on the sf factor, especially in competence of future technology. Of course, fiction can use fictional inventions. I did a short that JWC thought lacked some virtues as literature (it did). It was about the last independent inventor who had produced a device that made chunks of spaceless space. I called the tale THE IMMOVABLE CHUNK OF NOTHING. Everything that impinges on a chunk of nothing is instantly converted into nothingtrons, which are impalpable.

...apes are being subverted to civilization in the course of scientific research. ..they'll be being income tax, and get drafted for jungle warfare. All Tarzan books will be locked up as porn. Is a naked ape indecent? Very likely it will be decided that an ape with too short a haircut would be indecent.

Ever get a LoC before the ish is out?

# WANT AIDS

201 PERSONALS

To Donn Brazier & Denis Quane: "You're both hoaxes-- and both by the same demented hoaxter. Apparently the fiend misplaced an 'n' along the way, thus missing the more common spellings of Don & Dennis." -- from K. Allen Bjorke.

To Mike Bracken: "Love the picture of your dog. Do you have a cat?" -- Neal Wilgus.

To Dave Szurek: "You say you have fewer nightmares than most people he knows but your list is quite a bit longer than mine. My most recent nightmare, my mother was being attacked by a hairy vicious-type ape-man. This was taking place in the backyard and I ran out and set the beast on fire. Thus, it started chasing me up our driveway literally flaming mad. I woke up then." -- from Frank Balazs.

To Ann Chamberlain: "Jack Vance edited a collection of his own stories called the PANDORA EFFECT. In each story mankind reached for the box of forbidden knowledge and got bit by what was inside. In Mr. Vance's opinion the pandora effect is best illustrated by his famous, 'The Huminoids'. Robots enslave humanity, taking away all initiative; the robots eventually perform lobotomies so man will not be unhappy at being a prisoner." --From William Wilson Goodson, Jr.

To Carl Bennett: "Great cover, Carl-- why don't you do loads more?" --Sheryl Birkhead.

To Everyone: "Won't someone please order some of my leather wallets, or take my hand-made wallets on commission or some other basis? Must make some shekles, uh, sheckels? Anyway, money." -- from Sheryl Birkhead.

To Ben Indick: "If I were asked to nominate a candidate for best fictioneer in fandom, I would reply: Ben Indick! I love good fanfic, & the contents of my genzines will bear out, and I think you, Ben, are one of the outstanding fiction talents in fandom today. And 'The Movement of Man' (in ASH-WING 18) is but one of your fine stories. And, Ben, I don't consider you to be a Lovecraft Cultist. I've never read a statement by you on Lovecraft which was fanatical or which could not be backed with hard proof. You seem to weigh your words carefully before giving an opinion, and I've never known you to lose your composure." -- from Loay Hall.

To Dave Szurek: "I believe the explanation for your 'demon-woman' dream (which probably lasted only a few seconds of real time) coincidence is that the dream was caused by the sensation of being kissed while asleep." -- from Stephen Dorneman.

To Jackie Franke: "If you think your dining room is bad, you should have seen my bedroom before I 'cleaned' (sort of-- I'm very never neat)." -- Alyson L. Abramowitz

To Sheryl Birkhead: "Loved your 'article' on the pet snake. Twas cruel ending it there, though. I look forward to future installments." -- A.L.A.

To Dave Szurek: "I am tempted to reply to you but see little to be gained in entering into a discussion with someone whose mentality is, by his own admission, limited." ((Okay, you've each had a shot, so that will be all for this incipient feud...))

-- Roy Tackett

To Donn Brazier: "Of course I'm out of work. I'm just a housewife..."-- Jackie Franke

To Ken Josenhans: "Your remark reminds me when I was a freshman at Syracuse Univ. We had a dialect called 'Penthouse Jewish', the 'penthouse' coming from where we lived on the top floor of a new dorm. To speak Penthouse Jewish, you take a verbal noun and turn it into a phrase such as 'Feeling okay today.' You then add on a compound-complex sentence to finish the job off. I suspect Isaac Asimov speaks it though he doesn't write it. There's a definite rhythm to PJ: Peddle, Backpeddle, Peddle-on-out." -- from John Robinson.

To Mary Martin: "If you want the fun of killing bugs on a one-to-one basis, I recommend a sunny day and a strong magnifying glass. For mass formicide, pour boiling water down ant burrows." -- from Stephen H. Dorneman.

To Gene Wolfe: "Your deserved note about 'Those who survive are the fittest' reminds me also that what's good is what works." -- From Don Ayres.



To Dr. Fredric Wertham: Dr. Wertham should feel no misgivings about Robert Irwin's case. He took his stand after carefully considering the evidence, and it was all he could do. Irwin's treatment was inhumane and unjust, but the blame should go to the facility where he was imprisoned, not to Dr. Wertham. Common sense tells you that a man of artistic abilities, deprived of expression, can only become more disturbed as frustration mounts within him. If he could not be cured, his frustration could at least have been given an outlet, via the art supplies he was refused. ---Loay Hall.

To Jackie Franke: I agree about printing dates ((on fanzines)), not that it makes that much real difference when something was done, but I like to know. And the archaeologist who digs it up in 3750 will appreciate it..

To Eric Lindsay: I care about layout ((of fanzines)). It isn't just a matter of good layout making the material easier to read. It is a matter of enjoyment. Good layout is esthetically pleasing and bad layout is ugly.

To Pauline Palmer: I don't want to hear about spinach wine.

To Donn Brazier: I don't get that about the compressed recording- what use is a 3-min recording compressed into 3 seconds, whether the frequency goes up or not? I know this is done with material for transmission to get it through quicker, but you aren't transmitting to anyone. Or are you? --- all the unacknowledged personals above from Ned Brooks. ((My compression of 3 minutes to 3 seconds was experimental, and I haven't become used to 'translating' the short version, though I have been able to shorten up instrumental music considerably with full comprehension and enjoyment. The only one I'm transmitting to is myself, and if I can hear six songs in the time/space of four, say, I am two songs ahead of the game.))

To Bruce Arthurs & his offset press: Don't despair so soon. The reason you have to make those adjustments all the time is because it's not your machine. Believe me. I used to run one many years ago, with 5-6 different types of paper stock simultaneously no less. The only adjustments from day to day were in the fountains and feed pressure. It's a snap! --- Hank Heath.

To Anna Schoppenhorst & C.D. Doyle: You will be happy to learn that your worst fears have come to pass with Contact Karate. A little blood for everyone. --- Hank Heath.

To Anna Schoppenhorst: ...more right than you realize when you say that 'some day the cinema will no longer be able to satisfy' the gory violence that people have become accustomed to. That time has already come. I have received letters from France and from folks in this country about underground movies called 'slashers' in which actresses (who didn't know what they were in for) were stabbed and seriously injured in fact and not just simulated on the screen. Prices to see such a film range apparently from \$200 to \$1500. --- Dr. Fredric Wertham.

To Gary Grady: I doubt that you know this... ((Don't bet on it!--ed.)) Congenital erythropoietic porphyria is a rare inherited disease (though purportedly common in certain European families during the Middle Ages) whose symptoms include a greatly increased sensitivity to sunlight, the formation of scar tissue on the hands (giving them a claw-like appearance) and face (especially on the nose and brow regions), unusual hair growth on regions of the body exposed to the sun, and (due to the buildup of heme in the body) red teeth and bones. People who go about only by night in some Middle Age European families, with hairy claws and faces, heavy brows and broad noses and blood-red teeth. And so the legend of the werewolf is born. Ironically enough, the condition is aggravated not by the moon, but rather by the sun. ---Stephen H. Dorneman.

To Donn Brazier: Wow, I just realised that you must be an accomplished psychiatrist in your own right. I assume many of us Titlers shovel our problems into our locs. I guess you don't really redress them, but your experience must be worth something by now. And reading Title sure takes our minds off hang-ups for a short while, so you do indeed have some sort of temporary cure-all on your hands. --- Rod Snyder. ((By no means am I a psychiatrist though I've had lots of college psychology and still read a lot in the field. I will admit to empathy, actually too much for my own material progress in a materialistic society. Read that...I'll answer a call to help while I ought to be helping myself. Like I generally end up last in any waiting line. But it makes me feel good to know your thought, Rod.))

+++++

--- LEM, FARMER, and PARTHENOGENESIS ---

----- by Don Ayres -----

((This article was prompted by Ben Indick who in his article on PORN made a natural enough statement: "If parthenogenesis were developed, no sperm bank would even be required." -- editor))

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Ben Indick's statement may be true in theory, but what about the matter in practice?

Stanislaw Lem (1972) attacked Philip Jose Farmer's novella "The Lovers" (1961) by selecting the matter of photogenetic ontogenesis for argument. He is correct in asserting that a weak argument can be made in its favor, but he is wrong in asserting that there is no biological basis for Farmer's lalitha. Were his story factual, we might well consider that the errors of the explanation Fobo gives for the lalitha's biology are nothing more than the results of inadequate data on his (and the author's) part.

Farmer (1971:20) mentions ant mimics and I assume that I am correct in believing that this played a role in the genesis of the story. Other insects and spiders are known to mimic ants as well as beetles and wasps. In fact, mimicry is quite common in the biotic community. The advantages this infers upon the animal may be difficult to determine without resort to teleology or anthropomorphism, but they apparently do exist because the animals exist. There is, however, another piece of evidence which Farmer does not cite, presumably because he was unaware of it.

The evidence I refer to is the existence of natural parthenogenetic species. Aside from an occasional story of its occurrence in humans, all discounted, the matter has been largely overlooked except by biologists; even they assumed that it was a phenomenon limited to the Invertebrata among animals, if at all. In the last 20 years, two facts came to the attention of herpetologists and ichthyologists: first, several species of salamander, lizard, and fish were represented solely by female specimens in collections and there was no record of anyone even seeing a male ascribed to those species; second, an examination of the chromosomes demonstrated that these species were all polyploids,

that is, they possessed considerably more than the usual number of chromosomes for animals of their genus. Polyploidy is best known in plants.

A number of researchers worked on the problem before the answer was found. Uzell (1964) was certainly one of the first, although not the last, as new polyploid species continue to be found, especially among fish. There were 19 known species of parthenogenic lizards and 2 salamanders the last time I looked; the figure is no doubt outdated by now, and I'm not familiar with the status on fish.

When the animals were finally observed mating in the wild, scientists noted that the females of the parthenogenic species mimicked the mating behavior of closely related species of bisexual animals, thus attracting a male of that species for mating. In the laboratory, scientists learned that the sperm of the male serves merely to initiate the developmental processes of the egg and contributes nothing whatsoever to the genetic make-up of the offspring. The egg thus has no chance to receive a 'Y-chromosome', and can only become a female.

Sound familiar? Sound, in fact, rather strikingly similar to "The Lovers"? It is fascinating to see how close Farmer's speculation managed to parallel natural parthenogenics. Certainly, there are errors, but they are comparatively minor and valid for the literary situation he has expressed. There is, for example, no knowledge of viable offspring produced by mating with any but a closely related species. Nor need the mother die in giving birth, as with the lalitha. Thus, despite Lem's claim to the contrary (1972:10), there is indeed a considerable amount of good biology in "The Lovers", even if it took science a while to vindicate his theorizing. So, Ben, they gotta at least keep a sperm bank.

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FARMER, Philip J 1961 "The Lovers"  
1971 A letter to Mr. Lem SF COMMENTARY  
1 (25): 19-26  
LEM, Stanislaw 1972 Letter to Farmer. SF  
COMMENTARY 1 (29): 10-12  
INDICK, Ben "Porn" TITLE Mar'74  
UZELL, T.M. Jr. 1964 COPEIA '64 (2):257



THROUGH THE CLASSIFIEDS WITH NOTEBOOK AND COURAGE

By D Gary Grady

I have to confess that I occasionally break down and read the classified ads in the backs of some magazines. Most display ads I have learned to ignore, you see. But the classifieds are put in by a completely different breed of advertiser. Just about anyone can do it. The cost for an ad in SCIENCE DIGEST, for example, is just 60 cents a word (10 word minimum). At these rates some amazing things get published.

For example, want a degree from an English college? Here's one that will give you a post-graduate course in *Philosophy, Arts, Sciences, Homeopathy, Radionics, Hypnosis, Humanities*, or a number of other subjects. Actually, I may be jumping to conclusions. They don't say they offer *courses*; they just mention post-graduate *awards*. Anyway, the circular is free, unless you want to study *Radiesthesia* and *Radionics*, whatever the hell they are. A brochure on those two will cost you a dollar.

I'd like to see these ads reclassified sometimes, since they don't seem to fit properly into the categories to which they're assigned. For example, I'd classify a lot of ads under a new heading: *Lunatic Schemes for Making Big Money*.

Here's one: SYNTHETIC GASOLINE-- Make It Yourself From Trash! Now, real research is being done in that direction, but I somehow doubt this chap has really stumbled on something big. Otherwise he'd be able to afford more than a 10-word ad. While you're making your own gas (and probably waiting in a trash-line), you can contact another genius who will explain how to "Make 60 Quarts of High Detergent Oil for Only \$11.40." (Maybe you mix Tide and bacon grease!)

Most of these get-rich-quick ads are less specific: *INSTANT MONEY! Plastics Are the Wave of the Future! Big Profits Now! At Home! Spare Time! Materials Costing 11¢ Bring Back \$2.58 Profits Immediately!* With a margin of profit like that you'll make the petroleum industry jealous. You can just tell them it's their fault for not making gasoline out of trash.

Another ad assures you \$9 an hour turning used tires into "useful products." Any guesses as to what these products might be? Doughnut Shop signs? Obstacle courses? Bracelets for elephants? Swings? Heavy-duty condoms? The ad doesn't say.

Even less specific and more optimistic is this one promising "\$178 WEEKLY...Work One Hour Daily." No, the advertiser is neither Doc Severinson nor Xaviera Hollander. The company is FAS, which stands for god knows what\*, maybe *FLEECE ALL SUCKERS.\*\**

Getting away from these materialistic ads for a while, we come to those that will make you a better person-- for a fee! Want to be the hero of your block? Then *LEARN TO STOP HURRICANES AND TORNADOES*. Apparently no one has answered this ad yet.

If you're less altruistic and want to better yourself mentally, the *INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED THINKING* will give you *INSTANT MEMORY*. "No Memorization," they say. Huh? Did I miss something? Anyway, "Nothing is Forgotten!" especially the

\* And all this time you thought god knows what was abbreviated gkw... \*\*Somewhat edited (Ed.)

fact that you sent them your money. But there's more. As a sideline to your new memory, you'll develop *CONTROLLED Intuition, ESP, Confidence, Self Mastery, Immediate Results!* I'd hate to have to wait.

Before you send off for that bag of goodies, it might be smarter to first spend \$3.95 on a course called *PSYCHIC DOMINANCE-- How To Rule Others with Your Thoughts*. Then you could use your dominance to force the Advanced Thinking people to send you their course for free. That's a pretty good deal for less than \$4. And you complain about inflation.

Now turning from these mundane affairs, let's take a look at religious advertisers. Someone in Florida offers *OIL Anointing, Laying On Hands, Prayer* but whether the service is available by mail or not I can't say. I guess if you got really bad off you could send in the afflicted part, say your liver, for the laying on of hands service. Be sure to include sufficient return postage.

One of the longest running and most cryptic of this ilk is: *RESURRECTED BILLIONS will farm ocean bottoms when seas removed by coming whirlwind! Free*. If this means that the whirlwind is free, I'm not surprised. But if the resurrected billions are going to do all that farming for free, that's awfully decent of them, don't you think? Still, either "free" could have seriously disruptive effects on the economy by putting both farmers and sailors out of work.

Finally, in a class by themselves, are the superscience ads. Alas... this is a dying field. Not too long ago you could get a book describing a theory that gravitation is caused by radiation pushing from the stars. The author proudly announced that his work was copyrighted. (At least it isn't VA approved.) I wonder whatever became of the guy? Apparently, most of the quacks have either died off or gone big time, emulating Velikovsky and Von Daniken.

Of the few that remain the most capitalized is: *EINSTEIN ECLIPSE SCANDAL! 25¢ PROFESSIONAL OPTICS SCANDALS! 25¢ UNIFIED FIELD THEORY F=MA 25¢* This sounds a bit like one of those cats who feel that since they don't know tensor calculus, neither does the cosmos. Long live simple algebra. Rah, rah!

I've omitted the addresses of the above harvest, but you're welcome to look them up in back numbers of *SCIENCE DIGEST*.\* If you write to any of them, I'd like to hear the results.

Here's one last one, which I defy you to translate. I'm even including the address:

*MILLIONS \* STAR THOUGHTS (Sky-mind) Illustrated Flexifold, \$3.50. Sensitron System, Box 1155, St. Augustine, FL 32084*

Better order two. They go fast.

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\* Gary Grady found these ads in *SCIENCE DIGEST*, June & July 1974.

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ACTIVITY 100-X by Neal Wilgus

My boss  
and his boss  
at the Bureau of Applied Apathy,  
having little else to do,  
built a landscape  
of glass images  
on the table  
between them.

After several weeks  
of rebuilding  
they grew bored  
and dismantled  
what they'd done.

Then, realizing  
they had little  
else to do,  
they built  
another landscape  
on the table  
between them.

+ + + + + + + + + + + ++



# An Amiable Murderer, Master Of Fantasy

By Philip A. Shreffler

Robert Bloch is an amiable, first-rate murderer. And because of it, he has received the H. P. Lovecraft Life Award for his outstanding, lifelong contributions to the field of horror, suspense and fantasy writing.

Bloch was honored with the Lovecraft Award at the First World Fantasy Convention, held over the Halloween weekend this year in Providence, Rhode Island—the home town of Lovecraft himself, that master of the weird tale who flourished in the 1920s and 1930s, and who was also Bloch's literary mentor. The convention drew some of the most prestigious of contemporary fantasists including Manley Wade Wellman, L. Sprague de Camp, Lin Carter, Gahan Wilson, Lester del Rey, Frank Belknap Long and Fritz Leiber. However, as one avid fan put it, "There were writers there who needed the award more than Bloch, but nobody deserved it more."

In a writing career that has spanned more than 40 years, Bloch has taken the field of fantasy and, to mix metaphors, soaked it in blood and excavated it necrophilistically—to the delight of millions of readers around the world who know him best for his classic novel and film "Psycho."

Yet, for all that, during an interview conducted at the Providence meeting, Bloch at no time lurged at, or otherwise threatened his inquisitor!

*Why is fantasy so popular today?*

Whenever times are troubled, there's a tendency to look for escape. We have a need for heroes, and at a time when so much of so-called mainstream fiction, motion pictures and legitimate or illegitimate theater deals with the anti-hero, fantasy is still the province of the hero. It's a morality play of good and evil in which the forces of good triumph. And when they don't, at least the audience is offered the devil theory—the notion that you don't necessarily have to feel responsible for the ills and evils of the world, that there's some malevolent power greater than society that brings about these disasters.

*But isn't there a sense in which the monster often becomes the hero?*

Yes, sometimes. Talking with Boris Karloff about this, I advanced a theory about his Frankenstein films. Young people have all the normal and natural hang-ups pertaining to adolescence. They are clumsy, they are awkward, they feel they suffer from acne, they don't know how to get along with the opposite sex, and they often feel unable to cope with the mature world. And so I said, "Boris, that's what happens. So many of those kids identify with your monster because he is the symbol of the adolescent." The monster didn't know how to get along with his father, Dr. Frankenstein; he couldn't communicate, he was shambling, he was awkward, he was hideous. He was just impotent to express anything but his rage and frustration. All hands were turned against him.

*You seem to be intimating that, when it's at its best, fantasy is an artistic medium.*

I certainly feel that is true, and I would start with the "Iliad" and the "Odyssey" and carry it right on up. And thank God that some idiot Greek critic didn't say, "Oh, that stuff is just swords and sorcery; let's forget it," and go with the then-reigning popular realist. I believe fantasy writing has always been art when it's at its best.

*In 1954 you wrote a novel called "The Kidnapper," a psychological study told from the kidnapper's point of view. It was considered to be in scandalously bad taste, wasn't it?*

Yes, people were scandalized slightly, as they were in 1947 by my novel "The Scarf," which was a first-person account of a compulsive psychopathic strangler.

*But by the late 1960s, Truman Capote's "In Cold Blood" was a national best-seller. What happened between 1954 and the late 1960s?*

I think there was a growing sophistication. I know that when I wrote "Psycho" in 1959 and it became a film in 1960, the notion of a transvestite on the screen was quite daring. And some of the attitudes of this poor gentleman shocked the reading and viewing audience. But this all seemed to change later—because people got into psychotherapy. I'm inclined to think that the Vietnam war indoctrinated millions of young men into psychiatric procedure and they began to realize that not everyone was necessarily "normal." They'd had a personal experience; they'd been examined by a psychiatrist.

*What about the Vietnam war's familiarizing millions of people, via television, with violence?*

I am literally sickened by the bilge that Senator Pastore and others like him vomit forth about the dreadful perils of violence on television, in films, books or toilet wall graffiti, ignoring the fact



Robert Bloch

Photo by Philip A. Shreffler

that for 30 years under the Selective Service Act we took millions upon millions of our young men, trained them in the art of killing and mutilation, provided them with the weapons and in many cases released them with those weapons in their possession to run wild in the streets when some of them were psychotically inclined or mentally ill. To me, this is where this country learned the lessons of violence, far more than from books or television or films.

*So you don't see yourself as a dangerous person.*

I most certainly do not. If anybody takes a close look at what I've written about that type of character, he will find that I have written a morality play. I do not write things in which an anti-hero indulges in the most monstrous and perverse behavior patterns and then walks away from it happy as a lark. My psychotic characters are shown to be frustrated, suffering, unhappy individuals who generally come to a pretty sorry end. I don't think anybody went to see "Psycho" or read the novel in its two million sales around the world and said, "Oh, goody! I'm going to put on a woman's dress and be like Norman Bates."

*You were one of the first modern fantasy writers to use humor in fantasy. Do you really think humor has a place there?*

Well, Edgar Allan Poe thought so, and he predated me by two or three years. To me, horror and humor are two sides of the same coin because they both depend on the element of the grotesque, often a shock if you will, and it's a matter of treatment whether this produces laughter or a gasp.

*Do you think that fantasy suffers from the emphasizing of atmosphere to the exclusion of plot?*

I think this is a carry-over from the old days of the gothic romance, which was heavy—very heavy—on atmosphere. You could spend 90 per cent of your time on the staging—the gloomy tarn, the ruined castle, the cobwebbed battlements—then drag a ghost across stage and say, "Boo! Over and out." In more modern terms, this was a cop-out. And bad horror movies today are just the same. There's no strong characterization or plot. The director and cameraman emphasize the use of color, plenty of ketchup and a series of nauseating visual images which may have no particular rationale, and which, when examined, just don't hold up. But it's the easy way out, never mind the explanation or interior logic.

*Are you ever inspired by what you read in the newspaper?*

Merely depressed.

*What does the fantasy and horror genre mean to you personally?*

To me, by and large, escapist entertainment, a way of holding evil at arm's length—the length of my arm to the typewriter—and a way of exorcising any personal demons. And I feel that if I can help exorcise them for the reader, it's fine. But, to me, an audience should be entertained. And I'm an entertainer—or try to be.

book reviews

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Sun., Dec. 7, 1975 4C

## SCIENCE FICTION ANTHOLOGY

Illustrated by Mark Savee; written by Ken Savee.

Troubador Press, 1974, \$2.00 pb

Reviewed by Stephen H. Dorneman

This is, wonder of wonders, a SF coloring book. The brothers Savee have taken 15 novels, given one page to a condensed version of the novel, and the opposite page to an illo from that novel to be colored.

The illustrations are beautiful, for the most part, although Mark appears to have trouble drawing hands. He is at his best when doing cataclysms and machines, exemplified by his version of the Martians' attack from H.G.Wells' THE WAR OF THE WORLDS.

Ken's capsulizations are likewise very good, although he has probably spoiled the endings for anyone who goes on to read the full-length versions. In fact, the only real problem with the book is in its selection of stories. The novels are arranged in chronological order, and after Verne's 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA, four Wells novels are included, at least two too many for my tastes.

The middle of the book does a fine job covering 1910-1965, with such novels as WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE, THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES, I, ROBOT, and DUNE, but the final section leans toward more of the cinematic than the printed medium, perhaps to appeal to a wider audience, perhaps because it was easier to create illustrations for that which has already been visually adapted. These include PLANET OF THE APES, FANTASTIC VOYAGE, 2001, and CYBORG (The Six Million Dollar Man).

But even with these faults, it's still a good introduction to SF for the pre-teen set, and would make an excellent gift for that younger niece or nephew, or perhaps just for yourself.

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fast-paced story sequence. It's certainly no classic, but good ol' fun.

## GATES OF THE UNIVERSE

Robert Coulson & Gene DeWeese  
Laser Books, Harlequin

Reviewed by Carolyn 'C.D.' Doyle

Best termed 'good ol SF', it's plot is anything but original, as well as being highly unrealistic. But even though as new and daring as Captain Video, I had fun with it.

A bulldozer driver, Ross Allen, who moonlights as a SF writer, accidentally drives his machine into a 'gate' that takes him, along with his boss/hero, Commander Freff, into another world. Almost immediately Ross' boss is killed by a little guy reminiscent of a Nazi, minus the swastika. Ross blows up the guy with some dynamite and takes his 'car'. He is greeted (not as violently) by what looks like a shrunken dinosaur (actually an intelligent being) and an unusual but beautiful woman with coal-black skin and red hair. They speak a different language than Ross does, but he (wowgeegosh) can understand them as they explain their problem (there always is one) and that's where the fun begins.

These two came to this world the same way Ross did-- accidentally. There are many buildings on the planet, all of which contain gates to various places. Unfortunately, they are all one-way and regulated by a computer whose location the trio tries to find, so they can go back from whence they came. After a few scrapes, etc., they find the computer which has been invaded by an evil force, feeding on terror, and intends to destroy the computer in a few hours. Unless the trio doesn't hurry up and render the evil force helpless...which they do just in the nick 'o time \*gasp\* and everybody can return. Only thing is the red-haired Amazon and Ross have taken a liking to each other and decide to stay. So, the planet was saved and a big, happy 'The End' sign can roll across the screen.

The story was light-hearted, a lark, the best parts the jokes along the



# MUNDANIAC

Your common ordinary mundane  
from Barnard's Planet  
on a Sunday stroll --  
by Craig J. Hill



LIKELY MORE THAN YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT  
RICHARD BARTUCCI . . . . .

If Dee Doyle can describe herself, so  
can I, therewith:

I'm a 22-year-old sophomore medical student at KCCOM ((some sawbones place in Kansas City)) who relishes the firm conviction that Marcus Welby should be a D.O., not an M.D. I live in a 12x20-ft dormitory room with two hundred pounds of medical texts, two cardboard boxes of fanzines, and a mimeograph machine. My walls are decorated with a picture of Tars Tarkas, Jeddak of Thark, a map of Hostigos, Nostor, Sask and Beshta I drew from a map of Pennsylvania to depict the setting of H.Beam Piper's Lord Kalvan of Otherwhen, and my class schedule for this trimester. The room's temperature is 60° F (the heating doesn't work) and I sit here, resplendent in my St.Jospeph's College sweatshirt and Hush Puppies.

I have a copy of Williams Obstetrics to my right, open to p.388 with a sequence of photos depicting the second stage of labor (normal birth of the head). No episiotomy, by the way. In front of me are more texts-- Goodman & Gilman on pharmacology, Robbins on pathology and Hoeprich

on Infectious Diseases. With Searles' Cliff's Notes on Heinlein's Stranger in a Strange Land & Other Works tucked in among 'em. To my left, a pile of stencils, fanzines and Coke bottles on the floor. Most fannish spot in the room.

My hobbies are wargaming, SF (of course), pornography and LoC writing. My favorite color is green, my favorite liquor is Liquore Strega, and my favorite book is Kipling's Stalky & Co. (do I detect a sneer?). I play sports badly and I know that Atropine SO<sub>4</sub> in heroic dosages can sometimes save a patient who's been exposed to massive organophosphate poisoning, so there!

Speaking of matera medica, I got buttonholed in the hospital cafeteria by a 3rd-year student who has an interesting obstetrical patient. She's a week overdue, 317 lbs (overweight, by the way). This student wants me to drop in when she delivers. I intend to do plenty of observing for when I pick up my own OB patient in December or January.

Physically, I rather resemble a slug with clothes, being 250 lbs and 6'1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " tall. I wear glasses (myopia), am rapidly acquiring the frontal baldness inherent in every Italian's genes, and still have problems with acne. My tastes in food run to fast-food joints and pizzerias. ((This may explain something.)) My tastes in music vary from the classics to theme music from The Wind and the Lion. My tastes in lady friends tends towards the zoftig, intelligent type; student nurses are remarkably warm and cuddly.

My favorite fanzine is Notes from the Chemistry Department. I consider Dr. Isaac Asimov to be a biochemist and therefore the lowest of vermin, and I hold that a little formalin in one's beer never hurt anybody. I'm told I have the gout (I'll believe it seriously when I see my serum uric acid levels), I'm probably allergic to succinylcholine, a muscle relaxant and for some obscure reason, a recent immune reaction test demonstrated that I'm allergic to 'oyster mix'.

((In case you want to correspond with Rich, his address is Box 369 KCCOM, 2105 Independence Ave., Kansas City, Mo 64124. According to Rich he writes to "C.E. Bennett, Brad Parks, dan oAkes and sundry other LNF's." And has had "postcards from Mike Glicksohn and letters from Harry Warner-- but, then, who hasn't?"))

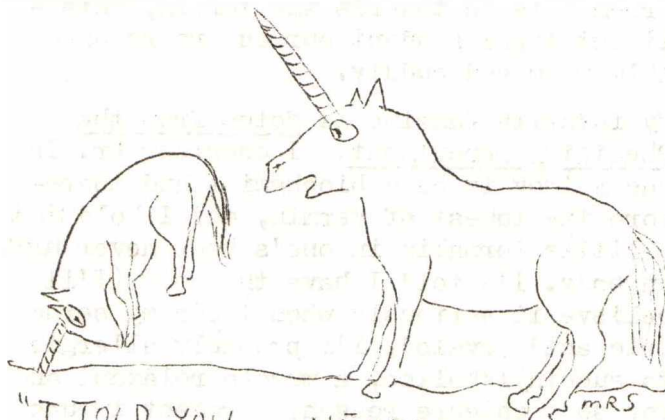
#### Tony Cvetko Doesn't Miss Unsteady Term

Case Western Reserve (also known around campus as CWRU, Case Western Reverse & Screw U) engineering is coming along nicely this semester, except for \*shudder\* Fluid Mechanics. We had our first test in October; I got a 64 and the class average was in the 50's. It seems that the secretary, while typing up the test, neglected to add the unsteady term to an equation, thus making it a steady state problem. Only one person in the class realized it was missing; he got an 85 because he did not know enough advanced calculus to finish the problem. The prof said he was 'disappointed' in us for not catching the error, and the test is still valid. But other than that I'm doing fine, and hope to get to AutoClave even if I have to hitchhike."

TONY CVETKO, ABOVE, DOES MISS UNSTEADY TERM, WHATEVER THAT IS

#### ROBERT SMOOT HOPES TO BE E.M.T. (empty?)

"I'm doing little beyond keeping up with tests. With luck I'll make the Dean's list. My weak spot is Calculus. I'd call my performance there a fiasco were not the whole class doing nearly the same. Alas... I'm presently studying standard first-aid. I hope to eventually become a state certified E.M.T or Emergency Medical Technician." ((Bob is also taking Russian, Geology, English, Swimming, and Physics!))



"I TOLD YOU -- NEVER  
TRY A SOMERSAULT!"

#### CRAIG HILL, LOVABLE BUM

"I would characterize myself as a lovable bum with a persistent desire for a graphic design career. Nothing more interests me than to be involved with a printed visual representation both in art and prose.

I would have to say my favorite actress is Linda Blair (BORN INNOCENT, EXORCIST ) for her very subtle mannerisms and character which are somewhat better than my other favorites Julie Christie, Melinda Lee, Barbara Hershey and Georgina Spelvin."

#### Mark R. Sharpe Lectures to H.S.Groups

I like to give lectures to high school groups and do so as often as I'm invited. I've given about ten so far and enjoyed each one. It is a nice way to meet nice people and gives me a chance to vocalize my tremendous ego. It also tends to swell the ISFFA membership.

Speaking of ego, I'm writing a novel with a friend of mine in Richmond. It takes a rather large ego to write a book and, as Isaac Asimov observed, there is no such animal as a shy writer; it is a paradox of terminology.

#### Mary Teresa Martin Graduates

As of Dec.19 or thereabouts my mailing address will be 10 Doris Circle, Newton, Mass 02158 until such time as I find an apartment wherever I will be working. I graduated ((from RPI, Troy, NY, and I believe in chemistry but I'm not sure.)) and the prospect pleases. Money, yum..."

#### Rose Hogue Gets Sewing Machine

((Rose has been having family health problems, besides her own, but it was nice to get a long letter Dec.7 after a silent period.))

"Not too much new here--I'm my same old jolly fat self if a bit less communicative. I got the neatest sewing machine ever for my 29th B-day-- a Viking 6000 and I really enjoy sewing with it.

You lit+ the old wine maker you...hope nothing explodes on you and some year I hope I can sample some vintage Brazier... ((The wine has a ways to go to reach the vintage of an old Brazier!)) Gotta go to school and put in my lunch duty hours..."



# FMZBIZOLOGY

William Wilson Goodson Jr writes that, if you enjoy strong book reviews by "a cultured, widely-read reviewer", contact Richard Llewellyn, Box 804-B-A Harrill Hall, Cullowhee, N.C. 28723. William & he two years ago collaborated on CULLOWHEE COMMENTS, and Richard plans to start it up again as a book review personalzine.

Bruce Arthurs, 920 N. 82 St., H-201, Scottsdale, AZ 85257, informs me that he is reading the 1975 crop of fmz in order to find good material for his FANTHOLOGY '75. He says he may include my Bradbury "spoof" from Denis Quane's NOTES.

Steve Beatty was planning a 1975 survey of fmz, but he says he's having problems with uneven inking on the mimeo machine. It's not low on ink, nor does it need a new pad or anything else he can discover. He asks, "Could some experienced faned give me some advice?" ((One time I had trouble with some old ink in which the oil and water had separated, so does the ink seem all right?))

Jackie Franke writes: "I'm pleased (I think) that Roger Sween thinks so highly of fanzines that he's willing to pay good, hard cash for them and add riders to his will to insure they are sent to a proper repository when the inevitable happens, but when I glance over at those scruffy shelves of paper, I cannot view them so coldly. Selling a fanzine would be like selling a friend." She'd rather give them to a friend than a library-- "no slur upon those among the readership who work in them. A library seems to me a jail for person-to-person things like fanzines. Who'd read them there? Who'd care? They'd just moulder away in some deserted back stack somewhere, forgotten and unloved. I don't mean this as a putdown of Roger, just to show that a totally opposite view can be held."

Jackie Franke was amazed that about 1,500 fans were in the fmzbiz, and asked if I really meant in just the year 1975. Yes, one year; and I have a thick notebook filled with everyone's activity by fanzine name and issue number. And, Jackie, all this from only the fmz I myself received.

Ron Rogers, P.O.Box 774, Christiansburg, VA 24073, explained his system for naming the various kinds of fanzines he pubs preceded by the name, RADIX. RADIX is the formal title of any of his zines, and to do a special, Ron simply has RADIX "presents" such-and-such. An exception, because of huge response, is RADIX PRESENTS EGOZINE; after that preliminary presentation EGOZINE will stand on its own.

W.H.Fuller wants me to mention the CONDOM ONE in Sacramento, CA, on June 18-20. The flyer says it's all free! Write him at 2357 Empress St., Sacramento, CA 95815.

K.Allen Bjorke's CHANGELING ought to be out by the time you read this, and maybe ETCHINGS, too. He's at 3626 Coolidge St NE, Minneapolis, Minn. 55418.

Eric Bentcliffe says it would be easy for a totalitarian government to "wipe out fanzine publishing. All they would have to do would be to tightly control paper supplies. Let's face it, there are only so many types of paper you can put through a mimeo and get readable repro, despite what certain editors of unreadable fanzines think!"

Eric Lindsay agrees with Roytac about fanzines being the last bastion of the "true free press"... they are tolerated only because of their ineffectiveness."

Anna M. Schoppenhorst writes: "I was under the impression that Fandom was a fun thing for giving the

crazies a place to vent their remarkably good ideas that no one else would listen to. A fun little organization (?) to be taken lightly. I didn't realize we were into international politics. Paul Walker's idea for an international fanzine and/or club is fantastic, but only for keeping up on writers and fans. Politics can take care of itself, out there in Mundane-world."

Did I mention John Robinson and SDNY, still another apa? Mailing #2 might be out before you read this. Anyway, send \$1 to John at 1- 101 St, Troy, NY 12180 and get a 40 copy contrib ready for the next mailing. If you don't have a repro machine, John will ditto for a reasonable price.

Dennis Jarog wants someone to do an on-going fan history of the seventies. Let's see, now; how far is Harry Warner up to?

Note on fanzine advertising from Jim Meadows; he says it is possible to barter ads, which he has done with his trekzine.

Mike Bracken, in his article on fanzine advertising, left something out, he says. He calls it "unintentional advertising" which comes about when the editor draws or writes for some other fanzine. Your name becomes more familiar to fans, and if they like what you did somewhere else, they might come looking for your own zine. He says he's gotten lots of action from his appearances in this zine and Gil Gaier's VERT. He agrees with Bill Bowers, too, that a zine has to change. "Any fanzine that does not change, will probably wither and float into the glades of gafia. Not only will the editor get bored, but so will the readers. And it takes two to tango."

Rod Snyder thanks me for announcing his project to have fanzines available at school, but he says he hasn't gotten many donations yet. He hopes an article in COM-PASS will change the situation. Old spares--send to 3600 Ripple-creek Rd, Austin TX 78746.

Stephen H. Dorneman writes that he's in SDNY with a sort of perzine, PSU-rivor, "detailing the life and times of a lonely trufan surrounded by mundaniacs and, worse, Trekkies at Penn State University."

Besides FANTHOLOGY (due out sometime in the summer), Bruce Arthurs is already thinking about his giant 5th Annish of GODLESS #13, and GODLESS #12 has to appear first. The Annish will be a two-color cover by Al Sirois.

Ken Josenhans says he gets about 50% response to his WYKNOT, but is hoping to slice the mailing list to the active readers. It's an excellent zine, especially so for being rather new on the scene. Get a copy from Josenhans at Rm 367 East Holmes Hall, Mich. State Univ., East Lansing, MI 48824.

Hank Heath has definite plans to do a fanzine this summer. It'll be called THE WITCH OF AGNESI, available for the usual. ((I hope he keeps out of it those little tit-bits he sends me for HEATH PODGE.))

Ben Indick writes: "Since I am always laying MY fanfic on fans, I obviously believe there is a place for such writing in fandom. I place no great stock in its immortality, but at least it is an effort to do something worthwhile, and no one is forced to read it. Maybe most pros never did much fanwriting, but this proves nothing. If only a few fan-fictioneers go on to pro writing, the value will have been proved. And if it is egoboo, so what? Book-reviewing, con-reports, even fan art -- these are no more or less sacred, and no less egobooistic. I agree with Jodie Offutt, however, that any form of fan writing is creative, even locs, altho I shall be snobbish and say that, while locs are often interesting and useful, I do consider them low man (or woman) on the creative totem pole. As for Jon Inouye, he has shown beyond dispute his talent, and it is unfair to dismiss him as an untalented neophyte. I have seen promising work by him, just as I have seen so many fine pieces by Jodie."



First LoC in on TITLE 47 was one from Lester Boutillier received 1/20. Thus, he was the first among many to inform me that Siegel and Shuster 'won' some money- \$20,000 a year. Lester was the first, too, to rave about Carl Bennett's cartoon cover. "Bennett's style is professional," he says.

Five LoCs came in on the 22nd-- Jackie Franke, Wayne Hooks, Fred Wertham, Jim Meadows, and Loay Hall. Jackie was the first of many to wonder about Everett's 'Devil' piece. Folks, I took it as a very short parody of your general-run of TV and film horror epics. Reduced to the bare essentials, Elton Everett's 'story' shows the ripe banality of most such tales. Jackie also was the first to want a continuation of Sheryl's snake 'tail'. Uh, Sheryl'll have to do it because she's the one who chopped it off just as dire things were possibly about to happen.

Wayne Hooks was a thank-you and a slight moan about his growing collection of prozine rejection slips. Same thank-you from Doc Wertham and a complaint lodged against David Finn whose advertising agency-hired Jacob Javits' wife to build good will for Iran. Finn is the one who was engaged by the comic book industry in a 'Scorn Wertham Campaign' following the doc's SEDUCTION OF THE INNOCENT book.

Jim Meadows sent a card filled with remorse that he had not replied properly to Richard S. Shaver and now it was too late. Loay Hall's letter is mainly a paen of praise to Ben Indick and making sure the red-headed 'master of fanfic' was definitely excluded from Loay's list of H.P.Lovecraft cultists.

Seven LoCs on the 23rd: Alyson L. Abramowitz, Ben Indick, Bruce Townley, Roy Tackett, Stephen H. Dorneman, John Robinson, and K. Allen Bjorke. Alyson was rather pleased her AlVega was mentioned in my 1975 Anthology. Same for Ben who writes about his IBID getting 'awards': "Aw gawsh....!"

POST 47

Bruce Townley, being an artist himself, had good things to say about the cover: "Carl Bennett really can draw (ever see a fake drawing?)! He says he has some Bennett's drawings for LE VIOL.

This is surprising (and fascinating) to me. Roy Tackett wants Bill Bliss and me to know that advertisements such as the ice cubes that Bill took a photo of are "carefully constructed works of art which require hours of work..to incorporate the various patterns, symbols, figures, etc., designed to induce you to buy the product." Next time Roy says we must study any adv. in a national magazine-- we may be surprised, and perhaps shocked. He recommends for us a book entitled SUBLIMINAL SEDUCTION.

Stephen H. Dorneman gives a lot of possible uses for that foam that absorbs shock. Like, "Take a sheet of it to your girlfriend's house to slip under the mattress so as not to wake up her parents." Or, "For those of us who wake up somewhat surly, a clock-radio molded out of it would be just the thing."

John Robinson, new NFFF Pres., has lots to say about the NFFF-- most urgent news is that Beth Slick can no longer edit TIGHTBEAM. He puts out a call for volunteers.

K.Allen Bjorke covers a lot of territory: that Denis Quane & I are hoaxes because of the first-name spellings, Brad Parks' \$6 MILLION IDIOT ((?)), yes he knows Chris Sherman, ice-cube patterns were used on a record cover, Dorneman's reaction to possible muggers frightens him, how many people dream in 3rd person?, protein value of fishfood, magician's flash paper, really great Bennett cover, and he's just been assigned to do an article on UNCLE HUGO'S SF BOOKSTORE by LITTLE BIT.

On the 24th came letters from Neal Wilgus, Frank Balazs, William Wilson Goodson, and Sheryl Birkhead. Neal seemed short of LoC time, but says he's still a "Title follower". Frank imparted the news that his roommate, Dave Romm, is a hoax who has now left college & moved off to 17 Highland Ave, Middletown, NY 10940. His new roommate is Brain (another hoax?) William's letter will go eventually into SF PATCH and FMZOLGY. Sheryl says that foam could be used to soak up the impact of one's head the morning after... ((I didn't know you knew about that sort of thing, Sheryl.)) She also tells how she had to rewrite her thesis to get it from a readable style to what it ended up as. Her advisor said she wrote the way she talked-- a no-no in scientific writing.

Nine LoCs in on the 26th. Hank Heath, a little down in the dumps because he did not get a teaching job he "faunched" after, took it out on me with a 4-page handwritten job. You'll be reading parts of his letter here & there in T, except in this very spot you'll find out that his impression of me as rotund fellow with a balding pate was wrong. He writes, ha!: "You're better looking than I thought you'd be." ((Perhaps you were thinking of Ben Indick!)) He wonders, too, if T is becoming more 'arty' and if this is rubbing off from DORK-PIZZLE? His LoC ends with this philosophy: "One thing the down times of my life have taught me is to keep plugging no matter how it hurts." ((You'll make it, Hank; go get 'em!))

Eric Mayer comes through with another typical 'Mayer-Magic'-- almost like an Ayres LoCzine! Much of it will be in other places, other times, but listen now to this: "Education, as I learned, finally, is nothing but a game. To succeed in school you don't have to learn, per se....what you have to do is learn the rules of the educational game." Ah, yes, Eric, isn't it much like the front view scenery on a stage? Put that up for show, then buckle down to learn by yourself, in your own way. Eric tells how he crammed 20 footnotes into 7 pages and got an A -- scenery!

Since Don Ayres is out in Hollywood, I asked him to see if he could find out anything about my old heart-throb Dona Drake (aka Rita Rio & her All-Girl Band). He reports no luck. Of course, Don the ol' snakeman had his cockles warmed by Sheryl's snake story.

Richard Brandt liked the cover (who didn't like Bennett's cartoon?) As Richard says, "..complete..with a crafty sparseness". Richard, do you know you have just described the kind of SF story I like? Most of the rest of his letter was replying to Hank Heath's query if anyone liked magic. Richard says, "The best of them all, who really croggles me, is that kid Doug Henning -- mind-blowing, and he's just a kid." Richard also recalled a funny dream he had; he won an orange plastic Hugo for achievement as -- get this -- as an Alabama fan writer! "Fat chance," he adds.

Paul Walker liked the cover, too. The remainder of his letter concerns Dr. Wertham and Santa Claus and Richard Nixon... Will save for an artiloc...

Paula Smith in her first LoC to T was all written out because she'd already written five other LoCs earlier. However, she was fond of Bennett's cover and thought my zine was kindly, quiet, and a little bit strange. Then, not to be outdone by the mysterious T, she writes: "Ask Roger Sween about his underwear. Or his cowboy boots." Ghod, what a picture...!

Gil Gaier wasn't too thrilled with T except for my choices for 1975 T-awards -- said he had a cold and wasn't too thrilled with anything. It was fun to learn, though, that Park's cover on IBID was also his favorite. ((I thought the heavy black bar down the off-center was a stroke of genius which, in utter simplicity, turned an illo into a work of "complete art..with a crafty sparseness.")) Gil says T is a lot "like listening to the family talking when the lights are out." ((How nice!))

Don D'Amassa was happy to see how high I regard Paul Di Filippo. ((I guess what I like about Paul is the way he comes up with original whackiness with solid anchor points.)) Don says his MYTHOLOGIES 8 will have 58 pages! Get it at 19 Angell Dr., East Providence, RI 02914.

Dave Szurek (12 hand-written pages) among other things worries about Dorneman's mental health (and mine, too). Reference-- seeking a mugger's attack in order to strike back. ((Yes, Dave, I recognize this aspect in me as some sort of violent reprisal subverted from my real unconscious target to one that might be socially approved. As for Dorneman....?)) After Mark Sharpe's article, Dave says his artificial bones make him a semi-bionic man.



SNAPSHOTS: a Column of Fanzine  
Reviews

By MIKE GLICKSOHN

+++++

*Envelopes have been used by many of the world's greatest men for matters of vast historical importance and for communications of truly earth-shattering nature. One need only think of men such as Abraham Lincoln and Albert Einstein and the use to which these pivotal figures put the humble envelope in order to realize the tremendous latent potential of this method of communication. However, just as Shakespeare occasionally wrote dirty limericks, so the noble envelope can sometimes be used for less epoch-making messages. And anything less epoch-making than*

*TITLE NEEDS FMZ REV COL*  
(Barbek's envelope)

*would be hard to imagine! Still, momentous things sometimes emerge from inauspicious beginnings (just ask Mrs. O'Leery) and who's to say this won't be one of them? If Barbek doesn't mind a totally subjective, casual, light-hearted look at whatever crosses my desk then who am I to stand in the way of fame and glory? And if you don't already know my ~~predilections~~ tastes, you can pick them up pretty quickly from what follows.....*

SCOTTISHE is England's oldest fanzine still publishing and the 70th issue is quite typical of the sort of thing Ethel Lindsay is doing nowadays. Ethel herself states that the main claim to fame of SCOT is that it's the home of ATom's amazing hand-cut illustrations, and there's a certain truth to this. His little cartoons drawn especially for each LoC are a joy to see. Ethel summarizes all of her current book and fanzine reading in a very personal and rather non-critical way, and for me, and many others, it's this encyclopedic fanzine listing that makes SCOT an institution. Add the inimitable Bob Shaw with a droll article on measuring fan potential in comparison to an oyster and SCOT is worth taking a look at.

In all fandom, England's Peter Presford (chairman of this year's national convention in England) is unique in my experience. He comes closest to having absolutely no idea of spelling, grammar, syntax and any other positive attribute of good writing than anyone else I've encountered. His MALFUNCTION 8 is another issue in a series that have become legendary in England for their almost totally unreadable content. Peter isn't illiterate, despite claims to the contrary, but he doesn't seem able to write a really interesting or clever sentence. He rambles on in this issue trying the diary format handled so well by Paul Skelton and Mike Meara, two other English fans, but unfortunately his opinions aren't all that interesting. Even when they are he writes them so incoherently as to destroy most potential appeal. If you know all the people involved it's worth wading through while sitting on the john: otherwise, forget it.

A third of the Porter-Lindsay-Bangsund Co-Prosperity Sphere (esoteric fan reference #1: take notes for the quiz) is Andy Porter, publisher of that visually beautiful and intellectually stimulating semi-professional magazine ALGOL. It's unlikely that any TITLE reader is unfamiliar with ALGOL, but regardless of how you feel about fanzines, Hugos, wordcounts and Richard Geis, ALGOL is a magazine any SF fan should be getting. Splendidly designed, superbly produced, and always filled with top class contributions from many of the best pros in the field, ALGOL is a must. The latest issue has a marvellous full colour cover and features Robert Silverberg's autobiography, certainly one of the finest pieces of writing published in the field this year. Get it, it's worth it. Besides, if enough people subscribe, Andy may never have to go back to work!

Easily the most entertaining clubzine-cum-genzine I've ever seen is the Minnesota SF group's RUNE under the guidance of Fred Haskell. RUNE features one of the longest, most frenetic lettercols in the world



and is highlighted by some of the best hand-stencilled artwork around from the likes of Reed Waller and Ken Fletcher. The latest issue features the first installment of Denny Lien's AUSSIECON trip report and I'm forced to concede this is exactly the sort of report I'd have liked to write myself. I'll still do mine, eventually, but it won't come close to Denny's for pure writing skill. Not all of RUNE appeals to me, an overly long look at Great Spiderism for example, but to balance that there's a brilliant look at fanzine fandom by David Emerson that sums up the essence of fannishness as well as anything I can recall. RUNE is one of the best, and cheapest!, fanzine values there is.

Jackie Franke is a gracious lady of many talents, among them the ability to draw on stencil as well as just about anyone, write about cons and fandom with insight and honesty and edit a superior fanzine. DILEMMA 10 (aka FEM LIB SF, esoteric fanzine reference #2) is a pleasure to read-- for Jackie's con reports, her lengthy fanzine reviews and a lettercol featuring both solid serious discussion and totally drunken insanity. Strongly recommended for the very strongly fannish.

STARLING amazed me by being on the Hugo ballot last year. Not that it isn't excellent, but in the age of giant semi-pro magazines, a humble eclectic fanzine has little chance of copping a nomination. STARLING is more or less a journal of pop culture with strong leanings to the realms of mystery, music, comics, films, etc. Sometimes they even publish something about SF! The current issue, #32, for example, has articles on the manufacture of Gothic novels, the death of Rex Stout (a brilliant piece) and the attraction of series novels. SF gets a mention here and there but that's all. If you enjoy knowledgeable people writing well about areas that many SF fans are most interested in, then STARLING is the best (and almost the only) market for you.

TITLE #48 March, 1976

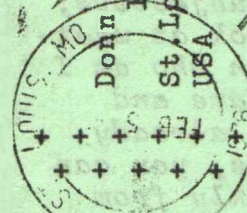
For the usual

+++++



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USA



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There are eight million fanzines in the Naked Cesspool; these have been five of them.

SCOTTISSE 70, Ethel Lindsay, 6 Langley Ave, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 6QL England. 28pps, mimeo. 2/\$1 or usual. Semi-annual.

ALGOL 25, Andy Porter, POBox 4175, NY, NY 10017. 60pps offset. 6/\$6 or single \$1.50. Semi-annual.

RUNE 45, Fred Haskell, 343 E 19 St, #8B, Minneapolis, MN 55404. 62pps, mimeo. Usual, 25¢, \$1 annually, included in a Minnicon registration.

DILEMMA 10, Jackie Franke, Box 51-A RR 2, Beecher, Ill. 60401. 36 pps, mimeo. Usual or 20¢. Quarterly.

STARLING 32, Hank & Lesleigh Luttrell, 525 W Main, Madison WI 53703 32 pps mimeo, offset cover. Usual or 50¢ per, 5/\$2. Approx. quarterly.