

FROM OUT OF THE
WILDS OF PENNSYLVANIA...



THE JOURNAL OF THE
SOCIETY OF RESEARCHERS



follow a similar procedure. The Discon III committee wants to cut down the con's size if possible by setting up multiple programming for different fans in the nearby Shoreham. It plans to eliminate advance publicity and use multi-programming to cut down size.

vital statistics - 1,000 rooms at the Sheraton plus 850 backup at the Shoreham. 54,000 sq ft of function room space. The largest single function room space is 15,300 + 12,080 (by removing partition between two rooms). Theatre style seating in the largest single room is for 4000. Exhibit area space is 61,000 sq ft. Parking free for con members staying in hotel. 6 automatic elevators. Committee experienced in running Disclaves and Discon II.

PHILADELPHIA

The Philadelphia in '77 committee has undergone revision, and now is attempting a serious bid with Co-Chairmen Don Sobwick and George Scithers. Dennis McCunney is also on the committee. The proposed hotel is the Sheraton in downtown Philadelphia. The con would have the entire hotel, including large exhibit areas in the basement. The committee plans to limit attendance to 2800-3000 persons, since that is the capacity of the hotel. This is the most drastic plan for limiting attendance put out by an '77 bid group. The Phila. bid would simply cut off all attending and supporting memberships after the maximum attendance is reached. The con would emphasize written SF and related fields. The Sheraton has 700 hotel rooms available.

NEW YORK

First I think it is important to clear up any misconceptions people may have about this bid. This is not a Star Trek bid. I repeat - not. Although some of the con committee have been involved in several N.Y.C. Star Trek cons, they are also general SF fans and plan their proposed '77 con as a general SF Worldcon, with no more emphasis on Star Trek than any past Worldcon. Ben Yalow is the treasurer, Tom Anderson is the chairman, Ted Pauls is the vice chairman.

The con would use multi-programming events scattered over the hotel to control the crowds. The con would try to break even, and would give any profits to the Worldcon Emergency Fund, TAFF, DUFF and usual areas. Profits would probably be used to pay bid expenses such as parties, but no trip expenses such as hotels or plane fares for any committee member.

vital statistics - 1750 hotel rooms are committed. The Statler-Hilton has a large amount of facilities, but they are clustered in two main localities - the 18th floor and the 1st and 2nd floors. The Grand Ballroom would be the largest area and is 73 by 142 ft (10,366 sq ft) and supposedly holds 2000 persons seated theater style. The Terrace room is 58 by 142 ft (8236 sq ft) and seats 1200; the Penn Top is 45 by 185 (8325) and seats 1000. The Statler has several other fairly large rooms plus lots of smaller areas. Exhibition Hall space equals 24,000 sq ft. Since the New York in '77 committee is thinking of using parallel programming, the many Statler function rooms might be used to good advantage, but they are scattered. The committee is also contemplating using the Felt Forum, a convention center across the street, for the Masquerade, Hugo, and other main functions, if attendance is large.

ORLANDO

Joanne Wood's letter had some mistakes. In her letter, she reversed the exhibit hall and function space sizes. The hall is 23,712 sq ft and the meeting area is 49,800. The size of the largest ballroom is 15,158 sq ft, which seats about 1900 persons theater style.

The following comes from Don Lundry: "We feel that the key ingredients to a successful con are, in ranked order, 1) a good competent committee, 2) a good hotel staff and site to work with, and 3) a good location or town. We feel we've been lucky enough to incorporate all three. The committee is the best I could gather from the east coast, and any one of them alone is, I feel, quite capable of running a con. The hotel has about the best layout possible. It will probably be the last Worldcon held on one level. And the area around Orlando is fascinating. The NASA Space Center, St. Augustine with its history, Busch Gardens, Sea World, Walt Disney World, and more are nearby. Buses depart regularly right from the hotel to most of those sites."

"We had no problem picking a site - only in picking the best site. We looked at many cities from Montreal to Miami and narrowed it down to three finalists. We then approached each hotel formally to see what interest they had in our group. One hotel had room rates \$10 a night higher than Orlando, another was ruled out for other reasons. So it became Orlando as a hotel that wanted us and that could provide the best facilities for the fans."

From Grace Lundry comes more about the bid: "Two of the most important aspects of the Orlando bid you failed to mention in the last KARASS were the committee and the convention hotel. The committee members are Don Lundry (Chairman), Eli Cohen, Rusty Hevelin, Sue Lewis, Bruce Newrock, Elliott Shorter, and Joanne Wood. Don was chairman of the very successful, very well-run Lunacon '72 at which Theodore Sturgeon was GoH. He will chair the 1976 Lunacon. The rest of the committee members are seasoned veterans of many con committees. Second, the hotel is a CONVENTION hotel, built EXCLUSIVELY for that purpose. It is a brand-new, well-planned convention site that is well laid-out to make everything as efficient and pleasant as possible for a convention. Don spent hours going over floor plans of major hotels from Montreal to Miami...The hotel in Orlando definitely was the only hotel that had put real thought into such things as crowd flow, security, room flexibility, the desirability of built-in closed circuit television, etc. In addition, for those who combine the Worldcon with their vacation, Orlando is a perfect spot from which to see many of Florida's famous sights. And vacation or not, I cannot imagine any SF fan missing the Kennedy Space Center, especially when buses go there daily from the con hotel."

After my editorial on the future of the Worldcon appeared, Don Lundry wrote: "Let me set forth our position. Essentially, it amounts to being receptive to any workable concept that may come up. We have no pre-conceived ideas. The rapid growth in the size of the Worldcon has obsoleted many of the ideas and approaches that worked in the past. So we will listen most carefully to anything that seems to be particularly viable. We have no intention of forcing the Worldcon into any present format as some others seem intent on doing. Keep the discussion going and all seven of us on the Orlando committee will be listening for those approaches which sound worthy of implementation."

vital statistics - As previously mentioned, 23,712 sq ft of space for the Art Show and hucksters, 15,158 sq ft in the main ballroom for major program items, plus 8,800 sq ft which can be flexibly divided into as many as 12 function rooms. Sheraton Towers hotel has a 24-hour restaurant, two double beds in every room, a liquor store open till 2 a.m., ice and soda machines on every floor. 700 rooms blocked with 824 in sister hotels across the street. Variety of restaurants in the hotel and within walking distance. Closed circuit TV in all rooms.

MONTREAL

One thing ought to be made clear about this bid - Andy Porter is not the chairman, nor is he a part of the actual bidding committee. He is helping the bid during bidding, but during the con (if Montreal wins) he will not be officially on the

A Portrait



Bruce Robbins, the chairman of the 1977 Montreal bid writes: "I have lived and worked in most of the U.S. and much of Canada, and have lived in Montreal for the past 5 years.

"Montreal has the facilities for a con. The two spill-over hotels are directly connected by underground tunnels to each other and to the main hotel (The Queen Elizabeth). Extra space has been reserved in the Place Bonaventure, part of the Hotel Bonaventure, one of the two spill-over hotels. In these tunnels in the city under the city, built for the hot summers, but mostly for the cold winters, there are hundreds of shops, plus cinemas, two liquor stores, the central train station. No one need go outside during our con.

"The only reason I've seen in print to argue against Montreal is that the official language is not English. Everyone a fan is likely to talk to in the city speaks English. However, I emphasize that a good hunk (about half) of the convention will be in French. If this scares some potential attendees away, that's fine with me. There are too many neos and people not interested in hard-core SF at Worldcons. This is one positive step we are taking to cut the numbers. The second most important body of work about SF is in French, and it is not a distant second. A serious fan will vote for Montreal if only because we will attract the French-speaking European SF experts, writers, publishers, and fans. To expand on the neo theme -- I had been publishing my fanzine PARADOX for 6 years before I went to any con (in 1966). I planned and saved my money. I am against neo-fan funds and crashers. Too many young neos are seeking excitement on the cheap.

"I am not speaking for Andy and the other committee members, but expressing my personal views. I will recommend that no comic dealers be allowed. This should discourage the comics crowd. Also, I note that the "7 in 77" people complain that the South had its last Worldcon 23 years ago. There has never been a Worldcon in a French-speaking city. Arguments to the effect that Canada has had two Worldcons don't cut any ice with me. Compared to Montreal, Toronto is just another American city. Montreal is as non-American as you can find in North America (excluding Mexico). There isn't a place in Montreal I wouldn't visit, day or night. Young teenage girls hitchhike at 2 a.m. Montreal has 1/20th the murder rate of Detroit, a city of comparable size.

"I have attended a convention bigger than the Worldcon (or a Star Trek Con) - the annual MLA convention in December (I attended for Tom Clareson's SFRA section). It alternates between New York and Chicago, there being no other cities with facilities. The same will happen to the Worldcon, and I want Montreal established as one of those cities on the Worldcon circuit.

"Since the best SF is in English, most French-speaking fans know it. 80% of the SF available in French is SF translated from English, and both the French prozines do not solicit original SF in French. They translate from English. The French fans know and love the same SF we do."

Andy Potter writes more about the bid: "We plan to strictly limit attendance by comics fans, discourage film-only fans from attending, and generally limit the attendance of the fringe groups that you talked about in KARASS. The possibility of a large at-the-door registration fee is also another way to discourage walk-ins. We plan a complete news blackout during the convention. Any and all publicity will be for release only after the con has ended. By these means we hope to limit attendance to no more than the 6,000 expected in Kansas City."

vital statistics - The Queen Elizabeth has just under 50,000 sq ft of meeting area. They also have contracted for 60,000 sq ft of space in the Place Bonaventure, a convention center in a hotel across the street connected underground. There are 1250 rooms in the hotel, closed circuit TV, and a meeting room in the hotel large enough for seating 2300.

SUMMARY

Reviewing the data I have on the con bids so far, several items seem clear - all bids require the use of overflow hotels for hotel rooms. The Discon III bid has the best con facilities. Montreal and N.Y. are relying on the use of a convention center for large events such as the Masquerade in the event of large attendance. Philadelphia is planning the most drastic action - cutting off attendance at 3000. Orlando is the only group bidding for a city where none of the committee members live.

I've decided to support ORLANDO. You will have to make your own choice, and I urge you to consider it carefully from several angles - hotel facilities, committee, city. Although the Discon III committee has the best hotel facilities and a good con committee, I don't feel that one city should hold the Worldcon two times in a row in the zone.

Philadelphia's decision to limit attendance to 3000 is too drastic. This means arbitrarily cutting off memberships for at least 1500 people who were interested enough to join Discon II. The New York group has a good committee and some impressive ideas. I was very impressed by the committee members. But New York is a bad city to hold a Worldcon in, because there are so many local fans and fringe fans, they will only increase the size of the already too large con. The Statler Hilton has some good function space, but no room large enough for Masquerade and other large events -- therefore a convention hall will be needed, and I don't like that idea. Also, the con would have to be spread throughout an entire hotel, on several levels -- leading to disintegration, and difficulties for the con committee in checking badges. Montreal has an excellent hotel, but I really don't know the con committee, and none of the actual con committee members have had experience putting on a regional - let alone a Worldcon.



at least as far as I know. Orlando has an excellent con hotel and an excellent committee of people I know and like and trust to do a good job. Although the largest space in the hotel is not really large enough for a 6,000 person con, I feel that the con committee will be able to plan around this - perhaps by using closed circuit TV facilities which are available. Also, Orlando will be an interesting city to visit, and won't have a lot of walk-ins.

I will print more information on the bids as I receive it. I urge you all to become familiar with the bids and vote for the group you feel will put on the best Worldcon rather than voting for the city you'd like to see or the one you are closest to. The Worldcon is for everyone, and everyone deserves the best Worldcon possible.

MINICON FANNISH TRAIN EXPEDITION

The train to Minicon 10 on April 18-20 leaves New York (Pa. station) at 16.55 (4.55) on April 17 (Thursday), stopping at Trenton, Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Canton, Fort Wayne, and other intermediate stops, arriving in Chicago at 9 a.m. If the train is reasonably on-time, connections will be made with the 10:30 to Minneapolis. Should delays be severe, there's a 14:30 train from Chicago, reaching the Twin cities at 22.10. Group reservations will be made by March 1, but space can be canceled. Money must be received by April 1 so people can be sent tickets. All reservations will be made by Matthew Schneck, who is coordinating the expedition. To reserve space or receive more detailed information, contact Matt Schneck, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa. 19181 or phone 215-543-9765 after Jan. 27. Fares are \$81 from N.Y. to Minneapolis, \$76 from Phila., \$61.50 from Pittsburgh, \$25.50 coach from Chicago (other fares are slumbercoach - regular coach is \$7.50 less in all cases). Those fares are one-way.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Moffatt House Abroad, Len and June Moffatt's TAFF Report, many entertaining pages and photos for \$2, money to TAFF. Box 4456, Downey, Calif. 90241. Incomplete Burbee from Barry and Lee Gold, 2471 Oak St., Santa Monica, Calif. 90405 for \$1.50. Best of APA-L vol. 3 from Barry and Lee Gold for \$2. The Illustrated Fan Dictionary Illustrations and 125+ pages of short definitions for \$1.50 from Elliot Weinstein 7001 Park Manor Ave., No. Hollywood, Calif. 91605. SFinctor, fannish newszine. 8 issues/\$1 from Craig Miller, 9115 Beverlywood St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90034.

NEW BOOKS

New American Library, 1301 Ave. of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10019 has recently released the following DAW books: WARRIOR OF WORLD'S END (UQ1140-95¢) by Lin Carter, HARD TO BE A GOD (UY1141-\$1.25) by A. & B. Strugatski, A VOYAGE TO DARI (UY1142-\$1.25) by Ian Wallace, STRESS PATTERN (UQ1143-95¢) by Neal Barrett, Jr., THE STONE THAT NEVER CAME DOWN (UY1150-\$1.25) by John Brunner, THE WARRIORS OF DAWN (UY1152-R1.25) by M. A. Foster, THE BOOK OF SABERHAGEN (UY1153-\$1.25) by Fred Saberhagen, THE MOTE IN TIME'S EYE (UY1151-\$1.25) by Gerard Klein, ARENA OF ANTARES (UY1145-\$1.25) by Alan Burt Akers, IMAGINATIVE SEX (UJ1146-\$1.95) - semi-non-fiction on sexual-how-to-do-it, SPACEHAWK, INC. (UQ1149-95¢) by Ron Goulart, THE FENRIS DEVICE (UQ1147-95¢) by Brian M. Stableford, and CONSCIENCE INTERPLANETARY (UY1148-\$1.25) by Joseph Green. (IMAGINATIVE SEX above by John Norman).

Avon Books (959 Eighth Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10019) has published ROGUE MOON (\$1.95) by Algis Budrys, CLONE (95¢) by Richard Cowper, and THE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM (\$1.95) by John T. Sladek.

Fawcett (1515 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10036) has published Book Two of THE EARLY ASIMOV (\$1.25, P2323), THE LIBERATED FUTURE edited by Robert Hoskins (\$1.50, Q2329),

and TRANSFORMATIONS II: UNDERSTANDING AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH SCIENCE FICTION (P2327, \$1.25) edited by Daniel Roselle.

Simon and Schuster (630 Fifth Ave., Rockefeller Center, New York, N.Y. 10020) has published THE ~~HEL~~LOWSHIP OF THE STARS (\$6.95) edited by Terry Carr.

FOR SALE & SERVICES

Kelly Freas is selling a series of 6 by 9 postcards in full color. They are really beautiful, and great to mail to friends. The cards are 35¢ each, series of 8/\$2.80. Also available are a series of full color prints from PLANET STORIES for \$29.95 signed, \$19.95 unsigned (6 prints), Portfolio Seventy-Four, another 6 print set, same prices, and a series of 6 cover paintings from Astounding-Analog at same prices. Write for more information or to order - Kelly and Polly Freas, Rt. 4, Box 4056A, Virginia Beach, Va. 23457.

HJMR Newslist has a special SF edition listing lots of out-of-print and other books for sale. Subs are \$1/yr. Write: HJMR Newslist, P.O. Box 308, North Miami, Fla. 33161.

Metagaming Concepts has a new SF game, STELLAR CONQUEST. They also want fan opinions about SF gamings. STELLAR CONQUEST costs \$8. To order or for information write: Metagaming Concepts, P.O. Box 15346-MA, Austin, Texas 78761.

SF BIBLIODD is the Newsletter of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County campus library. It costs 5/\$1.50 or 45¢/issue from Steve Miller, UMBC Library, 5401 Wilkens Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21228.

The F and SF Book Co. is one of the best mail order SF companies. It sells pb and hb books, is very prompt and reliable, and gives discounts of 10% on order more than \$10 and of 20% on orders over \$25. It also serves fans outside the U.S. Write for a catalog: F&SF Book Co., P.O. Box 415, Staten Island, N.Y. 10302. The SF Shop is also selling books by mail. Write: 56 Eighth Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10014 for catalog.

Lou Zocchi, 1513 C Newton Dr., Biloxi, Miss. 39532 sells various games including SF games. A WINTER WISH by H. P. Lovecraft is edited by Tom Collins and contains various poems, including some that are unpublished. The edition will be limited and will be available in the early part of 1975. For more information write: A WINTER WISH, c/o Whispers, 5508 Dodge Dr., Fayetteville, N.C. 28303. Whispers is a zine publishing news of interest to collectors and various stories. The fifth issue costs \$1.75, subs are \$6.50/yr. T-K Graphics also sells books by mail. Write for a catalog - P.O. Box 1951, Baltimore, Md. 21203. Another mail order book seller is Purple Unicorn Books, write: 4532 London Rd., Duluth, Minn. 55804.

COAS

Bruce D. Arthurs, 2401 W. Southern, B-136, Tempe, Ariz. 85282
Fred Goldstein, 2346 S. Linden Ct., Apt. B, Denver, Colo. 80222

CONVENTIONS (continued from last issue - starting with May)

Kubla Khan Clave 3 (no date) - write Ken Moore, 647 Devon Place, Nashville, Tenn. 37220.

April 28-May 4. SECOND NATIONAL FRENCH SF CON at Angoulême. Write: Simon Joukes, De Oude Roos, Geleeg 7/8, B-2860 O.LV. Belgium.

May 29-June - A Star Trek con in Braniff Place Hotel in New Orleans. \$8 attending, \$3 supporting. Write Vulcon II, P.O. Box 8087, New Orleans, La. 70182

- July 4-6. BENECIA II - A Star Trek con in the Sheraton Biltmore in Atlanta. Info from Steve Reed, 2470 Sandtown Rd., SW, Marietta, Ga. 30060.
- July ? BENELUXCON 3 (SFANCON 6). GoH: James White; fan GoH: Waldemar Kumming. Attending membership (including films) is 2.20 Pounds. International, multilingual program, art show, book exhibitions. Write Simon Joukes (see p. 7 for address).
- June 25-29. STAR TREK 75/HOUSTONCON. Royal Coach Inn, Houston, Texas. Combination Star Trek/Film/Nostalgia con. Membership \$7.50 until April 1, \$10 thereafter. Info: Earl Blair, 2511 Pennington St., Houston, Tex. 77016.
- June 27-29. MIDWESTCON. Quality Inn Central, Cincinnati, Ohio, GoH: Andy Offutt. Info from Lou Tabakow, 3953 St. Johns Ter., Cincinnati, Ohio 45236.
- July 3-6. WESTERCON 28. Hotel Leamington, Oakland, Calif. GoH: David Gerrold, Fan GoHs: Dena and Charlie Brown, Special GoHs: Ian and Betty Ballantine. Membership is \$5 until May 1, \$6 thereafter. Write: Box 24560, Los Angeles, Calif. 90024.
- July 18-20. AKON III. Relaxacon at Camelot Motor Inn in Weathersfield, Conn. (outside of Hartford). Registration \$2. Write: Bruce and Flo Newrock Box 270-A, R.D. 2, Flemington, N.J. 08822.
- July 18-20. BYOBCON V. at Hotel Muehleback in Kansas City. GoH: Robert Bloch, Fan GoHs: Ronald and Linda Bushyager, Toastmaster: Bob Tucker, Special Guest Appearance: Tim Kirk. Registration is \$5 in advance, \$7 at door, \$1 supporting. Huckster tables are \$15. Rooms are \$19 single, \$26 double. Parties, booze, panels, games, films, art show, banquet, auction. Make checks payable to BYOBCON V. Write: BYOB CON V, 1915 Mews Dr., Kansas City, Mo. 64131.
- July 25-27. RIVERCON 75 (DeepSouth Con XIII). Stouffer's Louisville Inn, Louisville, Ky. Registration is \$5. Rooms: \$19, single, \$26, double, \$3 extra per person. Panels, art show, banquet, films, auctions, hucksters, parties, riverboat cruise. Write: Rivercon, P.O. Box 8251, Louisville, Ky. 40208.
- Aug. 1,2,3. FANFAIR III. King Edward Sheraton Hotel, Toronto, Canada. Lester del

Rey is GoH.
Cy Chauvin is
Fan GoH. \$7
registration,
\$10 at door.
Write: Fanfair III,
Box 7230, Stn. A,
Toronto, Ontario,
M5W 1X8, Canada.



(Believe it or not, I have more con listings which stretch into 1976. I'll continue this listing next issue. Please send me any additional information. Thanks, Linda)

fanzone reviews



By - BRUCE TOWNLEY

Mike Gorra says that fans should get back to the roots, that nobody knows how to write anymore. So, why not? And what better place to start than with CHAS BURBEE. Or in this case, The Incompleat Burbee (available from Barry and Lee Gold, 2471 Oak St., Santa Monica, Calif. 90405 for \$1.50 by mail). I didn't really remember sending a check for this (but I do remember writing the check, so I guess that's all that counts) so I was more happy to get this than you would expect. I started reading it and found about 20 more reasons to be happy. Gorra might say that there were giants in those days, and I'd say I agree. "Are Fans Human?" is one way of saying it, and the author will invariably conclude that while fans may be nuts, they are still smarter than people because they are cognizant of the deeper significance of SF and knew about the atomic bomb and rockets and stuff like that long before people did." Cleanly presented too for an ideal fanzine.

Mike Gorra also talks about Rock and Roll somewhere. Why not go straight to the horse's source? ROLLER READER, vol. 2, no. 1 (from Art Schaak, P.O.B. 1803, Studio City, Calif. 91604, 75¢) has got a plethora of sources -- Cockney Rebel, Little Feat, Charles Mingus, and zine listings. There is also the cover and unpretentious layout. Maybe not too much you'd like here, but there's sure to be something and that's better than most fanzines have to offer.

Mike Gorra (what, again?) thinks today's fmz are nothing compared to the good old days. But what about Australia? Well, what zines from down there do you like the best? For me, it's a tough choice between SF COMMENTARY and whatever John Bangsund happens to be putting out. Got the latest SFCs and PHILOSOPHICAL GASES nearly the same day - Jesus! Here's Bruce Gillespie telling us about how he spent his summer vacation and the latest poop on Richard Brautigan and Adolf Hitler. Deathless analysis is the theme here, whether he's talking about real people or things merely imaginary. John Bangsund can do this and write funny things too -- sometimes at the same time. So PHILOSOPHICAL GAS has analysis too -- perhaps it is more therapeutic, it makes you feel better, laugh, or cry. Then comes Leigh Edmonds and Eric Lindsay in preference and in nearly the same week, timewise. RATAPLAN 16 starts off with the Wet Dream of the Month for May, Leigh Edmonds as always tries to provide the best for his readers in his own bemused, confused way. "There are a couple of WAHF's that should finish up this issue, but as it turns out, I wanted to use most of the letters in this issue but simply ran out of room, which is nothing unusual I'll grant you. So hang in there and see what happens." Uh, very relaxed and comfortable - it gets you

there. Ah, and we have GEGENSCHEIN which seems to be retooling, what with micro-elite typer and slick and shiny Fabian covers, and some rather strange mutations. (Eric was threatening to splinter up GEG and send certain parts to certain folks, but apparently this idea has flopped, it could have been interesting, but who knows.) Doug Leingang seriously looking at the Soviets? Hmmm. It almost all comes off, all these changes, and if Eric can make it last it should be quite good.

(SF COMMENTARY - Bruce Gillespie, GPO Box 5195AA, Melbourne, Victoria 3001 Australia, \$1/issue.

PHILOSOPHICAL GAS - John Bangsund, P.O. Box 357, Kingston ACT, 2604, Australia, \$3/2 issues.

RATAPLAN - Leigh Edmons, P.O. Box 74, Balacalava, Victoria, 3183, Australia, \$1.60/4 issues - I think that's in Aussie money.

GEGENSCHEIN - Eric Lindsay, 6 Hillcrest Ave., Falconbridge, New South Wales, 2776, Australia, 3/\$1.

Use postal reply coupons or international money orders on all out-of-U.S. fanzines.)

THE YULETIDE/CHRISTMAS FANZINE - Oneshot from Brad Parks, 562 Kennedy Rd., Windsor, Conn. 06095. On the cover of this thing Brad suggest "throw it away." Why not? Well, that's pretty hard to say. I have put out a zine at least as poor (as opposed to bad) as this, but I can always print these great crank letters I get all the time that are cranked out by cranked up anonymous cranks. But Brad doesn't even seem to have even this to fill up 7 or so pages. He's got the adventures of Sgt. Shick and gnatterings about personal stuff. I'd have to say that this is communication penetrating in its rawest state. Refute that, Mike Glicksohn! (I seem to have switched Mikes) Pretty interesting, highly recommended. SURE!

Denver, known for its rarefied air has also spawned a number of fanzines lately. A look at the best of these (everybody says Don Thompson is the best, even in Denver) denizens of the ozone, reveals DON O SAUR to be quite tasty. Almost entirely written on stencil - just shows what a pro Don can be (in real life he works at a newspaper). All the writing is readable, quite a good bit of it fascinating and worth reading again. Don worries about what he's doing (Are fmz REAL LIFE? Of course not, but is REAL LIFE real life?) so he's cut down to bi-monthly. Maybe you'd best pick up on DON O SAUR before it dwindles away altogether. Don C. Thompson, 7498 Canosa Court, Westminster, Colo. 80030.

Gordon Garb (C106 Corbett Hall, Ft. Collins, Colo. 80521) almost pulled a John Carl on us. That is, he had a revelation that his zine WAS A CRUDZINE (apparently Charlie Brown said so) and so he cried out that he was GONNA DO BETTER and promptly gafiated. Or so I thought till I got something called SUPRAMALGAMATION (wha?) PRESENTS. Some pretty good funny stuff, some that's supposed to be funny, and some other stuff with a scientific sort of feel about it, an air like formaldehyde. This is not surprising when you consider that Gordon is a self-avowed computer bug. This isn't all that much different from SUPRAMALGAMATION, Gord's other zine. I don't mind too much (I liked SUPRAMALGAMATION), but you might. Too early to tell, maybe, but next issue will have Poul Anderson.

Frank Denton (14654 8th Ave. SW, Seattle, Wash. 98166) has tons of boyish enthusiasm, even though he's about my paw's age (I think). It certainly spills all over whatever he publishes -- which makes for a good time. He writes about the books he likes, the people he likes, and the food he likes (and he always says why). To balance it he sometimes puts some rather baleful people in his fmz. In between there is quite likeable fan fiction, travels with Mike Carlson, and some of the best cartoons in the world (Grant Canfield: "Everytime I open my mouth around here someone pisses in it")-new wave - & letters from everybody else. In BY OWL LIGHT are Frank's travels on land and through his mind and sometimes SF, like Wayne W. Martin talking about how he went to school when it was a teacher's planning day.

IMAGINATION BOOKSHELF

DARRELL SCHWEITZER reviews The Exile of Ellendon
by William Marden
Doubleday, 1974
186p., \$4.95

Roger Zelazny may be interested to know that he is no longer a promising and innovative new writer. He's an institution. This first novel by an unknown writer is part of the first generation of Zelazny-influenced works, as is openly acknowledged on the first page where the hero sits in a newspaper office reading LORD OF LIGHT. At quite a few times Marden's novel reads like an imitation of the Amber books. He has even tried, rather unsuccessfully I might add, to ape Zelazny's style, with the flippant first person narrative and lots of short paragraphs. He writes one and two sentence paragraphs even where the train of thought is broken up and carried over a dozen of them. The result is decidedly choppy and quite the opposite of the free-flowing style that comes so naturally to Zelazny.

The story interestingly begins as the reporter hero hears a report of a unicorn on a beach come in over police radio. He investigates and of course nobody believes it. But then people start calling in things like a mermaid and a flying monster that ate a dog. Then our hero meets a cyclops, and just as he is about to be stomped by it, the creature vanishes into thin air, back into the world of Ellendon, which exists in another dimension. The hero goes to Ellendon himself and from that point on the novel turns into routine sword and sorcery, with great gobs of heroics, and exploits which leap logical chasms in a single bound. Marden makes all the classical mistakes in this kind of fiction. Deus ex machina devices abound, the disappearing cyclops being only the first of a long series, all of which serve only to prevent the hero from getting killed, so the story can go on. Also, this supposedly everyday guy sustains the kind of injuries that would have put Hercules in the hospital for a month, and he just shrugs them off. Occasionally the Ellendonians heal him by magic when things get a little too strained. Finally, the book is completely lacking in the otherworldly beauty and mythic depth which is a vital part of good fantasy. The result is a shallow and only half interesting thud and blunder epic, which is not likely to be remembered very long. If Marden is ever to become a major writer, he'll have to polish his style, improve his characterization, and show a lot more originality and invention than is present in THE EXILE OF ELLENDON. Maybe he will. After all, this is only his first book.

WARREN JOHNSON reviews The End of the Dream
by Philip Wylie
DAW, 1973, 95¢

I'm acutely aware of my disabilities in reviewing this book: it could undoubtedly be compared to Stapleton's novels because of the breadth and scope, as well as the general narrative technique, and to Brunner's THE SHEEP LOOK UP (as well as the original STAND ON ZANZIBAR). In fact, comparisons are probably in order for the novel with SILENT SPRING and the entire genre of dystopian fiction. Unfortunately, I'm not that well versed on these works. What I've read about them convinces me a better-read critic could draw much better conclusions about the book with its contemporaries. However, lacking as I am, I have to review the novel on its own merits.

Actually, to call THE END OF THE DREAM a novel is not correct; it's more akin to what John Brunner (who wrote a very interesting introduction for this edition) has called a "non-novel." It has no protagonist in the usual sense; it does not follow one cast of characters. Instead, it aims for a broad range of both time and space to cover the entire happenings of the next half century.

The book is obviously a warning against ecological mismanagement, but to stop there would be to discredit it. It's not a hysterical ecofreak's idea of what will happen if a little pollution here and there is sprinkled around, but takes the ultimate in pollution -- so bad that the world is no longer fit to live in. During the course of the events sequence (which mainly covers the 1970s and 80s), New York is transformed from one of the most important cities in the world to a ghost town, wallowing in its own filth; all freshwater lakes, rivers, and streams are polluted beyond their ability to be cleaned, and the seas are rapidly following suit; mankind is dying because of his own carelessness. The book is didactic, of course, and sometimes overly so; the section on the future of sex has little basis in reality. It is a book that probably would not have been published 10 years ago. I don't know if Wylie could have written it 10 years ago...although the signs were there, it would have taken an incredibly vivid imagination to conceive of this form of the future. The ecology movement paved the way for this book, and without it, DREAM would have been brushed off as ridiculous ravings.

That doesn't necessarily mean that the book is Gospel Truth, however. Whether or not portions will materialize is a matter of opinion. Wylie probably wrote most of the book before the full impact of environmental laws came into effect (although the basic bill, the Clean Air Act of 1970, was probably already on the books). The tide seems to be turning against this sort of tomorrow. I personally don't believe that the public could be so complacent as to let the earth be raped as he describes it; I think Wylie is basically attempting overkill.

But the book does take several things into account that make it somewhat less than the totally one-sided account so many literary nitwits have written. One is the all-too-obvious thing we have come to realize, especially these past several months during the energy crunch, and that is TANSTAAFL -- cleaning up the environment is going to cost money. Just this morning on the news I heard of a settlement of a suit brought by the Attorney General of Illinois against an Indiana steel company which was polluting Lake Michigan; now it must build a recycling center to dispose of these wastes in a safer manner for the ecology of the lake -- at a cost of several billion dollars. And with those costs, and money being tight the way it is and has been for awhile (and will be), no amount of significant cleanup is going to happen overnight. Wylie realizes this. His basic message tells us that what we should avoid doing is increasing the amount of pollution we already have.

There are two sides to that coin, though; cutting down on one form of pollution sometimes causes another kind. He brings out especially the point about thermal pollution of water from nuclear plants. Currently, nuclear power stations supply only 5% of our energy nationwide. (Although here in the Chicago area that figure is as high as 50%.) Wylie speculates that when virtually all of our electricity is produced by nuke plants, the rivers would begin to boil away, killing aquatic life. This has yet to be proved; as Philip Gustafson of the Argonne National Laboratory put it last year, "Radioactive waste heat from nuclear power reactors that empty into lakes, such as Lake Michigan, create a warm and pleasant atmosphere that attracts fish, and for that matter, men too. In fact, the fish line up at the end of the pipe in a line a lot like a cafeteria line to feed on and enjoy the warmth of what we have in the past mistakenly called the deadly radioactive waste heat." Supporting his statement is the increase in the shrimp (I think it was) population along the New England coast due to the heat, which has resulted in increased food supplies. Maybe it's pollution, maybe it's not. We simply have to be careful.

Wyllie did not write the book with the intention that it should be a scare tactic; however, a couple times in the story he points out what happens when panic hits people -- when they realize what this ecological harm really is -- and that sometimes the panic is worse than the original pollution. His message is one of moderation, although no less urgent -- steps must be taken to insure a livable environment for all.

Time will tell whether the book will come true. I suspect I share with the late author and everyone else the wish that it won't.

CLUBS AND CLUBZINES

If you want to be in contact with southern fandom, you should join the SOUTHERN FANDOM CONFEDERATION which publishes a very good bulletin with news of cons, clubs, and people. It also publishes a membership roster listing names, addresses, and major interests. Dues are \$1. Write: Meade Frierson, 3705 Woodvale Rd., Birmingham, Ala. 35223.

News about British and European fandom is found in the very frequent, informative CHECKPOINT from Darroll Pardoe, 24 Ottello Close, Hartford, Huntingdon PE18 7SU, England. This is really a newszine, but I wanted to mention it here because of its emphasis on British and European news. Subs are 10/60p in England, 10/6F in France, 10/60F in Belgium, 5/\$1.00 North America airmail, and 8/\$1.00 Australia airmail. If you subscribe to a zine published outside your native country, it is a good idea to send an international money order (available from a bank or post office), a bank draft, or international postal reply coupons.

LASFS meets every Thursday night at 8 pm at Freehafer Hall, 11360 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, Calif. 91604 (213-769-8843). LASFS publishes a clubzine/newszine, DE PROFUNDIS, edited by Barry Gold. Subs are \$3/year.

Minn-stf is the Minneapolis group. Information can be obtained by writing 343 East 19th St., Minneapolis, Minn. 55404.

OSFFA is the Organized SF Fans of Arizona group which meets every other Sunday in Phoenix or Tempe, Ariz. Call Lord Jim Khennedy (962-8222) or D. Carol Roberts (966-3043) for information or write Jim Khennedy, 1859 E. Fairfield, Mesa, Ariz., 85203. The group seems to be quite active and is involved with films, trips, cons, a newsletter, and a clubzine.

Son of the WSFA Journal is the best clubzine/newszine around. It is frequent and chocked full of information -- including media notes, book reviews, fanzine reviews, con news, lists of new books, and more. It is somewhere between LOCUS and KARASS in content, and I recommend it highly. Subs are 10/\$2, 12/1 Pound or 12/\$2.50 overseas. Subs include The WSFS Journal. For info on ads, overseas agents, trades, subs, etc., write Don Miller, 12315 Judson Rd., Wheaton, Md. 20906.

FOSFAX is the clubzine of the Falls of the Ohio SF/Fantasy Assoc. (FOSFA). FOSFA sponsors a weekly free university discussion forum on SF and related topics every Monday at 7:30 p.m. in Rm 135 of the Life Sciences Bldg. on the Univ. of Louisville campus. There is also a FOSFA meeting on the second Sunday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Library Lecture Lounge of the univ. of Louisville. For more information, contact Bob Roehm at 288-6204 or Cliff Amos at 636-5340 or write to Box 8251, Louisville, Ky. 40208. Subs to FOSFAX are \$2/yr, trades welcome.

(14)

FELLOWSHIP OF THE FUTURE is a new SF club in the New York area. Meetings are approximately bi-monthly. For information write or call Dave Carldon (28-02 Parsons Blvd., Flushing, N.Y. 11354) Phone - 212 445-6926 or Alyson Abramowitz (638 Valmont Place, Elmont, N.Y. 11003) Phone - 516 561-1874.

NESFA (New England SF Assoc.) is a club in the Boston area. They publish Instant Message. Corresponding membership costs \$5/yr and entitles you to Message and any Proper Boskonians that come out. For information on the fanzines or on NESFA, write: NESFA, Box G, MIT Branch Station, Cambridge, Mass. 02139.

TAFF

TAFF is still looking for people to run. Each nominee must have 5 nominators, three from the fan's own country and two from overseas. Each nominee must provide a platform of 100 words and a \$5 bond. This year's winner will be sent from North or South America to the 1976 Eastercon in Great Britain. Nominations close April 1, 1975. For info or to be nominated or to donate \$, write Len and June Moffatt, P.O. Box 4456, Downey, Calif. 90241.

COA - Mike Glyer, c/o Dept. of Popular Culture, BGSU, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403.

CREDITS

As usual, thanks to all my faithful correspondents and subscribers. Please keep sending news. This issue's cover is the long awaited Jay Kinney cover. Nextish will have a cover by Dan Steffan. It will probably contain the letters regarding the future of the Worldcon. Illos this time from Grant Canfield (p. 9), Jay Kinney (8), Dan Steffan (5 and 4). Book reviews by Darrell Schweitzer and Warren Johnson; Fanzine reviews by Bruce Townley.

This has been KARASS 11. January 1975. Assistance provided by Ron Bushyager. Stencils by Brian McCarthy. Collating by Delaware Valley SF Club.

If this box is checked, this will be your last issue unless you subscribe, trade, contribute, or loc. ☐

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