



BUREAUS AND PROJECTS

Birthday Card Project. Elaine Wojciechowski, 6042 N Harlem Ave
Chicago, Ill, 60631
Collectors Bureau. Eric Jamborsky, Box 358, Harriman, TN, 37748
Correspondence Bureau. John W Andrews, 2301 E. Foothill Dr,
Santa Rosa, CA, 95404
Fan Club Bureau. Roger D Sween. PO Box 408, Platteville, WI 53818
Games/Hobbies Bureau. Donald Miller, 12315 Judson Rd, Wheaton,
MD, 20906
Information Bureau. Don D'Amassa, 19 Angell Dr, East Providence
RI 02914
Manuscript Bureau. Donn Brazier. 1455 Fawnvalley Dr, St Louis,
MO 63131
Membership Activities Bureau. John Robinson, 1-101st St, Troy,
NY, 12180
N'APA. Frank Balazs, 19 High St, Croton-on-Hudson, NY, 10520
Neff News Bureau, Public Relations. Stan Woolston, 12832 Westlake St, Garden
Grove, CA, 92640
NFFF Historian, Trader Page, Kaymar Award. K Martin Carlson, 1028 Third Ave
So, Moorhead, MN, 56450
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SF-Fantasy Short Story Contest. Howard DeVore. 4705 Weddel St, Dearborn, MI
48125
Tape Bureau. Joanne Burger, 55 Blue Bonnet Ct, Lake Jackson, TX 77566
Teaching SF Bureau. Will Norris, 1073 Shave Rd, Schenectady, NY, 12303
Teller. Harry Warner, Jr. 423 Summit Ave, Hagerstown, MD, 21740
Welcommittee. Sharon Wilkerson, 6755 Lewis Ave, Long Beach, CA, 90805

WRITERS EXCHANGE: OPEN

PRESIDENT: John Robinson, 1-101st St, Troy, NY, 12180
Sec-Treas: Janie Lamb, Route 1 Box 364, Heiskell, TN, 37754

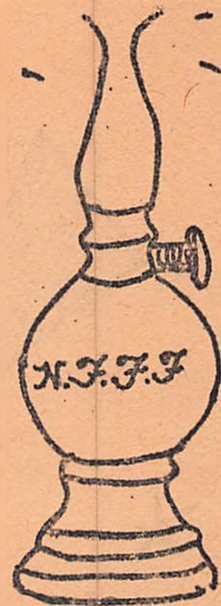
DIRECTORATE:

Stan Woolston, 12832 Westlake St, Garden Grove, CA, 92640 CHAIRMAN
Joanne Burger, 55 Blue Bonnet Ct, Lake Jackson, TX, 77566
Gary Mattingly, PO Box 04097, Detroit, MI, 48204
Leah Zeldes, 21961 Parklawn, Oak Park, MI, 48237

TNFF DEADLINE: August 10, 1976. Material ready to electrostencil can arrive
by Aug 15, all other should be in my hands by the 10th. Editor: Joanne Burger
55 Blue Bonnet Ct, Lake Jackson, TX, 77566

TIGHTBEAM: Lynn Holdom, PO Box 5, Pompton Lakes, NJ, 07442. Send Lynn your
letters about the NFFF & other matters of interest--and artwork, esp. cover.
If they arrive after the next Tb is published, it will appear in the following
issue.

Cover by Alan Lankin==thanks Alan.



TNFF
The National Fantasy Fan
Volume 36 Number 3
June 25, 1976

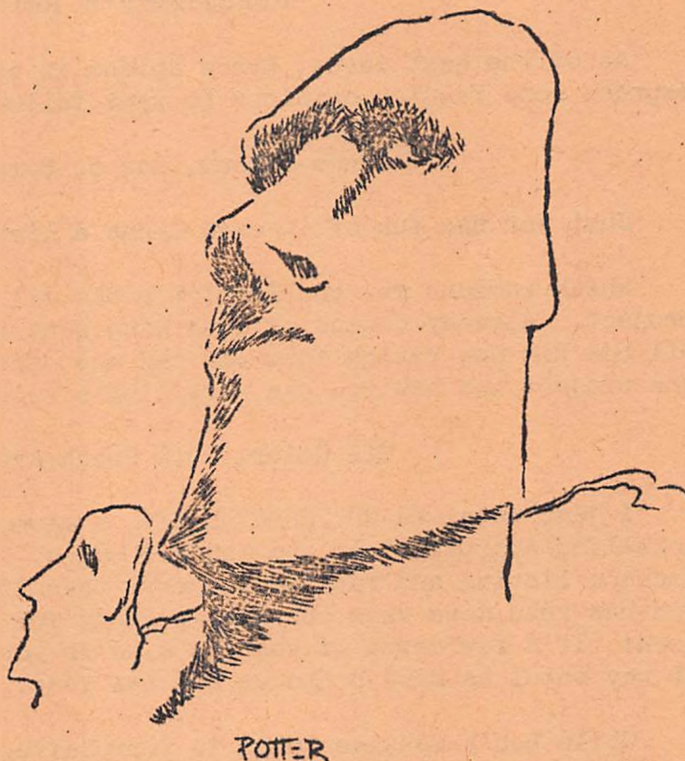
Published by Joanne Burger
55 Blue Bonnet Ct, Lake
Jackson, TX, 77566 for The
National Fantasy Fan
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to members of the NFFF.

To Join the NFFF send your
dues to Janie Lamb, Route 1
Box 364, Heiskell, TN, 37754
(please make checks etc
payable to Janie Lamb, not
NFFF). Dues: \$3/year--new
members joining in the
middle of the year can pay
for rest of year & next year
and get a savings. As of
July it would be \$4.50 for
membership thru 1977, as of
Oct 1, it is \$3.75.

TNFF needs art, both cover
and interior--so does Tight-
beam. Why not send Lynne
and Me some art and see it published. If you want it back, be sure to say so.

I would have gotten this issue out sooner, but I have been feeling bad for a couple of weeks. I am taking pills for my high blood pressure, and my doctor thought that perhaps the weight I have lost would have controlled the blood pressure and I wouldn't need the pills anymore, so I stopped taking them the first week of this month. Unfortunately, it seems I still need them, because I felt bad immediately (which I expected) but I never got to feeling better. Eventually, it got bad enough where I couldn't go to work, so I started taking the pills again, and gradually improved.

Something else that interfered was my birthday present for my mother. I took her to Las Vegas last weekend. She always talks about going to Las Vegas to gamble, so I took her. It was a tour, and I was happy it was, because I found it very boring, and the tour was the cheapest way to go. However, I did get to see the Grand Canyon (on a 7 hour trip from Las Vegas while mother was gambling) and that was enjoyable. But slot machines are, to me, an extremely boring way to spend money. Not that mother spent much money. I bought her \$6 worth of nickles when we got there, and three days later when she checked out, she had \$7.90 worth of nickles. She had fun, which was the purpose of the trip.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT: 1

As of the next issue, Lynne Holdom is editor of TIGHTBEAM. If you wish to express some fannish opinions to your fellow Neffers write:

Lynne Holdom, Box 5, Pompton Lakes, NJ, 07442

Just for the fun of it send Lynne a list of your twenty favorite sf novels.

Which reminds me, the indefatigable Gil Gaier continues to work on his book project. Already dozens of fans have sent their evaluations of books they've read. Gil has his own rating form you can use once you understand it. For information on the project and how you can participate write:

Gil Gaier, 1016 Beech Ave, Torrance, CA, 90501.

I just received GUYING GYRE 5/6, a mammoth compendium of letters and ratings totalling approximately one hundred pages. Included in those pages are Don D'Amassa's listing and ratings for more than 1000 books. One reader estimated that Don has read more than one book per day for each day of his life -- since he was born! If a few dozen of you can send in your ratings for lifetimes of reading sf it may total as many books as Don has read. Wow!

While Don's massive total is impressive, I am more impressed by Gil's collection of ratings. But he needs more in order to have sufficient numbers of evaluations per book to add up to a consensus for each book. I figure this means at least ten people rating each book. So write to Gil and get with it. It's all well and good to compile lists of your favorite books, but as Ed Connor said in his letter:

"Thanks to Don D'Amassa (in particular) and others for giving (via GG) me lists to look over, as most of my books are packed away, on three levels. Even so, I've probably forgotten about some of my favorite books which I would've liked to list...."

Oh yes, it would help if you include a stamp with your request.

In sending out two issues of TIGHTBEAM I was required to sort copies in Zip Code order for bulk mailing. I found that we have a shortage of members in those areas with zips beginning with 3, 5, and 8. We have no members in Delaware, South Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Montana, Idaho, Alaska, Hawaii, or Iowa, nor in Alberta, Saskatchewan, or the Maritimes. I'd appreciate names and address of people in those states and provinces for recruitment purposes. And remember to check your lists to be sure there's at least one femfan on it. I find that most fans tend to exclude femfans from their spec lists. The esteemed Monocle Magan says this is because men have men for friends and women have men for friends. The current sex ratio in the N3F is on the low side of the average for Worldcon registration but twice that of fanzine participants (if I can believe Donn Brazier's listing of the 175 with 20 femfans present). I find we recruit a higher percentage of femfans from prozine and fanzine ads and membership forms left on freebie tables at cons than through the efforts of individual members, for the most part. So please, send me your lists of names and addresses. Thank you.

John Robinson, 1-101st St, Troy, NY, 12180



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THINKERS

and endeavors

TEACHING SF BUREAU REPORT FOR JUNE TNFF

with sundry other comments
from the chief

Perhaps you thought I'd gone or gaffiated or some such. Well no such luck. After a minor spate of being forced away from correspondance and related small pleasures, broken only by a trip to Balticon, I return with some tidings, possibly a few surprises and a pledge.

This isn't so much of a bureau report as I'd hoped. Not because of the lack of news, although I really do not have that much to report, but because of my employment. A part-time job I got the last of January turned into a full-time-managerial-pay-by-the-week-and-not-by-the-hour-job. Add to that an overall lack of practical experience and a lot of bungling on the part of the departed fellow I replaced and I ended up with little enough time to do much of anything. But the additional pay soothed the ravaged nerves somewhat and did wonders for a starving bank account. I had hopes of surprising everyone with a new face in the form of a rebuilt Selectric IBM, instead of this decrepid six-year old Sears (SCM) manual.--//Sigh/--'Twas not destined to be. Not now anyway ... the demand has jumped.

This past month Tim Marion & David Ortman productions came out with SOUTH OF THE MOON 12, the zine that lists apas which anyone may join. The quality continues to improve with each eas (that's a stouter, ignore it) issue. Unfortunately, Tim announces therein that he will be giving up SOTM, in part due to costs and other similar considerations. A portion of the editorial section is taken up addressing himself to a load of garbage he received

MACBRIDE FOR PRESIDENT
VOTE LIBERTARIAN IN 76!

from various "fans" on account of real or imagined slights--if real then due to Tim's inexperience and/or sources, if imagined ... some people can be incredibly fuggheaded about the slightest thing. I'm not going to bother recapping or going into any of it. I will say this. I think Tim has done a good job with the materials he has had to work with. There's going to be mal-contents or somebody who has had a bad day in every large mailing list. I hope that the real garbage, not the calm constructive criticisms and comments, but the bitchy, picky, and contemptuous crap that several people subjected Tim to were/was the result of a bad day on the part of the writer. If it wasn't ... I leave the rest unsaid.

Tim: I'm sorry to see you go from the helm of SOTM and I look forward to future zines et alia from you. The new editor is Andrew Sigel (~~870/83X~~ 424 Greenleaf St., Evanston, IL 60202). I met him at Boskone (unless my memory fails me) and look forward to his work on it. If you have news of apas &c, or want to find an apa to throw your heart and soul into, write him and it would be a courtesy to include an SASE if you want to know the rates.

Also from SOTM 12 is word that Steven Beatty (1662 College Terrace Dr., Murray, KY 42071) is planning a fanzine index. If you've questions about listing your zine, getting the list, or whatever (or want to join his APA-H) write him. Don't forget an SASE.

For those newcomers not familiar with SASE or fannish policy re it: SASE means a "self addressed, stamped envelope." It is a courtesy and more than likely will bring a relatively quick reply. Fan projects are not subsidized except out of volunteer pockets. If the person working on a personal project has to answer 10, 20, 40 letters concerning his project and shell out 13¢ for each response he ends up with less money for his own projects. Just because you write, don't expect a reply if you request one and do not enclose a SASE. You shouldn't expect it and the project chief shouldn't feel obligated. It's a rough policy and most fans willingly reply as quickly as they can even if you failed to send a SASE, but do not be surprised or angry if you are not answered because you forgot the SASE ... we all have expenses.

If anyone has the address of Steven G. Hartman, please be so kind as to send it to me. I have some photos I took for him at Balticon, but I'm embarassed to say I've lost his address.

The May 12 VARIETY is the special film annual edition, 472 pages, many with full page advertisements and announcements of films being released or under preparation or to be presented at Cannes. It is one of the funniest things I've read in a long time. Took a copy to the Albany State SF Society meeting and nearly destroyed everyone present over such films as: BLAZING STEWARDESSES, ILSA MEETS BRUCE LEE IN THE DEVIL'S TRIANGLE, EVIL IN THE DEEP ("Rips your nerves to shreds"), S.O.B. ("Blake Edwards Presents"), MASSACRE AT CENTRAL HIGH ("You better get those kids the hell out of there!"), WITH LIPS OF LURID BLUE (Labbra Di Lurido Blu), LIEBEN-CAMP ("Violence and horror in a female Concentration Camp"), HOT THROATS (Bocche Calde), BLOODY PEANUTS, WHO LAID MY WIFE? (Cattivi Pensieri), not to mention ... ALLIGATOR ... FRANKENSTEIN ITALIAN STYLE (heavy on the oregano?) ... TENTACLES ... DIRTY FLOWERS ... MASSACRE AT ELCOD BATH DRIVE-IN ... VIRGINITY ("Ready to Deliver") ... why go on?

Of interest to SF and fantasy people: Trieste Italy, 13th International Festival of Science Fiction Films, July 10-17, for info write-- Azienda Soggiorno-Turismo, Castello San Giusto, Trieste, Italy. Says they now sponsor the first International Market of SF Films. And the 6th International Festival of Paris of Science Fiction and Fantasy Films, to be held in April 1977 in Paris at the Congress Palace. For info write L'Ecran Fantastique, International Festival of Paris of SF & Fantasy Films, 9 rue du Midi - 92200 Neuilly, France. Director is Alain Schlockoff (seriously).

And now ... in the same issue ... THE HOBBIT in animation, produced and directed by Arthur Rankin, Jr. and Jules Bass, screenplay by Romeo Muller, Music by Maury Laws--TO BE PRESENTED AS A XEROX TV SPECIAL ON THE NBC-TV NETWORK. I am trying to find out when. Noted is that "The Return of the King" from LOTR is "now in production". No telling until we see it what it will be like.

And ... a mention of DUNE, available from CAMERA ONE, Michel Seydoux, 106 Bis Avenue de Villiers, 75017 Paris, France, produced by d'Alexandro Jodorowsky. The little illo is from the latest pb edition showing a Fremen in the foreground, hands up raised, with a sandworm in the distance.

And now for the pledge and special announcement. It is my intention to run for a position on the Directorate in the up-coming election. I once again have time to devote to the duties and my interest and support for the N3F has never diminished. For me, Running for the Directorate is the next logical step in my work to contribute to the N3F and ultimately to be of some assistance to others in fandom. Hope you will support me in my efforts to help you.

Will

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: 2

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Now that there are more than fifty cons per year it is time for the N3F to develop special publications for freebie tables. Ads in program books -- even classified ads-- cost money. It would be much cheaper, and possibly more effective to have brochures and mini-zines on N3F Services For Non-Neffers, Current Reviews of Books, Films and Fanzines, Convention and Club Listings, and other such information bearing the N3F imprint. Those of you who read Taral/Wayne MacDonald's letters says that many such projects do not require the N3F to be accomplished, that as long as someone is interested it can be done. Well, Boskone and MAC have neofan rooms because someone is interested, but these are but two cons out of a better than one-per-week number.

I'd really like to hear from those of you with ideas for such servicezines. There are many cases where we could get something started in fandom if we ourselves get started. Taral is right concerning the fact that anyone can do it. What he doesn't seem to realize is that it won't get done if someone isn't inspired to do it. That's what Membership Activities and Special Publications should be about: what could be done but isn't being done because no one has become inspired enough to get through to accomplishment?!

The N3F should be providing some limited services to fandom in general if it is to become better known. All too many fans do not know what the N3F is about -- probably because the N3F doesn't know enough about itself to proclaim much of anything to fandom in general. We need special publications with reasonable financial and distribution limits. The N3F must provide some service to fandom if it is to become better known and respected.

Question: What services can the N3F provide to fandom (and its own members) for a reasonable amount, say \$50-100 per year, and thus gain respect? Remember, the problems include putting together the materials, printing them, and getting them in front of a lot of fans -- all for a limited amount of money. Such materials would include membership forms and short story contest forms but not as main ingredients. Special publications are intended to provide services so that the credibility and acceptance of membership forms and contest forms grow.

Come to think of it, such a publication would amount to TNEF without the N3F items. Amazing. A sort of SF Summary. Indeed, we might call it that-- SF SUMMARY-news, reviews, listings, etc for neofans and fans who don't see all that many fanzines regularly. Sure there are LOCUS and KARASS. But at the same time there are a few dozen people at each and every con who wouldn't know either of these zines if they saw them. So what about an SF SUMMARY for cons? Just as long as we don't dump the work on Joanne, or Lynne.

I believe that the basic difference between the way I think and the way Taral thinks is that I believe in organization to bring in new neos each and every year. There are many people who hear about fandom or go to cons who do not enter fandom. This is because they are not made welcome, they are not given information, they are not helped along in learning about fandom. I recall my first con, NYCon 3, if that had been my only basis for discovering fandom I probably never would have stayed active, but I did get active in fanzines and start a couple of local clubs, all of which gave me some perspective and a willingness to remain active. I think special publications can help us to help neos have a greater chance of remaining active and growing in fandom. But they must provide services, services that are not presently provided or which appear sporadically. Write to me if you wish to be come involved. John Robinson, 1-101st St, Troy, NY, 12180

NEWS FROM MANY SOURCES

Paperback publishers have been sold this year--Doubleday bought Dell (as of 4/28/76) Pyramid was bought by Harcourt, and Ace was bought by Filmways. Filmways also owns Grosset & Dunlap.

Mystery Writers gave Edgars (their equivalent to the Hugo) to Robert C O'Brien for *Z for Zachariah* (Atheneum), a juvenile sf novel. A Special Raven was given, posthumously, to Leo Margulies, who was "a friend and loyal support of mystery writers over a period of 50 years of editing, during which the founding of Popular Paperback Library was only one of his achievements."

Two loonies confined late in Bedlam
escaped to a crag on the headland.
They were very soon sought
and easily caught
while sending smoke signals to redmen.

(joe pumilia)

Roger Schlobin, Purdue University, North Central Campus, Westville, IN, 46391 is working on *The Year's Scholarship in Science Fiction and Fantasy*. It will appear each Dec in *EXTRAPOLATION* with the 1974 version to appear in 12/76. He wants to include British scholarship, and scholarly/criticism from the established, major fanzines.

He's also at work on an annotated fantasy bibliography for *The Science Fiction Reference Book* (FAX'77). Any help, especially with British fantasy, would be most appreciated.

Lynne Holdom got a note from Merrill (Buddy) Blackman. He wants to make it known that he is Buddy, not Merrill, and his birthday is Aug 13, 1962. Lynne wants fen to list their 20 favorite SF/fantasy novels, only one per author.

Buddy Blackman, 6 Urbandale Road, Voorheesville, NY, 12186 (phone 518-765-2803) would like to join the Welcomittee. He would like to publish a bureau activities booklet. I sent him a copy of the booklet I published awhile back--any bureau heads who would like a different description of their bureau should send it to Buddy (I'd appreciate a copy, to use in TNEF occassionally).

Brian Thurogood, Wilma Road, Ostend, Waiheke Island, Hauraki Gulf, New Zealand. writes that he would be happy to arrange trades for British books or Aussie items. As he has an Aussie bank account he has no trouble ordering from there. A lot of sf is published first in England, and also in hardcover in England when it is only published in paperback here.



Schlobin
72.

DIRECTORATE REPORT

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Stan Woolston, 12832 Westlake St, Garden Grove, CA, 92640

Tom Walsh resigned from the Directorate and has passed his bureau (The Correspondence Bureau) to John W Andrews. The Short Story Award prizes have been raised to \$25, 15, and 10. A series of Classified Ads for NSF in the Program Booklet were also approved.

THE 1976 NEBULAR AWARDS (from Locus 187)

BEST NOVEL: Winner: *The Forever War* by Joe Haldeman, st Martins, Ballantine
#2, *The Mote in Gods Eye* by Niven & Pournelle, Simon & Schuster, Pocket Books
#3. *Dhalgren* by Samuel R Delany, Bantam

BEST NOVELLA: Winner-"Home is the Hangman" by Roger Zelazny, Analog
#2 "The Storms of Winhave" by Tuttle & Martin, Analog
#3 "A Momeuntary Taste of Being" by James Tiptree, Jr. *The New Atlantis*

BEST NOVELETTE: Winner: "San Diego Lightfoot Sue" by Tom Reamy, F&SF
#2. "A Galaxy Called Rome" by Barry N Malzberg, F&SF
#3. "The Final Fighting of Fion MacCumhail" by Randall Garrett, F&SF

BEST SHORT STORY: Winner: "Catch that Zeppelin" by Fritz Leiber, F&SF
#2. "Child of all ages," by P J Plauger, Analog
#3. "Shatterday" by Harlan Ellison, Gallery

DRAMATIC WRITING: Winner: *Young Frankenstein*
#2 "A Boy and His Dog"
#3. "Dark Star"

THE LIBERATED FUTURE

edited by Robert Hoskins (paperback)

reviewed by Agnes Broz Kloecker

A dandy dozen of new-old SF stories which are prefaced by comments from the editor. Among those included are Poul Anderson, Katherine MacLean, Anne McCaffery, Henry Kuttner, and William Tenn.

"Sam Hall", by Poul Anderson, illustrates a society in which complexities of government result in loss of individual liberties. "The Trouble With You Earth People," by Katherine MacLean, tells of the difficulties unfamiliar cultures have in communicating thoughts and ideas. "Soft Come the Dragons", by Dean R Koontz, shows what beauty can be uncovered when ingrained prejudices can be thrown aside. And Anne McCaffery is outstanding in "A Meeting of Minds", a tale that shows the closeness possible when humans can share their thought and emotions without the necessity of a spoken language.

THE NEW BOOK REPORT

R. A. Lafferty can always be depended upon for the unusual, but sometimes he gets a bit carried away. Not to Mention Camels (Bobbs-Merrill, June, \$6.95) is a galloping fantasy, the protagonist of which, Pilger Tisman (aka Polder, Pilgrim, Palgrave, Paladin, etc.), is a "world-jumper" whose death is just a passage to another place. Since his mental energy seems to come from an unpredictable outside source, he's alternately smart and stupid. Had Lafferty not jumped about quite so rapidly, his undeniably rich prose and vivid imagination might have allowed the reader to become better oriented to each of the worlds he presents. In Perilous Dreams (DAW, June, \$1.25), by Andre Norton, a "true action dreamer" named Tamisan is bought by a crippled nobleman as a means to fantasy-adventure (not unlike Gerry in The Whole Man). Then the two are trapped in different identities in an alternate world (sort of), but find ways to make the best of things. Ms. Norton's usual competent writing.

If you haven't read the first three novels in Roger Zelazny's "Amber" series, then The Hand of Oberon (Doubleday, June, \$5.95) is going to baffle you. Oberon the King is missing, and his assorted offspring are busy either trying to find papa or keep him from being found. Corwin (a good guy) has his hands full trying to penetrate the mysteries of the pattern (a very sophisticated power network), handle his more hostile siblings, and deal with griffins and unicorns in his spare time. Great fun, but start at the beginning. C. L. Grant's The Shadow of Alpha (Berkley, June, \$1.25) is about a long overdue human expedition to the stars and the near-mystical faith in its return among an earthbound community of androids. Lots of adventure and action, but the unsupported premises which dangle throughout offend my sense of cause-and-effect. Flight to Opar (DAW, June, \$1.50), by Philip José Farmer, is another rousing heroic-adventure yarn set in south-central Africa of 12,000 years ago (and a sequel to Hadon of Ancient Opar). There are obviously more volumes to come in what is one of the better recent series of its kind.

Pamela Sargent has two titles out this month (busy, busy). There's a novel, Cloned Lives (Fawcett, June, \$1.50), in which the four boys and one girl cloned from Paul Swenson are physically identical but as varied in their emotional and aptitude development as any family. The minimum of hardware and maximum of social interaction make it a much more satisfying book than most on the subject. Sargent has also edited Bio-Futures: Science Fiction Stories About Biological Metamorphosis (Vintage, June, \$1.95). Among the ten enlightening and entertaining stories in this collection are Ursula Le Guin's very moving "Nine Lives," Poul Anderson's enthusiastic "Call Me Joe," and R.A. Lafferty's highly original "Night Shift." Kate Wilhelm, Thomas Disch, James Gunn, and James Blish are represented as well--and the excellent, scholarly introduction is also worth spending some time over.

Almost all of the 13 stories in Orbit 18 (Harper, June, \$7.95), edited by Damon Knight, are non-conventional in plotting and style. Kate Wilhelm's "Ladies and Gentlemen, This Is Your Crisis" examines the art of vicarious thrill-sharing, "The Family Winter of 1986" by Felix Gotschalk gives a chilling picture (literally) of what happens when the fossil fuels run out, and Kim Stanley Robinson's "In Pierson's Orchestra" tells of the effects achieved by d-
buttons and pedals from
stories in The Best of
Books, June, \$1.95) ex-
and consistently top-
are probably "Portrait

GOLDEN
GOODIES

strange, surrealistic
recting a symphony with
a control booth. The 20
Harry Harrison (Pocket
hibit the author's broad
grade talent. The best
of the Artist" and "I Have

Kept My Vigil," and others range from loopy parody and straight adventure to sardonic horror and somber explorations of the future. Prefatory notes to the stories enhance their effect. The Best of John W. Campbell (Ballantine, June, \$1.95) contains eleven stories which ought to remind readers (especially younger ones) that Campbell was a major author before he was ever an editor. Still the best of the lot is "Who Goes There?," but the five-story cycle included here (from "The Last Evolution" to "Rebellion") is not nearly so old-fashioned as it seems going in.

Arthur Byron Cover is one of my favorites among the newer writers (I mean, with a middle name like that . . .), and his first published book is The Platypus of Doom and Other Nihilists (Warner, June, \$1.50). The "others" are the Armadillo of Destruction, the Aardvark of Despair, and the Clam of Catastrophe. Some other things you'll run into are a chess editor turned homicidal maniac (understandable . . .) and a private eye who is the only human ever to beat the Space Pirates at ping-pong. A very oddball and very funny collection, even though Cover is still having trouble with his endings. A name to keep an eye on. (How about the "Pangolin of Panic"?) And then, on the other hand, there's Stanislaw Lem. I've tried repeatedly, ghodnose, but still I fail to understand the enthusiasm some people show for that man's work. His latest, The Star Diaries (Seabury, June, \$9.95), recounts the voyages of that intrepid traveller, Ijon Tichy. The stories range from passable slapstick (involving a time loop--not a very new idea) to deep philosophy, but none of it translator has done a good job of into idiomatic English, but one

Space Odysseys (Doubleday, May, presents a good overview of the have handled the space-travel theme vary from Ross Rocklyne's purest to Arthur Clarke's classic piece stories by Bester, Dick, Tiptree, #6 (Harper, May, \$8.95), edited by first-rate collection of 12 stories hausted cliches." Among the best gist Who Wouldn't Do Awful Things

Your Child Using Drugs?" Malzberg, Effinger, Farmer, and Reamy are also included. Unfortunately, Donald Wollheim's The 1976 Annual World's Best SF (DAW, May, \$1.50) is not one of the better collections in the series. "The Storms of Windhaven" by George R.R. Martin and Lisa Tuttle is first-rate, as is Richard Cowper's "The Custodians," but the rest--including stories by Leiber, Stableford, Brunner, and Michael Bishop (old hand, most of them)--are mediocre at best.

In The Siege of Wonder (Doubleday, May, \$5.95), by Mark Geston, science is pitted against magic in the 700-year-old "Wizards' War," with one side using cold-blooded computerization, the other manipulating men's minds and perceptions and distorting reality. The hero, an undercover scientist-agent in the magicians' territory, is half-man, half-bionics--and, since he's semi-halucinatory most of the time, it's hard to work up any great enthusiasm on his behalf. Tanith Lee's newest fantasy, The Storm Lord (DAW, May, \$1.50), is much slower moving than Birthgrave and the hero (a foundling trying to regain his rightful place as heir to the throne of Vis) is only moderately interesting. Lots of sorcery and swordplay (and considerable sex), but not a particularly successful second novel. To carry this "downer" paragraph to the extreme, we have Terminus (St. Martin, June, \$8.95) by Peter Edwards, which is downright bad. A political activist in the century-after-next is shipped off to the domed penal colony on Mars with all the other misfits, where he gets involved with a

TEXAS

Are you a Caucasian Chiropractor
45-51 looking for a non-Fluorated
educated woman 46? Born Again
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\$7.95), edited by Brian Aldiss, very different ways of writers since 1937. The 15 selections pulp "The Empress of Mars" (1937) "The Sentinel" (1954), and include and James Inglis. New Dimensions Robert Silverberg, is (as usual) a which avoid "old formulas and ex- are James Tiptree's "The Psycholo- to Rats" and Rachel Pollack's "Is

nasty revolutionary cult, the daughter of the President of Eurafrika, and some implausible Martian archaeology. The preaching is tedious, the characters are dull, and the dialogue is flat.

The three novelettes in Dean McLaughlin's Hawk Among the Sparrows (Scribner, May, \$7.95) show the author to be a much more skilled craftsman than he is usually given credit for. "The Permanent Implosion" is a typical ANALOG "problem" story about how to close up a hole in the fabric of space (also in Colorado) into which our atmosphere is being sucked. The excellent title story concerns a modern jet fighter knocked back through time to France 1918. Wouldn't that be a handy thing to use against the German Fokkers? Uh-huh. Think about it ANALOG Annual (Pyramid, June, \$1.50), edited by Ben Bova, contains all original material, like a "13th issue" of the magazine. There's a long, complex, well-written story by P.J. Plauger, shorter "typical" pieces by Dean Ing and Spider Robinson, and an article by John Gribben on the coming ice age ("The glaciers are coming, the glaciers are coming!"). Not bad, but not terrific either; was Bova just overstocked . . . ? The Lifeship (Harper, May, \$7.95), by Gordon Dickson and Harry Harrison, is high quality space opera about incipient revolution in a future fascist caste society (highly disciplined elite, huge working class, and lobotomized manual laborers). All of this in the microcosm of a lifeship cast adrift in space after an accident on an interstellar liner. Wry and entertaining speculation on class prejudice, plus a lot of action and adventure.



Alfred Bester's The Light Fantastic (Berkley/Putnam, June, \$7.95) is the first of a two-volume "Best of Bester" collection. This one has seven stories, starting with "Hell Is Forever" (published in UNKNOWN back in the '40s) and including "Fondly Fahrenheit," one of the best sf short stories, period. The candid and witty headnotes to each story are delightful. An excellent retrospective. Frederik Pohl's In the Problem Pit (Bantam, June, \$1.50) is a selection of ten stories and two essays from his past collections, ranging from the very subtle title story to his classic "The Man Who Ate the World." "Golden Ages Gone Awry" is both a memoir of Pohl's career and an explanation of what killed off most of the nearly 40 sf magazines of the 1950s. I'd almost like to recommend a boycott of David Bergamini's Venus Development (Popular Library, June, \$1.25), it's so bad. The politicians of Earth are about to alter the orbit of the next planet in, making it a terrestrial suburb, but the scientists don't trust them and pull a fast one. This book really hacks me, because the thinking is sloppy. The author has no concept whatever of scale, such as the amount of energy required for such a feat--never mind what a significant change in Venus' orbit would do to the harmonic balance of the rest of the solar system. His proposed hardware for this miracle of engineering consists of a million rockets . . . at a secret installation in Nevada. Yeah.



J.R.R. Tolkien: Architect of Middle Earth (Running Press, July, \$2.95), by Daniel Grotta-Kurska, is not for academics (despite the many footnotes) but for readers and admirers of Tolkien's work. On a biographical framework, the author's flowing prose leads the reader to agree with Tolkien's own protestations: That his writings are not (consciously) political or social allegories, but were produced "for the sheer pleasure of it all." An excellent addition to the LOTR fan's library. Neil Barron's Anatomy of Wonder: Science Fiction (Bowker, July, \$15.00) selects, critically annotates, and provides full bibliographic data on 1100 of the "best" adult and juvenile sf titles, from the 16th Century to the present. Other sections cover reference books, specialty publishers, etc. Encourage your local library to pick this up; it's part of Bowker's "Bibliographic Guides for Contemporary Collections" series.

I'm not really sure about Starfawn (Pyramid, April, \$1.00), by Byron Preiss and Stephen Fabian It's #2 in the publisher's "Fiction Illustrated" series-- i.e., a full-color paperback comic book with a plot-line that would have been corny in 1932. Fabian's sensual artwork helps, but not much. The dealers' promo says it will "tap the lucrative science fiction market." They're probably right. Too bad.

Finally-- This is only tangential to sf, but fellow swashbucklers will be delighted to know that Judy-Lynn Del Rey has talked Ballantine into reissuing Rafael Sabatini's great historical romances. The Black Swan appeared in March, Captain Blood Returns in May, and half a dozen others, including The Sea Hawk and Scaramouche will be coming out every other month.

**FREE
PUBLICITY**

Michael Kalen Smith
604 N. Hampton
De Soto, TX 75115

THOMAS BURNETT SWANN DIES

Thomas Burnett Swann, author of DAY of the MINOTAUR and other classic fantasies, died May 5 of cancer at his parents' home in Winter Haven, Florida. He was born October 12, 1928 in Florida and was 47 when he died.

EDGAR PANGBORN DIES

Edgar Pangborn died suddenly on Feb 1, 1976, in his upstate New York home, of a heart attack. He was born Feb 25, 1909 in New York City and was 66 years old when he died.

samuel lovelace dies

Samuel Loveman, poet, writer, bookseller, and friend of H. P. Lovecraft, died May 14 in the Jewish Home and Hospital of New York City. He was 89 years old last Jan 14.

MASAMI FUKUSHIMA DIES

Masami Fukushima, the former chief editor of Hayakawa-Shobo, died on April 9 at the age of 47 of cancer. He was born Feb 18 1929. He translated some sf stories in 1945 and being fascinated with this newly developing field, promoted the publication of the Hayakawa SF Series, the first SF series in Japan. He edited SF-Magazine in 1960, which, as the first successful prozine in Japan, set the stage for appearances of many excellent authors and translators of SF, and is still going. He was the "father of Japanese SF" as John W Campbell was to American SF (Takumi Shibano).

((all the above from Locus, 34 Ridgewood Lane, Oakland, CA, 94611 (letter size mail only--larger mail to POBox 3938, San Francisco, CA, 94119), \$6 for 15 issues--carries news of the pro sf field mainly, with some fannish news.

NEW MEMBERS

(Welcome to the NFFF)

- Denny R. Bowden
917 Tracy St
Dayton Beach, Fla
32017 1977
BD:7-10-47. Teacher. Insts-writing, pubbing, editing, taper fanzines, ama pub. has typer/use of ditto, offset, has taper teaches sf at high school. Inst sf 16 yrs, mostly reads books but reads a few mags.
- M. E. (Mary) Tyrell
414 Winterhaven Dr
Newport News, VA
23606 1977
BD: 12-25-49. Secretary. Insts-writing, reviewing, colls, books, corres, cons, has typer, insts sf 10 yrs, likes Tolkien, Anderson, and most others. Likes fantasy & oriented stories. PH:596-2301
- Sharon L. Ponzer
Lecoma Star Route
Rolla, MO
65401 1977
BD: 1-26-55. Student. Insts-writing, editing, pubbing, corres, fanzines, cons, ama pubbing, has typer, cassette, can use mimeo and ditto with small cost. Inst sf since 14, likes sword & sorcery, fantasy. PH: 314-364-3150
- Nicholas J. Polak
POBox 1453
Middletown, NY
10940 1977
BD: 6-22-55. Mental Health Therapist. inst everything sfish has typer, ditto, cassette, inst sf 13 yrs, reads all sf mags, likes all sf writers. PH: 343-3887
- John M Hopfner
1029 North Second
Marquette, MI
49855 1977
BD: 1-22-55. College student. Insts-writing, reviewing, colls, corres, papas, has typer, can use mimeo and ditto at school, has cassette, insts sf 9 yrs, reads all mags, PH: 906-225-0858
- Anji Valenza
593 5th St
Brooklyn, NY
11215 1977
BD: 2-3-53. Student artist. Insts-writing, editing, pubbing art, fanzines, cons, apas, has typer mimeo, active in fandom 4 yrs, reads various zines, likes technology stories, PH-212-768-5906
- T. L. Bob Bohman
Box 14
East Thetford, VT
-5043 1977
BD: 6-31. Farmer & Carpenter. Insts everthing sfish. Has typer, lightly active before now, about 3 yrs, letterhack (rems) inst sf always, likes good stories, especially fond of Stableford, Pangborn, LeGuin, Edmondson.
- John DiPrete
45 Vale Ave
Cranston, RI
02910
BD: 10-24-52. Student, insts-writing, editing, pubbing fanzines, pubbed a fanzine a year ago, inst sf since 12 yrs old, reads Amazing, Fant. likes Nolen, Simak, Brdbury
- Nicholas S DeLarber
450 Peerview Dr
Arnold, MO
63010 1977
BD: 10-16-59. Inst all fannish things, has typer, cassette reada all mags, inst. sf 12 yrs, like sf authors.
- Sybil Eastman
Box 252
Shangri-La, Riverton
Manitoba R0E 2R0
Canada 1977
BD: 10-23-12. Retired, may work later. colls books, will write for club pubs, corres, has typer, inst sf 45 yrs, prefers human interest stories. Likes most sf authors. PH: 378-2959

new members-2

Terry Lopsley BD: 9-27-48. Com-programmer, instswriting, art, fanzines, con
1021 ~~Band~~ Lansdell Rd Has use of typer, ~~skskk~~ photocopier, offset, active in
East Ridge, TN, 37412 fandom 2 yrs, reads most sf
1977

J. David Bennet BD: 5-27-48. has cassette, inst sf 15 yrs, like all sf author
PO Box 5055
Tampa, Fla
33675 1977

Larry Mason BD: Dec 11. Electronics techn. insts pubbig, apas, books,
1870 Dresden Dr NE fanzines, will do work for club, has typer, mineo, cassette,
Apt E-8 active fandom 3 yrs, writes for fmz, inst sf since 9 yrs
Atlanta, GA, 30319 old, like most writers of sf
1977

Rome Scherer BD: 11-19-48. Hospital aide. insts. reviewing, colls, crroes
147 ~~xxxx~~ Leroy Ave fanznes, cons, apas, has typer, taper, active 1 yr, inst
Buffalo, NY sf 20 yrs, reads Gaa Galaxy, Fantastic, Amazing
14214 1977

Kathy Brown No info
101 Beam
University Park
PA 16802 1977

RENEWALS

Amelia Ahlstrom (1976) Will @ Norris (Kaymar Award)
Robert W Gersman (1977) Frank Balazs (1976) Rick Brooks (1976) Connie Weir (1977)
Ann Wilson Fox (1976) Ann has ~~dæws~~ divorced and her name is now FOX.

C O A

Ann Fox , 2836 S. Holly St, Seattle, WA, 98108

Alyson L Abramowitz, 638 Valmont Place, Elmont, NY, 11003 (good til aug)

Alan Lankin, 1117 New Pear St, Vinelan, NJ, 08360

Kingston Kane, 4307 Tranquility Dr, Highland Beach, Fla, 33431

~~Andss~~ Andrew Sigel, 424 Greenleaf St, Evanston, Ill, 60202

Frank Balazs, 19 High St, Croton-on-Hudson, NY-10520

NEW MEMBER LIST CONT

Fred Jakobcic Read sf 15 yrs (only info he gave)
113 W Ohio Apt 4
Marquette, MI, 49855
1976

Since this is Howard DeVore's last year as N3F Short Story Contest Manager we will require someone to take over the job next year. Be thinking about it and write when you decide -- preferably before the New Year.

Whenever someone steps down from a post there's generally a rush to find someone new. We're fortunate to have plenty of advance warning in the case of contest manager, but we're seldom so fortunate. I'd like to hear from anyone willing to serve as backup for any bureau chief. Janie Lamb has agreed to work on forwarding the names and addresses, etc. of new Neffers to the Welcomitte for the time being, however, we will be needing a new head for the Welcomitttee since Sharon Wilkerson is no longer able to continue in that post. I must warn any volunteer that it will cost you money for postage, and for making copies if you don't have loads of carbon paper and onionskin. So think before you leap. Sharon bowed out for precisely that reason--it takes time and money to keep the wheels of the Welcomitttee going and there is no reimbursement. But we do need someone, so volunteer if you think you're up to it. If we wait for TNFF to print the lists this will delay communication perhaps a month or more. This is not Joanne's fault but the publishing schedule -- six times per year. So someone with some cash to pay for postage is needed to put in some time notifying the Welcomitttee of the existence of new folx. And remember, it would be good for me to know who is interested in taking over bureaus should emergencies arise. Write, all you potential bureau chiefs and backup people.

If all goes well, and the mail's delivered, notice of the Short Story Contest should appear in KARASS and TALES FROM TEXAS, two fine newszines. I'd appreciate it if each and every Neffer who publishes a zine makes mention of the contest in anything coming out before September. Remember, word limit is 5,000 words, contestants cannot have had more than two stories published professionally, entries must be typed, double-spaced on white letter-sized paper, and there is a 25¢ entry fee for non-Neffers. Anyone who wishes an entry form should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Joanne Burger, 55 blue Bonnet Ct, Lake Jackson, TX, 77566

Joanne will, most likely throw in a membership form absolutely free and thus claim sponsorship of any new members brought in through the contest.

Science Fiction for all classes/Science Fiction for the masses/Will Norris for the Directorate. Hmm, seems Will wants to be on the Directorate. Perhaps the Directorate should consider this following Tom Walsh's resignation. John W. Andrews has agreed to take over the Corry Bureau.

Oh, yes, those of you who plan to run for office should declare yourselves before the Worldcon. You must pay next year's dues in advance in order to be eligible. It would be helpful if you submit some sort of statement as well. The earlier you declare yourself the better chance you stand of getting an appreciable number of votes.

Ahem, I'm a bit perturbed by the few voters who participated last year. I'd like to see at least half of us voting. I realize that only 44% of all US citizens over the age of 18 vote in Presidential elections, but I can't see why the N3F should have so lousy a response. Let's see some action among both candidates and voters.

And lastly, contest prizes are now \$25, \$15, and \$10

John Robinson, 1-101st St, Troy, NY, 12180

MORE ODDS & ENDS

Karl W Ploran, 111 Southampton Rd, Holyoke, MA, 01040, writes that he is an avid SF reader and is interested in swapping SF paperbacks and cassette letter tapes by mail.

STAN WOOLSTON writes: Since Tom Walsh dropped out of the Directorate, if you have any desire to serve write the Chairman at once with some of your abilities that could help the other directors. We can get along indefinitely with only 3 Directors if everyone responded--but illness and other distractions makes that unlikely.

Stan Woolston, 12832 Westlake St, Garden Grove, CA, 92640, chairman of directorate

On April 6, 1976, Ruth Plumly Thompson died at the age of 84. She wrote 20 books about The Land of Oz, and she will be missed.



Tonight I sleep upon the Mesa
And hear the sounds of dark.
My horse at nearby grazing
And a far coyote's bark.

Up the Old Sandias tomorrow
I will be riding slow
And drinking in the sweetness
Of every mile I go.

--Loubel Wood

The June 14, 1976 issue of Publisher's Weekly was devoted to SF. Some good articles and some not so go--actually a pretty good issue for book sellers. One good article pointed out how many books sf fans buy. Maybe more book stores will read it and start stocking more sf.

A cartographer named Mercator
set out to place the equator
Out of sheer gratitude
He took no known latitude,
but made 0° the delineator.

(Joe Pumilia)

A FANZINE REVIEW COLUMN

by Cathy McGuire
339 East 6th St
New York City, NY, 10003

I've been through all the zines in my collection, studying the reviews to get an idaw of "how it's done". Writing reviews, especially about those zines that have been around longer than I have, takes plenty of courage. But since I've always been courageous, on paper, I shall embark upon another discussion of what is becoming one of my favorite subjects.

I received Donn Brazier's Title only after getting his newer zine Farrago. Since the latter had been full of fanfic and semi-serious articles, I expected Title to be the same

sort of literary zine. But it obviously circulates among a cloe group of readers/contributors, and has a definite fannish tinge. Instead of this being boring to outsiders, the careful editing by Donn brings together the many themes into an easily followed series of articles/Locs. The artwork and photos make it even easier to get to know the group. Title 51 has a discussion of scientific research and the continuing saga of Donn' life as a museum man, and another photo from the "Gerbils for Werthan" series. (I can't explain that story, but Donn might if you asked him.) The articles include a gory tale by R. Larson and a positively brillian piece by a girl named McGuire. (*chogh*) There's a fanzine review column by Mike Glickson (I should only write so well!) and letters divided up according to subject, a definite aid to understanding them. But above all, the tone is friendly. Donn states often that he wlcomes newcomers and the zine is obviously saying "Join us!"

I had read so many of Don D'Amassa's articles that when I heard he had a zine, I immediately sent my dollar for a copy of Mythologies. It was worth more than that, in my opinion. From the cover, a Bonni Dazell that is now on my wall, through the thought-provoking discussions of courage, competition and censorship, it was impossible to put down. Not only does Don do a great job of stimulating discussion with his comments, he edits the comments with the result being almost a group essay. The last ish, #8, included a poll of the readers' opinions of SF and other things, so the next ish should be jammed with things to LoC about. My only wish is that Don would get more art. Aside from the cover, there are only two illos and a one page cartoon for 58 pages. And the tone of the zine seems to be much more serious than Don's articles in other zines. But for discussion this is about the best.



While at Lunacon, I met quite a few faneds, and was promised a number of zines. I got two that weekend, possibly the two most opposite zines around. Empire is edited by Mark J McGarry, and those at the con who had read it had only good things to say about it. (and we know how rare that is!) Mark's zine is devoted mostly to fanfic and how-to-write-Sf articles, and he is very selective about what material goes in. He must be; out of nine stories, there were only 3 that I -considered amateur. There was 126 pages of solid enjoyment with contributions from both pros and fans. In this ish (#5&6) there was an interview with Richard Geis of SF Review, and a how-to article by Poul Anderson. The artists included J. Saturno (front cover), S. Fabian (backcover) and Al Sirois, among many others. I spoke a lot with Mark at the con, and he seems to be very serious about making this a zine of superior quality. I think he's made it.

The other zine was Dave Romm's personalzine, Impressions #1. Printed on gray paper, it seemed uninteresting, but once I started reading it, I reversed my opinion. It concerns for the most part, the three cons he attended: Fanfair, Anonycon, and Boskone. He gives the report an original touch by dividing it into "Getting There", "The Con" and "Getting Back". He is a pun fanatic, and I think it's contagious, I doubt he is aiming at a Hugo, but if he's aiming at making new friends, this zine should do it.

I have a weakness for getting those zines that start up a correspondence between me and the editor. One such is E*STAR*IAN EXPLORER. Wayne W. Martin had lined up some excellent writers for ish #3: Jodie Offut, Don D'ammassa and some unfamiliar but funny filk. The tone is friendly and informal, and the illos by Al Sirois & Mike Bracken go well with the articles. Wayne mentioned in the ish that he would send a copy of his personalzine Midnight Ramblings if asked, so I asked. It continued the editorial style I liked in EE. I also obtained through him a copy of Windfall Prophet, done by Dave Taggart. It was the "California Dreamin'" ish that Wayne had collaborated on. I could find little about dreaming in it, but with a little nattering, two fact articles (on magazine sales & policits in SF) and a st of "Prophetic Awards" to hold my attention, I didn't mind. This exchange of zines is my idea of what fandom should be about: communication that leads to ever widening and unexpected friendships. It gives a feeling of adventure to correspondence.

Another zine that is new and fast becoming popular is Winding Numbers by Randy Reichardt. Into its third ish now, it has the neat and professional appearance of more experienced zines, and contains many articles by a growing Winnipeg fandom. The articles are about SF (would you believe?), cooking, plimst (they are some sort of alien - ask Donn Brazier), a trivia quiz using the last lines of stories and - my favorite - The Fandom Squares. (the zine is worth it for that piece alone). The MacKay cover was beautiful, as were the rest of the illos. His next ish should be out soon. You really should get it.

And finally, a zine I received from a friend who is helping me get into New York fandom is Al Vega by Alyson Abramowitz. I got her second ish and might be helping collate her third, so I might be biased. But isn't everyone? Anyway, this offset zine speaks for itself with articles by Jodie Offut, Don D'Amassa, and art by Sheryl Birkhead, Grant Canfield, Terry Jeeves, Al Sirois and quite a number of others. And LoCs from Harry Warner Jr, Ben Indick, Donn Brazier, Sam Long, Doug Barbour and others! This is obviously highly recommended. All of the material fits nicely, and the reslut is very polished.

FANZINES MENTIONED:

- TITLE one time 50¢
- FARRAGO Don Brazier, 1455 Fawnvalley Dr, St Louis, 63131, 75¢
- MYTHOLOGIES Don D'Amassa, 19 Angell Dr, New Providence, RI 02914, usual or \$1 once
- EMPIRE Mark J McGarry, 631-E South Pearl St, Albany NY 12202, 5/\$3
- IMPRESSIONS Dave Romm, 17 Highland Ave, Middletown, NY, 10940, the usual
- E*STAR*IAN EXPLORER Wayne W Martin, 4623 E INYO Apt E, Fresno, CA, 93702, the usual
- MIDNIGHT RAMELING the same editor, the usual
- WINDFALL PROPHET. Dave Taggart, Chandler Road, White River Jct., VT 05001, the usual or 2 13¢ stamps
- WINDING NUMBERS, Randy Reichardt, 58 Penrose Pl, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2J 1S1, the usual
- AL VEGA, Alyson Abramowitz, 638 Valmont Pl, Elmont, NY, 11003, usual or 50¢

FANZINES RECEIVED by joanne burger, 55 blue bonnet ct, lake jackson, tx 77566

- IT COMES IN THE MAIL, Ned Brooks, 713 Paul Street, Newport News, VA, 23605 a fanish diary., 18 pp, available for letters, fanzines, etc.
- YANDRO, Robert & Juanita Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, IN 47348, 75¢, 40pp a 'genzine'-editorials, columns, articles, book reviews, letters, etc.
- DON-O-SAUR (#44, 45), Donald C Thompson, 7498 Canosa Ct, Westminster, CO 80030 35¢, a genzine, 32 & 30 pp, articles, letters of comment, etc.
- TITAN 2, Geoff Ripington, 15 Queen's Ave, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 8AY, England, \$1 (a bill please) for 3, 38 pp. this issue mainly book reviews, a couple of article
- FARRAGO 2, Donn Brazier, 1455 Fawnvalley Dr, St Louis, MO 63131, 75¢, 50+ pp. articles, stories, art, poetry, locs.
- FANZINE FANATIQUE 17, Keith & Rosemary Walker, 2 Daisy Bank, Quernmore Rd, Lancaster, England, \$1/3 or 4 (send cash). fanzine reviews 15 pp
- BOOWATT seven & eight, Garth Danielson, 616-415 Edison, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2G 0M3 Canada, 25¢, 11 pp, 8 pp. a fanish diary
- WOMEN & MEN 6. Denys Howard, Box 8975, Portland, OR 97208, 50¢, 38 pp., a genzine articles, letters, etc.
- GRYPHON, Denny Bowden, 917 Tracy St, Daytona Beach, Fla 32017, 25¢, a genzine, 18 pp
- BSFA NEWSLETTER 3 & 5, Tom A Jones, 39 Ripplesmere, Harmanswater, Bracknell, Berks, England--the british version of TNEF. 24 pp, 18pp
- VERCTOR 72 & 73, \$1, Christopher Fowler, 72 Kenilworth Ave, Southcote, Reading RG3 3DN, United Kingdom. book reviews, j g ballard interview, letters, 72 pp 50pp
- LAN'S LANTERN #1. George J Laskowski Jr, 26081 Marlene, Roseville, MI 48066, a genzine-book reviews, con reports, puzzles, etc. 26pp

ECLIPSE 9, Mark R Sharpe, 10262 John Jay, Apt D
Indianapolis, IN 46236, 50¢, 16 pp, genzine.

BEYOND THE BARRIER/Wonderland Revisited
Thomas J Walsh, 102 Prospect Ave, Irvington,
NJ 07111. 13pp,

K2 QUARTERLY Bernie Peek, 6 Hawks Road,
Kingston-on-thames, Surrey KT1 3EG, England
& Dave Rowe, 8 Park Drive, Wickford, Essex,
SS12 9DH, UK. 28pp a genzine
also K1, 22pp

MYTHPRINT the bulletin of the Mythopoeic Society
PO Box 4671, Whittier CA 90607, \$8 to join the
society & get Mythprint & MYTHLORE. The
soc. is about JRR Tolkien, CS Lewis, Charles
Williams

GREEN EGG, \$1, Council of Earth Religions,
POB 16103 San Diego, CA 92116 56pp

NOUMENON Brian Thurogood, Wilma Road, Ostend,
Waiheke Island, Hauraki Gulf, New Zealand,
\$6/12 issues. 12pp, 20pp, news, letters,
articles, etc.

WEIRDBOOK TEN, Box 35, Amherst Br, Buffalo, NY
14226, \$1, weird fiction 32 pp

A PORTABLE FANZINE, 2360 Rohs St, Cincinnati, OH, 45219--The Traveling Information
Center, 24pp, info on comics, sf, radio fanzines, articles, etc.

UNIVAX 3, Mark Gisleson, The Time Machine, 502 Maple, West Des Moines, IA, 50265
attn U&U on envelope. 50¢ 8pp, article, puzzle, ad for des moines con.

THE BAUM BUGLE, \$3.50/yr, Fred M Meyer, 220 North Eleventh St, Escanaba, MI 49829
articles on Oz 28pp.

FANTASIAE, The monthly newsletter of the fantasy association, POBox 24560,
Los Angeles, CA 90024, \$6 to join. 12 pp, 12pp, articles on Robin Hood, etc.

LOCUS, newsletter, 50¢ or 15/\$6, letter mail to 34 Ridgewood Lane, Oakland, CA
94611 pro news

CHECKPOINT, Ian Maule, 8 Hillcroft Crescent, Ealing, London W52SG, United Kingdom
newsletter, \$1 for 4 or 5, British news.

KARASS, Linda E Bushyager, 1614 Evans Ave, Prospect Park, PA 19076, newsletter-
fanzish news, 3/\$1

TALES FROM TEXAS, 2515 Perkins St, Fort Worth TX 76103, \$3 to Dallas Science
Fantasy Society, news-some sf lots of comics.



SKIER OF THE
SKYWAYS

THE LAST CONTINENT by C J Cutcliffe Hyne
(Ballantine, \$1.95)
reviewed by Buddy Blackman

A few comments on a book I just finished which probably fits in the fantasy class as well as any. Obviously it is the story of Atlantis and was originally presented in serial form in 1899. Carter calls this book "...the best of its kind," and I'd have to agree. The characterization, development of setting and pure adventure are great. Besides which, it is a tremendous tale of Atlantis and well worth reading to anyone interested in Atlantis.



Lynne Holdom says "Since John R. hasn't gotten the exchange bureau working as yet, Jan Morgan, Cathy McGuire, and I set up our own exchange. At the moment I'm reading SHIP OF ISHTAR courtesy of Jan Morgan. You might try her for some covers and other artwork.

Listen, if Sharon can't head the Welcommittee, I'll do it. I could put an ad in Tb asking all members to get in contact and see what develops. I can appreciate Sharon's problem as I've been there, but not too recently."

Will Norris, 1073 Shave Rd, Schenectady, NY, 12303, is going to run for the Directorate this year, he has sent official notice to that effect to Janie Lamb & TNFF. Who else will be running? this is the time to be thinking of it, and send in your name. If you can, write a platform, send it to me ready to electro-stencil & all the typo's will be yours and not mine.

John Robinson suggests that anyone with ideas on what to do in the N3F room this year (at the Worldcon) should send them to me. I will be going there and will be in and out of the room. I don't really want to be the official hostess, tho, because that is too confining a job.

John is planning an auction for the NFFF at the Worldcon. And we need reading material (fanzines, etc) for the NFFF Room. If you have anything to donate to the NFFF to be auctioned off, please send them to:

Mike Baker, (if using the US Post Office) POBox 5808, Kansas City, MO 64111
(if using United Parcel, or other non-governmental carrier) 4025 Campbell, Kansas City, MO 64110

NOTICE: READING MATERIALS FOR THE N3F ROOM, CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE N3F AUCTION, COPIES OF YOUR FANZINE FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION IN THE N3F ROOM SHOULD BE SENT BY THE END OF JULY (AND PREFERABLY BY MID-JULY) TO: N3F Room, c/o Mike Baker. Mike's address is in the paragraph just above this one.

Hank Heath, 250 Dale Dr, Cassadaga, NY, 14718 says why not put an ad in Fantastic & Amazing?

1976 HUGO NOMINATIONS (From Locus 189-address elsewhere in this issue)

24

Best Novel: Bester, Alfred. The Computer Connection - Putnam, Berkley
Haldeman, Joe. The Forever War-St Martins, Ballantine
Niven & Pournelle. Inferno - Galaxy, Pocket Books
Silverberg, Robert. The Stochastic Man-F&SF, Harper
Zelazny, Roger. Doorways in the sand.-Analog, Harper

Best Novella: Budrys, Algis "The Silent Eyes of Time" F&SF
Cowper, Richard "The Custodians" F&SF
Martin & Tuttle "The Storms of Windhaven" Analog
Niven, Larry "Arm" Epoch
Zelazny, Roger " Home is the Hangman" Analog

Best Novelette: LeGuin, Ursula "The New Atlantis" The New Atlantis
Martin, George RR "...And Seven Times Never Kill Man:" Analog
Niven, Larry "The Borderland of Sol" Analog
Pournelle, Jerry. "Tinker" Analog
Reamey, Tom "San Diego Lightfoot Sue" F&SF

Best Short Story: Benford, Gregory "Doing Lennon" Analog
Bishop, Michael "Rogue Tomato" New Dimensions 5
Ellison, Harlan "Croatoan" F&SF
Leiber, Fritz "Catch that Zeppelin" F&SF
Lupoff, Richard " Sail the Tide of Mourning" New Dimensions 5
Plauger, P J "Child of all ages" analog

Dramatic Presentation: "A Boy and His Dog" "The Capture" (a slide show by Phil Foglio) "Dark Star" "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" "Rollerball"

Best Fanzine: Algol (andrew Porter), Locus (Chares Brown) Don-O-Saur (Don Thompson)
Outworlds (Bill Bowers, SF Review (Dick Geis)

Best Pro Artist: ~~Ex~~ George Barr, Vincent DiFate, Steve Fabian, Kelly Freas, Rick Sternbach

Best Pro Editor: Jim Baen, Ben Bova, Ed Ferman, Robert Silverberg, Ted White

Best Fan Writer: Charlie Brown, Don D'Amassa, ~~AK~~ ~~Ex~~ Dick Gies, Don C Thompson, Susan Wood

Best Fan Artist: Grant Canfield, Phil Foglio, Tim Kirk, Bill Rotsler, Jim Shull

Gandalf Award (not a ~~Xs~~ Hugo): Poul Anderson, L Sprague de Camp, Ursula K LeGuin, C S Lewis, Andre Norton

J W Campbell Award (not a Hugo): Arthur Byron Cover, Arsen D'Arnay, Tanith Lee, Tom Reamy, John Varley

You must be a member of MIDAMERICAN to vote for the Hugo. \$6 supporting, \$25 thru Aug 1 attending, to PO Box 221, Kansas City, MO, 64141. It will be held Sept 1-6at the Hotel Muehlebach, Kansas City, MO, GoH Robert Heinlein, George Barr

The N3F will have a room there where you can rest from the festivities & have a quiet talk with people.

THE CON GAME

25

- July 2-5. WESTERCON 29. Hyatt House Hotel, Los Angeles, GoH H.L.Gold, Gregg Calkins. Toastmaster Robert Silverberg. Membership \$5. Westercon 29, Box 5384, Mission Hills, CA, 91345
- July 2-5. SEATTLE INTERNATIONAL STAR TREK CONVENTION, Seattle, WA, for Info:SISTC Convention Headquarters, 380 Klipp St, Hackensack, NJ, p07601
- July 9-11. UNICON II. University of Maryland, College Park. GoH L Sprague de Camp, Bob Madle, Ted White. Registration: \$5, Lee Moore, Box 63, College Park, MD 20740
- July 10-11. BAY AREA SF SEMINAR. Books Unlimited, 1975 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, CA, a two day series of seminars on Sf. Write for further information.
- July 9-11. PULPCON 5. Info: POBox 14, Wadsworth, OH, 44281
- July 21-25. SAN DIEGO COMIC CONVENTION. El Cortez Hotel, San Diego, CA. Combin. SF, Comics, media con. SF guests include Bradbury & Sturgeon. Membership, \$10. Info: Comic-con, Box 17066, San Diego, CA, 92117
- July 23-25. LONDON ANNUAL FANTASY/MEDIA FESTIVAL. Univ. of Western Ontario Community Centre, London, Ont. Canada. GoH Jeff Jones. Registration \$15. Info, Bill Paul, 111 Mt Pleasant Ave, London, Ontario N6G 1E1, Canada
- July 30-Aug 1. RIVERCON 2. Stouffer's Inn, Louisville, KY, GoH Poul Anderson, Jodie Offutt, Kelly Freas. Registration \$5, info Rivercon Box 8251, Louisville KY 40208
- July 30-Aug 1. LEXICON 5. Sheraton Springfield West, Mass, Info NESFA, Box G, MIT Branch PO, Cambridge, MA, 02139
- Aug 13-15. BOFCON Melbourne. 15th annual Australian Con, Membership \$A7.50 attending, \$A4.00 supporting. Write to Carey Handfield, 259 Drummond St, Victoria 3053, Australia
- Aug 13-14. INTERCON. Tri Arc Travelodge, Salt Lake City, UT. Comb. Star Trek and SF Con. GoH Larry Niven, Alan Dean Foster, John & Bjo Trimble, Darren McGavin. Membership \$12. Intercon, Box 11057, Salt Lake City, UT 84147
- Aug 13-16. 7th Annual MYTHOPOEIC CONFERENCE. Westbridge Conference Center, Sacramento, CA, GoH. Thomas Howard. Theme: Arthurian Elements in Williams, Lewis, and Tolkien. Write Mythopoeic Conference VII, c/oMary Morman, 3334 Lerwick #3, Sacramento, CA, 95821.
- Aug 19-22. EUROCON 3. Voivody Poznan, Poland. Membership closed. Info Vernon Brown, Pharmacy Dept, Univ of Aston, Gosta Green, Birmingham B4 7ET UK
- Aug 20-22. VUL-CON III. Star Trek & SF con, \$7.50, Vul Con III, PO Box 8087, New Orleans, La, 70182.
- Aug 27-29. DEEPSOUTHCON XIV. Admiral Benboy Inn, Doraville, GA, GoH L Sprague de Camp, Manly Wade Wellman. \$7, Steve Hughes, 5831 Hillside Dr, Doraville, GA 30040
- Aug 27-29. BUBONICON 7. Ramada Inn, Albuquerque, NM, GoH. Bill Rotsler. \$4 till 7/31, \$5 after, Checks payable to Roy Tackett, 915 Green Valley Rd, NW Albuquerque, NM, 87107
- Aug 27-29. WIENCON-SFCD. Jahreskonvent, Wien, Austria. Reg: 100,austrian. Info: Alfred Vejchar, A-1180 Wien, Naaffgasse 13, Austria
- Aug 27-29. THE BIG DES MOINES CON. Membership \$7.50, payable to Midwest SFRA, Ivor Rogers, c/o The Time Machine, 502 Maple, West Des Moines, IA, 50265
- Aug 27-30. SILICON 1. Newcastle upon Tyne, England. Imperial Hotel, Jesmond Rd. Relaxacon. Info Irene Bell, 9 Lincoln St, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE8 4EE, England
- Sept 1-6. MIDAMERICON. Hotel Muehlebach, Kansas City, MO, GoH Robert Heinlein, George Barr. attending membersip \$25, supporting \$6. POBox 221, Kansas City, MO 64141
- Sept 24-26. PghLANGE VIII. Viking Motel, Pittsburgh, PA. GoH. Joe Haldeman. \$4 Barbara Geraud, 1202 Benedum Trees Bldg, Pittsburgh, PA, 15222

- Oct 1-3. BOUCHERCON. Americana Hotel, Culver City, CA, Mystery convention. Membership \$4, Len & June Moffatt, Box 4456, Downey, CA, 90241
- Oct 15-17. WINDYCON III. Sheraton-Chicago. GoH Budrys, Bev Swanson. info Windycon, Box 2572, Chicago, IL 60690
- Oct 22-24. ANONYCON 2. Buffalo, NY, GoH Samuel R Delany. Registration \$5, Airport Holiday Inn, Buffalo NY, info Karen Klinck, 142 Snughaven Ct, Tonawanda, NY, 14150
- Oct 29-31. ALPHA DRACONIS. Holiday Inn, downtown Toronto. \$7, Draco Film Society, 1384 Ludbrook Ct, Mississauga, Ontario, L5J 3Pr, Canada. GoH Hal Clement, Gordon Dickson, Kelly Freas, Roy Thomas
- Oct 29-31. 2nd WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION, in NYC. info Thom Anderson, 1643 W 10th St, Brooklyn, NY, 11223
- Nov 5-7. NOVACON 6. Birmingham, England GoH Dave Kyle. Reg, \$2.50. supporting Info: Helen Eling, 124 Galton Road, Smethwick, Warley, West Midland, B67 5JS, UK
- Nov 5-7. TUSCON IV. Sands Motor Hotel, Tucson, GoH Ted Sturgeon. \$4, Tuscon IV, Box 49196, Tucson, AZ 85717
- Dec 3-5. SPRING-CON. GoH Sue Wheeler & Alexis Gilliland. Sheraton Hotel, Washington DC, \$5, info Steve Dolan, 7204 Calamo St, Springfield, VA, 22150
- Dec 10-12. ARKON-ORLANDO. Sheaton Towers Orlando. SF, Perry Rhodan, Star Trek, comic con, GoH Andre Norton, Larry Niven, Kurt Mahr. \$10, Arkon, Box 475, Boca Raton Fla 33432
- Jan 709. CHATTACON 2. Chattanooga, TN. Admiral Benbow Hotel, 101 E 20th St, Chattanooga, TN, 37408. Info Irvin Koch, 835 Chattanooga Bank Bldg, Chattanooga, TN 87402
- Jan 14-16. PHILCON. Ben Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia PA, info Meg Phillips, 4408 Larchwood Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19104
- Jan 28-30. Confusion 14. GoH Poul Anderson, Ro Lutz-Nagey. info Larry Ward, 112 Worden, Ann Arbor, MI, 48103
- Feb 4-6. CONEBULUS. Hotel Sycacuse, NY, \$4, info Paul W Meyer, 704 E Raynor Ave, Syracuse, NY, 13210
- Feb 18-20. BOSKONE 14. Sheraton-Boston Hotel. NEWFA Box G, MIT Branch PO, Cambridge, MA, 02139
- Feb 17-20. DESERTCON V. Univ of Ariz Student Union Bldg, \$5, Desertcon, Student Union Bldg, Univ of Ariz, SUP010,000, Tuscon, Ariz, 85720
- Mar 18-20. MARCON. Howard Johnson Motor Lodge North, Columbus OH, GoH Howard DeVore. info Ross Pavlac, Apt C2, 4654 Tamarack Blvd, Columbus, OH, 43229.
- June 17019, 1977. X-Con '77. Red Carpet Inn, Milwaukee. GoH Gordon Dickson, Robert Asprin. \$4, X-Con 77, Box 97, Greendale, Wis, 53129
- July 1-4 1977. WESTERCON 30. Totempark Residence, Univ of British Columbia, GoH Damon Knight, Frank Denton, Kate Wilhelm. Westercon 30, Box 48701, Stn. Bentall, Vancouver, BC V7X 1A6, Canada

LASER REVIEWS

L K Holdom, POBox 5, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442

#19. THE UNKNOWN SHORE by Donald Malcolm'

After a hurried evacuation of a space station, the ship gets lost in intergalactic space and has very little chance of locating any habitable planet. But luck is with them and they find one but most of the evacuees are limbless cripples. Can they survive? This novel tries to cover too much ground. Either the search for the planet or the problems of settling there could have carried the entire novel.

ROUND ROBINS BUREAU REPORT

Allan Chen, 23-05 126 St, College Point, NY NY, 11356

Greetings! The ROUND ROBINS BUREAU has been reactivated!

If you don't already know, correspondence by round robin usually requires about half a dozen or so people per robin. The first person sends off a letter to a second who (hopefully) writes something more and sends it off to the third, etc., until it returns to the person who started it all. A second letter is written, and the first is removed from the bunch and the process starts all over again. The topic of a robin can be anything you're interested in, and a robin can (and usually does) go off on tangents. This makes RR's interesting to read, and they're a great way to get to know other fans.

More than anything else right now, I need people to join the bureau. Send me your interests, possible topics, anything else that you feel is important, and, oh yes, your name and address. If you like writing fiction, say so, and we could start a story round robin. John Robinson's suggested an informal RR called a Bavarian Fire Drill. The first participant collects clippings, pamphlets, brochures, photos, and miscellaneous items that are "at least a little bit weird" and mails them to the next person who adds a few things and subtracts or makes Xerox copies of what he likes, and sends it on. Hopefully, some strange things come back to you in a few months. If anyone is interested in that, please tell me.

Since I hate to rely on clichéd, hackneyed appeals to be active in the club, I'll simply end this report with a period.

Allan Chen.

INFORMATION BUREAU

First I'd like to update some info from last issue. Sam Merwin Jr has something called CHAUVINISTO coming out from Major Books, which will be his first appearance in several years. This may turn out to be a retitling of WHITE WIDOWS, though.

Winston Dawson wrote in again mentioning that he found a copy of the March 9, 1918 issue of ARGOSY, which contains the first installment of XTX. He says this was not listed as a fantasy, but the plot features experimental planes and mysterious gases and sounds like SF to me.

Someone else, whose name was obscured by a Post Office provided water spot, who wants the title of a short story read in a paperback anthology some years ago. The story was about a crew of Earthmen who landed on a planet with a Stone Age civilization. One of the crewmembers was a priest. The planet's life forms are mammals, which turn into plants when they are submerged in water. The natives end up turning into trees. The priest takes one along, in the form of a sapling. I have the feeling I should know this story, but for the life of me I can't remember it.

This writer also wanted to know what magazine, probably late 1950's, featured a man climbing into a cave that is read and has jagged edges as its cover.

Questions and answers are both hereby solicited.

DON D'AMASSA, 19 Angell Dr, East Providence, RI 02914

CORRESPONDENCE BUREAU REPORT

John W. Andrews, 2301 E Foothill Dr, Santa Rosa, CA, 95404

(There will be no Overseas Bureau Report)

I am contacting people from the Roster. If anyone not on the lists of the last few Reports (there must be a few) please write me listing your address and special interests. Moreover, everyone should seriously consider updating their entry-- some entries probably give poor results. I am changing my entry.

ROSTER:

Jan Morgan...4918A Hwy 75S, Denison, TX, 75020. Collects fantast books; likes: cats nature and reading. Artist of SF, Fantasy, Occult. Authors: Heinlein, Norton, Swann, Brackett, Bradley, McCaffery, and Ann Maxwell.

John W. Andrews...World SF&F, Russ SF, Computer hobbyist; Esperantist. Reads Mss and criticizes free.

Kingston Gerald Kane...4307 Tranquility Dr, Highland Beach, Fla, 33431. Will write on almost anything.

William R. Norris...1073 Shave Road, Schenectady, NY, 12303. Heads Teaching SF Bureau. Inst'd in many other things besides.

Dennis Jarog...7325 W Howard, Chicago, Ill 60648. Varied interests. Not so hot on Burroughs.

Roy J. Moore...4908 Mercedes Rd, Mobile, AL 36618. Lovecraft, Smith, and Howard.

Bud Webster...POBox 5519, Richmond, VA, 23220. Music, martial arts, collecting, Ellison, etc.

Thomas J. Walsh...102 Prospect Ave, Irvington, NJ 07111. Almost anything about practically everything.

Needless to say, people should write, write.

John Andrews

+++++

BIRTHDAY CARD PROJECT

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| July 1 - Leah Zeldes | August 2 - Joe Siclari |
| 4 - Milly Brewer | 6 - Jim Lang |
| 4- Ola Humphries | 11 - Doug Wilchoway |
| 8 - Mark Blackman | 19 - Peter Andrews |
| 11 - Ann Chamberlain | 23 - William Norris |
| 16 - Stan Woolston | 27 - Roger Vanous |
| 24 - George Frierich | |

Had 73 stamps, used 6 in June, will use 7 in July, 60 stamps left.

Elaine Wojciechowski, 6042 N. harlem Ave, Chicago, IL 60631

TIME SLAVE

by John Norman

(A book review by Lynne Holdom)

(published by DAW, \$1.50)

Generally there are two sorts of science-fiction books I don't read--series books and imitations of Edgar Rice Burroughs. As a result I have been spared numerous trips to Scorpio, Cimmeria, Callisto, and Gor. Therefore I had never come across John Norman's peculiar brand of sexism until recently; I didn't know when I was well off. Not only is John Norman the sexist of the science-fiction world; he writes like a high school sophomore, he has the empathy of a lobster and the anthropological knowledge of Attila the Hun.

The story line is simple: Dr Brenda Hamilton PhD is recruited to work on a scientific project; ostensibly for her mathematical ability but in reality she is chained, humiliated and taught to regard all men, any men, as superiors. Then when she has

learned this lesson, she is sent into the past to become the slave of primitive hunters who also rape, chain and humiliate her. However Brenda realizes that all her life she has really wanted this kind of treatment---that wanting it makes her a true woman. At this point the reviewer got sick and resolved never to read another word that Norman wrote.

Now I don't think I'm overly sensitive to sexism nor am I an expert on anthropology though it was my minor in college, but this book rubbed me the wrong way on both topics. Certainly if Norman had any human empathy, he would realize that human beings don't like to be beaten and humiliated. There is a great difference between the fact that rape exists and the statement that women really enjoy being raped. In the same way women do like to do things for men but they also like to be appreciated as people. So much for his empathy. Also the portrayal of a tribal society where all the men have the right to rape and humiliate any of the women says much more about Norman's subconscious than his anthropological knowledge. In the first place, sex is hardly an obsession among primitive people--food, shelter and simple survival are much more important. What evidence we do have would tend to suggest that early man regarded women with a mixture of utility and awe because women and women alone bore children. Then too, pairing is very ancient in human societies; in hunting societies there was not enough economic



surplus to create great differences between men; harems did not exist until agricultural societies, though even in hunting societies surplus women often became secondary wives, as any childbearing potential could not be wasted. Women were sometimes lent to strangers but such practices within a tribe would have led to social stresses that would have destroyed the tribe. Women had different roles from men but no less important ones. There is absolutely no reason to suppose that food was a reward for sex though women may have had to eat separately. His society is reminiscent of certain hominid societies (he doesn't include the male homosexuality that is also common) but not those where the females have constant sexuality. So much for his anthropology.

I wouldn't bother reviewing any Norman book were it not for the fact that his books are best sellers and very popular among high school students. In some ways this is very depressing. Adults, I suppose, can't be helped or harmed, but will high school students think that Norman's view of sex and sexual roles is the Truth? I'm against censorship but Norman's books make me almost want it--for minors at least. Seriously, I suppose all I can do is say how rotten a writer and thinker Norman is. Don't waste time or money on his novels. Now watch his next work become a best seller. (Sigh)

A FOOTNOTE--

Since I wrote the above, Norman's latest Gor novel has been published and it has indeed become a best seller.

Lynne Holdom, POBox 5, Pompton Lakes, NJ, 07442

!!

TREASURER'S REPORT ----May 1976

Balance Brought Forward - - - - -	\$1004.84
Dues Collected - - - - -	160.75
	<hr/>
Total	1165.08
Expenditures - - - - -	124.51
Balance	<hr/>
	\$1041.08

EXPENDITURES:

TNFF & Tb (Jaonne - - - - -)	\$85.00
Tb (Robinson) - - - - -	19.51
Con Expense (Stan) - - - - -	20.00
	<hr/>
Total - - - - -	\$124.51

Janie Lamb, Treasurer, Route 1 Box 364, Heiskell, TN, 37754

TNEF - Vol. 20 - No. 3. June 1961.

- Cover by RAY NELSON. (Fanish female and a SF bug)
- PRESIDENTS AND EDITOR'S PAGE. Ralph Holland mentions that TAEF will have two Neffers in the race this year. Also TNEF will have a list of Fanzines in the next issue. A listing of local clubs will be started soon.
- DIRECTORATE & WELCOMMITTEE. Art Hayes will have a separate sheet in the TNEF with more detail and information.
Welcom report states that the "Neo Fans" Guide" is being worked on by Bob Tucker, with a little revising done.
- MANUSCRIPT BUREAU. Ed Ludwig says that the NFFF Short Story Contest is in full swing and should be an outstanding event in Fandom. More than \$70.00 has accumulated, with more to come, for prizes. There are First, second and third prizes.
- SECRETARY - TREASURER'S REPORT. Janie Lamb states that there is a balance on hand now of \$320.80. Old balance was \$415.40 disbursements came to \$94.60. She lists 7 new members and there were 3 members that were not on the last report.
- TIGHTBEAM. The plan of rotating editorship has worked out well. Tightbeam is published in the months that TNEF does not. (Jan, Mar, May, July, Sep, Nov,)
- N.F.F.F. TRADER. An AD page by Martin Carlson. Get your AD in early. A page of buy, sell and trade of books, mags and SF items.
- N.F.F.F. HISTORY. By Eva Firestone. (stenciled by Kaymar)
It covers the TNEF - Jan 1946, Vol. 5 No. 1. Some of our new members can read about what went on on the OLD days of NFFF.
- SEACON. The Con is held this year at Seattle, Washington and five cars are leaving from Chicago on the 26th of August. The return trip begins Sept. 10 and 11.
- HODGE - PODGE. By Alma Hill. Two pages of most anything. She talks about the TWILIGHT ZINE, a new M.I.T. fanzine. A new prozine is in the works! More news later on.
- LASFS. Albert Lewis gives a History of the LOS ANGELES SCIENCE FANTASY SOCIETY in a two pager. Very interesting.
- NEFFERS GUIDE TO FANZINES. by Donald Franson. A very complete listing of the current fanzines.

TNEF - Vol. 20 No. 4. August 1961.

- Cover by Joni. (large pic of a NFFF HOSTESS). SEACON ISSUE
- PRESIDENT REPORT. Ralph Holland says that August is the month for the call for candidates for officers. The SEACON will have a NFFF "welcome" Room, be sure to register there.
- WRITER OF THE MONTH. A G.M. CARR history. one page on how she started out in SF fandom, etc.
- SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT. Janie Lamb lists 9 new members this ish. Treasury balance \$320.80. Dues collected \$30.60. A total of \$351.40. Expenses were..\$59.50. On hand balance ..\$311.90
- NFFF, WHATS WRONG. A one pager headed "Whats wrong with NFFF". A nice history of past troubles, etc. that N3F has conquered and that now progress is being made under Ralph Holland's guiding.
- FANZINES. A listing showing ten defunct fanzines. They come and go each year. But many manage to survive.
- WELCOM. Art Hayes sends a flyer "Thru The Haze" that covers a lot of news. Directorate, Welcom, recruiting, etc. Two pages of info.
- JAPANESE SF. By Roy Tackett. A very active fandom in Japan says he. The SF Club of Japan has 180 members. A reprint version of F&SF prozine is available there. They want to read good SF.
- N.F.F.F. TRADER. A one pager by Martin Carlson. Buy, sell & trade of books, paper backs, etc. Send in ADs soon.

N. F. F. F. T R A D E R

Ad space is free to NFFF members. Get your AD in early for next issue
K.MARTIN Carlson, 1028 3rd Avenue South, Moorhead, MN 56560

RARE AND HARD TO FIND. Send for our newlists if you are looking for rare or out of print books. Many many authors are listed. Write to: HJMR P.O. Box 610308, North Miami, Florida. 33161.

WHY PAY MORE? Four or even six can sleep cheaper than one. WANTED: people to share a suite at the 36th World SF Convention in Orlando, Fla. (1977). I'd like pre-registered members of all backgrounds to work it out. Please - I will not accept smokers, pill-heads, or politicians. Sex, race creed or Fannish persuasion no barrier. DAVID W. SHANK, 30 East Laurel Street, Lawrence, Mass. 01843.

FILLOSTRATED FAN DICTIONARY. 2500 words and entries, 172 pages, 100 illus, appendices. Two offset volumes. Cost \$2.00. Elliot Weinstein, 7001 Park Manor Avenue, North Hollywood, CA 91605.

W A N T E D. Startling Stories, Air & Science Wonder Stories, Wonder Stories and Thrilling Wonder Stories Also need Science Fiction Digest #2. ERIC JAMBORSKY, Box 358, Harriman, TN 37748.

ACTIFANS! If you are involved in a CON, project etc, remember that the Neffer News Bu seeks news. Send by end of the month to editor or..... Stan Woolsten, 12832 Westlake Str. Garden Grove, CA 92640

W A N T E D. Info on N3F members Fanzines, name, address, subrates. I'd like to see a Fanzine Rack for reading at the CON, N3F room. Stan Woolsten, 12832 Westlake Street Garden Grove, CA 92640.

MANUSCRIPT BUREAU. Donn Brazier needs articles, reviews, stories, etc. for fanzines. Artwork too! Send to; DONN BRAZIER, 1455 Fawn-valley Drive, St. Louis, MO 63131

MINT BOOKS FOR SALE. Never used! Write for list. KENNETH HUFF, 1296 S. 400 East, Springville, Utah. 84663.

MIMEO SUPPLIES. Selling at a low price. postpaid to you! Stencils, standard, 24 to pkg, legal or letter size . . . \$2.50 Ink, black, 6 oz can79 Martin Carlson, 1028 S. 3rd Ave Moorhead, Minn. 56560

WHAT IS SF FANDOM UNITED OR FIE. These two booklets are still available to the membership. 25¢ each postpaid. Martin Carlson, 1028 S. 3rd Ave., Moorhead, Minn. 56560

THE STRAT FANZINE. Published at least once every two months. Get your copy soon. Next issue will have more pages. WILL NORRIS, 1073 Shave Road, Schenectady, New York. 12303.

NEW PAPERBACK BOOKS. Sent postpaid at 1/3 off cover prices. Many of the most recent available SF, Fantasy, other interesting fiction and non-fiction; Send for my lists and save money. ED CONNER, 1805 N. Gale, Peoria, IL. 61604.

BOOKS BY WELL KNOWN AUTHORS. For Sale! Books by ERB, Talbot, Mundy, Derleth, Campbell, Haggard, Merritt and many others. Send for catalog; CANFORD BOOK CORRAL, Box 216, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (Mention N3F and M. Carlson.)

SF & F/TV. A Review Zine. Write to Beth Slick, Box 5422 Orange, CA 92667

WANT BOOKS. Sword & Sorcery, Boat and sailing books. Write to; PAUL DOERR, Box 1444, Vallejo, CA 94590

MAGS FOR SALE. Send want list and a 15¢ stamp. RICHARD MINTER.

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FANDOM, THE FIRST CELL

(Jon Inouye, 12319 Aneta St, Culver City, CA, 90230)

Think of a cell. A tiny cell. You can strain your eyes--strain them hard--you simply can't see this cell. But it's alive and growing and will multiply. Looking through the microscope, I can see the cell evolving into hundreds.

Soon there are tissues forming. From these tissues come strong, flexing muscles. Muscles in my fingers, neck, arms--different sorts of muscles in what is called soul, which sits here writing.

Writing words in a fury of emotion, and yet trying to be honest and not sound pretentious.

These muscles have now evolved into a sentient being. A being of intelligence, great than mere animals. This being can see, can feel. This being has experienced the sensation of art and beauty and illusion and reality and happiness and unhappiness -- the unhappiness of thirty rejection slips from both fanzines AND prozines, and the happiness that comes with selling three short stories to a professional magazine.

The being is not an animal, for certain--but also NOT a robot, a thinking machine of some mindless civilization.

Like all young, growing individuals, this being wants to feel, and to see. He wants fame, fortune--all those timeless things that men and women have died for, sometimes in that ultimate degradation, sometimes in glory. But die we all will.

It's what happens in between that counts.

Fandom is what happens in between. Fandom is that cell--that inconspicuous start.

Don't let anybody degrade it, knock it, deride it, or flatter it pretentiously--it's important.

It's a starting ground. A gathering place. Yes--that's what it is. We grope around for definitions, for words that could describe it.

It's the cell. It has the protective membrane, the warmth or multi-emotions of peers, fellow fans--it gives knowledge, what it's all about, the what-city-are-you-from-why-do-you-like-sci-fi look at a convention of Martians, the only convention, by the way, where you will find Martians at all, anywhere...

It has the nucleus, the center which controls growth. The brain. The writers, the good writers, the bad writers--the aspiring writers.

And whatever they become is UP TO THEM. Whether that cell will grown into something else is UP TO THEM--they either work and have talent, or they don't work and never USE THEIR TALENTS.

Fandom is the grease in the big machine. Fandom is the submergence into oceans of ink...yes...OCEANS, seas, tankfuls of ink, ink, ink...

And we emerged ink-drenched, stepping near the edge of the tank with a laughing audience of newsmen. "What the hell were you doing in that tank of ink?" they ask. "What's the skinny? COMEON!"

"Well...I was writing. I was writing a science fiction story and sending it out...I was dreaming of a world where men and robots live together without war... I was dreaming...."

And you suddenly see they aren't listening.

They're laughing, thinking of the story they will print:

FANZINE EDITOR DISCOVERED IN TANK FULL OF INK, WRITING SCIENCE FICTION STORY

And somehow the years pass and you keep at it. And then one day the cell is nothing microscopic.

It is a giant growth swarming across the city. The Army can't stop it...the air force bombards it with tons of napalm. The Navy launches new missiles...no, they can't stop it either.

For who can stop an idea?

And so the cell grows into this sentient being who writes not only to show others new worlds, new experiences--but to change the world.

Change the world into something better than it is now. Change it into a beautiful Gor, or a mindboggling Martian Palace of diamond and emerald, glittering under far sunlight.

He wants to be heard, this creature of ink.

Fandom will be the tradition. The Cell. The Starting Place for ALL science fiction writers.

And writing workshops, college courses, dull, tasteless high school "sci-fi curriculums"...these NOT to the contrary. These are by-products.

The true, gut level science fiction writer all did it the hard way. Submerged himself in that tank of ink almost like a ritual, and came out of it hardened, determined, and redeemed.

He knows what it is all about, and he found out at the cellular level.

It's not even getting to the nitty-gritty of science fiction. It's getting into the tissues of the genre, digging deep into the bone.

And beyond, into the subatomic universe, where infinite largeness or smallness awaits.

----Jon Inouye

WHY THE "ENJOY YOUR MEMBERSHIP MORE" QUIZ WAS MANAGED AS IT WAS

(by Stan Woolston)

A desire not to be as ignorant as I am at the time was one reason for me wanting to see a quiz of this sort presented to the membership.

I felt those who were most apt to be active would respond if the question was in the area of each person's interests or abilities. If we could get these people active in these areas it would mean more facts, more involvement, and more enjoyment of N3F.

The questions include some duplication of activity areas, and I felt some of this would be important. It is not so much that a person who answers it might not answer a more simple and more organized (in the efficient sense) quiz if they were fully attentive of the matter of their own interests and activities, but I did know that there is a psychological area where a person may be reluctant to reveal themselves if so quizzed. For one thing, the tendency to make themselves mysterious is a basic urge for anyone who is bombarded by propaganda and advertising, of the "public relations" effect, the social pressures and so on. Throughout our lives we may react to a degree in echoes of our childhood feelings of being imposed on by parents and adults (or others in "authority")--the "generation gap" is the reaction of the free spirit part of a child to the limiting influence of parents or parent-substitutes who want to rescue from danger or control them.. and an adult, remembering the feeling, may resent anything that seems to be in the same vein. I'm to a degree echoing both psychological studies and what instructors have examined, but don't want to make any quiz seem something "required" And I avoided suggestions that anything received is meant for a Fan Directory, thought I'd like to see such a publication for those seeking out info on individuals so those with similar interests might be able to set up mailing lists for specialized fanzines or fan projects, etc---or to gain background info when wanting to approach someone in the field. A quiz to a wide fanish public might make it possible to build a fandom-wide news gathering group, one that would make weekly newzine possible (or even a series with specialized interests emphasized at different times of the month, or quarterly, or annually in some instances). Any other area of specialized interest might be touched on if a wide poll was taken--but the applicability would depend on the ability to get response and overcome the tendency to conceal one's own thoughts and action.

At one time fans told of hiding pulpzines, because many people felt anyone who read a zine with bug-eyed monsters and lightly-clad damsels in distress (maybe rescued from a BEM by a spaceuited 'hero' in confrontation of the alien critter who is busy taking away the damsel), was odd. Ridicule, and the barrier between anyone with a flexible enough mind to feel the future might have space travel and thus possible dangers from Out There, made such efforts as hiding or removing covers something an ego-threatened person might take. Other fans spoke of being shy--while sometimes being quite aggressive or critical in their fanzines. And at cons they might get involved on panells, etc even though in the home sphere they might avoid such activity as public speaking as if it were a threat to ax their life.

But after all, cons and other fanac is among equals--people willing to consider the future as inevitable, and imagination and the scientific approach to life a part of the human environment..

As long as N3F has so much ~~x~~ coverage in the areas of corresponding, collecting writings, publishing and other things involving people with mutual interests ~~inter-~~acting, perhaps synergetic action in that area is possible.

Time pressures is another reason the quiz appeared as it did. I sought ~~x~~feedback, but did not wait long enough to get as much as might have been optimum. John Robinson commented that the area of ~~apas~~ might very well had more questions, and I agree. Some of the duplicate questions could have been left out, and more specific questions or a covering sheet with ~~thex~~ more details on bureaus and activities of the club might have made some of the areas covered seem more real. Of the first ten who answered, some were very new members; many have been involved for many years; and the result has been that Membership Activities (and getting fans jobs in bureaus etc) and news (finding reporters) has been enhanced. But there is a chance this information might be used--maybe for a quiz at a Worldcon or later to the general fan public or those at the Worldcon--that might find out what people outside N3F are doing and thinking, in projects, helping in areas of their own interests (sending in news, etc.) and maybe so a Fan Directory might be prepared later. This was in my mind when I started work on the Poll, but time in several ways prevented me from pursuing this line of thought.

First, time with its deadlines (TNFF, and Tb; welcoming new members; answering questions in letters; RRs etc) was a factor. As a Director, and head of two club bureaus, I would be more able to do those jobs if certain things could be known (including willingness of people to be active this year). Preliminary results of this poll indicates some ~~x~~ information not available in any other ways is indeed coming from this, and I'm pleased.

Of course those answering have no pressure to answer everything. I intentionally asked they answer to the fullness they wanted. Several added letters to clarify matters, and I appreciate this. Of course, I'm going to answer ~~xxx~~ letters when specific questions are asked, but also when there are things implied, or answers indicating lack of clarity about the nature of N3F. And it will take time in another way, too.

I plan to put a certain type of activity in a group listing, so that if there is info on fanclubs I will send it to the head of the Fanclub Bu, and see Joanne has the info so she can publish it in TNFF too. It is possible round robins will be formed of those with specific interests, and these may go around a couple of time or run indefinitely.

The activities the quiz will inspire should include some elements of the recurring Ideas Bureau. ~~Exx~~ When this was active, we had an influx of suggestions for directors, for readers of Tb, etc.--and it helped or could help again in finding active members of current, old, or new bureaus. It can inspire articles, columns and other material in our zines in any area--both those of different bureaus and outside. A bureau doesn't have a monopoly on a specific activity in the club; on the contrary, the bureau may in fact have another bureau set up that partly includes an activity of another bureau. Example might be given as the tape bureau's Tape Correspondence, and the Correspondence Bureau and RRs (but the latter two are close and could just as well be together, with separate people in charge or even one person in case something happened to the other). And there is no reason that info in one bureau might not be read by members of another; if a zine is ~~xx~~ published by any future Correspondence or RR bureau, the info on listing people eager to correspond here from there (to members from overseas fans)

might cause someone to write Joanne for membership or to apss along contacts they know who want x more correspondence fromus, x especially those who also use tapes and mentioned it in letters.

And with increase of citizen band radio, perhpas some day we'll have a list with members who have these and who could talk with others, at least in their cities....

When someone indicates in answering the Quiz they might run for office, desire Writers' Exchange, etc, it may suggest sending info to all such.

HOPES ---

That the questionnaire brings not just volunteers but active results in areas of articles, columns and other material for the clubzines; for news, both by the 'original source' people and those who hear about it; reviews for TNFF; articles, art, reviews and other material for the Manuscript Bureau; regular activity in current Bureaus, enhanced by wider participation; enough volunteers to allow each Bureau to have someone as assistant t the Head Person and if set up that way, a group to aid in getting material and cementing the bureaus as a living viable things...and in serving to focus attention in the ways fans have of being generalists.

It seems to be working in these directions too--for the individual Bureaus and activites need to have the ways members can be active known, just as knowing a Bureau is active is important to individuals ina and out of specific areas of the club.

It will help in finding people interested enough in the Story Contest to seek entry forms, and to distribute copies of the forms.

And if some continue to be willing ~~xx~~ to help build membership, sending entry forms to some might make a wider membership more likely soon.

Actually N3F has members who publish and are otherwise multipliers of their own influence in fandom. The apas and RRs do this multiplying, saving time and effort, making it possible to get to know groups at a time and ~~xx~~ while a RR may arrive at the same time as another, thus causing something of a delay for some days, if a person considers their own time and allows for other things, they should be able to be in several if they want. With someone to write for RRs, others willing to start robins should write this fan.

So far inforamtion has shown several members with specific interests in writing want the Writers' Exchange to cntinue, and areas relating to writing to be enhanced. The pro does more than writing on whim; they dake assignments from editors to finish a story by a specific date, sometimes with type of story spelled out; they are willing to accept the comments of an editor and learn to rewrite. And, if thye set down to become a pro, they learn to finish a story, send it out repeatedly if it does not sell, and start another as soon as they end one as a matter of form.

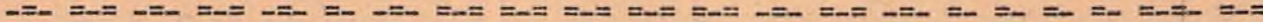
Perhpas like Isaac Asimov in his early days, some writers try to write books ~~xxxx~~ before they consider doing short stories. In "Scinece, Numbers and I" Ike recalls starting to write serials, and giving up one only to start another before

the long work was continued because he outgrew the other story--and then finding he could finish a short story and see it in print! Fans can be published, as fictioneers, article, reviewers, and other things in fanzines too--and get the habit of regular writing. Sometimes stories that might be published with little correction are not sent to the pros, so fanzines could be used too much--but if a story doesn't ~~xxx~~ sell after the markets are reached, maybe it is best to rewrite and resubmit or at least examine the story for flaws or ways to improve it--before sending to a faneditor. But the faneditor is someone that should be considered to get a story published, for ~~xxx~~ there is a certain difference seeing it in a ~~zine~~ ~~k~~ gives that might help a beginner feel he can continue and succeed.

I had hoped to find more people willing to enter the Contest, write for the Manuscript Bureau, start RRS, and be active in bureaus. The results with even just a few entries shows this is not too much to expect.

So I hope this quiz is improved and given again next ~~xxx~~ year. It may be the way to encourage older members to bring their interest info sheets up to date. Afterall, it has been a long time for some to have their entrance-sheets and the info on it the main source of interest-knowledge of a member. And if it reactivates some members, Fine!

Stan Woolston



MORE LASER REVIEWS by Lynne Holdom, po box 5, pompton lakes, nj07442

#21. A LAW FOR THE STARS by John Morressey

When the Sternverein free his planet from freebooters, Ryne decides to join the Corps. This he does but gets misgivings about the overharshness of their punishments. Since he ages more slowly since he spends a lot of time near the speed of light, he can see the desk soldiers becoming a separate class. On a mission to Korb all these doubts crystalize. This novel could use tighter plotting but otherwise it is excellent.

#22. KEEPER by Joan Hunter Holly

In order to avoid stresses that will tear society apart, everyone is taught to repress their emotions. Their catharsis is a retarded child who is manipulated into showing strong emotions for TV. Peter is such a child and Dainig, his keeper, begins to have doubts about any society that rests on a child's misery. The Underground is mre realistic than most ~~has~~ but the novel is a bit soppy in spots.

#23. BIRTH OF FIRE by Jerry Pournelle

Garr Pittson is given the choice of life imprisonment or transportation to Mars. Once on Mars, Garr finds he like the life there except for the fact that the Earth Company is bleeding the settlers white. So he joins the Free Mars Army. If this sounds a bit like the plot of Heinlein juvenile, you're right. However, it is interesting to see how much restrictions have eased, and this is an exciting, fast-moving novel.

SUNCON has just sent out its first progress report, consisting of an explanation of why the Committee has moved the Con from Orlando to Miami, Florida, as well as URSULA K. LE GUIN's AussieCon speech (the 33rd WorldCon, last year). Also included in the Report is a decent photo report of the Down-Under Con. They have 793 memberships listed in the report.

The GOH will be JACK WILLIAMSON, Fan GOH is ROBERT A. MADDLE, and the toastmaster is ROBERT SILVERBERG. Anyone interested should write WorldCon 35, POBox 3427, Cherry Hill NJ 08034. Membership costs are - till Sept 30, 1976, \$10 attending, \$7.50 supporting, Oct 1-Dec 31 1976 \$15 attending, \$7.50 supporting. Rates will go up more next year. There will be the usual conversion ratio between supporting and attending, if you go that route.

If you are elsewhere, the WorldCon 35 British agent is MARSHA JONES, 25 Mount Way, Higher Bebington, Cheshire L63 5RA, England. The Australian agent is CAREY HANFIELD, 259 Drummond St, Carlton 3053, Australia.

This progress report also had the membership cards included. However, I must make note of a fannish couple I know that got their reports, cards, but no numbers on the cards and their names not listed in the membership lists....

*****an opinion***** While on the subject of the SunCon, I notice in the report that they are asking for volunteers to help on the Con. I hope that this does not mean that they are deficient of help, which also implies that the Con committee is not wellorganized. I also hope that Silverberg is able to make the Con, seeing how he just Cancelled Out at the D-Con scheduled in just two weeks from this date, leaving them no way to get a replacement. Not really proper for a GOH although I assume th at he had His Reasons.... D-Con, by the way is done every year in Dallas, Texas, and I have no real connection with them, I just feel for them.*****

TALES FROM TEXAS, a regional fannewszone (2515 Perkins St, Ft Worth, TX, 76103, for the usual or \$3 a year, a monthly thing, by the by) had a letter from Philip Farmer in it. Among the thing said was the fact that the final name for the 3rd Riverworld volume is THE MAGIC LABYRINTH. Part of a projected series is the book, THE ADVENTURES OF THE PEERLESS PEER, naturally the series is about SERLOCK HOLMES. The next novel in the series will be THE TRAIL OF THE IRISH BULL. First novels in separate trilogies are the two books, THE WIND WHALES OF ISHMAEL and THE STONE GOD AWAKENS. Farmer is also working on biographies of the Wizard of Oz and of Napoleon Bonaparte and also it seems, about Arthur Upfield's half-aboriginal Australian detective. Another Bio planned is about Arsene Lupin. I have the feeling that Farmer believes that if he never finishes a series, then the fannish ghods that be will not let him die...

*****interium comments***** I am interested in loc'ing with others that are interested in the outform that is and can be Convention putting on. If you are interested in Putting on Cons no matter if you have had exprience or not (I have never done one alt-hough that is changing) I would like to converse by mail with you about it. For that matter, I would like to LOC with any interested parties about anything. My address is:

'this col was done by me'	Johnny Lee	'i have no real reason'
'under the infernal con-	3705 Cedar Hill	'for this space, except'
trol of one joanne b.'	Houston, TX	'to prove that a fan is'
who talked me into it.'	77093	'capable of reading any-'

NOW IS THE TIME TO RUN FOR OFFICE

IN THE NFFF

WE NEED YOU!!!

The august issue of TNFF is the platform issue--everyone who wants to run for either Director or President should send Janie Lamb their dues for 1977, tell her they are running ~~x~~ and what office they want, and then send me a platform--the platform can be a sentence or a page. If you send it ready to electrostencil (clean, black letters on white paper, text not more than 7" wide) you can include any artwork you like. Photographs don't work well on my mineo.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST ISSUE OF TNFF IS AUGUST 10. Anything ~~xxx~~ received after that may not be used--it will depend.

Lets have lots ~~x~~ of people running for office, and lots of BUREAU REPORTS.

If you ran for office last year, why not run again.?

Editor of TNFF: Joanne Burger, 55 Blue Bonnet Ct, Lake Jackson, TX, 77566

Treasurer of NFFF: Janie Lamb, Route 1, Box 364, Heiskell, TN, 37754

When you send your dues to Janie, please make the check (for \$3/yr) payable to Janie Lamb.

WE
NEED
PEOPLE
TO
RUN
FOR
OFFICE
IN
THE
NFFF!!!

WHY NOT YOU??

All ~~kx~~ it takes is a willingness to try to run the club the way YOU think it should be, and being able to write letters--and Directors don't even have to write that much--once a month or so. So it isn't hard. Or even time consuming. But essential. Think about it.

AND RUN