

VECTORS

43

Page 3 EDITORIAL ,..... Doreen E. Parker.

Page 5. VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.. Kenneth F.Slater

Page 12 BEHIND THE SCENES..... Malcolm Edwards.

Page 16 MINORITY REPORT... ..Dan Morgan
(Book Review)

Page 19 BOOK REVIEW... ..Archie and Beryl
Mercer.

Page 24 LETTER of COMPLAINT... E.Audrey Walton.

Page 29 WHICH JUST GOES TO SHOW... ..
Dav Garnett.

Page 32 MAN and SPACEJoe Bowman.

Page 33 MAIL RESPONSE

Copyright March 1967 B.S.F.A.
Copyright on individual contributions
is reserved to the contributor.

Editorial address: 38, Millfield Road,
Deeping St. James,
Peterborough.

E&OE.

Editorial

By Doreen E. Parker.

Says Ken to me; "You can handle the editorial this month, after all, if you ever get fed-up with being Secretary, you can always become Publications Officer". After my howl of anguish subsided I decided that should ever I be so simple-minded as to volunteer would my friends either bind and gag me, ignore me (and that will come hard!) or have me committed in the Local Asylum!

But it hasn't been all hard graft these past three months - just 99% of the time. Take this month for instance. Ken asks for material and I am inundated with it! It comes with every post, short stories, long stories, book reviews, articles, appreciations. I thought it was difficult when I had hardly any material - I didn't know I was born! But now I am surrounded and its decisions! decisions! decisions! I read everything and pick out what I personally like. This is immediately rejected as I have been told and now believe it, that my taste is awful. Then I start to finger it (those black smudges are my finger-marks when you finally get your material back!) - first this one is ideal but it is too long, then that one but it is too short and so it goes on.

And then there is the problem of grammar and spelling. Should I alter it or should I not? As far as grammar is concerned I leave well alone but spelling....to my utter astonishment I find that there are even worse spellers than myself (and that is saying something!). But then I look at the subject matter and see it is written by an active writer so perhaps it's me. But I know it isn't me that's one word I can spell. So I look for my dictionary which I haven't seen for three months - it's under here somewhere! I haven't the energy to scrabble under all this paper. I'll risk it and then sit biting my fingernails (what's left of them after all this typing) wondering whether I've done the right thing.

We come then to the proof-reading. I was ashamed at the amount of errors that went through last issue although there were extenuating circumstances. So this time I will organize. I am absolutely incapable of checking my own typing - have a complete blind spot and at this point my daughter wanders in. "How would you like to do some reading for me" asks I craftily. She is overjoyed at being invited into the sanctum of sanctums. And so she starts and with a blue pencil rings all typoes and loftily explains to me "You don't spell so and so like THAT". And then I get "Mummy what does freudian mean"? Ah! think I - now I can go into it all and tackle the facts of life whilst I'm at it. (During this time you appreciate, I'm editing and typing Vector) So I break off but before I've spoken a dozen words she cuts me short with "Oh its about boys and that sort of thing - I don't want to know - I don't like them" (MY daughter?) and is so annoyed because I've brought the subject up again, she immediately resigns from proofing.

So when I finish typing at about 11 at night - I toss up whether I'll study for an hour (only two months to my exams) or whether to proof-read. I generally do both, the only trouble is the next night I proof-read them again and alter the alterations I made the night before - I give up!) In the meantime I am struggling with Constitutional History allied with Law of Property Act, Copyhold and Settled Land with Vector coming between me and my books. I finally get to bed about 1a.m. and toss and turn for a couple of hours going over all the events of the day and the next thing its 7a.m. and another day starts - exactly the same as its predecessors

I've still four pages to fill after typing this and what shall I put in? As I said in the beginning, its decisions! decisions! decisions! but one decision I have reached and will state categorically, I will never attempt to edit Vector again or volunteer for Publications Officer (shoot that man over there who cheered!) In fact

Continued on Page 28

VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Those of you with long memories will doubtless recall that in VECTOR 42 I promised that some policy suggestions would be made in this, the forty-third issue. Suggestions have come from many and varied sources, and we have invited opinions from other folk on many of these. Boiling the suggestions down to ~~essentials~~ we find that a drastic revision of our approach is required. I will list the main suggestions, simplified as far as possible, and then enlarge on certain of them. Now, and this is important. You will find a referendum form enclosed herewith. The date for the return of this form is later than the date of the Convention at Bristol, so B.S.F.A. members attending the Convention will have an opportunity to discuss these points to any length with any other members. Out of such discussion we may get other useful suggestions and amendments. But you will note that primarily the effect of this referendum is to empower the present Committee to take the steps necessary to put the first of the recommendations into effect, and that the other suggestions or recommendations do not automatically follow.

Recommendation One That a Company, limited by guarantee, be formed as a legal basis for the existence of the Association.

Recommendation Two. That the administrative officers of the Association be elected for an indefinite period; ceasing to hold office only on (a) their voluntary retirement, (b) their suspension on grounds of incompetence or inaction by the 100% in favour vote of the rest of the Committee, or a 75% in favour vote of the membership.

Recommendation Three. The Committee be enlarged by sufficient numbers to permit a 'stand in' for each officer.

Recommendation Four. VECTOR and the Bulletin be replaced by (a) a printed magazine of criticism, etc., to be published twice a year, this to be edited by a 'guest-editor' invited for each issue from the ranks of the professional editors, publishers, writers, etc., who are seriously interested in sf; this magazine to be placed on general sale; and (b) a monthly Bulletin produced in the most economical fashion (duplicated) and to include current reviews, fiction, letters, announcements, and all the usual material which needs to be brought to the attention of the membership.

Recommendation Five. The BSFA should engage in more activity, 'teach-ins' visits and meetings.

Recommendation Six. The BSFA should encourage the formation of local groups, and should accept affiliated memberships from groups.

Recommendation Seven. The BSFA should publish an annual volume of fiction either contributed by members or selected by members.

Recommendation Eight. The BSFA should hold an Annual Convention in conjunction with its Annual General Meeting; this may be either arranged directly by the BSFA or through a local group.

Recommendation Nine. That the BSFA should purchase such property as it may require to conduct its business - e.g. a typewriter, duplicator, and other equipment of this nature.

oooOOOooo

With regard to the first recommendation, this is a step that I personally feel essential. For one thing as matters stand the Association has no legal existence, it is a 'fiction'. Any responsibility under the law is that of the Committee Members personally, and if the Association were in financial difficulties the Committee

could be held personally responsible. It has been suggested that this responsibility would devolve on the membership but two separate consultations have given the opinion that any creditor could (and would) sue individual Committee Members, and in order to obtain anything except voluntary contributions, the Committee Member(s) would in turn have to take suit against the individual membership. A somewhat lengthy and costly business.... we have investigated this, and have had drawn up a suggested Memorandum and Articles of Association. As any of you who have any knowledge of the subject will appreciate, these run into some twenty pages of printed foolscap, and we do not intend to circulate this at the present juncture. The basic elements are of course the same as those of any legally constituted association, society, chamber of trade, or similiar body. A number of items will be amended where possible under the law - for example, we shall try to preserve the system of a postal referendum rather than voting at meeting in person or by proxy); the aims of the "ssociation (and the name will be the same - subject to the approval of The Board of Trade) will be those at present although couched in more legal language. We will try to include at least this section if space is sufficient. As we shall be registered as a non-profit making body we shall be able to obtain certain tax relief on investments - something we cannot do at present. We shall of course, also have to accept certain responsibilities and make the Annual Returns under the law- but we shall also rid ourselves of certain niggling worries which at present we have managed to skirt more by chance and luck than by any right. The half-dozen folk who have considered this all feel that our advantages (quite apart from the protection of the Committee Members) outweigh any possible disadvantages - most of which seem to exist 'all in the mind, you know'.

The second recommendation will automatically be covered under the law if the first recommendation is accepted, although the actual circumstances vary, and the Committee (the term recommended by our legal advisers is 'Council', incidentally) will have to stand for re-election

in accordance with the law - briefly, one-third of the Council/Committee should retire each year, but may stand for re-election; there are certain exceptions, for example, the Secretary is appointed by the Council and is not elected by the membership. This at least makes for continuity, and as the Council would be the responsible body to remove an ineffective Officer would be much simpler.

On the third recommendation the ~~minimum~~ Management Committee or Council must be seven members (if we accept Recommendation One) and can be as many more as we care to lay down in the Articles, which will of course cover this recommendation.

The fourth recommendation is not affected by Recommendation One at all. On the face of it this is a good- in fact, an excellent suggestion. It covers our need to maintain news and personal contact with the membership at frequent intervals, and also our need to offer something to a wider public. Obviously the Publications Officer (when we find one), will need to produce the Bulletin each month, but this is not an insuperable task. The number of pages of the Bulletin will vary according to the material available, and its urgency. The production needs to be readable, but not necessarily immaculate. The suggestion is that we have a printed heading, and use this for the top sheet of each issue, thus giving the item some certain eye-appeal. But it will be for internal consumption and if we (or the P.O. wishes to crack a joke that is only understandable to the in-group of sf enthusiasts, w will be able to do so without fear. Personal news of little interest to the out-group will belong here. Meetings of local clubs, book and film reviews and forecasts of titles to come, for the enthusiasts and by the enthusiasts; amateur exercises in the writing of fiction and essays will be placed in the Bulletin, rightly. The letter column comes here.....

VECTOR will be the showcase; edited by invitation

and we hope of a high standard of contribution; available to members as part of their just dues, but available to the general public for some return to our exchequer. The main problem here will be cost, and of course the vacancy of a Publications Officer to general control and harry the folk who are invited to edit.

Recommendation Five we already had under review, in some ways. We have reported on these - you know, two results! But we feel that there is more scope here - but not with the resources and time available under our present arrangements. A larger committee would be able to devolve some of this work onto its not-otherwise engaged members. At the moment we have the Author's Panel held up because the Secretary and myself simply have not had time to take further action; we have made some tentative arrangement for a visit to an establishment in Cambridge and another possibly in Oxford, but again we lack time to finalise these. As soon as something firm can be quoted, we will quote.

The sixth suggestion is again a good one, but something we cannot handle at present. We are not certain of the 'affiliation' question if Recommendation One is accepted, but there are no obvious snags.

Again, Seven is good, and something at which we should aim. There are some moves in this direction already being made.....but in our present parlous state nothing concrete can be arranged. With a little more capital and effectiveness, the Association should be able to arrange some deal with a publisher; this work would rightly belong in the province of the Publications Officer, aided by a sub-committee.

Recommendation Eight.....this seems to be where I came in last year. But we feel that this is essential. Although it is agreed that fandom and Conventions could exist without the BSFA, as BSFA members this argument

does not have to effect us. If we hold a Convention - we hold one; and a Convention is to a certain extent necessary for the BSFA's A.G.M. It will be even more necessary if we do accept Recommendation the First.

Number 9.....this is one I have felt obvious for some time. We could quite well have expended funds on this which we have - well, perhaps 'frittered' is too strong a word - so I'll say 'used' - and we would have effected some economies in our expenditure as a result, and also not have had to rely so largely on the goodwill of volunteers. Machines can wear out, and equipment be used up, but not quite so fast as goodwill.

Right, and so there we are. It will be obvious, I trust, that our first decision must be on Recommendation One. To perhaps clarify this a little more the type of Company which it is recommended be formed is a 'limited by guarantee' company; this calls for nothing more than the members guarantee that, in the event of the company going into liquidation, they will then pay the amount which they have agreed.

This may be as little or as much as we decide - figures currently suggested range from five shillings to one pound. The ordinary running expenses of the Association are met as before, by subscription. No one is asking you for any extra money, and I trust the Association will never have to call in its guarantee. If we receive a majority vote in favour of the re-organisation on these lines we will then take the next step, which is the application to form the Company, initially asking a small number of the present members to 'form the Company' (if you are willing, please signify so on the referendum). The existing Association will be wound up, and the new association commence on the following day - and all the other members then invited to join (part of the winding up will involve re-funding of subscriptions or part thereof to any member who wishes to opt out).

Obviously if present members all wish to continue membership, we simply pass the funds along from the old ledger to the new one.

The formation expenses will of course be a charge against the new company, and although financed by the old Association, will be recoverable by it from the new Association. I mention these points in an effort to answer some obvious questions before you ask them. Another one that comes to mind is the length of time your individual guarantee will cover. This actually was another suggestion we received - membership will run for one year from the date of joining, and your guarantee extends for one further year after you have resigned from or otherwise left the Association. This, obviously, is necessary to prevent any association of this nature forming, taking on a heavy commitment, the membership then resigning en bloc and saying 'you can't touch us, we ain't members no more'. This is not our intention, but the law provides a preventative in case anyone has that bright idea.

I do not think there are any other points that I need mention at this time. If you have any special question we shall try to provide an answer, but if you bear in mind that what we will be doing is only what - in some similar form - is done by any association of this nature, I think you will see the necessity for this action.

Kenneth F. Slater.
Vice-Chairman B.S.F.A.

Behind the Scenes

by MALCOLM EDWARDS

One of the best things about fandom is that you get plenty of post.

When I was a lot younger I used to write to different firms for samples, or to offices and magazines for information. I still remember the piles of gloomy prints the Martin Company in Denver sent me (they make the Titan ICBM); and the number of times I badgered the poor old British Interplanetary Society for specimen copies of their Journal.

But fandom proved to be a lot more fun.

In those early months I dived into fan-activity. As I heard of new fanzines I wrote for free sample copies (a practice, incidentally, at which fan-editors shudder, for they have quite enough troubles without subsidising their readers). When I received a fanzine I used to sit down, there and then, and write a long letter to the editor or to contributors who sounded interesting and whose addresses were given. When I discovered VECFOR and the Mail Response column I was overjoyed; then I received Ron Bennett's Skyrack Newsletter and found that was the essential for a fan.

Ah, happy days! Each new fanzine opened up more possibilities and most of the people I wrote to answered me. I began to receive an unending stream of letters, fanzines, and all manner of cryptic notes (and some very nice foreign stamps which I steamed loose for my collection). And when after six months or so people began writing to me because they'd seen my name somewhere, that was sheer bliss.

But then one day I didn't feel like writing letters, I wanted to go out drinking, or something like that as we all do now and then. A few letters accumulated that

needed answering, and by the time I'd cleared this pile, another heap had grown up. (It was about this time that I discovered filing systems, and invented my special URGENT - ANSWER YESTERDAY! file, which promptly silted up.)

And I discovered something else; that the faster I sent off letters, the faster they were answered. The more correspondence I cleared, the more accumulated within a few days.

Now this seemed a bit ridiculous, especially when we'd all reached the stage of writing answers-to-answers-to-replies to letters-to a couple of dozen more times removed. For a time I maintained an elaborate system of files and even a post book, but then it dawned on me that all this wasn't worth the trouble.

My correspondants were probably cursing me as roundly as I cursed them. We were racing to shuttle letters backwards and forwards. Something snapped and an inner voice sobbed 'Enough!"

So here I am, pseudonymous and a lazy letter writer, with plenty of time to tipple and with a huge red file of CRASH PRIORITY mail under my bed. I sometimes dust it off guiltily and think about writing, but the feeling usually passes. Does this explain why you haven't heard from me?

But I do miss that postman.....

ooooooo

Tom Jones, writes from the North to ask me to 'say something about local fan-clubs, report on what a meeting at such a club is like, and discuss where some of the fannish terms such as 'gafia' originated."

Thank you Mr. Jones, and I asked for that.

But I really haven't been to any local fan-clubs for some time. There has been very little activity in the capital (for that sentiment read; 'they haven't invited me!'), And in any case, every fan-club is different.

The Manchester Group were ambitious, and rented a

clubroom, printed a magazine and made some films. The Birmingham Group used to visit a member's house and play games and talk sf over cups of tea (they later moved to a pub and stopped bothering with sf - or tea). The defunct Cheltenham Circle had their own basement library-cum-house, while assorted London Groups had Plans.

In the Tyneside area a group of dyed-in-the-wool fans have been meeting in a pub for years, and they all crawl out of the woodwork at Convention-Time. The Group includes Phil Harbottle, Jim Marshall, and Con Turner, while people such as Richard Gordon at Newcastle University sometimes show up. Enthusiasts in that area would be best to contact Phil for any further details.

And if there is no club in your area why not start one?

As for fan-talk, as we in the trade call fannish chatter, I can give only a little explanation.

For instance, back in my second paragraph I mentioned 'fan-activity', if the editor hasn't cut it out. Which is well and good, but much easier to write and say as one word fan-ac. At some time in the distant past (well, say 20 years and be not too far wrong), some fan was the VERY FIRST to think of that abbreviation. And when he introduced the term in his fanzine (fan-magazine) he received lots of ego-boo (ego-boosting, or praise; the whole of fandom has been defined as an apparatus for producing pure egoboo) from his subbers (subscribers) when they wrote their LoCs (letters of Comment). Who knows, perhaps this fan-ed (fan editor) dupered (duplicated) reams of fan-ac (but you know this one), became an act-fan (active fan), and finally burnt himself out and went gafia (this one is tricky; watch it; Get-Away-From-It-All).

GAFIA was introduced about 25 years ago, and curiously has gone through an inversion in meaning. Originally, 'to gafiate' meant to Get Away from Mundania (the everyday world) by diving into fandom. Today it

means the opposite; To Get Away from Fandom after it has become too much of a burden. Gafia is rarely permanent; once a fan is hooked he is a fan for life.

There you are, that's fan-talk for you. More information can be obtained from the very excellent (and very amusing) FANCYCYCLOPEDIA 11 published in 1959 by Dick Eney. It's 125 pages thick, and out of print, but the BSFA Library in Liverpool has a copy.

ooooooo

Editor's Note : Malcolm also included a list of Fanzines with his article which I have not included as it is slightly out of date. If members are interested and write to The Secretary, a copy will be forwarded).

The N3F Story Competition 1967.

We have heard from the Co-ordinator of the 1967 Short Story Contest that the N3F have kindly invited B.S.F.A. members to submit stories in 1967. You may remember that Audrey Walton, a new member, entered the 1966 Competition and walked off with first prize; her story is going to be published in GALAXY later this year.

The closing date has not yet been announced but as it will obviously be earlier than the U.S.A. deadline, members who are interested should start writing NOW. The rules have not been finally settled but it is anticipated that they will be more-or-less the same as last year, i.e. stories under 5,000 words of an sf & f nature which are original unpublished works of the author.

Stories have to be screened before submitting to Fred Pohl and we have been fortunate enough to obtain the co-operation of Mr. E.C. Tubb. Please do NOT send your MSSs to Ted direct. It must be sent to The Secretary of the BSFA. Further details will be announced when known.

MINORITY, DAN REPORT ^{by} MORGAN

DAVY by
Edgar Pangborn

Dobson 25s. Od.
267 pp.

A couple of years or so ago, this book was heavily touted by reviewers in the leading American SF prozines as a candidate for the Hugo Award. For some, possibly Freudian reason, I don't recall whether it did gain this distinction. Whether it did, or not, is not in itself important, but the fact that it should be so highly recommended is, because such recommendation implies that here we have an exceptional example of present day SF writing.

Bearing in mind the above, it is not surprising that I eagerly accepted Doreen's invitation to review this book, and opened up its pages in joyful, anticipation. This anticipation was somewhat dampened by reading the note on page 4. I must quote this note in full, because in its tone it deftly encapsulates the mood of the entire book. I quote: 'NOTE : The characters in this novel are fictitious in a limited sense - that is, they won't be born for several years yet.' Faced at the outset with such an example of tweeness, the casual reader has only himself to blame if he goes further - but the reviewer has a duty.

Briefly, DAVY is the story of a boy's growing up in a post-atomic war North American society. Davy is the son of a whore, who begins his career as a bond servant - that is one grade above a slave - in a public house. Escaping from this life, he meets up with two deserters and a female camp follower, who have lately opted out of an inter-state war. In company with this

trio - one of whom turns out to be mirabile dictu his long-lost-daddy - Davy wanders about the countryside and is involved in certain fairly predictable adventures. Later, Davy and his dad join up with a medicine show outfit called Rumley's Ramblers - Davy as the player of a golden horn which he stole in an earlier (rather touching) adventure from a pathetic mutant.

Davy stays with the Ramblers until his father dies - then once more strikes out on his own to seek his fortune (to coin a phrase). He falls in with a band of pilgrims at an inn - and meets a youth who turns out, in Shakespearian manner to be a girl. Immediately on this discovery, Davy - there's nothing queer about this lad, folks! - declares his love and marries the girl, who turns out to be an aristocrat, related to Dion Morgan Morganson, ruler of the state of Nuin. (and if that isn't a coincidence, my name's John Kippax!)

After this, (or rather, alongside it, through the back and forth method of narration, on which I shall have more to say later,) very briefly sketched in, more by implication than direct narrative, there is the story of a struggle between an enlightened ruler - Morgan, of course - who wishes to regain some of the Old Time science, and the church. This struggle ends in victory for the Holy Murcan church and the Morgan and his followers who include Davy and wife - set sail on a voyage of re-discovery across the Atlantic.

Plotwise, that's about it. Familiar country to the average reader of SF. But there's nothing wrong with wheeling out the old ~~old~~ themes if you've something fresh to say on them, and a fresh way of saying it. On the first count, Pangborn produces nothing that has not been said before, and better - in Walter Miller's masterpiece CANTICLE FOR LIEBOWITZ, to name just one instance. Not only has he used an old theme, but he appears deliberately to have avoided clothing it with a shred of

of dramatic invention. Added to this, his method of narration robs his plot, such as it is, of any possibility of suspense.

It is in this matter of NARRATION that I really cross swords with Pangborn. DAVY is told in the First Person, by Davy himself. According to a prominent Authors' Agent of my acquaintance, a novel told in the First Person is pre-damned. This is rather a sweeping generalisation, and like all such, is only partly true. First Person Narration is difficult to handle, but there are times when it can be used to good effect. A recent example that comes to mind is the excellent opening section of Bill Temple's SHOOT AT THE MOON, in which his protagonist is self-revealed so skilfully that the reader becomes completely convinced that this is a real person talking, and this conviction adds considerably to his involvement in the story.

In the case of DAVY, the narration is incredibly diffuse, so that rather than adding to the effect of the story, it obscures it in a mass of cracker barrel philosophy, randy meandering and general navel contemplation. Pangborn is not content with having his narrator continually nudge the reader, drawing his attention to funny ha ha remarks; additionally there are a number of footnotes, also humorous (in intent, at least) which are supposed to be written by two other characters in the story. I - to name but a few - find this kind of posturing quite exasperating.

Well now, there are no doubt hordes of Pangborn supporters already sharpening their quills ready to accuse me of doing a hatchet job on DAVY. This has not been my intention. As one who knows the sweat and toil that goes into writing any kind of

of novel at all, my feelings about DAVY are prompted entirely by sorrow and disappointment that Pangborn should have squandered so much effort through failing to discipline his undoubted talent. Make no mistake - it takes a very good writer to produce a book as bad as this. DAVY contains moments of genuine poetry, but how anyone in possession of all their marbles could even categorise it as SF, let alone nominate it for a Hugo Award, I cannot imagine.

Spalding, February 1967.

Reviewed by Archie and Beryl Mercer.

THE NINTH GALAXY READER
Ed. Frederik Pohl.

Victor Gollancz Ltd.
Price 21s. Od.

AN ANCIENT MADNESS - Damon Knight (22pp)

(AM) Damon Knight presents an intriguingly neo-classical future about which I'd be interested to know a lot more. I liked this story as far as it went, anyway.

(BM) I agree that this is an interesting story, but one thing puzzles me. On the first page the author writes: "For in the floating island of Iliria, everyone knew that the purpose of life was happiness." A wonderful principle - yet the rest of the story seems to indicate that if an individual's happiness lies outside the accepted norm, strenuous attempts will be made by 'society' to persuade that individual to conform. "Be happy - but only in the orthodox way....."

THE KING OF THE BEASTS - Philip Jose Farmer (2 pp)

(AM) If you expect a gimmick-ending after only 2 pages, you can't go far wrong. You'll probably even guess correctly which gimmick-ending.

THE WATCHERS IN THE GLADE - Richard Wilson (31 pp)

(AM) I just couldn't get interested in these people - therefore their problem-surroundings were wasted on me. The setting probably deserves a better fate.

(BM) "Galaxy" must be in decline if this is considered worthy of inclusion in a representative collection. Intensely boring - had it not been under review, I would have discarded it after the first few pages.

JUNGLE SUBSTITUTE - Brian W. Aldiss (25pp)

(AM) This story seems to be set in the same future as the author's novel "Earthworks". It's interesting enough as far as it goes, but gives the impression of being very much incomplete, perhaps the genesis of a further novel.

(BM) It's also the latest variation on a theme which a number of authors have tackled earlier; an example of one such is Theodore Cogswell's "The Wall Around the World." Which, I'm afraid, I enjoyed much more than "Jungle Substitute."

HOW THE OLD WORLD DIED - Harry Harrison. (5 pp.)

(AM) I don't quite see the point Harry's trying to make.

(BM) I do - but again it's been done 'many times, many ways' before - by Jack London, amongst others.

THE CHILDREN OF NIGHT - Frederik Pohl. (36pp)

(AM) A very clever story - but once again I just couldn't get interested enough in the characters to care particularly what was happening to them.

(BM) I tend towards mild disapproval of authors who include their own work in collections which they

are editing, but in this case the editor was perhaps wiser than he knew. For me, this was unquestionably the best story in the book. Even the fact of its having been written in the first person singular doesn't mar it in the slightest (as so very many "I" stories are). The "hero" isn't really any kind of hero at all; he's an unscrupulous, ruthless, cynical type with no illusions about the dirtiness of the "game" he's employed in, and certainly none about himself. He has a job to do, and he's not particular about the methods he employs to do it. he succeeds. OR DOES HE?

Natural, fast-paced dialogue, and a well-handled denouement make this an excellently written story of high quality.

TO AVENGE MAN - Lester del Rey. (38pp)

(AM) Here we have a very sympathetically-written story about a robot in whom - I use the pronoun advisedly - I did find myself taking an interest. Where this one falls down, I think, is that although a tremendous lot happens, it all happens off-stage as it were. On-stage, nothing in particular long-windedly happens at all.

(BM) Another one that has been done before - though perhaps in this case the theme is a little different from certain Asimovian predecessors.

THE MONSTER AND THE MAIDEN - Roger Zelazny (2 pp)

(AM) In this case the inevitable gimmick is rather effective because it is never overtly stated, merely skated cleverly around.

A FLASK OF FINE ARCTURAN - C.C. MacApp (8 pp)

(AM) A satire on Business Organisation that probably loses rather than gains by being given a future setting.

(BM) This one was amusing, in a slightly heavy-handed style. It would probably have been downright funny had it not been so close to the truth of some present-day business methods!

WRONG-WAY STREET - Larry Niven (12pp)

(AM) I think this is basically a time-travel story, but I'm not impelled to read it again in search of further clues. Highly uninteresting on first reading, anyway.

(BM) A most annoying story, in that it gains one's interest and then ends abruptly "in the middle", leaving one pleading "But what happened?"

WASTED ON THE YOUNG - John Brunner (12 pp)

(AM) This story has an interesting central idea, but the ending seemed vaguely disappointing. This is possibly because it happens just at the point "where the story really begins...."

(BM) It's a story based on the old theme of "you can't buck City Hall." The protagonist has a fine old time trying to do just that - but the time comes, as always, when debts must be paid.....

SLOW TUESDAY NIGHT - R.A. Lafferty. (7 pp.)

(AM) In this case, an idea that has not been overdone is treated highly effectively to exactly the right length.

(BM) Yes, a most entertaining tale built around a highly intriguing idea - and the title is perfect.

(AM) Anthologies are a literary form to the charms of which I'm somewhat indifferent. I don't much care for short stories in any case, and it's very seldom that more than one that I'd want to read again turn up in the same volume. Although I enjoyed, on the whole, five out of twelve in the present volume, I would not want particularly to read any of them again in their present form. Three of them - "Jungle Substitute", "Wasted on the Young", and particularly "An Ancient Madness", could well stand

stand expansion into full-length novels, but as things are they are all the more disappointing because they're not any longer than they are.

The other seven stories I found boring rather than otherwise.

(B.M.) I, on the other hand, prefer short stories, since they seem to be better "tailored" to my limited reading-time, and I hate having to leave a story in the middle. However, I consider this to be a disappointing collection; I quite liked four of the stories - "An Ancient Madness", "To Avenge Man", "Wasted on the Young", and "Slow Tuesday Night"; I could have enjoyed "Wrong Way Street" had it been taken further; and I'm really enthusiastic about "Children of the Night."

But, in my opinion, five out of twelve isn't really a very good score for a "Galaxy" collection.

OF COLLECTIVE MARGIN

BY

David J. Vincent.

The odus walked serenely to the bar.

"A large coffee and Scotch, please," he ordered. Then he turned to me. "Hiya, Hob!"

I welcomed him with the fuzzy look that comes after seven gin and tonics, but he was not deterred.

"The drinks are on me!" he cried lightheartedly.

"Indeed they are," said I, spilling my eighth gin and tonic on his jacket sleeve.

His coffee and Scotch arrived, and he gulped it down with a magnificent gesture, almost as he were on a T.V. advertisement.

"I have done it! he cried. "I have proved my theory!"

"What was your theory?" I inquired.

"Of the collective margin of the universe," he answered jovially. "At long last, my thoughts have borne fruit!

So saying, he gingerly touched the apple tree growing from his head.

LETTER OF COMPLAINT

By E. Audrey Walton.

Copies to: Space-Major V Faulkner -Engineers.
Space-Captain B Royal - Installation
File - Computer (Very Secret, plus)
Digit One Lunar Analogue Eight, 2166.

From: - Space-General T.V. Pallo,
H.Q. Galaxy Colony 8, Planet Darvenu,
Solar Fringe Area, Deep Space.

To: - Universe Association E. Andres
Satellite and Solar Cell Co., Ltd.
Earth Satellite, I.T.V.
Space Area 59, Near Earth.

For the Attention of Controller McManus - Commercial
Director.

Dear Sirs,

Re: Space Order No 7803/NWSF(4)
Your Galaxy Order H.25

Referring to our above mentioned video
computered order which covers two Satellites Type A9
and Z67 and three Solar Converters Type J size 26
for erection in Orbit Zone 5 and at the Darvenu
Galaxy Research Centre respectively, we would formally
record our intense discontentment with the seemingly
incompetent progress of these very urgent items
through your works, and would request delivery during
this lunar calendar deci-decade period,

We are most troubled and keenly disappointed
to find the Centre still without power at this
extremely late stage, especially as we were led to

understand that manufacture was completed and Solar Converters assembled as far back as mid-lunar analogue Five 2160.

You have delivered nothing but a long series of fantastic excuses, each one more feeble than its predecessor, yet instant despatch was assured; all this clearly futile fabrication on your part is deplored by us because it has rendered our disposal system both inadequate and inconsequential. We take a very serious view of these appalling circumstances.

May we point out that the official acknowledged delivery date for this equipment was early lunar analogue One 2163, as conveyed by your recorded computer communication dated digit sixteen lunar analogue Seven 2162 and definitely corroborated as the third week in lunar analogue One 2163 without fail, by your communication of lunar analogue Nine 2162.

Your colleague Galaxy Travelmaster A. Dennison was here at the Darvenu Headquarters during lunar analogue One 2164 at which time these items were thoroughly discussed and also at which time a comprehensive investigation and an early notification of your findings was very firmly promised.

However, no such information was forthcoming by digit thirty lunar analogue One, so contact was made via communicator to your Forward Planning Office. Again this proved a barren effort, and it was not until digit ten lunar analogue Two that a promise emerged in your spacex message of that date. This declared an extension of two deci-decades, putting delivery back to early lunar analogue Three.

Owing to the urgency of our requirements at that date, we again contacted your Forward Planning Office towards the end of February and were informed that completion had again been extended, this time to the end of lunar analogue Three.

It is hardly necessary to relate this sorry tale in full, it merely goes on in the same incredible vein until late lunar analogue Four 2166; at this stage, Darvenu Research Centre installation work had come to a complete standstill awaiting Solar Converters and allied equipments. Your Forward Planning Office was again contacted and a reply by communicator computer emerged intimating, to our intense astonishment, that equipment, originally ordered seven long deci-decades ago was actually ready, with a definite promise to contact our Controller that very lunar analogue to discuss full delivery details.

Needless to say, at this good news, we fired the rockets and hung out the space streamers!

Our decision, based upon your information, was to retain a forward team at the Darvenu Research Centre to facilitate speedy offloading followed by immediate installation, instead; it would have been far better to move these men to another planet where their services were also urgently required. Needless to say, the promised equipments were not delivered, neither was any contact made by yourselves to our Solar Engineer. In a rather exasperated mood he, himself, made video contact with your Forward Planning Office and encountered yet another setback. This equipment, it seemed, had to be put up for 'Type Approval' by the Galaxy Organisation whose inspection Engineer was, unfortunately, visiting Mars Solar Storage Depot during analogues Four and Five.

At this stage, as confirmation, we sent a spacex message to your Forward Plaing Office advising them that in order to minimise delay, Darvenu Agents were not intending to make any inspection themselves and therefore despatch immediately following Galaxy Organis-ation tests was requested and, incidentally, agreed. Later, it was discovered that you had failed to inform the G.O. that inspection was now imminent and this has resulted in further tedious delay and waste of precious man days during this present half of the deci-decade,

when, as you know, we have already re-scheduled our programme because of your previous failures to meet our requirements.

We are now at the beginning of lunar analogue Eight, and we have retained a team of experts for three deci-decades for virtually doing nothing, and not only this; but three deci-decade's valuable work on another planet has been lost due to our keeping these men uselessly tied up at the Darvenu Research Centre. This invaluable institute has, itself, been at a standstill, without power, for several lunar analogues and this is seriously interfering with Stage Two which embodies installation and testing of Automatic Space Equipment for the Satellites concerned. Quite frankly, we feel that this whole situation has gone far enough and is generally completely unnecessary and bordering the ridiculous. Therefore, if you fail to make delivery by the end of deci-decade 2166, we shall feel ourselves fully justified, indeed forced, to apply to the Galaxy Organisation Police Controller, who is, incidentally, my brother-in-law, for permission to take disciplinary action against you under our special military powers.

Your personal intervention in this matter is therefore insisted upon, with a view to obtaining a final, firm and unquestionably accurate date for delivery to the Darvenu base. The installation forward team have now, incidentally, been moved from the Research Centre, which is temporarily closed and three lunar analogues notice of your intended despatch date will be required to arrange for its re-opening and re-staffing.

We would suggest as a further time saving factor that our Area Controller, Space Major R. Starr, be contacted direct on spacex 387387 and he will then make all necessary arrangements connected with the receipt of these equipments at the Darvenu Research Centre. The stars sparing his life and memory that long, of course!

We look forward to your reply at your earliest convenience and trust you will now give our order your undivided attention.

Yours faithfully

T.V. PALLO

(Space General i/c Purchasing).

Countersigned:

FOUR STAR GALAXY GENERAL K. WALTON,
for and on behalf of the
Galactical Purchasing Centre,
Headquarters Space Colony 8,
Planet Davenu.

END.

Continued from Page 4.

I'll go one stage further and follow the advice of my father who was in the Army for 35 years and that is "Never volunteer for anything". Come to think of it though - I didn't volunteer - it was thrust on me!

Let me say 'Thank you' to all those who have helped me during the past few months, to name a few, Dan Morgan, Ted Tubb, Jack Wilson, Archie Mercer, Phil Rogers, Bryn Fortey, Phil Muldowney, Vic Hallett, Jean Muggoch and Daff Scwell and if I've missed YOU out, I appreciate it nevertheless.

If I manage to become a normal human being by Easter and manage to make it to Bristol, I'll see you all there and I'm not proud - I'll drink your liquor and eat your food! Until then, Adiois Amigos.

WHICH JUST GOES TO SHOW

By Dav Garnett.

Poul Anderson, Robert Block, Lester del Rey, Harlan Ellison, Philip Jose Farmer, Frank Herbert, Richard Matheson, Theodore Sturgeon and A.E. Van Vogt.....

.....wrote to me not long ago.

They may have written to you, too. But those not among the Favoured Few are doubtless wondering why these nine gentlemen should have troubled to write to yours truly. You need wonder no more; I'm going to tell you. As for the rest of Us, you can stop reading now.....

The letter began

Dear Dave (that's me)

It's finally happened. You've been in the know for a long time, you've known the worth of mature science fiction, and you've squirmed at the adolescent manner with which it has generally been presented on television. Now, finally, we've lucked-out, we've gotten a show on prime time that is attempting to do the missionary job for the field of speculative fiction. The show is Star Trek, of course, and its aims have been lofty. STAR TREK has been carrying the good word out of the boondocks(?). Those who have seen the show know it is frequently written by authentic science fiction authors (which ones, I wonder?), it is made with enormous difficulty and with considerable pride. If you were at the World Science Fiction Convention in Cleveland (No, I didn't quite make it - though doubtless that's where they got my name and address from; they spelt it wrong too. I only joined the TRICON for the programme - but I never got one!) you know it received standing ovations and was awarded a special citation by the Convention. STAR TREK has finally showed the mass audience that science fiction need not be situation comedy in space suits. The reason for this letter -- and frankly its (sic) appeal for help -- is that we've learned this

show, despite its healthy growth, could face trouble soon. The Nielsen Roulette game is being played. They say, "If mature science fiction is so hot, howzcome that kiddie space show on the other network is doing so much better?" There is no sense explaining it's the second year for the competition and the first year for STAR TREK; all they understand are the decimal places. And the sound of voices raised. Which is where you come in.

STAR TREK'S cancellation or a change to a less adult format would be tragic, seeming to demonstrate that real science fiction cannot attract a mass audience.

We need letters! Yours and ours, plus every science fiction fan and TV viewer we can reach through our publications and personal contacts. (Can't say I haven't told you) Important: Not form letters, not using our phrases here (sic). They should be the fan's own words and honest attitudes. They should go to: (a) local television stations which carry STAR TREK; (b) sponsors who advertise on STAR TREK (c) local and syndicated television columnists and (d) TV GUIDE and other television magazines.

The situation is critical; it has to happen now or it will be too late. We're giving it all our efforts; we hope we can count on yours.

And it was signed "for the Committee" by Harlan Ellison.

From the TRICON Progress Reports I discovered that STAR TREK is filmed by Desilu Productions.

Five or six weeks after receiving the above letter a postcard arrived:

Dear Friend of SF,

Through an unfortunate error an incorrect address was printed on a recent letter I sent you on behalf of the television program, STAR TREK. Please disregard the Sylmar California, address and use the following correct address for any communication to me.

Harlan Ellison, 3484 Coy Drive, Sherman Oaks, Calif, 91403. Regards. HARLAN ELLISON.

I turned the card over, disregarding my mis-spelt surname and the "returned for 3 cents additional postage"

and noticed it was marked: "filmed at DESILU STUDIOS

But whatever their motives, good luck to Mr. Ellison and friends. Any move to improve -- or keep what we've got! --television sf deserves support. (And now that we're all in the know, I hope you'll join me in writing to these local syndicated sponsor people....) It's no use saying that this doesn't concern us; It does. British television will probably be showing STAR TREK before too long--or is this only wishful thinking?

Previous U.S. imports have included such high quality series as MY FAVORITE MARTIAN and LOST IN SPACE, but perhaps these are best forgotten. They are enough to make anything look good --and I'm sure STAR TREK is good. (In passing I'd like to mention OUT OF THE UNKNOWN which is also "written by authentic science fiction authors". But I've only seen one --ANDOVER AND THE ANDROID when it was shown on BBC-1. I wasn't particularly bothered about missing the first series when it appeared on BBC-2 because I knew it would be repeated --but not on the same channel! Still, there's always DR. WHO.....)

The newest from the U.S.A. is THE INVADERS. (It's about this man who knows there are aliens among us--but no one believes him. Imagine that!) I've only seen it once so far, but it appears to be a scientific fictional version of THE FUGITIVE (I only saw that once, too.) I think it can be safely said that I won't be going out of my way to watch it again.

Which leaves The Outer Limits., the most recent series of which shows a vast improvement over the previous one. The last --and best--of them was shown a couple of days after I received The Letter. It was called DEMON WITH GLASS HAND

And written by Harlan Ellison.

MAN and SPACE.

The tragic death of three young astronauts at Cape Kennedy brings home to us the reality of Space-flight. We have always known what the cost would be. No great progress was ever achieved without its martyrs. Space-flight has long been the dream of man and now men are dying for the dream.

There have been many rumours that the Russians have lost men in space and kept it secret, only broadcasting their successes to the world. Mysterious signals purported to have been picked up in outer-space, last despairing signals from astronauts in the few tragic seconds before oblivion. There have even been rumours that these last calls have been picked up by telepathy. Whether there is any truth or not in these rumours, there very well could be. The feelings of the world go out to those that are known, and also to their families but especially should the hearts of all sf fans go out to these heroes for the interest in space-flight has always been the close interest in science-fiction.

We may sit back in comfort and travel in space in our imaginations, as do the adventure and romance readers travel into their own realms; but there is one vital difference between the main-stream readers and the science-fictioneers. The sf reader not only likes to think and dream, he also likes to do. Thus emerges the active fan.

Perhaps only the chosen few who are living at present will actually travel into space, but as we read in the papers, there are no end of volunteers, to face all the dangers of pioneering. In the far future it may be that regular passenger ships may journey between the planets.

It may very well be that the progeny of the active fans of today may be the pilots, navigators etc., of tomorrow. I have known sea-going families who have passed on their love of the sea to their children. At least it is another way of looking at the science fiction fan.

So let us pay tribute to all those who are trying to make the dream of man a reality, especially to those who sacrifice their lives.

Joe Bowman.

MAIL RESPON

E. C. Tubb I think you've got yourself another job.
London As editor of Vector you certainly produced
 a damn good issue and I can't tell you how
much I enjoyed Dan Morgan's parody of Ballard. Satire of
the finest quality. It should have been longer. I liked
the format, the general air of one-ness as distinct from
fannishness, the personality of the producers which came
through. The general idea was to have it present a
"selling appearance" to book publishers etc., for the
sake of advertising and support, but as the B.S.F.A. seems
to be staggering from crisis to crisis, maybe it would be
better to forget aspirations of greatness and just do a
good job.

Roje Gilbert I am extremely sorry not to have
Cambridge written a letter of comment for V41 which
 I considered an excellent issue, but
unfortunately time pressed rather urgently at the time.
However, seeing V42 has given me the chance to see what
everyone else thought first. I would like to ratify Vic
Hallett's remarks in their entirety and deplore the
attitude taken by Mr. Peyton. Not only does he show him-
self (sorry! censored - ED.) but also that he is intolerant
of attempts by people whom he considers below himself in
editing ability. From Ken's article this issue, it
appears that the BSFA is suffering from apathy; the last
thing it needs is Mr. Peyton's antipathy and intolerance.

Ted Dillaway A very interesting issue but then all
Bruton the Vectors I've read have been like-
 wise. I especially liked the article
by Brian W. Aldiss and the letter from Rog Peyton. I
think Mr. Peyton has hit the nail bang on the head when he
says "The BSFA can only have one function....and that is
to provide sf readers (not fandom) with news, etc...."

This is even more true now that the two British professional mags have passed away (however temporarily or permanently). I've never used the library service, but it's nice to know it's there. Vector however, was just great! Sure, I was disappointed when the professional-type printing was dropped, but the contents didn't change radically, and to me, that's the important thing. O.K., so the BSFA doesn't exist just to publish Vector, and O.K., so it does provide other services. Them that wants 'em, can use'em. All I want is Vector.

Phil Muldowney
Plymouth

Rog Peyton's comments on VECTOR were harsh to say the least. Several people have said that this type of VECTOR at the moment seems more familiar than the rather 'frigid' atmosphere that the lithoed VECTOR gave. Perhaps the basic problems facing the BSFA is to get some membership reaction. There seems to be a great deal of apathy from the membership at large. To have a membership of over 300 and then have perhaps a dozen replies, I can see can be depressing. I think the idea of fiction in Vector is a very good one. With TANGENT having departed into limbo, it would not be a bad idea to print fiction in an expanded Vector (Phil then went into further details which are before the present Committee-ED). Behind the smokescreen of politically clinched language Tony Sudbery's article made some rather interesting points. Surely all literature is influenced to some extent by the culture of the society in which it is produced. Has Russia produced one story in support of 'democracy'? It would be interesting to read an article along the same lines by a person who is acquainted with Russian sf. It was a good and thought provoking argument,

Vic Hallett
Cambridge

....The next point arises from Rog Peyton's letter. Whilst I think it is the most arrogant piece of 'saviour' complex I have ever had the misfortune to read (and I hope he now regrets the phrasing of it,

if not the contents) it does raise at least one very important point. What audience is Vector aiming at? As I see it, it is aiming at being the official organ for members but it is also trying to aim outside, to people of other fields who see copies. This makes it into one magazine trying to be two and it just is not working. Speaking as a member, I would like to see a smartly printed magazine containing articles of wide and serious interest, well written, a magazine with illustrations if possible. This I would like to see for me and also for the people in other walks of life (publishers etc) who just see odd copies. However also as a member, I want up to the minute news of members of events and of anything else connected with the B.S.F.A. as such. I also want to see somewhere that can be used as a training ground.....Somewhere also that 'in' arguments can be ironed out and all of this in a magazine which appears regularly and often. This adds up to two separate magazines. I wonder if this is possible? I would imagine that it could be duplicated and it would not matter too much if mistakes were made in it. The other one, however, would need more care taken, it would be our showcase. It would need to be carefully edited to make sure the articles were literate and interesting enough....

Audrey Walton 2
Coventry 2

...I was thinking of Rog Peyton's rude remarks, if a thing is too perfect it sometimes becomes sterile. Something produced against odds with imagination and humour, even if full of faults is, at least, alive! Personally, although I have enjoyed all the Vectors I have read, the slightly kinky flavour of V41 and 42 is refreshing. Why should we all be stuffy and pompous anyway? Life's very short and a good laugh is always a precious commodity. Weep and wail at BSFA troubles and you will deserve oblivion; humour will rally more help than tear jerking, of this I am sure! It would be very interesting to discuss the possible effects of automation on Society. Could the BSFA policy include a crash course for fans, to keep them alive to the fact that their rights and

and privileges as individuals may in the near future suffer great infringement? Surely it would be a good aim to encourage a block of informed opinion that could examine all ideas and plans concerning automation in industry etc. The future surely lies in our OWN hands, we have only to grasp it!

Bryn Fortey I was very pleased to see in the Mail Response that the majority who wrote in were pleased with V41. I found V42 just as enjoyable. Rough, ready and human. It is something one can get ones teeth into and enjoy. Pre-Parker/Slater Vectors had a cold fish quality that you currently got rid of, I'm glad to note. With people as obviously keen and determined as you and Ken Slater at the helm I am sure that BSFA will survive, as long as the ordinary membership can match just half of your fighting spirit.

Pete Weston @Nice cover - Jack Wilson is a pretty Birmingham @ good artist. Re Tony Sudbery's article @ Astounding (I think) did once carry a short story in support of communism. If I have time I'll look it out for you and him. Your own piece. Two points. Eehhh! "blast only occurs when it is resisting air"! Bottom of the class. That's the first principle of rocket-reaction you don't understand! Shame! Reaction from a rocket (or anything else for that matter) is completely independent of air. Second - the 'highest' form of life do exist in the Sahara or Greenland - if by highest you mean specialised (Did I?-ED). Any martian life would have to be specialised to survive - hence it would certainly not be primitive.

Chris Worsley @ London. For two years I have been a BSFA member and a passive one. Since reading V42 I was shocked at the state of affairs into which everything seems to have degenerated into and picqued at Ken's beautifully directed attack. The apologies put forward are completely unnecessary. I read sf, Vector and talk with

fans, for ideas not to notice any errata which might occur. B.W. Aldiss's article was informative but as I was never one to avidly read mags, I was rather unmoved - definitely a dangerous emotion in fandom.

(Chris then went into some detail to explain about blast in words of one syllable which showed me the error of my ways and I THINK I understand it - thanks!-ED.) .

Tony Sudbery talks very well on a tricky idea to write. Thank God Archie Mercer is interested in word usage. I am very glad some one else squalled at 'miniturization'. All in all the 'zine was good. Plush covers and names are all well and good but give me ideas as long as they are interesting.

P.S. I thought you would like to know that in the library for which I work part time I organized an sf display with me as an advisor and general enquiries. It went like a bomb. There is a fantastic potential if you organize and display it right. Why not fellow BSFA members suggest to your libraries such a display, even provide them with information - most of them will be very thankful.

Mike Ashley) @In all I support what you are
Sittingbourne & doing with VECTOR in this, the BSFA's
███████████████████████ dark ages, but I think you have made
one fatal move. That was not letting
Rog Peyton come back as editor. Admittedly he wanted
the printer again, but that is only minor in what Rog
coming back would mean. You and Ken are already way
overloaded. Editing Vector doesn't help matters. If
you had handed it back to Rog you would have had that
much more time to spend on other vital matters in bringing
the BSFA back into stride....For God's sake give Rog
Vector to edit and get on with other matters. One story
an issue is a good idea too. Bring back the Rog.

Bruce A. Taylor @
London S.E.4.

...First I think the suggestion
that a short story should be
included in each issue now that
Tangent has folded is a good one.

Of course you will get such a response to this policy
that you will probably include two next month, then,
three the month after; soon Vector will have a fiction
'section' which will become so overloaded that some
bright spark will suggest that it be split into two
magazines - Vector and a fiction one (How about calling
it 'Tangent?') The new "Tangent" will immediately
collapse and the next issue of Vector will contain a
short story by E.C. Tubb. And why not? Its fun.
Now turning to the tragic news of New Worlds, (and
Impulse) may I endorse Brian "ldiss's suggestion that
if a bridging issue is published we all buy twelve
copies - and sell them to other less energetic sf fans.
I have just started a new job and have found two sf
addicts (?) who knew of either magazine or of the BSFA.
I intend to convert them but it seems there may be
hundreds of such uninitiated cases roaming the country.
If each present member sought and converted say 10
then both mags and the BSFA would not only be saved,
but would prosper.

Martin B. Suter @
Bristol.

Just a few words to congratulate
you both on a very fine job on
Vectors 41 and 42. They were at
least as good if not better than
previous issues - they contained something worth reading.
I agree heartily with Bryn Fortey - an occasional
short story would provide a welcome foil to the normal
Vector fare.

Tom Jones.
Doncaster.

...First I must say that you are
doing an excellent job in bringing
Vector out, especially as you
haven't got the editorial files

which reminds me the CCP sent about 400 questionnaires
for distribution with Vector, you don't by any chance

know what's happened to them do you? (not only do I not know what became of them - I don't even know what they are! - ED). I never liked NW, even when John Carnell edited it and my estimation of it and SF (Impulse) went down when R&V took over, but I wouldn't like to see either of them fold, after all GB must have its own prozine. Thus I congratulate Brian and all the others who've attempted to keep NW going. A most interesting Vice-Chairman's report. What is needed is a clearly set out procedure by which the membership can propose Committee members (eh! we already have one - please read the Constitution! - ED)..... But do we really need a firm policy? - I think not, after all, if we had a firm policy and then something came up which was outside the policy but which a reasonable number of the membership approved of, then you'd have two choices, disappoint the members, or disregard the policy thus nullifying it and making it laughable. 'Indefinite Article' was good..... 'Another Open Mouth' underneath a lot of waffle there are several truths but there is also a lot of rubbish. I would suggest to Mr. Sudbery that the main reason that there is no American sf about Communism or rather in favour of it, is that the mag editors wouldn't publish it even if they wanted to for fear that they were reported to the Un-American Activities..... But Mr. Sudbery is very right in one thing - the world definately belongs to Britain! I always enjoy "The Visual Side" and this was no exception. Perhaps though, there could be some mention of the sf on T.V.? Lastly the cover, looking at it a second time I've just realised how good it is - apart from the Eddie Jones' covers, it's one of the best that's ever appeared and that from me is praise indeed.

Dav Garnett @ I think Rog Peyton was right in most Liverpool 25 of what he said. For many - self included VECTOR is the B.S.F.A. And if people find that what they're getting isn't to their taste then there go a doupla dozen members. The last two issues have been good, better than average. Don't

get me wrong on that score. But they don't look as though they're very good (even white paper would be an improvement) and that counts. Something is going to have to be done soonest. Poor reproduced Vector equals fewer members equals less money equals.....well, you can guess the rest.

Joe Bowman @
Ardgay
@cc
The latest Vector may not be as slick as the earlier issues I have received but there is more life in this one issue than all the others put together. There are good signs of actions as well as words. Mr. Slater intends to do a little gentle pushing to get things going. All he needs is a bit of enthusiasm to back him up. I am new to the Association but it already seems to me that without the two busy and energetic co-editors, the BSFA would be in a far shakier position than it now is. Good luck and good progress.

(I have printed part of all letters of comment received on Vector 41 and 42. I have had to cut some letters drastically as space would not permit them to be printed in their entirety and if they now appear out of context I apologise for this - I assure you I am a better Secretary than my editorial policy would have you believe! I would like to say 'Thank you' to all correspondents and for the magnificent response I have received. I only hope that this revival will continue and the BSFA will profit).

Doreen E. Parker.

