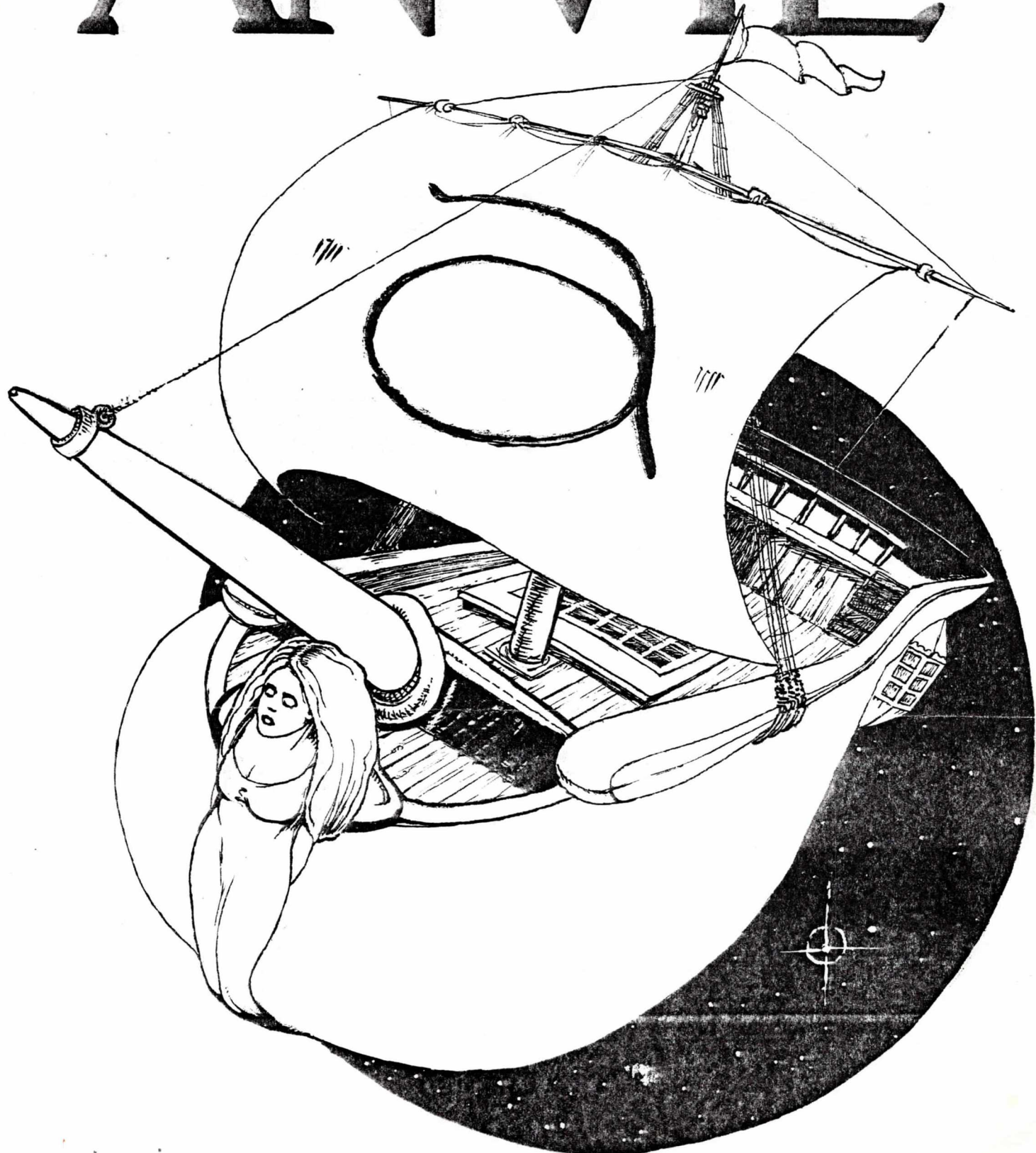


ANVIL



ANVIL 5 is the March-April issue of the Birmingham Science Fiction Club, edited by Wade Gilbreath, 4206 Balboa Av, Pinson Al 35126. It's available for membership, trade with fanzines or other clubzines, or subscriptions at 6 for \$2.00

In Memorium

On Sunday, April 22, Janet Reinhardt, wife of Hank Reinhardt, was killed in a car accident. She was the kind of person that you liked instantly and there are too few left like that.

Halfacon

We will be holding the 1979 Halfacon here in Birmingham on the weekend of November 9-11 at the Birmingham Hilton Inn. Memberships are \$5.00 until October 31 and \$7.00 there after. Con room rates are \$26 single and \$31 for two to four people. We have limited huckster space at \$10 a table, limit two. Now that the vital stats are out of the way, this should be a very good con if I do say so myself. The Hilton Crest is a beautiful facility situated atop the Red Mountain ridge. It gives you a grand view of the area and according to Sales we will practically have the place to ourselves over the weekend. They have an indoor pool that will be open all night as long as we don't disturb guests on the second floor above. The rooms are very nice. Everyone in the Birmingham Club that has seen the con hotel has been impressed with it. The Hilton came to us and has thus far been very cooperative. For a relaxing con with traditional Southern hospitality (read well-stocked con suite) keep the weekend of November 9-11 open. Memberships should be made payable to Penny Frierson, 3705 Woodvale Rd. Birmingham, Al 35223.

DeepSouthCon Bid Announced

Ken and Lou Moore and their Nashville cohorts have decided to bid for the 1980 DSC, to be combined with that year's Kubla Khan. It's high time that one of the mainstay cons in Southern Fandom be recognized for that with the DSC. Vote Nashville in 1980.

Editor's Notes

For anyone following the fortunes of ANVIL they will realize that this ANVIL is over a month late. And so it is. It is solely my fault and I apologize. I have decided that I am too busy to do the job of ANVIL on a monthly basis and do it justice. Therefore, I am offering the editorship of ANVIL to anyone who

art credits: cover, Gilbreath. Paul McCall, p. 6 & 12. Deb Hammer-Johnson, p. 10.

in the club who wants to try it. As an alternative, I propose to keep the editorship and switch the schedule to bi-monthly. Besides relieving me of some of a burden I can't seem to handle right now, it will make for a better Clubzine. If someone else takes over they will be able to devote more time than I have. If not, by switching to a bi-monthly schedule, ANVIL will have more material per issue, if this ANVIL can be taken as an indicator.

Club Notes Submitted by Sec/Treas David Wood

Attendance at the March meeting was rather light due to adverse weather conditions, members attending various conventions and whatnot. The weather and the fact that the dates of some conventions conflict with our meetings can't be helped. However, non-attendance due to whatnot is inexcusable. These notes simply don't convey the fun and excitement, the keen enjoyment and the deep sense of personal fulfillment that members experience when they attend meetings regularly..

Be that as it may, in spite of (or maybe because of?) the small group that turned out for the March meeting, quite a lot was accomplished. First and probably most importantly, the group responsible for scouting area motels for the fall convention gave its report and recommendation. Partially because of the attractive facilities and reasonable rates offered by the Hilton and partially because of the underwhelming interest exhibited by the other motels, the members chose the Hilton as the site of our convention.

After the question of the location of the convention was settled, the members began clamoring for work assignments. Penny Frierson was volunteered for advance registration. Not to be outdone Valerie Proctor demanded the honor of handling registration at the con. President Gilbreath, recognizing that the situation was getting out of hand, stepped in and suggested that the club break for refreshments. However, Charlotte Proctor took that as her cue to ask to be made responsible for the con suite. The rest of the members present unselfishly agreed to wait until the April meeting to vie for the remaining assignments, thus giving those not present a chance to participate.

Before the club actually did break for refreshments several club functions for April through June were discussed. Among those proposed were a combination picnic/meeting (possible sites: Jim Gilpatrick's apartment, Tannehill park, Vulcan, Charlotte Proctor's house), a field trip to the Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, and renting space at the flea market at the fair-ground the third weekend in April. Members were urged to bring any ~~junk they didn't want~~ saleable items they might want to contribute to the April meeting. President Gilbreath also reported on the progress of the Fan Art Calendar. As Wade stated, "to date

there has been no progress."

After everyone had been given an opportunity to partake of the lavish refreshments (coca-cola and potatoe chips) which are always provided, and to recover from the excitement of the first half of the meeting, Frank Love shared with us his slides taken on his trip to Canada to view the solar eclipse.. Not only did Frank have some terrific shots of the interior of the plane on the way to Canada and the lobby of the motel in which he stayed, but he also had some truly incredible shots of the sun during totality. Everyone agreed that the slide show was the high point of the meeting (at least Wade and I thought so later) and Frank may be persuaded in providing an encore presentation for those members who missed it.

Quarterly Report (Jan-March 1979)

Received:	Total Dues	116.50
	Subscriptions to ANVIL	5.00
	Miscellaneous contributions	<u>2.50</u>
		124.00
Expenses:	Printing expenses	20.82
	Postage for ANVIL	<u>3.90</u>
	Total Expenses	24.72
Balance as of 3/30/79		\$99.28

The April meeting of BSFC was held at the usual place at the usual time for the usual reason. As usual attendance was light. Undaunted, those few members in attendance proceeded to make plans for a party to be held at Charlotte Proctor's house the second Saturday in May in lieu of the regularly scheduled meeting. Therefore, the May meeting will be held at an unusual place at an unusual time and place.

Two more committes were created for the convention in November; huckster room(Susan Lair, chairperson) and publicity (Robert Offutt, chairperson). Robert Offutt also suggested that we contact the local war games group to see if they would like to sponsor a war games room at the convention.

A plethora of books were collected for the table at the flea market the third Saturday in April. (It's not often that I get use a word like plethora.) The generosity of the members (especially Jim Phillips) displayed by their contributions helped to offset the disappointment resulting from having to give up the fan art calendar. This because Taral Wayne McDonald took our lead and decided to do one of his own for the FAAN awards.

Last minute note: We made \$33 for the club at the Flea market.

REPORT ON STELLARCON III Greensboro, N.C. April 6-8,1979

In Greensboro N.C., April 6-8, there occurred one of the most unusual conventions it has ever been my pleasure to attend. Imagine a con with no all night parties, no hotel, no hucksters, and no beer! I refer, of course, to Stellarcon III, the con held by the local club there, known as the Science Fiction Fantasy Federation (SF³, not S3F!) In spite of these apparent shortcomings, I enjoyed this con as much as any I've ever been to. Let me explain...

The SF³ centers around the campus of UNC-G and has existed as a Star Trek/Star Wars type club for about two years now. In each of these years they sponsored a club "event" one Saturday afternoon in April. This event consisted of a few movies, some scattered Star Trek posters and much joyous frolicking about in costume, all of which took place at the UNC-G student center.

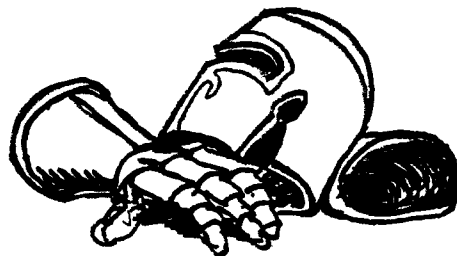
First, since they were a student club at UNC-G, they decided to make full use of the university connection. This meant holding the con at the university student center and letting the school underwrite their expenses. There were several advantages to this approach; it gave them money to burn (by normal standards) and this allowed them to invite David Gerrold and Ted Sturgeon from L.A., pay them sizable honorariums, and still keep their fees down. (Individual registration with banquet came to only \$7.00 total) Of course, when you take money from someone, there are often strings attached, and this time was no exception. Hence, the prohibitions about using the UNC-G buildings past midnight, the no-booze rule, and the outlawing of hucksters. The con com considered this a small price to pay in return for almost \$5,000.00, and I guess I can't blame them.

The committee tried to have all the normal convention programming, but because of the strings attached to their money and also because of their StarWars inclinations, the programming took some interesting turns. As I said before, the huckster room was practically non-existent, consisting of four people stuck on some private property across campus. (two of those were comics sellers), while the art show was, with a few exceptions, very small and amateurish. The strongest area, as you might expect, was the movies. The movie program was the strongest of any convention I've ever attended, with as many as three or four movies to choose from at any hour of the day. Some of their titles I had never seen at cons before, including Slaughterhouse 5 and The Andromeda Strain. The committee did a good job of providing for other activities such as D&D and computer games.

Attendance was modest, around 200 registered, and this was almost exclusively from the local area. I was the only regular

southern con-goer present, and there were only about a dozen of what I'd call "normal" fans.

The best thing about the con was that these apparent shortcomings made less than no difference. The pros were more approachable and talkative than I have ever known before. I can't describe all the warm feelings that emanated from both the pros and the fans all weekend. Ted Sturgeon's readings were well attended, and questions put to the authors during the panels were actually intelligent. This in itself was remarkable, and indicates something of the mood of the entire con.



I think we sometime lose track of the central idea around which cons are held: interaction with the writers of SF. Here was a con which was not only different in organization, but downright square, and it didn't make any difference. It didn't make any difference because it provided some of the best fan interaction I've ever seen with a couple of very good writers. When that happens, the other things don't seem very important anymore. I know I'll be back again in future years, and I think many others will too.

Report by Jim Gilpatrick

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Concerning Superman by Frank Love

I went to see Superman.

I really expected to be disappointed. I paid my \$4.00 expecting to see \$2.00 worth of movie. The house was not packed due to bad weather so I picked a good seat. I waited...

The movie starts in black and white with a view of curtains being raised, then a close-up of a rather historic comic book. The cover is opened and a childish voice intones "It is 1938..." The first few lines of story are read to set the mood, then the camera zooms in on a view of the Daily Planet office building which magically comes to life. Now the camera pans to the moon which begins to swell. Then the moon is behind, color appears, and music begins. Now the credits appear: first illegibly huge diminishing to readability, then vanishing to infinity. All the while you are moving through space and the stars are vanishing astern.

From the moment the Daily Planet building came to life I ceased to worry about getting my money's worth. It felt right. As if that were the way this movie would have to start to be the movie about the real Superman. The best opening sequence I have seen in years. In fact, it so impressed me that, even though there were at least half a dozen scenes in the movie that were a great disappointment, I still felt that I got my money's worth.

The special effects, while awe-inspiring, do not make this a worth while movie. The memorable moments are those involving the characters. Christopher Reeves as Superman and Margot Kidder as Lois Lane make a perfect pair. You know, I must have read several hundred comic books over the years where the secret identity was endangered and I could never really buy the idea that people could work with Clark Kent day after day and not recognize him as Superman. But I'll be damned if this movie didn't convince me otherwise. Clark Kent is a totally believable persona entirely separate and distinct from Superman, and, now, I'd almost believe he could marry Lois Lane and still keep the charade going. It's amazing what a good actor can do.

Speaking of actors, I assume you've heard that Marlon Brando is in this picture? He is. He has a grand total of perhaps 200 lines. I understand he got about a million dollars for that. Needless to say, his portrayal of Jor-el is not well-developed. How could it be? And if it had been, that would have detracted from the rest of the movie; because the scenes on Krypton are, and should be, merely incidents leading to the origin of Superman. To have fully developed the Kryptonian characters and then, inevitably, kill them off would have cast a pall over succeeding events. Truly, the ways of movie moguls are beyond my comprehension. The only reason for casting Brando in this role was to get publicity; I think they could have spent their money better elsewhere.

Happily, the rest of the cast seems well suited to their roles. Jackie Cooper makes a great Perry White and Glenn Ford an equally memorable Pa Kent. There were others to numerous to mention, indeed, if you stay to watch the credits at the end, you will swear that half the population of the U.S. and Britain had a hand in this movie. (I kid you not, there are at least five minutes of closing credits!)

The only real disappointment for me were in some of the background and the superstunts. They had to make Krypton in another galaxy. I wish, just once, the people that write these scripts would do a little math. No calculus, no algebra, just fifth grade division. I mean, our galaxy has upwards of 200 billion star systems in it. Ain't that enough? Jeezus!

But I digress. Where was I? Oh yes, the superstunts. Script-writers note: a Boeing 707 has 4 engines. If one of them fails

the remaining three are quite sufficient to keep it airborne, just don't plan to land and take off again.

Also: the San Andreas fault causes earthquakes by moving horizontally, not vertically. California is not now, nor will it ever be, in danger of sinking into the Pacific Ocean.

I find these points all the more irksome because most of the movie was so well done and bonehead ideas like these could so easily have been eliminated at the start making a good movie even better.

But it's still a good movie. Go see it.

Editor's note: Both David Wood and Frank Love decided to see Superman one afternoon and then write up their impressions without consultation for Anvil. Here is David's review.

Superman: Another View by David Wood

You may, from time to time, read negative movie reviews, but I promise you this will not be one of them. Seldom have I enjoyed a movie as thoroughly as I enjoyed Superman. Admittedly, the movie has its weak points, such as the presentation of the character of Lex Luthor (you will never convince me that Telly Savalas wouldn't have been better for the part), but Warner Brothers Studios seems to have gotten its money's worth for the millions upon millions it lavished on the production of the movie.

Christopher Reeve makes you believe he is Superman the way Sean Connery made you believe that he was James Bond. From the way he fills out his uniform without looking like a muscle bound oaf right up to the curl in the middle of his forehead, he just looks like the Man of Steel. As the ads promise, you really do believe a man can fly when you see him flash across the screen.

For once I was able to enjoy the special effects without looking for hidden wires or trying to figure out how a particular effect was accomplished.

Before I saw the movie I had decided that it would either be a serious portrayal of the comic book hero I had known as a child or it would be high camp in the



AH, TO BE A
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tradition of Batman. In a way it was both. The scenes of Superman as a boy growing up in Kansas were touching in a way that is regrettably absent in most movies that fall under the general classification of science fiction. The bits of humor were also handled well, as for example, the first instance in which Superman attempts to change from his Clark Kent disguise and encounters a modern day phone stall instead of the old fashioned telephone booth.

On the other hand, all of the scenes with Gene Hackman as Lex Luthor have an amateurish quality reminiscent of Batman's encounters with the Penguin on TV. Instead of showing Luthor to be a twisted evil genius, he is made to appear as a vain, boastful clown.

This lack of continuity was disturbing but I suppose it is a miracle that there was any continuity at all. Judging from the credits at the end of the movie, everyone and his second cousin was involved with the production of it and, if only half of them ultimately pay to see the movie in its final form then Warner Brothers will be assured a profit.

Still with the few shortcomings the movie has, it manages to reflect fairly accurately the character of Superman that has evolved in the comic book form. So what if he ignores both Newtonian physics and quantum mechanics with his abilities to hover in mid air and travel faster than the speed of light. As a friend of mine noted, Superman comes from another galaxy; perhaps he is not bound by the same laws of nature that we are.

In any case, I am eagerly awaiting the sequel which is scheduled for release in mid 1980 and I will probably see the original again once or twice before then.

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Bob Soderberg 1825 Tamarind Av #33 Hollywood, Ca 90028

Anvil is a neat clubzine even for a "foreigner" like me. It's well organized (more so than File 770.) Xeroxing is very good. About being as good as Rune, Atarantes, etc., hey, give Anvil time. You're only on your 4th issue. These clubzines have been around for awhile. Who knows, in the future you'll probably be as good as those zines.

Anyway, best of luck to ya in you endeavor. Hope ya succeed (Ya will.)

((Thanks for the encouragement. Your letter reflects a lot of the comments about being impatient with success. It comes slowly.))

March 12

Deb Hammer Johnson

508B W. 11th Street

Rome, Ga. 30161

Deb's special DOUBLE LOC

ANVIL numeros III and IV!!!!

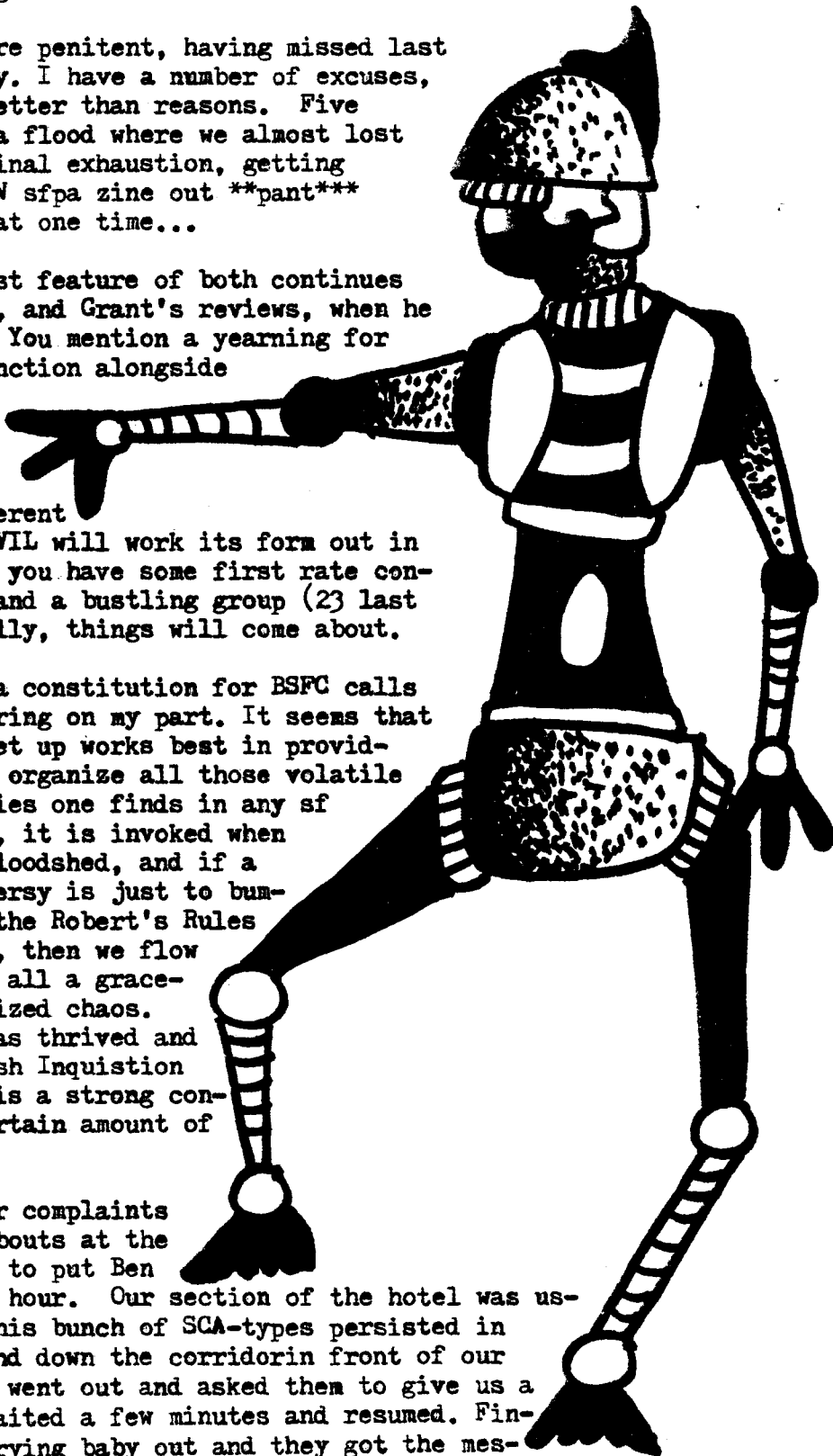
Dear Anvil Personage:

I guess I sit here penitent, having missed last month's opportunity. I have a number of excuses, which are always better than reasons. Five weeks of the flu, a flood where we almost lost our business, terminal exhaustion, getting a MYRIAD and SHADOW sfpa zine out **pant*** But I'll hit both at one time...

Probably the best feature of both continues to be your artwork, and Grant's reviews, when he can find the time. You mention a yearning for a plateau of distinction alongside RUNE, CHAT, and ATAR. All these zines had humble beginnings, and all are a bit different from the other. ANVIL will work its form out in time, as I believe you have some first rate contributing members, and a bustling group (23 last count!). Eventually, things will come about.

The question of a constitution for BSFC calls for a bit of pondering on my part. It seems that a constitutional set up works best in providing a framework to organize all those volatile fannish personalities one finds in any sf group. In Atlanta, it is invoked when we wish to avoid bloodshed, and if a particular controversy is just to bumptious to contain the Robert's Rules of Disorder format, then we flow around it. This is all a graceful term for organized chaos. One reason ASFIC has thrived and ASFO and the Fannish Inquisition have ceased to be is a strong constitution and a certain amount of structure.

I agree with your complaints about young roustabouts at the Chattacon. We had to put Ben to bed at an early hour. Our section of the hotel was usually quiet, but this bunch of SCA-types persisted in swordfighting up and down the corridirin front of our room. Everytime I went out and asked them to give us a spell, they just waited a few minutes and resumed. Finally, I bought a crying baby out and they got the message. But that is, perhaps, an usual problem to have at cons.



Collected thoughts on the flicks coming out: Robert Altman has an audience, albeit small, for justabout anything he choses to do. For some strange reason, I fell in love with McCabe and Mrs. Miller and sat through it three times in a row. There is something so pleasantly sonnabulistic about his style. So, I'll give QUINTET a try. It will be interesting to see Paul Newman in an sf film!! Shades of HUD!!//DUNE, I have high expectations about. I used to think that the technical problems barred any really effective representation of the planet, but after STAR WARS, I think they might pull it off.//When I think of the movie I, ROBOT, I also think of the ALAN PARSON's album. It would be nice to see if they mixed a few of those musical themes into the film. Undoubtedly, Harlan Ellison will huff off after a treatment. Sigh**//Oh, God! The AMBER films!!!! Should I live to see the day, OH, ECSTASY!!!

It appears you were ambushed into the HALFACON announcement, but still...it seems like a nice ambition. I'd like to see an available, pleasant con within comfortable reach this year. With business and family responsibilities in tow, my con going urges are frustrated.//Keep Jim Gilpatrick under wing. Essence of Small Worlds, I went to High School with the fellow. He went out a few times with the girl that I fellow I used to be engaged to is now married to. He's one of those rare individuals tolerabe when a teenager, and a fine man when he grows up. And he's survived several years in Birmingham!!

I add to the luck wished the way of Grant Carrington. If his fiction is half as interesting as his reviews, I'll also add him to my collection. It's a meager one, but only has first class stuff in it.

Hang in there,

Deb HJ
mimmmmm

Cliff Biggers/6045 Summit Wood Dr/ Kennesaw Ga 30144 (eff. 5/26)

I don't feel that you necessarily have to imitate the newszine format of ATARANTES if you don't want; while you're doing a good job of it, I get the feeling from some of the things you said that you'd prefer to have more membership-material and less in the way of news. It's really hard establishing sources for your news, for that matter, as a glance through the first seven issues of ATARANTES will prove; it took me that long to find out ~~where~~ ~~to swipe from~~ what news to use and how to get it.

It's quite nice to hear that Grant Carrington has placed a couple of books, even though he's not too happy with contract offerings concerning two of them. I'm looking forward to seeing his Doubleday book, sometime next summer. It really takes a while to get used to the publishing delay after a manuscript is delivered; Grant indicates it's a 12 to 18 month delay.

This reciprocal membership agreement isn't exactly fair, you know; we keep coming to B'ham en masse and hogging al your refreshments and harrasing your meetings, but none of you folks ever come over here, except you and Kay. When are we going to see a Birmingham crowd come in and dominate our meetings?

((That's a very good question. Possibly we could get a group of BSFC members together to come over for the meeting Michael Bishop is planning to attend. As for coming over and dominating your meeting, we can't even get up enough moxy among us to dominate our own.))

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

I have yet to see any problem, however complicated, which, when you looked at it the right way, did not become still more complicated.

Poul Anderson

((Yes, that's often the way it seems with ANVIL. Please un-complicate matters by sending in reviews, articles, art, and letters of comment. Until next issue, we bid you adieu. Bye.))



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14974 OSCEOLA ST
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first class
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