

CHAT

MONTHLY NEWSZINE OF THE CHATTANOOGA SF ASSOCIATION
FREE TO MEMBERS OF CSFA; 25¢ TO FELLOW TRAVELERS

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VOLUME 1 NUMBER 8 © NICKI AND DICK LYNCH 1978

"People say that life is the thing, but I prefer reading."....Logan Piersall
Smith (1931)

MEETING NEXT MONTH - BOOK AND RECORDING....The Chattanooga Science Fiction Association met on April 15 in the Lookout Mtn. Room of U.T.C.'s Student Center; The Jargon Pard by Andre Norton was discussed. Before our featured movie, Westworld, there was a discussion on program suggestions that would be more fan oriented; ideas discussed are in an article and editorial in this issue of CHAT. We had a fairly good turn out for a beautiful April night. Due to the U.T.C. Student Center not being open on Saturday's during the summer, next month's meeting will be back at the First Tennessee Bank in Brainard at the corner of Brainard and Germantown Rds. The book to be discussed will be Mindbridge by Joe Haldeman, led by Dick Lynch and Jack Hawkins. Also on the program will be last year's Hugo nominated recording "Harlan!", on which Harlan Ellison reads his short stories "Shatterday" and "Repent, Harlequin, Said the Ticktockman". Harlan is an excellent reader, and these are two of his best works. June's book will be The Moon is a Harsh Mistress by Robert A. Heinlein. Book orders are taken at each meeting, if you have trouble finding the book of the month. To find the bank, out-of-towners from Knoxville, Cleveland, Atlanta should take I-24 west to Belvoir Ave. exit, then North Terrace (parallels interstate) to Germantown. From Nashville, take Germantown Rd. exit (just past ridge cut). Go north on Germantown to the first traffic light (the one at the interstate doesn't count) and turn right. The bank is on the right, one building past the intersection. For questions: Mike Rogers at 266-0298. (NWL)

CSFA TREASURER'S REPORT....The balance from last month was \$144.68. Receipts were \$26.00 from March dues and \$1.32 interest, for a total of \$27.32. Expenditures were \$4.79 for CHAT mailings. The new balance, as of April 20, is \$167.21. (Mike Rogers)

LEIGH BRACKETT DIES....Word has come to us of the death of longtime SF writer Leigh Brackett, of cancer at age 62. As reported in last month's CHAT, she was writing the script for the new Star Wars movie, and did in fact complete the first draft before she died. Besides writing SF, she was also well known in other literary genre. Her western novel, Follow the Free Wind, won the Spur Award for Best Western Novel of 1963. Her mystery, An Eye for an Eye, formed the basis of a TV series. Leigh Brackett was also well known for her screenwriting credentials, of which the new Star Wars will be the last in a glittering series: her scripts included The Big Sleep (the original Bogart version), Rio Bravo, Hatari!, El Dorado, Rio Lobo, and The Long Good-Bye. She has been cremated, and her ashes buried next to those of her husband Edmond Hamilton, in Kinsman, Ohio. (DL)

RIVERCON ANNOUNCES GUESTS....Louisville's regional SF convention, RiverCon, has finally released details of this year's convention. Pro Guest of Honor will be Robert Bloch, Toastmaster Wilson Tucker and Fan Guest of Honor Ned Brooks. The site of RiverCon will change this year, to the Executive Inn West, near the airport. We understand that registration will be \$ 6.00, at least for the time being. Details are available from RiverCon, P.O. Box 8251, Louisville, Ky. 40208. (DL)

1978 HUGO NOMINEES....The World SF Convention, Iguanacon, has released the list of 1978 Hugo award nominees. Summarized below are the professional award nominees. NOVEL: The Forbidden Tower by Marion Zimmer Bradley, Time Storm by Gordon R. Dickson, Dying of the Light by George R. R. Martin, Lucifer's Hammer

HUGO NOMINEES (CONT.)....by Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle, and Gateway by Fred Pohl. NOVELLA: "A Snark in the Night" by Greg Benford (F&SF, Aug. 77), "The Wonderful Secret" by Keith Laumer (Analog, Sep.-Oct. 77), "Aztecs" by Vonda McIntyre (from 2076: The American Tricentennial, Pyramid books), "Star-dance" by Spider and Jeannie Robinson (Analog, Mar. 77), and "In the Hall of the Martian Kings" by John Varley (F&SF, Feb. 77). NOVELETTE: "Ender's Game" by Orson Scott Card (Analog, Aug. 77), "Prismatica" by Samuel R. Delany (F&SF, Oct. 77), "The Ninth Symphony of Ludwig von Beethoven and Other Lost Songs" by Carter Scholz (from Universe 7, Doubleday), "The Screwfly Solution" by Raccoona Sheldon * a.k.a. James Tiptree, Jr.* (Analog, Jun. 77), and "Eyes of Amber" by Joan Vinge (Analog, Jun. 77). SHORT STORY: "Jefty is Five" by Harlan Ellison (F&SF, Jul. 77), "Lauralyn" by Randall Garrett (Analog, Apr. 77), "Dog Day Evening" by Spider Robinson (Analog, Oct. 77), "Time Sharing Angel" by James Tiptree, Jr. (F&SF, Oct. 77), and "Air Raid" by John Varley *as 'Herb Boehm'* (Isaac Asimov's SF Magazine, Spring 77). EDITOR: James Baen (late of Galaxy), Ben Bova (Analog), Terry Carr (Universe 7), Ed Ferman (F&SF), and George Sci-thers (Isaac Asimov's SF Magazine). ARTIST: Vincente di Fate, Stephen Fabian, Frank Kelly Freas, Rick Sternbach, and Michael Whelan. DRAMATIC PRESENTATION: Star Wars (20th Century-Fox), Close Encounters of the Third Kind (Columbia), The Hobbit (Rankin/Bass), Wizards (20th Century-Fox), and "Blood! The Life and Times of Jack the Ripper" by Robert Bloch and Harlan Ellison (Alternate Worlds Recordings). JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD (NEW WRITER): Orson Scott Card, Jack L. Chalker, Stephen Donaldson, Elizabeth A. Lynn, and Bruce Sterling. GANDALF AWARD/BOOK LENGTH FANTASY: A Spell for Chamaeleon by Piers Anthony, Lord Foul's Bane by Stephen Donaldson, The Shining by Stephen King, Our Lady of Darkness by Fritz Leiber, and The Silmarillion by J. R. R. Tolkien. Please note that we will be voting on these awards, probably at our June meeting. (DL)

FEM FANS MEET AGAIN....The second meeting of the Southern Appalachian Fem Fan Federation was held Tuesday, April 11 at the U.T.C. Student Center. At-tending were J. Wilhoit, A.J. Barker, N. Lynch, and N. Tabor. The dues were set at 83¢. Having only 72¢, I was forgiven, but I've noticed an employee of the Broken Arms Loan Agency following me at a discreet distance. The official club buttons were provided by Shelby Bush III. The money to pay Shelby was argued over much with bared teeth. We discussed several topics including: squash recipes, woman's body building, costuming for ChattaConIV (everyone cowardly disapproved of my idea of complete body paint suggested in R. A. Heinlein's books), and a method of carrying men away. Also discussed was the official design of Through the Worm Hole's cover. We noticed that our discussion was embarrassing crowds in the cafeteria, when red-faced men started moving away. A token male guest will be invited to our next meeting, so that we can embarrass someone at our own table. The Fem Fan Feds are grow-ing; we now have seven members, including Sillyvester Barker, two trekkies, 1 closet trekkie, two very anti-trekkies, and one kid. As can be seen, we are a varied lot. Any interested Fem Fans are invited to join, contact any of the present members about the next meeting. Nicki Lynch closed with, "We said a lot of memorable things, none of which come to mind." (NOT)

FEM FAN FEDS FANZINE FINALIZED....Through the Worm Hole, edited by A.J. Barker and Julia Wilhoit, will be printed the last weekend in April. Worm Hole, a Fem Fan Feds publication, will feature reviews, short stories, art and other fan works. According to Ms. Barker, Worm Hole will come out monthly and is available for trade or money. Fans of any sex, hopefully male or female, are invited to submit works. This first issue will be 75¢ and will be avaiable from the editors and other Fem Fan Feds members at Kubla Khan and C.S.F.A. club meetings. For more information, contact Julia Wilhoit at Box 446, Pikeville, Tn. 37367. (NWL)

STAR TREK MOVIE UPDATE....After seemingly years of spinning their wheels, Paramount has announced the decision to film Star Trek - The Motion Picture, bringing together the original cast of Shatner, Nimoy, et. al. Budget is set at an astronomical \$15 million, more than all 79 TV episodes combined. The screenplay is by Roddenberry and Harold Livingston, based on a short story by Alan Dean Foster and Roddenberry. The director will be four time Academy Award winner Robert Wise, who has directed such prestigious movies as The Sound of Music, West Side Story, The Day the Earth Stood Still, The Sand Pebbles, and The Andromeda Strain. Hugo winning artist Rick Sternbach has been hired to work on backgrounds; special effects wizard Doug Trumbull is a special advisor. Jerry Goldsmith will compose and conduct the music score. No science advisor has been announced yet; hopefully one will be. All in all, it looks very promising. (DL)

CSFA PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS SOLICITED....At the April meeting of C.S.F.A., the point was brought up that the meeting programs are in a rut and should change to reflect the interest of fans in the club. While it was argued that the book discussions should be continued, most people were interested in the second half of the club meeting which is usually a film or video tape. To replace this once every third month, these suggestions were given: a one-shot zine featuring (1) a round-robin story, (2) a fan dictionary, (3) the usual whatever; a visit to Huntsville Space Museum, Jones Observatory, Fernbank in Atlanta, etc.; a picnic at Fall Creek Falls; a party that would feature a special food (such as chili or a covered dish supper); a dramatic skit or psychodrama done as a radio play or video recording; fan panels or fan debates; slide shows of past cons or whatever; workshops featuring writers or skills such as costume making; a wargaming session; an auction or white elephant sale; fan readings of fan or pro works; a filksing with writing songs on the spot; a rented film; a minicon; a phone interview with a pro writer; or a 'regular' party. It was decided that the June meeting should feature one of these suggestions. If any (or none) of these ideas interest you, come to the May meeting and help decide what we will feature first. (NWL)

Editorial

"....But I Prefer Reading."....Last meeting, much was said about changing the format of our club's monthly meetings (i.e. getting away from book discussions). No real reasons were promoted, save that the idea filtered through that people were bored to tears by these discussions. Many alternates were proposed, some without much thought about costs or logistics of the situation. To go on record, my feelings are this: it would be a dreadful mistake to depart from these discussions, for even one month. The point is this: over the past two years we have built our organization up from a handful of interested people to 20-30 attendees each month, without departing from these discussions. If we change now, we risk alienating a portion of our organization. I don't want this. Not only that, I think the book discussions are a hell of a good way of reading new SF and breaking new (literary) ground, of developing an excuse (if nothing else) for reading, and finding out I like books like Dickson's The Dragon and the George and Vonnegut's Cat's Cradle. At it's heart, SF is still a literary movement. Let's keep it that way.

I would also like to take the opportunity to introduce readers of CHAT to the artwork of Charlie Williams, premiering in this issue. In my opinion, Charlie is a damn fine illustrator, good enough to win some day (soon!) the fan artist Hugo. Remember, you saw his work here first! (DL)

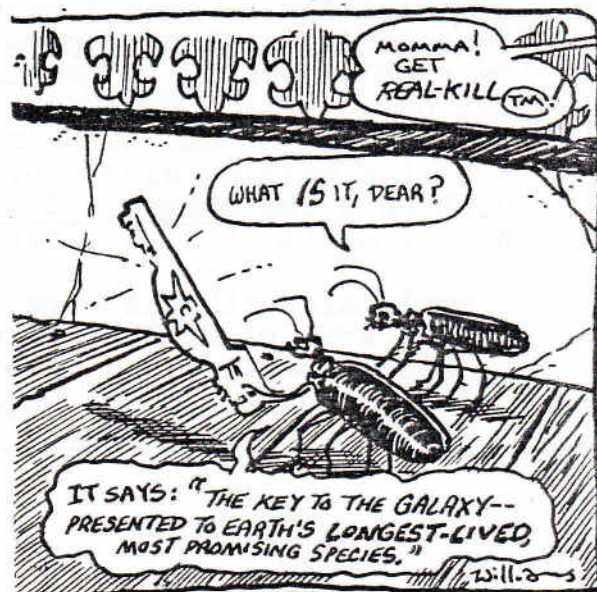
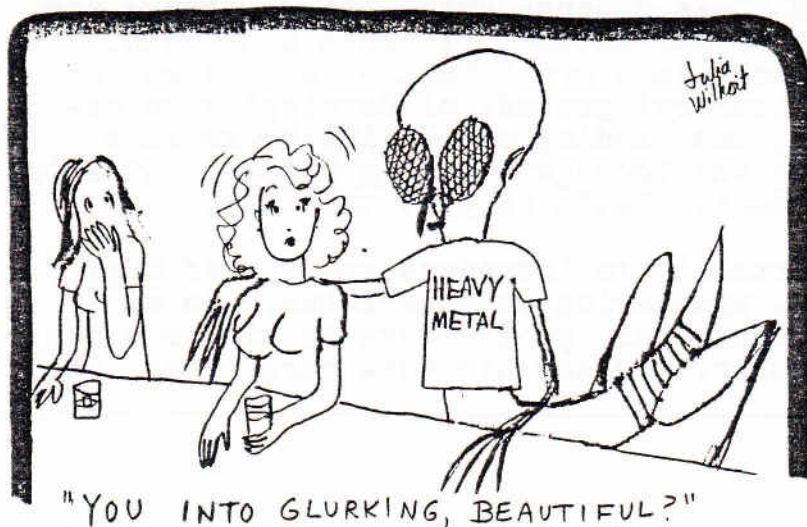
SCIENCE BRIEFS....Black Hole in M76?....Astronomers at Kitt Peak and Palomar observatories report the existance of a very large non-luminous mass concentration in the center of elliptical galaxy Messier 76. Calculations show that a dark mass anomaly of about 5 billion solar masses exists in a volume not greater than 360 light years in diameter; furthermore, chaotic stellar motions in that region seem to indicate a steep gravity well exists there, and the region is an emitter of x-rays and radio waves. All are indications of a galactic-sized black hole, larger than even the one postulated to exist in the center of our own galaxy (see Science Briefs, CHAT, vol. 1, no.3).

NASA Pioneer-Venus Probe Launches Upcoming....NASA has scheduled two Pioneer-Venus probe launches for this year. The first, due for launch about May 20, is an orbiter that will provide a long duration science observatory above Venus' atmosphere. The second, due for launch in August, will carry atmospheric probes.

US-Germany to Participate in Jupiter Orbiter Mission....The first planetary spacecraft to be carried aboard the Space Shuttle will be the Jupiter Orbiter probe, re-designated as 'Galileo' ((ed. note: simmer down Star Trek fans, it's just a coincidence)). Scheduled for launch in 1982, the spacecraft will carry at least one atmospheric probe; the project is a joint effort between NASA and the West German Federal Administration for Research and Technology.

American Astronomical Society Bans Meetings in Non-ERA States....AAS President Dr. Margaret Burbidge, has announced that the society will no longer hold meetings in so-called 'non-enlightened' states, those that have not yet ratified the Equal Rights Amendment. The AAS is the national organization of professional astronomers; Harlan Ellison had nothing to do with the decision. (DL)

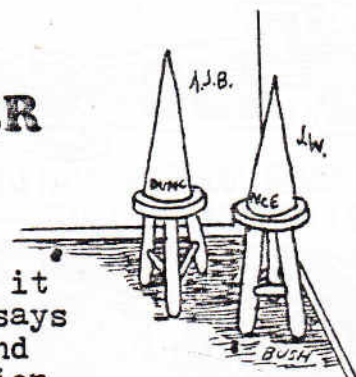
NOW WE ARE THREE....The Eastgate brach of the Hamilton County Bicentennial Library, located in the 5900 Building, opened this month. This is the second branch to open since the library moved into the new building downtown. Besides being convenient to the Eastgate Shopping Center and having free parking (not a feature of the main library downtown), it has a feature not in the other two libraries--it separates the Science Fiction from the main stream novels. While I've noticed that some of the SF books have strayed to the general fiction section, most are in the SF section. While the selection at Eastgate is rather small, this branch is still getting in their books and magazines. The best selection of SF books is to be found in the Northgate and downtown branches. Northgate has a large selection of paperbacks that were given as a gift; many are classics that are hard to find. The downtown branch has a small collection of SF novels, but a large supply of collected SF, i.e. collections of short stories and related topics. Next time you're looking for a new SF novel or collection, try the library. It might surprise you. (NWL)



Well, it's Springtime in the Appalachians, with all the dogwoods and Iris and such blooming. Strange things happen in the Spring. The other Saturday morning A J saw a bobcat....the real critter, not the car. Driving from Etowah, Tenn. to Dalton, it bounded across the road in front of her, chasing a widdle bunny. Being fearless, she stopped the car and watched it until it disappeared into a thicket. Julie says you can see real mountain lions around Pikeville. But she's making dandelion wine, so don't trust her word.



A & J's CORNER



by A. J.
Barker &
J. M.
Wilhoit

Saturday, April 1st, we played our very first game of Dungeons and Dragons. You folks who are past such things, please bear with us. Julie was a dwarf fighter with a charisma of 18 and a strength of 14.

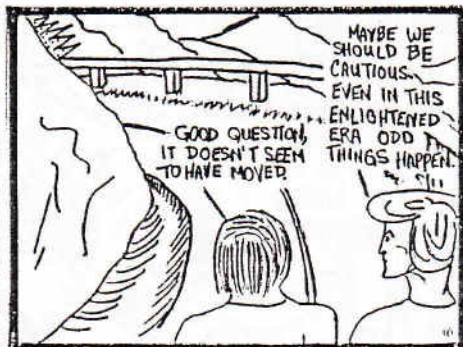
A J was an elf thief with a charisma of 17 and an intelligence of 13. So far we've killed a wyvern, a 5+2 monster, and a flying snake, and it's only the second day of the adventure. Our goal is a baseball-sized diamond worth 3 million gold pieces. Wish us luck, or better yet, join us next time at Richard Morehouse's home on Signal Mountain.

Was everyone else mad that Star Wars didn't win best picture? Well, so were we. A J and Julie decided that the trouble was that Star Wars is a great movie, but that the Academy likes to give awards to films with Deep Meaning. Of course, they couldn't ignore Star Wars' technical achievements, but they could and did ignore it when it came time to pass out Best Picture award. We guess Annie Hall was a good picture, but for crying out loud, Star Wars is one of the best movies ever made!! We think that we'll combat our depression by going to see Star Wars again (and again and Again).

The Southern Appalachian Fem Fan Federation is really growing. We have quintupled in size and our fanzine "Thru the Worm Hole" will be ready for distribution by Kubla Khan (Sexx, that is, and quite appropriately). Any interested Fem Fans in Tn., Ga., N.C., S.C., Ala., Va., W.V., and Ky. please get in touch with A.J. at 610 Athens Ave., Etowah, Tn. 37331. (She moved out of Ga, again, but with Gov. Blanton's new porno bill after Worm Hole comes out she may need a lawyer to get her out of Tn.)

That's about all until next month, folks. Julie says that if she doesn't quit writing columns, zines, and drawing cartoons, she isn't ever going to have time to read another SF book in her whole life. A.J.'s reply was "Where does it say actifans have time to read?" So Kubla Khan Sexx here we come and remember, "What evil lurks in the hearts of men?" Fem Fans know and thats why they travel in groups and carry crosses and wolfbane.

Krik's universe
by Jeff Mahr



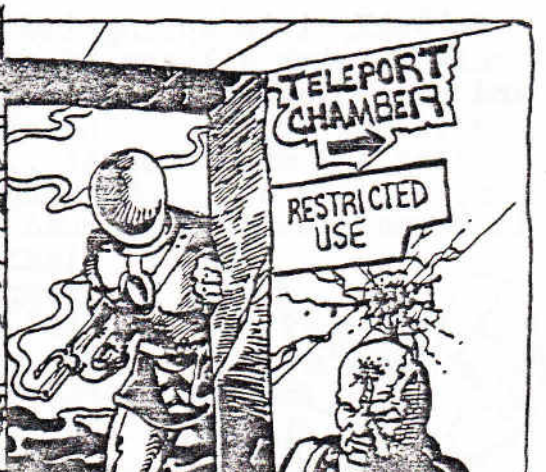
Advertisement

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS FANS!!! There will be a Dungeons and Dragons game on Saturday, April 29, at 1 PM. Info: Rich Morehouse, 886-4973.

The Avenger

"MY SPACER TOUCHED DOWN ON LEPLAISIR IX,
AND I APPROACHED IN STEALTH ----

STORY AND ART BY CHARLIE WILLIAMS
LETTERED BY RED



"ON
A NIGHT THE DICTATOR'S HOME
WOULD LIE UNGUARDED, I ALONE KNEW--



"SURROUNDED
BY HIS
COURTESANS
AND A SELECT
FEW OF HIS
STAFF, THE
DICTATOR
WAS RELAXING
FROM A WEEK
OF DECISIONS--



"OF DECISIONS CONCERNING
THE VILEST OF ATROCITIES ----

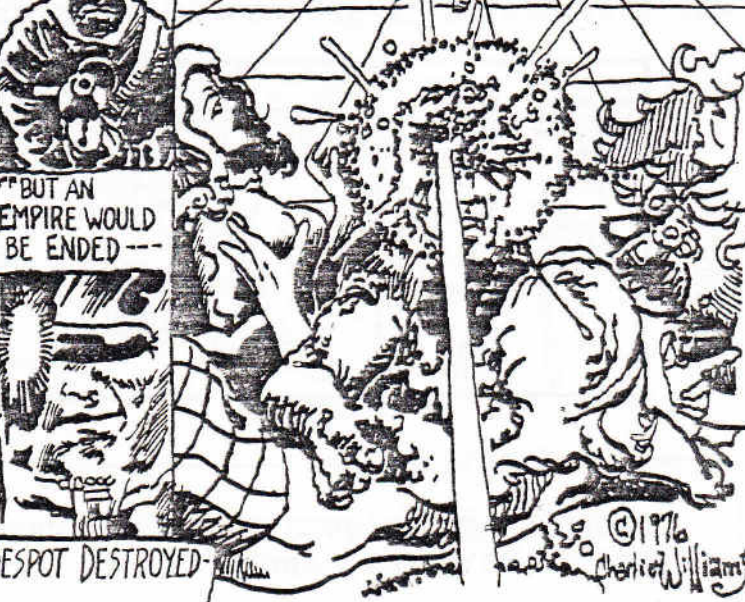
TELEPORT
CHAMBER

"BEFORE THE AUTOMATIC DEFENSES FOUND ME,
I OBLITERATED IAN RADNOR AND
HIS HAREM ----"

"I HAD MADE
MY DECISION,
AND I WOULD LIVE
AND DIE BY IT --



"BUT AN
EMPIRE WOULD
BE ENDED ----



"A DESPOT DESTROYED--

©1976
Charlie Williams



THE SCIENCE FICTION IDEA CORNER

by JEFF MAHR

Do you have a great idea for a new short story or a new angle for an old one? Are you looking for help with a story line that just isn't going the way you want it to? If, as I suspect, one or both answers are "yes", then this might be just what you're looking for.

SFIC, the SF IDEA CORNER, is an experimental feature exclusively in this newszine. Its long term goal is to encourage new ideas in SF, your ideas. More immediately, it will provide a forum where reader and writer can exchange views. Either directly or indirectly, it is hoped that SFIC will encourage new authors, bring people together to the benefit of the field, precipitate that story you've been dying to read, or provide a platform for constructive criticism. In other words, this column will be whatever you, the reader, want it to be. ((ed. note: Sort of a flea market?))

Below are some examples of the SFIC. Address your submissions to Jeff Mahr, 7 Harding Ave., Haverstraw, N.Y. 10927.

* * * * *

Shape changers have been the subject of SF from Kapek's War with the Newts and Stevenson's The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde to Coney's Mirror Image, Simak's They Walked Like Men, and Goulart's Chamaeleon Corps series. Even Playboy, in a short story whose title and author escape me investigated the phenomina, yet I don't think anyone has considered the societal effects of shape changing abilities in a good sized minority of the population.

* * * * *

I wonder what it would be like if someone were to describe a contact between two similar groups from both points of view when one group is significantly duller than the other, rather than on a different technological level. This might be something like the first, or last, confrontation between Cro-Magnon and Neanderthal man.

* * * * *

Can anyone tell me the name of a short story by Katherine McLean where a genetic pattern begins to attack like a viral infection? (This is not a contest, as I don't know the answer and so can't tell if the answer is right or wrong, but I'll give credit to whoever comes up with an answer in a future column.)

* * * * *

I'll trade a hard cover copy of Laumer's A Knight of Ghosts and Shadows for an intact copy of Schmitz's Witches of Karres. Don't mail the book directly, just drop me a line saying you've got one and are interested in a trade, otherwise I could be drowned in a sea of Schmitz's; if I must drown in Schmitz I would prefer the beer (Schmidt's) to the book.

* * * * *

TRIVIA CONTEST: Three clues are provided; correctly identify the author, book or short story, and character. Submit your answers to me ((ed. note: not CHAT)); the correct answer with the earliest postmark will be the winner and in case of a tie, the first one opened wins (sorry, folks, this is a low-budget contest). The prize is a hardcover edition of Edgar Rice Burrough's A Princess of Mars. The clues are:

- (1) a contemporary of Valentine Michael Smith and probably Retief, although it's doubtful that any ever actually met.
- (2) one was all and all were one, yet two were twins and the third wasn't even the same sex.
- (3) Proscribed Prisoner No. 83M2742 is one of this character's names, but his most common name is that which is required.

The deadline for submissions is June 20, 1978. Good luck, and I hope that next time there'll be some of your ideas and comments in the next column. ((ed. note: The next SFIC will appear in July CHAT. Let's send Jeff some submissions.))

((Ed. note: The following essay is an experimental piece for CHAT and is intended to stimulate ideas for this month's meeting's book discussion.))

An Analysis of Joe Haldeman's Mindbridge....by Jack Hawkins

Joe Haldeman's Mindbridge is a complex work, told in a neutral omniscient point of view, and depicted as a collection of transcripts arranged by a future editor; most divisions of the book are presented as material reproduced from documented reference sources. The Book's primary character is Jacques Lefavre, who was conceived sometime in the spring of 2024 and lived until 2149. The editor, due to the scope of supplementary information, assembled this collection a minimum of 1000 years after Lefavre's death.

Jacques is employed as a tamer by the Agency for Extraterrestrial Development, to explore and geofom other worlds. Tamers travel by teleportation, travelling in 'jumps' to other worlds circling other stars. Jacques's first 'jump' is to a planet of the dim nearby star Groombridge 1618, where his expedition discovers a life form they call the Groombridge Bridge. Bridges seem to be simple organisms, but are in fact very complex, being able to act as a telepathic 'bridge' between two parties in physical contact with it.

Two years after the discovery of the Groombridge Bridge, an alien race, the L'vrai, is discovered. The L'vrai possess a collective consciousness, presenting man with a new philosophy of the nature of life. L'vrai can communicate with man through Jacques by means of the Bridge, but human minds cannot cope with telepathic contact with the aliens unless their animal nature can be reconciled with their consciousness. Thus, the theme of Mindbridge may be interpreted as presenting an alternative or inverse to Western philosophy and theology.

The ideology of L'vrai can be seen to be distortions or the reverse of statements made by Jesus Christ in the Sermon on the Mount. Lefavre is the messenger of a higher intelligence much the same as Moses. Moses could communicate with God because he had brought the spiritual and conscious elements of his personality into harmony. Lefavre is able to communicate with the L'vrai because he had brought his animal nature and consciousness into harmony. The Author represents Jacques as being far above average in intelligence and physical developments, a perfect example of the philosophy he represents.

The works of Von Daniken are mirrored in the plot, i.e. man's conception of himself is radically altered by contact with an alien race. This imagery is also reinforced by reporting the work of a future anthropologist who discovers in the ruins of an extinct alien race on a distant planet proof of an omnipotent creature which had been their God. Their God was one of a race of Gods which ruled this section of the galaxy. Many similar details are found in Chariots of the Gods and Mindbridge.

In summary, Mindbridge is among the best hard science SF novels. Haldeman projects the present and past into a consistent tale of the future. His style is a mixture of Heinlein's future history series and Asimov's Foundation trilogy series, albeit more mature in nature than either. Haldeman has created a distinct style and an enjoyable story for the mature reader with a stimulating conflict of ideologies to engross the thoughtful.

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THE BARNARD ASTRONOMICAL
SOCIETY OF CHATTANOOGA..

meets Thursday, May 18
at Jones Observatory.
Meeting starts at 8 PM

for information,
call 622-4762

This month, we'll be showing the
Academy Award nominated short
documentary.... **UNIVERSE**

REVIEW - - - ALAN DEAN FOSTER'S

SPLINTER OF THE MIND'S EYE

by Shelby Bush III

Alan Dean Foster's Splinter of the Mind's Eye, based on characters from Star Wars, is a readable and enjoyable science-fiction adventure. It is not, however, his best work.

Splinter of the Mind's Eye concerns Luke Skywalker and Princess Leila, who crash on a jungle planet en route to a meeting on a planet which may join the Rebel Alliance against the Empire. The two humans, accompanied by Artoo Detoo and See-Threepio (in very small background roles), find a secret Empire mining base. They are captured, after having a friendly mud-fight, and thrown into a cell with two huge aliens--whom Luke befriends, after he remembers he speaks their language. They are helped to escape by an old woman, Halley, who wants Luke and Leia to help her locate a crystal that is hidden inside an ancient native temple. After several near-deathtraps, they find the temple--and Darth Vader, who has arrived to eliminate Luke Skywalker.

The book was actually written before the release of the movie, which may explain why Foster ignored the characters who have become most favorite--Han Solo and Chewbacca. They do not appear in the book.

But the book is Foster. The characters, both human and alien, are similar to those Foster has created for his own books. In fact, I kept expecting a flying snake to appear on Luke Skywalker's shoulder.

There are other familiar items; the underground lake scene reminds me of The Hobbit, and the statue of the god in the temple is straight out of Lovecraft. There is a scene after Luke and Leia arrive in the mining base that comes straight from the original film.

But this book would not make a film the caliber of the original Star Wars. The visual excitement of the first film--the space battles, etc., are missing from Splinter. There are light-sabre duels between Luke and Vader, and energy-beam gunfights, but nothing as spectacular as the Death Star dogfight scene. The book, though, as a book, is good. I recommend it to your reading.



REVIEW

THE BEST OF TREK "from the magazine for Star Trek fans"

Edited by Walter Irwin and G. B. Love

With the increased interest in science-fiction in general, and Star Trek in particular, it is not surprising to see another publisher wanting to get on the bandwagon. Such seems to be the case for Signet, who has so far published *The Star Trek Quiz Book*, and now, *The Best of TREK*.

TREK, for those of you unfamiliar with ST fandom, is a fanzine by the two editors of this volume, and has been around for some time. It started out as a tabloid, then graduated to a magazine-format. It has recently been taking advertising in such pro magazines as *STARLOG* and its associates.

This book, though, is just so much *schlock*.

Even for *trekkies*, (-ers), the sheer repetition of such articles as "How Much I Love Spock", "Why the Klingons Eat Rice Pudding", and "How DeForrest Kelly Combs His Hair", must be nauseating.

Not that those are actual titles, but they could be. There is very little new material explored in this book, even considering the fact that it is all reprinted from the fanzine. But there is a lot of repetition. The authors of most of the articles, in fact, could have engaged in much more constructive activities--like twiddling their thumbs.

An example of the kind of pseudo-scientific article; from Janet Smith-Bozarth's "A Look At Star Trek Fandom":

"When two (or more) fans meet, certain code signs are exchanged to identify one as "Fan" or "Non Fan". Usually, the right hand is held palm forward, thumb extended at a 45° angle, while the fingers are held rigidly together forming a "V" shape between the index and second, and the third and little fingers.

"There are three major division of Fans: Trekkers, Trekkists, and Trekkies.

"The Trekkist is someone who watches the show periodically, may attend a Convention (if it is held in the immediate area), but is not actively involved in Fandom.

"The Trekker is the backbone of Fandom--the more mature Fans.

"The Trekkies are the obnoxious little creatures that are forever underfoot at Cons and meetings:...drooling at the sight of one of the show's stars."

This reviewer could take issue with the above, but believes it does not need discussion here.

But perhaps the thing that put me off most about this book was in the opening article by G. B. Love, "Star Trek Then and Now". In this article, he explains his reasoning behind why Star Trek fandom is so much better than anybody else:

..."Star Trek fandom has to be the best fandom for communication among its members.

"Science fiction [fandom] is far too pseudo-intellectual, comics fandom is too money-conscious--but Star Trek fandom is like a universal session where we can share our mutual feelings about a very personal thing to each of us: Star Trek."

This narrow attitude explains the rest of the book. Evidently Mr. Love has not been to a science fiction convention, has never seen an sf fanzine. For him, as with thousands of other trekkies (using *my* definition, not that above), Star Trek is the be-all and end-all of the universe. Ultimately, this narrow-minded outlook will doom Trek fandom.

--Shelby Bush III