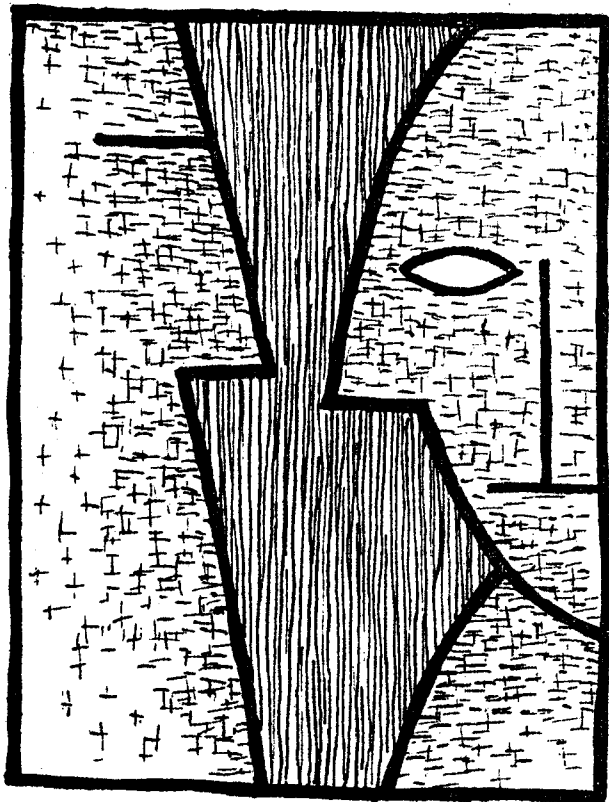


T H E C O S M I C D U S T B U G

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SF WEEKLY (formerly DEGLER!)

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LUNACON REPORT

275 fans, professionals, and readers of sf attended the 10th Annual Luna-Con sf conference at the Roosevelt Hotel, April 29th and 30th. Pros in attendance included James Blish, Guest of Honor; Judith Merrill; Roger & Judy Zelazny; Arthur C. Clarke; L. Sprague de Camp; Ted & Robin White; Dave & Cindy van Arnam; Lin & Noel Carter; Terry & Carol Carr; Samuel R. Delany; Alexie Panshin; Lester & Evelyn del Rey; Dannie Plachta; Hal Clement; Judy Lynn-Benjamin; Dick & Pat Lupoff; Lee Hoffman; Gray Morrow;

'...a glimpse, a mere momentary peep, into the vast and ageless volume of human insignificance.'

Joe Furphy - who else? Maybe I'll adopt it as a motto for this... this ... publication. Which started off as a method of answering a lot of letters at a time, and misfired. (Now I get twice as many letters...)

John Bangsund is responsible. He ~~Yives~~ types stencils at 19 Gladstone Avenue, Northcote N.16, Melbourne, Australia. At present. Watch for a new address shortly. Nigh bankrupted by their involvement with sf fandom, the editor and his wife look like being forced to remove to the slums of Ferntree Gully. Not far from the Hardings. Such degradation after the grandeur of Northclump!

This issue is again provided gratis to ASFR subscribers and some others. It remains to be seen whether this arrangement can be kept up. Present plan is to issue CDBug twice each month, every second or third number coinciding with an issue of ASFR, and possibly bound in with it.

The object of CDBug is (now) to provide a news service for Australian sf enthusiasts. I keep my eyes open but I don't hear all the news. (My ears don't see too well, either.) So I rely on you, dear reader, to draw my attention to matters of general interest. I'll use my discretion, of course, but I would appreciate your marking any parts of your correspondence with me not for publication.

Book lists and club news will appear in CDBug in future, not in ASFR.

The quote is from THE BULN-BULN AND THE BROLGA. As if you didn't know.

Frank Kelly Freas; and a host of others.

The program was upset by the failure of several of those scheduled for it to appear. However, Charlie Brown was quick to recruit other talent to fill the vacancies in the program, and those scheduled in the Program Book but absent were replaced by other panelists.

A major problem of the convention was the lack of co-operation by the hotel management, who hemmed and hawed about various portions of the contract after it had been signed. Another problem was the cash bar at the EasterCon parties, Friday and Saturday nights, where drinks frequently cost more than people wished to spend (\$1.43 for a screwdriver; 42¢ for a glass of ginger ale), which resulted in more restrained parties than there would otherwise have been. The high price of rooms, likewise, also hindered the development of any large room parties. Few if any actually stayed at the hotel.

However, any convention can be good in spite of the hotel, and the LunaCon was no exception. The New Writers panel, which opened the convention Saturday afternoon, was in fine shape, with Ted White, Lin Carter and Dave van Arnam bringing up several good points. There is, possibly, some objection to calling these three "new writers", since all have sold at least three books, and indeed Ted White outlined his hopes for the future, when he will have gone beyond writing for a living and will have branched out into other forms of writing.

Samuel R. Delany, next speaker, gave a talk centering around his own work, explaining a good deal of what went into the creation of THE EINSTEIN INTERSECTION, and answered questions from the floor.

I unfortunately missed the Pro Artists panel - Kelly Freas, Gray Morrow, John Schoenherr - but did catch the last panel of the day, a special one moderated by Ted White, and consisting of Lester del Rey and Terry Carr. The theme of the panel seemed to be about distribution and writing of sf, with comments by Ted and Terry on the reasons for Ace Books' expected

increase in both book size and price. Terry naturally defended Ace Books, but Ted noted that it's a sorry state of affairs when a distributor suggests they can make more money if a publisher changes the size and price of their books, and an even sorer one if the publisher meekly goes along with the idea. A short period of general invective against the gradual increase in the price of paperbacks, coupled with a general decrease in pages, followed. The panel eventually got bogged down in an argument between Ted and Lester on the advisability of a Utopia on Earth with all Man's wants fulfilled and all his troubles ended. Ted took the stand that it might free him for what he really wanted to do or be, while Lester felt that it would mean the end of human civilization as we know it today. The panel was fascinating, but overlong; the audience was getting quite restless toward the end.

This ended the program for the day; the EasterCon party was held that evening, into which many people brought their own mixers and hard liquor, circumventing the cost of that which the hotel provided.

The program Sunday began with a panel hastily thrown together, instead of the announced "Trends in SF". I missed much of this, as I was completing my collection of F&SF from the various booksellers in the other hall.

((JB: Don't like this double column arrangement, do you?))

At 2.30 James Blish gave his Guest of Honor speech, in which he noted some interesting things about his novelization of the TV show, STAR TREK. Blish said that of 8 scripts originally given him he threw one away as being impossible to write, and that this one was by a sf writer. Blish said that, generally, scripts for STAR TREK by professional sf writers were terrible and full of holes and technical impossibilities, as viewed from a TV production viewpoint, which

is why STAR TREK went back to using TV hacks who could write scripts for TV production. Blish also said that the sales of his book resulted in a second printing of 25,000 after an initial run of 125,000, and this is the first time one of his books has had a second printing within 3 months of its initial publication. He also noted that the surprising sales figures were one of the reasons why STAR TREK was renewed for the next season.

The final item on the program was a dialogue between Roger Zelazny and Alex Panshin, which degenerated into a How-I-Got-My-Start-In-SF session.

The convention was over by 6pm, with people hurriedly leaving and giving the room that disorderly and silently empty look all conventions must inevitably get. The Lunacon will be held at a different hotel next year; perhaps with a different setting and more hospitable hotel management the Lunacon will be better next year. This year it was too formal for me and, although the program was good, lacking in the little bit of mad partying that I've come to expect at the LunaCons.

Born: To John and Bjo Trimble; a daughter, Lora JoAnne, 8lbs 8½oz, blonde, blue-eyed, April 4th, by caesarian section. Mother and daughter doing well, now at home.

Notes From Publisher's Weekly: At the annual dinner of the Mystery Writers Of America, held April 21st at the Biltmore Hotel, New York City, the cover for Theodore Sturgeon's SOME OF YOUR BLOOD won Best Award under 'Best Individual Jacket: Softcover.' New releases include NO BLADE OF GRASS by John Christopher, from Avon (June 20: 60¢) and THE RIM WORLD LEGACY, by F.A. Javor, from N.A.L. (June 20: 60¢). The latter seems to be terrible Thud & Blunder; the former is a re-release of a Crest Book. (28.4.67)

RATATOSK REVIVES: Bruce Pelz's biweekly newszine, last published in February, has been revived. Issues 44 and 45 came in the mail this week, full of old news stolen from DEGLER!, SF TIMES, and the official organs of half a dozen apas. If Pelz can keep up the biweekly grind, good luck to him. I need another news sheet to steal news from...

TAFF TRIP PUBLISHED: Arthur Thomson, who came to the US in 1964 to attend the Pacificon in Oakland, California, has finally had his TAFF-trip published. The report, which is mimeographed, multitudinously (?) illustrated, and runs to some 90+ pages, can be obtained by sending \$1.00 to IAN PETERS, 292 SOUTH-END LANE, CATFORD, LONDON SE6, ENGLAND. This is the first TAFF report to be published in some years. Wally Weber, who went to England early in the decade, and Terry Carr, who went to England for the 1965 LonCon II, are both reportedly working on their reports, the benefits of which go to the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund. Tom Schluck, who attended the TriCon in 1966, has already had part of his report published in German fanzines.

Pickering Returns: Stephen Pickering, boy fugghead, who stole some \$4,000 worth of materials from Forry Ackermann (see DEGLER! 164/5/7) has a letter in the June issue of IF. Pickering, under the name of Leslie A. Reece, castigates fannish fanzines as "anti-intellectual" (what else?) and fannish fans as clods. He praises Stephen Pickering, Lester del Rey, Alexei Panshin and Leland Sapiro as Great Brains of Modern SF, in a letter which opens, "As a sociologist..." Not to disparage del Rey, Panshin & Sapiro as nuts, but he has the gall to place his own name up there, too!!! The letter must

be seen to be believed, and is the best thing IF has ever printed in its lettercol. (Thanx, Bill Donaho & Ted White!)

Prolific Lin Carter Dept.: Books due out within the next few months from this prolific writer include TOWER AT THE EDGE OF TIME (Belmont: June); THONGOR AGAINST THE GODS (Paperback Library: Fall); FLAME OF IRADAR (Belmont: Fall); and THE PLANETOID PLOT (Avalon: Fall). In addition, AN EVENING AT THE FANOCLASTS will be appearing in IF soon. (shudder!) ((JB: And Lin will have a letter in ASFR 10. In the course of which he advises - and I'm not sure if I've published this anywhere - that he is reviving his fanzine SPECTRUM; it is to be an annual review of the year's sf, and will feature the redoubtable William Atheling Jr.))

Bail Damon Knight Out Dept.: Damon Knight advises that he will not send a copy of his PROJECT BOSKONE speech to anyone who writes for it. He will send a copy to each fanzine editor who promises to publish it. ((JB: Yes, folks, I've asked for a copy for ASFR.))

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY: Arthur C. Clarke reports that the film has been even more delayed in production, and will be released in the Spring of ~~2002~~ 1968. ((JB: Guess when we will see it, eh? FAHRENHEIT 451 is just about ready for Melbourne; STAR TREK has somehow reached Bendigo, but not here; meanwhile we watch 007 revivals and ROBIN HOOD seventh-time-round.)) Clarke said that special effects filming was still going on at this time.

A LIFE FOR THE STARS: James Blish reports that film rights have been bought and he has made a movie script of the book. Scheduled for filming in about three years, if it is successful the entire Okie series will be filmed.

SAMUEL R. DELANY POSTED: The Week In Books in the NEW YORK POST for April 29th featured an interview with Samuel R. Delany, complete with a photo taken by a graduate from the Mug Shot Academy. The interview says: "He grew up in Harlem, went to Dalton, Bronx High School of Science, and City College (for a couple of years) and has been publishing since he was 19. He is now 25. Science Fiction is not lucrative: 'I average about \$3,000 a year.'" Delany listed Zelazny as a favorite, and Bradbury as passe.

Hippie Seder for SF SF Fans: On Thursday, April 20, Grania Davidson said out loud, "Why not have a passover seder for Jewish hippies in the Haight-Ashbury?" In stead of letting it go at that, she called up some people who put her in touch with several rabbis, and that was the start of the Great Jewish Conspiracy which culminated on Monday evening, the 24th, in a complete passover ceremony with dinner and all being held, all free in the social room of the Hamilton Methodist Church on Waller Street, right in the middle of the Haight. (Why in a Methodist Church? As the rabbi said, "Ecumenism opens doors.") There were about 85-90 people in attendance, of which maybe 20 were the rabbi's extended family and the rest were a good cross-section of hippies and fans. Fans in attendance included Bob & Margo Lichtman, Avram Davidson, Grania Davidson & Dick Gumbiner, Bob Chazin, and Hugh Letty. (5.5.67)

JB: Unless I receive six (6) objections, I propose to publish CDBug on foolscap stock from next issue onwards. Objectors should enclose a small donation to convince me of their sincerity.

THE HUGO NOMINATIONS

(alphabetical)

BEST NOVEL 1966:

Samuel R. Delany:	BABEL-17	(Ace)
Thomas Burnett Swann:	DAY OF THE MINOTAUR	(Ace)
Daniel Keyes:	FLOWERS FOR ALGERNON	(Harcourt/Cassell)
Robert A. Heinlein:	THE MOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS	(IF)
Randall Garrett:	TOO MANY WITCHES	(ANALOG)
James H. Schmitz:	THE WITCHES OF KARRES	(Chilton)

BEST NOVELETTE 1966:

Charles L. Harness:	THE ALCHEMIST	(ANALOG: May)
..	AN ORNAMENT TO HIS PROFESSION	(ANALOG: Feb.)
Robert M. Green:	APOLOGY TO INKY	(F&SF: Jan.)
Gordon R. Dickson:	CALL HIM LORD	(ANALOG: May)
Hayden Howard:	THE ESKIMO INVASION	(GALAXY: June)
Roger Zelazny:	FOR A BREATH I TARRY	(FANTASTIC: Sept.)
Jack Vance:	THE LAST CASTLE	(GALAXY: April)
Thomas Burnett Swann:	THE MANOR OF ROSES	(F&SF: Nov.)
Roger Zelazny:	THIS MOMENT OF THE STORM	(F&SF: June)

BEST SHORT STORY 1966:

Brian Aldiss:	A MAN IN HIS TIME	(WCRaM? Harcourt)
Roger Zelazny:	COMES NOW THE POWER	(MAGofHORROR 14)
Harlan Ellison:	DELUSION FOR A DRAGON SLAYER	(KNIGHT: Sept)
Bob Shaw:	LIGHT OF OTHER DAYS	(ANALOG: August)
Fred Saberhagen:	MISTER JESTER	(IF: Jan.)
Larry Niven:	NEUTRON STAR	(IF: Oct.)
Raymond F. Jones:	RAT RACE	(ANALOG: April)
Richard McKenna:	THE SECRET PLACE	(ORBIT 1: Berkley)
No Award		

BEST MAGAZINE 1966:

ANALOG	(John W. Campbell)
GALAXY	(Frederik Pohl)
IF	(Frederik Pohl)
NEW WORLDS	(Michael Moorcock)
No Award	

BEST ARTIST 1966:

Kelly Freas
Jack Gaughan
Gray Morrow
John Schoenherr

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION 1966:

THE NAKED TIME	(STAR TREK)
THE MENAGERIE	(STAR TREK)
THE CORBOMITE MANOEUVRE	(STAR TREK)
FAHRENHEIT 451	(Universal)
FAN TASTIC VOYAGE	(20thC. Fox)
No Award	

FAN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATIONS ("PONG AWARDS")

BEST FANZINE 1966:

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW	(John Bangsund)
HABAKKUK	(Bill Donaho)
LIGHTHOUSE	(Terry Carr)
NIEKAS	(Ed. Meskys & Felice Rolfe)
RIVERSIDE QUARTERLY	(Leland Sapiro)
TRUMPET	(Tom Reamy)
YANDRO	(Robert & Juanita Coulson)

BEST FAN WRITER 1966:

Norm Clarke
Bill Donaho
Alexei Panshin
Harry Warner, Jr.
Paul J. Willis

BEST FAN ARTIST 1966:

George Barr
Jack Gaughan
Jeff Jones
Steve Stiles
Arthur Thomson

279 nominations were counted. Of the 212 voting for fan categories, 161 favored the separate Fan Achievement Awards, while 51 voted for the fanzine award to remain a Science Fiction Achievement Award. (12.5.67)

FANFARE OF DIDJERIDOOS...

JB: Well, friends, there we are on the List. To my knowledge, the first Australian fanzine to make the Award ballot, and, I would imagine, one of the few fanzines to make the ballot in its first year of publication. This deserves a Statement...

The decision by the New York Convention Committee to discontinue the Hugo Award for fanzines, and to replace it with three Fan Achievement Awards - or "Pong" Awards, has caused considerable controversy. A number of fanzines actively campaigned against the "Pong" designation, among them NIEKAS, TRUMPET, and DOUBLE BILL. Others regarded it with amusement. Leland Sapiro, editor of RIVERSIDE QUARTERLY, circulated fandom with a curious letter in which he announced his wholehearted approval of the "Pong" and, I feel, ran down those people opposing it, particularly DOUBLE BILL. I think Leland has neither gained friends nor influenced people by this action, but that's his business.

As far as I am concerned - and I am concerned, which is why I am writing this - I regard the nomination as a great honour: to Australian fandom, to ASFR's contributors, and to myself. And in that order. Every person who casts a vote in the final ballot, every person who reads the nominations list, will know that something is happening in Australia - and I am proud that my typing skill, financial imbecility, and access to a dictionary, have made this knowledge available.

Meanwhile it is a source of vast amusement and frustration to me that ASFR has been nominated for a "Pong" Award. I hardly dare tell my non-fan friends. All this time I have been trying to convince them that sf fans are a more intelligent lot than the masses. And maybe we are. We tend to talk about the Hugo as if it were a Nobel Prize; calling the award a "Pong" restores our sense of proportion. And, at least, this odious name honours a great fan. One shudders to think what some organizing committee might come up with next. The "Corflu" Award, the "Ghu" Award, the you-know-who award...? All things are possible.

A number of people have suggested that we in Australia make our own awards, through ASFR. I hope when the time comes we will decide to honour the worst efforts of the year with, say, a "Spong" Award, or "Cheap Imported Japanese Plastic Boomerang" Award. And, as I have suggested before, the trophy should be a small replica of the Ulverstone (Tasmania) War Memorial, which looks from a distance like a bauhaus-surrealist's conception of a spaceship, and could only have been designed and executed by the most dedicated philistine (or pacifist) in the island.

SF WEEKLY 183 is devoted to a survey of U.S. sf markets. This is of perhaps rather wider interest than most material contained in CDBug, so, with Andy's permission, I will reprint it in ASFR 10.

OLAF STAPLEDON: Thanks to various people I now have on my shelf copies of LAST MEN IN LONDON, DEATH INTO LIFE, and A MAN DIVIDED. Meantime, Graham Hall has been active on my behalf in England, and has procured for me A MAN DIVIDED and LATTER DAY PSALMS (which I will be most interested to compare with my curious hand-written copy). The Victorian State Library has a copy of A MODERN THEORY OF ETHICS, which I will have recourse to if I don't find a copy for myself in the next month or so. I would still like to buy or borrow the following volumes: NEW HOPE FOR BRITAIN, DARKNESS AND THE LIGHT, THE FLAMES, PHILOSOPHY AND LIVING (Pelican), SAINTS AND REVOLUTIONARIES, OLD MAN IN NEW WORLD, YOUTH AND TOMORROW, and the Journal of the British Interplanetary Society, November 1948. (To make the picture quite clear: at this moment I own the following works of Stapledon - LAST & FIRST MEN, SIRIUS, LATTER DAY PSALMS, BEYOND THE ISMS, THE OPENING OF THE EYES, WAKING WORLD, THE STARMAKER, A MAN DIVIDED, ODD JOHN.)

NYCON 3: A friend writes that he has sent off his dollar for membership of the World Convention, has had no acknowledgement from the organizers, and is rather alarmed that a correspondent in New York has not heard of the NyCon. "Is this some kind of a hoax?" he asks. No, sir, it certainly is not. If your correspondent is not having you on, she is certainly out of touch, to say the least. Membership cards, progress reports, &c &c are sent surface mail from New York, which explains the delay.

Incidentally, if you haven't joined the Convention, and you would like to do so, I would urge you to do it fairly soon. I imagine the Hugo and Pong ballot papers will be going out shortly, and voting for these awards is the main privilege you get for your dollar. I would hate to think that anyone would pay a dollar to see me lumbered with a Pong Award - surely you have a favourite novel, story, or magazine to vote for in the Hugo section - but far be it from me to deny you this pleasure. A membership application form appeared in the last CDBug, but a note would suffice; send it, with an international money order for \$1.00, to Andrew Porter, 24 East 82nd Street, New York, 10028, USA - or send your dollar to me (stamps acceptable) and I'll see it gets to Andy by airmail. (Airmail postage to USA is 20¢ per half ounce.)

ASFR 10: Delayed a little, due to a particularly hectic Tasmanian trip, but worth waiting for. Letter column will include Judith Merril, Lin Carter, Mike Moorcock, Brian Aldiss.

SF HORIZONS: Harry Harrison advises that work is in progress on no.3, and that this issue will contain an article on Australian sf. Harry is about to move into a new house at Imperial Beach, California.

Captain A. Bertram Chandler reports red carpet treatment for wife Susan in San Francisco. Mrs. Chandler is on a business trip to America, England, and wherever. Bert hopes Susan will remonstrate with Ace Books over their awful titles; latest butchery - Bert's TO RIDE THE NIGHTMARE becomes NEBULA ALERT.

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THE COSMIC DUSTBUG *

a science fiction newsletter
from John Bangsund
19 Gladstone Avenue
Northcote N.16 Victoria

S F WEEKLY (formerly DEGLER!) *

a science fiction newsletter
from Andrew Porter
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New York N.Y. 10028 U.S.A.

wherein may be found news of:

- * The Hugo Nominations
- * LunaCon
- * Blish Novel To Be Filmed
- * Hippie/sf Passover in Frisco
- * NyCon a Hoax?
- * etc etc

Page 1 illustration by
James W. Ellis

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Postscript, 14.7.67:

I report, sadly, the death of Stephen Cook on Sunday, 9th July. The full circumstances of his death are not known to me at this stage, but I am given to understand that he took his own life.

Stephen is known to readers of ASFR as the author of several reviews in recent issues, and of the fascinating short story in No.10. His work also appeared in SCIENCE FANTASY no.55 and (as Morris Nagel) in NEW WORLDS no.122; he appeared in a recent Australian book called UNDER 25, and was well-known in Melbourne University circles as the creator of the cartoon strip 'Porous Pasternak' in FARRAGO.

Those who knew Stephen personally knew him as a young man of high intelligence and unfailing good nature. We admired his friendliness and his obvious ability; we were confident he would one day make good the considerable promise he showed as a writer. We are left with fragments of his work, and memories of his person. We regret the work we will never see, but we will treasure the memories.

John Bangsund