

FROM OUT
OF THE ASHES,
A VOICE

8

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CARTER / 1983

MINUTES

The July meeting of ASFiC was called to order at 8:25 pm. This was the first meeting at the YMCA and the room is large!

Steve Hughes asked for some time at the beginning of the meeting to explain exactly what the steering committee was, why it was, why ASFiC was incorporated, when, by whom, etc., etc., etc. After Steve's explanations and answers, it was generally agreed by the membership not to discuss this matter any longer until the new ByLaws are presented.

Steve Hughes announced that it would be a good idea to have a membership drive around the time of the Atlanta Fantasy Fair complete with fliers and posters.

Bill Ritch announced he needed contestants to participate in September's programming. Steve Hughes, Marilyn White, and Jim Price all volunteered.

Marilyn White questioned the possibility of ASFiC having a room party at the Fantasy Fair. It was agreed that since Joe Celko would be running the con suite, the club could congregate there informally.

Deb Hammer Johnson announced the KSSF anniversary party, the last Saturday in July. Everyone was invited.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Bulman, Secretary

MONEY

Balance as of 7/1/83	\$ 498.59
Credits: Dues:	\$30.00
Debits:	
July postage:	20.00
YMCA room	20.00
(2) Plastic ribbon	13.50
Aug postage	20.00
Balance as of 8/1/83	\$ 455.09

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Boros, Treasurer

ERNIE KOVAKS



DIED FOR OUR SINS!

JERRY CALTAS 1980

PROGRAMMING

Program for the August meeting will consist of a panel discussion of Libertarian Fandom.

FROM OUT OF THE ASHES #8 (Volume II, No. 2, Whole No. 8, ASFiC Club-zine No. 2, Whole No. 74, August, 1983, is the official publication of the Atlanta Science Fiction Club, INC. Editor: Rich Howell, 959-A, Waverly Ct., Norcross, GA 30071. ASHES is free to dues-paid members of ASFiC. Other ways to receive ASHES include trades, letters of comment, art, reviews, art, con reports, art, articles of interest, art, editorial whim, art, or 12/\$6 sub. (Can you tell our fillo file is depleted?) ASHES contents are copy-right (c) 1983 by AGL Graphics, with all rights returned after publication. WARNING: I may have to use my own illos next issue.....

RAMBLIN' ON

Type! Snip! Cut! Paste! Press!

Anyone who has ever undertaken the exquisite agony of editing a fan magazine of any ilk takes a sensory bath with those five words. Some will actually cringe at the mere mention of the basic tasks of the fanzine editor. In college, I minored in journalism, at times relishing the thought of actually putting together a paper or a magazine or a literary journal.

Somewhere along the line, someone neglected to let me in on the onerous secret of fanzine and/or newsletter composition. The mechanics of putting out a newsletter are tedious, true, especially on deadline eve, when the typing and reducing and arranging of the contents mean a sleepless night. But the tedium and the eyestrain of physically putting the pieces of the zine together and pressing out the fonts are as nothing compared to the dread truth of being the editor and being responsible for completing the most dread task of all: composing the editorial.

Never is one at more of a loss for something to say when the time comes to fill a page when everything from the contributors has already been used. Well, if nothing else works, why don't I take a cue from the editors of the slicks and use the space to explain a few things and talk a bit about what you'll find inside this month?

When I transferred all the leftover ASHES material to my own filing system, I chanced across a discourse on horror fiction by John Whatley that I could not afford to let languish longer because he may be waiting for its appearance before contributing further. I hope!

Sue "Who"'s charming Rivercon conreport is the first for ASHES in a good while, a spur to this editor to do something that may inspire further conreports for the clubzine.

Brad Linaweaver has apparently forsworn his avowed taste in bad movies long enough to capsule several of this summer's bountiful crop of SF/Fantasy films, with a little help from some friends, of course.

Talented Marilyn White has graced these pages at last with a sampling of her calligraphy, a happy circumstance whose recurrence I await.

On a more serious note, I need to explain that ASHES #7 was assembled during a transition period wherein reducing xerox was not available. Therefore, I had to make some editing decisions in order to keep the clubzine affordable postage-wise. This meant that I could not exceed one ounce of clubzine without incurring a 17¢ per copy penalty. To stay within weight limitations, I decided not to print two letters, although I did acknowledge them both. I was taken to task for this editorial decision, but that will not prevent me doing the same in the future. It was my decision that the material did not merit depleting the treasury an additional \$9 for the necessary postage to include it.

Overweight postage this issue has been donated by the Istacon Committee to cover inclusion of the convention flier.

Rich Howell

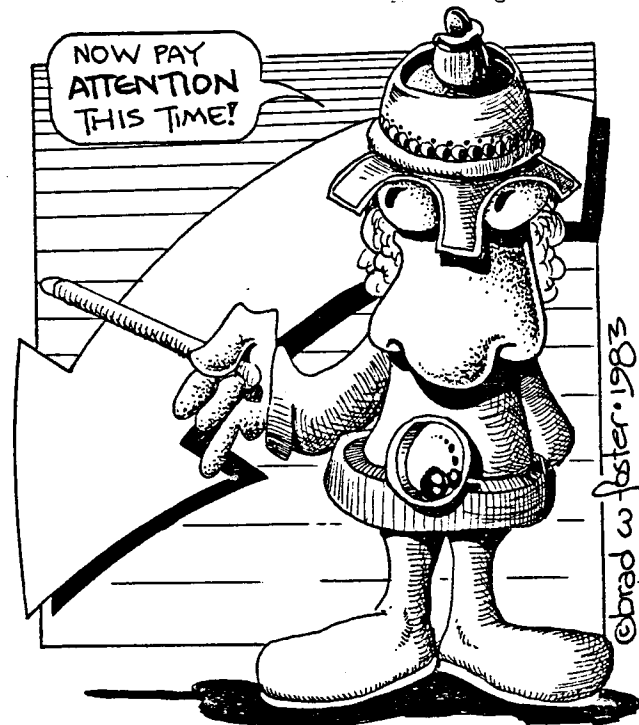
Michael Bishop's novelette, "The Gospel According to Gamaliel Crusis," will appear in the November issue of IASFM. (LOCUS)

Joe Haldeman has been chosen for a visiting professorship at MIT for the next year, which will probably curtail some of his convention visits. (Greg Benford and LOCUS)

For those who like to keep track of future movies, DUNE is now in production with the following cast:

Emperor	Jose Ferrer
Reverend Mother	Sian Phillips
Paul	Kye MacLachlan
Jessica	Francesca Annis
Duke Leto	Jugen Prochnow
Thufir Hawat	Freddie Jones
Gurney Halleck	Aldo Ray
Dr. Yugh	Dean Stockwell
Baron Harkonnen	Kenneth McMillan
Duncan Idaho	Richard Jordan
Feyd	Sting

Also, Frank Herbert has turned in DUNE 5, HERETICS OF DUNE, a mere 200,000 words "about the evolution and devolution of the Bene Gesserit; about a penultimate gholia, Duncan Idaho; about descendants of the Atrides who are now servants of the Bene Gesserit. It takes place long after the famine times and the scattering." (LOCUS)



The Atlanta Fantasy Fair was held August 5-7 at the Omni Hotel with 2400+ in attendance. Highlights were a superlative slideshow by Richard Pini (Elfquest) and a demonstration of the new all-in-one Access computer by Ted and Jayne Sturgeon, plus the usual large Costume contest.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Bob Pavlat, 57, a longtime fan and member of the Constellation committee. Bob, along with wife Peggy Rae, was also Treasurer of FAPA, the oldest fannish APA, and in 1952 collaborated with Bill Evans on the bibliographic FANZINE INDEX. (LOCUS)

NEWS

From Deb Hammer Johnson:

"An interesting happening ... is the decision that Larry and I plan on "combining book collections," to use an apt phrase, sometime in the future. Final plans are vague due to the fact that we are presently living and working in two separate cities, and both of us wish to eradicate debts, etc., before jumping the broom. This presents me with some complex decisions, such as a readjustment in my custody situation, and what to do about my name change. Should it be (take a deep breath...) Deb Hammer Johnson Mason, or Deb Hammer Mason (sounds like a construction firm), or simply Deborah Mason? The latter isn't too bad, but my credit and personal records, as well as world famous acronym *DHJ* would have to be changed. Larry could be weird and change his name to something like Larry Mason Hammer, or get real weird and call himself Larry Hammer Johnson Mason. And think about our kids. Modern life can be so confusing."

Kathy Kaufmann and Jim Price merged their art portfolios August 13th at the Church of St. Ann in Marietta. Atlanta fandom was well represented as fanartist Jerry Collins served as best man and Damon Hill performed capably as photographer. Also attending were Becky Williamson and the three Howells. Confusion reigned in the receiving line with a bewildering assortment of fathers, mothers, stepfathers and stepmothers, but the happy couple left no confusion over names. Kathy will remain Kathleen Kaufmann for art purposes, and Kathleen Kaufmann-Price elsewhere. Jim will remain an emphatic Jim Price.

Which all seems to bring to mind a possible trend for stragetic fannish marriages in the area. Deb Hammer will unite with Larry Mason (construction firm, indeed!). The English translation of Kaufmann is 'buyer,' so it appears Kathy 'Buyer' has settled on the right Price. All together now, Grrrooaaann!!

Although details are skimpy at presstime, it appears that former Atlanta member Janice Gelb has also removed herself from the ranks of single fen. Janice was to be married this weekend (13th-14th) in Miami, with the couple apparently moving to Israel. More details as they become available.

Philip (Raiders of the Lost Arc) Kaufman has bought movie rights to eleven of Talbot Mundy's Jimgrim novels and plans to write and direct at least a trilogy from them, with Steve Roth as producer. (LOCUS)

Wherein John Whatley treats us to an overview of "a few of his favorite things...."

HORROR TALES

Several people, particularly those who have read my series on "Horror and the Supernatural" in ATARANTES (now infrequently published), have asked me what my favorite horror yarns are.

This first article for ASFiC is merely a list of certain horror/fantasy stories that I, for no particular reason, think are good.

Fair warning, though; I give away the plots of the stories.

"The Thing in the Cellar" is a cheery tale. There is a heavy door from the kitchen to the cellar. The young lad of the family has no fear when the door is bolted, but seems afraid when the door to the cellar is open. Father decides to break the lad of being afraid of the dark. The young lad is left in the kitchen and the cellar door is left open. Guess what happens.

"Heading Home" is my favorite Ramsey Campbell story. Victim has been attacked by his wife's lover, the local butcher, and has been thrown into the cellar. Although we are not told what injuries victim has suffered, we suffer with him as he slowly climbs the stairs. We also learn that he's considered to be a "mad scientist" and that he, by using certain chemicals found in children's brains, has achieved eternal life, even curing cancer. When we leave our victim, we find that it is only his head that we have been accompanying up the stairs, and the story ends with the head causing the severed body to sew itself back together. Lovely.

"The Copper Bowl". Vicious mandarin (of the "yellow menace" pulps) is attempting to force the French hero to tell him where the French troops are. Mandarin will, of course, wipe them out. Bring out the victim, the Chinese mistress of the Frenchman. Mandarin has evil in mind. A hungry rat is placed on her stomach. A copper bowl is placed over the rat and strapped to her. Glowing coals are placed in the bowl. Rat goes nuts and tries to escape. Hero goes nuts and defeats all Chinese; rushes to his mistress; but she's not breathing. All is OK; her heart is still beating. Isn't it? Well, something is (b)eating.

"The Call of Cthulhu" is a minor tale, but it is the beginning of the Lovecraftian "Cthulhu Mythos". I discussed this in my articles in ATARANTES, so I will only say that it consists of three (seemingly) unrelated tales. You are tossed into the midst of evil invaders from outer space and at the end of the tale they are still here. It is a very complete tale. Invigorating.

"The Tree's Wife". Two social workers are visiting Appalachian-type people. One tells the other about a poor woman with several children whose husband died. He was buried under a large tree in the front yard and now the wife thinks his spirit is inhabiting the tree. Porr thing, she actually thinks that the mountain lion killed on the front steps by a falling limb was killed by the tree. As the social workers drive up, the tree is tossing the children from limb to limb. After it is scolded by the wife, the tree gently sets the children on the ground. Delightful fantasy tale.

"The Water Ghost" visits a member of a certain family every Christmas. Seems that there was some sort of curse put on the family long ago and the ghost is the one to do the visitation. Accompanied by the ghost, current hauntee calmly walks outside and sits on a bench until the ghost freezes and then deposits it in a freezer. Exit one ghost.

"Carmilla" is really a vampire novelette. I also discussed this one in my series for ATARANTES, but will say that it is a potent latent lesbian tale. Carmilla appears to be a victim all along, but she's really the vampire. This story was made into a good period Hammer film, THE VAMPIRE LOVERS; unfortunately, we in America get only a cut version. (Too much sex, doncha know.)

"The Monkey's Paw" grants three wishes to its possessor. Unfortunately, your wishes are granted in unexpected ways. Father decides he wants money and so wishes. Lo and behold! Son is horribly mangled in an accident and father receives insurance in payment for his death. No problem; father merely wishes that son come back to life. Mistake. Something on the other side of the front door bangs on it, trying to get in. Father rushes to the door; mother rushes to monkey's paw and wishes son was back in his grave. Father opens door to nothing.

"Invasion of the Body Snatchers" originally came from a short story in COLLIER'S magazine (one of the better ones on the market). You know the story: seeds from outer space grow on earth, taking over the "bodies" of humans. No one believes the hero. The original movie is the better.

"Freaks" is the name of the movie, but the original short story has another name (which I admit I have forgotten). Circus is owned by midget; female midget is in love with owner; owner is only in love with normal-sized woman, who keeps a lover on the side. Story (and movie) is told from freaks' side. Normal-sized woman is trying to rip off owner, and everyone catches on but him. In movie normal-sized woman is turned into a bird by the freaks. In the story she is completely mastered by circus owner, who rides her about the countryside. Charming.

"The Black Cat" is Poe's contribution to this. Man kills wife and walls her up in basement wall. Walls come from the wall and it is finally torn down to reveal the corpse. Man had inconveniently walled the wife's black cat, too.

Provided this column proves popular, I shall begin next time with my favorite horror movies series. See you then.

One intriguing aspect of fandom is the disparity one stumbles over when asking someone what s/he liked best about a particular convention. Usually, if one asks twenty fans what they enjoyed most at the con, one gets approximately twenty different answers. Luckily, there are those who enjoyed a particular con enough to publish a report on the most pleasurable aspects of the con. To encourage members of ASFiC (and any other readers) to enlighten others on cons attended, ASHES commences the service of a con listing, detailing all cons occurring in the coming month and Southern cons occurring in the coming several months (These being the cons members would most likely attempt to attend.). But, before you flip the page, here's a sample con report capably submitted by first-timer Sue Abramowitz...er, Abramovitz...uh, Abramowicz...*aaack! Sue Who! just to show you all how easy it really is. Right, Sue?

RIVERCON REPORT

I've never done a Con report before, and I'm not certain that I'm qualified to do this one, since I didn't see as much of it as I would have liked (I was sewing), but I'll do my best.

We arrived at Louisville in the early afternoon on Friday and things were already gearing up. The Galt Hotel is a beautiful place, in downtown and next to the river. There was a wonderful bar with a window below the water level of the pool. Unfortunately, despite the multitudinous gods I prayed to, I never saw anyone lose his trunks.

The guests of honor were the De Camps, Rusty Hevelin was the fan guest of honor, and the infamous Bob Tucker was the toastmaster.

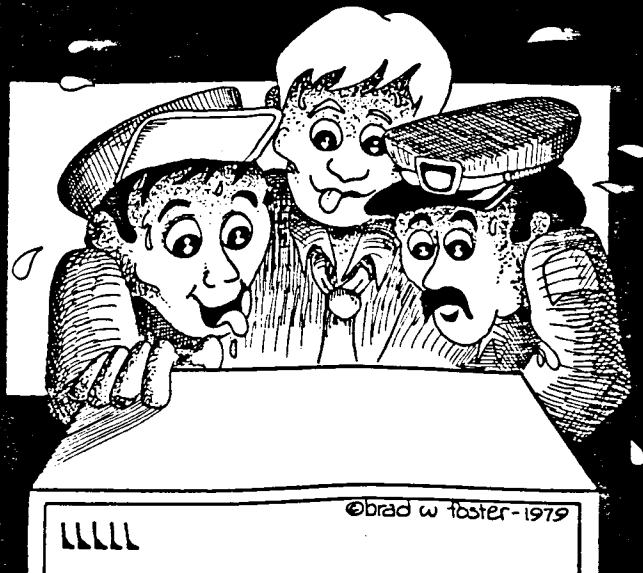
The programming was very good; there was lots of reminiscing by the pros. (It's always enlightening to see things from someone else's point of view.) There was a huge dance Friday night. Filksinging took several hours of programming and had a large and vocal attendance. The art show had some quality pieces in it and was also well attended.

Bill Breuer, a space scientist and writer, had several presentations, including the "Fourth Hypothesis". Here he made a credible, if somewhat flawed presentation on the possibility that we are colonists from a previous spacefaring civilization. (The other three hypotheses are creationism, evolution, and von Danikenism.)

It's hard not to like the masquerade, especially when you are in it. I have a special feeling for this masquerade since I took Best in Show with my group costume: Morgan le Fay at King Arthur's Court. It took most of the week to get my ego back to size so I could walk through corridors again.

All in all, it was a wonderful, friendly Con. I met some great northern fen (yes, there are some), too. Personally, I plan on making Rivercon a regular in my schedule.

POLICE VOYEURISM BEING PROBED.
CHICAGO, IL (U.P.I.) SUPERINTENDENT JAMES O'GRADY of the CHICAGO POLICE DEPT. SAID THEY ARE INVESTIGATING A NEWS REPORT THAT SEVERAL WOMEN, ARRESTED FOR MINOR TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS, WERE STRIPPED NUDE AND SEARCHED BY FEMALE OFFICERS WHILE MALE OFFICERS WATCHED CLOSED-CIRCUIT MONITORS. THOUGH ILLINOIS REGULATIONS REQUIRE "EVERY PERSON PLACED UNDER POLICE CUSTODY" BE STRIP-SEARCHED, O'GRADY SAID IT IS NOT THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY TO ROUTINELY STRIP-SEARCH FEMALE TRAFFIC VIOLATORS, UNLESS THEIR CONDUCT SEEMS "SUSPICIOUS."



THE CONS TABLE

UNICON 4 (Sep 2-4) Univ. of Essex, Colchester, U.K. accomodation £10/room per night. GoH: John Sladek. Special Guests: Angela Carter, Gerry Kilworth. FGoH: Ken Slater. Mem: £5 attending, £3 sup. Info: Unicon, 17 Laing Rd, Colchester- Essex, U.K.

X-CON (BENELUXCON 10) (Sep 2-4) Eindhoven, Holland. GoHs: Brian Aldiss, Wim Gijzen. Mem: £8.25 (Dutch Fl. 37.50). Info: Martin Berkelaar, Spreeuwendonk 51, 5467 CH Veghel, Holland.

STARCON DENVER (ST) (Sep 3-4) Stouffer's Airport, Denver, CO. Info: PO Box 19184, Denver, CO 80219

LA COMIC BOOK & SF CON (Sep 4) Ambassador Hotel, LA, CA. Info: (213) 874-7295.

COPPERCON 3 (Sep 9-11) Phoenix Hilton, Phoenix, AZ. Rms \$35. GoH: Theodore Sturgeon. FGoH: Alice Williams. Mem: \$17 to 9/8/83, \$20 at door. Info: Coppercon 3, Box 11743, Phoenix, AZ 85061.

ENCORE CON (C) (Sep 4) AmLegion Hall, Royal Oak, MI. Info: 24660 Westhampton, Oak Park, MI 48237.

SEATTLE CREATION (ST/C/M) (Sep 10-11) Madison Hotel, Seattle, WA. Info: Box 7155 Garden City, NY 11530.

FANTACON (C) (Sep 10-11) Rockefeller Con Ctr, Albany, NY. Info: 21 Central Ave, Albany, NY 12210.

BOSTON FANTASY EXPO (C/ST/M) (Sep 10-11) Park Plaza Castle, Boston, MA. Info: PO Box 67, Sewell, NJ 08080.

MID-AMERICON (C/M) (Sep 10-11) Holiday Inn, Indianapolis, IN. Info: 1904 Bardstown Rd, Louisville, KY 40205.

COMIC BOOK MARKETPLACE (C) (Sep 11) NY Sheraton, Manhattan. Info: 657 Fifth Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11215.

BUBONICON 15 (Aug 26-28, '83) Albuquerque Mountain View Inn, Albuquerque, NM. GoH: Jack Williamson. TM: Gordon Garb. Mem: \$12.50; \$15 at door. Panels, art show, films, dealers, more. Info: Bubonicon, 3405 21 Ave, SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124.

TRIPLE C CON (Aug 26-29, '83) Grand Hotel, Birmingham, U.K. Mem: £6 sup., £13 Attending. Info: Chris Chivers, 39 Nelson St, Gloucester GL1 4OX, U.K.

NEW YORK CREATION (C) (Aug 27-28) Statler Hilton, Manhattan. Info: Box 7155, Garden City, NY 11530

SPECTOR COMIC CONVENTION (C) (Aug 27-28) Stouffer's Riverfront, St Louis, MO. Info: 3407 Falling Springs, Cahokia, IL 62206.

COLLECTOR'S CON (Aug 27-28) Holiday Inn, Covington, KY. Info: 1904 Bardstown Rd, Louisville, KY 40205.

CAPE COD COMIC & FANTASY CON (Aug 27-29) Info: 42 Lewis Bay Blvd, W. Yarmouth, MA 02673.

TOLEDO COMIC & CARD SHOW (Aug 28) Ramada Inn, Toledo, OH. Info: 155 W 68th St, #317, New York, NY 10023.

RELAX-A-CON (C) (Aug 28) The Odeum, Villa Park, IL. Info: 260 N Ardmore, Villa Park, IL 60181.

NEW BRUNSWICK COMIC CON (C) (Aug 28) Somerset Travelodge, NJ. Info: PO Box 198, Lake Hiawatha, NJ 07924.

CONSTELLATION (Sep 1-5) Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD. GoH: John Brunner. FGoH: Dave Kyle. TM: Jack Chalker. Mem: \$15 Sup; Attending, \$40 to 7/15, then more. The 41st World SF Convention. Masquerade, Hugo Awards, etc. Info: Worldcon 41, Box 1046, Baltimore, MD 21203.

*"Nam et ipsa
Scientia potestas est."
(Knowledge itself is power.) - Francis Bacon
Mow*

SOUTHERN CONS

QUESTCON (Oct 1-2) Gainesville Hilton Hotel, Gainesville, FL. Guests: David Palmer, Joe Haldeman, Kay Reynolds, Richard & Wendy Pini. Mem: \$3/1-day, \$5/2-day. Dealers tables: \$42. Elfquest slide show, art show, masquerade, media, gaming. Info: Questcon, Box 1150, Gainesville FL 32602.

ARMADILLOCON 5 (Oct 7-9) Villa Capri Hotel, Austin, TX. \$38 single, \$45 dbl. \$50 dbl-dbl. GoH: Howard Waldrop. FGoH: Becky Mathews. TM: Neal Barrett, Jr. Mem: \$8 to 10/1, then \$12. Dealers tables: \$30 (incl mem). Info: Robert Taylor, P.O. Box 9612, Austin, TX 78766.

ROC*KON 8 (Oct 7-9) Hilton Inn, Little Rock, AR. GoH: Poul Anderson. FGoH: Charlie-Williams. TM: Warren Norwood. Mem: \$12 to 9/23, \$15 at door. Dealer tables: \$25 (incl mem). Info: Roc*Kon 8, P.O. Box 9911, Little Rock, AR 72219.

ROVACON 8 (Oct 14-16) Hotel Roanoke, Salem, VA. GoHs: L. Sprague & Catherine Crook de Camp. Guests: George Takei, Jean Rogers, Frank Kelly Freas, M. A. Foster. Mem: \$9.50 to 9/15, \$7.75 student. Dealers tables: \$35 to 9/15, \$50 at door (limit 5)(1 mem incl w/1st). Panels, lectures, exhibits, films, banquet, costume contest, ball. Info: RoVaCon, Box 117, Salem, VA 24153.

NECRONOMICON 1983 (Oct 28-30) Holiday Inn, Tampa, FL. \$38 single, \$42 dbl. GoHs: Piers Anthony, Robert Adams. FGoHs: Bill Ritch, Kenny Mitchrone. Mem: \$10 to 10/15, \$15 door. Costume contest, panels, Dr Who episodes, trivia, gaming, dealers. Info: Necronomicon, P.O. Box 2076, Riverview, FL 33569.

XANADU (Nov 4-6) Executive Inn, Nashville, TN. Rms: \$32/36/40/44. Mem: \$12 to 10/1, then \$16. Banquet: \$12 buffet. GoH: Kelly Freas. MC: Bob Tucker. Info: Dan Caldwell, 1706 Blair Blvd #3, Nashville, TN 37212

SCI-CON 5 (Nov 4-6) Sheraton Beach Inn, Virginia Beach, VA. Rms \$32/38. Goh: Alan Dean Foster. AGph: Ron Miller. FGoH: Curt Harpold. Mem: \$10 to 10/15. Art show, dealers room, costume contest, more. Info: Sci Con 5, P.O. Box 9434, Hampton, VA 23670.

BRAVE NEW CON (Jan 13-15, 84) Sheraton International Inn, Dulles Airport, Reston, VA. Rms: \$46. Mem: \$10 to 12/15, \$12 door. Checks to W.A.C.O. Dealers tables: \$25 (mem incl). Theme: Orwell's 1984. Masquerade. Info: W.A.C.O., Box 335, Arnold, MD 21012.

CHATTACON 9 (Jan 13-15) Read House Hotel, Chattanooga, TN. GoH: Robert Adams. MC: Bob Tucker. Mem: \$13 to 12/1, then \$16. Banquet: \$13. Rms: \$42/48/54/60. Info: Chattacon 9 Box 921, Hixson, TN 37343.

CON-TEX (Nov 25-27) Southwest Hilton, Houston, TX. Rms \$39.96 (occup 4). GoH: Anne McCaffrey. FGoH: Joanne Burger. TM: Robert Adams. Mem: \$12 to 10/31, \$15 door. Dealer tables: \$65. Info: Friends of Fandom, POB 772473, Houston 77215

UPPERSOUTHCLAVE XIV (Mar 2-4) Park Mammoth Resort, Park City, KY. Rms: \$28/34. Goh: Mike Lalor. Mem: \$5 to 9/5, \$7 to 2/14, then \$9. Dealers tables: \$15 (limit 3) Info: ConCave, POB 116, Park City, KY 42160.

SWANNCON 5 (Mar 22-25) Sheraton Inn, Boca Raton, FL. Mem: tba. Info: Conference on the Fantastic, College of Humanities, Florida Atlantic Univ, Boca Raton, FL 33431.

ISTACON (Mar 30-Apr 1) Northlake Hilton Inn, Atlanta, GA. Rms: \$45/45/51/51. Mem: \$12 to 1/1/84, \$15 to 3/1/84, then \$20. Banquet: \$15. Dealers tables: \$20. Art Show, films, video, SF/Fantasy/Pern programming, more. GoH: Anne McCaffrey. AGoH: Michael Whelan. SG: Bob Maurus. TMs: Kelly and Polly Freas. Info: Istacon, c/o 959A Waverly Ct, Norcross, GA 30071.

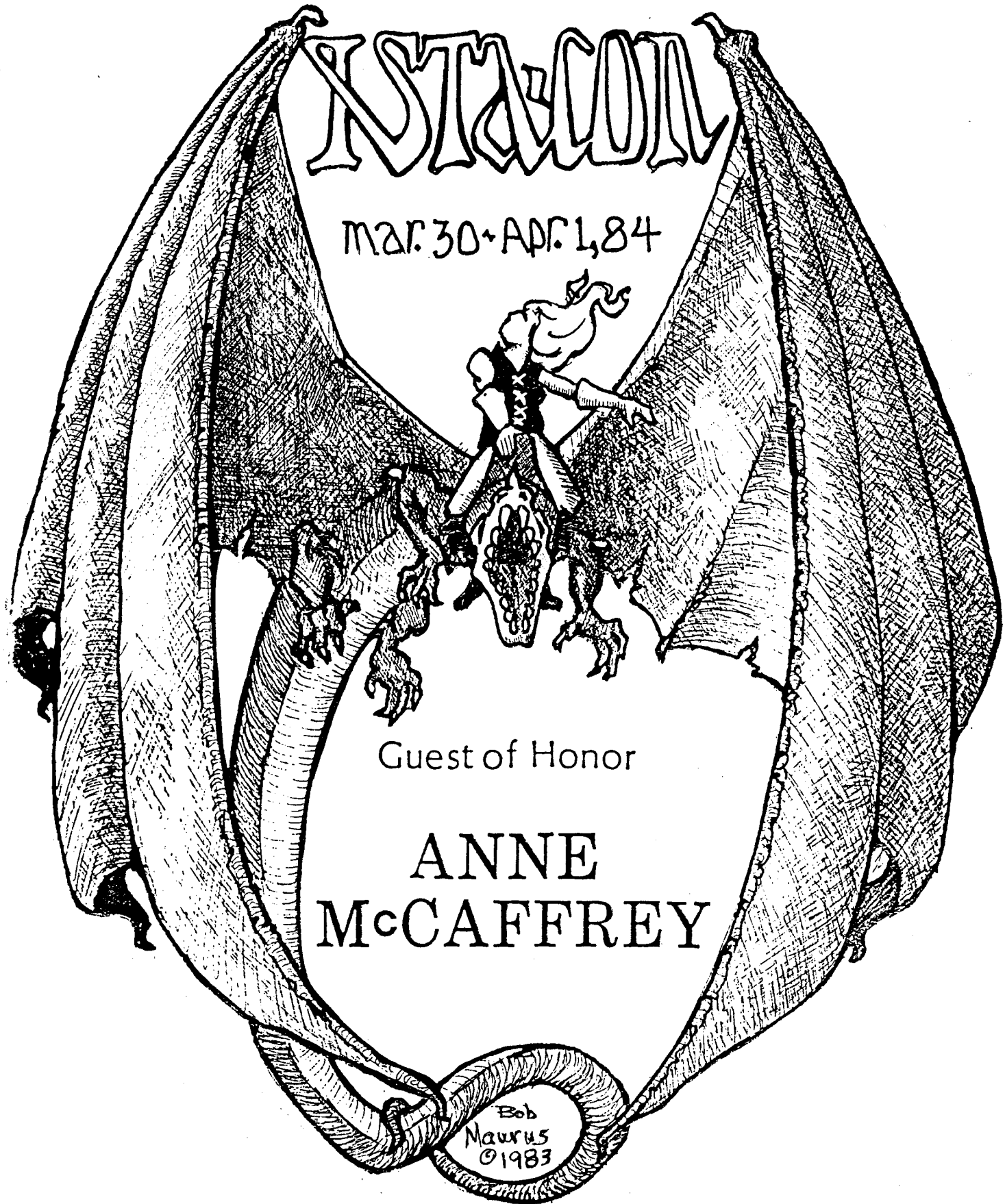
DEEPSOUTHCON XXII (Jun 21-24) Read House Hotel, Chattanooga, TN. Rms: \$41/48. Banquet \$10. Dealers tables: \$20/30/50/50/50 (limit 5). Mem: \$15 to 6/1, then \$20. GoH: Joan Vinge. TM: Karl Edward Wagner. FGoH: Jerry Page. Info: CDSC, Irvin Koch, 835 Chattanooga Bank bldg, Chattanooga, TN 37402.

KUBLA (Apr 27-29) Executive Inn, Nashville, TN. Info: 647 Devon Dr, Nashville, TN 37220.

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best of men
who dislikes
power."
- Mohammed
Now

STARCON

MAR. 30 - APR. 1, 84



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Bob
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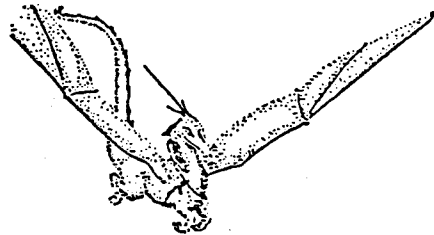
Kathleen Kaufmann Price
750 Franklin Road 17-E
Marietta, Georgia 30067

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March 1, 1984 \$20.00
DEALER TABLES \$20.00
BANQUET TICKETS \$15.00

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DER QUALITY

BRAD LINAWEAVER

Back after a short absence, our resident Nebula nominee takes us on a guided tour of this summer's abundant film treasury. (And he keeps trying to convince us that his lack of time stems from a bossy agent/manager!)

Bill Ritch and I have just been discussing Krull. We've been trying to decide what went wrong. For one thing, it's not directed well. The action scenes are all in long shot. The pacing is slow where it should be swift. We decided that one thing the director couldn't do was direct action.

So we got home, and looked up the guy in Halliwell. Peter Yates, the director of Bullit. Say what? One of the great action films of all time? Is it senility? Bill had a suggestion: "We don't use closeups anymore," he imagines the director saying, "now that we have special effects. In the old days, we needed to show people reacting to stuff off camera, but now that we have specials, we don't need that anymore."

The annoying thing about this film is that there are flashes of wit in the dialogue and some imaginative situations (such as the cave of the crystal spider) all sabotaged by bad decisions. What might have been a reasonable epic fantasy has had Star Warsy science fiction touches grafted on. Doesn't work, despite perfectly good acting. You can spend all day, but you'll never figure out how the world of Krull works. Fantasy can be as logical as science fiction, but don't look for it in this unhappy blend. The one thing I would change in this film is have the surviving characters get in Volkswagens and drive off into outer space, a la The Meaning of Life. That's only funny if you've seen the film.

At this point, you may be asking what this has to do with "Der Quality." Sounds more like one of my old "Der Krapp" columns, doesn't it? Well, gentle reader, this is my report on SFantasy films in the summer of 1983. And before I discuss my favorites, I thought I'd take a few jabs at Krull to remind you that I can be nasty when I want to.

I haven't seen Cujo yet. I have hopes. But for now, I'll just discuss Twilight Zone, Something Wicked This Way Comes, Superman III, Return of the Jedi, and Octopussy. I ain't gonna argue with anybody over whether the new James Bond film ought to be in this list. In one sense, it's the biggest fantasy of all. So let's start with it.

The Roger Moore Bond films have never compared with the Sean Connery classics. Or at least they didn't until For Your Eyes Only came out. That was the one time Moore got a script as good as the early Connery films and the other Bond classic, On Her Majesty's Secret Service. ((George Lazenby))

Well, Octopussy is Moore's second best Bond. Maybe they were nervous about the return of Connery later this year, but they combined the spectacle and silliness of a typical Moore Bond with the solid script of For Your Eyes Only. They had the services of the author of the Flashman series. He did a good job. As for the stunts, and music (John Barry is back), and casting, and feel of the film ... it's great fun. The pre-credits sequence as always, is alone worth the price of admission.'

The Twilight Zone is my favorite television of all time. Steven Spielberg is one of my least favorite directors. When I heard that they were coming together, I was worried. I needn't have been. John Landis, Joe Dante, and George Miller were also along for the ride. Even Spielberg seemed to behave himself, most of the time. This is a good movie. Not as good as the TV show at its best, but still good. No part of it is actually bad, despite all the critics dumping on the Vic Morrow story. I love the framing device as much as anyone else. My favorite story is Dante's version of Jerome Bixby's "It's a Good Life," even though it's inferior to the television version, and had an entirely inappropriate ending that I'd bet even money was Spielberg's idea. The best handled was the Miller section, topping the TV version that starred William Shatner.

Superman III is so hated by the critics that it must be doing something right. Mike Weber suggested that this current flick owes a lot to the Mort Weisinger red kryptonite stories in the comic books. Viewed this way, the film has merit. All the critics know is that THE GREAT LOVE STORY is over ... which is all the jerks ever saw in Superman anyway. My only gripe with the film is that it cheats somewhat at the end. Robert Vaughn is playing this swell villain--it's not enough that he wins; everyone else must lose--who has an even more nasty sister. The sister is turned into a robotic monstrosity by the super computer that the Richard Pryor character has invented. Boy, oh boy, was I expecting a super battle between Superman and this monster over the Grand Canyon where the action takes place. The battle never happens. They throw the opportunity away. Boo hoo. The movie almost makes up for it with the battle between the two versions of Superman/Clark Kent in the Junkyard. And Pryor is marvelous.

Those who read ASFOAWN will have seen my interview with Ray Bradbury in the August issue. His satisfaction with the film version of Something Wicked This Way Comes is expressed there. Wicked is my favorite film of 1983 so far. I plan to do a whole installment of "Der Quality" on it. Meanwhile, I will simply say that the film demonstrates the power of mood over mindless action. Gahan Wilson is very disappointed with the movie (see his TZ review), but I think he is demanding something from the film that wasn't in Bradbury in the first place. Bradbury is SYMBOL, Bradbury is METAPHOR, Bradbury is NOSTALGIA, Bradbury is an ATTITUDE. This movie is Bradbury.

Despite these interesting observations, I'm still rather pleased with Return of the Jedi. George Lucas explains in a Rolling Stone interview that the cantina and Death Star sequences in the first film had originally been intended for the third part; he had rewritten that material into Star Wars to increase the spectacle of that first, crucial picture. He didn't think it wise to change the originally intended ending when he got around to it. As it is, I wish he'd made the Emperor more difficult to defeat. A fully operational Death Star could have taken out the entire rebel fleet with one blast ... and witnessing that would have provoked Luke's anger more surely than a few harsh words.

Big Lee, a friend of mine, complained that the other two films had shown us many different locales, but this third film merely returned to them ... instead of forging ahead to new environments. He has a point. What if Return had had a city in the sea, or a habitat on an airless moon where characters wore spacesuits? As it was, we'd seen forest scenes, and death stars, and desert settings, and all the rest before.

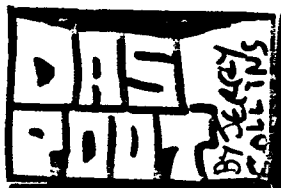
And yet Return of the Jedi is a fast moving, thrilling film. The first half hour is the best part, convincing me that Lucas would be ideal to handle Frank Herbert's Dune in the cinema. (Let's hope David Lynch does as well.) Mark Hamill has come of age in the role of Luke Skywalker. His performance is superb. Now we know what a Jedi is really like: he's the lunatic who single-handedly tells a whole army to throw down their weapons and surrender, before he gets mad! Wow.

As for the big film of 1983, summer or any other season, Return of the Jedi pleases me more than it does many other fans with whom I've spoken. But then, I see it as Act III of the play. I liked Empire best, but Act II usually has the advantage of bringing the conflicts to a fever pitch without having the difficulty of tying them up neatly with resolutions.

Jabba the Hutt is unforgettable, Sydney Greenstreet out of Hieronymous Bosch. I love his laugh, and the way the little squiggles squeal as he eats 'em. Good family fun. The air-cycle race through the redwood forest is grand. The Ewok celebration at the end of the film is moving. And more than anything else, the film lives up to its title with Darth Vader's final decision. George Lucas knows his myths and legends. The Father and Son are at the heart of understanding this universe. Lucas entertains us, but he also has something to say.

His wife, Irene, complained that the character of Leia had been built up to little purpose; she was nothing more than a spare tire. Why didn't we see her joining Luke in the final confrontation with Darth Vader? Brother and sister together would have made for a new situation, one we hadn't seen in the other two films.

I want to listen.



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Daniel S. Taylor
550 Boulevard SE
Atlanta, GA 30312

To the Officers, Steering Committee, and Members
of ASFIC:

I can hardly wait to see how the July ASFIC
meeting is described in the club minutes.

(Daniel's letter was substantially
longer, but since he addressed his
questions and comments to particular
people rather than the club or clubzine,
I forwarded those sections so that he
could receive the answers he sought in
a more timely fashion.

Brad W. Foster
4109 Pleasant Run
Irving, TX 75062

Quite a surprise to get FOOTAAV #7 this week
--whatever happened to #6? Last I had heard was
when I got #5 -- how come I got skipped? Help!

Great Riley cover on this issue, nice handling
of the croquil board work, too many artists go
at it too heavily, but Cindy shows just the
right light touch. Nice working the title into
the heiroglyphics, too.

I've read everything from Stephen King I can get
my hands on. One of those authors who, even if
I don't particularly care for the story, I just

enjoy reading them, they put words together so
well. Luckily King is both a fine writer and an
interesting author. I do have to disagree about
the rating of CHRISTINE as the best since THE
STAND. Although I enjoyed it, it really boiled
down into a short story for me, just stretched
out over a longer length. I loved CUJO, which
seems to get bad press, but is one of my favorite
King works.

Not too sure about Cliff's comments in regards
to DIFFERENT SEASONS, seems he was reading the
press rather than the stories -- those were all
damn horrifying tales! That kid and the old
Nazi was a chiller and a half!

I tell you, when I got to Harry's letter I had
to go find issue 5 again, I couldn't figure what
he was talking about, that was a pretty simple
one -- but I do appreciate the kind words, very
much. Ego needed a little stroking lately, so
his words came at just the right time! Thanks
Harry. And nope, never employed in advertising,
although did try to get some kind of job like
that but no luck. Probably just as well...

Get ready for a bit more stroking, kid.
With a little cosmetic surgery, the
cover you intended for #6 appears next
issue on #9. #10 will sport a dandy
cover from Jeanne Corbin.

Marilyn White
1613-D Briarwood Road
Atlanta, GA 30319

I read your "Ramblin' On" in FOOTA #7 and I must admit I was shocked! This is because I did not know how talented your charming wife is. Shocked because I have only thought of Angela as 1) President of ASFiC, 2) mother of that darling little "munchkin" that sometimes attends the meeting, and 3) your wife. (Smile!) It never occurred to me that she was anything else. It just goes to show how little I knew about her or about anyone else in ASFiC.

I can truly appreciate what it means to be a Certified Professional Secretary. I'd heard of the program and thought it was an excellent idea. As a finance clerk for my company, I work with secretaries who take their profession seriously; as more than typing or opening letters and coffee for the boss(es). I don't know of any who are CPS's, but they should be trying to obtain that distinction.

Let's face it, Fandom is Fun but there's still the real world to go back to Monday morning; we must remember that our elected officers are committed to other endeavors but do volunteer and sacrifice time and energy to work for ASFiC. It's what I did as Chairwoman of Atlanta Comics and Fantasy Fair. I lived and breathed it and nothing else for a year. I had to believe in it to work for it. I was not apathetic. I didn't let someone else do the work so that I could sit back and enjoy its fruits. Obviously, I have been apathetic towards ASFiC. For a long time, I didn't feel like I belonged because I would only show up to make a pitch for ACFF, never to be seen again. But, this is my club now, dammit. I paid my dues, sure, but a club doesn't exist on dues alone. So, I hereby offer myself to contribute to this magazine. I can type (a little) and I can do letters (exhibit A) of comment and I can spell and do numbahs! (Ask about my easy terms, too!) Can I please help out?

Well, gee, Marilyn, with a letter and the two calligraphy pieces, it looks like you sure mean business. Really, though, your ready smile is as ever the best help of all.

Harry J. N. Andruschak
P. O. Box 606
La Canada-Flintridge, CA 91011

I have received ASHES #7. It seems a bit thin, but I guess every clubzine has a problem of contributions. The LASFS seems to be unable to revive its genzine SHAGGY, and even the newsletter has yet to appear in 1983. And this from a large rich club.

I notice that bit on the last page about no hucksters during the meeting. Care to elaborate why? At LASFS it is common to see fans selling books, magazines, comics, and other stuff.

To answer your question, Andy, I'll quote from the confirmation letter we received from Richard Schwartz, who is Executive Director for the Northeast District YMCA (our host facility):
"We do not permit sales at the YMCA and I will have to enforce this."

In other words, it is a rule of the YMCA that we have to abide by in order to meet in their Activity Room. It's a small price to pay, and our member entrepreneurs have acknowledged it good-naturedly. By the way, Dick Schwartz is also a comic book retailer and is just as affected as our dealers.

With a little luck and a lot of help, this issue (#8) will be a bit more substantial.

Harry Warner, Jr.
423 Summit Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21740

My eyes have been giving me lots of trouble and from out of the Ashes caused an apparent new problem the other day. When I got the mail I realized I must be seeing double, because there were two copies of FOOTA. However, when I opened one copy, the other one remained stapled shut, and this encouraged me to hope there might be another explanation for the phenomenon. It was a relief to find that two issues had happened to be delivered on the same day. The alternative would have been an apparent extra copy of each and every piece of junk mail that arrives until I could find a good optician.

I'm sorry to learn that a change in editorship was necessary, but I can't find any reason to doubt that I'll continue to enjoy reading FOOTA. Even at this distance, I suppose it's permissible to speculate that the letter which led off the sixth issue had some effect on the change in command for FOOTA. If I'd been editor and president of the club, I think I would have reacted much more violently, throwing all my duties into the hands of the critic and then proceeding to assume his critical functions with all possible vigor.

Both covers are splendid. The fact that "Emma Peel in Bondage" is available at ASFiC meetings makes me all the more sorry that I'm so far away from Atlanta. The hieroglyphs behind the handsome felines on the other cover seem to have some sort of internal logic but I don't read Egyptian so maybe it's all my imagination.

I don't know how seriously I should take that "state report" about the mental condition of psychiatrists. But I covered circuit court in Hagerstown for about a half-dozen years, quite often a criminal case included a psychiatrist as a witness, and I was astonished to find that some of them displayed all the eccentricity that Hollywood movies usually attribute to the trade. Some of them twitched, others talked just like Dr. Strangelove, frequently a judge would indicate perplexity or exasperation with their testimony, and I suspect that juries were almost always more perplexed after a psychiatrist testified than before he'd been heard from.

CHRISTINE will probably be the Stephen King novel I stay away from, because autos give me the horrors without the aid of Stephen King or any other novelist. Reading a book about his addition of horrors to those inherent in the vehicles might be too much for me. For that matter, I was terrified enough by one line on Cliff Biggers' review page, the one which gave the book's price, \$16.95. If hardbound volumes are sold for such figures, can the \$10.00 paperback be very far in the future?

I don't remember seeing anything in the Hagerstown newspapers about the new Russian space probes to Venus. The United States press frequently cites the Russians' failure to run this or that news story about events in foreign nations in Pravda. I wonder if the Russians published anything in Pravda about the failure of the American press to chronicle their continued space exploration activities?

It's a good thing I didn't continue with other examples of my likes and dislikes, if I caused that much excitement with my admission I don't particularly care for the original King Kong movie. I might have created even more tumult if I'd admitted that I used to enjoy very much the Lost in Space series and that I'd never watched the original movie version of THE INVISIBLE MAN from start to finish, much less any of its imitators or sequels. When you've seen one invisible man, you've seen them all, I always did say.

Again, my thanks for your commendable custom of using black ink on white paper. Even if the double vision was a false alarm, I have a genuine problem with fanzines that don't offer enough contrast between text and colored paper.

Harry J. N. Andruschak
P.O. Box 606
La Canada-Flintridge
Calif. 91011

I have received the latest issue, #6, of your clubzine. Alas, I cannot think of anything to LOC about. The issue is a bit thin, you know. Is there any way you can twist arms and get a few more of the club to submit something?

I mean, this is supposed to be a fanzine from a group in Atlanta, Georgia. To date, I have not read anything about what fans do in the city outside of the SF club. Nothing fannish, nothing funny, or just nothing interesting to out-of-towners like me has occurred??

Atlanta must be a dreary place to live in.

Well, Andy, as an editor yourself, you should be aware that if no one sends you anything and no one tells you anything, then you don't have very much to print. With a couple of prolific excep-

tions, ASHES lives and dies by the lettercol, depending on those elsewhere for news and other things of interest. I did make a plea for material in my editorial for #7, and to a degree it worked. I just hope I don't have to beg on a regular basis.

At the last count I recollect, Atlanta has some 37 clubs whose activities are directly or loosely related with fandom in some way, including SF, fantasy, ST, SCA, gaming, convention hosting, etc. Sometimes it's hard to find someone who has enough time for doing anything else noteworthy. I guess we forget that it might be of interest to someone not of the area. You make a valid point, one we're going to try to remedy in forthcoming issues. With this issue, we've returned the news page and have added a convention listing service. Still fannish, but it takes away some of the thinness.

Atlanta is anything but dreary, but, this is summer, and that, in Atlanta, is a time for retreating from the mortifying heat and humidity.

ZINES RECEIVED AND ENJOYED

ASFOAWN (AUG '83)

FOSFAX 69 - Louisville, KY

SMART-ASH 22 - Jackson, MS

Transmissions 140 - Panama City, FL

Ah done tole y'all we is outta them cute li'l fillos! Shoot!

