

doctor shows on television of the "wisdom of the body." But let me tell you, it is a load of duck tires. I myself have a body (I hope this comes as a surprise to nobody out there--lots of people have bodies) and I can tell you my body lies like a son of a gun.

Let me tell you some of the things my body tells me. It tells me

THE MT VOID

Page 2

that one of the best things for my body is lemon meringue pie. Lime is even better, but much harder to find. My body tells me that hamburgers and pizza are better for it than salad. It sure wants them more. You want to hear more of the things my body tells me? It tells me that while a few ginger snaps are good for me, a whole bunch of ginger snaps are a lot better.

You want to hear what else my body tells me. It says exercise must be avoided. Yeah. I ride 80 miles a week on my exercycle. You think my body tells me that's a g o o d thing? Guess again. I hop on and what happens? My body looks up at me and says, "What are you, n u t s? It's too e a r l y in the m o r n i n g to be d o i n g any t h i n g so active. W h y don't you g o back to b e d?" Yes, I exercise, but only over protests by my body.

And what does my body do when I try to lose weight? Suddenly it starts trying to defend itself. It starts setting terms like Saddam Hussein. You want to lose weight, you must eat only salads. You put cheese dressing on one of your salads, the deal's off. One reasonably enjoyable meal kills days of dieting. Is that fair?

Speaking of fair, the health magazines tell me I absolutely m u s t avoid foods that get more than one third of their calories from fat. Can you imagine that? Can you imagine anything more hypocritical? As a matter of fact, I myself get more than one third of my calories from fat so why should I avoid a food just because it does the same thing I do? Actually what that principle really tells me is if I am going eat a bag of potato chips and a diet soda, I would be breaking the rule. More than a third of those calories are from fat. I should take a n o n - d i e t soda. That brings the proportions more into balance.

I tell you, my body is a vicious, vengeful thing. I think if it wasn't so good-looking I'd get rid of it.

Mark Leeper
MT 3D-441 957-5619
...mtgzy!leeper

There is no expedient to which man will not resort to avoid the real labor of thinking.

-- Sir Joshua Reynolds

BLACK WATER 2 edited by Alberto Manguel
Potter, 1990, ISBN 0-517-57559-0, \$14.95.
A book review by Evelyn C. Leeper

In 1985, Alberto Manguel came out with B _ l _ a _ c _ k _ W _ a _ t _ e _ r, an excellent anthology of "fantastic" stories from all over the world. Unlike most anthologies published in the United States, it was not slanted toward American or British authors, but had a wide assortment of Latin American, European, and Asian authors. Now he has followed that up with B _ l _ a _ c _ k _ W _ a _ t _ e _ r _ 2, 65 stories of the fantastic from around the world. These aren't science fiction stories. Most aren't horror stories in the usually accepted sense (of vampires, werewolves, and other such staples), though some are horrific in nature. The closest common appellation would be fantasy, though if you're expecting unicorns and elves, look elsewhere. (There is a mermaid, though.) I found this just a notch below the first anthology in quality, but still far more interesting than most of what one sees today. These are older stories, but for the most part have not been widely reprinted in the United

States (with the possible exceptions of Jerome Bixby's "It a _ G _ o _ o _ d Life," Bernard Malamud's "Jewbird," and Arthur C.~Clarke's "Nine Billion Names of God," but even those are known more within the science fiction community than to the public at large). Highly recommended.

THE MIND MONSTERS by Howard L. Cory
Book reviews by Frank R. Leisti
Copyright 1991 Frank R. Leisti

Howard has brought together the love of the Irish in this story about the struggle within the ideals of a person confronting a supported society. The events of Terence O'Corcoran, single scout from Earth begins when all of the failsafe systems on his scout ship fail at the

same time. His problems really got tough when his ship crashed on the top of a mountain and he was having to get down off the mountain over a huge cliff. When he finally arranged to get off the mountain, he had to face various bug-eyed monsters that seemed to pop up in the most disturbing ways.

Yet, this was only the beginning for Terence. He would discover a sheep-like civilization in peril of being destroyed by an organizer and recruiter destined to bring about revolution on this world. The manner, situation, circumstances of such a revolution and counter-revolution brings forth interesting reading. This brings to the reader's mind the concern of any type of revolution on its society. It also enforces that any act of revolution will bring about changes -- often not thought about by the original desires of the revolution.

A new life form is introduced, or to be more exact, re-introduced in this story. The Genie or leprechaun that informs Terence as to his destiny and need in this society also has other duties, such as putting out fires, healing broken bodies, and most interesting of all, doing a Mind Probe. Well, the Mind Probe is more accurately called the Pleasure Probe, in that when requested, the Genie is able to reach inside the person and bring all types of pleasure to mind. The taste of chocolate, the smell of roses, a beautiful sunset, a wondrous orchestra playing, feeling furs instead of clothes, each sense having more pleasurable sensations cascading over the previous set.

Terence discovers the desire and trap of this Pleasure Probe. With this knowledge, he is able to bring new ideas to the society when the leprechauns assist in his recruiting. The work involved in saving a society from itself is presented in the light of honesty and respect meeting force and drugs. With each step of the fight against the revolution, further information about the society that is supported by the leprechauns is given until at last Terence finds the answers that he is looking for.

I would rate this story at +1 on the Leeper scale, from the ideas and the application of the inherent division of two different life forms interacting on a grand scale, shaping the forces of society and all of its outcomes.