

THE GEIS LETTER -----61

The Future Is Never What It's Supposed To Be!

APRIL 1999

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Freedom of the press:
Whoever owns the press owns the freedom.
---Arthur Lane Terego

Freedom of speech:
Everyone can speak; only the wealthy can make themselves heard.
---Arthur Lane Terego



News Diary

Kosovo Disaster

■ 3-31-99 I watched the televised Pentagon press conference yesterday and heard one reporter zero in on the "Phase Two" bombing claims of NATO.

The reporter's questions forced Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon to admit that the United States was still using missiles and laser-guided bombs from planes flying high and outside the border of Yugoslavia to hit fixed targets and suspected assembly locations of Yugoslavian army units, Serb police, and paramilitary in Kosovo.

The spokesman admitted the U.S. was still not using low&slow 'tank killer' planes or attack helicopters. Days after the administration and the media led the American public to believe they were using such vulnerable aircraft.

Today not a word in the press or vidnews about the misleading stories and false impressions.

Fact is, the US government is afraid to use those tactical aircraft in its war against the vile Serbs (and Milosevic) in Kosovo because it is terrified some of them would be shot down.

Yet even as our government shrinks from actual air-ground combat, the media are promoting sending combat troops---at least 200,000 of them---into the area to invade and occupy the Yugoslavian province of Kosovo! Saying via retired military men that the air attacks cannot win the 'war' and cannot force Milosevic to kneel and obey.

Even Colin Powell is quoted as advocating sending an army into Kosovo. And some U.S. Senators are beating the war drums for a massive expeditionary force.

But obviously, if this administration is afraid of losing a few planes and pilots, it will be paralyzed with terror at the idea of entering another Vietnam situation, this time in a rocky, mountainous arena against smart, tough patriots who will show no mercy. That would be body bag city.

Now "Phase Three" of the air war is being talked of: bombing and missileing 'military' targets in the heart of Belgrade, the capital of Yugoslavia (from a safe distance, of course). No doubt to "break the spirit" of the people and their leader,

Milosevic.

[Yeah, like Ho Chi Minh was reduced to a nervous wreck by our endless B-52 bombing of North Vietnam.]

Bombing inner Belgrade would be a largely ineffective measure because the Yugoslavians have had weeks to anticipate such attacks and to figure out which government agencies would be targeted. By now they have vacated those buildings and HQ's of records, equipment and employees.

By the way, I understand that Yugoslavia considers the attacks to be acts of war and has declared war against some of the NATO countries---Germany, France, America, Italy...

So what? What can Yugoslavia do to us? I dunno. We may find out. They now have a legal basis for attacking U.S. 'assets' anywhere.

■ 4-1-99 So yesterday the Serbs captured three U.S. servicemen on patrol on the fringes of Kosovo, are displaying them on TV, and will supposedly put them on trial.

The U.S. objects, of course, and huffs and puffs about the Geneva Accords regarding prisoners of war, but it rings hollow.

The U.S. cable news media are obsessing over the Kosovo war (to fill time and garner viewers) and making normal war coverage seem old fashioned. Well, poor dears, they need a scandal or a crisis to stay alive. If not O.J., then it's a Monica, and if not her they need a nice, juicy little war in which the U.S. is involved.

Clinton and Defense Sec. Cohen are making this (American engineered and led) NATO bombing war on Yugoslavia a moral crusade, using 'genocide' hyperbole to sell it to the American people.

Like LBJ in the latter part of the Vietnam War, Clinton will soon only make appearances and speeches on military bases and other controlled access sites where embarrassing and strident war protestors cannot reach him (and the TV cameras).

It will get worse for him. His 'legacy' is more and more going to be that of America's Worst President.

■ 4-3-99 As I anticipated, the U.S. sent Cruise missiles into Belgrade and demolished two buildings, headquarters of military and police forces.

News is that there were no casualties, and the NBC reporter in Belgrade mentioned that they surely had been empty when destroyed.

Also missed and collapsed were some sections of two bridges across the Danube, in Yugoslavia's second largest city.

Still no use in Kosovo of tactical, ground attack aircraft like the A-10 and Apache attack helicopters. Our government is still scared to death of losing pilots. The Yugoslavian air defense system is still being described as 'robust'.

It's my opinion that the U.S. and/or NATO will not mount a force on the ground to invade Kosovo and resettle the hundreds of thousands of displaced 'Ethnic Albanians' (Muslims) who are overwhelming Montenegro, Albania and Macedonia, firstly because all 19 countries which make up NATO must agree on such a force and mission (and any one nation can veto such a force), and secondly because the U.S. could not go it alone without NATO or U.N. 'cover'. We would then be an 'outlaw' nation... And thirdly, the U.S. cannot commit its reserves and frontline troops to a war without stripping most of its forces elsewhere and inviting other enemy nations to take advantage of the situation. Hussein could retake Kuwait... the North Koreans could invade South Korea... And China could take Taiwan. Our only resort would be to threaten atomic doom...and possibly be forced to go through with it.

NATO says the mass displacement of Muslims from Kosovo will be complete in 10-20 days.

Ollie North says (on CNBC) that Milosevic's plan is to eventually settle the 800,000 Christian Serbs who were ethnically cleansed from Croatia and Bosnia a couple years ago (without protest by the U.S. or NATO) into the areas of Kosovo which are now ethnically cleansed of Muslim 'Albanians'. So it goes.

Right now, though, those hundreds of thousands of Muslim refugees from Kosovo (and still in Kosovo) are going to start dying like flies in a few days unless the U.S. and the rest of NATO get very urgently top-priority busy supplying them with food, water, toilets, medicines and shelters.

■■ The way things are going, this issue of TGL is likely to be mostly devoted to the war. ■■

■ 4-4-99 More Cruise Tomahawk missiles hit bridges and a munitions factory in and near Belgrade. More Cruise missile ships are arriving.

NATO is sending 20,000 troops to help the refugees and to maintain order

in Albania, and 24 Apache attack helicopters (with 2600 American soldiers) will be in position by April 12-15 to fly into Kosovo to kill tanks and hit Serb troops, etc. if Clinton gives the orders. But he won't dare use the low-level copters and planes unless the Serb air defenses are severely disabled. Don't hold your breath. The Serbs are undoubtedly digging in and creating tactics to counter our moves.

The Pentagon keeps lamenting the bad weather and rocky terrain in Kosovo which limits and diminishes their ability to attack the Serbs effectively. Duh!

The Pentagon still ducks questions about that Stealth 117A shot down near Belgrade, and the media is being kept away from its rescued pilot. What don't they want us to know?

In my view, the NATO forces (led by the U.S.), in increasing desperation to get Milosevic to surrender and obey, will have to destroy virtually all Yugoslavian power plants, water supply systems, and transportation systems, etc. to make life in Yugoslavia so difficult the people will force their leader to capitulate.

So then we'll see video of children and women and oldsters in Belgrade suffering and dying...

I wonder how long the other NATO nations will let that continue?

(Maybe the U.S. and NATO will take starvng, dying Yugoslavians to camps around the world---as we are now planning to take 100,000 Kosovo Moslems.)

■ 4-5-99 We learn today the 24 Apache attack helicopters will be based, not near the capital of Albania as originally planned, but farther away, and that this virgin baseland will take longer to make ready for the copters and their protection force.

But...has anyone yet asked this question? Don't the Yugoslavians have surface-to-surface missiles? [Can you say SCUD?] And isn't that recent meeting between Iraq and Yugoslavian officials significant in the context of SCUD technology?---which is Russian technology.

I'm saying that the Apache base in Albania is probably vulnerable to mobile launcher missile attack. And I suggest that the same holds true for any staging area for any large U.S./NATO land force in Macedonia or Albania or Montenegro.

[Do you think Austria or Hungary would agree to let an invasion army assemble on their ground? I don't think so!]

And I'm suggesting that mobile launchers in the rugged, mountainous

southern region of Kosovo bordering the above listed southern Balkan nations would be as impossible to find and destroy as the mobile SCUD launchers in the mountainous regions of western Iraq during the Gulf War.

Would Macedonia be willing to be the destabilized staging area for the assembling NATO army? Only destitute Albania, with sufficient guarantees and bribes might agree to be that 'host'...with attendant status of Enemy of Serbia.

Another factor in a hypothetical NATO land invasion of Kosovo: The army must be put in position and must complete the invasion by the end of September. Bad weather after that time would inhibit air support and icy cold-wet weather in that awful terrain would almost certainly stop a high-tech army.

Finishing the war would have to wait until Spring, 2000.

Think of the expenses of maintaining all those forces all winter long.

Think of prosecuting a war and suffering casualties during the primaries of the U.S. election process.

So if NATO (bullied and bribed by the U.S.) doesn't get an army agreed-to and a-building by June 1, then it won't have time to do the job, given the estimated 4 months minimum required to prepare the ground, build seaports, airports, roads, water systems, power stations...move in men, their equipment and their needed mountains of supplies and spares. Moved into...where?

A land war in Kosovo seems practically impossible. Especially if Russia decides to help its Slavic brothers in Yugoslavia. They could, for instance, send in a lot of very effective SAM and SSM missiles.

For, consider, Russia has a vested strategic interest in preventing a NATO victory.

■ 4-7-99 Now we are told it will take a month to get those 24 Apache attack copters into Albania and ready to go.

Not so strange tactic being used by Milosevic: a unilateral cease fire, a 'taking back' of many thousands of Moslems who had fled to the border of Macedonia and Albania, and an apparent willingness to talk about giving back the three U.S. soldiers captured a few days ago.

The U.S. leadership is now forced to say adamantly the bombing will continue---and that Milosevic must comply with all our demands before we will stop the bombing. We now increasingly seem cruel bullies.

I think Milosevic is trying to stop the bombing and delay decisions required if

a NATO land army is to be assembled and positioned for an invasion of Kosovo. I think he's playing for time.

Col. David Hackworth (Ret.) said today on CNBC that he is suddenly hearing many reports from bases all over the U.S. of men in special forces and special categories being transferred to Europe. He was cut off by host John Gibson before he could complete his sentence---program end.

■ 4-9-99 Milosevic didn't get no satisfaction (bombing pause) from his unilateral cease fire and his dangling carrot of returning the 3 captured U.S. soldiers...so now he is sealing the southern borders of Kosovo and keeping all the remaining 'Ethnic Albanians' (Muslims) in Kosovo and probably will use them as shields and as hostages (stop the bombing or they'll starve to death!).

There is a point where the NATO interdiction of fuel and other supplies to Kosovo **will** cause starvation and 95% inability to farm, raise cattle and pigs and sheep and chickens and move crops and products.

I would guess that right about now farmers must be (or should be) preparing their fields for seeding, and they cannot do that without gasoline and oil for their tractors and trucks. And they must eat during the spring and summer before the crops are ready for harvest.

Are NATO and the U.S. going to continue to pound bridges, barge traffic and boats on the Danube, prevent fuel and oil flows, and prevent bridge repair to the point of mass starvation of the Kosovars on the pretext of 'degrading' Milovic's military until it stops killing Muslims?

I don't think so.

There's a point coming at which we will be killing (directly and indirectly) more Muslims than the Serbs. We must be reaching the point where we're running out of legitimate 'fixed' military targets for our bombs and missiles.

■ 4-9-99 I now learn that 11 members of congress accompanied administration officials to the just-completed NATO conference/meeting in Brussels, Belgium. And now we are hearing them begin to support a ground invasion of Kosovo. [Of course they were hand-picked for the trip, their views known and/or purchased in advance.]

We will now witness an orchestrated "ground-swell" of support for American ground troops invading Kosovo, with poll results to prove it.

Clinton will talk honestly and inspirationally to the American people to

'prepare them' for a ground war in Kosovo.

Congress will vote to 'authorize' an 'if necessary' ground war and will vote billions and billions of supplemental spending to finance the new effort.

The mobilization and positioning of 'preparation' troops is beginning already.

Milosevic knows this and is also preparing by closing the planting thousands of land mines, digging in his troops and positioning machine guns, mortars, artillery, rockets and missiles.

He may be scaring Clinton!

We have been told that NATO cannot be allowed to lose this war. The same will be said of the United States. We dare not let our "credibility" be diminished. The world will come to an end if we are defeated by a third class power like Yugoslavia!

Oh, yeah? We were humiliated and defeated in Vietnam by a **fourth** class power with no air force. Yet the United States went on to maintain its world class *el primo* power status and invade and bomb all kinds of countries since Vietnam.

This war is now all about saving face at any cost.

And the big question is how long are the American people, and the other NATO nations, going to allow Clinton to continue?

■ The future is never what it's supposed to be.

We live in interesting times. ■■

WHAT'S THE LATEST
ON THE UNIVERSAL
GLOBAL CONSPIRACY,
CHITTABO?



THE KOSOVO KONSPIRACY?

■ 4-9-99 There are three scenarios going around on talk radio and on the Internet.

#1: That there is a vast pool of oil and other mineral wealth under Kosovo, that Milosevic has known this for ten

years (which is why he revoked Kosov's autonomy and incorporated it into the total jurisdiction and ownership of Yugoslavia), and the U.S. (controlled by the capitalist oligarchy) is intent on gaining control of the oil and other minerals under cover of saving the Kosovans and giving them "independence".

#2: The Internationalists (and their corporate masters) contrived this crisis and intervention by deliberately offering socialist dictator Milosevic a peace plan they knew he would not accept. That rejection gave them the excuse to start the bombing. They knew in advance the bombing would not succeed and that an invasion force of ground troops would be required to seize Kosovo. We are now seeing the 'preparation' of the American and Northern European people for a ground war.

The prime motive is converting the 'backward' Yugoslavians and others in the Balkans to control and exploitation by the super banks and corporations of the U.S. and Northern Europe.

#3: That the Kosovo war is a contrived preliminary to the main goal---a war with Russia. That war will require putting America on a total war footing---martial law and a form of dictatorship, never to be abandoned.

The Geis View: Clinton and his Liberal advisers expected an easy [Hooray for us, the Good Guys!] win from the bombing campaign and were rudely surprised by the stubborn Serbs and by Milosevic. Now Clinton must double his bombing attacks as soon as the weather clears and hope that eventually the damage and casualties will force the Serbs to accept the loss of Kosovo.

Clinton dares not lose.

And if necessary he will risk all on a land invasion. Or try to: one or two of the NATO 'allies' might decide to stop. His fellow Democrats may stop him.

It's difficult to accept this war as a deliberate attempt to 'wag the dog'---get a cheap, quick victory over evil Milosevic in order to enhance Clinton's 'legacy'... but given that he reportedly overruled his generals and admirals and ordered the bombing begin...and given his solipsist, psychopathic character...I do believe it.

Henry Kissinger, former Secretary of State and National Security Advisor during the Vietnam War, said recently on CNBC that the Serbs "Never surrender."

Clinton has stuck his foot into a tar baby.

News Diary continued

■ 4-15-99 It occurred to me this morning how horrible these people are for their inhuman behavior of raping, killing, slaughtering, forcing hundreds of thousands of innocent ~~American Indians~~ Ethnic Albanians from their homes and land...

If only there had been a NATO and a U.N. in the 1800's.

I note that for all their vocal bravado, the U.S. Commander of NATO (and Clinton, etc.) are still employing 'Stand-off' [laser-guided "smart" bombs and missiles] bombing tactics---flying high above the reach of Yugoslavian anti-aircraft missiles and artillery fire, and have only rarely employed 'low and slow' ground attack planes in Kosovo. They are guided by American public opinion polls more than military necessities.

Still, Clinton will be sending 300 more air force planes and attack copters to the Balkans, and likely 30,000 more American troops to fly, service and protect those aircraft.

It is still very true that they have a narrowing window of opportunity for a successful ground invasion of Kosovo this year. It would take more than the 200,000 troops mentioned till now as a force capable of doing the job.

Make it 500,000 troops, because the American policy is to go into a land campaign with overwhelming force. To make that happen in this war it is likely that at least a limited draft would have to be instituted. Would congress okay that. What would the polls say? Also, enormous work must be done by dozens of thousands of advance forces to prepare bases, living quarters, airfields, fuel dumps, etc., etc., etc. before the infantry can be sent. Huge pipelines of supplies must be created and set in motion.

Albania must be used as a huge staging area. Where else? We'll have to bribe and buy the whole population of Albania to make that work.

But all this is unlikely: I cannot see the other 'NATO allies' okaying and participating in a land invasion of that size. Not with Germany (with help from Russia) already floating a serious [surprise, unauthorized by Clinton!] compromise solution to the war.

In fact, there are reports now that many, many powerful Europeans do not want NATO (read America) to win this war since it would give America a huge power presence in Southern Europe and present the Euros with an expanded American power base in Europe, under-

mining the European Union and the new European currency. It all comes down to geo-politics and economics, doesn't it? So is US Korporate \$\$ and power the reason Clinton got us into this? Are the conspiratologists right, after all?

Note that in his speech before a large group of newspaper editors, Clinton today painted a rosy picture of coming Balkan social-cultural engineering and an enhanced, glowing future for the Balkans as a result of us winning this war and ousting the old order which has ruled and ruined the area for so many generations. Time for the Balkans to be led into a peaceful and prosperous 21st Century by us do-gooders.

[I wonder if that part of his speech about the future of the Balkans was a 'signal' and an opinion path to be followed by the editors assembled. If I see a shift in stories and editorials to that end I'll really get paranoid and conspiratorial about the New World Order of the Oligarchy.]

■ 4-16-99 Big furor in the daily NATO press briefing as the reporters pressed the two NATO spokesmen for more info about the NATO plane bombing of the refugee convoy in southern Kosovo. The spokesmen stonewalled and refused to answer.

Seems there were four refugee convoys attacked over a seven-mile stretch of the road, with over 70 refugees killed, with identifiable parts of smart bomb casings scattered about, but NATO is still 'investigating'.

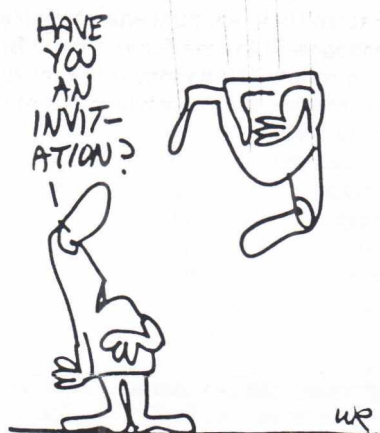
It appears now that NATO denies and lies first (as a policy) about its errors and 'accidents' and only days later is finally forced to admit its guilt---as in the railroad train disaster a few days previous to the refugee convoys diasaster. It's getting so the Yugoslavs are perceived as telling the truth first about these attacks. A propaganda coup.

The more I think of it, the more I suspect that the whole bombing campaign and now the sending of 500 more planes (300 of them American, including 49 more Apache attack copters) and the imminent call-up of 30-35,000 reserves is a pre-planned, scheduled war, and that soon new, horrible atrocities and war crimes will be trumpeted to justify any effort to get rid of Milosevic and other war criminals.

A land invasion of Kosovo now seems in the works.

Elizabeth Dole, candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, has just come out for a land invasion, along with Senator McCain, of course. Is all this a conspiracy? ■■■

BOOKS RECEIVED



Some reviewed, others listed and described and sometimes unfairly dealt with.

New Releases

WATERDANCE

By Anne Logston

ACE Books, Fantasy Novel, 1999, \$6.50, 263p., Mass market paperback, ISBN:0-441-00613-2.

It's no wonder that Peri should possess some of the magical talent that her mother, the High Lady Kayli, is known for. However, the young and impetuous Peri is determined to prove that her swordsmanship, not her magic, is her true calling.

But when she single-handedly rescues a prisoner from a Sarkond warrior's camp, she finds herself the liberator of a dreaded Sarkond heretic. Now they must depend on each other in order to survive.

DRAGON'S WINTER

By Elizabeth A. Lynn

ACE Books, Fantasy Novel, 1999, \$6.50, 341p., Mass market paperback, ISBN:0-442-00611-6.

Twin boys were born to the dragon-king of Ippa, though only one was born of dragonblood. He was named Karadur Atani—Fire-bringer. But Karadur Atani would never become a dragon. In a bitter betrayal, his twin brother stole his talisman and disappeared, leaving Karadur trapped—a king with the heart of a dragon, trapped in the body of an ordinary man.

Now, rumors of an evil sorcery have reached Dragon Keep. A powerful wizard has risen out of legend. From his stronghold in the great ice, he rains death and destruction upon the people of Ippa. Once he was called Ankoku, the Hollow One. But Karadur Atani knows him as brother.

As Karadur's people die, his call blazes across the land—Dragon Keep goes to war in the spring. Beneath the dragon banner, Karadur Atani leads his warriors into the ice, to challenge his wizard brother and to reclaim his destiny.

INHUMAN BEINGS

By Jerry Jay Carroll

ACE Books, Novel, \$13.00, 249p., Trade paperback, ISBN:0-441-00529-2.

Goodwin Armstrong is a private detective, and, naturally he got his job by losing a better one as a cop. His ex-wife hates him, and an upstart new agency full of computer geeks is taking all of his business. Only a man in his position would have accepted Princess Dulay as a client. The Princess is a severely obese psychic who believes aliens are taking over the Earth.

Strangely, as other psychics begin to turn up in the San Francisco morgue, Armstrong begins to believe her. But, no one else will, and increasing numbers of the top officials they have to convince seem to be undergoing personality changes themselves.

Something bad—something inhuman—is happening, but the gun in his pocket and the brain in his head won't be enough to fight it.

I'm reading this one, liking it and will review it next issue.

Reviews



AND THEN I SAW....

WEDDING BELL BLUES [1996 - R]

Three women friends (supposedly just under 30) endure the angst of husbandless life and seek hubbies in Las Vegas. Yeah, right.

Supposedly a comedy, and featuring Ileana Douglas as one of the women, this film makes losing a boyfriend and not being married a sin before God, society and family and must set Feminist teeth on edge.

I didn't think any of these women were under 30 years of age. More like 35-40 or more.

Barely R for some realistic dialog, some rear-view nudity, and some deep cleavage.

LOST SOULS [1998 - PG-TV]

This not-so-horrible made-for-cable horror film follows the new-family-into-haunted-house formula; this time the spirits of two murdered children (8 years past) seek revenge and justice. Good use of an autistic-psychic daughter as the spiritual contact.

The script 'fingers' two local men as the killer suspects. But, surprise!, it was the sheriff! This one is not really worth watching.

CITY OF ANGELS [1998 - R]

Nicholas Cage is convincing as Seth, an angel of God on duty in L.A. to collect death-released souls. But he falls in love with heart surgeon Meg Ryan and

inevitably decides to give up immortality and his invisible, alien-like empty-of-sensation entityhood to be fully human.

Interesting conflict and resolution, and a good rationale for the afterlife and its structure. "There are more things in Heaven and Earth..."

Dennis Franz is fine as a former angel who is enjoying his humanity to the hilt.

The R is for rear-view male nudity.

TOP OF THE WORLD [1997 - R]

Peter Weller is a just-released ex-cop convict who gets entangled in a Las Vegas casino robbery, Tia Carrere is his entangled wife, and Dennis Hopper is the complicit Casino owner.

This is an incredible, over-the-top action film which moves fast, empties all clips, destroys all cars, and kills almost everybody. The R is for violence and extreme language by Hopper, who enjoyed his role.

There's a delicious little gay subplot among the robbery gang.

FREEFALL [1999 - TV-PG]

Jaclyn Smith as an NTSB investigator is unconvincing. Bruce Boxleitner as her deceiving FAA inspector friend-lover is better, and Chad Everett as an airline owner/CEO is very good.

But the storyline of a madman seeking revenge on Smith for his pilot wife's death and disrepute by sabotaging four jet airliners and killing hundreds of passengers...sucks.

Formula situations all the way. Don't bother with it. Shame on Fox for making this potboiler movie for its Family cable network. Though I approve of using aging Name actors who can't get work.

TITANIC [1997 - PG-13]

Marvelous recreation of the Titanic, and seamless special effects (at least on a 27" screen). Excellently acted.

I was prepared to not like baby-faced Leonardo DiCaprio as the young artist and idealistic lower class lover of rebellious, betrothed upper-class girl played by Kate Winslet (who seemed too old and...umm ...plain, except for her sumptuous naked body); he's a good, maybe very good actor.

But the Titanic is the thing, the overwhelming, dying star of the film. A magnificent, awesome death.

[Perhaps the standards for PG-13 are a-changing, because I was surprised at the lingering nudity of Kate (as Leonardo sketches her), and wonder at its description as 'Brief'.]

SUPREME SANCTION [1998 - R]

Formula action (shooting) film with Michael Madsen (in his typical laid-back acting) as a rogue lead agent in a secret illegal govt. dirty-tricks agency which is killing Americans to keep its budget up.

Kristy Swanson as an unconvincing assassin agent of the agency who has second thoughts and turns on her bosses and the agency.

David Duke is a fairly convincing bigname TV reporter involved as almost victim.

I watched till the end, mostly to hopefully see Swanson topless, but it was not to be.

FEEDBACK

JOSEPH MAJOR 4-5-99

INTERNET: jtmajor@iglou.com

'I noted your comments on *More Than Honor* "Set in David Weber's 'Honor Harrington's' universe!" I have concluded that such a work is a milestone in an author's career -- a sign that he is on his way down, has run out of ideas, and is willing to do anything for a buck. S&M Stirling is also reported to be writing off his career this way.

'It used to be that writers wanted to create something different and noteworthy. Nowadays they want to create something profitable, something that can be franchised and homogenized and become just like everything else because it is written by everybody else.

'Of course, the big source of this is post-Star Trek writers, who grew up writing stories based on others' ideas. They come into the field, put out their five, or three (some publishers, in the never-ending quest for the next Stephen King, are giving writers fewer chances to find a market) books -- all with glowing tributes from Andre Norton, Marion Zimmer Bradley, and/or [usually and] Anne McCaffrey -- and then sink into the obscurity of small-press publishers, convention panels, and writers' groups.'

Geis says: It's easy to deride authors who seem to 'sell out' by pandering and slanting to the market as judged by the editor and/or publisher. But purist complaints are usually unfair and unrealistic: The Market Rules, and if enough of the remaining readers of sf are willing to pay for more and more stories set in a particular future war universe,

then heed them and feed them!

Judge the story as story, not the author's motives for writing it. A lot of great literature wouldn't stand the test of purist 'creation' standards.

PAUL DI FILIPPO 4-5-99

2 Poplar St., Providence, RI 02906

'Did you notice that *Mimic* was based on a Don Wollheim story? True!

'Also, Greenberg's antho *My Favorite SF Story* is not technically 'unique', as another such appeared in the Sixties.'

Geis says: Yeah, I noticed, then forgot it when I reviewed the movie.

I note that you enclosed with your letter the latest *Forum* from the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America. This issue, #166, is dated on the cover 'October 1998' and dated 'April 1999' in the inside page headers. I love when professionals screw up.

GENE MIERZEJEWSKI 4-8-99

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'On the long-apparent phenomenon of chick SF -- when I got into SF back in the early '60s, the only women in the field were (essentially) C.L. Moore and Leigh Brackett, although Judith Merrill as the year's best SF anthology had stature in the field, and Marion Zimmer Bradley was gaining popularity. Then came Anne McCaffrey's Dragon series. While I highly respected the work of Moore and Brackett (even before I knew of her Hollywood experience), I loathed Merrill's selections in general and was, at best, lukewarm to Bradley and McCaffrey's writings. Obviously, today's SF writers are the children -- daughters? -- of Merrill, Bradley and McCaffrey.

'In the past, oh, 15 years, I've cut down on my SF reading, turning instead primarily to nonfiction. I've read -- or tried to read -- several putrid SF novels by women and had a similar experience with many of the men who've toiled in the field. Bad sci-fi is an equal opportunity offender, but the scales sink a little bit lower when women do the writing. The creativity just isn't there. Maybe it's because women can have babies and guys can only build things using their mind.'

Geis says: 'Chick sf---the ultimate macho sexist put-down phrase in our genre.

I am inspired to add 'Chick fantasy'

because there is probably something instinctually wrong to see or imagine a young woman wielding a sword (a sword being a prime macho phallic symbol) or a gun because weapons of death are contrary to the male's instinctual image of women as sex-givers, wives, life-bearers, nurturers, etc.

Feminists and career women (forced to compete by economics, "equal rights" propaganda and laws) have adopted the male role in some genre fiction and some professions, but at least in medieval-magic fantasy that role is unrealistic; women remain on average smaller and weaker in combat, and a bigger man with greater strength with a sword will usually kill a woman with a sword. [But he'll probably regret it because of the waste of a good fuck and a likely wife-mother.]

In the film-vid media this underlying reality is evaded by the tongue-in-cheek approach used by *Xena: Warrior Princess* and (sans sword) *Buffy, The Vampire Slayer*.

Of course in a high tech world, a woman can pull a trigger or push a button with any man.

ALEXIS GILLILAND 4-5-99

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'George Laskowski observes fantasy and science fiction polluting each other's precious bodily fluids. It must be the fault of all those special effects in the movies. To paraphrase Sir Arthur C. Clarke: "Any sufficiently advanced special effect is indistinguishable from science."

Geis says: And any sufficiently advanced special effect is indistinguishable from reality.

THIS FANZINE IS HEREBY ORDERED TO CEASE PUBLICATION UNTIL SUCH A TIME AS THEY ARE ABLE TO OFFER PROOF THAT THEY HAVE A HARRY WARNER LETTER OF COMMENT READY AND CLEARED FOR PUBLICATION!

