

DLSW

SF/Fantasy News/Review 'Zine -- 1st Apr. '74 Issue -- (Vol. 23, #4; Whole #136)  
Editor & Publisher: Don Miller ----- WSFA Issue #14 ----- 25¢ per copy, 9/\$2.00

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In Brief --

Double-issue #134/135 was mailed to all subbers (a few traders & others had to wait a few days longer; we ran out of stamps) on Mar. 28; please let us know when you receive it. Also, this issue will not be mailed until Apr. 1 (we had a medical emergency Mar. 30, and lost most of the weekend), so a couple of news items within may be out of date.

TWJ #83 should be ready for collation the week of Apr. 7; a collating "party" will be held at some time during that week, at the home of Bill Hixon (870 Quince Orchard Blvd., Gaithersburg, MD); if you'd like to help, give Bill a call (948-8464).

Still no word on TWJ #80. However, most of the missing artwork has been found by Jack Chalker and returned; we got a bit of it into #83, and will have lots more in #84. (Artists--we need lots more--b&w, suitable for offset repro.)

Ref. our Back-Issue Pricelist SF74-A: The following changes should be made to page L-1: Delete TWJ's 43-1, 58, 69, 72, 73, 78 (these are now out-of-stock); underline TWJ's 76, 56, 63, 34, 17, 35, 73-1 (these are now in very short supply); change price for #76 to \$2.50; add SOTWJ's 127/128, 134/135 (@50¢), and 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 136 (@25¢); Special Offers are still good, but add 10% to prices shown.

Mail returned from Paperback Library; current address urgently needed.

SATURDAY EVENING POST for 1/2 '74 (Vol. 246, #1) contains story by Isaac Asimov ("The Dream"; pp. 44-47).

SOTWJ is at least weekly; subs: 25¢ (10p) ea., 9/\$2 (12/L1) or multiples thereof; all subs incl. any issue of THE WSFA JOURNAL pubbed during sub (count as 3 or more issues, dep. on length); TWJ alone is 4/\$5 (4/L2 U.K.). For info on airmail, 3rd-class subs (8/\$2), ads, Overseas Agents, Trade-Subs, etc., write ed. Address Code: A, Overseas Agent; C, Contributor; H, L, or M, WSFA Honorary, Life, or Regular member, resp. (# = # of WSFA issues left on sub); K, Something of yours is mentioned/reviewed herein; N, You are mentioned herein; R, For Review; S, Sample; T, Trade; W or Y, Subber via 1st- or 3rd-class mail, resp. (# = # of issues left on sub); X, Last issue, unless . . . . -- DLM

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THE LOCAL SCENE --

WSFA Notes: Jim Harper will be leaving for Okinawa on May 6; Jackie leaves two or three months later. Third Friday WSFA meetings will be held at home of Bill Berg once the Harpers have departed. (Thanks, Bill Berg.) (Note that April '74 WSFA meetings will be at the Gillilands' (2126 Penna. Ave., N.W., Suite #3, Wash., DC 20037; ph. FE7-3759) on Apr. 5, and at the Harpers' (5203 Shires Ct., Clinton, MD 20735; ph. 868-2448) on Apr. 19. And remember the Annual Meeting (with elections, etc.) on May 2 (at the Gillilands'), and the DISCLAVE on May 24-27 (at the Sheraton Park Hotel; Singles \$19, Doubles \$25, extras \$7 ea.; GoH Frank Kelly Freas; Movies, Art Show, Huckster Room (Tables \$10), etc.; \$3 adv., \$4 at door; for info, etc., write or call Alexis Gilliland (address/phone number given above)).

Radio Notes: WAMU-FM (88.5) will present a 5-hour special, "An Evening with William N. Robson", on Sunday, Apr. 21, from 7 p.m.-midnight; the program will cover Mr. Robson's 41 years in radio, and will include rebroadcasts of: "Report on the We'ans" (7 p.m.), "Calling All Cars" (7:30), "The Fall of the City" (8), "Highlights From Sears: Then and Now" (8:30), "Open Letter on Race Hatred" (9), "Freedom--A Definition" (9:30), "The Man Behind the Gun" (10), "The CBS Radio Workshop" ("An Interview with Shakespeare") (10:30), "The CBS Radio Workshop" ("Young Man Axelbrod") (11), "Suspense" ("Three Skeleton Key") (11:30); on "X Minus One" (Fridays, 9:30-10:00 p.m.), the April shows are: 5, "Target One" (by Fred Pohl), 12, "There Shall Come Soft Rains" and "Zero Hour" (by Ray Bradbury), 19, "The Haunted Corpse" (by Fred Pohl), 26, "How to--" (by Clifford Simak); other programs of interest to SF fans & old-time radio buffs are: "Tales of Time and Space" (Sundays, 6:30 p.m.; readings by Drusilla Campbell), "Recollections" (Sun. 7 p.m., Thurs. 11 a.m.; old-time radio miscellany), "The Sealed Beam" (Wed., 10:30 p.m.; old-time radio miscellany; note especially "Suspense" ("Present Tense") on Apr. 17). (This info from WAMU Program Guide.) ## on WETA-FM (90.9), the delightful series on "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" will end on Apr. 10, and will be replaced by "The Fatman", starting Apr. 17 (Wednesdays, 8-8:30 p.m.); "Suspense" continues Thursdays, 8-8:30 p.m., "The Green Hornet" Mon. 8-8:30 p.m., "The Great Gildersleeve" Tues. 8-8:30 p.m., and "Radio Revisited" Fri., 8-8:30 p.m. (5, Jack Benny; 12, "Big Town"; 19, "The Big Story"; 26, Spike Jones Show); and don't forget the "Earplay" series of original dramas, Sundays 8-8:30 p.m. ## A few highlights of WBJC's weekday "Sounds Like Yesterday" 7-8 p.m. series (91.5): 3, "Escape ("A Night in Havana"); 5, "Earth Abides" (Pt. II); "Jack Armstrong"; 8, "Nick Carter" ("Webs of Murder"); 11, Philip Morris Playhouse ("Murder Needs an Artist"); 12, "Jack Armstrong"; 23, "The Whistler" ("Lonely Highway"); 26, "Jack Armstrong"; 29, "Command Performance" ("Dick Tracy in B-Flat"). ## WGTS-FM has a weekly series of old-time radio miscellany (Sat., 11:30 p.m.) called "New Old-time Radio Show; and on Sun., Apr. 14 they will have one-hour special, "Golden Age of Radio" (8 p.m.) (91.9).

Miscellany: The only Spring '74 offering of the Montgomery County Public Schools Adult Education program of possible interest to SF/fantasy/mystery fans is "Murder For Profit" ("A Survey of Detective Story Fiction"), which ". . ." will trace the progress of detective story fiction from Edgar Allan Poe to Ross Macdonald, touching on mystery stories, crime stories, and spy stories, , , " and will briefly review the writings of John Dickson Carr, Agatha Christie, Ian Fleming, Dashiell Hammett, Harry Kemelman, Dorothy Sayers, and others. (Bethesda-Cheva Chase H.S., Mons., 7:30-9:30 p.m., 10 weeks beginning Apr. 1; \$10 registration fee, payable Apr. 1). ## We have Apr.-May course info from Isis Center; if interested, give us a call (933-5417), or call the center (585-2886) for further details.

THE NATIONAL SCENE --

The Writers Guild's Valentine Davies Awards "for bringing honor and dignity to writers everywhere" were given to Phillip Dunne and Ray Bradbury. Only SF item among the 1973 National Book Award nominees was Gravity's Rainbow, by Thomas Pynchon. Minnesota fan Don Blyly has opened "Uncle Hugo's Science Fiction Bookstore", at 2002 4th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN (books, mags., comics, fanzines, etc.).

BOOK REVIEWS -- SF/Fantasy:

Reviewer, DON D'AMMASSA:

Ursus of Ultima Thule, by Avram Davidson (Avon Books) -- Avram Davidson is one of the few writers whose fantasy I prefer to his science fiction, such as The Phoenix and the Mirror and Island Under the Earth. This latest novel, which previously appeared as "Arnten of Ultima Thule" in IF, and "The Forges of Nainland Are Cold" in FANTASTIC, is a big disappointment. Davidson has given us a mish-mash of legends, surrealism, straight fantasy, and fairy tale. A pre-historical civilization has been buried in ice as the result of a shift in the earth's axis. The Wizards have decreed a plague of rust on all the iron in the kingdom of Thule, and young Arnten must discover why.

The Godwhale, by T.J. Bass (Ballantine) -- The Hive--Bass' repulsive, omnipresent future--returns in this sequel to his first novel, Half Past Human. The Nebishes--docile, conforming, three-and-a-half trillion strong, attempt to reclaim the oceans from the Benthics, a race of atavistic, aggressive humans. The overwhelming power of the Hive is not as convincing in this novel, because most of the action takes place in the Benthic communities, and it is the Benthics who eventually win. Bass never makes the Benthic society seem as real as that of the Hive, but the Nebishes are such a well-realized creation, they carry the book. While not as good as Half Past Human, this is nevertheless a brilliant novel, which may well win its author a Hugo.

The Day of Their Return, by Poul Anderson (Doubleday) -- If you ever wondered what would happen if Poul Anderson wrote a Darkover novel, this is your chance. The planet Aeneas is almost a carbon copy of Darkover. The imitation is apparently conscious--the book is dedicated to Ms. Bradley--and is in fact better than most of the latter's novels. But it most definitely is not a landmark in Anderson's career. Merseian agents and Terran Impies clash once more in this direct sequel to The Rebel Worlds, indirect sequel to People of the Wind. The ploys are all familiar, the plot predictable, and the outcome a foregone conclusion. Just once I'd like to see Merseia win.

Flight of the Bamboo Saucer, by Fritz Gordon (Award Books) -- An oddball scientist in Vermont invents a practical, operating flying saucer, which almost results in a nuclear war as various superpowers attempt to gain control of the device. The author, apparently a pseudonym for a collaboration, flirts with the absurd, apparently to point out the absurdity of the Cold War mentality. At times, he is lightheadedly effective; at others, heavyhanded, overdone, and boring. Hopefully the better half of this team will write more on his own.

After the Good War, by Peter Breggin (Popular Library) -- Well, here's another novel telling us all about how our morals have decayed and we have placed sex above love. Peter Breggin has provided us with a cloying, boring futuristic satire about a young couple's revolt against the horribly evil free lovers. The blurb reads: "They were prisoners of the lust generation". That blurb is possibly the best quick review that could have been written about this mindless piece.

Reviewer, CHICK DERRY:

Into the Aether, by Richard A. Lupoff (Dell; 95¢) -- Basically, this is a lampoon: a broad, corrosive, satire of all the turn-of-the-century boy's books. ## We have Professor Theobold Uriah Thintwhistle (Prof. TUT), his admiring protégé Herkimer, and, of course, the faithful-old-family-darkie, Jefferson Jackson Clay (!). ## From here on it is no-holds-barred. Dick Lupoff has a go at everything in literature, SF, politics, science, et al. ## His style is a photographic reproduction of the wordy style of G.A. Henty, H. Alger, Oliver Optic, etc. But just when you have decided that Lupoff is aping a particular style, he'll hit you with: "If he but knew what the ether-flyer pushes against, it might shatter the delicate equilibrium of his frail mentality." ## Or: "The fire this time, baby!" ## The former is the professor's thought processes whilst lecturing the youthful Herkimer on the modus operandi of the coal-fire, steam-powered, paddle-wheeled space-flyer;

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BOOKWORLD (Continued) --

the latter is a very apt phrase used by the "not-quite-what-he-seems" J.J. Clay-- who isn't exactly the laughable old darkie that he is first presented as being. ## From space ships with giant gear-shift levers that must be moved about laboriously, to Lunarians so huge that the characters land on the nipple of the Queen-- like good satire, and some lampoons, Lupoff throws in for good measure some comments on the significance of size; Women's Lib.; the origin of some Myths; the spectacle of countless SF authors trying to explain the function of machines (and theories) that could never work; and the truism that "virtue is its own reward", which is often a bed of roses--complete with thorns. ## If you like SF, you won't like ITA. If you like fantasy, you won't like ITA. If you like consistency and logic, you'll hate ITA. ## But if you like wild improvisation, consummate skill with words, the wielding of a literary scalpel like a meat cleaver, and above all, a large tongue solidly implanted in a very elastic cheek, you'll LOVE Into the Aether. ## I've read it twice and I'm still not sure of two things: What, if anything, does it mean?; and, Do I like it? ## To the second question I can only answer that maybe a third reading will answer the first question. In any event, I know I'll read it again--it's that kind of a book!

Reviewer, BILL HIXON:

Clone, by Richard Cowper (Doubleday; '73; 200 pp.) -- Richard Cowper's latest novel thrusts the reader to a far extension of today's science byline. The artificial reproduction of identical biological units, or cloning, serves as the basis for another return to the near-totalitarian future. ## We are presented here with the experimental results of Prof. (Ms.) Poynter in the Ministry of Procreation. The four clones she has produced--Alvin, Bruce, Colin, and Desmond--are the culmination of a long series of covert trial-and-error (mostly the latter) attempts at the "great society". Unfortunately, the proof of the good Professor's work is illegal. Having introduced four more mouths into an already overcrowded society, Prof. Poynter must quickly place the clones into separate, childless families. (It seems as though "improving the breed" is one thing, but adding to the breed in the process is quite another....) ## The "hooker" to this tale, however, lies in the fact that the four clones share a single, eidetic mentality. This small detail, seemingly overlooked by their creator, forces them to remain physically proximate, no matter the restraints imposed by their current "family" ties. The gathering of these four through the perils of a Washington-type, bureaucratic monster of a 1984, makes the rest of the story bubble and bounce the rest of its way. Humor abounds, especially in the social criticism of the "modern" society. ## The "vision" is dangerous--but fun, too....

Reviewer, DAVID STEVER:

Chains of the Sea, ed. Robert Silverberg (Book Club Edition) -- Three novellas by Piglet, Gardner Dozois, and Gordon Eklund, which seem to be two stories of the end of humanity, and a story of humanity's rebirth. ## "And Us, Too, I Guess", is a tale told by a small-time researcher and a blue collar worker from Cleveland (Mundane! Mundane!), and how their world comes apart as a seeming plague of extinctions of species hits Earth--one day everyone's mollies float belly-up in their aquariums. Though some of the species seem unimportant, the realization dawns that Man might be next--but too late. ## Dozois' "Chains of the Sea" tells how the invisible people who live on Earth team up with the new Alien Invaders to wipe out Man--and are betrayed by the one little boy who can see them. ## Eklund's "The Shrine of Sebastian" is beautiful, enigmatic, and very likely to be nominated for all of the awards this year. The new Pope is off to bury the mortal remains of his wife, the old Pope; her chosen resting place--the shrine of the heretic Sebastian. A great story--but then, all three are well worth your time.

Paired Review: The Burrowers Beneath, by Brian Lumley (DAW BOOKS; 2/74):

Reviewer, JIM GOLDFRANK:-- The Burrowers Beneath deals with the struggle of contemporary scientific Man to deal with the immemorial evil of the Cthulhu-cycle  
(Cont. next page)

## BOOKWORLD (Continued) --

deities. The chief antagonists are Shudde M'ell and its spawn--subterranean, physically and mentally powerful creatures. Other allied deities get into the act, but their roles are peripheral to the main story. Their purpose is to prepare the earth for the return of their lord, Cthulhu. Some success against them is achieved in this novel, but the victory is never final, and sequels seem called for. ## The Cthulhu Mythos is tremendously complex. H.P. Lovecraft laid a framework of legends, a pantheon of gods, reference works called "The Books"--of which the best-known is the Necronomicon--and histories of the involvement of men. HPL encouraged others to integrate new material into the framework so that the Mythos would be maintained as a coherent whole. Any good work written in this tradition is a scholarly and unique combination of weird horror, science fiction, and fantasy that defies any further attempt at classification. ## Burrowers Beneath correlates real current events plus developments in astronomy, physics, biology, and geology into the Mythos. The reader whose background includes Lovecraft, and the Lovecraft-related works of C.A. Smith, R.E. Howard, August Derleth, Robert Bloch, Lin Carter et al, as well as a knowledge of current science, will find this work amply rewarding. The reader who lacks this background will miss a great deal, and only find it pedantic except for brief moments of gruesome action. Burrowers Beneath is a must for the Lovecraft specialist, but is not recommended to others.

Reviewer, DON D'AMASSA -- Lumley has a beautiful idea here. Take a typical Lovecraftian Cthulhu story and set it in the present. Sounds interesting, doesn't it? But not after Lumley gets through with it. Despite setting it in the present, Lumley still affects an archaic style, with palpable miasmas of horror, psychic dreams, and polysyllabic reveries on the part of his characters. If Lumley had decided to set the story in the here-and-now, why are all of his characters living a century ago? Worse, even ignoring the style, it is impossible to work up any degree of suspense from the book, because whenever the plot thickens, Lumley thins it out with copious references to the Necronomicon, De Vermiis Mysteriis, and every other Lovecraft reference he can dredge up. File under misfires.

Mysteries:

Nine Times Nine, by Anthony Boucher (as H.H. Holmes) (Penguin) /Reviewer, DON D'AMASSA/ -- This long-out-of-print novel introduced Inspector Marshall, who was later to solve a murder at a Science Fiction convention in Rocket to the Morgue. In this first novel, Marshall tangles with crackpot religious groups and a man who wants to take control of the United States. A well-done locked-room murder is cleverly solved, but the murderer's identity should be obvious to mystery buffs early in the novel.

Operation Whiplash, by Dan J. Marlowe (Fawcett 10/73; original) /Reviewer, GEORGE FERGUS/ -- The ninth in the "Earl Drake, ex bank robber" series, in which the author has finally abandoned the dull spy plots of his last several books in favor of a dull gangster plot. It could be said that the series has bottomed out, since this is nowhere near as bad as numbers 6 and 7 (Op. Drumfire and Op. Checkmate), which were hardly worth reading. Drake returns to the scene of the first novel in the series, but since there is absolutely nothing original or inventive here the comparison is devastating. The book is not completely worthless, as Marlowe is a good writer and his protagonist is tough and intelligent, but this rehash of characters and incidents from the beginning of the series, including a 14-page summary of events in the second book, makes me doubt he could get out of his rut even if he set Drake to robbing banks again. Avoid this and re-read the first three in the series instead: The Name of the Game is Death, One Endless Hour, Operation Fireball. Or hope that they will reissue some of Marlowe's earlier non-series books.

Gypsy in Amber, by Martin Smith (Putnam's) /Reviewer, DENIS QUANE/ -- The N.Y. TIMES has praised this series for its picture of gypsy life and culture. (This book was first published in 1971, there was a sequel, Canto for a Gypsy, in 1973, and more are apparently planned.) In the book someone mentions that world opinion

(Over)

BOOKWORLD (Continued) --

is outraged that Hitler killed six million Jews, but no one seems to care about the thousands of gypsies who also perished. There's no excusing genocide, but if the picture of gypsy life presented by Smith were true, the lack of concern would be explicable. No, I'm not prejudiced against gypsies--I just can't believe that what Smith tells us about the gypsies is the whole truth. He shows us the unpleasant side of gypsy life, but not the positive aspects. We do not see at all those gypsies who are not thieves or swindlers. The mystery aspect of the book--well, that's not bad at all, in fact it's quite effective in the way it makes use of the gypsy background--but when so much of the book is taken up with descriptions of gypsy life and culture (The TIMES says that it does for the gypsy world what Kemelman's Rabbi series does for Judaism; however, Kemelman's books make this Irishman feel akin to the Jews--but if I believed Smith, I think I'd run when I saw a gypsy.), if you can't stand that aspect of the book, the mystery will be little attraction.

BOOKS RECEIVED (Reviewers and potential reviewers, please note) --

## SF/Fantasy:

Case and the Dreamer, by Theodore Sturgeon (Nelson Doubleday, Inc., Garden City, NY; Doubleday SFBook Club Ed.; '74; 152 pp.; d.j. by Larry Kresek; pub. by arrangement with New American Library) -- Collection: "Case and the Dreamer" (GALAXY, 1/72); "If All Men Were Brothers, Would You Let One Marry Your Sister?" (Dangerous Visions, '70); "When You Care, When You Love" (F&SF, 9/62). Hardbound.

If You Believe the Soldiers, by Alexander Cordell (Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, NY; '74; 216 pp.; d.j. by Lawrence Ratzkin; \$5.95) -- Novel set in Britain in 1982: "a place where blackshirts patrol the streets and a fascist government controls the state", and "a time when nonconformism is disastrous--and resistance to state decrees, fatal". Hardbound.

Monument, by Lloyd Biggle, Jr. (Doubleday & Co., Inc.; Garden City, NY; SFBook Club ed.; '74; 185 pp.; d.j. by Gary Friedman) -- Novel about the paradise world of Langri, which "ruthless billionaire promoter" H. Harlow Wembling attempts to turn into "a tinselled vacation resort where wealthy strangers throng the beaches and enrich Wembling and Company", opposed only by a Plan devised by a now-dead wandering prospector named Cern Obrien, and followed blindly by the natives. Hb.

## Other Fiction: (All from Berkley Pub. Corp., NY, except where otherwise

Bitter is the Fruit, by Cornelius J. Collins (#02535; /noted; all paperback) 256 pp.; \$1.25; 3/74; romantic novel); Bringing it All Back Home, by Ronald Friedland (#02336; 256 pp.; \$1.25; 3/74; orig. pub. '71 by J.B. Lippincott Co.; novel about violence on a Southern campus); The Camerons, by Robert Crichton (Warner Paperback Library; NY; #79258; 510 pp.; \$1.95; 1/74; orig. pub. '72 by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.; portions orig. appeared in PLAYBOY and LADIES' HOME JOURNAL; much-touted novel of life in the Scottish Highlands); The Headshrinker's Test, by Sue Kaufman (#02540; 223 pp.; \$1.25; 3/74; orig. pub. '71 by Random House; novel of sex and intrigue); Israel Potter: His Fifty Years of Exile, by Herman Melville (Warner Paperback Library; NY; #59287; 221 pp.; \$1.75; 2/74; novel in "Rediscovery Series", this one selected & introduced by Alfred Kazin, and about the adventures of a "Sad Sack" Revolutionary War soldier--"a traveler through whom /via the pen of Melville/ friends and foes reveal themselves"); Kiai!, by Piers Anthony & Roberto Fuentes (#02511; 191 pp.; 95¢; 2/74; novel about Jason Striker, "Master of Martial Arts"; #1 in series); McCord, by Gil Martin (#02481; 143 pp.; 75¢; 2/74; "A Violent Western" novel); Memorial to the Duchess, by Jocelyn Kettle (#02525; 320 pp.; \$1.25; 3/74; Historical Novel; the "life, loves and adventures" of Alice Chaucer, Duchess of Suffolk, in 15th Century England); Queen of Romantic Fiction #4: Come Back, Miranda, by Anne Duffield (#02518; 255 pp.; 95¢; 2/74; "Large-Type Edition"; love story); Satan's Mules, by Gil Martin (#02533; 160 pp.; 75¢; 3/74; "Violent New Western"); The Trouble With Eden, by Jill Emerson (#02517; 432 pp.; \$1.50; 2/74; novel of "everyday" life in crazy, mixed-up Bucks County, Pa.).

ED CONNOR, 1805 N. Gale, Peoria, IL 61604

(7 Mar '74)

I would like to comment on Don D'Amassa's review of Barry Malzberg's Beyond Apollo [in SOTWJ #131]. Now, I'm not sure whether this is a "novel of paranoia" or not. I do believe that it is very unlikely that the protagonist, Evans, has been "driven mad by the nature of the space program itself, which treats astronauts as just another piece of equipment". ## I believe that Evans has been strongly alienated by environmental factors encountered on the long trip while in close confinement with another man, his superior on the mission. ## To recount, his comrade did not return with him; Evans cannot bring himself to tell the truth about what happened. Meanwhile, Evans regularly has intercourse with his wife. ## What I, personally, found rather obvious about the story is this: sometime during the course of the journey to Venus one of two things happened: Evans was seduced sexually by the captain, or the captain was seduced sexually by Evans. If the former, Evans after a time could stand it no longer and rebelled, doing away with the captain; if the latter, the captain eventually rebelled and Evans came out on top---er, did away with his superior. Otherwise, how can we explain Evans' trying to convince the reader, over and over, that he is sexually "normal" and can get it up and have intercourse with his wife whenever circumstances warrant? This is the reason the sexual episodes between Evans and his wife are described in such a clinically uninteresting manner--Evans is capable of going through the motions but they are obviously contrived. ## Incidentally, Beyond Apollo is not Science Fiction (maybe SF--Sexual Fiction), according to my criteria--the lonely trip could have been to almost anywhere on Earth, by any mundane means (balloon across the Atlantic, canoe up the Amazon, packmule into the Sierras, bicycle down the West Coast, or even by foot along wilderness trails); the reference to another body in Sol's system is essentially meaningless. The space program has no bearing on the main clout of the story at all.

GEORGE FERGUS, 3341 W. Cullom Ave., Chicago, IL 60618

(7 Mar '74)

. . . I wish you would change the title. SON OF THE WSFA JOURNAL is awful. I still think that because of the interrelationship of material--dateable material in frequent 10-page clumps, less-dateable material in less-frequent 20-page clumps sent 3rd-class, even-less-dateable material in even-less-frequent clumps with covers and some artwork added--and the combined subscription policy, your zines should all go under the same name. In fact, since the number of "issues" used up on a subscription is based on approximately how many multiples of 10 pages are included in each clump, you would confuse subscribers less by calling the next issue of your big zine (TWJ) a combined issue of numbers 150-156 (or whatever) of your small zine (SOTWJ). If you can't keep the WSFA JOURNAL name, the one I like best of those suggested is the one hinted at by Ken Faig: SF ARCHIVE. To me this has a lot more character than THE SF RECORD, and essentially the same meaning. ## Another thing I wish you would do is stop making unnecessary work for yourself. I'm talking about those little notes you staple into copies of SOTWJ. I can see enclosing them to inform non-fans why they are getting a particular issue (your book is reviewed herein, etc.), but it seems altogether too much trouble to go through for the rest of us. I won't feel bad if I don't get a personal note from you, and I think most of us can find our names if we are mentioned, without having to be led by the hand. ## I can't really see much purpose in reviewing reissues of old mystery favorites. What do we need a review of something we already know is good for? Announcing its existence and listing the contents seems sufficient to me.

((The problem of the title is still up in the air. Your suggestions have merit, and will receive strong consideration when and if a title change becomes imminent. However, we should note that TWJ is once again available by separate subscription. ## Re the slips of paper--we can only go by our own experience here; we get a huge stack of fanzines daily, and would certainly welcome knowing which ones TWJ/SOTWJ are mentioned in so we can give them special attention (other-

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EN PASSANT (Continued) --

wise, lack of time might prevent our reading them for quite a while); many of our too-busy friends have told us essentially the same thing. So, how about it, the rest of you--do you find the slips useful, or should we cut down on them? ## As for the old mysteries--once again, we speak from our own experience, which is that we are a latecomer to the mystery field, and find such reviews particularly useful; are we unique, or do most of our other readers (excepting the strictly SF readers, of course) find them interesting/useful? --ed.)

ROBERT SMOOT, Three Churches, WV 26765

(9 Mar '74)

/Re SOTWJ #131/ . . . Michael Shoemaker is always a pleasure to read, and the subject being Asimov only compounds the attraction. ## The one thing about mass book reviews that I dislike is the fact that usually I've never so much as heard of more than one or two of the books. That's probably as much a reflection on me as the reviews. ## With respect to 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea: How many people saw the short NBC had on shortly before TLUS's presentation, about the filming of the flic? Did you wonder how so many fish stayed in the area of the actors? Hired hands beyond camera range constantly supplied marine life to replace the departing natives. Also, the shark scenes were not part of the original script. During the filming, Mr. Shark moved into camera range, harassed the actors, and before too ~~late~~ long made his departure. During the whole thing, the cameras kept on rolling, and the scene was edited in. ## In case you're unaware, I Am Legend has had one other film version before Omega Man. In '56, I believe it was, AIP brought us The Last Man on Earth, with Vincent Price, Franca Bettoia, Emma Danieli, Giacomo Rossi-Stuart, and Umberto Rau. Robert Lippert produced, Sidney Salkow directed, and the running time was 86 minutes. I've only seen it once, but I was very impressed. Was on a double-bill frequently with Unearthly Stranger. ## Incidentally, I did see The Omega Man, and have to say it was somewhat impressive. Not always credible (I wonder if that term should be applied with respect to fantasy?), but I was entertained. . . .

CHICK DERRY, 6813 3rd St., Riverdale, MD

(11 Mar '74)

. . . Got SOTWJ #132 today, and I read it all, every single bitty-bit. Was most interested in En Passant. I was sorry to hear about both Jenkins' and Tucker's physical problems. I can undersyand Will Jenkins having problems, after all he's been around since Noah landed. But Tucker is a mere broth (soup) of a boy. Gad, the lad can't be many years my senior, and I'm just barely of voting age. ## Ozanne's review of Orphans of the Sky touched on something I've noticed about Heinlein. I don't know whether or not his writing started downhill when he began to receive the plaudits of the Mundane fans, or whether he is just getting old. But beginning with Stranger in a Strange Land he began to substitute sex for emotion. He reached his nadir with I Will Fear No Evil. Pure garbage. Orphans of course comes from his peak period--the short, savage style, and the deft delineation of character, e.g. His forties stories, I think, are better than most of his later novels. Somehow I always feel he is padding-along in his hardbacks. (One exception is The Puppet Masters.)

WE ALSO HEARD FROM: Fredric Wertham, L. Sprague de Camp, Frank Halpern, Allen J. Hubin, and others whose letters are in other files, who wrote to thank us for recent issues of SOTWJ. (In response to an inquiry from us re checklists and indexes of mystery mags., Allen notes that, to his knowledge, no checklist of mystery magazines exists; as for indexes; "A complete index to BLACK MASK has been compiled by a Californian, and was supposed to have been published last year. . . In addition, I have on hand a fine index to the first 350 issues of EQMM, which I hope to publish some time this year. It will run about 125 TAD-size pages, and will list the contents of EQMM exhaustively. The compiler of this work is presently occupied with a similar effort for THE SAINT, and I would hope to be able to publish this in the future as well. I know of no other related activities on other magazines, and I hope you will take this as an invitation to join in. . .") And LoC's from Don D'Amassa and Denis Quane, which will appear in next issue of SOTWJ.



## THE AMATEUR PRESS

GENZINES -- U.S.:

BANSHEE #7 (Mar. '74) (Michael Gorra, 199 Great Neck Rd., Waterford, CT 06385; irregular; mimeo (offset covers); 60¢ ea.) -- 32 pp. / covers (front cover by Jay Kinney, bacover by Eric Mayer; interior illos by Sheryl Birkhead, Grant Canfield, Charles Lee Jackson, Bill Kunkel, Eric Mayer, Chris Offut, Joe Pearson, Marc Schirmeister (4-illo folio), Al Sirois, Dan Steffan; Editorial; Mike Glicksohn on baking bread; Cy Chauvin column; Bob Tucker on fanzine polls; "It Can Happen Here", by Arnie Katz; Aljo Svoboda column; lettercolumn. ## BANSHEE has come of age with this issue--lots of well-reproduced art, good repro, and a bunch of rather informal but interesting columns. (A fanzine made up of nothing but art and columns? Hmmm....)

CROSSROADS #14 (Summer '73) (Al & Sally Snider, B-19, 889 Edwards Rd., Parsippany, NJ 07054; at least semi-annual; offset; 75¢ ea., 2/\$1; 4/\$1.75; 8/\$3) -- 20 pp., incl. cover (by Joe Staton); illos by Dan Steffan, Grant Canfield, C. Lee Healy, Mike Gilbert; Editorial; Don D'Amassa "reacts to earlier comment on fan reviews"; Sally Jane Snider on their wanderings of the past year; Andy Offutt on "the blood and scare scene" (part I); Henry Bitman attempts to define SF; lettercolumn. ## Here's one we haven't seen in a long time--and the best issue to date. Excellent repro, fine art, interesting contents. Recommended. ((Rec'd Mar. '74))

DON-O-SAUR III:6 (Mar. '74) (Don Thompson, 7498 Canosa Ct., Westminster, CO 80030; monthly; mimeo; 25¢ ea., 12/\$2.50) -- 12 pp., incl. covers: fc by Sheryl Birkhead, bc by Henry Bitman; illos by Mike Blake & Gail Barton; Don discourses on his marriage, politics, etc.; lettercolumn. ## This is a personalzine, with lettercolumn (which makes it sort of a genzine....).

ECCE #3 (Summer '73) (The Index Co., POBox 351, Platteville, WI 53818; ed. Roger D. Sween; irregular; offset; 75¢ ea., 4/\$3; 5 1/4" x 8 1/2") -- 52 pp., incl. covers; illos by Hy Poteneuse & Tim Kirk; Editorial; Essay: "The Positronic Brain as an Element in the Robot Stories and Novels of Isaac Asimov", by Roger Sween; Non-F Reviews for SF Fans", by C.J.W. Williams; Notices; "What Is Wrong With 'One of Our Librarians Is Missing'", by C.J.W. Williams; Round Robin Review (of Future Quest, ed. Roger Elwood), w/Sween, Dr. Richard Doxtator, Warren Johnson, & Craig Akey; Media Reviews (Books, Movies), by Sween; lettercolumn. With enclosure: SPECULATIVE LITERATURE BIBLIOGRAPHY #2 (offset; 5 1/4" x 8 1/2"; 50¢ ea., 4/\$2) -- "Reference Sources for the Study of Speculative Literature", by Roger D. Sween; 47 pp.; explanatory preface; Part I: "a classified, annotated list of thirty-nine titles of a reference nature"; Part II: "a list of 112 titles which were named as secondary sources in my survey of colleges offering speculative literature courses". ## If you're interested in the serious side of SF, you'll find this excellent series of considerable interest; if you are (like us) an inveterate bibliographer and indexer, both ECCE and SLB are musts. Recommended. ((Rec'd Mar. '74))

KABALLAH THE FANTASY REVIEWER #1 (Jan. '74) (Gerard Houarner, 25-33 48th St., Long Island City, NY 11103; offset; no schedule given; 40¢ ea., 5/\$2) -- 10 pp., incl. cover; illos by William Stout, (?) R. Snyder, (?) G. Houarner; Introductory editorial; "Kung Fu, Sword & Sorcery, and the American Way", by Greg Stafford; Al Cockrell reviews Clarke's Rendezvous with Rama; short book reviews by Debra Waites, Gerard Houarner; Film Reviews by Brian Crist (The Legend of Hell House) and Gerard Houarner (Sleeper); "Evangeline Walton--Master Fantasist", by Brian Crist. ## An interesting first issue of another publication devoted to the serious side of SF and fantasy. Off to a good start.... Give it a try. ((3/74))

KYBEN #7 (Mar. '74) (Jeff Smith, 4102-301 Potter St., Baltimore, MD 21229; 35¢ ea., 3/\$1; quarterly; mimeo; AussieAgent Paul Anderson, 21 Mulga Rd., Hawthorndene, S.A. 5051. Australia) -- 30 pp. / covers (fc by S. Randall; bc by Grant Canfield); illos by Charlie Hopwood, Bill Rotsler, Gregg Davidson, R.P. Smith (cartoon strip), Canfield, R.P. Smith; Editorial notes/commentary/etc.; "Collectors Are Sick People", by Darrell Schweitzer; "Book Reports" (annotated diary of books read); Fanzine Reviews. ## Jeff's personalized genzine continues to be good reading; give it a try.

(Over)

THE AMATEUR PRESS (Continued) --

PREHENSILE #11 (undated) (Mike Glycer, 14974 Osceola St., Sylmar, CA 91342; approx. quarterly; offset; 50¢ ea.; 5½" x 8½") -- 86 pp., incl. covers (fc by Freff, bc by Bill Rotsler; illos by Sheryl Birkhead, Grant Canfield, Freff, Jonh Ingham, Jack Harness, Marty Larson, Wayne MacDonald, Jim McLeod, Joe Pearson, Bill Rotsler, Marc Schirmeister, Jim Shull, Bruce Townley, Reed Waller; Editorial; TorCon 2 report, by Mike; Lou Stathis on giving a talk on SF before a 6th-grade class; "Science Fiction & the Genre Disease", by Darrell Schweitzer; Mike Glicksohn reviews fanzines; Richard Wadholm's column; book reviews by Don Keller, Stan Burns, Cy Chauvin; film reviews by Richard Wadholm, Bill Warren; lettercolumn. ## Another fanzine which has improved with age, and is now one of the better fanzines being published today in the U.S. Recommended, of course.

PHOTRON #9 (undated) (Steven Beatty, 1662 College Terrace Dr., Murray, KY 42071; bi-monthly; mimeo; 25¢ ea., 5/\$1) -- 20 pp., incl. cover (by Mike Buckingham?); illo by John Neal, from MAYBE #23; "Midnight Ramblings of a Rabid Bradbury Fan", by Barry Eysman; poem by David Rieck, Alan Wagner, & Steven Beatty; Roger Sween on James Thurber's The Thirteen Clocks and The Wonderful O; short fiction by Randy Winchester; miscellany; lettercolumn. ## An interesting mixture; not bad.

RETICULUM #1 (undated) (John Carl, 3750 Green Lane, Butte, MT 59701; irregular; ditto; LoC's, contribs, trades, 4 stamps ea. (denomination not specified); this issue combined w/ADRENALIN #3) -- 24 pp. / cover (by Bruce Townley); illo by David Shank; Editorial Meanderings; "How to LoC a Fanzine", by Norm Hochberg; a couple of short fanzine reviews, by Ben Indick; Dick Patten on buying junk; short fiction, by Ed Lesko, Jr.; Mike Glicksohn on winning a Hugo; Mae Strelkov on Egoboo; lettercolumn; poem by Roger Sween; "The Feud of the Century", by Marion Zimmer Bradley (repr. SPECTRE #3). ## Relaxed, loose 'zine which seems to contain mostly letters-turned-into-articles; send some stamps and try an issue.

FRANCE:

LUNATIQUE #63 (Mar. '73) (Jacqueline H. Osterrath, 5929 Sassmannshausem, Germany, or 11 rue Edmond Roger, Paris XV, France (take your pick--both addresses were given); 5 Fr ea., 6/22 Fr or 6/15 DM; schedule not given; in French; mimeo (offset cover); 8 1/8" x 11 3/4") -- 66 pp. / cover (by Sabrina Renaud, as are 2 full-page illos); Book Reviews by Tina Sol & Alphonse Brutsche; interview with artist Sabrina Renaud; short fanzine reviews; miscellany; poem by Claire Charasz; and lots of short fiction (at least, we think it's all fiction), by: Numa Sadoul, Sabine Rock, Gilbert Gallerne, Claude Dumont, Alban de Lapsker, Jean-Pierre Magne-Picard, Marie-Claire Gilles, Claude Legrand, Dominique Bashione, Marie-Noëlle Slonina, Michel Gilbert, Tony Duperray, Pierre Ferran, Pierre Gripari, Anne Champion. ## French translator, where are you????

GERMANY:

ANARCH ("Das Literarisch-Satirisches Magazin"; Dieter Sachse, 62 Wiesbaden, Am Melonenberg 16, W.Germany; irregular; ditto; #5 5 DM, #6 3 DM; 8 1/4" x 11 3/4") -- #5 (Spr. '72): 70 pp., incl. cover (uncredited); illos by Eckehard Sachse, Eberhard Schlichting, "ANARCH-Bildermacher-Kollektiv"; mostly short fiction and short articles, etc., with one long piece of fiction ("Hör auf dein Herz, Oh Annegret", by Sylvia Dörrmann, Dieter Sachse, & Samanthav. Hohenstein); we won't break the contents down any further, as the titles and authors would probably mean very little to most of our readers; #6 (Jun '73): 54 pp., incl. cover (uncredited, as are most of illos); Dieter Sachse interviews Onkel Bitze; "ANARCH-Poster"; continuation (parts 5 & 6; #'s 3 & 4 were in #5) of "Hör auf dein Herz . . .", by Daniela May, Dieter Sachse, & Ramona Wickert (ah, here are some illo credits: Dieter Sachse & Peter Schaus, for the story, at least); short fiction, articles, & miscellany. ## Both in German, naturally. Contents (particularly artwork) seem a bit sexually oriented (esp. in #5). Reproduction, for ditto, is outstanding--multi-color illos and some text; text is very clear, as are illos--the best ditto we have ever seen (better than most mimeo, and a good bit of offset repro). For a visual treat, send for a copy (if it's still avail.; these were sent us by our German agent, Frank Flügge, as was LUNATIQUE #63).