

THE SPANG BLAH

THE AVIANO SPECULATIVE FICTION CLUB !!

A FREE PRESS FOR A FREE COSMOS

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SCIENCE FICTION IN EUROPE

25 - 27 Oct 74, NOVACON 4, Imperial Centre Hotel, Birmingham, England. GOH: Ken Slater. Reg. £ 1.50. Info: Robert Hoffman, 44 Middleston Hall Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham B30 1BY, Eng.

9 - 10 Nov 74, BENELUXCON II, Amersfoort, Netherlands. Info: Annemarie and Leo Kindt, Spotvogellaan 45A, Den Haag, Netherlands.

24 - 27 Jan 75, SYNCON 75, dunmore Lang College, Mac Quirie Un., North Ryde, NSW 2113 Australia. Reg. A\$4.00. Info: Ron & Sue Clarke, 2/159 Herring Rd, North Ryde, NSW 2113 (until 1 Nov 74), thereafter to 6 Hillcrest Ave., Faulconbridge NSW 2776, Australia.

28 - 31 March 75, SEACON 75, De Vere Hotel, Coventry, Eng. GOH: Michael Moorcock. Reg. £ 2.50. Info: Malcolm Edwards 19 Rammoor Gardens Harrow, Middx., HAIUQ

14 - 17 Aug 75, AUSSIECON/33rd WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION, Southern Cross Hotel, Melbourne, Australia. GOH: Ursula K. LeGuin. FAN GOH: Mike and Susan Glickson. Reg. A\$2 supporting, A\$7.00 attending. Info: Aussiecon, GPO Box 4039, Melbourne, Victoria, 3001 Australia. (N.B. Use of Air Mail is imperative. Request air mail replies and add sufficient funds to cover the addition costs.)

The above is accurate and complete as of 1 September 1974. We request information on conventions and congresses be sent to us, so that we can inform our readers. Please note that prices are quoted in the currency of the host country. Use of International Money Orders is recommended.

ENGLAND

CHECKPOINT is now published by Darroll Pardoe, 24 Othello Close Hartford, Hunts., PE 18 7SU. Peter Roberts handed it over to him a short while ago.

THE GLOBE, scene of monthly SF meeting for over 20 years is being demolished. The meetings, on the 1st Thursday of each month, have shifted to ONE TUN, 125 Suffron Hill, London EC 1. (See Germany for something to do on the 1st Fridays of each month)

SEACON 75 reports a membership of over 200 by now. It looks like it will be even bigger than TYNECON and the committee shudders. Will success spoil British SF? The committee reports that the hotel is spanking new and made for cons. Among the events scheduled are Fancy Dress Parade Art Show, and Banquet.

WORLDCON 79. The roll of persons saying "Britain is Fine in 79" had grown past the 200 mark. Work on the bid is coming along reports Peter Roberts. No location has been set as yet. For information contact Malcolm Edwards, 19 Rammoor Gardens, Harrow, Middx., HAI IUQ, England or Tony Lewis, 33 Unity Ave., Belmont, MA, 02178 USA. The pre-supporting membership costs 40p to Malcolm or \$1.00 to Tony. Register NOW!

NOVACON 4 reports that it plans to have more films this year and that they will be shown more than once. Among the films already scheduled is the Czech cartoon "Attention".

The British Fantasy Society have named the following as recipients of the "August Derleth Fantasy Award":

Best Novel: HROLF KRRAKIS SAGA by Paul Anderson.

Best Short Story: THE JADE MAN'S EYES by Michael Moorcock.

Best Film: THE LEGEND OF HELL HOUSE directed by John Hough.

Best Comic: CONAN

Courtesy of Keith Richmond
(We did see "THE LEGEND OF HELL HOUSE" and it was quite well done.)

GERMANY. (DDR)

There is a regular meeting of SF fans at the home of Gary Klupfel, 8 München 70, Andechserstr 1 on the 1st Friday of each month. Gary welcomes anyone who is interested to drop in. English can be spoken there and understood. So, if you are in the area or are one of the jet set, who has decided to follow up the SF meeting at the ONE TUN in London, with one in München, you are welcome. Be cautioned that the elevator only goes to the 3rd floor and Gary lives on the 4th. (Knock 3 times and say: "finder hat mich geschickt.")

Have just received a copy of the MRU (Munich 'Round Up) which is the satirical fanzine of the SF - gruppe München.

It appears approximately 4 times a year. The cost is DM 6,- for 4 issues or DM 11,- for 8 issues. Each issue has at least 40 pages and contains book reviews, a letter column, articles, transcriptions of panel discussions at SF cons and a calendar of events. It is almost solely in German, however English summaries are now being considered. To subscribe, write Waldemar Kunning, D-8000 München 2, Herzogspitalstr. 5. Oh yes, Waldemar is fluent in English.

GERMANY (DDR)

Some background and current information on the state of SF in the Deutsche Demokratische Republik from Herr Carlos Rasch, SF author.

"Utopian literature, which is the usual setting for SF in the DDR, is only a marginal phenomenon. In the last 20 years, approximately 200 books in this genre have appeared. Of these around 60 were by DDR authors, the rest were mainly from the USSR. The last 10 years has seen an increase in the number of anthologies containing some stories by 27 American and British writers. While SF, utopian literature, was not officially held in contempt, the acceptance of the useful side of SF was not widely spread. Since all publishing houses in the DDR are government owned, SF, therefore, had little leeway. The readers for the publishing houses are also on the spot to very carefully read the manuscripts from authors writing about the future, because one is unsure as to the political correctness of such futuristic stories. Moreover, there are the difficulties with obtaining paper. Political publications, schoolbooks, and mainstream literature or other works, which could bring in hard currencies, took precedence over SF.

Nevertheless, according to official surveys, is second in popularity in book sales, film and TV with both the young and old. The circulation of magazines of various types, totals 150,000 copies. Pocketbooks have a press run of between 50 and 80,000 and hardbacks have a press run of up to 20,000, which is often repeated once or twice. Considering that the population of the DDR is only 18 million, this is quite good.

I have written 13 novels and short stories since 1961. They have appeared in 8 countries, totaling 1.7 million copies. My next book 'Magma am Himmel' has just gone to the publisher and is expected to appear in early 1975. In addition I'm working on the scripts for 4 episodes in a 13 part series for TV. It is entitled RAUMLOTSEN and is expected to run 2 or 3 years.

I and the few other SF writers in the DDR have built a section for utopian literature in the writers association. We invite readers from the publishers of SF to our meetings to discuss our work. The section also serves as a connection to like groups in other lands. Thus our members were commissioned to travel to SF congresses in Budapest and Poznan. We hope to have representatives at EUROCON II in Grenoble."

ITALY

Gian Paolo Cassato, who is in charge of public relations for the Centro Culturale Science Fiction (CCSP) and is a literary agent and translator of SF novels, sends us the following information on Italian SF.

EVENTS:

September - la Rassegna Garda d'arte fantascientifica - organized by Centro Culturale "Il Circolo" - Via Piccioni 80 - 09100 Cagliari.

FANZINES:

KRONOS: Book reviews, essays, interviews, fiction and poetry. Piero Giorgi - Via Ca' Ressa 23b - 30100 Mestre.

PULSAR: Book reviews, biographies, general articles sometimes only loosely connected with SF. Angelina Lardone - Casella Postale 6105 - Roma Prati 00100.

NOTIZIARIO CCSP: Book reviews and film reviews, essays, biographies, news, everything connected with the field except poetry and fiction. Makes wide use of foreign contributions. Organ of the CCSP (founded in 1962). CCSP - Casella Postale 423 - 30100 Venezia.

CLUBS:

CLUB ROMA DI SF - c/o Sandro Pergamono - Via Centuripe 34 - 00179 Roma.

CLUB PALERMITANO DI SF - c/o Gian Filippo Pizzo - C.so Calatafimi 207 - 90100 Palermo.

CCSP - Sezione Cagliari - c/o Centro Culturale il Circolo - Via Piccioni 80 - 09100 Cagliari.

CCSP - Sezione Trieste - c/o Corno Italia 31 - 34100 Trieste.

C.M.N.A. - Via Giuseppe Frua n. 19 - 20146.

Tre Paesi nell' Ignoto - Piazza Repubblica 10 - Ferrara 44100.

CCSP - Sezione Parma - c/o Ivo Campanini - Via Ognibene 15 - 43100 Parma.

Club Genovese di SF - c/o Enrico Bonavera - Via Biele 2 - 16143 Genova.

CCSP - Sezione Bari - c/o Rocco Ragone - Viale Salentina 5, Pal D - 70124 Bari.

CCSP - Direzione Generale - Casella Postale 423 - 30100 Venezia.

AUSTRALIA

Australia claims to have the most active fandom after the USA and the United Kingdom. The response from fan downunder seems to bear this out. The no. of readers we now have there has grown by leaps and bounds (with so many kangaroos, what else could we expect?).

OZ CON '74, the 13th National Australian SF con has just entered history and a record turnout was expected.

With the great distances found on the continent, fanzines play a big role. We list below a sampling of the fanzines available from Australia:

ANK Ron and Sue Clarke - 2/159 Herring Road - North Ryde - NSW 2113 Australia.

PANFLETTER Leigh Edmonds, Box 74, Balaclava, Victoria 3183

FORERUNNER Sue Clark (address above).

OSIRIS Dennis Stocks, Box 235, Albion, Brisbane 4010, Queensland. (Also publishes two additional fanzines.)

RATAPLAN Leigh Edmonds (address above).

SF COMMENTARY Bruce Gillespie, Box 5195AA, GPO Melbourne, Victoria 3001.

SOMETHING ELSE Shayne McCormack, 49 Orchard Road, Bass Hill, NSW 2197.

Other tidbits: "Campbell-An Australian Tribute" is available for US \$3.00 from the Space Age Bookstore, 305 Swanston St., Melbourne, Victoria, 3000.

The Melbourne SF Club remains co-located with the Space Age Bookstore. Visiting fan are most welcome.

AUSSIECON continues to gain members and is nearing the 1000 mark. However, we understand that the European membership is quite low. Come on fan, this is a Worldcon.

TURKEY

There is a small, but active group of fan in Turkey. It's center is in Ankara. It publishes a good looking fanzine, ANTARES, containing book and film reviews, short stories, etc. ANTARES also contains an English summary. Write: Sezar Erkin Ergin, P.K. 56, Bakanliklar, Ankara, Turkey.

TOLKIEN AWARD ?

Earlier this year we reported that the Mythopoeic Society was considering establishing a TOLKIEN MEMORIAL AWARD. To date we have received no further information. Have any of you received any information on this?

On the ballot for the Hugo Awards there appears "THE GANDALF AWARD" for Contribution to the fantasy genre. Perhaps this is what was meant. Any clarification will be appreciated.

As a passing note, we cast a write-in vote for Richard Adams and his tale of WATERSHIP DOWN, in this category (See review below).

UFO'S ?

In the March/April 1974 issue of "The University of Chicago Magazine" we find reference to two alumni, who are chasing down UFOs.

At Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, USA, Prof. J. Allen Hynek, an authority on UFOs, is in the process of establishing a center for UFO studies, which will be an academic oriented, non-government operation. Hynek is notifying all sheriffs and police departments in the USA to contact him with any UFO sightings, that they receive. If you sight a UFO, contact Dr. Hynek at Northwestern University.

Stanton T. Friedman, director of the California UFO Research Institute, requests that anyone who thinks that they have observed a UFO, should write him at 2420 Grant Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278, USA. Witnesses' names will not be used without permission. A stamped self-addressed envelope, he adds, will bring a free list of scientific references on the subject of UFOs. Friedman lectures widely and often on the subject "FLYING SAUCERS ARE REAL". He spent 14 years in nuclear aircraft and rockets, fusion rockets and nuclear powerplants, before devoting full time to the UFO question.

A WORD FROM ROBERT A. HEINLEIN:

If your blood type is: B RH - POSITIVE
O RH - NEGATIVE
A RH - NEGATIVE
AB RH - POSITIVE
B RH - NEGATIVE
AB RH - NEGATIVE

AND if you will leave a warm bed, or your work, or your dinner to save the life of a stranger, WE NEED YOU. Send a postcard or call THE NATIONAL RARE BLOOD CLUB, 164 Fifth Ave., NY, NY 10017, USA. Phone no. (212) Chelsea 3-8037 and list your name, phone, and blood type so that you can be reached when your blood is needed. Rare blood is best stored in the donor - if blood banked, it usually spoils before it is needed.

The CLUB welcomes all races, both sexes, and has no upper age limit - no dues or other costs. Just your pledge to rush at any time to give your blood to save a life. The CLUB gives blood to nonmembers as readily as to members; no appeal in ever turned down. But we have only 12,000 members in the USA. So someday we will fail... unless we can enroll many times that number. EXAMPLE: Car crash in Larasie; victim needs 5 units AB RH - NEG. The CLUB now has less than 400 AB RH NEG donors, almost all 100s or 1000s of miles away. So he dies... needlessly... as Cheyenne alone has 250 potential AB RH negative donors, Wyoming has 2000. THE PROBLEM IS TO FIND THEM.

Want to help? The CLUB can pay for that chartered plane, that taxi ride, those lost wages - what we must have are many thousands more rare-blood donors.

(Personal note: The CLUB's address and hot-line number appears on the copyright page of every edition of I WILL FEAR NO EVIL; I placed it there before I knew that I was a rare blood. Five months later some nameless strangers of my blood type saved my life. There is no way for me to pay or thank them - so I joined the CLUB. Get out your old dog tag or phone your doctor - if you turn out to be a "Rare" - join us! The life you save could be your own... or the girl or man you

would have married, had he/she not died needlessly. No reward, no thanks, just the quiet satisfaction of saving another human. But be sure to mention LOCUS. I plan to run this ad as long as it brings in new rare-blood volunteers - naming LOCUS to the N.R.B.C. is the only way I can tell how long to run it.

Robert A. Heinlein)

Editor's note: This request is brought to you as a public service. We have reprinted this ad in toto from LOCUS. It is a worthy item. It is nice to think that by running the plea, we may have saved a fellow human being.

NEWS FROM MILWAUKEE: MILWAUKEE?

On 9 - 11 July a workshop on teaching SF in the high school and college classroom met for three days of intensive study under the direction of Tom Claesson and Beverly Friend.

Some of the areas covered:

1. Historical Approaches
2. Biographical Material
3. Practical Applications
4. Social Science and SF
5. Utilization of SF in Non-English Classes
6. Science and SF
7. Films and Classroom Use of Media
8. The Role of Teachers in Establishing Critical Standards in SF

Some of the participants included Ursula Le Guin and Leon Stover.

The workshop also served as a warmup for the Science Fiction Research Association Conference on 12 - 14 July. The diversity of topics had something for everyone and in heat of persuasion the distinction between participant and audience was to define. Often more than panel discussion at a time raged within the re-inforced concrete walls of the Un. of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

Choose between:

- Androgyny and Image of Woman
- SF Scholarship: Problems and Proposals
- Teaching SF
- Psychology and SF
- SF and Academe
- Writers and Their Work
- Discussion on David Ketterer's: NEW WORLDS FOR OLD
- The Political Science of SF
- American Literature and SF
- European SF
- Craftmanship and the Child Cycle
- Melville, Twain and SF
- Philosophical Themes and Social Issues in SF
- Aesthetic Dimensions of SF
- SF in the 30's and 40's
- SF and Romanticism
- Russian and East European SF

To help keep the words flowing, Philip Jose Farmer, Jim Gunn, Alexei and Cory Panshin, Leslie Fiedler, Gerdy Dickson, Jack Williamson, Arthur Toffe, Charles Waugh, Robert Plank, Ivor Rogers, and many more displayed their oratorical and analytical skills. The end result was a most successful week.

DO YOU WANT TO GET WEIGHED?

Of interest to Sword and Sorcery devotees might be the small Dutch town of Oudewater. Adjoining the tiny Holli. Ijsel, the town is one you'd never suspect of being the last hope and chance of a new life without fear of further persecution for many people, ridden by fears. The town is a short journey, less than an hour by car, from Den Haag. First comes Gouda, famous for its cheese, then onto a pleasant road paralleling the Holli. Ijsel (it is the one on the north side of the river). Several towns east of Gouda appears what looks to be a town that could be any one of many cherry post-WW II American suburbs. Turning into the town and getting past this modern facade, you find yourself in 16th century Netherlands. After finding a spot to leave your fire-chariot, you go along narrow, winding streets next to a small canal until you reach the "De Waag te Oudewater". The WEIGH-HOUSE! The building seems much too small and unexceptional to be a place where life and death were meted out by the pound. Met at the door by the "waagmeester", you are invited to go upstairs to the small museum there. Then after a few chills are imposed on your spine, you return to the ground floor and, if brave enough, ask the waagmeester to do his duty. The "Hekkenwaag" is a huge double pan balance hanging from the ceiling. Slowly the weights are added and a figure announced. Breathing a sigh of relief that you do weigh something. At some weigh-houses, cases of complete weightlessness were found, with fatal results. The waagmeester then proceeds to issue you a certificate verifying your weight. You can get this certificate in any of several languages. We got ours in Dutch and English. Apparently the idea behind the weighing was, if you weighed the proper amount for your build, you weren't a witch. After all, if you weighed something, how could you fly on your broomstick. By the way one of the old drawings shows a witch on her way to a "Sabbath" on a broomstick. The bristles are in FRONT, not behind. Hmmm? Oh yes, there is a broomstick handy for pictures, short flights, etc. at the weigh-house. The last written certificate that has survived is dated 21 June 1729 and runs to 24 pages. It may seem funny or silly to us in 1974, but it was a life or death matter to someone born during the witch-hunting period. A conservative estimate places the toll at a half million losing their lives under torture or at the stake. The visit is well worth the Guilder or two that it costs.

THE JUPITER AWARDS

Awarded by the Instructors of Science Fiction in Higher Education. Determined by a nationwide survey of over 250 instructors of SF. Approximately 60 instructors participating.

NOVEL

- 1st RENDEZVOUS WITH RAMA, Arthur Clarke, Harcourt, Brace & Jovanovich, Galaxy (Sept. & Oct.)

- 2nd GRAVITY'S RAINBOW, Thomas Pynchon, Viking
3rd THE MAN WHO FOLDED HIMSELF, David Gerrold, Random House.

NOVELLA

- 1st THE FEAST OF ST. MONTY, Robert Silverberg, "An Exaltation of Stars" (Terry Carr, ed.), Simon and Schuster.
2nd IN THE PROBLEM PIT, Frederick Pohl, "Fantasy & Science Fiction" (Sep.)
3rd CHAINS OF THE SEA, Gardner Dozois, "Chains of the Sea" (Robert Silverberg, ed.), Thomas Nelson.

NOVELETTE

- 1st THE DEARTHBRID, Harlan Ellison, Fantasy & Science Fiction (Mar.)
2nd EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE LATER ROMAN EMPIRE, Thomas Disch, "Bad Moon Rising" (Thomas Disch, ed.), Harper & Row.
3rd FLASH CROWD, Larry Niven, "Three Trips in Time & Space, (Robert Silverberg, ed.) Hawthorn.

SHORT STORY

- 1st A SUPPLICANT IN SPACE, Robert Sheckley, "Galaxy" (Nov.).
2nd A THING OF BEAUTY, Norman Spinrad, "Analog" (Jan.).
3rd DIRECTIONS OF THE ROAD, Ursula Le Guin, "New Dimensions 3" (Robert Silverberg, ed.) New American Library.
3rd OF MIST, AND GRASS, AND SAND, Vonda McIntyre, "Analog" (Oct.)
3rd THE VILLAGE, Kate Wilhelm, "Bad Moon Rising, (Thomas Disch, ed.) Harper and Row.

Above is listed the winners of the 1973 JUPITER AWARDS. We wrote Prof. Waugh concerning these awards and shall try and convey the sense of his reply.

The Instructors of Science Fiction in Higher Education (ISFHE) is intended to be a nominal organization whose prime purpose is to conduct a yearly poll in order to present the Jupiter Awards. Anyone who has taught a course on SF in an institution of higher education within the last 3 years is eligible to join. At present there is no membership fee. Prof. Waugh expects that a low yearly fee will be introduced.

We wish the ISFHE the best of luck. We hope that they can increase their membership and reach beyond the 60 respondents in their initial poll. We are even more happy that Prof. Waugh is not in the English dept. We feel more and more strongly that SF is, if anything, an interdisciplinary subject and to try to confine it to the English Dept. is both futile and extremely inhibiting.

Anyone who is interested in joining the ISFHE or wishes more information is welcome to contact Prof. Charles Waugh, Assist. Prof. of Psychology and Communications. Un. of Maine at Augusta, Augusta, Maine 04330 USA.

PUT ON ICE THE I.C.E.

As readers of SF you are used to thinking of future possibilities, be it 10 years or 10 million years. You are also aware that for the immediate future, say to the year 2000, Earth Terra, Sol III or whatever you call this orb we inhabit, is the only one we have.

Therefore as a matter of our survival we ask you to consider calling for a ban on the Internal Combustion Engine (I.C.E.) for use in private automobiles by 1985 and the extension of that ban to trucks and heavy equipment by 1995. Granted this won't solve the pollution problem in itself, but should stimulate the search for a suitable energy substitute for fossil fuels, that is both non-polluting and economical. We can only foul our own nests so long until they become unlivable.

WIND POWER

In the same vein did you know that in many areas a house having the energy requirements of an average American home (we use an American home, as these homes supposedly use the most power) can be easily met through the use of windmills and storage batteries. Right now it seems that the biggest drawback is the low capacity of the storage battery. To have a couple of days reserve energy, the space needed for today's batteries is a large room. The inventor who can come up with a storage battery that is no more expensive than today's and has ten times the capacity, will make the electric car feasible; 100 times and riches will pour in; 1000 times and pollution may be a thing of the past.

BOOKS

WATERSHIP DOWN, Richard Adams. Mac Millan. \$6.95. A book about rabbits? Yes and outstanding too. A group of rabbits forgoes their warren, when one of them perceives that a great danger is upon them. What follows is the story of their wanderings, their trials, their successes and their eventual triumph. Included are tales of their folk heroes The Prince With 1000 Enemies, a smattering of lapin speech, a rabbit whose ability to foretell the future saves their lives more than once and more. This is NOT written for children, tho they will probably enjoy it. It is one of the best books we've had the pleasure to read in a long while. Rating: A-.

THE MAN WHO FOLDED HIMSELF, David Gerrold. SP Book Club - Random House. \$1.49. Your uncle dies and leaves you a box containing a strange looking belt. A belt that allows you to travel thru time, backward or forward. Hmm! You need cash? How about a trip to the race track, then a few well chosen stocks. But is that enough? And how do you handle meeting yourself? Then there is this woman. Woman? She seems to be you, if you were she. Exactly how many "you's" are there? Can you kill you? What will happen? Need a little sex? There is someone who knows exactly what turns you on. Gerrold plays with many of the paradoxical ideas of time-travel. The answers may not completely suit you, but they are interesting ones. Rather fast-paced series of vignettes as the hero(es) gets into one temporal situation after another. The story deals much more with circumstances than character. All in all it is enjoyable reading. Rating: B-.

TIME ENOUGH FOR LOVE, Robert A. Heinlein. Berkley Medallion Book 425-02493-195. \$1.95. This book was conceived by Panny Hill with aid from Flaugh Gordon. Genetic tracings indicate that "How the West was Won" and Machiavelli contributed a few Xs and Ys to it, as well. Taken as a whole the book is overlong, 598 pages, and tedious. Perhaps it is not really a book. There are sections that are quite interesting and good as well. There is plenty of sex, low key though, and lots of wrinkled nipples. The "Quotations of Chairman Long" are

great fun: Little girls, like butterfly, need no excuse" or "An elephant-a mouse built to government specifications". Perhaps the worst part of the book is that written in the present (4272 A.D.). If you are a Heinlein freak, you'll love it. If not, then you'll have difficulty at times understanding how it was nominated for a Hugo. Rating: C

RENDEZVOUS WITH RAMA, Arthur C. Clarke. SP Book Club - Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1973. \$1.49. A book for all hard core SF lovers. It was our choice for the Hugo in the Novel category. A defense system to prevent catastrophe from a meteorite detects an object. Over the following months it is learned that the object is an alien space ship, a space ship in the shape of a cylinder fifty kilometers long and 20 kilometers in diameter, rotating once every four minutes. What follows is a description of the exploration of the vessel by the crew of the ship sent by earth. The RAMA, as the alien space craft has been named, is a seemingly self-contained world that awakens shortly after the exploration crew enters. Of all the marvels and alien artifacts there, no sentient beings are found. One curious thing is they noticed that everything inside RAMA was done in threes. Mix in a tad of political intrigue and the result is a darn good story. Rating: B.

BEYOND APOLLO, Pocket Book, 1972, #671-77687-8. \$0.95. TACTICS OF CONQUEST, Pyramid Books, 1974, #158N O-515-03310-3. \$0.95. Both books by Barry Malzberg. The first book is the story of the survivor of the first exploration trip to Venus. The other crew member having expired in the course of the trip. The survivor is rambling in a rest home and is being asked to tell authorities exactly what happened. His ramblings on the mission, his sex life, and the Captain and more make up the tale. His internal thoughts lead one to think he is insane. You'll have to sort it out. It won the John Campbell Award for 1973. If you like madness, it is good.

The second centers on the 15th game of a chess match to decide the fate of the universe. Through the thoughts of David, you learn about David, his past life, his opponent, Louis, the relationship between the two and that perhaps someone is a bit nuts.

We decline to rate the books. They are interesting, the stories are well written, but reading the stories from the point of view of two insane (at least in our opinion) main characters is disturbing. Several of his short stories likewise border on a melancholy madness that is hard for us to take.

2020 VISION, Jerry Pournelle, ed. Avon Books #380-18390, 1974. \$0.95. The editor asked the contributors to write a story of how they saw the world in 2020. It contains eight stories, none bad and some excellent. "A Thing of Beauty" by Norman Spinrad is a gem. Rating: B.

EARTHWRECK, Thomas N. Scortia. Fawcett Gold Medal #2963, 1974. \$0.95. Some dayeven with the aid of the Chinese People's Republic put three nukes on Tel Aviv. The immediate response is the destruction of the Aswan Dam. At this time Russia has shifted to joining the USA in sponsoring Israel. Russia's response is to launch a pre-emptive strike with tactical nukes against China. The USA issues an ultimatum to both sides. The result is the tossing of dozens of nuclear weapons at each other and the end of life on earth. What is left is the small contingent of personnel on the American and Russian space stations, where each had been preparing a craft to set up permanent bases on the moon. There is nothing left to do, but to cooperate and hope that a viable colony can be established on the moon. However old hatreds die slowly. Then there is the chance that still another alternative exists. It is quite readable and is also a very interesting plot for a movie, if it isn't changed too much and the EVA effects are handled seriously. Rating: B-.

THE DISPOSSESSED, Ursula Le Guin. SP Book Club - Harper & Row, July selection, 1974. \$2.49. In a planetary system, long ago colonized by Earth, there are political problems. In a novel solution to the concept of exile, some one million political extremists depart the earth-like planet for its moon, a planet similar in size, but arid and all but bare of land plants and animals. Here the anarchists develop the planet as a separate society without government, laws, money, property, etc. Contact of this world, Anarres, with the mother planet, Urras, is extremely limited. The story revolves around Shevek, the top physicist on Anarres. He is defying all and sundry by returning to Urras. As the tale of what he finds on Urras unfolds, each alternate chapter develops the details of his life and the decision to leave Anarres; his childhood, his loves, his training, his hopes for the future, his disenchantment with his work and the strictures placed upon it. He does not find what he is seeking on Urras and he returns, yet neither he nor the two planets are quite the same for it. The character of Shevek and what he goes through, what he loses and what he gains is drawn with depth, style and grace. It is very possible that "The Dispossessed" will win the Hugo at the Melbourne World Convention. It would be fitting, as Ms. Le Guin is the guest of honor for the Con. Rating: B+.

WORLDCON BIDS

- 1977: Miami, Fla., New York City and Dublin, Ireland (Dublin is Heaven in 77!)
1978: San Francisco, Cal.
1979: England (Britain is Fine in 79!)
1980: Grenoble, France.

AUSSIECON - 33 WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

No prices yet on charter flights, tours, etc. The unsettled situation of air fares has left the matter of prices up in the air. The touring agent expects a 10 to 15 % increase in prices in November. Until prices settle down the agent has said no quotes. There is a chance that one of the charter flights from the USA will go via Europe and that fan here can board in Europe. Booking a seat from NY may be considerably cheaper than from Europe. Aussiecon requests that we mention the 1 OCT 74 deadline for Ads in PR 3 and 1 APR 75 for PR 4. Ads should be camera ready. Sizes: Full page - 125mm X 200mm - \$10.00

Half page - 125mm X 100mm - \$5.00
Quarter page - 60mm X 100mm - \$2.50

Send Ad and International Money Order, payable to AUSSIECON, to
AUSSIECON, Box 4039, Melbourne, Victoria, 3001 AUSTRALIA.

DUFF

The Down-Under Fan Fund is DUFF. The idea behind DUFF is to send a deserving fan from the USA to Australia one year and a deserving fan from Australia to the USA the next. It exists totally through the support of fan in both countries. Interested fan vote for the candidate of their choice and at the same time contribute at least \$1.50 to the Fund. Candidates are active fan nominated by other active fan, at least 2 of the nominators being from the host country. Currently voting is limited to active fan. In correspondence with Ms. Leslie Luttrell, 525 W. Main, Madison WI 53703, USA, the current American Administrator, we have discussed the feasibility of such limitations. We are of the feeling that voting should be open to all, but that tight restrictions on who is eligible to actually run be imposed, e.g., only residents of North America and Australia, must be members of at least the previous Worldcons, Australian National Conventions, and/or perhaps several other major cons, members of an SF Club, works on fanzines, etc.

The 1975 DUFF race to send a North American fan to AUSSIECON is underway. Filing for candidacy closes 2 NOV 74. All candidates need five nominators, at least two of which are from the host country, Australia. These names plus a platform of not more than 100 words and a \$5.00 bond are required. This is sent to either Ms. Leslie Luttrell, the North American Administrator, address above, and/or Leigh Edmonds, P.O. Box 74, Belaclava, Vic. 3183 AUSTRALIA. Leigh is the Australian Administrator and the 74 DUFF winner. Leigh will be at the World in D.C.

X SEND THIS "BOY" TO AUSTRALIA!

JAN HOWARD FINDER is seeking nomination to the DUFF race. The big question is, is he eligible in the first place? In a letter to the SB Ms. Luttrell questions whether or not someone not living in North America is eligible, especially since the winner then serves for up to two years as North American Administrator for DUFF. A ruling by Ms. Luttrell and Mr. Edmonds will be made at the Worldcon.

Some background on Mr. FINDER: Organized two successful Tolkien Conferences in the USA: 1969 at the Un. of Illinois and 1971 in Cleveland, Ohio at the Cleveland State Un. Both were free and yet ran in the black. Over 400 fan attended the Cleveland Conf. He moved to Europe in 1971 and joined the SF scene with a rush. Worked on a Tolkien Program at EUROCON I at Trieste, in 1972. FINDER spoke on a Tolkien Panel at SPANCON in Ghent, Belgium in 1973 and gave a talk on Tolkien to the Hungarian SF Club in Budapest, Hungary in May 1973. Member of several continental cons and in danger of becoming a fixture at the bi-annual British cons. Beginning in 1973 has published the SPANGL BLAH, bringing SF news to Americans in Europe and other discriminating fan on 4 continents. It may be the largest free newszine around. Charter member of the Science Fiction Research Association. Can be identified easily at cons by his striped slacks - American Indian Pattern, and gold shirt. Currently sports a handlebar moustache, curly longish hair and no beard - all of which are subject to change at any time.

All fan interested in supporting the candidacy of JAN HOWARD FINDER should send their willingness to be a nominator to Mr. FINDER, c/o the SB. However it may turn out, look for the DUFF ballot along with the NOV 1974 or FEB 1975 issue of the SB. SUPPORT DUFF! It could be your turn in a couple of years. Happiness is a lot of voters. Support the fan of your choice.

300 or BUST!

Key you out there at APOs and FPOs! If you enjoy the SB, do a friend a good turn and send us their name or have them write for their very own copy. Our goal is over 300 (roughly 0.1% of the American Forces over here) readers at APOs and FPOs. We are roughly 25 % of the way to that goal. Help us reach that goal..

SP CONVENTIONS!

We are preparing a checklist and resource list on "Things to Remember and Places to Go when Organizing an SF Convention." We request any and all former and present con workers to send us as extensive a list as they may wish on the little things one always seems to forget in preparing for a con. We'd also like to learn where and how one obtains films for cons, to whom did you send publicity and where and how did you get your participants. This is an open invitation to everyone who reads this. Want some French films? Whom do you contact? Where do you publicize for the best method of reaching Dutch fan? Who are the top writers in East Europe and how can they be contacted? With a little help from our friends, we'll put together a rough essay and let you have a go at it.

ANGEL OF THE ISSUE!

A tip of the halo to Don Rogers. Thanks Don.

THE AVIANO SPECULATIVE FICTION CLUB

With this issue the SB becomes the voice of the Aviano SF Club. Meetings are usually scheduled during the first week of the month. The 5 SEP meeting featured two films on the US Space Program. The next meeting is scheduled for 3 OCT. Expect to have a couple of Apollo Project films. Any peregrinating fan in the vicinity are invited to drop by. Do let us know about YOUR meetings.

THE MYTHOPOEIC SOCIETY

X Larry Krieg Managing Editor of the publications of the Mythopoeic Society asks us to pass on his request that anyone putting out a Tolkien fanzine send a copy to him. He does reviews of all such fanzines and publishes them in MYTHPRINT. Send them to Mr. Larry Krieg, THE MYTHOPOEIC SOCIETY, Managing Editorial Office, 1704 Shadford Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104 USA.

THE LAST WORD!

The SPANGL BLAH is published roughly 4 times a year. Its intent is to provide information on Speculative Fiction to Americans living in Europe and serve as a link between all fan. In order to provide the you with the best service, we solicit the help of all of you, our readers, in contributing the latest information on conventions, fanzines, SF clubs, clandestine meetings, events, etc. The SB depends upon its friends.

The next issue of the SB will be in late Nov. 74.

All 200 of the May issue have been distributed. This issue will have a press run of 350.

Things to come: Forrest J. Ackerman's Library, a 4th zone for Worldcons, book reviews, tour info, sex in SF, SF Book Club offer to European subscribers, list of upcoming cons and more.

The SPANGL BLAH! The SF newszine for sentient life forms.

Jan Howard Finder
PSC Box 614
APO NY 09293 USA

Jan Howard Finder
PSC Box 614
US Air Base
33081 Aviano, ITALIA

Dear Clyde,
I thought you might like to get this. If you are interested in getting these as they come out drop me a line.

At long last about 8 of the papers given at the Two Tolkien Conf. that I ran are appearing in book form.

The next will appear over next year in Orcrist. I'm really excited over it.

How goes it with you? I'm busy being the Ed. guidance Counselor to the troops at Aviano Air Base, Italy. Aviano is a small town 60-80 km north of Venice. I've got a group together & we're reading the LotR aloud. Much fun.

Phys say hi to one James Booker, who teaches German at Wheaton.

Ciao & Teggeddizzi! R
Jan
H