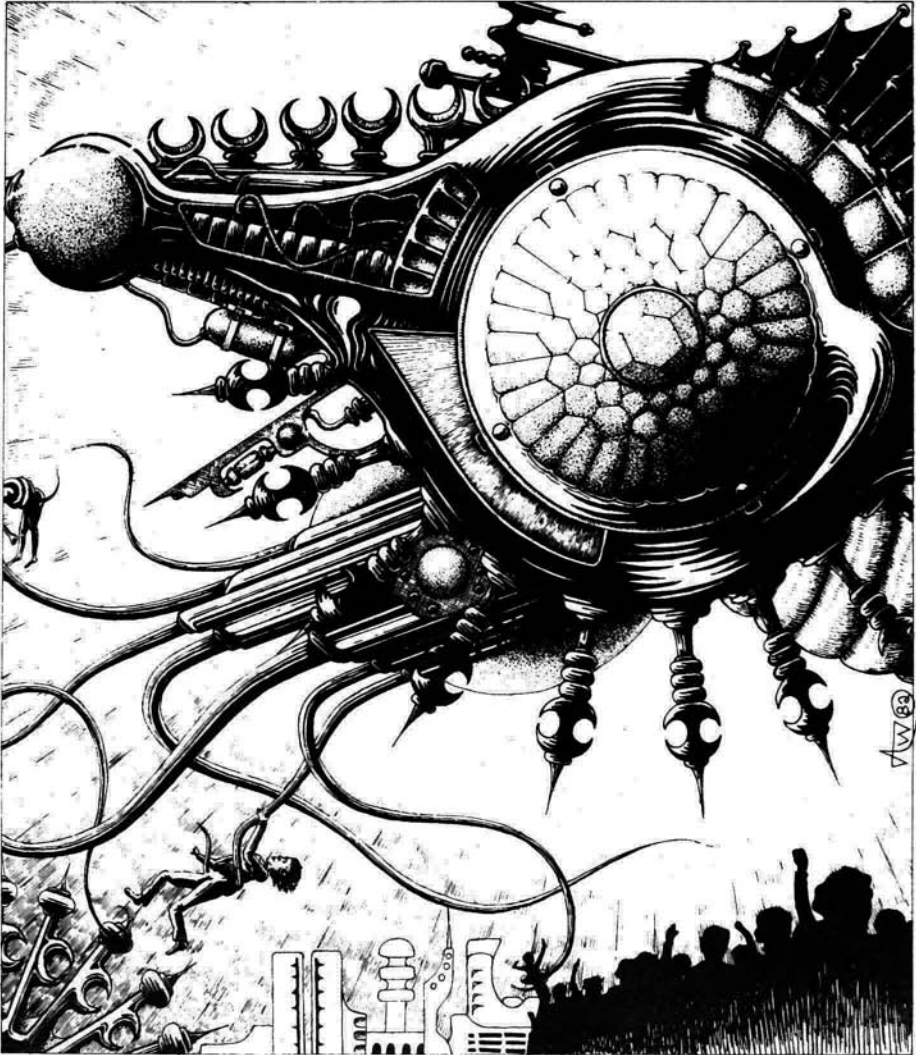


VECTOR ^{75p} 109



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Editorial

The above quote might well have been published in the 1930's - 1940's and would have also slotted quite nicely into the McCathy era. But the fact that it is a cutting from last weeks Bookseller magazine does send a chill of misapprehension down my spine. John Brunner on his envelopes has a quote by Heine which is rather appropriate "where books are burned, in the end people too get burned". We are all used to reading about censorship, but to be confronted with the reality is disturbing.

Censorship in publishing can take many forms. One such form that is part of human nature is self-censorship. It is well known that fiction reflects the society that we live in. For example, during the years of the arms-race a predictable pattern could be seen in the sf stories being published: "Security Risk", "Security" and "A matter of Security". There's no difficulty in guessing what was on the minds of people in America during that period! This form of internal censorship, the avoidance of, or concentration on a subject, theme, idea is, of course, freedom of expression. You might not agree with Heinlein or Russ but...

What happens though if this self-

Censorship in some parts of the US has reached worrying proportions, and in some communities books have been burnt.

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The bonfire was made during a visit by travelling evangelist Penny Baker, who has quoted as saying: "We're not saying all books are bad... just those dealing with Satan and witchcraft."

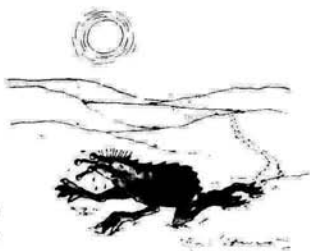
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There are few books that seem utterly safe from banning: those that have suffered disapproval cover a strikingly wide range of writers and subjects, including titles dealing expressly with sexual matters - the Kinsey reports and Alex Comfort's Joy of Sex; modern literature - A Clockwork Orange, all of Hemingway, Orwell, Remarque, Joyce; classics - Shakespeare, Shaw, Milton, Homer, Aristophanes.....

censorship goes astray as in the books by John Norman? We all must have read one of them, you know, Priest Kings of Gor, Mad Kings and Queens of Gor, that series. Apart from finding them totally boring (maybe the ultimate condemnation) they are also sado-masochistic soft porn. But they don't do any harm do they? Unfortunately, it seems that they do. According to the New Statesman "members of the Rhine army draw inspiration for wife and 'queer' bashing from an sf author" this author was John Norman. People are affected by what they read, see and hear. There is a complete industry set up on this one basic fact - advertising. What can be done about this unfortunate situation? Do we ban, nay censor the books by Norman? Do we set up a pressure group to write to Norman and his publishers to convince him of the errors of his way? We could even give ourselves a name, how about the "moral majority"? And if we hear about someone playing executioner do we ban Gene Wolfe's books? If you notice the number of people that dress-up as swordsmen and swordswomen at SF conventions I'm not straying too far from the truth. Between fantasy and reality there is only a thin edge.
(Continued on Page 36....)

SPACE WAR AT THE BOX OFFICE

THERE WAS ONLY ONE SEX LEFT
IN THE WORLD?

Mr Sci-fi
hits out,
but what
the heck



"...CH₄ SO₂ OH₂...CH₄ SO₂ OH₂..."

GETTING INTO
SCI-FI

Barry Coleman locks in to the Startrek cult

Ears Today... BECAME A REALITY?

LIVE IT UP AND DIE HAPPY

Apply for your Euthanasia Option NOW!

EDITORIAL

Geoff Rippington.....3

Last issue I made a plea for members to come forward and volunteer to contribute articles and artwork. The plea was more in hope than in a belief that anything would come from it. In this issue I'm going to have to eat my words as many of you flummoxed me by actually taking up my offer, which is extremely encouraging and gratifying. While it may take a while for the articles/reviews/artwork to filter through to the pages of Vector we should see a few new faces.

BUT...lets have a few more of you writing in. After all, what else have you got to do? Don't give me excuses about earning a living, paying the mortgage, painting the outside of the house, going on holiday - this is science fiction we are talking about, and I need more material. So no more arguments you hear, get on with it!

ARTWORK

This issue's cover is by Ashley Walker, his first time in Vector I believe.

SINGING FOR SUPPER

Frank Herbert &
Joseph Nicholas.....6

If I asked you to name the three most popular science fiction writers still living I would not be too surprised if you came up with the following - Asimov, Clarke and Herbert. While Asimov and Clarke are famous outside the science fiction genre Herbert is not as well known. Thus while I know quite a lot about Asimov and Clarke from the media within sf and outside, Frank Herbert, is still an enigma. Which made this interview rather interesting. He certainly seems a person I would like to meet.

DANGEROUS DIVISIONS

Various.....13

Letters of comment: Simon Gosden on Giant ants, Andy Hobbs one word review of Many Coloured Lands, Mike Lewis spreading awareness (Ugh!), Paul Brazier installing enthusiasm and John Brunner, Bob Shaw, Kenneth Lake, Roger Waddington, Ian Watson, Harold Powell, John Hobson, Lisa

Alien globs and cucumbers

Of making many books there is no end...



PLANET OF THE MONTH

CINEMA

Soviet 'Zone' Sucker's Dracula



Science fiction is more than escapist entertainment. The best of it combines fact and fantasy and explores the consequences of events that could shape our future. Whether or not you're already hooked, you should know about The World That Might Be. By Susan Stanley.

Tuttle, Andrew Sutherland and Spring chicken Dorothy Davies.

I would like to thank all of you who wrote in with answers to my little competition. The winner, from 11 replies, is Philip Collins with Dangerous Divisions. A copy of Disch's The Man Who Had No Idea will be sent soon.

INTO THE ARENA: THE BARREL

Chris Priest.....22

With such an obscure title I bet you are dying to know what Chris's article is about...well, I'm not going to tell you. Read the article damn you. Ha!

FOOLS ARE MY THEME, LET SATIRE BE MY SONG

Angela Carter & Eve Harvey....26

It's one of those lucky coincidences that while I missed Angela Carter's Guest of Honour speech at Channelcon I can now print it in Vector. To say that Angela comes across as a very, how can I put it?, unique/mysterious/extraordinary/odd/fantastic

person is understating it!

BOOK REVIEWS

Various.....37

We certainly have a right royal choice of books reviewed this issue from Brian Aldiss's blockbuster Helliconia Spring to The One Tree by Donaldson.

Reviews by Ann Collier, Chris Morgan, Kevin Rattan, Brian Smith, Mary Gentle, Joseph Nicholas, Chris Bailey on books by Tom Disch, Pamela Sargent, Poul Anderson, Damon Knight, Brian Aldiss, Stephen Donaldson and Terry Pratchett.

Some of you eagle-eyed readers will notice that there is no Vector's Choice this issue. Simply put, I forgot to put the heading on...Even I make mistakes! The book that the reviewer and I judge to be the best of the issue is Strata by Terry Pratchett. As Chris says, "it may not be great literature, but it comes from the same stable as Bill, The Galactic Hero, which should be recommendation enough."



