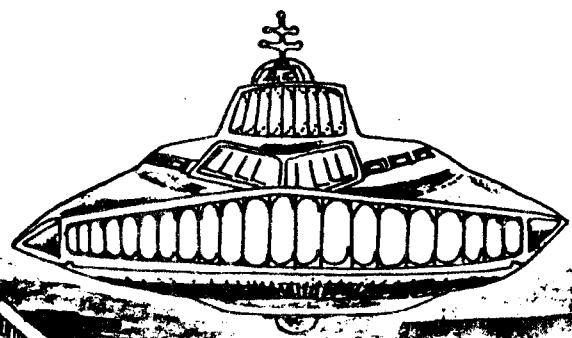
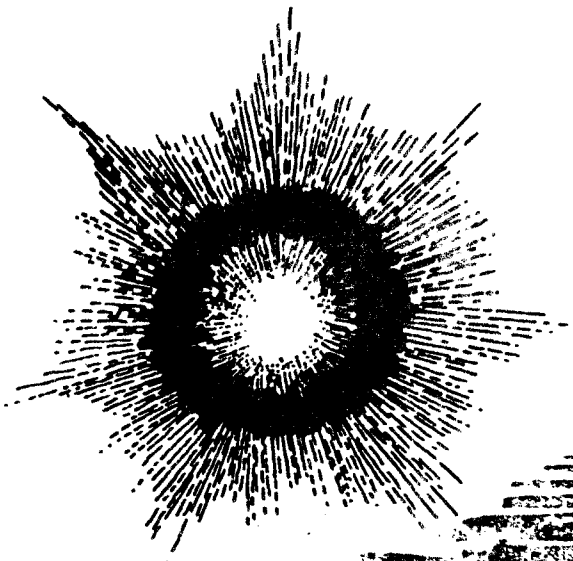


WARP 15



EDITORIAL

What's this you might think? An early issue of WARP? Well, a number of events have conspired to produce an early appearance and these will be outlined below.

As a result of my Christmas Holiday in Hamilton, I have been offered a job back in my home town. So, in a few days time Robyn and I will be departing Wellington and heading up to the Fountain City (hi Craig, Simon...) I'm one of those people who put vocational interests ahead of my sf interests because I believe that in the long run, the sf side won't loose out.

I may be able to visit the occasional visit to events in Auckland, but in the main I will miss a lot of fen activity. I have also enjoyed a lot of travelling around as a result of my current job, which will also be no more.

Wellcon B organisation will be left in the hands of the various people who are interested. Bruce Clement made the original bid at the last Wellcon and I was only a supporting committee member. Greg Hills is now in the Windy city (working in sf bookshop Huyser's) so he will be able to assist (I hope). I think Wellington has the best organised sf community in the country so I am sure the the organisation of Wellcon B will continue as planned.

At the committee meeting this weekend, the topic of the new editor will be discussed. There are many possibilities and various members know how to produce a magazine so I don't think it will be too long before WARP recovers it's previous brilliance. On the production side, things are fairly well set up, and the contents of WARP are controlled solely by what is sent in by members. In this issue I have used up a lot of outstanding material so please send in more for the new editor. There is only a couple of reviews left in the store, so get writing!

There is a Yggdrasil page this time around. One branch had the idea that they could tell all their local members what was going on without the benefit of WARP. However, one of the benefits of printing branch news in the national magazine is that other clubs can get ideas from your activities. All our clubs are different (c.f. the attendance levels between Auckland and Wellington), but they can all hold meetings along similar lines. By telling other clubs what has happened, they may like to use your idea for a meeting. The NASF Cassette Library is one item that you may use for your meeting and it looks like branches and clubs are taking advantage of them.



CONTENTS

Editorial	3
Yggdrasil	4
Confusion Reigns - pictorial	4,5,7
Astrology Column	6
Articles and Reviews	6,7,8,9
Poetry	6,12
Fiction	9
Communications	10,11,12

Editorial Staff: Bruce Ferguson, Robyn Ferguson, Greg Hills

Contents copyright (c) by NASF on behalf of the contributors. All rights reassigned to contributors upon publication in WARP (except for reprinting). No parts may be reproduced without permission from the editor. The magazine is produced bimonthly.

Issue 15. March 1980. ISSN 0110-7577

The closing date for WARP 16 is April 20, 1980.

NASF Central, see Wellington.
 Auckland, c/o D. Lucas, 12 Beatty's Rd, Pukekohe.
 Christchurch, c/o J. Yeatman, 63 Stanbury Rd, Ch. 3
 Dunedin, c/o T. Cardy, 137 Richardson St, Dunedin.
 Confed, c/o G. Hills, P.O. Box 9314, Wellington.
 Aotearapa, c/o T. Cardy, see above.
 Wellington, P.O. Box 6655, Te Aro, Wellington.
 Wellcon B, P.O. Box 9314, Courtney Place, Wellington

Art Credits

Harvey Kong Tin	Cover, 8,9,1
Tom Cardy	5,7,11
Terry Collister	5,8,9
Chris Morrin	5,12,1
Michael Fallon	5
Robert Fowles	10

Special Thanks to Harvey Kong Tin for the photographs shown on pages 5 and 6, and also thanks to Craig Simmons for the photo of Brian Strong that was borrowed from some sent to Greg Hills. It has been returned intact.

Greg Hills wishes to assure members that his duties on the editorial staff was limited solely to typing and proofreading. He wishes to dissociate himself from all editorial practices in this issue and will admit (under torture) that the only reason he did it was because he was staying at the Ferguson's when this issue was being prepared.



You may notice the omission of Gary's usual contribution this time around. Unfortunately, after seeing Alien a short while ago, he and several other NASF members were involved in a car accident. All have now been released from hospital in reasonably intact conditions, but he is unable to produce the library page in time for this rather early issue. Lets all hope he gets better soon.

It seems to be a trend for B.N.F.'s (Big Name Fans) to change address. Brian Thurogood has moved to a new part of Waiheke Island and found enough room for him and Kath. Greg Hills has found a job in a sf bookshop (a bit like giving an alcoholic a job in a brewery) and is currently resident at the Ferguson's. And I am going to Hamilton and to a new job. All we need now is for Tom Cardy to shift to Stewart Island.

Bruce Ferguson.

YGGDRASIL

AUCKLAND BRANCH NEWS:

The meeting on 3rd February was attended by 4 (FOUR!!) members. It was an outdoor discussion on Gaming, Hexagrams, Films and books. Debi Kean introduced her game "Spec".

The Annual General Meeting is due to be held on the first Sunday in March at the WEA buildings. Check with Duncan Lucas when he returns home.

Auckland plan to use some of the cassettes from the NASF cassette library at future meetings. Hope to have larger attendances at these.

Thanks to Margaret Lambert for this branch report.

DUNEDIN BRANCH REPORT:

The latest meeting of NASF Dunedin Branch was held in the Childrens library on February 4. There was a good attendance with several good ideas being put forward.

The mysterious Dunedin sfilm will be out in time for Wellcon B.

Several members are in the process of building a sophisticated float for the '81 Dunedin festival.

It may be possible that a group of Dunites ## may be called Dunny-fen## will be travelling to Wellcon B by Minibus.

Next meeting: March 3. Annual General Meeting: March 31.

CHRISTCHURCH SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY:

Currently have seven members. They played the "inside ST" cassette at their February meeting. There was also some war-gaming.

WELLINGTON:

We had an enthusiastic attendance at our January meeting. It was war-gaming combined with a WARP despatch campaign. Thanks to all those people who helped with the envelopes.

The February meeting will be a recording from the NASF Cassette library.

Annual General Meeting will co-incide with the National AGM in April. Out-of-town members are welcome to attend this at the WEA building (opposite the James Cook Hotel) in the Terrace. Date April 20 at 2:00 p.m.

CONFED:

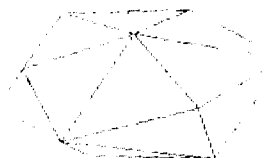
Not much to report, although there is a busy period coming up in the next month. The Round Robins idea is working very well, and so far there have been no casualties - all started have returned to base at least once. Anyone else interested in getting onto one of the future robins should write to me. It would help if you would list a set of preferred topics-for-discussion.

NATIONAL A.G.M. NEWS

The National A.G.M. will co-incide with the Wellington AGM so look under that heading.

One item to be discussed will be fees. NASF has not had any fee increase for several years, and during that time costs have increased a lot. Current proposals are for a fee of \$10 (adult) and \$5 (student) or (as an alternative) \$6 (adult) and \$4 (student). Please note that these are in addition to whatever fee you pay to belong to a branch. To let all members have a say in whatever fees are set at the AGM, please write in to let us know what level of fees you support. E.G. will vote for any amount up to \$\$\$\$, will abstain from \$\$\$ to \$\$\$, and will vote against any fee above \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$.

Send in Any
motions to
Guy Perkins.



AOTEARAPA

Tom Cardy has become the official editor of Aotearapa and he tells us that the roster has now been filled. There is no room for any more at the moment, but people joining now will be put on a wait-list, and may become members in Maying 4.

Write to Tom Cardy for details if you are interested.

WELLCON B:

As a result of my shift to Hamilton, I will no longer be as closely involved with the organisation of Wellcon B. Greg Hills has arrived in Wellington and will no doubt get involved.

The official address for Wellcon B will be P.O. Box 9314, Courtney Place, Wellington.

It will be held at the St. George Hotel on Queen's Birthday Weekend, 1980. Festivities will start on the Friday night and continue till the Monday afternoon. The current working programme includes films, discussions, a fancy dress parade (with a prize for the winner), a quiz, and lots more time for parties and socialising. A bar may be opened in the convention room on occasions. A guest of Honour is planned and negotiations are proceeding.

Current costs are \$15 (attending) and \$7 (supporting). A dinner may be organised but this will be extra. Accomodation may be arranged at the same time as your Con registration, or you can make your own arrangements.

If we get enough notice, it may be possible to arrange Air fares at reduced rates through Air NZ's "Come Together" fares. But we must have enough people and they must tell us in time.

WORLDCON NEWS:

Some of you paid \$7.50 at WellCon to become supporting members of DENVENTION II, the 41st World Science Fiction Convention. By now you'll have received cards from the Con-committee acknowledging your memberships and assigning you numbers. But some confusion may arise over the rights granted you by Con-membership.

The situation is, unfortunately, that you must pay a fee - currently \$5.00 - at the time you cast your vote, in order for that vote to be valid. THIS \$5.00 ALSO PAYS FOR YOUR SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP OF THE WINNING BID, HOWEVER. Having voted, and at the same time paid your \$5.00, you automatically become a supporting member of whichever bid wins.

In the case of AUSTRALIA IN 1983, the \$3.00 some of you paid at WellCon was a pre-supporting fee, and does not automatically make you a supporting member. Furthermore, even if it did, it could only hold if Australia actually wins. While by paying the \$5 and voting (which is why you joined, of course) you get into whichever bid wins at the cheapest rate possible.

Those of you who have not yet joined AUSTRALIA IN 1983's bid can still do so by sending \$3.00 to the WellCon B box: PO Box 9314, Wellington. Make any cheques payable to Greg Hills. A receipt will be issued (honest!)...



(Graham Fenner, ???, Michael Jenkins,
Tom Cardy (THE ONE WITH THE SMILE))



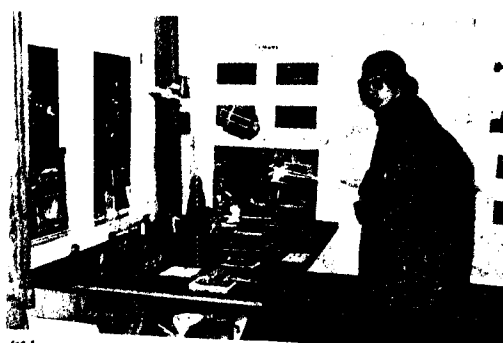
(Brian Strong)



TO 80

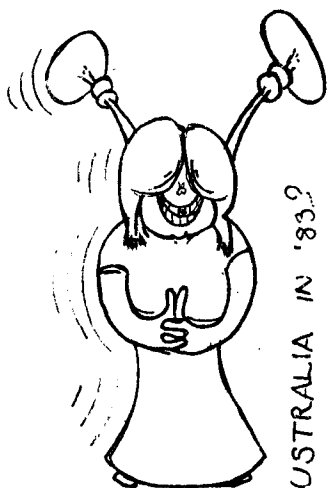


"ISN'T THE BEST WAY OF LEARNING A GAME TO PLAY IT...?" (R→L Colin Macmillan, Greg Hills, Catherine De la Cour, Anon?, Chris Lyons, Dave Harvey)



"NOW WHERE DID THEY HIDE MY DARTH VADER MASK?" (Craig Simmons)

C O N F E R E N C E



"AND DO YOU WANT TO JOIN"



(This is the one by Tom!)



(?, ?, Duncan Lucas, Greg Hills, Colin Macmillan)



HARVEY Kong Tin broods over the N.A.S.F. Star Wars Poster Display....



we would like to thank the San Francisco Bath-house for helping to print this copy of WARP.

STARS

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

by the unknown Astrologer:
Glenn (you must think I'm raving
sane) Coster.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Toss a coin.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)
Today is a good time to send letters to correspondants.
If you have a typewriter, don't use it today. It will be
raining..or was it snowing?

ARIES (Mar. 21 - Apr. 20)
Pity about the headache - s-o-r-r-y..

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Terrible day for writing letters or LoC's. The cure is
to write in green. Incidentally, green is your lucky
number.

GEMINI (May 22 - Jun. 21)
No comment. Okay, okay, but you'll regret it. Today
you will receive a hangover from yesternights' party,
drive to work, forget about your brakes which failed
last night, arrive at work very late cast in bandages
and be greeted by your boss with "You're fired!".

CANCER (Jun 22 - Jul. 23)
Drive with a Gemini and you'll be sorry...

LEO (Jul. 24 - Aug. 23)
Refer to 'Taurus'.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sep. 23)
Lucky number is approx. 56,093. Take your time with
decisions and be open. Not too open...

LIBRA (Sep. 24 - Oct. 23)
Has it ever occurred to you that you actually rid
yourself of those silly acne? Use 'Clearasil'
and have a happy day!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
All I can say is forward to tomorrow.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
If you are tired, you are going to sleep.. slowly....
If you are asleep your entire sf collection will
be stolen.. Ha!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Yet again you will win a Reader's Digest condensed
book. Your lucky colour is white.

POEM : HEIRS OF THE WORLD BY S.M./ NAPIER

To you who have inherited this Earth
From us destroyers:
Once this world was beautiful;
Animals ran free and nature was in balance;
Birds flew and nested in trees.

Then man cut down the trees and the birds could not nest;
He cut down the forests and bush and then
With his natural wood home in his new sub-division
He took his gun and went hunting!

Industry released fumes and smoke into the atmosphere,
While cities pumped raw sewerage and chemicals
into the sea.
In our day we could swim in that stinking brown quagmire.
We thought that walking on water would be a miracle,
Not an everyday occurrence.
And believe it or not,
behind that yellow cloud-screen
That hides you from the Universe
Are countless stars;
And what we once called the Sun.
We are to blame for the death of your world.

In less than a century Earth will be devoid of life;
You however do have one chance to save the human race;
We may have destroyed this world but we have given you
The technological grounding to find others.

There is only one way out and that is up.
Go to the stars children of the damned and start again.

Articles and Reviews

ARTICLE : SIMIAN HISTORICAL NOTES - F. MACSKASY JR.

- 1972 Astronauts Taylor, Landon, Stewart and Dodge are launched on the first interstellar exploration flight. Several months later, 'Skipper' and Brent are launched along the same trajectory to probe it's unexplained disappearance.
- 1973 The first spacecraft reappears mysteriously and lands on the Californian coast. Capsule found piloted by chimpanzee doctors Zira, Milo and Cornelius.
(EVENTS OF "ESCAPE FROM THE PLANET OF THE APES")
One month later, they are killed by government agents. A baby born of Zira and Cornelius survives and is kept by Armando, a friendly human.
- 1981 Virus plaque brought back by astronauts from outer space exterminates all domestic cats and dogs. Humans replace lost pets with chimpanzees, gorillas and orangutans. The apes are found to be extremely (could the virus have mutated them?) intelligent and are soon employed as servants and slaves rather than pets. Training and selling of apes becomes a big business.
- 1985 Spacecraft with astronauts Viridon and Burke crashes.
- 1987 The baby chimpanzee has matured and is taken by Armando to the human city.
(EVENTS OF "CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES")
Months later, the chimp now known as Caesar leads the Apes into violent rebellion against humans. Man's city is doomed.
In desperation, several nations unleash nuclear holocaust in an attempt to control the rising simian violence. Most of the world is destroyed with only a few areas remaining habitable.
The world is now in firm control by the Apes.
- 2001 Caesar has lead a small group of Apes and captive humans away from the destroyed city. He builds a new city for himself and his followers.
(EVENTS OF "BATTLE FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES")
Ape city is attacked by mutants from the devastation and battle with the apes. The Apes win. The mutants are routed and prepare to unleash a doomsday weapon (cobalt bomb) should the simian army attack their city. Caesar's son is killed in an attempt to control Ape city.
The human condition brightens but in a few years will regress again.
- 2003 The mutants leave their ruined city and journey across America to New York. They carry with them the cobalt bomb which has assumed religious significance.
- 2003-2888 Ape civilisation grows across North America (except for forbidden zones). Simian science never grows beyond the medieval level because: (1) the Apes fear science as evil; (2) The Earth has been depleted of resources. Humans are slaves to the Apes and regress further into savagery and ignorance.
- 2888 Astronauts Viridon and Burke crashland on Earth. They team up with chimpanzee Galen and all three become fugitives.
- 2888-3955 The Ape civilisation fragments into isolated city states. History has been lost. Humans are dumb animals which are regarded as a pest.
- 3955 Taylor, Landon and Dodge land. Stewart is dead on arrival.
(EVENTS OF "PLANET OF THE APES")
Taylor, Dodge and Landon are hunted by the gorillas and only Taylor survives. Taylor meets Zira and Cornelius who help him to escape. "Skipper" and Brent arrive in their spacecraft.
(EVENTS OF "BENEATH PLANET OF THE APES")
"Skipper" dies leaving Brent to find Ape city. Zira and Cornelius help him escape. Brent follows Taylor into the forbidden zone. The Ape Army follows. The mutant humans prepare their 'god' to attack the army. The bomb goes off, the world is destroyed except for Zira, Cornelius and Milo who are in Taylors spacecraft and travel back to 1973....

BOOK REVIEW: THE FLORIANs BY BRIAN STABLEFORD

Reviewed by Tom Austin

Brian Stableford, in my view, is one of the best modern authors readable today. He wrote the HOODED SWAN series, depicting the adventures of the cynical and self-proclaimed best pilot in the galaxy - Grainger. Together with his alien mind-parasite, which he picked up as a host on a lonely planet, they travel around under the employment of the tyrannical New Alexandrian, Titus Charlot.

Well now my favourite author has come up with another hero along the same lines. This one is called Alexis Alexander, and seems to regard the world as something not very nice.

Alexis Alexander is an ecologist, and a very good one at that. Together with crew and fellow scientists he travels in the spaceship Daedalus to the few colonies man has made in the galaxy. Their first stop is the planet Floria, probably the most successful of the colonies made. The Daedalus is a scientific reconcontact ship, trying to open up communication between the space colonies and Earth. It has been out of communication for about a century or more due to wars and a long pause while the human race pulled itself together. The Daedalus is also to find any problems that the colonies might be suffering and try to solve them.

Floria, however seems to have no problems at all with good farming and towns springing up at a good rate. It seems to be a thriving colony except for the fact that the seven feet tall, athletic inhabitants have a short life expectancy. Alexis attempts to find out the reason for this sudden difference in size, the colonists having been on the planet for only six generations. But doing so, he finds himself emeshed in the colony's increasingly violent political activities. And while being in such a state, finds that he has to convince the colonists that the crew of the Daedalus has every right to be there; that there is a problem to be solved, only the inhabitants will not admit it.

A sequel to this book is called CRITICAL THRESHOLD and tells of the second landfall of the Daedalus. Hopefully the rest will be as interesting as the first. What makes Stableford so fascinating to me is his characters; his heroes being cynical and world-weary, but still contriving to do something heroic while looking down at what they're doing. This is ably illustrated by his HOODED SWAN series and the DAEDALUS series and another called THE MIND RIDERS. One can identify with them. They are dimensional rather than square, solid and noble heroes that attempt with boring regularity most of the sf nowadays.

BOOK REVIEW: INVASION OF THE BODYSNATCHERS (FOTONOVEL)

Reviewed by Margaret Boyd.

For those who are not familiar with this type of book, a Fotonovel is a book of a film, told in pictures with captions, comic-book style. The idea was successfully pioneered using the STAR TREK television series, and the format seems to lend itself well to works of science fiction, possibly because of their unusual, colourful and dramatic nature.

The novel tells the story of the film using photographs from scenes as illustration with most of the dialogue printed (but not thankfully in disfiguring word-balloons.) The extra descriptive passages, although necessary to the flow of the story, are few and unobtrusive, and not many of the scenes from the film are omitted. Despite the obvious limitations this is in effect an excellent adaptation of the film to a book.



CONFUSED
editors



...SPEAKING - this may not be the last

Possibly the impact was lessened as I read this book long after seeing the film, and knowing the story, it came across as familiar and flat. Certainly the characters seemed real, as did the puzzles: the heroine pretty and confused, the health department official concerned and puzzled, the psychiatrist clever and manipulating; the special effects horrendous, the pods everywhere and seemingly unstoppable, the ending quite unexpected...but for all that there was something missing.

Of course it is the sound effect that is absent and it added so much to the texture of the film. The background music added to the mood as did the silence: to underline or subtly give away a scene or just to hint at what's to come.

Not is the effect of motion, with related timing and surprises possible in the pages of a book. Lost faces on a bus, aimless crowds, a priest on a swing - all these and more fitted so beautifully and unrealised into the film: hinting, denying, emphasising or just always there...

The surprise of the original photography can only be suggested in the fotonovel; it was a delight to watch in the film, to see some scenes filmed in a deliberately unusual or captivating way, all timed to fit in with the increasingly offbeat trend of the film. A photograph of one scene on a page just can't do this.

But for all that's missing, the fotonovel has its merits too. At least when read, the spoken words can be understood, which is more than the rumbles from the theatre sound system permitted for much of the film; and the beauty and cleverness, horrors and surprises of the plot are not lost either.

I would think the fotonovel good as an aid to the student film-maker; as an extra to understanding the film; as a memory of it, but certainly not as a replacement. Then again, perhaps only the very besotted sf enthusiast or the very fannish person would want to buy such an item, and they'd need to be both rich and patient to do so. This book is not yet available in New Zealand and is only obtainable from the American publishers at much expense and delay.

BOOK REVIEW: THE STAINLESS STEEL RAT WANTS YOU

BY HARRY HARRISON

Reviewed by Bruce Ferguson

Slippery Jim Di Griz is back again in another adventure to entertain us all. This is the fourth book of his adventures, in which we have seen him change from a smooth operating solo crook to the family man and #1 agent of the Special Corps.

This book is not as funny as any of the previous tales. Jim is getting old and has to play father to his twin boys. He is even conscientious about his job and the obligatory conflict with his boss lacks it's usual enthusiasm. If you have read all the others (recommended) then this one will be essential.

FILM REVIEW : STAR TREK : DA MOVIE

Reviewed by Debi Kean

Inveigled by Nigel Rowe, I went along to this movie one weekday afternoon not quite sure what to expect. I even had fears of commercial drek - fears that were not fulfilled.

The special effects are everything they're claimed to be: incredible, wonderful. Even when credibility fails slightly, the dry-dock scenes are sheer poetry in motion.

There is an aura of familiarity, yet shock, in seeing the old characters, one by one, ten years on. Kirk, Spock, Uhura - with a lovely maturity -, Chekov and Sulu, who look no older. Commander Decker, appears an intrusion, too brash and a bit shallow. His character is not sufficiently well developed. And dear old 'Bones' McCoy: crusty, and with that claimed Georgia accent. Ilia, the woman of sonnets and acclaim (see Peter Graham): her baldness is a shock, accustomed to it as we've become in the last five weeks of intensive publicity. Her accent is delightful and intended to pass for Deltan, sans doute.

The guts of it: the story is good; better than Time magazine reports. The screenplay is good, although a bit pedestrian. The whole effect is very moving - I left the theatre on a real high - the kind produced by good music. And the music is good. Maybe the film wouldn't have this effect on a less emotional viewer, but I view with my heart, not my head. I won't give the plot away, the werewolf would be after me, fangs bared. But it's a good film.

BOOK REVIEW: DRAGONS OF EDEN BY CARL SAGAN

Reviewed by Debi Kean

Speculations on the evolution of human intelligence, is this book's sub-title. It is vastly more interesting than that; Sagan is the kind of writer who brings in interesting apparent irrelevancies, and shows their relevance. Sagan's view of the elements of the brain, their origin, history and function gives him a perspective on cultural problems. The primitive, aggressive element comes from the R-complex (reptilian). The neocortex relates to civilisation and rationality.

This thesis leads into such things as the fraught abortion question, chimpanzees communicating in Ameslan, the definition of death, treatment of schizophrenia and whatever it was that wiped the dinosaurs out 65 million years back. This a really good book; one you're sorry to finish, wishing it were longer.

BOOK REVIEW: BUG JACK BARRON BY NORMAN SPINRAD

Reviewed by Tom Austin

Norman Spinrad is quite a strong writer. He starts off strong, keeps going strong and ends with a force to set our mind reeling. Written in 1969, this book uses all the trendy words and phrases of the time, yet one doesn't feel that it is just a book for all the trendy people of that time. It has staying power.

BUG JACK BARRON is a tv program in the not-to-distant future, with the highest ratings ever; more than any other program on at that time. Hosted by Jack Barron, the idol of the U.S.A., it provides a kind of talk-back show - with a difference. Is someone - or something - really bugging you? The go bug Jack Barron. If you get to bug him enough, he will on a tv in front of the billions go and bug the person - or whatever - is bugging you. This means cutting p whoever it is, from the President to the local cop, with words. Quite literally bugging them.

What fun! In a country where there is a black seberat state of Mississippi; politics are as usual screwed up; arijuana is legal and sponsors Jack's show.

Jack Barron is somewhat cynical and an anarchic mass-media man - a natural for the job he does. He is also a heroic womaniser to boot, so don't be suprised by the gobbits of sex that float up. He has an opponent - Benedict Howards, the owner of a vast company that specialises in making men immortal, able to live forever for \$50,000 a throw. When Barron puts a distinctive bad picture on the company, he company reacts murderously, and it is then that Barron is faced with the terrible secret that the company is

attempting to hide. He is faced with the problem and an agonising decision - join the company and live forever or cut it up with his show, the most powerful propoganda weapon ever.

BUG JACK BARRON is the most plausible book from the '60s I have read, as well as being the most gripping. And it grips alright. Right there in the guts.

ARTICLE : A WORD ABOUT WARS (STAR WARS)

by David White

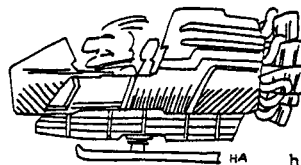
The film STAR WARS has quickly become an all time great in N.Z. and overseas. It ran in Wellington for about 6 months and every time I went to see it the theatre was full. As follow-ups, STAR WARS kitsets, games, toys, etc. have deluged the overseas market - although only modest amounts seem to have arrived in NZ. In this article I intend to look at the reasons for STAR WARS' popularity and to note the reaction of some of it's critics.

To start with, let's have a look at what George Lucas had in mind. To quote from "Sci-Fi Now":- "I wanted to make an action movie - a movie in outer space, like Flash Gordon used to be... What finally emerged through the many drafts of the script has obviously been influenced by science fiction and the action-adventure I've read and seen...I'm trying to make a classic...space fantasy in which all the influences are working together".

Critics reactions varied from Time magazine :- "the years best movie"; to Analog editorial in June '78 :- "Star Wars allows the audience to turn off it's brain completely and spend a couple of hours in a hypnotic funk". The Analog view is that STAR WARS (and CLOSE ENCOUNTERS) "bear the same relationship to science fiction as the Nazi treatment of Poland bore to the ten commandments".

This is a complete contrast to the views expressed by author David Gerrold. In Science Fantasy Film Classics :- "Both films (SW & CE3K) are major efforts; both are pioneering efforts; both are built around classic themes and both are handled with integrity and skill on the part of nearly everybody connected with them." That STAR WARS and CE3K were labours of love is obvious. The attention to detail, the time and effort spent to create the right effects and make them convincing, the music to evoke the right moods - all point to this.

As far as the special effects are concerned, the point has been made that these were the only stars of the film. This is rather like saying that the only stars in westerns are the makers of blank bullets etc and the horse trainers. The purpose of special effects in any film is to tighten the reality - and nowhere is this more important than in a sf film. Because the sense of wonder is such a vital ingredient of sf, time and money spent on creating realism is well spent - for the simple reason that for the film to succeed we - the audience - must be grabbed by the scruff of the imagination and made to feel part of the action; made to feel we have undergone a valid experience.



In making something like SLEEPING DOGS, the background (NZ) already exists - the only thing then is the credibility of the acting. But with STAR WARS, everything

has to be invented from scratch. What will the robots look like? What kind of clothes will be worn? How will people live? etc... You can't go down to the local used car lot and pick up a landspeeder like you can a Holden or Chevette; you have to invent them. This is the reason why sf films require so much more creativity, talent, time and money than any other sort of movie endeavour. Even the GOVERNOR doesn't appear to have cost as much as STAR TREK.



A WORD ABOUT WARS (cont.)

So - it could be said that the amount of money a producer is willing to spend on special effects is a rough indication of his sincerity to make a good film. By this guide, if a producer didn't care about integrity or anything except making a fast buck, the SFX would be as cheap as possible: e.g. stock footage from old movies, halloween or dracula masks.

On this basis it would be easy to see the trouble George Lucas had with STAR WARS before we finally saw it on the screen. Universal Pictures was offered STAR WARS but rejected it, and even after 20th Century Fox took it, it still ran through four versions.

STAR WARS does have flaws, but other sf films have even worse blunders - e.g. CAPRICORN ONE has three guys sent to Mars in an Apollo Moon Craft!! The errors in STAR WARS are minor, but the blunders in the other films cannot be cured without totally changing the film.

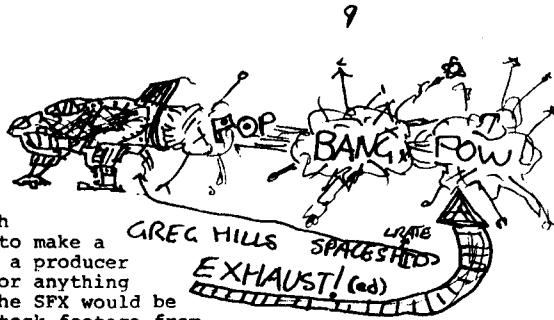
When everything is put together; when STAR WARS is considered on it's merits; it is a good film, and the major element of it's success revolves around the fact that it is a unity: everything fits together; everything looks used, 'lived in' - the battered old landspeeder, the rust streaked sides of the sandcrawler, that disused corridor of the Death Star, the bleeps and chirps of R2-D2 to name a few. And implications there are in plenty.

Did you notice Darth Vader's TIE fighter is so much different from the others? The clumsiness of the Stormtroopers boarding the Princess' ship and fighting it out with the crew? The fact that from a distance of 20 or so feet they were such lousy shots? The lack of close quarters defensive armament on the Death Star? This is specifically stated as being because the Imperials didn't think small X-wing fighters were dangerous, but that and the other factors can be explained thus:

- (1) The Death Star is huge - 200 kilometers is the measurement across. Therefore an immense amount of time, money and resources went into building it.
- (2) Even in this day and age, it is almost impossible to estimate how much a given project will cost so major cost over-runs must have occurred during the building of the Death Star.
- (3) The heads of the project must have then cut costs so if Vader's TIE fighter is the latest model, everyone else got the older versions. As for the Stormtroopers, it is possible that instead of getting crack combat veterans, the Death Star was given second rate or rear echelon troops or inexperienced recruits. The economic motive outlined would also account for the lack of proper defensive weaponry.

These are some of the implications of STAR WARS. To quote Gerrold again: "Every good sf work has implications. The writer doesn't have time to show or explain everything there is, so he adds details - lots of them - that imply the larger world beyond the immediate scope of the story. The better a job he does at creating implications, the more real the environment of his story will be... It is the presentations of details that makes STAR WARS such a successfully realised work".

With this in mind, you must realise that Lucas stated his desire to make a "space fantasy in which all the influences are working together". I feel he has succeeded. That is the reason for STAR WARS success, that is why I have seen it so many times, and why I will see it again.



FILM REVIEW : WESTWORLD

Reviewed by Margaret Boyd.

Delos is a fabulous resort world in three parts - Medieval World, Roman World and Westworld. For a price, tourists can live in these carefully reconstructed fantasy worlds where everything is realistic and staffed entirely by robots.

The story concerns two men (James Brolin and Dick Benjamin) who travel to Westworld, but glimpses are given of the other two worlds, involving some of their tourist group.

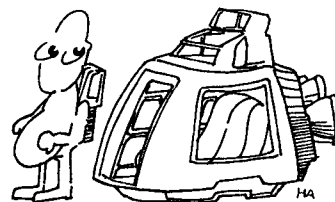
Westworld is so authentic that the guns are real, but only the robots (which are impossible to tell from humans) get shot, bleed and die. Even the animals are machines, as under the cover of darkness, the dead or malfunctioning are retrieved, repaired and ready to reactivate the next day.

But troubles are upon the team of human technicians who monitor and repair the machines. Some disease is affecting the machines and many mis-function or don't follow their program. The trouble strikes Westworld. Snakes bite and one of the cowboys is gunned down in the street and dies. The other flees for his life, pursued by a killer robot.

Simultaneously, the robots in Medieval World and Roman World go berserk too. A guest is killed in a sword fight, and a decadent Roman Orgy becomes a horrifying bloodbath. The robots are in control and have turned on all the humans with ferocious effect.

Deep underground, the human technicians die slowly of suffocation, sealed in their workrooms with their equipment.

The rest of the film follows the chase between the terrified human and the unstoppable robot in and out of the three worlds. Far from underlining all the excitement, suspense and horror of all that has gone before, the ending simply undoes the effect of the whole film, reducing a memorable effort to child's play.



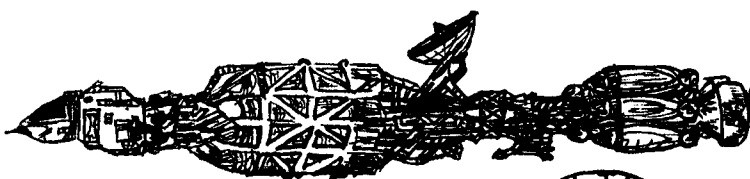
FICTION: STARLIGHT BY TERRY COLLISTER

The small spaceship spun and dived, it's retro's firing to escape from the attacking ship. "Can't you outrun them? I thought you said that this thing was fast", one of the passengers remarked sarcastically.

"Watch your mouth kid or you'll find yourself floating home", he remarked the pilot, his mind confused with the cunning tricks he was using to outwit the aggressor. The attacking ship zigged and zagged following the smaller, more manoeuvrable ship. The bolts of the larger ship were bouncing and deflecting off the other ship's energy fields. Then a hit, then an explosion and the smuggling ship was only a gossaming ball of spacedust.

Then the film trailer came, the projector spluttered and the audience walked out of the theatre.

"Geese, what happened?" said one. "Yea," said the other. "Talk about cutting. Last time I saw STAR WARS they at least made it to the Death Star."



ULTRA Probe circa 1992
 Captain Jim Calder
 Dr. Dawim King
 Prof. Juliet Makie
 Dr. Olga Vishensky

FC 80
 SSJ99FA



COMMUNICATIONS

Dear Bruce,

WARP 14: a most memorable entry in the sf publishing field. Another scathing group of remarks from Gregg Hills - that makes 3 issues with three letters from Gregg criticising me (do you ever get that feeling that someone up there doesn't like you?).

Why is a sf film more worth seeing than other movies? Is this a sf magazine or a neo-political left-wing propaganda paper? Is sf fandom escapist? Well, if it's not then it is not worth being a fan at all. sf fans are escapist, the whole sf world is escapist.

Getting off that - I have a copy of a large number of tapings of selected sf tv broadcasts including that SF program mentioned last issue. I also have a full selection of tv program title tracks and opening phrases. Write to me and I'll gladly fill in the details of them all.

Ricc Buttle would be advised to write to Gregg Hills for a copy of N3F Fanspeak! guide. This is a usefull guide for every fan - neo or not. See you soon and join the Prisoner Appreciation Society (P.A.S.)

Terry Collister
108 Morris Spence Ave
Napier

##Terry also sent in a large volume of Napierian Poems (any relationship to Napierian logarithm's I wonder?) and another batch of illios. Thanks for both Terry. As you will see in the issue, the poems fitted in well.##

Dear Bruce,

WARP 14: Good, really good. I'm impressed (as a dragon rider). Yes, I thought CM was Chris Morrin. I take that the... what can I call it? sketch on p. 9 was by one Colin Macmillan. I can have 1000 mwomen there in an hour - waving placards. Good cover but.

Good book review by Greg Hills. I am wading my way through the Cluster series now, lent to me by Peter Graham. As far as I have now got, I would agree with Greg. Peter now has a positive duty to do a review of these books...

Peter Graham and I are doing a collaboration-zine called Tesseract. It contains games, reviews, fiction and even theology. As yet, my dear co-ed has not yet decided whether there will be a Tessie's: 2 and although he claims to be the junior partner, he's not.

I'm glad to see the response to Craig's comments on politics nettled. I think it contradicts Craig's contention about fannish apathy. I loved Laurens' pun. Good one.

Tim Jones' poem, very good indeed. Every bit as good as a Graham effort - though diff of course. Witty, cool.

Robert Fowles' story was a bit of a tease. Where is the denouement? The payoff? A disappointing ending.

I'm enclosing the first of about 250 reviews of the STAR TREK movie that you'll recieve. Also a book review. I've done dozens for Tessie. Yes, WARP improves as it goeth along. Fantastic. The fanzine explosion is a good thing too.

Debi Kean
No Fixed Abode

Dear Bruce,

The youth of the '70s has been no more apathetic than that of any other decade of man's existence. They react to their environment with the same instincts that youth has always reacted with and will continue to react with.

It depends what people mean by sex. Exploited sex seems the most popular kind to be portrayed in films and books. There is no way sf can be immune from it. However it is sad to note that people who produce sf containing exploitation of sex are, at the same time exploiting sf. And it's the attitudes of these people, and of the people who read and view this exploitation, as much as the exploitation itself which is saddening.

Except where you are sure that a particular film will be abhorant to you, a film is worth seeing just because it is sf. It is a part of the sf world and it's the duty of any real sf fan to absorb as varied and complete a portion of that world as possible without sacrificing his/her morals, sanity or the quality of life.

Letra-set isn't the be-all and end-all of effective lettering. Simple imaginative, well-executed hand lettering could make WARP a neat and easily read work of art; letra-set merely makes it neat.

Could the budget possibly stretch to three staples per copy of WARP?

SF is no more escapism than anything else in the universe is for what is reality and what is truth? Different things to different people. SF, like stamp collecting and life itself, are simply part of the search for beauty and the rewards for finding beauty. SF is more often than not a comment on our society as projected into the future at various angles. And as politics is as much a part of our lives as is exploited sex, there seems no way to divorce it from sf. However it seems to me that people who involve themselves to a considerable extent in politics are fulfilling an apparent need to take sides and fight some battle. This stance seems to dull any capacity for looking at things with an open mind; a capacity which is vital to the sf fan. Action to make for ourselves the future we hope for can be undertaken through a different kind of fighting; a kind which each sf fan must discover for himself.

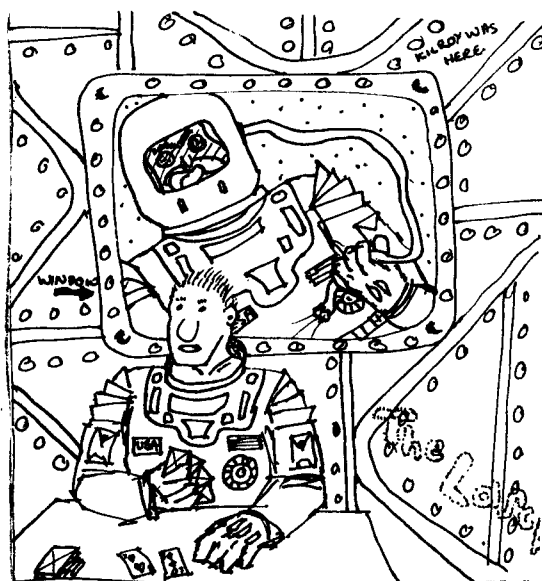
The abominations of english mentioned by Trevor Gudsell are indeed juvenile; baby talk to be exact, but then mankind is pretty juvenile so I guess we'll just have to grin and bear it. But it does intrigue me the way some members criticise the childishness and juvenility of WARP and some of it's contributors when they either use baby talk or hide behind pseudonyms (mother's skirts) or both. The only people pseudonym users are deceiving are themselves.

May I congratulate Margaret Boyd on her Kaikoura Incident article. It was accurate, effective and I loved the ending.

I have for sale the soft-cover edition (one copy only) of ALTERNATE WORLDS: THE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF SCIENCE FICTION by James Gunn. It is "as new" and the price is \$3.98 plus postage (50¢) = \$4.48 - just over 1/9 the price of the hard-cover edition. First in first served. Please don't send money until you're advised that you got it first.

Judith Yeatman
63 Stanbury Ave
Christchurch 2

a comment I forgot to put after Debi's letter - the 'sketch' was in fact done by Chris Morrin, not Colin.



"WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT FRED'S AIRHOSE"

Dear Bruce,

An interesting issue, understandably a little thin due to the holiday period, EUT sadly marred by an unnecessary and sexist cover (and, for that matter, its companion piece of "artwork" on page 9). Chris Morrin getting his (I'd be very surprised if that "Chris" stood for "Christine") kicks from machine sex in private is one thing, but Chris Morrin's fantasies being reproduced on the cover of WARP is another. A cover like that, on the magazine published by the National Association for Science Fiction, has a number of effects and consequences: by portraying a woman as a completely dehumanised object, it insults woman readers of WARP (and, indeed, insults male readers as well). As WARP is NASF's mouthpiece, this cover implies that NASF shares such attitudes; it is hardly surprising that few women join NASF or contribute to WARP if they are faced with such a sexist attitude shown by a quasi-official ((QUASI??)) NASF publication. It also appears to show that WARP is sadly behind the times in both the public and sf domains - 4 out of 5 Eugo Award nominees, including the winner, were women in 1979; Chris Morrin's attitude should have been buried with the 1950s.

I don't see anything inherently wrong in a sexy/sensuous cover, but Chris Morrin's cover is neither sexy nor sensuous. It's just pointless, insulting and rather juvenile.

Tim Jones,
Flat 3, 317 High Street,
Dunedin.

Dear Bruce,

I've been thinking. NASF is growing into quite a big organisation now. Could we use a small booklet introducing it, to be sent to new members? (Present members would get a copy next time they review - call it an incentive scheme!) I mention this because I am doing such a booklet for N3F and the temptation to ~~give~~ bless one on NASF IS GROWING. Contents would be a blurb on NASF's history, on its structure and on what it is 'today'. Maybe an address-listing of active members for easy reference. What do you think?

A magnificent cover! Duncan Lucas will be hard-put to match it. I met Chris the last couple of times I was in Auckland; I'm glad he is coming out into the world with his work. I also admired the quip by him (bottom of the mosaic, page 9) -- the expression on the face is very well done: surprise, naive puzzlement, admixed with concern. (On the other coin, I must say that Tom Cardy does worse by you in the cartoon above the picture than he does by me! Shall we exterminate him?) ##Better than that...Greg and I arranged for Tom to become OBE of Aotearapa##

Bravo Trevor Guðsell! But why not let us see your address? Shy? (Music plays - Alan Parsons, I, ROBOT).

I rather liked Margaret Boyd's ramble on Kaikoura. There was a UFO over Auckland last time I was up there. It hardly ruffled the pages of the newspapers, making the front page one night & then vanishing into stygian depths.

And oh, yes, in passing, shall we see the ending of Robert Fowles story sometime? After all that buildup, I'm interested in seeing how it finishes...

Greg Hills,
PO Box 9314,
Wellington.

##CHANGE OF ADDRESS##

Dear Bruce,

Chris Morrin's cover for WARP 14 was impressive & it added to the high standard floating around in the pages within.

WARP is shaping up to be a very enjoyable fanzine and it'll certainly encourage new members to participate. Now for Frank Macskasy. Do I not detect just a slight note of

Jealousy in his statements? In fact there is not one statement there I agree with. Frank is just nit-picking. (Sheesh I'm sounding like a certain PM).

Tom Cardy,
137 Richardson St,
Dunedin.

Dear Bruce,

Something has been bugging me about fandom, something nasty and elusive that I feel I should know. Accordingly I have been shooting my mouth (or rather pen) off in various places, trying to discover what it is. To begin with I was sure politics/life-style was involved, and tried looking there. No luck. They are involved, but not in the way I first thought.

It was Trevor Guðsell's letter that made things finally click for me. I think, with his aid I have discovered what it is that has been annoying shit out of me about fandom. He was right when he pointed to the connection with interpersonal relationships but I feel it may go a lot deeper than Trevor guessed.

Fandom possesses an attraction that goes far beyond a shared interest in sf. It has reached the stage, as I pointed out in the APA, where for myself, and I suspect many other people, it has become an end in itself. Talking this over with Duncan he suggested this occurred because it allowed us to belong to an in-group. Again this is the right track but it is far more complex than that simple explanation. Trevor suggested shy people may join fandom in order to use it as a type of social therapy. Closer! But not all fans are shy. Indeed I feel that some are outright extroverts in many respects. We do not resort to fandom because of a lack of relationships around us.

I think I am an active fan because it enables me to have a series of long, lasting, impersonal, uncommitted relationships with various people. I may write to someone for a long time, getting to know that other person well through correspondence and yet no type of emotional commitment or bond is ever forged.

So eventually fandom does seem to be a form of escapism but not, as most people think, from the strife of the world: rather from the emotional commitments involved in direct interpersonal relationships. Carried to an extreme this could become an extremely unhealthy activity involving the gradual withdrawal from the 'painful' world of face-to-face relationships and the emergence into a scifi-fandom fantasy. Thinking about it now there have been times when I have refused the company of friends in order to do my fanac. Hmhmhm. Bigger letter-writing.

I'm going out to hug a friend.

##CHANGE OF ADDRESS##

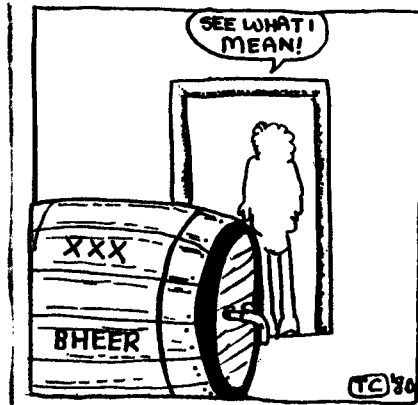
Craig Simmons,
106 Nixon Street,
Hamilton.

Dear Bruce,

I don't really know what to say except I am amazed at the standard you presented W 14 with. I swear that many a fanned will envy you and quite rightly so.

Some of the art, I thought, was pretty poor, and of bad quality. Mosaic section tells all. Chris Morrin (where did he enter from) proved himself as one heck of a good artist. Perhaps I said that because I was surprised not to see a Lucas cover and discovered a new artist's work.

WELLCON B FUNNIES...



About Frank's letter, which has been the best letter to look at the magazine overall. His views on Kaptain Rangi should be noted. Frank did seem to be scraping up minor points (page numbers, etc.) but he still points out improvements for the better.

Tell me, what is the name for the study of the ego? I believe there is a name. There seem to be many fen who use fanzines as a medium for their own ego. If only this ceased.

Glad to notice the neo-writers.

Glenn Coster
56 Dunster St.
Dunedin.

Dear Bruce,

Hi - fresh from discovering that Menotti (he of the Xmas pageant "Amahl and the Night Visitors") wrote a genuine space opera - "Help, Help, the Globolinks" - put on in Jan 1969 by the Hamburg State Opera. A 70-minute one-act item in which the Earth is invaded (what else?) by an outer-space group called the Globolinks, whose touch will turn any human into a Globolink in 24 hours (Ghod alone knows how - infectious DNA engineering might do it in a longer period but in a mere day? Anyway...). They are finally defeated when their weakness is found - it being, of course, an allergy to music (at times, hearing some attempts at the latter, one can feel akin on that issue) on which the schoolkids sing them under.

On Greg's review - Tarot and me, oh sure I have designed my own Polynesian theme Tarot pack - but Greg dear boy, a Tarot reading is not a horoscope - that be a star position/planet position really, chart for time of birth plus interpretation of it's significance by some zany system or other. At that point all goes askew, mostly, but a forecast based on the belief that largely, unconsciously, determine their own fates and that any random array of symbols will lead to mental reactions with this subconscious-conscious on the part of the guy/lady read for... one assumes a body language and/or telepathic influence of the read-for on the card-reader biasing their memory of possible interpretations toward the relevant. Indeed the heroine, Melody, of "Chaining the Lady" uses differing reactions of different species to said Tarot symbolic pictures to determine which bodies have alien auras residing in them (a process more rational than Greg allows - tho' I confess later variants of Tarot reading and earlier ones in the other novels do seem more mystical. Greg might realise, had he ever been into "contact mind reading" - a purely physical process - and the extension into non-contact by such as Rubini, who impressed Houdini no end, a certain degree of Tarot use is quite rational even for sceptics such as I. Greg exaggerates my knowledge about such things (actually I love the inverted Illuminatus trilogy explanation of the meaning of the Tarot; c.f. the authoritarian garbage of some occult racist fascists. If Craig Simmons thinks the occult path will lead to pure non-aggressive minds, he ought to be thankful he hasn't run into some of the sillier political idiocies of some occultists; any movement can go bad, I think myself, and while Hitler may not have been linked with the Thule Society directly...).

Attila the Fan??! Ah, joy, like the verse/poetry.

About polly-ticks and sf: no, no and no again. I'm into it every time I open the morning paper and I don't wish to get into it in fanzines too. Come to think of it, I am a political animal, and seem to have wound up on lots of petitions in the last few years - more than in my Uni days of booze n' logic n' ladies and other esoteric interests.

Peter Graham
P.O. Box 264
Papakura

Dear sir,

I would like to forward this official plea on behalf of our society. We are deeply concerned over the inclusion in your last issue of WARP (14) of a rather pornographic piece of artwork, which we believe has caused the most permissive streak of your readers to become bold. If this goes on I assure you we will not stand for it!

Far too long, Mr. Editor have members of NASF been allowed to think for themselves, show a mature light-hearted approach to human biology and actually (god forbid) act like real human beings!

I place my faith in you Mr. Ferguson to keep your contributors in line. We don't want any of these so called 'individuals' destroying the moral fibre of this once-proud nation. These 'liberals' have already taken the banks, the media and the civil service. Before long you too could be brainwashed by these long-haired paranoids of Satan! I say act NOW!! Get this filth out of your magazine and into the gutter where it belongs.

I must advise you that if you do not take heed of our requests, many a bad wind will blow your way and besides, we won't be able to achieve our goal of a pure, clean, innocent ~~fascist~~ governmental policy. I hope you will understand our wishes. (And get a haircut!!!)

Yours with deep faith

Miss Patricia Bryant Whitehouse
The Society for the Promotion of
Moral, Ethical, Community, Hangups
P. O. Box 123456
Slapantickle
Boobottoms 5

WE ALSO HEARD FROM

Phillip Ivany, Nelson
Trevor Gudsell, Palmerston North
Harvey Kong Tin, Dunedin
Margaret Lambert, Auckland
Chris Morrin, Pukekohe

Well, that's all from the letterbox until 12 February. It's an early issue this time, so all the later arrivals will be held over till next time. Anyway the shorter Communications, pages gave me more room for reviews and articles##

POEM: IT? OR WAS IT? by Scott Wilson.

Beneath the Sea,
Beneath the waves.
The creature (It, of course) lives,
The creature craves.
Human flesh is what it needs,
Beneath the sea,
Beneath the waves.

REPROGRAMME: REPROGRAMME: REPROGRAMME

by Terry Collister

He was caught with a guilty conscience.
His crime was he asked too much.
He asked all the wrong questions:
The ones with no answers.
They made the country hate him,
Said he'd plotted against the state.
The I.B.M. man says we'll have to reprogramme him.
There was a malfunction in the original analysis.
It can be fixed.

There's no hope for the people like him in the world,
This world without light.
Soon he will become one of the blind.
For the clouds have blocked the whole sky.
They cloud the mind too,
They will only disperse when it all ends
Mushrooming up.....

