

WARP

The Magazine of the
National Association
for Science Fiction

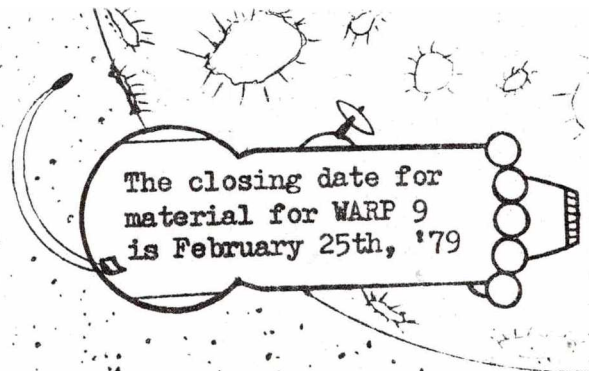
JAN , 1979

No 8



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Editorial Staff: Frank Macskasy (Jnr)
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 Postal Addresses: NASF (Central) P.O.Box 6655, Te Aro, Wellington, New Zealand
 Auckland Branch, P.O.Box 2620, CPO, Auckland, N.Z.
 Dunedin Branch, 48 Grey St, Opoho, Dunedin, N.Z.

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THE RAIDERS FROM THE BLACK DEPTHS

The pulsating music bounced off the walls of the "War of the Worlds Disco" driving those on the floor into a mass of writhing arms and legs as the dancers strove to go through the routines of the latest dance craze direct from the record-breaking film, "Ooze".

The door burst open, making way for Eddie The Bouncer, his carefully tailored costume ripped and torn and his face distorted with pain. His bull-like bellows were heard even above the music.

"The Kaypees, the Kaypees! They've blocked off the exits and are coming up the stairs."

The music died, leaving the low frightened murmur of the dancers as they crowded against the walls. Faces blanked in sheer horror, they waited to the sound of feet thundering up the stairs. In through the door came the Kaypees - the Killer Pauas - mounted on their willing transports. For many years they had not been any trouble, that was until they formed an alliance with the Hermit Crabs to overcome their basic problem, mobility.

The dancers stood rigid with terror as the Hermit Crabs came galloping in through the door, each with its Kaypee rider fixed firmly on its back.

"Don't anybody move," came the order, "Move, and you get it."

One of the dancers, his nerve breaking, made a run for the door, but before he even got halfway across the floor a solid stream of plankton hit him between the shoulder blades and he fell shattered to the floor where he lay, a grim warning of what could happen to others.

One of the Kaypees rode across to where the disc-jockey sat shivering behind his turntables.

"OK son, load up your albums and be quick about it."

As the shaking disc-jockey scrambled to get his albums heaped together, a riderless Hermit Crab moved forward from the group. The deejay knew what he had to do. He quickly piled the albums on the back of the 'crab and tied them in place with a strip of seaweed. This wasn't the first album raid he'd been through. With the number of new releases coming on the market, the Kaypee raids were increasing. No record salesman ever went into Kaypee territory, the notorious Keradec Trench which everyone called the Black Depths - the underworld, so the Kaypees had to raid if they wanted to keep up with the charts and the latest trends.

Regrouping the raiding party, the Kaypee who seemed to be the leader turned to where the shivering manager of the Disco was trying to lose himself in the crowd.

"Come here you."

The unfortunate manager moved out onto the floor and stood there like a man condemned.

"Anyone who tries to follow us is dead, understand?"

To make his point, a jet of plankton hit the floor sending the manager into an uncontrolled standing high jump.

With a cry of triumph the raiding party turned and galloped through the door and thundered off down the stairs and out into the night.

Back in the disco, all the albums gone and no music to play, a crowd of irate dancers crowded around the manager demanding their money back.....

the story that started from a joke and ended up as something to choke over. Brian Strong takes the blame

Brian Strong
Wellington Member

SF on Television



Tom Baker and Elizabeth Sladen

Late-day science fiction viewing on television has risen to four programmes; QUARK, THE SURVIVORS, and now SPACE 1999 and DR WHO.

DR WHO (pictured on the left) is currently being screened on TV 2, on Fridays, 6.30 PM, while SPACE 1999 can be seen on TV 1, same day, at the later time of 7.30 PM.

Official letters sent to both TV channels have not yielded the results hoped for. Some weeks ago,

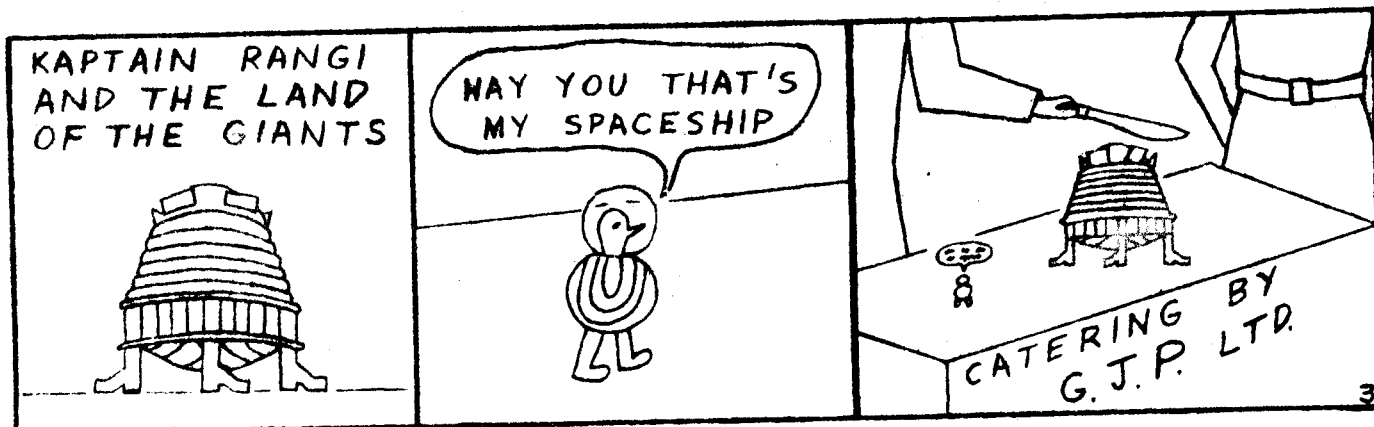
because of an ALL BLACKS match, the two television series QUARK and THE SURVIVORS were shown at different times - about one and a half hours apart. This afforded many people the chance to view both sf programmes without difficulty. The situation has now reverted back to it's "normal" situation of both THE SURVIVORS and QUARK being screened at the same time. Conflicting programming, is the term used.

Our letters were posted on the 25th of November (1978), and the replies that both channels sent, are shown on the next page.

The official views of the NASF National Committee have been made known to the heads of both TV 1 and TV 2. It is now the responsibility of Branch Committees and individual members to force a change in this matter.



We wish to thank the Manager of the San Francisco Bath House for helping to print this issue of WARP. Ed.





SOUTH PACIFIC TELEVISION

Anzus House, Customs St., Auckland 1, New Zealand, P.O. Box 3819, Telephone 770 630, Cables and Telegrams: TELTWO Auckland, Telex NZ2443.

21 December 1978

Mr Frank Macskasy
National President
National Association for Science Fiction
P O Box 6655
Te Aro
WELLINGTON

Dear Mr Macskasy

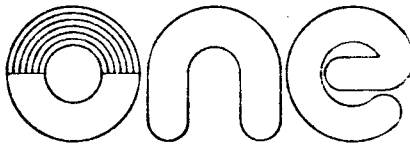
Thank you for your letter of November 25 referring to our series "QUARK". The Programme Department has scheduled this programme as a comedy series against "SURVIVORS", which is a drama series. From our point of view, we can see no problem with meeting our obligations to complementary programming in this case.

I hope this answers your queries. As a matter of interest you might like to keep an eye out for a Horizon documentary entitled "THE ANCIENT ASTRONAUT" based on Von Daniken's works. The programme will be screened some time next year.

Thank you for your interest.

Yours sincerely

(A W Martin)
DIRECTOR-GENERAL



5 December 1978

Mr Frank Macskasy (Jnr),
National President,
National Association for Science Fiction,
P.O. Box 6655,
Te Aro,
WELLINGTON.

Dear Mr Macskasy,

Thank you for your letter of 25 November 1978.

We have looked at the question of screening "The Survivors" and "Quark" on the same day and in a similar time slot but we do not feel there is a programme clash.

On the one hand "The Survivors" is very much an English drama while "Quark" is an American comedy. Both programmes may fall under the broad definition of Science Fiction but often programmes fall into a common group, such as the British programmes "Robin's Nest" and "The Brothers" set in the '70's, without being considered as a clash.

Conflicting interest will always prove a problem in selecting which programmes to watch as with most things a choice will have to be exercised.

Thank you for your interest in writing to us.

Yours sincerely,

(A. E. Morris)
Director-General



H.A. Kong Tin.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dear Editors,

Greetings from another new member.

Way down here in Dunedin I've started my own fanzine called (it's been used before)...WORLDS BEYOND. With hope it may be of interest to readers, W.B. contains news and reviews on sf films, books, art, tv, radio, records, etc, plus various 'special' articles. Ish one looks at new sf zines; ish two looks at things such as sf 'comics', paperback art of the 50's, etc. Ish three, December, is the largest one yet, having a profile on Arthur C. Clarke, a critics guide to his books, a survey of whats to come in 1979, and a huge sf quiz besides the regular news and reviews.

Mind you, W.B. isn't the worlds best spelt or typed (one finger!) but it's improving every month...I personally went out and purchased a handy dictionary.

I am also open (a familiar request in loads of zines) for contributions of any of your reviews, news, art, fiction, etc - and not to be greedy, I'm making sure I contribute to WARP.

The first three issues have been written and drawn by myself but from ish four in Feb we'll have fiction, art, etc from some Dunedin members and anyone else who is interested...including letters! W.B. is a private magazine, but with luck will get some support from NASF members. (I, in return, will help WARP in any way I can) Members here have already helped me a lot.

First three issues: Oct, No 1, 10 pages. Nov, No 2, 10 pages and Dec, No 3, 14 pages are available at 60 cents. The 11 issues for '79 (volume 2) are available for a subscription price of \$2.50.

Loved your November ish, especially. It's the best yet and I enjoyed the stories. Harvey Kong Tin's art on the cover was very professional and through (eventually) requests, Harvey has agreed to do my Feb cover.

News Wise; just like to point out that because of TV's usual shortage of \$, they ask that overseas shows be at a uniform price hour for hour. That means we're asking for the same price for a daytime soap opera as for a top rated prime time show! It thus happens that MCA/Universal have boycotted N.Z! So to spoil sf fans hopes; Universal makes the new top rated **BATTLE-STAR GALACTICA**...tv's version of **STAR WARS**. The only other way to see it will be a cut version which may pop up at our cinemas...

So, Nasfers, contact Dunedin for W.B. and make the year a happy one.

Tom Cardy
Dunedin Member
& Editor of **WORLDS BEYOND**

Dear Friends,

I was pleased to see in the last issue's letter column that Diedre had suggested a science fiction convention. It is more than time that the thoughts of our nations fandom turned towards such matters.

With NASF consisting of more than a hundred folk and NOUMENON and TANJENT being published regularly, there is more than enough interest to warrant such a meeting. It pays to bear in mind that the first conventions in America were just a small handful of people getting together.

Perhaps the novelty value of it would get us media coverage. Any advertising is good. We may have an even better chance if we could get some authors to come. Maybe New Zealand's own M.K. Joseph could attend? And surely our patron, Peter Read (is he still our patron) could give us a workshop on space travel or some other unlikely topic.

It would now be the time to ask members to step forward if they have a speciality which they could give a rave on. Just of the cuff, I'm aware that Peter Graham is into war-gaming.....

I would right now like to put in an early order for a workshop to assist budding young sf writers. I'm sure there are a lot of others who would also appreciate something of this nature.

Wow! We could really make this conference into something special!

News; LoTR movie has been released during November in the U.S. and has received mixed reviews. Some critics feel the animation hasn't succeeded in capturing the magic of Tolkien. The Nov 20th issue of TIME and the same months issue of PLAYBOY both contain articles on it.

Peace,

Craig Simmons
Hamilton Member

- The Committee, here in Wellington, is definitely planning on either holding a mini con at the end of '79, or helping NOUMENON organise one. Whichever tack we'll be following; members will be having some sort of a gathering this year. MEMBERS CAN HELP NOW BY WRITING IN TO US, TELLING WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE AT A CON, AND, HOW THEY COULD HELP OUT.

As to the LoTR movie; it was produced by the same gentleman who gave us WIZARDS - a movie which I loved. If his style of animation/action is carried into LoTR, we need have no fear of its quality. Ed.

Dear Frank,

If you expect me to comment on LOGAN'S RUN, you are out of your tiny little skull!! I watched perhaps three episodes, and found all three dull, overdone, and poorly plotted to boot. Now UFO is an example of an interesting TV sf programme. Not really good, but reasonable...I'd rank it somewhere near STrek (and where I rank STrek I'm not telling!)...any intelligent fan/reader will watch QUARK over THE SURVIVORS any day. QUARK isn't really sf... maybe 'sci-fi', but not sf...but it is funny and it is well done. I watch it as just that; a good comedy/takeoff. No doubt it will have the sercon elements up in arms at this debasement of our Beloved Literature but if (as many will claim, like I do) it is not sf...not the True sf...what is there to be outraged about? The mundane response, of course: the opinions of those who are non compos mentis, non cognoscenti, non... who don't read sf...who might see QUARK and think that it represents the True Sf... might turn away because of it.

Well, think. Every programme on TV that is called 'sf' will arouse awareness of sf. Every 'trash' film that makes the rounds of the cinema spreads awareness, especially if it is a smash hit (STAR WARS, CEJK, 2001... need I go on?). Your average mundane will think, "Gee...I must try some of this..." and another fan is born. If the core readers then are waiting to catch these neofen as they appear, then sf benefits. SW..."flash but trash"...caused a boom in fandom that has surely been bigger than any boom in sf history. We gained a tremendous dross of

skiffy fen who follow 'sci-fi'; but we also gained truefen in proportion, and 'science fiction' became a household word for many months. And we remain respectable even now!

ALICE THROUGH THE HYPODERMIC NEEDLE was rubbish. The point did not need making, and as a short story it is a failure: no plot, no action. THOR could have been improved if Teresa had brought it to a faster and less anticlimatic end. It was not an original story, I have a feeling of deja vu; but it wasn't really too bad as NZ efforts go. In a story that short, the denouement should be held for the last few sentences, not trickled out in the latter 1/3 of the story.

Bruce Ferguson's report was interesting, altho I suspect he tried to make



just a little too much out of the material used. I wish I'd been at the actual talk!

CAPTAIN RANGI was painful. No offense to Gary (you know how his chin trembles at any criticism), but it's just not very good.

Interesting goof by the printers (. . . by some person at some stage. . .); the way the back of page 3, which should have page 4 on it, is blank. . . . the blank that I guess should never have existed, by the fact that the back of page (initially the last page) is blank. HAMER PENE go steadily down hill. But the reduced format of TANGENT 5 made 'em excell themselves, I think.

Maybe they thought it a challenge?

Anyway. WARP 7 is better, even, than

WARP 6 and the signs are encouraging.

Greg Hills
Science Fiction Fan Confederation
& Palmerston North Member

- Greg; what exactly is "true sf", and, who is the "troo fan" you speak of? Is someone who likes STAR TREK, CE3K, or STAR WARS considered less than a "troo fan"? Does a person (human or otherwise) have to 'enjoy' a particular type of sf before qualifying as a science fiction fan? Hmm?

Also, I think that both the SURVIVORS and QUARK have great merit to themselves. QUARK as a light, spoofy, sort of entertainment - while THE SURVIVORS is a serious, dramatic look at "What If?". Both are science fiction (contrary to TV 1 and TV 2's beliefs), but, of slightly different types. I would recommend both.

Appreciate your comments on the previous issue...now what do the other members think of Greg's comments? Ed.

Dear Editor,

Observe below a hastily scrawled note written within ten minutes of opening my latest copy of WARP. To be terribly blunt, unless the magazine improves, but quickly, I am quite sure that my first year in the NASF will also be my last.

Below are listed the Four Steps To Personal Happiness as outlined by myself; - cut all references to Advertising Agency idols like Lucas & Spielberg. You should also cut out the endless views and reviews of STAR TREK, STAR WARS, and CLOSE ENCOUNTERS.

- let Greg Hills run his own bloody magazine (note; not fanzine or 'zine). Then he can let his petty little imagination run riot, as he dreams up more "humourous" anecdotes. I joined the NASF, not the SFFC.

- get rid of this insidious childish element. We all started reading sf as kids, but I do hope that we have outgrown the DOC SMITH and JOHN CARTER stage.

- remove all references to fandom, sfans, 'zines, and other nausea-inspiring pseudo words. I am not a "fan"; a word which conjures up visions of pre-pubescent teenage girls waiting at conferences with hearts-a-flutter, hoping for a fleeting glimpse of Muck Hamill or some other "sf notable" (vomit). Remember that "fandom" would not exist if it were not for media inspired, commercial over-kill (STAR WARS bed sheets and toothbrushes, indeed). Think about it.

If what I've been saying is not enough, I should like to finish by saying that I would sooner receive a high quality magazine of five or six pages, than receive sixteen pages of potential toilet paper. Don't tell us that high calibre work is not forthcoming; it's there. You just need to stimulate. (Try encouraging longer fictional contributions)

I shall now sit back, confident that the wrath of the offended will bring my world crashing down about my ears.

Duncan Lucas
Auckland Member

- Some pretty scathing remarks there, Duncan. Now let's hear what the other NASF folk have to say. Polite letters, please. Ed.

Dear Frank,

In the series UFO, I found myself getting sick of the UFOs coming in tttthhrrreeeeesss trying to break into the S.H.A.D.O. barrier. But fear not; three Interceptors are launched of moon-base; (as ordered by some computer floating in space) when in firing range fire three torpedoes making three UFOs explode.

If the aliens had the intelligence to construct such a fine craft, which can go ultra-long distances at extraordinary great speeds, why don't they try making better craft or go in larger packs.

With fellow NASFian Paul Leck "the face that launched a thousand milk bottles" we sat looking gloomily eyed at the UFO as if we had read the first 15 minutes of the script before hand.

And I think that Greg Hills' song might get into the charts at no. 2001...A Space Odyssey....Get it! Ha! Ha! Ha!

Um.

Happy New Year NASFians.

Gleam Coster
Christchurch Member

- Er, well yes. I think that will be enough of that.

But it is an interesting question you pose about the UFOs, though. Why do they come in threes only? (And I'll accept no wise crack comments about how far the aliens can count on their three fingers....)Ed.

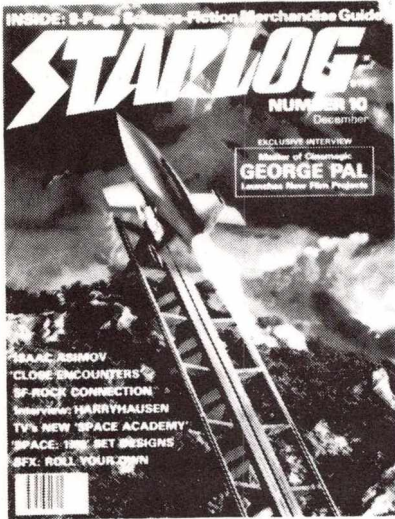
" A yrrguf a day, keeps the tygloc away."

Ancient Martian Poem
(Meaning still Unknown)

131. TILTANGLE by R W Mackelworth
The Earth catastrophically tilted on its axis is plunged into a new Ice Age. Generation after generation the few survivors struggle and wait for the return of the warm sun.
132. INDOCTRINAIRE by Christopher Priest
In the Brazilian jungle a perfectly circular completely flat area of land is to be found. Why is it there? Does it really exist in step but two hundred years in the future?
133. ALL FOOLS DAY by Edmund Cooper
Unusual radiation from the Sun kills all the normal people leaving only eccentrics and psychopaths to repopulate and recivilize the Earth.
134. FUGUE FOR A DARKENING ISLAND by Christopher Priest
A glimpse into a future Britain caught by civil conflict between rightists leftists and refugees from an African nuclear war.
135. BEYOND THE BARRIER OF SPACE by Pel Torro
Gimel the third planet of Alpha Centauri faces political and military conflict. Into this situation is thrust a new mind control drug which can mean mental release or slavery.
136. A WIZARD OF EARTHSEA by Ursula K Le Guin
A tale of wizards and dragons in which the wizard Sparrowhawk strives to destroy an evil shadow-beast.
137. THE TOMBS OF ATUAN by Ursula K Le Guin
Tenar the High Priestess of the Nameless Ones and Ged a wizard of Earthsea seek the lost half of the Ring of ERRETH-AKBE.
138. THE HAMELIN PLAGUE by A Bertram Chandler
Huge mutant rats begin an attempt to take over the World by stealing children for slaves, causing fires and killing cats and dogs. Will they succeed?
139. ESCAPE TO INFINITY by Karl Zeigfreid
Mike Sterne chased by a liquidation squade escapes through a dimensional gateway to a better world. But has the squad followed him?
140. AUTHENTIC SF MONTHLY number thirty eight - with stories by J F Burke - E C Tubb - Arthur Sellings - Brindley Ford - John Falkner - Macleod Robertson.
141. SEARCH THE SKY by C M Kornbluth and Frederick Pohl
A disalussioned member of the Oldham (intersteller) Trading Co. sets out on a lone voyage to find out why civilization on his home planet is decaying.
142. THE BITE OF MONSTERS by Dennis O'Neil
The story of the formation of an underground resistance organization that aims to rid the Earth of the snakelike aliens which have conquered it.
143. THE MAN WITH ABSOLUTE MOTION by Silas Water
The human race is rapidly becoming sterile. This problem is on the metagalactic governments urgent list and will be considered in a near 1600 years. Unfortunately by that time the human race will be extinct.
144. FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON by Jules Verne
A classic tale of the first moon flight from Florida U.S.A.
145. TWO HUNDRED MILLION A.D. by A E Van Vogt
(original tital - The Book Of Ptath)
Ptath naked and a victim of amnesia wakes and wonders onto a country road. He looks like a man but there are such things as gods. Which was he?

(list con'd next issue...)

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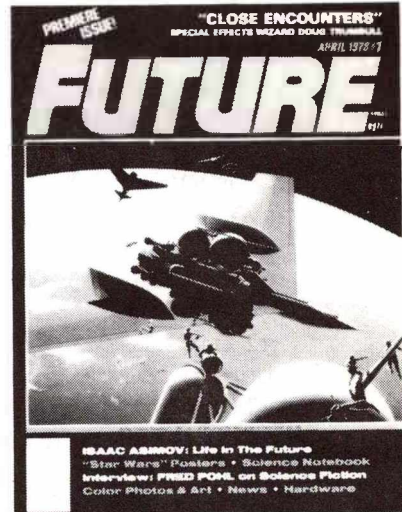
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