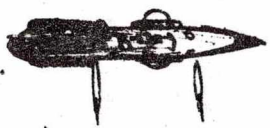
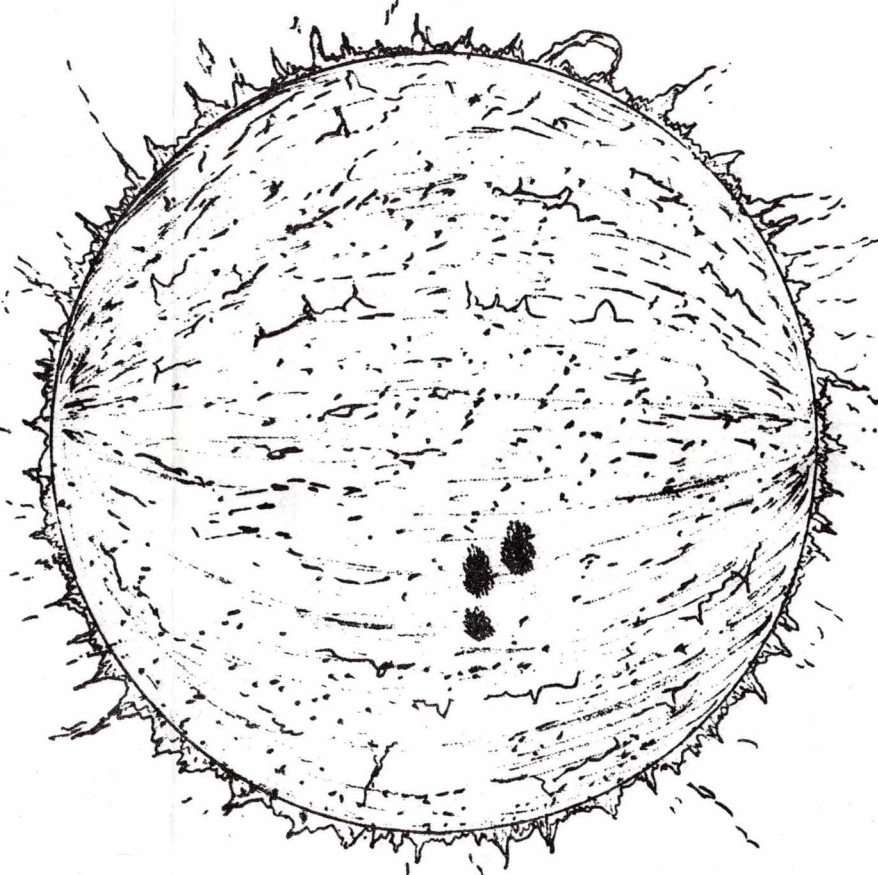


WARP

MAR 1979 - No. 9

The Magazine of the National
Association for Science Fiction



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The Closing Date for Material for WARP 10 is April 24th, 1979.

Editor's Note

WARP 9 shall be another 'land-mark' for the Association's magazine history. This new format, if feasible printing wise, will allow more information, articles, stories, artwork, etc, to be presented at little increase in cost-of-production. Through photographic reduction, we will be cramming in more 'goodies' to our allotted 10 - 11 pages.

Also, in this issue, we are presenting hard info on New Zealand's first SF Convention, to be held later this year. Turn to page 10 for this.

Preparations for a special 'Con Issue of WARP' are now beginning. The contests (page 10), now under way, will make sure that we have the best of NASF material to present to members and other readers. The contests start now - so engage all Creative Faculties immediately, and Full Ahead!

Branch Reports (except from Auckland, which is experiencing some unusual problems), Letters, Reviews, and three stories go to fill up the rest of this issues pages, which would otherwise be blank!

The further listing of the Book Library and Fan-zine Library rounds of this issue and should leave us all hungry for the next edition of WARP.....

Frank Macskasy Jnr
Editor

.....

Dunedin Branch News

20 Feb Report - at a pre-Christmas club meeting, three science fact films were screened.

Some younger members helped to make a float for the Dunedin Festival Procession at the end of January which featured a UFO and R2-D2, with sound effects and music provided by a hidden tape recorder.

Anne R. Stewart
Dunedin Secretary

Wellington Branch News

19 Nov 78 - George Floratos presented a programme for us which included the new rock version of the WAR OF THE WORLDS, plus INTERGALACTIC TOURING BAND. These items, along with the many magazines brought along by members made for a relaxed afternoon for those who attended.

17 Dec 78 - Christmas Meeting. Russell Hobbs presented us with an improved version of his movie, GROSS ENCOUNTERS OF THE WORST KIND, followed by DR WHO AND THE DALEK INVASION OF EARTH which proved to be good light entertainment. At Intermission; tea, coffee, crawly meaty things, home made fudgy things, moon rock slightly green cheese stuff, plastic fruit juice cordial, and, whirlygig-producing, smooth Baileys Irish Cream. Glowing, and slightly off centre, we resumed with some STAR TREK slides presented by Frank Macskasy Jar which included a giggling contest of wits to be the first to identify the next slide. Good fun for all those who attended.

The evening also included some STAR WARS slides by Dave White and a small second hand book sale. Our thanks go to Russell, Frank, Dave for their presentations and to everyone who came along with some goodies to participate.

21 Jan 79 - Listened to narrated recordings of STAR WARS, JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH, and FOUNDATION (Asimov's) II. Thanks to George Floratos.

18 Feb 79 - Met at the Wellington Planetarium to see MAN IN THE MOON (regular programme) plus a special preview of Dave White's own Planetarium programme on the 'Daedalus Project'.

March 18th 79: Will possibly be a Film Evening.

April 22nd 79: Wellington Branches A.G.M. with possibly a very special entertainment feature.

Auckland Branch News

The Auckland Branch will be holding their A.G.M. on March 11th. All members are urged to attend to discuss important matters.

Venue: O'Rorke Hall, our Simon Street and Wakefield Street, Auckland

Date: Sunday March 11th, 1979

Time: 2.00 PM.

National News

19 Nov 78 - Magazine name WARP confirmed by Referendum vote. A missing list of additional Dunedin members was presented and their membership confirmed. The National President, Frank Macskasy Jar was fully supported by committee to write a letter to TVI and SPIV protesting at the programming clash between THE SURVIVORS and QUARK.

17 Dec 78 - On a suggestion from our Dunedin Branch, a Family Membership has been created. This consists of one magazine subscription per family (family will receive only one copy of each issue of WARP) plus a Branch subscription for each family member if in a Branch are. Minimum prices for back issues of the Associations magazine was fixed.

21 Jan 79 - Discussion about the proposed WellCon was held. (See page 10)

18 Feb 79 - Agreed in principle to the setting up of a Slide Library as suggested by David White. Sport And Recreational Grant to be looked into for possible purchase of printing machine. George Floratos reported that BATTLESTAR GALACTICA (see page 9) was soon to be screened in New Zealand cinemas.

.....

"Think of such civilisations, far back in time against the fading afterglow of Creation, masters of a universe so young that life as yet had come to only a handful of worlds. Theirs would have been a loneliness we cannot imagine, the loneliness of gods looking out across infinity and finding none to share their thoughts."

Arthur C. Clarke (The Sentinel)

.....

I've just finished reading a book by Jack Williamson and found in it a dedication which, to me, sums up a science fiction 'addict'. It goes like this;

"To all the readers and writers of that new literature called science fiction, who find mystery, wonder and high adventure in the expanding universe of knowledge, and who sometimes seek to observe and to forecast the vast impact of science upon the lives and minds of men."

Even though this paragraph was written 30 years ago, it still rings true today, for what are the sf books we see around us but predictions of the future. And it is these predictions into the yet unseen corridors of time that lead the forefront in the world's attitude to science fiction.

This attitude today seems to be one of acceptance, yet there is still a large element of scorn to be seen. All science fiction mags (eg, SCIENCE FICTION DIGEST, FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION), films (eg, STAR WARS, 2001 A SPACE ODYSSEY), and books (eg, well, just think of any) go to show, by their numbers that we, the 'sci-fians' are being more and more accepted. Why? Because of our predictions of what the world might be like.

Whether the future be one of galactic glory, interstellar stardom, or death, the science fictioners of yesterday, today, and tomorrow show the way. But it is our part to warn humanity and ready them for the stars. We must warn humanity of the dangers which are posed by newer and more advanced technologies; of the threat of complete wipeout if care is not taken to tread the path of unity and progress. And if that is successful, we will be the ones to ready man on his journey to the stars - who show him what precaution must be taken when going in to the unknown abyss of space.

That is our job. By writing or even just thinking science fiction, we record the possibilities that lie before us and all mankind.

But what a job it is. For if we fail, we will be dead; if we succeed, we will not even be recognized as succeeding. We will not even be recognized. That is our part in the world. Another of the forgotten, seemingly unimportant - yet ultimately vital pieces of life - and by being 'sci-fians', we do our job.

"Every hour, the sun gets another
5.4 x 10⁴ metres from a galaxy in
the Great Bear Constellation"

Another irrelevant fact? Which all goes to show that science fiction is not a toy to play with.

Richard Taylor
Wellington Member

.....



COMMUNICATIONS

Dear Editor,

UFOs do not always come in threes. (In the programme UFO, of course) In THE SOUND OF SILENCE, KILL STRAKER, CONFLICT, EXPOSED, and IDENTIFIED, there were times when only one UFO arrived.

In REFLECTIONS IN THE WATER we gave up counting after 20.

Now on to Shado's defense systems. Besides the three interceptors, there is Skydiver (which splits into Sky 1 and Diver 1). There are also Lunar modules, mobiles, (equipped with very effective laser guns) and the ferry ship which travels from the Earth to the Moon. These defense systems are quite capable of dealing with more than just three UFOs.

Now to something unbelievable. DOCTOR WHO has been censored! GENESIS OF THE DALEKS, the fourth story of the Tom Baker series cannot be shown before 7.30 pm. Nobody watches DR WHO? Rubbish! The Wellington Branch (NASF) closed a meeting so that everyone would be home in time to watch DR WHO. (The episode was PLANET OF THE SPIDERS)

That's all for now. Our Tardis awaits. The Galaxy ad infinitum!

Teresa Zajkovacl & Anne Barwell
Lower Hutt Members

- The original point that was being made in the previous issue of WARP concerning the tv programme of UFO was that the method of aggression being used against Earth by the aliens seemed, to me, wholly wasteful and self-defeating. In most episodes only a few UFOs attacked each time - always being defeated by Earth defenses. Why not send in one large "blitzkrieg" - type military force to wipe out Shado and other Earth defenses, and thereby claiming this world in one swoop? A-la WAR OF THE WORLDS, and DALEK INVASION OF EARTH.

As for placing DR WHO at the 7.30 pm mark; this would be far more preferable to having it totally banned in NZ as have some episodes in Australia been. Besides, 7.30 pm is supposed to be 'prime viewing' time so this decision by South Pacific Television may actually work out in our favour. Ed.

Dear Frank,

last issue's letter from Duncan Lucas covered a lot of ground to comment on, mainly I think because it was - "a hastily scrawled note written within ten minutes of opening my latest copy of WARP". Rather than a demolition job on a magazine put together by the enthusiasm of its members, I would have appreciated an explanation of what he considers makes up a "high quality magazine", taking into account of course the problems of production costs and availability of material. Come on Mr Lucas, what about something positive and constructive now that you've drawn our attention to all the negative aspects of WARP.

As he points out, the endless views on the current crop of big screen productions can become boring as they're explored through every available permutation; but a magazine such as WARP is an outlet for members to debate and air their views on such items as STAR WARS and CEK and it'd be bloody boring if, as readers, we were restricted to one review which we might not agree with, with no right of reply. As for calling for an end to "nausea - inspiring pseudo words" such as 'fandom', 'efans' and 'zines', I have accepted these terms as part of the sf (sorry, science fiction) scene, why can't you? I regard myself as a science fiction fan and I'm far from being anything resembling a pre-pubescent teenage girl - more pear shaped and thin on top.

WARP attempts to cater for the wide range of people and interests that go

into this thing called science fiction and to restrict the content to cater for one point of view would reduce it to the point where a large cross section of members may feel that it should be relegated in use as bathroom stationary, but even then, (so be careful Duncan) there is a danger as prolonged application of printers ink can upset the human system.

To finish on a critical note. Frank, I'm surprised that what I hope was a printing error should escape your eagle eyes. In the Martian Poem, the word "tygloc" should be spelt "tygllok". It's of Welsh origin, every one knows that!

Brian Strong
Wellington Member

- I beg to differ. The Welsh variation was derived in 1959 when the Welsh Space Programme failed miserably and they had to divert their attention to more mundane matters. Their data on Martian High (one of the six main dialects) is therefore second - hand, from a blind Irish astronomer....."Tyglloc" is erroneous, as it would conflict with it's plural spelling of "tyglocgloc". Spelling it as "tygllokgllck" looks most silly, don't you agree? Ed.

Dear Frank,

about that cover on WARP 8. Are you trying to compete with the SUNDAY TIMES or something? Honestly, I think you should sack your artist! My sister has done some nice covers; I'll nag at her until she has sent you some!

I was disappointed in only seven pages, compared to the 16 of the previous issue. You may have to put up the fees to help keep the magazine (which I look forward to recieving) up to scratch.

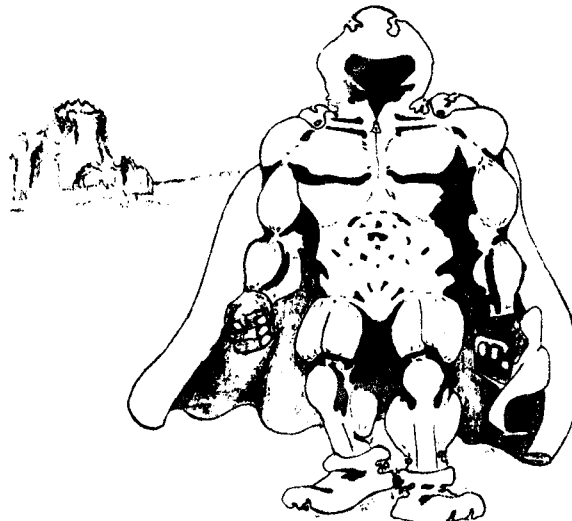
Kathy Lougher
Gisborne Member

- Well, of course, each person has variation in their tastes for what they consider as 'art'. Makes life more lively, you might say. As to the diminished last issue; like we explained, costs have to be balanced, so we had to make up in WARP 8, for what we did in 7. However, this new format of photo-reduction should be able to give lots more material to members - while keeping costs at present levels. Ed.

Dear Editors,

WARP 8 is probably the most speculative issue recieved yet; what with a Con; news of a new fanzine; and some hard criticism.

As to those who criticize, I think Lucas does have a few points about Hills dominating the magazine. To



date half of your issues of WARP have had near whole page letters from Greg - a third of which was worth printing. WARP is a newsletter to members telling them what other members have been doing, not a review magazine by members on the last issue. If you receive these letters, don't print them...read them yourself and take the views into consideration, but don't print them. There's nothing as boring as a moaning criticaster howling over a small mistake in an enjoyable article.

But Duncan Lucas was an exception. He even put down the Hills-reviews. It was about time someone said something honest about WARP - the only thing I didn't agree with was that he says we should remove all references to fandom, etc. He points out that the word fan is insulting, but that's the only misleading word. Maybe he is misled by it.

Funny thing about WARP 8 - it smelt like bubble gum. You an addict or something?

Where is the fanzine library? You promised - remember?! Better be there next time!

As to UFOs coming in threes in the series UFO (queried by some alien called Glenx Foster? Paul Foster! I'll send 4 UFOs next time he's on Interceptor Duty! A thousand milk bottles, indeed!) our production team can only three at an even rate...so...three it is, or in emergencies 4 UFOs. (Foster, look out!) And we don't have three fingers; we're Humanoid just like you. (An ugly term)

Well, that's all for now. Watch the Skies.....

Paul Leck
Christchurch Member

- One point that you, Paul, and other Nasfers have missed is that both Duncan Lucas and Greg Hills are paid up members of the Association. As such they are entitled to their views. Before Duncan's scathing letter was published in the previous ish of WARP, we had not received much in the way of Letters from members. Both Duncan and Greg corrected that situation by 'provoking' some sort of response from some of you people. But that is not to say that their letters were not serious (in part, anyway). So if any Nasfer wishes to contest any views expressed in this LetterCol; they merely have to learn to write, and send in a (make it brief) letter to us.

I am addicted to Love/Life/Humour...but nothing else.
Ed.

Dear Frank,

Congratulations on WARP 7; well worth waiting for. A bit of printing trouble, but readable and the pictures that came out were beautiful.

Sorry to lose you, Helen. Good luck on your travels and I hope you don't have too many quarantine problems travelling with a dog.

Very disappointing about the referendum; an unfortunate result of which will be that members are going to have less say in the Assn's affairs because future referenda will be very rare occurrences and most decisions will be made by the National Committee.

Good volume of literature in WARP 7 and it deserves comment. Although I'm not into fantasy, and couldn't understand the relevance of the ending of ALICE THROUGH THE HYPODERMIC NEEDLE, it was very well written. Keep writing C.L. Simmons.

Teresa's THEOR is a good story line; good idea and it gets across to the reader. Although this story was well written and there were some especially beautiful passages, it did not quite reach the quality of Simmons' writing. But, as I said, it's good enough to get the story across and with more experience, you'll improve, Teresa so continue writing.

Deidre De'Ath's basic suggestion is great. Ideally, we should not increase the subscriptionor have any set amount which every member must pay. I am envisaging a convention (not a mini-con, because I don't see the difference) and this could be managed at a reasonably low cost. For instance, hire a hall for one or two days, and have discussions; displays; etc set up by members, of models, books, magazines, posters, etc. Perhaps a couple of tables for the fanzine editors to display their wares (all at no cost); slides (possibly no cost); films (yes, there's bound to be cost here, but we could include this in the

entry fee which would also cover the hire of the hall). The party, in the same hall, would cost if we had a band (instead of just records and/or cassettes) and also for some eats and drinks, but there could be a separate fee from that for the daytime activities. If the whole thing would still end up a bit too expensive to be paid through ticket sales, then each district, or individual, should be encouraged to launch money-raising efforts; disco/fancy dress party; film evening (if you can make this pay); produce and sell a local poster; raffle; as AK suggests, a sale of sf books, comics, etc, and forward all proceeds to Central. The party should definitely be fancy dress - with prizes? And we must decide on the whole thing early so members will have plenty of time to create their costumes!

Also, I don't think Wellington members should feel obliged to put up billets, though it would be a big help to students and junior members who probably can't afford to stay in a hotel.

Just one thing. Do we have to have alcohol at the party? Not that I don't drink a little myself, but with all the problems it causes (not just drinking/driving), could we not make a token gesture and exclude alcohol from our Christmas do? People seem to think it's necessary in order to enjoy yourself, but of course it's not, especially not for people with vivid imaginations like we sf fans have.

As soon as I saw the SURVIVORS/QUARK clash in the LISTENER, I wrote to TV One and Two, and the very next week I saw the altered times in the LISTENER and thought it must be a miracle, especially seeing it was TV One which had made the change. But, of course, it was only a 'oncer' which I realised when I received a letter from TV One saying they didn't believe there was a clash. I wrote to them again, more pointedly, and quoted NASF as the national authority on the subject. We might finally get some action in this matter if only members will activate themselves more than they did for the referendum.

Star Trek lives long and prospers.....

Judith Yeatman
Christchurch Member

- Thanks for the comments on the stories in WARP 7; I'm sure that Craig and Teresa will appreciate them. Mervyn Barrat and Brian (BOUMENON) Thurogood are co-producing the Con, which they hope to have ready by the next Labour Weekend. NASF will also have it's hands full assisting all it can. If Mervyn finds any of your suggestions practicable, I'm sure he won't hesitate in implementing them.

Unfortunately, the letter-campaign urging TV One and SPTV to cease clashing QUARK and the SURVIVORS was not as successful as hoped for. I find it sad when we cannot achieve something similar as to that which has been achieved in the United States - namely, getting sfans to lobby the powers-that-be to make decisions in our favour. With more than a hundred members, we could have influenced TV One and SPTV enough to have had these two sf series removed from their clashing time slots, and placed separately during the week. Ed.

Dear Editor,

with this letter you will find the book review I have written. If you like it, I will write a few more. If you don't like it, I'll write more anyway.

While on the subject of publishing in WARP, how long would you prefer your contributions? Will WARP ever feature a two-part story? About how many of the contributions sent to you finally see the light of day?

Well, best wishes and very good luck for the coming year.

Gillian Calvert
Christchurch Member

- We have had quite a few contributions lately - which is one of the best things that the NASF membership has achieved so far. Printing it will take a while, but we have not rejected any of the material contributed. Even though you may have to wait a while, yours too will soon end up in the hallowed pages of this inconspicuously important magazine.

As to size of articles and/or stories; no it doesn't really matter. If something is too long, we'll simply

print it in separate parts. Ed.

Dear Frank,

Get WARP 8 today.

Actually, ~~as Ed~~, QUARK has relatively little merit. It is, in fact, virtually a satire on the Space Opera form. As a slapstick comedy, it is one of the best things in TV to come out of the US for a good many years. Did you know that, despite enthusiastic ratings in the US, the networks there have withdrawn it?

SURVIVORS, on the other hand, is a serious effort at treatment of the classic 'aftermath' theme immortalised years ago in such works as DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS, and more recently by the latter portion of LUCIFER'S HAMMER. It is not original; the plots lack inspiration; the acting is less than passable (to balance, QUARK's acting is good...and how the actors can keep a straight face sometimes beats me), and individual plots (yes, I have been known to watch the thing) are no more than straight-out-ripoffs-from-non-sf-programmes (member of community gets in trouble, is helped by a few friends and reviled by the mob; tracks down true baddies & gets 'em; all's well that ends worse). Relatively few plots are definitely sf. Most simply focus on social matters that could as well (or better) be treated outside the sf context.

A 'true/troo fan' is one who grew up reading the True Literature, not the mucourous mass-media splinter samples. This is, of course, the opinion of someone who is on the right side of the border. I agree, the split between a 'troofan' and a 'fakefan' and a 'skiffy fan' is very vague, and depends where you stand. It also depends on what definition you use for sf. 'Sci-fi' as I used it, includes STAR WARS, and LOGAN'S RUN, and QUARK and Perry ~~Robert~~ Rhodan. Actually I don't like most definitions of 'sci-fi' and won't list them here. But it provides a useful term to separate mass-media stuff from sf.

And if you think I'm avoiding defining what I meant in WARP 8....you're right!

Duncan Lucas' letter was interesting and said a lot of sense, but was rather extreme in the saying. I've written to him personally, so won't pursue matters here.

THE RAIDERS FROM THE BLACK DEPTHS was terrible! Clearly, a lot of thought went into it and it should be nominated for the 'worst sf story of the year' award. Clearly, Brian Strong did it deliberately. Clearly, it would be difficult to write a story that bad by accident. O'kay Brian...now let's see how good a story you can write, satires being fun but rather unsatisfying fare...

Tom Cardy contacted me and sent me WB 1.

Interesting Graham illo in the middle of my letter, a remarkable likeness of me considering he's never seen me. Natch you placed the illo with the resemblance in mind.

Very similar responses from TV1 and SPTV

Incredibly short loc... now try 'a run me overlong in the 'Communications coll 'Bye....

Greg Hills

S.F.F.C.

& Wanganui Member



"REM"

H. A. Kong Tin

- Concerning the quality of the series THE SURVIVORS; I would tend to disagree with your criticisms. Personally, I think it is one of the better sf series to have come from the UK in a long time. It may not be the 'spacy' sort of sf like STAR TREK or SPACE 1999, but it does deal with humans in what is essentially, a very alien environment. That, more than any other theme, is what constitutes science fiction. However; each to his/her/its own....

Still don't un'erstan' what constitutes 'troofans' and 'fakefans'. I appreciate things like STAR TREK, Arthur C. Clarke, 2001, Larry Niven, The SURVIVORS, Isaac Asimov, etc. So where does that leave me? In the camp of the 'troofan', 'skiffy fan' (?), or 'fakefan'.

Actually (believe it or nyet) I never noticed the resemblance between you and the illustration until now. Wierd... really wierd....Ed.

Dear Frank,

Here I am again...Lucas rears it's ugly (I must be joking) head once more.

So, if was printed...what sort of reaction (if any) did it get? Following receipt of WARP 8, there has been a little flood of mail pouring in to me...well I got one letter from Greg Hills (who seemed a teeny bit put out...). Anyway, he set the record straight, causing an instant conversion to Trufandom...however I stand by what I said (in a half hearted manner). You will remember (here comes the whitewash brush) that I wrote to you (after you wrote to me expressing dismay, doubt, and whatever) explaining why I wrote it....it had a purpose; namely to provoke those who would normally sit on their bums and let some other do the work (myself, under certain circumstances), to force these people to react even if in anger. I've probably alienated myself from Kivifandom in the process, but if the ploy worked, then I will have served my purpose.

Anyway, WB; there's not a lot I can say about it, mainly because there's not a lot to talk about.

THE RAIDERS FROM THE BLACK DEPTHS served it's purpose; it nauseated me...mind you disco music (I find those words very hard to type) nauseates me anyway (what more can I say). The idea may have been good, but it fell down in it's execution.

Glad to see Harvey Kong Tin's illo on page 5; good copy, Harve!! It's no insult, but you have talent...try something original for a change.

I'm afraid I can't agree with Greg's comment about fandom as a whole gaining from this upsurge in interest in sfilms, in particular SWs. It's my (probably wrong) opinion that most of these neo-neofen have no interest in true sf at all; they're single-minded and very into whatever they're into, not interested in anything else. They follow the latest developments in their little mags, buy the posters and the 'Official' collectors magazines, subscribe to the specialist fan clubs and do little else. Are they really interested in becoming Trufen?

What's with this (photocopy) subscription form for STARLOG/FUTURE? Don't we have enough trouble already? Why not sub forms for ANALOG, GALAXY, AMAZING SF, F, & SF, OMNI, ISAAC ASIMOV'S SF MAGAZINE, GALILEO, NOUMENON (that is a good idea), VOID, etc....I suspect that if you did that, there'd be no space left for my bitching letters (who cheered? I'll have their heads and any other bits deemed interesting by an independent tribunal....)

Why do UFOs come in tttthrrreeeeesss, trying to break the S.H.A.D.O. barrier? Why do we keep seeing the gamespace stock shots of hardware zipping through the void? Budget restrictions; Garry Anderson Productions couldn't afford to build more than three ufo (sorry, UFO) models, couldn't afford to do the same bits of filming for each episode, couldn't afford



"Maya"

H. A. Kong Tin

decent scriptwriters either (my theory)...couldn't afford good actors apparently, he should have stuck to puppets...they looked more natural.

Does anyone still read books? Looking around me I seem to doubt it. Are they afraid to exercise their cerebrum? (Thank's Greg) Is the sheer mental effort too much for them? These are nasty digs, I know, but surely sf is brain fiction, food for thought, etc....I mean, what happened to the book reviews? The analyses of an authors works? (Why is space infinite? What happened to the space programme, rather, program? Who is Reinhardt Molestrangler? And what is he doing with the Dowager Duchess of Detroit and her cocker spaniel?)

Can't wait for WARP 9, mainly so I can see my name in print again. A Much Changed,

Duncan Lucas
Auckland Member

- Thanks for this, and your previous letter, Duncan. If it has stirred some people into applying ink on paper, then your effort has been worthwhile.

The advert placed at the end of the last issue of WS was for the benefit of members who have no access to either STARLOG or FUTURE. We may consider doing something similar with other publications - including NOU-MENON. Ed.

.....

Magazine Review OMNI

Recently PENTHOUSE's latest venture in the \$ media world has reached Pig Island's newsstand. A thick, glossy magazine that combines science fiction with science fact. The logo of OMNI is sprawled in bright red across the top of the cover.



From a purely presentational viewpoint, I think it is even better than the ill-fated SCIENCE FICTION MONTHLY, with a couple of pictorial spreads and the rest of it liberally sprinkled with pictures.

The publication puts a \$2.65 dent in your wallet. For this you will get fiction by such notables as Sturgeon and Asimov, and articles on immortality, Zen, the Turin Shroud, and colonies in space.

The magazine is sure to keep everyone up with the most recent developments in science. This is especially important for those concerned with writing. It would be most disappointing to discover that while describing the future in the present, one was dwelling in the past.

The articles are written in terms that can be understood by the layman, which makes what is imparted even more stimulating. If you want plenty of engrossing reading on things that used to be sf but today are fact, be sure to get hold of OMNI.

Craig Simmons
Hamilton Member

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Book Review Beasts and the Beagle

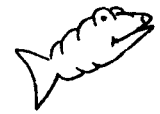
In A E Van Vogt's epic novel VOYAGE OF THE SPACE BEAGLE, a monumental voyage of space exploration is described. Earth has already colonised various planets in its own galaxy, and has sent out expeditions in different directions.

The Space Beagle uses a couple of new tricks to remove problems found in previous expeditions. The democratic process elects a director to hold the highest political office on the starship; personal conflicts inevitably arise because of this. A more doubtful method was to include, at the last moment, a single nexialist aboard the ship. Elliot Grosvenor, a young, recently graduated member of the Nexialist Foundation, is the sole member of his science and throughout the book, he uses his skills to defeat the challenges met by the Beagle.

To some extent, this book is a sf version of a far

earlier voyage by a previous Beagle into (then) unexplored parts of the globe.

The principles underlying nexialism are enough to justify a separate article, so I shall merely mention that as a loose thread to grab at a later date.



The point of this article (when I get around to it) is to mention a few of the alien threats that the Space Beagle meets.

The book consists of four distinct episodes that make it look as if it had originally been a series of stories, published separately. In each episode the threat is discovered, and eventually defeated. Obviously, the hero of the book is usually responsible for victory, but that is incidental here.

The first world mentioned in the book contains remains of a ruined civilisation and a particularly friendly cat-like creature. Coeurl has immense strength and the ability to play with energy on any wavelength. Thus, he can crush and fight his way out of anywhere, and his second skill allows him to open doors, start engines and neutralise the vibrator weapons that the humans have.

Coeurl starts as an individual, but finishes fighting for the survival of his species. He feeds on 'id', a potassium compound that is found in the bloodstream of humans and the natives of the world. When the 'id' gets too low, the animal enters a deathlike state, and Coeurl has grisley cannibalistic traits.

With Coeurl defeated (I will not tell you how!) his species are left to their world and a vastly depleted food supply.

The second threat operates on a mental level, rather than a physical one. Instruments of the nexialist and the psychologists indicate intense psychic bombardment, with severe effects on the crew and their scientific passengers. This is the least satisfactory crisis in my opinion and the solution leaves me feeling cheated.

The third threat is a return to the Bug Eyed Monster form used earlier. The Space Beagle is now on it's way to another galaxy, and while in the depths (heights?) of intergalactic space, they discover a large ugly creature and they bring it aboard to study. Very rapidly the creature escapes with it's ability to pass through solid objects - walls, ceilings, floors, etc. Primitive and maternal, the Irtl uses men as hosts for it's children (aptly named 'gulls') and hides these away somewhere in the ship.

The fourth threat is more subtle and lies in the galaxy being visited. The Amubis is a galaxy encompassing essence that creates primitive planets from more developed ones. After conquering the current galaxy, and setting it's food supply to maximum, it is looking around at expanding into a new galaxy. The Amubis causes strong conflict among the crew aboard the Space Beagle, but in the end, it is challenged by Manking and the book ends with the creature stretching to it's limits in order to respond to the challenge. You almost get the feeling that Van Vogt

is tired of the whole thing by the end and he doesn't want to go any further.

Bruce Ferguson
Wellington Member

Article Sf on Television

Why does no-one watch THE SURVIVORS? Surely, this is good sf; it incorporates the good old 'What if?' with a hefty slice of 'What would I do if I...' and, if you look hard enough, it's more than a wee bit allegorical. Take the last episode (if anyone watched it, that is); it draws heavily on the present industrial situation in the UK....Charles Vaughan represents commerce (he wants the power for England; if he can't have it - noone else will either)....McAllister the Laird represents business (read, Power Station) management (he'll let Vaughan have the power, but he wants a percentage)...Alec Campbell represents the worker; highly skilled but politically naive (he won't let either of them have the power until they stop acting like children)....Sam is a combination of self styled conservationist and political activist (he sees industry as evil and an enemy of the people, which is why he tried to screw it all up)....and so it goes on. Surely, the end, when the three (Vaughan, McAllister and Campbell) confront each other in the control room of the power station is merely an extension of the union/management/government negotiating table deadlocks so common at the time the series was made.

Even the title, POWER, gives you a hint as to the outcome; whoever gets the power, also gets another form of power.

I may be paranoid, but maybe people don't like it because it's English.

According to the latest reports, the prematurely famous BATTLESTAR GALACTICA has started to slide in the ever important Nielsen Ratings....always knew it would, always knew it would, ha-ha-ha....methinks both the viewing public and Universal management expected too much from it. I can hear the excuses already; "It was released too soon after STAR WARS", "It wasn't released soon enough after STAR WARS", "It was too ambitious", "It wasn't ambitious enough", and so on. Whatever the outcome, this'll probably be the death of big-budget television sf (And not a bad thing either).

SPACE 1999; seen it all before.... same show, different series. Still falls down technically; the Eagles 'whoosh' as they go through space, the personnel in Moonbase Alpha waltz around in an Earth gravity inside and in (slow motion) one sixth gravity outside (unless they have a 'Gravity field Generator' in which case why doesn't it fail when there's a power shutdown?), those aliens in the first episode didn't look like anything except men in rubber suits, moving their arms up and down to simulate respiration (and why did they continue respiration in a vacuum? Why did they respire at all...they fed on radiation, choke cough)...I could go on forever - in fact - I would if I didn't have more to say.

Duncan Lucas
Auckland Member

MENDU

Edward looked up into the sky with-out hope. The unfamiliar constellations seemed mocking in their brilliance, steady and eternal. No one would come, and he knew it well, as did Laura, and as had the others.

One by one, they had all died, the shifting sand now hid their bodies and only he and his wife remained alive.

The ships crash had been eight months back, and the ship was a total wreck.

He and Laura were clinging desperately to life, for one reason. One of the strongest urges in any race, is perpetuation of itself, and Laura's young, plump, small body held two vulnerable babies, weeks away from birth. Before he died, Dr MacClemman had diagnosed twins.

"It's a good thing," Mac' had said. "One child would go mad on his or her own."

"They're not alone," Edward objected. "They'll have Mendu."

"A robot is no substitute for human companionship. Mendu will only keep them alive until another survey ship comes here. That could be 20 years."

"Thank God it'll do that" Laura said. "But I'd rather bring them up myself."

"You may be spared for years," Mac said.

Aquia was a desolate, water-logged world. The available patches of dry land were too small to support intensive farming. Aquia would be unusable without extensive terra-forming. Only the air and mild climate were on their side.

Edward was musing over this as he collected the weeds they had discovered to be edible. Suddenly a cry rent the still air.

"Edward - help me!"

"The babies!" He dropped the bucket and ran.

Eight hours later, he was the father of a son and a daughter. They were sturdy, healthy, 3000 and 4200 grams. They would survive.

The twins were three years (standard) old, when their mother died, Edward had preceded her by two months. She was 27, he 40. They had named the two children MacClemman and Angela.

Mendu (Mobile Ersatz Nursery Domestic Unit) took over. Virtually the only thing she could not provide, was real love. An education, food, medical care. All these came on tap.

The colonists had yet to encounter intelligent life. The largest being they had found was identified as a type of crayfish about a metre in length.

Survey 2026/11 entered the system almost by accident, combing rather more carefully for usable planets. The emigration impetus from Earth had been considerably more forceful than anticipated.

"There's a rumour that a survey ship crashed here 18 years ago, isn't there?" Navigator Tim Heath asked.

"I did hear so," Captain Apella said. "But none would have survived." He was a Rigellian, a dry, cynical man. Hard to take, if you weren't used to him.

"We must look," Heath said.

"There must be important data,"

Joan Mokai added. She was a sociobiologist.

"We will look," Apella said. "Because it is our job."

They made planetfall on Aquia in its spring, late, on a calm evening. It was their 4th landing, the 4th planet. They had picked up a beacon just before dawn as its rising sun crossed this hemisphere. It had taken them all day to pin point it.

"This must be where 2008/15 went down," Tim said.

"There were eight on board, I believe," Joan commented, as they strode towards a verdant clearing.

"There always are. Hey, I am sure that's a robot." Tim shouted in excitement.

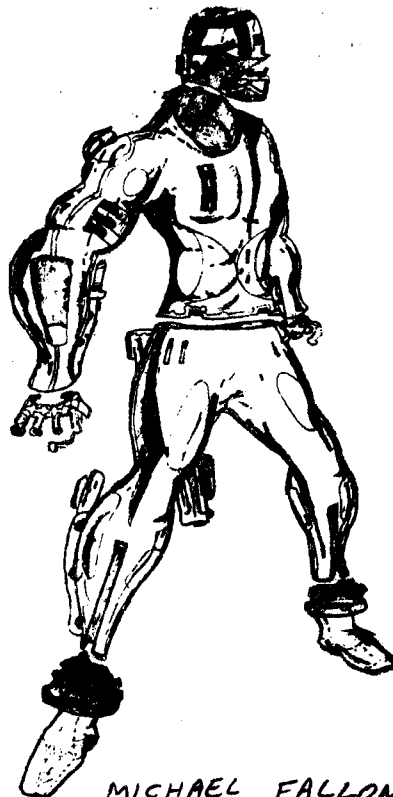
"A Mendu" Joan added. "There must be people."

Mendu was stooping, planting. She stood straight.

"Good eve. We have expected you. Mistress!" She called.

A tall girl, in a long blue dress came around the rusty metal bulk of the overgrown ship.

"You're from Survey."



"How did you know?"
 "You wear the uniforms my parents wore. I'm Angela
 Leninskaya. My brother is near. Welcome to Aquia."
 "Where are your parents?"
 "With God. But we live on. Very well, but that we
 are lonely."
 "We thought this planet useless. That cultivation
 was impossible."
 MacLannan, a tall handsome blond youth, walked up.
 "There's virtually no limit to what a Mendu can do."

Debi H. Kean
 Whakatane Member

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ARTHUR

It started when we were halfway across the continent with the mist behind us. The call issued from one of the research stations, sheltered inside a ten kilometre radius of swamp. Everything on this world managed to sound contrived; the flying alligators; the magnetic snails; (which change colour according to position towards the polarity of Teger) and even the grass, or creepy weed as the scientists called it, did peculiar things. In the "winter" it shrank into millions of round grey balls to be awakened when the swamp termites had crystallised which happened in the "summer", which....well, Teger really was a biologist's dream but for its acid rivers.

A call from Station Seven was strange as we were a commissioned "saucer ship" called "Cactu". We were in a hydrogen powered disc similar to the Space Survey Modules of Galactic Explorers - only fitted out for passenger service between research stations and the major computer centre, "Bageron", named after Earnest Bageron, the first technical engineer.

Although "Cactu" was not scheduled to fly near the number seven station, Professor Tel required the assistance of one of our passengers, Dr Josh, during an experiment on the habits of flying alligators. The Doctor agreed to delay her work back at base Six so we diverted "Cactu". Luckily we arrived in time to land, with the fog closing in and now impossible to take off. Teger mist was not only highly acidic, but also thick with the lead-like elements peculiar to the planet's atmosphere. It would be several hours before it would be safe enough to leave.

Professor Tel invited the four of us in to see his work on the flying alligators, of which we had heard so much. Stepping through the doorway of the lab, we were confronted by a horrific 35 tonne, prehistoric looking, lump of alligator, with a 20 metre wing span, pointed fangs like pick axes, and phosphoric eyes gleaming. A sonic scream struck. Gasping with horror we turned and ran, oblivious to reason.

On reaching the control room, we were shocked by another revelation; the laughter of a room full of scientists who explained that it was stuffed, and not really harmful. In fact 'Arthur' was their mascot, and, by the way - it was the 1st of April!

Irene Whyte
 Tauranga Member

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HOLE IN THE SKY

My room was a big one, but it lacked in tidiness what Linda Carter lacked in ugliness. I lost many of my things through untidiness because of Star Gate - maybe you've heard of '2001', a film. It had a Star Gate, but this was my room.

It happened on a cold, rainy night (which was the case for most of the year). I wasn't quite asleep when my STAR WARS poster started to glow....well actually it was my whole room, but Luke's white robes seemed to pick up much of the brilliant light. I sat up in bed; stared at the poster, then the floor - that's where most of it was coming from, the light. Ahh, the light, the colours dazzled my bewildered brain, sending hysterical confusion through my forehead.

Something told me to get out of bed, so I did -

still staring at the blinding light. I was thinking wildly; was it an act of God; were the aliens landing, or, was it Star Gate - yes, Star Gate, as I was later to find out.

Suddenly there was a noise as though a hangers' doors had opened as easy as a room's. And at that moment I was standing on the edge of Star Gate looking down in an abyss of swirling colours and soothing sounds. I, with a number of other things, fell and fell. I caught a glimpse of my room just before Star Gate closed up - it looked like a hole in the sky. I was not breathing - there was no need to in this place - nor was my heart beating, but I did see. More than six colours of the spectrum passed around me which was likely, but to me incomprehensible. I lost my sense of up and down, so I lost consciousness.

"Oh, no," A man with humanoid features told another, "You've done it again!"

Then he looked at me with a slight worried look on his face.

"I'm sorry," he said, "Wrong Star Gate."

I tried to talk, but nothing came out.

The place looked like the transporter room in STAR TREK, with the two humanoids at the 'controls', and the swirling colours of 'hyperspace' above me. But suddenly I wasn't there anymore. The journey back was simple as was the journey to. My Star Gate opened and it closed.

I was safe, but the thought of it still haunts me - will there be another mistake? I hope so.

Paul Leck
 Christchurch Member

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Back Issues Of NASF Magazines - Now Available!

- A) First come, first served.
- B) Those members who have previously made enquiries about back issues of NASF magazines should re-order now to avoid being forgotten.
- C) Please be warned that the reproduction of many of the pictures in these reprinted back issues is very poor. Our apologies - but such things are beyond our control at the present point in time.
- D) The prices quoted include (New Zealand) postage.

NASF NEWSLETTER no.1	15 pages	75 cents
NASF NEWSLETTER no.2	19 "	90 "
NASF NEWSLETTER no.3	3 "	30 "
NASF NEWSLETTER no.4	16 "	80 "
WARP no.1	10 "	60 "
WARP no.2	12 "	65 "
WARP no.3	11 "	65 "
WARP no.4	11 "	65 "
WARP no.5	11 "	65 "
WARP no.6	13 "	70 "
WARP no.7	16 "	80 "
WARP no.8	8 "	50 "

- E) Payments for magazines may be made in postage stamps.

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Coming Soon To NZ: will be the new, US of production called BATTLESTAR GALACTICA. GALACTICA will arrive at around April 13th, and will be using the sophisticated 'sensouround' process to enhance battle sequences. Main actors; Lorne Greene (Commander Adama), Jane Seymour (Sirena, the Caprican), Richard Hatch (Captain Apollo), Ray Milland (Sire Uri), Lew Ayres (President Adar), Noah Hathaway (Boxey) and Dirk Benedict (Lieutenant Starbuck). The plot concerns the human race in the future fighting for survival against a powerful, hostile race of militaristic beings. Sounds like You-

-Know-What!

Art Contest - 1979

Con - Section Report

The Convention is being planned by Mervyn Barrat and Brian (NOUMENON) Thurogood. NASF is not officially involved - but will be giving what help is required.

It is tentatively named WELLCON. They hope to have three or four movies such as METROPOLIS, THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME, and DARK STAR. Brian Thurogood is to mount a professional art show. The organisers also hope to have at least two professional speakers, possibly including M.K. Joseph.

NASF members are advised to start saving money NOW for transport to Wellington, and hotel accommodation (if staying at the Con Hotel). The venue for WellCon will be the Grand Hotel in Willis Street, Central Wellington, and the programme will run over the Labour Weekend in October, 1979. (Enrollment & Get-Together is scheduled for Friday 19th Oct, with the Official Programme commencing Saturday 20th, Oct. The Convention concludes on Monday, noon.

Con-membership will be around the \$15.00 - \$20.00 mark, with rooms at the Grand extra at (approx) \$14.00 (single room) and \$19.00 (double room). It will thus be cheaper (and more fun) to share a room.

Members expecting financial difficulties with respect to Hotel accommodation, should contact the Wellington Committee for Billiting assistance.

But remember - start saving your \$\$\$ now!!!

N.E.A. Science Fiction

Sf courses at the WEA Building in Wellington are still open for enrollment. The courses cover a wide range of science fiction topics, and begin on March 14th. Enrollment fees are \$6.00. Phone the WEA at 726-668.

Writing Contest - 1979

- Topics:**
- a) Stories involving UFO's and New Zealand.
 - b) " " the Energy Crisis and NZ.
 - c) " " New Zealand in the 22nd century.

- Rules:**
- a) lenth 1000 to 5000 words.
 - b) must be your own original work.
 - c) open to NASF members only.
 - d) typing optional (but appreciated if possible. Illegible handwriting will be dimly viewed.
 - e) judges decision is final, etc, etc.

- Closing Date:**
- a) 31st of August, 1979. Must arrive by this date - so post early.
 - b) address entries to; Writing Contest (1979) c/- NASF, POB 6655, Te Aro, Wellington.

Judges: members of the Wellington Branch Committee. Final judgement based on; plot, originality, style, of elements, etc.

Prize: (one only) 8 1/2 x 11 inch hard-back book, ALTERNATE WORLDS - THE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF SCIENCE FICTION by James Gunn. Value \$39.95. (Most illustrations black/white, some are coloured.) Prize cannot be exchanged. The winning story will also be published in WARP.

Runner-Up: your stories may be published in WARP for merit-content, even though you have not won.

Best of luck to all Nasfers

Topic: Design a cover illustration for NASF's first WARP annual.

- Rules:**
- a) Must be your own original work (No illustrations of tv or movie characters, please)
 - b) Open to NASF members only
 - c) must be a Black & White rendition (No Colour!) on unlined, white paper. Tidiness in presentation essential.
 - d) Judges decision is final, etc, etc.

- Closing Date:**
- a) 31st of August (must arrive by this date - so post early)
 - b) Address to Art Contest (1979), c/- POB 6655, Te Aro, Wellington.

Judges: members of the Wellington Branch Committee. Final judgement based on originality, style, of content, etc.

Prize: (one only) 8 1/2 x 11 inch paperback book; 2000 AD ILLUSTRATIONS FROM THE GOLDEN AGE OF SF PULPS. Value \$10.80. Prize cannot be exchanged. The winning picture will be used for NASF's first WARP annual.

Runner Up: Artwork may be used in WARP for merit-content - even though you have not won.

Once Again; Best Of Luck

We wish to thank the Manager of the SAN FRANCISCO BATH HOUSE for helping to print this issue of WARP.



"Lt. Uhura" H. A. Kong Tin

"Some recent work by E. Fermi and L. Szilard, which has been communicated to me in manuscript, leads me to expect that the element Uranium may be turned into a new and important source of energy in the immediate future."

Albert Einstein (Letter to Franklin D. Roosevelt)

NASF FANZINE LENDING LIBRARY

- NOUMENON 24 - 28 Monthly (mostly) 24 pages - SF news and reviews from Brian Thuregood - New Zealand.
- TANGENT 5 Bimonthly (every two months) 24 pages - SF club SF news and reviews from Greg Hills - Wanganui New Zealand.
- BEYOND THE HYADES 2 Quarterly (?) 10 pages - A one man magazine dedicated to the Darkover novels from Peter Graham - Auckland New Zealand.
- WORLDS BEYOND No.1 volume one monthly/Bimonthly 10 pages -(club assisted) SF news and reviews (with hopes to include fiction in future) from Tom Cardy 137 Richardson St. Dunedin New Zealand.
- S.F. COMMENTARY 53 Quarterly (irregular) 36 pages - SF news and reviews from Australia
- THE PACIFIC COMMUNICATOR 34 (irregular) 3 pages - dedicated to the edification of Star Trek and SF film enthusiasts from Michael H. Okuda USA.
- PHOTO FIENDS No. 1 volume one Quarterly 24 pages - photo displays with bibliographic reviews and fiction from Ohio USA.
- ANTITHESIS 4 Quarterly 100 pages - basically Klingon (from Star Trek) oriented with news reviews whimsical poetry and some relatively long (53pages) fiction from USA.
- ALPHA NEWSLETTER Summer 1978 issue and Fall 1978 issue - Quarterly -20 pages dedicated to SPACE 1999 from Stephen Eramo USA.
- SPANG BLAH 16/17 and 19 Quarterly (?) 15 pages news and reviews from Jan Howard Finder USA.
- TACHYON No.1 Bimonthly 8 pages - dedicated to STAR WARS from USA
- VORTEX 2 volume one irregular (?) 20 pages - dedicated to "FANTASTIC JOURNEY" a T.V. series involving a lost Island in the Burmuda Triangle, from USA.
- FANEW SWORDS (part of Fanew Sletter) 1976 Annual 24 pages - news and reviews from (?)
- JONNY IRIQUIS 1-- 4 (terminated) 12 pages - a satire on the Jonny Quest T.V. show from USA.
- JONNY QUEST GRATITUDEZINE No. 1 Biyearly (?) a revival of the Jonny Quest satire magazine listed above.
- LANCELOT LINK 1 - 2 and 4 Bimonthly 15 pages dedicated to the Lancelot Link T.V. programme about a super intelligent Chimpanzee, from USA.

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NOTE - the 24¢ borrowing charge on books or fanzines can be payed with postage stamps - no bigger than 10¢ denomination please

HELP - Books lost in post - No.35 NIGHT OF MASKS by Andre Norton
No.40 THE WEAPON SHOPS OF ISHER by A E Van Vogt
No.47 Earthworks by Brian Aldiss
ANYONE CARE TO DONATE REPLACEMENTS ???

NB - Interested in writing SF with others to assist and/or criticise via a letter contact Workshop ?? CONTACT - Jean King-Ansell
107 Clinkard Avenue Rotorua.

OVERDUE BOOKS MAGAZINES - REMINDER

Spectre --- Alice Collen De La Cour

Glass Keys --- (whoever ? whatever, has this one ?)

NASF BOOK LENDING LIBRARY (Continued from Issue eight)

146. DESTINATION UNIVERSE by A E Van Vogt
A collection of ten stories by this author.
147. DIMENSION FOUR
Short stories by - Theodore Sturgeon - E C Tubb -
John D Macdonald - Cleve Cartmill -
148. LORDS OF THE STARSHIP by Mark S Geston
To reawaken the motivation of the people of his dreary planet
General Toriman proposes that a starship be built and an
interstellar voyage be attempted to find a better planet.
149. REBELS OF THE RED PLANET by Charles Fontenay
To overthrow the Tyranny that grips the settlers on mars the
rebels rely on a dangerous experimental development, which
may prove to be their undoing.
150. THE STAR BEAST by Robert A Heinlein
A house pet smuggled home to Earth from the stars proves to
be a big but lovable problem.
151. NEEDLE by Hal Clement
To ships raced in from outer space and crashed into the
Pacific Ocean. One carried the hunter the other his quarry
a criminal from an unearthly civilization.
152. HOOK : WHIRLPOOL OF STARS by Tully Zetford
First book in the adventures of Ryder Hook the semi boosted
man an outsider in a galaxy where everyone else works for one
of the giant economic organizations.
153. GATE OF IVREL by C J Cherryh
Vange, bastard son of a noble house, hunted by his farther's
warriors, rides into a valley which contains a Spacetime gate.
154. EQUATOR by Brian Aldiss
An invasion of Earth was imminent but only one man new and he
could trust nobody - not even himself yet he had to bring
back a warning to Earth.
155. THE ALIEN WAY by Gordon R Dickson
The story of the first encounter between man and alien - each
horrified with the others Barbaric world.
156. A CASE OF CONSCIENCE by James Blish
Lithia - was an alien world and a biologists paradise, but
Farther Ruiz - Sanchez a Jesuit priest was afraid that the
perfection hid a deadly trap.
157. THE NEMESIS FROM TERRA by Leigh Brackett
It had been prophecide that Rick Urquhart would become the
ruler of Mars if he managed to survive the attacks of the
powerful interests on both Earth and Mars who opposed him.
158. VAMPIRES OF VENUS by Karl Mannheim
Tells the story of a brother and sister born on Venus who set
out on a journey to find others of their kind.
159. THE DAY STAR by Mark S Geston
In the sunset of humanity a strange duo set out to find the
truth about the Rise and Fall of Earth.
160. AUTHENTIC SF No. 71
Short stories by - J T McIntosh - Carl Moulton - Douglas West
- James Causey - John Arkwright - Frank Winnard -
A E Van Vogt - Stella Ann Wood -
(list con'd next issue...)