

YARDING



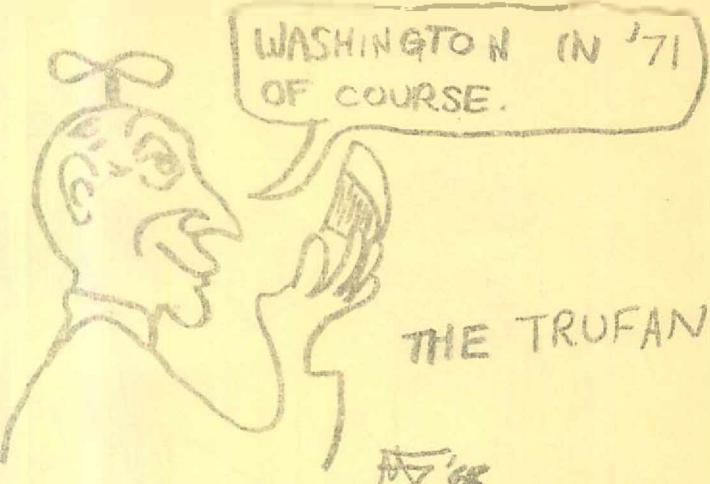
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VOL. LXVII NO. I



THE TRUFAN

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Price, US: 40¢ per copy. 4 for 91. 5¢ or 12 for \$4.00.

NOTE: We still do not want to be reviewed in other magazines. (Would you, if you put out something that looked like this?) However, even if we get the multilith working the way it's supposed to - I have a trouble with it now - in order - we are not happy about reviews. An occasional new reader etc. Lots of them at once - no

CONTENTS

T. C. FOGG

Cover by Richard Delpy. Page 1 by Dave Clarke. Page 19 by Steve Burley. Page 28 by Al Davoren

Hopefully he will be around. I think we've learned something about multithreaded operation while running this issue. Troubles? You can't learn any other way, and I can't afford to throw out 10 years of paper just because it isn't printed too well. So you suffer. This is, incidentally, our 10th Anniversary Issue. We've survived! RSC

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I have been informed that I was grumpy in my last editorial, and that I mustn't do that because I sound like Buck. Tsk. We wouldn't want that, would we? I'll try to do better.

If I had written this a week or so ago, however, I would have found it pretty difficult to be cheery. But today the sun is shining, the supermarkets are selling daffodils and if all is not right with the world matters are at least looking a bit better.

In Buck's editorial you will find an apology to John Berry for not running his article in this issue. That editorial

was written before we actually got down to the nitty-gritty of a Multilith called Irving and discovered just what sort of horrible things it could do to carefully traced artwork and patiently typed copy. I would like to apologize to John. John, I am rather happy that the beautiful moon photograph wasn't one of the many things that we botched in producing this issue. Just flipping through and seeing what the multilith did to other things in the following pages gives me the cold shudders imagining it wrecking that.

I must apologize to the contributors in this issue. Printed text suffered and artwork suffered even more. I am very, very sorry and I just wish I could promise that it won't happen again. We're still not certain what caused some of this mess. I don't like learning at the expense of the contributors and readers, but for this issue I'm a relapsed new publisher, I guess. Maybe I won't have any artwork at all in the next issue, rather than butcher more of it. An article can usually be read even when it's faintly printed (most of the time), but some of the artwork in this issue just makes me want to cry. I hope we get lucky next time around.

About a week ago or less I ~~would~~ have included here an ad for a somewhat used multilith ("Make an offer -- come and get it"). Now, while I'm still not convinced it will ever match the results produced by my treasured Gestetner 120, I've seen the multilith print a perfect page just often enough to give me an inkling of what it really ~~can~~ do. Frankly, I think it's a sadist. The one thing it's made me do is appreciate the Gestetner -- most fervently.

(Among the multilith's fascinating abilities are talents to: jam paper under the feed rollers, feed paper crosswise, plaster paper to the blanket, wrap paper around the rollers, print too light, print too dark, print unevenly, smear, oversaturate the molleton rollers and completely ruin masters.)

Obviously, this issue comes to you under duress, and will probably be read that way, too. Many of the pages, bad as they are, were the result of a second typing of the master -- because for numerous reasons, some of which I listed above, the first masters were destroyed. (Plenty of paper was, too.) All of the mimeographed pages were copied from the wrecks of masters or masters that were in line to be wrecked. At that stage of the game it seemed like less wear and tear on nerves and supplies to shift to stencil, even if the artwork (selected largely for the way it would look in offset) did not transfer well.

If you're still with us and planning to stay, please be patient. We'll provide translations if you receive an issue with an illegible page, although I tried to

sort out the worst ones during collating. And if you can keep comments about multoliths, we really would appreciate any advice, tips and warnings you can give us. Especially I would be grateful for the key to producing solid evenly distributed blacks all over the page without overinking and ending up with a bunch of paper trapping around the blanket. What is the secret? We almost achieved it in the times this issue, but we still don't know exactly what we did right. Help, please!

To other matters. Devra Langsam kindly sent me a report that I think might be of interest to some of our readers. The artist is Chuck Ray, accompanying himself on a very listenable guitar; and the two sides are Tolkien's "The Westmarch Lament" and Chuck's own composition, "Oh, The Planets We've Seen." Not being a Tolkien fan, I prefer the second side. Besides, the recording quality's better on side two. This is a 45rpm from The Fantasy Record Company, 121 S. Wickham Rd., Palmetto Bay, FL 33129. If you interested, I suggest you drop them a line and inquire about price and postage. I imagine it would be reasonable. Chuck has a pleasant Brandish voice and announces clearly, and I hope this record will be only the first for the company.

To jump the gun on next issue's "Golden Minutes," I'd like to mention a couple of recent books: IS THERE LIFE ON OTHER WORLDS? by Paul Anderson and THE SCIENCE HELIX by James D. Watson. The Watson book is entertaining and often funny in its descriptions of various personalities in the scientific world. The only objection to it is the terrible ego-deflating job it does. Watson makes a Nobel prize breakthrough sound like the sort of thing anybody could toss off in the spare time between casing a good restaurant and chasing available birds. The exception of genius, I suppose. The Anderson book really presents nothing startlingly new, but the facts it handles are at last all in one handy place. He combines some of the best of the native tidbits from Ley, Asimov, de Camp, et.al., and does so with readable flair and style. This copy doesn't go upstairs to our library when we've finished with it (temporarily); it goes on my desk as a reference work.

Spring is trying to sprung (although snow is predicted for the weekend), and on a day like today it is very easy to start thinking about glorious things like warm summer days and convention-going time. And to start planning what to take to the Midwestcon and to St. Louis -- and hoping I'll be seeing lots of you there.... well as here, with luck, very soon.

JWC

A CCOLUMN (by Bruce Coulson, age 11)

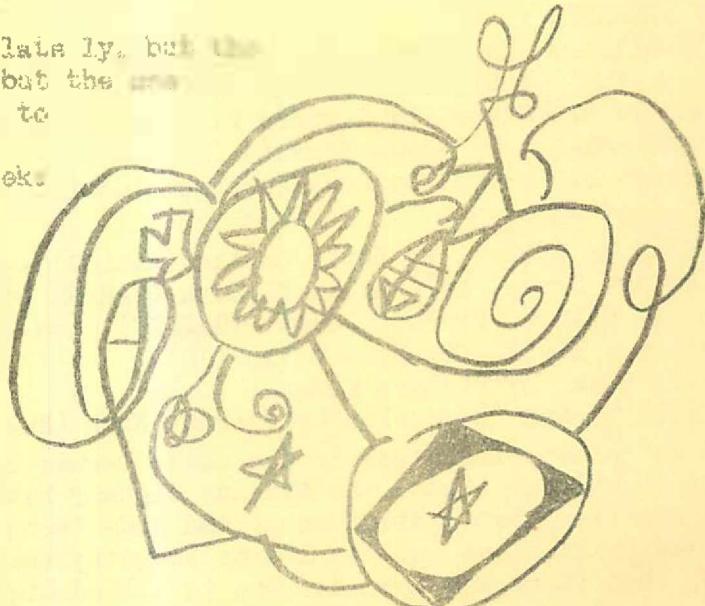
Sorry. I've not been writing my column lately, but the holidays and all. The holidays are fun, but the one thing I don't like about it is going back to school when they're over.

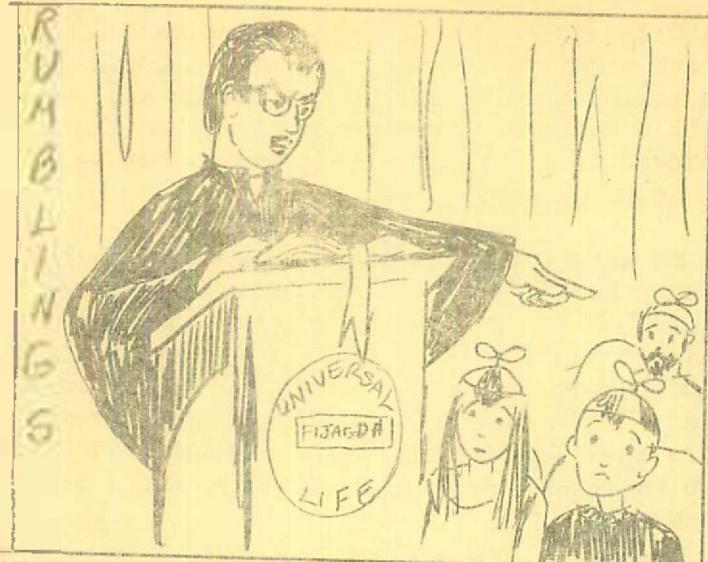
I've found something new about Star Trek. Has anyone noticed that if you take 2 T's and one R from Star Trek you have Sarek?

STAR TREK = STAR TREK = SAREK
Well, that's all I can think of to write about, so good-bye till next month.

P.S. I have ST bubble gum cards 5,7, 16, 31, 34, 42, 54, 57, 58, 60, 63, 65, 67, 68 and 70 to be sold for 3¢ each. Please specify which cards you want.

(Editor's note: I clean up his spelling, but nothing else. The above is as she is wrote. JWC)





First thing on the agenda is a profound apology to John Berry. I promised him that his astronomy article would be in this issue, and it isn't here because we never got around to getting a plate made from the accompanying photo. (We've only had it 3 months.) There is no excuse for this, and an apology doesn't do all that much good, but it's all we have to offer.

Next is the fruits of my stfmag reading. As I read all the 1968 mags in about a 3-week period, I kept track of the Hugo possibilities and they are listed below. I started to keep track of the crap as well, but there was so much of it I gave up. There are a few items I can't pass over, though. Such as Larry Todd's "Flesh and the Iron". I wasn't all that much taken with "Passion In The Desert" the first

time I read it, but Balsac did a much better job with the idea than Todd did. And "Deathchild" by Sterling Lanier, where the ending makes the entire basis of the story unnecessary. And while neither one was crap, I find it interesting that Mack Reynolds managed to sell the same story twice to the same editor; as "Computer Conspiracy" in the Nov/Dec IF, and as "Spying Season" in the Dec GALAXY. Then there is Brian Cleeve's lack of memory in his "Devil" series. In "The Devil And Jake O'Hara": "according to the rules of the game, the Devil wasn't allowed to gamble". And in "The Devil In Exile": "I know a red-hot racing certainty"/said the Devil/ "...half an hour later and richer...". However, on to better things.

BEST NOVEL:

The Goblin Reservation, by Clifford Simak (GALAXY)
All Judgment Filed, by James White (IF)
Rite of Passion, by Alex Panishin (Ace)
The Reefs of Earth, by R. A. Lafferty (Berkley)
and just maybe The Revolving Boy, by Gertrude Friedberg (Ace)

BEST NOVELLA:

Hawk Among The Sparrows, by Dean McLaughlin (ANALOG) This is really the only choice, but if you must have others on the short list, then:
Nightwings, by Bob Silverberg (GALAXY)
The Man In The Maze, by Silverberg (IF)

BEST NOVELLET:

Coldbuilders, by Colin Kapp (New Writings In SF #12)
Soldier Key, by Sterling Lanier (F&SF)
Subway To The Stars, by Raymond F. Jones (GALAXY)
The Custodians, by James Schmitz (ANALOG)
A Tragedy of Errors, by Poul Anderson (GALAXY)

BEST SHORT STORY:

The Steiger Effect, by Betsy Curtis (ANALOG) again, this is the only real choice
Not By Its Cover, by Philip K. Dick (FAMOUS SCIENCE FICTION)
Seconds' Chance, by Robin Scott (GALAXY) (an second thought, this is cute but not really Hugo caliber)
Squatter's Rights, by Hank Davis (IF)
Bramble Bush, by Richard McKenna (Orbit #3)
The Wall To End The World, by Vincent King (New Writings In SF #11)

Listed more or less in order of quality, in my opinion. Too bad the Kapp will never make the ballot.

Some interesting items in the mail. Dennis Lien sends one about an Arizona law that inadvertently abolishes the Arizona Highway Patrol for a year. Arizona legislators are even clumier than Indiana ones. And Andy Zerbe sends some fascinating information on Alabama politicians and the liquor industry that is unfortunately too long to reproduce here. Then there are the ads. One is Allied Liquidators, which offers a five-year light bulb; "if bulb burns out within five years, return for free replacement". On the same

sheet is a huge announcement: "GOING OUT OF THE MAIL ORDER CATALOG BUSINESS". Yes, Clubs are the thing, now. Latest is the "Collector's Guild", which 4 times a year sends you an "original etching or lithograph". For people who don't even know what they like in art, presumably.

KEEPING UP WITH DONAHO DEP'T: However, the most interesting thing that came in the mail recently was a certificate showing that I have been officially ordained as a minister in the Universal Life Church. This is a California outfit, but the letter that came with it (a form letter) assured me that the ordination is good for life and valid in all states of the union. I can now perform marriages, conduct funeral ceremonies, etc. And I didn't even have to form my own church to get all these benefits. Hell, why did they pick me? I may make a remark which seems appropriate, God knows.

Couple of AMERICAN RIFLEMENs with interesting items. One, mentioning that Nixon is an N.R.A. member, goes on to list past presidents who have been members. In view of the propaganda from the liberal press to the effect that the National Rifle Association is an unmitigated evil whose lobbying contributes to political assassination, I find the list interesting. It includes U.S. Grant, Theodore Roosevelt (naturally), William Howard Taft, Dwight Eisenhower--and John F. Kennedy. How do you want it, people--does the N.R.A. possibly have some good points, or was John Kennedy a villainous reactionary? Another issue lists the total crime rate and the homicide rate in states with restrictive, moderate and liberal gun laws. (I am using liberal in its original meaning, not its political one.) The four most restrictive states are New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and West Virginia. On the average, these have 4.1 homicides per 100,000 population. The four most liberal states are given as Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, and Vermont. They have an average of 3.9 homicides per 100,000 population. Restrictive gun laws help prevent murder? Bullshit. (Of course, my liberal readers will say, but those restrictive states have more urban population to deal with. Yes, they do--so maybe instead of restricting gun ownership we had better restrict the size of cities.) Actually, of course, the states with the highest homicide rates are those listed as having "moderate" gun laws--and they are, in order, Alabama, South Carolina, Georgia, Nevada, and Florida. Notice a trend? Those with the least homicides are, in order, North Dakota, Maine, Iowa (all with moderate laws), Minnesota and Wisconsin (both with very liberal gun laws). New Jersey in 1966 passed a gun law which the anti-gun people consider a model ordinance--and their homicides have increased 26% in the last two years while their total crime rate went from below the national average to above the national average in the same time. That's a record for gun restriction almost as good as the Comics Code influence on juvenile delinquency.

I see I forgot to mention some of the Hugo categories. Umm. Well, onward.

BEST PRO MAGAZINE:

In order - Analog, Galaxy, Magazine of Horror, If (which went downhill badly during the year).

BEST PRO ARTIST:

Freas, Gaughan, Schoenherr (I'm not sure who my final choice would be)

BEST FANZINE:

Was there a drop in quality last year, or am I just overly grouchy? Oh well:
SCOTTISHE, STEFANTASY, SIRRISH, LOCUS, CONVENTION ANNUAL, UCHIJIN, PSYCHOTIC, and
maybe SENDWORM.

BEST FAN WRITER:

Ethel Lindsay, Harry Warner, Bob Leman, and Jack Gaughan

BEST FAN ARTIST:

Arthur Thomson, Jim Cawthorn, Robert E. Gilbert, Bjo Trimble, Alicia Austin, possibly Connie Reich and Kathy Bushman, though I don't really think they're quite that good.

Oh yes, those homicide rates given above are percentages (I wonder how many readers will still tell me that New York has more people than Maine and that's the reason?)

I am considering emulating Ethel Lindsay and turning "Strange Fruit" into an independent fanzine, which would then be available as a trade as well as on a subscription basis. Any comments?

Golden Minutes —

STAR TREK: Mission To Protonium, by Mack Reynolds (Whitman, 69¢) This is, of course, a juvenile characterization skirts earnestness in order to get across to less sophisticated readers. Nevertheless, I would consider this book, by any standards, to be a better delineation of "Star Trek" than the Blish script-translations. Character may be overdone, but it's there. The only major false note is the fact that Spock's "nerve-pinch" is never used or referred to, even in situations which obviously call for it. Otherwise, Reynolds has done a good job. I don't know whether he likes the show or not, but he did his homework and watched it before writing the book. The plot is fairly simple - naturally - covering space pirates attacking worlds settled by various crackpot cults from Earth. Standard stuff; the same sort of thing is still published in the magazines on occasion.

THE UNDYING MONSTER, by Jessie Douglas Kerruish (Avalon, 75¢) When I first read this novel, in an old FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES, I evidently didn't notice all the occult tripe in it. Didn't remember it, anyway; I remembered it as a thrilling story. Well, it is, if you can ignore large gobs of undigested occultism, and a moderately antique writing style. (First US publication was 1936, but the time seems to be about 1919, and it may well have been published in England then.) At least, the occult researcher who solves the mystery is up-to-date enough to study psychology as well as mouldy manuscripts. The story of an ancient family curse is well enough done; it could have benefitted from judicious cutting (which it may have received in the magazine form.)

THE THURB REVOLUTION, by Alexei Panshin (Ace, 50¢) The second of Panshin's Villiers series is somewhat better than the first one (an unusual event, in series). More disciplined, and at the same time funnier; there are more asides and fewer lectures. It's nothing that I'm ever likely to become enthusiastic about, but this one was at least reasonably entertaining. Incidentally, some of you, on reading this, may feel that Alex is parodying the Boy Scouts in a place or two. Not so. Consider the Brotherhood of Hunters, a Canadian alternative organization of the early 1800's. "Its hierarchy began with a local Snowshoe who commanded nine Hunters. The scale rose through a Beaver, who commanded five Snowshoes, an Eagle who commanded a varying number of Beavers, and so to the eminence of a Grand Eagle.... I think the parallels are obvious; Alex is preaching revolution in the guise of entertainment, and this modern Tom Paine should probably be banned in Toronto."

THE COUNTERFEITS, by Leo P. Kelley (Belmont, 50¢) Originally I looked at the cover and the publisher of this and didn't buy it. Then I became acquainted with the author and decided I really should suffer through the thing. I was pleasantly surprised; it's a long way from Hugo status, but it is considerably better than it looks. I sent Leo a page full of nit-picking, but the major drawback to the book is that all the major characters are portrayed as unbearably stupid. (There is a reason for this, for a change, but it still tends to put me off.) One of them is also a miracle-worker, who can walk out in New York City and acquire a handgun whenever he needs one, and they all tend to get terribly emotional over the wrong things. But, stacked against this is the ending, which makes wading through the rest of the book worth while. Incidentally, I don't mean to say the characterization is bad; it's probably quite accurate. The characters are very believable; they just aren't the sort that I give a damn about.)

DOOMSDAY MORNING, by C. L. Moore (Avon, 60¢) Howard Rohan isn't as believeable as Kelley's here, but I could become involved in his actions so I regard him as a better character. Most of Moore's people are interesting. The plot is pretty standard "over-

"throw-the-dictator", albeit one that is fairly well worked out. It's not great sf, but it was an interesting book to read, back when I first read the hardcover, and it held up fairly well on re-reading.

MASTERS OF THE VORTEX, by E. E. Smith (Pyramid, 60¢) I read both of these over a month ago, and quite frankly I don't remember much about either one of them. Both, as I recall, are fairly good - for Smith. There is less Frank Merriwell type slang than in the Lensman or Skylark series. (Despite Pyramid's cover statement, I don't think the Vortex Blaster was ever considered as part of the Lensman series.) As I recall, MASTERS OF THE VORTEX is the better of the two, because in it Smith made no attempt to write an adult, "literary" novel, and his inability to do so didn't show up as sharply. Either book is recommended to new sf fans (except those who come in direct from college English courses).

THE REASSEMBLED MAN, by Herbert D. Kastle (Gold Medal, 45¢) This is a reprint, first published in 1964. A superman who doesn't really know how to handle his super powers. A fable for our time, and all; unfortunately, an incredibly dull one. Not recommended.

CATCH A FALLING STAR, by John Brunner (Ace, 50¢) Originally published in SCIENCE FANTASY, as "Earth Is But A Star", then by Ace as "The Hundredth Millennium", both shorter than this version. I don't know; either I liked the shorter versions better, or three readings is too much for this one. Even in this version, though, it's a good "barbaric trek" type story; Brunner's varied decadent societies are fascinating. Jack Vance is considered the master of this sort of thing, but Brunner is about as good. (I'd put this below THE DYING EARTH but well above BIG PLANET.)

STARWOLF #3: World of the Starwolves, by Edmond Hamilton (Ace, 50¢) An entertaining space opera with one big fat flaw, which Hamilton himself points out on page 53. "How the devil could they sell it and still keep their existence secret?" "Simple," said Eron, "They use a few selected...agents. I have been one of them." And Eron, of course, sells out the secret the first time anyone offers him money to do so, which means that logically the secret should have been out years before our hero comes on the scene. Otherwise it's an entertaining novel.

THE CREATURE FROM BEYOND INFINITY, by Henry Kuttner (Popular Library, 60¢) When I first saw this, I wondered why a Kuttner story had waited this long for reprinting - it was first published in the 1940 pulp mags. After reading it, I knew why; it's absolutely awful, and should have remained decently buried. Yeah! Even Kuttner could louse one up now and then, it seems.

THE DEMON BREED, by James H. Schmitz (Ace, 60¢) Published in ANALOG last year as "The Tuvela". Reasonably good adventure story; well worth the money, but I'm surprised to find it as an Ace Special. (Not that it isn't better than some past Specials; it just isn't what I think of as that type of book.) Thwarting the alien invasion; the heroine is well enough drawn, but the aliens might as well be Nameless Horrors. Recommended for escapist, though.

THE HEAVEN MAKERS, by Frank Herbert (Avon, 60¢) In this one the aliens are quite interesting and the people are hopeless. You can't have everything, I guess. This is the "we are property" theme. Fairly well worked out, for a change; the aliens are given individual motivations, which is a nice touch. Too often the Alien Menace is depicted as a monolithic race, all of whose members think in precisely the same evil patterns. These menaces have reasons for what they do; not only reasons for their race acting as it does, but for their actions as individuals. This was serialized in FANTASTIC.

OPERATION TIME SEARCH, by Andre Norton (Ace, 60¢) On the cover the Cleveland Press is quoted as saying "one of Norton's best". Can't agree with you, Don; I'd say it was one of her worst, as a matter of fact. Her background - usually original and the best part of her books - this time is pretty standard occult-Lemuria, as is the plot (war between Lemuria and her colony, Atlantis. The occultists have said it all before, at great and nauseating length. And just once I'd like to see a book where the handsome golden-haired

race turns out to be the bad guys. Maybe my prejudices are showing, but I've about had it with golden-haired, noble-spirited Laxurians.

SOS THE ROPE, by Piers Anthony (Pyramid, 60¢) An excellent adventure novel. Aside from an initial problem over which man is which, the characters are well-done and the plot fairly original for this sort of thing. One minor flaw: on page 10 we are told "They took turns in the shower compartment, also set in the center column, and dried and changed clothing, indifferent to the presence of the girl." Then on page 22, Sol is injured and they remove his clothing and are shocked: "Injury, birth defect or mutation - he could not be certain. Sol would never be a father." Pretty amateurish bunch back there in the shower, weren't they? However, the people are interesting and the solution is a refreshing change for this type of novel.

THE MAN WHO SAW TOMORROW, by Jeff Sutton/SO BRIGHT THE VISION, by Clifford Simak (Ace, 60¢) The Simak half contains short stories. "The Golden Bugs" is a humorous gimmick story about an unusual alien invasion. "Leg, Forst," is also humorous; possibly I enjoyed it particularly because it concerns stamp collecting, but I thought it was great, and Clyde Packer is one of the more engaging rogues in science fiction. "So Bright The Vision" mixes humor with Simak's particular brand of sloppy sentimentality; readable, but not particularly outstanding. "Galactic Chest" contains the sentiment minus the humor, and it comes across as a great story. I'm not sure why; Simak just knows how to write that sort of thing, and how much bathos to include, I guess. The Sutton half is pretty much a total loss, filled with what the author apparently believes is "mainstream" writing. (The worst part is, he's right; the following is pretty typical of non-stf books on the stands.)

"The real world is much better." She wrinkled her nose at him. "Or didn't you know?"

"At times it seems overly grim."

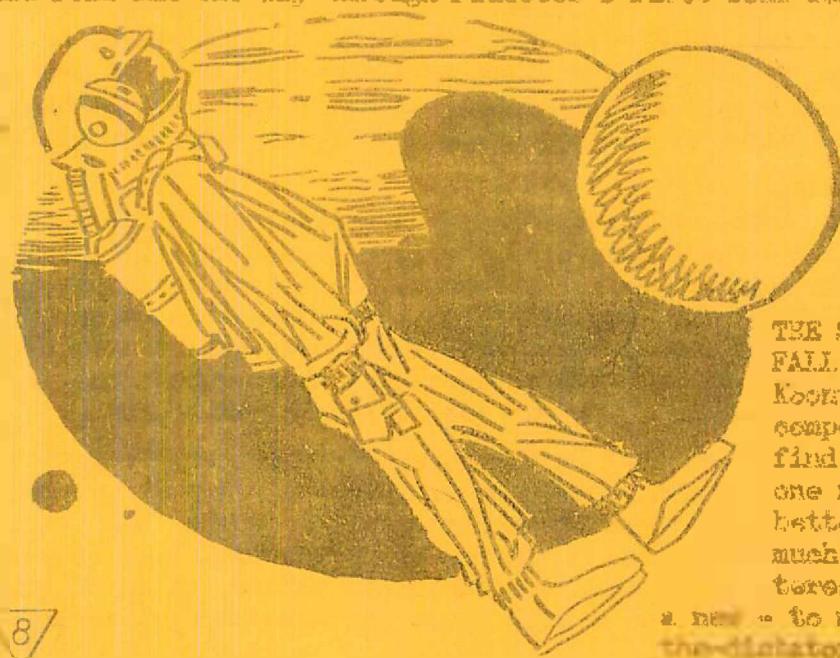
"Not, if you take from it what you want."

"You make it sound easy," he accused.

Now this is bloody awful, but it's a fair sample of both the book and the sort of writing one encounters in "popular" literature. I'll even take Doc Smith above this.

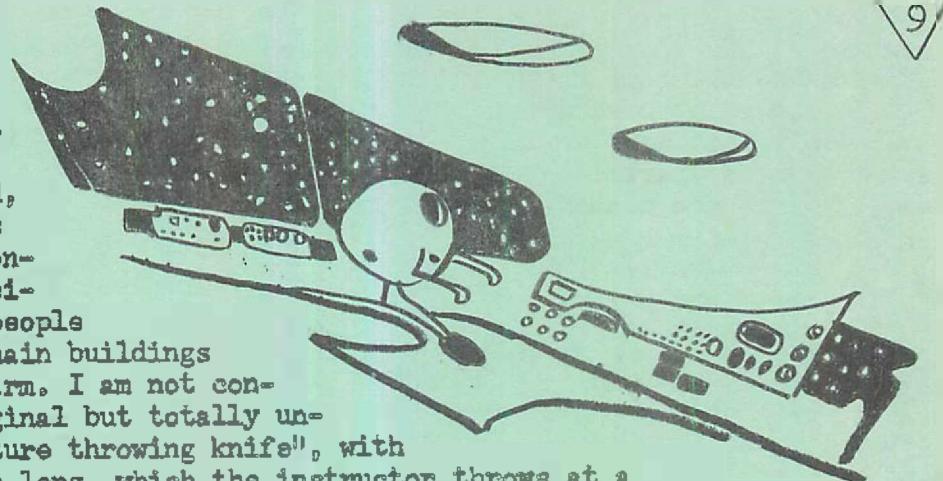
THE AGE OF RUIN, by John Fauvette/CODE DUELLO, by Mack Reynolds (Ace, 60¢) I got about 10 pages into the Fauvette half before quitting, though I'm not sure why I went beyond the second paragraph, which starts "I, Jahalazar of the purple locks, sprang awake, a sinewy arm reaching for Chernar, the Throwing Sword, as I rolled from the bed to alight upon shoeless feet crouched." I continued to see if the rest of the book was as excruciating as that sentence. It wasn't. (I still do.) Part of my problem was that I had read all the way through Fauvette's first book for Ace, and my masochism has limits.

Reynolds' "Section G" series is probably his worst, but even these are competent space opera. And while I've read better humor, any humor at all in this field is to be commended. If you have time, read the Reynolds half; if you have to miss a few stf books anyway, this one can be ignored.



THE STAR VENTURES, by Ken Bulmer/THE FALL OF THE DREAM MACHINE, by Dean R. Koontz (Ace, 60¢) The Bulmer half is competent space opera; I just didn't find it terribly interesting. You might; one never can tell. Koontz does both better and worse. His characters are much better; the reader can become interested in their actions. The plot is - to me, anyway - twist on the overthrow-the-dictator plot. There are, however, some

glaring lapses. On the one hand, the Performers' apartments are so thoroughly bugged that Lisa can barely think about going out the window before the bars slam shut. On the other hand, Lisa and Mike can make plans in the hallway in perfect confidence, and Mike can participate in the slaughter of 5 people in the halls of one of the main buildings without ever tripping an alarm. I am not convinced. The weapons are original but totally unconvincing. One is a "miniature throwing knife", with two blades each only an inch long, which the instructor throws at a target and "The blade had sunk to the hilt in steel." (A) Double-ended knives don't have hilts. (B) I don't care if it's made out of neutronium, the quoted sentence is impossible - and hilarious. Despite the flaws, I would tend to rate the Koontz half as the best, because of more interesting characters.



Hans

THE TIME HOPPERS, by Robert Silverberg (Avon, 60¢) The bureaucrat tempted by the crime he is assigned to track down. Seems to be a standard plot anymore; not one of my favorites. Silverberg does a competent if unexciting job.

A TURRINT OF FACES, by James Blish and Norman L. Knight (Ace, 75¢) Parts of this appeared as novelets in GALAXY and ANALOG. In one place some tidying-up for the complete version was skipped; on page 117 the heroine recalls that she has been told that some bits of the slime culture are crawling away; on page 134 she is terribly surprised to be told the same thing. This is a "big" novel, with lots of characters and sub-plots, generally well worked out. The whole is definitely greater than the parts; I didn't care for any of the parts when I read them in the magazines, but the novel as a whole is quite good.

THE UNDERPEOPLE, by Cordwainer Smith (Pyramid, 60¢) I can't honestly say I've ever liked a Smith novel, but I have to admit he is a technically excellent writer. (Was, that is.) This is some more of his future history; originally published in GALAXY, I believe. A sequel to THE PLANET BUYER.

SERVANTS OF THE WANKH, by Jack Vance (Ace, 50¢) The second in Vance's "Planet of Adventure" series. (Today writers make short stories into novels, and novels into series. This is basically a longer version of "Big Planet", though it is also a better one, at least so far.) This time Vance has his exotic backgrounds down well - he doesn't always - and the combination of this plus reasonably interesting characters and a fairly standard adventure plot makes for a good novel. Or at least an entertaining adventure, since I have some doubts about it being an independent "novel"; it is simply a series of episodes. Like LORD OF THE RINGS, it's one story broken into several books, not a series of novels such as Hamilton's "Starwolf" series.

THE SANTAROGA BARRIER, by Frank Herbert (Berkley, 75¢) This is a good novel; it would have been an excellent one if someone had excised about 50 pages of padding from the middle of it. (The padding is so obvious and so phony that I bogged down in it and almost didn't finish the book.) I didn't read the shorter version in AMAZING, but it might have been an improvement. It's the sort I like, when well done - as this one generally is - an ordinary little rural community with just a few peculiarities, which the hero is sent in to investigate. Naturally, the peculiarities increase into a full-fledged Mystery before he solves the problem. Except for the 50 pages of useless running around, the suspense is excellently handled, and the finish is great. Highly recommended; don't give up on it in the middle, even if you're tempted.

THE GOBLIN TOWER, by L. Sprague DeCamp (Pyramid, 75¢) Worth every penny, too. DeCamp views the standard sword-and-sorcery plot from a fresh and occasionally sarcastic viewpoint, and his characters are always eminantly believable. I was particularly charmed by

the opening scene, in which the king abdicates by shooting his son by beheading the old king and throwing his head to the waiting mob, with someone catching it before the next king. Only De Camp would think of something like that! The reason was, "Cause... the crown came off. One man I fight the crown, whether the people like it or not, another civil war ensued." The entire story is just as clear from the main people's point of view, and very exciting like this. I'd like to say more because De Camp was a very good lost cause for his travels -- to save his neck. And he probably had something more in mind than entertainment as the ones in Jack Hall's book series, and far more so than in that average sci book.

THE CITY, by Jack Hall (Pyramid, \$1.95) This is the third book in the "Atlan" series. It's an improvement over #2, but still disappointing. I've finally located the problem. I think Mr. Gaskell's rules of your own laws are identical to those expressed in the conference messages. (The book is unable to make this connection, since I don't read all that many conferences myself.) The results are much worse than those obtained by following the HLLMOR formula. If you'd stay away from ever, I think Mr. Gaskell could probably write better adventure novels.

ISLE OF THE DEAD, by Roger Zelazny (Avon, \$1.95) Now this is the breaking point between good adventure writing and literature, but Zelazny prefers to seem to think that this is a great story. Well, it is, of course, but I don't see a qualitative difference between it and, say, **THE COUNTRY PEOPLE**, yet the writing don't seem to come out with pieces of genius for De Camp's writing. However, this is an excellently written space-opera, and still I didn't find it more-disappointing or than my book-hates raised I can unreservedly recommend it to readers. One of the best books of the last couple of months, certainly.

THE BURNING SKY, by James Hall Roberts (Avon, \$1.95) Some reviewers in a book review column said that Lanningfield probably hasn't turned down a bad novel; that there simply were no unpleasant aspects of this weird book in which he does a race. Roberts proves him wrong for this novel - and gets it from the borders of the United States, at that! (I looked the location up in my atlas, and it isn't near the ocean as shown as approximately 3,000 square miles of North Africa.) It isn't really science fiction, except as "lost planet" novels are usually admitted to the field. But possibly because of the archaeological background, it is an interesting adventure novel, and if you notice its bright colors, some real research, it'll be a joy. Of course, I'm a sucker for archaeology anyway. I enjoyed this as much as I did the Zelazny book.

THE SUNDIAL, by Shirley Jackson (Avon, \$1.95) If by any chance you haven't read this, do so. It's been around in several editions - paper back, too - but it's still a good weird story. Fantasy! Hell, a green tent draped on here you must the writing. Does the world and, or not?

EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS' HISTORY OF ADVENTURE, by Clark Layton (Avon, \$1.95) I reviewed the hard-cover adult book. This book is not as much about Burroughs himself as about his writing, and Dick does a good job of discussing the mythological output of one of the greatest book-writers of all time. I enjoyed it, and I don't even like Burroughs.

THE DAY OF THE DINOSAURS, by George de Camp and Catherine Creek de Camp (Doubleday, \$6.95) I didn't really expect to learn much from this, since I've read quite a bit on the subject at one time or another. I was expecting mainly to appreciate de Camp's vivid approach to the subject. Surprisingly to my surprise, I did learn things, however; it seems that paleontology has made considerable advances which I wasn't looking. The most interesting part of the book was the section on paleoanthropology, but it was all interesting and enjoyable. This would seem to fit the bill as an intermediate, Layton's account of what we know about the great reptiles, and how we discovered it. (While back Jay Klein said that George sold these photographs, where now (look up in one of the photos here?)

THE DOUBLE PLANET, by Isaac Asimov (Pyramid, \$1.95) The latest version of what we know about the earth-moon system, surprisingly told. In a few years it will probably be as out-dated as my high-school astronomy lessons are now, but in the meantime it's an enjoyable way to keep up with the latest findings. Amazing reading.



THE DESERT KINGDOMS OF PERU, by Victor W. Von Hagen (Mentor, \$1.50) A new Von Hagen book is always a treat, and this companion to his volumes on the Aztec, Inca and Maya is no exception. In some ways it is more interesting than its predecessors, since lots of people have written about the Aztecs, Incas and Mayas, but there are very few popular accounts of the Chimu and Mochica civilizations. Von Hagen not only goes into exhaustive detail about these pre-Inca cultures, but throws in such interesting sidelights as that one of the first Europeans who contracted syphilis was "one person who should not have had it - His Holiness Pope Julius II". There are 32 pages of photos - many of which could not have been published a few years ago, Mochica pottery being the American equivalent of the Khajuraho temple in India. I found the whole thing fascinating.

ABOMINABLE SNOWMEN: LEGEND COME TO LIFE, by Ivan T. Sanderson (Pyramid, 75¢) I'm not at all sure I believe Sanderson, but he does make a strong case, and he is one of the best nature writers around. (One of the frequent objections to the Snowmen is that if we get so many photos and tracks and so on, why haven't we ever caught one? Sanderson's answer, documented from old newspaper accounts and travel books, is that we have. It just happens that none of the captures have made it to a museum.) And while Sanderson may be overly credulous, he at least points out the obvious phonies, such as the "explorer" in South America who killed an "ape-man" and then just "happened" to lose all of his proof except one picture which experts promptly pronounced a forgery. He is a believer, but not an undiscriminating one. Recommended.

THE FLYING NUN: MOTHER OF INVENTION, by Wm. Johnston (Ace, 50¢)
THE REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS, by Ed Ruppelt (Ace, 75¢)
STRANGE & MIRACULOUS CURES, by Warren Smith (Ace, 60¢)
CHALLENGE TO REALITY, by John Macklin (Ace, 60¢)
THE DEVIL'S OWN, by Peter Robson (Ace, 60¢)
CUPID AND THE STARS, by John Pendragon & Brad Steiger (Ace, 60¢)
you like this sort of thing, these have been published.

All of these have at least a marginal bearing on stf; I haven't read them & I don't recommend that you do, but if

RELIEF WITHOUT DRUGS, by Ainslie Meares, M.D. (Ace, 75¢) This is something else. According to Juanita, who read it (I didn't), Meares' "relief" is self-hypnosis, which is nothing for the average slob to be playing around with. This one is not only not recommended, it's dangerous.

A LITTLE BOOK OF HUMOR, HORROR AND THE SUPERNATURAL (Pyramid, 35¢) And what one author combines all those ingredients? Right; Ambrose Bierce. This includes "An Occurrence At Owl Creek Bridge", "Killed At Resaca", "One Summer Night", "Moxon's Master" (one of the very earliest robot stories), "A Jug of Sirup", and six selections from "Fantastic Fables". 35¢ for 60 super-digest size pages isn't much of a bargain, but if anyone is desperate for Bierce....

MISSION: TANK WAR, by Michael Kurland (Pyramid, 60¢) Sort of borderline science fiction; writing is adequate for spy stories, but nothing to get excited about. The Old Man Of The Mountain and his Assassins get mixed up in a modern spy plot.

QUEER ADVENTURES IN A MAGIC WORLD (Opium Books, \$2.00) A sequel to TROLLS! TROLLS! TROLLS!, reviewed here last issue. 40 authors are listed this time. About the same things apply; it's a fantasy adventure written by a group of bright Chinese schoolboys. It doesn't make a lot of sense, but it's a pretty book, and Lau Shiu Fan's illustrations are outstanding.

HORACE, BORIS, NORRIS, MORRIS, AND DORIS, by "Felix Severance" (Opium Books, 50¢) This is an adventure novelet, with the gimmick that the book is entirely conversation. No illustrations. Setting is Finland. Not an outstanding story, but interesting as an oddity, and at least as interesting as the average stf novel.

NOTE: Opium Books are not available from any U.S. dealer or bookstore. Write directly to Opium Books, 6 Tak Hing St - 3A, Kowloon, Hong Kong, and make sure your letter arrives before June 1. These will probably become collector's items eventually, due to small print run and, I gather, even smaller sales.

STUDENT TRAVEL I I guess to be pushing this one; I didn't ask for a review copy and I don't think it's to be a quite thorough guidebook to "things to see and places to go" in major U.S. cities, a few statewide areas like New Mexico and "The Southwest", plus chapters on "Mexico City, and "The Caribbean". I am not sure about some of the entries -- why Tezozomito's city hall should be a "must to visit" is beyond me, unless the author of that chapter was an architect -- theaters, pubs, clubs, transportation, etc., seem to be more typical entries, and more useful. I don't know if I'm a musician student.

WEST OF CHEYENNE, by Lee Hoffman (Doubleday, \$2.95). A quite excellent western; Eben Hawkins is far more "real" than your average western hero. His characters are mostly stereotypes, but getting even one good character in a conventional western makes it above par. The plot is fairly standard, but at least he knows his end from the other, which adds another chunk of realism not always found in the genre. (Unfortunately, the cover photo doesn't have much to do with the story, though it is a very dramatic dust jacket photo of a dark, mysterious man holding up what is obviously a cap pistol for the reader's inspection. Disconcerting; I thought from the photo that maybe it was supposed to be a funny book, but apparently not. Side effect of the Sullivan Law, no doubt.) I don't suppose many people will pay \$4 for even a fellow-fun's western writing, but you might nag your friendly local librarian for a couple of weeks. Hawkins is a hero you can get interested in.

ACE OF ACES, by George F. Truett, 75.

FIGHTING AIRMAN. By H. C. Wallace J. Biddle (1928, \$5).

Fenck was the number one allied ace in World War I, with 75 confirmed kills. Unfortunately his book is pretty much the same as Bishop's earlier WINGED WARFARE; Fenck and Bishop were great flyers, but not so hot as writers. All the same the book would have been interesting as a historical document, but of course it had to be written along the lines of retribution. FIGHTING AIRMAN is another kettle of fish. Biddle fought mostly from P German planes, but his writing is far superior, and gives you a real feel about what it was like in "The War To End All Wars". If you have a moderate interest in old-time air combat, try the Biddle book. The Fenck is only for those who like airplane history nuts.

THE PATH OF DESTINY, THE WAY OF EARTH 95

FROM SEA TO SEA. By W. C. Morris. (London: Chapman & Hall, 1881.)

to 1910. Presumably you will have the other two. Actually I've only read the Raddall book, because I saw it first; once I had read it I wanted the other two. It's probably a good thing I did see the Raddall book first, because on all three books the words "written by" and "COSTAIN" are larger than the author's names, and only the fact that I know the author's name makes me to buy anything that Costain had anything to do with. The Raddall book covers the years 1753 to 1850; the British conquest to Hull, the War of 1812, the Canadian side of the Revolution and the War of 1812, and I am (I think) the last book ever) how close the United States came to including Canada in this case, if the other 13 colonies had supported the Nova Scotia uprising, thereby blocking the only entrance to Canada at the time, the St. Lawrence River. In the last chapter there is a quote about the Brotherhood of Hunters that I used in All the Same to the book. It quotes "The truth is that, as in all human upheavals the people, the Patrick Henrys who for liberty or death prefer their personal safety to a general peace, the fixing line. Rebellion must have its gifted leaders no less than fight, and never the same men."

BROTHERS IN ARMS, by Kurt Vonnegut. (Random.) This is the best fiction book I've read since my *Legi* review last. The plot is standard; the rotten underpinnings of "the establishment"; in this case a quiet little town's community and its dignified, polished upper class. But Vonnegut is so damned brilliant at depicting characters that the plot doesn't really matter; almost anything he writes is fascinating, and this is one of his best books. Wonderful. *Read it, even if you have to skip over stuff.*

— ENVY —

I envy the swashbuckling fictional Hero so tall.
When I cut my finger, it never by any chance fails
To swell with disease and be scarlet and sore for a week.
The Hero whose foes in a bloody affray he assails
Is dreadfully wounded all over his mighty physique;
But he never gets sick,
 He never gets sick,
 He's never infected at all!

If I on an ice-covered walk take a negligent pace,
Why, arse-over-apex I fly and come down with a crash;
Concussions and plum-colored bruises and cuts I sustain,
But when from a glacial cliff leaps the Hero so brash,
He lands on his feet without slippage or stumble or sprain;
And he never falls down,
 He never falls down,
 He never falls down on his base!

If soaked are my feet in a downpour, in slush or in mud,
I'm stricken instanter with ills of a myriad sorts:
With sneezes and coughs and the strep and coryza and flu.
The Paladin picks up the beauty with whom he consorts
And carries her briskly a cold mountain cataract through,
And he never takes cold,
 He never takes cold,
 He never takes cold from the flood!

And when in the tropics I eat in exotical spots,
To local intestinal ailments, succumb I soon must;
And then I take care that I'm never too distant to dash
To the nearest convenience. Our Hero's digestion robust
Makes nothing of blubber, or beetles, or overripe hash;
And whoever has heard,
 Whoever has heard,
 Has heard of a Hero with trots?

And hence what I envy the typical Hero so brave
Is neither his size, nor his thews, nor his scintillant sword,
His lovable girls, nor the treasures and thrones that he gains,
His stirring adventures, which give him no time to get bored -
But his constitution of iron, indifferent to pains;
And I'll settle for that,
 I'll settle for that,
 I'll settle for that to my grave!

— L SPRAGUE DE CAMP

THE KNIGHT-MOSKOWITZ POLARIZATION

Prompted by the second edition, revised and enlarged, of IN SEARCH OF WONDER by Damon Knight.

(Researched and edited by Sam Moskowitz)

~~Sam Moskowitz is a man I have disagreed with about as often as he has opened his hundred-decibel mouth.~~
Damon Knight, Page 130, IN SEARCH OF WONDER.

WAR WITH THE NEWTS by Karel Čapek

KNIGHT: "One of science fiction's few genuine classics, out of print in this country since 1937, is Karel Čapek's wonderful WAR WITH THE NEWTS." -- Page 11, IN SEARCH OF WONDER.

MOSKOWITZ: "When it seemed that Čapek's years of writing science fiction were a thing of the past, WAR WITH THE NEWTS, sometimes called THE SALAMANDER WAR, appeared in Czechoslovakia in 1936. This long novel is Čapek's Masterpiece of science fiction." -- Page 223, EXPLORERS OF THE INFINITE.

FANCIES AND GOODNIGHTS by John Collier

KNIGHT: "In nearly all the stories here collected, the influences of poet and ape are equally felt, which is to say that these stories are brilliantly balanced on the tension between farce and tragedy." -- Page 17, IN SEARCH OF WONDER.

MOSKOWITZ: "There is little question in my mind that the most important, the most outstanding fantasy volume of 1951 from the standpoint of brilliant writing, well-planned stories, and its influence on past fantasy writing is John Collier's FANCIES AND GOODNIGHTS..." -- Page 11, Skyhook, Spring, 1952.

TWILIGHT by John Campbell, Jr.

KNIGHT: "Twilight" is what Campbell says it is, a pure mood story--and as such is the lineal descendent of H.G. Wells' "The Time Machine". Campbell's great achievement was to rescue it /science fiction/ from its own overspecialized preoccupations and start it back toward the mainstream of literature...Clearly enough, the Don A. Stuart stories were only one experiment among many to Campbell; but modern readers may find in these two volumes his most important and lasting contribution to the literature." (WHO GOES THERE? and CLOAK OF AESIR) -- Pages 35-36, IN SEARCH OF WONDER.

MOSKOWITZ: "H.G. Wells' "Time Machine" possessed, in its description of the decadent civilization of the Eloi, certain elements of "Twilight"...Yet mood had never been the

primary purpose in the presentations of the civilizations and cities of these authors (Wells, Forster, Palmer & Wylie)...Don A. Stuart bid fair to eclipse Campbell in popularity as a result of this single story "Twilight". Its appearance was to alter the pattern of science-fiction writing." -- Page 40, SEEKERS OF TOMORROW.

L. RON HUBBARD (As a writer)

KNIGHT: "Hubbard had an exquisite word sense, when he wanted to use it." -- Page 40, IN SEARCH OF WONDER.

MOSKOWITZ: "recruited from the adventure pulps where he had been a superior stylist capable of touches of human interest..." -- Page 414, SEEKERS OF TOMORROW



CONJURE WIFE by Fritz Leiber

KNIGHT: "CONJURE WIFE by Fritz Leiber is easily the most frightening and (necessarily) the most thoroughly convincing of all modern horror stories...Leiber develops this theme with the utmost dexterity, piling up alternate layers of mundane and outré..." -- Pages 40, 42, IN SEARCH OF WONDER.

MOSKOWITZ: "Leiber's skill at dialogue is notable, and his humorous notes polished and clever without descending to farce. His story is effective without recourse to any of the stock gothic devices...a television adaptation was an artistic triumph, one of the finest fantasy hours ever shown on television." -- Page 292, SEEKERS OF TOMORROW.



NERVES by Lester del Rey

KNIGHT: "Lester del Rey's NERVES, revised and expanded from the 1942 Astounding novella, is still essentially the same great story of suspense it was three years before the Smythe Report...but Jorgenson, with his eternal caged anger at being the wrong size--an angry crippled god in chains--is as vigorously and unforgettable real as the author himself." -- Pages 42, 43, IN SEARCH OF WONDER.

MOSKOWITZ: "...but his banner story for the year and one of the best he ever wrote, NERVES, grew from a suggestion of John Campbell's...the expanded version is heightened by a superb character sketch of the key scientist, Jorgenson, before he is enveloped by an atomic miscalculation." -- Page 180, SEEKERS OF TOMORROW.

THE HUMANOIDS by Jack Williamson

KNIGHT: "The book is important, then, because its theme is important, and because Williamson's treatment is both honest and dramatically effective...it pains me to admit all this, merely because the writing itself is so thoroughly, unremittingly and excruciatingly bad." -- Pages 45, 46, IN SEARCH OF WONDER.

MOSKOWITZ: "If any further proof were required that Williamson was one of the most adaptable science-fiction writers alive, "With Folded Hands..." in Astounding Science Fiction for July, 1947 eliminated that need...it makes for one of the grimmest horror stories as well as one of the landmarks in modern science fiction...The sequel was almost a command performance, and Williamson labored on a novel, "...And Searching Mind"...There were...crudities in the dialogue which made the writing uneven, but it won first place in readers' acclaim for each of three installments...and was published in hardcovers in 1949 by Simon & Schuster as THE HUMANOIDS.

THE WORLD OF A by A.E. van Vogt

KNIGHT: "John W. Campbell has said editorially more than once that THE WORLD OF A is one of those once-in-a-decade classics of science fiction. I offer the alternate judgment that, far from being a "classic" by any reasonable standard, THE WORLD OF A is one of the worst alle gedly-adult science fiction stories ever published...THE WORLD OF A abounds in contradictions, misleading clues and irrelevant action...Some of the loose ends and inconsistencies, I think, are simply examples of carelessness...Examples of bad writing in THE WORLD OF A could be multiplied endlessly. It is my personal opinion that the whole of it is written badly, with only minor exceptions; but this is a purely subjective judgment and is not susceptible of proof." -- Chapter 5, IN SEARCH OF WONDER.

MOSKOWITZ: "...it was with pitiful eagerness that I succumbed to the conservatively styled "raves" of John W. Campbell, Jr...I really wasted my time. For van Vogt is one of the most determined writers I have ever read. He was determined to stretch that yarn out to 100,000 words...SLAN was almost beautifully written compared to the choppy, clipped, careless, sometimes uncoordinated style of "A." ...For van Vogt is constantly losing track of things throughout the novel. He'll introduce some irrelevant variant and the reader will say "Aha! A plant! Van Vogt's going to link this up with something else eventually." But he never does. Never quite seems to get around to it." -- The Fanews, Nov. 5, 1945.

MISFIT by Robert A. Heinlein

KNIGHT: "'Misfit' is, as even I can see, an awkwardly written short story, chiefly notable because it introduces the mathematical genius Libby, who later turns up as one of the supporting players in METHUSELAH." -- Page 78 IN SEARCH OF WONDER.

MOSKOWITZ: "Misfit...has usually been given short shrift...as a minor effort imperfectly told. True enough as far as intrinsic merit is concerned, but with the critical advantage of hindsight, it can be seen to be of great importance as a precursor of Heinlein's method...'" Misfit" is Heinlein's first juvenile. It fits the pattern of the juveniles of Heinlein's post World War II writing career...The gifted boy later becomes an important factor in Heinlein's novel METHUSELAH'S CHILDREN..." -- Pages 193, 194, SEEKERS OF TOMORROW.

THE CAVES OF STEEL by Isaac Asimov

KNIGHT: THE CAVES OF STEEL, then, besides being a delightful thing in itself, seems to me to vindicate Asimov as a writer and myself as a critic...but just as--Moskowitz--Heinlein took the ancient and mishandled idea of the super-parasite and, in THE PUPPET MASTERS, buttressed it with such a mass of brilliantly imaginative detail that it came horrifyingly to life, Asimov has turned a clear, ironic and compassionate eye on every cranny of the City...the story, moreover, turns on murder and detection; it doesn't like so many recent miscegenations, attempt to fuse science-fantasy and the murder mystery simply by jamming them together in one jacket: the larger story, the science fiction story, revolves upon the mystery. The movement is massive, swift and enormously exciting." -- Pages 90, 91, 93, IN SEARCH OF WONDER.

MOSKOWITZ: "The novel, CAVES OF STEEL, put Asimov in a class by himself. No one had previously succeeded so brilliantly in wedding the detective to science fiction and Asimov's carefully thought-out overpopulated metropolises of the future were drawn more with love than with loathing."

MORE THAN HUMAN by Theodore Sturgeon

KNIGHT: "It's a single story that goes from here to there like a catenary arc, and hits one chord like the Last Trump when it gets there, and stops. There's nothing more to be said about it, except that it's the best and only book of its kind." -- Page 115, IN SEARCH OF WONDER.

MOSKOWITZ: "One of the most original productions ever to appear on the theme of extrasensory powers, MORE THAN HUMAN won the International Fantasy Award for 1954..." -- Page 244, SEEKERS OF TOMORROW.

FOR I AM A JEALOUS PEOPLE by Lester del Rey

KNIGHT: "Lester del Rey's FOR I AM A JEALOUS PEOPLE...is novel enough, and del Rey's solution is neat, shocking and sensible. The two together occupy, legitimately, about fifteen pages. The rest is vehicle, almost thirty dismal pages of it, including a pointless escape-and-capture sequence that might have been lifted bodily from any two-bit action novel." -- Page 122, IN SEARCH OF WONDER.

MOSKOWITZ: "Thought the story depends too much on action in conveying its spiritual and philosophical content, the closing lines are memorably sacrilegious" -- Page 184, SEEKERS OF TOMORROW.

VINTAGE SEASON by Lawrence O'Donnell

KNIGHT: "...'Vintage Season' is the hauntingly memorable story from Astounding...The story is rounded whole, complete and perfect in itself, except for a rather awkwardly prolonged ending." -- Page 144, IN SEARCH OF WONDER.

MOSKOWITZ: "It was at Hastings-on-Hudson that what many consider to be C.L.Moore's greatest story and one of the most brilliant stories in modern science fiction was written, "Vintage Season"...The fundamental plot line of this superb story has been copied repeatedly since its first appearance." -- Page 316, SEEKERS OF TOMORROW.

TAKEOFF by Cyril Kornbluth

KNIGHT: "Kornbluth must have been born with a lexicon in his mouth...Brilliant as it

is, there is not an idea or an attitude in TAKEOFF that is original with its author. It is simply the standard material of modern popular fiction, compounded with more skill than most of us can muster." -- Pages 146, 147, IN SEARCH OF WONDER.

MOSKOWITZ: "He was a born talent, displaying an advanced stylistic and storytelling instinct even in his early teens...Cyril Kornbluth, in his other major books TAKEOFF...SYNDIC...and NOT THIS AUGUST...employs overdone, even trite themes for his frameworks, and while he, like the Danes, may serve mashed potatoes with fringed edges, they remain mashed potatoes with no steak in sight." -- Pages 418, 420, SEEKERS OF TOMORROW.

LOOPHOLE by Arthur C. Clarke

KNIGHT: "Loophole" is a trick-ending potboiler exactly like one thousand others that you wish you hadn't read." -- Page 189, IN SEARCH OF WONDER.

MOSKOWITZ: "Loophole"...proved a weak effort..." -- Pages 71, 72, Amazing Stories, February, 1963.

CONSIDER HER WAYS by John Wyndham

KNIGHT: "If the women of the future are happy and secure in their stable, peaceful world, what exactly have they lost, in losing romantic love? The story is beautifully written, fully realized in a way that few s.f. stories have been." -- Page 246, IN SEARCH OF WONDER.

MOSKOWITZ: "Another true masterpiece in the genre is John Wyndham's long novelette "Consider Her Ways"...Every argument...about the positive values of a world with men... counters with matchless logic." -- Pages 123, 124, If, August, 1967.

PRELUDE TO SPACE by Arthur C. Clarke

KNIGHT: "The book is a little pedestrian by the standards we're accustomed to...Its careful verisimilitude, however, is marred only by the inevitable pratfall Clarke takes when he tries to make his hero sound like an American." -- Page 189, IN SEARCH OF WONDER.

MOSKOWITZ: "PRELUDE TO SPACE, an ambling novel of the preparation for the first trip to the moon...The science was good and the motives of the characters involved were effectively portrayed, but the book was too close to the present and has already become outdated." -- Pages 386, 387, SEEKERS OF TOMORROW.

EDGAR PANGBORN (Generally)

KNIGHT: "The style is leisurely and reflective; the mood is one of blended sorrow and delight. The curious thing is that in Pangborn's two subsequent novels, WEST OF THE SUN and A MIRROR FOR OBSERVERS, style and mood are precisely the same...very like the thing that Stapledon was always talking about and never quite managing to convey: the regretful, ironic, sorrowful, deeply joyous--and purblind--love of the world and all in it." -- Pages 198, 199, IN SEARCH OF WONDER.

MOSKOWITZ: "...the author carries on a running commentary concerning mankind and civilization, which, despite its pedestrian pace, proves utterly fascinating. This book, which could not enjoy wide appeal, reads like something written by a leisurely Olaf Stapledon with limited ambitions. It is, nevertheless, extremely rewarding." -- Pages 422, 423, SEEKERS OF TOMORROW.

IT by Theodore Sturgeon

KNIGHT: "But this hits me where I live: 'It crawled out of the darkness and hot damp mold into the cool of a morning. It was huge. It was lumped and crusted with its own hateful substance, and pieces of it dropped off as it went its way, dropped off and lay writhing, and stillied, and sank putrescent into the forest loam.' (IT, by Theodore Sturgeon...) Sturgeon's powerful story, from Unknown, exploits the shuddery old idea of growth in decay--worms in dead meat, flies in dunghills. 'It walked unbreathing through the woods, and thought and saw and was hideous and strong, and it was not born and it did not live. It grew and moved about without living.' ... Here is the myth of anti-life that you see in the visionary paintings of Hieronymus Bosch..." -- Pages 220, 221, IN SEARCH OF WONDER.

MOSKOWITZ: "'It walked in the woods. It was never born. It existed. Under the pine needles the fires burn, deep and smokeless in the mold. In heat and in darkness and

deadly thing it was, but it was not alive. It walked unbreathing through the wood. "It was dead and was hideous and strong, and it was not born and did not live." "It was dead, but it lived without living." — Those were the opening paragraphs of one of the most remarkable stories ever to appear in a science-fiction magazine... The intention of the opening passage set the mood for the introduction of a monstrous life form, "the Thing," and silence coating the skeleton of a dead man that had spontaneously burst forth with life. "It had no mercy, no laughter, no beauty. It had strength, but it had no heart. And where it could not be destroyed..." Authors had created such things, many whose names had become synonymous for terror, but none of them had ever created one with such objectivity or presented with such incredible mastery of style." — Page 250, SERIERS OF TOMORROW.

Ken Hechler has a way I have disagreed with about as often as he has opened his human mouth. — Damon Knight, Page 130, IN SEARCH OF WONDER.

Did you know that Harlan Ellison now has an "Annotated Casey At the Bat"? The man's gone mad.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SF Week, Texas A & M University, April 21-24 - Speaker, Harlan Ellison (all week?) - write to: Aggiecon, P.O. Box 100, College Station, Texas 77840.

Bookone VI, Stephen Hiltz, Boston, March 22, 23 - guest of honor, Jack Gaughan - write to: Leslie Torek, New England Science Fiction Association, P.O. Box G, MIT Branch Sta., Cambridge, Mass. 02139.

Dallascon (Dallas is bidding for the Worldcon in 1973) Write Tom Reamy, 6400 Forest Lane, Dallas, Tex. 75209.

Boston in '71 - (another Worldcon bid) - write Cory Seidman, whose address is somewhere in the fanzine section column.

Chicago is also bidding for the 1973 con; for information write Jerry Lapidus, address in the fanzine section column. And I have heard rumors that Montreal is planning to bid, but nothing definite.

MIDWESTCON, 2012 ANIMAL, North Plaza Motel, 7911 Reading Road, Cincinnati, Ohio - for reservation cards or information write Lou Takakos, 3950 St. Johns Terrace, Cincinnati, Ohio 45236. We're going to make this one; are you?

And of course there is the Worldcon in St. Louis which we also plan to make. (I'll get our membership in just as soon as I get caught up on the fuel bills, honest.)

George H. Willis, 400 Franklin Avenue, Syracuse, New York 13210, is compiling a "bibliography of bibliographies" of imaginative fiction. He is interested in receiving information of all bibliographic material connected with the sf, fantasy, weird, and/or detective/mystery genres. He would prefer identification on 4 x 6 cards, but will accept it any way he can get it. He would prefer (a) identification, (b) description of contents, and (c) an index evaluation of contents, but will accept (a) only if you refuse to go to the trouble of including (b) and (c). (I provided some identifications and said I'd provide the rest if he couldn't get it from anyone else.) Material includes all bibliographies (Dewey Index, MIT Index, etc.), author bibliographies (Graham Hall's Bloch bibliography, the author's work on James Russell Fearn), critical works (IN SEARCH OF WONDER, THE THING AT HAND), author biographies that include some discussion of the author's works (SERIERS OF TOMORROW). These do not need to be professional; fan work is fine. George even accepted my mention of the Sieger Index, which has not even been officially published, existing in only 3 copies. This is not being done for fandom, but as a library project, so presumably it will be completed and probably published, although George says he intends to keep revising it after initial publication to keep it up to date.

May your files never get rusty.

STRANGE FANZINE

LOCUS #10 thru 19 (Charlie Brown, 2078 Anthony Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10457 - biweekly or oftener - 6 for \$1.00) The most frequent (yes!) sf newsletter, with the doings of fans, pros, writers, artists, publishers, convention committees, and so on. Rating...7

OSFAN #41 thru 44 (Hank Luttrell, The Basement, 1108 Locust St., Columbia, Mo. 63122 - monthly - 15¢) Another newsletter; some duplication of news with LOCUS, of course, but also supplementary material. It's worth getting both of them. Rating...6

DEGLER! #232, 233, 234 (Andy Porter, 55 Pineapple St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201 - irregular - 8 for \$1.00) Another newsletter, this one resurrected from the hallowed halls of folded fanzines. Rating...4

PENNONCEL 5 (Marion Breen, 2 Swaim Ave., Staten Island, N.Y. 10312 - irregular? - no price listed) The Official Organ of the East Coast chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism - or, in simple language, tournament fans. If you like to engage in jousting instead of merely reading about it, this might be for you.

NEOSFS NEWSLETTER #1, 2, 3 (Bill Mallardi, 2345 Newton St., Akron, Ohio 44305 - monthly - Official publication of the Northeastern Ohio sf club. Primarily local news; if you live in the area, get in touch with them.

IMPRESSIONEN Vol. 3#4 (Hans-Werner Heinrichs, 129 Frankfurter Str., 6079 Spandlingen, West Germany - no price or schedule - co-editor, Harald Fischer) Fan and pro news of Germany. Not a lot to this issue, but what's there is interesting enough.

EGOBOO #5 (John D. Berry, Mayfield House, Stanford, California 94305 - irregular - 3 issues for six 6¢ stamps - co-editor, Ted White) Personal-zine, with the emphasis on Fandom - the importance of, comments on historic fanzines, the question as to who "runs" fandom, etc. All very fascinating if that's the sort of thing you're interested in. (I guess I must be one of the people who runs fandom, because sure as hell nobody in fandom runs me.)

GREEN DRAGON #5 (Tolkien Society of America, Belknap College, Center Harbor, N.H. 03226 - irregular? - 10¢) A guide to the inhoobited regions.

ACUSFOOS #1 (Richard Labonte, 971 Walkley Road, Ottawa 8, Ont. Canada - monthly - 15¢ - co-editor, Earl Schultz) Newsletter of the Carleton University club. This is the November issue; either they didn't make the monthly publication or they decided I was deadwood.

NEWFANGLES #14 (Don & Maggie Thompson, 8786 Hendricks Road, Mentor, Ohio 44060 - monthly - 10¢) A newsletter for comics fans plus, this issue, the comments of a panel of critics on the current comics field. I'm still not sure that comics fans will be able to make the change from reading those little balloons to anything this literate.

MERETRICHIOUS (SHANGRI L'AFFAIRES staff) The annual Christmas artwork and a 1969 calendar. Can't imagine them saving any back, considering the seasonal approach, so this is more acknowledgement than review. Christmas art ranged from outstanding to pretty bad (but mostly good); calendar art was good but not always my idea of Tolkien.

MONSTROSITIES #2 (Doug Smith, 302 Murray Lane, Richardson, Texas 75080 - irregular - 35¢) 76 pages plus covers, devoted to monstros, sf movies, and some little about sf books. About average for that field. Note to ~~monstros~~ I will not trade you YANDRO for this.

Originally I specified in private letters whether or not I would trade. However, these seem to have caused some confusion, so ~~for~~ ~~and~~ when I get a new fanzine, I will specify in the review whether I am willing to trade or not. (Non-willingness does not signify a deficiency in the other fanzines; often, as in this case, it simply means the other's subject matter is not that in which I ~~have~~ ~~any~~ ~~particular~~ interest. I am not a monsterfan)

COMIC ART (Don & Maggie Thompson, address previously - irregular (now there is an understatement) - 75¢ this issue, 50¢ future issues) This is #7. 73 pages plus covers. There may be other good comic fanzines, but this is the only one I ever get to see. This issue seems mainly devoted to the works of Carl Barks. (I'd never heard of him, either, before receiving the issue.) If you have any interest in comics - books, strips, tv cartoons or whatever - you should get this.

Rating....8

Have 3 issues of PRAMSTON here, but I'm not sure Gary wanted it reviewed. Did you, Gary? FANTASY NEWS (Harry Wasserman, 7611 N. Regent Rd., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53217 - 35¢ - irregular) 60 pages, on movies and a long and apparently good article on CASTLE OF FRANKENSTEIN magazine, complete with index. Are all movie magazines giant size? I would personally rate this higher than MONSTROSIIES, but I am not an expert on movie-fanzines.

THE UNDERGROUND. Vol. XI #3, 4 (Wayne Finch, 616 North 73rd. St., East St. Louis, Illinois 62203 - quarterly - 50¢) I think I'm safe in saying that this is absolutely the best speleological fanzine I've ever encountered. Big one, too; close to 100 pages per issue. East St. Louis? Oh yes; that's where that newspaper account said 75% of the public school teachers had to carry guns to protect them from the students. Maybe the cavers are just getting out of the way of the rest of the population?

MOJO ENTMOOTER #1 (Greg Shaw, 64 Taylor Drive, Fairfax, Calif. 94930 - irregular - 25¢) Emphasis will be on music - rock, soul, etc. - but other material will be published if received and if the editor likes it. Good reproduction. Editor says he is paying small amounts for material. No trades; not my area of interest.

NOPE #8 (Jay Kinney, Baldwin-Wallace College Union, Box 1317, Berea, Ohio 44017 - irregular - no price listed) Small, personal-type zine. Comments on pop music, art, politics. Recommended to faanish types. Not to my type, though.

ACELDAMA #2 thru 12 (John McCallum, Ralston, Alberta, Canada - frequent - \$1 for all issues) A postal Diplomacy mag.

BROBDINGNAG #89, 90, 92 (Eduard Hille, Box 903, Gainesville, Fla. 32601 - irregular? 15¢) Issues 89 and 90 published by McCallum. Another postal Diplomacy mag. If you're interested, talk to McCallum or Hille, not me.

HYPERMODERN #4 (Allan B. Calhamer, Avenida Mirabal #8, Santiago, Republica Dominicana - irregular - five for \$5.00) You know, every so often I run across the comment in Diplomacy mags that "Diplomacy was invented by Allan B. Calhamer" and I never before made any connection. (Maybe because I don't pay all that much attention to Diplomacy mags.) Is this the very same Allan B. Calhamer who...? This issue covers such items as birth control - he's against it, using all the hoary old traditional arguments - psychiatrists - he's against them, too, with somewhat more reason - work and crime, development of poor countries, chess, and the right to strike. Interesting enough, but I still think that 22 pages for \$1. is vastly overpriced.

EXPLODINGMADONNA 5 (John Foyster, 12 Glengariff Dr. Mulgrave, Victoria, 3170, Australia - quarterly - no price listed) Letterzine, main item being a long letter from Samuel Delany. Small fanzine. Rating..5

NEW MILLENNIAL HARBLINGER #2 (John Bangsund, 1/166 Glen Eira Road, Elsternwick, Victoria 3185, Australia - no price or schedule) Apa publication; one article, letters, mailing comments.

LOOSE ENDS #1 (Ed Savage, 906 Pacific St., Bakersfield, Calif. 93305 - irregular? - 15¢ plus 6¢ stamp) A small lithographed comics fanzine.

THE ROBERT E. HOWARD FANTASY BIBLIO (Mike Deckinger, Apt. 12-J, 25 Manor Drive, Newark, New Jersey 07106 - 50¢ - coeditor Bob Weinsberg. Self-explanatory, I trust? Seems well done.



THE LEGAL RULES (Jerry Laping, 54 Clearview Drive, Pittsford, N.Y. 14534 - 10¢) The complete Hugo Award rules, with latest changes. They look very neat and official when printed out like this. Actually, of course, the Convention Committee handles the awards and no Convention Committee is bound by any rules adopted by its predecessor. The Hugo regulations, in particular, are freely disregarded, and are only invoked by the Committee in order to keep mere fans from usurping the Committee's prerogative to disregard them. Except for the opening this gives some Committee members for hypocrisy, this is probably a good thing. The part of fandom which believes in Organization and Rules is earnestly striving - with the very best of intentions, of course - to make the Hugo as prestigious and essentially meaningless as the Oscar and the Emmy. (You didn't really think the receivers of those were the Best of the Year, did you?) They have succeeded, to some extent, by proliferating the categories, but as long as each Con Committee is free to run things its own way they may not be able to deprive the Hugo of all interest for a good many years. (They will succeed in the end, of course; if fandom lasts, it will become Big Fandom, as empty of concern for the individual as Big Business or Big Government, and the Hugo will succumb to those who have already stated that it is too valuable in a monetary sense to be awarded by the whims of mere fans. But maybe we can delay the process.)

SCIENCE FICTION PUBLISHED IN 1968 (Joanne Burger, 55 Blue Bonnet Court, Lake Jackson, Texas 77566 - ~~35¢~~ cash or 30¢ in stamps) Just what the title says; 50 pages of index by author, by story title, and by category. A must for the bibliographic fan.

DECEMBER 27TH, 1968 (Beryl Mercer, 10 Lower Church Lane, St. Michaels, Bristol BS2 8BA, Great Britain) Dunno if any are left; it's a tribute to the US moon-shot and a defense of space-travel. It even got a letter of comment out of Juanita, who never writes letters of comment. Recommended, if you can get one.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FANTASY ART EXHIBITION BULLETIN #3 (Bjo Trimble, 417 No. Kenmore Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90004 - irregular - no price listed) This chronicles the re-organization of the Fan Art Shows, and lists the sales and prizewinners at the Funcon and Worldcon. All fan artists should ask about this; it's a way to get - hopefully - trophies and cash for your work.

ASTERISK #5 (Louis Morra, 14 Grove St, No. Attleboro, Mass. 02760 - no price or schedule listed) He mentions "stamps" but doesn't say how many. A small letterzine, with, this issue at least, people vehemently uttering generalizations. No trades.

TINTINNABULATIONS 12/1/68 (Donald E. Cochran, 151 Valley, Jackson, Miss. 39209) A two-pager, saying that the editor's mag, DECAL, will be out soon, and reporting a little news.

MOMENT MAL (Hans-Werner Heinrichs, address previously) A German newsletter, printed in German. Couldn't say what it contains.

EN GARDE SUPPLEMENT #5 (Dick Schultz, 19159 Helen, Detroit, Mich. 48234 - 15¢) A small mag with late news of the "Avengers" and a promise that issue #6 of the huge mag will be out in good time.

DOL CIRITH UNGOL #3 (You don't want a review, do you George?)

TROAT #4, 5, 6, 7 (Lynn Hickman, 413 Ottokie St., Wauseon, Ohio 43567 - sent to people he wants to receive it) Mostly edis and ends of personal news and jokes of various types and quality. If you can convince Lynn that he wants you to receive it....?

TRANSATLANTIC TRADER (Niels Augustin, Jac. Veltmanstr. 30, Postbox 9080, Amsterdam W3, Netherlands) This time Niels is selling European comics and sex mags, movie posters,etc. Nothing that interested me, which is just as well. Usually his lists contain something I want, and he always sends them when I'm short of cash. Except for this sadistic streak, being on his mailing list is a good thing.



THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN Vol.2#4 - This is the official publication of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, a nation-wide fan club. For dues and information, write Janie Lamb, Route 1, Box 304, Heiskell, Tennessee. The club includes some useful functions - Information Bureau, Collectors' Bureau, Games Bureau (if you like games that well) - some remarkably strong and interesting fanart, and ... but I never put a lot of point to one way or the other (Mail Dept Bureau, Correspondence Bureau), and lots more besides the ones I mentioned.

PALANTIRI #12 (Mike Zimmerman, 1753 Rossmore Rd., Highland Park, Ill. 60035 - irregular - 30¢) Primary interest in art, with some comment on swordplay and tv. Well, they sort of go together. Lithographed, which shows up the atrocious artwork to great disadvantage. Written material seems about average. Unrated, due to comics slant. (No trade.)

WSFA JOURNAL #0 thru 63 (Don Miller, 12315 Judson Road, Wheaton, Md., 20906 - monthly - 3 for \$1.00) This started out as a club newsletter, and has developed into one of the best general-type fanzines around. All sorts of reviews, news, articles - a couple of them by Thomas Burnett Swann - letters, etc. Exceptionally good fanzine and book reviews. Tell you what, Don: If this issue of WSFA is lithographed, then I'll trade you when your current sub runs out. (If we have to go back to mimeo, I may just scrap all my trades.)

Rating...8

INSIDE STAR TREK #3, 4, 5 (Inside Star Trek, 1023 North La Brea, Los Angeles, Calif. 90038 - bimonthly? - \$3 per year, I think - editor, Ruth Berman) A semi-official publication, with news of the show, biographies of the cast, etc. Definitely worthwhile for ST fans.

BESTELGUESE #1, 2 (Kevin Erwin, 604 No. Van Buren St., Fowler, Ind. 47944 - bimonthly - 25¢) A dittoed fanzine devoted almost entirely to artwork. The second issue seems to have pretty good work, although not much of it is a style I care for.

Rating...3

TOMORROW AND... #3 (Jerry Lapidus, 54 Clearview Drive, Pittsford, New York 14534 - quarterly - 50¢) 40-plus pages of lithographing. Material seems average or above; Mike Bradley in particular is a good writer. (He's also co-editor; forgot that.)

Rating...5

FLIP #2 (Ed Smith, 1315 Lexington Ave., Charlotte, N.C. 28203 - quarterly - 35¢) General-type fanzine; about average. (Sorry about all these one-sentence reviews, but you should see the stack I'm trying to cover.)

Rating...5

WRR Vol.4#2 (Box 267, 507 3rd. Ave., Seattle, Washington 98104 - irregular - free for comment - Wally Weber and Bill Pfeifer, editors) One of the better humor mags of the past has returned. I wouldn't say they were quite in their stride yet - but then, with WRR, it's hard to tell just what the stride is. This issue is funny, anyway.

Rating...5

QUARK #8 (Lesleigh and Chris Couch, Route 2, Box 889, Louisville, Ky. 40210 - quarterly - free for a show of interest) And since you get over 100 pages, it's definitely a bargain. However, I did find some difficulty in reading this issue. An article on electronic music in rock and a con report? Bah. Aimed more at younger fans, I guess - intelligent younger fans.

Rating...7

QUIP #10 (Arnie Katz, Apartment 3-J, 55 Pineapple St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201 - bimonthly - 50¢ but he'd prefer contributions or trades) The current king of "fanish" fanzines, with emphasis almost solely on fandom, fans, and so on. A large number of fans seem to feel that it's one of the two or three best fanzines being published. (I'm not among them; in fact, I'm not sure why I got this issue because I sent Arnie a postcard after the last one saying I wasn't trading with him any more. Presumably an error on Arnie's part; God knows I've made enough foulups in my files lately, so I shouldn't complain.) Anyway, if you think fandom itself is wonderful and important, you'll undoubtedly love QUIP. If not - well, you might like it anyway.

(No rating because of obvious bias)

BEACHEMA #2 (Frank Lunney, 212 Juniper St., Quakertown, Pa. 18951 - irregular - 40¢ - coeditor, Bill Korn) General-type fanzine, notable this time for an article by Robert Bloch giving some background on "Journey To The Unknown". (Nice man; too bad it was such a lousy show.) Other material average or maybe a shade below.

Rating..4

LE ZOMBIE #66 (Bob Tucker, Box 506, Heyworth, Illinois 61745 - irregular - no price listed) Talk about old fashions taking a comeback... This one was made for me by the first

question in the "quiz" ("Which one of the following is Ted White's most loyal satellite?" followed by such names as Leroy Tanner, P.A.M. Terry, Brian Aldiss, Sam Moskowitz, Kay Anderson...) Next issue he can do the same thing for me, listing John Boardman, Vera Heminger, Felice Rolfe, Harlan Ellison, D. Bruce Berry, Ray Beam, Redd Boggs.... I do believe Ted has a higher quality coterie, however. Anyway, it's a great fanzine and you might inquire about one; he might have one left in the bottom of the birdcage or someplace. Rating...?

TANSTAAFL #6, 7 (John Godwin, 2426 Belvedere Drive, Wilmington, No. Carolina - irregular - 25¢) Future issues may be very irregular, since John is now in the Navy. (He'd like to meet any fans in the Orlando, Fla., area, if possible.) He's planning on continued publication, however. Fairly average, general type material. Rating.... $\frac{4}{2}$

ZINE-OPHOBIA #2 (John S. Hatch, 12 Pine Road, Glens Falls, N.Y. 12801 - irregular - coeditor, Kevin Maul) Huge lettercol, editorials, some material on "Star Trek" and other visual stf. Well enough done but, except for the lettercolumn, not a lot of it. (But then, how much do you expect for 10¢?) Rating...3

DOUBLE BILL #18 (Bill Mallardi and Bill Bowers, address previously - quarterly - 50¢) One of the best of the general type mags. Material is mostly devoted to science fiction, and mostly written by people who know what they are talking about. But there is variety - both in subject matter and quality. Rating.....7

DYNATRON #37, 38 (Roy Tackett, 915 Green Valley Road NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107 - quarterly - 25¢) I wondered why I had this impression that recent issues had been rather poor; I guess it's because large amounts of them have been taken up with con reports, which I don't read, and therefore there isn't much left for me to enjoy. Roy's own comments are great, and usually I find the entire issue interesting. Not these, though. Rating.....5

HOLLAND-SF Vol.2#4 (Leo Kindt, Heilostraat 206, 's-Gravenhage 9, Nederland - bimonthly? - 30¢ - only international money orders or international postal reply coupons accepted - trades preferred) I also have issue #3, I see. Printed in Dutch, but with an "English Summary" enclosed. Valuable primarily to people who want to know what European fandom is doing.

THE MENTOR #12 (Ron Clarke, 78 Redgrave Road, Normanhurst, N.S.W. 2076, Australia - 25¢ - monthly?) Primarily devoted to fan fiction, but with other types of material also presented. Rating...4

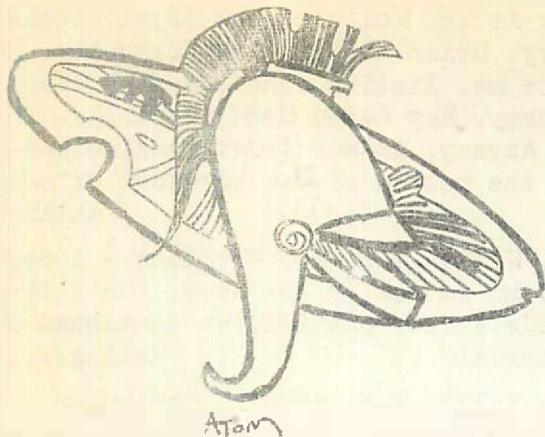
CHEAP THRILLS #3 (Fred Haskell, 4370 Brookside Court, Apt. 206, Edina, Minnesota 55436 - final issue - 50¢) A little too much fiction for my taste, but some good material, and excellent reproduction and art. He says he has lots of copies left, even though there won't be any more.

SCOTTISHE #49 (Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Ave., Surbiton, Surrey, United Kingdom - USAgent, Redd Boggs, Box 1111, Berkeley, Calif. 94701 - 4 for \$1.00 - bimonthly) One of my favorite fanzines, though this issue has too much of other people and not enough of Ethel, it's still good. (I'm sure Ethel will love my suggestion that she do more personal writing for the mag....) Material can and usually does cover anything the editor is interested in, which is the way to run a fanzine. Rating.....8

HAVERINGS #35 (Ethel Lindsay, address and agent previously - 6 for \$1.00) Devoted entirely to fanzine reviews - and these are the best ones you can get.

WHAT ABOUT US GRILS? #1 (Joyce Fisher, 4404 Forest Park, St. Louis, Mo. 63108 - irregular - 40¢ - coeds, Sue Robinson and Pam Janisch) I guess the time was ripe for another all-female fanzine (though I never quite saw the point; I don't know of any ostentatiously all-male fanzines, and there are plenty of femme editors around. However, the opening issue is pleasant enough, dealing with stf but not overly serious about it. Rating... $\frac{3}{2}$

PEGASUS #3 (Joanne Burger, 55 Blue Bonnet Court, Lake Jackson, Texas 77566 - no price or schedule) Fifty pages, dealing mostly with stf books, but with some other material. Quite well done; recommended to anyone interested in the subject matter. Rating....5



HECKMECK #20 (Manfred Kage, Schaesberg(Limburg), Achter de Winkel 41, Netherlands - coeditor, Mario Kwiat - free for comment) This has the intention of publicizing European fandom for the English-speaking fan world (and vice versa). Articles on stf in Germany and Romania, an international list of fans, etc. The English isn't too good, but it's much better than my German. This issue also has an excellent art-folio. Rating...6

AMPHIPOXI (Billy says this was the final issue so I won't review it. But it was a good fanzine.)

STARLING #13 (Hank Luttrell, 2936 Barrett Station Rd., Kirkwood, Mo. 63122 - irregular - 25¢ except for this issue which is 50¢ - coeditor, Lesleigh Couch) This

is Hank's 100th. fanzine, and is one of the huge 70-page things that St. Louis fandom turns out these days. This contains everything; an article on the morality of the draft, a column about rock music, stf book reviews, a poetry section, fiction, cartoons, fan history, letters...you name it. Everything well done, too. Rating...8

SANDWICH #6 (Bob Vardeman, P.O. Box 11352, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112 - quarterly - 20¢ - no subs over 20¢ accepted) Nice man; he put the con report in a separate section. Humor, reviews, and letters, the latter including Harlan and his pedigreed bull. Rating...7

ICENI #1 (Bob Roehm, 316 E. Maple St., Jeffersonville, Ind. 47130 - bimonthly - 25¢) Verse, fiction, reviews, con report, letters. Rating...3½

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #28 (Richard E. Geis, P.O. Box 3116, Santa Monica, Calif. 90403 - bimonthly - 50¢) This issue has gone offset and digest size, but I don't see much change in material; still mostly but not entirely concerned with serious science fiction, still smoothly written, still nothing that I can become overly interested in. Nice to read, but no feeling of involvement (though I seem to be in the minority again, there.) Rating...7

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #17 (John Bangsund, address previously - irregular - 40¢) Dedicated entirely to serious comments on stf, and this issue devoted almost entirely to "2001". Also digest size, but mimeographed. Rating...7

PELF #5 (Dave Hulan, 1005 Mt. Olive Drive, #10, Duarte, Calif. 91010 - free for comment - coeditor, Dave Locke) Sort of quiet humor, mostly intentional (I'm not sure about Boardman's comment that some of his best friends are southerners). Rating...6

PROPER BOSKONIAN #3 (Cory Seidman, 20 Ware St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138 - 35¢ - irregular) Humor-fannishness, including an article on a personal trip to Andorra. Not bad, either, but John Sack pretty well killed anyone else's attempt to describe Andorra. (If you haven't read REPORT FROM PRACTICALLY NOWHERE, do so.) Rating..5½

GRANFALLOON #5 (Linda Eyster & Suzanne Tompkins, Apt. 103, 4921 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213 - bimonthly - 50¢) From that price, I gather they would rather have trades, or letters. Variety. Verse, fiction, humor, fannishness, reviews, letters. Rating..5

FOOLSGAP #6 (John D. Berry, address previously - irregular - for trade or comment only) A fannish mag, with resemblances to QUIP (general resemblance only; Katz and Berry have individual approaches to their subjects). A variety of authors; I thought for a minute he'd even dragged Raeburn away from his alligator, but I see it's a reprint. I didn't rate QUIP, so I won't rate this; I enjoyed it more than I do most fannish mags, but then that might not be a compliment.

DAVID MALONE'S SCIENCE FICTION FANZINE #1 (David T. Malone, Bacon Road, Roxbury, Conn. 06783 - 30¢ - quarterly?) Humor, Leo Kelley explains the origins of his novel ODYSSEY TO EARTHDEATH, verse? The material isn't as original as the editor seems to think it is, but it's not a bad start. And I do like the title. (No trade, though.) Rating..2½

RATAPLAN 2 (Leigh Edmonds and Diane Bangsund, Flat 1, 166 Glen Eira Road, Elsternwick, Victoria 3185, Australia - 30¢ - monthly - coeditor, Bernie Berhnouse) A general-type fanzine; variety of content emphasized. Well done, Rating..5

A BLEEDING ROSE #4 (Michael Barnes, 1716 Summerlane S.E., Decatur, Alabama 35601 - 35¢ - no schedule listed) At least, this issue isn't all bad verse; there is also bad fiction and an overdramatized editorial. No, I will not trade. Rating...1

YORIC #1 (Ted Tom, 3154 S.E. Salmon, Portland, Oregon 97214 - irregular - 25¢) Somewhat more interesting than the above, though first-issue problems occur (Mainly a paucity of material which is remedied by including a college paper...I think I'd have preferred a smaller issue.) I predict rapid improvement if he keeps going at all. Rating...2

SYNCOM #3 (Jeff Evans, 11290 SW 43 Lane, Miami, Fla. 33165 - no price or schedule listed - or address, either, if you should carelessly dispose of the mailing wrapper) I do not guarantee to keep mailing wrappers, envelopes, or special inserts; if you want your address known, put it in the body of the mag somewhere. Material is well enough presented, but there just isn't much there. Rating...1½

The editor requests that anyone knowing of fanac "in or around Houston" please contact Fran Burch, 4607 Valerie St., Belaire, Texas 77401. Poor girl just moved and is apparently lonesome for the sight of a sensitive fannish face.

ID #2, 3 (James Reuss, 304 South Belt West, Belleville, Illinois 62221 - quarterly - 50¢) Very nice silkscreen covers; artwork in general is excellent. Wide variety in written material; quality seems average or above. More on rock music than I personally care for, but what the hell. (Fanzines used to have articles on jazz and I ignored them; now they have articles on rock and I ignore them. I believe in equality in musical appreciation.) A general purpose fanzine for general purpose fans. Rating...5

NOLAZINE #8 (Donald Markstein, 2232 Wirth Place, New Orleans, La. 70115 - 50¢; I guess you send your money to John H. Guidry, 5 Finch St., New Orleans, 70124 - and Patrick Adkins is listed as editor) The official organ of the New Orleans group. General type. I don't know; they seem to be nice people and they aren't too terribly serious, but I just can't seem to acquire much interest in their activities. Rating...4

SENCJ #2 (Harold Ragle, 188 Parkside Terrace, Auburn, Cal. 94040 - no price or schedule listed) Lithographed, very nice artwork, and I know Mike usually puts out a good fanzine. But this time the print was so small that I didn't feel like reading it, so I didn't. Recommended to any fans with good eyesight.

L'ANGE JACQUE #2 (Ed Reed, 668 Westover Rd, Stamford, Connecticut 06902 - quarterly - 35¢) Verse, fiction, philosophy (?) and letters. I liked the letters best, which I suppose makes me a lowbrow. Material isn't bad, just lacks the sparkle that the top fanzines have.

IT AIN'T ME BABE #2 (sent as a rider with L'ANGE JACQUE, but available separately for 10¢) Mostly editorial comments, with letters. Largely on politics (and after he puts down KIPPLE because it is political and therefore mundane, too), but with some stf material.

Rating (for both the above titles, judged as one fanzine5

Are fanzine reviews really necessary?

Changes of Address:

Rick Brooks, P.O. Box 5465, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

James Sieger, Route 1, Sullivan, Wisconsin 53178

Claude Saxon, 658 Alabama #4, Memphis, Tenn. 38105

George Wells, 408 Euclid Ave., Syracuse, New York 13210

Pvt. Hank Davis, US53759825, E Co 3rd Bn Stu Bde Fort

Gordon, Georgia 30905

John S. Hatch, 12 Pine Road, South Glens Falls, N.Y. 12801

Daniel Carr, 424 Greene House East Quad Ann Arbor Mich 48104



TECHNICAL & COST PROPOSAL

1. GENERAL

A detailed reference to the large number of programs which we have mismanaged would be beyond the scope of this proposal; see report of Congressional Investigating Committee, H.R. 2, attached. We feel, however, that the experience gained from these miserable failures will put us in a strong competitive position, since it is unlikely that these mistakes will be repeated. Our competitors may have a greater number of failures, but we would like to point out that our errors have been made on larger and more important projects. Furthermore, we have absolutely no experience in the specialty areas required in this design and will, therefore, approach the problems without pre-judice.

2. ORGANIZATION

We have reviewed this question carefully and find that we are unable to determine the precise instant of time at which the customer desires to see it. We have investigated the use of movie cameras and magnetic records as a means for presenting a changing organization, but we feel that these do not meet the requirements. We, therefore, request that the customer specify the moment desired. We suggest a time during the interval from 0200 to 0700 on a Sunday would be best, as experience has shown that the rate of change is at a minimum during this period.

We have found on recent proposals that our key personnel received offers from one of our competitors a few days after the submission of a list of personnel. Since there seems to be evidence of a security leak in the customer's organization, we respectfully request that a need-to-know be established before this information be supplied.

3. TECHNICAL APPROACH

Our plan for this project is to hire engineers from the companies which lose the competition. Our technical approach will, therefore, be determined by these people and can be obtained from competitor's proposals. We do have a few guiding principles. We have found that on a project of this nature about 12-18 months are required to catch up with the art. This time is spent in visiting various colleges, universities, and test sites, and in reading classified reports and Aviation Week. This period is followed by a six month study phase. At the end of this time it is usually desirable to start traveling again because of the extremely rapid changes that take place in the State Of The Art.

4. SCHEDULE:

In order to improve the appearance of our proposal, the Drafting Department has made up a seven-color schedule using stereoscopic plexiglas overlays. The dates in this schedule represent a weighted average between the estimates of the Research and Sales Divisions. (They are the Sales Division's figures.) In any event, company practice is to terminate a project when the personnel are needed on a new and more profitable contract.

5. SUBCONTRACTS:

It is a firm company policy to never let a dollar get out of the house.

6. COST INFORMATION:

Engineering: we do not plan to spend much here. We have found that engineers make changes, and this reduces profit.

Facilities: this is a large item. We view this contract as an excellent opportunity to build up our plant.

Testing: no change has been put in since we do not plan to test. In the past, test programs have shown up faults and caused cancellation of contracts years before the mistakes would have been discovered in the field.

Entertainment: this item was inadvertently omitted from the request for proposal; we have added it.

7. CONTRACT FORMS AND PROFITS:

An exhaustive study will be made during the first six months of the contract to consider these factors. All of the modern techniques of operational analysis, game theory, and high-speed computing will be applied to the problem of profit optimization. Key points in this study will be legal loopholes, tax dodges, and evasively written clauses. It is expected that several nationally known consultants will be retained for this work due to the over-riding importance of the problem.

8. PHYSICAL RESOURCES:

An excellent survey of our physical facilities is contained in the Receiver's report prepared during our most recent bankruptcy proceedings. A copy is appended.

9. ADDITIONAL FACILITIES REQUIRED:

It is our belief that an important project such as this should not be carried out in our shabby plant. We plan to use government facilities exclusively. We would like to point out that several directors of the company have excellent property which they would be willing to sell to the government for the erection of these facilities.

10. DOCUMENTATION:

If the contracting officer of the cognizant agency cannot supply you with additional copies of this form, contact the same source used to acquire this copy.
Form No. ISPYU2

"I want a decrease of entropy of this country! I want real problems.... I'm voting for Wallace...." (John W. Campbell, Analog, Nov. 1968)

You have to hand it to the man; right away he connected his desire for real problems with the quickest way to get them. RSC

ANNOUNCEMENT: Part of the 1969 MLA Convention (Modern Language Association, I guess), will be a Science Fiction Conference. Topic for discussion will be STAND ON ZANZIBAR, by Brunner. Chairman Dale Mullen says: "In my opinion STAND ON ZANZIBAR is the most important work to come out of the science-fiction ghetto since it first formed itself in the years following 1926." (information supplied by Brunner)

I gotta read that book one of these days. RSC

NOTICE: The "Technical Proposal" reprinted in this issue was discovered by your friendly editor (or your unfriendly editor, as the case may be) floating around the premises of Honeywell, Inc. several years ago. Original author unknown. (I don't think it was official Honeywell policy, but....) RSC

Bob Briney, 233 Lafayette St., Apt #2, Salem, Mass., 01970

Kay Anderson's article in YI84 brings to mind some more comments about the Claremont. The "dragonesse" in charge of the passenger elevator was affectionately christened "Veda the Beast." She was continually muttering insulting-sounding comments under her breath, but I heard only one report of her speaking out loud. When someone held the door of the elevator to keep it from chomping shut on another person's arm (it would never have occurred to Veda to do this), her anguished shriek of "Don't--touch--my--door!" was heard all the way out in the parking lot.

I feel impelled to defend the Claremont's restaurants, since apparently I had better luck with them than others did. The main restaurant was the Garden Room, which offered an excellent buffet @ \$3.75; presumably one could also order from the menu, but I didn't see anyone do so--it was too easy to gorge oneself at the buffet. On Sunday forenoon there was a buffet-style champagne breakfast; I was lucky enough to get there when the buffet dishes were fresh and hot, but I heard that others were not so fortunate. Of course, the restaurant was understaffed, as was the whole hotel--but how many years ago was it that a convention was held in a hotel which was not understaffed at Labor Day?

As for the Prime Rib Room, it was open during the evening dinner hours on most days, and offered two choices: prime rib or steak. The latter was broiled right at the table, to specification, and was delicious. The tab was closer to \$6.50 than \$4.50, but the meal was worth it.

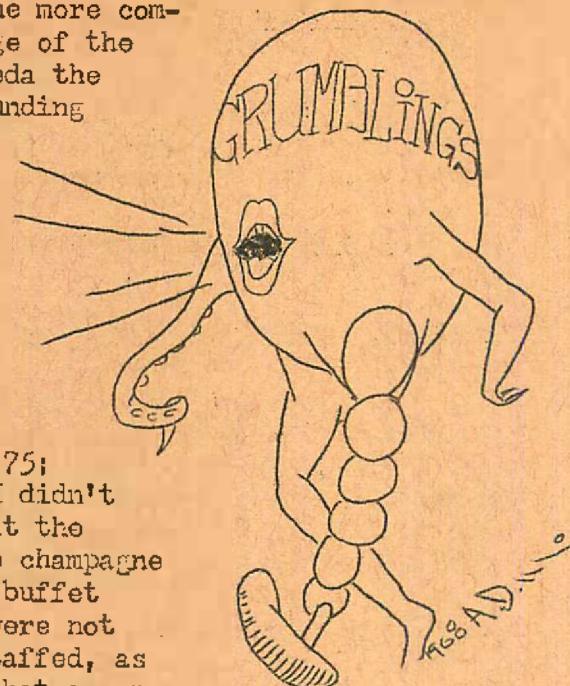
The "soda fountain" was another matter. It was supposed to be an old-timey ice cream parlor, and might have been OK on less busy occasions. But it was a one-family operation (not run by the Claremont--the space was merely leased by the hotel), and apparently a small and mentally deficient family at that--where else would a waitress come up to a party of six seated at a table, take one person's order and go away again--come back fifteen minutes later with that person's food and take a second person's order, then go away again--etc.?

On a recent visit to Boston I found an interesting book on the remainder table in my favorite book store: THE EGYPTOLOGISTS by Kingsley Amis and Robert Conquest. A mildly comic "comic novel", but interesting because of the frequent references to sf and related topics. There was even a character known as Professor Asimov, who lectured on Egyptology in a thick middle-European accent and who "published very little, out of modesty."

On the same visit, I took a subway out to the suburbs to see BARBARELLA. (All the down-town theaters are occupied by big reserved-seat flicks.) The movie began auspiciously, with a spacesuit-to-skin striptease by Barbarella in her fur-lined spaceship... After that, there were only occasional high-spots--fine characterizations by Marcel Marceau and David Hemmings, and a few good special effects, and many far-out costumes. But the whole thing was overblown and carelessly done, and some of the sets were rickety and cheap-looking. After all the build-up, it was a rather disappointing movie.

On the "Chief Joseph" stamp: all the advance publicity, especially the official POD releases, carefully omits mention of the fact that the portrait used on the stamp was painted during Joseph's captivity at Fort Leavenworth, where the surviving Nez Perces were sent after the government broke its promise to send them to a reservation in Idaho. All six of Joseph's children died of various diseases caused by the inhuman food and sanitation conditions at the Fort.

I finally got around to taking Maggie Thompson's advice about Lloyd Alexander's "Prydain" books. But I made a grave error--I didn't buy all five of them at the same time, but only the first three. So, having gone through THE BOOK OF THREE, THE BLACK CAULDRON and THE CASTLE OF LLYR on two successive evenings, I must now wait impatiently until the



other two books arrive...

Have finally seen the revived Spaceways...ugh! Quite the worst thing in sf since--well, since the last Spaceways.

News item which I found in a recent paper:

WELLINGTON, ENGLAND(UPI)--A local businessman received a letter yesterday with a note on the envelope from the post office saying, "stamp eaten by snails."

"I knew the mail delivery was slowing down," he said, "but I didn't think the snails would catch up with it."

Recommended book: Janet Caird's PERTURBING SPIRIT(ACE). Although published as a "Gothic", it is nothing of the sort. (If you liked Leslie Whitten's PROGENY OF THE ADDER, you might like this one--a much lighter touch, and not humorless like Whitten, but similar in many ways.) Now I am looking for her earlier book, IN A GLASS DARKLY, which I haven't been able to find yet.

The trip to New Orleans was enjoyable, though I wasn't overly impressed with the city itself. You'd think that after all these years of hosting Mardi Gras crowds and other conventions, the hotels and restaurants would be organized to handle large crowds with at least a little efficiency. Not so. Of course, I'll admit that the thought of 5,000 mathematicians descending on the city all at once might be a little daunting... But did the headquarters hotel have to have two of its three elevators out of service, its coffee shop understaffed(as well as being closed during the periods when most people had no meetings scheduled), and all the door handles removed from the outsides of the lobby doors (the only way to get in was to pound on the glass until someone inside came and opened the door) ?? Foo.

I did enjoy an evening's stroll through the Vieux Carre. (A companion remarked that there was one sure way to tell the visiting mathematicians from the natives--the mathematicians were the ones with the beards and long hair...) That section of town had probably the highest proportion of hookers per square foot of any place I've ever been--you couldn't walk ten feet without being propositioned. It was a shame that most of the women were so ugly... the two most attractive females that we saw all evening turned out to be a couple of fellows in drag.

Glad to know it isn't just sf cons that get bad hotel service. RSC/

Wayne Finch, 616 North 73rd Street, East St. Louis, Illinois, 62203

Enjoyed Kay Anderson's report on Baycon and wish I could have made it. We in St. Louis hope to avoid some of the problems that occurred at Baycon, though we'll probably have plenty of our own. Hope you can make it.

Concerning snipings, we in E. St. Louis have had 33 snipings so far this summer and as yet no one has been caught. Lots of people injured though no killings. To get to St. Louis we now have to go completely around E. St. Louis.

Steve Lewis, 2074 Pauline Blvd, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48103

The argument over guns, or the ridiculous slogans that pass for argument, has been pretty big in Landro recently. In my opinion I shouldn't give you my opinion. It won't serve me any purpose, and it won't change your ideas in the slightest. (To paraphrase a famous quote.) But it is unfortunate that there are so many issues and problems today stalemated the same way.

Oh yes, the clipping I've been saving (evidently from World Series time) to refute Bob Tucker's conclusion that 2001 is/was not doing well. According to the latest Variety, 2001 has paid \$8,500,000 in rentals. Compared to Planet of the Apes (\$15,000,000) and Rosemary's Baby (\$12,300,000) that isn't high, but, for example, both of the last two have each played a couple of times here in Ann Arbor and 2001 isn't likely to be here for some time yet. Gone With The Wind, if that's your idea of success, stands at \$70,400,000.

I imagine McCarthy's campaign in Indiana was based on contempt for the intelligence of the typical Indiana voter, which unfortunately was typical of him. Recently he does seem to have closed the door on any future for himself in politics, which has any fol-

lowers he may have left going around in circles trying to explain. He was my choice for "Man of the Year" but let's hope the Apollo astronauts do become more significant in the long view of history.

Billy Pettit said he has never been anywhere that wouldn't take travelers' checks. He obviously hasn't stopped at our local bank, the same bank at which I bought \$100 worth of travelers' checks before a trip east at Christmas time. I had one left, amount \$20, when we got back, so stopped at the bank again to cash it. The teller would not cash it, not until I had it approved by a bank official. All of whom must have been out to lunch. He couldn't even give me an explanation of any kind, and I couldn't wait, so I went on a block to Stofflet's, Ann Arbor's newsstand, and cashed it in, getting \$2.00 worth of books and magazines. Maybe they know me better there.

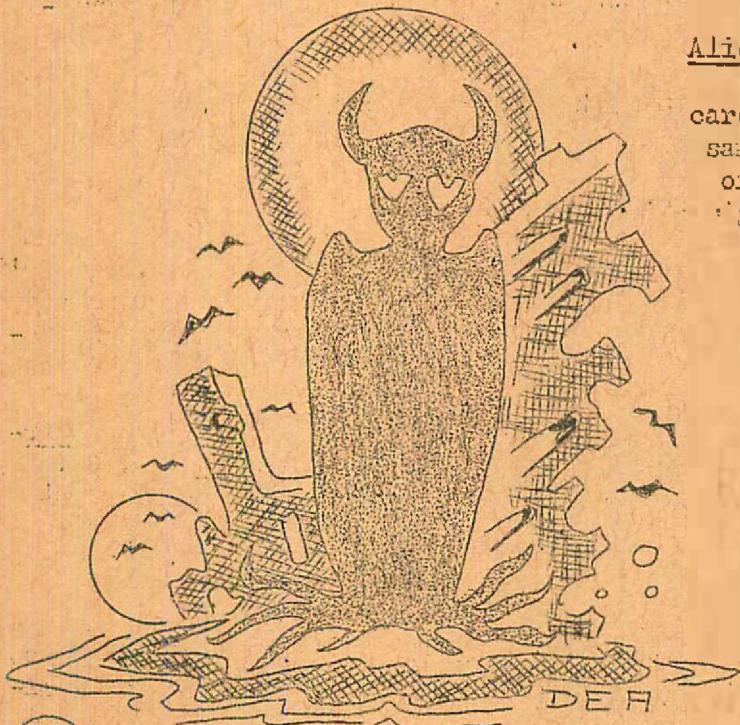
/Yes, it is too bad that so many problems are stalemated. Now if they'd just let me run things.... RSC/

Rep. Smith, 1509 Mar-Les Dr., Santa Ana, California, 92706

In one of the early issues I got (#112, May 62) Juanita said "200 copy run for this issue...creeping inflationism or something again...." Since I don't get very many fan-zines I don't know who these characters who review you are, but I would tell them to go to hell, which probably what you've already done. (Compare these "reviewers" to the letter written by someone that appeared in "Grunblings" a few issues back; someone mentioned that he was sharing Yandro with someone else, because this reader knew that your circulation was too high. This shows a considerate attitude, and one which would probably be lost to these "reviewers".)

Thomas Burnett Swann has had a couple of excellent articles in the WSFA Journal lately. Why don't you try to get something by him? I was mildly surprised to see deCamp panning a book by Swann in a recent Amra, although I don't rate him as highly as you do and feel that THE WEIRWOODS is not one of his better works. I believe it was a mention by you in Yandro (or possibly a mention by Ed Wood in Science Fiction Times when he was doing a yearly review for that publication) that first led me to Swann. The first story of his I read was "The Sudden Wings", which I didn't like at all. The next story of his that I read was "Where is the Bird of Fire?" which was great, and which I still consider to be the greatest thing he has done. Another thing of his that I didn't like was "Vash-ti", but his average remains remarkably high, and I will have to read his new book that you mention in

"Golden Minutes."



Alice Hopf

I read through the letter columns quite carefully in the last two Yandros and at the same time I felt impelled to answer several of them. But I really don't have time to get into extensive arguments. However, I will say to Howard Devore, who seems to

live in my old home town of Detroit, that he must be looking at too many westerns on tv. Sure, the situation in our cities is deplorable, but hoarding guns and organizing vigilantes is only going to make it worse. A lot of the Negroes in Harlem are putting up the same cry. But it is not a good answer. I know it's unsafe to go about in our big cities. My girl friend (or I should say, woman friend) has a fit every time I got out at night to an Ent. Soc. meeting at the Natural History museum. That subway platform has a bad reputation. But good grief, I used to be chased by drunks back in

the 20's and '30s, and I well remember making love in Central Park with my first boy friend and coming to and finding my bag had just gone. I suppose today we'd both have been murdered. But more guns ain't the answer. I also must take issue with the guy who made that remark about throwing atom bombs! Really, I'd expect a Iandro reader to be more adult. I can only recommend a very good pb put out by the Natural History Museum called SCIENCE AND SURVIVAL, which very clearly shows what will happen to our environment if we don't grow up and quit all this atom-radiation stuff. Highly recommend the book to you folks, too. Covers a lot of ground.

Where one has police protection, one presumably does not need to protect himself. Where one does not have adequate police protection--and that includes most big cities today--I for one am not particularly willing to rely solely on the good will of my fellow man. Too many of my fellow men don't seem to have much good will. RSC/

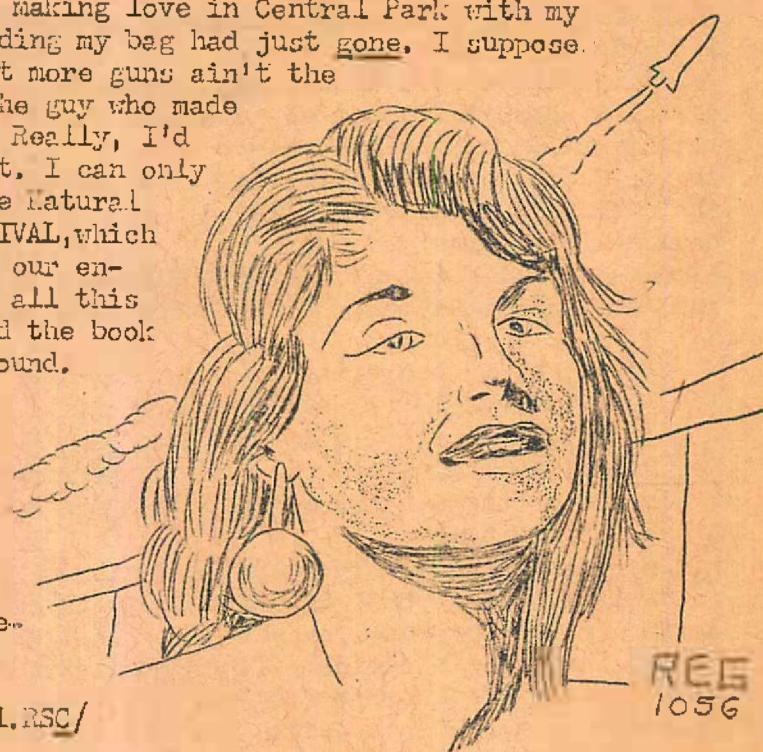
Roy Tackett, 915 Green Valley Rd. NW, Albuquerque, NM, 87107

Leeff's mention of swimming control laws somewhat parallels something I have been thinking about. There is at the moment a movement underway to prohibit cigarette advertising because cigarettes are dangerous(or so some "authorities" state). It comes to mind that around 50,000 people are killed by automobiles each year. Many times that number are injured and maimed and property damage runs into millions of dollars. Yet we permit the manufacturers and pushers of these dangerous machines to blatantly advertise their killers in newspapers and periodicals and, worst of all, on television and radio. These advertisements are deliberately slanted towards the young people, emphasizing sex and glamour and the like, in an effort to hook the kids. Certainly if any product should be banned from advertising it should be the automobile.

Hoylman and other anti-gun types: Firstly, I am not a gun-nut in that I can tell you the history of guns from the year one and discuss the fine points of the Ushootem 73 against the Bangaway 37. Nor am I a "hunter"(a vile breed for the most part), nor a target shooter, nor yet a plonker. But as a theoretically free citizen of a theoretically free country it is my right to possess arms, and arms these days means guns, for the protection of my person, my family and my home. Please, let me hear none of this nonsense about police protection because such just does not exist in this country. For the most part the police are unable to prevent crime and certainly cannot afford protection to the private citizen. Until such time as society can guarantee the safety of my person and my home or our society has matured enough that such guarantees are unnecessary then society has no right to ask me to give up my arms. I really don't have any objections to gun registration--as such--but when I hear demands that I give up my guns I want to know what I will be offered to take their place.

Ivor Rogers asks for material on "outer space" films. Boy, could I give him one.

T'other day I saw something on the telly called ASSIGNMENT: CUTER SPACE. I missed the credits(or perhaps there weren't any--I know I wouldn't have wanted to be associated with this picture)but it was all about a reporter who was assigned to investigate the mysterious radiations emanating from the surface of Galaxy K32. Yes, He takes a rocket ship to Mars but they have to stop at the satellite or space station or something for reasons unknown. After the stop they take off again for Mars and rescue a crew from a derelict spaceship enroute. But the derelict ship's computer goes mad and sends the ship into an orbit around earth all the time putting out radiations that will eliminate all life on earth. The ship on which the reporter is embarked then blasts



REG
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for Venus as that will be the place where the mad rocket will make its closest approach. From Venus they shoot V2s off into space and then take off again in pursuit of the mad computer. Our hero somehow manages to get aboard the ship--oh, yeah, there was a tunnel of sorts through the radiation field and our hero kept track of it by throwing transistors at it--they exploded on contact with the radiation field--and cuts off the computer; but he has to cut all the ship's power to do this so he can't open the door to get back out again. He begins to die from receiving too much air., He is rescued (give him air) and goes back to Earth a hero. We never did find out about the mysterious radiation emanating from the surface of Galaxy M32. Oh, yeah, the asteroids between Earth and the space station went "Whoosh" and the meteorites not only went "Woosh" but they burned brightly.

Tucker can tell you whether or not the people of Jericho were as Swann described them.

/But, Roy, cigarettes kill people! And they have no beneficial uses, so obviously they should be outlawed. (I hear the radiation from tv sets is harmful, too, and God knows they don't have any beneficial aspects...) Let's by all means get rid of these dangerous gadgets, so we can feel safe while worrying about the population explosion.) RSC/

Bob Tucker, Box 506, Heyworth, Illinois, 61745

Y185 arrived a couple of days ago, and I can tell the signs--even if you hadn't spelled them out. Friends, you are just one step away from Gafia, and that is a bad thing. If you must make a choice between publishing and gafia, drop the publishing! I'd rather see your smiling (or sneering) faces at the con, than a few more bedraggled issues and then sheer exhaustion. Save yourselves--jettison Yandro!

/Yeah, you noticed that Juanita was bitching--and she is the one who ultimately decides the fate of Yandro. We aren't done yet; that is, if this issue appears, we aren't. RSC/

Kevin Haul, 7688 Marine Drive, South Glens Falls, New York, 12801

A note on your "loan" typer. It could just be that my copy had a few badly inked pages, but the clarity of the repro went down drastically when you began cutting the stencils with the larger-type machine. It was definitely inferior to the elite type you use through the majority of the zine.

So many people seem to be saying that CHILDHOOD'S END would have been a better story to do, rather than having a similar theme brought to the screen in a new form, i.e. the book of 2001. As far as I can see, Clarke and Kubrick made a wise decision when they cooked up an entirely new thing for the film. From what I can recall of CHILDHOOD'S END, it would have probably failed miserably as a film, primarily because it would be regressed to another "interplanetary invasion" story, even unintentionally.

On the other hand, as a printed book, 2001 was poor. Whether Clarke was simply in very bad form when he wrote it, or not, may be the answer. But as an sf story, 2001 had all the cliches and tired plotting that could be found in any early-60s Ace double. Simple space opera was all it was in the book, with the weak philosophical ending thrown in to make it telegraph the same basic message as the film could have. But it left no room at all for interpretation and depth.

/Sorry about that; we used two "loan" typers in the last issue. The pica type was from an SCI portable that hadn't been doctored to produce good stencils as ours has. The Royal manual that we liked had elite type. RSC : For gimlet-eyed types interested in this sort of thing, the pages in Y185 cut with the Royal manual--which I liked--were most of pp. 6 thru 13. The give-away is the small case I, which needs adjustment on our SCI JWC/

Pete Weston, 81, Trescott Road, Northfield, Birmingham 31, ENGLAND

. Thanks for the latest Yandro and the built-in home furnishings and advertising section. (That is, if you like sitting around on piles of rotting pulp magazines.)

There seems to be some pretty effective arguments against unrestricted sale of

guns, without even considering what the Founding Fathers may or may not have meant when they wrote your Constitution some 200-odd years ago. And ignoring the fact that circumstances change.

For instance, not only is your correspondent in the latest issue (I don't have it with me just now) correct, he doesn't go far enough. Why restrict guns to policemen and civilian control authorities? Take guns off them too. When it comes down to basics, guns in my view are made only for killing things, dead, and all the attraction of the things doesn't alter that.

One of the things that makes most Britons wonder what's wrong with America is the habit in the USA of killing people off and having unrestricted (or as near as makes no difference) sale of weapons. You obviously know that Britain has strict controls...and that our policemen are unarmed, want to stay that way, have refused to carry firearms.

While I know nothing of the casualty figures in Rome..or the Middle Ages..or whatever, I do know that the incidence of death through shooting(not even considering accidents) is a lot lower, percentage-wise, in the UK than the US. Someone can still get a gun, if he must have it, but it immediately means that if apprehended, said villain knows he's in trouble. Like, heavier punishments, another indictable offense, and of course any incidental murder will mean an all-out manhunt. (And let him dare to shoot a policeman and try to get away with it..)

Still, each to his own system. I'm glad to live in England.

/The Republic of Eire has very strict gun laws too, I'm told. Amazing that the I.R.A. hasn't withered away for lack of weapons, isn't it? RSC We're very much for heavier punishments of crimes committed with firearms, and happy to see governmental thinking turning more that way. Alaska has had such a law for some time. It is difficult for Britons and Europeans, apparently, to understand that the aura of the US, not just now but throughout its history, has been a violent one. Presumably you can no more grasp the difference in culture than we can, really, yours. And I'm not referring to tv or media violence--the violence was there when the only communications media were word of mouth and the broadside nailed to the tavern door. Restricting firearms might change the nature of domestic homicides and force suicides to revert to hanging. But I doubt seriously it would have much effect on criminal activity, because our society in the US is not based on the sort of gentleman's agreement that would permit our police to safely go weaponless. (Nor would, I believe, the police in this country agree to give up their weapons. There are plenty of people in this country, many anti-gun types, who would love to see the cops disarmed, if only for their own safety. JWC/

Al Davoren, 960 Clyde Ave. #2, Santa Clara, California, 95050

The machine that came up in Seth Johnson's letter was I believe a scopitone. I don't know the spelling. It originated in France and plays a movie in synch with the record. The reason they did not catch on over here (the U.S.) was that 90% of the songs and artists were European and you really had to be a nut to pay 25¢ to see a fat Italian singing with flashes of belly dancer every 15 seconds. Also 25¢ is a lot to pay for a song you don't know anything about. Even if you knew what language it was in. As the feasibility of putting STAR TREK in one of these machines, it would probably be one of STAR TREK on film or video tape as only film would work in them. It might make a come-back what with all the record companies and artists making movies so that they can send film when the artists themselves either can't make it or are too big to do some small show that doesn't reach more than 1,000,000 people. These films are more interesting and better made than the ones that originally appeared in scopitone. But I do believe scopitone is in our future. It came out too soon over here and no selection whatsoever.

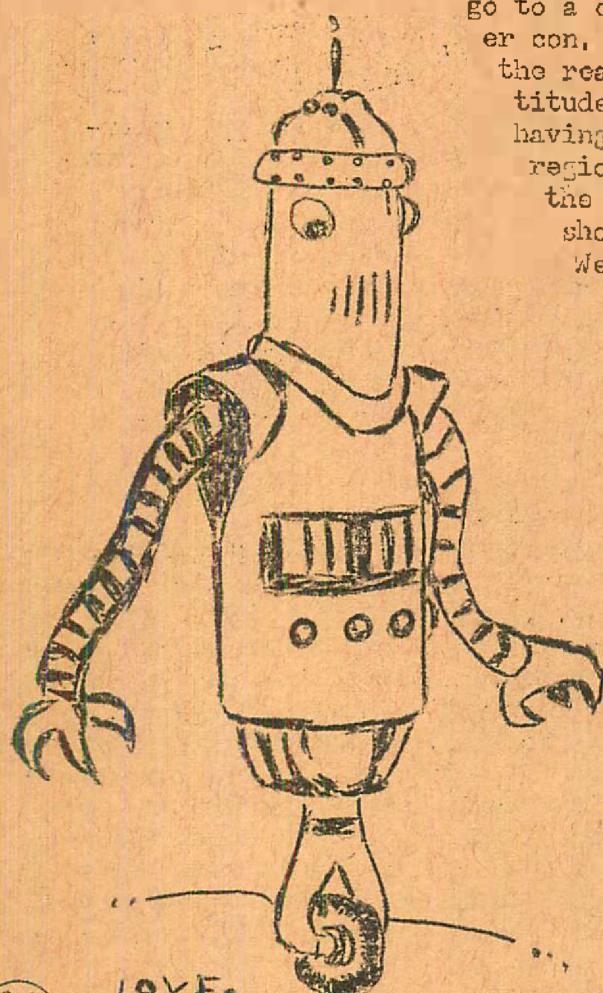
/ST is on film, so I suppose it could be utilized, but I doubt if it's probable. Or even desirable. RSC/

Jerry Lapidus, 54 Clearview Drive, Pittsford, N.Y. 14534

Cops! What I meant when I said there was no con dues raise was that there was nothing in the business meeting, as I think Bob implied. Rather, the St. Louis (and I think, but I'm not sure, the Columbus people) announced in their publicity that membership would be higher, and when St. Louis won they simply made it official. Sorry about the confusion.

Jeremy Bernstein in The New Yorker (I forgot the date offhand) also gave the novel version of 2001 a very favorable review, but like the Times reviewer didn't mention Clarke's other works. Mr. Bernstein discussed the book more in terms of the movie than anything else, spending almost as much of the space on the picture as on the book. I don't know if this is significant, but The New Yorker's Penelope Gilliat was one of the few mundane critics to understand most of the film. I can pretty well agree with what Mike says, tho I would emphasize the mundane quality of the novel more than he has. To me, the novel reads much more like an attempt to "explain" the book to the mundane reader than an attempt to write a really important novel.

I, at any rate, would be interested in hearing Mr. Stopa's ideas about the "National" Convention. My own personal feelings on this are rather negative. In the first place, I fully support the idea that foreign fandom has a "right" to the Worldcon, if by definition alone. Perhaps five years may turn out to be too LONG between non-North American conventions! At any rate, I feel a large national convention, such as is being considered, would detract from the prestige and attendance of the real Worldcon. Certainly, were there to be a large American convention, worldcon but in name only in, say, New York, a large number of American fan who probably would have at least attempted to get to the real Worldcon would simply save their money and go to the closest one. If such a con were instituted, you couldn't really blame these people; they figure, and rightly so, that they'll enjoy the National con as much if not more than the real Worldcon, and since they go to a con primarily for enjoyment they'll go to the closer con. This could very easily draw many American fan from the real World Science Fiction Convention. For those multitudes of American fan who will obviously cry about not having a con to attend, I point out the multitudes of regional cons each year. Perhaps none quite come up to the worldcon, but there are so damn many they really should be satisfied. And some, particularly the Westercon, are nearly Worldcons anyway.



Once the Worldcon is firmly established as an actual "world" convention and rotates to a different country, or at least a different continent every year, I suppose a US national con wouldn't do any harm. But I think we can suffer through the lack of a Worldcon in this country if it's only going to be once every four or five years. RSC/

Richard Labonte, 971 Walkley Road, Ottawa 8, CANADA

I spent the last couple of weeks in August visiting my family in Germany, and to get there I fly free on an Air Force plane. It just so happened that the last thing I got in the mail before I left for the airport was Y182, and I stuck it in my bag to read on the plane, along with a couple of sf pocketbooks.

I noticed that my seat partner was reading an SF novel, after he had finished chuckling at the PLAYBOY BOOK OF BEDSIDE JACKES or PARTY JACKES or something like that.

It was an Ace double, and he was reading the

LOVE.

side on the other side of the EC Tubb story. Now, a couple of days before I had read in a fanzine that Juanita had sold a story, THE SINGING STONES, to Ace, and it was to come out as a double with a Tubb tale.

So I spent half an hour peering out of the corner of my eye and craning my neck and staring outright to see if the backside, the side he was reading, was Juanita's story.

It was, of course, and I just happened to have a copy of Iandro in my bag, by the self-same person who wrote the book.

I spent the next four hours of the remaining five hours of an eleven hour flight explaining fandom to an Air Force Captain. It was fun.

One added benefit was that he gave me his Ace double when he was finished with it. That was a month and a half ago, and I still haven't read it...but it was a nice gesture.

Remember those Bell Telephone buttons which read "I Grok the Yellow Pages"? They're advertising in the campus paper again this year, and the first button of the year, distributed on campus the same day as the ad appeared, reads, "If you can't find it in the Yellow Pages--Discorporate."

It's reassuring, in a way, to know that the Bell Tel adwriter reads Heinlein.

/And the Air Force Captain got where he was going and somewhere along the line in a conversation he suddenly said "You'll never believe this, but on the way over there was this nut on the plane with me..." RSC I didn't know Buck had picked out this letter for the Grumblings column until I started to type it. People are conspiring to do nice things for me. Marion Breen just sent me some tearsheets from the East Village Other including her review of the same book. Thanks all. JWC/

Dennis Lien, 1523½ N. Santa Rita, Tucson, Arizona 85719

I have a comics price list asking \$250 for Batman #1. Also heard, via an old ERBdom of a mint first of TARZAN OF THE APES going for \$350. I'm a collector(though not of ERB or old comics), but that's real money to me...

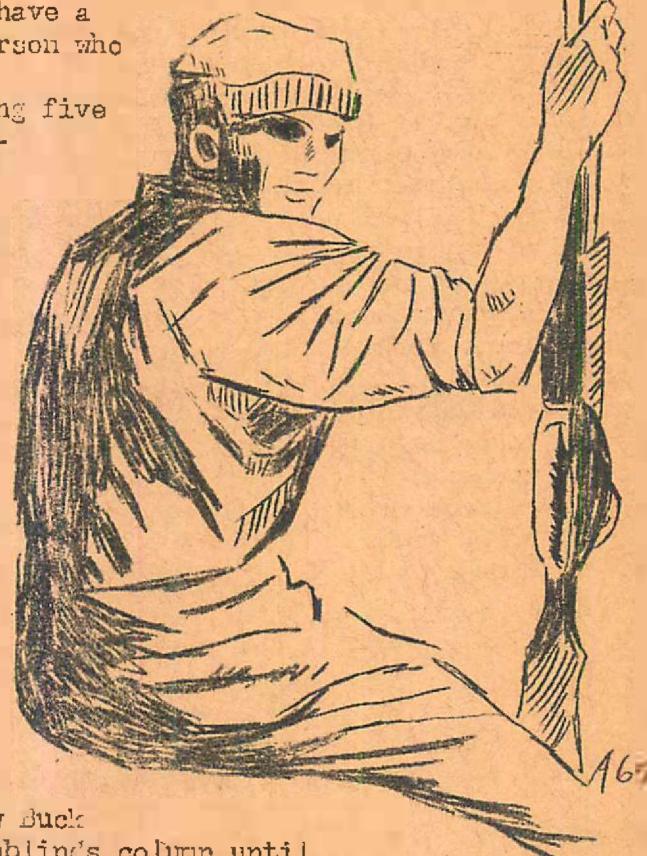
Wonder how much a complete mint set of Thrill Book would be worth, if anyone had one to sell. \$1000? \$1500? \$2000?

Did I mention in my letter of #183(in which you typoed Super-Science mag into Space-ship mag, and Land of Terror into Lord of Terror) that someone beat me to two bound volumes containing all bedsheet sized Weird Tales(circa 1924)? They went for \$10 for both--I note that Claude Held is asking \$1000 for a similar set.

An issue or two back you coyly announced that Stratton was contracted to write six pb novels, without givin' any more details--like publishing company, or are these a series, or when do they start popping out of the woodwork(like gnurrs)?

Bill Danner: I've seen the sort of juke box in question twice--once in a Fargo, N.D. bar, and once in a Tucson pizza-and-taco parlor(Arizona diners make strange platefellows). Both were regular juke boxes with a sound-film player connected. You dropped in a dime for a record or two bits for a film; the film section was apparently in essence a separate machine grafted on to the juke to save floor space.

/You know how you send off a contribution to a fanzine and it promptly folds? Gives you a sort of sick feeling of power. Well, Thomas Stratton has gone



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on to bigger things. That publisher who accepted our series of novels is currently in the throes of bankruptcy. (Before he'd paid us so much as a nickel advance!) We did get an agent out of the deal; he keeps advising us to write for Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine. I don't know know what sort of grudge he has against them. Anyway, it hasn't worked; they haven't bought anything so far. RSC/

Louis Horra, 14 Grove Street, North Attleboro, Mass. 02760

I would rather consider the gulf there seems to be growing between the neo-fan and the well-known and big-name fan, perhaps because I'm still a neo in sf fandom. John Husske, while discussing the supposed gulf between pros and fans, later inserted the comment "boy were there lots of neos in 1183's lotcol, Bob!" I wouldn't say John's been cut off from fandom, as he implies. The names were, for the most part, unknown. Should the fan's status, however, indicate where and where not his material can/should appear, if he happens to do something publishable for a zine of Yandro's reputation? Perhaps I'm off-base here; that is the impression I receive from John's comment.

Lately it seems that in order to compete in fan Hugo categories one must be a pro. However, as you said, many fans turning pro still continue in fandom to a sizable amount. The fan work can still be considered amateur, even if the person does receive payment in some cases (for pro pubbers), and so any pro should be entitled to compete in fan awards if his fanac continues. The type of person who should compete for a fan Hugo would have to be semi-pro anyway in whatever talents he possesses. There shouldn't be any type of "law" against pros being fans.

/I don't think John meant to imply that neofans shouldn't be allowed in the hallowed pages of Yandro; I think he meant what he said, that he was surprised at all the people in fandom that he didn't know. Fandom is still a place where people are judged on talent and personality rather than seniority. (Three years ago--I think that timing is right--the only Couches in fandom were the ones people sat on. In less than two years the family went from unknowns to at least an approach to BNF status. RSC/

Mike Deckinger, 25 Manor Drive, Apt. 12-J, Newark, NJ, 07106

I received issue #184 of Yandro Trader today. It's attractive, nicely put together and supplies enough interest-retaining qualities, but there is still a strong imbalance that may tend to prejudice new readers. Although a correction may have been anticipated, the articles, letters, reviews and such still outnumbered the ads. There was a much better ratio achieved this time but you did not reach perfection.

I seem to recall a few issues ago you reviewed PRISONERS OF SPACE which Westminster Press published under Lester del Rey's byline. It might interest you to know that PRISONERS OF SPACE and two other Westminster juveniles, also published under del Rey's name, were written by someone else. I won't say who it is, since I don't think he wants his name revealed in a fanzine, but I will give you a clue by saying that he's a neighbor of mine. If you know anything about the pros living in New Jersey you should be able to guess the man.

/You sure PRISONERS wasn't written by two different people? The quality certainly departed abruptly in the last couple of chapters. RSC/
Rick Norwood, A&I 651, 640 Linden, Riverside, California, 92507

Sure, fans are influenced by high pressure salesmanship. But I think New Worlds is a better example of this than DANGEROUS VISIONS. After all, DV was not a pile of "Ghod aren't we Literary" garbage or the unreadable variety that some fans are so eager to buy. And I rather suspect that the Farmer, along out of all the stories in DV, would indeed be unpublishable if Harlan hadn't broken the ice.

enough praise for them as deserves it; I liked the Flinchbaugh, JWC's cartoons(always), and Symes, the Atom of course, Gilberts' on page 18(but not the cover)

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TWO ISSUES—\$1

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and Dave Locke(Dave Locke??? You're kidding!
That's got to be Maggie Thompson.). And it is
a shame that artists seldom get the recogni-
tion they deserve, tho this issue of Yandro
was a little skimpy on artwork. Two new fan
artists who are very good: Tim Kirk and Ali-
cia Austin.

All praise also to L.S.d. and Joe Sarno for
some first rate poetry.

It looks like I'll have to read A GIFT FROM
EARTH after all. I did not care for SLOWBOAT
CARGO mainly because the superman hero never
seemed to make up his mind. Now I find out
that Pohl, in his typical Pohlish way, cut
some sex scenes. You say the scenes were super-
fluous, other reviewers say they were essen-
tial and provide some believable motivation
for the hero. I guess I'll have to read the
book to find out.

There you go again! "One of(Burroughs) few
readable stories." You may dislike most of
what ERB wrote, but one thing even his harsh-
est critics have to grant him is that he is
readable. Demonstrably so. He is one of the
world's most widely read authors. You may not
care to read his books, but they are readable.

The thing that interests me about the gun
control controversy: in newspapers, in maga-
zines or on television I have not seen or
heard one single intelligent defense of the
right to bear arms. The only pro-gun argu-
ments that are given any publicity are those
of obvious fanatics. The editorials and edi-
torial cartoons show anyone who wants to own
a gun as a bloodthirsty, sadistic brute who
delights in gunning down humans and in tor-
turing little animals. I thought our free
news media were supposed to present both sides
of every issue.

A proof of what Bob Tucker said a long time
ago; the fanzine is the last bastion of the
free press. The public press has never been
much interested in printing both sides; it
prints what its readers want to hear. Your
average crusading journalist is mainly cru-
sading for higher newspaper sales. RSC/

Jim Kerr, "Denique", 19, Pitt Gardens, Wood-
ingdean, Sussex, ENGLAND

I certainly don't blame you Americans for
being angry when foreigners try to tell you
what to do--however well intentioned the com-
ments are. Of course, being British I regard
the hunting of animals with rifles with tele-
scopic sights as damn unsporting(oid boy).
Well, you see over here we have a bigger coun-
try, so we can get farther away from the ani-
mals than you can in Britain. RSC/

Listen to the Lorelei...

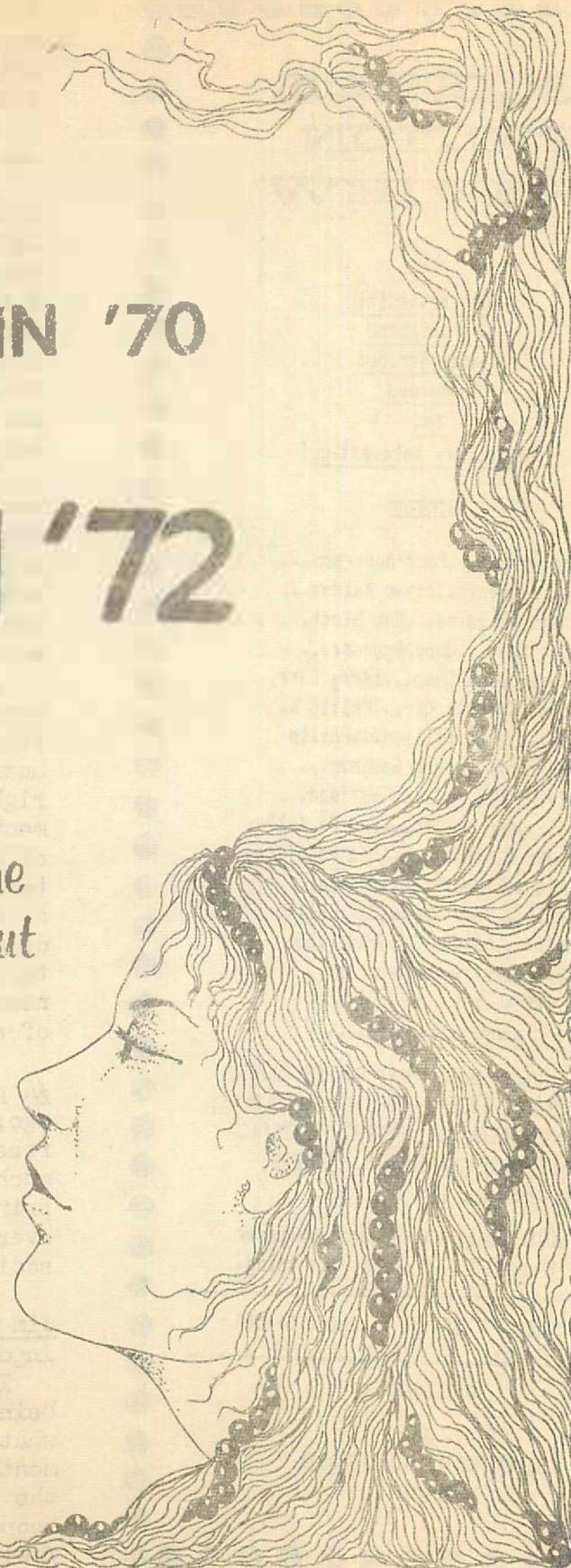
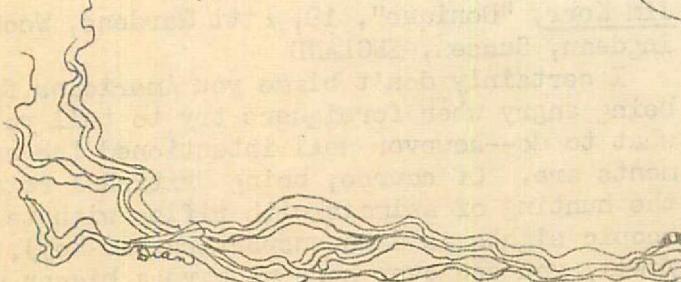
HEIDELBERG IN '70

L.A. IN '72

...and while we're on the
subject, don't forget about
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NATIONAL COMICS (D.C.)

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DELL COMICS

CISCO KID 23(1954) fg 50¢. GENE AUTRY 42(1950) fg 75¢, 83(1954) 52 pgs g 60¢, 87(1954) 52 pgs fg 50¢. HENRY 30(1953) g 60¢. HENRY ALDRICH 10,14(1952) vg 75¢. HI-YO SILVER 369(1951) fg 60¢. INDIAN CHIEF 8(1952) fg 50¢. LONE RANGER 69(1954) 52 pgs fg 50¢, 71,74(1954) fg 60¢. LOONEY TUNES 143(1954) 52 pgs fg 50¢. NEW FUNDIES 188(1952) 52 pgs g 75¢. ROY ROGERS 76(1954) 52 pgs g 60¢. TCM CORBETT 4(1953) fg \$1, 10(1954) fg 80¢. WALT DISNEY'S ROBIN HOOD 413(1952) fg 60¢. WILD BILL ELLIOT 14,15(1954), 16(1955) fg 50¢. WESTERN MARSHALL 534(1953) fg 50¢.

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AND MANY MORE

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REPRINT COMICS

CRIME & PUNISHMENT 20(Canadian Gleason) fg 70¢. SENSATION 93(1950 Canadian D.C.) vg \$1.50. DURANGO KID 9(undated 20 page Irish) Frazetta's Dan Brand & Tipi, fg \$2. DANGER IS CUR BUSINESS 9(I.W.) no back cover and generally very shoddy but Frazetta-Williamson complete \$1. KEN MAYNARD 6(1951 Fawcett) g 25¢. LANDRAKE 23(1962 British b&w) 52 pgs fg 50¢. PHANTOM 18(1962 British b&w) 52 pgs fg 50¢. TARZAN ADVENTURES v3n22(1953 British b&w) vg \$1, v5n25(1955 Br. b&w) fg 60¢, v9n4(1959) g 35¢, v9n8, n11, n15(all 1959) fg 30¢.

AUSTRALIAN REPRINTS: RED RYDER 15(b&w) g 35¢. SUPERBOY 26(undated b&w, possibly pre-code) fg \$1. SUPERMAN 28(color and b&w) reprints 1949 stories, fg \$1.75, 35(b&w) origin of Kryptonite, fg \$1.50, 90(1958?) b&w) fg 50¢.

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