

the cosmic dustbug

4.5.67: 4

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Yes, perhaps I'd better disentangle for you that strange clump of words and figures above... THE COSMIC DUSTBUG will be familiar to most of you as an adjunct to AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW; it began as an attempt to solve the fanzine editor's perennial problem of unanswered letters. Of CDBug this is the fourth issue, posted on May 4th, 1967. (And did you notice that 4567? Won't happen again like that until June 5th, 1978.) The DEGLER! part may not be so familiar.

DEGLER! is the leading American sf news-sheet, published weekly by Andrew Porter. Mr. Porter, apart from such sinecures as Assistant Editorship of THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION and Secretaryship of the New York World SF Convention, has the dubious honour to be American Agent for ASFR. DEGLER! has seen no less than 180 issues (181 tomorrow...).

By arrangement with Andy I am reprinting DEGLER! for Australasian distribution. By this means, Australian fans will know everything important (and a lot of things that are not) that is happening in the American sf world with a minimum of delay. This particular issue is an experimental one. It may be possible to provide this news service free, but don't bank on it. Your reaction to the experiment interests Andy and myself. Naturally. Now, have a DEGLER! (Or are you trying to give them up?)

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DEGLER! 178 April 14th 1967

MAGAZINE OF FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION  
NOT ELIGIBLE FOR HUGO FOR 1966:

The NyCon Committee has decided, with reluctance, that F&SF is not eligible for the Hugo Award for Science Fiction

Magazine for 1966. It will, however, be eligible in next year's voting. The reason for this decision is based on an objection raised by a member of the convention, who noted that both Ted White and myself are on the masthead of F&SF, thus raising the possibility of conflict of interests. In a like manner, any of my fanzines, any of Ted's books, or any of John Boardman's professional papers would not be eligible for Hugos or Pongs this year. Edward L. Ferman, editor of F&SF, was disappointed on learning the committee's decision, but promised that F&SF will continue to offer the same high standard of contents that the magazine has maintained in the past few years, and expressed hope that fandom will judge the magazine of sufficient quality to nominate it next year.

LESTER DEL REY TO SMILE FOR CAMERAS:

Lester del Rey will be the guest on "Teen Age Book Talk" (WNYC-TV Channel

31) sometime in May. He will be discussing his new juvenile, THE INFINITE WORLDS OF MAYBE, with Margaret Scoggin, co-ordinator of Young Adult Services at the New York Public Library. The program is broadcast Tuesdays at 2.30, and rebroadcast Fridays at 5.30 and Saturdays at 6 pm.

NEWS FROM INDUSTRY MAGAZINES:

PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY for April 3rd gives mention of the Science Fiction Writers

of America Banquet, and manages to misspell Samuel R. Delany in the process. Delany seems destined to join Frederik Pohl in having his name spelt incorrectly.

:::: COLOSSUS, published in Britain by Hart-Davis, has been sold to Putnam and Berkley for joint hardbound/paperback publication. In addition, it is a choice for the SF Book Club. It will be filmed by Stanley Chase for Universal. Georges Borchardt was the agent for the film rights. :::: Damon Knight will send copies of his speech given at the Boskone, "Project Boskone", to anyone who writes him. Knight, who has unlimited Xeroxing, can be reached at PO Box 338, Milford, Pennsylvania, 18337. The speech deals with a revolutionary idea and plan for wider distribution of sf. :::: May 16th will see publication of THE DOLPHINS OF ALT-AIR by Margaret St. Clair (Dell pb), an original novel in the great tradition of Ray Cummings and Ivar Jorgensen. It tells the story of some dolphins who (which?) with the aid of two slan-types, the dolphin-dominated world of Altair (which is a star, not a world), and some complicated masheens, melt the Ice-caps, kill 50% of the world's population, and make the Earth safe for ~~democracy~~ dolphins. It sounds fascinating, and I understand has an introduction by Ed Earl Repp... :::: LOGAN'S RUN, by William F. Nolan and George Clayton Johnson, will be published June 5th by Dial Press, at \$3.95. The book has already been bought for the movies. :::: TROS OF SAMOTHRACE will be published in four parts, starting in August, by Avon Books. The breakdown is being done by Don Grant of Rhode Island. The parts will be published in a uniform edition from August to November and will be followed by NINE UNKNOWN, JIMGRIM, THE DEVIL'S GUARD, OM, and one other Talbot Mundy book.

PROLIFIC BOB SILVERBERG DEPARTMENT:

"I have an sf novel called THE TIME HOPPERS coming from Doubleday on May 19.

Among those who have read it with enthusiasm are Ted White and Michael Moorcock, so far. Likewise the SF Book Club, which picked it for its August selection. GALAXY will publish my novella, HAWKSBILL STATION, in its August issue. I'm at work now on an expansion to book form. In July, Avon will reissue my 1957 novel, MASTER OF LIFE AND DEATH, which got all kinds of good notices when Ace published it, but which nevertheless was allowed to go out of print by Ace without a re-issue. Later on, Avon will release my 1958 Ace novel, INVADERS FROM EARTH, which also died a premature death in its first edition."

Bob also makes known the fact that Terry Carr has accepted the position of editor of the Science Fiction Writers of America, when Robert Silverberg becomes President on July 1st (he is running unopposed). Plans for SFWA include inauguration of a second SFWA official journal to keep members in closer contact than the current SFWA Bulletin is capable of doing. Damon Knight and Lloyd Biggle remain in control of SFWA until July 1st, and all queries about the organization should go to them.

RED BARON WAYLAYS DICK ENEY:

Latest reports by our spies in war-torn Southeast Asia report that Dick Eney was

knocked into the Saigon River by a lighter with a boathook. Eney was not seriously injured, suffering only an infected ankle from the boathook and a soggy outlook on life.

BAY AREA BHOYS HOLD ELECTIONS:

Alva Rogers reports that elections were held April 7th for the Elves' Gnomes'

and Little Men's Science Fiction Chowder & Marching Society. Officers elected for the next year are: Bill Donaho, Director; Jerry Jacks, Vice-Director; Alva Rogers, Secretary-Treasurer (for the 7th straight year). The recipient of the Invisible Little Man award was also voted on; Charles Schneeman was chosen by acclamation. The award will be presented at the Westercon in Los Angeles this coming July 4th weekend.

DAVE VAN ARNAM, REVISIT ED:

Members of Dave and Cindy Van Arnam's

wedding party included Ted & Robin White, Steve Stiles, Lin & Noel Carter, Mike McInerney, Barbara Dodge, Don & Jo Meisner, rich brown and Colleen Wu.

NYCon MEMBERSHIP OVER 500:

Membership in NYCon 3, the 25th World SF Convention, is now 560 with 25 coming in

each week. The breakdown by state, based on 465 available memberships, is:  
NY-120 Calif-51 Ohio-47 NJ-39 Pa-25 Ill-22 Md-21 Mich-21 Mass-19 Tex-14  
Mo-10 Ind-7 Conn-6 Fla-6 Wash-5 Tenn NC Minn Iowa-4 Va Wisc Miss NM-3 Ka  
Me La Dela Colo NH-2 Ariz Ky Ga SC Ark Neb Okla RI Hawaii-1 Canada-14 UK-5  
W.Germany-4 Australia-3 Switzerland-1

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Pause for a JB commercial &c.

Interesting to note those NYCon figures. Especially to see that Australia, at that stage, had as many members as Virginia, which isn't all that doggone far from New York. And twelve U.S. states (by my calculation) had no members. In fact, Australia now has at least four, to my knowledge, and the NYCon at least 569, because that's Diane's membership number.

You can still become a Convention member, by the way. To vote for the Hugo and Pong awards, you will need to join before the end of July. If you haven't sent your nomination form in, and you're pretty smart about it now, you might still get it there in time. The nominations will be counted on May 10th - that is, NEXT WEDNESDAY - in New York, and the results of the nominations ballot will be announced in Washington during the weekend of May 12-14th.

NYCon Overseas Membership is a mere dollar. Andy asks me how many Australian fans there are - 10? 30? Let's show them how many there are!! Incidentally, er, don't send cheques to America. It's, er, illegal. Send them to me, if you like, and I'll pass them on to New York. Save you 20 cents postage...

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DEGLER! 179 April 21st 1967

NEW OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTION POLICY:

Effective with this issue, John Bangsund is my representative for Australasia.

((JB: Subscription details follow, which may not now apply.))

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA:

John Bangsund reports that the first anniversary of Australian Science Fiction

Review will be over 100 pages, with previously unpublished stories by A. Bertram Chandler, John Baxter, Jack Wodhams, Stephen Cook, George Whitley, Frank Bryning, John Foyster, and Lee Harding; a long critical article by George Turner; a number of reviews, including one by Harding of four of Chandler's novels; plus news, letters, and artwork. A future issue of DEGLER! will give details of where that issue (and subscriptions) can be obtained.

GERMAN WORLDCON BOOSTED FOR 1970:

Forces are rumbling throughout fandom for a projected worldcon bid for Germany

in 1970. Heidelberg of Frankfurt are the cities being proposed for the convention. Archie Mercer (9 Cotswold Road, Bedminster, Bristol 3, England) is the chief organizer of British backing, while Fred Lerner (98b, The Boulevard, East Paterson, New Jersey, 07407) is chairman of the American Committee for Heidelberg In 1970. Meanwhile in Germany, Alfred Beha (605 Ober Roden, Dieburger Strasse 35, BRD Germany) seems to be the person in charge of the push. If Heidelberg bids for 1970, it will probably be opposed by Boston and Baltimore. On

the other hand, there seems to be some sentiment for a Washington DC bid for the worldcon in 1970 or 71...

COLIN CAMERON WOUNDED IN VIETNAM:

Colin Cameron, fan artist whose illustrations have recently graced the pages of ALGOL, HABAKKUK, and other fanzines, was wounded in the leg during a recent VC attack on his base. He was, fortunately, not seriously injured, but did receive a Purple Heart because of his injury. Cameron is one of several fans now stationed in South Vietnam, and has the dubious distinction of being the first fan to be wounded in the armed forces in the line of duty in some fifteen years.

MIDWESCON:

The 18th Annual Midwescon will be held June 23-25th at the North Plaza Motel, 7911 Reading Road, Cincinnati, Ohio. .... The Midwescon is traditionally the most relaxed of all conventions, with plenty of time for fanzine and book trading and selling, poolside chatter, and drunken orgies and parties. For information write Lou Tabakow, 3953 St. John's Terrace, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45236.

PEACE MARCH, EAST AND WEST:

The Peace March in New York, held April 15th, attracted some 400,000 people, according to its leaders, or 125,000, according to the police. Likewise, the March held at the same time in San Francisco contained 75,000, according to Bob Lichtman, or 20,000 according to the New York Times. It's hard to tell who to believe... :::: Fans marching in New York included John Boardman, myself, Cory Seidman, Dan Goodman, Mike McInerney, Barbara Dodge, David Chute of Maine, Al Scott from Cleveland, and another fan from Cleveland, whose name I have unfortunately misplaced. :::: Fans marching in the West Coast demonstration included Bob & Margo Lichtman, Grania Davidson, Lou & Cynthia Goldstone, and possibly Harlan Ellison. Fans seen along the route included Greg Shaw, editor of Mojo-Navigator, and a host of others, most of whom weren't there... :::: Bob Lichtman (our Spy for this news item) reports: "Bob Chazin threw a Big Party last weekend which saw fans mingling with unnameable hippie types, a light show, strobe lights, loud music, and hard likker. Bob Lichtman, who was in attendance and who was the means of transportation for the San Francisco contingent (Avram Davidson & Friend, Grania Davidson & Dick Gumbiner, Margo and Me) got Real Drunk to his surprise ("Five scotch and sodas shouldn't do that!") and had to be Sobered Up. Others in attendance included the Knights, the Nelsons, Ed Clinton, Carla Moore, Bill Rickardt, and many others." :::: Bill Donaho, in an admirable duplication of efforts supplies further names: Dan Curran, Ardis Waters, Dick & Sharon Karpinski, Vern & J'Ann Fergue, Al Halevy, and Bill Donaho. :::: Furthermore, April 2nd, Emil Petaja had a party for Don Wollheim, who was visiting the Bay Area on business or something. Attendees included Don, Elsie, & Elizabeth Wollheim, Emil Petaja, Bill Donaho, Sid & Alva Rogers, Ed & JoAnn Wood, Les Anderson, and E.T. Cetera.

LUNACON:

The 10th Annual Lunacon will take place next weekend, April 28-30th... ((uh huh - that's another one we 've missed...)) Guest of Honour (was) James Blish.

MAY RELEASES FOR ACE BOOKS:

The Man From UNCLE no.10 - THE ASSASSINATION AFFAIR, by J. Hunter Holly;  
Double: NEBULA ALERT, by A. Bertram Chandler - "Attacked by space rebels, the Earth cruiser was forced into the heart of a nebula whose strange spacewarp threw them into an alternate universe!" & THE RIVAL RIGELIANS, by Mack Reynolds - expanded from ADAPTION in August 1960 ANALOG; WAR OF THE WING-MEN, reissue, by Poul Anderson; WARLOCK OF THE WITCH WORLD, by Andre Norton; Professor Jameson no.2 - THE SUNLESS WORLD, by Neil R. Jones; H-BOMB OVER AMERICA, by

Jeff Sutton. As usual, Ace features Terribly Tedious Titles. With their forthcoming increase in price, perhaps they will be able to afford the cost of growing up, as far as title/blurb originality is concerned. But I doubt it. Stay tuned for more scintillating sentences next week.

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And that's the news to this moment from the U S & A. Stay tuned if you can bear it. Incidentally, I told Andy I'd reprint DEGLER! exactly, word-for-word, but that was partly out of a sense of fair play and partly because I hadn't at that stage seen an issue. From the foregoing issues I've omitted 11 lines of APA news, 2 lines about a TAFF Ballot, certain details of the Midwescon, and notes on free issues and an ESFA meeting. I'm happy to reprint the lot if Andy says so, or if you want it - or I'll use my discretion: I'm fairly easy to get on with, out to please everyone ("look at that man with the donkey on his back!"), after all. What happens to this Australian-American venture is largely in your hands, dear reader.

Someone asked me what a "dustbug" is, if anything. Obviously this person does not have a record-player, or if he has, does not look after his records. A dustbug is an ingenious device which picks up dust and muck from your records while they are playing, carefully tracking the groove ahead of the pickup. Similarly, THE COSMIC DUSTBUG disposes in advance of all the stuff which accumulates on my desk; all those things, in fact, which don't properly belong in a publication like ASFR, but which (and here we leave the analogy) are worth knowing about. Maybe.

Before taking leave of DEGLER! I should point out that Andy Porter is interested in news from Australia. As he puts it: "fanzine news, new books released, new BEM's found on the Great Barrier Reef, etc." Over to you.

REVIEWS: I have a note from John Foyster in which he analyses the reviews so far published in ASFR, and a list of significant books which we have overlooked. In nine issues we have reviewed 76 books, of which, John feels, 39 have been important, 6 have been bad (and therefore just as important), and 31 have been mediocre. Not the reviews, you understand, but the books. John further feels that lately the mediocre books have begun to outnumber the others, and deplores this trend. He then proceeds to list important books which ASFR has not reviewed. I list them here, and await volunteers for reviewing duties...

Blish: MISSION TO THE HEART STARS Vance: THE STAR KING Campbell: ANALOG ANTHOLOGIES Leiber: THE WANDERER Van Vogt: ROGUE SHIP Brackett: SWORD OF RHIANNON Howard: CONAN THE ADVENTURER Lovecraft: AT THE MOUNTAINS OF MADNESS Young: THE WORLDS OF ROBERT F. YOUNG Farmer: NIGHT OF LIGHT / TONGUES OF THE MOON Sheckley: MINDSWAP Tolkien: THE TOLKIEN READER Farmer: GATES OF CREATION Gaskell: all works listed Van Vogt: THE WEAPON MAKERS Blish: STAR TREK Vance: THE DRAGON MASTERS / THE KILLING MACHINE Russell: DREADFUL SANCTUARY / SINISTER BARRIER - "and then there are the books not listed ((in ASFR booklists)) such as Samuel R. Delany's novels." John also lists a number of other titles, for which reviews are either in hand or have been promised. I agree with John: looking at overseas fanzines it becomes obvious that one of ASFR's strongest points is its lengthy review section - but lately we seem to have been filling it with articles on eminently forgettable works. I think we should notice this stuff, but not at the expense of more worthy (if more exacting to write about) books.

ASFR 10, 11, 12: Work on that mammoth idiocy, the Annual Issue, proceeds apace; I will be taking stencils with me to Tasmania on May 14th, and am confident of turning out no.10 by the first or second week of June, the Lord willing and

weather permitting. The next scheduled issue was the long-promised Cordwainer Smith memorial. And this will appear, if all goes well, in August. However, my former Associate Editor, Lee Harding, has offered to guest-edit an issue to appear in July, and you can imagine how I didn't hesitate for a moment in accepting this offer. No.11, therefore, will come in July, and will contain some excellent material by William F. Temple, George Turner, John Foyster, Lee Harding, and maybe even yours truly.

RECENT CORRESPONDINGS: ROGER ZELAZNY most kindly sent Alan Reynard and myself autographed copies of recent works, plus flattering letter and even more flattering cheque. EDMOND HAMILTON expresses interest, and indicates his intention of visiting Australia sometime. When we know for sure when he will be here, we'll fling a convention around him... HARRY HARRISON admits being intrigued by ASFR, and CHARLES PLATT's letter will be in no.10. NORM METCALFE threatens to send a batch of reviews of ASFR, which should be interesting (ulp), and indicates some interest on the part of Jack Vance. ANDY PORTER, in a most interesting letter writes: "I would say that ASFR has made a very good impression on US fandom; certainly the people I know who have received copies or subscribe all seem to be favourably impressed by it."

Closer to home: ROGER DARD, whom I missed while I was in Perth, writes that he was in hospital for an operation at the time. (Yes, Roger, we do accept ads for ASFR. I've forgotten what we charge... But your ad will be in no.10. If you have any of Olaf Stapledon's books that you want to sell, I'm in the market.) Two rather sad little issues of FENATTIC from ALAN FRANCE, and three reviews which just might get into ASFR. (Keep your eye on this lad, folks: one day he could be an Australian Blish or Campbell.) LEIGH EDMONDS keeps on writing to me and I keep on not answering him because I think I'll see him at the Club - which I do, but his questions seem to go unanswered for all that. (Thanks, Leigh, for your offers of help with collating. Last issue I was rushing against time, getting the thing together a few days before I left for Perth, and somehow Diane, her brother Barry and I managed to put most of the copies together. Next issue I will certainly appreciate your help.) NORMA WILLIAMS hates the PMG, and from the sound of things has good cause to. (Thanks, Norma, for the article on THE KRAGEN. In fact I did get the piece on DOWSING, but put it in my pending file, since I can't decide whether to use it or not. It's certainly up to standard, but I'm a little undecided about the subject matter.) BRIAN RICHARDS, who insists on addressing me as "Dear Burgomeister" or "Mein dear Obersturmbahn-editor führer" sends several publishable pieces, and a letter in which he claims to have discovered "tremendous depth of feeling" in a Harding story. (I seem to have acquired an autographed manuscript of that particular story, Brian; maybe you are the one who will pay me a small fortune for it...) PAT TERRY, still one of my most prolific (and least answered) correspondents, reports a bout of ill health recently - which sounds rather suspicious when one recalls how recently the Harding visited him. Still, Lee has this effect on people... (Your speculations on the word 'Morlocks' are quite on the ball, Pat. The 'k' is there to make people think we're talking about those charming H.G. Wells characters. I appreciate your other remarks: certainly I have noticed this trend and have Taken Measures.) Letters from BOB SMITH and STEPHEN MORTON, which I'll answer (eventually) if I don't publish them. Finally, having no doubt overlooked any amount of correspondence, I ask: How many of you remember a story called THE INNER DOMAIN in AMAZING STORIES, October 1935? The author, Australian writer P. COLLAS, recently wrote to me, expressing appreciation of ASFR (the cheque proved it), and suggesting that perhaps "Australians have contributed far more to the sf field than is usually supposed." Here is something worth following up, and as soon as possible I will get in touch with Mr. Collas.