

SON OF THE WSFA JOURNAL

DLEN

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In Brief --

Contrary to statement made in #139/140, this issue won't go out until the week-  
end of 27 April. (We were delayed by the welcome return of TWJ #83 offset work,  
and our subsequent efforts to tie up the issue in time to get it collated and mailed  
the week of 29 April.)

As just stated, TWJ #83 should be going out within a week--most likely before  
SOTWJ #142 is mailed--so, this is the issue with which we note who gets it and what  
your new SOTWJ sub status is. TWJ #83 will cost \$1.50, and count 6 issues on SOTWJ  
subs (which, at current rates, works out to \$1.35 for subbers). You will not re-  
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out of #83 (we have a short print run....), you must specify at the time you renew  
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ARRGH! DON MILLER CREATED ME!  
by Jim Goldfrank

It was about four months ago that Don encouraged me to become a book reviewer. It has only just occurred to me to define my duty to you the reader, to the author whose book is to be reviewed, and to question my personal role in the matter.

You have spent something for the fraction of a 'zine that my words may occupy. Your time is valuable, and you are spending some of it reading what I have to day. I owe you something for your involvement. What do you have a right to expect of me? I should encourage you to read good books. I should warn you away from poorly written ones to save your money, and what's more important, your time. You have a right to a terse review although this may vary with the book under discussion. A lightweight book merits a short review. A well-written book deserves some analysis of plot, content, and style. It deserves to be placed in context with the author's other work, works of contemporary authors, and its relation to our world. What the book deserves parallels your right to be informed. You should expect me to do enough homework to inform you. You should expect clear writing. In some cases you should be entertained whether by writing style, or perhaps humor if a book needs a little spoofing.

I should be fair to the author. The author of even a poor book has taken some time to learn his trade, and has devoted time and effort to his book. He deserves an objective analysis in terms of what they teach you to look for in high-school English: plot, style, concept, action, believability, and character development. He deserves this whether his book is well-written or not, and regardless of whether or not I agree with his point of view.

How do I fit into the picture? I've been reading imaginative literature since the middle of the '40's and presumably know something about the field. I only read books that I expect to enjoy, so I rarely read a book that deserves condemnation. I like some books of no great literary merit, like the Captain Future series--but that happens to be my kind of trash. On the other hand, I rarely like the books of Thomas Burnett Swann, despite the fact that he is a fine writer. It's all a question of taste. Therefore, I should not let my taste interfere with my objectivity. I should neither knock a book, nor slavishly climb on a bandwagon to bolster my own ego. I would not be performing a service to you, the reader, in either case.

So what's in it for me? I have strong feelings, and a desire to communicate them. I like to see my writing in print and know that others are reading it. Important to me is the sense of accomplishment I receive from having presented something worthwhile to you. I want to improve my ability to write. To this end, I'd like to request feedback from you. Both bouquets and brickbats are invited. If you like me or think I stink, tell me why. If you want to insult me, please throw in a little constructive criticism. If you disagree with anything I have said here, I'm sure that Don Miller would be glad to print a reply to it.

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NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS FOR 1973

Fiction: Split between Thomas Pynchon, for Gravity's Rainbow, and Isaac Bashevis Singer, for A Crown of Feathers and Other Stories; Poetry: Shared by Allan Ginsberg, for The Fall of America: Poems of These States, 1965-1971 and Adrienne Rich, for Diving Into the Wreck; Children's Books: The Court of the Stone Children, by Eleanor Cameron; Translation: Shared by Karen Brazzell's translation of The Confessions of Lady Niho, Helen R. Lane's of Alternating Current (by Octavio Paz), and Jackson Mathews' of Monsieur Teste (by Paul Valery); Arts & Letters: Deeper Into Movies, by Pauline Kael; Philosophy & Religion: Edmund Husserl: Philosopher of Infinite Tasks, by Naurice Natanson; Science: Life: The Unfinished Experiment, by S.E. Luria; other winners were: Douglas Day (Biography), John Clive (History), and Murray Kempton (Contemporary Affairs).

## BOOKWORLD

BOOK REVIEWS -- SF/Fantasy:

Reviewer, DON D'AMMASSA:

Artery of Fire, by Thomas Scortia (Popular Library) -- This first SF novel by a man long known in the field is an expansion of a much shorter piece published in the 1960's. Strangely enough, it deals with an energy crisis, which may explain why Scortia chose this particular piece to expand. Norm Bayerd has pinned his entire life on the success of a power line from Pluto to Earth. Now there is apparent sabotage from within, political pressure from without, and some displaced time phenomena all combining to disturb the project. As with Dean McLaughlin's The Man Who Wanted Stars, the monomania of the hero dominates the book, and the other characters are simply used as foils to his ego. I have never seen this technique handled well, because it makes identification with the hero difficult, and necessarily slights the characterization of everyone else in the story. Nevertheless, the story moves fairly well and is interesting, but not what I had hoped for from such a man as Scortia.

Vampire Women, by Victor Samuels (Popular Library) -- This is a silly, unoriginal bit of fluff valuable only to vampire story completists. Travelers stop at Dracula's castle (with the permission of the Communist government) and discover an impaled skeleton in the basement. The hero removes the impaling stake and the usual goodies start happening, with Dracula plotting to escape to America. The good guys win this time, too.

The Dragon Keepers, by Rodney Hughes (Popular Library) -- This novel starts off with some interesting ideas and images, like what is it that could cause fireflies to become carnivores. A third of the way through the book, the hero is committed to an insane asylum and spends most of the rest of the book getting out. At that point, having discovered the guilty party (a manufacturer of defoliants), he kidnaps the executive of the firm and forces him to view his handiwork. In similar fashion, someone should force Hughes to read this dismal book.

Dragon's Teeth, by Keith Miles (Popular Library) -- You see, there are these 14 immortal Indians buried in Mexico. One day they get revived and set out to free North America from the Whiteeyes. Their dialogue is of the "You betch'm, kimo sabe" type and the author's ability to make a fool of himself is seldom excelled. The bad injuns (or good ones, I suppose, depending on which side you take) eventually precipitate a military takeover of the U.S. Find this all hard to believe? I find it hard to believe Popular Library could stoop so low, even for their Frankenstein Horror Series.

Reviewer, JIM GOLDFRANK:

The Witchstone, by Victoria Graham (Pyramid, '74; \$1.25; see SOTWJ 130:5 for announcement) -- Ms. Graham is evidently an author of gothics who is trying her hand at soap opera and sorcery, which I must characterize by the acronym SO & SO. The main characters are: (1) Sibeles, a 500-year-old lady who consumes a young girl's life every so often to renew hers; (2) Fenrulf, a wizard whose one ambition is to destroy the city, Sangara, that hounded him out as a child; (3) Rothric, king of that city, and a villain; (4) Orog, Fenrulf's feeble-minded dwarf sidekick, who is the most believable of the lot. ## Plot: Orog swipes stone which Sibeles uses to renew her life, and which Fenrulf needs to complete his spell for the destruction of Sangara. Rothric swipes it from him. Sibeles and Fenrulf form an uneasy alliance and chase Rothric halfway across the world to retrieve it. Falling in love is something new to both of them. Rothric captures Sibeles. Fenrulf thinks she left willingly, catches up with them, duels Rothric, gets the stone and completes his spell for the destruction of Sangara, is apprised by Orog that Sibeles really loves him, and sacrifices his life to undo the spell. Now you don't need to read 254 pages to get all that! ## Ms. Graham employs some good fantasy concepts: the wizard's recipe book that reveals the next ingredient, as the one before it is tossed into the pot; flying horses that are wind and lightning elementals; the

(Over)

BOOKWORLD (Continued) --

Gold People who live underearth--not in a cavern, but in solid matter; the demon who would like to transform the disorderly living world into a dead, orderly crystalline garden. ~~##~~ Her imaginative concepts, plus a small amount of good description and action, are the strengths of this book. But the plot is plodding. The characters pursue their destinies with all the excitement of doing the weekly grocery shopping.

Reviewer, DAVID STEVER:

Red Moon and Black Mountain, by Joy Chant (Ballantine Adult Fantasy) -- I didn't think I would like fantasy, but my mind has been changed over the past few months by Hrolf Kraki's Saga and this book. In RMaBM, the protagonists are children--but this is by no stretch of the imagination a children's book. Three English children are bicycling over the countryside when they are transported to a new world, where they provide the ways and means of defeating (or, more correctly, setting back) for forces of Darkness. The characters are fresh, and have the ring of reality to them; Oliver, the oldest of the three, is portrayed in a totally realistic manner, and the younger pair, Nicholas and Penny, are no less real than he. A great book for fantasy fans, and a good book with which to introduce someone to fantasy.

Mysteries & Gothics --

The Curse of the Conculens, by Florence Stevenson (Signet) /Reviewer, MIKE BLAKE/ -- I've read of this book in various fanzines, where it was described as an hilarious take-off on Gothics, and was said to be about an innocent English governess who comes to an Irish castle to take care of the children of a family which turns out to comprise vampires, witches, ghosts, werewolves, and an archtypal brooding Byronic hero. To my disappointment, I found it to be sparse, hurried, and rarely funny. In my opinion Stevenson did not go far enough in exaggerating the old Gothic clichés to make her attempt humorous enough to fill an entire book. Even a few moments of outright farce would have been welcome. The characters are potentially funny, but the author doesn't really do anything with them, instead getting them involved with the Irish revolutionaries who are systematically murdering British soldiers--a subject I find as unfunny in the 19th century as it is in the 20th.

Case of the Seven Sneezes, by Anthony Boucher (Dell Books) /Reviewer, DON D'AMMASSA/ -- Fergus O'Brien becomes more human than in his previous adventures in this bloody tale of a murder plot that spans twenty-five years, culminating with throats being slit all over Blackman's Island. Better development of suspense than before, also. Boucher seemed to steadily improve as he wrote, becoming less dependent on his imitations of John Dickson Carr. Possibly the chief shortcoming of this, and all of his other mysteries, was the relative dullness and lack of originality of his detectives.

Hail to the Chief, by Ed McBain (?) /Reviewer, SHEILA D'AMMASSA/ --- McBain's 87th Precinct novels are marked by deft plotting, realistic characterization, and a squadron full of likeable policemen, criminals, and nuts (some of which overlap). In this book, though, he takes a break from the straight police-procedure format to indulge himself in a bit of satire. There are these three rival gangs, you see, and two of them are sick of fighting and want a truce. But the third is run by a phony-tough, puritanical, football-loving, totally humorless paranoid who keeps talking about peace with honor.... He has a girl friend named Toy, an associate named Johnny who had a girl friend who talks too much (especially if she is allowed near a telephone), and a penchant for bugging his enemies. It gets a bit heavy-handed at times, but it remains fun to read, particularly if you dislike That Man In The White House. It must have been even more fun to write.

Panic!, by Bill Pronzini (Pocket Books 10/73; from '72 hardcover) /Reviewer, GEORGE FERGUS/ -- This book is dedicated to Barry Malzberg, but resembles numerous suspense novels by John D. MacDonald in that it follows several people who are

(Cont. next page)

BOOKWORLD (Continued) --

caught up in a crisis and whose lives are changed by it. Some die, some find love, some rise to the occasion, others get their just desserts. I am not very fond of this type, since large segments of such books are told from the viewpoint of characters I don't like, but this one is well done. Those of you who feel that a book cannot be dignified by calling it a novel unless the main characters change during the course of it, may like this. Mildly recommended.

BOOKS ANNOUNCED (Announcements Received by SOTWJ) --

ARKHAM HOUSE's latest catalogue (March '74), lists just one title for Spring '74: The Watchers Out of Time and Others, by H.P. Lovecraft & August Derleth (probable price, \$8.50) -- An "omnibus collection of all the posthumous Lovecraft-Derleth collaborations, incl. the complete novel The Lurker at the Threshold; the unfinished novel on which Derleth was working at the time of his death (he had just completed Chapter IV, at about the halfway point in the novel), The Watchers Out of Time; and the following short stories and novelettes: "The Survivor"; "Wentworth's Day"; "The Peabody Heritage"; "The Gable Window"; "The Ancestor"; "The Shadow Out of Space"; "The Lamp of Alhazred"; "The Shattered Room"; "The Fisherman of Falcon Point"; "Witches' Hollow"; "The Shadow in the Attic"; "The Dark Brotherhood"; "The Horror from the Middle Span"; "Innsmouth Clay". The volume will be "uniform in format with The Dunwich Horror and Others", and the d.j. is by Herb Arnold. May be ordered directly from Arkham House: Publishers, Sauk City, WI 53583 (UK Agent: G Ken Chapman, Ltd., 2, Ross Rd., South Norwood, London S.E. 25, England).

AVON announces publication of The Lion Men of Mongo, based on Alex Raymond's original story (#18515; 95¢; 159 pp.; rel. date 20/3/74). Their announcement states: "After more than forty years of comic strip syndication in a dozen languages around the world, space adventurer Flash Gordon makes the transition from the cartoonist's frame to the printed page; the adventures of Flash Gordon are now available as full length novels, based on the original stories by his creator, Alex Raymond. The series of novels, a joint publishing venture between Avon Books and King Features Syndicate, is introduced with the March publication of The Lion Men of Mongo, in which Flash, the lovely Dale, and Dr. Zarkov land on the planet Mongo and restore freedom to the enslaved inhabitants by defeating the nefarious emperor, Ming the Merciless. Flash's subsequent adventures, related in The Plague of Sound and The Space Circus, the second and third titles in the series and due in May and July, respectively, include tangling with a giant, man-eating spider in a city beneath the earth, and performing as a trapeze artist in a circus of slaves." After describing Raymond's background and the accuracy of some of his predictions, the announcement notes that another Avon Books/King Features Syndicates joint venture, novelizations of the adventures of Lee Falk's comic strip hero the Phantom, are also being published by Avon; #11 in the series, The Swamp Rats, is due out in April.

BOOKFINGER (Box 487, Peter Stuyvesant Station, N.Y., NY 10009) announces two new titles in its series of reprints of long-out-of-print titles: Casebook of Jimmy Lavender, by Vincent Starrett (clothbound; 350 pp.; \$5; 12 detective stories); and The Uttermost Farthing, by R. Austin Freeman (clothbound; 296 pp.; \$6.50; weird novel; "quite rare in the original edition").

GERRY DE LA REE (7 Cedarwood Lane, Saddle River, NJ 07458) still has copies of The Fire-Fiend and the Raven (\$7.50; 450 numbered-copy ed.; "Charles Gardette's 1859 Poe hoax newly illustrated by Stephen Fabian"; 8½" x 11"; paperbound; also contains complete text of Gardette's 1864 book explaining & defending the hoax, / Poe's "The Raven" w/previously unpublished drawings of Poe by Finlay, C.A. Smith, Charles McGill, & others); Golgotha: A Phantasm (\$2; 450 numbered-copy ed.; "A chapbook containing Charles Gardette's weird poem in the Poe tradition", plus several previously unpublished sketches by Virgil Finlay). [From 3/74 catalogue]

WARNER PAPERBACK LIBRARY's April releases include: MAD #36: The Pocket MAD (#75-530-8; 95¢); The Avenger #23: The Wilder Curse, by Kenneth Robeson (#75-482-2; 95¢); Spawn of the Death Machine, by Ted White (#75-532-4; 95¢; Tanner--"a barbaric (Over)

## BOOKWORLD (Continued) --

SUPERMAN--or a computer-created murderer?"); The Claws of the Crow, by Ruth Wisman (#75-529-0; 95¢; "A masterful Gothic tale with the added impact of occult powers."); plus numerous other non-SF/fantasy novels and non-fiction titles.

BOOKS RECEIVED (Reviewers, please note (more reviewers are always needed)) --

## SF/Fantasy:

At the Mountains of Murkiness and Other Parodies (Ferret Fantasy Ltd., 27 Beechcroft Rd., Upper Tooting, London SW 17, England; limited, 1,000-cy. ed.; paperbound; Bl.45; 5 3/4" x 8 1/4"; 1973; 111 pp.; cover by "Virgin Filigree" (Jim Cawthorn parody of Virgil Finlay); interior illus by Peter Fuller and Cawthorn; #1 in the FERRET EPHEMERAE, "a series of publications dedicated to resurrecting little-known examples of early, often pioneering mystery and detective fiction, weird and supernatural stories, and science fiction in its many manifestations") -- A collection of parodies "spanning the half-century from 1888-1940"; authors parodied are Sir Arthur Conan Doyle ("The Rontgen Ray-der"; "The Red Mark"), Sir Henry Rider Haggard ("The Deathless Queen"), Fergus Hume ("The Mystery of a Handsome Cad"), H.P. Lovecraft ("At the Mountains of Murkiness" (by Arthur C. Clarke)), Arthur Machen ("The Great Rumgin"; "The Great Pan-demon"), Jules Verne ("A Trip to the South Pole"), and H.G. Wells ("The Finding of Laura"). Also includes Introduction by George Locke.

The Best of Stanley G. Weinbaum (Ballantine Books #23890; NY; pb; 4/74; 306 / xii pp.; \$1.65; cover by Dean Ellis) -- Contents: Introduction: "The Second Nova", by Isaac Asimov; Afterword: "Stanley G. Weinbaum: A Personal Recollection", by Robert Bloch; stories: "A Martian Odyssey" (WONDER STORIES, 7/34), "Valley of Dreams" (WS, 11/34), "The Adaptive Ultimate" (ASTOUNDING STORIES, 11/35), "Parasite Planet" (AS, 2/35), "Pygmalion's Spectacles" (WS, 6/35), "Shifting Seas" (AMAZING STORIES, 4/37), "The Worlds of If" (WS, 8/35), "The Mad Moon" (AS, 12/35), "Redemption Cairn" (AS, 3/36), "The Ideal" (WS, 9/35), "The Lotus Eaters" (AS, 4/35), "Proteus Island" (AS, 8/36). ("AS" is always ASTOUNDING STORIES.) First in new Classic SF series.

Eros in Orbit, ed. Joseph Elder (Pocket Books #77720; NY; 5/74; orig. pub. '73 by Trident Press; 176 pp.; 95¢; cover by Alan Magee; pb) -- "A Collection of All New Science Fiction Stories About Sex". Contents: Preface; "2.46593", by Edward Bryant; "Lovemaker", by Gordon Eklund; "Clone Sister", by Pamela Sargent; "Whistler", by Ron Goulart; "In the Group", by Robert Silverberg; "Flowering Narcissus", by Thomas N. Scortia; "Kiddy-Lib", by Jon Stopa; "Don Slow and His Electric Girl-Getter", by Thomas Brand; "Ups and Downs", by Barry N. Malzberg; "Starcrossed", by George Zebrowski.

The Players of Null-A, by A.E. van Vogt (Berkley Medallion Book #02559; NY; 4/74; pb; orig. pub. as 1948 serial in ASTOUNDING; 192 pp.; 95¢; cover by Paul Lehr) -- Sequel to the classic The World of Null-A--the further adventures of Gilbert Cosseyn.

The Philosopher's Stone, by Colin Wilson (Warner Paperback Library #59-213; NY; pb; 3/74; #2 in "The Rediscovery Series", selected & with Introduction by Joyce Carol Oates; 318 pp.; \$1.75; orig. pub. in '69 by ?) -- "Two scientists, armed with a newly discovered power of heightened consciousness, find themselves able to penetrate other minds and probe the events of prehistory. Their mental journey into the very core of the universe is so well supported by facts that its fantasy becomes superbly plausible and wonderfully frightening." Dedicated to J.L. Borges.

The Secret Galactics, by A.E. van Vogt (Prentice-Hall, Inc.; Englewood Cliffs, NY; '74; quality pb; 215 pp.; \$2.45 (Canada, \$2.75); 5 3/8" x 8 1/4"; Reward Book SF Original #1; cover by Ann Layman Chancellor) -- "Reality twisted...slightly. Earth shivered in a momentary absence of vibration. For a split second the solar system wasn't. And then was again. Less than a billionth of a second...but a time shift occurred for connected persons. . ." Typical van Vogt wheels-within-wheels story.

The Sword and the Stallion (The Chronicles of Corum #6), by Michael Moorcock (Berkley Medallion Book #02548; NY; 4/74; 160 pp.; 75¢; handsome cover by David McCall Johnson; pb) -- Heroic fantasy; last book in the Corum trilogy.

Wandering Stars, ed. Jack Dann (Harper & Row, Publishers; NY; '74; 243 / x pp.; d.j. by Mark Rubin; SFBook Club Ed.) -- "An Anthology of Jewish Fantasy and Science Fiction." Contents: Introduction: "Why Me?", by Isaac Asimov; "On Venus, Have We  
(Cont. on page 7).

## THE CLUB CIRCUIT

ESFA REPORT -- Minutes of the Eastern S.F. Assoc. Meeting of 7 April 1974:

The meeting was opened by the Secretary at 3:27 p.m. The total attendance was 10. The Secretary's minutes and Treasurer's report were read and accepted.

The Secretary announced the first order of business would be the annual elections. Sam Moskowitz reported that Director Richard Hodgens was recuperating from an operation and would not be a candidate for re-election. Commenting that members who might be willing to run for Director were reluctant to serve for a year, Moskowitz suggested that it might be well to return to twice-yearly elections. Moskowitz went on to say that the lack of strong programming and speakers has led to a decline in attendance and membership. He suggested a number of ideas for programs, and speakers who might be obtained. After discussion it was moved that a constitutional revision be made to permit elections of officers to be held twice a year. It was carried unanimously.

Several members who were present were then nominated for the post of Director. For various reasons none could accept. Moskowitz then proposed the formation of a program committee to work on the suggestions he had made. Bob Sheridan, Sam Moskowitz, and Allan Howard were appointed. The elections for Director and Vice-Director were deferred until the May meeting. Allan Howard and Rick Lordi were nominated and elected unanimously to succeed themselves as Secretary and Treasurer. Sam Moskowitz and Joe Wrzos were elected to the Membership Committee.

As a follow-up to the information on Randall Alain Kirsch, Moskowitz said that Kirsch has been released on bail. To counter a power-of-attorney obtained by Kirsch from a nephew of William Hope Hodgson, which empowered Kirsch to collect any monies due the estate, Moskowitz has searched out and established the true legal heirs. Accordingly, Arkham House has released all money due the estate. Papers obtained by Kirsch from the Hodgson people, now being held by police, may eventually be turned over to Moskowitz, who purchased rights to all Hodgson papers several years ago. Moskowitz hopes to publish four Hodgson volumes of material previously uncollected or unpublished.

Sam Moskowitz read from the first draft of an article to be included in his Pictorial History of SF. His research into origins discloses that Lucian of Samosata (circa 120-180), author of the pioneer interplanetary stories A True History and Icaromenippus, was not an isolated writer, but one of a school. In addition to his literary idols, Plato and Homer, Lucian was familiar with--and mentioned--a large body of imaginative work, most of which seems to be no longer extant. Although these stories were generally travel tales, fantastic adventure, and utopias, they were science fiction by every standard of their time. Lucian was the first to take his characters to another world by other means than dreaming or walking. Lucian influenced such later writers as Kepler, Godwin, and de Bergerac.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

-- ALLAN HOWARD, Secretary, ESFA

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BOOKWORLD (Continued from Page 6) --

Got a Rabbi", by William Tenn; "The Golem", by Avram Davidson ('55); "Unto the Fourth Generation", by Isaac Asimov ('59); "Look, You Think You've Got Troubles", by Carol Carr ('69); "Goslin Day", by Avram Davidson ('70); "The Daybreak of Mazel Tov IV", by Robert Silverberg; "Trouble With Water", by Horace L. Gold ('39); "Gather Blue Roses", by Pamela Sargent ('71); "The Jewbird", by Bernard Malamud ('63); "Paradise Last", by Geo. Alec Effinger; "Street of Dreams, Feet of Clay", by Robert Sheckley ('68); "Jachid and Jechidah", by Isaac Bashevis Singer ('64); "I'm Looking for Kadak", by Harlan Ellison.

Gothics:

The Darkness at Mantia, by Iris Barry (Berkley Medallion Book #02542; NY; 4/74; "Large Type Edition"; 173 pp.; 95¢; cover by Harry Barton); The House That Samael Built, by Ruby Jean Jensen (Warner Paperback Library #76-496; NY; 3/74; 285 pp., \$1.25; cover by Ben Stahl; journey with Tara to Black Swamp Manor, "mansion of the damned"; no one lives there, but that doesn't mean it's uninhabited....).

DON D'AMASSA, 19 Angell Dr., E. Providence, RI 02914

(5 Apr. '74)

Just a quick note in response to Ed Connor's comments on Beyond Apollo ((in SOTWJ #136 --ed.)). I agree with some, but not all, of his conclusions. I still believe that it was the space program in its various attributes that drives Evans mad, although there were undoubtedly contributing factors. It is probable, as Ed says, that there was a homosexual incident during the flight. That is not necessarily true, however, and I can think of an even better solution of his need to prove himself as an ordinary sexual human. The space program has emphasized machinery, to the point where it even treats the human participants as machines. Evans has progressed to a point where he is not totally certain of his own humanity any more; therefore, he demonstrates this by doing what no machine can: copulating. If there were a homosexual assault involved, it may have accelerated and intensified this trend, but it did not originate it. Further, if homosexuality is the motivating force, the space program is still the instigator, because Malzberg mentions more than once that NASA is aggressively male. I also disagree with Ed that Evans "cannot bring himself to tell the truth about what happened". I doubt that Evans is consciously aware of what happened. In fact, I doubt that Malzberg even knows what happened, because no matter what, it is irrelevant to the story, which is about the space program, not the trip to Venus. The "clinically uninteresting" description of the sex scenes between Evans and his wife are exactly because of the blurring of Evans' own personality with that of the machines among which he works. Evans has become, to a certain extent, a machine himself. Beyond Apollo may, as Ed says, not be science fiction, but it's damn good fiction, no matter what the genre. ## Didn't mean to get so carried away, but it's so rare to see an intelligent, well thought-out comment on a book review, it's a downright pleasure to reply to it. ## Noticed the paired book reviews in #136. I think you should consider doing this whenever possible. The comparison of different reviewer's opinions is quite interesting. ((

((We will try to "pair" reviews more frequently in the future, now that we have an expanded stable of reviewers; in the past, it's happened more often than not that the day after we publish a review of a given book, another one arrives--it's been a rare event for us to have two reviews of the same book at the same time. --ed.))

DAVID STEVER, 1610 Worcester Rd., Apt. 433A, Framingham, MA 01701 (8 Apr. '74)

Checking my calendar, I find that I mailed my poll ballot 1/15/74, so I can only say that it fell through the cracks in the Postal Orifice. My Novel picks for the poll I used for my Hugo ballot, so I have a copy of it on hand. . . ## Rendezvous with Rama will not make it, Time Enough for Love will not make it; the general feeling I've come up with in NESFA is The People of the Wind. My other picks include Trullion: Alastor 2262, which in my mind is the second strongest entry; The Cloud Walker (having been mentioned in the DISCON PROGRESS REPORT, TCW might be a dark-horse winner); Right Handed Wilderness, a damned good mystery; and The Far Call, which portrayed bureaucrats for what they are--not evil or bad, or good, but just people. ## Also, I can't see Protector winning, but I fully expect it to be on the final ballot. I'm hoping people have better taste than to nominate The Man Who Folded Himself. (Protector seems too close in story to World of Ptavvs, and TWPH read like every time-paradox story rolled into one.) ## Correction to my review in SOTWJ 136: In my review of Chains of the Sea, the first passage re the title story should read: "wipe out man--and betray the one little boy who can see them".

WE ALSO HEARD FROM: MARTIN WILLIAMS -- I don't know if you're still interested in Hugo recommendations for best novel ((yes, we are--right up until final ballot is published. --ed)), but here are mine: Trullion: Alastor 2262, by Jack Vance; Cemetary World, by Clifford D. Simak; Syzygy, by Michael G. Coney; High Deryni, by Katherine Kurtz; and Bloodhype, by Alan Dean Foster. They aren't in any particular order except for the Vance book, which I would put in 1st place by a long shot.



GENZINES -- U.S.:

AMRA II:61 (Mar. '74) (Box 8243, Philadelphia, PA 19101; ed., George Scithers; 50¢ ea., 10/14.50 (UK Agent: Archie Mercer, 21, Trenethick Parc, Helston, Cornwall TR13 8LH, U.K.); Offset; 6 7/8" x 9 7/8"; irregular) -- 20 pp., incl. cover (by B.B. Sams); illos by Michael Fountain, Roy G. Krenkel, Tim Powers, Harry Douthwaite; Editorial; "Durdane: or is it America?", by John Boardman; Limericks, by Jeff Koob, John Boardman, John Brunner, Paul Ganley; poem by Roy G. Krenkel; "The Conans of Albion", by L. Sprague de Camp; "Conan and the 11,000 Virgins", by John Boardman; "Conan the Existentialist", by Charles Hoffman; lettercolumn. ## Top-notch repro, writing, and art. Highly recommended, esp. to fans of heroic fantasy. (Enclosures: T-K Graphics flyer; flyer for Krenkel's Cities & Scenes from the Ancient World; \$16, from Owlswick Press, Box 8243, Phila., PA 19101; w/180 illos.)

DIEHARD #4 (March '74) (Tony Cvetko, 29415 Parkwood Dr., Wickliffe, OH 44092; mimeo (offset cover); irregular; 40¢ ea., 3/1) -- 44 pp. / cover (by Brad Parks); illos by Brad Parks, Sheryl Birkhead, Skip Olson; Editorial notes/commentary; note on Mike Shoemaker's Horror Story Poll; "Science Fiction vs. Fantasy: A Look at Some Borderline Cases", by Roger D. Sween; Brett Cox asks for help in discovering title, etc. of late-night film; "Robert Chilson: Dull Discovery", by Don D'Amassa; "Fanzine Diagnostics", by Donn Brazier; Tom Jackson on how to pronounce "Cvetko"; Tommy Foster Interviews "Claude Slagenhop"; Book Reviews, by Brett Cox, Tom Jackson; Cox reviews CRAZY; fanzine reviews; humor, by Ken Gammage, Jr.; column by Dominick Casadonte (thish: "Let's Put Science Back Into Science Fiction"); lettercolumn; miscellany. ## Plenty of variety in its content, some of it quite good. At 40¢, it's definitely worth a look-see.

GORBETT #5 (Mar. '74) (David & Beth Gorman, 337 N. Main St., New Castle, IN 47362; mimeo; irregular; 50¢ ea., 5/2) -- 24 pp.; illos by David V. Jenrette, Jackie Franke; lettercolumn; column by Juanita Coulson; Jeff Clark reviews Barry Malzberg's In the Enclosure; Cy Chauvin on Fred Pohl; short reprint by Leon Taylor; Editorial by Dave. ## Welcome back, Dave. A quiet, relaxed 'zine.

INTERACTION #2 (undated) (Warren Johnson, 131 Harrison St., Geneva, IL 60134; 25¢; last issue; mimeo) -- 11 pp. / cover (by Brad Parks); illo by Bill Breiding; Editorial; 10-page lettercolumn. ## Warren is dropping all his small, specialized 'zines to concentrate on his genzine PERCEPTIONS and his writing.

KABALLAH, THE WORLDS OF FANTASY #2 (Mar. '74) (Gerard Houarner, 25-33 48th St., Long Island City, NY 11103; bi-monthly; 5/2; "a non-profit magazine covering the ways and means of fantasy and sf"; offset) -- 10 pp., incl. cover (by William H. Stout); illos by Randy Holmberg, Cliff Kurowski, ?; Editorial; "Into the American Mind: The Non-Acceptance of Fantasy", by Jean Bart; classified ads; Randy Holmberg on Vaughn Bodé; Comic Reviews, by Brian Crist; Book Reviews, by Kenneth Parker, Debra Waites, Jean Paul Jenack. ## A bit expensive for a 10-page 'zine, but it does have some good material, and it shows promise (but Gerard needs contributors).

LAUGHING OSIRIS #1 (Mar. '74) (P.O. Box 3, Ft. Thomas, KY 41075; ed. by Reed Andrus & others; offset; bi-monthly; 75¢ ea., 6/4 (checks to "Laughing Osiris")) -- 38 pp., incl. cover (by Mike Streff--very nice); illos by Streff, Dan Britt, Leo Borgman, Tim Lucas, Brad Balfour, Tom Miller; Editorial, by Reed; An Appreciation of the late Ben Kiefer, by Ruth Parker; Interview with Robert Bloch; poem by Rita Borgman; book reviews, by Reed; "Excerpt from Android Operation Manual", by David Pace; Part I of Serial: "The Eater of Souls", by George Wagner; poem by Leo Borgman; Part I of a Bibliography of Ace Books, by Reed (annotated); Filk Song, by Arthur Metzger; Fiction, by Arthur Metzger & Rita Borgman; "Reflections on John Silence", by George Wagner; poem by Tim Marion; Reed reviews FANTASY CLASSICS #2; DISCON II Rules of Eligibility/Hugo Nomination Ballot (incl. in pagination); short lettercolumn; two poems by George Wagner; ad. ## An excellent first issue. Repro and art both good; the contents should have something to satisfy everyone--if you like fiction and poetry, there's lots here; if you don't, there's also plenty of general material. Recommended.

(Over).

THE AMATEUR PRESS (Continued) --

NOTES FROM THE CHEMISTRY DEPT. #4 (Mar. '74) (Denis Quane, Box CC, E.Texas Sta., Commerce, TX 75428; irregular (approx. monthly); mimeo; 30¢ ea.) -- 20 pp.; illos by Sheryl Birkhead, Bunny Jackson, Brad Parks, Joe Pumilia, Nancy Wallace; Editorial; Mike Glycer on Jerry Pournelle's "Sword & Sceptre", with responses by Jerry & Denis; Ed Cagle on Double Star (by Heinlein), w/response from Quane; Greg Benford on Rendezvous with Rama, w/reply from Quane; Notes on Vonda McIntyre's "Of Mist, Grass, and Sand"; short book reviews by Denis; more Hugo suggestions; lettercolumn. ## One of the best of the new fanzines appearing in the past few months. Well written, well reproduced, and well worth getting.

OUTWORLDS #19 (1st Quarter '74) (Bill & Joan Bowers, POBox 148, Wadsworth, OH 44281; offset; quarterly; \$1 ea., 4/\$4, 8/\$6) -- 44 pp., incl. covers ( / 2-pg. INWORLDS #11; offset; misc. info re OUTWORLDS Productions; final issue); front cover and "folio" (IFC / 3rd pg.) by Grant Canfield (robots); bacover by C. Lee Healy; IBC by Steve Fabian; comic strips by Dan Steffan, Mike Gilbert, and Grant Canfield & Jay Kinney; illos by Terry Austin, Hannes Bok (reprinted), Grant Canfield, Derek Carter, Gregg Davidson, Paul Docherty, Freff, Dany Frolich, Mike Gilbert, Joe Pearson, James Shull, Dan Steffan; Mike Glycer letter; Editorial by Bill; "Energwoman", by Susan Glicksohn; columns by Poul Anderson and Robert A.W. Lowndes; "The Onlyest Kentucky Boy in New York", by Andrew J. Offutt; Terry Carr's "Entropy Reprints" (short pieces by Henry Kuttner, Ray Bradbury, Forrest J. Ackerman (all humor)); "...And the Irish Hate the Irish", by Jodie Offutt; "Language at Midnight", by Bill Wolfenbarger (Pt. I); lettercolumn; Ted White's column; "An Open Letter to Ted White", by Piers Anthony; replies to Rbt. Moore Williams letter; Piers Anthony and others on Ultimate/SFWA settlement; short piece by S.A. Stricklen, Jr. ## Beautiful repro, fine art, some unusual (and controversial material). A unique fanzine. Give it a try; we think you'll be glad you did....

TABEBUIAN #12 (undated; 1st Annish) (Dave & Mardee Jenrette, Box 330374, Grove, Miami, FL 33133; approx. monthly; offset; 20¢ ea., 6/\$1; 4 1/4" x 7"; UKAgent, Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts., U.K.; AussieAgent, Eric Lindsay, 6 Hillcrest Ave., Faulconbridge, NSW 2776, Australia) -- 32 pp., incl. cover; illos by Dave Jenrette, Sheryl Birkhead; TABEBUIAN Convention Report; "The Tabebuian Philosophy", by David Jenrette; "Cognitive Mapping"; Dave on writing & selling SF; "Your Horrorscope and the Law", by Douglas L. Rhodes; Mardee on self-fulfillment programs; Dave dreams about a trip to England (things have changed, Dave--step out on a Zebra Crossing, and you'll get run down...); reviews of misc. books, 'zines, etc.; lettercolumn. ## Larger than usual, but still the usual mixture of humor and seriousness. Well worth getting. (And here we should mention a special subscription offer: send \$1 for 6 issues, and they'll send out another six issues to any person (or 1 ea. to six people, or six to you) that you name; send \$2 for next 12 issues, and they'll send you a pulp prozine from the '50's; send \$2 for next 18 issues, and receive free copy of WEIRD TALES from the '30's or '40's.)

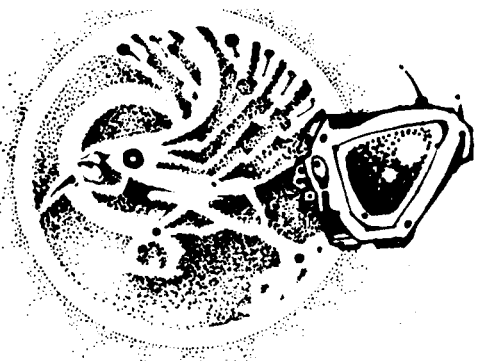
GERMANY: (We'll leave a proper review of these to our German Translator.)

BAM #1 (1972/73) (Martin Eisele, 7332 Eislingen, Fils, Schillerstrasse 20, W. Germany; offset; 8 1/4" x 11 5/8"; 2,-- DM ea.; am not sure of schedule) -- 54 pp., incl. cover; stories, poetry, and a few short articles; spot illos.

KOMET #8 (Sept. '73) (Harald Wulf, 6122 Erbach, Lustgartenstr. 17, W.Germany, & Matthias Knedel(?) (can't make it out); ditto; DM 0.6 ea.(?); don't see schedule) -- 32 pp., incl. covers; articles, reviews, letters, satire; spot illos. 8 1/4" x 11 5/8"

LUNA TIMES #17 (15/6/73) (Peter Birk1, 8202 Bad Aibling, Hochriesstrasse 13, W. Germany; DM L,30 ea., 4/DM 4,50, 8/DM 8,--; offset; 8 1/4" x 5 3/4"; schedule unknown) -- 34 pp., incl. covers; handsome little magazine; articles, report on Trieste '72, book reviews, film reviews, fanzine reviews, fiction, poetry, illos. # In German (as are BAM and KOMET), but even if you can't read German, worth a sub.

MOVABLE #1 (?/73) (Ulrich Rheinhold, 4600 Dortmund-Brackel, Am Ostheck 35, W. Germany; 1,80 DM ea.; bi-monthly; ditto (offset covers); 8 1/4" x 11 3/4") -- 33 pp. / covers; reviews, articles, stories, poetry, letters; plus a couple of illos, in German.



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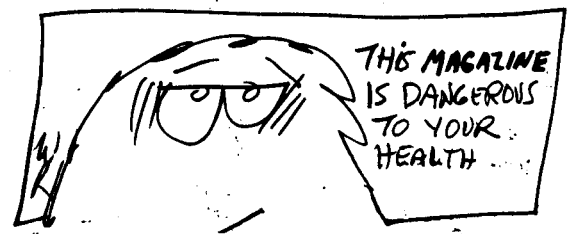
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