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S O N O F T H E W S F A J O U R N A L

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In Brief --

Still no relief in sight from publishing crisis--we're keeping our fingers crossed while we run these small magz off (SOTWJ, TGL, DPBA), and hoping... while the larger 'zines (TWJ, TG) continue to gather dust. Maybe someday soon....

Note that this covers all prozines and review books received during July '72; we've not yet caught up with the fanzines, but, hopefully, we'll be able to start our monthly coverage of fanzines rec'd with the Aug. 'zines, and include them in the 1st Sept. issue along with the books and prozines rec'd...or we may have to do the books/prozines in one ish, and the fanzines in a second monthly issue, if they're too many for one issue...we shall see.... ~~###~~ Note that S.F. Parade (book reviews), Dateline-S.F., and most of The Bookshelf were squeezed out of this; perhaps later this month....

Issue #61 is scheduled to be another "Fan-Activity" Issue (#3); #62 more Fan-Activity, another Delap prozine review column, and maybe the material omitted from this; #63 either FAPA issue or "Media" Issue #4, depending upon our schedule/publishing load at the time.

SOTWJ is pubbed every 2-4 weeks, sometimes more often. Subs (via 1st-class mail): 20¢ ea., 6/\$1.10, 12/\$2; via 3rd-class mail (2 or more at time): 12/\$1.75 (12/70p UK). THE WSFA JOURNAL is 60¢ ea., 4/\$2, 8/\$3.75 (UK: 25p., 5/£1, 9/£1.75; Canada & Mexico: same as U.S.; elsewhere, 60¢ ea., 5/\$2.50, 11/\$5). Special yearly rates: Both TWJ & SOTWJ, \$10/yr. (deposit, for continuing subs to ea.; balance refundable or applied to next yr's sub, as specified by subber). For names & addresses of Overseas Agents (UK Agent: Brian Robinson, 9 Linwood Grove, Manchester, M12 4QH, England), advertising info (flyers/ads accepted for SOTWJ, but not TWJ), & air-mail rates, write ed., or see TWJ. Address Code: A, Overseas Agent; C, Contributor; E, Club Exchange; H, Honorary WSFA Member; K, Something of yours is mentioned/reviewed herein; L, WSFA Life Member; M, WSFA Regular member (thru month shown); N, You are mentioned within; R, For Review; S, Sample; T, Trade; W, Subber via 1st-class mail (thru # shown); X, Last issue, unless....; Y, Subber, via 3rd-class mail (thru # shown).

-- DLM

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TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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## THE STEADY STREAM: Books Received During July, 1972

((Reviewers--both local & out-of-town--please check titles below & let us know, ASAP, which you'd like to review. --ed.))

HARDBOUND --

The Overman Culture, by Edmund Cooper (G.P. Putnam's Sons, NY; '72; Doubleday S.F. Book Club Ed.; 183 pp., d.j. by Paul Lehr) -- "Time seems to have run amok. London is governed by Queen Victoria and Winston Churchill, and populated by young people called "fragiles" and others called "drybones" because they do not bleed. The young fragiles come to realize that they are the last of their kind--whatever kind that might be. ## "Thus is established the setting for a brilliant novel of adventure and character. As the world they live in becomes more perilous and more unpredictable, the fragiles discover within themselves unexpected resources--resources of skill, courage, and cunning, and finally a sense of purpose. When they begin to understand the astonishing reasons for the nature of their world, the ultimate test begins. . . ."

Recalled to Life, by Robert Silverberg (Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, NY; 1972; 184 pp.; d.j. by Emanuel Schongut; orig. copyright 1958 by Royal Publications, Inc.; \$4.95; rel. date 4 Aug '72) -- "In different ways people have always dreamed of conquering death. This is a chilling tale of what happens when that age-old dream is finally realized and man takes his first step towards immortality. ## "The time is the year 2033, and Beller Laboratories, a privately financed research organization, has developed a process whereby they can reanimate people who have been dead for less than twenty-four hours provided they have suffered no major organic damage. Ready to make their discovery public, Beller hires James Harker, a former governor of New York, to approach the Church, government bodies, and other powerful figures to lay the groundwork for the announcement. ## "Instead of the acclaim Harker expects however, all America erupts in a bitter storm of charges and counter-charges about the life-restoring process. And when the controversy assumes political overtones and a Congressional Committee is formed to investigate Beller Labs, James Harker sees his very life laid on the line in a climax as dramatic as the reanimation process he set out to defend."

Tarzan Alive: A Definitive Biography of Lord Greystoke, by Philip José Farmer (Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, NY; 1972; 312 / xv pp.; d.j. by Milton Glaser; \$5.95) -- "Generations of readers have thrilled to the adventures of John Clayton, Lord Greystoke, better known as Tarzan of the Apes, through the tales of Edgar Rice Burroughs. But how many have known the full, accurate story of the last of the great heroes? ## "In this biography, Philip José Farmer draws upon voluminous research and meticulous reading of all of the tales to piece together the life of this fantastic man, correcting the errors and deliberate deceptions in Burroughs' stories, and tracing Tarzan's family tree back to other extraordinary figures, including Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes, The Scarlet Pimpernel, 'Doc Savage', Nero Wolfe, Lord Peter Wimsey, and Bulldog Drummond. . . ."

PAPERBACK --

The Best Science Fiction of the Year, ed. Terry Carr (Ballantine Books #02671; NY; 7/72; 340 pp.; \$1.25; wraparound cover not credited) -- Introduction, by Terry Carr; "Occam's Scalpel", by Theodore Sturgeon (IF, '71); "The Queen of Air and Darkness", by Poul Anderson (F&SF, '71); "In Entropy's Jaws", by Robert Silverberg (Infinity Two, '71); "The Sliced-Crosswise Only-on-Tuesday World", by Philip José Farmer (New Dimensions 1, '71); "A Meeting with Medusa", by Arthur C. Clarke (PLAYBOY, '71); "The Frayed String on the Stretched Forefinger of Time", by Lloyd Biggle, Jr. (F&SF, '71); "How Can We Sink When We Can Fly?", by Alexei Panshin (Four Futures, '71); "No Direction Home", by Norman Spinrad (New Worlds 2,

'71); "Vaster Than Empires and More Slow", by Ursula K. Le Guin (New Dimensions 1, '71); "All the Last Wars at Once", by George Alec Effinger (Universe 1, '71); "The Fourth Profession", by Larry Niven (Quark/4, '71).

The Castle Keeps, by Andrew J. Offutt (Berkley Medallion Book #S2187; NY; 7/72; .191 pp.; 75¢; cover not credited) -- "The Shape of Chaos--The Andrews in their hilltop home had only ancient weapons to defend themselves from roving bands of ravagers.... The Caudills were protected in their scaled-up apartment building in the city--but stifled by the restraints of their artificial environment. . . . the gripping terror of civilization gone berserk!"

Cybernia, by Lou Cameron (Fawcett Gold Medal #T2593; Greenwich, CT; 8/72; 174 pp.; 75¢; cover not credited) -- "Ross MacLean was walking into a death trap.... He was a computer expert. . . . Machines go wacky once in a while, and he could set them straight in no time. That's why he was going to Cybernia. ## "Cybernia was a new community--a community of tomorrow. It was fully modernized and automated, run by a fantastic computer. But the computer was acting funny. . . . It was getting bigger. It was controlling things it was never programmed to control. ## "Then suddenly it started killing people."

Freezing Down, by Anders Bodelsen (Berkley Medallion Book #S2186; NY; 7/72; orig. pub. in Denmark in '69 as Frysepunktet; orig. pub. in U.S. in Eng. translation in '71 by Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc.; 159 pp.; 75¢; cover not credited; translated by Joan Tate; "Berkley International Science Fiction") -- "Bruno had made his choice 20 years earlier. He'd said, yes, freeze me down. Now he was alive again, in a strange new world where it never rained in the daytime and a special nurse came every day to make him happy. But Bruno still remembered the one person he might have loved in his earlier life--a young dancer named Jenny Hollander. And then he heard that she had been frozen down after she had injured her spine, and that she would be thawed out in thirty years more...."

The Nightland, by William Hope Hodgson (Ballantine Books #'s 02669 & 02670 (in two vols.); NY; 7/72; \$1.25 ea.; wraparound cover art by Robert LoGrippe; Vol. I, 244 / xii pp.; Vol. II, 243 / xii pp.; pub. by arrangement with Arkham House, by which it was published in '46 as part of The House on the Borderland and Other Novels) -- "William Hope Hodgson had a predilection for the weird, and his major work, The Night Land, is an excursion, indeed, a fantastic journey, into a nightmare world--it is allegory, romance, horror, adventure story--in short, it is adult fantasy, massive in concept and execution. And it remains unique even in the varied literature of adult fantasy." ##### In Ballantine's Adult Fantasy series, Vol. I contains Introduction ("The Last Redoubt"), written by series editor Lin Carter, plus Chapters I-X; Vol. II contains 2nd Introduction, also by Lin Carter ("Across the Shadowy Land"), plus Chapters X (Cont.)-XVII.

#### Non-SF Books Received for Review --

Arabella, by Georgette Hoyer (Berkley Medallion Book #Z2181; NY; 7/72; orig. pub. '49 by G.P. Putnam's Sons; 351 pp.; \$1.25; "Large-Type Edition") -- "A Regency Love Story."

Coming Again, by Jean Francis (Berkley Medallion Book #Z2189; NY; 7/72; .192 pp.; \$1.25) -- "A famous rake returns--in the Flesh!"

The Dice Man, by Luke Rhinchart (Pocket Books #78204; NY; 8/72; orig. pub. 8/71 by William Morrow & Co., Inc.; 355 pp.; \$1.25; cover photo by Ken Mori) -- "A funny, bawdy, outrageous novel about psychiatry and modern morality."

Door Into Terror, by Juanita Coulson (Berkley Medallion Book #S2183; NY; 7/72; 224 pp.; 75¢; cover by Lou Peck(?); "Large Type" Edition) -- "Gothic".

Edgar Cayce's Story of Karma, selections, arrangement & comments by Mary Ann Woodward (Berkley Medallion Book #N2188; NY; 7/72; orig. pub. '71 by Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, Inc.; 256 pp.; 95¢; Introd. by Hugh Lynn Cayce) -- "The 'Sleeping Prophet' reveals man's destiny."

The Grand Sophy, by Georgette Heyer (Berkley Medallion Book #Z2182; NY; 7/72; orig. pub. '50 by G.P. Putnam's Sons; 416 pp.; \$1.25; "Large-Type" Ed.) -- "A Regency Love Story."

Hex, by Arthur H. Lewis (Pocket Books #77156; NY; 6/72 (orig. Pocket Books ed. pub. 5/70; orig. pub. 2/69 by Trident Press; 3rd P.B. printing; 228 pp.; 95¢) -- "A spell-binding account of witchcraft and murder. . . ."

The Life That Late He Led, by George Ellis (Berkley Medallion Book #D2191; NY; 7/72; orig. pub. '67 by G.P. Putnam's Sons; 447 pp. / 16 pp. photos; \$1.50) -- A Biography of Cole Porter.

Method in Madness, by Doris Miles Disney (Berkley Medallion Book #S2184; NY; 7/72; orig. pub. '57 by Doubleday & Co., Inc.; 224 pp.; 75¢; "Large Type" Ed.) -- Mystery.

A Plague of Sailors, by Brian Callison (Berkley Medallion Book #N2185; NY; 7/72; orig. pub. '71 by G.P. Putnam's Sons; 224 pp.; 95¢) -- "Battle on the high seas!" (Battle with guerrillas on the Mediterranean.)

The Pursuit of Intoxication, by Andrew I. Malcolm (Pocket Books #48104; NY; 8/72; Washington Square Press Ed.; orig. pub. 4/71 in Arf edition; 276 pp.; \$1.25) -- "An historical and scientific source book on the use of psychoactive drugs."

The Real Majority, by Richard M. Scammon & Ben J. Wattenberg (Berkley Medallion Book #D2220; NY; 7/72; orig. pub. '70 by Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, Inc.; 384 pp.; \$1.50) -- ". . . a thorough, incisive and toughminded look at the real power base of American politics, that elusive group of common people who will ultimately decide the political course of the country...the real majority. . . ."

Stage to San Felipe, by Edwin Booth (Berkley Medallion Book #X2190; NY; 7/72; 176 pp.; 60¢) -- Western.

The Vengeance Run, by Robert Rostand (Berkley Medallion Book #S2083; NY; 7/72; 191 pp.; 75¢) -- "Greed, passion and revenge meet head-on in Rio!"

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 MAGAZINARAMA: Contents of Prozines Received During July, 1972

AMAZING SCIENCE FICTION STORIES -- September, 1972 (Vol. 46, No. 3) -- Serial: "Jupiter Project" (Part 1 of 2 parts), by Gregory Benson (cover story) (" . . . written as a so-called 'juvenile' sf novel, in the vein of Heinlein's juveniles . . . --a slice of life in the everyday world of a space-station orbiting the planet Jupiter--and, in the process, covers just about all we know about Jupiter and its natural satellites, offering (almost incidentally) an update on Heinlein's proposal for farming Ganymede"); Short Stories: "Fat City", by Ross Rocklynne; "Lifeboat", by Karl T. Pflock ("a 'hard science' slice of the near-future"); "Earth to Earth", by Betsy Curtis; "Deflation 2001", by Bob Shaw; "Proof", by F.M. Busby. Features: Editorial, by Ted White; Art Portfolio: Wesso (illust. Islands of Space, by John W. Campbell, Jr.); "...Or So You Say" (lettercolumn); "The Club House", by John Berry (fanzine reviews); classified ad section. Cover by Don Davis; interior illos by Don Davis, Dave Cockrum, Billy Graham, Steve Harper. 132 pp. incl. covers; digest-size. 60¢ ea. (Canada: 75¢; UK: 25p); 6/\$3 (6/\$3.50 Canada & Pan-Am Union, 6/\$4 elsewhere); pub.: Ultimate Pub. Co., Inc.; from: Box 7, Oakland Gdns., Flushing, NY 11364; bi-monthly; edited by Ted White.

ANALOG SCIENCE FICTION/SCIENCE FACT -- September, 1972 (Vol. 90, No. 1) -- Serial: "The Pritchard Mass", by Gordon R. Dickson (Part 2 of 3); Novellets: "The Symbiotes", by James H. Schmitz (cover story) ("A symbiotic relationship is fine-- for the symbiotes. But when they become parasites...!"); "Ideological Defeat", by Christopher Anvil ("There's a crucial difference between looking at a strange machine as magic, and trying to figure out how it works."); Short Stories: "The Hated Dreams", by John Strausbaugh ("Ever watch an ordinary-looking 'solid citizen' drive his car along a highway like it's a P-38 tearing into the Luftwaffe? Well,

when even that meager source of adventure is vanished, there will be other ways for bored people to set their pulses pounding."); "Generation Gaps", by Clancy O'Brien ("There's a world of difference between tearing down The Establishment and building a New Society. The difference is summed up in one word; Responsibility."); "The War of the Words", by Rick Conley ("It looked like the Ultimate Weapon; it sounded like the Ultimate Weapon...but Man had something even more effective in his arsenal."). Features: "Science Fact Articles": "The Iron Pillar of Delhi", by L. Sprague de Camp ("Constructing a sixteen-foot-long iron cylinder is no problem, today. But how did the artisans of Fifth-Century India do it? And why hasn't it rusted away over fifteen centuries?"); "How to Design a Flying Saucer", by Dr. Richard J. Rosa; "Personality Profile" ("Buckminster Fuller: The Synergetic Man", by Norman Spinrad); "Brass Tacks" (lettercol); "The Reference Library" (reviews, by P. Schuyler Miller, of: The Terminal Man, by Michael Crichton; The Doors of His Face, The Lamps of His Mouth, by Roger Zelazny; Hawkshaw and Wildsmith, by Ron Goulart; discussion of this year's Nebula Awards). Cover by Kelly Freas; interior illos by Kelly Freas, Vincent di Fate, Michael Gilbert, Leo Summers, John Schoenherr, Gray Morrow. 180 pp., incl. covers; digest-size. 60¢ ea. (UK: 30p); 6/yr., \$10/2 yrs., \$13/3 yrs., U.S. & Canada; elsewhere, \$8/yr., \$16/2 yrs; from: Box 5205, Boulder, CO 80302; pub. by Condé Nast Publications, Inc. Monthly; edited by Ben Bova.

FANTASTIC SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY STORIES -- August, 1972 (Vol. 21, No. 6) (20th Anniversary Issue) -- Serial: "The Forges of Mainland Arc Cold" (Part 1 of 2), by Avram Davidson (Sequel to "Arnten of Ultima Thule" (IF: 8/71); both works to be published in book form by Avon Books as Ursus of Ultima Thule); Novellette: "The Witches of the Mists", by L. Sprague de Camp & Lin Carter (cover story) ("... a new collaboration between de Camp and Carter, set in Conan's later years as a father as well as warrior-king. It is the first of four planned novelettes which will be published, eventually, as Conan of Aquilonia, volume eleven of twelve."); Short Stories: "Forever to a Hudson Bay Blanket", by James Tiptree, Jr. ("... fresh and human treatment of time-travel . . ."); "Allowances", by Barry M. Malzberg ("... combines two of his fascinations--the racetrack and apocalypse--in a story about a man who couldn't beat the horses"); "The Brink", by Bob Shaw; "Agony and Remorse of Rhesus IX", by Ova Hamlet (6th in Richard Lupoff's "Ova Hamlet" series of parodies). Features: Editorial, by Ted White; "SF in Dimension: Mastery of Space and Time--1926-1935", by Alexei & Cory Panshin; "...According to You" (lettercol); "Fantasy Books" (reviews, by Fritz Leiber, of: I Will Fear No Evil, by Robert A. Heinlein; New Worlds for Old, ed. Lin Carter; Songs and Sonnets Atlantean, by Donald S. Fryer). Cover by Jeff Jones; interior illos by Mike Kaluta, Roland, Joe Staton, Billy Graham, Dave Cockrum. (Also, Classified Ad section.) 132 pp., incl. covers; digest-size. 60¢ ea. (Canada: 75¢; UK: 25p); 6/\$3 (6/\$3.50 Canada & Pan Am Union, 6/\$4 elsewhere); from: Box 7, Oakland Gdns, Flushing, NY 11364; pub. by Ultimate Pub. Co., Inc. Bi-monthly; ed. by Ted White.

THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION -- September, 1972 (Vol. 43, No. 3; Whole # 256) -- Novellettes: "What Good Is a Glass Dagger?", by Larry Niven (cover story) (sequel of sorts to his fantasy, "Not Long Before the End"); "The Voices", by James E. Gunn; Short Stories: "A Sweet Little Pool of Low Cost Labor", by Gene Kearny ("a totally fresh and cleverly handled tale about a near-future entrepreneur who develops a unique labor force"); "A Short Religious Novel", by Barry N. Malzberg; "Brook Force", by John Sladek ("parody"); "The Wish", by J.W. Schutz ("an entertaining version of a classic theme: i.e., has spaceship Earth finally bred someone who could make wise use of three wishes?"); "Thus Love Betrays Us", by Phyllis MacLennan. Features: Cartoon, by Gahan Wilson; Verse: "The Marriage of Art and Science", by Sonya Dorman; Science Article: "The World, Ceres", by Isaac Asimov; "Films", by Baird Scaries ("Sex and the S-F Film"--I Love You, I Kill You, Dr. Jekyll and Sister Hyde); "Books" (reviews, by Avram Davidson, of: Ahead of Time, ed. Harry Harrison & Theodore J. Gordon; Again Dangerous Visions,

(Cont. on page 10)

(dissecting)  
^ THE HEART OF THE MATTEROperational Procedures  
Supervised by  
Richard DelapMagazines for JANUARY, 1972

The new year gets off to a halting start with a mixed group of stories ranging from the very best to the very worst. F&SF has the best overall quality this month, with GALAXY coming in a respectable second, while ANALOG and AMAZING are stumbling back there in the shadows somewhere. AMAZING reprints its last "classic" this month, and from here on White's magazines will be devoted to all new fiction (plus big chunks of non-fiction each issue to please those who enjoy studying sf as well as being entertained by it). In the review department Theodore Sturgeon takes over the GALAXY column recently vacated by Algis Budrys, but by cramming too many books into too little space I feel he's probably annoying the noted authors as much as the readers, who will find little satisfaction from these short-shrift reviews. Ben Bova now has the credit as editor of ANALOG but I assume it will be some months yet before we can see the results in the magazine's total content. So, these are the changes which mark the beginning of 1972, and while the magazines remain much the same at present there is a possibility of notable policy differences in the months to come. I'll be watching closely....

AMAZING STORIES -- January:Serial:The Wrong End of Time (conclusion) -- John Brunner.Short Stories:4:48 PM, October 6, 197--: Late Afternoon on Christopher Street -- Ted White.

As both editor and author, White tends to overlook the sloppy side (both dramatically and technically) of his writing, to his financial benefit as I don't believe any other editor now working would touch his recent fiction with a 10-foot pole. The latest Ron Archer episode is just one more of White's bleak and plotless glimpses of the rampant violence he seems to see in every predictable future. The best thing about these tales is that they're quite short, but even four pages of social-consciousness drek is quite unbearable.

Junk.

Commuter Special -- Richard E. Peck.

Had Peck taken a bit more care in establishing his reasons for a future in which everyone travels to and from work on commuter trains where random cars of passengers are gassed to death, one might be able to accept the story as an overdramatized but emotionally effective fable of warning. But there is no serious speculation here, only a feeble attempt at shock which works neither as realism nor as surrealism. Inept, clumsy and unforgivably boring.

The Heyworth Fragment -- Richard A. Lupoff.

The fragment of the title is a bit of film which is made on marginally different standards than ordinary film and which mysteriously appears during a college film showing. What makes this story so interesting is that Lupoff eschews the usual melodrama of examining the film's content and uncovering some devious plot, and instead plays an intellectual game of trying to outwit the "uncertainty principle". The reader both loses and wins, since for every answer frustratingly out of reach Lupoff offers reason to believe that, in the end, the Truth may not be the answer we need, want or can get. Well-done.

Reprint:

The Man Who Lived Next Week (1941) -- David Wright O'Brien.

## Science:

Life on the Margin -- Greg Benford.

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ANALOG -- January:

## Serial:

A Spaceship for the King (part two) -- Jerry Pournelle.

## Novelettes:

A Matter of Sovereignty -- Wade Curtis.

A giant American company, Nuclear General, sends a troubleshooter to a small Pacific island, Tonga, to investigate a delicate situation which could eventually spell financial disaster if not immediately settled. The neighboring Fijians are holding a ship loaded with costly plutonium, and Tonga, though small and seemingly powerless, may very well be the key to a solvent future for itself and the company. Rather an ordinary story, brimming with stock situations and relevant nods to ecology and modern politics, but it is spritely told and whips off a simple plot at high good speed. Ok of kind.

"Riddle Me This..." -- Christopher Anvil.

I've never liked Anvil's stories of the clashes between men and alien crabs, the Crustaxans, and this latest effort does nothing to change my opinion. Here the Earthmen set out to gain entrance to an alien space station from which human prisoners are to be rescued, and getting out again is a problem to be faced only at the necessary moment. The escape is a rabbit--or, rather, a rat--out of the hat of a multi-talented computer, and the vapid humor does nothing to alleviate the dreadfully corny plot. Anvil is capable of much better work and shouldn't waste time with such crap as this.

## Short Stories:

Truck Driver -- Robert Chilson.

Take one "nuclear-powered aerospace plane", one female pilot equal to any man in the cockpit (but still woman enough to have gold-plated baby shoes attached to the go-stick), and a couple of skyjackers ludicrously inept enough to get knocked unconscious several times--and what you have is this patronizingly empty, moronically plotted offense to the intelligence. Garbage.

The Greatest Asset -- Isaac Asimov.

As usual, Asimov's assertions are not just flat statements of the need to recognize the balance needed to maintain Earth; he sees the control man has attained and projects both the physical and psychological constituents necessary to continue that control. This extrapolation of space exploration as a tool of ecology is a talky lecture which doesn't work as drama, I'm afraid, but the ideas are valid and make one wish that Asimov had not tried to implement its importance in a routine fictional setup.

Stormy Bellwether -- Jack Wodhams.

At a time when picture phones seem but a step from common use, Wodhams tries a light touch at exposing the problems likely to develop when the privacy of our home is stripped down whenever the phone rings. There are clever touches here and there, especially in the matter-of-fact look at human curiosity and public sham, but Wodham's development is weak and his story works neither as speculation nor as frothy comedy. Fair.

## Science:

Galactic Geopolitics -- Ben Bova.

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FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION -- January:

## Novelettes:

All Around the Universe -- Howard L. Myers.

Myers packs a lot into this quick little story, first by taking his hero all around the universe in search of a mysterious uncharted planet named Profanis, and second by cleverly squeezing some fine humor from the concept of a money system based on admiration from one's fellows (transferred into spendable units).

The action is kept fast and seldom slows for unneeded explanations, and for all its silliness the story is really a good bit of fun.

Carolyn's Laughter -- Robert Thurston.

With only a few published stories, Thurston is fast becoming one of the most important writers to emerge from the Clarion group. If there were ever any doubt that Thurston was destined to be a "big" name in sf, this story should sweep all doubts away permanently. There are so many elements here that it's difficult to condense them: first, it is a science story of a woman whose transplant donations after her death have immeasurably aided research; next, it is a supernatural tale of this same woman's ghost who has perhaps decided she didn't want to give herself away after all, death or no; and finally it falls somewhere between in a seance conducted by a medium "who" is a computer. But that's only the beginning! It's also a love story, a psychological study (both personal and cultural) of defense, deception and mental isolation--in fact, one of those wonders which manages to play out as a stunning tour de force yet wonderfully manages to maintain a sense of reality in a true and honest account of human emotions. It is an utterly brilliant story which should easily turn up on the awards lists next year. Don't miss it!

Short Stories:

Choice -- Robert J. Tilley.

If you can accept the idea of a process which can bring the dead back to life, you may enjoy this tale of a man and wife whose happy marriage begins to erode as they clash over which one's parent would be revived. The short length necessitates a compression of characterization that engenders more questions than answers, but if not examined too closely it will hold the attention for the few minutes it takes to read.

Corpse -- Harlan Ellison.

The flamboyant yet carefully worded parallels in this, Ellison's most precise and intelligent story in years, are strung up as an intricately-webbed, balanced and artful decoration over a solid (and some may say nihilistic) groundword. Yet even the seeming nihilism of this story--of a man whose teaching and thinking is termed a "mediocrity", whose musings on the fickleness of man reflected in his gods are more self-deceptive than true tongue-in-cheek--is countered in the end with a bitter but funny irony. By abstaining from the trivia of cat-and-mouse philosophy, Ellison gives it a breadth and depth that ties every word directly into the final kill. Very good.

Training Talk No. 12 -- David R. Bunch.

Ferman calls this a "bittersweet Christmas story", which only describes the surface and doesn't even hint at the eddies of socio-analysis that make Bunch's glimpses of the future such telling reflections on the constancy of our humanity. Some people don't like Bunch's work at all, but those who do should find this one thoughtful and, as expected, satisfyingly strange.

Jimmy -- Miriam Allen de Ford.

I've tried to find a way to get involved with deFord's sf vignettes but I've seldom found much in them. She gets an idea--here, a trio of trapped miners are suddenly confronted with an exit which leads to another world (?) dimension (?) time (?)--lets it play out to the end of the line and leaves it to dangle, while I'm left feeling she had no idea what to do with it. No, I simply don't see the point....

Staying Power -- Hank Davis.

As with deFord, Davis' story has an idea and doesn't do much with it other than to introduce it and let it hang. It involves a U.N. representative sent to discuss a possible threat to world security from witches hiding in Australia. Amusingly straightforward in its mix of science and sorcery, it offers room for more development than is given here...perhaps Davis is considering a novel? Easy and pleasant reading, yes, but annoying in its brevity.

The Tenderizers -- Anthony Boucher.

The late Boucher's shipboard ghost story is a minor item which proposes that writers are compelled to write horror stories by forces on the "other side" who

savor the fear these stories generate. It's full of name-dropping and, while much too obvious for my tastes, may please fans who find this sort of nonsense amusing.

Good-by, Miss Patterson -- Phyllis MacLennan.

It seems the author has been browsing through the old pulps, where we can find dozens of stories about the mean ol' schoolteacher (or crochety neighbor, or whomever) and the children who get their revenge on her in the end. MacLennan writes well enough but this kind of material should stay in the drawer with the rest of the practice sheets. Routine.

Betty -- Gary Jennings.

Jennings does an abrupt change from his usual style in this oddly sentimental story (but appropriately so, as the setting is early 19th-century Virginia) of a dying mother who is made joyously happy to know that her children will be cared for by two proper ladies of wealth and culture. I won't give away the surprising climax except to say that Jennings does raise a complex and much-discussed question about heredity vs. environment in an apt and disturbing context. Good.

Reprint:

McGillahaec's Brat (1970) -- Ray Bradbury.

Verse:

Dharma -- Henry M. Littlefield.

Science:

The 3-D Molecule -- Isaac Asimov.

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GALAXY -- January-February:

Serial:

Dark Inferno (part one) -- James White.

Novelottes:

Rorqual Maru -- T. J. Bass.

Bass resumes his popular saga of the Hive world of the Nebishes, that tightly controlled society of mutated humans who fight to survive the intrusion of "normal" humans and those who have mutated differently and have developed societies of their own. The Earth is beginning to reverse the destructive processes spread by man, and the Nebishes find themselves in conflict with the ocean-dwelling Benthics over the ocean's new food supply. A great whale, restructured to serve as a harvester ship, and a lab-created, vatborn man are the focus of this conflict, and Bass makes the fate of each central to the story's development. Bass still tends to get too technical but he's improving and keeps such material, if not minimal, at least in a better perspective. Good.

The Answer -- James Gunn.

Here's a new addition to the "Listener" series, and this time centering on the human reaction to the message received from Capellan aliens. Black president Andrew White feels compelled to suppress any answer to the message, and Gunn examines White's personal analysis, his prejudices and fears and reluctance to make waves which might disturb the even keel of the societal status quo. It's good reading all the way, though I suspect Gunn has tidied up a sticky situation in the plot with an almost too convenient revelation at the conclusion (which could/may be dispelled in a later episode). These stories will be novelized later this year and it will surely be an important event, as fans of this fine series will already know.

Short Stories:

Esmeralda -- Michael G. Coney.

For those tiring of warnings about pollution and/or population control, Coney's humanistic but unflinchingly defeatist story of future control methods will come as a refreshing change of pace from the usual tracts peopled with non-characters. The title character is a seagull, a "useless" creature in an increasingly organized, programmed world and a symbol of the plight of two old

ladies who temporarily care for it. The ladies are remarkably convincing, their dialogue casual but incisive, giving the excellently structured plot and sinister final paragraphs a hotline direct to the nervous system. Very well done.  
Stormseeker -- Bob Shaw.

A man with mutant mental powers is able to direct the power of a lightning bolt for use in a scientific experiment; but author Shaw is less concerned with his post-war world as reasonable speculation than he is with a literary experiment of pseudo-poetic prose to comment on the losing outside element, human love. Mawkish.

Gambler -- Tad Crawford.

Crawford projects a distant future when the world is controlled by a great computer-brain, Ultimate, and each man is a possession, a slave of a robot. But one rebel cannot abide this "perfect" world and gambles to create a change, while the injection of final irony doesn't make much sense since the stakes are never presented as much of a real threat to the gambler. Fair.

Joey -- F. A. Davis.

Even at its very short length (two pages), Davis' story of a couple allowed to have a child in a world where such grants are obviously hard-won is much too thin to involve the reader emotionally and much too familiar an idea to carry off the shock ending. Routine.

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MAGAZINARAMA (Cont. from Page 5) --

ed. by Harlan Ellison). Cover by Vincent di Fate; no interior illos. (Also, Classified Ad Section.) 148 pp., incl. covers; digest-size. 75¢ ea. (UK: 30p); 12/8.50 (Canada & Mexico, 12/9; elsewhere, 12/9.50); From: Box 56, Cornwall, CT 06753. Published by Mercury Press, Inc.; monthly; edited by Edward L. Ferman.

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THE BOOKSHELF: New Releases

DOUBLEDAY S.F. BOOK CLUB, Garden City, NY -- September, 1972:

Again, Dangerous Visions, ed. Harlan Ellison (Publisher's Ed., \$12.95; Member's Ed., \$4.50) -- ". . . In 760 pages, Again, Dangerous Visions contains forty-six brilliant, mind-spinning tales by forty-two of science fiction's finest thinkers, none of whom appeared in Dangerous Visions. . . . Every story, ranging in length from 1000 words to short novels of 40,000 words, was written without thought to the taboos or publishing restrictions that usually hamper SF writers. . . . An Afterword by each author, plus individual introductions by Harlan Ellison add to the excitement of this truly monumental volume. . . ."

There Will Be Time, by Poul Anderson (Member's Ed., \$1.49) -- "Soon after his birth in 1933, Jack Havig's parents experience the first of many frightening incidents associated with their son. One day he seemed to appear double, disappear and then reappear before his terrified mother's eyes. . . . Eventually Jack realized that he possessed an incredible power that set him apart from the rest of mankind. . . . Through the exercise of his will alone, Jack was able to travel through time! As easily as ordinary men can order their fingers to move, he could project himself into the past or future. . . ." Jack, on a trip into the future, sees the "terrible consequences" of a great war; he decides to try to prevent this war, and goes backwards in time looking for other time travellers to get their help. Finding them, he goes into the future, and finds himself plunged into a "terrifying struggle that would sweep him across the very face of time itself."

Alternates -- Slaughterhouse-Five, by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. (Pub. Ed., \$5.95; Mem. Ed., \$1.98); The World Inside, by Robert Silverberg (PE, \$4.95; ME, \$1.49); October the First Is Too Late, by Fred Hoyle (\$3.95/\$1.49); The Third Ear, by Cur Siodmak (\$5.95/\$1.49); The Wrong End of Time, by John Brunner (\$4.95/\$1.49); Can You Feel Anything When I Do This?, by Robert Schockley (\$4.95/\$1.49; collection); Freezing Down, by Anders Bodelsen (\$5.95/\$1.49).