

DLIN

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In Brief --

Well, after telling George Fergus in this issue's lettercolumn that we don't publish two issues at a time, here we are with #84 right on top of #83! (We wanted to get out a few of the letters that have come in recently....)

We apologize to traders for the delay in getting the last few issues to them; they will be getting a bunch shortly; we get subber's copies out day after publication, but sometimes traders' copies (and "courtesy copies" to people mentioned within) are a mite slow in getting out. Once we get caught up, traders' copies and courtesy copies will normally be sent out two at a time.

Our thanks to those persons who (so far) have made donations to the mimeo fund from their credit surplus: Dave Bischoff (50¢), Joanne Burger (50¢), Ned Brooks (25¢), Tom Cobb (\$3.05), Barry Gillam (50¢), Hal Hall (\$1); Norm Hochberg (80¢), Al Lopez (\$2); Floyd Peill (\$3), Bruce Taylor (50¢), Gene Wolfe (\$2); and we also thank R.D. Christian (40¢), who never returned either copy of his credit form.

We have sent 95 stencils for #80 to Brian Burley to be run off (TWJ #80, i.e.), and will shortly be sending him some more; the rest we'll run off here. Our thanks to him for volunteering to undertake this monumental task.... Lots of fine material here (even if some of it is now of only historical interest because of the unfortunate delay in its publication); we'll run down contents in a future SOTWJ. ## #81 almost out of print already. ## We're working on #82, so if you have any material to send us for that issue (reviews, articles, etc.), please do so soon.

SOTWJ is at least bi-weekly; subs: 20¢ ea., 12/\$2 or multiples thereof; all subs incl. any issue(s) of THE WSFA JOURNAL pubbed during sub (count as 2 or more ish on sub, depending on length); 3rd-class sub 12/\$2, sent 2 at time in envelopes; traders & WSFA members, 12/\$1 for 1st-class mailing. For info on ads, Overseas Agents, airmail rates, write ed. (12/75p in UK). Address Code: A, Overseas Agent; C, Contributor; E, Club Exchange; H, Honorary WSFA Member; K, Something of yours mentioned/reviewed herein; L, WSFA Life Member; M, WSFA Regular Member; N, You are mentioned herein; R, For Review; S, Sample; T, Trade; W, Subber 1st-class mail (thru # shown); X, Last issue, unless...; Y, Subber 3rd-class mail.

-- DLM

TWJ/SOTWJ

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TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL

FIRST CLASS MAIL

TV Notes -- Wasted Monday (Feb.26) night watching The Stranger (NBC; starring Glenn Corbett, Cameron Mitchell, Sharon Acker, Lew Ayres, Dean Jagger). If one can accept the idea of a twin to Earth (called "Terra"), orbiting the sun in exact opposition to Earth so neither planet can be seen from the other, which developed almost exactly the same as Earth (same geography, biology, technology, language, and almost the same politics; humanoids dressed like Earthmen, speaking English, driving cars on the right-hand side of the road--the only differences being that Terrans are predominately left-handed, and in the last 30 years (or was it 25--we seem to remember both figures being given) have politically developed a "perfect order" a la 1984 (with 2-way TV's in every home, and the like) and Communist China)--then one still has to cope with the plot--another variation of the one-man-on-the-run-with-almost-everyone-else-chasing-him theme which has already been done to death by such shows as "The Fugitive", "The Invaders", and "The Immortal" (and, adding a few more fugitives, "Land of the Giants"). (Now, there's a nice, long sentence which is almost as tiresome as the movie!) ## Corbett, an astronaut from Earth, crash-lands on what appears to be Earth. When he awakens, he is in a Terran hospital, where the Terrans question him under drugs and--during his moments of wakefulness--try to make him think he's on Earth. He escapes from the hospital--is deemed a threat to the Terran's "perfect order" because he comes from a society where people think and act freely, and might influence others on Terra to think for themselves--and the hunt/chase begins.... (How many episodes will it take before Corbett comes across one of his "dead" fellow astronauts who crash-landed with him? Are there other continents on Terra besides the one on which he landed, and are these also part of the "perfect order"? And so on.... Lot's of potential here for an endless series of shallow plots and lots of running, and hiding, and running, and hiding, and running, and . . . ## If you missed it, don't bother to see it when it's repeated. If you saw it, we're sure you're with us in hoping the series for which it's a pilot never gets off the ground. #### The next night, we watched I Love a Mystery (NBC; Ida Lupino, David Hartman, Les Crane, Hagan Beggs), in which Carlton E. Morse's radio characters come back to life in a campy spoof on private detectives and murder mysteries, a la "Batman" but without the "Thud", "Bam", "Bonk", "Boffo". It brought smiles (and even an occasional grin) to the face, but never a laugh. "I Love a Mystery" was one of our favorite shows (even today, the theme (Valse Triste?) still brings chills to the spine....); wish some of these old-time radio shows would run it....

Miscellany -- Just got Arkham House catalogue today (had already typed lettercol); will have more to say on this in future issues. ## Bill Bowers still has some of his DOUBLE:BILL SYMPOSIUMS left at the reduced price of \$2 (was \$3); this is a fine item, and is well worth your attention. (POBox 148, Wadsworth, OH 44281.) ## Found the play reviews; will cover them next issue. ## WSFA Meeting for 5th Friday in March will be at Bill Berg's (2131 Keating St., SE, Wash., DC 20031; ph. 894-8048) (party meeting); 1st Friday meeting is at Alexis Gilliland's (2126 Penna. Ave., NW, Wash., DC 20037; FE7-3759); 3rd Fri. meeting at Dave Halterman's (1306 Geranium St., NW, Wash., DC; 291-2218). ## Free Film Theatre ("Future Shock", Mar.21,22, 12:30 pm) now at Mus. of History & Technology, 14th & Constitution, NW.

THE CON GAME -- Addenda to Information Published in SOTWJ #83:

Marcon VIII -- March 30-Apr. 1, at Holiday Inn East, 4801 E.Broad St., Columbus, OH; GoH: Gordon Dickson; Banquet with GoH speech Sat. 31 March, with Roast Beef au jus (tickets \$6.25; reservation deadline 24 Mar.); relaxed program, with panels on Ohio fan publications (then & now), etc.; offset Program Book; registration: \$2.50 now, \$3.50 at door. For info: Larry Smith, 194 E. Tulane Rd., Columbus, OH 43202. (From flyer rec'd 1 March '73.)

Sunycon -- April 14, Stony Brook Univ., Stony Brook, LI; GoH: Vincent di Fate; registration: \$2 now, \$2.50 at door. For info: Norm Hochberg, Whitman College, Rm B16A, SUNY, Stony Brook, NY 11790. (From flyer distributed at Balticon.)

THE AMATEUR PRESS: U.S. Fanzines Received 1-15 Feb '73

LOCUS 132 (26 Jan '73) (Charlie & Dena Brown, 3400 Ulloa St., San Francisco, CA 94116; bi-weekly "newspaper covering the science fiction field"; mimeo; 12/\$3, 26/\$6 N.America; 12/\$4, 26/\$7 Central & S.America (airmail); 10/\$3.50, 26/\$8 Europe (air); 10/R3.50, 26/R8.00 S.Africa (air); 10/A3.50, 26/A8 Australia & Asia (air)) -- 8 pp. / flyers for Boskone X, Locus Poll & Survey, & Hugo Nomination Ballot; spot illos by Grant Canfield, Bill Rotsler, Arthur Thomson; misc. news items; re the dropping of the NASFic by the Torcon 2 Committee; sections on: Markets, People, Books (forthcoming titles), Conventions, Media Notes; report on Infinity Con '73; Tony Lewis Prozine Review Column (Feb. '73 issues).
LOCUS and LUNA MONTHLY remain the "big two" in the SF news field.

MAYBE 23 (Feb-Mar '73) (Irvin Koch, % 835 Chattanooga Bank Bldg., Chattanooga, TN 37402; bi-monthly; offset(?); 50¢ ea., 6/2.50) -- 30 pp., incl. covers; front cover by Carol Stockwell; bacover by John Neal; interior illos by Sheryl Birkhead, "D.R.", Gail Barton, Frank Kelly Freas, Dan Osterman, "Dash", Harry Morris, Ann Chamberlain, Adrienne Hayworth, Jackie Franke, Bill Guy; lots of meaty letters; sections on definitions and abbreviations used in this issue (handy for neo-fan readers); short fanzine reviews; sections on NFFF Membership Activities Bureau and Southern Fandom Confederation. ## Also, BABY OF MAYBE #6 (10 pp., mimeo; 9 pp. of letters plus uncredited(?) cover. ## The best issue of MAYBE we've seen to date--repro very much improved, as is layout (could still use a table of contents, though). Much easier to read than earlier issues (also, more lively). Will look forward with interest to seeing how future issues develop.

NOSTALGIA NEWS 18 (undated) (P.O.Box 34305, Dallas, TX 75234; ed., Larry Haddon; 6/\$2.50; no schedule given (bi-monthly?); offset) -- 24 pp., incl. covers; the first of the "ganzine" issues, with most of the ads which frequented earlier issues dropped (only six pages of ads this issue); lots of movie stills; both covers pictures of Bob Livingston as the Lone Ranger; "Who Was That Masked Man?", by Warren H. Chaney; "Damsels in Distress", by Arch Ayres; "Glenn Sherrard: Man of Mystery (A Master of His Art)", by Steve Polwort & Glenn Sherrard; "Nostalgia Notes" (short lettercol; editorial notes; reviews of: The Reference Guide to Fantastic Films, Vol. I, compiled by Walt Lee (reviewer, Tom Herricks), The Robert Bloch Fanzine, ed. Randall Larsen (reviewer, Jim Best), film: Tarzan the Ape Man (reviewer, Maurice B. Gardner); "Frankie Larkin's Hollywood Arc Light" (column); "Doc Savage--On the Air!", by Pat Murray (on the 1943 "Doc Savage" radio series). ## We miss the ads (some of them were works of art in themselves, and they provided much info about what was going on). However, their absence means more room for articles and photos--and this we welcome! The heavier paper stock for some of the pages (especially the photo pages) is a vast improvement over the newsprint used for past issues and for the remaining pages--we hope future issues will switch over entirely to heavier stock. (Forget color covers; they're nice, but we'd prefer the better-grade paper.) Best issue yet of this fine fanzine.

MOEBIUS TRIP 16 (Jan '73) (Ed Connor, 1805 N. Gale, Peoria, IL 61604; mimeo (offset cover); pubbed every 10-12 weeks; 50¢ ea., 5/2) -- 42 pp., incl. cover; cover by Bill Rotsler; interior illos by Rotsler, Jeff Schalles, Shayne McCormack; "No Mail Today" (Part 2), by Bill Wolfenbarger (on Arthur Machen); review/article of R.A. Lafferty's book, The Devil Is Dead, by Paul Walker; Addenda to preceding, also by Walker; "To Your Battered Scotties Go", by Walt Liebscher ("A Shaggy Dog Tale"); "Syncon 72" (report), by Eric Lindsay; numerous book reviews, by: Don Ayres, Eric Lindsay, Angus Taylor, Ed Connor, Eddy Bertin; short reviews of recent new fanzines; Editorial notes; lettercolumn. ## Another fine issue of one of the consistently most readable and entertaining fanzines around. Repro of course not up to that of the "beautiful" fanzines (like ENERGIUMEN), but mimeo is at least equal to that of TWJ, layout is not bad, price is good, and contents worthwhile. Give it a try.

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

HARDBOUND --

Among the Dead and Other Events Leading up to the Apocalypse, by Edward Bryant (Macmillan Co., NY; 1973; 210 / xii pp.; d.j. by Gray Morrow; \$5.95) -- "Seventeen eerie and existential science-fiction tales of man's struggle with an inescapable future." Contents: Introduction: "Locis", by the author; "The Hanged Man" (CLARION); "Shark" (ORBIT); "No. 2 Plain Tank Auxiliary Fill Structural Limit 17,605 Lbs. Fuel--FWA Spec. 522 Revised" (NEW DIMENSIONS); "Adrift on the Freeway" (QUARK); "Jody After the War" (ORBIT); "Teleidoscope"; "The Poet in the Hologram in the Middle of Prime Time" (NOVA); "The Human Side of the Village Monster" (UNIVERSE); "Among the Dead" (QUARK); "File on the Plague" (THE NATIONAL LAMPOON, 4/71); "The Soft Blue Bunny Rabbit Story" (CLARION); "Tactics"; "Sending the Very Best" (NEW WORLDS, 1/70); "Their Thousandth Season" (CLARION; as "Gray Matters"); "Love Song of Herself" (NEW DIMENSIONS); "Pinup" (ORBIT); "Dune's Edge" (ORBIT).

Country Love and Poison Rain, by Peter Tate (Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, NY; 1973; 178 pp.; d.j. by Lawrence Ratzkin; \$5.95) -- ". . . an apocalyptic view of the year 1975 when the United States decides to move its stockpiles of chemical warfare weapons. . . ."

PAPERBACK --

A Werewolf Among Us, by Dean R. Koontz (Ballantine Books #03055; NY; 1/73; 211 pp.; \$1.25) -- Baker St. Cyr was a "cyberdetective"--"part man and part computer, meshed as completely as the two can ever be. The highly microminiaturized components of the bio-computer remember and relate things in a perfectly mathematical manner that a human mind could never easily grasp, while the human half of the symbiote gives a perception of emotions and emotional motivations that the bio-computer could never comprehend. Together we make a precise and thorough detective unit."--"And also a very dangerous creature. . . ." (Cover by Bob Blanchard.)

Orlando Furioso, by Ariosto (Vol. I: "The Ring of Angelica"; trans. by Richard Hodgens) (Ballantine Books #03057; NY; 1/73; "Adult Fantasy" series; 208 / xvi pp.; \$1.25; wraparound cover by David Johnston; Introduction: "About Orlando Furioso and Ludovico Ariosto", by Lin Carter) -- "Ariosto's epic fantasy of the age of chivalry, thronged with sorcerers and hippogriffs, ladies and their knights, magic rings, wondrous swords, magnificent horses, and more plots than you can shake a sword at. An ebullient dreamworld, teeming with life, laughter, and a super-colossal cast of world-renowned heroes."

Szygy, by Michael G. Coney (Ballantine Books #03056; NY; 1/73; 216 pp.; cover by Gene Szafran; \$1.25) -- "The Planet Arcadia has six moons, describing erratic orbits. But once every fifty-two years, the Moons of Arcadia come together in a constellation that creates havoc on the surface--raging tides, storms...and worse. ## "For the inhabitants of Arcadia are themselves affected in some strange way by the unusual gravitic pulls. Or so it would seem. For few on this new, recently colonized world can remember exactly what happened fifty-two years before; those old enough to remember are curiously reticent. ## "And meanwhile the Moons grow closer..."

Non-SF Books Received for Review (wonder what we were supposed to receive?) --

Car, by Harry Crews (Pocket Books, NY; 3/73; orig. pub. 2/72 by William Morrow & Co., Inc.; 125 pp.; 95¢; #77630) -- "Herman Mack will devour a 1971 Ford Maverick, half a pound a day in half-ounce cubes. . . ."

The Natural, by Bernard Malamud (Pocket Books #78273; NY; 3/73; orig. pub. 9/61 by Farrar, Straus & Giroux, Inc., in Noonday Press ed.; 217 pp.; \$1.25) -- "The day Roy Hobbs came up to play left field, the hapless New York Knights turned into pennant contenders. . . . wildly comic and ultimately heart-breaking).

EN PASSANT: Lettercolumn

James H. Schmitz (Hermosa Beach, CA) --

(27 Jan '73)

Tell Richard Delap to knock it off. I can't stand to see a grown man whimper.

George Fergus, 3341 W. Cullom Ave., Chicago, IL 60618 --

(4 Feb '73)

I have some comments on the matter of whether SOTWJ would be better off as a 10-page biweekly or a 22-page monthly. It seems to me that SOTWJ has never been biweekly--I usually get issues in clumps (either bound together or 2-3 days apart) at approximately monthly intervals. On checking back over the dates on recent issues, I find that the material was apparently published according to the following schedule:

30 pages	Aug 1-3	issues 60-62
60 pages	Sep 1-6	issues 63-68
20 pages	Oct 1-2	issues 69-70
30 pages	Nov 1-3	issues 71-73
30 pages	Dec 1-3	issues 74-76
50 pages	Jan 1-5	issues 77-81

which would seem to indicate that SOTWJ is a variable-length, monthly fanzine (having an average of about 35 pages) masquerading as a bi-weekly, 10-page fanzine. Perhaps this is because the material comes in irregular clumps and the editor has to wait until he has a period of free time to do the mimeography, collating, and mailing. But, for whatever reason, I can't figure out why you don't give up this pretense of publishing a 10-page biweekly and go ahead and publish either a monthly, variable-length fanzine or an irregular fanzine having a larger, fixed, number of pages. If nothing else, it would cut down on the amount of addressing that you have to do, and need not affect any other characteristic of the present SOTWJ such as first-class delivery, no art, etc.

Regardless of your reaction to my comments above, I would suggest that you change the name of SOTWJ to TWJ, in recognition of the fact that it is now the adult, and call each semi-annual 3rd-class publication a "special issue". You might even be able to retain the same numbering, since both publications are around issue #82.

Regarding the Survey results, I would give the most attention to those features which several readers actively dislike: Magazinarama, Bookshelf, & Steady Stream.

Magazinarama should **probably** be dumped, considering that your publication of Delap's review column is finally catching up to the present, unless someone pleads with you on bended knee to keep it.

On The Bookshelf and The Steady Stream (and how many of you would be able to say which title refers to forthcoming books and which to books received for review?), please stop quoting the blurbs verbatim. Use some judgment and paraphrase the damned things. For example, I prefer the style exhibited at the bottom of page 4 of SOTWJ #80 which, though possibly a bit too short, is at least on the right track. Also, please stop wasting space on publishers' addresses and book numbers. If somebody wants to mail-order a book, let him send to F&SF Book Co. or one of the other fan-operated dealers.

Other departments that received more than one negative reaction are The Club Circuit, Dissecting..., and ESFA Report. This probably means that your comments on clubzines should go into considerably less detail than your comments on genzines on The Amateur Press. Dissecting... also received more first place votes than any other feature, and is thus your most controversial item, probably because Richard Delap writes well but a lot of people disagree with his opinions. (By the way, why doesn't he review the serials at the time of the last installment?) I really can't understand why ESFA Report garnered active dislike. Do WSFANS have something against ESFANS? Jealousy is certainly not called for--the WSFA minutes may be dull, but whose minutes are being published in whose fanzine, eh? Anyway, please continue with a full-strength ESFA Report.

I wonder if perhaps you should have separated Con Reports from SCA Reports in the survey. I, for one, liked the Jay Kay Klein reports that used to appear, but I would be hard put to find anything in SOTWJ more uninteresting to me than a report on the SCA's latest Revel.

((He goes on to discuss dreams, but we'll save this portion for the next FAPA issue, out sometime in March. --ed.))

((On the SOTWJ scheduling: "1st August 1972 Issue" means first issue published during August, 1972--not that issue was published on Aug. 1; "2nd August 1972 Issue" means second issue published during August, 1972; and so on. Issues from #61 into the 70's were published at very close intervals--these issues had been typed during the two months our mimeo was down, and we tried to get them out as quickly as possible when the machine was fixed. #'s 76 and 77 were deliberately mailed out together, so we could include the Credit Disposition Form without paying extra postage. And this issue and the last issue will probably be a week or so apart, as that issue was delayed by our taking time out to get out TWJ #81. Also, some issues are occasionally close together (when we publish more than two issues a month, at least two of them are bound to be pretty close together). We try to keep the issues two weeks apart (generally, one issue is typed the first couple of days of a month, and another on the 15th and 16th; however, it sometimes takes as much as 3-5 days to get an issue out, during periods when we work overtime or have family activities scheduled--or have a DIPLOPHOBIA to get out; and, it sometimes happens that some important material comes in just after we mail out an issue, so we immediately prepare another issue to get the material out, rather than wait for the next regularly scheduled issue). In other words, SOTWJ is supposed to be biweekly, but in actuality is closer to weekly. The small, 10-page 'zine gives greater flexibility than trying to put out a larger 'zine, and provides much quicker feedback than would a larger, slower, 3rd-class monthly. We expect that we will eventually settle down to a schedule that is closer to bi-weekly than it is now...we are still in the process of revamping our publications, catching up with material on hand, and experimenting to find the formats and schedules which enable us to do the most publishing in the shortest time and at the same time to provide our readers with what they seem to want the most. For now, we are wedded to the 10-page, "bi-weekly", 1st-class format; three months from now, who knows?....

As for a name-change--we have been considering this. Any comments from any of our other readers on the subject?

Re Magazinarama--This would seem to be the department which is in the most trouble. We have four choices: (1) Drop it entirely; (2) Reduce it to its bare essentials--a straight contents-listing, w/o blurbs; (3) Continue it as it now is, with blurbs; (4) Read the magazines and publish a brief review of each issue. Number (4) is at the moment out of the question, because of our eye trouble; however, it is a possibility in the future if things get better. We are reluctant to drop it entirely because we are not sure whether Richard Delap will be keeping his column up to date in the future; he seems to write it in batches of several months at one time--which is the reason we've been publishing it so sporadically. Richard? At any rate, if any of our readers wants Magazinarama to continue, let us know as soon as possible--and specify your choices, in order, from those given above.

Re The Bookshelf and The Steady Stream--We would love to get away from publishing the publishers' blurbs; however, if these blurbs are in themselves misleading, and we paraphrase them, won't we be running the risk of making them even more misleading? Without having actually read the books, how can we really make any intelligent comments about them without using the publishers' blurbs for our source? Perhaps we'll some day be able to read the things when we get them...but for now we can only note their receipt, and let our reviewers (and, hopefully, our readers, if you'll get into the swing of things and send us your comments--however brief--on any SF/fantasy-related material you read, see, hear, etc.) provide the meaningful commentary. (When someone buys a book from a news-stand display, does

he buy it on the basis of the author's reputation (in which case, how does a 1st-time author ever sell his work?), the cover art (in which case, some books could never sell), published reviews (which usually take so long to come out that the book will be out of print or no longer stocked by the news-stand by the time they appear), or the publisher's blurb (which, granted, is often rather unrepresentative of the book's contents)? Our reviewers who pick up books at WSFA meetings seem to go by the blurbs...and, lacking a review to read or knowledge of the author, we go by them too when we make an infrequent news-stand purchase. So, fraught with peril as it may be, we are stuck with blurbs. When they are repetitive or space is short, we paraphrase them; when space is plentiful, or we feel that a more complete quote would be more revealing/meaningful than an extract, we quote at least a portion of the blurb verbatim. (Don't think too hard about the Werewolf quote in this issue; in our haste, we did a bad job of it....) Readers? Comments? Paraphrase, quote verbatim, omit entirely? And do you find publisher's addresses and book numbers useful? (We list these because the books were received directly from the publisher, mostly for prepublication notice and review; when we buy books from news-stands and dealers, we seldom give this info.)

Our comments on clubzines do go into less detail than those on 'zines covered by The Amateur Press. We seldom do more in "The Club Circuit" than merely note the contents. Only where clubzines are in reality genzines (like TWJ, e.g.), do we ever give an opinion of the 'zine.

Don't remember who voted negatively re ESFA Report--but we seem to remember that the negative vote was an expression of a dislike for club-related material in general. We publish ESFA minutes because they are generally informative--much more so than the WSFA minutes--and the reports on the talks, although short, are usually quite interesting. (The info on Moskowitz's doings, in particular, is most useful.) At one time we tried to get transcripts of the ESFA talks for publication in TWJ, but this fell through because the tape we received was unintelligible. We would still welcome texts (if any of the speakers would provide same) or transcripts (if anyone in ESFA could do the transcribing) of some of the more interesting and informative presentations.

As for WSFA minutes--we publish them (during the rare intervals when we receive them) because SOTWJ is a WSFA-sponsored publication. However, they are usually received so long after the meeting covered that the news material therein is of no value, and the WSFA business is of only historical interest. Perhaps a one-paragraph summary of each meeting, sent to us within a few days after a meeting, would be of more interest and value? But, then, this is just another part of the pattern which has us getting reams of material and information on activities and events 3,000 miles away, while being ignored as an information outlet by sponsors of many of the local events and activities. We are working hard to overcome this problem--but it requires at least a bit of effort on the local sponsors (we are still waiting for DISCON PROGRESS REPORT #1, e.g., after joining six weeks ago....) Perhaps the potentialities of a frequent local newszine haven't fully sunk in yet.... Or maybe the shock hasn't worn off....

Richard will have to tell you why he doesn't cover the prozine serials. (We wish that he--or someone else--would, on a regular basis. Any volunteers?)

The good showing on the questionnaire of the "Con Reports" category was because of the SCA reports (as were the "dislikes"). Few SOTWJ readers have ever seen a Jay Kay Klein report, as he has been writing so infrequently lately. As coverage of SOTWJ expands and space becomes tighter, we'll be publishing less SCA reports (confining them to major events, like the one in #82--which, incidentally, was the most entertaining we've seen in a long time--made us regret not being there....). For now, they are published largely for the benefit of our local readership (as are many of the "Tidbits"). --ed.))

Floyd Peill, Box 238, Morse, Sask., Canada

(6 Feb '73)

Just a few thoughts on the "SOTWJ Survey Results" in issue #80.

I was surprised to see such a good showing for "Dissecting the Heart of the Matter". I read the column to get a broad idea of who's writing in the prozines,

and to get Delap's views on the authors' styles. Besides, the reviews in themselves are fascinating. Do others also read this section for these reasons? Is this why it's popular? My feeling (and I may be totally unfounded in this) is that the percentage is small of those who use the column as a guide to their prozine story reading. In my younger days I read a lot of the prozines; now I still continue to buy them all, but only to keep my files complete. I read the book reviews in ANALOG, GALAXY, and IF; the science article and book column in F&SF; and the editorials, features, book reviews, and letters in Ted White's mags. That's all. No stories. The difficulty is that there's such a plethora of sf and fantasy paperback and book material inundating us today that I must almost totally disregard the prozines if I want to delve into some of the other reading matter available. Many of the worthwhile prozine stories eventually find their way into paperbacks, so I take some consolation.

I'm afraid "Magazinarama" should be dropped. A mere contents listing will not help a reader in his selection of an issue (or particular article) to read. Blurbs are some improvement (although they are too misleading) and do give some indication of what the story is about. But you know, I think a person will continue to buy all issues of his favorite magazine anyway, regardless of the fact that a particular issue may not meet his expectations; I find it hard to believe that a reader will buy a prozine on a one-shot basis. Delap's column, especially if it's up-to-date, will take care of our requirements in the prozine field.

Ken Faig made an interesting point in his letter. I, too, think the main reason I read the minutes of the various meetings is to keep up-to-date on Sam's latest endeavors. Curious, is it not?

SOTWJ can't mention all the new hardbacks and quality paperbacks appearing on the market, but you should make a point to keep us informed on the new releases of the various firms which have a special interest to the fan and collector: Arkham House, Don Grant, Mirage Press, etc.

((We're sure Richard (as would we) would be interested in knowing why SOTWJ readers read his column. Why do you? We read it because we have to in order to type it (and because we enjoy it...we can't, for reasons stated above, read everything which comes in...and reading Richard's reviews is the next-best-thing (or, from what he has to say about some of the stories, even better) than reading the stories themselves). We buy all the prozines to keep our collection up, and read, as does Floyd, only the departments on a regular basis.

Your mention of the review columns reminds us of the reason "Magazinarama" was started--it was intended mainly for bibliographic types, who wanted to keep up with statistical data and contents of prozines (ourselves included). In particular, we found in early issues that the thing which seemed to be most liked was our book-by-book listing of books covered in the review columns--one author even wrote to say it was the first notice he'd received that his book had been reviewed (the prozine having not even sent him a copy). If "Magazinarama" were dropped, we would like to continue with the coverage of reviews in some way--perhaps by a monthly listing of book reviews in all prozines, major fanzines, and library journals (together with some kind of opinion rating), similar to what we are putting into our book review index for the years 1926-69. This would provide a preliminary look at what Hal Hall will be giving you later for the entire year, and would not be cross-referenced or in as much detail as his index--but might prove very useful to those who are interested in such things. Comments?

Perhaps Sam could be induced to send us regular news releases on his latest activities? Sam? You have an eager audience....

We do try to keep up with the specialty houses--but this--like our coverage of the major publishers--depends upon the information they are willing to send us. Major publishers are very erratic, with all their personnel changes, so we never know who's going to send us announcements, from month to month--and our inquiries on the subject never seem to be answered. Specialty houses are also very erratic--Arkham House has yet to respond; Mirage Press keeps promising to send us something,

but never does (although Jack Chalker did pass along a bit of info at the Balticon); Don Grant's catalogues don't come very often, but when they do we pass along all the news of new books from his presses. Again, we ask our readers to pass along any tidbits of info they may receive from time to time in this area. --ed..))

Tony Waters, 3223 Nash Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45226 -- (10 Feb '73)

Many (many) years ago--before I ever started to read SF--I saw a movie on TV that impressed me very much. I don't remember the name or anything like that . . . ;but perhaps one of you will remember it. No doubt this description is far from what I actually saw, still. . . .

A starship lands on an alien planet; the starship is sort of earthish, the planet sort of Arisian (or at least suprahuman--with benefit of hindsight). On the planet, long past its prime, lives a girl and her father. The action centers around (1) the room/hall where the father is usually found and (2) the base of the starship. There are some sort of invisible monitors or perhaps psychic phenomena which attack the base. In return, the men from the base enter the hall and (for some reason or other) fire their "rayguns". Said rayguns do no damage whatsoever to the (and this detail is the only thing that I think I'm sure of) Krel Steel of which the walls are made. There are other parts to the story-- I remember one scene where a "car" speeds through a tube to the heart of the planet-- but eventually the girl goes with the captain of the starship, the father stays on the planet and sets off an irreversible atomic reaction in the heart of the planet. The last shot of the movie is the explosion of the planet as seen from the starship from a safe distance.

Thanks for any light you may be able to shed on this vague recollection.

((Can anyone help him? We seem to remember parts of it, from different films, but no one film in which this all takes place together. --ed..))

Ray Hubbard, Vice President Programming, WTOP-TV9, Broadcast House, Washington, DC 20016 -- (14 Feb '73)

Dear D. Miller (whoever you are):

Who are you? What is the WSFA JOURNAL that you are the son of? Is this a going publication or is it a work of love? I must say, we are terribly grateful to you for printing the Cinema Club schedule. Who reads you? Who gets you? How can you possibly be financially self-sustaining at 20 cents per copy? There's 18 cents worth of paper and 2 cents worth of ink at any rate. Who does the research? It is incredible! For heaven's sake, don't bother to staple in the "you are mentioned on page so and so" thing--it must take days to get out this edition. I know where are are now and we will look.

I will try to remember to get you information in advance when we put the next new serial on. It's called The Vanishing Shadow--it's pure 1932 science fiction--and you'll absolutely love it.

Thanks so much for whatever it is you are doing.

((Well, at least somebody out there likes SOTWJ (whatever that is....)! --ed..))

Forrest J. Ackerman, 915 So Sherbourne Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90035 -- (undated)

The Fantasy Foundation (est. 1946) contains over 100,000 books, magazines, paintings, movie props, manuscripts, etc--but is lacking a file of SON OF THE WSFA JOURNAL! If you would care to rectify this egregious oversight our shelves would be happy to accomodate your publication, past, present & future.

((So, if any of our readers have back issues (particularly #'s 1-12) which they no longer want, send them to Forrie. He didn't mention THE WSFA JOURNAL, so we assume he doesn't need this title (we couldn't help him if we did, as most TWJ back-issues are now gone--but if you have any to spare, ask him if he needs them when you send him your SOTWJ's). --ed..))

BALLANTINE BOOKS (101 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10003) -- (Feb. releases) --

The Charwoman's Shadow, by Lord Dunsany (#03085; \$1.25) -- ". . . the sort of wonder-tale that only Lord Dunsany could create: a strange, haunting, magical tale filled with marvels, set in the twilight of the Golden Age of romance and chivalry in a Spain that never was, except in heroic legend. . . With an introduction by Lin Carter."

Neutral Stars, by Dan Morgan & John Kippax (#03086; \$1.25) -- Third novel in the "Venturer Twelve" series (first two were Thunder of Stars and Seed of Stars).

Gods and Golems, by Lester del Rey (#03087; \$1.25) -- Collection of five short SF novels: "Vengeance Is Mine", "Superstition", "Life Watch", "For I Am a Jealous People", and "Pursuit".

DOUBLEDAY S.F. BOOK CLUB (Garden City, NY) -- (May releases) --

Science Fiction Hall of Fame, Vol. Two A, ed. by Ben Bova (Member's ed., \$3.50; Publisher's ed. was \$9.95) -- First half of second volume of "all-time best novellas", as selected by collective vote of members of the S.F. Writers of America. This half contains 11 selections: "Who Goes There?", by Don A. Stuart; "Universe", by Robert A. Heinlein; "The Time Machine", by H.G. Wells; "Call Me Joe", by Poul Anderson; "...With Folded Hands", by Jack Williamson; "Baby Is Three", by Theodore Sturgeon; "The Ballad of Lost C'Mell", by Cordwainer Smith; "Nerves", by Lester del Rey; "...And Then There Were None", by Eric Frank Russell; "The Marching Morns", by C.M. Kornbluth; and "Vintage Season", by Henry Kuttner & C.L. Moore.

The Overlords of War, by Gérard Klein (translated by John Brunner) (Member's Ed., \$1.49; Publisher's Ed. was \$5.95) -- For thirty years Earth and the inhabitants of the planet Uria had been locked in a seemingly endless struggle. Then "the men of Earth discovered a remote world populated by creatures so deadly that it had cost them an entire space fleet just to capture one. They called it the Monster. No other word could adequately describe this hideous creature which had an implacable hatred for any living thing unlike itself. Virtually indestructable, it could also travel through about seven seconds into the past or future, a skill which enabled it to escape any danger that might possibly threaten it." Earth planned to turn it loose on Uria, to reproduce (18,000 at a time) and devastate Uria. The ship carrying it to Uria was destroyed, but the monster escaped into the future with one of the crewmen, the latter summoned by god-like creatures who were trying to eliminate all war, and needed him to stop a power-mad general.

Alternates -- The Day The Sun Stood Still, by Poul Anderson, Gordon R. Dickson, & Robert Silverberg (\$1.49); 2001: A Space Odyssey, by Arthur C. Clarke (\$1.49); Jack of Shadows, by Roger Zelazny (\$1.49); Gods From Outer Space, by Erich von Däniken (\$2.98; sequel to Chariots of the Gods?; 16 pp. of photos); The Sheep Look Up, by John Brunner (\$2.49); Nightfall and Other Stories, by Isaac Asimov (\$1.69); The World Inside, by Robert Silverberg (\$1.49); Prelude to Mars, by Arthur C. Clarke (\$1.69).

WALKER & COMPANY (720 Fifth Ave., N.Y., NY 10019) -- (Nov. releases; just got list) --

As On a Darkling Plain, by Ben Bova (\$5.95) -- "Finds man in the twenty-first century reaching toward the stars in fearful search of an alien race which eons ago built machines that are still functioning on the planet Titan. . . ."

Flight From Time One, by Deane Romano (\$5.95) -- "A metaphysical adventure set in the year 1988 when the earth's first astralnauts transcend the realms of terrestrial existence and fly their souls shiplessly through space and time."

Breaking Point, by James Gunn (\$4.95) -- "A science fiction anthology consisting of eight stories of character where beings in unusual circumstances are faced with difficult choices and pushed to the point where they must bend--or break. . . ."

Miscellany -- Just got Catalog #4 from Lincoln Enterprises, POBox 69470, Los Angeles, CA 90069. It includes scripts, photos, etc. for "Star Trek", "Search", "Kung Fu", "Questor", "Spectre", & "Genesis II". We'll publish more details if anyone asks.