

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
the
GREAT PAGODA
INSURANCE
CO.



No. 4

Jan. 1978

Friends and neighbors,

This may or may not be the first issue of the statewide GPIC. At this moment I'm a tad behind deadline (not your fault, Steve, I just couldn't get it in gear). The reasons were many: the holiday season being one, my laziness another, a previous writing commitment another, film of Roger Zelazny and the statewide meeting that never got developed another. Not making excuses, just covering my tracks. So (perhaps) welcome Tulsa and all points East. Thank you Steve Kimmel for the info and letter. I look forward to a long and happy association.

WINTERCON

Before the start of any kind of planned meetings or parties, I always have that last minute demon-doubt who trident pricks my forebrain and whispers, "What if nobody shows up?". The Wintercon gathering of the full membership of the OSFW was just such an occasion. Up until thirty minutes before the scheduled start of the

thing, I had spent all of my waking hours at the con, and seen no more than a handful of friendly faces. I began to suffer anxiety pains in a way that only Rondo Hatton would understand (never mind). I left our plush, private conference room (?) with the piped in music (remember that?) to look for more weirdo's, and returned empty handed ten minutes later to find thirty people waiting for the start of the festivities. Perhaps I'm existing in a different time reference---I don't know. I prefer to think that you all simply beamed down from somewhere. Anyway, it was nice to see all of the old torch bearers of my acquaintance, plus many of the Tulsa group whom I'd never met, plus many new faces---gleaned out of the oil slick that had floated into the Trade Winds.

It was kind of fun. We all know each other pretty well by now and can talk openly. There was some anecdote trading back and forth, some words of wisdom (pearls before swine?) from Carolyn, Steve told us how to sell science fiction to Gun Digest and Osteopathic Physician, Jan Finder took us on another journey through the cul de sacs of his mind, and if that wasn't excitement enough for one day...we topped it all by taking up a collection so that Bob Tucker could get a new pair of glasses to replace the one's stolen at Okon last year.

Yes, yes, I know. Those of you not in attendance are probably wondering just how so much intense action could take place in a public building without us getting arrested. Actually, we blackmailed the management by threatening to leave the meeting room and mingle with the ordinary people out in the lobby. They never bothered us again.

All seriousness aside, it wasn't a bad meeting at all. We talked a great deal about an organized campaign to get an amount of broadcasting on public television oriented in a science fiction direction. Carolyn has been handling all the details, and the fast breaking news will be made available to you just as soon as it becomes available to me.

We also discussed a subject very near and dear to my heart, and I'd like to put it to the full membership now and get some reactions. For some time I've been kicking around the idea of putting together some sort of s/f magazine, contributions for which would be drawn from the ranks of the OSFW. I have several reasons for pursuing such an obviously masochistic goal, not the least of which is that I really enjoy the editing end of the business and would love a crack at doing a magazine. I've access (nepotistic economics) to good, cheap printing and I'd be willing to absorb the cost myself until after the mag was finished. It seems that we could work from a fairly large printing, and try to recoup the expenses by selling the thing at Okon this summer. For that reason, and if everyone's willing, the projected date of publication would be July. I think that we can put together a pretty slick

product (including artwork), that might be a great deal of fun for everyone involved. And let's not forget: we can all use those writing credits. I would like to see submissions from everyone, and if we can rip off our resident pro's for a little free wordage, we can put their names on the cover and maybe break even on the deal. What do you think? I'm planning on everyone accepting this idea, since I've already begun to gather material for it.

The con itself wasn't bad, although any relationship between the film schedule and the pre publicity was purely accidental. That was okay. I snuck some beer into the film room (as usual) and got quietly smashed while trying to avoid Robert Brown's omnipotent gaze. Alex Toth was a joy to listen to, as was (as always) Carolyn. There was a panel on s/f in the cinema with Carolyn, Steve, Al Gechter, Brad (beer on the carpet) Sinor, Jan "Wombat" FINDER, and Anne Silas. It was all an excuse to justify for the sake of consistency the showing of some Star Wars trailers that they got from somewhere. It was all in fun, although there were almost as many people on the panel as in the audience. Safety in numbers? Speaking for myself, I had a most enjoyable time (but then I always have a good time) at the first total membership meeting, and am looking forward to Okon.

HOW TO FIND THE NEXT MEETING PLACE, OR
STOP ME IF YOU'VE HEARD THIS...

The next meeting of the OKC group will be at the home of Ron and Jan Wolfe. The date is Saturday, Jan 14th (7 pm), the address: 234 Blackwelder, Edmond, Okla. And here's how to find it. Take the Broadway extension straight into Edmond. Stay on it until you reach Second Street. Turn right on Second (East for you sticklers). You'll travel on Second for a number of blocks (an accurate count is unavailable at this time) until reaching Blackwelder. Blackwelder is relatively unlit and very difficult to find in the dark. But fear not, there is a recognizable landmark. A large (actually average sized) Dairy Queen sits on the corner of Second and Blackwelder. When you get to the good, old DQ, hang a left. Ron and Jan's house is a couple of blocks up on the right hand side of the street. There are two sets of duplexes that sit in a little gully. Their's is the second set. If all this sounds confusing to you, give me a call. Anyone who wants can stop by my house and go with me or follow at one car length per ten miles an hour. The number is: 755-0904. If you're going with me, don't forget to call so I'll know to wait for you.

SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE TULSANS,
BUT I WOULDN'T WANT MY SISTER TO MARRY ONE

This from Stevie D., for those of you who live in the frigid North:
In order to put out a single state newsletter, which was deemed a desirable

end, it was necessary to make other alterations. Both groups changed their meeting dates one week. Now the meetings are only a few days apart. Note the new meeting date!

Appropriate Information

What: OSFW, Tulsa monthly meeting

When: 7:30 pm, Thursday, January 12

Where: Furr's Cafeteria in Utica Square

Who: You, yourself, and whoever you think is appropriate.

Program: Joyce McKennon, who has recently sold a non sf movie script for tons of bucks, will talk about writing for movies.

Other Information (and opinions)

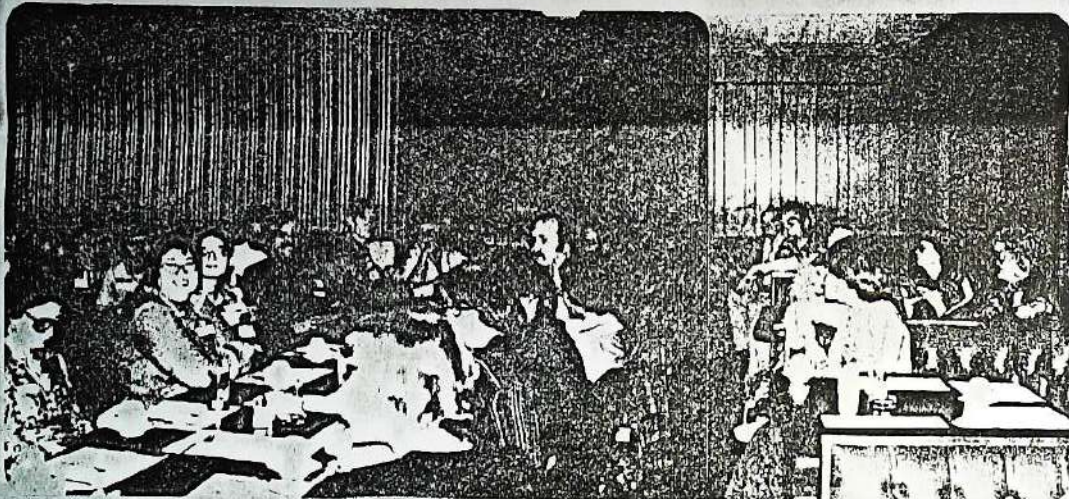
I'm sure that it has been mentioned elsewhere in the GPIC that we have decided to put out a massive summer issue of this as a zine. The question, as I see it, is will our pros, who could sell anything they write, contribute to something like this? C.J. never writes anything shorter than a book unless she's sick. Not wishing to volunteer to make her sick, I do wonder if the zine could succeed without our real pros. We'll be discussing this at the meeting. (I'm certainly not above crying, begging, and whimpering like a dog on Carolyn's doorstep...or Mister Lafferty's for that matter---Mike)

New Members...Tulsa : Karen Fleming, 6908 W. First, Tulsa, Okla 74107

Susan Jarvis, 2237 S. Troost, Tulsa, 74114

Ben Hopkins, 3643 E. 67th St, Tulsa 74136

Change of Address : Mary Robbins, 3811 E. 51st #4, Tulsa 74105



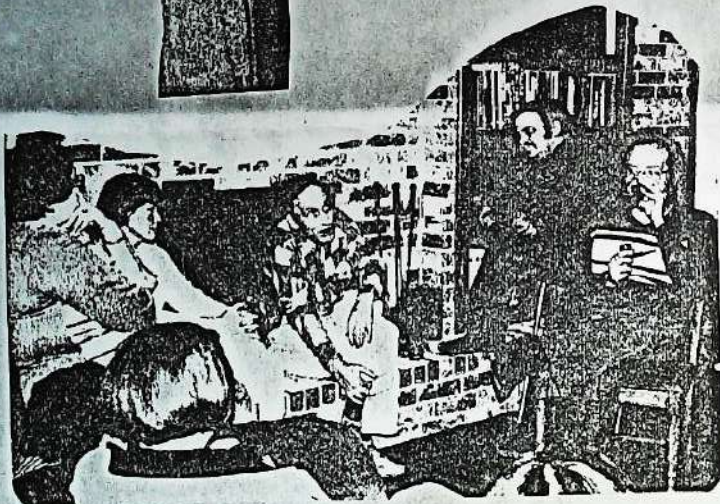
WHY ARE THESE PEOPLE SMILING?



ISOMETRICS?



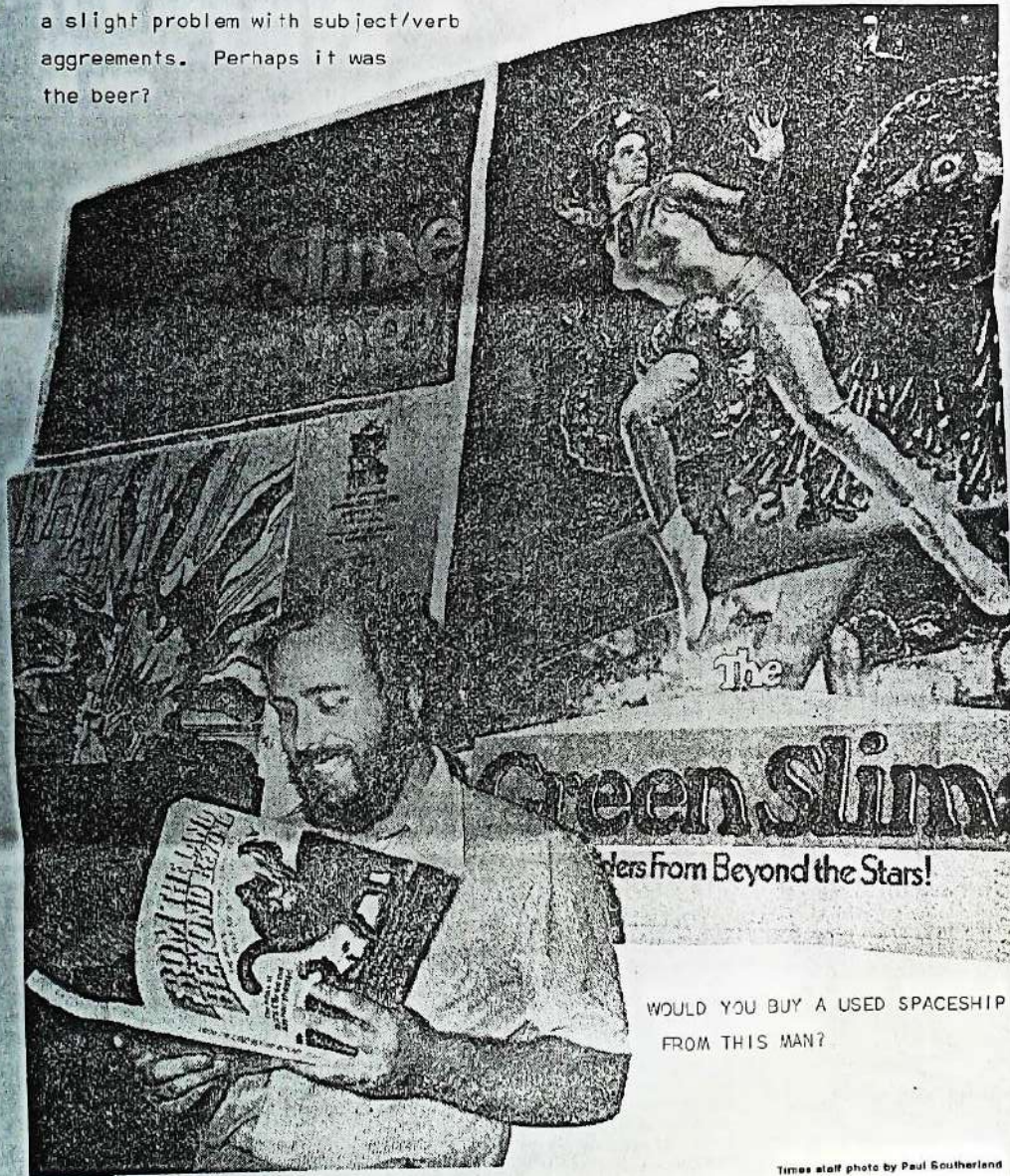
"AND THEN I WROTE..."



ZELAZNY GOES CATATONIC WHILE BRAD CONTEMPLATES AND ED HOWARD DEMONSTRATES VARIOUS METHODS OF KEEPING THE HANDS OCCUPIED.

WINNER OF THE ROCK HUDSON LOOKALIKE CONTEST

Since I haven't been hearing from you clowns, I decided to blow my own horn for awhile. This picture and the interview that follows, appeared in the Times Dec. 29th. Thanks to OSFW member Ron Wolfe for the interview, even though I seem to have a slight problem with subject/verb agreements. Perhaps it was the beer?



WOULD YOU BUY A USED SPACESHIP FROM THIS MAN?

Times staff photo by Paul Southerland

Science fiction writer and 'film addict' Mike McQuay says 'The Green Slime' did not make his admittedly subjective list of the best all-time science fiction movies.

'Film,' he says, 'is today's art. It's what is going to be passed on to future generations from us; and as such it demands a lot of care and attention.'

By Ron Wolfe

The science fiction movie only seems to be swooshing out of nowhere these days to boldly go where no man has gone before, and in fact has been hovering around since the turn of the century.

French moviemaker George Melies took off with "A Trip to the Moon" sometime around 1902, says writer and self-described "film addict" Mike McQuay, who edits the monthly newsletter of the Oklahoma



City chapter of the Oklahoma Science Fiction Writers.

So "SF" in the movies was up, up and away a year before the Wright brothers got off the ground, and 75 years before the first ticket line for "Star Wars" or "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

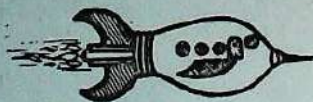
"There really has been a tremendous number of super science fiction films," says McQuay, whose own all-time favorite is "Forbidden Planet" from 1956.

"I'm a product of electronics," he said, "a product of the TV age. And when I got old enough to go to films, I found I didn't care if I had anybody to go with or not, I'd go anyway — and still do, two or three times a week."

Now, "we may be in the renaissance of science fiction," McQuay says. But then again, maybe not, because science fiction has always had trouble beaming up much of an audience.

"Most people are anti-imagination to my way of thinking," he said. And with science fiction, "you never know what to expect."

SF leaps like a moonman over the



boundaries that fence in the cowboy story and love story, and make them cozy-safe because there are no surprises.

Yet, everything from the SF milestone "Clockwork Orange" to "Teenagers from Outer Space," "Queen of Outer Space" and McQuay's nomination as the worst of all time — "Plan 9 from Outer Space" — is zapped with the same billing of science fiction. Or labeled "sci fi," which in some quarters is taken as an insult worse than calling Mr. Spock a gigglepuss.

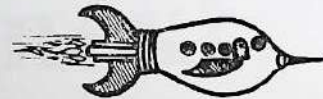
"The best of science fiction to me," McQuay says, "is that which, by extrapolating into the future, shows what our life is today. You've got to care about people and care about what is going to happen to us."

So "Invasion of the Body Snatchers," from 1956, is not just a scare story about people being duplicated and then destroyed and forgotten, he said. "It's about the mechanics of society — about inhumanity. Some people say it is about Communism or Socialism. It happens when you're asleep — you just go away."

"Metropolis," in 1925, was a German-made silent movie with a loud warning in its story about people being misled and manipulated by the humanoid mechanical "robotrix," and is seen now as a foreshadowing of the war movement in Germany.

And "Forbidden Planet," McQuay said, "gets into some heavy psychology" with the idea that real monsters — "monsters of the Id" — could slither out of the subconscious mind and be given life.

"Star Wars" is in nowhere close to the lofty number one orbit of "Forbidden Planet" on McQuay's own "very subjective" list of best all-time SF movies, rating seventh from the top. "I loved it for the technical effects," he said. "But 'Star Wars' is pulp, and it may set science fiction back 30 years because of its style and flavor and lack of originality in story concept. If science fiction goes back to 'Star Wars,' it might as well dig a hole and bury itself."



Still waiting to take a flier on "Close Encounters," McQuay said his list of the spaced-out Top Ten from number two and down is: "2001: A Space Odyssey," "Things to Come," "Metropolis," "Rollerball," "Invasion of the Body Snatchers," "Star Wars," "Doctor Strangelove," "This Island Earth" and "Soylent Green."

"I define science fiction as a science-based event that has not happened," McQuay said, "but could happen, accepting the technology put forth in the film. It's a very simple definition, but it keeps out the junk."

One boom in SF was set off partly by dropping the atomic bomb in 1945, and partly by the invention that same year of the drive-in movie theater, he said.

The bomb, McQuay said, "keyed everyone on science." And the drive-



in created a rocketing new market for the cheap and fast "B" movie.

But in the 60s, "science fiction pretty well died out," he said, "until

it began a resurgence in the late 60s with '2001' and 'Fantastic Voyage,' and a lot of imitations not nearly so good for lack of money or lack of care."



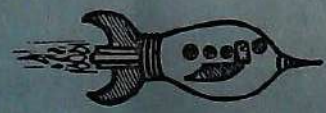
A4

What planet next,

And now — like Boris Karloff's monster — SF has come back alive and kicking and apparently stronger than ever.

"Science fiction has several things going for it right now," McQuay said. "I see science fiction replacing the Western as the 'B' picture in this country . . . the solid

science fiction?



stuff has always been in the 'B' pictures.

"Film appeals to the conscious mind and then subtly to the subconscious. So — why not skip the conscious? Why not a light show? We're getting away from the Greek idea of a play and into the idea of subconscious entertainment, and it's kind of frightening.

"Where's it going to go? The answer is trite-sounding but true — that imagination is the only limit.

"We may be getting into areas of entertainment 10 years from now," McQuay said, "that right now, we couldn't conceive of."

PARTING SHOTS

Lucky you! Due to space limitations, I'm going to skip the editorializing this month. And not a moment too soon, right? Well don't get your hopes up. My uncalled for comments will be back in all their flaming glory next ish.

For the Tulsa people who aren't aware of it, and the OKC people who still haven't gotten it through their thick skulls, I'm going to state again that this newsletter is meant to be an extension of our collective brains; not a vehicle for my own ego satisfaction. Let me hear from you gentle folk on any topic, with any question or opinion at all. You know, even letter writing is good practice in being concise. Sit down and try it. And in case you've forgotten, here's my address once again:

Mike McQuay
824 NW 116th Terrace
OKLA CITY, 73114 (405) 755-0904

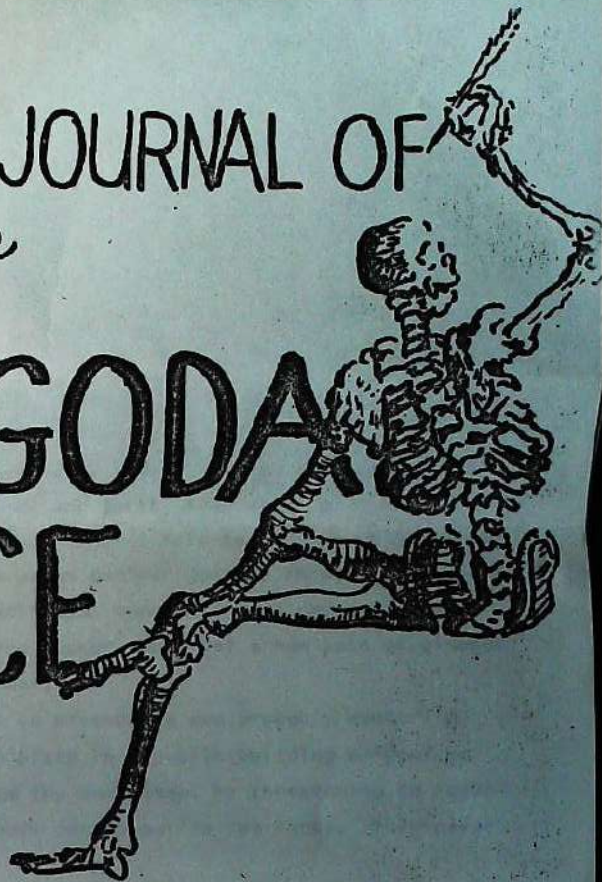
Like to mention in passing that R.A. Lafferty has a super story in Orbit 19. Don't forget C.J. Cheeryh's novel serialization appearing monthly in Galaxy. And I think Steve Kimmel has a story in this month's issue of Petroleum Engineer's Handbook. Goodbye to Jan Finder, who's taking Damnation Alley to Albany. Good luck Jan, and keep in touch. All for now....

"To the batpoles, Robin."

"Roger, Batman."

---Mike

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
the
GREAT PAGODA
INSURANCE
CO.



No. 4

Jan. 1978

Friends and neighbors,

This may or may not be the first issue of the statewide GPIC. At this moment I'm a tad behind deadline (not your fault, Steve, I just couldn't get it in gear). The reasons were many: the holiday season being one, my laziness another, a previous writing commitment another, film of Roger Zelazny and the statewide meeting that never got developed another. Not making excuses, just covering my tracks. So (perhaps) welcome Tulsa and all points East. Thank you Steve Kimmel for the info and letter. I look forward to a long and happy association.

WINTERCON

Before the start of any kind of planned meetings or parties, I always have that last minute demon-doubt who trident pricks my forebrain and whispers, "What if nobody shows up?". The Wintercon gathering of the full membership of the OSFW was just such an occasion. Up until thirty minutes before the scheduled start of the