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EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Charles N. Brown

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Faren Miller

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Donna Burrison

MANAGING EDITOR

Dawn Atkins

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Norman Spinrad

Richard Curtis

Fritz Leiber

Debbie Notkin

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700 Ninomiya Ninomiya-machi

Naka-gun Kanagawa-ken

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Contents

Nebula Awards Nominations.....p.1
Dan Reeder: Screamers.....1
Robin McKinley Wins Newbery Award....1
Official LACON Figures Released.....1
Contents.....3
Editorial Matters.....3
Announcements.....3
Farmer's Fantastic Voyage.....4
By Any Other Name; Market Reports....4
Philip K. Dick Award Nominations....4
Hugo Nominations Ballots.....4
World Fantasy Award Judges.....4
Twilight Zone News; Nebula Banquet..4
World SF Meeting Moved to Italy.....4
Sf At Oscars; TAFF Tales.....5
Summer SF Workshops; Book Notes.....5
Stephen King Admits Pseudonym.....5
British Book Notes; Publishing Notes.5
People Notes; Wolner Moves to Pocket.7
Agent's Corner, Richard Curtis.....9
Moons & Stars & Stuff, Fritz Leiber.11

Locus Looks at Books, Faren Miller...13
Locus Looks at More Books, Debbie Notkin.....15
Conjuring Helliconia, Brian Aldiss..17
Convention Listings.....19
1984: One Year in Soviet SF, by Vladimir Gakov.....23
SF in Czechoslovakia, by Jaroslav Olsa, Jr., & Petr Holan.....25
SF in China.....26
The Chinese Connection.....26
News From Yugoslavia.....26
Along Publishers Row.....30
Windycon.....34
Books Received--January.....35
Magazines Received--January.....39
Classified Ads.....46
Bookseller Lists.....49
Obituaries: Walt Liebscher, Agnes Peterffy Cossato.....50
1984 Bestsellers in the Chains.....50

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Announcements

The Philip K. Dick Society has issued its December 1984 Newsletter, featuring interviews with K.W. Jeter and Philip K. Dick, plus a long letter from Russell Galen and various notes. The Newsletter is available only to members of the PKD Society. Membership is \$6.00 per year anywhere in the world. A "bio-bibliography" of Richard Matheson, the illustrated pamphlet RICHARD MATHESON: HE IS LEGEND, by Mark Rathbun and Graeme Flanagan, is available for \$4.00 postpaid from Mark Rathbun, 390

Rio Linda Ave. #86, Chico CA 95926. TIK-TOK by John Sladek (Gollancz 1983) is now available in the U.S. from distributors David & Charles, Inc., North Pomfret VT 05053. The price is \$14.95. Donald Keller and Jerry Kaufman have started a new small press, Serconia Press, to issue criticism and essays about sf. Their first book will be THE PALE SHADOW OF SCIENCE by Brian Aldiss, and they plan to bring it out in time for Aldiss' appearance at Norwescon.

Editorial Matters

Production time, printing and mailing, on Locus, is about five weeks for an issue, which means we've sometimes got two going at once. The deadlines for the April issue are already past when we mail March. Please keep this in mind when sending classifieds, other advertising, convention changes, letters, etc. The sections from the columns to the classifieds go to the printer earlier than the outer pages. Alas, color pages also take longer to run and color photos have to go for separations even earlier. The short articles by Aldiss in this issue and Delany last time are an experiment. We're looking for more of this type but can't handle anything over 3,000 words. We're also looking for more file photos of authors in both color and black & white. We're especially interested in people we're never run photos of.

LOCUS POLL AND SURVEY

Please get your ballots back as quickly as possible. A xerox is ok if you're a collector, or we'll send another copy if you furnish a stamped addressed envelope. If you want the free issue, remember to write your name exactly the way it appears on your subscription label.

AVON'S NOT CALLING ANYMORE

Avon Books has terminated direct service to 1742 bookstores because a cost study shows that a combination of low ordering and low sell-through makes them constant money losers. Avon was quick to point out that only stores doing under \$2,500 in gross business were affected, but threatened that additional cuts will probably be made in 1985. Part of this is seen by people in the industry as a move in the Northern California Booksellers vs Avon lawsuit on preferential discounts. In any case, it sets a disturbing precedent. Many of the books included were the small edition literary works Avon does in its Bard line. Many of the bookstores involved were the small literary type. If this starts a trend with other publishers, it could affect a lot of small stores. Although Locus

mainly concentrates on the commercial aspects of books, we try not to lose sight of the fact that we're also talking about literature, ideas, freedom, and all those other emotional and intellectual intangibles connected with books. It would be a sad world if only large stores handling popular items were of interest to publishers.

CORRECTIONS

As usual, Locus was rushed to the printer before final proofreading could be done. F. Paul Wilson had his name inadvertently changed to Williams in both text and photo caption on page 42. The Silverberg photos on the front and back pages were by yours truly, and the two page 1 movie photos should have had studio credits. Debbie Notkin's recommended column on page 26 was garbled. She said none of last year's books stand out, not "one" as printed. In her review column, her description of the Connie Willis collection as "one of the finest single author collections of the last few years" was dropped. In the January issue of Locus the Waldenbooks Bestseller List on page 59 listed CITY OF SORCERY as a Del Rey book. It's really a DAW book. On the same page in the Locus Bestseller List CHANUR'S REVENGE is not a bestseller yet, it's CHANUR'S VENTURE.

At least one major book was inadvertently left off the Recommended Reading list. THE CONGLOMEROID COCKTAIL PARTY by Robert Silverberg (Arbor House) was one of the outstanding collections of the year.

MAILING COMMENTS

I just looked back on the Locus editorials of 10 years ago and found we spent a lot of time apologizing for late issues. These things seem to run in cycles. The last issue sat at the printer's an extra week because of printing and binding delays and went out on January 31 instead of on the mailing date marked. We don't usually have nice things to say about the post office, but sometimes things actually

(Continued on page 51)