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Editorial Matters

We managed to get "dog bites man" and "money" headlines on page 1; if we could have also managed sex, we were going to call the magazine The Locus Enquirer. Maybe we should have anyway -- sf writers probably think of Nebula nominations as sexy. Come to think of it, we did manage to get a death story on page 1, even if it was for a magazine. There is some sex on the book cover in The Data File section.

We didn't put the scariest story on the front -- the incredible furor over The Satanic Verses. (It came up too late.) A fantasy novel people are dying over? A book for which there's a price on the author's life? This is really frightening, and much stranger than the paranoid fiction so popular in the thriller field today. Both our story about Rushdie and this editorial are being written (or completed) on February 17, while the news is still developing, so will probably be out of date by the time you see this issue.

This was, surprisingly enough, a very easy issue to put together. All the stories came in on time, all the columns except one (see below) showed up with only a minimum of prodding. And, best of all, our most complex feature this issue, Along Publishers Row covering the next six months of upcoming books, mostly came in on time. Trevin Matlock, (who seems to have gotten more efficient since he quit, was dropped from the masthead, and came back as a part-

time employee), managed to get most of the information out of publishers before our deadline. He had help from new trainee Scott Winnett, who is gradually taking over Trevin's duties. Faren Miller has a new helper, Elizabeth Kloian, also a trainee, who is learning the subscription lists and will begin to take over more of the record keeping, etc., leaving Faren free to do more writing and, eventually to go part-time. If our two new trainees survive their three-months' baptism of fire, they'll go on the masthead and will get their pictures and writeups in Locus. The last couple of enthusiastic beginners didn't make it. Obviously, we're not looking for any more new employees at the moment. (We even have several possible back-ups.) Pam Troy is still our one PageMaker expert (but Shelly and Faren can now back her up in emergencies). Pam got up to 105 pounds recently, but a bout of flu brought her back down to 98. Flu struck the whole staff, luckily one by one, in January. Bill Contento, who writes our programs and answers all our dumb computer questions, took over fulfillment of our book orders from Trevin -- just in time to fulfill the orders for Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror: 1987, which, I'm glad to say, is rapidly disappearing from our carport and storage area. Bill also saved us in our big emergency last month
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