



More-or-less weekly APAzine of **Samuel E. Konkin III** for  
APA-L, the Amateur Press Association of the Los Angeles  
Science Fantasy Society. Official fannish address:  
SAMUEL E. KONKIN · 2210 WILSHIRE BLVD., 379 · SANTA MONICA, CA 90403  
(213) HEAL-VEX gets you a 24-hour answering machine! • **Volume III.**

# Tarzine of the APAs

## CYBERPUNK vs NEW WAVE: Part One, FIRST THOUGHTS

Though I've barely scratched the surface of the new Cyberpunk subgenre (*Neuromancer*, *Mirrorshades*), some outlines are forming already. Cyberpunks have been compared to the New Wave of the 1960s; they have strongly rejected the comparison. I think they're right.

Whatever the merits of the New Wave, or possible positive effects generated by reaction to it, New Wave was perceived by its opponents (including me) as generating helpless anti-heroes (when it had characters) for no worthy goals (usually none at all) in formless or unresolved plot (if any) in chaotic (if spectacular) style. Old Wave (everything else) had stories with one or two of these elements but not all or nearly all.

Like Punk Music, which sought to recapture the roots of rock 'n' roll (the U.S. version often had rockabilly throwbacks on the same bill as Punks), Cyberpunk may well be a movement to recapture the roots of Science Fiction.

Among my wide range of acquaintances in fandom and libertarianism, I know of two who can and will actually defend the New Wave rationally and even comprehend to some extent the *hard space opera* essence I uphold as SF's standard (in both senses): Arthur Hlavaty and Jeff Riggensbach (Jeff is SF columnist for the *San Jose Mercury News* and KFWB announcer). Jeff is wary of Cyberpunk and Arthur attacks it with satire. I think I'm onto something here.

New Wave was nothing if not anti-Romantic. *Neuromancer* can be punned as New Romancer without violating the spirit of the book. The romance is less

### **DON'T FORGET: THIS SATURDAY**

*On The First Day Of The Year 2000, God will die, but on Saturday, The Fourth Day of April, 1987, Victor Koman signs*

# The Jehovah Contract

from 1-4 p.m. at

**RICHARD KYLE, BOOKS**

242 East Third Street, Long Beach, Ca.  
(213) 432-1192

Volume III · Number Three · April 2, 1987

Kimball and Clarissa and more Rick and Elsa (of *Casablanca*), but the good guys claw themselves out of the grime and gutter for heroic acts nonetheless.

If Cyberpunk is not that far away from traditional SF — or a move to regenerate those roots — and some critics have already asked this, why bother? What justifies the infectious partisanship and repeated toxins of its paladins?

New Wave was defeated — as decisively as any movement in literature or politics can be. So didn't the Good Old Stuff triumph? Not necessarily. Consider this nearly indisputable fact: 1980s SF does not read like 1940s' SF nor either like 1920s' SF. What changed? Was it for the better or the worse?

Quality was a red herring dragged in by the New Wave to excuse its efforts. The *real* battle for quality was fought by John W. Campbell in the 1940s with a clean-up campaign by H.L. Gold in the 1950s. Of course, we're arguing *technique*, not content. And yet, can one imagine the incomparable *History of Civilization* (Lensman series) in another style than that of Doc Smith? (Challenge: I dare the gainsayers to write a Lensman story in any other style of their choice such that I agree the content remains and they feel the style is superior.)

Cyberpunk shares Punk Rock's virtue — an utter lack of pretension about artistic standard. Cyberpunk and Old Wave both spit upon the *literati* and their inverted literary standards (not to mention incestuous in-groupishness that makes fandom look like down-home populists).

My tentative answers to these questions all take the form of *maybe* and *perhaps*. To clarify, I think Cyberpunk may have a viable case in the Court of Literature. That is, as part of SF Fandom's Grand Jury, I vote to hear their case and pass the indictment. Whether they succeed in proving that modern Science Fiction is fat, sassy, all-too-comfortable, and far too chummy with the Establishment needs yet to be seen. *Prima facie?*

When George Slusser of the J. Lloyd Eaton Collection of Science Fiction at UC Riverside agrees with anti-academic me that SF's better in the gutter where it belongs than accepted and taught[!] in college courses, the need for spitball-tossing "mudboys and dirtgirls" to get us thrown out of school is apparent. But the plaintiffs may become the defendants; to wit, are the Cyberpunks tough enough for the job? For all their strong come-on, can Cyberpunks get it up?

[Watch for Part II when I've read some more of the subgenre: at hand is *Hard Wired* and *Count Zero*. Recommendations are welcome.]

—SEK3

## Cheetah Types Shakespeare Comments To Comments on...

APA-L1139 · March 12, 1987

**Cover** (Rob Gustavson) Rae bnc.

**ToC** So you're back in 'L, too, Andy. Whatever happened to that Other APA we left 'L for ten or eleven years ago? ¶ I recognize 11 out of 22 names in the ToC; exactly 50%. ¶ Sherlockon II? Talk about *fringe* fandom.

**De Jueves** (Len & June Moffat) And *déjà vu* greetings to *De Jueves*. ¶ (Ct Louie) What's wrong with bay leaves? I've chomped on a few. ¶ (Ct Andruschak) Hitler's superiors in the National Socialist movement included the Thule Society and Dietrich Eckhart, all vehement Pagans for Political Purposes. The main anti-NS student underground was entirely Christian and mostly Catholic; see the film *The White Rose*. (Of course, we atheist anarchists were already in exile or languishing in political prisoner camps.) On the other tentacle, Hilter (*qua* German State) kept most of his treaties; one that he kept brought his downfall — the one with Japan. After bending over backwards to avoid war with Roosevelt the Rabid, he declared war after Pearl Harbor rather than wait for Mad Dog in the White House to set up another incident. On your side, his second biggest error was breaking the main treaty that he did break — the Molotov-Ribbentrop (or "Hitler-Stalin") Pact. ¶ And you're right about vegetarian cats — oxymoron. ¶ (Ct Thursday) One could attend a Convention from an Infinite Dealers Room *within* time if the Con was a finite distance away. Consider two parallel strips of finite width and depth but of infinite length...

**Harry Andruschak** Why does *The Owlet Hoot*? ¶ Haggis à la Andruschak sounds right up there with roly-poly fishheads. Yum yum. ¶ Two of the problems of unemployment statistics are that they do count voluntary employment (one in 15 between jobs because they expect ever-better offers by holding out would signify a dynamic economic indeed) and they do not count the hard-cases (usually drop people after a year. Involuntary unemployment is a combination of bad or lack of information, minimum wage enforcement and welfare "benefits" — and State interventions or results of same. Keep thanking those taxpayers, Andy... ¶ Sorry to hear Dan Alderson is in the hospital. He was at every LASFS meeting that I attended (until last year?) and was friendly and open.

**Tell Me That Tales That To Me Were So Dear** (Dan Goodman) We meet again. I'm expanding the page count in *NL* and am in the market for SF reviews again. My payment rates have climbed to 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>¢ /word. Interested? ¶ (Ct June) Dodo doodoo seeds! I won't touch that (for various reasons...) ¶ (Ct Lee) Example of a non-linguistic metaphor, please. Jung? ¶ (Ct S. Keith) Most villages and town grew agorically — literally around their marketplaces. Statist factors could shift them but not drastically. A swamp

not near trade routes, harbors and hinterland is very safe and very unlikely to remain a city. ¶ Sarajevo? Oh, yes, just a pistol shot from Austria-Hungary...

**Factsimile #?** (*Anora rha Thursday*) What a great name you have, rhymes beautifully with *agora!* ¶ (Ct Sherwood) If you want to push it a bit, C.S. Lewis's fantasy *Voyage of the Dawn Treader* has intelligent stars and *That Hideous Strength* intelligent planets. ¶ (Ct Johnson) I suspect some beat me to it but what about people who eat chocolate-covered spinach and like it?

**The Shamrock Is Forbid By Law To Grow On...** (*Tom Digby*) And greetings to you, Old Timer. ¶ (Ct Gold) An infinite concom is too hideous to contemplate. I mean, *infinite* feuding? ¶ What about non-J-C, non-nature-oriented religions? Far as I know, there is no inherent connection between *pagan* and *nature*. In fact, historically, those pagan religions that the Christians displaced themselves crushed the earlier, primitive, animist religions (*i.e.*, Germanic pagans vs Druids Celts). ¶ (Ct Andy) LASFS has an electrostencil machine now? Any other useful equipment? ¶ Other possibilities: AIDS may turn out to have a lower affinity for straights; or AIDS may "run its course" through gays and take up exclusively with straights for a period of time and gay sex would then be "safer." Also, statism cannot be trusted to find a cure. Suppose they can only find a cure for one group but not the other? ¶ (Ct Louie) Then again, some "buffer zones" might require *compulsory* smoking to maintain minimum particulate suspension. ¶ (Ct George) And how about *surrealtors*? ¶ (Ct Mistie) A latinized version could be *proximosexual*? Useful.

**Mad as a Hatter #1** (*Maddest Mark*) Greetings. Should I look around me at LASFS meetings for the maddest person around in order to meet you, or first select the set of Marks (or Marks à la circuses)?

**In Response To...** (*George Jumper*) Salud, George. Supernovae are such flashes in the pan, though. ¶ (Ct Lee) Great filkl! Have a dollop of egoboo. ¶ (Ct Rick) Never dreamt of smoking or, for that matter, not smoking. Or even rounded up by the tobacco gestapo. Now, awake, though... ¶ (Ct Anton) On the other appendage, I'd love to dump Earth's restrictive rotation rate. 24-hour days are far too short. ¶ (Ct Anora) And when typewriters are outlawed, only...

**Nis Natter** (*Lee Gold*) — which I prefer to many forms of gold, including that of fools and of prostitutes' hearts. ¶ *Balm*-carrying anarchist is a gem worth spreading. Mind if I interlineate you in *NL*? (Ct Rita) It's appalling that *any* country would prohibit entrance of members of any cult regardless of origin anywhere on this petty globe. ¶ (Ct George) *Intertzine transfer* is another neologism whose time has come. (I am doing it in this generation of my apazines.) And *intrazine transfer*, for when you have to turn a page in PageMaker™. ¶ (Ct Gary) Does a chicken bouillon cube contain fat? Cholesterol? I assume Barry's eating lots of Ω-3 lipids.

**Ankh Ptui** (*Matthew B. Tepper*) This really is old home week! Never ever "Matt," right? ¶ Copy count seems fine and even better, the number of contributors is wonderfully small and intimate. [continued]