





## Issue Number Seven

January-February 1979

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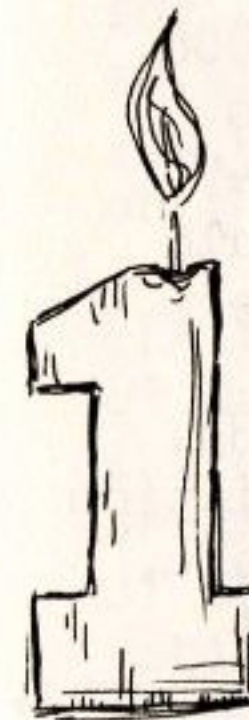
Bill Bradshaw, Representative in England

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## Ramblings



It's our birthday. Happy Birthday to us! The Fan Network is one year old this January 1st and I can barely believe that this 'office' in Longmont has survived the flood of mail, information, new members and printing bills. I wish that I could thank everyone who has been of assistance, but that would fill an entire issue of the Newsletter! So thanks to everyone - you're wonderful and I hope that you continue to enjoy "The Avengers" and the Fan Network in years to come.

The idea presented last issue for forming an MI5 Special Security division of the Fan Network has gone over quite well. I will begin plans for the 'agents' section of the group and should have full details in the next issue of the Newsletter.

The "Dead Men are Dangerous" synopsis in issue #6 was very popular and I intend to continue that feature this issue with a storyline and photos from the "New Avengers" episode "Trap". Issue #8 will contain the synopsis for "Emily". You original "Avengers" fans should enjoy this issue's feature on "What the Butler Saw" and (hopefully) you will look forward to next issue's write-up on "Super Secret Cypher Snatch". Whenever possible I plan to have two episodes in each issue from now on; one from the new series and one from the old.

The Fan Network was recently mentioned in "The New Orleans Times-Picayune" in response to someone's request for information on "The New Avengers". I also received a phone call from a gentleman wishing details on the show... he was referred here by CBS-TV in New York. Interesting. Of course, the Fan Network is here to assist fans of the show in any way we can so feel free to tell people about us. Please request that anyone writing for information enclose a SASE.



# Network News

## New Pen-Pals

TONY LAKER: 611 Western Ave., Batesville, IN 47006. Birthday is March 21. I'm a big fan of the shows "Space: 1999", "The Avengers" and "Lost in Space". I tape episodes of these shows as a hobby. I would like to hear from anyone interested in the three shows mentioned.

SUE GINTER: 1816 Yermo Place, Fullerton, CA 92633. Birthdate 11/16/53. Interests include science fiction (especially "Space: 1999"), great fan of Nick Tate, Catherine Schell and Tony Anholt, westerns, most British TV series (there's something about the accent), traveling. Hobbies include talking and writing to other science fiction fans, writing "Space: 1999" stories, walking and reading.

CATHY SIEMANN: 40 Barton Street, Newburgh, NY 12550. Born 12/27/61. Interests and hobbies include writing, reading, singing and acting. Special interests: Tolkien, King Arthur, Sherlock Holmes, fantasy and (obviously) "The Avengers".

SUSAN GLYNN: 4819 Savoie Ct., New Orleans, LA 70129. I am 16 years old (11/19/62) and interested in "Star Trek", "UNCLE", "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir" and various other things I am supposed to be too young to remember. I love The Lettermen, writing, reading, drama (both as spectator and performer) and I love to correspond. I'm more into "The New Avengers" because I really don't remember the old series as well.

GLEND A. WIRE: 6625 Memphis Street, New Orleans, LA 70124. Age 32. Hobbies: reading, collecting books, records, matchbooks, pen-paling, handcrafts. Interests: Science fiction (books, movies, etc.), traveling, many others. Would prefer to hear from fans my age, but will answer fans of any age.

Supplement #5 of the Article Clipping list is now available from the Fan Network. #5 is four pages long and lists an additional 60 items now available from the clipping file. Supplement #5 may be obtained for 55¢ separately or the entire list can be ordered for \$1.70. Prices include postage.

Patrick Macnee recently finished work on a movie for TV entitled "The Billion-Dollar Threat" (retitled from "Adventure") which is to be a pilot for a possible series on ABC-TV. As of this typing an air date has not been set, but I suggest that you watch your local listings for more information on the show.

The program's plot is that an all-time criminal (Patrick Macnee) threatens to destroy the ozone layer of Earth's atmosphere thus exposing the planet to the direct, deadly radiation from the Sun. His ransom demand is one billion dollars, payable by an assortment of the world's richest countries. An actor named Dale Robinette is the 007-type who must stop Macnee and save the world.

"Billion-Dollar Threat" was filmed in the Las Vegas region around Lake Mead and The Valley of Fire. Others starring in the film include Ralph Bellamy and Keenan Wynn. Although the program might be made into a series Patrick will not be a continuing character. Hopefully we will have more information on "Billion-Dollar Threat" for the next Newsletter.

A recent issue of "People" Magazine (12/4/78) had a small mention of the film "Count Dracula and His Vampire Bride" which stars two gentlemen who have guested on "The Avengers" in past years. Christopher Lee plays the latest Count Dracula with Peter Cushing chasing after as a member of the Van Helsing family. As Dracula's new conquest is Joanna Lumley (there's a photo of Joanna and Christopher Lee to go with the article.).

Several members in the eastern United States had informed me earlier about the Colibri Lighter ads on television with Patrick Macnee. Mr. Macnee just finished filming a new ad for Colibri and it should be on the screen by the time this Newsletter is out. I looked into the Colibri line of lighters (which are sold only in jewelry stores) and they are lovely items. However, stores in the Denver area are running low due to the popularity of the TV promotion I'm told, so you might have some difficulty locating them after the Christmas rush.



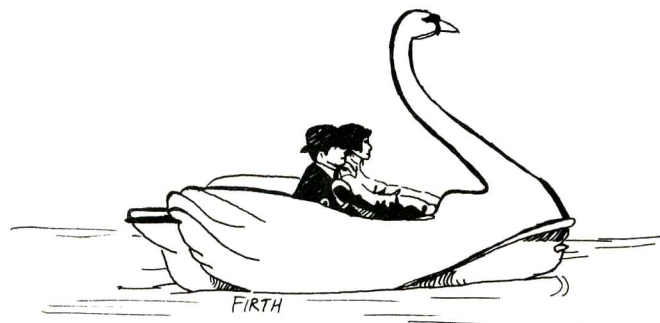
The first three "New Avengers" paperbacks have been released here in America and are available from your local book store. If they are not in stock they can be special ordered and most stores will do so if requested. I have written the publisher asking about the fate of the other three paperbacks in this series as well as the "John Steed" book, but don't have an answer at this time. If you would like to tell the publisher that you are enjoying the paperbacks and would like to see more of them printed you can contact them at: Berkley Publishers, 200 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016.

I'd like to announce the winners of the "Midnight Meanderings" competition for 1978. (Drum roll, please....)

First Place goes to Gene Davidson for his article, "Village Green England of The Avengers".

Second Place goes to Bill Bradshaw for "The New Avengers in England"

Voting was very widespread throughout the 13 choices. It appears that the past issues have had a little something for everyone. That's good. Although I'm sure that it was very difficult to make a choice I'd like to thank everyone who took time to send in their votes. Congratulations to the two winners and good luck to everyone for this coming year's "Meanderings". (anyone wishing details on the competition should please contact me.)



## Garage Sale

Larry Edmunds Bookshop, Inc., 6658 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90028 (phone 213-463-3273) has 30 different color photos from "The Avengers". I'm told that approximately 10 of these are of Diana Rigg and Patrick Macnee together. The stills are \$4.50 each plus postage and handling via UPS (which is \$1.00 for the first 1-5 stills ordered and 50¢ for each 1-5 ordered thereafter). California residents should add 6% sales tax and customers in other countries should write for adjusted prices.

Back issues of the Fan Network Newsletter are still available for \$1.40 each or 3 for \$4.00. Issues #2 through #6 are in supply but #2 is dwindling fast. Also, I'm beginning to run low on issue #6. If you wish back copies of either of these I suggest that you order soon. When supplies run out there will be no reprints.

Also for sale from the Network are the following "Avengers" paperbacks:

#1 "The Floating Game", #3 "The Passing of Gloria Munday", #5 "The Afrit Affair" and #8 "Magnetic Man".

These paperbacks are 75¢ each, including postage.

There are still some photo pages and covers from "En Garde" for sale. Copies of "En Garde" can be obtained through the Fan Network if you are interested. ("En Garde" was an "Avengers" fanzine published several years ago during the series initial run.) I believe that Mandi Schultz still has a few of the "Prisoner" zine for sale. If anyone wishes more information on any of these items please write to Heather Firth at the address on the title page of this Newsletter.

There's nothing else for sale this issue. If you have anything "Avengerish" to sell or know of someone who does please let me know. We do not run advertisements in the Newsletter, but fans or dealers wishing to sell merchandise concerning "The Avengers" can send descriptions to be printed in this section.





# Trap

by BRIAN CLEMENS

Directed by RAY AUSTIN

A plot synopsis of the "New Avengers" episode, "Trap". Text and photos courtesy of CTV Television Network, Ltd., Canada.

John Steed, Purdey and Gambit joined forces with C.I.A. agent Marty Brine to stop a drugs consignment worth ten million. Used politically, drugs could undermine an entire country - although the operation was successful it was not without casualties. Marty Brine has been gunned down and the pick up, a Chinese street cleaner, had been despatched to his death from a rooftop by Steed's accurately aimed umbrella. A wealthy Chinese criminal, Soo Choy, was behind the drugs consignment. He had just been admitted to one of the most powerful crime syndicates in the world and was out to 'prove' himself with the illicit drugs delivery. Soo Choy had lost face in the eyes of the syndicate so he was determined to eliminate his opposition and quickly rebuild his reputation. Soo Choy's assistant, Tansing, obtained details of those involved in the intercept... Purdey, Gambit and Steed. Soo Choy wanted all three trapped and executed, his prime target being John Steed who he knew to be dangerous and therefore considered a worthy opponent.

Tansing, disguised as agent Murford, sent out a Red Alert which lured Steed, Purdey and Gambit aboard a plane bound for a secret destination in Scotland. Amidst the urgency of the alert all three were subtly disarmed by Murford/Tansing before boarding the plane

Soo Choy waited for their arrival... he had invited members of the syndicate to observe their execution and his reinstatement of face.

Gambit realised the plane was not bound for Scotland and they attempted to break into the pilot's cabin. Gas started to seep into the passenger area.



They strapped themselves in and Gambit opened the plane door before they lost consciousness. The plane rapidly depressurised... the pilot was sucked out and the plane crashed down on Soo Choy's vast estate. Purdey and Gambit were unscathed but Steed's arm was broken. Purdey bound it with a makeshift splint.

Soo Choy started a search. Steed, Purdey and Gambit found themselves being tracked down by heavily armed guards. They needed weapons, so Gambit fashioned a crude bow, some arrows and a makeshift spear. With these - supplemented by a rusty horseshoe - they took on some of the guards. The odds seemed overwhelming - Gambit was caught in a mantrap. Steed used his splint to good effect as they neared their confrontation with Soo Choy.

#### Character

Steed  
Purdey  
Gambit  
Soo Choy  
Arcarti  
Dom Carlos  
Tansing  
Yasko  
Marty Brine  
Murford  
Miranda  
Mahon  
Williams  
Girlfriend

#### Artist

Patrick Macnee  
Joanna Lumley  
Gareth Hunt  
Terry Wood  
Ferdie Mayne  
Robert Rietty  
Kristopher Kum  
Yasuko Nagazumi  
Stuart Damon  
Barry Lowe  
Annegret Easterman  
Bruce Boa  
Larry Lamb  
Maj-Britt







## What the Butler Saw

In which Steed becomes a gentleman's gentleman - and Emma faces a fate worse than death...

by BRIAN CLEMENS  
directed by BILL BAIN

In search of information, Steed goes to see his barber - a known double agent. The man tells him that someone at the War Office is selling secret defence plans, and that the traitor might be one of the three men - Admiral Willows, Brigadier Ponsonby-Goddard and Group Captain Miles.

Content, Steed settles back to enjoy a hot towel or two while the barber attends to another customer. Steed is rudely disturbed when the gown covering him is pulled away, to reveal the barber's body slumped beside him with a pair of scissors sticking from his chest. The other customer's chair is empty.

Dressed in full Naval 'rig' and sporting a beard, Steed goes to see Admiral Willows. He soon realises that the testy old officer is determined not to get involved in any kind of work while there's a race meeting to hold his interest.

At Brigadier Ponsonby-Goddard's home, Steed, now in Army uniform, presents himself as a P.R.O. from the War Office. He meets Major General Goddard - the brigadier's ancient and half senile father - who accuses his son of treachery. Before Steed can garner information to substantiate the old man's charge, the Brigadier interrupts, and Steed observes that he is a heavy drinker.

When Steed mentions the General's accusations, the Brigadier nervously laughs it off by saying the charge is a result of his failure to join the cavalry regiment as all his forbears had done. The interview comes to an abrupt end when the Brigadier pleads illness.

As Steed leaves he hears Reeves, Goddard's butler, making arrangements with someone on the 'phone to meet in the Brigadiers's study much later that night.



From one of Group Captain Miles' aides, Steed learns that the R.A.F. officer is dedicated to his work. Only one pastime shares his attention - girls! Well informed sources suggest that the Group Captain can't resist a pretty face.

After arranging for Mrs. Peel to test the Group Captain's susceptibility, Steed hurries off to share the rendezvous between Brigadier Goddard's butler and the mysterious telephone caller. He arrives too late. The butler is dead. Steed manages to withstand a savage attack, but cannot prevent the murderer's escape. From the garden he watches the discovery of the body by the Brigadier and his father. Solemnly the old man raises a bugle to his lips and sounds 'Last Post'.

'Operation Fascination' against Group Captain Miles is begun. Emma arranges for photographs of herself to be planted all over the Group Captain's house and office. Everywhere he goes or looks, there is Emma's likeness. Soon Miles is fascinated - to the point of desperation! When they finally meet, the Group Captain is even more fascinated, and a dinner date is arranged.

When he hears that replacements for the Admiral's missing butler and for the dead Reeves have come from the Butlers' and Gentlemen's Gentlemen Association, Steed goes off to investigate the organisation.

Armed with phoney references, he enrolls as a student. Recognising the Principal as Hemmings - butler to Group Captain Miles - Steed learns that the man's work at the Association is part time.

Hemmings is well-pleased with Steed's progress as a student, but another instructor - Benson, butler to Admiral Willows - isn't so happy. He's convinced that he has seen Steed somewhere, but can't recall the occasion.

In the course of his investigation, Steed learns that Hemmings has refused a handsome 'offer' to leave Miles' staff.

Later Steed is caught by Benson while searching the laundry, where he has found Hemmings taking a bath - in an electric washing machine! Benson tells Steed that he recognises the references as fakes, but goes on to offer Steed the opportunity to make a great

deal of money - as Hemming's replacement on Group Captain Miles' staff.

Steed starts work with the Group Captain in time to welcome Emma. While he prepares the aperitifs, his 'master' prepares to go into action. Emma has to keep her wits about her in dealing with the apparently amorous officer. With the help of Steed, who repeatedly interrupts the 'game', she manages to hold Miles at bay. At the same time she discovers that he is not the man they are after. He is not only as honest as the day is long, but he's fed-up with having to play the gay lover.

While his 'master' is away at a Defence Conference, Steed receives instructions to spill wine over Miles' uniform as soon as he returns. Mystified, Steed follows his instructions to the letter. Taking the stained uniform to the kitchen, he is met by Benson who orders him to hand it over.

With Emma's help, Steed follows Benson to the Association Building. They arrive too late to catch Benson, but do find three torn uniforms - one Naval, one Army and one R.A.F. - and three tiny tape recorders. They realise that the missing tapes must contain recordings of the Defence Conference.

Their search of the building ends when they are caught by Benson and Sergeant Moran - an Army barman from the Three Services Club - who admits to being the leader of the gang.

Benson is about to carry out Moran's orders to eliminate the two agents when a bugle call rings through the building and they hear General Goddard's shouted order to charge.

In the confusion that follows, Steed manages to disarm Benson while Emma takes care of Moran. When the dust of battle settles, the General explains that he became suspicious when he saw Benson 'mucking about' with his son's uniform.

Content with a job well done, Steed and Mrs. Peel take-off in a helicopter towards the bright horizon.

<u>Character</u>	<u>Artist</u>
Steed	Patrick Macnee
Emma Peel	Diana Rigg



CharacterArtist

Hemming	Thorley Walters
Benson	John Le Mesurier
Group Captain Miles	Denis Quilley
Maj. General Goddard	Kynaston Reeves
Brigadier Goddard	Howard M. Crawford
Vice Admiral Willows	Humphrey Lestocq
Sergeant Moran	Ewan Hooper
Squadron Leader Hogg	Leon Sinden
Barber	David Swift
Reeves	Norman Scace
Walters	Peter Hughes

produced by JULIAN WINTLE

music by LAURIE JOHNSON

Diana Rigg's Wardrobe designed by JOHN BATES

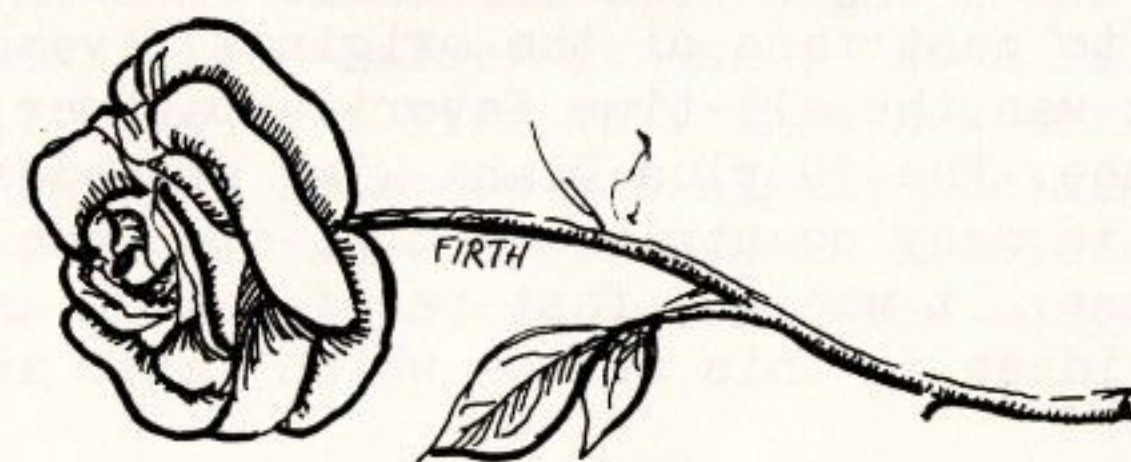


## Midnight Meanderings

### THANK YOU

by M.S. Murdock

Thank you Patrick Macnee!! Thank you Joanna Lumley and Gareth Hunt! It has been so long - and such bravura, charm and overall excellence! The New Avengers is definitely the best new show of the season. Purdey and Gambit are delightful, with Purdey cool and unflappable on the surface, and Gambit the man of passion. Joanna Lumley is marvelous: capable, lovely, graceful, entirely herself, and Gareth Hunt creates in Gambit a ruthless danger born of affection. But it is Patrick Macnee, stepping into Steed's shoes as if he had never left them, who adds that indefinable dash, elegance and savoir-faire which makes the show "The Avengers". Without his talent for classy camp it might be a fine production, but it would lose the elusive quality which made the old series unique. Of course we miss Diana Rigg, but this new effort doesn't displace her, it simply goes on from something which has ended. There is a nice touch of desire, both in Purdey's attitude toward Steed and his toward her. Steed and Purdey?...of course not! ...perhaps...no! - one can never be entirely sure of their relationship, and that makes it interesting. Gambit, of course, loves Purdey with an intensity that is a little frightening. Yes, it's all here: the warmth, the delightful, artful touches, the seriousness, the fun. Thank you cast, crew, writers - everyone associated with this very fine production. It is an achievement to create such quality once. To accomplish it twice is genius.





## A HISTORY OF THE AVENGERS

by Gene Davidson

Doing a history of "The Avengers" is quite a task. With most TV series you have a beginning and, usually within a year, an end. But not so with the fantastic "Avengers". With "The Avengers" you have a beginning, a middle and no end! Thanks to the tremendous work of Patrick Macnee and such producers as Brian Clemens and Albert Fennell, "The Avengers" seem to be endless.

The origin of "The Avengers" is found in a British 1961 TV series called "Police Surgeon". This series starred an actor, quite well known in England, named Ian Hendry. The people behind this show decided they wanted a partner for Mr. Hendry and Patrick Macnee was offered the role. The title of the show was also changed to "The Avengers". The surprising thing is that Mr. Macnee's services were only needed for three months, and then it was to be all over. Quite a contrast when you consider that Patrick lasted through the whole series and is still playing the role 17 years later... which is a shade longer than his original three-month contract called for! Ian Hendry was originally the central character, but he left the series after only nine months which turned John Steed into the central character.

The idea was proposed to introduce a woman into the show. Honor Blackman entered the series in the role of Cathy Gale. It was now that the format of the show turned into what we know it as today... swash-buckling John Steed and his female assistant. I cannot comment on the Honor Blackman episodes of the series. Sadly, they have not been shown in America. She left the show, I believe, at the end of 1964. But, of course, the important thing is that Patrick Macnee did not leave.

Enter Diana Rigg in January 1965. It is no secret that to most fans of the original "Avengers" series Diana was the all-time favorite partner to Patrick Macnee. The 50 plus Diana Rigg episodes were hailed in many countries as mini spectaculars for their time. It was the fast paced action and progressive ideas in this series which later attributed

to its being seen in a record 90 countries of the world. The series clicked in such important markets as America, Germany, France, Japan and, of course, England itself. Multi-talented producer Brian Clemens was writing some of the very best of these episodes now. Mr. Clemens was associate producer along with Albert Fennell. The popularity of the series grew by leaps and bounds during 1965-66. Without a doubt this was to become the most popular television series of all time! Emma Peel wowed audiences world-wide with her black leather outfits and her womanly style of Kung Fu. In Germany, for example, the music magazine "Bravo" (which had nothing to do with television) featured pictures of Steed and Emma every single week. In America the program developed a cult following. In fact, Americans visiting England on vacation would go to the famous clothier Bailey & Weatherill of Regent Street and ask for 'suits like Steed wears'. (It was Patrick himself who had designed the famous Steed outfits.)

These were the golden years of the series. Patrick Macnee and Diana Rigg became the best of friends and still are. Patrick later made a guest appearance on the "Diana" TV show which Miss Rigg starred in around 1973. But the world famous partnership of John Steed and Emma Peel came to an end in 1967. Diana left the show and went on to do many film projects.

In the autumn of 1967 Canadian actress Linda Thorson joined the show as Tara King. It was this batch of 30 episodes which showed great production techniques. Camera angles used were very ingenious and the scripts were brilliant. Linda Thorson did a very believable job as Tara. Her apartment was a sight to see and the relationship between her and Steed was always intriguing. Some of the episodes during these years were the best ever..."The Keep Killing Steed" in which Patrick played 7 Steeds (and went home exhausted each night after filming!) and others like "False Witness", "Noon Doomsday" and "All Done with Mirrors". This new series of Macnee/Thorson episodes was highly acclaimed worldwide. In France there was an absolute mania over the show and it was awarded the equivalent of





our Emmy Award for excellence. To this day, Linda Thorson's popularity is highest in France. But the series finally came to an end in March of 1969; a day that will live infamy! In the final episode, "Bizarre" - written by Brian Clemens - the adventures of John Steed had apparently come to an end. Patrick Macnee returned to California for a spell and worked on films in Cyprus and Malta. He went on to star in the highly acclaimed "Sleuth" on Broadway.

These were the years when it appeared there were no more hopes of ever seeing the dynamic John Steed in action again. But things were not as quiet as they seemed. In England at ABC TV and at the Elstree Studios mail was still pouring in demanding that "The Avengers" come back. Someone was listening, and that someone was none other than Brian Clemens. Mr. Clemens kept his word to the fans. You see, Brian Clemens did indeed say they would be back, and he said it in 1969 - before the original series was over. What I am referring to, and what many of you may remember, is in the final episode of the old series. In the last scene Mother (played by Patrick Newell) said, "They'll be back... you can depend on it." And so for all those long years there was a thread of hope that they would come back.

The Avengers Film & TV Enterprises, Ltd. was formed by Albert Fennell, Brian Clemens and Laurie Johnson - composer of the theme and incidental music for the show.

The very first episode of the new series, "The Eagle's Nest" was written by Mr. Clemens, as always when a landmark episode is called for. The new girl partner we know now as Purdey is played by Joanna Lumley. Gareth Hunt was added... the rest is enjoyable history. May the show last forever!

### THE JOKER

by Jackie Edwards

Although every episode of the 'old' Avengers had considerable merit, my single favorite episode was "The Joker".

One of the reasons that I find it so interesting is that it is a study of Emma's terror. Mrs. Emma Peel, who never gets shaken, never panics and nearly always wins, finds herself in a situation which chips away at her nerves inch by inch until they snap into terrified hysteria.

The method which is used to disrupt her 'holiday' keeps her in the dark as to what is happening to her, who is responsible and why it is being done. First come the roses then the insane niece who has the disconcerting habit of sneaking up on a person with knives. Then she finds her picture cut into jigsaw pieces. And all the time she hears the same song playing in the distance, over and over... the love song that connects the nightmare together, grating on her already frazzled nerves.

By the time Steed realizes that Mrs. Peel's holiday is actually a trap to kill her and sets off through 'pea-soup' fog to reach her, Emma is frantic. She is headed for certain death and panic has made her lose all hope and reason. But the instant that she sees Steed standing over her the fear drains away completely to be replaced by relief. "Thank God, I'm safe!" is written all over her face. No more panic, no more fear... Steed is there and she is safe.

It was a great episode!



## LOCs of Gold

SALLY SYRJALA, Centerville, MA:

Got #6 of the Newsletter on Halloween day. With that photo of Tara on the front it fit into the day very well indeed. If anyone had come to my door in that get-up I would have made sure they were well cared for. The photos were excellent. The one on the back cover with that 'innocent' look in Steed's eyes was perfect. One could just imagine the type of scene that would bring such an expression to light!

"Adventure" sounds rather fun. Hmm... also sounds like an "UNCLE" script. Just perfect. The Colibri lighter people should start putting their ads out again soon. It is almost the Christmas season and they tend to start them around Thanksgiving time.

Over 80 members! Seeing where this thing started it has grown fairly rapidly. Imagine where you might be in numbers next year at this time.

LARRY CHARET, Chicago, IL:

According to a local TV book that is indeed Patrick Macnee's voice at the beginning of "Battlestar Galactica". It is even more probable since he also worked for Glen Larson and Universal on that "Hardy Boys" episode.

Network members might be interested in reading about Brian Clemens' and Albert Fennell's new series "The Professionals", currently being syndicated in the U.S. and Canada. It stars Gordon Jackson ("Upstairs, Downstairs"), Martin Shaw and Lewis Collins as special commando agents for CI5 (Criminal Intelligence). Their foes are terrorists, extremists, anarchists and any other poor soul who happens to get in their way. This is by far the most violent series I have ever seen. When people get shot they even bleed! Lots of catsup here, folks! Music by Laurie Johnson, of course. I'm not entirely sure about "Professionals" being syndicated here. There was an ad in "Variety" last March stating that it would be syndicated here beginning this Fall, but I don't know of any U.S. stations running it. I am getting it on videotape from Windsor, Ontario and I know it is on all over Canada.

SUSAN GLYNN, New Orleans, LA:

Carol Crunk was unjust in her judgement of the character of Mike Gambit on "The New Avengers". ((Network Newsletter #6)) I think that the addition of a third character was a very wise decision indeed. A third character creates a triangle thus making it possible for the relationships to become more obvious.

Also, about the character of Gambit himself; I don't think that Ms. Crunk gave him much of a chance! I do hope that she will notice after watching a few more episodes that he is a very deep and understanding person who cares very much for both Purdey and Steed. I thought little of him at first but through watching him and giving him the chance his character needed I have discovered I like him very much indeed!

DIANE LIND, President, The Patrick Macnee fan club, Omaha, NE:

I got in touch with Ray Pence at Jerry Ohlinger's Movie Material Store and the five color photos of the "New Avengers" with Pat are now available. Also, an added treat: he told me that he just received a very rare color shot of Diana Rigg and Pat together from the old show. All color photos are \$4.00 each ((plus \$1.00 postage per order)). By the way, in Newsletter #6 you printed 212-260-7545 as the telephone number for JOMMS. I believe it should be 212-674-8474.

GAIL PARADIS, Johnston, RI:

"Obsession" was so good. I think this is my very favorite episode to date! We now know what made Purdey become an Avenger. I wish they would do a flashback episode delving into Gambit's past because so far he is just a one-dimensional character and I don't like it at all. His character has so much potential and they seem to be pushing him aside. And they give him the corniest lines to say.

What type of aircraft were Larry and the other pilots flying? When that plane took off straight UP in the air I thought my eyes were playing tricks on me! Fantastic! And that ending... what more can be said of Joanna Lumley's superb acting in this last



scene where her former lover is killed by Gambit?  
So powerful!

STEVE ERAMO, Stoneham, MA:

I would have to say that picking a favorite "Avengers" episode is a very difficult task. I enjoyed all of the old "Avengers" series and had many favorites. Instead of choosing one I think I'll play it safe and state two or three of my favorites.

"Joker" would have to be one. This was an excellent Diana Rigg episode. It was one of the more chilling episodes of the series. I loved the scene toward the end where it looks like the end for Emma. Suddenly the record that the mad man was playing starts up and this giant playing card (the Joker) comes toward him. The card falls on top of him and Steed is there smiling.

"Return of the Cybernauts" - I was happy they gave a returning nemesis to the Avengers. In this particular one Peter Cushing was the scientist, and excellent as usual. This episode was just as thrilling as "The Cybernauts" and the New Avengers "Last of the Cybernauts".

Last, but not least, is "Girl from AUNTIE". I liked this one because I fell in love with the guest star, Liz Fraser. Seriously, I enjoyed her very much in it and we also had the opportunity to see Steed with another partner. I was very happy, though, to see Emma back at the end!

BILL BRADSHAW, London, England - Network Representative:

As I write this letter I'm continually glancing up at part one of "Evening in Byzantium" on ITV. Good old Pat - just saw him appear for the first time. Nice scene. I'm really waiting like crazy for Friday evening when part two is being shown. After hearing (and reading in the N/L) so much about Pat's death scene (a novelty in itself) I'm very intrigued!

Ian Hendry just did a "Return of the Saint" episode as a one-armed vengeance seeker with a death-wish (!) and was very good. Patrick Newell was on TV this week in "Bless Me Father", a clerical comedy series. In "The Seal of Confession" he played Mr. Bottesford.

The episodes list that I sent you was in order of showing in G.B., so they're jumbling up the first

and second seasons all over the place. You'll notice fluctuating waistlines on Steed and amazing hairstyle changes on Purdey, no doubt! I'm a bit disturbed at the way CBS have inserted their own credit titles. The animated black, white and red characters and lion are the proper ones, in reply to that query in the Newsletter from Derwin Mak.

GLORIA McCUTCHEON, El Monte, CA:

I was surprised to see Pat as a guest on "Hardy Boys". (I hadn't checked my TV GUIDE thoroughly) It is such a thrill to see him suddenly light up my TV screen. Hope it happens often.

CAROL CRUNK, Mobile, AL:

I am enjoying "The New Avengers". I have even begun liking Gambit (and you're right - having three members instead of just Steed and another girl does give it a fresher flavor).

I started liking Gambit in the episode about the robbers putting everyone to sleep. Anyone who can care about a sparrow isn't all bad! And also, I now realize that the "I'm looking forward to it!" is a running joke on the show.

LIV BOTTUM, Ann Arbor, MI:

I've been watching "The New Avengers" and I like it very much. I find the relationships between the characters quite interesting. Steed and Mike are so chummy. I get the feeling that Purdey is sort of the 'odd man out'. I feel they all like and respect each other very much and that both Steed and Gambit think Purdey is terrific, but that Steed lets Gambit 'in' more than he does Purdey.

"Obsession" was fascinating. It shed a whole new light on the Steed/Purdey relationship. In this episode Gambit was the one who was out in the cold! Purdey, of course, didn't give him a chance to be anything but left in the dark. When she was turning down the cushy security assignment, for example, she was ostensibly talking to both Steed and Gambit but her eyes never left Steed, silently asking him to understand without pressing her for explanations. And Steed was remarkably quick at catching on.



Steed was enormously supportive of Purdey at the party, reminding her of Berlin as Larry entered and asking how she was feeling afterwards. That support and understanding without demands for explanations must have been enormously helpful to Purdey. That's what Gambit couldn't provide. He would ask to be told everything. He said to Steed, "I think there's a lot you're not telling me." Steed answered, "There's a lot she's not telling me, but I wouldn't dream of asking!" Terrific! Friends like Steed are rare.

There was a scene after Steed's friend has been killed ((from "Angels of Death")) - Steed and Gambit are talking and Steed finally says something indicating how bad he feels about his friend. Gambit hadn't really been picking up on Steed's feelings of grief. He leaves, Purdey comes in and she immediately makes some remark indicating she's sensitive to how Steed must be feeling. But Steed can't accept it from her. When his guard was down from being drugged he did allow a close moment with Purdey - when they were trapped in the maze. And in "Obsession" Steed was enormously sensitive to Purdey's feelings and very supportive of her. It seems that although he can't accept her help he can offer his own. Fascinating!

The Purdey/Gambit relationship is pretty interesting, too. The use of last names symbolizes the necessity of keeping an emotional distance simply because a deep involvement between them would be natural in other circumstances. They keep a professional distance because a personal involvement can't even be thought of or acknowledged. Vaguely reminiscent of Steed and Mrs. Peel in that aspect.

I think it was wise of the show's creators to give Steed two partners. The change in format lets the viewer avoid any direct comparisons between this team and the duo of Steed and the incomparable Mrs. Peel.

Reading through the Newsletters I was struck once again by something I really enjoy about "Fandom" - the 'it's such a small world, isn't it?' phenomenon. The same names tend to crop up. Steve Eramo, for example, has been quite active in "Space: 1999" fandom. I enjoy reading his contributions to the Newsletter. I really enjoy being part of the community. And I'm always amazed

at the incredible creativity that's released - the fiction, the artwork, the analysis... Some 'outsiders' criticize what they see as a mindless devotion to a show or an actor. That's so wrong, it's not like that! What's exciting about fandom is that the show is often only the take-off point, the catalyst which releases depths of creativity and imagination.

CHRISTINE MAK, Ontario, Canada:

The comic "John Steed and Emma Peel" only had one issue. Number One was printed in November, 1968. The company that published it is Gold Key. I haven't been able to find it anywhere, but try a store that specializes in comics. In mint condition the comic is worth \$2.00. The official title is "The Avengers", the cover title is "John Steed and Emma Peel".

ANNE-MARIE LUBNER, Tucson, AZ:

I got my 'Agents' special from "Moonbeam". Very disappointing. It should have been called an "UNCLE" special instead of the 'Agents' special. The stories were all good, but there were three "UNCLE" and one "Wild, Wild West" story and one "Man from Atlantis" (which is sci-fi and not agents). The Diana Rigg portfolio was good. That's all the "Avengers" there were. Disappointing. Oh, yeah, there was that short "story" about Emma and Illya. I thought it was confusing and rather poor. They both sounded like they had chips on their shoulders or something. Besides, in the "Avengers" episode "Murdersville" Emma meets a friend who she's known since she was 7. Guess that blows the theory about her being in Russia with Illya.

I liked the part in "House of Cards" where Steed is describing his previous partners, only he thinks he's talking about his three horses. Did you notice in the corresponding horse pictures that the middle one had a blue ribbon and the other two had red ones? Guess we know who his favorite is. Good choice, too. It describes Mrs. Peel perfectly; she's a blue ribbon winner, to be sure!

I agree whole-heartedly with Catherine Strand that it's Patrick's voice in "Battlestar Galactica". Glad to know that someone else has the same 20-20 hearing that I have.





CINDY PHARES, Nederland, TX:

My favorite episode? I have so many favorites, but I guess if there is one I could watch over and over again it would have to be a Tara King episode entitled "Noon Doomsday". I like it so much because even though our hero has been injured and not able to perform at full capacity he is still able to come through and save the day.

The first time I saw Gareth Hunt was in the episode "Eagle's Nest". I immediately realized that there was something special about this guy. As I watched the following episodes I found I

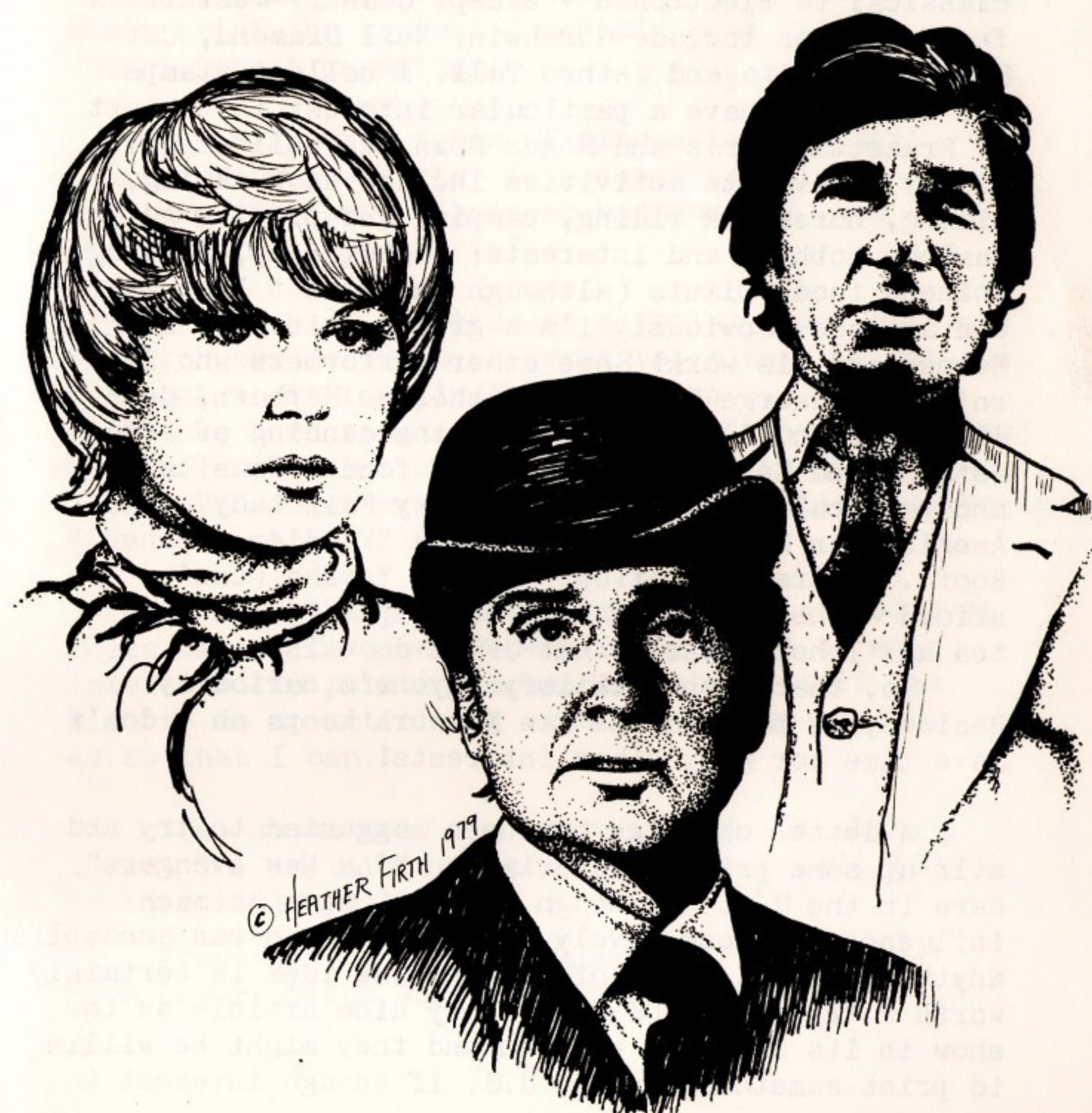
liked him more and more. Someone described him as a "cold-hearted, sex oriented spy". I don't see him this way. Purdey is the only girl he is after - the one he really cares for. I believe he likes to tease Purdey about the day he's "looking forward to". He is a kind, caring man... a young John Steed. He has all the charm (in my eyes) that Steed has: dashing, debonair, great at whatever he does. Come on, there must be some Mike Gambit fans out there!

GENE DAVIDSON, Berea, OH:

Gene Davidson made a mistake when he listed the French title of the "Avengers" as being "Les Revenchards". Actually that's only the literal translation of the words. The program was known as "Chapeau Melon et Bottes de Cuir". I must correct myself!

I don't think I am happy with the character of Gambit. He seems to be placed there to steal Steed's thunder. It's like putting J.R. on "Barnaby Jones". It's as though the producers feel they have to have a young star to carry through the real star of the show. It's not necessary and I wish they'd turn over the show to the person who makes it all possible.

I see that Linda Thorson will be working with Ian Ogilvy in the new "Saint" series. They last appeared together in the "Avengers" episode "They Keep Killing Steed".





etcetera...

Everyone seems to be finding the pen-pal listings useful in contacting other fans. However, it was brought to my attention recently that I am a pen-pal to all of the Network members yet have never included myself in the listing. So, for all of you who want to know something about this crazy person who keeps writing to you, I supply the following information:

My full name is Heather Dawn Firth and I'm a Taurus (born 5/6/56). My dominant physical characteristic is a permanently attached blue suede hat. Music is very important to me and I like all kinds - from classical to electronic - except Country-Western. A few favorites include Gershwin, Neil Diamond, Cat Stevens, Tomita and Jethro Tull. I collect stamps and coins and have a particular interest in the art of Frazetta, Boris and Roger Dean (as well as Walt Disney). Favorite activities include snow skiing, hiking, horseback riding, camping and playing guitar. Various hobbies and interests: photography, drawing, chinese food, plants (although they don't like me), and animals. Obviously I'm a great admirer of Patrick Macnee and his work! Some other performers who I enjoy are George C. Scott, Katherine Hepburn, Gene Wilder... and I'm in love with the dancing of Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly. I'm very fond of musicals and particularly enjoy "Gigi", "My Fair Lady", "An American in Paris", "Camelot" and "Fiddler on the Roof". My transportation is a 650 Yamaha (can't afford 4 wheels!), I have a soft spot for Jasmine tea and I hope dearly that UFO's do exist.

So, that should satisfy anyone's curiosity. Besides, as busy as the Fan Network keeps me I don't have time for many other interests!

A letter campaign has been suggested to try and stir up some printed material on "The New Avengers" here in the U.S. Although we don't have as much influence as those lovely "Trek" fans who can accomplish anything with a flick of the pen the idea is certainly worth a try! TV GUIDE did a very nice article on the show in its Canadian edition and they might be willing to print something in the U.S. if enough interest is

shown. Sooo... why don't we all try writing them with the request? The address is TV GUIDE, Box 400, Radnor, PA 19088. A short refresher course on letter-writing: be polite and brief, type if possible, do not identify yourself as part of any fan organization, write several times and suggest that others do so also.

If you have the time and/or inclination it wouldn't hurt to also contact PEOPLE magazine with the same request: PEOPLE, Time Inc., 541 North Fairbanks Ct., Chicago, IL 60611. US magazine would be another possibility (although I don't have the address here. It can be found within the magazine itself). These are both noteworthy publications which don't print the typical 'gossip' found in most entertainment magazines.

The suggested topic of discussion for next issue of the Newsletter is a question which you can all theorize about: Whatever happened to Tara King? Anyone with a hypothesis?

If you have a letter or clipping order out to me which has not been answered yet please be patient. I'll get to it the first chance I have. This past month has been tangled due to the holidays, illness, loss of employment and this issue of the Newsletter... all heaped together. Ah well, it makes life interesting! Stay calm, I'm still here!

Does anyone have information about projects or roles of any "Avengers" people?? I would be most interested in printing something about it if you wish to do an article or send the information to me so that I can.

That about puts the wraps on this Birthday issue. So, until next time, remember - "It's the 1% that kills you!" Bye.

Front cover: Patrick Macnee in "Mr. Jerico".  
Back Cover: Diana Rigg from "Silent Dust".



