New Column Mysteriously Appears

by Blunt N. Strument

This article is the first of an intermittent series to be devoted to surveys of the field of Mysteries (also sometimes referred to as Murder Mysteries). Yes, I know that interest in mysteries runs far behind interest in science fiction at Tech, but lack of familiarity with the latter field obliges me to leave it to others; for instance, my colleague Smithnik has occasionally handled it in the past. (Anyone else desiring equal time may have it, by writing something themselves.)

My efforts will also tend toward reviewing past works, for the benefit of newcomers to the mystery field and to serve as a reminder to our old fans. (I am not, as will probably become clear, much of an admirer of mysteries such as James Bond, Erle Stanley Gardner, or the innumerable hard-boiled books of today–The Destroyer, The Machinegunner, The Ruptil, or Whatever.) A last note to sf freaks: mysteries can't be all bad, or else such people as Isaac Asimov, John Brunner, and Anthony Bouchard wouldn't have worked in the field. Further note before commencing: any experienced reader of these pages who decides that the style of these columns, despite the byline above, reminds him or her of Ettan Schnelget or a 'P' for perspicacity. I decided that this old rag needed some bylines. Reviews of the mystery genre are traditionally supposed to begin either with Edgar Allan Poe, the Abner Doubleday of the field, or with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Sherlock Holmes?). I shall instead commence with my favorite writer, Dorothy Sayers, greatest of the English Schools of mystery writers. Miss Sayers did her mystery writing in the 1920s and 1930s, relying for detection on the still-popular Lord Peter Wimsey. She was a woman of formidable intelligence and ability, one of the pioneering female scientists at Oxford (only receiving her degree some years after she had departed; the authorities there apparently weren't convinced about this Education for Women idea) and a Woman's Libber (a phrase she probably would have despised) much ahead of her time. Having the opportunity to come from a poor family (and a great stroke of luck that was for mystery fans) upon leaving Oxford she was obliged to go to work in an advertising agency (a job she definitely despised) and began to

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Oxy Thumps Caltech in Basketball Opener

Caltech's varsity basketball team opened their regular season Wednesday night against Occiden-tal. Coach Hudson Scott hopes the game would be close, but Caltech, missing starting guard Mike Bandhauer, managed to earn only 56 points to Oxy's 119. Occidental made the first score in the game, sinking two free throws with 57 seconds gone, but Caltech's Mark Bandhauer scored the first field goal. However, Oxy continued to add up points, and halfway through the first period the Tigers were leading 37-18. At this point, Occidental's second team came into the game. Both squads began to play rather carelessly; Occidental attempted several long outside shots which were unsuccessful. The seven footer centre, Ken McFarland, was all tired, but with substitutions allowing the players to rest, the game settled down again.

With five minutes remaining in the half, Occidental's first team was back in the game. The refreshed Occidental players put on a full-court press, which was too much for the Techers. The score piled up to 59-24, Occidental. With 1:24 left in the half, a length-of-the-court pass was caught by Norm Nelson for Oxy, and Occidental managed to steal the ball before a goal could be scored. Oxy's Krag King put three quick baskets, making the score 65-26 with 26 seconds to go. Twenty-four seconds later, John Pender threw the ball the length of the court in a vain attempt to make a last score for Tech before the buzzer.

Caltech's Bart Locanti (6'7") won the jump ball for Tech at the beginning of the second half and scored eight seconds later, giving Tech the first field goal of the second half. However, this was no better omen than in the first: Occidental scored eight points to make the score 73-26 before Tech's Ron McMaster broke the ice. He scored and then attempted another shot, which was tipped in by Locanti.

Caltech kept the scoring close for the next few minutes, allowing Oxy to score only 9 points to their 8, making the score 82-34. Then Techers could't hold them any longer, and Occidental raised the score to 110-44.

With 4:39 left in the game, Mark Bandhauer made a fast break for Caltech. He scored again 34 seconds later, and the score was 112-48. After Occidental attempted a series of free shots, Caltech dominated the remainder of the game. Continued on Page Four
Study Classical Guitar

Caltech will again be offering guitar classes with classical guitarist, Darryl Denning. The classes are free to Caltech students and feature basic technique and musicianship and an exploration of the traditional repertoire, 20th-century music, and flamenco. Classes will be held in Fleming basement band room on Tuesdays beginning January 14 with the beginning section (no experience necessary) from 4 to 5 p.m. and the intermediate section (consists of the instructor) from 4 to 5 p.m. Students are requested to bring guitars to the first meeting.

Mr. Denning is also affiliated with Occidental College and UCLA and has performed nationally and internationally. He has done numerous tours of Europe and Mexico and in June 1975 will be featured in recital in London’s Wigmore Hall.
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CALTECH FORUM

Whodunit

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Miss Sayers is one of those writers whose works generally require reading in order. Lord Peter, unlike most fictional detectives, develops and changes as he goes along. He first appears, in Whose Body? and Clouds of Witness as an intelligent, rich member of the aristocracy (his older brother is a Duke). Flippant on the surface to cover considerable sensibility and psychic scars acquired from highly unpleasant experiences in the Great War (First World War to contemporary non-historians). In the latter story Lord Peter's brother the Duke of Devon is accused of killing their sister's fiance. Enter Lord Peter, who detects away vigorously and makes all right, with the aid of Charles Parker of Scotland Yard, Lord Peter's amazing mother (the Dowager Duchess), his 'man'...

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OLIGARCHS

in Demand

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Whodunit

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Madge on Burnt, and others, and despite the hindrance of many interesting characters.

A few years later Lord Peter finds the right woman. Harriet Vane, but finds her under less-than-ideal circumstances: she is a professional mystery writer who is accused of having used one of her plots to murder her lover, and is on trial for her life (Strong Poison). Again Lord Peter successfully detcts his way to the solution, in the process playing Cupid to his sister and Charles Parker, and Harriet Vane is freed, but she has a mind of her own and obstinately refuses to support the obligatory Happy Ending, declining to marry Lord Peter.

Trials and Tribulations

Their ‘romance’ continued for several more years. Harriet remained obdurately through the forgettable Have His Carcass and right up to the end of Gaudy Night before finally deciding that marriage with Lord Peter was compatible with her own self-sufficiency and development (in any terms), and marrying him in a blaze of publicity at the beginning of Bridesmaid’s Honey-moone (thereby relieving the British mystery public, which was reportedly a nervous week.

Energy

Continued from Page One

field goals in a row were put in by Tech, and the last shot of the game, attempted by Bandhauer, was successful with one second on the clock. The final score was 119-56.

High scorers of the game were Occidental’s Kraig King, with 33 points, and John Zorotovich, with 26. Tech’s Bart Locastith came close to them with 22 points.

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