

PROMETHEUS

Reviews

Profiteer, S. Andrew Swann, DAW, 1995, 335 pages \$4.99
Reviewed by Per Ericson

OK. I'll admit it from the start. I enjoyed reading S. Andrew Swann's **Profiteer**. A lot. It is well written, has plenty of good characters and action. Swann's fascination with weaponry and eccentric alien gentleman-adventurers reminds me of L. Neil Smith. But is it libertarian? A tricky question.

Some elements of the novel are obviously libertarian. The hero is a gun manufacturing entrepreneur in conflict with

an ugly statist system. Most of the action takes place on a planet with no government, and the good guys want to stay ungoverned.

But the anarchist planet Bakunin is not a very nice place. There is no real respect for individual freedom and property rights. Most of the bad things statists think would happen in an anarchy do happen on Bakunin. And yet—this free society seems to work, in a sense.

Swann's vision of Bakunin could perhaps be seen as an illustration of the thesis that anarchy actually works *even* if a lot of people behave like criminals most of the time. Maybe this is what Max Stirner's nihilistic Union of Egoists

would look like?

Is it a realistic vision? Well, who knows until we've tried? Personally, I think George H. Smith's theory that justice entrepreneurship in the free market will result in an acceptance of free market libertarian rights seems pretty plausible (this theory is firmly grounded in sound economic and social theory). But even if things didn't work out that way, trade and social life would probably emerge in another, albeit much less than perfect, form.

Crime is part of everyday life on Bakunin, ranging from ordinary street

—Continued on page 6

What do Prometheus Award winners Victor Koman and Brad Linaweaver do when they're not producing new libertarian works? They enjoy going to Richard Kyle Books in Long Beach, where they run into actress/writers like Brinke Stevens and Dana Fredsti.

Brinke Stevens is one of the top Scream Queens, and always has new work to promote. Her current comic book is **Brinke of Destruction**. She also appears in **Jack-O**, on which Brad shares original story credit with producer Fred Olen Ray. Dana Fredsti's film credits include work in Sam Raimi's **Army of Darkness**, and she has collaborated with Brad on fiction. Both she and Brinke have sold stories to anthologies.

So what does all this have to with the Prometheus Awards? Well, the location is part of it. Richard Kyle keeps more Prometheus Award-winning books in stock than any other book store owner in the universe. And besides, Brinke, Victor, and Brad all appear in Fred Olen Ray's **Cyberzone**, a movie in which the hero never forgets to make a profit.



Left-Right, SF writer Victor Koman, Actress Dana Fredsti, Actress Brinke Stevens, sf writer Brad Linaweaver, at Brinke Stevens' comic book signing at Richard Kyle Books in Long Beach.

1996 Prometheus Award nominees*

Alan Dean Foster & Eric Frank Russell, **Design for Great-Day**
 Ursula K. Le Guin, **Four Ways to Forgiveness**
 Victor Milán, **CLD**
 Titus Stauffer, **Bats in the Belfry, By Design**
 S. Andrew Swann, **Profiteer: Hostile Takeover #1**
 F. Paul Wilson, **Implant**

1996 Hall of Fame Award nominees*

Poul Anderson, **The Winter of the World**
 Lee Correy, **Manna**
 Sergeanne Golon, **The Countess Angelinne**
 Cameron Hawley, **Cash McCall**
 Henry Hazlitt, **Time Will Run Back**
 Robert Heinlein, **Red Planet**
 Donald Kingsbury, **Courtship Rite**
 Fritz Leiber, **Gather, Darkness**
 Kevin O'Donnell, Jr., **War of Omission**
 Norman Spinrad, **Agent of Chaos**
 S.M. Stirling, **Marching Through Georgia**
 S.M. Stirling, **Under the Yoke**
 S.M. Stirling, **The Stone Dogs**
 Jack Vance, **Blue World**
 Jack Vance, **Emphyrio**
 Walter Jon Williams, **Hardwired**
 Jack Williamson, **The Humanoids**

*Nomination Deadline: March 31, 1996

Editorial notes

Some of the Hall of Fame nominees are out of print and may be hard to find. However, I have found two classics that readily are available in bookstores. Tor reprinted Poul Anderson's novel in 1995, and is reviewed later in this issue. Orb's 1995 trade paperback edition of Jack Williamson's **The Humanoids** includes a bonus story, "With Folded Hands," set in the same universe.

The preliminary Prometheus Awards ballot will be mailed to current Advisory and Basic members in the Spring issue of *Prometheus*. Five finalists from each category will be selected for the final Prometheus Awards ballot in July.

The 1996 Prometheus Awards will be presented in Los Angeles at the LA Con

III (WorldCon). No scheduling news yet, but I will print the latest information in *Prometheus* when this becomes available.

• • • • •

To anyone who may have experienced problems reaching me at my capmac.org address, I apologize. For the past three or four months, that address has been erratic at best, and completely down for several weeks at a time.

I do have an alternate email address, and if your mail bounces or if I don't reply, just re-send your email to amonsen@aol.com. I'm also on eWorld, but sadly there's no guarantee that this service will continue to exist.

Next issue of *Prometheus* is due out around April, 1996. Look for more reviews, tantalizing news, and other libertarian sf related surprises.

PROMETHEUS

Editor

Anders Monsen

Contributing Editor

Victoria Varga

LFS Advisory Members

John Aynesworth, Richard Bartucci, D.O., T. David Burns, Steve Gaalema, John Fast, Michael Grossberg, Christopher T. Hibbert, William R.N. Howell, Jr., Mac Innis, Lenda Jackson, Dr. Bonnie Kaplan, Victor Koman, Samuel E. Konkin III, Tom Lauerman, Carol B. Low, Lynn D. Manners, Anders Monsen, Fred Curtis Moulton, Ben & Sylvia Olson, Robert Poole, Jr., Andrea Rich, William Alan Ritch, Robert E. Sacks, Bruce Sommer, Adam Starchild, James Sutherland, George Thurston, Victoria Varga

Inquiries and Submissions:

602 Purple Sage Dr
 Round Rock, TX 78681
 amonsen@aol.com

Web site

<http://www.libertarian.com/LFS/>

Subscriptions:

Four issues	(1 year):\$10.00
Overseas	(airmail):\$15.00

Advisory Membership:	\$50.00
Basic Membership:	\$15.00
Overseas Basic Membership:	\$20.00

All memberships are per year.

©1996 by the Libertarian Futurist Society. All rights revert to the contributors. *Prometheus* is published quarterly by the Libertarian Futurist Society. Letters and reviews are welcome. Bylined articles are strictly the opinion of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the LFS membership.

Poland—Living Science Fiction

By Victoria Varga

I'm having a horrible time finding science fiction in Poland, so it's difficult to make any sort of report. I should amend that sentence: I'm having a hard time finding science fiction *in English* here. I'm still trying.

I imagined that Warsaw bookstores would be loaded with SF as the Poles deal with the late 20th century all of a sudden. But, although SF does exist in Polish, it is mixed with mainstream fiction (an interesting development, but one that makes it more difficult for the English-speaker to locate). They are too busy living science fiction to read it much.

What was only a dream just a few years ago, is becoming reality. Changes are happening so fast that most Poles are bemused, some are terrified, many—especially the young—are very happy. Their very language is changing to reflect the changes.

For instance, the word "zalatwic" used to mean getting someone to get something for you using charm or bribery. It had a sleazy connotation. Now that people have money and there are things to buy, "zalatwic" has a more positive meaning—getting things done.

Furthermore, Americans that speak Polish better than I do say that Poles are so excited about having things to buy that they will ask anyone, without embarrassment, how much some item of personal property cost, and where they got it, much to the consternation of their American friends.

Crossing the streets is an exciting experience. Most drivers have only had a car of their own for a few years or less, so you have lots of fast stops, lots of squealing tires and brakes—they are so proud of *having* brakes to squeal, and they learned how to drive from American films. It's a little like the wild west. Very fun and nerve-wracking for a libertarian observer.

Lech Walesa was sounding more and

more like a dictator this fall, even though he'd sunk very low in the polls, and in the first round of the election he managed the number two position. I don't think it's really sunk in that he can be voted out of office, though he says that every anti-democratic thing he's done is to "help democracy survive." Right. His main activity seems to be closing off streets so that he can screech by in a stretch limo.

A "libertarian" didn't do very well in the first round, and no wonder. He planned to allow women to vote for some kinds of elections but not others, and to give most of the powers of government back to male heads of families.

I have to give him credit for one thing—throughout the campaign he promised that if he didn't win a million votes in the first round, he'd shave off his beard, and he lived up to his campaign promise immediately—one of the few politicians to do so in the history of the world.

You may have heard that the Stock Exchange in Warsaw is located in the old Communist Party headquarters. A nice irony. A few weeks ago we went to a Jazz Festival (degenerate capitalist noise) in the Palace of Culture, "Stalin's Gift to the Polish People." Right on the main stage in Stalin's Palace was a big illuminated Heinekin bottle (Heinekin is one of the sponsors). I wish Stalin could see it from his lowest rung of the ladder into hell.

There are entire areas of Warsaw where there are no phones except at the post offices. Estimates have been made that it might take as long as ten years to put lines in all over the city. One very reasonable suggestion is that all the old technology simply be bypassed, and that a cellular phone system should be implemented. Considering the attitude of Polish Telecommunications, the official

monopoly phone company, perhaps it should be entirely bypassed as well. Recent company complaints describe the disturbing news that when people get new phones they use them too much, even for trifling things like gossip. This, of course, makes me wonder how they *know* what is being said in these conversations? In the old communist days, the police had a secret room in every post office so that they could listen in on conversations that one had to make in the post offices since no other phones were available. It made spying on the people so convenient.

In many ways the Poles are more free than we are. Sex shops and strip tease shows seem to be unregulated. Things go on here that would cause conniptions in the United States. *Because* they've had the freedom to explore this kind of stuff in the last several years, sex shop sales are already decreasing—pornography gets boring if it's completely legal. I think that many people are going to try to make it interesting again by making it harder to get (although that is not their intent).

I welcome Poland to a partial taste of freedom. May they hold on to as much as possible. May they enlarge it. May we all be blessed with more of it.

Contributing Editor Victoria Varga has taken a sabbatical as Director of LFS and is spending a year in Poland, going through culture shock and living a science fiction life.

Give a Gift Subscription to *Prometheus*.

Annual subscriptions are only \$10 for 4 issues (\$15 overseas). Help sponsor the Prometheus Awards and promote libertarian sf.

Profiteer, continued from page 1

gangs to religious nuts who kill sinners on prime time television as part of an extortion racket. But there is also considerable commercial activity and there are financial institutions, contracts and protection agencies. Gold is universally accepted as money, and "tax" is an indecent word. The statist are definitely the bad guys in Swann's universe, killing people by the millions while the bakuninites settle for minor blood feuds.

You have to keep in mind, of course, that **Profiteer** is the first book in a trilogy, under the general heading, **Hostile Takeover**. What about the sequels? Where is Swann heading? The second book in the trilogy, **Partisan**, is out, and there is nothing in this novel that spoils the fun from a libertarian point of view. And whatever may happen in the final book, **Profiteer** is still a good read.

If anything, **Profiteer** could be read as a critique of certain rather naive communist visions of anarchy. Life on the free-market planet Bakunin would definitely not meet with the approval of its namesake. Indeed, Swann's frequent use of communist quotations at the begin-

ning of each chapter seems most of all like good satire. In **Profiteer** the market process survives *anything*—chaos, war, and other massive statist intervention.

Forgiveness and Freedom**Four Ways to Forgiveness,**

Ursula K. Le Guin, Harper Prism, 228 pages, \$20.00

Reviewed by Victoria Varga

I almost withdrew my nomination for **Four Ways to Forgiveness** after re-reading it. Not that I don't love most of this novel; not that freedom isn't its primary focus; not that the four connecting stories (including the Nebula-winning "Forgiveness Day") about the liberation of a slave people aren't dramatic and compelling. It's just that I got really disturbed by Le Guin for the first time, and one little exchange between two characters was the reason:

"If you put yourself first, if you won't cooperate, you bring danger on us all."

"I don't put myself first—politicians and capitalists do that. I put freedom

first."

Now I have no problem with the dig against politicians; we are shown politicians that sell themselves to the devil in this novel. But the dig against capitalists seems silly and misplaced, especially when the novel's society shows no evidence of capitalists or capitalism—no evil tycoons using the state to hamper competition and enrich themselves unfairly, no Randian egoists building great empires which are actually beneficial to society but still seem evil to leftists.

The remark seemed out of context except as an expression of authorial prejudice. One other mention is made of capitalism and that is barely redeeming, serving only to underscore my point. A heroine (well that's *something!*) tells us: "Because I come of a capitalist people, I went to other schools to see if I could make more money at them. But I came back to the first one. I liked the people there." As if a capitalist's only consideration is money. Sigh. Well, it fits the stereotypical capitalist anyway.

Many current and former LFS members might wonder why it took me so long to get upset. Le Guin has always annoyed many free-market libertarians with remarks like these. She is an anarchist of the Bakunin/Proudhon stripe and her communalist skirts show. She eschews government, but also is very distrustful of capitalism as it has existed historically, i.e., state capitalism. In many of her novels, her characters make nasty comments about property and owners. In fact, the bad guys in **The Dispossessed** were called proprietarians. No wonder many LFS'ers got upset. We have as strong a gut-reaction in *favor* of the words property and capitalism as leftist-anarchists have against them. And yet there is much in Le Guin (and in Bakunin, in particular) to attract free-marketeters.

For instance, look at this digested version of Bakunin's philosophy from a sympathetic French writer, Daniel Guérin in his book **Anarchism**:

"Bakunin pushed the practice of 'ab-

Continued next page

Ambuehl Ulakey

415-431-2175, fax: 415-431-0775
internet@au.com

Let us help build an Internet/WWW presence for your business or organization. Special rates for libertarians, starting at only US\$150/year to host your WWW pages (includes access statistics, updates, and E-mail address if desired).

Ambuehl Ulakey is a sponsor of the World Wide Libertarian Pages, a comprehensive guide to libertarian resources on the Internet. Visit WWLP at <http://www.libertarian.com/wwlp/>

Internet Consulting

Le Guin, continued from page 4

solute and complete liberty' very far: I am entitled to dispose of my person as I please, to be idle or active, to live either honestly by my own labor or even by shamefully exploiting charity or private confidence. All this on one condition only: That this charity or confidence is voluntary and given to me only by individuals who have attained their majority. I even have the right to enter into associations whose objects make them 'immoral' or apparently so."

Did Bakunin make an exception for economic activities, believing since capitalism was somehow detrimental to freedom, that it should be forbidden by law? Apparently not, here is direct quote: "Liberty must defend itself only through liberty; to try and restrict it on the specious pretext of defending it is a dangerous contradiction."

It sometimes seems that the main difference between (a) a free-market anarchist and (b) a communist anarchist can only be that each believes that if humans were perfectly educated, if they knew what was best for them, what would make them happiest and most free, they would all choose (b) communalism or (a) a free market system. [Pick your answer according to your philosophy.] Is the difference between these types of anarchism important? It is only if the individuals in any anarchist society fail to hold to anarchist principle. In other words, allow the people in the society to choose for themselves (and no one else) how they wish to live, and there isn't a problem.

Naturally, I'd bet that a free market system will win for most people and there are thousands of reasons but I'll give just one tiny example. Every leftist-leaning friend that I have used to live in a commune, but now lives in a house they own themselves. Why? When asked they hem and haw a lot, but it comes down to: life is very difficult when nothing is your own, everything belongs to everyone and every decision is made by the collective. In other words, it's a supreme pain in the ass. What leftists fail

to realize is that a strict insistence on property rights helps regular people to be free, to control their lives. Property rights even help the poor (gasp!). The problem with statist versions of capitalism is that property rights are only really protected for a selected few. Become a suspected drug dealer or say no to the IRS and see how well your property rights are defended.

The consequences of LFS members' attraction/repulsion for LeGuin's brand of anarchism have been interesting, to say the least. There has probably been more written in *Prometheus* about Ursula K. Le Guin than about any other novelist. During the ten-year-long battle to get (or to avoid getting, depending on your point of view) **The Dispossessed**

Life is very difficult when nothing is your own, everything belongs to everyone and every decision is made by the collective.

into the LFS Hall of Fame, most of the membership seemed to have something to say, for or against, and the sides were fairly evenly divided.

On the pro side were novelist Robert Shea, activist and writer Samuel Edward Konkin III, LFS member Dr. Bonnie Kaplan and of course, as editor during much of this time (and as a fan of Le Guin's) I often threw in my three cents without even a pretense of impartiality.

On the con side were Prof. Joseph P. Martino, author of **Science Funding: Boondoggle or ...**, former *Prometheus* editor Lenda Jackson, LFS member Jim Stumm and many others. A few people quit LFS rather than belong to an organization that would even consider such a novel for a libertarian award.

With this tumultuous background, why did I nominate **Four Ways to Forgiveness**? Well, consider the following. Le Guin's latest novel, like **The Dispossessed**, is set in a solar system where two planets are settled by humanoids and one is a colony of the other. The

word "owner" has a particularly nasty meaning in this novel: slavery is perfectly legal and common on both worlds.

There are no physical differences between owner and owned in this system, except that owners have a blue-black skin, and the "owned" are usually dusty-grey. It is instructive for a white American reader to dwell for a time in the minds of dark-skinned fictional characters who are convinced that their lighter-skinned slaves are inferiors, and even more interesting to get under the skin, so to speak, of the slaves who believe in their inferiority, as slaves often do.

In these four stories, freedom is "the one noble thing," but there are many ways to be unfree. The colony planet slaves revolt and win, much to the owners' amazement: "[The slaves] defeated us from beginning to end....Partly because my government didn't understand that they could." But the newly-liberated females find that *they* are not free at all, but slaves to their men.

"A free man's women are free," proclaims a chief, but they are not. This injustice radicalizes the women in very interesting and anarchist ways. For instance a group of women fights so that the money that they earn with their labor will no longer be held in trust by tribal leaders, but will be available to them to use as they see fit. Then they use the money to escape to the city. One woman expresses exactly my feelings about "leaders": "Whether the Ekumen was a true ally or a new set of Owners in disguise, she didn't know, but she liked to see any chief go down. Werelian Bosses, strutting tribal headmen, or ranting demagogues, let them taste dirt."

As I said above, there are many ways to be unfree, and this book recognizes only some of them, but those it does recognize are very beautifully drawn. "We are a free people now," says a young chief who believes his wife is his to be dominated. And a woman character answers politely, "I haven't yet known a free people." Neither have I, but there's still hope.

Continued on page 6

Le Guin, continued from page 5

There are also wonderful moments when individual characters finally begin to *feel* liberated. For instance, the sentence "The first thing I did...as a free woman, was to shut my door" allows the reader realize what it must be like to live with no way to occasionally shut out the world. And in the following scene, we feel the absolute joy of a former plantation slave:

"A group of us women went home talking through the streets, talking aloud. These were my streets now, with their traffic and lights and dangers and life. I was a City women, a free woman. That night I was an owner. I owned the City. I owned the future."

There's the word "owner" again, this time used in what must be a positive way. And here is my point: can one be free without being an owner, without owning one's work, one's life, one's future? What sense can be made of one's life if the one who lives it doesn't own it? More, how can one own one's life without being able to own the fruits of it—property? And which society would best insure this ownership, one where the private property of each individual is vigorously defended, or one where property, especially the means of production, is owned by everyone and no one?

Implant, F. Paul Wilson
1995, Forge, 348 pages, \$23.95
Reviewed by Anders Monsen

Implant is a high caliber political-medical thriller that raises serious policy and philosophical issues. Issues alone make for flat books, but **Implant** is fleshed out and made real by the strong cast of characters. In my opinion, few writers give us more achingly memorable characters than Wilson. Who can forget Repairman Jack?

Gina Panzella is a young doctor, working 36 hour days in Washington, DC, including assisting plastic surgeon wizard Duncan Lathram. Her hyper-intelligent boss is a complex and contradictory character. Lathram constantly ridi-

cules and criticizes what he calls the kakistocracy of Washington, yet blithely operates on the self-same members of congress who seek to improve their TV-looks. A curious contradiction, or sinister planning on his behalf?

Events take a dark turn when Gina surprises Lathram by seeking the position of advisor to a senator who sits on the influential Congressional Committee, which is reviewing the Health Care System. As a doctor, Gina seeks to work the system from within to make heard the views of all doctors, but her boss sees only his gifted assistant entering the corruption of the kakistocracy. Gina uncovers curious mysteries behind Lathram's plastic surgery on Senators. Several of his former patients, all on this review committee, die or turn insane, and the common thread is having spent a few hours under Lathram's knife.

Lathram's quest for revenge against the Senatorial monsters who ruined his life and profession consumes him. He faces a deep abyss familiar to all libertarians: a heartless, mindless government. In trying to conquer that abyss, Lathram dredges out his own dark nature, and must battle this as much as the focus of his rage and revenge.

Duncan Lathram, the bitter antagonist, leaves the strongest impression on the reader's mind, as the tragically fallen hero fighting the government in his own way. Wilson's narrative power keeps you reading the book until you finish, exhausted but deeply and hauntingly moved.

The Winter of the World,
Poul Anderson
Reviewed by Anders Monsen

In this novel, originally published in 1975, Anderson creates a world emerging from the icy remains of a culturally bygone Earth. New cultures and societies rise to form their own identities, yet the age-old human conflicts remain.

There is the archetypal expanding empire, the Barommians, who like the Mongul hordes and countless other warrior-nations thrust outward from

their own territories and conquer other cultures to feed their own. Caught in the middle are several merchant cultures, easily subdued. The one culture that stands in the way of the Bormmians, however, the Rogaviki, is unique. From a libertarian perspective the Rogaviki, while not utopian, are very interesting.

Anderson appears to have built the stateless society of the Rogaviki from the outlines of Icelandic 'individualism.' The names bear similarities to Scandinavian names, and the Rogaviki inhabit the cold north in Anderson's world. Peaceful unless attacked, the Rogaviki have no prohibitions against trade nor do they recognize any central authority.

The story of the advancing empire contrasts well with the individualistic resisters, and woven into this larger tale is one of relationships between three people from their very different cultures. Anderson does present a couple of issues that seem like false opposites, such as the one between civilization and individualism. However, he handles the descriptive side of the Rogaviki, as well as its foes and friends, with great skill.

Emphyrio, Jack Vance
Reviewed by Anders Monsen

Jack Vance is both a master story teller and a master stylist. Hailed as the Shakespeare of science fiction, most of his books remain sadly out of print, such as this 'dystopian' masterpiece. Vance's genius lies in creating sophisticated alien cultures, and clothing his stories in brilliant prose. His grasp of cultural nuances is without equal, and his characters emerge as if carved from alien rock.

Emphyrio remains a personal favorite. This novel captures Vance's sense of culture and language admirably. In addition, few other books have treated the relationship between father and son with more poignancy than **Emphyrio**.

On the distant planet Halma a group of self-styled lords govern a welfare system, restricting trade and taxing both wealth and individuality.

—Continued on page 8

Self Control Not Gun Control,
J. Neil Schulman, Centurion Press, 1995,
308 pages, \$24.95
Reviewed by Bill Howell

J. Neil Schulman believes in truth in advertising; he wants you to know up front what you're getting into. That's why he plainly states in the introduction that **Self Control Not Gun Control** is not a diet book.

Whew! That's a load off my mind. I don't think the world is ready yet for a libertarian diet book. Nor is his new book exclusively about firearms issues; if that's what you're looking for, Schulman directs you to his previous work, **Stopping Power**. Okay, so if it's neither a diet book nor a right to bear arms polemic, what the heck is it?

Simply put, this latest book is an exposition of Schulman's philosophy of life, as it relates to everything from God and religion to the O.J. trial, with lots of stops in between. I've been a fan of Schulman's since I first read **Alongside Night** a dozen years ago, so it was fascinating for me to get a look inside his head and read his personal beliefs without them being "filtered" through his characters.

While not autobiographical in the strict sense, **Self Control Not Gun Control** is deeply personal and revealing. Each section in the book begins with a poem that captures the essence of what Schulman is trying to say. As you would expect from the author of **Alongside Night** and **The Rainbow Cadenza**, his message is very individualistic and very hopeful for the future.

The first section, titled "The Politics of Gun Control," is a continuation of the discussion begun in **Stopping Power**. Schulman puts forward additional strong arguments against the constitutional legality and effectiveness of gun control, past the Republican sweep of November, 1994, and the Oklahoma City bombing of April, 1995. He demolishes the arguments of President Clinton, Representative Charles Schumer, and their ilk, while also pointing out that there still is hope for freedom in this country if the American people are willing to stand up and be heard. If you believe in the inalienable human right to bear arms in self defense and in defense of others, you will find these essays by Schulman invigorating and inspiring; if you oppose this right, you'll find these essays very difficult to refute.

In the second section, "The Politics of Self Control," Schulman broadens his focus to encompass the complete political landscape. Free speech, drugs, the draft, crime, race, and the O.J. trial—all the hot button issues of today—are addressed in his witty and free-wheeling style. Schulman even "proposes" a re-writing of the Bill of Rights, reminiscent of H.L. Mencken's proposed constitution for the state of Maryland, to demonstrate how the basic freedoms delineated by the Framers have been eroded in recent years. My personal favorite is "A Reply to (Sir Henry?) Clinton," which compares our current Commander-in-Chief with his namesake, the British C-in-C during the American Revolution; fabulous stuff!

The third section is easily the most deeply personal part of this book. In "Rethinking Freethinking" Schulman discusses his own personal beliefs about God and the meaning of existence. I won't do him the injustice of trying to sum up his complex feelings in a few words, but this section chronicles his progress from Judaism, through atheism, to a personal belief in God but not religion.

—Continued on page 8

Prometheus Project

Publishers Weekly reports that Brad Linaweaver's first **Sliders** novel, based on the Fox TV series, will be out in April, 1996 from Berkley, priced at \$5.50. The title of the book is **Lenin's Statue**.

Linaweaver promises readers of *Prometheus* that he does for communists in this novel, what he did for nazis in **Moon of Ice**.

F. Paul Wilson writes that a few years ago he donated non-exclusive audio rights to **An Enemy of the State** to the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library, upon their request. Wilson's copies of the seven-tape set arrived late last year, and *Prometheus* contacted the Library for more information.

The Library serves people with disabilities, and the tapes are not available to the public at large. However, the library will be happy to loan the tapes to anyone through inter-library loan, and interested individuals should contact their local library.

While the Hall of Fame Award winning novel, **An Enemy of the State** is available in audio format only through the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library, other F. Paul Wilson books are available on tape for general purchase.

The Keep and **The Touch** were both done by Books On Tape; Simon & Schuster Audio did **The Select**.

Author and political gadfly Richard E. Geiss has re-issued his adult sf novel, **Star Whores** (1980).

A murder mystery drags Toi King dangerously close to own death in this short novel. The angle is not specifically libertarian, although the central character, known as a Companion, is a prostitute on a mining space vessel who treats her job like any other economic activity. Strictly for adults only.

Contact Richard E. Geis at PO Box 11408, Portland, OR 97211-0408.

Richard Kyle Books is located at 242 E. 3rd Street, Long Beach, California, 90802; phone # (310) 432-KYLE.

Special thanks to F. Paul Wilson, Brad Linaweaver, and Victor Koman.

Schulman, continued from page 7

You may not find yourself totally agreeing with Schulman's beliefs (I know I didn't; I'm afraid I'm a materialist from way back), but you'll still find his exposition of those beliefs fascinating.

The final three sections each explore different aspects of the contemporary commercial world. "Economic Freedom" deals with the general superiority of free market and contains a couple of proposals for documentaries (unfortunately never produced) which would have extolled this superiority. "Power Tools" describes the current state and future possibilities of the publishing business, including the near certainty of 'paperless publishing' as the Internet and modems become near universal. "Power Writing" discusses the writer's craft and takes some well-aimed shots at critics and reviewers (ouch!).

Brad Linaweaver, author and Prometheus Award winner, contributes a humorous Afterword, concerning a

quest he and Schulman embarked on to deliver a truckload of copies of **Stopping Power** to various locations around the nation during a truckers' strike.

Like all the best books, **Self Control Not Gun Control** leaves you wishing there were more to it; it's over way too soon. Though it isn't really science fiction, it is filled with a positive futurist attitude toward space and technology. I heartily recommend it to any libertarian who would like to sharpen his or her wits and load some more large caliber ammo into their intellectual guns.

For those of you surfing the Net, you can catch up on the author's latest doings on his web home page, <http://www.pinsight.com/zeus/jneil/>

I hope J. Neil Schulman will take time out soon from his busy schedule to give us a new SF novel or two; his clarion clear-eyed visions of a free future are as needed today as they were a decade ago.

You can order a copy of **Self Control, Not Gun Control** for only \$19.95 from Laissez Faire Books, at 800-326-0996.

Emphyrio, continued from page 6

Ghyl Tarvak finds himself at odds with his society from childhood. When his artisan father is arrested for illegally duplicating pamphlets, and dies after being 're-educated,' Ghyl feels the wrongness of his society.

Young Ghyl becomes a rebel, and seeks to understand the truth behind the history of his planet, the over-lords, and the secret held by the strange humonculus-like beings of Halmas' moon. He journeys to old Earth, and returns with revelations that shatter the structure of his own world.

If you never have read Vance, I can't recommend strongly enough that you seek out this novel. Ghyl's story will draw you in with soft melancholy, and the tale that unfolds rivets the reader till the very end. Several of Vance's novels easily could stand among the best of the Hall of Fame winner, yet none match the power of **Emphyrio**.

PROMETHEUS

The Journal of the Libertarian Futurist Society
602 Purple Sage Dr
Round Rock, TX 78681

Bulk rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rochester, NY
Permit No. 973

*****ALL FOR STATE
Fred Curtis Moulton 1995
1556 Halford Ave., No. 131
Santa Clara CA 95051-2661