Dear Joanna:

Happiness is having a free hour, a good sandwich and a glass of tea, and sitting down with a Russ essay on science fiction. Dammit, you make sense. You are about the only writer on science fiction whose nouns and verbs I understand. I hope this does not dismay you---nothing greater than being appreciated by inheciles---but I personally of course believe that it means that you think with precision and great range and express it all with divine succinctness.

I refer to your Subjunctivity piece in EXTRAPOLATION 15/1, which I have at last subscribed to.

That's an elegant bit of definition by Delany, isn't it? (I should send for that back issue.) You've probably forgotten your own thing entirely by now but it gave me such pleasure. I had about resigned myself to grunting and pointing after reading some of the Panshinss efforts --- hope I'm not offensive here, just put it down to terminal aphasia on my part). Then I came on a thing of Delany's some time back, forget what, but it was like chopping open the cloud layer. He has a clear, clear head. He knows the tools, he knows what the hell he's doing and we're all at, he has the feel of the open-endedness. And he has the learning. Rare in sf, he has a trained mind. And he has the delicacy of the true thinker, you never catch him clumping in heavy definitional boots past the sign that Angels Stop Here. ...I don't mean that he fails in definition or that there are mysteries we cannot name, that rot. I mean he keeps the subject akave on the operating table. He does not insist on putting in that last brick that includes infinity out.

All the above applies to you, too. That is what I mean by sense. Epistemological tact.

One of the beauties of his "has not happened" is that it places naturalistic fiction, the ugh mainstream, as a sub-division of sf. (Has not happened but could have.) I've felt for long that the so-called larger field of literature was in fact a restricted phase of the genre sf, not vice versa. That it was writing under constrainsts (could happen) that are in fact crutches for the reader whose thinking is limited to "could happen." And not only "could" but "is very probable in my little world and doesn't upset me."

The sf reader is one whose mind naturally races to the limit when a category comes up, who when told the boat is leaking immediately releateset it may fill and sink, to put it in the narrowest possible case. I have been increasingly, slowly appalled as I go thru the years to discover that one is surrounded by a solid phalanx of people who when told "the boat is leaking" simply register----if that much----The item; "the boat is leaking." Period. Period...One in a hundred may even remember it next day.

The one in a thousand who asks, How fast? Or where are the lifeboats? or Should I help bail...that one is a potential sf reader. "EXTRAPOLA-TION is really a very acute name for the journal, isn't it? Not in the sense that sf is extrapolation, but in the sense of a mental activity which can go along any dimension.

Well this is all in a very didactic vein which is not my natural

AT WILL The

spoirces is favine a free home, a such condutor and a glace of the, and mithing down with all one among of schemos finition. Remett, you nake tense. Ou all shout the only withing an original of the shout the ad your manetetand. I have beig does not disrey your-metline spart of them being aroundisted by Have Sleet-nobling free hold in any first rest of it mang that you think with procision and great inner and ergons it all with divine and originations.

invo at inut evine 100 to

oblitions for and the to you, the the vist is vist I want in going.

One of the population of the "has intermoned" is that it misses submailing to "fordor: the seberal astrong, or acculed winter of a". ("he but house made int could avoid five thit for fore that the so-multed larger field of "liber turns was to fact a restricted of the genue of". Sub vice veres. There is restrict and the construing of the genue of the fact are to fact are fore for the restrict and thinking is limited to food is area. "I only food is not the very protocial in my little would be restricted at."

e polagors comes un, fro the fold the boot is lection immediately reinalized in any filt and divid, to us is in the contrance possible case. I have been intractually elective as alled as is the track to file case that one is extrained by a solid shift as of poople the track to file case that one is right anglister-off that any of poople thereine to if source is lectione size and the solid shift are of poople thereine to if source is lectione right anglister-off that any of poople there is not is lection.

The state of the state and the same the same. How facts in mights and the side side side is a state of the st

the start and the start of the start is and the start is

way (I hope). Comes from the fact that your piece gave me a kind of grimly satisfied empathic glow, sort of Well, I guess THAT fixes em. Not that it was aggressive or controversy-seeking, just that it was a delighting demonstration of How to do it right. Like seeing a mema bsprey demonstrating flying, a pretty scene I had the chance to watch in Yucatan. The great silver creature soared and did aerial arabesques, ending up with an extraordinary dance-in-place in the sunrise air, hooting what may have been encouragement to the large chick awkwardly flapping from palm to palm below.

Your observation that the reader carries his own/frame with him into the work has an interesting corollary. It might mean that the readership of at least some sf is bound to be extra-limited. Since there is a tacit dependence on the reader's <u>having</u> an adequate frame. Thus if the frame changes too much between tultures or times the work will be left inadequately anchored, more so that a could-happen work where the frame is explicit.

Even in my limited experience of writing, I've noticed a problem which I kow understand since reading you: Being old, IV ve accumulated a heap of miscellaneous actuality data; rather a large heap. And I've been aware that effects I was trying to get were dependent on the reader's sharing that heap, or parts of it. And yet I could not bring the actuality itself in, it was as you said the effort to keep alive a <u>fluctuating</u> relationship between unnamed elements of actuality and the what**fver-it-was** I was trying to make. So I had simply to cut out parts that depended on the reader's sharing an improbably large part of my actuality....A totally different sort of problem than non-sf fiction faces, isn't it?

To take an absurd example, one can depend on the reader's frame for "the pastoral peacefulness of the twentieth century". But you can't do so for "the eleventh century."

Thank you. Joanna. Now I understand.

I love that description of a shifting, many-stranded relation in the work. I love your understanding of complexity. The description of the play of disbelief in satire. When something new is really well caught in words it gives me actual tangible joy. Like having an itchy brain scratched right? No; more like eating a perfect peach on a scorching hot day.

I have moments of wishing acutely that I could attend a good sf workshop or seminar, say one of yours. Or could at least listen to you and your few peers discuss or argue out some point. And then I have reality awakenings in which I know that if I had that luck I should doubtless never write again, that the kernel of my output is the lonesome exploration, powered by ignorant & infatuated curiosity. What I would learn is that I can't do it.

Now this was supposed to be a short snappy farewell note (I'm going on my travels for a couple of months) and a renewed hope that your fight is going well. Would it be a strain to drop a card saying what the status is? The bystanders do fret, you know.

And I was going to ask what you thought about Anna Kavan's ICE. (I don't know what I think yet, the jolt of European real craziness that comes off it first baurs vision.) And I was going to rejoice that you too rejoice in PALE FIRE. That Nabokov. And I was going to inquire if you enjoyed Calvino. And I was going to mention ---apropos of your comment on the frame of actuality around a work of fantasy---how Tolkien seems to me to have built a double frame, using the hobbits as a half-actual anchor to go into wilder fantasy, and tying back again through a hobbit-ending to the world of men...and then the strange effect of the Appendices.

way it house, have sport the facturing your pice gave reacht of grade and field sentifies low, sime of all, ' guage is firsterion. 't whet is a so to be the coll records and and that is its a fell when the straight on the in the coll records a sector is and berry demanded living, a water the difficult in the sector is and the to mentary the production of a manual of difficult in the output and the to mentary the production durage in the constant in the constant of a sector was an extention of is low of the sector of the constant of a sector of a sector of a durage in the constant is form to be a set as an extention to be low of the sector of the constant of the to be the to be the sector of the low of a sector of the to be the to be the set

(and observed on the to reader exprise of only take with the set the walk has a interported construct. It is bit near its the contracting of a load set of the found to a synce of the found there is a toolf dependence on the territories having an uncounty frame. Then if the frame dependent to ' contraction' united to or if a last on the ist that is and dependent and so that a would have not the last the ist that is a set of the and so that a would have not the set the frame is synthetic.

set i hos maiorstant fines reading write isting, i'to retire is mobile i fine microtant fines reading write isting, out i'to return to be offere i new invite to yet to ther i large wing, out i'to return the base with of stree i't traded of i cruit of the street for a reader's modification of stree i't traded of i cruit of the street for a reader's modification of street i't return of the street for a street is reader's modification of street i't return of the street for a street is reader's modification of street i't return of the street for a street is reader to an in the reader of the street of the street i't return is reader to an intervent of street and the intervent i't return of the street is and the street is and the street of the street is a large of the street is and the street is and the street of the street is a large of the street is and the is and the street of the street is a large of the street is and the street is a street of the street of the street is a street is a street in the street is a large of the street of the street is a street is a street is and the street is a street is a large of the street of the street is a street of the street is a street in the street is a large of the street is a street of the street is a street of the street is a street is a

No take an alente evenale, and a concernent on the totage (lane for star pastore i anne liamo of the thenilat contary, but you can't do so the "the dispertion opting."

the twee when the second second of

1 the same the test calculates of a satisfiant, not do and islation to the same test or correctioning of orghinder, the form ratio of the all of divisition to assist. When constitute out is included a the same trained as actual seturities of the levic on train sate terricled when its provide the control seturities of a seture levic of a seture let det.

I igns how if an initial contains contains that I wild ocean a spoce if an istag of configer, how one of your the contain of fees littlen to you and our that a contains to contain on some control. And then I news chalad, a contains a uniter I igns for the I possible institute I news chalad, a setter casts. It confide how alt of my setter is a large on and contains, not you find the contains that of my setter is a set institute to the form of the figuration of the instance of my setter is a large on a solution to the figuration of the instance of my setter is a large on a solution to be your figuration of the instance of the institute is and the local to do the institute of the institute. Which is would be a solution to be do in the institute of the institute. Which is not institute local to do the institute of the institute. Which is not be a solution of the institute of the institute. Which is not be a solution of the institute of the institute of the institute. Which is not be a solution of the institute of the institute of the institute. I have a solution of the institute of the institute of the institute of the institute. I have a solution of the institute of the institute of the institute of the institute. I have a solution of the institute of the institute. I have a solution of the institute of the instit of the institute of the instit of the institute

and the set interaction of the solution of the solution of the set of the set

Any Char With Philips, Staring or an in the second and deviate fills the file files of the Staring of an equation of the protocol file and file files of the Staring of a second file of the file of the second of the second file of the Staring of the second file of the Staring of the second of the second file of the Staring of the Staring of the Staring of the second of the second of the Staring of the Staring of the Staring of the Staring of the second of the Staring of the second of the Staring of the second of the Staring of the second of the Staring of the second of the Staring of the second of the Staring of the Staring of the Staring of the Staring of the second of the Staring of the Staring of the Staring of the Staring of the second of the Staring of the Staring of the Staring of the Staring of the second of the Staring of the Staring of the Staring of the Staring of the second of the Staring of the Staring of the Staring of the Staring of the second of the Staring of the second of the Staring of the second of the Staring of the Staring of the Staring of the Staring of the second of the Staring of the Staring of the Staring of the Staring of the second of the Staring of the second of the Staring of the second of the Staring of the St

Sale.



122