

Gareth's "Words on War" series begins this week... at 4.20 pm!! Why it's being shown at kids viewing time beats the hell out of me, but I long ago gave up trying to fathom the minds of TV programmers.

"Sapphire and Steel" has begun on ITV, Tuesday and Thursday evenings 7.00 till 7.30. Silly idea putting it on as two weekly parts. A one-hour show would suit the concept much better as the ideas behind the show are nicely worked out and rather scary. At 30 minutes, though, there's no way to capture and hold the attention and the audience's nerves.

The series looks good and should pick up, but it comes off as very slow and tepid as yet. The appalling credit sequences and the none-too-strong scripts don't help the situation, but Joanna and David McCallum play off against one another well.

((Then, to some later comments on the show...)) I take back what I said previously about "Sapphire...". The fourth show was on today and it really is turning into an excellent mystery item. Joanna is called upon to do more than her Purdey role ever allowed her the chance and there are some very weird and unsettling effects and ideas in the show.

"Billion Dollar Threat" is here now and I caught it on a double bill with an enjoyable youthsploitation movie called "That Summer". Wish I could say I enjoyed "Threat" to the same extent, but it really was limp, I have to admit. The only moments of uplift were when Pat was on-screen (a delight) and that one sequence where the hero, Sands, outdrives Horatio Black's villains and blows up their jeep with a shotgun-cum-pazooka... the only time it came close to 007.

"King Solomon's Treasure" is on it town for a limited engagement and got a couple of quite favourable reviews: "...it's hard to dislike our three bluff heroes who miraculously survive rebellious priests, erupting volcanoes and tumbling cities to return to the old country with nothing but a tale to tell their grandchildren."

Rang Linda's home again today - she's back! We had a nice chat and we're meeting up for some tea before she goes back to America to live on July 30th. She'll be settling there but says she'll be back to

London now and again. It only occurred to me after we'd finished talking that the American guy who answered the phone was Cyril Smith and I think now that I'd like to have said something to him other than, "Could I speak to Linda, please?" !!

Linda was able to give me some details about "The Grass is Greener". Now, why was she able to when none of the West End Theatres could help me? Simple - the play isn't playing the West End at all. From July 30th it's going on a 6 month tour and this begins with seasons at Guildford's Yvonne Arnaud Theatre (where Linda was in "Murder in a Bad Light") and another theatre in Richmond.

The producers told me that rehearsals are at present going on at Guildford for the opening July 30th, the show running there until 18 August.

Next step: Ring Guildford and try to speak to Patrick, right? I got through during a break in rehearsals at 1.0'clock and he was absolutely charming! He sounded a little tired and said not to come and see the play until the second week when it had ironed itself out. Then, he said, we can meet up and have a few drinks. He then said how grateful (again) he was for your and our interest in him and how he looked forward to meeting me (HE looks forward to it!?!?). Needless to say, I was amazed and delighted at getting through to Pat and I only wish you were here to see the play too.

I've been 'in bed' with mild flu for three days (bad enough to keep me away from the studio, but not so bad that I can't sunbathe and zip down to Aldwych and the telephone kiosk on the corner!) and was listening to the radio yesterday, twiddling the dial, when I came to Michael Aspel's morning show on Capital Radio. He was talking to Gareth Hunt!

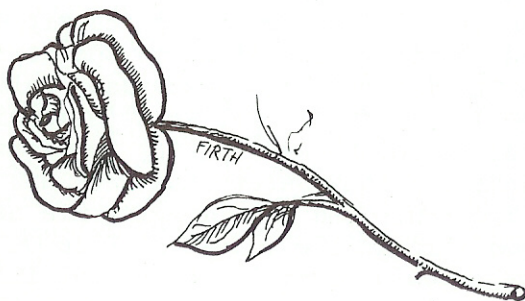
I soon gathered that Gareth had been his guest for the past two hours and was plugging his new play. I flipped through the pages of "Time Out" to see what play he could possibly be in that I had missed and I finally found it - "Deathtrap" by Ira ("Boys from Brazil") Levin. Reason I'd overlooked it was the fact that Denis Quilley has been in the play for months and months (at the Garrick Theatre)

and Gareth Hunt took over only this last week.

Well, before you could say "linament" I was on the tube to town and three o'clock saw me enjoying "Deathtrap" once again. I can't reveal even the plot to you (one is sworn to secrecy!) but Gareth was quite brilliant in the role of murder playwright Sidney Bruhl - American accent and all. He was both very funny and eerily scary when called upon to do either and he had far more charm in his performance than the nonetheless excellent Denis Quilley. His hair was greyed-down to suggest middle age... I thought for a moment he'd actually gone grey!

Naturally I went backstage straightaway and as soon as I sent him a Network card he had me taken to his dressing room and we had a chat for about 5-7 minutes. Gareth went on that he enjoyed making the series "...knowing Brian and Joanna and Patrick, of course - great fun." I got him to sign a couple of programmes and asked about photos from the play. He wasn't sure what the situation was but wrote down my name and address and promised to get in touch with the guy concerned.

((Bill is currently working on an article concerning Laurie Johnson, composer of "Avengers" music over the years. Watch for it in the months ahead!))



"House of Cards"

by Brian Clemens

Directed by Ray Austin

Professor Vasil, the acclaimed professor is about to be returned unwillingly and unceremoniously to his homeland by his fellow countryman Perov. Their private plane waits on the tarmac of the small airfield to take them aloft.

Then there is a sudden burst of confusion in the airport lounge when several pop fans, all girls, go into a near frenzy at the sight of their hero. They stampede into the midst of Vasil and his captor, Perov, and two of his bodyguards. Perov is pinioned by the girls, the henchmen are swept underfoot and Vasil is gently escorted to a nearby car by Steed who had outwitted Perov. It was all part of a diversion set up by Steed, Purdey and Gambit.

Perov, veteran agent, who infiltrated thirteen agents into the country during the last 20 years is deadly and devious - the trickiest of them all. But because of the airport fiasco he is ordered home to face the Commissariat. Instead he commits suicide. At least, that's what people think as they later see his coffin head towards the crematorium oven. It may be his coffin, but Perov is alive and well and planning to put his House of Cards operation into action.

The names of Steed, Purdey and Gambit and Vasil, among others, are shuffled from his pack of deadly cards - a code system he has designed over the years. The king of hearts is the card with Steed's name on it. That is the code to kill Steed. Gambit's name is on the knave of hearts and Purdey is lined up to become the assassinated Queen of Hearts.

Produced by Albert Fennell and Brian Clemens

Music by Laurie Johnson

"House of Cards"

- CAST -

Character

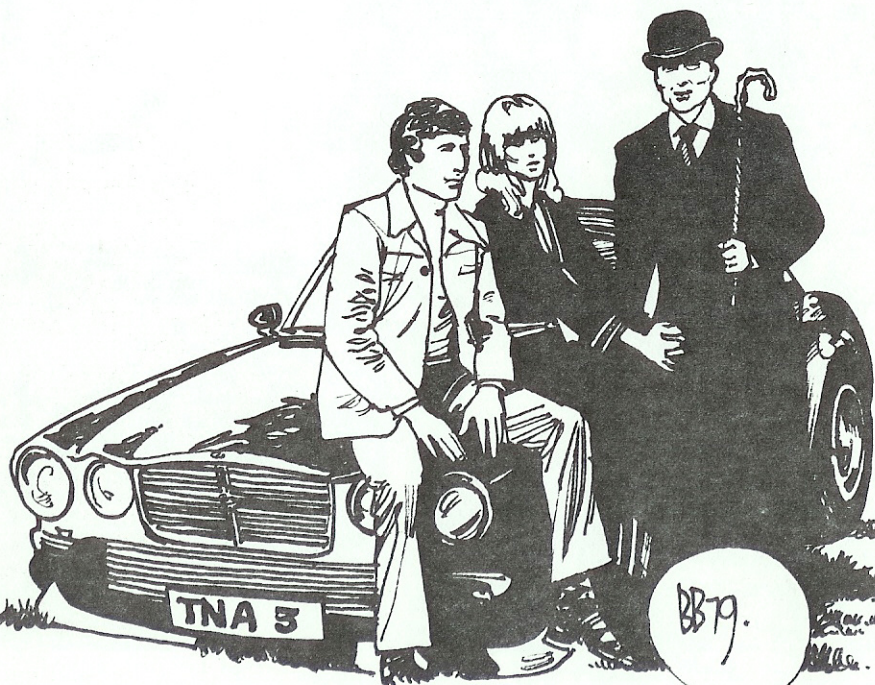
John Steed
Purdey
Mike Gambit

Perov
Professor Vasil
Cartney
Boris
Cristo
Roland
Olga
Suzy Miller
David Miller
Spence
The Bishop
Frederick
Jo
Tulliver

Artist

Patrick Macnee
Joanna Lumley
Gareth Hunt

Peter Jeffrey
Gordon Sterne
Lyndon Brook
Dan Meaden
Terry Plummer
Frank Thornton
Ina Skriver
Annette Andre
Murray Brown
Mark Burns
Derek Francis
Anthony Bailey
Geraldine Moffatt
Jeremy Wilkin



it to Britain depends on it getting a good response here. Actually, it's suppose to be catering to Americans with the James Bond bit and all. There is a paperback out on the movie itself in Britain, published by Corgi. I've seen it... the cover is nice and that's almost it. Two friends who read it said it's a bit trashy and extremely violent.

KAREN ESIBILL, Baltimore, MD:

As a new member of the Network, let me compliment you on Newsletter #9 - just super. As one of the 'old timers' in the realm of "Avengers" enthusiasts, I thoroughly enjoyed "Something Old, Something New". You soothed my slight resentment of Mike Gambit. Oh, I think Gareth Hunt is excellent in the role and certainly attractive enough. But for me "The Avengers" is Steed... and Steed's success lies solely in the charm, style and wonderful screen presence of Patrick Macnee. Regardless of his co-stars through the years, Macnee is the spark that ignites. So, my only bone to pick with "The New Avengers" is that there is not enough of Steed, and poor Gambit has caught the brunt of my displeasure. Formal apologies to Gareth. It is not his fault that I can't get enough of Patrick Macnee and I agree with you that his character does compliment that of Steed and Purdey.

The special issue on Pat Macnee was such a delightful treat. The interview just heightened my regard for him. He is such a warm and gracious man. Liked the photos of him, too.

"The Avengers" is being shown on a syndicated channel here on Sunday evenings. Most of the episodes are, I think, the very first ones with Diana Rigg. Anyway, they are a treasure to see again. There was such a rare chemistry between the two of them. I do wish they would work together again.

SALLY SYRJALA, Centerville, MA:

Bill Bradshaw's description of the Patrick Newell commercials makes me wish they would be shown here. The British humor is precious. It would be a welcome change from learning that relief is spelled in a way completely different from that which one would think.

depicted in black corset, boots, gloves and spiked collar... plus, a cape with a red rose pinned to it! Coincidence?

LENI SOMMER, Greeley, CO:

I've given much thought to the question you posed at the end of the last regular issue (#9, I think it was) and there really isn't any one particular scene I would want to change. However, I wouldn't mind a little 'mood altering'.

"The New Avengers", I feel, take themselves a trifle too seriously. I miss the 'schtick' from the good old days when "extra-ordinary crimes against the state required the services of extra-ordinary agents", when every episode started with "Mrs. Peel, you're needed" and ended with some little commentary, in a humorous vein, on the goings-on. I had my hopes when in the first episode I saw Gambit dump Purdey out of bed with the line "Duty calls, Purdey, and you're not answering." But except for the all too rare exchanges between Gambit and Purdey, usually concerning the former's affection for the latter, humor was almost non-existent.

In later episodes there was more, but except for "Medium Rare" I felt that I'd been left hanging at the end of each episode.

And then there's the matter of Steed standing around like a pep club member while Gambit gets beaten to a pulp. Now anyone who's 'clever little fist' can dent a cybernaut can obviously take care of himself, but that's no reason for him to have to get creamed when all Steed would have to do is lend a hand, or bowler, for that matter, and Purdey a foot for there to be a speedy resolution of the matter. Steed is by no means ready to be put out to pasture and Purdey "already knew she was liberated way back when everyone else was burning bras, so they don't need to function as Gambit's cheering section.

But I am glad to see that our agents are still extra-ordinary, as evidenced by Gambit's proficiency with fists and firearms, Purdey's fancy footwork and Steed's legendary intelligence. And I appreciate the

added depth to the characters I saw. A director I worked with last fall said that characters do not develop, they unfold. I have really enjoyed watching Gambit, Purdey and even Steed unfold before my eyes - getting to know them as is the way with friends old and new, little by little. Being from Nebraska, I was absolutely delighted to learn that, as a young man, Steed had participated in a cattle drive. And, of course, we found out quite a lot about Purdey in "Obsession". Gambit still remains very much the mystery man except for his undying admiration for Steed and love for Purdey.

However, I do miss the Bentley and the sound of popping champagne corks!

RUTH BERMAN, Minneapolis, MN:

The interview with Patrick Macnee in #10 is interesting - he comes across as a friend. I think I see a mistake in the transcription at the bottom of page 5. "A woman, but one who runs like a man" is probably not "an aphrodite" but a hermaphrodite, a very different creature indeed.

I didn't like the "Galactica"/Iblis story, but the character of Iblis (until it dissolved into bogeyman bromide) as would-be messiah was interesting. If one were to ignore the 'surprise' of his being not what he seems, it would be interesting to imagine a confrontation between Iblis and the Apollo of "Who Mourns for Adonais" ("Star Trek"), both arguing hotly over what kind of paradise would be best for humans while the humans in the background beg for freedom from gods to work out their own destiny.

LYNN FACIANE, Slidell, LA:

As I was reading "LOCs of Gold" I came across a letter concerning fan clubs versus fandom. I have to tell you of my experience.

When I first joined the Network I had no idea what to expect. When my husband asked me who I had written to I almost didn't tell him. Then I broke down and told him I had joined a fan club... he was hysterical with laughter. He said, "What's next, the John Travolta or Shaun Cassidy Club?"

Well, I let him have his laugh and then I eagerly

Mrs. Peel - You're Needed!

The new fall season has begun on American TV and one can not help but notice that "The New Avengers" is missing from the CBS late night line-up. I have been inundated by letters asking when the series will be rerun and in what time slot. In hopes of setting things straight I will print here what information I have, both from England and from CBS-TV in New York.

Presently, I have no 'official' word from Avengers Enterprises in England concerning the show's future. However, I do have an article from the "Sunday People" dated September 2, 1979 which states that the producers plan to film another 26 episodes of "The New Avengers" (2 years) beginning early in 1980. The article quotes Brian Clemens as saying, "The show is a big hit in the States and the Americans have agreed to provide most of the finance for another 26 episodes. Other companies over here are also interested and it is now just a case of sorting out who puts in what."

A call to CBS on October 19 provided the following information as they see things...

The original 26 "New Avengers" episodes did indeed stir great interest and plans are to rerun the series, but not until sometime next year - probably starting in the fall of 1980. CBS is in favor of filming more episodes and has been negotiating with Avengers Enterprises to obtain more. However, they do not have any confirmation that additional episodes have been agreed upon.

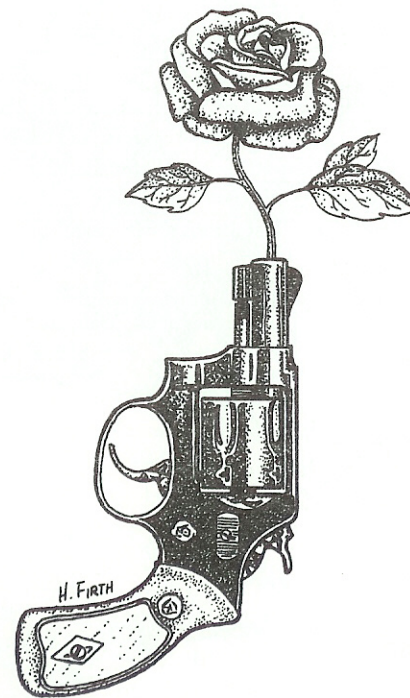
In lieu of showing "New Avengers" reruns this season, CBS has purchased 25 episodes of the original "Avengers" - color episodes, Diana Rigg era - and will begin airing them around the end of the year. Proposed time slot? Wednesday nights at 12:40 am.

So there you have the latest information... make of it what you will. I'll keep updated and future Newsletters will contain additional details. (And no, I don't yet know which "Avengers" episodes CBS purchased.)

This news brings up some interesting thoughts. What will TNA be like if further episodes are filmed? What will the characters be like upon their return?

Will there be any episodes shot in America? (I can think of a nice plot involving an art theft at Kansas City's Nelson Art Gallery. The world-famous Country Club Plaza would make a beautiful backdrop for filming.... Ahem!) Anyone with speculations?

I'd like to thank everyone who has helped support "The Avengers"/"New Avengers" by contacting local television stations and CBS-TV to let them know that we enjoy the series. It would seem that, one way or another, our voice is being heard! A reminder for those who would like to write with comments - the address is CBS Television Network, 51 West 52nd Street, New York, NY 10019. Letters should be polite and typed if possible. Don't write "The New Avengers" on the outside of the envelope or your letter might be forwarded to England, unopened.





Report from England

"The Grass is Greener" came and went and so did my two meetings with Pat Macnee. I went to see him at about 2.05 pm (the play began at 2.30) and then watched him make-up as we talked for about 10-12 minutes. Then I went off to watch him perform. It finished about 4.40 and then I gave Pat time to change and we had another (longer) chat until 5.15 when I managed to find my way back to London having finally met the great man!

Pat really is as charming, elegant and straight a man both as you could wish for and as he is reported. He looked very fit and bronzed (he had to make-down, not up!) and said he'd recently been playing a lot of tennis back in the States with people like Lee Majors, Peter Graves and James MacArthur.

He asked if I'd seen Joanna's new show as he'd missed it and when I said it was fine except for the scripts he agreed by saying that Joanna had told him they'd been very dissatisfied with the scripts but hoped for a second series. He also mentioned how David McCallum was a "very dear man".

I spoke of how very good Gareth was in "Deathtrap" and that pleased him no end. He said he'd been offered the play Stateside but refused it because of "that horrible garrotting sequence. Horrible! I couldn't do that every night with all that blood." Nice touch of sensitivity on the person's part, I thought, rather than the actor's.

I mentioned that I'd caught "King Solomon's Treasure" and he was aghast - "Oh no, that's awful!" He said they'd made it during a brief lull from negotiations on TNA #1 back in December '76 and after they'd done their bit the special effects were done and "... they were so terrible they didn't dare release it. I'm surprised it's surfaced here at all." I assured him I'd found it great fun and that the saving grace had been the beautiful clear colour photography of Africa - certainly some of the best I've ever seen. Odd, considering the cheapness of the production.

'K' is for Kill

Part I 'The Tiger Awakes'

John Steed had called up Emma Peel after the peace of a village in England had been shattered on July 25, 1965 when a young Russian soldier had burst into an old nissen hut and machine gunned a Salvation Army band. The Russian had made off, leaping over an obstacle, falling and rolling and failing to rise to his feet again. The young soldier had suddenly changed into a very old man who died simply of old age. Steed told Mrs. Peel that it had been a problem which they might never solve. Until...

Three men in their early twenties had driven their jeep into a garage workshop in a small town in France on August 14, 1977. Within seconds they had been machine gunned by a young Russian soldier and the garage destroyed with a grenade. Steed had been contacted by Mrs. Peel - he left for France with Purdey and Gambit.

At the garage the owner survived and had talked over and over about a Russian soldier who launched the attack. Steed thought it tied up with the attack on the English village years previously. The three young men who died had worn ex-army surplus jackets which had given them a military appearance.

Outside the town the young Russian soldier observed Purdey, Gambit and Steed through a telescopic sight, about to fire on them until interrupted by a series of distant explosions. Gambit and Purdey raced off on a motor bike to investigate while Steed, with Frenchman Colonel Martin, went by car.

A Russian officer directed a mortar crew in an attack on a chateau as Steed's car had raced into view. Quickly they'd turned on it and raked the road with machine gun fire. Steed had spun the car and he and Martin had baled out as Purdey and Gambit roared onto the scene and crashed into a field under gun fire.

The chateau the Russians attacked had been

empty for years. Steed, Purdey, Gambit and Martin had been pinned down in a ditch as the soldiers made an orderly withdrawal. A sniper had creased Martin from a tree. Gambit, with a dynamic karate move, attacked the tree and got the Russian down with a dislocated neck. Purdey examined the Russian's pay-book and, according to it, the dead young Russian at her feet had been fifty-two years old.

The Russian officer and his soldiers had met up with another group of soldiers. They'd joined forces to attack further targets together. Steed and Martin poked around inside the chateau which thirty years previously had been the H.Q. of Allied Security. Outside a group of French Commandoes had prepared to go into action.

Gambit had been in the autopsy room as the doctor examined the Russian soldier - the body had suddenly aged to a man of fifty-two.

Colonel Martin told Steed that he hoped to contain the military operation as they seemed to be only up against a dozen or two crazy men. Further away, another large house was attacked by the Russians. Steed and Purdey had taken off in a helicopter to observe and direct Colonel Martin and his troops. As the Russians had started to split up, Steed and Purdey landed, determined to capture at least one Russian alive. Purdey caught a young Russian officer whose pay-book identified him as sixty-five years old.

Gambit and the doctor who had witnessed instant old age had found something buried into the brain which looked like a small radio transmitter.

An elderly Frenchman had recognised the captured Russian officer from before the war and thought it must be the Russian's son until a fencing scar proved otherwise. The Russian made a bid to escape. Gambit shot him and again the Russian's body aged immediately.

In Russia, they realised with horror that a satellite had gone wrong and emitted a full strength signal over France for twenty-two minutes, activating several units of commandoes... a secret army which they now had to destroy. The Russians had prepared for World War III with the aid of something they'd discovered in Tibet... The Sleeping Dragon.

Steed received a call from the Russian Ambassador in Paris warning him about the possibility of World War III. As Steed turned to Purdey and Gambit, a Russian machine gun opened fire on them...

Part II 'Tiger by the Tail'

John Steed, Purdey and Gambit had found themselves caught up in a war situation in France. Young Russian soldiers had started appearing in groups hell bent on attacking targets thirty years out of date. When killed, the Russians' bodies had aged almost instantly. How many Russians were involved? What were their objectives? Steed had been warned by the Russian Ambassador to Paris that they were on the brink of World War III.

Steed, Purdey and Gambit had been pinned down by gunfire in a large house by an isolated group of Russian soldiers overlooked by the French paras until Gambit had managed to break out and kill them.

Helped by the Frenchman, Colonel Martin, they'd examined the map carried by the Russians which contained targets that no longer existed, confirming they were up against a small army with out-of-date equipment attacking out-of-date military targets. They decided to find out more by interrogating the prisoners.

The temporary Prisoner-of-War base proved to have no prisoners left to interrogate. They had all died from natural causes... old age, total degeneration, a speeded up process of senility. The doctor had performed an autopsy on several of the dead men and removed a radio device from each of their skulls. Purdey and Gambit checked out the effects of the dead men and found in the hinged shoe of one of the Russians, a deposit slip dated February 1946... St. Ceir Depository.

The Russian Ambassador to Paris had discovered that the 250 Russians the French had either rounded up or killed were not the entire force. There had been two more - two K-Agents on special assignment.

Inside the St. Ceir Depository a dusty, neglected crate had been smashed open and Minsky, a K-Agent, emerged, pausing only to kill a workman who'd questioned him. Purdey and Gambit arrived too late.

The Russian Ambassador barely escaped arrest in his own embassy and raced to find Steed and warn him as Gambit and Purdey had toured the depositories unaware of the danger they were up against. Turkov, the second K-Agent, had left his hiding place minutes ahead of Gambit and Purdey's arrival. He'd left one small, terrifying clue... a long range magnum bullet with an explosive tip - an assassin's bullet.

The Russian Ambassador had reached Steed and warned him about the small armies planted in every European country by a method of suspended animation. Guerilla fighters hidden in various storehouses sleeping a scientifically induced sleep to be awakened by a radio signal to a transmitter buried in the brain. The two K-Agents had been highly trained assassins who, if they reached their targets, his pursuer gunned him down.

Gambit took his training to the ultimate when dealing with almost certain death from a gun shot. Minsky, the K-Agent, had been shot down after he killed General Gaspard, an old war hero. Steed had warned the French Minister to tighten security on the President.

Gaspard was to have a V.I.P. funeral attended by the President at a closely guarded military cemetery. Steed, Purdey and Gambit realised that the photo of Gaspard Minsky carried had been supplied recently... Gaspard had been a set-up for the real target - the French President. They raced to the funeral. Turkov had already concealed himself there. Would they be too late? Where was Turkov? The President had arrived... the assassin's gun had been lined up. Could Steed, Purdey and Gambit prevent the inevitable?

LOCs of Gold

Jacky Fulton - Ottawa, Ontario, Canada:

I had no idea there was an "Avengers" club. I've been a fan for years. I prefer the early series with Emma Peel and the others, but I do have a great passion for Gambit. If he had been in the early lot I'd have been in heaven!

When I was in England my last boss was Ralph Sheldon and he edited the "New Avengers" - or every other one really... Bob (Dearberg) did the others. I never met any of them, but it was very interesting to see the scripts Ralph brought over from the studio before the series was out. They all looked highly confusing as they contained all his written comments as well as the writers'.

Your remarks about the Americanization of "The New Avengers" is quite true. Ralph often said that people were unhappy with the way things were going, but since the Canadian TV folks had a vested interest in the new series their hands were tied somewhat. Foreign money wanted a sophisticated image... the sort that came with a large budget rather than good taste.

I've just been reading the LOCs at the back of the Newsletter. The one that caught my eye was from Cheryl Huffey from Essex, England (I lived there most of my life - small world, really). She says that "... anyone worth his salt should know that "The Avengers" were John Steed and Cathy Gale." I'm not actively disagreeing with her, but it seems to me that "The Avengers" were different things to different people. To me, Steed will always be paired with Emma Peel. The chemistry was right between them, Diana Rigg was and is a very fine actress and the strength of their relationship carried them through as much as the stories.

I never cared for Cathy Gale or Tara King... they never 'felt' right to me. The modern "Avengers" have managed to capture that elusive togetherness and caring that characterized Steed and Mrs. Peel's relationship. As usual, the caring is never voiced (or very rarely) and this is, I think, the secret

'Target'

by Dennis Spooner

Five top agents, McKay, Potterton, Talmadge, Palmer and Myers all die of natural causes within just more than a month. Meanwhile, Draker, a man in the shadows, gloats.

Dr. J. Kendrick, the doctor who carried out the post mortems on the five, insists on the cause of death - natural causes. Were the deaths due to overwork, for example? Steed can't understand. Natural causes? Five agents? All within four or five weeks. All had just been declared A.1. The doctor is ordered to look more closely. But Draker knew the reason because they were victims of his killing machine... poison. Subtle, faultless and undetectable. That is what he believed along with a compatriot, Colonel Ilenko, who had arrived in the country to observe Draker's annihilation of the agents in the manner of the Ten Little Indians.

Then Dr. Kendrick does look more closely and on Myer's body he traces three tiny marks, barely pin pricks under a microscope; also on Palmer and Talmadge. Gambit and Steed recall that each of the dead agents were about to go on leave and they had also just had their practical test; target practice on the intricate shooting range which is, in fact, a mock-up street with houses, shops and cut out characters of life size men and women which controls a sophisticated push button set up which activates revolver, rifle, machine gun fire along with a precision method of hurling hand grenades in the mock-up street. All this to keep agents aware of a vast permutation of the ways they can be gunned down or blown to bits.

If they are hit by Bradshaw's cardboard assassins a red spot appears on their clothing. Bradshaw actually controlled more than Steed then knew about. He is a Draker puppet with sharp shooting talents that kill his colleagues instead of teaching them gun fire survival. Both Purdey and Steed have been hit by Draker's killing machine.

minute slivers of glass dipped into a South American poison called curare and they are slowly dying while Gambit finds himself in a furore of shattering cross fire delivered by a desperate Draker on the target range.

Target

by Dennis Spooner

Directed by Ray Austin

Producers:

Albert Fennell

Brian Clemens

Music by Laurie Johnson

- Cast List -

<u>Character</u>	<u>Artist</u>
John Steed	Patrick Macnee
Purdey	Joanna Lumley
Mike Gambit	Gareth Hunt
Draker	Keith Barron
Ilenko	Robert Beatty
Bradshaw	Roy Boyd
Klokoe	Deep Roy
Kendrick	John Paul
Palmer	Robert Tayman
Talmdage	Dennis Blanch
Nurse	Suzanna MacMillan
Titherbridge	John Saunders
Jones	Frederick Jaeger
Lopez	Bruce Purchase
Potterton	Peter Brace
George Myers	Malcolm Stoddard
McKay	Marc Boyle

a couple of hours conversation! Take me for instance - I'd be looking at a large financial outlay for 48 hours of travelling, food and conversation. I would certainly think twice if I'd be faced with a bill of \$200 for that weekend!

Personally, I'd like to see the episodes. When I go to cons, this I really like. What I do object to is the infiltration of other things into the con. I get cross at seeing "Star Wars", "Buck Rogers" etc. at "Trek" cons. If they want a con to sell their stuff at then let them run their own!

Certainly, you might consider things to buy. Although not a collector myself, I know some folks are. But people would like the chance to talk as well. Add to this some cheap (is there such a thing nowadays?) accomodations and reasonable accessibility and I think enough people would come.

Leni Sommer; Omaha, NE:

The 'Rose-and-Revolver' logo would work well on folded notes (I believe while I was in Omaha I sent you a very brief letter on one that I did with the "Prisoner" type bicycle on it) and I'm going to do some experimenting with printing on mirrors.

I hope there's a lot of interest in a mini-con, even if we just sit around continuing the Emma vs. Tara vs. Purdey debate, eat and play frisbee! After getting together with you, on the phone and in person, and after a 2-year insane acquaintance with Melinda Murdock and Company, I look forward to meeting more fans anytime. We could have it in Omaha, or use it as a meeting place and drive down to K.C., red carnations tied to radio antennae and bowlers strapped to the tops of cars... what a bizarre fantasy!

I've given as much thought, and maybe a wee bit more, as I could afford to the question of what we know about Gambit. Having not seen all the episodes, and being a little slow on the uptake (especially late at night), I'm having a little trouble separating what I've gleaned from the series and what I've come up with in my own mind. So I'll just free-associate for awhile...

Besides the obvious (that he's gorgeous), I do know that Gambit is dangerous - possibly the most

dangerous man I've ever seen. Even more so than John Drake or Number 6 (I personally consider them one and the same). Under the calm, efficient exterior is a power that I wouldn't want to be on the wrong side of!

And he is efficient. Truly an extraordinary agent. However, he goes a little too much by the book, which was his downfall when Purdey was kidnapped. Steed doesn't always play by the rules and was able to get the best of him.

He depends less on intellect than does Steed and usually goes in with hands flailing or gun blasting. My favorite example of this is in the cybernaut episode when, at the end, Gambit bursts in holding his spray can exactly the way he holds his gun.

While I wouldn't want to have him as an enemy, I think he's priceless as a friend and ally. I can't exactly say that his loyalty is unwavering (during "Hostage" he was torn between duty to the Service and loyalty to Steed - caught between a rock and a hard place, you might say) but it does take a major catastrophe to shake it.

On top of all his other good qualities, Gambit has a terrific sense of humor. He may be hopelessly in love with Purdey, but that doesn't stop him from joking with her about it (which probably keeps him from going off the deep end because of the hopelessness of the situation) and enjoying the company of assorted young lovelies. There is a lot of humor in his interchanges with Purdey - her feelings about Steed (which may turn into another essay!), he dumping her out of bed, she returning the favor and so forth. And the glint he gets in his eyes...! Like at the end of "Hostage", when Purdey is telephoning Steed's latest lady friend to explain because "...She thinks I'm inordinately fond of you." Gambit looks at her with his heart in his eyes, yes, but a hint of mocking too and says, "Silly, foolish girl."

In response to your comment ((last issue)) - I think at least two episodes should be filmed in middle America ((if "The New Avengers" continue)). While Colorado is more scenic, I won't be there. So, Omaha is next best 'cuz we'll all let Pat ride our ponies.

Forward Base

By Dennis Spooner

John Steed, Purdey and Gambit had joined forces with Canadian agent Bailey to stake out some woodlands near Lake Ontario. Bailey had received a tip off - someone was being dropped at dawn... a young Russian agent, Czibor, had parachuted in on schedule with a package which he managed to bury before dying from gunshot wounds.

Bailey had found the package which contained a Mark VI printed circuit control unit for a missile guidance system... it proved the Russians had moved ahead on missile guidance. Steed puzzled over the words Czibor had muttered before he died - 'Forward Base'.

When Bailey examined a rocky peninsula on the edge of Lake Ontario, something had caught his eye. Suddenly he'd been shot and his body had later been recovered from the lake.

Steed buried the printed circuit and left Purdey and Gambit on stake-out to see who collected it. A known Russian agent, Ivan Halfhide, had retrieved the circuit, made his way to the edge of the lake and then thrown it into the water. While Purdey attempted to recover the circuit, Gambit had followed Halfhide.

Something odd had been happening at the edge of the lake. A local fisherman had found himself on dry land one moment and up to his neck in water the next. At that point the lake seemed to have developed a rapid tide.

Purdey dived and retrieved the circuit, but it had been a different one... the Mark V. Steed poked around on the shore and learnt of the strange behaviour of the tide which had never been the same since Typhoon Agatha had struck in 1969. Steed had raced to a local Trading Post to find old postcards of the shoreline. He'd arrived too late... the owner had been knocked unconscious and a man had been tearing up and burning the postcards. There had been a fight which the suave

Steed had won with ease.

The shoreline had moved again while Gambit and Purdey were in Toronto working on the strained nerves of Ivan Halfhide. Eventually, Halfhide had made a run for it leaving Gambit to face a Russian who'd been sent to kill Ivan. Purdey pursued Halfhide to the lake where he had jumped in fully clothed. His body reappeared shortly wearing a dressing gown.

Steed had gone fishing with a magnet while Purdey found a tree with a bird's nest full of fish. Purdey found the Forward Base... a large sub aquatic community manned by the Russians which had moved into place during the chaos of the 1969 Typhoon. She had been captured by Russian frogmen and taken aboard. They planned to let her body be found - the victim of a diving accident. Could Steed and Gambit find the secret of the moving shoreline? Would the Russians launch a missile attack from the Forward Base?

CAST

John Steed	Patrick Macnee
Purdey	Joanna Lumley
Mike Gambit	Gareth Hunt
Hosking	Jack Creley
Bailey	August Schellenberg
Ranoff	Marilyn Lightstone
Malachev	Nich Nichols
Halfhide	David Calderisi
Milroy	Maurice Good
Doctor	John Bethune
Glover	Antony Parr
Harper	Les Rubie
Clive	Toivo Pyyko
Czibor	Ara Hovanessiaan
Radio Operator	Richard Moffatt

Produced by Albert Fennell and Brian Clemens
Music by Laurie Johnson
Directed by Don Thompson

Filmed on location in Canada

Much as I'm enjoying seeing Emma again, I do miss Gambit and Purdey. I'm just never satisfied, I guess. Either I miss Emma and the Bentley or I miss Gambit and Purdey. And I imagine the Tara fans feel the same way. Wouldn't it be great if CBS would alternate the three?

A big 'Thank You' to Charles Bradley for remembering the advertisement so faithfully. I've been wracking my brain to remember it, and now I have it in print. In my mind's ear, I hear it a little differently than Charles, but I won't quibble about minor details.

As you write up the interview for Brian Clemens, I wish you'd ask him why Steed has never been knighted. I really do feel he's overdue after all he's done 'For King & Country'. Perhaps you could suggest that if another year of "New Avengers" is in the works, it could open with some sort of mention that Steed is now Sir John...

Speaking of Brian Clemens, I am, at this very moment, watching a movie called "Come Out, Come Out, Wherever You Are" which, as my mother says, is a real chiller right from the beginning. Written by Brian, with magnificent background music by Laurie Johnson. I'd never heard anything of his besides the "Avengers" theme, and I'm quite impressed.

At first I thought it would be another Little Stopping, someone murdered and everyone else denying that person had ever been there. But there the similarity ended. It actually was a very well done murder mystery. Even mother couldn't find a spot when she could bear to leave it to do something else for awhile. Lynda Day George is the only one in it that I knew. But if it ever runs in your part of town, do try to see it. My compliments to Mr. Clemens!

Elizabeth Waagen, Allston, MA:

I don't think I've mentioned a "New Avengers" ritual that my fellow affectionados and I practiced every week while "The New Avengers" was on. We all gathered in my dorm to watch the show and have 'Purdcas'. Yes! The drink lives, and is just wonderful. Lethal, but wonderful.

I don't know but that perhaps you have a recipe for this pause that refreshes, but my own is as follows: into a regular water (highball?) glass place $\frac{1}{2}$ shot gin,

$\frac{1}{2}$ shot vodka, healthy dash (more to taste) bitters. Mix. Add lots of ice. Fill glass with fizzy lemonade (concentrate made with champagne, not water). Stir well. SIP. This drink is guaranteed to taste delightful, go down too easily and pack quite a punch if not handled with great care.

If you know of other variations, I'd be interested (I'm not a drinker, but as a scientist I appreciate the importance of first-hand field experience).

((Do all of you remember Purdey's concoction from "Dead Men Are Dangerous"... dubbed by Gambit as a 'Purdca'?))

Christine Mak, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada:

I finally got to see it! Now that I have seen "The Avengers" I know why some people thought "The New Avengers" was too serious. It's original! It's hard to say things about it since so many people have already summed it up in the past issues. The old series was so ridiculous in some spots that it was hard not to laugh! I still enjoy "The New Avengers", though.

I was waiting for "Star Trek" one Saturday morning and reading the credits for a CTV series called "Untamed World". There was a name in the credits that sounded quite familiar. A man with the name of Rupert Macnee was listed as Production Assistant. Is he any relation to Patrick Macnee? ((Yes... his son!))

Marie Buren, Deer Park, TX:

I really enjoyed the interview of Diana Rigg on the Dick Cavett show. I wish, though, that she had mentioned what she had been doing recently and what she intended to do in the future. Is the Dick Cavett show American? I noticed her comment about her fans who admired her as an Avenger. She said something to the effect that they are limited. I wonder if she realizes that many Americans have seen her in little else. I myself have only seen her in one other movie... in which she played a nun (("In This House Of Brede")).

I don't think you've ever mentioned the following

Steve Eramo, Stoneham, MA:

It really is a pleasure to see the old Emma Peel episodes back on the air. My favorite is on tonight... "The Joker"!

Just saw an ad for "The Avengers" tomorrow night on CBS. Nice, except for one thing - they're using the "New Avengers" music in the background!

I recently joined the Lewis Collins Fan Club in England (Bodie in "The Professionals"). An excellent club! I highly recommend it to any Canadian/British members who have had the chance to see "The Professionals". Or even the episode of "The New Avengers" - "Obsession" - where Lewis guest starred. That's how I first became a fan of his.

What we have learned from "The New Avengers" as far as Gareth's character of Mike Gambit is concerned... Unfortunately, I feel we didn't learn enough. We saw he is a most efficient agent, excellent athlete and sharp shooter, has a way with the women (he should write a book - I'd buy it!) and, of course, a great sense of humor. That's it, though. We were given a character sketch of sorts. I do understand that with only a 60 minute episode we can't have 'The Mike Gambit Story', but a bit more on his past could have been done. We knew Steed, of course, and we had a flashback episode for Purdey in "Obsession", but not for good old Mike!

However, I feel that Gareth's acting abilities more than made up for our missing his past. He did create a good character and I feel a most important part of the team effort there.

Virginia Bowman, Denver, CO:

I really had a difficult time being fair to "The New Avengers" while comparing it to the Steed/Peel ones since absence definitely makes the heart grow fonder and "The New Avengers" are sinking slowly out of sight within my brain (details, at least, are lost after any length of time which exceeds a month).

My impression of "The New Avengers" is that they were, of course, much better done than any current - and most past - programs on the tube. The characterizations of Purdey and Gambit were admirable.

You really did care about what happened to them. But they could have been more complete within each episode. Storyline/format-wise, "The New Avengers" was, again, notable. Action (car chases, fights, Russians-popping-out-from-behind-every-tree sort of thing) had a more prominent role than it ever did in the old series, which is rather sad. I kept hoping for more bizarre situations. In "The New Avengers" it was 'good vs. bad'... in the old "Avengers" it was nearer to sane vs. insane!

Etcetera

I find myself wondering what Freud would have to say about typographical errors. I make a great many which, hopefully, all get corrected before I take this to the printer. However, I can not help but notice that two in particular keep popping up... Tara has become 'Tart' in my mind, and Gambit (poor fellow!) continually rolls off my fingertips as 'Bambie'. *Sigh*

Let's turn back the pages for a moment to page 12, please. I find that my vacation might not be coming up the week planned, so it's possible that the picnic plans could change. Most likely, it would only be in the area of guest staying to visit for the next few days as I might not be here. As before, I'll have additional details in future Newsletters... or you can keep in touch by mail.

Acknowledgments

Our thanks to the following for their assistance in providing material for use in this Newsletter:

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- Endline -

Happiness is a properly furred umbrella!

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

Artist

Steed	Patrick Macnee
Purdey	Joanna Lumley
Gambit	Gareth Hunt
Soo Choy	Terry Wood
Arcarti	Ferdy Mayne
Dom Carlos	Robert Rietty
Tansing	Kristopher Kum
Yasko	Yasuko Nagazumi
Marty Brine	Stuart Damon
Murford	Barry Lowe
Miranda	Annegret Easterman
Mahon	Bruce Boa
Williams	Larry Lamb
Girlfriend	Maj-Britt

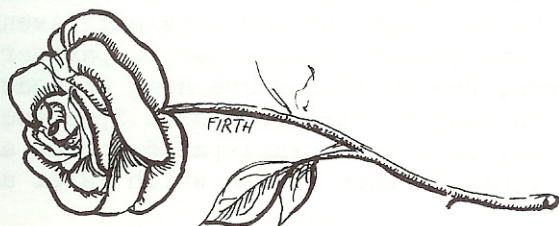


Midnight Meanderings

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.



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

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



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

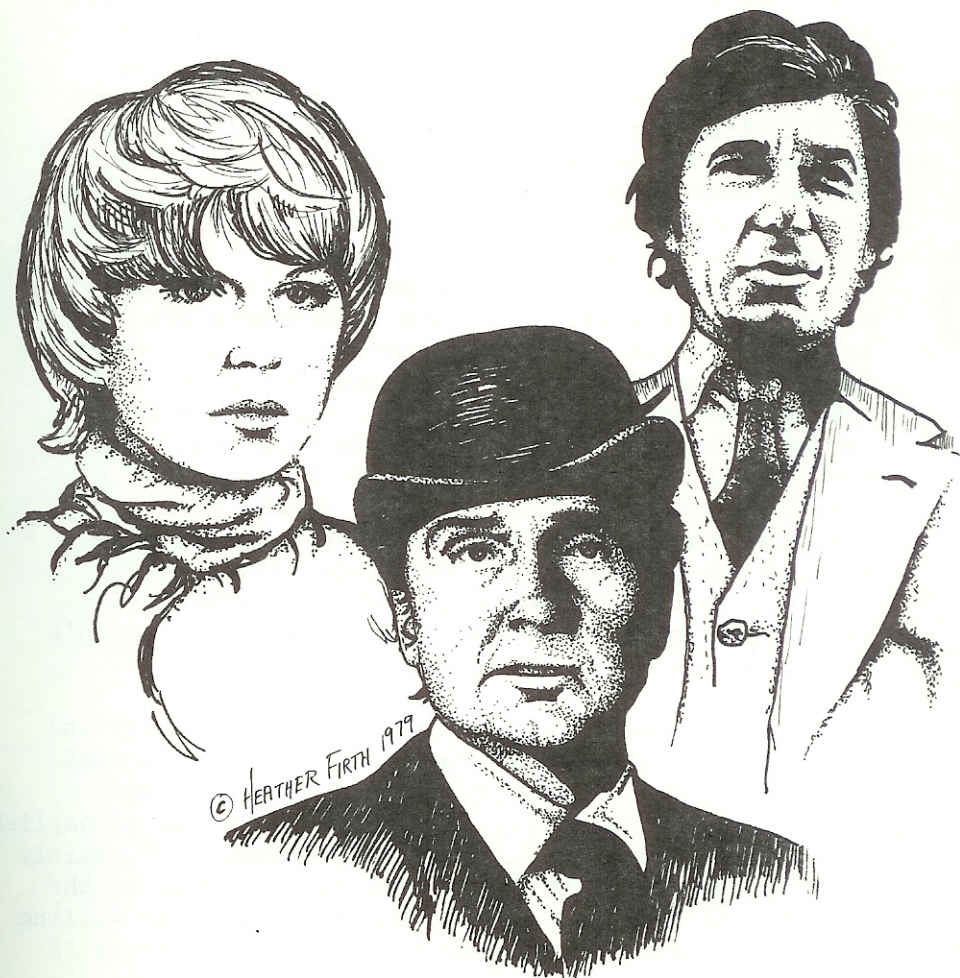
liked him more and more. Someone described him as a "cold-hearted, sex oriented spy". I don't see him this way. Purdey is the only girl he is after - the one he really cares for. I believe he likes to tease Purdey about the day he's "looking forward to". He is a kind, caring man... a young John Steed. 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".



MIKE GAMBIT

It seems to me that Mike Gambit is a bit neglected. I myself, am a Mike Gambit fan and believe that addin a third member to the team was a great idea on Mr. Clemens part.

Adding Gambit could be compared to the time when Diana Rigg left the series and Linda Thorson entered. Noone really liked her at first-she wasn't Mrs. Peel, wasn't intended to be, but for 20 years old, she was a great actress and handled the part quite well. After a while, fan mail began to come in for Linda apologizing for being so down on her.

I'm sure that if it were only Steed and Purdey, the show would still be a success. But, somehow Mike Gambit makes the show that much better. Some say that he's a "one-dimensional character"- that the scripts limited the development of his character. I think he's a great, well developed character myself. He cares for his two friends very much and would give his life for them. In TARGET, Gambit was prepared to go to the ends of the earth if Purdey died to find the ones who poisoned her. How about Tale of The Big Why- in his concern for Steed, he takes Purdey to a hotdog stand for dinner; even though she hasn't finished eating, he makes her get back inside the car and rushes back to Steed's mansion, hoping that nothing has happened to him. Take K is for Kill after rescuing Purdey from the Russian agent she replies "Gambit, your hand" "It's nothing" he replies. His concern is for Steed, whom he spotted from the road, laying face down on the balcony. Dirtier By The Dozen- Purdey doesn't realize she's in a mine field. She gets a bit angry when Mike shoots at her, but when the mine explodes, she realizes he was trying to save her life.

I never saw Gareth Hunt until the New Avenger episode "Eagle's Nest." I immediately

realized that there was something special about him. By the end of the show, I was hooked on Mike Gambit. Let's give the guy a chance shall we. He's really great-dashing, debonair.....

Come on, there must be some more MIKE GAMBIT fans out there!

* * * * *

This article was written by the editor to express my views on a New Avenger.

Anyone else care to express their views on an Avenger character or even an episode? It can be long or short - it doesn't matter. Let us hear from you- OKAY!

