

MONTANA EDUCATION DIRECTORY 1973 74

171.the ship in time for lunch." and smelled. But none of them would have wanted to sleep outside in the dome, even if Lang had.give warning. Tomorrow afternoon at 14:00 hours I shall commence the obliteration of all decadent.In the Hall of the Martian Kings by John Varley 113.Kissing Selene was like grabbing a high-voltage wire. The charge in her swept through us both. I could almost smell the smoke from my sizzling nerve endings. And this time when I pushed her onto the pdt before die fireplace, she did not resist.Stella Vanilla?Fve never learned exactly what her real last name.He moved out into the clearing, more boldly now. Then suddenly he stopped. He saw a strange shape hanging by the cottage door. It was a deerskin, a fine buck's hide, hung by the antlers jand the legs dangling down..another prototype. It had controls calibrated to one-hundredth of a second and one millimeter, and a.Nina by Robert Block 91.Quick as a light switch he could feel his throat go dry and his face tighten into a smile of rigid.Ed held out his hand. "Mine's Ed. Say, are you trying to pick up an endorsement?".Thomas Disch is one of the handful of writers whose work is as much admired by critics (and readers) of mainstream as well as science fiction. He wrote six fine stories for F&SF in the 1960s. Since then he has published poetry (The Right Way to Figure Plumbing), an anthology, Bad Moon Rising, and three remarkable novels, The Genocides (1964), Camp Concentration (1968) and 334. He has just completed a new sf novel, On Wings of Song..affinity for multiplex circuitry. He looked a little stunned after I finished with the stim console. "Christ, kid,,hours," she grinned..I nodded again, at the same time wondering how Amanda Gail could ever, really, consider herself.too long, I get a headache..".Don't worry, there's another over behind you." Now that they were looking for them, they quickly.Because it was just Harry Spinner at the Brewster Hotel on the wrong end of Hollywood Boulevard, the cops took over hah* an hour to get there. While we waited I told Birdie everything I knew, about the phone call and what I'd found..It was a sad Amos who wandered through those bright piles of precious gems that glittered and.done at birth, because the younger the cell, the more efficiently it is likely to clone.).short. "I think I'm having a fugue..".made any attempts to communicate; she kept to herself, sleeping in the catamaran moored beside the bank across the river and not even venturing into the company store by day to purchase food..I?".He grinned. "Haven't you heard? We can spot each other a mile away. Would you like some.Identical twins are very like each other and often display mirror-image characteristics. (I once had a chemistry professor with his nose canted to the left. His identical-twin brother had his nose canted to the right, I was told.).Stella goes white and bites off whatever it is she was about to say..Limericks incorporating an sf title into the last line.skiers and skaters was still some weeks away. Aventine scarcely noticed them, and if my current cohab.184.Subject: Enclosed Certificate.I fell head over heels just four evenings ago.Colman frowned to himself as his mind raced over the data's significance. No sane attacking force would contemplate taking an objective like that by a direct frontal assault in the center--the lowermost stretch of the trail was too well covered by overlooking slopes, and there would be no way back if the attack bogged down. That was what the enemy commander would have thought anyone would have thought. So what would be the point of tying up lots of men to defend a point that would never be attacked? According to the book, the correct way to attack the bunker would be along the stream from above or by crossing the stream below and coming down from the spur on the far side. So the other side was concentrating at points above both of the obvious assault routes and setting themselves up to ambush whichever attack should materialize. But in the meantime they were wide open in the middle..Hello, hello, hello? No good on this one, Mary. Want me to try another channel?".So Darlene went down the hall to their bedroom for a siesta, and.ends of the console. I consciously will my fingers to loosen..YOU?".of the chairs..time to fall, she turned, sprang away into the fading light, and was gone..That's what got me the job with Alpertron, Ltd., the big promotion and booking agency. I'm on the.turned away, and it blew. I guess it sort of stunned me. The next thing I knew, Marty was carrying me."A Toyota..".in town, but the eyes said he wasn't. I guess the old broad liked his hair that way..".They'll just keep tossing men and women at the stats until someone does come back. Sreen or no Sreen." The captain strikes the door again, with the edge of his fist this time. "Sreen!" A bellow which, curiously, does not echo in the vast antechamber. "Sreen! SREEN!".Crawford and Lang hung around as the scientists looked things over. They were not anxious to get back to the task that had occupied them for the last two weeks: that of bringing the Podkayne to a horizontal position without wrecking her. The ship had been rigged with stabilizing cables soon after landing, and provision had been made in the plans to lay the ship on its side in the event of a really big windstorm. But the plans had envisioned a work force of twenty, working all day with a maze of pulleys and gears. It was slow work and could not be rushed. If the ship were to tumble and lose pressure, they didn't have a prayer..I gave her a suspicious frown, got up, and walked over to the bathroom door. I turned around, crossed my arms, and leaned against the doorframe. "Well?"."It's funny," Lang said, quietly. "I always thought it would be something flashy, or at least obvious. An.Corporation is twelve ingots of gold of 100-kilogram weight per week. These should be placed on the.depressing. So I closed the blind..198.to intensify, to throw forth fire. It was the briefest of illusions, for a moment later he turned, climbed back."I'd suffer if I couldn't spend time on you..".Hey," I say..name. So she went instead to the. clearing's edge and cried:.her grey cloak and it fell about her feet..have to choose..simple. A fiasco from which he'd naturally feared the worst in the form of a letter addressed to Dear.pipe from the rack on his desk..66."You're not going to meet anyone there but temps and various people who are out to fleece temps..Well, no matter?it was ended now, over once and for all. Today the message had arrived from Belem: Darlene and Robbie were on the ship, ready for the flight to Manaos. Tomorrow morning he'd start downriver to meet them, escort them here. He'd had his qualms about their coming; they'd have to face three months hi this hellhole before the year was up, but Darlene had insisted..".Name it..".Now I must get back to Zorphwar. Twenty more successful missions,

and I move up to Sector. There are such things as identical triplets and quadruplets, but I doubt that any higher number of infants would survive long after birth without the advantages of modern medical technique. Even then it is hard enough. "Help me push them back in the closet," said the grey man. "They're so bright that if I look at them. I'll just get it quickly without any fuss," said the grey man. But when he stepped forward, the unicorn. "That, I'm sure, was just coincidence," said Michelle. "After all, we're speaking of only two cases, and neither of the individuals in question was particularly bright. Bright people wouldn't be so quixotic, would they?" She underlined her question with a Mona Lisa smile, and Barry, for all his indignation and outrage, couldn't keep from smiling back. Anyone who could drop a word like "quixotic" into the normal flow of conversation and make it seem so natural couldn't be all wrong. I let myself into number seven with the master key. The drapes were closed, and so I took a chance and turned on the bathroom light. Detweiler's possessions were meager. Eight shirts, six pairs of pants, and a light jacket hung in the closet. The shirts and jacket had been altered to allow for the hump. Except for that, the closet was bare. The bathroom contained nothing out of the ordinary? just about the same as mine. The kitchen had one plastic plate, one plastic cup, one plastic glass, one plastic bowl, one small folding skillet, compromising or ludicrous activities were widely distributed in the press. can you? You can't wait to tell him you think the King is a kook. From Competition 14: SF "What's the question" jokes 69. Your clone is not you. Your clone is your twin brother (or sister) and is no more you than your ordinary identical twin would be. Your clone does not have your consciousness, and if you die, you are dead. You do not live on in your clone. Once that is understood, I suspect that much of the interest in clones will disappear. She looked miffed. "Don't flatter yourself, young man. I may have inveigled you into my apartment. He . . . was my brother. We were twins. Siamese twins. All those people died so I could stay alive." Ed nodded. "You remind me of somebody." The grey man scowled and contemplated and cogitated, but could not make anything of it. At last he said, "Never mind. Come to lunch." breathing for a moment. Holding the cord, he turned slowly. The ghost images whirled, vanished, loud sob reached our ears. Another. We turned away and slowly descended the successive stages to the. "Possibly a culture of plants from the Edgar. If we could rig some way to grow plants in Martian. scans the surrounding buildings, finds a second marksman on a roof, photographs him. Back to the. "It must be ... unusual . . . to live in the same place all your life." across the clearing. The darkness boomed. For Lea was cloaked in grey from head to foot. But almost before the words were out, she loosed her grey cloak and it fell about her feet. tossed it on the back of a chair. "Then we'll work it so you won't have to hide," said Amos. "If I remember you right, the second piece is on the top of a windy mountain so high the North Wind lives in a cave there." "Ideas . . ." he said, in a slow, deliberate manner, as though each word had to be weighed on a scale. There was a poker in her hand. "Hey, he hears me! Uh, that is, this is Song Sue Lee, and I'm right in front of you. If you look real hard into the webbing, you can just make me out. FU wave my arms. See?" She tugged at the lock of hair over her temple again. "By that time, it will be Selene's decision." and another calling herself Selene Randall. The revelation, and their decision to remain dissociated, had. "The true and indisputable masters of the universe," the Intermediaries pipe in one high but full-toned. the Project to a halt, are in for some. Well, don't you believe it, fellow members of Local 209? don't you. about- those wheels for a long time. I just won't believe they'd evolve naturally." they saw that the light was even stronger above another ridge, and they did their best to climb it without. and a computerized tracer device which would keep the Ozo focused on any subject. During the week of September 23, seven thousand Ozos were shipped to domestic and Canadian. Selene went on exercising. "She won't ask. People have been taking care of Mandy all her life. She. and continues, in a similar vein, for another one hundred thirty-six stanzas. Quick as a light switch he could feel his throat go dry and his face tighten into a smile of rigid insincerity. He blushed, he trembled, he fainted dead away, but only metaphorically. "Sir," I say, "there's nothing we can do here. We're just going to have to return home and let Earth figure a way out of this thing. Let them handle it." Absurd, absurd, I know how absurd the suggestion is even as I voice it, no one on Earth is going to be able to defy the edict. "We haven't any choice, sir, they want us to go now, and I think we'd better do it". stripping off her exercise suit. "I'm going to swim. Will you come with me?" Podkayne from those printouts Weinstein sent down. How about it, Mary?" -Michael Bishop. "Now before you play," I said, "you must understand that we did not wish it known we were working. 194. The leash broke. She bounded away down the sand. As though that were not release enough, she. But, at the boat, all had not gone according to Amos' plan during the night. The grey man, still puzzling over Amos' wet clothes? and at last he began to inquire whom Amos had solicited from the sailors to go with him? had gone to the brig himself. development to full size a matter of months only. And who should I meet coming out of the door but Admiral Venerate. Venerate and I are old buddies. "What makes you think that women are a natural resource, Craw-ford?" she said, slowly and. You are watching an old movie, Bob and Ted and Carol and Alice. The humor seems infantile and unimaginative to you; you are not interested in the actresses' occasional seminudity. What strikes you as hilarious is the coyness, the sidelong glances, smiles, grimaces hinting at things that will never be shown on the screen. You realize that these people have never seen anyone but then* most intimate friends without clothing, have never seen any adult shit or piss, and would be embarrassed or disgusted if they did. Why did children say "pee-pee" and "poo-poo," and then giggle? You have read scholarly books about taboos on "bodily functions," but why was shitting worse than sneezing? the house and with Debbie wondering out loud all the time about what we're going to do when our. "We are? You'll have to brief us on the political situation back there. We were United States citizens when we left. But it doesn't matter. You won't get any takers, though we appreciate the fact that you came. It's nice to know we weren't forgotten." She said it with total assurance, and the others were nodding. Singh was uncomfortably aware that the idea of a rescue mission had died out only a few years after the initial tragedy. He and his ship were here now only to explore. sounded almost religious when she said it. agent in New York, to whom he wrote hi the same way, he contracted

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