that appear consecutively and in the same order in the alphabet—and there is only one such word in the English language. The murderer," Ellery said, "was Katherine Higgins, Brooke Rivers's jealous UNDERSTUDY."

There was a momentary silence.

Then Professor Arkavy set his unlit cigar down in a crystal ashtray and slowly began to applaud. "I'm pleased to see," he said, "that the reports of your depth have *not* been greatly exaggerated."

As if on cue, a gong sounded, and Charles announced that dinner was served.

Ellery got to his feet and attempted to assist little Emmy Wandermere to hers. But she pushed him away and punched his shoulder. "I thought we finally had you," she scowled.

"Well, now that the Puzzle Club seems to have reconvened after its long hiatus, perhaps you'll have another chance." He took her by the elbow and led her into the dining room, where Charlot's feast awaited.

"After all," Ellery Queen grinned, "tomorrow *is* another day." ●

THE JURY BOX (Continued from p. 42) As with all of Limón's novels about Sueño and Bascom, we get a fascinating inside look at Korean culture as well as the world of overseas Army personnel in the late 1970s.

**** Brendan DuBois, *The Negotiator*, Midnight Ink, $15.99. The unnamed hero of DuBois's new thriller is a negotiator. He negotiates deals, often involving stolen goods and a lot of money. He's good at what he does. But when the object of his negotiation is a priceless stolen Rembrandt, his partner is shot by the seller. Bent on revenge, the Negotiator goes on a quest to find the killer. DuBois writes noir fiction very well, but he has fun doing it, and the fun comes across in the writing. The story moves quickly, leaving several surprising twists in its wake.

**** Barbara Allan, *Antiques Ravin'*, Kensington Books, $26.00. Written by Barbara Collins and Max Allan Collins (under the byline Barbara Allan), the thirteenth volume in the Trash 'n' Treasures series has an Edgar Allan Poe theme running throughout. Newly elected sheriff Vivian Borne has dragged her daughter Brandy and dog Sushi to Antiqua, Iowa for the annual Poe festival. Each year, to attract visitors to the town's many antiques shops, a valuable Poe-related item is hidden among the stock of one of the shops, with coded clues handed out hinting at the location. But this year, someone is murdering citizens using methods straight out of Poe's stories. The book is zany fun, with witty book-collecting tips at the end of each chapter.

**** Takemaru Abiko, *The 8 Mansion Murders*, Locked Room International, $19.99. Detective Kyozo Hayami and his accident-prone assistant Kinoshita are called to the site of a crossbow murder at a house with a unique figure-eight design. According to the testimony of two witnesses, the crossbow was shot from a room that at the time was locked and unoccupied. The unusual setting is reminiscent of other Asian locked-room scenarios such as in Yukito Ayatsuji's *Decagon House Murders* and Szu-Yen Lin's *Death in the House of Rain*. The solution is based on contrivances and Abiko makes no pretense otherwise. The storytelling is embellished with clever dialogue, comic moments, and plenty of references to classic detective fiction, making it a treat for fans of the subgenre.

M inchin, the p having a sm park as Insp pulled up.

The little man inspector as he got ou very happy Monday to

"Bad?"

"Seen worse."

"Bad, then."

It was a grey day in and summer-heavy, th near warm enough t first of July. Lomond ing his jacket off befor ply to unbutton it be way down the tree-fri

D.S. Slater was wa hundred yards away, figure in a new suit shoes on the grass.

"Stand on some Lomond asked.

Slater grimaced. "Th lucky. Don't think you unless we're going in tank. I think every d through here. And their

"I'm guessing one of the body."

"You're guessing corre

"Whereabouts are we the spooky path to bridge?"

"You've done this b right." Slater gestured

THE FIRST DAY OF THE SCHOOL