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MLG 24

No. 3

Fan-Tods

F A P A

S U M M E R

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F A N - T O D S

unillustrated

Number Three — c o n t e n t s — FAPA

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It's Stanley's brain-brat, of course, this third issue of Fan-Tods to appear in the FAPA mailings, and emanates, as usual, from 43A Broad Street of Rockland in Maine, a United State. Any resemblance between this publication and other fapazines is the sincerest form of flattery. Ask your local newsdealer not to reserve your copy of Fan-Tods for you, as you'll get one anyway, heheh, never fear.

thereisalwaysashorteditorialcolumnonthecontentspageoffantodsitisknownas

BEARD MUTTERINGS: Amazing how the above interlineation filled out the line just completely. Last mailing was a particularly revieworthy one, wherefore the bulk of this issue of Fty is given over to this no doubt noble purpose. Much of the dismal length of the carp column this issue is accountable to the inclusion of considerable material I was too lazy to polish up and present as articles which some might be fooled into reading.

c e n s o r e d !

By-ways this time is a harmless little thing that doesn't take up much space. Only the exigencies of making up the issue placed it first instead of last in the magazine, as intended. Please be gracious to it. Chauvenet's column affords an exceptionally interesting dissertation by one who knows whereof he disserts. It offers some controversial pivots, though, and I hope to see some extended comments on these in future mailings. Yesterday's 10,000 Years continues its historical researches with unabated zeal. The end is not yet in sight! Contributions to this column are welcomed with open arms at these offices. It's a good chance for you to sabotage whomever you may be feudin' with at the moment. Quotes from blat columns of early Astoundings, prior to July 1935, are the items most needed. Letters published in fanzines are also fair game.

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B
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DEFENDERS of the faith are prone, upon occasion, to put the infidel to route by a citation of numerous persons of learning and renown who have been active exponents of science-fiction and fantastic literature. Such well-known figures as Eric Temple Bell, G. Edward Pendray, A. Hyatt Verrill, and the late Dr. Sloane and Garrett P. Serviss spring instantly to mind. Even the modern novelist, Phil Stong, has been lately set forth by his publishers as an authority on such matters as the interplanetary tale. One associates Wilbur C. Whitehead, however, with such names as Culbertson, Lenz, and Work as a celebrated expert on the game of contract bridge. Few recall now that his hobby was science-fiction and that he put his knowledge of the field to good use by serving as literary editor for Amazing Stories, a post which he capably filled from the early days of the Gernsback regime up until his death in 1931. His obituary may be found in the September 1931 issue of Amazing.

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I don't recall that I have ever seen the name of the late O. O. McIntyre mentioned in connection with science-fiction. Yet, though he was no active devotee of the literature, there is ample evidence that he evinced a considerable interest in science-fiction, to the extent of mentioning it on several occasions in his nationally-syndicated newspaper column, "New York Day by Day". It is interesting to note the reactions of this famous columnist to his exposures to science-fiction, which at that time was just beginning to show the first signs of its coming popularity. He marvelled considerably at the fantastic names which science-fiction authors were wont to bestow on their characters; those that he cites show plainly his contact with the Tremaine Astounding. Too, he apparently labored under the common misapprehension that these tales were the products of playful college professors and scientists on an imaginative spree. He observed keenly that no matter what fantastic style the stf artists might pattern their futuristic costumes, one advance in sensibility of dress seemed to be universally accepted,and that was the open collar,the male of the future being in every depiction free of the bondage of the necktie.

One finds familiar names in the following excerpt from one of his columns: "The growth of science fiction for the young is one of the upward trends of successful authoring. Boys from 12 to 18 have become gluttons for such stories. In the same manner that grown ups of today went for the King Brady, Frank Merriwell, Frank Reade, Jr., and Nick Carter papers back in their youth. The demands for the new type of fiction are strict. The science must be accurate as to basic facts but for the story, of course, the imagination may run riot. The literary standards and accuracy of science,chemistry, histology and physics laid down by the editors are rigid. Among the crack science fiction writers is John Taine, who is really Prof. Eric Bell, of California Institute of Technology. And there are many other famous scientists writing under pseudonyms. The amazing younger generation is steeped with scientific terms. I was conscious of this the other day when Ray Long began to expand interestingly on the topics of electrons vibrating in cohesive harmony and the smallness of little Nega, the negative electron. He is not a mental prodigy but just the average alert boy of today in the fourteen year-old-bracket."

Quaint, perhaps. But science fiction had a friend in Odd McIntyre.

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R E V I S T A

of the spring mailing

YHOS: It's rather flattering to find an article by Chan Davis devoted entirely to my comments on the No. 4 Yhos. It is interesting, too, to find that though ranged on opposite sides of the fence we seem nonetheless to agree substantially on a good many of the controversial points. Apparently my article was at fault in not making some of my views sufficiently clear. As a rejoinder, therefore, let's consider some of Chan's specific arguments aimed at these.

My point about the nonexistence of civilized cultures which are inherently war-loving was not that man should not desire war, but that he does not in the cultural stage he is at present entering. Raoul de Passy de Sales has pointed out, in his excellent book "The Making of Tomorrow", that the present universal distaste for war is a phenomenon without parallel in recorded history. It is likely to be the most significant feature of the twentieth century. Of course the moral indefensibility and the undesirability of war have long been recognized by many philosophers, but it is only in very recent times that this has become evident to the common man. Prior to the eighteenth century, for example, such notions of improving man's lot could hardly make much headway against the extant interpretations of dogmatic theology.

It is desirable that any postulation of a force in favor of war should offer some conjecture as to the nature of this force. When I stated that man is inept at avoiding war I implied the existence of some such force(s) which we find difficult to overcome. I cited cultural isolation with its engendered fear and dislike of the unfamiliar because I believe it to be the basis of all other such forces favoring war. As, for example, emotionalistic nationalism of the flag-waving variety, racial intolerance, the pathological features of Teutonism, ad naus. Since cultural isolation seems likely to disappear the contentions of this and the above paragraph (which have not been questioned) make it obvious that war, too, is on the way out. I specifically pointed out that this would not come about overnight, nor perhaps even through intelligent planning over a period of time, and I certainly did not assert that all future conflicts would be resolved peacefully and that war would be forever banished from the earth. Whenever diametrically opposed schools of thought arise, each with features sufficiently attractive to its adherents it is likely that sooner or later they will lose patience with their dissident fellow men and try to impose their views by force. But how likely is it that in a culturally integrated world any such divergencies can survive assimilation into the milieu? I am of the opinion that while man is excessively ingenious at setting into motion forces of the most far-reaching social and economic consequences, he is thereafter more or less at the mercy of his creations and is swept along willy-nilly by any changes they may effect. There's no denying that he has set, and will set, in motion, knowingly or otherwise, some very powerful anti-war influences. Therefore I think we're headed for a more peaceful future, and I think this would be true even were we so combative as to still settle our personal differences with pistols at dawn.

I'm uncertain as to just what Chan means by "man's ineptitude at avoiding armed conflict would do no harm if there were no necessity for armed conflict." I don't agree with this statement if it is to be taken literally. Neither do I see what bearing it has on the question. No one, not even Jove in his original article, said that war was necessary.

When I questioned the value of war as a destroyer of unfit cultures, I attempted to show that a culture's fitness, hence survival value, depended on considerations other than military prowess. The point is that it is the same factors that make for survival in peace time that are most effective in war. Hence one is on rather shaky ground in trying to prove that war determines the survival of a culture. A low-survival-value set-up, such as the American colonies under the Articles of Confederation, goes out of existence even in days of peace, while on the other hand a really meritorious development, such as the intellectual and artistic culture of France, has been proved capable of surviving such a diversity of stultifying influences as revolution, imperialism, irresponsible government, and complete military defeat.

In fact, one is hard put to it to cite any conclusive evidence that war is the potent selective influence that the Yhos article sets it up to be. Unless it be the dysgenic one of killing off the cream of the current crop of biologically valuable males. It is undoubtedly true that one of the by-products of war is a salutary effect on certain unhealthy aspects which appear in the best-regulated of human societies. But the suppression in wartime of those phases of social philosophy and behavior which are incompatible with the war effort is not like weeding a garden. A culture geared to the demands of modern war is necessarily in an "excited" state of unstable equilibrium. Comes the peace and reaction sets in to give the pendulum a hefty heave in the opposite direction. On the other hand war to an equal extent encourages undesirable forces within a culture and suppresses desirable things such as rationalism and tolerance. These must be considered along with the physical and economic ravages of war in determining its value to man. There are no unmitigated evils,of course, but war is such a close approach to one that there seems no justification for upholding it as a positive value.

In re the "decadence" of France one must take into account the fact that the French national consciousness is a very different thing from American nationalism. We Americans are held together by a political ideal--democracy--and we would be united on that point even if our land were divided in a dozen ways by Axis conquerors. The French nationalism is, and has long been, more geographic in nature. When France was defeated (and don't forget the British army was defeated along with it) it was not surprising that Vichy chose to capitulate to Germany and thereby maintain the integrity of a continental France. Vichy's principal error seemed to be in thinking that it could do business with Hitler. It's a moot point, and an interesting one, as to which type of culture has the greater survival value in the long run; the "American way of life", tied to a political ideal and probably incapable of functioning under any other type of social organization, or the French culture with its record of having functioned successfully in--and outlived--a gamut of political philosophies.

The assertion that the United States is stronger for having gone through a civil war is also open to question and raises the interesting conjecture of what this country would be like today if the Civil War

had never been fought. But that is a subject on which no doubt JFS can speak more entertainingly than can NFS.

"wotinell's a tod?" Maybe it is. You've got me, Art. Charles Farrar Browne once wrote "ef your peple take their tods, say Mister Ward is as Jenial a feller as we ever met", an amusing statement but unfortunately of dubious bearing on the significance of fan-tods. I have seen the expression "fan-tods" used before, but can't recall in just what sense. All I know is that they're something one gets. Possibly a variant of the blue willies, or maybe the jodhpurs. Suggestions are welcomed. For the further disorganization of the Check-lister's Checklist I'll reveal that "Fan-Tods" is the third name this fapaper has had. Earlier names, both of which died good, were in order: "Maine Stem" and "Maine Spring". Now you know the whole truth. Horrible, isn't it?

FIGHTING FAN: Wery good and commendable stuff. Especially like the cover, but do the shell casings (or whatever they're called...Hey, Milty!) go along with the projectiles?

ZIZZLE-POP: I'll believe this until someone proves to me that Vitons did have a hand in it.

SARDONYX: ∞ $\sqrt{-1}$? -!! . . . . . I'm thinking a primitive agricultural society (and I would call agriculture as generally practiced today primitive) would be too busy keeping alive to find much time for the "happy process of living". That is, unless they practiced slavery or had an aristo class to attend to the living end of it. Up machineage! "Night of Brahma" was nicely done and the idea, if not highly original, was well worth another twist. But I can't imagine why anyone would submit a piece of this sort to Campbell or any other pro editor. There's no story there--just an idea and a description of the end of the world. It's nostalgically reminescent of the fan fiction characteristic of the hey-day of "Amateur Correspondent". Hardly pro material. To be sure examples may be found of somewhat similar stories which have seen pro publication. "Adam and No Eve" in Astounding, for example. But in that tale there was the half-told, half-implied story of the dying man to add human interest to the description and in the ending to accentuate the idea of the tale by contrast. Buck's last man, however, was just a part of the scenery--a convenient prop. It is exceedingly difficult to write convincing fiction in which the attention is not focused on a human, or at least anthropomorphic, character. "Night of Brahma" if rewritten with this in mind should meet with ready acceptance. The idea's good and the author certainly knows how to put words together.

What, no social evolution during the past 3,000 years? O say nae sae! Seems to me we've made some progress (even though not enough) in the art of getting along with our neighbors during this period. Aren't we beginning to coöperate on the principle that coöperation is logical, rather than from emotional responses of fear of the unfamiliar or of fear/worship of political, religious, or family authority? You agree with your own statement that the Fascist philosophy of might ——→right is out of date, don't you? If true,it's an advance, and a comparatively recent one at that. Sure, democracy was practiced by the Greeks over 2,000 years ago. But Greek culture was erected upon and dependent upon a basis of slave labor. Modern democratic philosophy has within it the ideal of Grecian democracy, the altruism of Christianity, the logic of the Age of Reason, and a host of subsidiary ideas which have gradually

won general acceptance through the centuries. It's not perfect, as presently practiced; neither is it dead. That's progress. I think your pessimism on these matters arises, Lurus, from concentrating too exclusively on man's intellectual and moral development (or lack thereof) in historical times. 'Tis true that the Cro-Magnon was as intelligent, and probably as moral, as the modern man. Cro-Mag may have been a simple fellow who liked his women well-padded and was not averse to settling his arguments with a dull, blunt instrument. This shows simply that he lived in a less complex society than does man today and by a set of mores likely to keep him on good terms with his environment. It's not improbable that if we could catch a Cro-Mag youngster at an early age and transplant him to our day he'd grow into a quite respectable Babbitt. But what does this all demonstrate? Simply that natural evolution may proceed with geologic slowness or stop altogether once it has brought forth something good enough to get by. And also that our environment has not changed sufficiently in the past 25,000 years to favor the development of any new species of homo. Now that science and technology have been discovered, new fields are opened up that may profoundly affect our environment and our physical and psychical evolution in a comparatively short space of time.

Social evolution, though, is an agency more sensitive to minor environmental changes. Because its effects are largely non-hereditary, it encounters less resistance to change. Society has been defined as man's reaction to increased population density. Increasing complexity of society has encouraged the quality of cooperativeness, which, according to our standards, is desirable and a step forward. True enough, complex societies flourished thousands of years ago. High population densities, therefore, are not new. Our complex technology, however, is new. Nothing quite comparable to it has been previously developed, and as previously emphasized it's a potent influence on man's behavior. Haldane has said that modern man is kinder and more just, albeit a little less honest, than were his ancestors. I think that this is due to a number of factors recently altered by the machine. One is the superseding of the scarcity economy previously prevalent throughout man's existence by the productivity of modern technology. This permits the survival of a larger proportion of more or less helpless individuals who would be unable to get by in an harsher environment and whose present existence depends in some measure on the altruism of their more favored fellows. Now H. Sap is a tolerably amiable creature when his existence is unthreatened and altruism is an impulse not entirely foreign to human nature. It may yet become a universal attitude as increasing richness of life, provided by technological advances, takes it out of the luxury class. And man will be more altruistic not because he is any smarter or more moral than his forefathers but because he has more opportunity to be so without detriment to his personal welfare.

These trends are even now in evidence but their future continuance is, of course, contingent on the by-no-means-certain continuation of technological progress and production-in-abundance. Russ considers the possibility of a future shortage of power when our coal and oil are exhausted, on the assumption that atomic power may prove impractical. The point in reference to petroleum is particularly well taken. Forthwith exhaustion of our oil supply has been predicted on more than one occasion in the past. That these predictions thus far have always been nullified by the subsequent opening up of new fields has served to create the popular state of mind which unthinkingly conceives of such a cont-

ingency as something very remote. It now appears that we may indeed be scraping the bottom of the oil barrel. True, our production is still prodigious, and new fields are being and remain to be opened. But the rate at which new fields are being discovered is falling off. Paradoxically the war,even with its insatiable appetite for oil,is responsible for this decrease. The shortage of manpower and materials and the increasing difficulty of locating new fields have combined to make "wildcatting" less attractive than formerly, even though the modern geophysical prospecting methods have greatly reduced the uncertainty of these ventures. Instead the temptation has become great to work existing developments to the limit. This is bad since too rapid withdrawal of oil from a site reduces greatly the potentially recoverable reserve. It is predicted that two or three more years of war may see our petroleum production falling below demand, and that in any event indiscriminate production seems likely greatly to hasten the day when there'll be no more. It is interesting to conjecture on whether the near future may not see world leadership passing from a then petroleum-poor American continent to Russia and eastern Europe where oil reserves are yet largely untapped.

Suppose we do pump the earth dry of oil, though. Does it follow that aviation and other activities dependent upon large supplies of liquid fuel will be seriously crippled? I think not. There are practicable substitutes for petroleum which are not being utilized at present only because of the cheapness of the natural product. We've learned a great deal about petroleum chemistry and this knowledge will continue to be of great practical importance when native petroleum is but a memory. We have just begun to turn our attention to the chemistry of coal itself, rather than merely of its by-products. Coal can be converted to liquid hydrocarbons by hydrogenation. And the petroleum technologists can accomplish practically a quantitative conversion of any mixture of hydrocarbons into high-octane gasoline or any other desired petroleum product. We have coal enough to last for centuries, even at a greatly increased rate of consumption. Finally, it is not essential that we derive our fuel from fossil vegetation. We can grow it. Power alcohol, if it were developed, could compete today with petroleum. Alcohol has some objectionable qualities as a motor fuel, but none which could not be overcome by proper engine design. Hydrocarbons, too, can be derived from vegetation without the necessity of waiting upon geological action. This may be done by destructive distillation,or even more probably in the future by the action of microörganisms. If our descendants lack these products it will be their own fault.

Heavy power developments need not rely on coal and oil. We may expect hydroelectric power to assume greater importance with improvements inlong-distance transmission of high voltage D. C. The earth's interior heat is a practically inexhaustible source of energy which could be tapped on a large scale today were it necessary. And the problem of efficient conversion of solar energy may yet be solved. There's a considerable probability that the future space-cars, and other vehicles, may be run on stored energy rather than by atomic engines. A better understanding and control of interatomic forces--those intermediate between chemical forces and subatomic or nuclear forces--could give us more efficient energy storage. Imagine a battery in which energy is stored by stripped atomic nuclei!

So I think man is betting pretty much on a sure thing in the matter of energy. He holds too many aces to be able to lose.

Should the individual be encouraged to make a free choice when in actuality no such freedom of choice exists? In the matter of government we must submit to the tyranny of the majority. 'Tis very true, though, that our educational system is full of half-truths and weighted presentations of facts. Undoubtedly this is due in large measure to the very low standard of the teaching profession. It is one of the peculiarities of our educational system that we find our top-flight educators lecturing to college students--something any grad. student could do as well--while children in their most impressionable years are surrendered to the guidance of normal-school graduates, few of whom have appreciable professional experience or viewpoint or look upon teaching as other than a temporary career. And even if the teachers manage to keep their personal prejudices out of their teaching it does not follow that the school boards will cooperate by doing likewise. The school board is a democratic institution but it wields more power than seems advisable to trust to a small group of untrained individuals. Other than by very general standards we don't attempt to dictate to the physician how he shall treat disease; why, then, should we tell the educator specifically what he shall teach? But I don't worry too much over it. I survived my somewhat hectic passage through the small-town educational mill, and feel little the worse for it. For instance, I'm interested in all the various possible forms of government and furthermore am far from convinced that a representative republic is the ideal form. I do believe, though, that it is the best form likely to meet with popular approval at the present time. Probably if I were not so interested and were treated at an early age to objective accounts of the different forms of government extant, I'd plump for democracy as having the added advantage of familiarity.

Time was when I might have seriously considered the moon rocket proposition (though I'd most likely have backed down at the last minute). But not today, thanks. Even the vicissitudes of war haven't yet dampened my current delight in living. I still want reasonable assurance of doing a lot more of it. . . . . Favorite comic strip?..... "Polly and her Pals"! . . . . .Sure, bowmen would survive in a barbaric world. But how numerous is the bowman class in our present society? . . . . .Of course the Church and the contemporary world judged the barbarities of the Inquisition by a different philosophic standard than do we moderns. Thus the slaughter of 20,000 at Beziers was a righteous and just act. The liquidated heretics were consigned to Tophet where they belonged, while any faithful mowed down were granted the blessing of an early release from this vale of tears. . . . . I've read most, if not all, of the Dr. Doolittle tales. I have some pleasurable recollections of Puddleby-On-The-Marsh, and of the animal languages, and the Posipetl Indians, and the Moon Moth, and Otho Bludge the caveman, and King Jong Thinkalot, and the dog in the cheese factory, and the pig who sat next to the Marchioness, and the little boy who told the stories with such an adult soberness. I'd like to reread them. Indeed, it's often been my experience to find that many so-called "children's books" contain a wealth of philosophy and good humor. Whereas in an earlier reading one is entirely absorbed by the diverting tale, a later, more maturely critical, perusal brings one into closer touch with the author and we find him someone more than a teller of stories. . . . . Check on "Piracy Preferred"! I have just recently read its immediate sequel, "Solarite", the only one of the series that I missed out on back when. It was a disappointment. . . . . .I'm looking forward to your exposition of Dunne. Gotta read up on him. No little puzzle is your

remark about only one time dimension immediately followed by a reference to "other dimensions of time". Explease? More than one temporal dimension seems necessary if the notion of the existence of probable worlds parallel to ourn is accepted. My conception of the plenum is a static affair made up of all possible events in time and space. We know that at least three dimensions are required to locate an event in space, and at least two more coördinates to fix the time. Thus in order to fix the Pearl Harbor attack completely we need to know not only when it took place but also which one of the possible events that could have transpired at that particular time and place we refer to. The experience of a moving time or of moving through time may therefore be just the way our senses interpret a static, asymmetric relationship between events of which we are a part. This is rather hard on the pleasing notion of free will even if we consider the mind as existing outside the plenum and in contact with it through some sort of sensory bridge. But I'm inclined to the viewpoint of Woodbridge that no such gap between mind and reality exists to be bridged, and that tho mind is a part of any event it observes. But free will is still useful to go by as a pragmatism that fits the picture our senses give us of the world. I can choose my course quite unperturbed at the thought of an infinity of coexistent I's who choose all the other possible courses.

Golly, Russell, Sardonyx wuz literally "something to talk about" this time!

COLLECTED VERSE: XX, XV, XIII, VI, XI, XVIII, XVII, XII, VIII, XIX, X, I, III, XVI, IX, XIV, II, V, IV, VII. Order is not necessarily of merit--simply of personal preference.

EN GARDE: I look forward to a possible reply to my notes on inertialess flight. 'Twould be a pleasure to be squelched by the Good Doctor... Let's have your comments, too, Ash. . . . . Liked "Special Delivery (Insured)" muchly and title 'specially. . . . . The g. o. m.'s peek at the postwar world is too fine a thing to pick apart and criticize on this point and that point. We'd have that world if everyone were as well disposed toward his fellow man as EEE is. Not being prone to heeding my own advice, though, I'll still make a small issue of the matter of length of service allowable for a member of a World Police Organization. I'm agin limiting it to any specified period. Reasons: Personnel of this service should be individuals of the highest mental and moral caliber who have been rigorously trained not only in military subjects but also in diplomacy and the more detailed international law of the time. Service in this body would be a career; not just a "hitch". Obviously few would undertake such a career if faced with the certainty of being turned out or pensioned off at its height. Consider also the value of mature experience in this profession, and the added likelihood that the veteran in world service would be less infected with the nationalism virus than his comrades with fewer hash marks. The esprit de corps is sufficiently valuable, I'd say, to warrant risking the possibility of its breeding a military camarilla. . . . . .What say the matchsticks on p. Barnum? I'mystified.

MOONSHINE: (I think..) Haven't nothing had any make had meets the eye, huh??? Seriously, Len, why not invest in some stencils for your effort? There are plenty of FAPAers (including Mephisto) who'll run them off on the mimeo for you. Your stuff seems to be interesting, what can be made of it.

MILTY'S MAG: Liked the cartoon of The Thing That Walked in the Rain. Interesting that Milty with his professed dislike of symbols should get along so happily in the army, which is verminous with the things. Still, under such circumstances the realities tread heavily behind them.

PHANNY: You're right. Energy of position would be comparatively small spuds in interstellar flight. It would closely approach, but never quite equal or exceed the energy necessary to accelerate the ship to the escape velocity of the reference body. Thus energy would be conserved if on going inert at the end of a "free" flight away from the earth we found that our intrinsic velocity relative to the earth had decreased by seven miles per second, but not if it were found to be unchanged.

INSPIRATION: This here hain't got nuthin nohow to do with Sgt. Lynn's argument anent "the long view", but the idea of stfictionists being "accustomed to thinking in terms of millenia," (which is not untrue) got me to thinking about what a large proportion of science fiction tales are set in the next century or so, as compared to other ages. It's understandable in that a certain familiarity of scene is needed to make the average stf tale saleable, or even readable, as Weisinger once pointed out. The necessity is so compelling that even where the author attempts a tale of the more distant future he often renders it unconvincing by describing a world too closely allied to our own time to be compatible with the remoteness of its period. Thus many such tales of the 28th or 33d centuries might with more justice to historical continuity be set in the 21st or 22d. Simak has turned out some extreme examples of this sort of thing. He has written stories set thousands and even millions of years hence, and in which their fictional institutions and characters are 20th century even to their names. The argument for this style is that the future world must be "translated" into present-day terms in order to be understandable. But the realization of this in no wise dulls one's sense of the incongruity. Granted that the people of some distant day may be in a cultural cycle very similar to our own, they will still be set apart from us by their different historical background. Wellman recognizes this, I think, in his stories of the 30th century. These cover a post exploration-colonization period very like the present day and with problems essentially the same as our own one. Yet they are built about a skilfully introduced historical foundation and with sufficient departure from our present customs to make the reader realize that here are tales, not of tomorrow but of a thousand years hence. The only other alternative for a convincing story of the distant future lies in making the setting as vague and difficult to understand as possible, so that the reader is continually put to it to explain it to himself as best he can. The quality of alien remoteness from our days and ways is thus readily obtained, but the style is a difficult one and one which, in my experience, few authors have handled successfully.

DREAM DUST: I've stuck the Stanley neck out quite too far already in this matter of rating poetry. Seems to be good stuff, though, and with remarkable singleness of purpose.

JINX: Maybe not a casualty after all? "End" was very good. But I can't imagine anyone as apparently sensible as Stapledon supporting a popular front movement in war time.

FANTASY AMATEUR: Sad, but we won't be seeing these covers much longer, I spose.

NUCLEUS: Tnx, tk, for tkw. That goes generally, too, as Efty-one met with a much more cordial reception than I had dared hope for. . . . . The moral obligation of stf authors not to inflict our unfortunate economic set-up on the hapless denizens of their fictional futures is an interesting thought and a new one to me. I'd call it a not impossible type of future and one with aspects worthy as story material. The "Anachron" series starts from the immediate postwar future, anyway, so whokintell? The time-travel business assumed the parallel time-world theory, while the Anachron traders were further ordered to interfere with history as little as possible. And it was the nasty, all-business, attitude of the trading company that gave rise to most of the amusing situations in the tales. I really enjoyed the first of the series; the second was somewhat inferior.

SUSPRO: Interlineations interesting, as always, particularly the file of Evzones, or what are they, on contents page. . . . . I'd like to see further amplification of your notions anent "the three-dimensional character of time", mostly for comparison with my own views on the subject. For that matter, there seems no reason against postulating an infinite number of dimensions. If space is curved that curvature must involve an higher dimension. And if that space is curved, still another dimension, a. s. o. Hierarchies of this sort aren't very intellectually satisfying concepts, but they seem unavoidable in many instances in the present development of logic. . . . . I'm not well acquainted with the "Irrelevant" paradox, but my general impression is that it was founded in muddled thinking of the concept of energy. One gets into such difficulties by thinking of energy as a quasimaterial fluid which a moving body possesses just so much of. It isn't: It's just the capacity of the body for doing work at some other specified point, and hence is entirely relative. Clarcy advanced much the same objection in one of his letters. In "Galactic Patrol" Smith sez: "It is, of course, well known that all ships of space are propelled by the inert projection, by means of high-potential static fields, of nascent fourth-order particles or 'corpuscles,' which are formed inert, inside the inertialess projector, by the conversion of some form of energy into matter." I'd call that the rocket principle. My point about the ship's losing mass thereby is true enow of the older patrol ships which used atomic power and presumably carried their fuel with them (he nowhere uses Heinlein's idea of having the ship gather in cosmic dust for fuel as it goes along); it doesn't apply quantitatively though to the drives used throughout most of the series as these used "cosmic energy" or radiation collected from space. So with this improved system the mass loss wouldn't balance the increase in potential energy even if the ship were subject to gravity. . . . . .Doesn't pronunciation depend more on how you hear it than on how you see it spelled? If so, we might expect the radio and increased travel to be more potent levelling forces in this respect than phonetic spelling would be. . . . . .Dunno what the scratchings in the deleted section may be but general impression, a la inkblot, is of a flame-exhaling lupine creature with an unpleasantly fanged grin. . . . . The crack in Efty-one about proper article for FAPA was a bit of witlessness inspired by your mention once of the alternative Fah-Pah pronunciation. . . . . My dosh-distimmer wuz no intellectual; he got it from Breuer. Turned out he'd read lots of the stuff years ago, and that we had a mutual acquaintance, also a stf reader. 'Sfunny, but it's been my experience to talk with lots of casual stf readers, but only one fan, guess who? Boskone: Geez, wisht I coulda made it.

MATTERS OF OPINION: Picture of Speer giving offender a sock in the mush reminds me of the "Cookoo Nuts"that Uncle Hugo used to dispense over so many years ago. Lulus like "A sock in the I," "A hole in one," and "Period furniture". The chef-d'oeuvre, though, was the pun on "Amazing Stories". . . . . .I don't seem to know these cellophane-covered stencils --how does one make corrections? (A most imperative consideration!)

Now about this business of photographing the future: Your point is well taken (tho' not beyond question...vide infra) but I can't find it in your argument about the continuity of the 'real world'. The point that I got was that the photo plate, not being a conscious entity, cannot compartmentalize what it records. Hence when we see discrete details in the print we are compartmentalizing the photograph into a pattern somewhat similar to the way we would compartmentalize the actual scene photographed. It raises the Waldoesque question of whether a photograph would be meaningful to us if we were not conditioned to believe it to be. But this argument seems to apply generally to any photograph. I don't think the analogy between a camera and Smith's "object compass" is very apt. Seems to me that the camera is focused not on the object to be photographed but rather on a certain section of space-time. The presence of the object therein is purely incidental. Suppose we remove the object before snapping the shutter--what do we photograph? The possibility of photographing the future comes then to the matter of devising a camera that can be focused from a given point on to another, noncontemporaneous point in space-time. I'd hesitate to rule this out as being an absolute impossibility. It would have to be a trick camera. though, (and probably a cubic mile of focusing apparatus.....). The idea of a photo plate performing thus in an ordinary camera is, I'll admit, absurd, though perhaps permissible for an amazing story. . . . . I'll bet Palmer would get a kick out of all this ruckus.....

The object compass, by the way, would point to the center of gravity of the Galaxy. You'll recall that it was a miniature edition of the power bar that drove the Skylark and was set to exert a minute attraction on the object on which it was focused, this attraction varying inversely as the distance between them. The compass set on the entire galaxy would be attracted by every particle of matter composing the galaxy. Once within the galaxy the direction in which it would point and the attractive force would be those of the vector sum of the individual forces acting upon it. Hence it would point to the center of gravity and the attractive force would diminish as the compass approached that point whereat the vector sum would be zero and the compass needle would spin freely without registering.

I've a notion that both the skeptics and the upholders of parapsychological phenomena have a tendency to choose their facts. I dunno how much statistical work has been done on precognizance, but analyses of other doubtful phenomena, such as telepathy, seem to show a slight positive residue. The belief will persist in any event since the average person is much more impressed by a single personal experience than by any amount of statistics. Most such experiences are quite probably coincidental, but the human mind is simply not set to reason logically under such circumstances. I'm leaving a page open in my philosophy for these things simply because I know of no reason why they should not be possible.

FA LEAN-TO ANNEX: When do we get the FA Doghouse?

HORIZONS: You have trouble printing near the top margin, too, eh? . . . . . Wonder if "Jarry" is that long-concealed middlename? Nice to know now that Horizons will continue. . . . . WQXR! 'Way down here it's practically buried in a hash of interference from stations with no culture at all. I grind my teeth down to nubs. . . . . "Help!": This'll be helpful as Hell, Harry. I've never heard of any certain relief or permanent cure for migraine. Far's I know (which is not so far) it's not even known with certainty what causes it. Allergy has been suspected, but if this theory is true the sensitivity seems to be too general to be helped by the keep-away-from-the-damned-stuff treatment. The actual ache seems to be a result of intracranial pressure which develops when increased permeability of the capillaries permits an increased flow of water to the tissues. Unfortunately it isn't practical to "hang a monkey wrench on the safety valve" in such cases. There's an endocrine aspect to this phenomenon and therapy with thyroid and pituitary extracts has helped some cases. A high-protein diet with restriction of salt, liquid and carbohydrate has also been found helpful--maybe you're a war-rationing casualty, Harry. Avitaminosis may have something to do with it, too. You are fortunate, however, if you have only the headache unaccompanied by the devastating nausea so often characteristic of the affliction.

THE STEFAN: A remarkable production.

FAN-TODS: Omission and commission dept.: Item: "Fables from Moronia"; on reconsideration I doubt if they were product of Damon Runyon. As I recall they were unsigned, but in general style bore the mark of Hellinger. Item: Toroidal space fliers; were used in early Wonder Quarterly tales by Henrik Dahl Juve, not Stangland. Operation was not by antigravity but by the "cosmoray", "a flux similar to magnetism, set up by the action of "electricity D" of which only known conductor is an "extract from the sap of the yucca tree." Very interesting concept. Item: Mediaeval church music: May be the chanting was a rather earlier form, used prior to A.D. 1000 rather than later. I'm not sure. Deems Taylor discoursed on it interestingly once, but I forget just what he said. How 'bout it, Harry?

WALT'S WRAMBLINGS: Again I like your masthead. Booknotes interesting, as always.

WUDGY TALES: I must report great difficulty in obtaining back numbers of this priceless publication. Of the four taxi stands in this town, three never heard of "Wudgy Tales", two demanded all my number eight stamps, another promised 16-weeks delivery on AA-2X priority, while the remaining one offered me an hypo substitute called "Fowt" which was (oh, the infamy!) guaranteed to be "just as good"! This last miscreant I gagged with the stale humor from his vile product, stuffed sprigs of holly in his ears, doused him with brandy and gave him an hot foot.

ORIENTAL STORIES etc. index: "The Scrouge of Mektoub." What's this? Dickens in an oriental setting?

FLIGHT UNKNOWN: I got two copies. Anyone get left? This tale, if actually written by Brackney at age ten, shows a surprising degree of originality. Especially the 'space vortex' business. I can't recall any story involving this concept that antedated the time at which this eff-

ort must have been composed. The young Brackney had a goodly store of general scientific information, too, apparently, though his astronomy has a flaw. . . . . We want Mutant!

FA LEAN-TO: Seems to me the bloated FAPA treasury could afford a postage scale for ye O. E.

MADMAN OF MARS: This episody interested me personally, as it is very similar in one respect to a thing I once started to compose at an early age. This is 4e's introduction of the Hogdolans, an entirely irrelevant topic. In my epic there was a remarkably similar digression about invaders called "Oceanicians" who,however, came (you'd never guess it!) out of the sea. This invasion likewise took place in 1980. I must have written this at about the same time the #1 Face was grinding out the MoM. Again, the digression was equally irrelevant to my plot, and I've often wondered since why I used it. Now I know. Telepathy, of course!

BANSHEE: "Burble, burble..." he gargled as he tore up the dummy of his review column for the umpteenth time. . . . . I'll bet Len's been out behind the barn reading "Fantasite" again! . . . . . Both the columns were well worth waiting for, though. Liked the Shavian wit, too.

betterlatethanneverbetterlatethanneverbetterlatethanneverbetterlatethan

POLITICAL AD'ERTISEMENT ! POLITICAL AD'ERTISEMENT

FAN-TODS' noble resolution to eschew politics has up and gone pop, and we herewith announce that we have gone and done it by filing as candidate for Secretary-Treasurer in the forthcoming FAPA elections. We are squarely behind every plank in the Observation Car platform. We promise to give you an administration. We are unalterably opposed to keeping the FAPA accounts in binary arithmetic. Our genius is speculative, not peculative. In short, friends, we're nice people...Quiet!---you in the back row! Vote for Stanley and keep prosperity around the corner. All fans wishing to have their infants kissed by Mephisto should forward same carefully wrapped against damage and leakage in transit. We thank youse.

Fanational Committee of the Recidivist Party

voteearlyandoftenvoteearlyandoftenvoteearlyandoftenvoteearlyandoftenvot

"You see that fellow over counting his toes?" asked the guard. "He was formerly a world famous mathematician but, poor fellow, he got tangled up in transfinite arithmetic. Now he sits there all day trying to place his toes in one-to-one correspondence with his fingers. A sad case, a sad case." We moved on. --LRC

I'llbeapieeyedemuI'llbeapieeyedemuI'llbeapieeyedemuI'llbeapieeyedemuI'l

WANT DEPARTMENT: Dunne's works on time: "An Experiment with Time" and "The Serial Universe". Any of you muggs who have copies of these books with which you're willing to part for a consideration, lemme know your price, will you. I'm most desirous of getting them. --nfs

-oOo-

R I P O S T E

-Louis Russell Chauvenet-

J. B. S. Haldane, writing in the 'Century' magazine in 1923, prophesied successful ectogenesis in the lower animals by 1950 and in humans by 1960 or so. He envisaged the future population being about 70% ectogens and 30% normal births as a fairly constant ratio. (He also prophesied, probably just for fun, that in 1940 an artificially modified strain of nitrogen fixing bacteria would be developed which would enrich soil with nitrogen beyond the powers of any present fertilizer. He said that in 1942 a strain of this new race would escape into the sea, multiply prodigiously, and turn the sea a brilliant purple color. Of course the dates are out, by a couple of centuries or so (war is not very favorable to pure research) but this is something to look forward to. Sounds interesting, huh? Would the change of color (and possibly taste??) of sea water have any psychological effect on you,or would you still love sailing?!)

Of course, Haldane probably realized as well as Heinlein the value of 'control naturals' but I personally much prefer the Heinlein application of biology; the one great advantage being that the children are born naturally. Ectogenesis is a pretty idea to play around with but a rotten measure to advocate for the improvement of a race. You breed humans ectogenetically for hundreds of generations and produce a super-dooper race, let us say, but then suppose you find out that you have without realizing it bred out the ability to produce children by normal delivery? Your super-dooper race is then tied helplessly to its machines. Comes any environmental conditions under which the machines fail to operate, and the race winks out in a generation. Poo to it, say I. My notion is much simpler anyway. You still take an ovary and testes from biologically valuable (i.e., viable,among other things!) stock, to get your gametes,and you fertilize artificially, but you don't grow the egg artificially by ectogenesis, you simply implant it in a host-mother. This has been experimentally done in the lower animals, and artificial insemination (mostly of fertile women married to sterile husbands) has been done in man successfully. It seems to me that the technique I am in favor of has all the advantagesof the 'ectogenesis' program, without the drawbacks. Consider especially the psychology of the ectogenetically produced child. It would be hard to deny the value of family life for psychical and emotional stability of the individual--the right kind of family life, selbverständlich.

Another thing: Child-bearing is a natural process, like eating, copulation, defecation, breathing, etc. There is no other natural process which is unpleasant or painful to the organism, and it is an observed fact that in individual women of all races, and in the majority of women in some races, chiefly those not thoroughly urbanized, childbirth is easy, without difficulty, and by no means extremely painful. If a woman cannot give birth to a child without a long and difficult labor involving much pain to herself and grave danger to the child,this indicates, to my mind, that she is either biologically inferior for genetic reasons,or else that, despite an heredity which should make normal childbirth easy,she has abused her body so as to make it very difficult for the same to function naturally. Among such abuses I might mention

the continued wearing of girdles and corsets, etc., high-heeled shoes which alter the normal carriage of the body, use of stimulants and narcotics, long hours of work at jobs which call for the use of certain muscles only, to the neglect of others and of the general physical health, and numerous other unfavorable environmental conditions. The normal feminine body should be lithe and supple, the pelvic girdle should be broad (and hence the hips). If the slender-hipped, high-heeled stenographer who uses a typewriter eight hours a day,and takes her exercise going to the movies or an occasional dance has trouble in bearing a child, well, what else would you expect?

I rather like the definition of the ego as a pattern of a physical reality rather than the reality itself. Of course the pattern implicit in the fertilized egg is not strictly speaking composed of a definite set of qualities, but only of quite definite tendencies toward the expression of certain qualities. The expression may be profoundly modified by environmental changes; indeed, a mutation which is unfavorable under the ordinary circumstances of an organism's environment may actually be favorable under other circumstances. For instance in the fly Drosophila funebris according to Dobzhansky in his most valuable book, 'Genetics and the Origin of Species', a certain mutation called "eversae" decreases the viability of the fly as compared to the wild type about 2% at 15-16 degrees, but increases it 4% at 24-25 degrees, while at still higher temperatures (28-30 degrees) "eversae" is again 2% lower in viability. Further experiments have shown that differences in viability between closely allied species may similarly reverse themselves with environmental change: For instance, Drosophila melanogaster lives longer than Drosophila funebris at high temperatures, but not as long at lower temperatures. These results of actual observations are ever so much more satisfying and convincing than the mere theorizing regarding environmental effects.

Of course, the 'immortality' afforded by having children is possibly spurious. Reflect that in man 24 pairs of chromosomes exist, half being derived from each parent. It is clear that on an average 12 chromosomes will be derived from each of the four grandparents. But the laws of chance make it possible for a child to be born occasionally having none of its chromosomes derived from a certain grandparent, but all from the other three. If we consider that going back only two more generations finds us with 32 ancestors, it is clear that the chances of each ancestor having contributed at least one chromosome becomes still less, while tossing in two additional generations brings us to the realization that our 128 ancestors of thatgeneration could not possibly have each contributed a chromosome to our genetic makeup, considering that we have only 48 in all. The 80 or more who are left out as far as we are concerned have not contributed anything to us genetically, and whether they were moronic horse thieves or the most eminent men of science has absolutely no bearing on the question of what our inherited equipment is like. There is, of course, no way of telling from just which of the 128 we happen to have inherited any particular chromosome or chromosomes, so that elaborate genealogies such as some I have seen tracing an ancestry back to William the Conqueror are really ludicrous in the extreme. What is really important is the question of whether we have received chromosomes different in some particular from the 'normal' or average state. There the genes in such a variant chromosome find physical expression, we can trace its ancestry with considerable confidence.

When I start thinking about heredity and the human race, though, what really gets me is the reflection that if mutation rates can be speeded up by dosage with X-rays in the laboratory, what effect is there going to be on the human population being continuously sprayed with short-wave radio? It is known that practically all wild populations (that is, all that have been investigated thus far) carry quite a surprising assortment of recessives of various kinds;a recessive lethal, of course, does not find expression in an heterozygous individual, and only a cross with another individual heterozygous for that lethal will reveal it, by the death of 1/4 of the offspring. If it is true that short wave radio bombardment is increasing the number of recessive lethals arising in the germ tracks of the US population, the full effects may not appear for a hundred years.

Of course, there is another side to the picture. Not all (even though most) mutations induced by short radiations are lethals. The presence of a very great reservoir of recessive genes in heterozygous individuals throughout a population may actually be a racial benefit, even though under ordinary environmental conditions the vast majority of the mutational allelomorphs are deleterious when homozygous. The point is that the presence of such a reservoir is a guarantee of racial variability. It is quite conceivable that under drastic changes in environment, changes which the geological record cheerfully assures us have occurred many times in the past, it might be a matter of life and death for the species as a whole to be able to draw on such variability already present----for the chances of a random mutation happening to occur at precisely the time when it is most needed are rather small.

everysquarehasfoureverytrianglehasthreeandeveryquestionhastwosides

QUOTE I FOUND UNDERLINED in an old Amazing, recently purchased: "This quality of concentration on the future is a splendid thing for developing inventions, building great businesses, painting great pictures, writing novels and philosophies, but it works badly indeed for guarding convicts, who invariably bolt in the present tense."

The diplomatic Commandos were known as Requestos

"We are living in the best days of the republic. That the worst will follow does not seem to me very likely. But nations advance, and thrive, and die, like men; and can no more have a second youth than their inhabitants can."

--words attributed to Nathaniel Bowditch

-oOo-

MORE STATISTICS----which show that fifty per cent of the people who get married in the United States each year are men. Apparently the predilection for matrimony is no greater in one sex than in the other.

-o-

"I am a statistic.
For me spruce falls, methane is pyrolyzed,
Caoutchouc is worn away
And the entropy of graphite increaseth."

--Gerald J. Cox

-o-

YESTERDAY'S 10,000 YEARS

"A barrier of heavy planks was constructed about 50 feet from where the rockets were fired and only two members of the committee were permitted to station themselves behind it. They were Donald A. Wollheim, observer, and William Sykora, firer."

--Amateur Science Review, Jan. 1937

What did the rest of the committee do? Take the dornicks?

-o-

"I have just read a small book on Einstein,and it seems to me that whoever wrote 'The Four-Dimensional Roller Press' did not have a very clear idea of what the fourth dimension is."

Maurice C. Volkman

EC: "We certainly congratulate you if you have acquired a clear knowledge of the Fourth Dimension from reading 'A Small Book on Einstein.'"

--Amazing Stories, Mar. 1928

-o-

"Cheer up, Mr. Hamilton. I know some pretty mean things have been said about you, but I'm all for you. Let me shake your hand. I've wanted to ever since I accompanied Marlin, Whitely, Randall, and Hunt through the meteoric swarms to save the world. I never lost faith in you, Mr. Hamilton, even when the ugly yellow disc--yellow is my unfavorite color--of Saturn was rushing up at me and the gang was outside sweating away in diving suits, I never turned a hair. I knew you were looking after us, Mr. Hamilton. I nearly fell out of bed--it was the humidity, not excitement--but we got through and saved the earth."

Parker Snapp --Amazing Stories, Apr. 1931

-o-

"I like to read your magazine but my English very poor and must use dictionary. . . . . Why not make Japanese publication 'A. S.'? I am sure it will be great success since young Japan fascinate science."

H. Hayashi --Amazing Stories, Aug. 1931

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"I am only a boy of thirteen and Chinese. I am most interested in your stories containing Chinamen as the villains. Please don't always pick on them, I am sure others would do."

Howard Lowe --Amazing Stories, Aug. 1931

-o-

"You have your good points.

BUT

"Hobbyana may be a necessary evil, but it's still an evil.

"You may publish good fantasy, but it's still fantasy.

"There is almost no s-f content,

"You ignore fans in the false belief that there are others in your audience.

"Therefore I am not resubscribing."

Jack Speer --Amateur Correspondent, Nov.-Dec. 1937

-o-

"There is a question about which I have wondered, and which I am going to put to you. May a beam of light be imprisoned between two mirrors? Reason. I've tried to work it out, but it requires a kind of sensitive hand, which I haven't."

Ronald Small --Amazing Stories, Aug. 1931

-o-

"A rather lengthy letter of mine written last September in answer to criticism made by a certain reader of one of my letters in a former issue was never printed, and I'm quite peeved."

Otto Binder ---Amazing Stories, May 1931

-o-

"I like the idea of Otho hissing, Grag booming, and the Brain rasping."

Harry Schmarje --Captain Future, Fall 1940

-o-

"Please do not think that all Englishmen speak the'Bally fine day,' 'old thing', 'but beastly weather,' 'what?' style of English. This exists, not entirely, I admit, but chiefly in novel characters of the Gussy type. Not one Englishman in a hundred talks like this actually. Still, I suppose your ideas of England are no more weird than our visions of hails of lead sweeping Chicago streets daily or the idea that an American always wears a straw hat and horn-rimmed glasses. . . . . As far as covers, stories, etc., are concerned I think they are topnole, old thing, what?--ahem--I mean they sure are the bees knees, so!"

R. K. Norris

EC: "We do not know what you mean by'bees knees,so'or whatever it is."

--Amazing Stories, May 1933

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"This is my first letter to any magazine. Guess I was rather rabid at that. Am eagerly awaiting the next issue. More windmills to tilt at. R-r-rh!

Russell M. Wood-Thrilling Wonder Stories, June 1938

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"'The Conquest of the Moon Pool' was the full-length serial which made up the bulk of the book. It may interest some readers to know that in the new edition of the book, the villain, Von Hetzdorp, has been replaced by a Russian, Marakinoff. Germans are no longer acceptable villains."

P. Schuyler Miller --Amazing Stories, Feb. 1934

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"Going straight to the point--look at the Feb. cover! Of all the--------"

Mark Reinsberg--Thrilling Wonder Stories, Apr. 1938

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"And while we are talking of typographical errors, I take this opportunity to tell the A. S. proofreader that I will never forgive him for one he allowed to get into print in the story. In my typed manuscript I had a dramatic passage about a 'wall of impassable radiation.' A change of two letters transformed it into a satirically critical 'wall of impossible radiation'! And after I had spent two pages explaining just how the radiation was generated!"

William Kober --Amazing Stories, Apr. 1934

-o-

"By the way, could a boy of 13 years join the Science Correspondence Club?"

Walter Kubilis --Amazing Stories, Mar. 1932

-o-

"I don't agree with some of your self-appointed critics (isn't that strange?)"

D. B. Thompson --Amazing Stories, July 1933

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