



Vol. 16 - No. 13

FIRST JULY 1961 ISSUE

(#365) \$3 a Year

ACKERMAN IN PRISON!  
Leiber His Sell-Mate

SAN QUENTIN, Calif, 1 July (CNS) - "Rog-Phillips framed me", were the first words of Forrest J Ackerman here today at the State Penitentiary as he addressed himself to a portion of the institution's 6000 inmates. Ackerman and Leiber were guests of Phillips at his weekly class in Creative Writing at the penal establishment, but neither had been informed beforehand that they were expected to speak -- which each did, extemporaneously, for about a half hour apiece. Leiber discussed his novel "Conjure Wife" and various phases of his fantasy writing; Ackerman warned the murderers, rapists and dope pedlers about the crime of plagiarism and the serious consequences it could have, instancing the time his own "Atomic Error" was represented to be the work of another writer.

Phillips' course aims at instructing convicts how to break into editorial offices--the peaceable way. Before Leivern Ackerman & Phillips left the prison they were shot 3 or 4 times; photographer's foto of the fangerous trio was featured on front page of the next issue of the prison paper.

Same evening, addressing the members of the 12th Westercon in an after dinner speech, Ackerman conveyed the invitation of San Quentin's warden, saying he would change the name of the institution to Fan Quentin if Westercon 13 would care to make his grounds its head-

concluded on page 4, column 1

Science-Fiction Forecasts:

FRED POHL, ROBERT BLOCH, GEORGE O. SMITH  
FRITZ LEIBER, WILLY LEY AND FINLAY IN  
GALA OCTOBER 1961 ISSUE OF "GALAXY"

The 11th Anniversary issue of Galaxy Magazine, dated October 1961, contains: Novellas: A PLANET NAMED SHAYOL by Cordwainer Smith, and ARCTURUS TIMES THREE by Jack Sharkey. Novelettes: THE ABOMINABLE EARTHMAN by Frederik Pohl, and THE SPY IN THE WLEVATOR by Donald E. Westlake. Short Stories: CRIME MACHINE- by Robert Bloch; AMATEUR IN CHANCERY by George O. Smith, MARING CALL by Frank Herbert, and THE BEAT CLUSTER by Fritz Leiber. Science Dept.: FOR YOUR INFORMATION "The Man Made Land" by Willy Ley. Features: HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH (editorial) and GALAXY'S FIVE STAR SHELB. by Floyd C. Gale. Cover by Finlay, illustrating "The Beat Cluster".

SCIENCE FANTASY, #48:

The August (British date) of Science Fantasy will include: THE ANALYSTS by John Brunner, stories by J. G. Ballard, Lee Harding, Will Worthington and David Rome. Sam Moskowitz will have #13 of his series "Studies in Science-Fiction", Olaf Stapledon. Cover is by Brian Lewis.

JOIN THE SeaCON, the 1961 World S-F Convention. \$2, plus \$1 if you attend. Send your monies to: SeaCon, %Seattle Science Fiction Club, Inc., P.O. Box 1365, Broadway Branch, Seattle 2, Washington.

## SCIENCE-FICTION FAN MAGAZINES

by Edmund R. Meskys

SPECULATIVE REVIEW, Vol. 3 - No. 2, May 1961, 12 pages plus cover, mimeographed with multilith cover, published irregularly (about 4 times a year) by Dick Eney, 417 Dt. Hunt Road, Alexandria, Va., for the Washington Science Fiction Association, letters of comment or 3 for 25¢.

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This magazine, devoted to review and criticism of science-fiction and fantasy publications, is divided into 3 sections -- some book reviews or a special feature by Dick Eney, reviews of some recent pro mags by Bill Evans, and a letter column where the letters are divided up into pieces which are then grouped according to subject. Some of the reviews are occasionally handled by others.

In his section Dick Eney has thus far reviewed The Once And Future King (which he panned from here to Hell), the Fantastic Universe Omnibus, Rogue Moon, The Big Time/Mind Spider, Adventures on Other Planets, and the first ish of the Journal of the IES. His special feature was an analysis in dialog form of John Campbell's motives and his effects on science-fiction and fandom, which was both interesting and amusing.

Bill Evans' reviews are competent and interesting to read whether or not you read all of the s-f pro mags published today. If you do, they give you another viewpoint on the stories you've read and might even point out some fine points that you missed. If you don't have the time or inclination to read all the stuff printed but do buy all the pro mags, here is a handy guide to indicate which of the skipped stories are worth going back to read.

Sometimes all of the magazines of a particular time period (1 or 2 months) are reviewed, sometimes only 1 or 2 magazines are covered over a longer period. For instance the latest issue discusses about 6 months of Amazing and Fantastic.

-----  
As I mentioned last month, JWC has become a sort of villain as far as fandom is concerned. There is general disgust with his espousal of what is generally referred to as "crackpottery". But more

important, they are disgruntled with what they consider to be a drop in quality of their long-time favorite magazine, & that is unforgivable. In fact, things are now such that if he were to come out with something which would have been greeted enthusiastically at another time or if presented by someone else, his reputation is such that most fans would reject it outright.

Last time around I quoted a recently popular theory about JWC -- that he suddenly realized some 10 years ago that he is only an editor of a pulp magazine instead of a Somebody, and is desperately clutching at straws trying to become a Somebody. Dick is one of the several fans who simultaneously & independently came up with theories like it, but he also saw a remarkable similarity between Campbell & one Raymond A. Palmer.

Among other things, Dick said in a recent SpecRev "...after all; if JWC had honestly been trying to find out something about dowsing, rather than advertise himself the way Palmer used to, he'd've found out what was behind dowsing in next to no time -- and, for all I know, clarified some of the nonsense that's been spouted about it and other "psi phenomena". But no; he confined himself to advertising -- not reporting -- oddities to give himself talking points. Same trick he pulled with the Hieronymus Macgine; demanding that his claims be considered data, and refusing to lay solid facts on the line with names, dates, and figures. And then, fer gawdsake, he wondered why nobody paid any attention when he tried the same technique with the Dean Drive...he would /not/ have been 'satisfied' with any explanation /for his 'mysteries'; for instance with the idea that all varieties of dowsing -- including the Hieronymus machine -- are what they seem to be; methods of using muscle-reading devices to objectify subconscious appraisals, any more than Palmer would have been 'satisfied' with an explanation of the Shaver Mystery....if you think Campbell is really a scientific investigator, trying to get at the truth about these phenomena, /you're wrong./ These frantic blasts of his against the dirty hidebound scientists should have shown

you better. He's not trying to get at the truth, he's trying to pander to the boob market just the way RAP did."

There were many other interesting points made, and I recommend you try to get this particular issue if it is still available. Dick ended by saying that in his own way JWC is going to be the savior of s-f. "Consider what happened last time we had a real example of crackpottery in the prozines; the last time, I mean, it was presented with the demand we accept it for fact. Wasn't Palmer's idocy what set off the Golden Age of the '40s? Now that Campbell's completed his pilgrimage from fictionalized science to burbling nescience, what'll be the reaction to that?

"Yes, now that JWC has hit rock bottom, by rights we should look to the pros to begin their next Golden Age. Now once again we have a Horrible Example for stf to libe down. And I'd like to see what's going to be made of it...

"Matter of fact....I can Hardly wait."

Altho opinions such as these are becoming more and more widespread thru-out fandom they are by no means universal. Some fans say that fandom simply needs a villian, and Campbell is unfortunate enough to be the current victim. These fans say that previous examples of similarly largely unjustified fannish persecution were Hornig and Palmer. For instance, this dedence of JWC by Poul Anderson is given in the latest SpecRev: "Some slight unbrage at your amateur psychoanalasys of John Campbell. Not that I ever took dianetics, dowsing, or Dean Drives seriously (even when that damn pipe locator did work for me -- admittedly under uncontrolled circumstances)....Campbell is, no boubt, a bit evangelistic, but this arises not from an over compensated inferiority complex (my God, can anyone who's seen him in action think that?) but simply from an enviable capacity for enthisiasm. Which he uses, quite consciously, in an attempt to generate ideas in others that he hopes will lead to stories. A large number of outrageous statements are made precisely in order to touch off fireworks.

"Unfortunately, the level of ideation in science-fiction is so low these

days that his attempts rarely succeed. Most writers say 'duh' and grind out another Big Business Takes Over manuscript. /An example of such trite formula stuff is "Status Quo" in the Aug. Analog. But to be fair I must admit that the same ish had several above average stories including one excellent Unknown type fantasy./ No editor, least of all Campbell, likes the situation. But what can he do? He's got a magazine to get out every month. Anyone who will send him a story with even a spark of originality can sell it to him, except on the occasion he, like any editor, makes his normal share of misjudgements. The idea does not have to be one he promoted himself or one he agrees with. Mack Reynolds is an obvious case in point.

"Rather than castigate Campbell, Mills, & Co. for putting out such sad magazines, stand in awe of them for doing as well as they have. Which, by the way, I donot say in the hopes of getting in good with any of them. I write little science-fiction these days. The effect to revive the corpse is getting boring."

Well, there you have it --- the pro and con on Campbell. And what's your opinion? Is Campbell a crackpot with an inferiority complex or is he a dedicated and conscientious editor trying to make the best of bad times?

--

But I wonder if we fans really have the right to pass judgement on Mr. Campbell. After all, here is a man who has been working in the field for well over 20 years and has been the editor of Analog/Astounding for some 22 years. During almost the entirety of his editorship his magazine was just about universally recognized as the finest there is or was. Why for almost 2/3 of that period there wasn't even a serious challenger for the top spot. And altho his magazine no longer holds this favored standard it is still regarded by many as the best one despite its faults. (Admittedly, there isn't much competition today, with s-f being in the state it is in now.) So here we are -- a bunch of readers who (for the most part) have never written anything salable, never will, and never could even if we were to try -- casting stones at a (somewhat tarnished) giant

of the genre. Do we have the right to make these accusations?

Ed Meskys will review the Hugo winning Cry of the Nameless in the First August issue of Science-Fiction Times.

#### ACKERMAN IN PRISON!

concluded from page 1, column 1

quarters. "H e feels confident he can handle a fan con", explained FJA; "after all, for some years h e has been daily handling approximately 6000 cons...."

#### FAMOUS MORSELS OF FANTALAND

by J. Forester Eckman

Wm F. Nolan has sold his monster movie spoof, "The Monsters Are Upon Us", to Sir Knight. Spencer Strong's similar article, "Beauties and the Beasts", will be featured in Showcase #4. Rod Serling has purchased Chester Feier's 20 year old "Length of Rope" from Unknown. Curt Siodmak is planning a humorous sci-fi TV series. Jim Harmon has sold 2 pocket-books, "Vixen Hollow" & "T h e Man Who Made Maniacs". Marion Zimmer Bradley's "7 to the Stars" will be paperbacked by Ace.

SLAN has been optioned by film producer Bert I. Gordon. A new version of the classic CABINET OF DR CALIGARI is being scripted by Robt Bloch. Production plans for THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES have collapse after a large amount of (well paid for) film treatment work by Ray Bradbury. Ray Russell has collaborated with chas Beaumont on a screenplay o f Edgar Allan Poe's PREMATURE BURIAL. Amerivan-International will film t h e HGWell's classic, WHEN THE SLEEPER WAKES --and remake METROPOLIS!

Jim Harmon has taken on the pseudonym Clark Newton, made 2 new sales to Fred Pohl. "The Edge of Running Water" (Wm Sloane) will be published in France. Miriam Allen deFord's "Rope's End" (Dec. '60 F&SF) has drawn the interest of Twilight Zone. Fred Brown is in Hollywood, selling to Hitchcock & Thriller.

Fred Gebhardt will make RETURN TO THE PHANTOM PLANET. BRAVE NEW WORLD is

to be Broadway-musicaled! Clark Ashton Smith is writing a new story for Fantastic, based on a cover by Geo Barr agent-ed to Cele Goldsmith by Bjo Trimble.

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#### FAN MAGS

COLLECTORS: Buy, Sell, or Trade through the pages of THE FANTASY COLLECTOR, 714 Pleasant St., Roseville, Calif. Published monthly. A dime will bring sample copy, listing rates.

THE HOWARD COLLECTOR, a deluxe printed amateur journal (hand-set type on cream white vellum, quality grey cover) contains material b y and about Robert E. Howard. First issue contains an appreciation, two Howard poems, two Howard sketches, a letter, first installment of a comprehensive bibliography, etc. About 36 pages, limited printing, 60¢ per copy. Glenn Lord, Box 775, Pasadena, Texas.

#### NEW OFFICERS FOR THE "LASFS"

The Los Angeles Science-Fantasy Society elected a new slate o f officers for the 2nd half o f the year, on June 29th. Director is Ron Ellik, Secretary Donald Franson, Treasurer Bill Ellern, Senior Committeeman Ernie Wheatley, and Junior Committeeman Rick Sneary. T h e LASFS meets every Thursday at 8 PM, at 2790 W. 8th Street, Los Angeles. Visitors are always welcomed. -Don Franson

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Published twice-a-month by SCIENCE-FIC-  
TION TIMES, INC., P. O. Box 115, Solvay  
Branch, Syracuse 9, New York. Ray Van  
Houten, President; Frank R. Prieto, Jr.,  
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