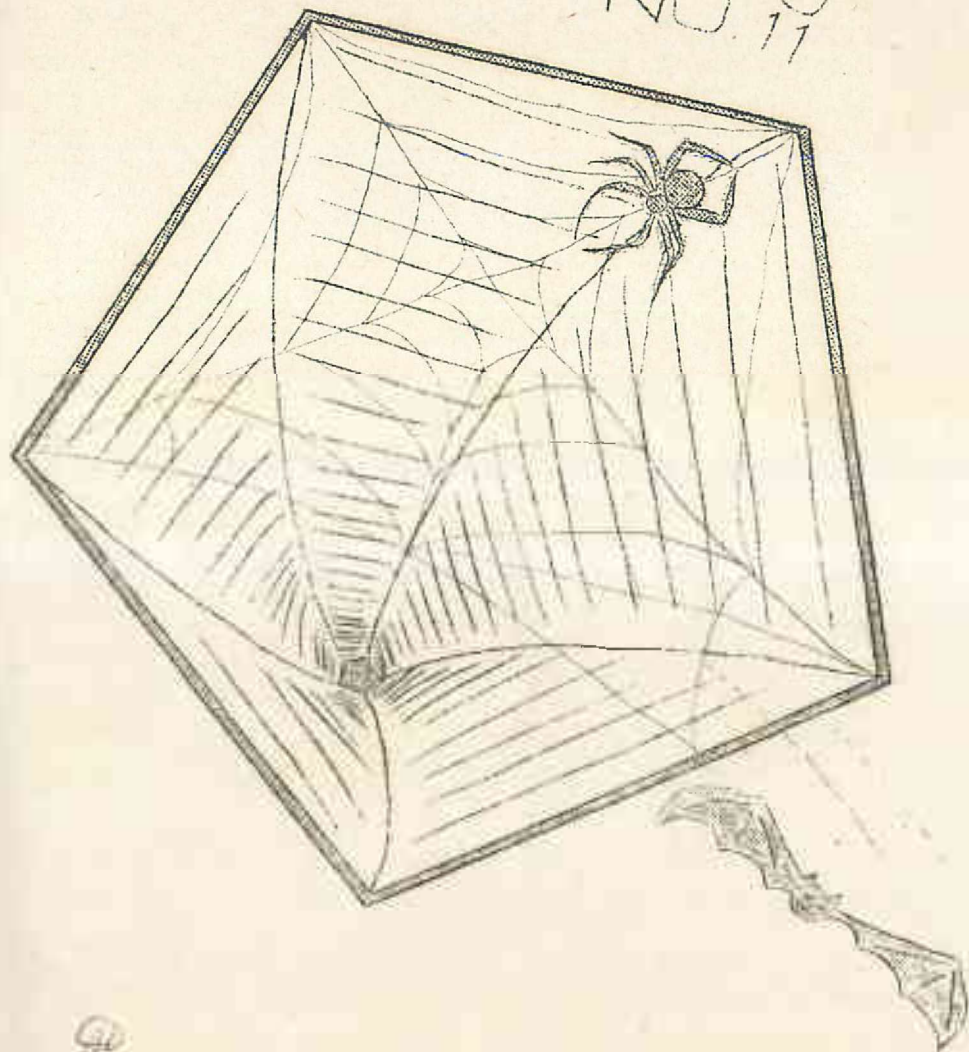


PERIL AT PENTAGON

448
NO. 11





shortype

by art widner jr

Ever since I first learned to spell, I've been distressed by the illogic of it all, & impressed by the savings in time & space which could be effected if some sort of a sensible system were adopted. In later years I also thought about the time wasted by kids in learning the 1001 exceptions to our haphazard spelling "methods".

Then I ran into 4e's "streamlyned" spelling, but realized at once that this was only a half-hearted solution & started writing letters to VoM in "Widnarget", which was but little better.

Recently I have been studying shorthand, which would be the solution, if there were a way to print & type it with facility. This is what I have tried to accomplish with "Shortype". Whether or not i've succeeded is for you to judge. All I ask is that you give it a fair trial before you pronounce sentence. Like shorthand, you must become familiar with it, use it, & let the strangeness wear off a bit, before you can offer adequate criticism. I think it will be a great deal easier to read at first glance than shorthand, & you'll have an opportunity to try it in this issue. So here it is: (consonants b,d,f,h,j,k,l,m,n,p,r,t,& v remain unchanged, altho some assume additional functions....

THE ALPHABET				
English	Example	Sound	Shortype	Example
a	cat	aah	a	kat
aa	rate	A	ae	raet
ah	church	ch	c	cure
ee	head	ee	o	bed
eh	bed	eh	i	bid
guh	good	guh	g	good g
juh	gem	juh	j	jim j

It is a fancy modernistic design. This is not a fancy modernistic design.

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English	Example	Sound	Shorttype	Example
i	bit	ih	g	bit
i	bite	I	y	byt
ng(ing)	ringing	ing	q	rqg
o	wrote	O	O	rOt
o	lot	aw.ah	o	lot
oo	school	oo	w	skwl
oo	hood	oo	oo	hood
s	mist	ss	s	mist
sh	insure	sh	q	inqwr
u	but	un	u	but
u	future	eu	ew	fewer
w	water	oo-	w	wotr
x	extra	eks,ags	x	xtro
y	yacht	ea	e	eot
z	dizzy	zz	z	dize

Thus we avoid such cumbersome monstrosities as the International Phonetic & the GBSHaw alphabets, & with the exception of the arbitrary ae, it is truly phonetic for all practical purposes.

Julius will no doubt complain that "I" is a dipthong, & so it is. So what? I would be consistent & have all dipthongs represented by single symbols, but it isn't practical. I considered using capitals, but found that they slowed up typing speed too much. The present system effects about a 25% saving in space & about the same in time, altho I haven't got around to making a properly accurate time study of it.

Now for a list of abbreviations of some of the most common words: (note that these almost completely take care of the "th" problem.)

a	a	about	abt
above	abv	after	aft
again(st)	agn(s)	although	olt
already	olr	always	ols
and	&	answer	ans
any	ne	anything	netq
approximate	aprox	are	r

around	ard	be	b
been	bn	between	twen
business	biz	cause, because	koz
can	k	correspond(ence)	kspd(ns)
cover	kv	could	kd
complete	komp	definite	difn
did	d	differece	difns
different	dif	difficubt	difk
does	dz	either	etr
else	ls	xxxxxxx every	iv
everyone	vn	everything	vq
except	x	explain	xpl
first	fst	for	4
from	fr	form	fm
future	fc	give	gv
general	j	go	g
good	gd	gone	gn
great	gr	had	hd
has	h	have	v
he	e	him	hm
his	hz	I	y
if	f	immediate	med
important(ance)	imp	individual	ind
into	n2	is	z
it	i	large	lj
letter	ltr	little	ltl
limit	lt	mail	ml
matter	mtr	minimum	mr
maximum	mx	minute	mn
much	mc	name	nm
necessary	ns	never(theless)	nv(s)
newspaper	np	next	nx
no, not	n	nothing	nq
number	nu	of	o
office(r)	ofs(r)	official	ofc
operate(r)	op(r)	operation	opz
opportunity	opt	original	orig
order	ord	organ(iz)ation)	org(z)n)
over	O	paragraph-	pgf
part(icular)	pt(r)	perfect	pf
per			

permanent	purm	person	pn
people	ppl	place	pl
position	p0	positive	poz
possible	pos	prepar(ation)	prip(n)
prevent	pvn	previous	pv
private	pvt	probable(ity)	prob(te)
publish(cation)	pub(n)	put	p
quality	kwl	quantity	kwn
railroad	rr	rather	rth
right, write	rt	real(ly)	rl(e)
receive	rcv	record	rik
regular	rig	remark	rmk
room	rm	remember	rmr
report	rpt	return	rtu
satisfactory	sat	should	sd
several	sv	shall	s
xxxx so	s	some	sm
something	sq	soon	sn
special	sp	subject	subj
suggestion	su(j)n	substitute	sbt
subscribe(tion)	sub	such	sc
system	sis	that	tt
temporary	timp	the	t
them	m	then	n
there	tr	thing	tq
think	tk	this	ts
thorough	th	those	tz
throughout	trt	to, too, two	2
together	2g	tmorrow	tmw
under	un	until	til
usual	ew	very	vr
was	vz	week	wk
what	wt	whether	wtr
where	wr	which	wc
while	wl	will	l
with(out)	w(tt)	would	wd
you	u	your, year	er

General rules: Eliminate vowels wherever practical. Eliminate apostrophes ditto. Capitalize prop-

井井井井井井井井井井井井井井井

Suffixes

& endings ed,em,e.,er,
es,al,ion,on,an,le,am
or,um drop the vowel
when preceded by a con-
sonant.

ment	mt
ful(1)	fl
tive	tv
tion	e or c

[illegible]

YHOſ PERIWETH Yſ MAILYNGE

Fifty-seven: plez jintl-
fin, rmr tt y prOpOzd t
Citadel az a last rsort.
& tt y admitd tt i wd b
praktiklre impos 2 acev.
u l rkol, praps, tt y
sed ovr koliktv inkum wd
v 2 b cowntd in 5 figrz,
b4 we kd xpikt ne sort o
suksis. but rgardlis o t

praktikalite o t vincer, y stil tk, f i wir pos, i wd
b priferabl 2 an uniplizantle rejimintd, sivilyzaed. &
y dw n tk an avg timpracr o 80° wd impair my wurkq
abilitez or inirjo vr mc. t yls ned n nslc b undis-
kuvrd, merle oft betn path. kontraero 2 SFWright(&
e speks o t north Pacific incwae) aft lookq at maps &
traed rwts, y tk we kd fynd a more sutabl yls wtt 2
mc trubl. **y stil dw n se wr or "fantasy alms" z ne
mor aplikabl than t tq we n0 az "imagined--in fakt,
thae r olmoost sinonimus. **wy dw we ned a big popew-
lueq 2 konwrm inkrent pr0dukq? spekg 4 mysilf (& y
am bthr of than a lot o ppl(in normal tymz)y kd ezile

Talent
So easy,
shum!
dubl my knosumpç f my inkum wz dubld - az i çd b f
pr0dukç in j wir dubld. & y k se n gd rezn wy
konsumpç h 2 b st4de on ne ptr ytim. w s0çlyzd biz,
industrez kd b sit up 2 pr0dws sv dif tqz, & bild up
surplusiz 'dzynd 2 last wl t uthr produkts wir bq
maed. **thaçks 4 t kynd wurdz. **Rosk0 mprwvz by
leps & bownds.

It's
boudy
fun
mass-dog
- other
unre-just
good?
wouldn't
have not-
need it
fu hadn't
magical
it!
Banshee 4: t Limaedn looks mc lyk an oriç Fin-
lae tt ewst 2 b in Sqltun's rm at MIT. **vn Raem d-
vilops sm lis tryt fìgrz 0 spec, e l b wun o owr bist
p0its; in fakt e z n 2 bad ryt now. **Isprant0 wz in
t publik skvlz 0 10 erz og0. i wz intr0dvst at Kwin-
ze Hy in 33 or 4 & y wd v taekn i, f y hd n flugt
aljebro & bn 4st 2 taek i 0. **Dzyn 4 Fanmagz xlt.
y v tryd 2 fol0 ts advys ivr sins y startd pubq (n0t
Fanfare traedmk wc wz owtst&q enuf 2 b coped twys, 2
my noliç) but kulors r difnle 2 mc wurk 4 a pn v ltd
tym. just wun lyn e siz, but i menz dubl t meme0q...
cik on mor wyt spaes - obzirv ts içu... wy dznt sm-
wun gv owt w t dtaelz on silk skren? **Marlov z roq
abt hilikoptrz i tk. n s loq ag0 tr wz an ad in t
Boston Globe 4 ppl 2 git tr ordz in irle 4 koptrz at
\$2000 pir, wc z n a fantastik prys by ne menz, & mas
pr0dukç k kut tt in 2, n dowt. **çvr a maçen k look
aelein. isp f i z an aelien maçen. in fakt, i kd
look s aelein tt i wdn look lyk a maçen at ol! **mar-
jin0t on Kw0tabl: "y prefr Korzybski 2 Plato." Halle
z just anuthr godaezr. 'skewz, tt last wz fr Caliban.

Investigation... y blev i...

Cosmicrap: list o mimz z a ryot, evn Degler'z
wurst inime wd n v sereusle maentaend tt t CC mimçip
list wz komp0zd o haf an Ackerman! (credit RDS). & t
trubl wo hd w t stiklis stikrz in asimblq t mlq,
olmost maed me v0t 4 xpulç.

Toward Tomorrow 2: y taek vy0lint xç 2 Yerke's
kontone tt owt o 150 fin ve v onle Bok & Glynz az
rel artists. just ofh& y k tk o Turner, Hunt, Sayn,
Jones, Goldstone, TWright, Knight, Wiedenbeck, & Gib-
son. y am konfidint tr r kwynt a few mor. & kompaerq
fandm 2 an art klas z s çvveusle unfær tt i z sile.

how mine o tt art klos r PhD kinshty inginerz? ryt-
 rz? muziqnz? **& NAPA nins "prOduc material we z far
 betr prezintd, rprOdwst, & thot-ont"....(!) un'lyn &
 klanned myn. ' rsvd NAPA maelz 4 a er & 3 & owtysd
 o Crane, Edkins, & o kuol o uthrz, i wz wun loq mon-
 otus drwl. n, drwl z n t wurd, 4 thae wir az dry az
 dust & dult than t articles of War. **agn, tby siz"y
 dkry t vast ego-nflctg powrz we konk o a prntg ma-
 gen gvz..." at ts tyn yhos wd lyk 2 dkry t vast ego-
 nflctg powrz a ltl hyr idjwkaed gvz. y az mayndd o
 a frind o myn hz wuns sid saddle, 3a er o kolij z wurs
 than ewalis - ol i gvz u z an majraetd sins o er Owm
 imp." **howivr, w t tytl y l agre... ** t pof amint
 dirt & slavinlenis z majraetd & unkold4; t apolajit-
 ik fynal sintins 30q tt t rytr realyzn how far e z
 strice t truth.**y dw n so mc ned 4 a fan hdd o ith-
 in. ordinaere kurtise wd dw kwyt nysle i tk. **spekg
 o skoloje books, y v just finidt t Neurotic Person-
 ality of Our Time by Karen Horney, we taeks idu. w
 freud 3 hz foldirz hz try 2 traces iv abnormal akt bak
 2 a skol orijn, & y fynd mysilf prite mc in agrent
 w hir. we brqz 2 mynd a Chicon sen - we 4 sm straenj
 rezn & oia rmaend vivid am merle ol t rist z haeze.
 & tt wz Perdue, Hilty, Miske, Madla, Michel, & kuol
 o uthrz & me, sitg in a Chicago basnt ber joent, we
 wir just plizentle mald & Michel lend 4werd & sp0t 2
 me - vr confidentle, & az serene az a man kd b - sp0g
 "ew n0, Vidner, y tk sz z vettle Or etc, done?" y
 agreed hostile, & stil dw. evn m y an s0er.

Fan-Dango 5: y objekt! t wurd "fen" wz gvn its
 prizint imbitus at t 43 Maincon, & Stanley, Chouvenet
 & Vidner t lik ne uthr 3 gvz in fands hw klaes wo r
 n "men". Marquis of Queensbury or Venusian bak ale
 rwlz. & 4 an alajd simantisist, Yerke 30rq sm prite
 spekus reznq on us at tyz. f "fen" z s utrie roq, e
 n Onle wan kors 2 taekt. e must hinc4tl rt "mans" az
 t blwrl o man, or b konviktd out o hz own mouth o bq
 a hip0krit. **y thot u wir a Catholic, koz ewle 4er
 Catholics maek t bistrict atheists, & u 4er r bistr

abt i. but th, u must v hd on off kik in t pants shw-
wr alog t lyn, & u r bitr agas lrf in j.

Fan-Blents 3: laney h glist rec abt my resuz 4
akledq fanfare in faga. Kragk-turnq z t lost o my
wurez. its stinsilq tt gits ie dorn. y wd no rathr
pub 200 kopon o 10 pagjs, than 100 o 20 pjz. s bq
F in faga wz n a rsee at ol. hz no as y prefr t ind
typ 'zen, y tk tr dd b mor o t sueshind typ. y pl&
2 dw i loq og0 but Hurter & a kupl o uthrz bat me 2
i. y arge tt lor o t macvr pubrz dd rec t ntyr feld,
but ts z askq a lot. a "macvr" on h a gr mine ntir-
icts & must rae, hz tym. a subaen, 2 gornr enuf subz
-- dd aper rigne, & tt z wt tsels up n ind o tym. e-
va f wan k spind ts art o tym, e kdnt pub an indzen
2, (ast HFF) e e must owz twon t 2, & ewle t inzen
winz. a ine zee rirtq dd b t funkq o a so grap, so
oz t Welcom o t HFFF. **Halsey wot xint.

Memoirs 1: i z e pite we kant upward Yerke e min-
dis medly in rtn 4 hz valewabl kontribz. ymalbookq4-
ward 2 t subsekwint volz o ts.

In Grade 10: nuts 2 t files0fc tt "man i n ful-
sily hz disting f o i n wurkq hz arz of 40 lrrz/wk &
400" hz wurkq "i d n lrr emneunz. pirsonale, y k tk o
enuf wurthwyl or amenzq tps n d. 2 lost me sv lyf-
tyuz. f t ydel ekonome ar va k v wt thae want wtt
bak-breakq, s0l0stros, kompetid, z n sq 2 wurk 4 --
prae til me, w i bitr?

Horizons 19: on t h01, t artikl on idjvasez wz
konindabl, but y diserve w s few tqz, & tk a kupl o
uthrz wis dmitd. hz siz tr z gr zynt & disegrent
in "i j0rrepl sirkls" abt i. a tr4 konkluds tt "t
matr a witar a cyla o s i0rregd 2 ddvs fakte 4 him-
sily by reznz & rsinc, or t0ld by t teer, & bayd t
pocnt." HFF dz a prezint t knez 4 eathr syz, s y d0ut
so how e kryvz at hz konklwn. pirsonale, i tk tt t
presis o teer a cyla 2 tk 4 himsily z wan o, f n t
m0st iap funk. o idjvasez. & tn y0 lyk 2 suj t neg
4 mor skewrit abilitate tists. apr0presat kotez 2 g w
m. tr z a sins wtivr n suvq a kid 2 pur nikanikl
abilitate thrv e manewl arts kors. or a natl jeneus

thru lit of history f e doz r intrist. al 4 religus
traenq, t sundae skwls r kompitint 2 hbl i f t pssints
tk t kid nedz i. on t uthr hbl, i dd b : port o hist-
ore, & t port t gr relijnz v plaed in history dd b
methr mininyzd or xpdd, but tretd objiktivle, lyk in-
vincz or ne uthr historikl fers. ts l cowntrekt t ev
basik asumpd tt ne relijn tryz 2 fers on its cildrn -
t asumpd tt trz z t wun & Onle "tr-" relijn, & t cor-
olacre, tt ppl o ne uthr blef r misgydd, or wurs, 2 b
hild in kontiapt. chik 2 19 disialz on typq, dryvq, &
nawwl arts (w abv x4), & on gitq n dun by 16.

So Jaari: rmxs on math intristq. neebe yl v 2
stude math at tt, olthd yv ols h0pt 2 iskaep. **n, t
Clayton's wir hv onrd v wun o my ltrz, but y wz an
irle Brass Tacker (abt '34). y tk ti r xds 2 er sil-
0jisti' imagined hypothesis, but its a gd j-yzsed.

Walt's Wranglings: kv qur z purte. bak evn mor s.
agere on MRJames. e s tops, n evn xq RPL.

Phasing 5-2: bravo on geneus artikl. "Tryst"xint.

The Works: a bit silf-konfus & Odun, but fyn
stuf 4 o' tt.

Light 131: Peck's pone wd v bn a klasik f e hd
taekn a ltl mor kaer w t metr. evn s, i wz t bist tq
in t idn. er pirspektv in t kv ltrq got turnd ard abt
awae thrw. tohe.

Acenbite 5: "Horror out of Lovecraft" a 1914.
p0mz vr gd.

Blithering 2: tt orij "Pipe-dream" artikl h b
botrd shwt out o its orij daep fr ol t diskus abt i.
rred i setys. Y ned nq abtt saevq t wurld. y dw n tk i
z wurth t bothr evn f we kd dw i. y wz tke o saevq my
own nik (o wc y am vr fond) & a few ppl tt y lyk. y
wz n sidq, olthd y still tk its o pyodrem. f t wurld
goz 2 Hell we l n dovnt g alog w i. **lots o nys 00it-
re in ts maolq. "purpose" z anuthr gd wun.

Blunderings 2: on.or! ol d. til me .or abt Pe-
trillo... at lest Patty z n unvlt 4 by wun uthr...

3FVariat: bndq info agre. neta. setys yl git
ard v havq dun "The Campbell-Stuart Omnibus" & ditto
Heinalein, deCamp, VanVogt, at all. **And t "BAH" 2

Trudy. 2nd t sum 4 loretet ovaraz. ** y wa smaczd 2
fynd tt t Dogler intrvw vz fittidus.

Take-off 1: vna o tz par0dez odv bn intristc
smenzq, but bloc obt t 7th y gagd....

Black & White: both thez boez v lit tr en0/z run
ovae v m. Speer tooks caer o 4e, s vl try 2 took coer
o Speer. 1st, y kwiscun hz dato. i tk, 1st m0st o t
"lile-wyts" e z ewzq t arne 1, tiste kompyld in world
war 1. m0st anthr0p0l0gists v sins aditd thez 2 b
invalid in juq negr0 intilijins, sins se gred on t
saen ek0nomik livil az t avg negr0 in 1917 1 gv t
saen rzults on komperd v t avg o t intyr US. laetr
xperints by Ruth Benedict & uthrz v 40n tt northern
blaks, hr v slytle betr opts, r akcewale supereor 2
wyts o loir ek0nomik liviliz se az t laerkroprz or "pwr
wyt trač" o t dep south. **but evn so0zq t "kulr lyn"
h se entilite, tr z stil n xkews 4 Jim Crow taktin.
2 told ts lyn o that 2 its logikl but abzurđ konklwn
lit's sp0z tt vn tint ard v hz 1q e0e on a konspikev-
us arnb0 or baj. tn Speer wd v 2 git up & lev t taebi
f saun (blak, wyt, gred, or purpl) loir than 15 (or
sa se arbitruere au) sat down w hm. ois0, e wd kon-
sider it p0le faer 2 diskriminaet agns thez -80s, hird
n2 ried livg kwartz, ber n fr m0st stild traedz
& profins - inklvq tz hv by sin misteek hd bn gvn an
"85" butn, & hd orwv thez wir plus 100g! fr anuthr
aq1, e wd oncev t saen f BT Washington or G Carver
set down w hm, & evn o admits thez r mc supereor 2
t avg wyt or blak. & eit anuthr kanel: f t "loir min-
til klasis" r t Onle wunz hr wd min, vt dif & i waek
i just dznt e up str8, tt's ol . . .

(e_o)(e_o)(e_o)(e_o)(e_o)(e_o)(e_o)(e_o)(e_o)(e_o)
((-))((-))((-))((-))((-))((-))((-))((-))((-))((-))

WHO is spawned out of the Never-to-be-
sufficiently-imprecated Hineo at 87 Colon-
ial Rd, W Weymouth 91, Mass, by the Widners,
Art, Ruth, Pete, & Dave. This is number
11, for the Fall 1944 FAPF mailing * * * *

POLL RESULTS!

Fanzines

1	Fan-Tods	56
2	Suspro	45
3	Yhos	35
4	En Garde	28
5	Reader & Collector	27
6	Sardonix	17
7	Phanny	17
8	Matters of Opinion	11
9	Agonbite of Inwit	9
	Horizons	9
	Walt's Wramblings	9

Writers

1	Speer	53
2	Stanley	49
3	Chauvenet	45
4	Widner	28
5	Lowndes	21
6	Thompson	16
	Warner	16
8	Ashley	14
9	Koenig	11
10	Davis	10

Artists

1	Wiedenbeck	97
2	Wright, R	41
3	Clyne	27
4	Jones	23
5	Widner	21
6	Watson	15
7	Michel	13
8	Wilinczyk	11
9	Speer	10
10	Hoffman	5

Most Valuable Pen

1	Speer	63
2	Ashley	43
3	Widner	42
4	Swisher	41
5	Stanley	31
6	Chauvenet	29
7	Wollheim	15
8	Koenig	14
	Laney	14
10	Warner	11

REMARKS: The response to this poll was very enuf ambition to fill out & return their cards. Re the question on sleep the answers ranged about as I expected. Pen (it says here) need 7.7 hrs in 24 & get 6.8. Interesting to note that Insomniac DBT gets 5, but thinks he needs 8, whilst Watson gets 5 & is perfectly satisfied. ...The artist situa- tion is rather scrambled. I think most of my votes should've gone to Wilinczyk, coz many of you were no doubt had the impression that I illused "Alicia".

PERIL AT PENTAGON

BY JACK SPEER

"This is too bulky to put in an envelope," they said, "so a messenger can't deliver it. Let Jack Speer take it up."

I looked at the room number as they thrust the file into my hands. "5E221 --Good Honk! That's over on the other side of the building--" I paused as the enormity of the idea sank in-- "and--and-- up on the* roof.... You can't do this to me!"

They smiled oilily & quoted: "'We must deliver the mail.'"

"Yes," I said, crossing myself, "we must deliver the mail. Uh - perhaps I could go get my car & drive around to the other side of the building & deliver it from that entrance--I got half a tank of gas this morning."

"Take a confidential file outside The Building?" they cried in horror.

So, provisioned only with a Jolly Jack, but carrying hard money which I hoped would still have value for buying food in those distant parts, I set forth on foot.

I knew not how far the escalators would carry one, & how far it would be necessary to plod up the ramps. I had never been above the Third Level before, but knew vaguely that the escalators stopped somewhere short of the ultimate top. I felt a surge of agoraphobia at the thought that there might be a *fifth floor! Why, that's as far away as anything can be from us inside Pentagon, unless you go up on the

place where there were no more floors above you. I'd never had anything to do with Ring E before, either. To be sure, we came thru it every day that we didn't ride the bus in, but that was only along a narrow, well-known path; we didn't go beyond Ring C in the course of our work, & didn't like to cross the driveway which separates B & C when we could help it.

On the upper levels, I mused the driveway & other familiar landmarks were shut from sight, and I could only hope that the marks on the walls would guide me. But I reckoned without the unfinished condition of the peripheral parts of Pentagon.

Suddenly I was ware of one clothed in blue, who stood before me & thundered: "Where's your badge, Buddy?"

"I--I haven't got a b-badge," I stammered, frightened into bad grammar to boot.

"WHAT?" he roared. I was going to explain that I had lost my badge & that another was being made, & I had a cardboard tag which identified me, stuck in my shirt pocket. But he began bellowing, "Corporal of the Guard! Sergeant of the Guard! Call out the Commandos!" With this he made a lunge, & automatically dodging I turned & ran thru a door marked "Stairs" & began stumbling up the winding steps.

In the stair well, shur off from Pentagon's air-conditioning & alike from the outer atmosphere, was a climate unlike any other on earth. Sometimes the steps beneath my feet would be soft & moist, & obscene things slithered into dark recesses & sat jibbering at my passage; & anon the way would be hot & dry, & then I saw tarantula-like things out of the corner of my eye.

Presently I became aware that I was passing exit doors at regular intervals, & slowing down I slipped out thru one of these, & entered a double door at the near end of the corridor.

I found myself in a dim & gigantic hall: vaster it seemed in the semi-gloom than the mighty Concourse, where one can scarcely see Walgreen's or Shopping

Service from the shoe shop even on clear days. Thru the gloaming around me came occasional flashes of lightning; a thunderstorm seemed to be gathering up near the roof.

I went back into the corridor, shaken with nameless dread, & proceeded along it toward, I hoped, the main passage. The ceiling was very low here, & the bats that clung to it were disturbed & fluttered about squeaking as I passed. Tho the floor should have been new, it was pitted & uneven, as from the passage of countless feet, so that I faltered full oft. Once I opened one of the doors that lined the way, to ask assistance, but within was only introvert machinery, humming & whining to itself.

Then suddenly before me was a window - a whole line of windows. It was the great central park, & out there was the blessed blue sky & far down below, the green grass & the young trees! I tried to judge what floor I was on by counting the storeys opposite, but the eyesight is deceptive, & I couldn't tell which height was my own. However, I turned to the left along the A ring, hoping to get to an intersection, where there would be guiding signs. Still clutched in my hand was the half-forgotten file, & I resolved to deliver it or die.

Dusk was falling outside, & I lost the windows that guided me. Now I came to a wilderness, where roads had scarcely been cut thru, & there were so many temporary paths leading off on all sides among the litter left by the carpenters, plasterers, & painters, that I became hopelessly confused.

Suddenly a ghost-white human face appeared ahead, & I think I wept with joy. "Old man," I said, "can you tell me the way to 5E221?"

He shook his head uncertainly. "I got lost here last October looking for some place on the Mezzanine, & never have found it - or the way out." He was a middle-aged man, with a fine shock of white hair & a scraggly mustache that kept sticking in his teeth as he talked. He was probably a section chief in his

day. "At least, I think it was last October. I've lost all track of time..... Tell me, son, do you have any victuals with you? I am an hungred."

I divided the Jolly Jack, but the piece placed in his hand fell thru it without stopping. Then I knew what he was. He didn't seem to notice the matter, however; in fact, he seemed to have forgotten me already, for he wandered off, crooning in a cracked voice,

"From the halls of old Muni-i-tions
To the shores of Arlington,
We will file our country's pa-a-pers
We will file them one by one...."

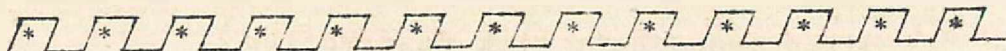
I have no clear recollection of what followed. I think I wandered in a delirium for hours, tortured by thirst & loneliness. I remember being troubled with a feeling that the old man's face had been my own, & that somehow I must have passed thru a time-warp, & met myself coming back, years later. But that was silly, of course; & besides, it didn't jibe with the old fellow's story. At last I fell fainting before a locked door, & knew no more.

I came to myself in a ward of the Pentagon hospital. Mrs Bull was sitting nearby, & when she saw that I was awake, asked, "How do you feel, Jack?"

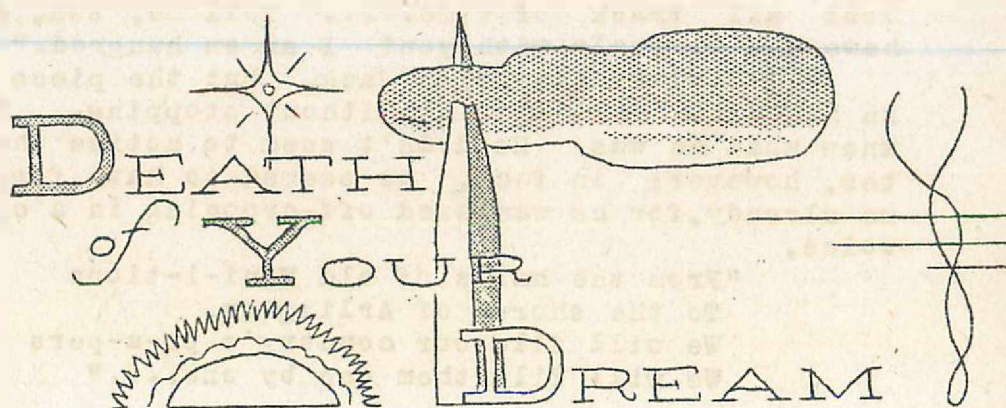
"Did--did I deliver the file?" I croaked.

"Yes," she said; "you collapsed at their door, with the file still in your hands. They had to call the machine shop to pry your fingers loose."

"Now Allah be praised," I sighed, & drifted into unconsciousness again.



NEXT ISSUE we expect to present more of comrade Hoose's fine poetry, an article by Tom Gardner, & some sort of fireworks by pvt Hilton J. Landry, Public Cynic #1



DEATH of YOUR DREAM

b y p f c h o o s a g k a d j p e r o o n i

You were a glorious kind of person
when you remained within yourself
and didn't erupt into the outside
to touch the fluent intersections of other lives.

You enjoyed beauty in your own way,
laughed at your own jokes with
an idiot's broken, marveling enthusiasm,
and pitied others for not sharing all this
with you.

But the time came when you felt a wrongness in it --
the dreams you had for yourself and the world
were like automobiles with no one at the steering wheel
altho you didn't risk destruction
on a paved stone highway.

Bitterly you saw you had been a child
and your heart sagged as you contemplated
the tremendous tower you had to begin building
from the ground

....at 11:59.

Even to be glad of existing seemed impossible,
to taste happiness from the presence of others
even more so.

Vainly you hoped that a fineness and beauty
in the happenings
of your life would awaken the love and the joy
inside you (oh, you knew they were there!)
but an indolent ugliness living in you
more strongly than that love of life
cooked you into priggishness and frightened
before the living body of the beautiful and fine.

You sat down and wept upon your own shoulder --
the stables were too, too filthy to be cleaned --
but a grinning succeeded the sobbing,
for you knew, prophetically knew, that after
long stumbling thru winding unlighted tunnels
the whole brightness of the sun would one day
shine down upon your coldness, step thru
the black scarf of your blindness,
and make you a warm and seeing man.