

AFROGIWOOD is the sort of magazine you might expect to find in a SAPS mailing. With any luck you will find it in a SAPS mailing; the 60th, or July 1962 Mailing. I very much doubt that this is the 15th anniversary Mailing. John M. Foyster, 4 Edward St., Chadstone SE 10, Victoria, Aust., started writing it on April 27 and had better finish by early June. Not as easy as all that. Not with Bob Smith down here until the middle of May.



Having mentioned this Bob Smith fellow, I suppose I can admit having sent a copy of GRENDAL to him - you know I thought I might be able to interest him in fandom a little ... and it seems he already is slightly familiar with fans and all that. Well I was quite took aback - just imagine there being another fan of Science Fiction in Australia!! I wonder if he will buy my old copies of Amazing Stories. I hope so, because there's too many so-called fans who don't read Science Fiction any more and I have to make up for the lower sales by buying eight copies of each issue of the magazines instead of six.

Bob sent me a letter of comment or two (I'm very blase about this sort of thing - I get so many letters of comment on all them good fanzines like EMANATION that I don't want to kill the postman by publishing another issue) and to fill up space (there's no merit in the letters themselves) ((see Smith, one "t" in merit)) I suppose I can reprint some of the ~~but~~ more interesting sections:

"If anyone asked me:"who is the most likely idiot to barge into SAPS with an illegal post-mailing?" I would have had no hesitation in answering promptly: "John Foyster!"..."

Smith here establishes his authority - he cites a case to show that he would actually know me from a worm wriggling in the mud. Actually Bob is like a father to me. Just last Sunday he showed me how to get drunk quickly, then he showed me how to sleep for a couple of hours to let it wear off and finally he showed me how to treat a fawning waitinglister who kept getting in his bloody way. Bob Smith is like a father to me.

"How a young (presumably) female with the bewitching name of "Tatiana" could write such unmitigated balderdash has me fascinated. No doubt it has suffered somewhat in translation, but even so some of the passages are sheer delight.

"...the names of girls who have stepped into a pigsty for the first time today..."! I am glad that she considers the task of building communism no picnic, and no doubt Comrades Marx, Lenin, Engels and Stalin (shhhh!) would find that heartening. It is humourous, and it is also quite pathetic." I'm glad you appreciate my reasons for including this item. If you appreciate

them, then almost certainly all the other SAPs will. Uncle again. It will be interesting to see how many relate this episode to the whole of our modern civilisation. The exaltation of the virtues of mediocrity and conformity is becoming one of the main tasks of the mass media in our time. I hesitate to mention this in a family magazine, but I was arreading of one of them Buck Rogers magazines a couple weeks ago and it had a story by two fellas named Pohl and Kornbluth about this very matter. The Feb. '62 GALAXY, mate. Yet recently I saw a Penguin called - I think - "The Rise Of The Meritocracy".

"Honest, I can't recall the title of that thing Bert Weaver sent us". I could a little while ago, for I still have my copy. What say we put it through SAPS?

"Filthy Foyster has infiltrated SAPS, it seems..."



"I haven't seen anything like it since Shapiro left SAPS...."

Well.

Now then, what high-class topic can I write about for the next, oh, 17 lines that will make you ordinary mortals fear and tremble at my mighty intellect? A pretty restricted field unfortunately, and I'm pretty sure you wouldn't be interested in "Bookbinding for the Melbourne Science Fiction Club Library", fascinating subject though that may be.

In just a moment, friend, you're going to find yourself at the end of this 'zine, but before you rejoice I should point out that I was trying to cover the whole mailing, and that next time, next time, mind you, all will not be so well - I'll start earlier. My thanks to John Straede, who loaned his typer for this and for The Spectator and for Grendel ad. naus. - and to Chris Bennie, who cut the stencil illoes above (and loaned his typer) - also a crumb named Bob Smith, who provided the illoes and isn't going to kiss and tell, are you Smith???

D'you think JoKe would accept Pelz' verse if he said he was OE of SAPS?

uwoingho - BOY'S OWN MAILING COMMENTS -

DIE STAATENGESCHICHTE, WISSENSCHAFT, UND ICH 5 : Schultz. It wasn't until I looked very closely and saw that the front cover was not drawn by a human that I realised the truth of your "all-cartoon" proclamation. Whassa matter with Australia, buddy?? The attacks by wild aborigines are decreasing year by year, and pretty soon we'll have the bastards under control. They're building a railway line or something from Melbourne to Geelong and a fast clipper takes only 3 months from the Old Country. That's progress, dammit. The remainder of yer editorial is a little hard to comment on, somehow.... I know all about you pseudo-pacifists - you just want peace for yourselves and your fellow pseudo-humans. Down with this rotten idea, I say!

The trouble with Socialism is that it has to work with human beings. Indeed, this is the trouble with most politico-religio-cum-thingo systems. I steer clear of the Socialist groups at Melbourne University for reasons somewhat akin to this problem. Most members of the more moderate group are middle-class and up, although there are some members of the proletariat involved. Most of the MC members are involved because of, perhaps, a slight twinge of that thing some call conscience, more likely, because it is a little ... daring. Yet their views, in just about all cases, are 99% theoretical. I can instance the case of the President of the MU Australian Labour Party Club (this is the group referred to above) who has been out of work all this year - who has refused to take work offered him by the Government Employment office all year - and so has been living off the sweat of the working class all year. The actuality of Socialism means nothing to him - except for a handout occasionally from a friend. He isn't bad at arranging demonstrations - ones which skirt the city proper and cause no disturbance. Other members publish a journal called - paradoxically - DISSENT - this seems to be the last aim of this group. The other group is the militant Communist (note caps) body - this I cannot join on idealistic grounds. That's my trouble.

As a believer in apartheid - in the sense that USA and Australia are apart, no, in the sense that India and Japan are apart - I must object weakly to your African mutterings, matey. Unfortunately the situation in Africa is much the same for those "emergent nations" as it is for many countries in South America. All things take time, and time is one of the things which is running out for the white man in South Africa. Therefore I am in a sort of musty agreement with you, except that I find the present state more desirable than the immediately past state, but of course, it is what the Africans prefer that counts, isn't it?

"I feel as if I had a cannon ball in my stomach."

Do you mean we might as well forget post-atomic survival or high radiation tolerance? If the former, you might be interested in joining my new peace group. I'm calling it "Suicide for Life". And mentioning suicide, are you a neffer? can I sell you protection? what will we call our party?

A page of comment on DIE STAATENGESCHICHTE, WISSENSCHAFT, UND ICH 5? Why that's fantagagsplutter.

DIE WIS 5: (cont.) This almost certainly doesn't apply to you, Dick, but it is an interesting quote anyhow. (UNESCO Courier - October 1960) "Instead of being accepted as normal and foreseeable, the mistakes and hesitations made by the newly-independent peoples as they pass through the trying initial periods of autonomy are interpreted in racist terms by certain people as proof of racial inferiority.

THE SPIRIT OF HORSE CREEK: I found this damn funny, and that punchline snuck up entirely unsuspected. More please. Please?

THE FIRST FOUR YEARS OF THE GREAT WAR: That's excellent mimeography if your plaintive tale is true. "Coughing in my pocket"? How do you manage that? I guess it isn't your hip pocket that you cough into. Into which you cough. You know, I never get any checks in boxes.

ESFA PROGRAM: Awright, so it met with a unanimous vote. Which way?

POT-POURRI 22: Interesting, but I can't recognize your version of hearts as being anything like the game of hearts I once played. In fact, if this was going only to you, I'd probably confess that I couldn't understand it at all. But I don't want to seem ignorant in front of all these people. I can see you going for the stapling in The Spectator in a big way.

OUTSIDERS 47: Ulp! I'm guilty of that one-shelter bit. At the time (9-10 months ago) it may have been true - but even then it was only a radio report. Those aren't one-horse towns by any chance? I don't think the name "Titty" was all that optimistic for a pre-teen. I've seen considerable evidence to the contrary on occasion. I agree that a city survivor would have the odds against him; probably because of the necessity of battling with the ailments. Agree again that fans are not really radical to any extent. In fact.

"How Hamsun you are looking!" cried the fan.

might be a fair comment on fandom as a whole. Well, this is 50% better than last time.

SPACEWARP 74: No, Art, not "insulting" or "degrading" but "wasteful" perhaps. National Service has been outed here for some 3 years or so now. I was to have been in the last intake, but it was cancelled. Though a pacifist, I was prepared to go - probably in order to see that my opinion was correct. The important phrase is obviously "defense of the country" - how? from whom?.... "superiority to the common clods of the world"? But you admit yourself that you really think that military service will "make a man of ya". Yes, it will certainly make something of you - whether that thing is a man is another matter. IRA = Irritated Real damn Aussie. "Hazel" has a bit of green in it I think. I has hazel eyes and they look kinda greenish at times. I guess reading speed for Planet depended on whether you read those funny little wriggly lines, or just looked at the pictures - I was, and still am, one of the latter class; you'd be surprised how quickly I read F&SF. An NFFF recruiter in SAPS - please no. Enjoyable as all hell MC's - and the reprints still to come!

page four, to coin a phrase.