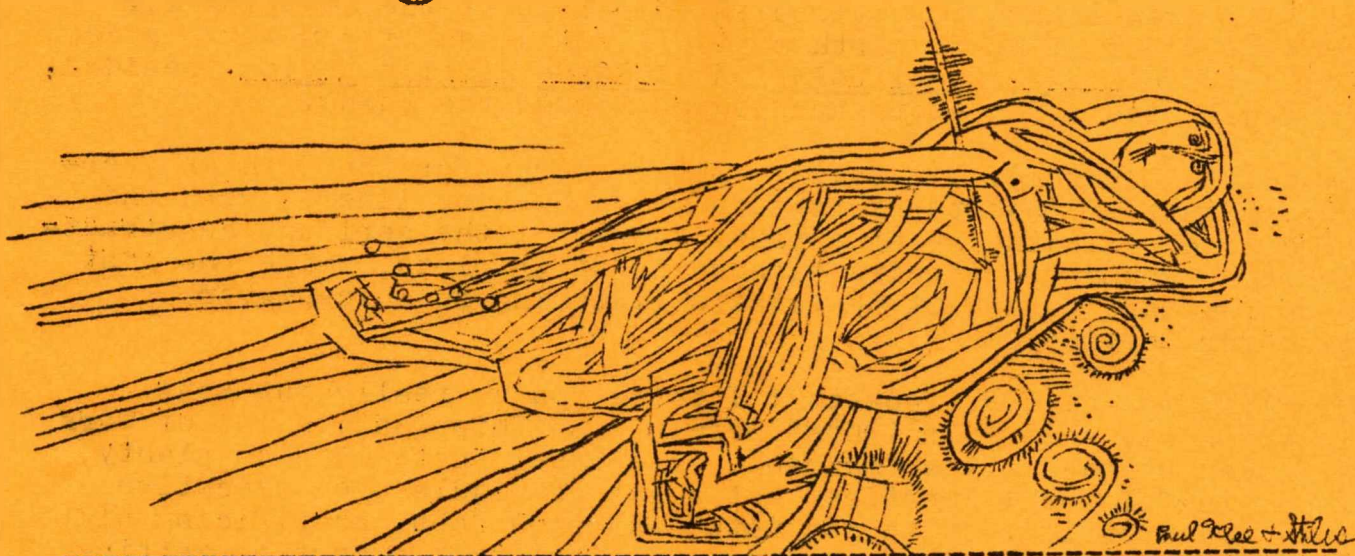


star begotten



STAR BEGOTTEN #1 is written by Steve Stiles, who is at 427 57th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11220. Mimeography by WERTYUIOPress.

Not a hell of a lot has been happening these past few months worth writing about. I had started out first drafting a piece on the Lupoff's' move to California, and what that was was an astute observation that New York fandom has been through a lot of changes in these last few years, most of them being subtractions. The people who have split being Mike McInerney, Barbare Dodge, Dave and Cindy Van Arnem, Dan Adkins, and, for this coming September, Ted and Robin White. Sure makes a body think. About New York's almost irreversable decay. I think that sooner or later I'll wind up on the West Coast, but I still have a few more years to futz around with here. It's my karma, and you don't mess with your karma, mother.

This last month has mainly been an uncomfortable one for me; I've had a series of nagging toothaches, a breakup with a girl friend, and as I type this I seem to be having another attack from some kind of flu virus. Crap! Ah, well, like the phoenix I shall rise from the ashes, for I am Star Begotten. (Hence the title.)

Other things that have been happening is that my youngest brother wants to become a policeman. And that I have discovered that listening to Jelly Roll Morton can be fun, and that Miles Davis' "Bitches Brew" album is very beautiful --so things haven't been a total loss anyway.

Since not a hell of a lot has been happening these last few months, I will chose not to write about these nonentities among happenings, and move into the mailing comments. Wow, it sure has been a long time since my last "crack" at mailing comments. I don't have any system for checking back to exactly when I last had mailing comments in FAPA, but it certainly was a long time ago. Yes. Therein lies the kernal of the problem; I haven't gotten around to really filing the mailings --so the last three are scrambled and scattered through the immensity of my (5 1/2 room) apartment. This certainly makes it difficult to comment on the little buggers!

Incidentally, TAFF TERROR TALES #3 will be distributed in this mailing, even though it will be in August, past the deadline for votes. But TTT might be worth a giggle for those of you who missed seeing it in Locus, Focal Point and Science Fiction Review. Besides, I'm stuck with a few extra hundred copies of the thing.

KIM CHI (Ellington): I'm saving all my energy for the 50th anniversary. #Stuff on page three reminds me of cartoon liners, with the third line reminding me of a party where all the serious, constructive types wound up upstairs discussing their plots, while the rest of us remained wiped out downstairs listening to Quicksilver Messenger Service.

FUTURIAN COMMENTATOR (Tackett): I think you've really put your finger on why some "straights" resent some "hippies". A lot of work is indeed unnecessary & "makedo". Of course, there is also plenty of meaningful work; I notice that a lot of middle aged executive types are dropping out to get into craftsmen jobs, sacrificing big checks for more creative pursuits. #I guess things must be getting hotter around your area, or at the Placitas commune, as Taos violence towards the communes has now been reported in the above-ground press (Rolling Stone), and, yes, it's felt the chicanos have been responsible for sniping, burning, etc. I wonder why they feel threatened by the hippies... #Rising book rates are a pain. I recently got my old book collection (prior to 1965) out of storage, and noticed that I had two copies of Arthur C. Clarke's "The Deep Range"; the '64 edition was going for .95, the 1967 copy for \$1.25.

Criticism can be a bluebird.

DAMBALLA (Hansen): Nice cover by Walker --the repro gives it an old Unknown look, and his style is not unlike Cartier's. #Ted Sorenson, a rather self serving "liberal" is running for office in New York and making noise to the effect that space funds should be cut down ("I, for one, am in no hurry to go to Mars."). Is there anybody in FAPA who doesn't know, by this time, that it cost each individual American the grand total of thirteen cents to land those men on the moon? #I am not as down on news media as you are, as I used to be. Callous it is, yes. Often biased and opinionated, yes. But there seems to be a spirit of muck raking now that is well needed, Spiro Agnew to the contrary. #Now that I am long haired, bearded and dissevelled, does this mean you will consider me filthy and smelly? #Ah, that jaded Raeburn!

DOORWAY (Benford): Read & enjoyed. Brings back the memories. I had the same reactions to the three wheeled cars & the superiority of Guinness over American beers. London pubs, by and large, seem to be friendlier places to be at than New York bars --the latter having a loser aura about them.

VANDY (Coulsons): I'm a bit teed off with the cyclamate scare as our studio has Pepsi as one of its accounts, and one week we spent each evening into the wee small hours revising all the Diet Pepsi

bottle and box labels for inspection by the FDA. Revising in triplicate, of course. I don't remember my source, and can't check on the verity of it, but I've heard it said that the lab animals who were tested with cyclamates were fed abnormally high doses of the stuff ---and for the same results, humans would have to guzzle improbable amounts of diet cola per week, per month, per year. So you may well be right about the sugar lobby. Nothing surprises me about business lobbies these days.

FANTASY AMATEUR: I see Dave Van Arnam is about to get in; good, we are all launching for news of Mexico adventures. And Dave has always been an entertaining writer. #I personally resent it that the "Weird & Perverted" category has been eliminated.

BOBOLINGS (Pavlat): Last issue you had some questions about TAFF which, you noticed, I neatly fielded by not doing any mailing comments in A Day At The Races. But to answer you as I remember the questions, yes --there was some doubt about having a TAFF race for the Heicon. These doubts were raised and expressed by one other fan in the NY area. Two factors influenced Eddie & I; we were not sure how many fans actually would be taking advantage of the charter flight, and (2) we didn't want to spite the Heicon, particularly since German fans had been quite active in the last two TAFF vote turn outs.

MOONSHINE (Moffatts): This reminds me, I promised you a cover some months ago, and haven't delivered; this is because I'm slow...

My first "fanac" was for a school weekly called the YYC Globe. It consisted of the adventures of submarine commander versus the evil flying saucers. #While most of this is interesting, nostalgia over fanac in the 40s provides little comment hooks for a newcomer like me; my idea of ancient personal fan history starts out in 1957, with Cry of the Nameless #116.

DIE SCHMETTERLING (Schultz): As I mentioned in my last fanzine, drug taking among school kids around here isn't limited to grass, which may even be looked down upon as tame, but seems to center around the harder drugs, such as barbituates. It seems difficult to understand as there has been a wealth of information about these drugs. I can only remember my own lower class honky schoolkid days, when a lot of daring went into proving adolescent manhood --like drinking until barfing or/and passing out; I mean, real manhood. #Good luck on your new career possibilities; sounds good. Hey, I used to make wire dies a few years ago...

ALTJIRA (Foyster): Thanks again for your help with TAFF, John, but may I suggest that the reason low interest in TAFF exists among, say, Australian and Japanese fans is that their fandoms are now directly affected by the outcome of the race; that is, they won't get to meet the TAFF man... However, I'd be glad to supply you with however many copies of the race results you require.

"Space can be luscious."

SERCON'BANE (Buzby): Gee, everytime you mention that you've resumed smoking it is so tempting for me to announce that you were the straw on the camel's back to get me off the weed. I imagine that's wearing thin now. Actually, the anti smoking tv commercials were largely instrumental; they were very upfront, well done, and generally irrefutable. They also helped me become aware of the habit of smoking --whereas once upon a time lighting up was sheer unconscious habit. But tobacco, the killer weed, can be insidious; in the middle of this month's nervous-making scenes I had a heavy flash to start smoking, and even copped one of Colleen Brown's Newports. Put it on the table, picked up matches, picked up cigarette, put down matches, picked up cigarette. Real "Lost Weekend" scene. But I didn't smoke it as I knew that one cigarette led to another, and then another, and another --a whole pack; two packs! Smoking cigars, and then inhaling on them! Now if I can only get over this manic compulsion to suck on blankets.

Aha, you reinforce my foggy information on cyclamates. Which makes me bitter wasting all my spare time for nonsense. I'm not that turned on to advertising these days, regarding it as moral & esthetic pollution. I've given it up as a permanent career, like. You've probably noticed the sudden spate of ads from the fuel, lumber, energy and oil companies; nature's best friends, they are. They'd rather reroute a power line than disturb that rabbit warren. Yes. There's a good article on the subject in the forth issue of Scanlan's. Besides demolishing specific advertising claims, it points out that it is cheaper for polluting companies to snow the public with ads than attempt real ecological improvement, because big advertising budgets can always be cancelled by raising prices. Ayn Rand never covered this.

A clarinet falling downstairs shows it is like many other things.

ROUNDSHOT (Evers): I enjoyed the Bond novels on the camp level; they made good subway & on the john reading. My first introduction to Fleming was through "Alligator", the Harvard Lampoon production.

I think you're being a bit arbitrary in assigning those values and qualities to "mainstream" and "fringe" "hippies"; quick like a bunny, I can think of three people who live by wits &/or dealing, who are well-read, aware, talented, and so forth. #Is Turning On a book or a magazine?

RAMBLING FAP 49 (Calkins): This kind of thing is good to have. I've promised myself that I'd vote in two of the past egoboo polls, but... Lack of action is not because I disdain the poll, but because I'm the type who is always overdrawn at the bank, forgetting to pay rent, etcetera. Next year! (Even though #Weird & Perperty" category has been withdrawn.)

In keeping with the remarks above, it behooves me to mention that I've misplaced Horizons and Boggs' zines, so this is as good a place as any to end these mailing comments --particularly since I am at the end of the stencil. #I'll be in San Francisco in August; see some of you there, I hope.