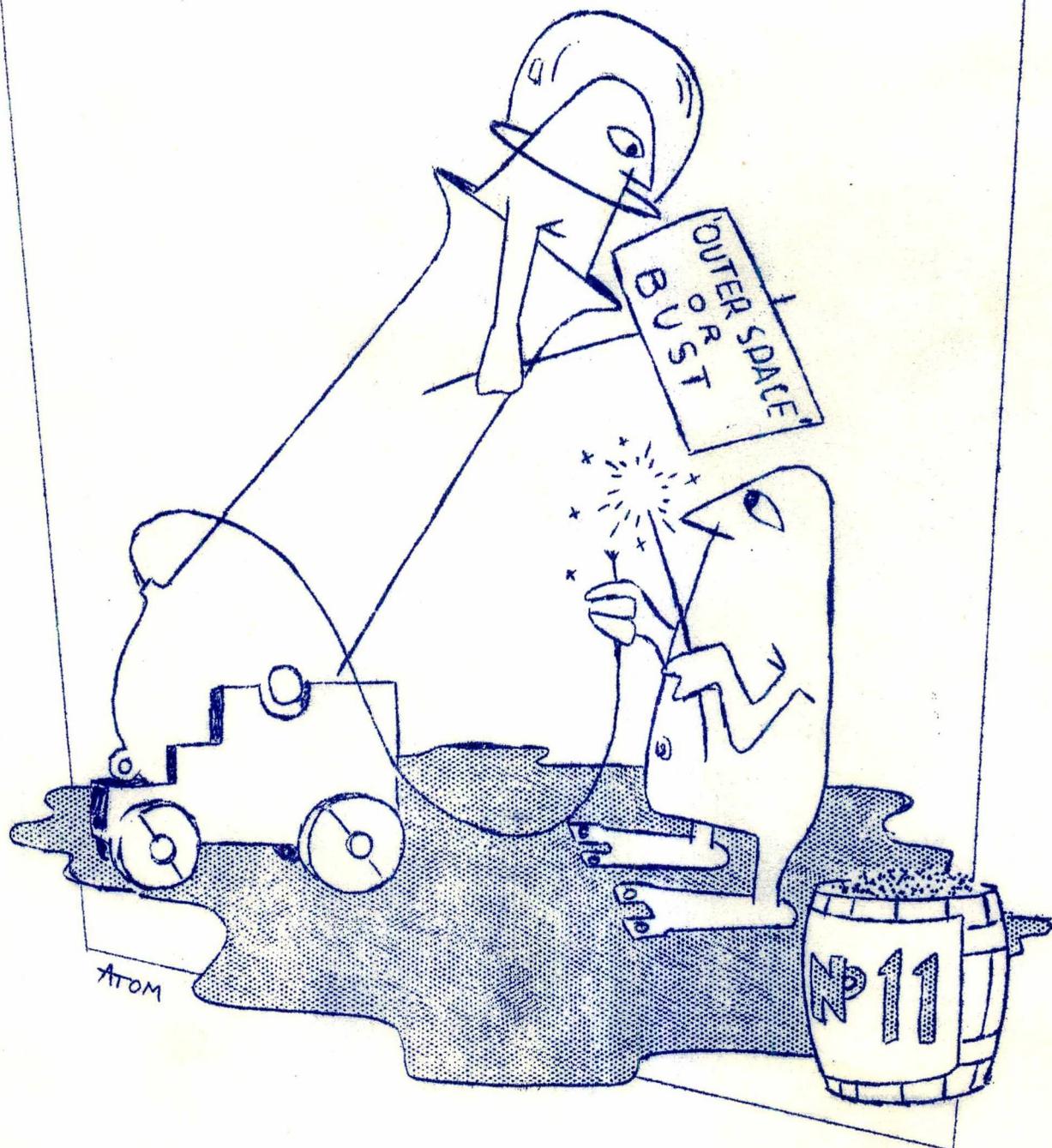
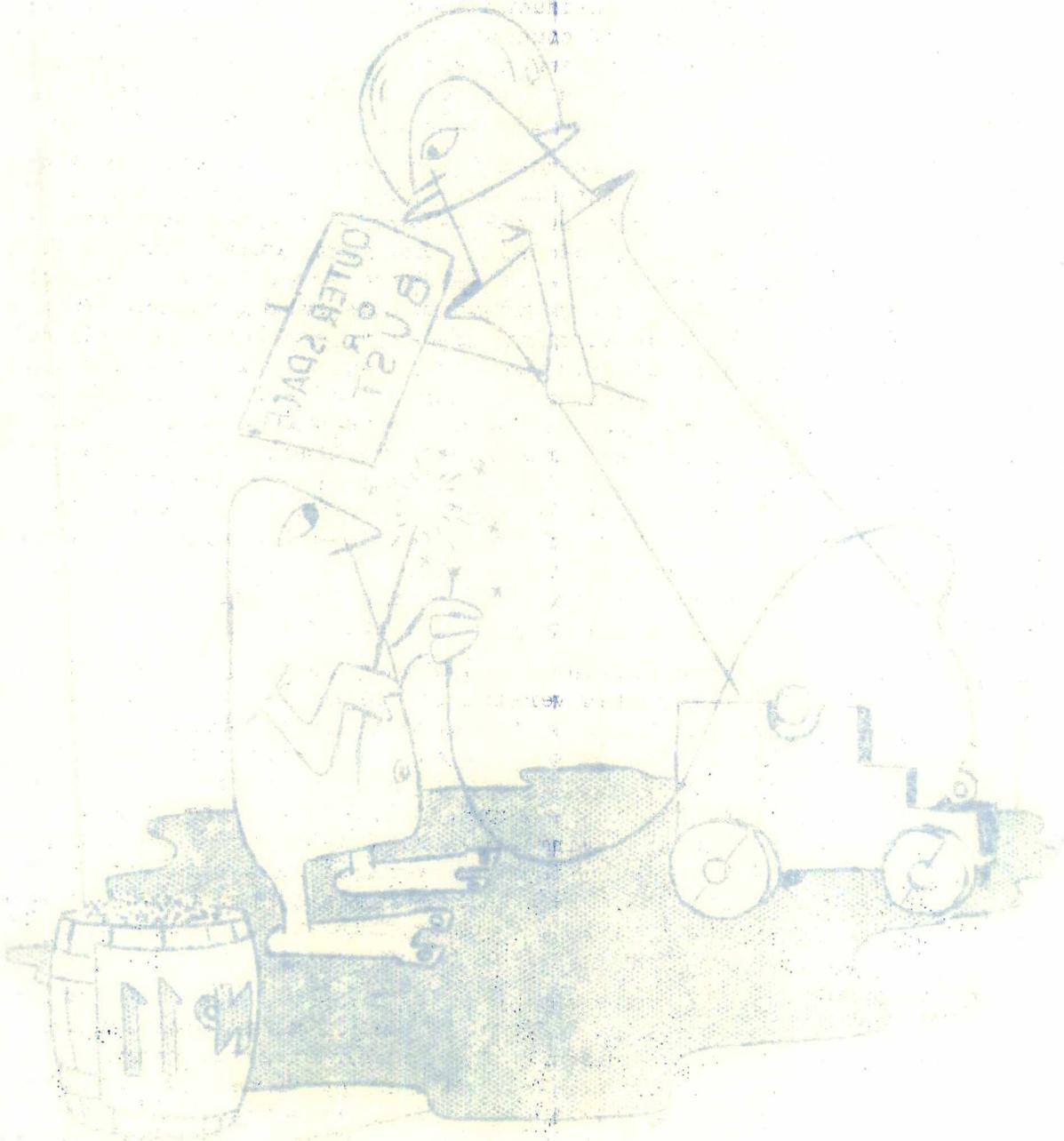


APORRHETA



REPORT



1959
May-June

A P O R R H E T A 11

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ARTWORK

by Arthur Thomson,
Joy K Clarke,
and Bjo.

*****HPS 48*****

The box below should be closely examined! 'RE' = Regular Exchange. A number indicates the last issue due to you according to my records. If the number is 11, perhaps you'd like to do something to make certain of No. 12 - such as sub?

REx

COMING SHORTLY

To begin with, the format used in this issue will remain static for some time to come - well, at least until I have the urge to experiment again. The idea of the continuous Diary didn't work out, and as the letters of comment came in I found myself more and more in agreement with the writers. There was support for the idea, but it was late in arriving, and by that time I'd made up my mind to revert to this.

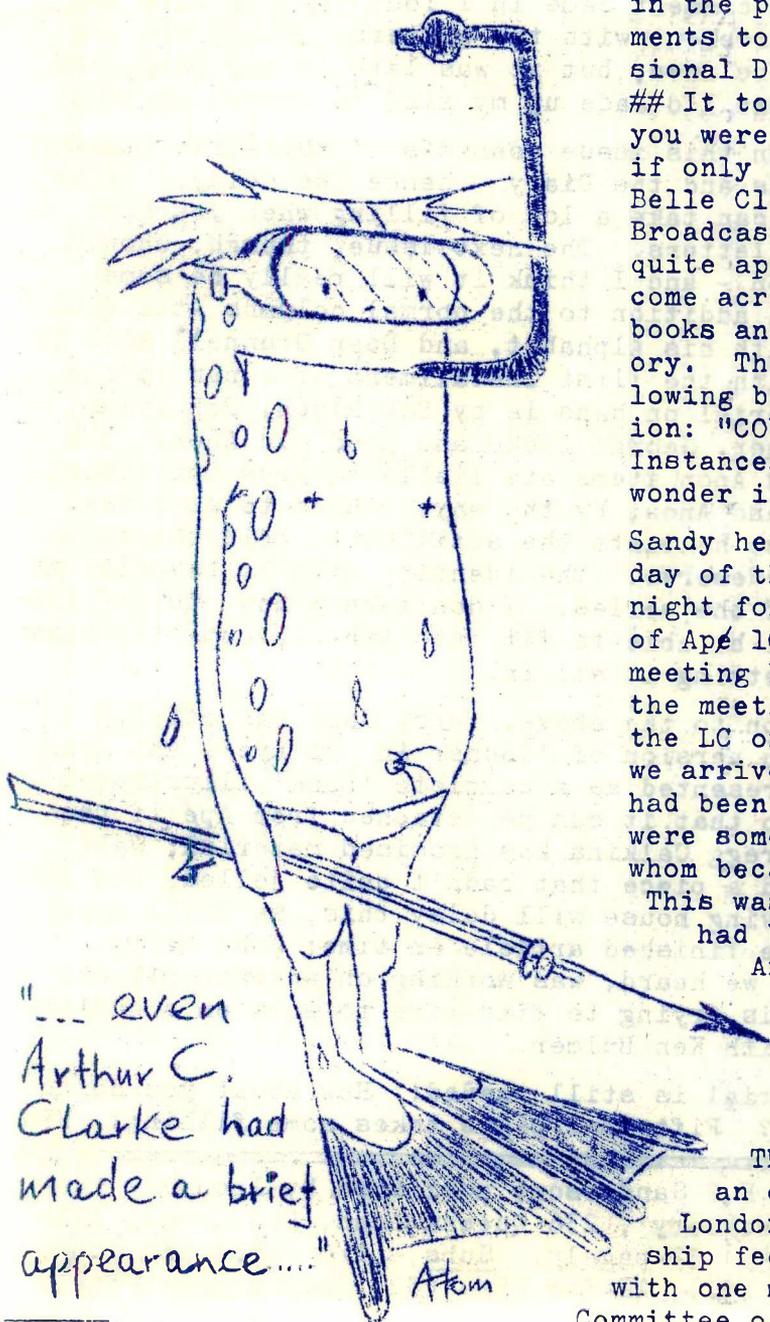
Material in this issue consists of the three standard columns and the Diary - hence the delay. Fifty two pages can take a lot of filling when you have to depend on letters. The next issue, though, should be out soon - and I think it will really be something. In addition to the normal columns Atom will be back with his Alphabet, and Dean Grennell will be present with the first installment of a new column. Other material on hand is by Bob Bloch, Bob Leman, Harry Warner, George Locke and good old Anon. The Warner and Anon items are liable to grow into short series - and Anon, by the way, wishes to stay that way because he wants the articles to gain the attention they deserve. The identity will be revealed at the end of the series. I don't know how much of the above I'll be able to fit into Apr 12, but I'll have a go at getting it all in.

In addition to the above, Terry Carr has offered a re-written version of 'Cacher in the Rye', and this will be presented as a complete 'book' illustrated by Atom so that it can be detached from Apr if required. Gregg Calkins has promised material; Walt Willis had a piece that hadn't quite jelled, and although moving house will delay this, we still hope to get the finished article in time; John Berry, last time we heard, was working on another serial; and Vinç is trying to find time to work on a collaboration with Ken Bulmer.

But, material is still needed! How about you doing something? Fifty-two pages takes some filling! HPS

Edited by H P Sanderson; published by Inchmery Fandom at 'Inchmery', 236 Queens Road, New Cross, London S E 14. 52-pagely. Subs - 1/6 (15¢) per copy, 6 for 8/- (\$1), 12 for 15/- (\$2). Exchanges - 1 for 1

Inchmery fad diary



"... even
Arthur C.
Clarke had
made a brief
appearance...."

April 2nd. Letter from BRUCE PELZ, 4010, Leona Street, Tampa 9, Florida. "One item to add to GMC's letter - all states do not have their Congressional districts Gerrymandered. Florida has eight Districts, all of which follow county lines exactly, and are determined by population. The fact that they do follow the county lines is a great relief to me, since I have had about a dozen high school students come to the Tampa Library in the past couple of months on assignments to draw a map of the Florida Congressional Districts. The set-up saves work. ## It took me a while to figure out that you were attributing the "I'd be neurotic if only I had a brain" quote to Nicola Belle Clarke, instead of to the National Broadcasting Company from whom it would be quite appropriate. ## Y'know, librarians come across some very strange things -- books and people included in this category. The other day I ran across the following book in the Tampa Library collection: "COURTNEY, W.L. Old Saws and Modern Instances. London, Chapman, 1918." I wonder if I've located pre-first Fandom?"

Sandy here. April 2nd - the first Thursday of the month - and accordingly Globe night for the London Circle. As readers of Apr 10 will remember, this was the meeting Inchmery had had to fight for - the meeting we had wanted in order to get the LC on a proper footing. As soon as we arrived we realised that our action had been completely vindicated. There were some 48 members present, about 45 of whom became dues-paying during the night. This was more than twice the number that had been present on March 19th...even Arthur C Clarke had made a brief appearance...tho' it must be admitted that this was purely fortuitous and had no connection with the leaflets Vinç had sent out. The meeting went well. There was a 100% vote in favour of an official body calling itself the London Circle, and an annual membership fee of 5/- was proposed and passed with one member opposing -- by accident. A Committee of seven was then voted in - Ted

Tubb was elected Chairman by popular acclaim - he had printed up membership cards prior to the meeting and must have worked pretty hard on them - Charlie Duncombe was elected Treasurer - Sandra Hall, Secretary - Pete Taylor, Publicity - and Vinç, Ken Bulmer and Ella Parker as members without specific office. With a properly elected Treasurer I started to make arrangements to hand over the cash I'd been holding for the 'LC'. The meeting then split up into two sections with the Committee going off to discuss a club-zine and various other items. I think the most amusing point of the evening came with the election of the last two committee members. I forget who it was proposed Joy (Vinç had already been elected), and Ted Tubb and Ella Parker were proposed. Then somebody proposed Jimmy Ratigan (Dorothy, probably) and Jimmy, who had been working his way round to a nice central spot near the Chairman, ruined his chances by getting up to insist that husbands and wives could not both be on the committee. A lot of people could see his point of view, but it was hardly - well, gentlemanly is perhaps the word. Atom leaned over to me and whispered "Do you think this could be made grounds for divorce?" Anyway, the LC now has a committee, a membership fee, and a regular meeting time - the first Thursday of each month at the Globe.

April 3rd Letter from VIC RYAN, 2160 Sylvan Road, Springfield, Illinois. "Ah ha! Rotsler illo at top of p28, Apr 8. I've seen that before! a %\$_(#)# thing to do, S&y...using illos that have been printed in other fanzines...well, that's not cricket, dontchaknow..." (My friend, that illo, along with all the others that issue, was put on stencil for me by Atom - and I doubt that he'd make a mistake like that. Could be he did, of course, but I think it more likely that Rotsler actually drew two illos that were almost identical. He does have a tendency to do that, you know...)

SLANder 3 - Free if sufficient interest is shown - from Jan Sadler Penney, 51-B, McAlister Place, New Orleans 18, Louisiana. Dittoed. This is the first issue I've seen, and the general impression is that it is good. There is a short piece by Viereck concerning one Alfie that is amusing, and this is followed by a decent sized lettercol starting with a missive from Lars Bourne who objects to Jan letting the phrase 'knocked up' slip into the magazine. Lars would no doubt be very surprised to learn how many times that phrase can be used without it having the meaning he appears to be attributing to it. Jan handles her reply to the letter very well. Jan then goes on to relate Colin Wilson and GM Carr, and the issue finishes with fanzine reviews and a few odds and ends. My only objection is that front and back covers are done by DEA - an artist I have never been able to stand - but you should try to get a copy if possible...there are possibilities in this zine.

April 4th. HYPHEN 22 - Walt Willis, 27 Clonlee Drive, Belfast, N.Ireland.** (Note that address) 15¢ or 1/- per copy, or current sf mags or prozines. This issue arrived with the first post, and being a Saturday I sat up and read it in bed. It's about the nicest way I know to start a day. Atom's cover and the symbol amused us, and by the time I had started on 'Inside Coverage'..."I am Walter A. Willis. Since the early 30s I have been a science fiction fan..." I was roaring with laughter. A very nice touch, Walt. Bill Temple, Bob Leman, Vinç, Bob Shaw and a 10 page lettercol all help to make this one of the best tonics it is possible to get. Walt ends with a small box regarding letters of comment which is a masterly over-use of the art of advertising. The issue appears small (26pages) but there's really a lot in it. Get Hyphen, whatever else you do.

April
5th.

Went to the Audio Fair today with Vinç and Peter Mantell. It was very much the same as last year (although a different hotel was used) and the accent was very much on stereo. This time there had been time for development and the items on display were an improvement on last year. When we got back to Inchmery we discovered Chuck Harris had picked this day to pay us a visit. He asked Vinç about the Fair and Vinç told him that it was like a convention, only more people standing in the corridors and not so much snogging. Later we got on to the subject of Indian restaurants - it seemed Chuck had been charged 10/- for crepe suzette at one place. Still, I pointed out, this wasn't really bad when you considered that the bloke serving it had to be paid danger money. You'll probably remember that in an issue of Apé some time back I mentioned the Buckmasters having bought an Ency. Brit.? This amazed Chuck, who thought nobody ever bought the set - apart from libraries. "Why?" he said. "They have some gorgeous illos in the section on art," said Joy. "They should be at that price!" "Yes," said Joy. "But ya gotta pay for pornography!" Before he left Chuck handed over a sub for Apé - asking at the same time why I'd made it a sub-zine. Vinç told him that really it was to make it easier for him to duplicate. "I can do 35 copies quite easily," he said.

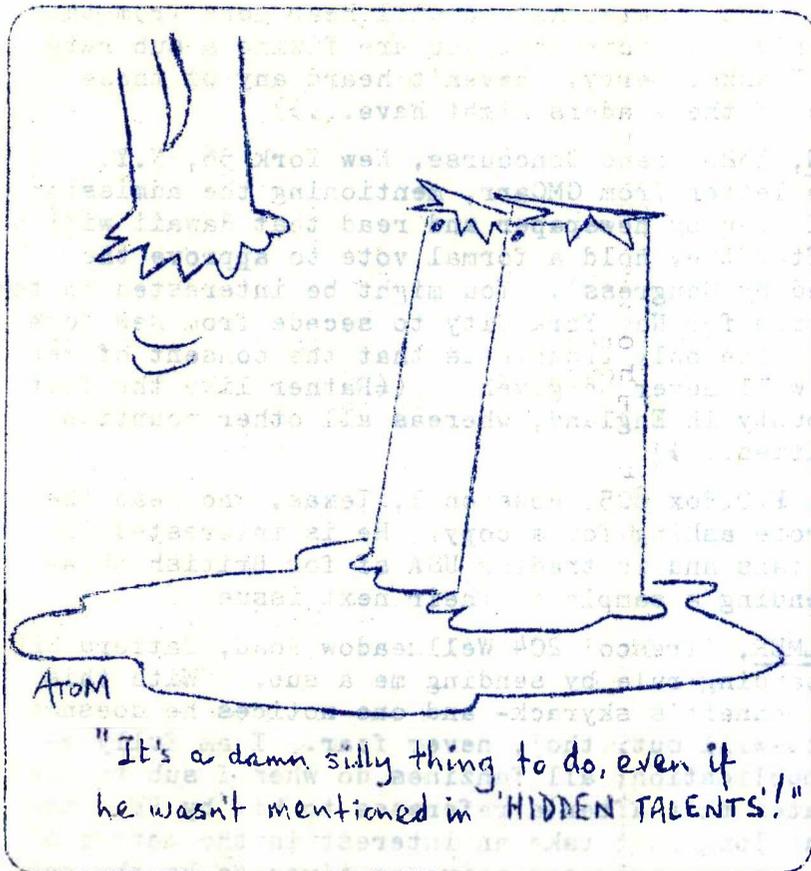
April
6th.

Postcard from BOBBIE WILD, 204 Wellmeadow Road, Catford, London S E 6, to tell us that Rory Faulkner (you'll remember her from the 1957 Worldcon) has been very sick. She is now convalescent but still finds it difficult to write more than a letter a day because she tires so easily. This is to let you know why you haven't heard from her recently.

SKYRACK 1 - Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire. 6d per copy, 6 for 2/6d. USA subs 6 for 35¢ through Bob Pavlat. This is a new venture for Ron -- a four page newsletter on the style of Fanac. The intention is to publish monthly, and I feel we should support Ron in this. This first issue deals with the Brumcon 59, the BSFA, TAFF, Dave Newman (who has, apparently, been in hospital), and holiday plans. The comments on Bill Rickhardt are heartening - for once I don't seem to be on my own.

April
8th.

Yesterday was Budget day, and today all the newspapers are telling us how better off we are. Reason for mentioning this is to enlarge on my comments to Bob Tucker an issue or so ago when we were agreeing that so far as tax is concerned G M Carr has nothing to worry about. One point - 30% of the national income is spent on 'Defence'. This, I think is lower than the percentage in the States, but I'm not sure. Purchase Tax is now reduced to a mere 50% on cars, TV and radio sets, record players, records, cosmetics and perfumery. There's a 25% tax on refrigerators, washing machines, cameras and jewellery. Tax on household hardware such as kitchen sinks is at 12½%, and clothes and furniture stay at 5%. Personal income tax is the thing though. Following the usual Tory practice of looking after the people with money first, the highest rate of tax has been cut by 9d and the lower rates by 6d. When I say highest, I mean 8/6d, the highest we are ever likely to encounter. The SuperTax rate of 19/6d in the £ stays as it is. Taking into account our style of allowances, a single man starts to pay tax on earnings above \$10.36 per week at 8¾¢ in the \$ until he earns \$13.56 pw. Tax is then at 21¼¢ in the \$ until he earns \$21.63 pw. Then at 31¼¢ in the \$ until he earns \$29.70 pw, and from there at 38¾¢ in the \$ until he earns \$119.35 pw. On every \$ above that he is taxed at 97½¢. A married man pays at the same rates but he doesn't start until he's earned \$7 more than the



single man, and his change places are correspondingly later. A married man with one child starts off another \$7 later, which means he can hold on to about two-thirds of \$133.35 per week, beyond which point it just isn't worth the effort of trying to earn more.

April 9th. The Evening News reports "Frank Wright, The Man Of Controversy Dies." The report is about 22 column inches including the headline and photos of Wright and the Solomon Guggenheim Museum which he designed. Wright had quite a following in sf circles because his architecture was often ahead of time.

April 10th. Letter from TERRY JEEVES, 58 Sharrard Grove, Sheffield 12. "The Inchmery way of life must involve clearing

the duplicating gear away in order to eat, rather than clearing the eatables away in order to duplicate. ## I've heard some criticism about the hurry with which Eric Bentcliffe and I resigned from the BSFA Committee. If anyone mentions this to you, I'd be obliged if you'd point out to them that (a) We had to resign for elections... Archie stood again, and was re-elected. (b) There was no comment about the hurry with which we jumped in to take over the vacancies left by Newman and Tubb. We both feel it's time someone else had a go at the wheel, and before anybody starts saying that the BSFA is Jeeves and Bentcliffe. We'll keep on being members, we're both in sympathy with the aims of the BSFA, but we do want someone else to have a turn. Simple as that. ## How about calling Atom's cover figures Gog and Magog... or a fannish variation thereof. Noticed one was BSFA member No 5... doesn't look much like Archie Mercer to me. ## I'm still with Archie over the merits of hi-fi stereo. For the average home, it isn't worth the time, trouble and cost. I still say that the average living room is not designed to cope with 10+10 watts of stereo. Everyone admits that a Rolls Royce is better than a Ford... for smooth reliable travel. But that doesn't mean it's the aim of every bod to nip around paying for petrol at 20 to the gallon, hunting a parking space large enough, and then when he goes home, having the back end stick half way out of his tiny suburban garage. Same thing applies. For the needs of the average family, a small car with a good miles/gallon ratio and at low cost, beats the Rolls hands down. For sound repro the average man wants something that fits HIS home and pocket. ## GMCarr's letter (Mar 21st) had me gagging on the ropes, but your answer was both perfect and honest, and saved me try-

ing to think of any further comment. Methinks you will hear more from this wight...I eagerly await the reply. ## Note that you are fixing a sub rate. Good idea, and about time." (Thanks, Terry. Haven't heard any of those comments re BSFA yet, but some of the readers might have...)

Letter from GEORGE NIMS RAYBIN, 1326 Grand Concourse, New York 56, N.Y. "I no sooner finished reading the letter from GMCarr, mentioning the admission of a new state (Alaska), but I open my newspaper and read that Hawaii will be admitted as the 50th state (after they hold a formal vote to approve the terms of the permission granted by Congress). You might be interested in the fact that there is much agitation for New York City to secede from New York State and form the 51st state. The only trouble is that the consent of New York State is needed and this will never be given." (Rather like the fact that London is a city and a county in England, whereas all other counties are areas including several cities...)

Letter from EDWARD F LACY III, P.O.Box 805, Houston 1, Texas, who read the Willis column in Nebula and wrote asking for a copy. He is interested in getting in touch with British fans and in trading USA sf for British magazines. UK faneds might try sending a sample of their next issue...

April 11th. Letter from KEN BULMER, 'Tresco' 204 Wellmeadow Road, Catford SE6, who broke a long standing rule by sending me a sub. "With this post goes a sub to Bennett's skyrack- and one notices he doesn't add the 'et' after that. Truth will out, tho', never fear. I am fully aware that Apé will now cease publication; all fanzines do when I sub to them. So!" (So?...?) (Ken indicates that after a reference to him by PF - the photo album piece - he might at long last take an interest in the matter of PF's identity, but he considers the column too naive at times to be the person this clue points unerringly to. No, I don't know who he means either.)

RETRIBUTION 13 - John Berry, 31 Campbell Park Avenue, Belmont, Belfast, N.I. This issue contains more GDA material than No 12, and John is toying with the idea of putting out RET to GDA fans only, and publishing a second, general fanzine. This would be a good idea, I think, as long as it doesn't give John too much to do. Ron Bennett contributes 'South Gate Confidential', 10½ pages of the finest writing he has produced for a long time - and one of the few GDA-type stories not written by Berry that has come up to the standards set by the Goon himself. This is probably due to the fact that Ron has not tried to copy the Goon style exactly but has blended it with his own style. Penelope Fandergaste is present with another overflow of The Old Mill Stream, Archie Mercer describes the Jeeves household, Donald Franson has a short GDA type item with an interplanetary setting, and Bob Shaw writes about how to grow rich. There is also a page of letter quotes, a crossword, a piece on Bjo (the one who is for TAFF, you know), another GDA puzzle and a short editorial. Watch out for The GDA Yearbook - John says this will be available in May. In the meantime, get hold of RET.

April 12th. Joy and I went off to see 'War of the Worlds' and 'Godzilla' at the local cinema while Vinç did the baby-sitting. He'd seen 'War' in colour and in black and white. Joy had only seen the latter version at the '55 Con, and I hadn't seen it at all because I was late in getting in from Egypt that year. It was an impressive film at least... This was our first visit to the cinema since about November '58. I can't say that we really missed it...

April
13th.

Letter from HARRY WARNER, 423 Summit Avenue, Hagerstown, Md, USA.
"You continue to amaze me for apologizing for a week or so delay in publishing your next issue. In this country, fanzines come out a year late and the editor doesn't even lower his eyes in confusion. (But I always feel bad about delays...same with this issue. We've always worked on the principle that everything can be dropped for fanning - and it worked. It did, that is, until NBC arrived on the scene. The one thing that can't be dropped is a baby, hence the increasing delay. This is liable to last for some time to come, I'm afraid...)

The only difficulty that I can find from the slight delay is that you got scooped in a sense by my Fapa article on much the same theme with quite a similar viewpoint to Mass Hystereo. I'm glad to find at least one other fan who hasn't been fooled by the hard sell tactics that the Madison Avenue boys have been employing on stereo. It's hard to tell how many other persons are resisting the constant drumming about its merits. Reports of sales of stereo discs and equipment are so contradictory that someone must be lying. However, right now there are two-for-the-price-of-one sales on almost all brands of stereo records in this country, and at least one major firm, London, (The British Decca Company...) is refusing to bring out some of its choicest new releases in monophonic sound, so I assume that it has been necessary to adopt radical tactics to try to sell the things more rapidly. My own experience with listening to stereo, as I told FAPA, has been that I quickly forget that there is a stereo effect in my absorption in the music. I probably won't convert unless the inavailability of new releases in monophonic versions becomes chronic; the expedient of buying a stereo cartridge and using my present monophonic equipment otherwise doesn't appeal to me because of the need to switch between cartridges, since the smaller radius of the stereo stylus wouldn't be suitable for monophonic discs. However, I think that two-channel recording could be put to good use if the engineers would forget about all this here stereo jazz. In works which contain a soloist and orchestra, or a piano-violin team, for instance, the use of the two channels might permit the listener to pick his own balance between soloist and accompanist. Too much or too little prominence for the soloist is one of the things that ruins many otherwise excellent recordings for me. Another possibility would be a spoken analysis of extremely complex and difficult new works on one channel to go with the works themselves on the second channel; the listener could hear either the analysis alone or simultaneously with the music, until he obtained enough acquaintance to listen to the music alone. Still another idea would be to make solo-cum-orchestra records adaptable for people who want to pretend to be the soloist. If you played the piano, you could buy a piano concerto, enjoy it as intended when you liked, and play the piano part yourself whenever you wished simply by switching off the channel containing the solo part. Of course, all these ideas would presuppose better separation between channels than now exists.

"John Berry continues to be wonderfully amusing, even though I'm probably missing a lot of the deep significance through my lack of acquaintance with the idiosyncrasies of the fans involved. ## Mrs Carr neglects to say in her letter-article that state's rights are never brought up in the US except when the Negro-haters are trying to find excuses for continuing their efforts at segregation and special sets of laws for the Negroes and so on. The Southern states today aren't fighting for State's rights any more than the Confederacy fought for them, no matter what may be said in the speeches and public announcements. They are fighting to continue Negro subjugation because of blind

prejudice and the superiority that the Negro possesses over the whites in many respects in the South, which leads to economic consideration for the whites. I think that sexual fears enter into the situation, too. It's quite likely that many of the most rabid Negro-haters are that way because they use the attitude unknowingly as a defense against the attraction that Negroes or Negresses of the opposite sex exercise on them. So many times, the first thing you hear when you get involved in an argument over equal rights for Negroes is: "How would you like to have your daughter marry a Negro?" I think there's a deep, subconscious reason why miscegenation is the first thing that comes to the mind of the white superiorists. ## Tell George Charters that flitting is a widely used term in this area and is listed as a dictionary definition of changing one's abode as a dialect usage. Flitting parties are still held in rural areas around here, when all the farmers for miles around come to help transport the family's stuff." (Which brings the Warner letter and the Charters subject to a flitting conclusion...)

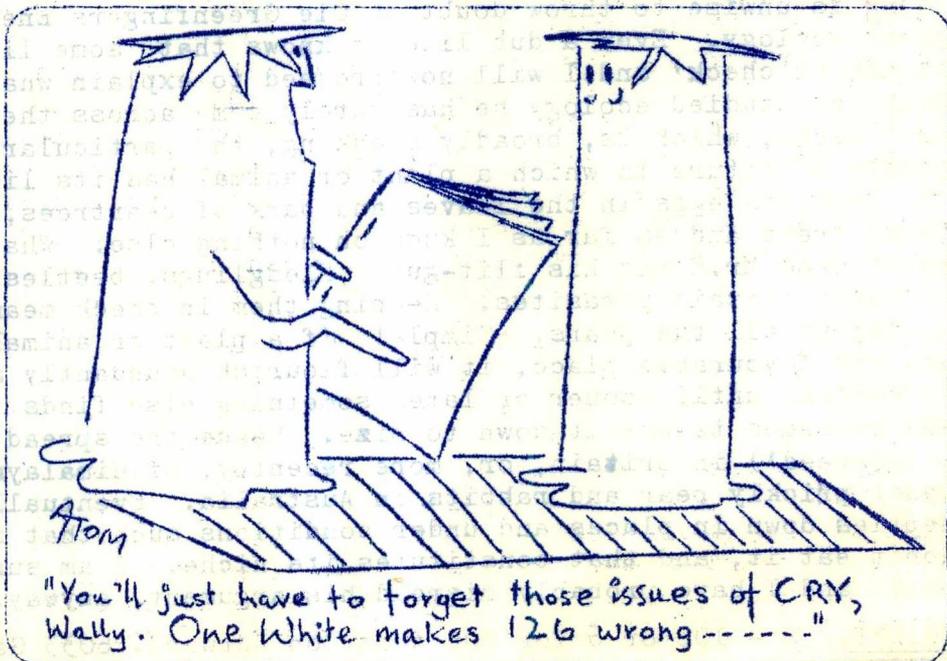
Letter from ALAN BURNS, Goldspink House, Goldspink Lane, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. "Ron Bennett's skit on Raffles was amusing but as a fan of Raffles I take a slight exception to it. (Oh, come now!...) I disagree with George Locke's Gold Road, after all Camels, Sopwith, cigarette or otherwise have humps so that an Arab can sit high up and see over the beast's long neck. The Old Mill Stream prompts me to ask why was the BSFA formed. I won't join it on principle (What principle?...?) and don't have any interest, and if the organisation of the Brummacon was one of its efforts the sooner it is done away with the better. (I wasn't there, but from all the reports you appear to be in a minority of one. It might surprise you - perhaps even cause you to be quite startled - but I prefer to take the opinion of fans such as Ron Bennett rather than yours, on this matter...?). Apé 10 began with the business of subs which raised the ugly thought in my mind that HPS or someone is trying actually to make money out of a fanzine. Hell, if you're that hard up stop pubbing. Each issue of Northlight costs me about £3 but see if I worry, fan-pubbing is done for the love of it and nothing more." (To begin with, your comments about my financial state are impertinent. Apart from that, I'm not responsible for the state of your mind but I can assure you that it costs me far more to publish Apé than I will get in subs. How often do you publish Northlight at £3 a time? The next one will be No 6, I think? I published 8 issues of Apé in eight months before I put the zine on a sub basis. Average circulation 140 copies. I could keep Apé quarterly without charging for it, but I think the readers will prefer to finance more frequent publication. However, I'm quite prepared to exchange a £3 a time Northlight for a £6 a time Apé on a one for one basis. You can count this as an advance copy for N 6. If you don't want to sub you'll have to skip the intervening issues...)

April 14th. Letter from ALAN DODD, 77 Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon, Herts, who is catching up with his comments. Most of the letter refers to early issues, but I'll quote from Page 3..."Me playing a tuba in a Berry serial - wot next? Come to think of it maybe I could try once. I've never had any musical talent but I've often thought that I would like to have a go like Professor Jimmy Edwards on the trombone. I could hit people with the slide if they criticised - with a tuba it might be a little difficult. The latter instrument would probably suit me physically as John suggests but I'd prefer something I could hit somebody with if need be. ## You're wrong by the way that I don't have a tape recorder. I've had one since June '58. It

is a Walter 303, five inch reels, 3/4ips and so forth...## "How sensible of them to reject those horror films"? I don't agree. This was a form of censorship and the choice of whether the films should or should not have been shown should have been put up to the viewer who is the one that has to watch them. Not one stuffy old man like Parnell who just rejects them out of hand like that. I'd like nothing better than to have an opportunity of studying the old time horror films. A lot of them are still showing in the cinemas here and the film of The Island Of Dr Moreau which was made in 1933 and not released may be released here after all these years at last. (I believe it was a 'package' deal? There'd be an awful amount of crud included. A referendum to the public would surely be too unwieldy - many wouldn't know the subject matter - and to use the films on the basis that the public could always switch off if they weren't interested would be a negative attitude - see PF this issue. I don't like censorship either, but...?...) I'm sorry to see you're placing Apé on a 'subscription only' basis..I can fully understand why but I shan't be placing a cash sub..I've thought other fanzines were worth paying for but I've never got 'em. The main reason is CONTACT. I sent Jan Jansen 7/6d - we got a couple of issues and that was that. Jansen just folded completely. One bad apple like that doesn't make the whole 'subscription only' sect bad but it does cause definite doubts. I'm sure you won't disappear and behave like Jansen did but there's always that thought." (Well, at least you give a reason, tho' I don't think it particularly good. I will be around for some time to come, don't you worry. So will Apé...)

SF-nytt & THE DYING OCEAN - Alan Dodd - with the above letter. First is a Swedish fanzine - in Swedish, but with a 7 page column in English by Alan, covering TV, films, fanzines and books. The second is a one-shot, a story by Don Stuefloten beautifully illustrated and produced, written in a poetical style.

GAMBIT 30, 31. VOID 15. - Ted E White, 2708 North Charles Street, Baltimore 18, Maryland. First two free for trades, letters etc, the third, 20 pages monthly, 25¢ or 1/- to Ron Bennett. Trades, contributions and published letters get free copies. After Void 14, with its 'Focal Point' tag, we now have No 15, 'The "Fannish" Monthly'. In G30 Ted points out that there hasn't been a faaanish monthly since the long-dead days of Psychotic, which followed Vega, which in turn took over the mantle of Quandry. The idea is that Void will now step into the gap. Void itself has nine pages given over to a story by Kent Moomaw, introduced by Ted with the comment that we



all know who the main protagonist is. It is significant, says Ted, that the person described by Kent is a near embodiment of Kent's own ideals, "and I am rather proud that Kent chose me on which to partially base his character..." The story isn't bad, actually, taken as a fantasy. This is followed by a 3 page knifing of Twig Illustrated (which I haven't seen yet) and 4 pages of an adaptation of 'The Canterbury Tales' by Terry Carr. This piece has very good possibilities indeed, if carried on the same way through out the book. (Only the 'General Prologue is given the treatment here.). If you feel in need of a fannish monthly focal point fanzine then write to Ted for a copy of Void. But I feel I must warn you that Quandry was never like this.

YANDRO 74 - Bob and Juanita Coulson, 105 Stitt Street, Wabash, Indiana, USA. 15¢ or 12 for \$1.50 - or 1/- per copy through Alan Dodd. Rather a poor cover this time. Apart from the usual double editorial the contents include a very interesting article on Satanism by Marion Z Bradley, a letter from Bob Tucker saying - in typical Tucker style - why he can't contribute towards a forthcoming 'monster magazine' parody (I'm looking forward to seeing this) and a straight 'science' article. The letter column is somewhat brief, but quite interesting. Reproduction is as perfect as ever.

Ron and Daphne Buckmaster turned up to collect some tapes they'd asked me to fill up with music for them on a previous visit. Which is as good a time as any to note that I forgot to record the previous visit on April 3rd. They arrived that day to find Ivor Mayne, George Locke and Jim Linwood being introduced to the Clarke Gestetner, mimeoscope and other tools of the trade, as well as to the delights of Joy's cooking.

April 16th. Letter from SID BIRCHBY, 1 Gloucester Avenue, Levenshulme, M/c 19, who enclosed a sub and said "I don't object at all to your new subscription rate, considering that there is no other regular fnz in this country to touch it for coverage. ## Ron's 'Braithwaite Elixir' - apart from the fact that Waterloo Station is not on the North side of the bridge, how can I fault such an ingenious yarn? Very enjoyable. ## Andy Young is unwise to throw doubt on Ole Greenfingers Enever when it comes to plant ecology. Even a dub like me knows that 'some life forms do SO keep others in check' and I will now proceed to explain what 'in check' means. If Andy has studied ecology he has surely come across the concept of the ecological niche, which is, broadly speaking, the particular place in the jigsaw puzzle of Nature in which a plant or animal has its life. Thus the Pear Sawfly lays its eggs in the leaves and bark of peartrees, and the larvae feed on these trees and as far as I know on nothing else. What keeps them in check, apart from Mr.E and his flit-gun? Fledglings, beetles, dragon-flies, and probably certain parasites. Keeping them in check means preventing them from eating up all the pears. Simple! If a plant or animal is introduced into a new and favourable place, it will flourish abundantly and crowd out local life-forms until sooner or later something else finds that it is good eating and proceeds to cut it down to size. Hence the spread of Rosebay Willow Herb ('fireweed') in Britain, or, more recently, of Himalayan Balsam. Classic case: prickly pear and rabbits in Australia. Eventually, the plant or animal settles down in places and under conditions such that its enemies can't or don't eat it, and that constitutes its niche. I am sure that Andy knows all this, and I have probably misread his argument, anyway."

QUIXOTIC 2 - 10¢ or 6 for 50¢ from Don Durward, 6033 Garth Avenue, Los Angel-

es 56, California. This is quite an improvement on No 1...these LA 56 fans are moving along very nicely. Three short pieces by Terry Carr, Harry Warner and John Berry together with fanzine reviews and a lettercol, make up the zine. There was only one spot unreadable - the inside of page 10, and unfortunately this spoiled the ending of Warner's very interesting article on stereotyped Life-after-the-next-big-war stories. I like this bunch of fans, they are really keen.

April
17th.

Letter from RON BENNETT, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire. "I wouldn't grouse at the 1/6d rate, even if I were a paying subscriber. The non-appearing PLOY remains the highest priced fnz in Britain. ## Yes, but wouldn't it be a fitting coincidence if Aporrheta in modern Greek really does mean secret orders from Government officials or whathaveyou? Nice, nice. ## Highest Fi I ever heard was a live performance by the Merseysippi Jazz Band (which contains two trumpets, remember) at The Cavern, the cellar in Liverpool where the band makes loud noises inbetween rushing across the road for a drink every half hour or so. Come to think of it, that's where I last saw Bill Harry. The Cavern, though, just rings and rings with the bouncy jazz that the band turns out. Remember that this band lacks the polish of say Barber or The Saints, obviously for the reason that they play for their own amusement as much as anyone else's. Jazz at its most original. I was sitting in the first row of seats so that I got the LOT!!! P.A. systems, phooey. ## My, poor old Rickhardt is getting jumped on, isn't he? Not that he doesn't deserve it. Still, after belting into him myself in Skyrack, it was gratifying to find someone agrees with me. Similarly with Walt's piece in A BAS. (Same here...*) But I didn't throw FLIP away. I sent it to Norman Shorrocks. This does not imploy Liverpool is a garbage can. ## How come the ink on page 34 is darker than the rest of the zine?" (Howcome you were the only one to spot this? We ran out of blue and the last page was run off with a mixture of blue ink brushed from the insides of two tubes that Vinø cut open with scissors, oil, and a spot of black ink. Thought we'd got away with it...*)

April
18th.

Request for sample copy from Frank V Lay, Bookseller, 167 Watford Road, Harrow, Middlesex. Reason for noting this and other such requests is that the people involved rarely say where they first heard of the zine - and accordingly I can't give credit where it is due.

April
19th.

Atom came over for a visit to talk about some cartoon ideas and the like. We provided him with pencil and paper and let him take it from there. At one stage the pencil broke so Vinø took it in the other room where he hides his newly acquired power tool and brought the point up on his grindstone attachment. Arthur listened to the weird sound of this for a few seconds and then asked Joy where we'd hidden the spaceship. There's no feeling of gravity at all, he said, bouncing up and down on the settee. Clown. The results of his visit are scattered throughout this ish.

April
20th.

Letter from HARRIETT KOLCHAK, 2104 Brandywine St., Philadelphia 30, Pa., enclosing a copy of the 'Lunacon 59' programme - held on April 12th - and an advert for 'A Checklist of SF Anthologies' to be published shortly by W R Cole 307 Newkirk Ave, Brooklyn 30, N.Y. USA. I think, from the sound of it, that this will be a worthy companion to the Don Day checklists. Price will be \$4.00 after publication, but only \$2.50 if you order now, and only \$2.00 if you send cash with order. Try it. Harriett

mentions the film made from the story 'The Purple Cloud' it's currently called 'World of Flesh and the Devil' but it's still worth seeing -- and the title is liable to be changed anyway because of marquee spacing. She ends with a comment on Nicky... "How Joy ever got such a wonderful deal on a nursery is staggering. It's getting so bad here you can't even trust Grandma not to cut out for a rock and roll session, leaving the infant to its own devices."

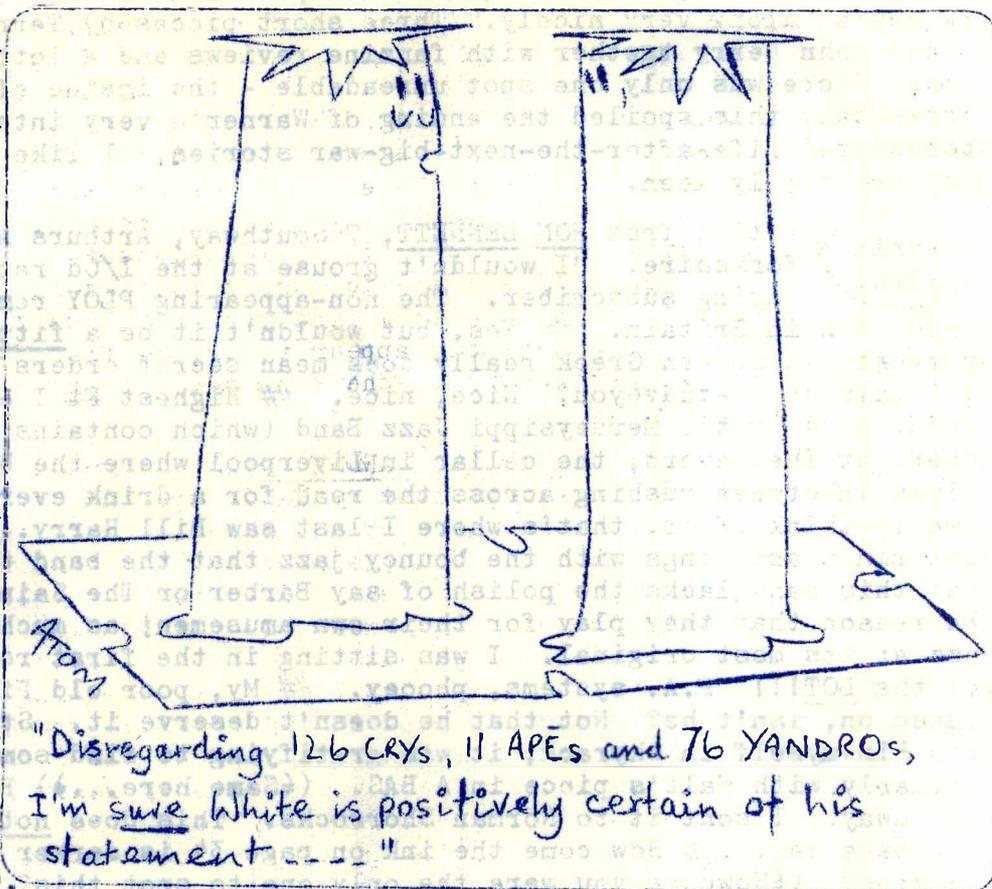
Letter from KLAUS EYLMANN, Hamburg 39,

Maria-Louisen-Stieg, W.Germany, who picked up the note directed to Northern fans in the last issue. There is close on a full page on the subject later in this issue. Klaus is likely to be over here for his summer holiday.

Letter from JEAN LINARD, 24 rue Petit, Vesoul, Hte Sne, France, asking if we could assist him in the obtaining of Moomin strips. Unfortunately his request was just a little too late because we now pass Moomin on to Boyd Raeburn who passes the strips to the Youngs after reading. Can anyone help? Jean is prepared to trade or buy, according to the supplier's wishes.

Letter from DOROTHY RATIGAN, 131 East Dulwich Grove, London SE 22, who objects to my remarks on her 'No comments' letter in No 8 and says "The results of my article in OMPA, on fanzines i generally, justified its appearance..." Unfortunately her OMPA article was not on "fanzines generally" as she now claims. It was addressed to me and concerned my fanzine and it was out of place because the readers concerned had no chance to read Apr. I'm not objecting to the criticism, you understand. That was just too silly to bother with. Dorothy comments on No 9..."More than delighted to see the return of Helen Winick to the pages of a fanzine - even yours Sandy - welcome stranger! Fandergaste's comments on Tubb's "mundane commitments" are churlish to say the least and not worthy of Inchmery Fandom. Remembering the hospitality that all three of you have accepted from this man, more especially Vinç, one wonders why you appear to be so scathing about "mundane commitments" when in reality they are more important than you give credit for!! Shame on you for being so bloody minded!" (Of course, I 'discovered' Helen in the first in-

FOURTEEN



stance, as Francesca in Femizine, but thanks for that 'even yours'. As for PF, Inchmery is not now, and never has been, Penelope Fandergaste. This has been stated several times and is generally accepted by most readers. For one thing, we don't have time to be PF. If you read that section again, only this time without your Inchmery Fandom bias, ...well, I'll quote it in full. "As if in one accord, Dave Newman moved from the Liverpool area to Bourne-mouth and a resultant limbo, and Ted Tubb decided that his mundane commitments did not allow him to devote any time to the editing of Vector..." If you can see anything bad about that plain statement of fact that you really must be looking for it with specific intent to find it at all costs. I have gone into detail on this because I find your attitude typical of a small group of people who deliberately appear to try to find fault with anything connected with me, whether it is there or not. I can do things right on occasion, you know...)

April 21st. Letter from LAURENCE SANDFIELD, 25 Leighton Rd, London W 13. "I hate John Berry. First my hands are full of glass, then there's a bog seat round my neck and how the hell is it bright side outwards? On the whole, Hidden Talents reached a fitting climax and had a nice if overlong epilogue. Ghod, I wish 25 Leighton Road really was as John Berry pictured it. The whole serial showed urine extraction of a high order and with no malice hidden behind it either. (Yes, I think it was quite a good effort on John's part...) Your attitude at the meeting you mention (Globe, March 19th) was wrong and I'm glad it was reversed by vote at the subsequent one (April 2nd)." (Are you certain we were at the same meeting? My attitude on March 19th was that I could not hand over money for the London Circle to 20 or so people who declared themselves to be the London Circle, without consultation with the rest of the group. My conscience wouldn't let me. If I remember, the main argument in favour of doing this was that 'everyone who is interested is here.' 20 fans? Even the rest of the people who joined the 'official' LC when it was formed on Dec 18th hadn't been informed of the meeting. We discovered afterwards that nobody had taken the addresses of 9 of them! If this argument had been valid what was there to stop Inchmery picking a suitable date, getting together with three other people in the corner of the bar, declaring themselves to be the LC, and sharing out the cash? Nothing, as far as I can see. We insisted on as many people as possible being informed of the situation, and April 2nd saw 48 fans at the Globe -- twice as many as the previous meeting -- and perfect justification for our action. Come to think of it, you didn't think I really wanted to hold on to the cash did you? I'm quite happy to go along with the majority - now that I feel happy it is the majority. Naturally I have some ideas of my own - such as the club funds shouldn't be used for social occasions unless more than 50% of the members are taking part - and the club room idea - and like that. No doubt other members have other ideas. You can't object to me plugging these ideas any more than you could object to me saying 'Don Ford for TAFF'. You could think me insane (and to tell you the truth, if I said 'Don Ford for TAFF' I would be insane) but you can't really object. Anyway, we now have a committee so perhaps we can get some decisions made...)

Letter from ARCHIE MERCER, 434/4 Newark Rd, North Hykeham, Lincoln, England. "Well, for a start, I'm glad (I really am) that you've seen fit to fall into line with Hyphen, Ploy, Triode and all the other zines and set a hard and fast sub rate. Here, then, is my 15/-. May you get many more of the same.

Hidden Talents was good all right. Not his best, and could have been considerably better I think, but still well worth printing. There was a certain amount of vagueness - or padding - that didn't quite fit the --now I'm being even vaguer I think. Take the instrumentation. John allots sundry instruments - strings, woodwind and the like - to fans for no particular reason that I can fathom but purely on a haphazard basis. To my mind it would have been far more to the point to have actual fans playing the instruments generally associated with them - guitars mainly - and to hell with trying to impersonate formal orchestral lineup. Other "instruments" could be improvised in line with the cracked bedpans and the malleable irons. (Incidentally, it is possible to beat out quite an effective rhythm on the FRIDEN calculating machine, either by pressing the right buttons at the right intervals, or by simply scrubbing a pencil across the keys washboard-fashion.) The triangle, for instance, should obviously have been played in unison by messrs Willis, Shaw and White. The former of whom should have been simultaneously doubling on harp. Ted Carnell should have played the novachord, Ted Tubb blown his own trumpet, and GATWC his own ear-trumpet, and so on. Anyway, I got plenty of good laughs and chuckles and like that out of it, so it certainly wasn't wasted paper. ~~##~~ George Locke's item was somewhat weird, sporadically amusing, and probably too well-written for the subject to warrant. If it doesn't sound rather too much like faint praise, I rather liked it.

"I suppose, really, that I should have expected Harry Turner, Fred Smith, and Andy Young to take the opposite viewpoint to mine in the hifi-stereo argument. (~~Seems~~ the support was late in coming, but it exists. See Harry Warner, this issue...~~?~~) True, I do buy some pretty lousy recordings at times. Maybe because they're the only available versions of what I want, or because I just have to order on faith. (I have to order more records than I can just walk in and buy). I also have a lot which I consider pretty good, on the machine I bought last year. And I don't honestly see that stereo or anything else could make them sound much better - certainly not when the ~~slightly~~ improved sound (if any) was measured against the increased inconvenience in other directions - cost, complexity, lack of portability, etc. I suppose now I'd better buy up all I can before they go out of circulation in favour of sundry-channel stereo. To Fred Smith - but surely I said that the best realism was presumably obtainable by recording under the most natural conditions possible - not just an engineer's idea of natural conditions, but NATURAL like. If Mercury or anybody else have discovered this for themselves, good luck to them. And as for concert halls using mikes - the Royal Albert Hall does for one, and even if some don't, they still have wires and things to doctor the acoustics. This may or may not improve the sound of the music - but the result is surely more artificial than without. Come to that, music needs to be in the open air to really capture the sound of the instruments - any confining walls create distortions and things, but even then, the distortions of the recording engineer are not necessarily equivalent to the distortions of the concert hall. And as for Laurence Sandfield, I agree, it was sour grapes on my part. Because it makes me feel sour, that's why. With the advent of microgroove, everything having to do with music recorded on flat discs entered upon a Golden Age. Repertoire increased umpteendifold, and despite one or two disadvantages over the hand-wound portable playing 78s, which I enumerated - I am of the opinion that one's never had it so good. With the advent of two-channel stereo - and the obvious implications of an extra channel every few years to keep things moving - this golden age now

draws to a close. More and more ffustration will come upon such as me. Sour? It makes my blood boil." (My own feeling on stereo is that although I think it has great potentialities - once it has got beyond the gimmick stage - at the moment it is too new a thing for me to invest any cash in it. As a result/dread the possibility envisaged by Archie, that mono discs might become scarce in the future. Even so, when perfected, stereo really will give more realism...)

April 22nd.

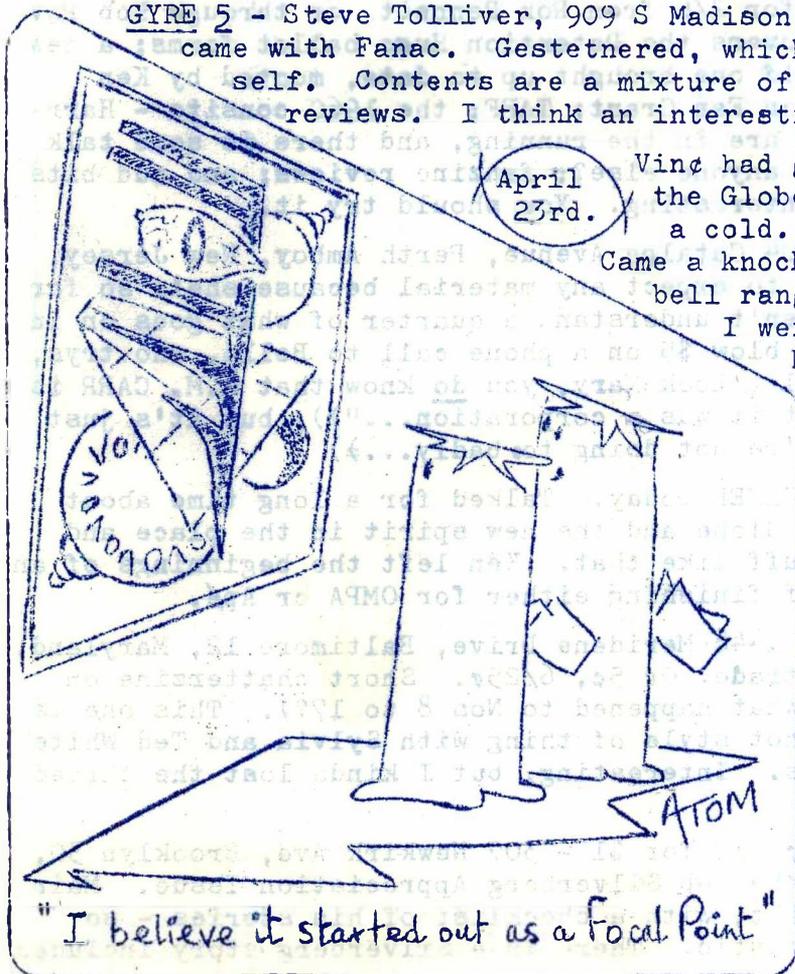
FANAC 36 - Ron Ellik & Terry Carr, Apt 7 2444 Virginia St, Berkeley 4, California. 4 for 25¢, 9 for 50¢, or through Archie Mercer. Note that news & commentary is requested in preference to actual cash money subs. In fact we understand that the editors are considering increasing the sub rate just to discourage those people who only pay but write not. So, get out the old pen and paper, because Fanac is worth keeping up with. This issue reveals that various fans are offering cash for copies of The Tattooed Dragon -- is there a fan anywhere who will part with his copy? There's an excerpt from a letter from the Dietzes saying that Fanac must be clairvoyant because Frank's answer to Rickhardt isn't written yet and they haven't even gotten around to writing Ted White... And as you'll remember from Apr 10, they never did get round to publishing anything or asking Ted to circulate it. News also about the Falascas separating on a permanent basis - it was a pity to read that.

GYRE 5 - Steve Tolliver, 909 S Madison, Pasadena, California. This came with Fanac. Gestetnered, which is a major improvement in itself. Contents are a mixture of letters and brief fanzine reviews. I think an interesting picture of Tolliver emerges.

April 23rd.

Vinç had gone off to a committee meeting at the Globe, and Joy was sick in bed with a cold. I was looking after Nicky. Came a knock at the door -- actually the bell rang, if you must know -- and when I went down I discovered John and Marjorie Brunner. Joy came down to entertain them while I made coffee, and when they left a couple of hours or so later the sick feeling had practically vanished. But then the Brunners are like that. Full of infectious energy. They had been travelling from point A to point B and found themselves in our vicinity more or less by accident, so decided to call. They stopped at a main Post Office sorting office to find the way to Queens Road, and a man giving directions asked which end they wanted. "236," said John. Three or four of the sorters looked at each other. "That'll be Inchmery,"

seventeen



said one of them darkly. We didn't think we could get this new bunch trained up as well as the PO people in Catford, but apparently we have. The Brunners expect to be on the Continent shortly, with an exhibition of photos and the like - part of the Nuclear Disarmament set-up. We wish them well. John's latest book has been accepted by Gollancz (for publication in Autumn, most likely) and recommended to Dutton for USA publication in such terms that they have paid an advance, book unseen. This is pretty good going. Congratulations. The visitors had gone and Joy was back in bed before Vinç got back to say that apart from fixing the next meeting place and time, little had been done at the Globe.

April 24th. Copy of CARAVAN, the magazine of folk music, turned up today. I don't know who sent it, but to be quite honest, although I am interested in the subject, my interest is not sufficiently great to make it worthwhile for the mag to be sent regularly. It ought to go to someone who would appreciate it more. Thanks all the same. Also, there was a letter from JIM LINWOOD, 10 Meadow Cottages, Netherfield, Notts, enclosing a sub and saying that he and Ivor Mayne finally recovered from their visit to Inchmery on April 3rd at 2.00 pm on the 4th. Come again some time.

April 25th. Sub from Klaus Eylmann and another from newcomer (to me, at least) J B HILL, 9 Conluhill Ave, Edinburgh 4. Hope I got that address right. Sponsor, anybody?

April 26th. SKYRACK 2 - 6d or 6 for 2/6 from Ron Bennett, or through Bob Pavlat at 6 for 35¢. Covers the Detention Hugo ballot forms; a new idea, or rather an old one brought up to date, mooted by Ken Slater - to have a small European Fan Grant; TAFF; the 1960 consite - Harrigate, Kettering and Cheltenham are in the running, and there is some talk of trying to get it in London - anyone else?; fanzine reviews; and odd bits and pieces. Well written and interesting. You should try it.

Letter from MARY DZIECHOWSKI, 104 Catalpa Avenue, Perth Amboy, New Jersey, who sends a sub but asks me not to expect any material because she's so far out on the fringes that she doesn't understand a quarter of what goes on in most zines... "Every so often I blow \$5 on a phone call to Belle, who trys, trys very hard to explain it all ('Look Mary, you do know that G.M. CARR is a woman?") (("...oh - I thought it was a corporation...")), but it's just not enough." (Never mind, you're not doing too badly...)

Had a visit from KEN & PAMELA BULMER today. Talked for a long time about this and that, mainly about the Globe and the new spirit in the place and what we thought was needed. Stuff like that. Ken left the beginnings of an epic - which Vinç has the job of finishing either for OMPA or Apé.

April 28th. DHOG 18 - Ted Pauls, 1448 Meridene Drive, Baltimore 12, Maryland. Free for comment or trade. Or 5¢, 6/25¢. Short chatterzine on the Gambit style. (What happened to Nos 8 to 17?). This one is mainly a combination of a one-shot style of thing with Sylvia and Ted White joining in, and pages of letters. Interesting, but I kinda lost the thread because of the missing issues.

THE COLE FAX 2 - Walt Cole - 15¢, 10 for \$1 - 307 Newkirk Ave, Brooklyn 30, New York. Could be sub-titled the Bob Silverberg Appreciation Issue. Main item is a 'Profile' of Bob by Walt, with a checklist of his stories - so many in so few years - it's fantastic. There is a Silverberg story included eighteen

in the issue, along with film and fanzine reviews. Unfortunately my copy was short of pages 13 & 14, the later having the conclusion of the story.

jd ARGASSY 39, 40, 41, 42. Lynn A Hickman, 304 N 11th St, Mount Vernon, Ill. 10¢ for copies 10 pages or less, 20¢ for copies 10 pages or more. (I don't think that means you have to send 30¢ if a particular issue is exactly 10 pages in length.) Long term subs accepted at \$1 for 12. You should waste your money. These issues are 6, 25, 9 and 11 pages in length, and the contents range from mainly letters through an average travel report by Caughran down to a serial by Bob Madle that started as a sort of TAFF-winners report and is becoming more and more a vehicle for sneers and attacks on English fans. The first page of the installment in #40 is printed upside down, which is appropriate, I guess. It would appear that despite his stay in this country Madle has not grasped the state of fandom over here, where there is practically no division between fanzine and convention fans. The same people double in both categories in the UK. With his sneers and cracks at Trufans and fanzine fans, Madle is insulting - and hurting - the people who went out of their way to make him welcome and his stay enjoyable, some of them to the extent of getting pretty broke in the process. He should think twice before including jokes that ceased to be funny many months ago. No 41 contains a book review by Bob Tucker and an editorial page on Don Ford, who is the 3rd TAFF contender, as well as some interesting bits and pieces. No 42 continues the Madle report amidst more interesting oddments, letters and fanzine reviews by Dan Adkins. The mag as a whole is rather like a Fanac enlarged to include outside contributors. I find Hickman interesting on some occasions - unreadable on others. He probably finds me the same. And you?

April
30th.

Letter from ELAINE PHILLIPS, 1825 Harrison Avenue, Bronx 53, N.Y. "What makes me so wide-eyed about Apr is the fact that it can be done with an infant right in the middle of all the hustle and bustle. My son wouldn't let me get away with paying that much attention to anything or anyone else." (Of course we are bringing Nicola up to understand that fandom comes first. Well...first after Nicola, that is. Hence the delays in production...)

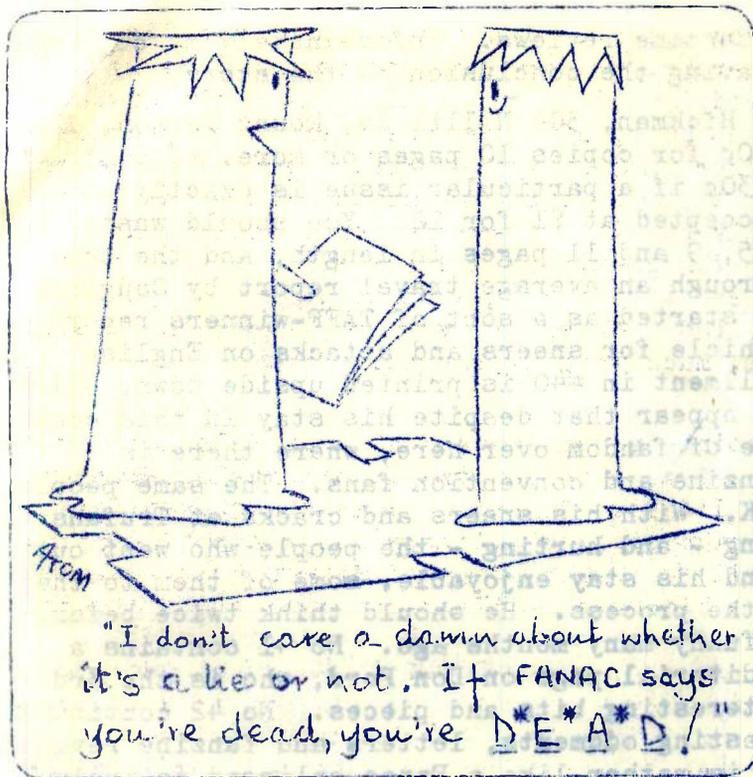
May
1st.

DETENTION PROGRESS REPORT No 2 - 245 members listed...if you want your name adding, send \$2 to Jim Broderick, 12011 Kilbourne St, Detroit 13, Mich. If you won't be attending but would like to help then send the equivalent of \$1 to Ron Bennett

CRY OF THE NAMELESS 126 - 25¢; 5/\$1; 12/\$2 from Box 92, 920 3rd Ave, Seattle 4, Washington, or 1/9; 5/7shillings; 12/14shillings from John Berry. This is just another normal issue of CRY - which means it's pretty damn good and you should try to get it. Pemberton's review of the SF magazine field - he must be the only fan giving a complete coverage these days - is always a source of great interest to Inchmery. We find, after reading the mags in question, that our opinions are in agreement far more often than not. There's a monster size letter column (21 pages), a Berry story, fanzine reviews and various other items of interest. One of the best regular monthly fanzines being published. A word of warning tho'. I didn't think much of it when I got the first copy. You might feel the same. Give it time - it grows on you...

VOID 16 - Ted White & Greg Benford - The Fanzine of Togetherness, this time. There's a double editorial, including such gems as "If you like my abusively candid fanzine reviews in VOID you should love them in DISJECTA MEMBRA." TEW

nineteen



Greg Benford is interesting to read, but he is rather overshadowed by Ted. Harry Warner has a lengthy and interesting article on the subject of copyright as it affects fandom, and Ted adds a footnote that served to remind me that the contents of *Apé* are in fact copyrighted. Funny, I hardly ever think of that. There's a nice long letter column - and we love love love that micro-elite...so readable. The conclusion of the Moomaw story is a bit of a let-down, I thought. Final item is a reasoned argument between Dan Adkins and Ted concerning Ted's review of TWIG in an earlier issue. Oh yes, there is also a note to the effect that Terry Carr's "The BNF of IZ" is now available from Ted White. We have heard a great deal about this, but unfortunately, at 35¢ for a copy, it has been priced

right outside what we would consider a reasonable fan figure. Pity. There is mention elsewhere about 24 stencils having been cut for this story.

May
2nd.

Manuscript from BOB BLOCH, promise of ditto from GREGG CALKINS, and sub from new fan PETER SINGLETON, 10 Emily St, Burnley, Lancs. Do any of you know who put him on to *Apé*? BSFA?

Letter from F M BUSBY, 2852 14th Ave W, Seattle 99, Washington. "Picked up CRY's mail today and shamelessly got eyetracks all over Wally's copies of *Apé* 9/10. Glad you enjoy CRY; reason you rec'd 125 (and probably 126 by now) is that Elinor and I did just what you suggest in 10 - put in a \$1 sub for you - and of course forgot to write and tell you about it. Logic wins every time, G M Correct to the contrary... (You is nice peoples. Many thanks...) Anyhow, Rich Brown and Bob Lichtman are doing most of the reviews for CRY just now, and free issues are also available for letters and other contributions. In your spare time, of course. ## So write on the blackboard (or stencil) 50 times "I'm SORRY I called the CRY a clubzine!" The Nameless Ones have absolutely nothing to do with the editing, publication, or financing of CRY, which owns and operates only Elinor, Toskey, Wally Weber, Otto Pfeifer (partly), and myself. I'll admit that the title is misleading, along with Wally's Factual Articles called 'Mminutes', but the above-named FenDen Gang has been solely responsible for CRY for several years now, also using the nomenclature "Nameless Anonymous" and "Fabulous Seattle Fandom" (a gag-line in a SAPS-election 2 years ago). Well, it will be okay if you write that apology once each on fifty different stencils, too... (Really sorry about that. So 'Shaggy' is really the only worthwhile clubzine that I've seen...and CRY is what a good clubzine can become when it is no longer tied to the club, no?...) More Busby at top of next page.....

"Thought for sure I'd written you lately, with something on the Change Puzzle and GMC's misplaced-decimal-point on our local sales tax (now up to 4%, courtesy of our legislootive body), but if so I didn't make the grade Apéwise. (Or the letter didn't get here, like the one Terry Carr sent offering a re-written version of "Cacher in the Rye" to Apé. We've had one or two spots of bother like that with the post since we moved here - which is why I'm now mentioning (even if only briefly) every letter I recieve in connection with Apé. Same applies to fanzines. If I don't mention one either I was never sent a copy, or I was and it didn't get here...)) ## Anyone suggested Gallegher and Shean for Atom's Cover Bhoys? ## RBennett's "Duplication and the Devil" a choice item, much more nicely pointed than his bit in No 9, in fact.

"I think people are missing a point in this war-or-slavery dilemma: firm-but-reasonable is the middle ground that this country is attempting, though not always with as much success as I'd like to see. (Guess maybe we'd all get along a lot better if certain high ranking military leaders were leashed more securely...)) I think we've all seen what comes of Appeasement. I seem to recall that the Russians threw a blockade on Vienna as well as on Berlin in 1948, but that your people sent a truck convoy with orders to go in to Vienna, period. Consequently you had no Vienna Blockade, while we had the spectacular but essentially-appeasing Berlin Airlift, which solved nothing, as the present imbroglio demonstrates. Only pointing up that the best way to get pushed around is to make noises like a pushover. Agreed, that we are all in a very nasty position re bomb-tests, in which there is very little point in further large-scale tests, but in which both sides are bound up in blind-alley deal of needing to save face. Certainly the US will never accept a Scouts'-Honour agreement, nor acquiesce to one of Dave Rike's Student Marches or etc. I'm not on the Strontium-90 habit, maan, though...s a tough problem.

"I note GMC neatly reversing her field again. Couple of years ago she was noted for her impeccable trains of logic marred only by being firmly imbedded at both ends in the premise "GMC IS RIGHT", much in the same way as she accuses everybody else of using Nasty Ol' Logic (in her latest Apéletter) without checking the Input to the Process. Like you, I find this latest bit of GM-putting-down-the-rabble somewhat incredible, coming from a mature individual of demonstrated intelligence. Are you sure the total context of the original letter didn't qualify this a bit? Not that Gem hasn't gone pretty well overboard on the "I am Right" kick previously, but not this far...she used to have a better sense of humour for one thing. People can be discouraging... (Nope, no qualifications - I checked real hard, because I know GMC of old, and I wouldn't give her a fraction of a chance to say I'd twisted her meaning...))

"Dunno if you rec'd all the CRYs with the WSFS arguments or not; I hope so. Anyhow, Belle and George and I had a 3-way argument going for several issues, starting rather at swords'-point but ending up quite amicably. That's the kind of hassle I like." (Me too, appearances perhaps to the contrary. And between intelligent people that's the way it should be...))

PROFANITY 5 - available for letter of comment, trade or contribution, or as a last resort for 15¢ from Bruce Pelz, 4010 Leona Street, Tampa 9, Florida. Al Andrews has a satire of sorts herein that I thought was too laboured to be
twenty-one

really successful. This is followed by Bob Coulson's fanzine reviews (you really need to see Yandro to work out the basis Bob uses for his assessments) and a column by Alan Dodd that is amusing and interesting. John Berry is present with another of his stories - he's still on a musical kick with this one. Next item is a musical setting by Bruce Pelz of 'The Green Hills of Earth'. Not being able to read music I don't know how this compares to the setting by W Clark Harrington (Copyright 1955 by Alice Remsen Inc, New York.) -- a copy of which will shortly be chugging its way across the Atlantic by sea-mail. Al Andrews reviews Star SF No 4 and concludes that this is not up to the standards set by the first three anthologies - and there is a letter column and several other odds and ends, all of which go to make this a fanzine that is improving with each issue.

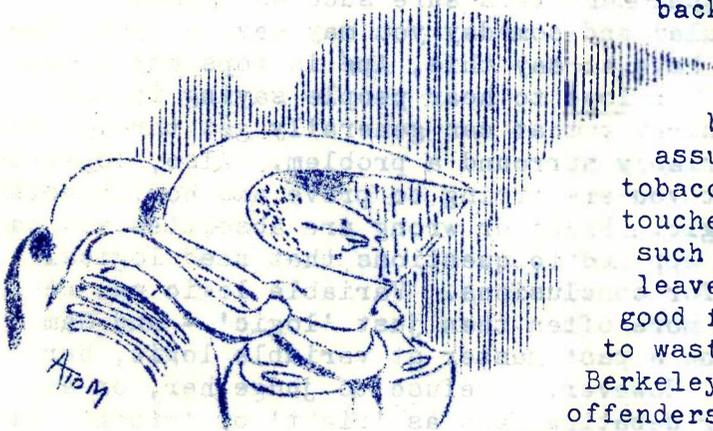
We had our baby sitters in today - Peter Mantell and Jean...do you know, I can never think of her second name. Terrible, the way my memory is going. Anyway, the main reason for their visit was to enable us to go to the pictures for about the second time since last October or November. 'Henry V' was showing on re-issue at one of the local cinemas, and that we had to see again! Must admit tho' that the Drop of a Hat team - Michael Flanders and Donald Swann - were the cause of an unseemly outburst of laughter from the three of us at the beginning when the prologue reached the part "Think when we speak of horses that you see them printing their proud hoofs..." Flanders and Swann use this quote, continuing .."I don't think we actually do speak of horses..." as an introduction to their song 'A Transport of Delight' (about a London omnibus). The photographing of the flight of arrows in the Agincourt scene is still a source of wonder to us.

May 3rd Ah, Sunday. John Newman was due to be married on May 11th, and a 'working' party had been arranged to help him finish off the house before hand. John had done most of the major decorations himself.. wallpapering, painting and the like. When we arrived Ken Bulmer told us that everything was really finished because he'd been working for hours... Actually he, Pamela, Sid Bounds and John were eating. By the time we'd seen to Nicki they had finished, and we sat down to enjoy some of John's cooking. Which reminds me, for no real reason, that I don't think I've mentioned that Ken and John have written a book (illos by Atom) which is currently with the publisher. This is an up-to-date re-written version of the Bill Temple juvenile fact book on space. During the afternoon Ted Tubb arrived, and a little later Joan Chandler and two of the children put in an appearance. There wasn't very much to do, and by the time the evening meal came around we'd finished. Nicki made an appearance at the tea-table (she'd been acting up a bit because she hates going to sleep when there is company around) and Ted Tubb turned in his usual polished performance as an impromptu speaker. What a boon that man is - on occasions such as this he practically carries the conversation on his own, and I have yet to meet the fan who has been bored. Ted later brought us back to Inchmery in his car, which cut our travelling time by half (2 hours down to 1 hour) and made it a hell of a lot more comfortable. (Ever carried a pram on and off trains and up and down staircases?)

May 4th. Sub from IAN R McAULAY, Ballycorus Grange, Kiltarnan, Co Dublin, Eire, who was apparently put onto the zine by some of the regulars at the Globe. And thank you, people.

Letter from DICK ENEY, 417 Ft Hunt Rd, Alexandria, Virginia, starts next page twenty two

"The eve of St Walpurga, and I'm naturally playing Mussorgsky's Night On Bald Mountain and carrying on fanac as the clock strikes midnight. Apr 9 to hand. I didn't see how you could lash out the money for a thick fanzine like this before Nicola got there, so no heartburnings are in order over your finding it necessary to make it a sub-zine now. Cash for my sub on the way in a surface letter (it's cheaper, believe it or not, to send two airletter forms and a surface letter than a single one-ounce regular airmail letter) as well as more for the kitty and some for TAFF. No, dammit, that's right... Bennett is the man to see for that. Forgot. You people being centers of Anglomania distracted me for a moment. (I believe you about that airmail business. For the cost of a one-ounce normal airletter we can send either five airletter forms or four and a one-ounce seaimail letter or three and a two-ounce seaimail letter and get something back in change!...)



"Locke's fanfiction good tho routine in concept and execution, but the bits in which Clarence assumed his alter egos of Sopwith and tobacco Camels fair broke me up. Little touches like that are the salvation of such things... ## The war with Berkeley leaves me cold, frankly; you're both too good fans (Laney would grind his teeth..) to waste time slanging at each other. The Berkeleyites have probably been the worst offenders with their digs like "-stuff like

Djinn Faine's change of mind is what makes Sanderson happy", which are more than a trifle silly, but stuff like Bruce Pelz' letter -- the one castigating Fanac for having typed Spectrum in place of Spectre -- is a sort of nitpicking that does your side little good either. Not your fault Pelz wrote it, of course, but if he's going to go burbling that he is "beginning to join your crusade against goofs in Fanac" the least he can do is pick real goofs and not typos. (I rather agree with you on this - I'm not running a 'campaign', by the way, as I'm sure you realise. I call for truce, Berkeley, both sides retaining their right to differences of opinion but without the snide comments that have been creeping in. We will assume, if you wish, that the score to date is even...)

"That reminds me (in an oblique manner) what are Rosencrantz and Guildenstern up to this time? The BSFA tag I get but what is M5 -- is the Association forming an undercover Intelligence Agency? And to what purpose? (come to think of it, perhaps I should write up the answer to that question.) (For Apr? Yes please...)

The final draft of the Fancyclopedia II has been finished, and will be put on stencil as quickly as possible after review. The finished version should be about 150 pages long, and if all goes well it should be first distributed at the Detroit Convention; first copy off the press will be auctioned there for TAFF..." (Congratulations, Dick, a labour of love obviously. Trust that all goes well with the final checking and that you can get the stencils cut in time to have it at the Detention.)

Letter from BJO WELLS & DJINN FAINE, 2548 W 12th, Los Angeles 6, California, USA. Djinn first..."One of the kittens wishes me to inform you that your fanzine is very tasty. It is chewing the edges. Between pages it chews on

John Trimble, Ed Cox, Bjo and I. Cute little kitten -- get off my arm you teathy little monster! Love Ron Bennett - even tho he is a cheatin', salt-shaker-tea-putter-inner. 'Duplication and the Devil' was great - tho it really is much easier to make bargains. I have had much experience in Devil-Dealing and Ron should know that that is how come, even with salt-shakering, he could not beat me (Tea Drinking Contest, Southgate 1958). I sold the devil two pounds of tea and Ron's soul.. Both of them. I am sure that Ron must be a schizoid and that entitles him to two souls - both of which now belong to the devil. Maybe if Ron is a very good little fan he can redeem them. ~~##~~ Please have more Bjo cartoons. Of course, (these dam Cats are all over me!) I am prejudiced somewhat, but it is a well known fact that any fanzine with ATOM, Bjo, and maybe even Rotsler is sure to be a success. (~~Especially~~ if you have material to match - say by Bloch, Tucker, Grennell, Willis, Brandon and Terry Carr?...~~).~~). So just keep this sure success formula in mind (along with the blue ink formula) and someday you may have a great fanzine... Actually, even tho I don't have to say this, ~~Apé~~ is tops and I love it! (~~Why don't you have to say it? I love to hear people saying it...).~~) Re GMCarr - Logic is a method of thinking that can generally get through the periphery of half truths that invariably surround a problem. Also, logic is dependent upon the assumptions that you are trying to prove and how objective you can become in the usage of logic. Right or wrong are absolutes and can very seldom be applied to questions that need logical



thinking for conclusions. Variable logic can be applied more often than just 'logic' - and Gem must be a past master at variable logic, her way. However, I refuse to judge her, or any other debating fans as 'right' or 'wrong'. All are both - which is another lovely bit of variable there - you know, like prepositions you leave dangling which are a thing up with what I shall not put. So there... (~~Where....??~~)

And now BJO. "I could have used some warning, perhaps, that I had so many interested parties "over there" in whether I was in this TAFF thing or not. I do appreciate the kind words. Dunno what to say. Will scuff my toe in the dirt, and mutter, "aw, shucks, kids..." until something else occurs to me. The only thing that bothers me so far is Terry pointing out that I asked my nominators to sign for me; (~~Gambit 30...).~~) is this illegal, or something? No one knew I'd decided to run, until I asked Forry to write my nomination; this based on the grand old idea that nothing is gained by standing around wishing, without doing something about it. I didn't ask John Berry tho. Steve did. Seems like a strange thing to grouse about; and I wondered what you-all thot about it. Ted White seemed to think it worth printing anyway. Dunno what's with these folks;

"I...I...I've got a letter in Aporrheta, a quote in Hyphen, and my change of address in Fanac! I'm a BNF!"

Lynn Hickman seems to be under the impression that everyone in L A is "ignor-
twenty four

ing" Don Ford, when in Shaggy 41, we had a TAFF announcement that listed all candidates, with the same size lettering, yet. Maybe I'm naive, but are they looking for an argument? I figure if I keep asking questions, I'll get a nice cross-section of answers and opinions. Soon I'll find out things (it says here in small print!)" (Comments below -- new paragraph...)

Well now, Bjo, you asked me, so I'll tell you the way I see all this. To begin with, Hickman is correct in a way because apart from the odd announcement in TAFF ads (as different from individual campaign ads) there is no indication in fanzines that Ford is an active participant in this election. I think Hickman wrong in saying LA in particular is ignoring Ford - all fanzines are, when it comes to the editor boosting his own favourite. We are fooling ourselves, I guess. In fact to be honest there has been no doubt in my mind as to who would win ever since I first heard Ford was standing. It would take a miracle to change things, methinks.

As for Terry - to begin with you can't really blame him for the letter in Gambit -- he did ask Ted White to make no comment on the subject. Besides, he's right. No, it isn't illegal to ask people to sign your nomination...it has been done before and no doubt it will be done again. In fact it has been done so often that these days I tend to just sigh and forget it. I wouldn't let it influence my choice of candidates too much because that's the way it goes now. But, and it's a big but, I just couldn't take that sort of action myself. In the old days a lot of us had ideals about TAFF. Most of them have rubbed off in the last couple of years, but some remain. TAFF was considered to be a reward for activity in the fan field. Nobody goes around asking to be put forward for a reward. A bunch of influential fans would get together and look over the fan field and they'd agree that 'Joe Phan' had done some pretty wonderful things for fandom and they'd nominate him. 'Joe Phan' wouldn't know anything about this until they asked if he could make the trip if he won. Perhaps we are being too idealistic, I don't know, but I think there's something pretty wonderful in the idea of fans all over the world trying to be better fans in the hope that some day they would be nominated for TAFF. I don't think any the less of you for having asked fans to sign your nomination. I just wish you hadn't. Sorry.

Letter from BOB LEMAN, 2701 So Vine St, Denver 10, Colorado, enclosing \$2 and a manuscript, for which many thanks. "Ron Bennett has come up with a pair of truly superior stories here in Nos 9 & 10, and these tales have raised for me the question of whether or not some new terminology may be needed. I haven't been around long enough to comprehend every nuance of fanspeak, perhaps, but as I understand it, fan-fiction denotes a (usually unspeakably bad) seriously intended short story ("Prepare to die, Earthman!" sneered Grxxl.) while faaan-fiction refers to light matter which deals with fannish people and situations treated with wild exaggeration, and which usually has reference to real fans - by name at least. Berry's "Hidden Talents" would be in this category. Now Bennett's "Duplication and the Devil" fits neither of these categories; it is a straightforward short story - of the subspecies 'Deals With The Devil' - which happens to have as its setting the microcosm that is fandom. It is neither fan-fiction nor faaan-fiction, as I understand those terms. "Serious Faaan-fiction" might be the expression for Ron's story - or am I splitting hairs? I would appreciate enlightenment on this. (I'd like opinions. Personally I agree with Bob - we could do with another term. It would need to cover the Trufan stories, a

lot of the Brandon stuff and various other items, including Bob's own story - which should be in the next issue...)

"Chick Derry (No 10, page 9) is guilty of precisely the thing for which he scolds Mrs Carr: "...ignoring the issues and playing her own horn." Chick is setting up an argument on his own terms, and thereby effectively evading the point at issue. According to him the argument is Nationalism With Bomb Tests v.

UN Control Without Bomb Tests. Now if we in fact had this choice, his anti-nationalism preachments would be germane; but since we do not now have this choice, he is arguing (ably, it must be admitted) on a different subject. This debate is not taking place in a vacuum; we are not scholastic philosophers computing the number of angels able to congregate upon the point of a pin. The question is: to test or not to test given the circumstances that exist in the world today. I am not going to take issue with Chick on the point he makes in his letter; right or wrong, his argument is irrelevant to the real dispute. (What he says is his argument -- "further tests of nuclear weapons are futile, deadly in the extreme, and of no value of any sort to the nation doing the testing" -- is handed out as a flat statement; no argument is made, no evidence adduced.) (Try this, Bob. If H-bomb explosions need to be carried out to test the possible uses for peaceful purposes, then we could afford to check, first, the exact damage liable to be done to Man. The only type of testing that can be carried out without checking first, is when the results are needed for the defence of liberty etc etc. But we already know how to make bombs to blow the world to pieces, so there is now no reason to test...)

God knows, nothing would amke me happier than to be able to make it possible to stop the tests - and to stop wars and rumours of wars, for that matter. I have small children whose futures are in jeopardy, and I know war intimately and at first hand. But the West cannot unilaterally cease research while an implacable and ruthless enemy forges new weapons with the avowed purpose of "burying us" - to quote comrade Krushev. It is all very well to inveigh against nationalism; but such polemics in no way alter the fact that for the West to fall behind is to bury civilization.

"From 1933 onward, Hitler told us precisely what he was going to do; but we kept our heads in the sand until he blew off our tailfeathers. Since the date of the Communist Manifesto, the comrades have told us what they propose to do. Shall we be ostriches again? I saw some of Hitler's concentration camps; I have no desire to see Krushev's - from inside. At the time the Heinleins wrote their broadside the Russians had just completed a series of tests, and were aware that we were about to commence a series of our own. In

twenty six



an effort to embarrass us, their whole propaganda machine immediately swung into action, playing every possible variation on the theme, "Stop The Tests." -- Why not? They had finished their testing for the time being. All over the world the communists obediently stepped in time to that tune. Their dupes and fellow travellers fell in beside them. And in fairly short order they gathered under their banner a host of minor-league Gandhis, many of whom were doubtless a bit daft, but who had genuinely humanitarian motives, unlike their cynical leaders. It was to these unwitting tools that the Heinleins directed their polemic. It was unabashed pamphleteering, intended to move people who were clearly - as demonstrated by their actions - impervious to logic, but swayed by emotion. The Heinleins made an appeal to emotion; to patriotism, in fact. And their purpose was to dissuade people who were permitting themselves to be used as dupes by the Russian propaganda apparatus. All of which has run to far greater length and become far more testier than I intended. The truth is, I like Apé - as the enclosures will testify. May the fifty-two pages accumulate weekly!" (You want I should drop dead from overwork? Seriously, I appreciate your integrity in this debate but I feel strongly that you are arguing from the wrong basis...in the wrong framework. However, I'm handing over to Vinç at this stage for his opinion on the matter.....)

Vinç here: I have a small child whose future is in jeopardy, and I was a Londoner during the Blitz...if this is a qualification for giving an opinion. In this opinion, the Heinleins are a lot more guilty of stupid emotionalism than the 'dupes' of Russian propaganda. They are hysterically clinging to the idea of a deterrent material weapon against the Dark Forces of Communism, not caring about the risks involving millions throughout the world, many uncommitted to one side or the other in the Cold War. They steadfastly and emotionally refuse to face the logical outcome of a nuclear war. I quote Bertrand Russell: "I cannot but regard such a point of view as one exhibiting ferocious fanaticism. By a curious inconsistency, those in the West who take this point of view maintain that they are defending democracy, although they must be aware that a plebiscite of the world would give an overwhelming majority against them. And it is not only democracy, but also freedom that these fanatics consider themselves to be defending. I sometimes wonder how they would phrase their arguments in a discussion (say) with an inhabitant of India. An Indian would be very likely to say that he considered both the Russian and the Western ideologies partly good and partly bad but that the greater portion of what makes up the lives of most human beings is independent of ideologies and can exist under either system. Our fanatic would have to tell him that such a point of view is base - in fact, so base as to be worthy of the death penalty. I do not think that he would be able to persuade his Indian interlocuter that such a punishment is deserved either in the name of democracy or in the name of freedom." End quote, from COMMON SENSE AND NUCLEAR WARFARE (Paper bound editions @ 3/6 published by Allen and Unwin, available through British fans). As for the incidental remarks, wasn't Kruschew's remark prefaced by an "If Americans..."? If the equation of Hitler with Communism is valid at all...and analogies are not very good bases for argument...it could be argued that this was just one case where the darker forecasts in the mass of emotional outpourings came true...Hitler also offered many verbal bouquets too. With reference to tests, at the time that they unilaterally ceased tests Russia had completed 39, to the West's 119. The West have not yet called for a cessation of tests on any grounds.

Finally, would a Russian who urged his Government to continue tests be a dupe of the American propaganda machine?

Sandy back: The point was made about the necessity to save Civilization - or the Western version - but I wonder if a good case couldn't be made out to the effect that we have already lost that battle? When you reach the stage of defending 'Freedom' by classing all people who think differently from the Establishment as Communists, dupes or fellow travelers; when you defend 'Democracy' from Communism by supporting Fascists (in Spain) and dictators (in the Caribbean and South America); then how much of civilization is left? Oh, we are still a lot better off in the West than elsewhere, but there is a hell of a lot less freedom now than there was twenty years ago -- and it will grow less in future, I fear.

May
5th.

Good day for material - Bennett's column, article from Harry Warner, and a story from George Locke, 85 Chelsea Gardens, London, S W 1, with a letter as follows... "The last two issues came as a bit of a surprise, not their coming, but the format. I rather like the fanzine being presented as the Diary, with the contributions as they appeared in the post. But how about the paper and grocery bills. You could maybe fool the fen with a few of them, suitably re-worded, of course... To get back to the subject: your new format will be one thing - controversial. And after a few issues like that, one might get tired of it, especially as you haven't listed the major items so that the more out-lying (as regards fandom) members can skip the meaningless - to them - letters and get to the meat. Your second innovation, the 52 page issue, will encourage loong letters, and loong articles, and a tendency to higher wordage per idea, say, to fill the 52 pages just that little bit quicker. Much as I'm itching to see the next Apé, I'd rather the waiting time be increased than have to wade through excess words. But I'm not worried. You won't let that happen. It's a good gimmick, tho', and it'll keep interest high." (Given a steady flow of the type of material you'll see in the next issue, I think 52 pages a month will probably involve keeping the Diary down to about 15-20 pages...)

May
6th.

Letter from BILL DANNER, R D 1, Kennerdell, Pa. typed on the back of a letter substitute in which he gives reasons for not having replied to letters for a long time. Said reasons mainly consist of moving house -- and discovering that the cellar floods with every downpour. Weeell, not quite as bad as that, but Bill has not had a good time of it. "Some of Archie Mercer's remarks about sound and recording don't make sense to me. He remarks, for instance, that even in concert halls the audience hears an orchestra via microphones and a PA system. I have in the past attended literally hundreds of symphony concerts (well, a hundred anyway), most of them in Pittsburgh's Syria Mosque, and this was not so at a single one of them. As a result I have a very good idea of the actual sound of a number of this country's best symphony orchestras. I have yet to hear a 78 recording of an orchestra that could compare for realism to any lp recording save some of the very early ones that were dubbed from 78's. As others have remarked, there were some very fine 78's produced, but they came after the advent of lp's when I had stopped buying 78's. It is curious how many people go on claiming that 78's are better than lp's, but if what Archie says is true, and he has never heard the actual sound of an orchestra, he is hardly competent to judge the quality of any recording. I suspect that in his case the same thing is true that is true of other defenders of 78's .. that his equip-

ment is not adequate for wide-range reproduction. In such a case the higher frequencies often come out as harsh so that a really good recording doesn't sound as well as an older one in which the highs are entirely lacking.

"According to at least one authority, Archie's opinion on stereo is entirely wrong. In monaural recording the engineer was able to achieve unnatural results. Multiple-mike techniques could make a small orchestra sound like a big one, and two or three violins sound like a huge string section. Apparently with stereo this is not possible, and he claims that attempts to do it have been obvious flops. I haven't yet heard enough stereo discs to judge for myself, but I'm very much impressed with the few I've heard. As in the early days of lp's, there are probably stereo discs being dubbed from monophonic recordings which are no good, but in the ones I have heard there is no hole in the middle, and realism is greatly enhanced even though the stereo effect is not marked. But I'm making no flat statements about stereo yet, and I think Archie would be wise to stop until he has more knowledge of the subject and audio equipment that will enable him to judge more accurately."

FANAC 37 - Carr & Ellik. Report on the BSFA con by Ron Bennett takes the pride of place on the cover. From quotes inside it would seem the Fannish gained the praise it so richly deserved, and I doubt if there is any reason now why we can't look forward to seeing this done every year. There's lots of news and comments in the rest of this issue.

May
7th.

Thursday - took a quick trip to the Globe on my own, because Joy was down with food poisoning and Vinç had had a bad day at the office. Mentioned this to Ted Tubb and told him Vinç would be at the



Committee Meeting to be held next Thursday at the White Horse. Picked up a long range sub from Ted while I was about it. Main reason for turning up at this meeting was to settle financial matters with Charlie Duncombe. He now has all monies collected by me, except as follows

George Powell and Archie Mercer 10/- each.

Peter West, Tony Thorne, S R Dalton 5/- each.

Chuck Harris 12/-

These amounts were given to me not as donations for the London Circle but for the specific purpose of obtaining a clubroom. (There were some twenty fans involved in this, but the others have all been sorted out.) The point is, I would appreciate instructions on the disposal of this money. It can either be given over to the LC as membership fees and/or donations; it can be handed over to the LC with the specific notation that it is to be used for a clubroom only (tho' god only knows when this might be obtained now); it can be returned to the individual concerned; or it can be left with me as a sub to Apé. Will the above-mentioned please write in to me?

May
8th.

Letter from BETTY KUJAWA, 2819 Caroline, South Bend 14, Indiana, who sent a \$2 sub and said they now had the plane they were intending to buy -- Cessna...4 passengers and a thing of beauty to behold! and now own a VM tape recorder...stereo with extra speakers. This is a type I've not heard of - the VM I mean. Also they've acquired a stereo phonograph but have no urge to spend extra for stereo albums (They're the same price over here)... "couldn't care less if the horns come from the right and the strings from the left. But it does give a wonderful richness to my usual LPs. That singer is Katie Lee, not Kati - and aren't you all hip to Mort Sahl, Lennie Bruce, and the immortal team of Mike Nichols and Elaine May yet?? Heavens!! If you ever want to really hear pure wit just ask me and I'll tape some of their routines and mail it over gladly." (We'd be very pleased to take you up on that. Sahl we've heard about, but not the others...)

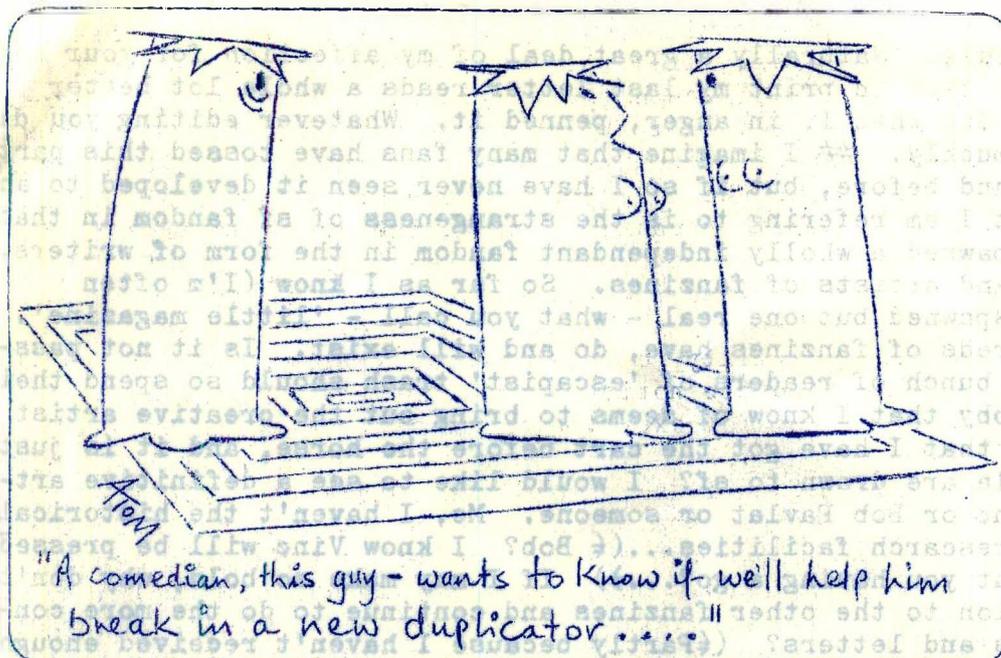
Letter from DON DURWARD, 6033 Garth Ave, Los Angeles 56, California. "I agree with your logic on charging for Apé - I am running into a similar problem in putting out Quixotic at present. Therefore I wish to contribute a buck now. I liked the addition of Bennett stories in Nos 9&10, they sort of made up for the absence of Atom's SF A to Z section. Speaking of Atom, where is he? His Apécovers are excellent, but, with a few exceptions, he hasn't shown his 'Grommishes' (courtesy of Bjo) as much as usual. (Atom got himself tied down with some pro work, but it's over now and the boy is back in style. See this issue!...) ## Penelope Fandergaste, I thank you for the kind mention of our little group of Los Angeles Fifty Six Fandom or LAFSF, but really you should have mentioned Bob Lichtman's name also. He came up to me with fire in his eyes after reading your column. He said "Why, everyone knows that LAFSF is my fault" or something to that effect. I tried to point out that the sentence went like this "...and members like Don Durward." but he was just madder."

Letter from CHICK DERRY, 7703 Alpine Street, District Heights, Maryland, USA "I've decided to write you a hurry-up letter even if I can't inclose the necessary two dollars, because knowing the speed with which letters and fanzines travel between here and there I'm afraid that I might get cut off before the two bucks gets to you by seamount. I enjoy Apé so much that I shudder at the thought I might be deprived of it. Something on the order of the thirty

hophead and his needle. Naturally a great deal of my affection for your mag stems from the fact that in print my last letter reads a whole lot better than I remember it did when I, in anger, penned it. Whatever editing you did I'm in favour of, muchly. ## I imagine that many fans have tossed this particular thought around before, but if so I have never seen it developed to any great extent. What I am referring to is the strangeness of sf fandom in that it seems to have spawned a wholly independent fandom in the form of writers, readers, editors, and artists of fanzines. So far as I know (I'm often wrong) Fandom has spawned but one real - what you call - 'little magazine'. yet literally hundreds of fanzines have, do and will exist. Is it not passing strange that a bunch of readers of 'escapist' trash should so spend their time? No other hobby that I know of seems to bring out the creative artist so much. Or is it that I have got the cart before the horse, and it is just that creative people are drawn to sf? I would like to see a definitive article on this by Vinç or Bob Pavlat or someone. Me, I haven't the historical background or the research facilities... (¿ Bob? I know Vinç will be pressed for time. How about you having a go?...¿) If I may make so bold, why don't you leave the fiction to the other fanzines and continue to do the more controversial articles and letters? (¿Partly because I haven't received enough good controversial articles - tho there'll be one next issue - and partly because I couldn't bring myself to pass up a story such as the one Bob Leman will have in Apr 12...¿) I see where Archie Mercer disapproves of States Rights. Well, I am no states righter but by way of explanation I offer the fact that before there was a United States there were the independent states (or colonies). As a premium for ratifying the constitution many of these demanded provisions for the preservation of their hard won rights. Some of these states righters are perfectly honest in their arguments that a too powerful central government will deprive all the people of a lot of their personal freedoms. We, I'm afraid, have already lost too many."

Letter from DICK ENEY. "Virginia has NO state sales tax. Doubtless because there's apparently only one fan in the area (see the latest Detention booklet...) From the dead silence on the subject I begin to fear that our telegram to the Birmingham con didn't get there in time (it was sent Saturday evening). Bob Pavlat made the suggestion and my version of the text was the one we eventually sent: RUMOR MACMILLAN INVITES BSFA SPONSOR SUMMIT CON X PLEASE SUBSTANTIATE (signed) STUPEFYING DC FANDOM. ##Tsk, you do seem POed at Rickhardt and the Fanarchists...note that you've picked up also that bit about the Fanarchists being drunks and dopes that has been spread around by I-know-not-whom. (¿By the Fanarchists, actually. At least, they are my source of information. I hear tell there is now an attempt being made to cover up by saying that someone else has spread it around - someone who is not likely to be 'trustworthy' natch...but see Ellington's piece in the Fanish. Incidentally, if the word 'dope' in the States means something that is illegal - and only that - then I'd like to withdraw it in preference for the 'drugs' meaning. Over here it can be either. Peyote might not be illegal in the US, but I cannot think highly of people who find it necessary to take a fairly potent hallucinatory agent which induces sensory derangements. I understand from a medical friend that there is still some concern in some quarters regarding the final effect of peyote...¿)

Letter from G M CARR, 5319, Ballard Ave, Seattle 7, Washington. Starts off "Yeah - I can hear just how well you 'pity' me...it's the same tone of voice
thirty one



the old maid uses when she feels sorry for the overworked mother..." and then takes it from there. Blames practically everything on a difference in local mores and speaks of my 'conditioning'. No doubt she'll have an equally easy reason to explain why it is that fans of the same local mores as herself actually agree with me. I'm not avoiding an argument - the letter just is

not worth publishing in full. It's just a continuous mish-mosh.

"Due to my already high degree of aesthetic perception..."

TEW

May
9th

Letter from GEORGE CHARTERS, 3 Lancaster Avenue, Bangor, Co Down, NI, enclosing a £1 note! Such faith! Letter from ERIC BENTCLIFFE, 47, Alldis St, Gt Moor, Stockport, Cheshire, who has been without a typewriter for three weeks - letters have piled up and as soon as they are cleared work will begin on the next Triode. Fanzine Fandom is not dead! Seriously, Eric has had a bad time just lately as far as time is concerned. I've no doubt he will soon be back to full production. Took time off to go to the pictures again - better watch it, this could become a habit. The film was 'Aida' with Sophia Loren acting the title role while Renato Tebaldi did the singing. They made a good job of it but I'd have been just as happy with my eyes closed. The music was the thing. Fernandel in the 'Reluctant Bigamist' filled out the programme very nicely.

May
12th

Letter from Mal Ashworth, 14 Westgate, Eccleshill, Bradford 2. "I want to say right away that as far as I am concerned Job was just an impatient youngster compared to you. You'll have to watch yourself, you know, showing all this forbearance and tolerance - nasty things can happen to a man that way; ask Job. But I am deeply grateful for that facet of your character nevertheless, and with good reason, as you know. Ever since Xmas I have been meaning to write and thank you for that wonderful calendar and the Apes I had up to then, and then before I'd get around to it more Apes would arrive and I'd think 'Christ, I must write to him tomorrow' (to you, that is, not to Christ. I never yet had a damn fanzine from him.) And somehow I never did, I never have. And thus we come to now. In view of all this I shall have to ask you to accept the enclosed postal order as a small token of my deep gratitude and esteem - not to mention as a sub. When I sit back and think about it, I realise I am breaking new ground today. I don't think I've written a letter to anybody since Christmas. I must be very careful - they tell me it can be habit forming..."

May
14th

Vinç went down to the Committee meeting of the LC at the White Horse only to find, on arrival, that there was a full scale 'General Meeting' in progress. No notice had been given, of course, and because of this nothing could be decided. I'm rather surprised that the same stunt should have been pulled again so soon after the last time. On this occasion even the excuse that 'everybody who bothered to turn up at the last meeting knew about it' couldn't be used - because I was at the previous meeting and I wasn't informed that there was to be a General Meeting. We didn't organise the LC, but now that it is organised I consider that some of the rules, at least, should be followed. When any body collects money from people it automatically takes on a responsibility to those people - and one of the responsibilities involves giving adequate notice to all interested parties when decisions are to be made. Vinç had expected a Committee Meeting at which basic 'rules' might have been cleared up. Instead he found about 20 people "committeeing", gaily led by Ted. I understand the remark was made that the Committee had nothing to hide from the other members. The London Circle has nothing to hide from its members - but why the members aren't informed of what is going on I don't quite know. The remark is meaningless anyway - the Committee was elected - or so I understand - so that they could do the basic work in peace and present the membership with a joint line of action - or else with two possible lines. The membership must make the final decisions, naturally, but is it really necessary to hold a general meeting with 20-30 people taking part every time something has to be worked out?

May
15th

Letter from JEAN YOUNG - "We would like to share with you the warmth and tender nostalgia of this Very Special Night - The Night We Cleaned Out Our Quote Cards..." QC anyone? There were hundreds.....

SLANDER 4 - Free when current but requires demonstration of interest. Jan Sadler Penney, 51B McAlister Place, New Orleans 18, Louisiana. produced in ditto in various colours, and although not up to the standards of Twig, production-wise, it is still good. I particularly like the idea of the comments on letters being done in a second colour. The material is varied and interesting - you could do much worse than to try it.

Letter from VIC RYAN, 2160 Sylvan Rd, Springfield, Illinois. "Re Effects of rocket launchings and bombs on weather. Personally I can see no connection. A remarkable coincidence occurred last summer when a local rocket launching club sent a gunpowder rocket 100 feet up. That evening we had snow and an 85 mph wind, but I fail to see the connection as snow on the 12 July is a rather common occurrence stateside. ## Ellis Mills: I don't think that flag makers will make much money through typical American fickleness of adding states. US law is that a flag, however many stars it may have, can be used until it has been worn out. Anyone want to buy a 37 star flag? Cheap?"

letter from FRED SMITH, 3 Douglasmuir Rd, Faifley, Clydebank, Glasgow, with a sub and the question - do published letters count for credit of free copy? The answer is no, I'm afraid, Fred. I like to at least mention each letter.

YANDRO 75 - 15¢ or 12 for \$1.50 - or exchange (but write first if it's anything other than a fanzine). Also L/- through Alan Dodd. Bob and Juanita Coulson are the editors. Cover by DEA. Material by Dan Adkins, Bob Tucker, and sixteen pages of letters. In his editorial Bob includes a remark to the effect that a discussion he's been running is about ripe for Apç to take up. I wouldn't know, I haven't been following it very closely. But I guess it is

typical of Bob to base an opinion like that on the past experience of one occasion - the Von Braun thing. Duplicating is excellent as always.

Letter from LESLIE GERBER, 201 Linden Boulevard, Brooklyn 26, New York. 8 pages and a PS - regretfully cut to this... "I was interested to learn that Harriett Kolchak and Joe Casey are planning a fanzine. They have never really struck me as fanzine-type fans, and it should be interesting to see what they do. For that matter, Frank, Belle and George didn't strike me as fanzine type fans either, but they do a pretty good job. You've noticed how a fanzine is called 'surprisingly poor for a Britishzine.' Although there are just as many good American zines as there are British, there are also a lot of American crudzines and neozines. The British equivalents are comparatively few or non-existent. It isn't that there aren't any British neos but that they're afraid to print a crudzine because there is a tradition to follow. I think this is acting as a deterrent to British neos and is one of the difficulties in gaining new blood in British Fandom. Someone over there should use Harriett Kolchak's idea of an all-neo 'zine for the neofans to use as a training ground. What say? (~~Passed to the readers~~) Are you going to admit who Penelope is if somebody makes an accurate guess? (~~No~~) Just heard on the radio that Japanese scientists state last year's fallout of strontium 90 was the highest in five years. So there, Andy Young. What shall we call Atom's cover men? How about Mongrel and Jeffrey? Too bad one's not a female; they could be ~~Ap~~ and Rita. Oh well.. # So you can't get a good cut with a Bodoni typeface, eh? One of the best mimeographed fanzines I've ever seen, Jim Moran's MAMMON 1, was almost all Bodoni. (~~Haven't seen it..are you sure he did not use photo stencils?~~) Go Fafia? Is that like a quiet neogan? # Arizona Highways? I'll check the NY bookshops. I can understand why you love the mag; we get it at my school library and have files going back 9 years. It's beautiful. (~~See Joy's column~~) That business about Frank Dietz's rebuttal may be my fault. I wrote a long personal letter to Ellick and I might have mentioned it then. (~~Sorry to slash the letter, Leslie, but time is short..~~)

May
19th

First installment of a new column received from eight Grennells and addressed to Clarke, Clarke, Sanderson and Clarke. See next issue. PS - Joy refuses to enter into competition with you, Dean (and Jean.)

Letter from BOYD RAEBURN, 9 Glenvalley Drive, Toronto 15, Canada, who enjoyed most items - particularly the Bennett stories, and has a minor quibble about my substituting 's' for 'z' in 'criticized'. Over here the 'z' is rapidly becoming obsolete - but I didn't make the change in the manner of a correction. Apologies, Boyd, it was just bad copying. I read the word - not the letters.

Letter from BOB LICHTMAN, 6137 S Croft Ave, Los Angeles 56, California, who points out for PF's benefit that it was actually he who started LAFSF. Bob joined fandom through Bloch's last column in the last 'Madge, so he almost missed us. Says PF's piece gave a definite clue to her identity - Don Durward had only sent a few of the LAFSF cards out at the time it appeared, and from this short list he picks an ultra-shortlist in order of preference, ie, Atom most likely suspect, John Berry next, and Ron Bennett third. No comment.

PLOY 14 - 1/9; 5 for 7/- from RON BENNETT, 7 Southway, Arthurs Ave, Harrogate or 25¢; 5 for \$1 through Bob Pavlat, 6001 43rd Ave, Hyattsville, Maryland. Except for columns by myself and 'Phoenix' all the material in this 43 page issue is devoted to showing that Bob Tucker is appreciated. It is the best issue Ron has produced, and if the standard remains this high it will be well
thirty four

worth its sub rate. This is really a 'must' - Bloch, Tucker, Calkins, Tucker again, Coulson, myself, Bennett (Pt VII of Colonial Excursion), Phoenix and a letter column. Illos by Atom, Barry Hall, Rotsler and Bennett. Get it.

May
20th

PC from Bennett posted in Lincoln - "Where we get to in our search for news!" Skyrack News Service. ## Letter from BRUCE PELZ, 4010 Leona Street, Tampa 9, Florida, who subbed but stated that this made him lazy about commenting! Feels that John Berry took the honours in 9 & 10.

FANAC 38 - NOTE, from June 1st mail for Fanac to Terry Carr 3320'A' 21st St, San Francisco 10, California. Mail for Ron Ellik only to 127 Bennett Avenue, Long Beach 3, California. The zine will continue to be jointly edited despite some 450 miles between the addresses above. Major item in the current issue is a description of various fan-publishing projects. Lots of other news and views. (No, Ron, it didn't. Not nearly as much). Indispensable.

With Fanac there came a leaflet announcing the formation of a new group to be known as 'First Fandom' (no longer need Bob Tucker carry the banner alone!). Founders are Bob Madle, Don Ford, Lynn Hickman, Doc Barrett, Dale Tarr and Lou Tabakow. The whole concept is mildly amusing. Purpose is reasonable enough, but I feel that this shows the con-fen are smarting under the comment that has been made about them. The funniest point is that in order to get all their own people in, the conditions for joining have been made very wide. People like Willis, Bulmer and Vinø, who have been pleased and proud to be known as Sixth Fandomers, are eligible under the conditions quoted. If you include fantasy in with sf, even I am eligible. Joy, who has been quite happy to admit she did not become what we term 'active' until 8th Fandom (FEZ - and the upsurge of Feminine Fandom in this country) is eligible. Oh well...

May
23rd

\$5 sub from Harriett Kolchak -- such faith! Atom came over for a visit today, and as usual we spent most of the time discussing ideas for artwork. He went away with half a dozen manuscripts to illo for the next issue, as well as pages of ideas for his 'Alphabet' and for the cover illo. I think the next one will be quite an issue.

May
24th

Visit from Ethel Lindsay, who came mainly to help Joy run off the final stencil for FEZ 11. Nicki is teething - her eyeteeth are giving her hell - and Ethel watched as Nicki handled a toy (rubber) train engine that she'd brought on an earlier visit. Eventually the teeth proved to be too much, and the engine went into Nicki's mouth. "She was looking for a soft spot and found the tender," said Vinø as he hurriedly left the room. FEZ 11 really was duplicated by Joy (the blue pages) and Ethel (the black). As Vinø said at the time, it was so strange for him to see the duplicator being used by someone else he had to come away. The cover is by Joy, and is very good for a first attempt at artwork. Ethel did very well with her stencil cutting, and she has already had a lecture regarding the only thing that I personally would fault - the margins. Sub rate is 1/- from Ethel at Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey, or 15¢ through Betty Kujawa. Naturally I take a sort of fatherly interest in this zine, and I'm pleased about the way it is shaping up. You are urged to support it. Next item due for an uplift is the material - how about you gals really trying to write something for Ethel? Pamela Bulmer's column is good, but not up to the old standard, and I note a tendency to use all-embracing terms - when speaking of the LC visit to Cheltenham, for instance. Well under half actually went. And I note Dorothy Ratigan still pins her faith on long sentences.

END.

thirty five

CLONDBURST IRON BENNETT

THE NORTH'S REPLY TO T-O-M-S

I've been going to quite a few whist drives during the past three or four months. Quite apart from the enjoyment of the play there are some intriguing situations which arise. There are the sweet little old ladies who constantly revoke and there are the inquests which follow each hand. I like best the moves to the next table in a progressive drive for not only does such a move mean that I've been on the winning end of a hand, but it gives me a chance to be nasty. I'd never thought of this type of dead pan humour as being nasty until a couple of fans at the Solacon complained about it and they might have a point. It's like this. I move to the next table and sit down. I say good evening to everyone and glance casually at my score card. "Hmm, seven hands gone already," I say. "How are you getting on?" someone asks me, mentioning that she has already notched 64 or so tricks. I look at my card and say, "oh, not too well, I've only had 89 so far," and leave it at that. Reactions vary.

There's one sweet little old lady who keeps popping up at different drives around town. Her opening gambit is to explain to her partner that she likes to win and doesn't expect her partner to make any mistakes. This naturally puts her partner on her guard. Extremely so. The dreaded mistake inevitably comes round. The sweet little old lady snorts. My partner looks sympathetic but smiles at me because we've won an undeserved trick. Our opposition runs away with ten tricks. "It should have been eleven," says the sweet little old lady, gritting her teeth. "I told you to take care didn't I?"

"Well, it doesn't really matter," I say. "We all make mistakes don't we?" The sweet little old lady doesn't agree. "I came here to win," she says. "I came here for an evening's entertainment," I say, "and I'm sure most other people do too." My partner agrees with me. The little old lady begins to get sarcastic. I begin to throw out a few cutting phrases. They roll off the back of the sweet little old lady. It happens every time, though I did hear that she once slammed down her cards and walked out of a drive when someone told her a few home truths. You think there are wrangles only in fandom?

The young monsters at school had a storming season as far as football was concerned. With four games to play we were just holding our own with as many games won as games lost. Then when the winter flu season set in, I had to make a couple of changes and the reserves played well enough to keep their places. I switched the right winger to centre forward and this boy scored in all of the remaining games. Against the second top team in the league, St Paul's, he scored two goals in the **first** three minutes, and in winning all four games the team beat three teams who on paper should have been the winners and we finished second in the league

This was the second season I'd been in charge of the junior team at school. It must be admitted that we had a better season than the previous year's team which finished fifth in the league but on the other hand I missed the person-

alities of that previous season. There was one ginger haired youth called Jeffrey Garbutt, who was worth taking anywhere just for laughs. Twice he left his football boots in the dressing room of an away school and once left the ball on the bus taking us to the match. When we were going to one game, Garbutt produced a small bottle of some evil looking black liquid, which he announced was liquorice water. He was going to drink this after the game, which promised to be warm work. On the tram back to school he again produced the bottle and proceeded to shake it up and down, telling everyone that it tasted better when shaken. The tongues of the remaining members of the team were hanging out and eyes moved up and down in rhythm with the shaking of the bottle. The cork came out as Garbutt went on shaking.

Jeffrey wasn't just a clown, though; he was a wit too. I remember an incident during a cricket match. Our school had been getting on top until one boy from the opposing school came in to bat. This boy stayed in awhile, without actually scoring. "Come on, Charlie," shouted an encouraging voice from the opposing school's boys sitting at the boundary edge. Just then Charlie's wickets were spreadeagled. "He's coming now," shouted Garbutt.

We've started playing cricket at school this season, too. The seniors had a hard game against Harehills, and lost by five wickets. Harehills County Secondary used to be a primary school called Gipton and during the early war years yours truly was in attendance. The juniors played against Talbot Road and were bowled out for seven. I could have cried watching the eleven dejected boys troop in and out again. I told the boys the next day that we were forced to improve and better things were ahead but I was wrong. In their second game they managed to score three.

This rather tickled the school's Intermediate (13 year old) team, with whom I travelled across Leeds for their first game. There are some rather potentially good stroke players and bowlers amongst this eleven and they couldn't understand how any team could rate such a low score. They soon found out. They scored six.

I was on my way home from this game when I met Sammy, a large gent of Italian extraction who drives buses for the West Riding Automobile Company. Sammy introduced me to his conductor and told him about the time I'd been working for the bus company. I was conducting the bus that Sammy was driving. At Cutsyke, a local run terminus, a few people got on, and I went round to collect the fares. A small man who was wearing glasses thicker than even mine waved a folded card at me and was about to pocket it when I asked to look at it. "It's a pass," he said, showing me the two inch high word "PASS". His thumb conveniently covered the other wording on the card. I knew Yorkshire County Cricket Club passes were something on that style, so I moved his thumb down and uncovered the wording. He frothed. I read "West Riding Automobile Company." The only passes I knew of at the time were those issued to owners of white walking sticks, so I said, "Right-ho, blind pass." "Blind pass!" the small gentleman echoed. "Blind pass? This is a company pass. I'm Inspector Martin." He was, too.

Following the sudden flood of money into the coffers of the TransAtlantic Fan Fund at the Birmingham Convention, April proved disappointing and what had been a steady pouring of contributions dwindled to little more than a trickle. April contributions were as follows....

Archie Mercer 7/6; "Stellar" Fund 7/-; "Oops!a" 2/-; "Void" 1/-; Doc Weir 3/9; E J Carnell and Jhim Linwood 2/6 each. Previously accounted for: £29:3:6d. Balance on hand: £30:9:9d. 1st May 1959. Ron Bennett.

SPECIAL NOTICE

INCHMERY FANDOM wish it to be known that:

WHEREAS they have always held open-house at their address in LONDON, being fully prepared and happy to welcome all and sundry (tho' since the arrival of NICOLA BELLE some advance warning has been appreciated but not demanded), the very nature of their location has severely limited fannish visitors to those living in and around LONDON and the SOUTH generally - visitors from the more distant areas of these islands being few and far between.

THEREFORE, for a limited season only, INCHMERY FANDOM will undertake a distant trek into the wastes of the NORTH and will take up residence at:

~~-----~~ 90, BERESFORD ROAD, LONGSIGHT, MANCHESTER 13 ~~-----~~

The period of their occupation of the above address will be from August 8th to 23rd inclusive. To be specific, during the period August 8th to 15th inc. they will again hold open-house and all NORTHERN FANS will be more than welcome. (The period August 16th to 23rd inc. will be utilized by INCHMERY FANDOM for the purpose of venturing into the more remote corners of the country and consequently they will be "in residence" only in the late evenings.)

To be even more specific it is hoped that a large number of fans in the NORTH will find it possible to visit the above address over the weekend of August 8th/9th. Visitors from such far places as LIVERPOOL, SHEFFIELD, etc, are assured that if they consider it necessary to sleep at anytime before leaving on the Sunday then the carpets will be found to be soft and comfortable. (If visitors from these areas find it necessary to sleep then a carpet is all they deserve -). Naturally this should not be taken to infer that residents of MANCHESTER, STOCKPORT and similar relatively close areas will need to leave on Saturday night, for such is not the case.

On this particular weekend food will be supplied in abundance together with a reasonable amount of liquid refreshment, and if visitors feel inclined to turn the event into a bottle party there will be no objections whatsoever (natch-). During the remainder of the week visitors will have to take what they find, but there have not, as yet, been any complaints on this score.

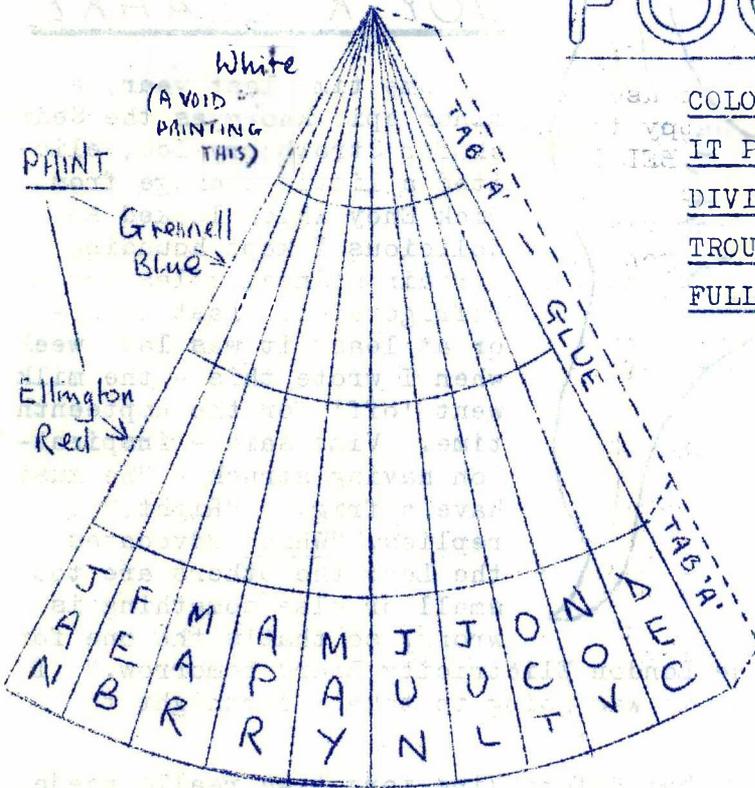
In order that the weekend party can be thoroughly catered for perhaps intending visitors would like to notify INCHMERY in advance? This will not be necessary in respect of visitors during the week.

Overseas readers please note that correspondence should continue to be sent to INCHMERY FANDOM's current address where a Mr BENNETT of HARROGATE will be in residence during their absence.

(Sgd) H. P. Sanderson

pp INCHMERY FANDOM

FIRE! BE FANNISH! DAILY!! MAKE YOUR OWN FOCAL POINT



COLOUR IN EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR AS IT PASSES (NOTE - THERE ARE ONLY 10 DIVISIONS - THIS IS TO SAVE YOU THE TROUBLE OF TRYING TO COUNT UP TO THE FULL NUMBER).

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIALS

"Dear Sir

Since making my own Focal Point I have been approached to stand for TAFF.
D.F., Ohio."

"Dear Sir

Now that I have a Focal Point I can call my own drugs and booze have begun to take second place in my affections. B.R., Maryland."

"Dear Sir

I thought my fanac was complete until I saw your Focal Point. R.E., Berkeley."

"Dear Sir

I would appreciate it if I could be allowed to include plans of your Focal Point in the next of a series of articles that have been appearing in my magazine.

J.W.C.Jr.

"Dear Sir

Your Focal Point is a wonderful achievement but the appearance and layout could perhaps be improved. I can guarantee to produce neat and legible Focal Points regularly, at a comparatively cheap cost...T.E.W., Maryland"

And many others.



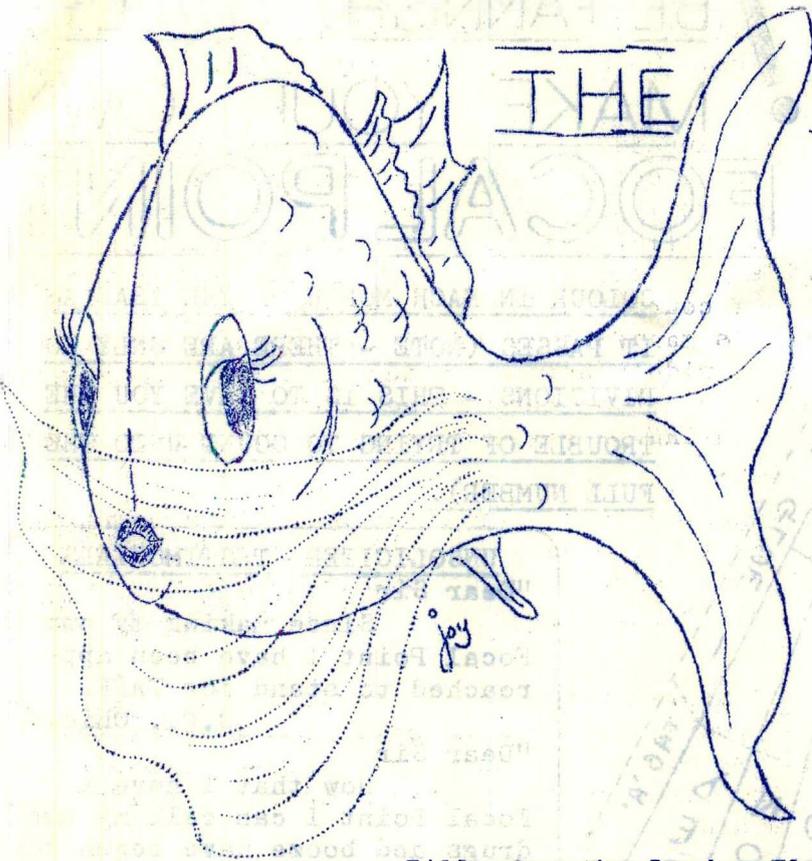
THIS FAN HAS HIS OWN FOCAL POINT. HAVE YOU??

Instructions: Simply cut round the outline above, apply glue to Tab 'A' and bend paper until the tab is securely fastened under the month 'JAN'.

This Focal Point is given away F*R*E*E with every copy of Aporrheta. Positively no connection with any other fannish monthly, bimonthly, quarterly or irregular publication.

Honest!

A QWHITEOPPRESSIVE PRODUCT



THE L'I'L PITCHER

JOY K CLARKE

Some time last year, a minor epic known as the Search for Strawberry Ice, elicited a little package from Dick Eney which looked so delicious I kept hounding certain stingey males for a refrigerator. Last week - or at least it was last week when I wrote this - the milk went 'off' for the umpteenth time. Vinç said - inspiration having struck - "We must have a frig." "Right," I replied, "Which advocates the Lec: the others are too small or else something is wrong, so that's the one for

us. I'll ring the London Elictricity Board tomorrow." I did, too. They hadn't got any. And it was going to take a fortnight to find out if they could get any.

So, deciding to make hay and all that before Vinç forgot we really needed one, I phoned another local firm that specialises in refrigerators and washing machines. "Yes madam...we've got them in stock. When would you like it delivered? We also give you a plastic mat...what colour would you like it? And a set of plastic boxes..." They took down the details over the phone. Three days later (payday, natch) they were on the doorstep with the frig. I was in bed with food poisoning, contracted we suspect from the firm's canteen. Never was a refrigerator welcomed with such open arms. The thought of Nicki having food that could be kept in good condition after the tins had been opened, the certainty that no meat was going to go bad in our house, the luxury of ice-cubes, jellies on the spot, (jello to you American pedants), and the thought of mixing up Dikini's parcel swept over us. We opened the door for the pleasure of seeing the light come on. We stuck water in the freezer and promptly made ourselves cold drinks just for the sheer pleasure of drinking them. The salads, formerly so limp and depressing, crackled in the Dew-bin. The jellies/jellos set as we watched. We even evolved a new method of making them.

For the cooks amongst us - and there are quite a number, especially male fen - the idea is to use only sufficient hot water to melt the gelatine. Then fill up to your pint with icecubes. When they've melted it starts to set immediately.

We're saving Dick's strawberry icecream though. That's going to be a special treat when some other fan - it'll probably be Ethel Lindsay - comes over on a warm day. (HPS. It was, Dick. On Sunday, 24th May, 1959. Thanks...)

That American Habit

We were rather amused to learn that 'jelly' doesn't mean anything to Americans. Bennett found out for us. Apparently they call it jello. And that just shows what advertising does for one. I'm sure they've got more than one firm that produces flavoured gelatine for making moulds, yet Jell-o has advertised so widely in the States that it has become the generic name for them. Over here, of course, jelly has been abbreviated from 'gelatine' and refers to any firm's manufacture of flavoured-gelatine. Even to jelly crystals which are not so widely used. We can, and do, buy gelatine for making our own jellies, but it's not so easy since you've got to measure the flavouring and colouring as well, whereas in the manufactured brands every thing is already done.

We discovered too through a magazine that America does not recognise the term 'castor sugar'. All sugar in the States is castor sugar. Nothing so coarse as granulated sugar appears to exist. Here, the ordinary sugar, each grain of which is about four to eight times as coarse as the grains of castor sugar, is granulated.

Another oddity is that we've discovered we live in a 'duplex'. Over here is not a luxury dwelling as it appears to be in the States. In the older shopping centres - and even in some new ones - the two-floors-over-a-shop format for housing is very common. Especially in the areas built during Victorian times, as ours almost certainly was.

That Eternal Parental Topic

The baby.

Have you ever had close contact for a long period with a baby? The expression of disgust, of intelligence beyond what we believe them to know, the cunning, oh, above all the cunning. Nicki has a wicked habit of playing practical jokes on us. Honest. She makes a special grunt when she's going to fill her nappy (diaper - there's another of those words). Her current pleasure is to grunt and lie looking at us desperately. The rush to unpin the nappy before she can dirty it starts a twinkle in her eyes and when it's off and seen to be absolutely clean - but thoroughly damp - she giggles whole-heartedly. A sort of "Suckers-I-fooled-you-again" look spreads all over her face. The number of times we say we won't be fooled, and she catches us every time. I'm sure it's intentional.

The funniest thing though is to see her looking for the little man inside the loudspeaker cabinet. We stand her in front of it and she jerks round to each side in a desperate effort to find him. Hank Williams she likes, and some rockandroll, and Lehrer is good, too. Some classics are fine but too much noise is not appreciated at all, and neither is anything with a slow rhythm. There's one thing - she's got no objection to music! We don't have to tiptoe around saying "Sssh! you'll wake the baby."

Pushing the pram (baby carriage to you Statesiders) along the road, I tend to hold a conversation with Nicki and the expressions on her face clearly show what



she thinks of that! "There she goes again. I can't hear a word she's saying anyway for cars. Damn noisy things! Who wants to hear anyhow? What's that tree? Oh, it goes right across my pram. And aren't they big houses? Oh shut up - I can't hear you. That's better. Now I can look at things. What's that? A fountain? What's a fountain? Oh. Oh, what pretty lights. A nice red one. Now what have we stopped for? Oh dear, she's at it again. Now what's she saying? I tell you it's no good: I can't hear you for cars. And I'm going to fill my nappy anyway. This dam' ribbon. Why do you have to put bonnets on that have ribbons? It keeps sticking in my mouth. There I've made it all wet and if you don't move it I'll yell. I warned you...you big dumb idiot. Why can't you understand what I'm telling you? All right, then, waaaaaaah...waaaaaaah!"

"That stopped her didn't it? Well take the bonnet off - I don't like them. Besides it twists round and gets over my eye. Oh it's no good trying to pull it back; it'll only get twisted again when I try to look at something else. Besides I want to see what those houses are. OOh! That was a noisy thing. A bus? Then why does it make so much noise? Oh, you've stopped moving. Why? What are you looking at? I can't see. Let me see. Let me SEE. LET ME SEEEEE! WAAAAAAAHAH! That's better. What is it? Oh."

"I'm hungry. I don't want the damn dummy. I want my bottle. I want my bottle. I WANT MY BOTTLE. I WANT MY BOTTLE! WAAAAAAAHAH!"

Talking of Lehrer

He is appearing over here at the moment. The continual link up and implication that he is writing his songs specially because of the sick, sick, sick jokes annoys me. Ken brought his record back from Cleveland long before the s.s.s.jokes got under full weigh, and he has been a fannish favourite since then. We were interested to learn that he also sang at his concerts at least one of the

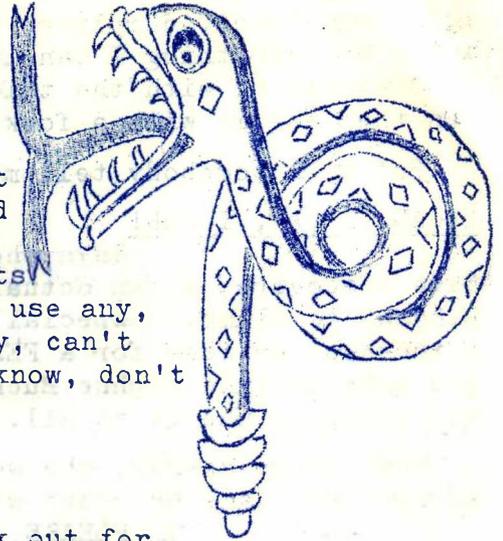
"Songs of Couch and Consultation"

by Katie Lee (not Kati - thanks, Betty) mentioned in a recent column. We've since discovered data on that record which, for those who want to know, is as follows. Released by Oriole, No MG 20030. Price not known - especially since budget day.

PAPER

I'm typing this right now on the remnants of paper left behind by the previous firm using these rooms. It consists of duped paper with reports on one side only on "Let's Go Shopping With Elizabeth Allen" (one of the ITV advertising magazine shows) - others are duplicated pages for questionnaires given to the audience at such a TV show, and one, at least, has been completed by a joker. A quiz on sandwiches wanted

to know where the participants fed - he says at friend's house. What did they use to make sandwiches - dry bread, he fills in. What effect do sandwiches have - dull and starchy, he moans. It strikes me if only an audience of fans could be at one of these shows filling in such quizzes, complete uproar would break out amongst the market research men when they looked at the reports. What soap powder do you use? What headache pills, what cold cures, what sweets do you eat, etc etc. We looked at 'em. Don't use any, don't use any, don't eat 'em often enough to say, can't remember, oh any brand that's available, don't know, don't use it, don't buy it by name.....



They would hate us.

THOSE HIGHWAYS

Leslie Gerber has promised to look out for Arizona Highways for me, if I'll let him know which I want, or, he suggests, I might tell him which I've got. I might at that - it'll certainly be a lot easier. We have only five, alas. They are: December 1952, February 1954, and May, September and October 1955. Any others will always be welcome. Exchanges ow what-have-I at your request. Let me know and I'll always be happy to come to some arrangement. Remembering the comments about other Highways, I'm still not sure if it was meant that there were other books published by different states or if it was a gag. (Though I'm mighty suspicious). If other states do publish zines on the style of Arizona Highways, let me in on it. I just love those photos. The male residents at Inchmery will tell you I drool over them as much as over photos of food.

THE DIET FAD

Well, it's not really a fad, and you could hardly call it a diet, but for 5'2", 11½ stone (161 lbs to you cussed people across the pond) was just too much. Admitted one stone of that was Nicki, but Something Had To Be Done. I'm now down to 9 stone 4 lbs (130 lbs) and still going down. I thank heaven that salad days are here again!

But you can hardly call it dieting, you know, as I said back there. I don't eat a lot of potatoes unless they're chips (oooh you people - french fries) and not much bread, but the spaghetti disappears pretty rapidly. Why only last night I made my usual amount of spaghetti for 3 (which is always enough to feed four or five) and it was all eaten up - for once! There seems to be a minor slipping in the cog-wheels when I calculate. Always what I think should be enough for three will feed four or five. I know all about that eyes being bigger than the stomach, but gosh, if I only made enough for three normal people, we'd starve!

But when it comes to icecream, I am completely unable to make enough. I wouldn't like to suggest that certain members dwelling at Inchmery are pigs, or even gluttons, but icecream and jelly disappear at a remarkable pace. Why, I remember once being shocked because Sandy ate a WHOLE TIN OF MANDARIN ORANGES - AFTER DINNER! All by himself, he did it. And you know those foil packets of soup they sell - enough for four to six servings they say blithely -- ha ha! One packet made up as stated wouldn't even touch the edge of our

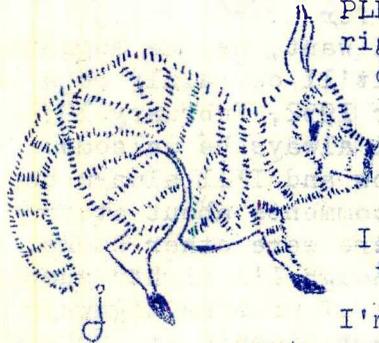
appetites. I have to use one of them as a base. Then in go vegetables of all sorts, meat, dumplings (herb dumplings at that), macaroni, and probably a bit of everything I can lay my hands on. Then there's enough. Mind you, it finishes up with the thickness of a chowder but that's handy because you can then eat it with a fork instead of a spoon.

But will somebody tell me why Sandy remains a skinny bag o' bones?

I CAN, I CAN, I CAN!

Says she with great glee. And the delight is because I have discovered I can actually draw illos. Mainly, of course, you have Ethel Lindsay to blame. Especially if you don't like my illos. Because I sent her a rough of an idea for a FEZ cover - oh, a long time ago. I figured she'd get someone like Daphne Buckmaster, who can draw, to cut it for her if she was going to use it at all.

Much to my dismay, the week Ethel decided it was time to get FEZ going again, back came my rough with a polite plea to cut it. PLEASE, PRETTY PLEASE. Now I'd always figured I could do roughs all right, but draw properly...me! Hah! Atom was over that day and soothed me. "Look," he says, "it's quite easy. all you have to do is this," and he squiggles away on paper and shows me how. And by gosh it was. Well, fairly. I spent hours trying it out, and finally after three fairly comprehensive attempts (on paper) I got a somewhat satisfactory drawing. The transference to stencil was easy. Anyway, that started me off.



I'm learning now. You'll be bothered with illos of all sorts and they're a start. However, don't be too hard on me - I've got to practice on someone and you're delegated. But though I love doing it I still wish I had the ability of Harry Turner, or Atom, or Bjo, all of whom seem to be able to sit down and squiggle and lol gorgeous illustrations with no effort. Ho-hum.

FROM CLARKE TO CANALETTO

Now there was a man who could illo. I always thought of his stuff as being 'old master' and rare and all that. But since I've come to work in the West End, I have doubts. Not doubts that his stuff isn't good, for it is. But doubts as to just how rare it is. There are two galleries round here that specialise in fine art (oh, there are more, but just two at the moment showing Canaletto). Each displays in their windows what seems to be genuine Canaletto. We'd better hurry up and win the pools because they're going to be the first thing I buy.

But if I can't have the genuine paintings, at least I can have prints. DAZ (a detergent or something) is offering two sets of prints, one with two Constables and one with a Canaletto. There's a Dutch interior, too, with one but I can't remember which set -- the interior in which the floor shows through the maid-servant's skirt. Pieter De Hooch I think. (Writing this in the office I have no referents). All for 7/- and four boxtops. That's for me. I'll be sending off for them. Let you know if they're any good.

Canaletto now seems to be getting everywhere. Some time ago I was horrified at the punning title of a book I saw reviewed: "Venice Observed". I disregarded it until the other day in the train I spotted someone with a BIG Forty four

book on his lap which contained, from my upside down position in relation to the book, what appeared to be Canaletto illos. It's almost certain to be Canaletto because Venice was his pet subject, and, yes, the book was Venice Observed. I'm off to the library to see if it's worth buying.

LONDON OBSERVED

Or the West End anyway. It's fascinating having lunch hours to explore an area I once thought I knew very well - but that part was the Wardour Street end, and the area bordered by South Audley Street, Park Lane and Oxford Street. Tucked away between this, Regent Street and Piccadilly are some gorgeous places. Bond Street, Old & New, is loaded with shops I never bothered to look at before. Discounting the perfumeries and clothes shops, which I knew were there anyway, I drool outside the porcelain and fine art shops, I slaver in front of ivory and jade Chinese carvings, I coo at matched amethyst necklets, and like that. The sort of things you find in museums which you can't always find the time to visit. If old Rockefeller would like to drop me a spare million or two I'd have a wonderful time just buying things that are beautiful to look at. As the old saying has it, "If you have two loaves, sell one and buy a lily." Confucius, I'll bet.

There are numerous arcades round here, and old (yes, really old) back streets. The sort of thing you expect to find in old country towns of the Georgian and Regency eras. A delicate Adam building here, a fine Georgian fanlight there. Shops with the elegance of a more leisurely age. Burlington Arcade with its beadles I knew all about. But Royal Arcade, Princes Arcade, Piccadilly Arcade, these I never noticed before. And what pleasure their old quietly elegant charm gives one.

The wide contrast between the hustle of the presses in Fleet Street and this area is very striking. I like them both very much.

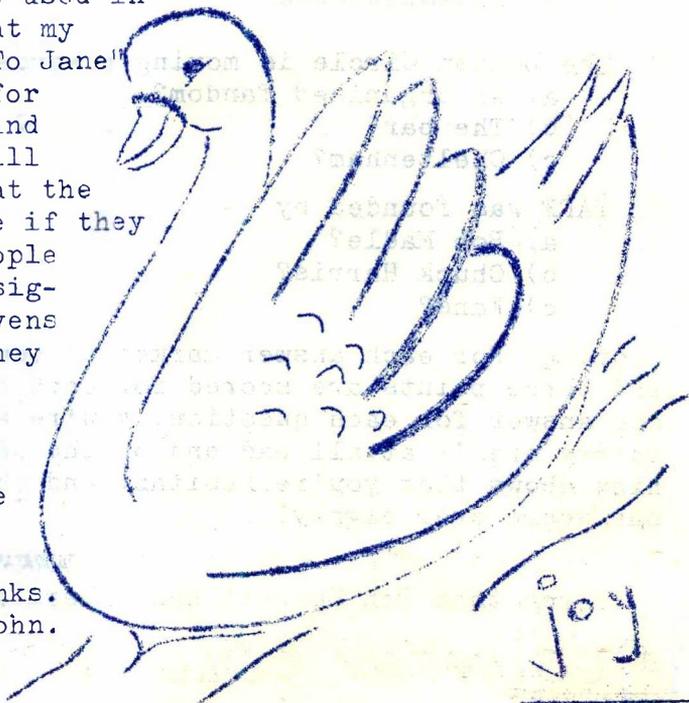
FILMS

Odd I should have had that verse used in Apr 9, because someone has taken me at my word. Here at last is "It Happened To Jane" and "Some Like It Hot" - films made for sheer entertainment and pleasure. Mind you, the social message films are still around. But someone has realised that the film world might get more out of life if they assume that entertainment is what people want after a surfeit of war, social-significance and sordidness. Thank heavens for Doris Day and Marilyn Miller. They just can't make enough films for my taste.

STOP PRESS

We have an addition to make to the list of Arizona Highways in this house. The March 56 issue just arrived from John Trimble. Many thanks. (We will take you up on your idea, John. Start searching those bookshops....)

Joy K Clarke.



THE	There's not a week passes that I don't open a women's magazine and find a page which might have been put to some good use like a fashion discussion used for one of these ridiculous personality quizzes. Who wants to know whether one is intelligent, appealing, houseproud or any combination of the three? I should think that any woman fan would be more interested in the important things in life. Fandom for instance. When are we going to see such a quiz as this:	PENELOPE
OLD		FANDERGASTE
MILL		
STREAM		

1. Eric Frank Russell is a pseudonym used by --
 - a) Paul Slickey?
 - b) Robert Silverberg?
 - c) Obidiah Bip?
2. The initials BSFA stand for --
 - a) Bigger Shoes For All?
 - b) British Science Fiction Association?
 - c) Bloch & Southgate For Always?
3. Fanac is --
 - a) The amount of work done by fans for the least return?
 - b) A news magazine published by Ron Ellik and Terry Carr?
 - c) Indispensable?
4. The London Circle is moving towards
 - a) An organised fandom?
 - b) The bar?
 - c) Cheltenham?
5. TAFF was founded by --
 - a) Bob Madle?
 - b) Chuck Harris?
 - c) Fans?
6. Peter Hamilton is the editor of --
 - a) Nova Publications?
 - b) Nebula Science Fiction?
 - c) Walt Willis's column?
7. To join OMPA one must produce --
 - a) Proof of one's existence?
 - b) Sixteen pages per annum?
 - c) Seven shillings?
8. The Grapes of Wrath was written by
 - a) Ken Potter?
 - b) John Steinbeck?
 - c) John Berry?
9. Detention is --
 - a) Confinement to barracks?
 - b) The Detroit World Convention?
 - c) An evening spent with Brian Burgess?
10. This column is written by --
 - a) Arthur C Clarke?
 - b) Sandy Sanderson?
 - c) Penelope Fandergaste?

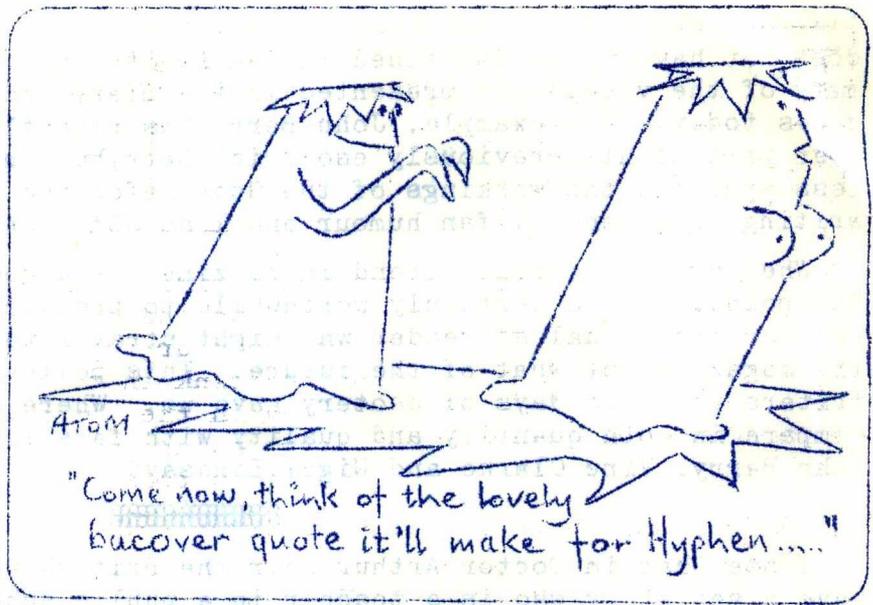
Scoring: For each answer marked a) count one point. b) counts two points and three points are scored for each c) marked. If you've marked more than one answer for each question, you're a True Fan. Scores between twenty and thirty aren't at all bad and on the whole you show promise. Anything under nine shows that you're hesitant and that you'll never make a Vorzimmer. Any-one score over eighty?

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I see that Ron Bennett has embarked upon another wild and enthusiastic scheme. Not satisfied with

A COUNTRY COLUMN OF CITY LIFE

the coverage given to fan news by Fanac, Bennett has begun putting out a newszine of his own, Skyrack, which he promises to publish on a regular schedule of not more than monthly intervals. In the introductory editorial, Bennett mentions his earlier associations with Contact, without saying anything about the subscriptions collected by him for that now defunct newszine. He also mentions Fanac, whose style heading logo he has copied. The first issue of Skyrack isn't bad and covers a wide angle of news, from the Birmingham Convention to latest fanzines received. It is noteworthy that Bennett does not stick to reviewing these fanzines, but also publishes his opinions on articles in them. How much of Skyrack will in future be a vehicle for Bennett's views and how much will be news? It remains to be seen. The promise is there of a first rate news magazine, but Skyrack has a long way to go before it reaches the high standard set by Fanac, which it should be remembered has had lengthy spells of weekly publication.



To top a wonderful year of producing Fanac, the Berkeley Publishing Giants recently published the Fannish, a 28 page issue of their newszine, which included a pagent of the year's fannish highlights, a superlative achievement. Twenty-two pages of the Fannish are devoted to the results of the Fanac Poll, compiled by Terry Carr, assisted by Miriam Carr and Ron Ellick, and as interesting a piece of fannish reading you're not likely to see until next year's Poll results. British publications and fans are well represented. In the best fanzine class, Hyphen was voted into second place, Retribution (which promises another issue very shortly) came fourth, Aporr-héta seventh, and Ploy sixteenth. Arthur Thomson came second in the best artists poll, but topped the list of cartoonists. Eddie Jones was voted fifth in the artist's poll. John Berry and Walt Willis took the first two places in the best writer's section, and excluding ties, Walt Willis's "The Harp That Once Or Twice," Bob Shaw's "The Glass Bushel", and Sandy's "Inchmery Fan Diary", took the top three places in the best column section.

The only fault with this bumper Fanac is that trends in the fan field are ignored, and these could make an interesting record in themselves. A short time ago the cry was that fanzines were moving further and further away from sf into an enclosed world of their own where esoteric humour reigned supreme. Hyphen undoubtedly started the postwar trend and has maintained its high standard of humour where copies like Bem, Ploy and Satellite have produced material on a much lower plane. Today the trend seems to be towards items, either humorous or serious and constructive, of general interest. Apé is a case in point. 'Inchmery Fan Diary' is popular because it deals with the

life and opinions of interesting people and is accordingly interesting. One does not have to be ingrained in faaaanish law to understand and appreciate many of the viewpoints presented in the Diary and this is true of many fanzines today. For example, John Berry has recently stated that he is giving over part of his previously esoteric 'Retribution' to general fan items and less space to the workings of the Goon Defective Agency. John himself is writing more general fan humour and less GDA stories.

Whether this overall trend in fanzines is a good thing or not is a doubtful point. It is certainly worthwhile to produce a fanzine of general interest for the casual sf reader who might stray into fandom from a sampling of the magazine but what of the future? This policy is not producing the new writers that the days of esotery gave us. Where are the new writers who can compare in both quantity and quality with fans like Walt Willis, Mal Ashworth John Berry, Vinç Clarke and Nigel Lindsay?



I see that in Doctor Arthur Weir the British Science Fiction Association have a secretary who is a teacher in a public school. I've wondered for some time just what the value of the British public school system is. I think the advantages of the Tom Brown system went out with Dickens. One can get a better education in a British public house.

You can see the headmaster of a public school sitting behind his desk talking to some parents about the delights and benefits of a formal education. He talks of character training and the school's extra-curricula programme. It is all talk. Elsewhere in the building there are rows and rows of unhappy little schoolboys with long faces. And what a change in the public house! In the 'pub', an integral part of British life, the first thing that strikes the casual visitor is the friendly atmosphere, full of bonhommie and joie de vivre. This is not all. The public house is an institution whose very attendance is a social attribute. One can mix, converse, discuss and debate over a glass of ale. By the bar the world's problems are thrashed out. The nation's leaders who lose sight of their overall goal and fail to see problems in an objective light would do well to discuss these problems with the man in the pub.

It can be argued that the public school provides a formal education - and is therefore worthwhile - but this is for the minority. Why, only twenty to twenty five percent of the nation's children win grammar school places in the eleven plus examination. The perecentage of pupils gaining places in public schools is even smaller. Public houses, on the other hand, provide an informal education for everyone. What does a formal education matter, anyway? Does it guarantee success? Winston Churchill was the bottom boy in his class at school. After all, a formal education means cramming a child with a few facts about geography and history and pushing into his head the importance of the three 'R's. Is this the best we can do for our children? Is this what we want in the generation of the future? Obviously not! An informal education, being of necessity far more extensive, is better than a formal one. And one can get this informal education in a public house. The public school fails sadly.

No doubt those who advocate and support the public school system will speak highly of the value of character training through sport and will rave

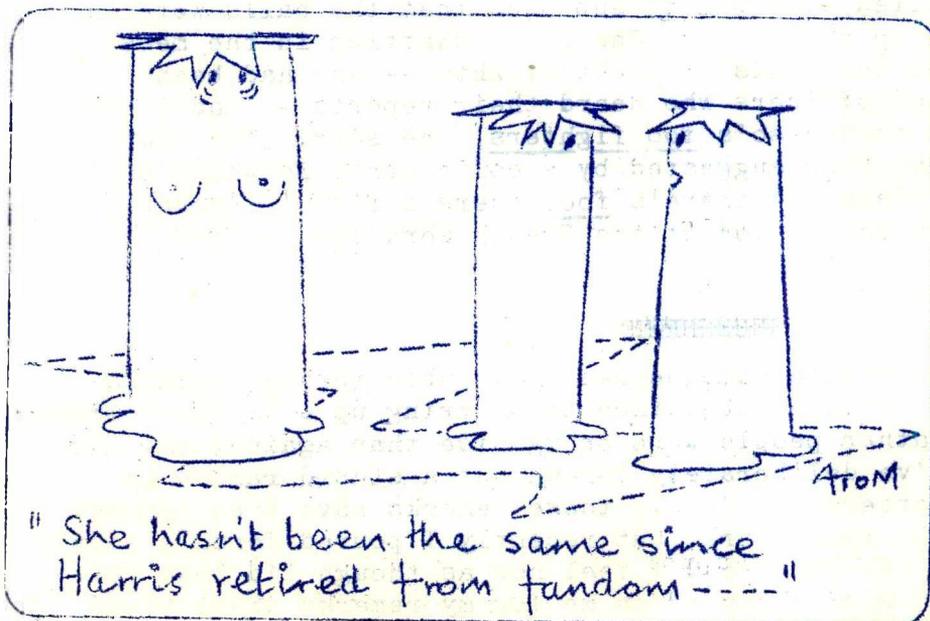
wildly about teamwork and coordination. But what value to the country are thirty bone-headed sporty types running about chasing a little leather ball? Why, even the public house has more to offer here. No, I'm not thinking of the valuable exercise of elbow bending for the moment, but there are points which bear out how valuable is the public house towards one's standard of health. First, there is the actual benefit to the bodily health of alcohol and no one can deny that malt beer is of the utmost value to the health. We know too of doctors advising brandy to perk the flagging spirits of the worried and the weak. Operations of old had rum as an integral part, and any fan knows the benefits obtained from alcohol at the evenings during the trying gatherings known as conventions. Our leading and parent body, the London Circle meets regularly, note, in a London pub.

Secondly, sport in the public house is by no means absent. There are billiards, as Ted Tubb knows, and there are dominoes. There is also that institution of institutions, the public house dartboard which provides exercise in a high standard of coordination of eye and body. Imagine the poetry of motion of the dart, first poised and ready, and then in flight and ask yourself how the programme of health through sport in a public school can improve on this.

Britain is rapidly losing its position as a leading world power. The country is governed by ex-public schoolboys. It is obvious that under the present system we are getting nowhere fast. To succeed, to regain its former glories, the country must work together to a man. It is the public house which teaches one to respect the views held by others, a valuable lesson which many fans would do well to learn, and it is the public house which teaches people to work together. It is the public school which breeds class distinctions and thereby widens any breach which must be closed before people can work together.

Public houses solve problems - public schools create them.

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What is it about sf fans that makes such a large percentage of them interested in comic strips? We all know about Ted White who has to keep moving house because the cellars get filled up with comic books, but he's an exception.

Of course there are comic strips and comic strips. I don't think there can be many adult fans who go in for the usual run of Terry and the Pirates or Chic Young's Dagwood and Blondie series. It is,

I suppose, a fact that some comic strips cater for that taste in humour which so prevails in fandom. Walt Kelly's Pogo, for example, has been a fan favourite for years, whilst Al Capp, who was a speaker at the New York World Con a couple of years ago, scored quite a hit a little before that with his Li'l Abner series about the Shmoos, a word which, incidentally, basically means to fawn upon someone.

Of late, other strips such as Moomin and Peanuts have taken the fannish favour, whilst there is also promise shown in such British comic strips as the News Chronicle's Colonel Pewter, and the Daily Express's Four-D Jones. Wally Fawkes's strip (under the penname of Trog) in the Daily Mail is quite popular, and there is some following for the straight space opera strip, Jeff Hawke, in the Daily Express. It's perpetrator, Sid Jordan, attended the London WorldCon.

This trend towards comic stripism goes back far into fannish history, however. In America several writers have been associated with comic strips, from Larry Shaw's work on Flash Gordon, way back to when young fans thought up the Superman strip, and when fandom took up the banner in the cause of Bill Holman's Smokey Stover.

I was reminded of this last strip quite forcibly when I recently visited Inchmery Fandom, now settled in comfortably at their new, enlarged premises. Knowing my interest in flying saucers, Vinç showed me a copy of the April issue of Ray Palmer's latest venture, 'Flying Saucers'. "Just a copy we happened to have lying around," Sandy told me. Palmer is reprinting in serial form Kenneth Arnold's book, "The Coming of the Saucers." The chapter printed in the April issue of F.S. contained this piece which may be of interest to other old timers:

"One of the most baffling mysteries of the second World War were strange aerial apparitions in the shape of blazing balls... Over Japan, Nipponese air pilots met the blazing balls and took them to be secret and mysterious aerial devices of the Americans or the Russians. On the other hand, mystified U.S. pilots supposed that the balls were a curious device thought up by Japan... One pilot chatting in the mess with others who had met the balls on night flights -- and had been 'ribbed' by intelligence officers who heard their reports -- had a brain wave. 'Let's call the so-and-so's foo fighters,' he said. The name stuck. It seems to have been suggested by a comic strip in which one 'Smokey Stover' said, 'Yeah, if there's foo, there's fire.' Probably the slang word foo is a corruption of the French word feu or fire."

Immortal Storm, anyone?

I seem to have run myself into some degree of trouble through remarks made in previous columns. I've no objection to stirring up a little comment, of course, but I'd much rather people were on my side than against me. It seems strange that when I've deliberately thrown out a stupid remark in order to bring in a few letters for Sandy, those remarks have been ignored for the clottish stuff they really are, but recently I poured forth a couple of opinions straight from the heart and I feel now as though I'd been left to die in the snow. Helen Winick jumped on me for my remarks about blood and gut films and I got clobbered from all sides because I attacked a book

by that champion of champions, Harlan Ellison.

Miss Winick says I'm stupid. I asked whether one preferred one's children to see "honest blood and guts or sugared prostitution" and Miss Winick points out that "there are a few hundred films which don't deal with either." Which is a piece of wonderful, analytic thought by Miss W. I'd better try to clear up the point by stating that I know there are other films and all I was trying to point out then was that while people seem to be up in arms against war pictures which at least are honestly presented as blood and gut war pictures and little else, there's only one voice in the wilderness-mine shouting about films like 'Love Me Or Leave Me' which glorify all sorts of base passions and attitudes, glorification we can well do without. In 'Party Girl' the shyster lawyer gets the girl and is portrayed as a 'goodie'. The immorality of 'The Remarkable Mr Panhypacker' is treated as comedy. In 'Carousel' the wastrel Billy Bigelow has all sorts of nice songs sung about him...one could go on all day.

Note, Miss Winick, that I am referring constantly to the commercial cinema. Classic films did not enter into my argument, so the beauty of the film showing at the Academy immaterial. Few parents are going to let their children travel into The City to see such a picture. Thanks for worrying about my standards of film viewing. Next time read what someone writes and not what you think someone writes. Yes? There is no compulsion in going to see any film - or watching TV - but this strikes me as a negative attitude. The poor material is still there and it will stay until positive action is taken.

Several fans slated me for adverse criticism given to Ellison's book 'Rumble' which is supposed to be a realistic and raw account of a realistic and raw life in realistic and raw circles of a realistic and raw youth, like. I was not objecting to the subject matter, merely (sic) to the treatment. The emphasis was on the shock element of sex and sadism, not realism, and it was badly written. Ellison readers who want a vivid account of life in the raw, written well, should try Somerset Maugham's 'The Razor's Edge', chapter five, part two. If Ellison could do it as well I'd be happy. Penelope Fandergaste

