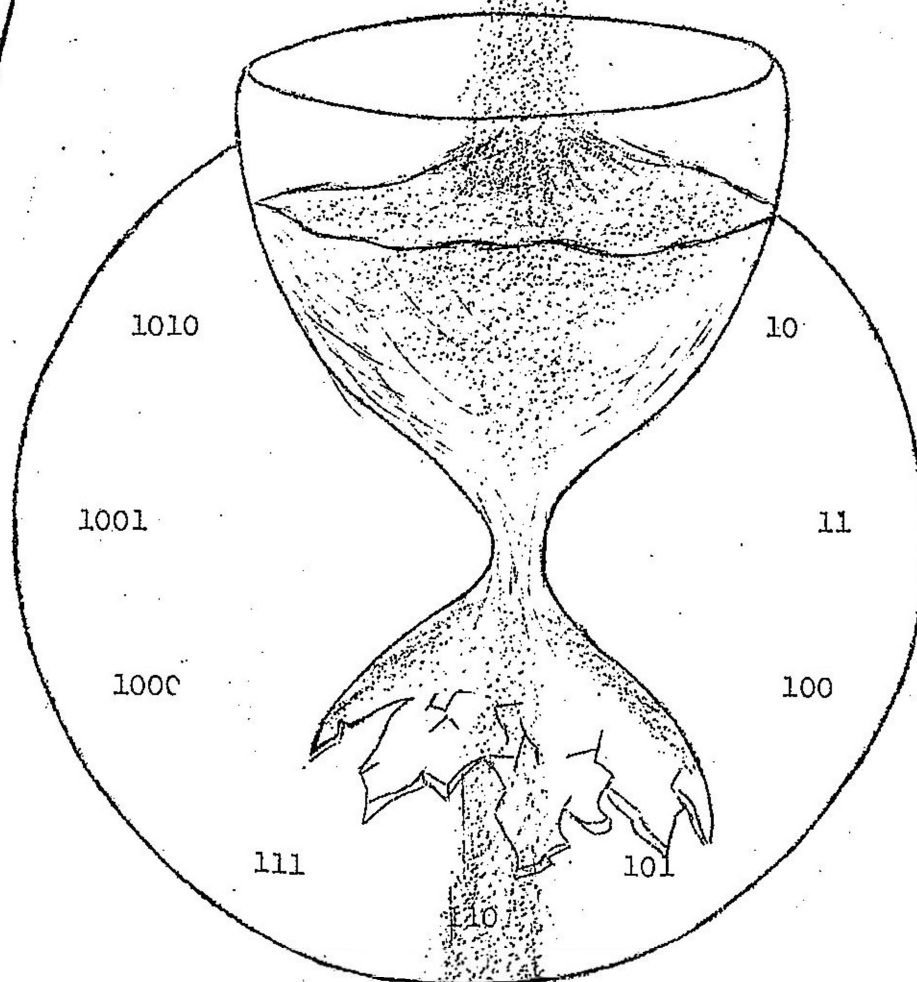


BINARY

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Joe's Place

You are now looking at the third issue of BINARY, which is the OMPazine of Joe Patrizio who resides in the fair city of St. Albans (22 Eaton Rd. to be a

bit more precise). With any luck this BINARY will be in the 34th mailing proper, otherwise it will be post mailed.

One day I'm going to be able to spend all the time I want on producing a mag, but that time is not with us yet and so everything I wanted to be in this issue is just not in it. In fact once again I am reduced to composing this editorial on stencil, a state of affairs which is not to my liking, as I all too often get into involved sentences which take a great deal of time and trouble to sort out. However I'll press on, and good luck to you all.

Credit for the cover again goes to Gus Poll, and with this credit many thanks from yours truly.

All headings were done by me, which isn't boasting but just to prevent anyone else getting the blame.

First a few words about the numbering system used on BINARY. Ken Cheslin was the only one who got what was going on, or at least he was the only one who said that he had cottoned on. Yes, I am using the binary system of counting which instead of using the usual ten symbols to designate a number, uses two only, 1 and 0. Without going into too much detail, we have in the binary system a base of two for all our numbers, and only use two symbols as mentioned before, which means that instead of getting 1;2;3;4 etc., we get 1;10;11;100. This may look complicated but it really isn't and once you get the hang of it, is as easy to use as the decimal system.

From a fannish point of view things have been very slow recently in this neck of the woods. I'm too far from London to get to all meetings of the SFCoL particularly now that Ella is moving from 151 Canterbury Rd. It possibly isn't realised at the moment, outside London anyway, just what a blow this may mean to London fandom, and even British fandom. For instance the other week I was in a position to go up to Ella's for a Friday evening's natter with the rest of the mob you will always find up there, but I wasn't able to do this because of Ella's imminent move; so what did I do? Nothing. And this won't be the end, there will be dozens of other times that I, and many more will be frustrated in our longing for fannish chat. All we will be able to do is to sit and dream of all the wonderful hours we have spent at 151, the place where I and goodness knows how many others first saw the light of fannish day. I'm sure I'm speaking for a lot of people when I say that things won't be the same without 151...we'll all miss it very much.

I now call for two minutes silence.

In this issue I meant to inaugurate a column dealing with books I've read recently, and films I've seen since the last mailing, but unfortunately I haven't had time to do this. However it might be a good idea to get

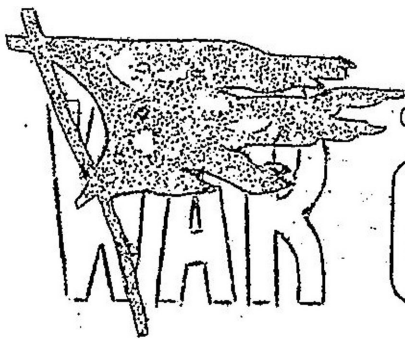
things moving by saying something about some of the films I have seen recently. I don't intend to go into any great detail but I may be able to help you decide whether or not to go and see a particular film, and with any luck I may even start an argument somewhere. Anyhow, here goes nothin'.

I'll start with one that Harry Warner mentioned last mailing, Mysterious Island. This is by no means a great film, and not nearly as good as 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, but it is quite a romp, and the special effects are excellent coming over quite real. I particularly liked the scene with the giant crab, which looked as if it was built this size, does anyone know if it was?

The Lonliness of the Long Distance Runner was a film I looked forward to seeing, and having done so my reactions to it are a bit mixed. I enjoyed it while seeing it, but on looking back there was a great deal of superficiality about it. Presumably you all know the story, which is about a boy in borstal who is picked for the cross country race against boys of a nearby Public school. Tom Courtney in the lead was very good, as was the acting generally; the photography was good, and technically very little was wrong with the film. All it lacked in fact was a plot, or rather a plot to suit a film of this length. When you think about it all the contradictions show up. His contempt of the insurance money his mother gets for his father's death, and yet the way he spends it without any remorse. Then we have the cross country course which isn't marked out but even the public school strangers know what it is. There are others, and yet I found they didn't really intrude while I was watching the film, and in spite of them all I would recommend it...but you're not going to have the meaning of it all revealed.

Frank Sinatra, and Laurence Harvey are the front line of some very good acting in the Manchurian Candidate, which deals with the brain washing of an American platoon in the Korean campaign, and their return to their own lines. The Communists have made Laurence Harvey into a killer, and he goes back to the US to kill all opposition to his step father's nomination to the Presidency. Tension is built up well throughout the film, and although the ending is rather obvious it isn't too obvious which way he is going to jump (so I won't tell you). One of the high spots is a fight involving Frank Sinatra, and it's one of the best fights I have ever seen. They both looked as if they both looked as if they really meant it, and it was made more real by the fact that there was no holds barred..boots and everything counted. As you may have gathered this is another one I would recommend.

Probably the main reason This issue of BINARY is late is that for a while I had a nasty suspicion that I would be wasting my time cutting stencils. I got this idea round about the time that Mr Krushchey had a difference of opinion with Mr Kennedy over Cuba. We were close there, weren't we? Unfortunately I couldn't work up any enthusiasm over it. I thought about it and kept on coming up with the conclusion that I didn't give a damn about Communism, the American way of life, and if they wanted to fight over it they could do so as long as they left me alone. But of course this just couldn't be so, if anything had started we would all have been in, and this thought didn't appeal to me at all. Yes, I sympathised with the Americans having those bases so near to them. I know exactly how they felt. They felt just like I do having all those bases in East Germany. Unpleasant, isn't it?



CAMPAIGN AGAINST WORLD POVERTY

WAR ON WANT

After reading the comments, last mailing, on the Chromium Plated Wilderness, I suppose that it will be no surprise to most of you that I have decided to come back and answer some of the points raised. I will try to do this in the following article.

I must first point out that the article wasn't written by Anne, nor was it written by me, but by G.W.Target who is a journalist by profession. All the blame for omitting to credit him with the authorship is mine and I offer my apologies for it.

The main criticism offered by OMPA members, and Ted Tubb, to this article was the style...too journalistic you said. I agree that to a large extent it was but it must be remembered that it wasn't written for OMPA, or any other mag with a quarterly or even monthly deadline. It was written for a weekly paper and written in the same language as you will find in most other weekly and daily papers. Sure it isn't the greatest prose in the world, but in a limited space you make the biggest impact you can using the most loaded expressions you can find. This tends to create a style which is to some extent gripping, when read in the original, but sounding a mite overemotional if read at leisure. Now I'm not trying to justify all that is written in this manner; I'm just trying to give you the context in which the article was written. Think now! Do you give an aesthetic criticism of all newspaper articles you read?

The main detailed criticism of the article was by Ted Tubb and I will deal with his article alone, for the moment.

His first point, where he gives what he considers a good reason for letting a child die, I found somewhat irrelevant. However let's take his point..if a child is born hopelessly blind, deformed, crippled and diseased no one has the right to condemn it to live. But Ted Tubb says that we do have the right to kill it (or if we're a bit squeamish about this, just leave it die quietly in a corner somewhere). Well I'm glad Tubb thinks it all nicely cut and dried, because if I had to make the choice of helping a child in this state to live or killing it, I don't think I should find it so easy to decide. But as I said all this is irrelevant. In the CPW no such child was mentioned. These children weren't and aren't born this way. They become this way thro' lack of appropriate attention, care, and food which is denied them by the thoughtlessness of others. A child isn't born suffering from starvation, nor is it born with yaws, leprosy or any of the rest. A child gets these because too many people don't care enough to give him the materials to keep them off. But perhaps Ted is trying to offer a solution to the problem. These children suffer from blindness, deformity, and disease--no child should live under such conditions--solution;kill them off--result;end of problem.

Yes, this is a solution, but I prefer the philosophy offered by that other cliché which says something about prevention being better than cure.

So the description of lepers wasn't the right way to get sympathy for them. Talking about human beings as "bestial" was going about things the wrong way. Well I submit that this criticism of Ted's is made ludicrous by his using a like metaphor in his conclusions. "...malnourished creatures in human shape". "Lepers corroded and bestial..", well perhaps the 'bestial' part isn't too well put but the other is ever so accurate. How else do you describe a man whose arms or legs have rotted away? 'Corroded' seems to fit excellently; if this isn't the right way to say it, give me other words to describe the stumps that are all leprosy leaves of a man's limbs.

Now we come to what Ted calls 'the real sickener'. Maybe I'm a bit sick too but I got exactly what the author was trying to convey. And fancy attacking it with "Bookshops in this country do not openly sell pornography." and "...brothels are also illegal"; Ted, how could you be so naive. Of course there is a law about pornography in this country, and every now and again it is enforced. I know of one shop in my home town of Edinburgh which has twice in the last few years been raided and the owner fined for selling pornography (which was on open display) and Edinburgh is a much more staid place than London. If you believe that Pornography isn't sold openly in bookshops, I'll take you a walk down Charing Cross Road one day and show you differently. I'm afraid I can't do the same in the matter of finding a brothel, but I'm sure it wouldn't take much of an effort for you to find one. A stroll round the West End one evening I'm sure would soon yield results. Yes, of course they are illegal, but what makes you think that this is going to stop some people indulging in them.

I was glad to see that Ted ignored the concept that the breast is for "filthy imaginings" because this concept wasn't in the article. Oh yes these words did occur, but the general concept wasn't there and this must have been apparent to most people. The breasts that the author was writing about were for filthy imaginings..the photographs the author saw were put there for a specific purpose (surely I needn't spell it out), I cannot that you didn't see what the author really meant.

The criticism that the article was bad propaganda is not an easy one to substantiate, particularly on the point that it contains a lot of nonsense (a point I don't agree with). Propaganda is a method of getting a point across to the public, and if you are doing this via the written word it is not true to say that your results will be in direct proportion to the greatness of prose in which it is written. This particular article has been extensively distributed and I believe has been quite successful in gaining support for NOW.

Let us now take a long look at the final point in Ted's article, and one which cropped up quite often in the rest of the mailing...Charity begins at home. It seems to me that everybody who said this was guilty of just opening their mouths and belching a completely irrelevant cliché. So you tell me about all those spastics, blind diseased, deformed people in this country; all right, so they exist, but everything that can be done for these people is being done. Somebody is doing something to try to make up for their infirmities. The same applies to the children you talk about. 'I'll used' is your expression and there you have it. These children have been

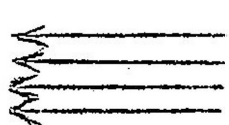
cast aside because their parents didn't want them; just couldn't care less what happened to them. Compare this to the children in the CPW. The parents here care but can't do anything about it, and these same children aren't just a minority, but a vast majority. And what gives you the impression that to feed these children would mean that we must all come down to there level of existence, because this idea is a lot of rubbish. The richer countries need not go bankrupt in order to keep these people alive..5/- will provide enough milk for one child for one year. But this is not the way to salvation, just pushing food to those who need it. War on Want know this and although this is one of their major jobs, it is not the reason for their coming into being.

War on Want was originally formed as a political movement (non-party) whose aim was to agitate for governments to provide all the help the underdeveloped countries needed. It wasn't long before they found people sending in money to help them, and from then on they have collected money as part of the job, and all they have collected has gone to the cause for which it was donated. It has been the proud boast of the movement that not one penny is taken in expenses. However Wow still feels that its real purpose is to get the governments to do what they, and like organizations, are doing now, as only the sort of money that governments can supply will solve the problem. And there we have another point. The problem is soluble. The effort made in World Refugee Year was enough to close practically all the refugee camps in Europe, and although this is only part of the problem it does show that something can be done and done effectively.

At the present time the British government and private enterprise give to the underdeveloped countries something in the region of £300m a year. A vast sum you say. Yes, and it does a lot of good, but when you look at it it works out at £6 a head per annum. Now take ten times this..£60 a year per head, which works out to about £1 a week. Now Archie, Terry, do you honestly think that this pound would have you out in the gutter begging for food. OK! OK! so the labour force of this country isn't 50m, it's..what? 20m? I don't know but even if you gave three times this, your standard of living wouldn't fall to anything like subsistence level. Anyway you shouldn't have to give this money directly at all. The money this country alone spends on making obsolete weapons is enough to set up all the underdeveloped countries to a level where they wouldn't have to ask for another penny.

The point which must be made is that although the individual can give a man 5/- to prevent starvation, a government can give him £5 so that he can buy a plough, and save himself and his children from starvation, while at the same time maintaining his dignity.

* * * * *



RESPONSE

Being the results in the form of my reactions, thoughts etc. of reading the 33rd OMPA mailing. The opinions expressed below are not necessarily those of the author, (now where did I steal that one from).

QUARTERING 2: Fitch...Larry McCombs' story was good. Generally speaking I've not made my mind up yet about fiction in OMPA. There's no doubt that the standard is pretty high, and this is not just an amateur's standard, but when reading an OMPazine I never feel in the right frame of mind, for reading fiction. Oh well, perhaps I'll grow out of this... especially if all the fiction is as good as this.

To Bob Lichtman; the longest road I've come across in this country is Paisley Road, which runs between Glasgow and Paisley. I can't remember exactly how long it is but the house numbers go up to about 7000, which is very high for this country.

PHENOTYPE: Eney...A most striking cover on this one. I still say your CON was spoiled by bitchiness. If it was to be a con report then you should have written about the con; if you were writing about your side of the feud between you and Ted White (about which I'm completely ignorant) then you shouldn't have called it a con rep.

I for one would be most indebted to you if you found your way to doing Ah Sweet Idiocy, an item often mentioned but one which I can't remember seeing an extract from.

ENVOY 9: Schultz...my comments on Larry McCombs' story hold good for Hans, yeh, that's right I enjoyed it.

SCOTTISHE 29: Lindsay...you can tell Brian Varley that the coldest I've known it in this country was a few years back in Edinburgh, when it reached -5°F or 37 degrees of frost. TV tends to give us a distorted view of the US way of life particularly when news and comment programmes give us on the spot interviews with Americans. I remember the programme Tonight doing this a few years ago. They were stopping people on the street in New York and asking them what they knew, and thought of Britain. The answers verged on the incredible. It was they edited the film (leaving out the intelligent answers) but the impression put over was that everyone either hadn't heard of Britain or had the impression that we were still mourning the death of Queen Victoria and everything she ever represented. Similarly a radio programme here asking people what they thought of the Cuban crisis, when it was at its height, came across one person who said "Oh I don't know, I'm just down for the day".

HEX 3: Wells...Found your rundown of the US schools system most interesting. Comparison between the US and British systems tends to get a bit confusing as the same terms are used in both with entirely different meanings. e.g. what you call Grammar school we call primary, or preparatory, and our Grammar is probably more akin to the later stages of your high school, and the early stages of your colleges. Then what you call 'Public' schools are run by local councils here, and are known as council schools, and your private schools are called Public schools by us..confusing isn't it.

DOLPHIN 3: Busby ...Do you really think that the killing of animals to nourish the ego is O.K.? I wonder what your reaction would be if someone told you that their ego absolutely demanded that they had the heads of your dogs decorating their car.

ALCES-amer 1: Anderson...Thought your cover was most amusing..quite original. I also like the easy, conversational way you write, and I'm looking forward to more of it in the next issue.

ENVOY 8: Cheslin...Apart from your dream, which was fascinating and surprisingly coherent for a dream, I found this mag...just about. I feel as if I have come in in the middle, which I'm sure I haven't..but maybe you always start in the middle ? Oh well, I suppose the hero will get the girl, in the end.

MORPH 28: Roles...I like the little snippets about books that you sprinkle about the mag. Helps me to keep on my toes when I'm in a second hand book-shop. I can't agree with you that because he was warned, the boy expelled from school deserves no sympathy. His being a member of the CND was not undermining school system in any way, and to expel because of it was wrong ! God knows how many people have died just to prevent this...the persecution of those who have beliefs different from you. At least that's what they were told they were dying for, but it seems that the only freedom obtained was the freedom to conform with the opinions of the majority.

VIPER 6: Donaho... I just don't know how you keep on producing Vipers of this size and quality, but I must say I'm glad you do.

George Locke wasn't quite right in giving the impression that the only place he had played Canasta was in Belfast. He obviously forgot the time he played it with Jimmy Groves and me in the train to Liverpool. But perhaps he didn't want to incriminate himself as this was the time he went along to the guard's van and pinched a table for us to play on. Come to think of it, though, I'm not surprised he forgot about it, after the night we spent at Liverpool.

Your comments on the Scots are again provocative, and I suppose that again you meant them to be so. I'm not going off on a tirade but I will give you my views on some of the things you said.

I don't think you realise just how different the Scots are from the English. I recommend you to come and find out. Complete independence for Scotland would be ridiculous, but this is not what is being asked for. What is being asked for is that Scotland has control over all policy which concerns her alone. I tend to agree with you about a separate Scottish culture being absorbed, but you don't go far enough; why just Scotland ? Surely all the different cultures of the 'free' world are withering and reforming into an exact copy of the U.S. way of life, as formulated by U.S. big business. One final point; Scotland wasn't a conquered province so why should she have been treated like one ?

You might be interested in an article I read in the paper, the other day, about drivers. In a semi-humorous article the author said that the worst drivers in the world were the Belgians, the best the Italians, rudest the Germans, and the politest the British.

OUTPOST 3: Hunter...After reading that snatch of the skipper's report, I wonder if Bill Donaho still thinks that the language is just a dialect of English.

Going a bit further with your comments on education, I have found that as a general rule, the primary school education in Scotland is superior to that in England, with the result that up to the age of 12 the Scottish child knows more than his English counterpart. Once in the Secondary schools, however, the English tend to specialise sooner, so that in a specified subject the English child is ahead of the Scot; but still doesn't know as much outside his specialities.

ENFOCADO 1: Kearney...An excellently produced mag, and most interesting at times, but I have one complaint to make... why so much reprint stuff? Not that I'm complaining about the quality of the items, it's just that I would have liked to have seen more original stuff, particularly by you. I can't see how you are going to get 'with' O.P.A. without mailing comments. What are you going to do if somebody says something to which you want to give an answer, and yet you can't make an article out of it?

Much as I enjoyed your article about All Quiet on the Western Front, I can't see why you did it. This is a film that very few of us have had the opportunity to see, and as it is also an old film it has already had its fair share of crits so why add another? It would have been fine to compare it with to another film of the same ilk but a full scale criticism was too much. Do you only go to the NFT? If not, why not give us your opinions on more recent films you have seen.

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ed. Cliff Temple

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QUOTE by a French Legionnaire setting up new headquarters in Corsica...

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Look at that blue sea, those black-eyed girls in blue jeans, the smell of thyme and eucalyptus. It's going to kill us here.

