

MORE ZEN VAUDE VILLE

(PLEASE READ THIS AFTER YOU'VE READ THE EDITORIAL)

Well, we're a little late again this issue, folks. I wish it weren't so, but it is. The monetary pressures of Real Life have made the mailing of this fanzine impossible since this past May. Its a lousy way to run a fanzine, that's for sure. If I know anything about being a faned, it is that you have to mail out your issue before it mutates into a worthless relic. I have failed at that task. Fortunately this issue isn't much of a relic -- most of the material is unharmed by the extra time passage. Nonetheless, I have to apologize to my contributors for hiding their lights under my bushel. Mea Culpa.

Also I must fall to my knees doubly before Steve Stiles. Not only is he a contributor to BOONFARK #8 but he also produced the enclosed fanzine, SAM. He produced lots of copies of it for me this summer to

be sent out with this issue and has been sitting around twiddling his thumbs and chewing on his nails, wondering if you all will like his funny little fanzine. I know you will, and encourage you to write Steve with you comments and bomb threats.

Since this issue is so delayed, I've decided to use additional available material to update and supplement my editorial, in an effort to bring me back in line with what has happened in the past 8 months. So let's begin with:

"WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS A FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE." part two: When I wrote my Brian Earl Brown editorial this past April I did so with a kind of weary resignation. I knew that this whole subject would persist as long as it was being written about, but felt the need to add my two cents worth anyway. I knew I was just fueling the fire, but I figured I'd give it a shot, maybe if I was lucky I would convince Brian (or anybody) that Ted and I were never telling fandom how to conduct their fanac.

I thought that if I came right out in print and told Brian that he was just plain mistaken about us, it might all end on a better note. (Call me naive.) I knew the true motivation behind PONG and rejected all other interpretations as uninformed. I said, as Ted had before me, that I thought Brian was a little paranoid and that he should just forget the whole thing. I wasn't interested in prolonging this tedious subject and hoped my editorial would be my final word on Sixth Fandom Fandom. And if I'd mailed out this fanzine in May, it would have been.

I worried, as I waited to mail this issue, that my editorial would be viewed now as dated and attempting to keep alive the very subject I wish to see die. However, as the year slipped by, and BNF sat in my basement, I noticed that the controversy wasn't going away. The further adventures of Mr. Brown and his fanzine, STICKY QUARTERS, has managed to keep the editorial subject matter current. Upon rereading I find that all the things I said to Brian in April still need saying.

This past June Brian published two issues of STICKY QUARTERS. In #5, without the benefit of this issue's editorial to spur him on, Brian wrote about the possibility of paranoia on his part. In that article he said some things that need quoting in connection with my editorial:

"In his comments about me in THE ZINE WITH NO NAME," Brian wrote of Ted White, "the possibility that my comments about 'Sixth Fandomism' might stem from a different philosophy of fandom never entered his mind. Ted White could only ascribe envious and paranoid motives to my criticism of the ultra-fannish tendencies in his zines."

Feeling that his original points about Sixth Fandom Fandom were being overlooked he attempted to straighten us out and at the same time refute any accusations of paranoia. He admits that his original article was badly written and "addressed...a specific point in time and space;" but maintains his theory is still sound. "I was addressing a potential problem that I saw developing in 1980 and 1981. Today, a year later I'm not entirely sure that the problem still exists. I don't think that my raising the issue ended it, rather the new fannish activity of the past two years wasn't nearly as monolithic as I feared." (My emphasis.) "The key phrase in that essay was "There is, today, a group of fans whose interests in fandom are highly constrained by their admiration of 6th fandom." I had wanted to draw a parallel between what I feared ((My emphasis, again.)) was developing and what had happened in comics fandom..."

"Comics fandom bears no resemblance to sf fandom," Brian explains. "Comic book fandom /has/ newszines like LOCUS and reviewzines like SFR and big glossy zines vaguely like ALGOL. What they don't have are mimeoed genzines, personalzines, letterzines, fannish zines." Without these kinds of fanzines, Brian hints, you don't have a fandom, and this really bothers him. "These comic fans haven't developed a fannish sensibility..." he writes, sounding like a missionary facing a tribe of cannibals, "...they lack appropriate models. They are trying to modify existing types of fanzines into something they have never seen before but know they want to. They're stumbling around in the dark." Which is what he thought sf fandom would be doing in a year or two, as a result of the immense power that Sixth Fandom Fandom had at its disposal.

"The almost religious awe of Willis that was coming from these fanzines and an almost arrogant, elitist fannishness was irritating. It seemed to me that if enough people who didn't know any better listened to them, fandom would end up just like comics fandom -- with only one type of fanac, because we would have forgotten about all the other types."

"Now you may call that a paranoid fantasy," Brian concludes. "But at the time it seemed very real, very credible, a legitimate fear." (Emphasis mine, again.)

Woo! I don't mean to sound like I've been rubbing Mr. Brown's nose in it, but three times in his article debunking his paranoia he mentions his fears. What does he think paranoia is, anyway? Brian, admit it. You are, maybe, just a little bit paranoid, eh? Come on, who isn't these days? Face it, and let's get on with our lives.

(This, in conjunction with my editorial inside this issue, will be my last mention of the subjects of Sixth Fandom Fandom, Brian Earl Brown's paranoia, or whether Ted White and I tried to rule fandom by publishing PONG. I don't intend to print any comments on this matter in future letter columns, except of course, if Brian requests equal time. (This does not include, however, the comments received by my other smaller fanzine, BLUE MOON, about Taral's STICKY QUARTERS column that analyzed PONG, and my response to it. That is, I'm afraid, a subject that is alive and kicking -- at least for a while.) Any comments and thoughts about all of this are welcomed, but won't see print. Though I would forward anything interesting to Brian, out of courtesy...

HUGO A GO GO part two: As you all know, I did not win this year's fanartist Hugo. As you should also know, I did not expect to win. But still, it was very nice to be nominated, and I thank those of you who were responsible for that. But what has been really weird is the reactions of mundanes to my nomination. Friends and family were all real impressed by it all. They all wished me extravagant luck and offered heartfelt sympathy when I lost. It didn't matter that I told them all right from the beginning that I wouldn't win, didn't much like the award in the first place, and really couldn't be bothered to be excited; they all just went on with their oohing and ahing. I'm sure they'd have had a stroke if I did win, so really, by losing, I saved their lives. Luckily my fannish freinds knew about the award and yawned, which kept me humble. Write soon, and I will attempt to publish and mail soon too.--djs 12/14/83

(The PONG Poll results mentioned on the contents page are not included with this fanzine.)