
T B E 11

S E C O N D A N N I S H



RqF

BUG

EYE

September 1962

11

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A FANSURGENT Publication

NUNTIUS

Horribilis

es.

AUDITU

"I can't stop pubbing you", I sighed, turning over the leaves of the crudely reproduced BUG EYE 10, got up, dug out my typer, and started cutting the stencils for this. And here we are, with the second big annish of TBE & I hope enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed typing, mimeoing and stapling it.

TO GET BUSINESS OUT OF THE WAY FIRST DEPT.: Thea Grade and Rolf Harder have moved. Thea's new address is: Thea Grade, c/o Schmitter, 4 Düsseldorf-Eller, Kamper Strasse 112, W. Germany. Rolf Harder resides now at 4132 Kamp-Lintfort, Krs. Moers, Prinzenstr. 32.

Duisburg-Düsseldorf Area Fandom is enjoying a revival, what with a new "club", the FANSURGENTS (and don't blame Rolf Gindorf & me for the title), and the enthusiastic publishing of Ernesto Mascaro, a 16 year old neofan who has just come out with the first issue of his zine NEKROVOX, which looks really promising.

Membership in the Fansurgents is by invitation only, and the rather irregular meetings are mostly held at my pad.

rich brown is stationed in Germany (Bitborg AB) & I'm desperately trying to meet him. If I do, you'll read an account about that meeting nextish.

A professor asked his class to write something containing the words "analyse" and "anatomy". Soon a pupil had written this masterpiece:
My analyse over the ocean,
My analyse over the sea.
My analyse over the ocean,
Oh, bring back my anatomy.

from THE BEACON

Lately, several fans complained that TBE features almost next to nothing stf slanted material. This is not entirely my fault. I have always advised my contributors to supply me with articles about s-f, but for some reason or other they never did. I myself am unable to write anything about science fiction in general and German science fiction in particular, as I've never been an avid stf reader. Up till today I haven't read more than around 30-40 stf novels, and some 100-120 short stories.....and I'm an actifan since summer 1957. So you can easily figure out that I am not the right person to write an article on "howcome Vargo Stratton (I hope the spelling's right) wasn't given the Nobel Price for Literature". I'm not an expert on Science Fiction, you know....

I dig such trash as "We", "Brave New World" & 1984, which, of course, is of no value to discuss in fanzines...

You see, it takes much more intelligence to compile an index of IMAGINATIVE TALES...Oh well, Fans are Slans, I always say.

-oo00oo-

The other day I acquired a bi-lingual (English/German) edition of Alan Ginsberg's "Howl". It's fascinating to read, what with the English text on the left sides and the German on the right ones. John Baxter calls HOWL "its own greatest parody". That's utter nonsense! According to my dictionary, a parody is a "joking imitation", thus, John's statement is completely illogical. No, I consider HOWL to be the best satire on modern society I ever read, though it takes some time to find that out. The only disadvantage HOWL had was that Ginsberg wrote it in English. The English language just isn't fit for those powerful 'word creations' Ginsberg uses. Let me cite some examples:

"...who lit cigaretes in boxcars boxcars boxcars racketing through
snow toward lonesome farms in grandfather night,..."

By way of comparison here's the German version:

"...die sich Feuer gaben in Frachtwagen Frachtwagen
Frachtwagen
durch den Schnee einsamen Farmen entgegen in Gross-
vater Nacht,..."

Frachtwagen! Just go to the next station, and repeat that word several times while a freight train is driving past you at fast speed...you'll soon know what I mean.

More than any other civilized language in the world the German is based on so-called "sound painting" (this is a literal translation, hope you get it.). That, I think, is one of the main reasons that Germany and the German language has always been a 'fertile pasture' for poets.

Somehow I wished the beat movement had started in Germany...

-oo00oo-

I'm sorry Les Gerber failed to meet the deadline for his fmz reviews, as I think they should be an essential part of any fanzine. Well, maybe nextish.

-oo00oo-

In CINDER 10 Larry Williams quotes some lines from Aldous Huxley's Brave New World:

"Orgy-porgy, Ford and fun,
Kiss the girls and make them One.
Boys at one with girls at ;
Orgy-porgy gives release."

TOTALITARIAN

SYSTEM.....

ANYBODY?

by

Thea Grade

It's a long, long time since I promised Hel to write for TBE again - but if TBE had not published Rolf's article on nazism the Dear Editor might still be waiting for a word from me (for the benefit of TBE as Hel put it....., me, I deeply suspect this benefit, in my opinion TBE would be far better off without me and my words!).

§ § § § § § § § § §

Rolf's essay on Nazi-Germany was very well written and fascinating to read. On the whole I agree with what Rolf is saying - that is, with one exception.

One of the main points - in my opinion THE main point - was the question ".....what makes a people accept and actually welcome a totalitarian system....." (and here Rolf got - as I see it - entangled in a host of reasons not needed to answer the question at all, for one and only ONE reason is quite sufficient to explain this phenomenon), and ".....could that happen again, not only in Germany but elsewhere too?....."

To take the second question first, YES, it could happen and it probably will!

Now, don't get me wrong, I am NOT stating nazism will - or could - rise in Germany again (IF our country does go again for a totalitarian system at all, then this time it will be - on this I am willing to lay every bet! - a totalitarian system of the extreme left and NOT the extreme right!). No, I think that to be plain impossible as far as nazism is concerned and nearly as impossible for any other kind of totalitarian system, at least for the next 50-75 years - after that time it's anybody's guess! For two reasons.

In the first place, even if a people - the mass of any given people - is, let's face it, pretty stupid (you can juggle them around with the proper means so fast they will believe nearly, NEARLY, anything!) to presume that a people by its own free will (an the FIRST time it has free will AND free choice - at least WE had as we elected Hitler 1933!) choose for a second time a system, which came crashing down taking everything with it and barely allowed the people to survive the first time this system was around, to presume THAT would be even more stupid. For people do learn - if only which special system is not healthy for them, WHEN the disaster is heavy enough! Last time it was!

In the second place, the average populace of western Germany has right now - and had for a couple of years - a very high living standard. Far higher than it had had under nazism! A point I want to stress because - if you like it or not - if you will put aside just for one moment all the fine, upstanding notions about "freedom", "humanity" and all the other idealistic phrases, and take a good and hard look at the real facts you will undoubtedly see that everywhere every nation - the Russian too, mind you! - credit their living stan-

dard solely to the FORM OF GOVERNMENT they live under! To the average man-on-the-street -of any given nation- his living standard AND the form of government his people happen to have is one and the same thing or are - in his mind - so closely related that to him it just seems to be the same thing.

Yes, it's quite true - as Rolf stated rightly and a bit heatedly - to the average German democracy means a new system to give everyone a high living standard and - as the average German sees it - IT WORKS! In opposition to Rolf I am awfully glad the average German does see it this way, for seeing it this way will ensure - more than anything else on this earth - that democracy is going to stay in Germany even if the goings will get rougher once in a while. The coupled memory of democracy and "good living" might prove to be a very strong barrier against any sudden change in ~~our~~ form of government. What brings me around to the question what makes a people accept and actually welcome a totalitarian system of any kind.

Naturally the same thing which makes a people accept and welcome ANY form of government, be it a totalitarian OR a democratic system! For IF a nation really goes and change its form of government - by force or by electing a radical party - it has a pretty strong reason to do so, and it would no matter one way or the other if - on the average - this nation is more or less political minded. (the masses of people of no nation on this earth - and be it the most political minded nation on this earth - has enough interest in politic or political matters as to weigh up carefully every possibility of the way they are going to choose, neither the interest nor the ability; to presume this is nothing but wishful thinking!).

Therefore any, ANY new system will be accepted AND welcomed, provided it is only

- a.) different enough in comparison to the sytem the people have lived under till the change, and
- b.) promises to a large - a very large - part of the people a "better way of life", which means, essentially, a higher living standard as the old system!

AND THAT IS ALL THERE IS TO IT!

For the only - the simple, single, only - reason to make a people change from one form of government to a new one IS A VERY SERIOUS AND SEVERE BREAKDOWN OF THE NATION ON THE ECONOMICAL LEVEL!

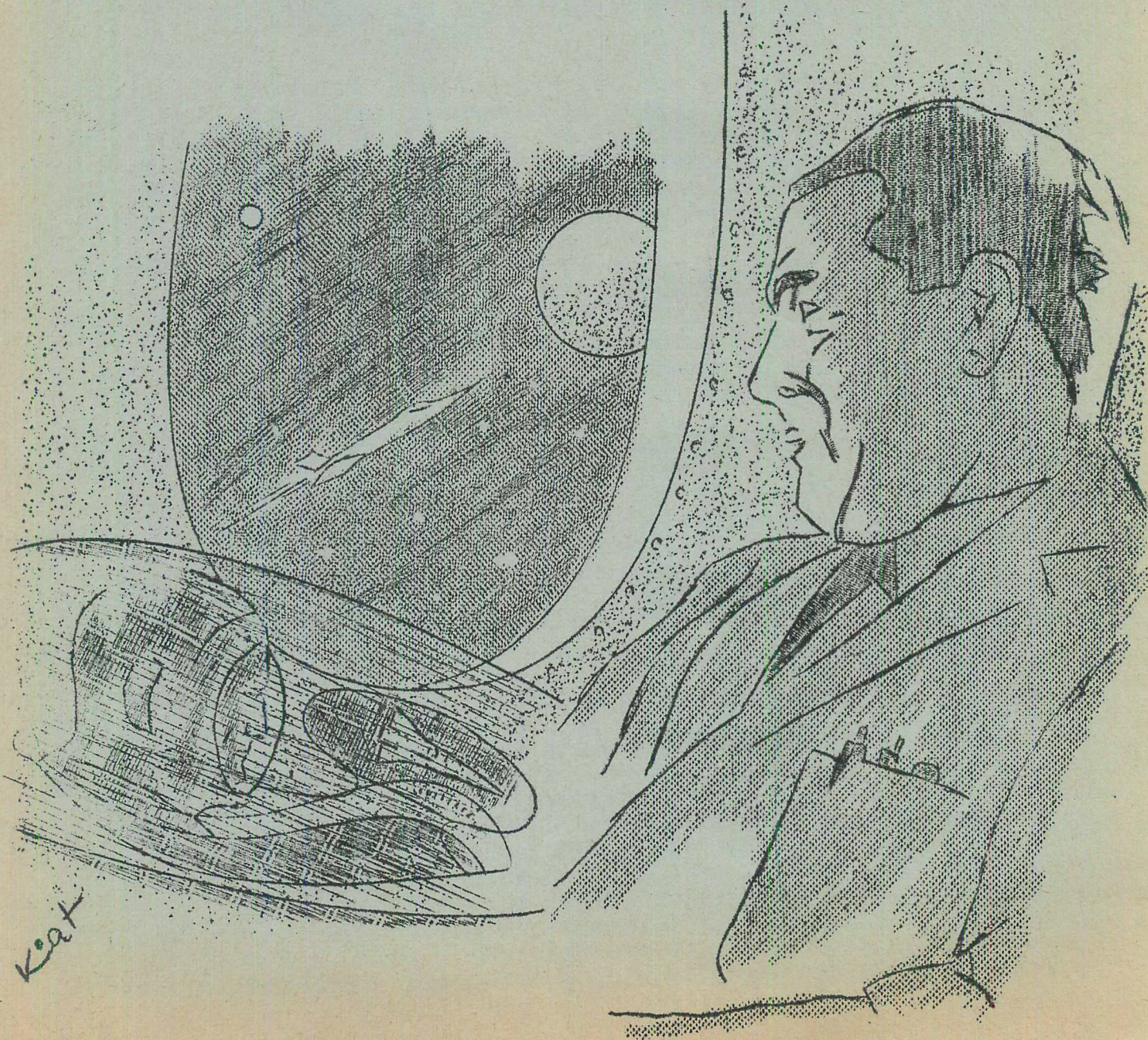
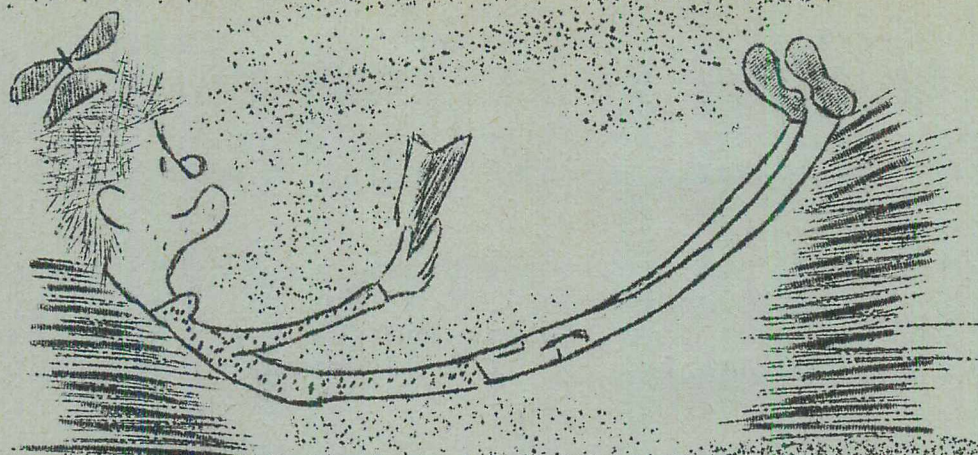
A breakdown without reasonable hope that things will get better with- in conceivable time and without a very high percentage of the people (would say about 70 to 80 %!) believing firmly in the "Divine Order of Things". (A faith, which kept the medieval forms of government going without a revolt from the side of the population for such a long time!!).

When the financial burden on a nation gets heavier and heavier, when a large part of the population faces poverty and if this all goes on for a period of years without any hope of betterment (actually betterment or just hoped and believed one for!), and the government 'Doesn't DO anything' as the average man-on-the-street feels it should or - even worse - he feels his government just does not care, THEN something is bound to happen! And - as history shows - something DOES happen!

THAT was the way the French Revolution got really rolling!

That was also the way communism started in Russia!

That too was the same old way that got Hitler elected in 1933!



Kat

Now, the new system established by a revolution might and could be anything! It could be a democracy too!

A nation changing its form of government wants just ONE thing, "a better life"! Sure they will heatedly strive for "freedom", but as they see it "freedom" means only one thing, the "freedom to live a decent life", and this are only other words for "a higher living standard". No nation had, has, or will ever strive for "freedom" if this "freedom" means (as it quite possible COULD!) an even more heavier burden on its shoulders.

So Russia went ahead and choose communism and as far as the Russians are concerned - it worked too! In my opinion the Russians at least a very huge part of them, really and sincerely believe communism IS A Wonderful Thing, and from the viewpoint of a Russian it is even TRUE!

For most of the Russians living under communism the living standard IS much higher as it was for most of them under czaristic government - and they know it! What they do NOT know is, that they, living under another system and industrialized as they are, would live, at least, at the same high living standard, probably on a much HIGHER one, for communism is an exceptionally wasteful and uneconomical system to run a country by.

To a Russian communism and only communism has made his living standard possible! To him giving up communism would mean just ONE thing, going back to the old ways and the OLD LIVING STANDARD as it was under czaristic government. Naturally he plainly refuses such nonsense as anybody in his right mind would do! He just cannot imagine anything else or any system working as good or even better - as communism. Communism DID give him his living standard, didn't it? The living standard is even going up slowly, isn't it? Why on earth should he discard such a nice and smooth working system?

Freedom? But has he not far MORE freedom under communism as a Russian, ever has had under czaristic government?

As far as a Russian is concerned he IS free! Far more so as his grandfather or greatgrandfather ever had been!

So, Russia looking around for "a better form of government" (and in reality searching for a better living standard) stumbled by fate across communism, choose it AND WILL KEEP IT as long as conditions - for them - under communism are better than they have been under any other form of government remembered by the Russian people.

The new system established by a revolution might as good have been a democracy instead of a totalitarian system. And this did - more or less - happen in Germany after World War I. At that time we had a democracy! The only trouble with it was, it did NOT work, not in the opinion of the German people. For, instead of getting better, things went from bad to worse. THAT was not the fault of democracy in itself - democracy inherited all the trouble caused by the old Imperium and the heavy burden of the lost war - but the people in general just did not care. For them the living standard - in comparison with the old days before the war - went down and down. Clearly and plainly the new form of government was "no good", at least not the parties running this government. The old Empire was dead for good and Germany could not get it back, so the people choose the next best thing (in their eyes!), which resembled most closely the pattern of the old days, the party which was most national slanted, which offered a strong Führer (like the old "Kaiser"!) and which - above all - promised to nearly

0

everyone "a higher living standard". Blissfully unaware WHAT they were voting in power Germany voted nazism!

For a new kind of government VOTED into power will always be totalitarian system. (In an already established totalitarian system you just cannot VOTE for a new form of government! This can be done only in a more or less democratic one and THIS means on the other side that the people voting have not faintest idea what a totalitarian system means to be! To a people voting for a radical party it means only to vote one of various parties which they will discard off, if the party does not deliver the promised goods on the next election day. The people DO NOT KNOW that an untempered, honest election never will take place again!).

A democracy too, is only there to stay as long as it does deliver the goods, if it doesn't.....

Now, WHY does a nation getting by vote a new form of government most invariable always picks on a totalitarian system slanted to the extreme right?

My guess is, somewhere in an only dimly remembered way "nationalism" is connected with the lost "good old days", which - in Europe at least - means the days the nation was THE NATION and under imperial reign. The choice will fall on the most national minded party WITH a strong "Führer" (nazism in Germany, fascism in Italy and Spain!) for this set up resembles most the set up of the old days!

If this nice scheme breaks down for one reason or another and again democracy is established and - again - in the eyes of the people does NOT work (as in a way it is the case in Italy right now!), it stands to reason that, if also again a new totalitarian system is voted for this time it will be of the extreme left (communism!). The memory of the "good old imperial days" is lost, but the memory of the "good old days under a Führer" (Hitler in Germany, Mussolini in Italy) is still, but also the memory of the trouble caused by these rascals! Therefore THIS time the vote will swing to a totalitarian system of the left, for NOT the system in itself is "bad" (as seen by the people! Don't you remember how much money we made in the old days? The system WAS good, no doubt, but the Führer.....) only the men which were guiding the system!

Oh yes, a totalitarian system could happen, quite easily and it probably will - under the right circumstances.....

everytime everywhere.....

Thea Grade

FIN

NO THOUGHTS AT ALL

by

Burkhard Blum

This is the last of three articles, which I, looking back, like very much. I don't think the articles are of any value for you, except you are interested in problems I tried to solve - problems most of you once were confronted with, once, long ago, when you began thinking, which means to begin living to quote the GINTHOLOGIE, the handbook of the liberal businessman.

Taking this in consideration my life began one or two years ago, a year or more after entering fandom. Looking backward I may say without blushing that most of my written stuff was old cheese for other intelligent fans (and you are right, I wrote "other" for I believe I got something like intelligence too), except maybe some articles on clubs, conventions, and the ability of German sf writers. My articles always had worth only for one person, myself. It's strange to say, but it's true, I myself learned from them; after I saw them in print I found the answers to my own questions.

When I wrote the first article of those three I still searched for the 'objective' point of view. See, I knew the answer on the question, which of the worlds is the better one, the Brave New World or Our World - that is, I knew MY answer. My answer was what I wished, my point of view. I could not accept a brave new world, therefore it was not a "good" world, not for me. But I was not satisfied - I wanted to know, what the "real", "correct" world looks really like, not only the world I wish to see.

You may laugh about this intention and so do I - today. But let's leave those old problems which are no longer problems. I only came back to that topic to show you how it happened I started writing articles at all, asking last questions without really searching for answers. Now I have conquered this habit, especially the articles in TBE helped me very much to do so, therefore I'm glad I have written this nonsense.

You may think I've been a fool, and I can't contradict, but I hope I do not only believe I have conquered childhood - we'll see, and I'm most curious myself. I think I've got a rather grown-up picture of the world and myself during the last 8, 9 months, which does not mean of course that I might not change my opinion on same -or all- subjects again, when my experiences and my knowledge become broader than they are today, for not to do so would mean I'm still a child.

It was mainly fandom, respectively the contact with some few fans, which made me grow up and find myself. Fandom had a very strong influence on me and made me say and do many things I had only felt dimly in the subconscious and never formed in concret thoughts before.

Well, this too isn't new for you, for probably most of you were formed by fandom as well as you also influenced the fandom that formed you. Probably it happens seldom that a fan changes as much as I did in fandom - that one begins to think clearly for the first time in fandom forced by fandom - but nevertheless it's not at all new, it has happened before.

Don't fear I'll go on and on boring or bothering you with that column, I'll come to an end with it, (meaning not only this article here). At the moment I'm very much lacking in time and it's possible you'll not see any new article by me or maybe I'll do an other one - probably mainly on German fandom and fans or commenting on some LoCs (Hel said I can write about anything in my column - I can't say myself. Today I've only one last question; do you or any friends of yours speak German? For I'd like to send you my APazine and get a loc or your zine for it.

B.B.

THE GERMANS, THE NAZIS, THE JEWS --- AND I

A Summing-Up

by

Rolf C. Gindorf

Not altogether surprising, that article in the previous issue drew a certain amount of comments from fans living in widely separate - geographically and culturally - parts of the world. The majority appeared to be in general agreement with the views expressed. Of the Germans, whose opinions necessarily are of paramount interest, two qualify their agreement in different contributions appearing this issue: Hans Franzke, who believes that the number of Germans condemning the Nazi régime at a reasonably early stage was considerably above the ten per cent. estimated by me (a believe which I unfortunately cannot bring myself to share), and Thea Grade, who claims that economic pressures are exclusively responsible for revolutionary changes (an old dogma which may have sounded good to Marx, but neglects entirely, in my opinion, the progress - if you can call it that - made since in mob psychology and the recognition of the rôle psychiatry plays in our everyday's lives.

All those comments, to be found in articles and inside the letter column, are welcome as indicative of a positive outlook on life: of the willingness to recognize, face and accept the past for what it was: of honesty to yourself.

Two different letters - and I should say the only letters of this type - have been selected to appear here in this column. They - and only they! - are representative of a state of mind I had hoped I would not encounter among my readers. They have been written by young people about my own age: a German girl, who takes refuge to complete political withdrawal, and an English boy, whose fierce belief in pacifism and socialism is as blindly idealistic as any Hitlerjunge's trust in Volk und Vaterland --- and every bit as well-intentioned. - These are their opinions:

/ Inge Hartmann, 34 Göttingen, Jüdenstr. 18 /

After reading TBE No. 10, I am forced to say I was not very glad about this issue, because the topic most spoken about was politics. Yes, I know: I have written myself an article (but only a short one) for lastish, but therein I did not speak about politics only. In the LoCs some people expressed their opinions in this regard - also in answer to my article -, but what Rolf has written was not necessary, I think. Oh yes, usually his articles are good; I like what Rolf is writing and saying - but this item I did not like, and I will tell you why.

TBE is being read in many countries, England, North- and South-america, and now in Japan too. That is good, and it's especially this world-wide contact I like very much. We have the same hobby and read the same books, only we are living in different countries. If we talk only about sf and some other ideas which are coming from sf, it will be a good thing, but politics is a very hot iron, and I think there will be no understanding between us. If we are talking about the politics in our time, in 1962, it will not be so difficult - but about the politics of the time before? Hm, I think it would not be so good to speak about this at all.

All people in all the wars have made mistakes, for nobody is without faults. But if people are speaking about such a war they are thinking that they have not made any mistakes, and that only the other nation was bad. Maybe one nation has made more faults than the other, but neither is entirely without fault.

I cannot imagine why we should speak about a war and a time gone by.

I, for myself, cannot speak about this matter at all, because I was a little child at the time the war happened and so, today, I can only listen to the others, the older ones, and what they are telling about this time. And I do not like to hear more about that time. Maybe I am thinking differently than most of you in this matter, but I am a girl, and I hate wars.

I mean we shall not talk about the past, about the bad past of Germany.

Now you can say that we have to learn by the mistakes done in the past, but is this opinion right? I do not think so. The people - all the people all the time and everywhere - have had such a lot of time to learn by their mistakes, which they just did not do, and I think they will never learn anything by mistakes made in the past. So many times wars have taken place, people were killed - sometimes very many people, sometimes only a few people -, tears and sadness came to many nations - but they did not learn, and I do not think they will.

Every day we hear about wars all over the world: why shall we discuss now in our fanzine about wars, and the bad war which was some time ago? Is this necessary? Please think it over, and, if possible, let's rather talk about some other things than wars. Dear Hel: if you want to make TBE a political paper, go ahead and do it, I cannot keep you from it. But then I will never write again for this 'zine. It isn't that I hate all fights (Rolf said once that fight must be!). Yes, there must - but not in the field of politics. Let's talk about the present and the future, not about the past only!

So my article, which I had sub-titled 'An Essay in De-Mythologization', was about nothing but politics, Inge? So the points

raised in that essay have nothing to do with science fiction - are, in fact, incompatible with it? So we should by no means discuss anything which might lead to disagreement? So we cannot speak at all about things we did not witness in person as adults? So you alone, in one million years of evolutionary climb from pithecanthropus erectus, have not learned anything from your mistakes - by what is known to the rest of us as the trial and error method? So you cannot imagine, Inge, why we should speak about "a war and a time gone by"?

Life can be very simple indeed ...

Jim Linwood, 10 Meadow Cotts, Netherfield, Notts.. U.K./

Gindorf's article was a mixed-up, guilt-complex loaded piece of self-justification whose meaning I don't quite follow, and I've read it three times. I gather he would have us believe Hitler was a genius who went wrong ... come off it. Hitler was a miserable little house painter with the gift of the gab who was the loudest voice in Germany in the '30's, doing what any politician would have done in those circumstances, backed by Krupps and other magnates who were clutching the last straw to ward off the wave of growing socialism in Germany. Rolf asks what might have happened if Hitler had not gone wrong and murdered the Jews ... if Hitler hadn't been a racist he wouldn't have been a Nazi, and would never have come to power. If he hadn't plunged Germany into a war ... War is a necessary part of the Fascist machine: how can one be a Fascist and not be prepared to go to war? Sure the German people are to blame - so is everybody else in Europe for giving Hitler the go-ahead. Any country suffering the same democratic and moral collapse as Germany after the 1st World War would have gone the same way. A psychopath can't help being that way, but the sane person who puts a gun in his hands is criminally guilty ... so is Germany, Britain, America, and Russia guilty for using Hitler and his mob for their own ends ... their schemes backfired, however. It looks simple on print, doesn't it? But how can you condemn a bewildered mass for putting into power the only politician who had a definite plan and the right brand of emotional argument. Jesus or Barnabas ...?

I agree with Les Gerber ... as a German you shouldn't develop a guilt-complex and devote a fanzine to it.

So my article was mixed-up, was it? An interesting, if a bit subjective, view. So it was guilt-complex loaded, was it? Somebody'd better tell you the meaning of those terms you so lightly toss around, and the difference between awareness and guilt-complex. So I indulged in nothing but self-justification? Remember that room party at the con, when you told me about having written that letter, and I tried to point out the difference between collective guilt and collective shame. So Hitler was merely a miserable little house painter and a stupid clod, just because

your or my attitudes were not his? So the German industrial magnates were clutching the National Socialist Party as a last straw to ward off socialism? An intriguing type of homoeopathy, indeed. So I asked what might have happened if Hitler had not gone wrong and murdered the Jews, did I? Go on, Jim - read that article a fourth time, use your index and your lips, if necessary --- but show me where the hell I ever asked such an asinine question!

.. And that's what gave you away. At some point in my essay you found something that clashed so violently with your own present outlook on life ('Weltanschauung' is the thing I have in mind) as to be not acceptable. I think I have a pretty good idea what that something was: the conviction that intelligence and skill are never restricted to a particular group of 'good' people (or 'Ban-the-Bomb!'-marchers, or socialists, or what-have-you's), and that the 'evil' types are not necessarily stupid or ridiculous ineffectuals. Such an idea just didn't fit in your beloved black-and-white system, so you began stretching my views on the Procrustean bed of your own (present) political philosophy, reading things into the article which simply weren't there, and flatly ignoring points on which we were in complete agreement!

You don't believe me? Just re-read the following verbatim quotes, taken and re-arranged from the original article ...

"All this may appear to be an attempt at e x c u s i n g the Germans, at finding a plausibly-sounding rationalization for what has been done by Nazi Germany. It is not. Instead, I am trying to cast some light on the circumstances that led to the happenings briefly referred to in my first paragraph, and to find out, if possible, whether Nazism and anti-semitism as epitomized by the Third Reich was exclusively a German phenomenon, or part of a European trend that happened to be most pronounced - through a variety of factors - in Germany. Of course, this will automatically lead up to the question of whether Nazism, or Fascism, or some other totalitarian régime, will again assume control of this or any other country of what we like to call euphemistically the Free World.

"Despite their Schillers and Humboldts, the Germans a s a p e o p l e have defined freedom as lack of responsibility, and democracy as the new system to bring every factory hand his Volkswagen.

"It is this apolitical frame of mind - more than any deep-set guilt complex - which makes the average young German of my ~~post~~-war generation strangely reluctant to discuss any of the set of phenomena that made up what I call the Third Reich Syndrome.

"There are those - and undoubtedly they will say so next issue - who have persuaded themselves that by-gones should be by-gones, and who are satisfied that those events are a thing of the past. I have not, and I am not.

"I believe that it is of vital importance to overcome this reluctance to face facts, and draw conclusions from them, if we wish to avoid the reappearance of this Syndrome. It was - and is! - the resultant of certain factors which had - and have! - their origin in psycho-sociology. As such, they may occur again - not only, and not necessarily, in this country, but anywhere and anywhen. Only by rational analysis can we hope to gain intellectual control over what are essentially emotional problems, which may - and will! - face us again --- any one, any time.

"What makes me afraid of this is the general complacency and indifference of most people about politics. Democracy can only work if people are aware of their role as citizens, and have an informed outlook on life --- and I have my doubts on both points. I have observed this political indifference especially here in Western Germany, but I know it exists also in other European countries (even in Great Britain ...)."

+++++

Which is about as much as you will hear from me on this topic. It was brought up in these pages by someone or other, and I have expressed my views on the matter --- after having written previously seven other, completely non-political, articles for this fanzine. I most certainly wouldn't like to see TBE develop into one of those purposefully serious 'discussion 'zines' of the ESPRIT type. FIJAGH, after all, even if it's AWOL ...

5603 Wulfrath
Hans-Böckler-Str. 52

August 16, 1962
1:03 a.m. CET

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The Elevators

and I

by Mike Deckinger

Right now I'm working in a large office building in Newark. The building, housing one big insurance company and a host of smaller other ones has 18 floors. I work on the eighteenth, naturally. Working on the eighteenth floor is like a status symbol. It gives one a feeling of security to know he holds a position on such a high floor. It gives one the ability to smile with condescending pride in a conversation and state proudly, "Oh I work on the eighteenth floor." It gives one a sense of achievement to know he has reached this pinnacle of height.

It also gives one tired feet from climbing between the seventeenth and eighteenth floor since there's only one elevator to the eighteenth and that runs very infrequently.

It gives me tired feet.

The elevator arrangement at the office is interesting to observe. On one side there's a bank of six elevators serving floors one through eleven (and the basement) with one of the six serving one through eighteen. This is only one; bear that in mind.

Around the corner you find five elevators serving floors 1, 11-17. Which means that if you're in a hurry to get to the eighteenth floor (and I won't hide the face, I usually am) and you don't care to wait for old faithful around the other side it's perfectly possible to journey to the seventeenth floor and walk up four flights of stairs to the eighteenth.

In fact, not only is it impossible, it's encouraged. The reason for this encouragement is vague but might partially be answered by an answer a janitor gave when I asked him.

"When the elevator goes up to the eighteenth all the time it tires itself out. It wouldn't do to have tired elevators in the building."

"Nor," I told him boldly, "would it do to have tired employees in the building either."

"But you have feet," he announced as if he had just discovered the fact, "and the elevators does not."

"My feet can be just as tired as the damned elevator," I informed him sweetly.

"When the elevators gets tired I oil it," he told me.

"When my feet get tired I rest them."

He thought this over very carefully for several minutes. "Maybe your feet need some oil."

"I doubt it, they never had before."

"Have you ever oiled them before?"

"No, I had to admit, I hadn't."

"Aha," he pounced on this immediately, "that's the answer for you. The next time your feet are tired come over to me."

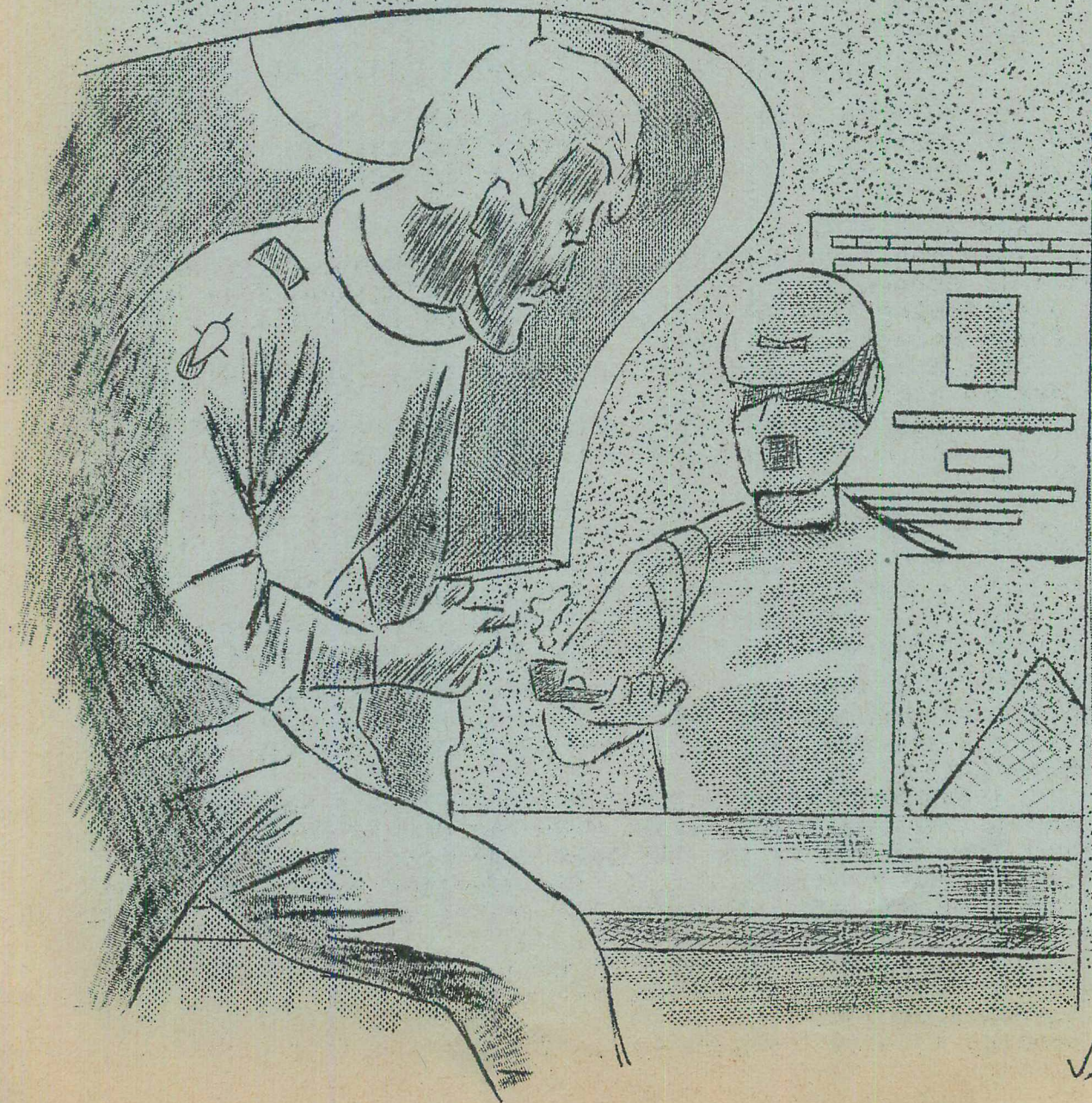
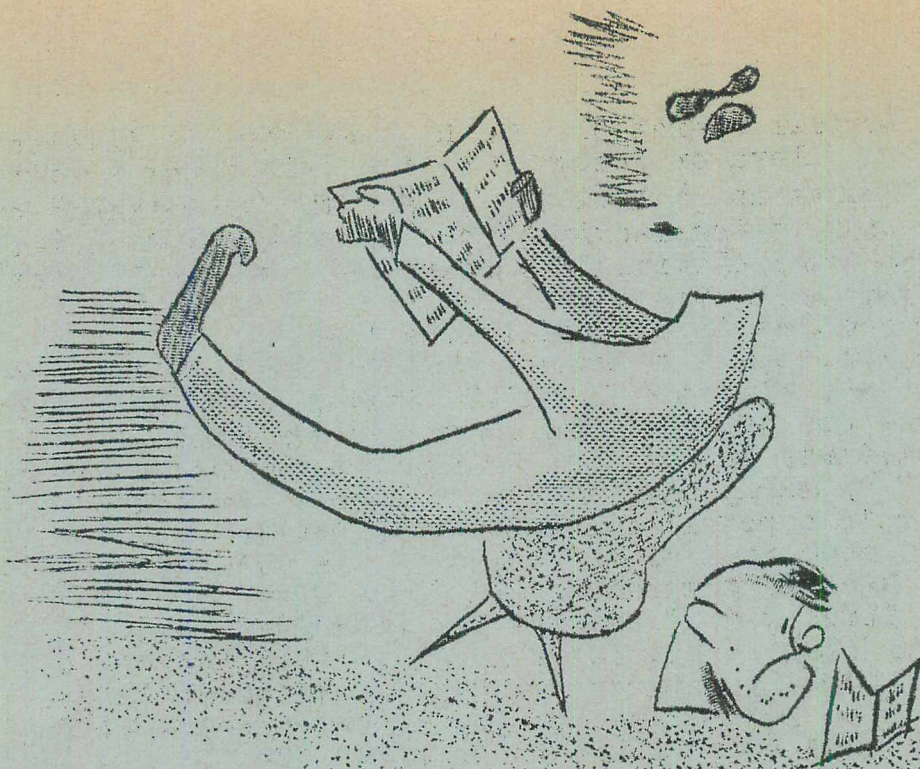
"And you'll oil them?"

"Yes," he smiled, "even between the toes."

"Even between the toes? What do I do to rate such service. I bet you don't oil the president's toes."

"No, but he doesn't walk up to the eighteenth floor either."

Of course this interesting little exchange didn't provide much of a solution to the problem.



V. 0. 1

The actual operation of the elevators is interesting too. When an elevator descends to the main floor a sign over the cage lights up, a bell rings, and the door swings open. About the only thing lacking from this display is a fifty piece brass band playing "The Stars and Stripes Forever". Then the elevator just sits there.

And you get in and still sits there.

And you beginn to wonder what the hell is going on because the damn elevator is still sitting there and filling up with people and you're being shoved to the back.

Substitute the you for me and you can get a pretty good picture of my early experiences with these animated cages.

There's a panel of buttons with numbers for the floors desired on each side of the cages as you entered, and also on the panel are two buttons marked "Door Open" and "Door Close".

The first time I enterde the elevators I didn't spot the buttons right away. But when I did felt better. I smiled to myself. Here at last was the answer to the problem. I was in an hurry to get moving but the elevator apparently was not. So all I had to do would be to press the "Door Close" button. I pressed it.

I pressed it again.

I waited a decent interval and I pressed it again.

Nothing happened.

Not one thing, except that I grew a little more exasperated.

The buttons were very reassuring but they were also quite unworkable. I pressed the button for the floor I wanted and the number on the panel lit up but the car remained motionless.

And so I did.

This was a very efficient system, I thought, I wonder, what will happen if I press the "Door Open" button. Will hor-des a screaming fireman rapidly descend on the building searching for a non-existant blaze?

Will a waiter entering carrying a tray full of drinks and ask me what I like?

Will I be arrested for Toying with other proberty?

I mean, how can you get a door to open when it is all-ready open?

I once saw a little child become enraged at something and go into a fit; screaming and shouting wildly, and kicking her feet frantically against a wall. I wondered, if a similar action might have a beneficial effect.

Just as I was debating whether or not to follow the Child's actions the doors quietly slid shut and I felt the cage rising. My floor was the sixth and it kept going steadily till it reached the fourth, came to a halt, the doors quietly opened, and let in a crowd of young, chatting, gum-chewing girls.

I flattened myself against the wall when I saw them coming but my defence was useless. They managed to force me back so that I would occupy the littlest breathing space possible. If I had dared to inhale I think the elevator would have burst at the seams. Somehow I survived the ordeal and reached the personal department safely.

But now I still put my life in peril every day when I choose to use a local elevator, or patiently wait for old faithful on his long run.

But someday it will be different.

Someday I'll be president and when I am my office will
be moved to the first floor and damn the elevators.
And just let somebody try to oil my toes.

Mike Deckinger

GERMAN language FANZINES

by

André Laube & yed

The fanzine publishers are very eager this year. Besides the normal fanzine edition there are a lot of "Special printings" or "one-shots" as they are called in the fannish slangue. These "special printings" are worth a closer look:

A "special print" of some priority is "The Discovery Of The Future", a German translation of the speech which was held by Robert A. Heinlein at the Third World Con in Denver, 1941. Translated by Thea Grade, this was published by the editors of the German fanzines "SF-Times" and "Teleskop". A very interesting work. Also of interest is the "Isaac-Asimov-Bibliography", compiled by Manfred Alex and published by ANABIS, a fanzine from behind the Wall: West-Berlin. This special print was second in a series of bibliographies of which the first was the "Robert-A.-Heinlein-Bibliography". One of the top German language fanzines is Pioneer, which is published in Vienna, Austria. Pioneer is also widely read in the Federal Republic and Switzerland. It is published by the Austrian SF-Club AUSTROTOPIA. Pioneer features short stories by Austrian and German fan writers, and translations of American and British pro-stories. It is also noted for excellent bibliographies of science fiction authors. Two of the recent authors featured were A.E. van Vogt and Theodore Sturgeon.

In the Federal Republic, including West-Berlin, Anabis is among the top five German fmz. It features book reviews of American and German books, old and new, short-science-fiction-stories by fan authors, and also translations of rare American pro stories. As a supplement to Anabis two other fanzines are published: Coeurl and Guul, which feature all articles of somewhat more interest to the scientific minded SF-fans (Coeurl), and members of the SCIENCE FICTION CLUB BERLIN (Guul)

One of the oldest and still one of the best fanzines is SOL, which features all sorts of material, but mostly short-stories and articles of interest to the serious SF-fan. Sol is published in Hannover. Two other fanzines worth mentioning are Teleskop and Andromeda. The first, Teleskop features besides short stories and articles of general nature, also scientific articles and news & tips for the amateur astronomer. Andromeda is available only to members of the SCIENCE FICTION CLUB DEUTSCHLAND. Other fanzines worth mentioning are MRU which stands for Munich Round Up. This fanzine is a humorous one, though it too features book reviews, short stories and articles, mostly of scientific nature.

Iyra consists of translations of British and American fan-

zines; hence it is the only real "faanish" fanzine we have in Germany. Only the lettercolumn and the editorials are written by Germans. Like Void it has four editors who do nothing else than sit around talking about themselves, just like the Void boys. It certainly is a wonderful fanzine.

For the exclusively serious minded there is Esoteric and Hermes. (mainly articles about rocketry.)

A recent fanzine is BUG EYED MONSTER which keeps the German fans informed about the latest productions from Hollywood's Horror-Chambers.

Two German fan artists worth mentioning are "AROL" and Mario Kwiat. "AROL" is an Austrian artist and his works do somewhat show influences of Virgil Finlay. Kwiat is a German artist who got his start in fandom with the 7th number ^{of} Andromeda in 1956. He may well be called the father of the German fan artists.

Generally speaking it may be said that the German language fanzines differ from the English ones. German fanzines still have a strong connection with science fiction.

This may be due to the fact that German Science Fiction Fandom is still young, because this kind of literature was forbidden twenty years ago under the nazis. Now that we face another peace threatening menace, World Communism, science fiction may do its share: it is a literature for free minded people who want to stay free.

André Laube

SP-TIMES: Burkhard Blüm, 6844 Hofheim, Jakobstr. 17, W.G.
Available for fanzine trades.

TELESKOP: Hans Peschke, 405 Mönchen-Gladbach, Buscherstr. 3, WG
Available for fanzine trades or 25¢ per issue.

ANABIS: Siegfried Raguse, 1 Berlin 30, Alvenslebenstr. 17,
W. Germany. Available for fanzine trades, prozine trades or letters
of comment.

LYRA: edited & published by Rolf Harder, Rolf Gindorf, Thea Grade &
Helmut Klemm. For a copy write to yed.

SOL: Guntram Ohmacht, 3 Hannover-Kleefeld, Scheidestr.
12, W.G. Available for trades or 2/6d, 35¢ per copy

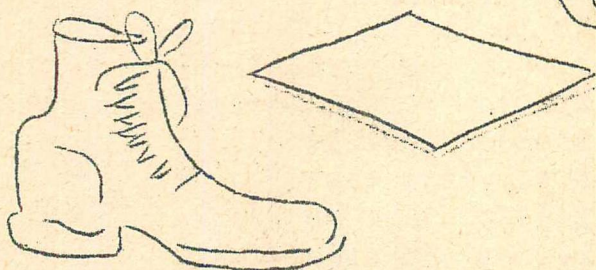
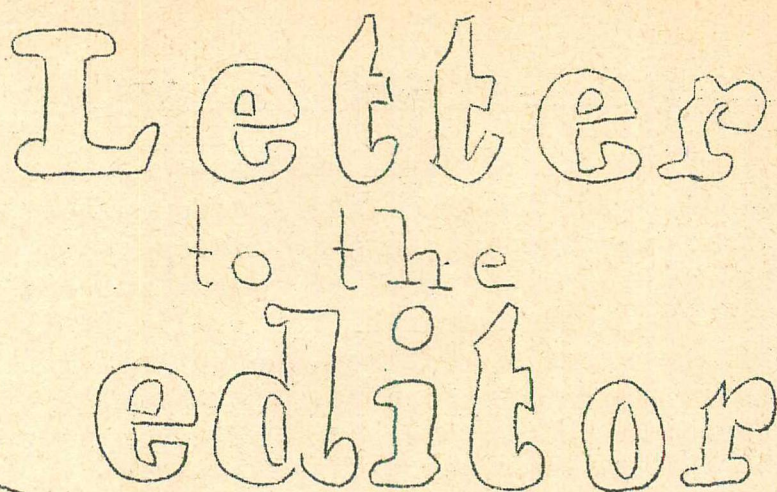
PIONEER: Axel Mehlhardt, Vienna 3, Hintzerstr. 11/19,
Austria. Available for trades, locs or 35¢, 2/6d per copy.

MUNICH ROUND UP: Waldemar Kunning, 8 Munich 2, Herzogspitalstr. 5
Available for trades(?), or 25¢ per issue

ANDROMEDA: Waldemar Kleinmair, 8 Munich, Schwanthalerstr. 174
Available for trades (?) or \$2 per year - 6 issues per year. The \$2
includes membership in the SCIENCE FICTION CLUB DEUTSCHLAND

BUG EYED MONSTERS: Manfred Knorr, 85 Nuremberg, Hohfederstr. 1, W.G.
Available for 15¢ per issue

The editors of Esoteric & Hermes are unknown to yed.



Hi,

oh, you devils of the dark, what did I do that brought tremendous flattery upon my soul, the last TBE announcing that Hel does want to print something by me! Er, I mean, I've been wearing this out for some time, pondering about what I might offer you to be printed, and I finally decided to send you an old shoe of mine, oh yeah. But before spending so much money on mailing it, I'd like to know if you actually want it; it smells like... er, like all my shoes, it is not very torn up, you can still see that it was brown a long time ago, and that my mother once cooked it with a tomato soup. Not that this didn't do it any harm, but the soup was extremely delicious, having that certain flair in it we often miss on normal days; but let me tell you that this was my birthday. It doesn't matter which one - I don't remember either, I'll probably ask one of my four parents. So now, let us return to the shoe, and I have another question: how will you be going to print it? I'm a bit worried that you might spoil the impression, that your readers might possibly not realize the quality of my contribution, might not realize how carefully I prepared it, shaped and enjoyed it up to the day I'll be sending it up to you. You will understand my point and certainly agree if I require information about how you work on material you get for your fanzine, e.g. Rolf Gindorf's socks, Burkhard Blüm's handkerchief and now my shoe. It is really a matter of carefulness, me being quite angry about a recent affair with a German editor, oh yeah. It happened that I wrote one of my numberless Letters of Comment reading like this: "Your's is a crudzine, and go to hell! Sincerely..." And do you know what he did with it? He shortened it! By Ghod, oh yeah! Did it ever occur to you what a damn bad sort of people fan-editors are? (except you, of course!) They cheat you whenever they can! And so you will certainly understand when I ask before sending you my shoe. I'll say it again: it's a darn good shoe, sort of trophy, and if it smells a bit tomatoeish, you now know what this means. So now, go ahead and tell me!

Your's / i s / a / cruddle / and / go / to / hell /

sincerely,

Eusebious Posemichael, fan in the eighth month.

W A R N E R

HARRY WARNER, 423 Summit Avenue, Hagerstown, Maryland, U.S.A.

Dear Helmut:

I've never had close associations with crusading communists. But I imagine that the communists do just as the crusading religious denominations do: choose with extreme care the individuals who are to be assigned to recruiting and making initial contacts with possible converts. The really nasty ones who do the dirty work are undoubtedly kept from the potential new communists until some indoctrination has occurred. I'm thinking of such sects as Jehovah's Witnesses and the Seventh Day Adventists, two fairly small but extremely determined religious bodies in the United States. They go around hunting new members in teams, and you couldn't hope to meet handsomer individuals with more sparkling personalities and greater intelligence than these domestic missionaries. It's only after you get to the churches and attend some services that you discover that the rank and file of the congregation are just as superstitious and hypocritical as most of the followers of the other faiths and the ministers are equally obsessed with getting as much money as possible into the collection plate and working their way up into the better-paying pulpits.

While reading Rolf Gindorf's fine article, I had a curious feeling that part of it was a history of the 1930's in the United States. Roosevelt and Hitler came into power at almost the same time, they accomplished somewhat similar social reforms at the start, and both depended on speech-making magic for a great deal of ^{their} power. Roosevelt wasn't the Hitler kind of orator who raved and ranted, but achieved almost equally hypnotic effect by his famous 'fireside chats', radio broadcasts in the evenings about his plans that gave the common man the sense that he was in the room talking man-to-man. I don't pretend to know why power corrupted in Germany but not in the United States. But I don't feel smug about this difference. If this country had been as lacking in lebensraum as Germany, or if Roosevelt had been born in a slum instead of among wealthy surroundings, who knows what we'd be ashamed of today in the United States? I am convinced that the American people could be stampeded into the same atrocities against the Negroes that arose against the Jews in Germany, if the wrong man somehow managed to keep power long enough. Nobody knows what would have happened to the country if Huey Long hadn't been assassinated just when he was threatening to expand from a dictator of Louisiana into a national menace. The only moral that I can draw is that this country and every country with some goods and wealth to spare should try to alleviate troubles anywhere in the world that could be used as a rallying point for a new example of mob hysteria. If something isn't done, I still believe that the next world conflict will arise over Japan with that enormous population bottled up on a land not bigger than California.

The shorter items in this issue were mostly amusing but they don't inspire a large amount of comment. I also enjoyed the

letter section, and not just because I managed to stay out of it but because it contains some good stuff. It would be better if these individuals talking about nazis in Sweden would name names. To the best of my knowledge, it is not libelous to call an individual a nazi, any more than it is illegal to call someone a communist, and it is hardly fair to the entire bulk of Swedish fandom to have these untargated accusations landing in their midst. On Bradbury's early fan activities, I might be able to help, because Ray and I got active at about the same time and I published some of his stuff in my first fanzine. His writings were better than the average that appeared in fanzines in those days, when the level of writing was lower than today but it was obviously written by an immature boy who was casting around for a style and hadn't yet realized that his abilities did not lie in the direction of humor. Futura FANTASIA was much better than average fanzine, Ron Bennett may think it's poor when he compares it against today's publications, but I can remember how well it contrasted with other fan publications around 1939. All the little morsels of fact about fandom in Argentina and Japan were interesting additions to previous information. I occasionally wake up nights in a cold sweat at the thought of how hard it would be to read a hectographed fanzine written in the Japanese characters.

A good issue, in case you hadn't already guessed the verdict.

THOMAS SCHLUCK, Hannover, Altenbekener Damm 10, West Germany

To Helmut "I'm getting
older" Klemm
somewhere in Germany
Find him, postman!

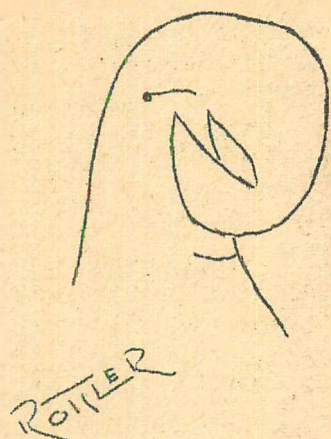
Dear Hel,

The thing in TB# 10 was Rolf's contribution, the reaction to which -- before I even read it -- was shown to me at the beginning of the Harrogate Eastercon this year, when several people gathered around Rolf, beginning to argument with him and praising his article, Brian Aldiss now even wanting to reprint it in one of his publications, the name of which I forgot. ((Oxford Mail or somesuch, I guess.-hel))

Never before did I think so deeply about this problem as when I read Rolf's article, me not having been informed about this dark period of the German past so much. My father was killed in war, and naturally my mother has an aversion against telling anything about that time. It is not only that -- when speaking about it in school or general discussions -- I begin to think about it, giving the thing it's real importance, the certain importance it has and will have for our lives. Rolf's article was no performance of his personal opinion but was giving facts as far as Rolf, in his age, was able to give them, trying to explain how things could happen and again showing his love for psychological explanations.

I, in my part, can do nothing but believe my mother when she says that until the war was over, the masses were not informed about what actually happened to the Jews; ((That's not true! Everyone who kept his eye on the happenings had to know what they were doing with the Jews, EVERYONE!-hel)) and I can only ask myself how this could happen. Part of the answer was given by Rolf, but not all, at least to me.

In this respect it was extremely interesting for me that a so-called "Israeli-Week" was being held at our school last month, part of which was an exhibition about Israel today. In speeches, discussions, and from films we learned about the problems of this young state, which especially result from the Arabic neighborhood and the language difficulties, as the population is formed by immigrants from 74 nations. They have been doing excellent work in farming and building, and their communist-in-the-best-



-sense-institution of "Kibbuzim" is a great example of cooperation and privation from all luxuries. It means something when academists, professors, and teachers from all over the world come to Israel to work there as farmers under hard conditions. And they really solve the problems they are facing; new cities appearing everywhere, they found new universities, and cultural life is great. It was the task of this introduction to the Israel state to bring us close to the problems and conditions of those people who only a few years ago had to suffer hard from the Third Reich. But we are a new generation, and a completely new start, I hope.

DON FORD, Box 19-T, R.R.2, Loveland, Ohio.
U.S.A. Dear Hel:

Received a copy of BUG EYE 10 about 3 days ago. In it I noticed that you specifically requested a letter of comment from me. I am assuming that this is a sort of bait following your statement that you went to a Communist meeting & that they were nice guys.

You probably expect me to rise up on my hind legs & scream to beware the dirty Commies. I can't get that excited any more.

If we'd only pulled back General Patton from his eastern advance, or just held him up & stalled for time, you could have attended lots of meetings...on a compulsory basis.

I can't pretend to understand the Teutonic mind, but there seems to be a sort of trend towards desiring that their thinking be done for them & that their lives, society, etc. have a more ordered & planned approach. With such a background, Communism has vast appeal. However, in the United States, we have the background of being the rebels (indentured servants, prisoners, etc.)

The basic desire I have grown up with & am accustomed to is in the acquisition of things for myself & family... home, car, education, security & a better standard of living. In order to do this I work at some field which gives me a profit with which to buy these things. In a society which would provide these things for me, I wouldn't work at all unless they made me. I want something that I can call my own.

You can sneer at this if you like, I don't give a damn. In fact, I don't give a damn if you turn Communist, or what. In fact, if you're so mixed up that you're considering it, I say go ahead...you'd be an asset (in the long run) to the anti-communist cause. ((Well...yes, that may be, but I'd suggest you better read my editorial (TBE 10) again; & with more care, if you please. You just didn't get it, I fear.-hel))

All you have to do is head for Berlin & cross over the wall & I'm sure that they'll find something for you to do on the other side. When any political idea has to build walls & maintain a rigid border security on all fronts to hold their own people in, then just close your eyes and walk east and join the happy throng.

On the whole BUG EYE is an interesting fanzine and of particular interest is your round up of fannish doings in other countries. Rolf Gindorf's article may be of interest in Germany, but over here it's more or less on the order of flogging a dead horse.

You have a representative letter column & that is your chief asset.

BUCK COULSON, Route 3, Wabash, Indiana, U.S.A. ((Ha! Note that typo, U & S! Freudian slip? Dear Hel, -hel))

The makeup of the Hamburg Communist cell seems pretty typical. Communists talk about the downtrodden workers, but they very seldom are downtrodden workers. They are the young rebellious intellectuals. Most of the downtrodden workers aren't even aware of the fact that they are downtrodden, much less articulate enough to join in protest movements. Like all do-gooders, Communists believe in making people do things "for their own good" whether the people want to do them or not. (Capitalism is more subtle; it convinces the people that they aren't really doing what they dislike, but are working on something else together.)

And the more an individual talks about the downtrodden workers, the more likely it is that he's never done a lick of honest work in his life.

Gindorf's article on fascism is probably the best single item I've seen in BUG EYE.

^{just} So Urtorf/Eick are twin cities....the logical thing would be to use the name of whichever one of the twins you live in, or to simply eliminate one name, but I suppose the residents could'nt agree on which name to eliminate. ((Right. Incidentally, I livin Eick.-hel)) Twin cities in the U.S. keep their separate names, but then combining our twins would produce some awful mouthfuls -- can you imagine living in Minneapolis/St. Paul, or South Bend/Mishawaka, or even something like Hammond/Gary/Whiting/East Chicago/Calumet City?

Andy Main mentions possible Finnish nazis; I'd be more interested in finding out if there are Finnish fans. They had an edition of GALAXY for a while; I wonder if it helped produce a fandom?

"The Negro problem" is not a planetwide problem, as Berndt Ruthström intimates -- it's a problem of the white nations. (the Congo doesn't have a Negro problem; it has a Caucasian problem.) The problem is that no man is really willing to recognize another man as his equal -- the more obvious differences that the other man has, the easier it is "to put him down". Whites sneer at Negroes, intellectuals sneer at "the masses" (and the masses sneer right back, don't forget), fans consider non-fans to be pretty stupid, etc. It's all the same problem; time and education are the only solutions. I don't even know if you can eradicate the superiority feelings, but it's possible to teach that one should be tolerant and friendly to one's inferiors.

LES NIRENBERG, 1217 Weston Road, Toronto 15, Ontario, CANADA
Dear Hel,

Thanks for the BUG EYE. This issue is the best yet. But of course I'm prejudiced because I enjoyed ROLF GINDORF'S article immensely, (and you know why of course), enjoyed it, not in the sense that it was entertaining or anything, but that this subject has been burning me all my life. I mean I've been exposed to it ever since I was born (1935). What I find refreshing is that here is ONE German (at least the only one I've ever seen or heard or read, aside from absolute anti-nazis like Willy Brandt) who, in an impartial way, is not afraid to examine his country-men thoroughly, (while examining himself in the process) and saying to hell with patriotism and nationalism, and not ending up with "Well, he did make the trains run on time!" (a statement which usually brings to mind a picture of a railway track with human bodies being used instead of ties.)

Anyway, if you are a patriotic German, you'll probably find this whole thing pretty painful. ((just see Inge Hartmann's letter!-hel)) For which I can't blame you. But let me ask you this question: Why be a patriotic German? And at the same time why should one be a patriotic ANYTHING? What's in it for you when you are patriotic. Patriotism, like

religion requires you to first HATE all the enemies of the regime (whether it is Democratic, Communistic, theocratic, fascist or whatever.) The first requirement, if you are to Belong, is to hate. I refuse to hate -- therefore I am not a patriotic Canadian (I do not hate the Americans or the British, you see, ...or the French). I do not hate Gentiles, therefore I am not a good Jew. So here I am, living in some kind of limbo.

One thing I'd like to point out, a possible reason for the German's feelings, is one I've subscribed to for a long time, and which many people ignore. Of all the major cultural groups in Europe, the Germans are the only ones who didn't really experience a truly democratic revolution as did the French, the Russians (let's face it, it was democratic at the time), the English; some kind of action that could establish a good solid basis for democracy, and also a set of ideals. Suddenly this agrarian country found itself smack in the middle of the Twentieth Century; it looked around and saw its neighbours (who had experienced some democratic revolution) prospering, and it was envious. How could they get right in there, up with their neighbours?...by sacrificing. Not only would they have to sacrifice material things, but they must (and were required to) sacrifice their personal freedom, as well as that of their neighbours (the minority groups in the land). The whole mess was the manifestation of a gigantic national inferiority complex. Now, that complex has had to be sublimated because the Germans as yet, haven't proved to the rest of the world that they are as civilized as their neighbours (the ones who experienced the democratic revolutions). They still haven't YET cleaned their own closets as these other countries did.....so I think we may be fighting you boys again some day. Personally I hope this never happens (and actually I don't think it will, because Hitler did do ONE good thing (you find it hard to believe that a Jew could say this?) and that was he instilled a feeling in younger generation Germans that patriotism, as preached by all the governments in the world, a patriotism based on hate, is not what it's cracked up to be.) There are higher things and goals in this world.

MIKE DECKINGER, 31 Carr Place, Fords, New Jersey, U.S.A.

Dear Hel,

Your exposure to communism seems to have been with the less fanatical rabble-rousers who's intent is to bridge the gap in more subtle terms, rather than some violent method. My only experience with the communist party is through what I've heard about them in the various news media, but even so I can not help but feel that the group you met was not typical of all the groups. I would have no fears myself for participating in some meetings of a local communist group no matter what the functions, since I've always felt that my political views are steadfast enough to remain unaltered by any of the lines the communists preach. But your account was different, at least, from the I-Led-3-Lives type meetings, where the commies sit around plotting what to blow up next. (Only primitive people or friends of Henry Luce believe such baloney! The meeting I attended seemed pretty typical to me.-hel-)

I can sympathize with Larry Williams in his portrayal of what school does to his fannish life, since for quite a while I was subject to the same sort of academic domination -- before I graduated from school, that is, and went to work in an insurance company, making my hours away from home longer, if anything.

Please offer my congratulations to Rolf Gindorf for one of the most sensible, perceptive, and vital articles to ever appear in a fanzine of any sort. Gindorf's case is excellently presented, he is not afraid to place the blame where blame lies, and delves deeply and brilliantly into the whole situation. This is the sort of article that should appear more often, and ten years from now I intend to

read it again.

Lichtman's account of the LASFS cats was so-so. I just can't get myself enthused over felines as much as the rest of fandom seems to be doing, since I have my hands full as it is with two younger brothers who can be as damaging and annoying as a whole menagerie of animals. But I love that name Gypsy Rose Femmefanne.

I sincerely hope that the US and allied trips display more courage and determination in the position over Berlin, that they have been showing in other world trouble spots, like Cuba and Laos for instance. ((Berlin is a GERMAN city, don't forget.....and it's so much easier fighting Communism in some "underdeveloped country"..-hel)) Being an American I naturally owe loyalty to this country, but I can't help thinking that the government is more concerned with buying friends, through our limitless foreign aid programs, than for making friends by demonstrating our determinedness and feelings towards some problem.

While Dave Locke's refutation of Harrell's charges concerning Bradbury is quite accurate, his statement that THE GOLDEN APPLES OF THE SUN is a bad book is not at all true. In many cases Bradbury's writing is a matter of opinion and taste, and while I personally prefer THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES and FAHRENHEIT 451, I know several fellows who consider THE GOLDEN APPLES OF THE SUN to be the finest book Bradbury ever wrote. So speak for yourself, Locke.

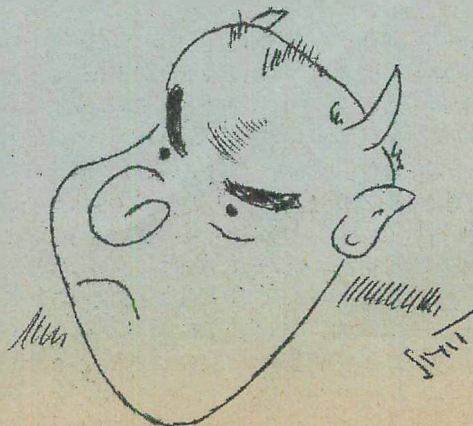
Hitch-hiking is illegal here too, and if it wasn't it would make no difference, as there are very few circumstances that would entice me to pick up a hitch-hiker -- male or female. I've heard too many reports of robbers masquerading as hikers, to want to give it a try. ((Why Mike, you turned square?! Hitch-hiking has become an essential part of my life. I hitch-hike to school --and back -- almost every day.-hel))

BETTY KUJAWA, 2819 Caroline, South Bend 14, Indiana, U.S.A.

Dear Helmut;

BUG EYE 10 received and enjoyed----mayhaps you'd be interested that BUG EYE, WARHOON, and XERO came two weeks back, on a strange windy Monday afternoon about 3:15--I sat down to peruse and at 3:19 a savage storm riddled through with ghastly tornados struck our town causing ruin and heavy damage all over the place--cant help but wonder if there was any connection..one minute I was looking at the cover of XERO and the next all hell broke loose. And for the first time in recorded history South Bend got not one tornado but a whole big fat gang of them...and I pray that never ever happens again!

You (in your editorial) had never met a Communist before?? And here in supposedly isolationistic Indiana I've known Communists since childhood. Parents of kids I went through school with (these were the real true-blue card carrying kinds, not admirers or fringe-hanging sympathizers) and then at the university. Matter of fact a man who drives taxis here, and who has driven me many many times and whome I've chatted with often down through the years, has been for many many years an active Communist.. last fall in a federal case the news came out that all this long long time he's been an agent for the F.B.I. posing as a devout party member. Its been known that he was a Commie by most every one here and he never lacked



for a drivers' job during that time, and I'd always found him quite nice and interesting to chat with. This being a big labor city---automotive and other heavy industries all through the area we've always had a large and active Communist cell going. During WW-2 we had a rather large and active nazi-spy group infiltrated through Studebakers and Bendix---they used a farm on the outskirts of town to send radio messages and war-industry info to Germany..each member was under close scrutiny (father of a good friend was the head of the Federal agents who kept tab of this part of my state--hence have learned later much inside info) every radio code broadcast was decoded--twas all very interesting then..the German agents thinking they were getting away with all kinds of things when in reality the Government knew every move they made.

Larry Williams'es woes of fanac while a student--how about fans who are wives and have homes, husband and kiddies to care for??? And THAT is a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week job..not just school hours and homework hours after, my friend. That kinda work never ends..night or day.

Gindorf's article was read with deep interest. I would suggest that he and you and any Gerfen who are interested keep an eye out for Katherine Anne Porters newest novels--"Ship Of Fools"---account of a German ship going from Mexico to Germany in 1931--passengers mainly German with 3 Americans, one Swede and 3 Swiss and some Cubans, Mexicans and Spaniards....the seeds of Hitlerism and anti-Semitism shown via this novel are most illuminating. A well done book by one of our finer writers. Have read bio after bio on Hitler and Goebbels and of most every aspect of The Time of the Nazis..I'd agree from what I've read that Dr. Joseph was far more the greatest and most dangerous demagogue.

As a personal opinion I frankly cannot, even now, help but feel the anti-semitism and the liklyhood of a recurrence of nazi-dom is possible. Twill take more than just this short time to convince me and many many others that all this is behind Germany for good. I have great hopes for the Common Market, though and what it may do to re-make the whole of Europe into a unit where such things will never return again---leave us hope so.

Most happy to read here that Siegfried Raguse is advocating the reading of the Fitzgibbon book "When The Kissing Had To Stop"...sometime back did a review of that book for Wrai Ballards SAPS-zine in which I, too, endorsed the close reading and close heeding of what that book had to say. Please xtell Siegfried I am definitely in agreement with him. ((To quote one of Rolf Gindorf's most famous phrases: "You dig that lousy book? Like, you're way out, man!")

Ooooh...you know it, Helmut!! Geo. Lockes handwriting is about tops in hard-to-read-ness. As I've told him many many tearful times after getting letters that I couldn't decode..sigh! In a nice plaintive sweet way, of course, I used to give him hell about that!

So how come I cant admire and like Willy Brandt..huh?? Golly, take our perennial Socialist Leader Norman Thomas--hes an utter delight and I wouldn't miss any appearance of his on tv or an article by him in a magazine..course Thomas is an exceptional--and a humorous wit whose quotes and quips most any party would wish they had speaking for their side. Quite a guy, quite a guy. You never found a conservative capitalistic type you could like or admire as a person?? ((Seldom...in fact, you seem to be the only one...-hel)) If not tis a pity and great pity youd let your prejudices get in the way of your judgement of people as individuals.

But enough chatter--that 8 week trip down south has put me so far behind in fanac I fear I'll never get caught up again.

JHIM LINV.OOD, 10, Meadow Cottages, Netherfield, Nottingham., ENGLAND

Dear Hel:

My, I seemed to have stirred up some controversy with my bit about there being nazis in German fandom, but I must admit I'm surprised as anybody by my statement because I can't remember making it or even holding opinions along those lines. I felt however, from what you said about the anti Bug Eye Gerfen, that the trend was there. ((I quote your letter dated June 5, 1961: "Glad to see that you're a fellow pacifist...espesh with so many Swedish and German fans belonging to neo-nazi organizations..."-hel)) I have known about all the little Swedish nazis for some time. It was quite ta terriffying experience to sit in a modern hotel in the middle of a civilized amongst intelligent fen and hear Sture Sedolin proudly state that most Swedish f fen were members of a large neo-nazi organization, and describe his collection of recorded nazi-speeches and marching songs. Until that point I'd been tolerant towards his badmannered, immature, and boorish ways, but this was the explosion point, especially when he asked

com in 2000



if I and other youngfen were interested in joining this bulwark against Bolshevism. Since then I've avoided all contact with Sedolin and Swedish fandom. A few Swedish fen I know are ashamed of the situation... Sam Lundwall for instance, but in the Swedish political circle fascism and s-f are one, as it was on a certain extent in America before the war... I hope the army is sorting this miserable little fureur out, but logic tells me that the army will cultivate rather than dampen Sedolin's brand of hate.

I was disturbed by Siegfried Raguse's letter, which appears to have been written by one of Lyndon Johnson's fountain-pens. Doesn't he realize that the Russians have dropped Leninism with the same haste as America dropped Jeffersonism. How the Russians must regret colonising East Germany for all the drop in prestige and trouble it has cost them. I suggest Siegfried reads "Moment of no Return" by King-Hall instead of the sabre-waving John Birch orientated "When the Kissing Had to Stop". WTKHTS almost condemns all political elements left of Harold Macmillan as being fellow-travellers and as an alternative hints at a right-wing military dictatorship. So as not to offend liberal natures the author flings in the murder of a Negro... knifed by anti-bomb elements! We are also expected to believe that a Labour government would create a political gestapo, execute prostitutes, and turn Hyde-Park into a concentration camp, not to mention letting the Russians in through the back door. This novel made me believe more strongly in disarmament, because I finally saw the fallacy of the Keep the Bombers' arguments... I hope it enjoys a large sale.

Although I believe that liberty is an almost nonexistent thing in Russia, does Siegfried include among the "free" nations of the world countries like France, where you can lose your life protesting against dictatorship, or Portugal, which is exterminating thousands of Angolese natives, all in the name of "the free christian west". Is there any proof that the West is any better than the East? But when it comes to battles of ideologies god is always on OUR side (the Russian communists say history is on their side but it's the same thing). Sure I live in a country that enjoys democracy, and I want it to stay that way... but don't class Britain along with France, Spain, Portugal, and Turkey and call us the "free-west"!

GARY DEINDORFER, 121 Boudinot Street, Trenton 8, New Jersey, U.S.A.
Dear Helmut,

Your fanzine was a handsome job, and contained some good material. And, of course, the most croggling thing about the entire production is that you people are able to use English with as much ease and precision as you do. I would particularly like to compliment Dave Locke in this respect; one would almost think English was his native tongue or something.

For many reasons, Rolf Gindorf's article was the most noteworthy piece in this issue of your fanzine. He delineated quite clearly the reasons behind Hitler's rise to power. This article is particularly to be respected for its thoroughly rational thinking. Not once did I catch Gindorf lapsing into illogic; a lesser writer/thinker could very easily have done so. Gindorf is to be congratulated for this article.

Incidentally, he's correct; Seth Johnson is indeed "crazy as a beetle". Hoohaw.

Lichtman's article was rather minor Lichtman. And, anyway, I don't much like cats. One tried to eat my cradle once; gave me one hell of a cat-engram, let me tell you. Then there was Hans Franzke's mouse fable (or perhaps that should be Mouse Fable; one can never tell), which I found rather charming. And, anyway, I like mice. I really do. Much more than cats.

I know what Williams means about school cutting into one's fanac. School is one of the main reasons for my gafiation back in 1958 at the

tender age of fifteen. Strangely, though, it was when I began going to college that I returned to the microcosm, in late 1961. Perhaps not so strangely, now that I am reasonably active again I find myself not in college.

John Berry's reminiscences weren't at all bad, as far as they went. However, I sort of wish he had chosen to write a bit more about his friend Margot. While on the subject of German girls, I might mention that some of my best friends are German girls. A few years ago I was going with a girl who was an exchange student from Germany. Her name was Helga, and she was rather noticeably stacked. Yes, I like German girls. I might modify my comments regarding remuneration for the fanzines I sent you. If you would like to send me in return for them a Genuine Certified German girl, I wouldn't at all protest. You may send her surface mail, airmail, or whatever. Just so that I receive her within a reasonable amount of time.

Dave Locke is a clod, as I have been heard to say before. His letter only further corroborates this.

ALAN DODD, 77 Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon, Herts., ENGLAND

Dear Helmut,

Rolf -er Rolf Gindorf's article was I thought both intelligent and very fair and very well written, I don't think anyone in Germany could have done a better job. However there is just one odd point might strike a cynic like me -- surely the only real ex-nazis are those who are dead?? There is still a very large nucleus of the top nazis around in other countries who could form as many alive as those who were dead and have never been caught and most likely never will be caught. I think more attention might be paid to catching them. For example Martin Bohrmann, Hitler's Deputy is in Brazil, Heinrich Müller the Chief of Gestapo is still at large, Richard Gluecks, Inspector of Concentration camps, Himmler's adjutant was only arrested recently and after 17 years they only just caught Robert Verbeleyn, Chief of Gestapo of Belgium. But when and if they go to German judges for justice they get only three years at most whatever the crimes, yet several hundred poor devils are still rotting in German jails because the allies jailed them for reprisal killings of the nazis who killed their parents tortured them etc. After the war concentration camp victims who killed their guards were imprisoned to prevent mass reprisal. The 91 criminals at Nuremberg have all been released virtually, these poor people who did what anyone would have done are still in jail after 17 years. So much for justice.

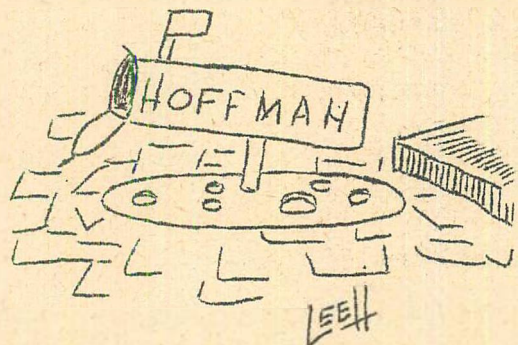
Still, it isn't fair to confuse these subjects with fans who obviously, just like we here, can neither be responsible nor alter anything judicial. But there were are.

Rolf's mentioning of the voices and songs of the Third Reich he heard from recordings brings to mind a tape club here I was going to mention which can supply virtually all the sounds and songs and marches of this era. All the bands ranging from the SS to Carl Woitschach's SA Band and stormtroopers singing "Die Fahne Hoch". A thought comes to mind -- what ever DID happen to the great music men of the Third Reich era -- Carl Woitschach was to the SA after all, what Sousa was to the American Marine Corps, and there was Branabas Heczy, and of course composer Horst Wessel himself, possibly the most famous song writer for one song alone. Hmm, I wonder. Then again there are collectors these days would pay anything for daggers of the nazi era, I saw one fellow advertising them from £7 - £70 -- I'd like to see a nazi dagger worth that amount, but collectors are strange people, there is even a monthly catalog for nazi collectors of relics that is, I saw advertised in an American mag SHOOTING TIMES, yet all these relics have totally disappeared from the one country you'd have thought there would be so many left in, Germany itself. "People aren't interested" someone in Germany once told me, maybe that's just as well.

But what about the Müllers, and Bohrmanns and Mengeles and Baers -- they're still around? ((People aren't interested.....-hel))

But back to BUG FYZ, this is the only truly international German fanzine and I think you do a very fine job on it, by NOT keeping it as insular as the other German fanzines seem to be. You and staff seem to be interested in the outside world and none of the other German fanzines do. So I feel any help anyone can give you is something that should be extended.

((Me proud! Me have gotten letter by Lee Hoffman!-hel))



LEE HOFFMAN, basement, 54 E. 7th Street,
New York 3, New York, U.S.A.

Dear Hel:

Yes, I've BE 10 and have read it with much interest, in particular THE GERMANS, THE NAZIS, THE JEWS, AND I. Leaving aside any serious-type comments in the article I'll mention that during WW II my mother told me about listening to short-wave and re-broadcasts of Hitler's

speeches in the late '30's and being fascinated, even though she didn't understand a word of German, entirely by the vibrance, etc., of his oratory. I've lately caught a couple of TV documentaries about Hitler and Göbbels (heavy-handed propaganda, by the way -- anti-nazi, of course) with fragments of speeches included, and am muchly prone to agree with her. Even without the meaning of the words, the meaning of the voice has tremendous emotional impact.

KRIS CAREY, 1016 2nd Street, Wasco, California. U.S.A.

Dear Hel -

Being a teenfan, I totally agreed with Larry Williams' article, "QUESTIONABLE QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE". The schedules do get pretty tough at times, and it is true that finals are just around the bend. However, I do not think anything could be worse than my lunch from home that I faithfully carry around every day at school. Like, I mean, Have YOU ever tasted mashed-potatoe sandwiches? Ugh!

Really enjoyed the fresh opinion on "THE GERMANS, THE NAZIS, THE JEWS, AND I" by Rolf Gindorf. It is very true that the German people in general were subconsciously seeking an outlet from the ruins of the old empire, and economic recessions, and to many "jungfolk" the radical parties like the German Nationalist Social Workers Party, seemed the way back to their former glories. It is also true that Hitler had a tremendous ability for oration. And this combined with nationalistic rallies, with impressive ceremony, and appealing martial music, brought back the old Prussian feeling for power and glory. It is no doubt that anyone seeing one of these impressive "rallies" could help but be intranced with the psychological bylines and lullabies that promised a "Strong Germany".

Germany unwittingly cheated itself out of many brilliant minds and ideas, when it began to persecute the Jews. For example take Thomas Mann (who however was not Jewish but sympathized with their cause); Here was the man who wrote such great works as THE MAGIC MOUNTAIN and DR. FAUSTUS, and who continued his fight against the nazis in the U.S. in his anti-nazi radio broadcasts to the German people. Here was the man whose novels and works carried such ever recurring themes as the studies showing the struggle of the younger generation against the outworn conventions of the older generations.

Einstein too, left Germany when Hitler began to rise to

power. There are dozens of others to just name a few.

And lastly on the general complacency and indifference in most people about "Politics": let me cite this recent example that appeared in our local paper:

+ + + + +
Laos? Where's that? Only two of the 34 people interviewed in a downtown man-on-the-street interview in Greater Las Vegas, knew where it was. Seventeen people had absolutely NO idea of what or where it was; six thought it was an island, seven thought it was a Communist leader in the USSR; and four thought it was a street in downtown Las Vegas. One man and his wife said, "We wouldn't have the slightest idea, we're only visiting here ourselves!!!"

+ + + + +
And even more recently, a government man went down to the Ozarks around Tennessee, and found out that out of 200 people questioned, only 25 knew or cared who JOHN F. KENNEDY was! Und so weiter, und so weiter, und so weiter.....

Can't find much to say about Burkhard Blüm's "THOUGHTS NOT TO PROVOKE", although Bob Lichtman's essay on "SOMETHING ABOUT CATS" had me periodically splitting a gut, as did Betty Kujawa's letter about dachshunds taking over the scene. Hector Pessina's article was very interesting too.

Dr. ANTONIO DUPLA, P.^o M.^a Agustin, 9, Zaragoza, SPAIN

Dear Helmut:

Let's speak about TBE 9. In your editorial you say how many German fans dislike you and not for the first time; well, is that so or are you delighting in that oh! so sweet feeling of not being understood? ((The former is correct. One can understand me pretty well))

Gindorf is undoubtedly your first columnist and a very good one, his article is excellent. Blüm sounds deep but how can he say that pragmatism can't exist in Communist countries and next line that one thus has no cause to be against "Brave New World"? Is there any difference between the Communism he speaks about -- not the one of the Communist countries -- and "BNW" save some picturesque effects introduced by a man, Huxley, with far more imagination than Marx or his exegetes?

The second part of Pippke's "con report" doesn't drop of the first one and both are very interesting. The lettercol improves with every issue, and now with the nazis you have found one of those topics that made it lively and sparkling.

TBE 10: I take off my hat to Gindorf who has bested himself with an authoritative, well informed and objective article about the rising of Hitler to power. Only, he lets out the chance that those ex-nazis you were speaking about had the ex for the nonexistence of the party, but having still the same, though camouflaged ideas. But it's excellent from first to last letter.

Note to H. Pessina: "The Day Of The Triffids" was published in Argentina by Minotauro.

WIM STRUYCK, Willebrordusstr. 33 B, Rotterdam 11, HOLLAND

Dear Helmut,

About your "I sure am a real fan dept.: You seem to have started more or less in the same way as I did. In opposition, yes, though I never got radical about it. Made no enemies either. Maybe I'm too philosophical for that. I don't care very much about what other people think. ((I am more or less an extrovert. If I've something important to say I go into the nearest cafeteria and deliver one of my famous "Klemm speeches" to the audience. I'm sure I'd die if someone ignored me. I think the only reason I joined fandom is that the egoboo

I got in mundania wasn't enough for me; I wonder, who volunteers to psychoanalyze me?-hel)) As long as they leave me in peace, to my own thoughts; and to my own kind of books, which were always more or less Sc. Fiction or Fantasy, if called differently then. I wonder what our American friends are gonna say about your views towards Communism. I'm not a Commie either, and my views are more or less like yours, but I'm afraid many Americans are those John Birch types in this respect. Americans are good, broadminded, and kindhearted people, but their views towards Communism just seem to be different

Interesting to me (and maybe in relation with the above) was the article by Rolf Gindorf about the "Nazis". I did live through that time. I experienced nazis and Germans generally, in Holland as well as in Germany itself. I was in Germany during '42 - '43. I didn't and don't like nazis. I don't like war, and I hate everything military. On the other hand I came through this war without serious troubles. No losses in my family, no concentration camps, no hard work. It may all have been pure luck, maybe I had a guardian angel, who knows, but sometimes I still think my luck nearly unbelievable. Thus, I have no personal reasons for hate. And I am certainly not the man to judge about the feelings of other people. Reading Rolf's article I don't really know what I should feel about Germany today, and Germany then. Somehow I think that nazidom was made possible by German nature. (And I hope you don't get me wrong) Rolf says that Hitler was a great orator and that his speeches made a great impression. But they did not make any impression on the Dutch, though a lot of us understand German very well. It was just not our type of speech. Most Dutchmen thought his speeches a bit comic even. Just as military parades, with all their discipline, to the majority of the Dutch are comical. The Dutch are a very undisciplined nation. Germans are different in this. (Of course there are exceptions on both sides.) But generally there are differences between us. As, I think, between most nations. ((Aside from the language, I didn't find any. As you probably know, Wim, I live near the Dutch border 20 kilometres away from Venlo. How about visiting me sometime, huh?), and I cross almost every month the border to buy cigarettes, but your shop girls look & act just like their German counterparts, your JDs wear the same leather jackets & jeans, and bear the same facial expression as the German ones, and Venlo looks much like a Dutch edition of my home town, Moers. The houses are built in the same style, that is. No, I don't think there's a great difference between our nations.-hel)) I don't say which is better or which is worse. If you see the behaviour of our bicycle riders in busy traffic you may long for more discipline. A strange fact is, for instance, that Dutchmen who like to go to France, and who like the French people and their way, seldom like it in Germany. But the opposite is exactly the same. ((This isn't quite correct, I fear. Lots of Dutchmen spend their vacations in the German highlands, and many, many Germans are to be found in Scheveningen, Alkmaar, Ekmont, Texel & Ameland during the summer.-hel))

Well, this might be something to talk about for hours. If I had the time. As it is, I spent already too much time on it, and I can say hardly anything else about Bug Eye. Which is a pity, to me, because there are a lot of interesting topics in TBE to talk about. I also reread the published part of my letter (and your comments on what I said about Commies). But there you got me wrong. What I said was this: When we think of Communism we think (or are made to think of) murders, atombombs, and loss of freedom. And what I meant to say was we should not think that way. Many Americans do think that Black and White way. But that's just where I don't agree with them.

Well, now I have to finish this letter. This seems to be about the 4th, in a short time, where I write about politics mainly. And about communism. Next, I know, I'll be seen and known as a defender of

Communism, and sent out of fandom as an unwanted element. And I don't even like politics, neither Communism. As a matter of fact, I don't give a damn about the whole business of politics. I hardly care about who governs me. I know I'll always be governed. And I'll never like it. A Dutch proverb says: "It makes no difference if you're bitten by the dog or by the cat."

I'll never write about politics again. I don't want to lose my good name in the U.S.A. Next time we talk about Sc. Fiction eh, about the books we read, the girls we kissed and such topics. Nice and innocent. ((AGREED!))

TOM ARMISTEAD, Quarters 3202, Carswell AFB, Ft. Worth, Texas, U.S.A.
Dear Hel,

Bob Lichtman's article on cats brings to mind the cats we have had. First there was a mean cat named Bootsy. Whew...that cat was a terror. I was about six and the cat had me under its paw. I would go to the bathroom, and the cat would wait right outside the door, and when I'd come out he would leap on me and start clawing and shrieking. Then, when no one was looking, he would do his business on the corner of the rug...a corner behind a chair where no one could see. Finally, we gave the cat to our grandparent's who live in Virginia. The cat finally got run over, and, believe it or not, I cried the whole day when I found out that cat was dead. Ah, such is being young.

Well, then we got a cat named Missy. She was a female (natch) and we got her when an airman on the base came by in a car giving cats away. She was a shy, timid, scared cat, and would spend her time behind the refrigerator. We finally convinced her we meant her no harm, and she began to live with us. We had no trouble housebreaking Missy.

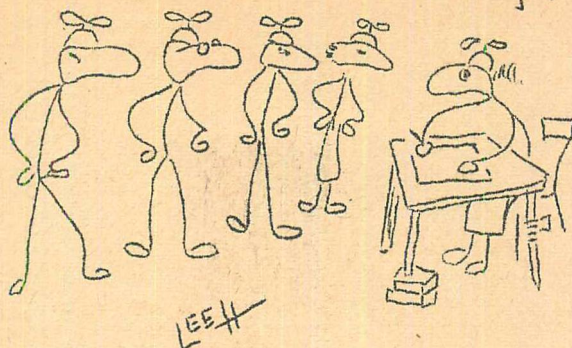
Missy gave birth to two litters. The first produced a batch of the most lovely kittens that could have been. Missy was black and white and she produced blacks, and black and whites. The kittens were kept in the bathroom, till they began to crowd us out, then we put them in the enclosed garage we used to have. We had no trouble in lining up homes for them. Then, the disaster. We got up one morning, went to the garage, found Missy clawed up, and everyone of the kitten torn and clawed apart, except one, Sambo. We thought that the father came into the garage and tore all the kittens apart, and Missy was clawed protecting them. Or maybe a dog got in. We didn't know, but we got Missy to the vets and took Sambo inside. There was mourning that day, let me tell you.

Missy got well, and Sambo grew up to a healthy tom. Missy had a second litter when we moved to a new house. This litter we gave away, and the runt we kept for ourselves (we always were kind hearted that way). We called him Squeaky, because he was so small and limped around all the time, and his only sound was a pitiful "squeak".

To make matters short, Missy died of Cat Fever, her last days spent behind a bush in our yard. We tried to find her to take her to the vet's, but she wandered away, to die a lonely death away from all the other cats so she would not give the fever to them. She was quite brave. Squeaky was run over while crossing the road. I found the cat, dead, one day while I was playing. It was in the middle of the road, and I saw it, picked it up, and ran home, crying. Sambo finally ran away, after longer and longer sojourns away, coming home only to get his cuts tended to. We moved again, and left Sambo to his fate. We were almost sure someone had taken him on, as the times we saw him, he was fat and happy, except for his scratches, which he got in his many fights with other toms. One day he came home with a collar around his neck. We never saw him again after that.

We moved out here on the base, after living 2 other places in the

BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY
IDEAS!



city proper, the two places I told you about. Now we have a dog, a border collie, named Lady. She is black and white, and never goes into the street, now that we've trained her.

CALVIN W. "BIFF" DEMMON,
c/o Knight, 947 University
Avenue, Berkeley 10, Calif.
U.S.A.

Dear Helmut:

Thank you very much for sending me Bug Eye

14. ((???)

Gee, I'm sorry you're turning Commie on us. I think there are some Commies at my school. My History teacher, for instance, keeps tearing away at the very roots of American Society by telling us that McKinley and Harding and even Eisenhower were lousy Presidents. It's too bad they don't have a Screening Board or something. Oh, well, I guess they've probably infiltrated so much now that it doesn't really matter...

Gee, I don't know. Bob Lichtman's comments about cats have set me to Remembering, even though I'm sick as a dog (no pun intended, really) right now with some kind of Mysterious Ill which may have me dead and in the tomb by the time you get this letter. It came upon me all of a sudden this afternoon and skyrocketed my temperature upward a couple of degrees (F.) higher than the Normal. It's probably cancer. Anyway, when I was a little kid I always used to have two or three cats or kittens around at all times. Little kids seem to like cats and kittens, and I was no exception. One of the cats who stayed around here the longest was a veryblack one whose tail had been removed with either a Surgical Instrument or a Train Engine, apparently. She had dozens of kittens while she was with us, and all of them had perfectly normal tails, just right for pulling and everything, so we figured that she had probably lost her tail in some traumatic experience before she wandered onto our front lawn one day. (She never would discuss it with us. It made her look pretty stupid, and she knew it.) My brother and I, being very small and Easily Impressed and everything, had been listening to "Smilin' Ed McConnell" on the radio every Saturday. Smilin' Ed McConnell was a jolly old man who used to do magic things with frogs and cats and hamsters, and his cat's name was Midnight, and we named our cat Midnight, in honor of funny old Smilin' Ed. We didn't call her "Midnight" very often, though. I'd hate to tell you what we called her; I've never told anyone else, and I don't think I'll start now. We had this funny kidword for Cats, which we made up ourselves. It was a Secret Word. It started out as a generic term, but we started using it on the cat-sans-tail, and it immediately became Hers. It has just occurred to me that I wouldn't be able to tell you what we called our Cat anyway, because I haven't the foggiest notion of how to spell it. Little kids don't worry an awful lot about spelling, although they really should, the little bastards.) Black stupid Midnight ran away one evening, deserting a family of five. I personally have never forgiven her, and, although I realize it's not quite fair, I've since harbored a general distrust for almost all cats, and I've given most of my attention, animal-wise, since then to our FoxTerrierplusDalmation special dog, who is Really Neat and whom we got from the Dog Pound for a few dollars.

I'd hate to tell you what we call him, though.

The Bug Eye is Pretty Neat too, and, although I'm Quite A Sickie right now, I'm Really Glad you sent it.

Maybe you could fly over for the funeral?

P.S. - Andy K. Main bem's letter the best, though not up to vintage Main.

{{Though this is actually a personal letter, it may be of interest to all of you.--hel}} :

ARITZUNE TOYODA, c/o Koh-yama-soh 1-57, Asahiga-oka, Nerima-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN

Dear Hel,

I'll answer to you Germans instead of Takumi Shibano, editor of the Japanese edition of U-chu-jin, by the order of him for I can read German, although I can't speak or write it. Bitte send your fmz or letters to me, instead to Takumi Shibano. We, the members of the Uchu-jin English edition, divided our tasks. My job is to correspond with your country and learn about Gerfandom. One who can read Spanish corresponds with Mr. Fessina in Argentina. Another who can read French wants to contact some French fans.

We hold the Fuji-con (Fujiyama-convention, a far-east S.F. con) to celebrate the commemoration of Uchu-jin's 55th edition, a weeklago.

My fiction in the lastish is a story of a music-composer and a couple of extra-terrestrians. Hero's name is Franz Schulzwängler like a composer as he is. Place is an imaginary town, called Erl-königsruhe somewhere in Deutschland. As I like your country next to my own, my characters happen to be Germans so often. The title is "The Requiem Of Love".

If some German fans happen to stay in Japan, we'll invite them to our meetings. Do you know nobody here except Japanese? There are thousands of foreigners staying in Tokyo. We can find some s-f fans among them, can't we? {{The only foreign fan I know of living in Japan is Helen Wesson.}}

As I'm writing this letter to you now, a severe earth-quake happens suddenly! Ghod help me! My apartment's swaying! We have such earth-quakes several times a month. What a hideous country! Yet, I like my native country. There has been in Japan an interesting folklore. They say an earth-quake is caused by a monstrous fish under the ground! Ahahahaha! There are too many volcanoes here. Fujiyama is one of them. The beautiful Konide-volcano is the highest mountain here. Tokyo lies in the "Fuji-volcanic-chain"; hence the many earth-quakes. {{Aritzune sounds promising, dont you think, Calvin W. "Biff" Demmon?}}

PHIL HARRELL, 2632 Ving Ave., Norfolk 9, Virginia, U.S.A.

Dear Hel,

Hummm, I seem to have started a regular tempest in a teapot there. Someone once told me that you have to be a veritable VKF verging on something or the other to start any kind of a controversy in a letter column, as everyone just ignores people who aren't or something to that effect. So I guess I've arrived, wherever it is I've arrived. Now that I've started one I intend to answer in kind to all the various and sundry charges, insinuations, inferences and whatsoever.

These I'll take in order of appearence:

Ken the Cheslin: I'm a great Fan of Ray Bradbury (and the same to you Fellar), and tell me if you're such a great writer why aren't you a little more famous? Ray's proved he can write, and done very well by it. His "THERE WILL COME SOFT RAINS", is in itself a masterpiece even tho it is but one story from a series of masterpieces called "THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES", which I think is now in its 17th reprinting; how many other books can you name that are that far along?

If you want other of his books well along the reprint line I can name them. True tho it may be these days about Hollywood and quality don't forget it hasn't always been thus,, also don't forget FORBIDDEN PLANET & THE TEN COMMANDMENTS when you say Hollywood doesn't have quality anymore. WAR OF THE WORLDS, WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE, & DESTINATION MOON if you want a few more examples....or doesn't England get any quality picture. I hate to tell you some of the opinions I've heard about English films. Clean up your own back yard before you start barking about ours. ((England has come out with quite a lot of fair to excellent films recently. Just think of LOVERS MUST LEARN, & A TASTE OF HONEY! Personally, I consider A TASTE OF HONEY the best film I ever saw.// And FORBIDDEN PLANET, WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE & DESTINATION MOON "quality pictures"??? Gad, you seem to suffer from lapse of taste!-hel))

Ron Bennett: It seems strange that most of the comments came from the English. Well, to resumerize the sumeratation that Ron gave. (this is to give him the chance to call my rantings rubbish again) while it is true I haven't seen FUTURIA FANTASIA, I take it on very good authority that it would make a goodly number of todays zines look sick. Quality therefore is in the eyes of the beholder. What's one man's crud is another man's quality. I didn't say that Ray hasn't improved over the years. He has and would almost certainly have to be the great writer he is today, I'm just saying his first published zine and writings weren't so much crud as SOME people would have us believe they were. MGM not only MAY pay Ray \$120,000 for a movie script. It DID pay it, and tell me of Hollerbocken is as good as you say he is why isn't he more famous? ((???) Like say Ray Bradbury to pull a name out of a hat. "what is Phil Harrell thinking about?!" you ask? better yet what is Ron Bennett thinking about.... if he is at all.

Dave Locke: You tell how terribly inept I am at arguing and then trun right around and prove how terribly you are, even Hel was able to pick one of your arguments to pieces, like I told Ken Cheslin tend to your own back yard before tending to those of others. Tell me, does it seem logical that people would pay \$20 for a CRUDZINE no matter how famous the person was? I mean surely after all this time word would have gotten around about the "Nothing but a crudzine that Ray Bradbury put out"; my point is one just doesn't go around plunking down 20 dollar bills for a crudzine famous editor or not. So there has to be a little more there than crud! speaking of zines, tell me what do you think the opinion of your zine will be in the same length of time as from now to when FF of Ray's was printed? (by the way, you spell "dew" "do" at least the way you use it.) So tell me who are you to speak so high and mighty about "Quality" like I said, clean up your own back yard first. You also use a very poor analogy comparing Ray Bradbury's first published works to "Garbage" & his later works to "Groceries" such things circulated internationally amount to libel, and Ted White almost got sued for saying less, but to nip that argument in the bud, he sold his stories, and the publishers didn't think they were "Garbage" and he improved over the years to the point he's at now, and you also argue very weakly when you try to tear down my argument about his manuscripts as I'm sure if you took one of those "First fan-written manuscripts" and put it on auction you'd still get a goodly sum for it. And tell me why you openly contradicted yourself there, practically in the same breath? You're going to have to do better than that if you want to convince anyone you're not talking just because you love the sound of your voice. Let me paraphrase your own question, "Have you ever read any of the first Bradbury?" if you have then you must be older than I am, or don't you give the man any credit for improving the way you said you did? I'm sure it breaks his heart because YOU think some of his stories are crud. He must cry all the way to the bank, as the saying goes.

SAME TO YOU

FELLAR'



To turn your own question in on you, "Why shouldn't they publish a zine in a completely foreign language?" Do you realize how many books are translated from English into foreign languages? Even Hel calls your parallel "a rather ridiculous one"...you ought to hear what I call it.....

By the way Hel, when Betty Kujawa said she admired Willy Brandt it didn't necessarily mean she liked him. It's quite easy to admire a person without liking them. In fact I remember someone once saying "I said I admire X I didn't say I liked him" the quasiquote is

because of the X, otherwise it's a verbatim quote. I forgot who said it or about whom, I just remember it like that, and your mentioning that brought it back.

I'm not mad at a soul I was arguing with there, I was merely stating my case as I saw it. I love to argue and hate to feud; if it starts to turn into that then I quit. I like all these people too much to ever do anything to make me lose my admiration and liking for them.

LES GERBER, Memorial Hall, Bloomington, Indiana, U.S.A.

Dear Helmut,

There was hardly enough information in your mention of meeting Communist for me to be able to comment much on it. About all I can say is that Communists certainly can be nice people, and there are plenty of things that even I find attractive about Communism as a political philosophy. The only trouble is that there is not one instance in history of Communism in practice turning out like Communism in theory; the Communist philosophy generally turns into an excuse for totalitarian dictatorship. No, make that always, not generally. For that one reason alone, if no other, I personally would have nothing to do with the Communist movement even as an observer, even if I didn't prefer the western economic system to the Soviet system (which I do). If you'd like to know why, I can let you know in detail, when I can find the time. I just took an Economics course with a professor who was a Hungarian refugee and knew both types of economics very well.

LARRY CRILLY, 951 Anna Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey, U.S.A.

Dear Hel,

Your editorial is interesting. Of course the Communist party isn't outlawed here (at least not yet...) but most Commies seem to be fools here (Intellectuals haven't been attracted to the Party since the '30's and the Depression) -- at least they're good AMERICAN fools, none of the furrin variety.

I think Gindorf is wrong in that Americans are not quick to forget what happened in the Second World War -- war and alliances are just a matter of politics...the nazis were Bad, and the Russians, if not milk-white, were only a tattletale-grey, since the were also fighting the Bad nazis, and anyone who fights the Bad Guy has to be a Good Guy. Now the former-nazis are Good Guys, and the Russians & Chinese Bad Guys. I bet Germany is the only country that no longer has an active nazi party...

