

GADENZA

Cadenza #4

number four

mundus mea patria

november, 1961

Edited and published by Charles Wells, duenna, currently at 190 Elm Street, Oberlin, Ohio. Oberlin phone 774-3342, DDD 162. Permanent (at last!) home address 2495 Sherbrooke Drive, Atlanta 6, Georgia. Cadenza is available by trade (you name the basis), letter of comment, or by paying 20¢ an issue, maximum subscription \$1.00. All money received before January 1st goes to the Willis Fund (Help Madeleine Eat). Code for address: t - trade; s - subscription (the number following it indicates your last issue); no letter indicates you are getting it for some other reason and the number indicates your last issue. Artwork will be gleefully welcome, but outside written contributions will be accepted on a very limited basis only.

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ART CREDITS:

Curtis 1
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ED. NOTE: A malicious rumor has been circulating that Estelle Lindenbush will be at the Chicago convention using her talents to raise money for the Willis Fund. This is absolutely false, libelous, and horrendous; but don't you think it would be a wonderful thing?

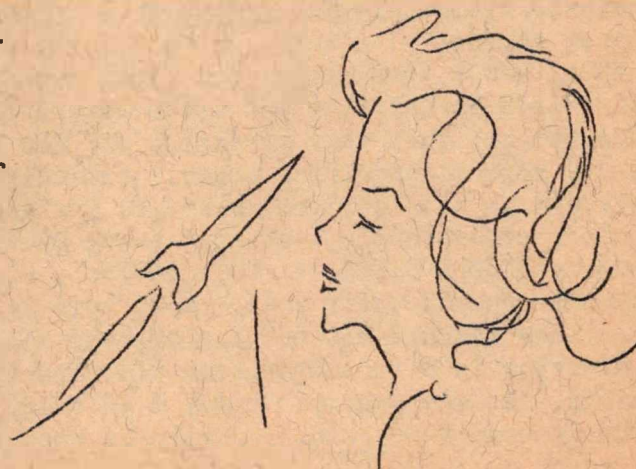
Cover illo and lettering and bacover illo and lettering by Bergeron, who also Gestefaxed them and the ATom illo; he is therefore a Good Man.

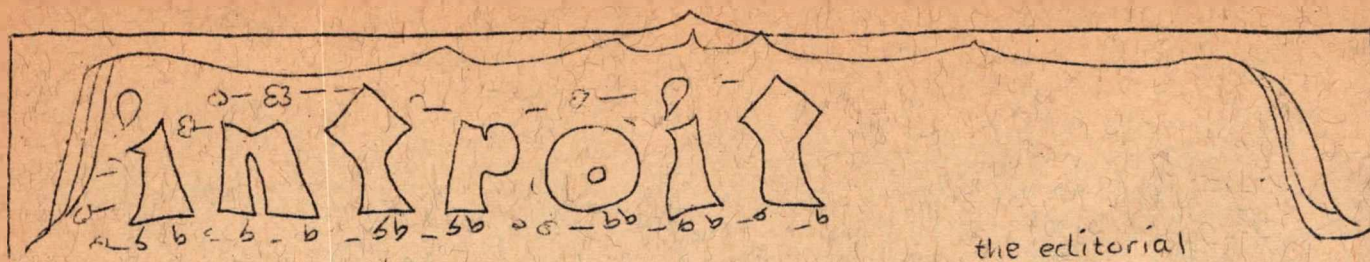
The bun is the lowest form of wheat.

"Here it not for the presence of the unwashed and the half-educated, the formless, queer and incomplete, the unreasonable and absurd, the infinite shapes of the delightful human tadpole, the horizon would not wear so wide a grin." --F. M. Colby.

"We must remember not to judge any public servant by any one act, and especially should we beware of attacking the men who are merely the occasions and not the causes of disaster." --Theodore Roosevelt

"There are books of which the backs and covers are by far the best parts." --Dickens





the editorial

ON MY CURRENT STATE OF FAFIA

Upon my return to Oberlin this fall I was greeted -- greeted, hell, I was slapped in the face! -- with the unfortunate realization that my work-load this semester is about three times as heavy as it was last year. The result is that my fanac will be nearly nil until next January. I have chosen to spend all the time that I have available for fanac on publishing Cadenza, with the result that I have not answered one single letter since I returned here Sept. 19. (This is written October 28). I hope that my correspondents understand my trials & tribulations and will bear with me until I ascend from ~~the~~ the depths of my fafia.

Another issue of Cadenza may appear quite shortly after this one. Most of this issue was prepared before I left Atlanta, with the result that it shouldn't require much more work to get into the mail. It may be that I will have some free time this month and next, and if I do you may get another Cadenza about a month after this one, which, by my strange mathematical schedule, is a month and a half late. Don't be surprised if the review column is dropped: that is the most time-consuming part of this magazine.

--ed.

All organic reactions go to maximum tar.

AN OBERLIN FOOTBALL GAME OR TWO.

I have been to exactly two football games in Oberlin; the first in 1959 when we beat Swarthmore, and the second this afternoon when Kenyon beat us. In my opinion, Oberlin is going downhill rapidly and not only because we are losing this year.

In 1959 I was mightily impressed with that Oberlin football game. It was so exactly Oberlin. There was a very small crowd, who occasionally aroused from their lethargy to stand up when Oberlin made a touchdown. Some of the crowd would then cheer with a markedly intellectual enthusiasm. It was a true-blue, academically-oriented, Proust-reading Oberlin crowd.

But the most Oberlin-like thing then was the band. O, it was a marvelous band. It consisted of two clarinet-players, a drummer, two people with recorders, and if I remember correctly, a lute. A real lute, with an authentic right-angled neck. I think there was a trumpeter, too. They didn't have uniforms; they walked, not marched, onto the field at halftime and stood around playing march-music in a highly irregular conglomeration. Then they straggled off the field and the game resumed.

I was sore disappointed today. Not only were there twice as many people there, not only did we have girl cheerleaders instead of men cheerleaders, not only did the crowd cheer occasionally, but that band, my beautiful Oberlin Band (O alas!) had been replaced by a GOOD BAND! It was, in fact, the Oberlin High School Band (Oberlin College hasn't sunk THAT far yet). Now, this is one of the best high-school bands in the nation. They marched better than anybody I ever saw in four years in the Air Force. Their director is a genius or something and the kids are talented. It was, in short, remarkable. At one previous game, I am told, they received a standing ovation.

But it wasn't Oberlin. Oberlin is the wrong kind of school for that sort of

shenanigans. Oberlin should be a cloistered haven for hot-house intellectuals, not a -- yes, I'll say it! -- a PARTY SCHOOL! O where is the spirit of yesteryear? My Oberlin, my beloved Oberlin, quo the goddamn hell vadis?? --ed.

Defy a vector-spay.

APPARITION ABLUTION, OR WHATEVER THE TITLE IS

I feel it only my duty to enter the fray and discuss Operation Abolition, now that I have finally seen it.

That movie had the most remarkable effect on me. I went into it with as nearly an open mind as I could possibly have, short of physical ventilation. I am a liberal, but I do not feel that being a liberal justifies my taking the word of liberals and refusing to take the word of conservatives. To do that is in itself an illiberal thing. I am aware that the liberals have accused it of being distorted in all sorts of ways, and that the conservatives have hotly defended its accuracy, and who am I to say who is right and who is wrong? Nor do I have any particular sympathy with the students; I am a student, but I do not therefore hold that everything students do is therefore right and justified*. I went into the movie, then, with a close approximation of an open mind.

I came out furiously angry.

It does not matter whether the HUAC distorted facts or not. It does not matter whether the students were justified or not. I don't care what happens to Archie Brown; he is harmless. But I DO mind VERY MUCH sitting watching a movie whose narrator seems to think he's talking to a bunch of six-year-olds. I do not like having the word "Communist" used in a manner calculated to terrify rather than edify. I particularly do not like the fact that the committee thinks I will be converted to their side by an emotional name-calling argument with not one shred of logic to it. The film is wrong-headed on the face of it, whether they have their facts right or not.

The film had me so angry that at one point I was cheering a proven Communist, Archie Brown; I never thought I would ever see anything that would make me cheer a Communist. I hope I never do again. I feel very much like calling the HUAC a bunch of Communist dupes, on the grounds that their movie is a subtle propaganda-piece calculated to make people sympathetic with Communism; but I won't. That would be descending to their level.

I would like, however, to point out how impressive Chairman Willis was. Where the other congressmen in the movie (and the announcer) descended to the twisted logic used only by demagogues, Chairman Willis, who was interviewed on the floor of the committee room, defended his presence in San Francisco calmly, rationally, and with telling effect: he said, "We are here under a valid legislative mandate, to investigate Communism in the United States, and to pursue our investigations wherever they may lead." There was more in that vein; no name calling, no loaded words; merely a statement of an honorable and well-thought-out point of view. I only wish the rest of the committee, and the announcer, had had the same attitude. --ed.

Well, it certainly is a thunderful wing.

A NEW FAN ENTERETH THE RANKS, SOUND THE TRUMPETS, TARA, TARA, & THE CYMBALS, CLUNK

Oberlin now has four fans, instead of three (unless you consider Don Thompson a Cleveland fan, in which case it has three, instead of two). Cadenza takes great pleasure in introducing *BARBARA "E." MÜLLER*, Conservatory student, ham, radio announcer, cartoonist, and New Fan. An illo by her appears on page 20. Send fanzines to: Barbara Müller, Cranford House, Oberlin, Ohio. (Sounds of rejoicing, etc.) --ed.

*Thereby.

NOTE: This issue sees a Drastic Policy Change in Counterpoint, best summed up by the change in subheading from "reviews of fanzines received" to "comments on fanzines received". Henceforth, Cpt will be a listing of all the fanzines I have received, and comments where comments are inspired. No listings of contents, no "this is good and that is bad", & no suggestions for improvement unless they are in my estimation of wider interest than merely the editor concerned. With this in mind, I hope it does not need to be said that the length of the comments are no indication whatever of my opinion of the magazine: a single comment in an otherwise-uninspiring fanzine may evoke a page of comment from me, whereas I may hang onto every word of another fanzine (e.g., HABAKKUK) which is outstanding in its field, without being inspired to comment on anything in it. With that in mind, let us go forward with banners raised and chests forward into the foray!, or something.--ed.

ABANICO #1, Sept 1961, trades or subs, 15¢ & 8/31, bimonthly; Bill Bowers, 3271 Shelhart Road, Village of Norton (near Barberton), Ohio. Bill is hereby encouraged to tell us how in the world he got such good results out of a hekto.

BANE #5, nd, trades or LOCs, no subs, quarterly; Vic Ryan, 2160 Sylvan Road, Springfield, Ill. (but watch for coa). This is the annish.

comment In the letter column, Bill Conner suggests that if the present-day capitalists had their way, they wouldn't bring back dog-eat-dog (by which he means, I think, laissez-faire) capitalism at all: "They prefer the present system, where competition is quite mild and the emphasis is on

COUNTER- POINT

comments on fanzines received

the security of the whole group." I think he's right, but it appears that the present system is only a step in the direction that "the group", which might be called the "American Establishment", wishes to go. That direction is monopoly: not monopoly for the suppression of the workers, which very few old-school monopolists wanted; not even monopoly for more money, which is what the old ones wanted. No, their aim in monopoly is to turn the US into one great big fatherly company, which provides security for its employees and doesn't rock the boat. David Lawrence (the columnist, not the governor) recently provided us with a good example of that tendency: he's mad because the steel industry, which Kennedy recently threatened with government control if they raised prices, cannot get together to confer on what prices they should set. He points out, rightly, that that would be strictly against the law; and he contrasts this with Big Labor, which can be as unified as it wishes under the present law. Here, then, is

an arch-conservative, a man who in other circumstances praises free enterprise as the salvation of the world, here he is, I say, advocating a course directly opposite free competition and counter to all the theories of Smith and Ricardo which he presumably otherwise swears by. Why? Well obviously the steel industry would get along a lot better if its people could get together and confer on prices, a lot better than the present situation where the left hand knoweth not, etc.

George Bernard Shaw was advocating the same thing fifty years ago, with the difference that a Government council composed of business, labor and consumer people would set prices for greatest efficiency. George Bernard Shaw, you know, was a Socialist.

DRIFTWOOD, no number, for the 96th FAPA mailing; Sally Dunn Kidd, 6106 South Ellis, Apt E3, Chicago 37, Ill. I don't know whether I'm getting this because I'm on the FAPA waiting list, or whether she's trading for Cadenza; in either case, I'm glad. But that means I can't tell you whether she will trade with anyone or not. SDK is the only woman in fandom who writes like a woman; the results are pleasant indeed. THE SOUTHERN FAN, #7 (v2n1), n/d, "later to be more regular", no price--apparently mostly for members of Southern Fandom Group, of which it is the official organ; L. D. Broyles, Rt. 6, Box 453P, Waco, Texas.

COMIC ART #2, n/d, irregular, 20¢ & 5/\$1 and trades for fmz, comic books, & MAD; Don Thompson, Room 36, 3518 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland 15, Ohio. Not a stfanzine, but a comicbook fanzine. It is well enough done to be interesting to those who are not comic book fans, too.

THE VINEGAR WORLD, v2n3 for the 96th FAPA mlg; same dilemma as for DRIFTWOOD--I don't know for which of two possible reasons I'm getting it. Oh yes--Bob Leman, 1214 West Maple, Rawlins, Wyoming. I should point out here that I will send Cadenza to anybody who sends me their fanzine, for whatever reason. I dislike this recent trend towards strict subscription policies. / A FAPazine of unusually great gen. interest CINDER #5, n/d, irregular, trades but no LOC's, 15¢ & 7/\$1; Larry Williams, 74 Maple Road, Longmeadow 6, Massachusetts. Page 9 has the most remarkable Willis Fund ad I've ever seen.

SPECULATIVE REVIEW v3n3, June 1961, quarterly?, trades, LOC's, & 3/25¢; Dick Eney, 417 Ft. Hunt Road, Alexandria, Va. Or Archie Mercer (3 for 2/). Reviews.

THE MONDAY EVENING GHOST, #11, n/d, sixweekly, trades, LOC's, & subs, 15¢; Robert Jennings, 3819 Chambers Drive, Nashville 11, Tennessee. Science and science-fiction oriented.

ANKUS #1, August (96th FAPA mailing), a FAPazine; Bruce Pelz, 2790 W. 8th Street, Los Angeles 5, California. Mailing reviews and the beginnings of what looks like a very valuable exegesis to John Myers Myers' Silverlock.

PROFANITY, July (56th SAPS mailing). Bruce Pelz' SAPSzine. ilg comments, articles, and letters.

HABAKKUK #6, July, irregular, for LOC's and trades, or 50¢ each; Bill Donaho, 1441-8th Street, Berkeley 10, California.

comment The Poul Anderson article, an attempt to apply communication theory to the artistic (or creative, if you will) process, illustrates by its unusualness one of the major maladjustments of Western Society. That is the great, and apparently still-increasing, gap between the artist and the scientist. Numerous critics of our society have pointed this out, usually being very careful to indicate that both the artist and the scientist are to blame for this. The scientists live in their own narrow little world and all their testtubes can't explain the great Mystery of Life, etc. etc. And the artists are notoriously unscientific and haven't the most elementary conception of the scientific method, etc. etc. One of the stock

examples of the artist's lack is that few artists can tell you what the second law of thermodynamics is, which is silly because there are a lot of people in the sciences who can't tell you what it is, either: I am a mathematics major in my last year at Oberlin, a rather good college (I think), and I didn't know what the second law of thermodynamics is until I read it in Anderson's article.

A stock example on the other side is that William Blake's poem "Tyger" (for instance) is found to be totally meaningless upon application of the Verifiability Principle, which, the pro-artists say, shows how wrong-headed the Verifiability Principle is. This, too, is nonsense; few scientists would ever dream of applying the Verifiability Principle to a poem, since they realize, often more clearly than the artists, that a poem is not intended to be a statement of fact.

Now that I have got my digs into the critics of Western society, a breed I usually don't have very much respect for, I must admit that I do believe, as I said above, that there is a considerable gap between the Artist and the Scientist. The gap is not a matter of lack of knowledge of each other's working-fund, so to speak; and the gap is not to be blamed on each equally. It is entirely the artist's fault.

Let me hasten to say that I base that shocking statement entirely on personal experience, on the creative people and the scientifically-inclined people that I know. Most of the scientists that I know understand creativity, or at least the creative temperament, quite well; most of them are creative themselves. Nearly all of them have a creative hobby: music, painting, writing, even acting. They are quite as capable of becoming emotionally involved in a concert, for instance, or in Fathers and Sons, or in mediaeval art, as their hand-fluttering, dramatizing, ecstatic artistic friends are -- and they are much less the poseur about it when they do, too.

But the artists have no conception whatever of the scientific method. They are seemingly incapable of understanding a rational argument; instead of attacking its weak points they miss the point altogether and react emotionally, as if their life were being threatened. They persist in believing that science deals only in trivial things; that the important things are "beyond science" and can never, never be considered in any way except emotionally; they reject science as a cold, emotionless monster bent on discrediting all the great works of man; they attack mathematics with silly paradoxes that "prove" that mathematics is a mass of contradictions: and with all this they haven't the least understanding of what science is about and what it claims and not only that but they don't seem to WANT to know what scientists say about science.

Why? I don't know. Perhaps they want to tie the world up in a nice, neat package and science with its uncertainties frightens them; perhaps thinking abstractly upsets them because it reveals to them a world which cannot in any way feed their own little ego. I don't know. But they have lost my respect. I shall continue to respect their



creations, but I can no longer regard them as wise, as well as talented.

~~and of course, I guess.~~

BLUSH! for the 23th OIPA mlg; also Bill Donaho.

VIPER #3, June, also for the 20th OIPA mlg; also Bill Donaho.

LIBBO #6, May, for 95th FAPA mlg, Dave Rike, c/o Bill Donaho. Bill's prolificity (prolificness?) should not mislead people: his fanzines are among the most interesting around.

UL #3, June, an OIPazine (whence all these apazines all of a sudden?); Norm Metcalf, PO Box 336, Berkeley 1, California.

KIPPLE #15 & #16, July & August, monthly, LOCs, trades, & 15¢, 2/25¢; Ted Pauls, 1118 Meridene Drive, Baltimore 12, Maryland.

comment People who spell "competence" wrong are incompetant.

STEFANTASY #47, August, for FAPA mlg #96; William Danner, R. D. 1, Kennerdell, Pa.

comment This rather thin issue of Danner's long-lived printed FAPazine has a complaint that freedom is disappearing rapidly because a fellow recently went over the Niagara Falls in a barrel and was fined \$100 for doing it. The philosophy in Western countries (he was fined in Canada) seems to be that a person may not endanger himself needlessly, which ties in with the fact that suicide is illegal in many countries. The origin of the anti-suicide laws, is, of course, religious: suicide, and, for that matter, going over Niagara Falls in a barrel, is a sin in Catholic theology, and orthodox Protestant theology too. Calling it a sin is quite logical in Christian theology, since theologians hold that one's life is a gift from God and therefore not to be toyed with. But is it the proper duty of a government to protect a person from himself? For the idea of protecting a person from himself is the only valid grounds I can think of for the anti-suicide laws: the fact that it is a sin cannot (theoretically) enter into the question of law in a country operating under the principle of separation of church and state.

But is protecting oneself from oneself the business of government? Before you jump up in self-righteous anger and proclaim that your life is your own business and the government can go hang, I advise you to consider this question: what is the motive behind social security? and compulsory insurance laws? Is it not the same kind of protection against oneself? Where do you draw the line? I'll be interested in hearing you people's comments on this.

LARK, no number, August; Bill Danner's FAPA mailing comments.

SO WHAT #3, August, LOC's, trades, & 25¢ a copy; Frederick Norwood, 3 Ames Street, Cambridge 39, Massachusetts. Stif and humor in a collegiate atmosphere: most contributors are members of The Southern Fandom Group.

HALFANTHOL #1, 15 June, LOCs, trades, or 16¢ in 4¢ commemorative stamps; Don Fitch, 3908 Frijo, Covina, California. Bibliographies and reviews, etc.

SCOTTISHE #24, for 28th OIPA mailing, trades, LOCs, or 1/- cash; Ethel Lindsey, Courage House, 6, Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey, England. Hand colored cover and absolutely fascinating insides.

HAVERINGS #6, no date, trades or 6d.; Ethel Lindsey's all-fanzine-review zine which makes me wish I could make Counterpoint exactly like it.

HUNGRY #4, no date, no how-to-get-it list; Alan Rispin, 35, Lyndhurst Avenue, Higher Irlam, Manchester, Lancs, England. A generalzine distributed through OIPA. Quite interesting, really, despite poor editing.

SHANGRI-L'AFFAIRES #57, Jul-Aug, bimonthly, LOCs, trades (one-for-one), or 25¢ & 5/1; Bjo & John Trimble, 2790 West 8th Street, Los Angeles 5, California.

comment All this talk about incorporating fandom as a religion reminds me

of the time a group of people in a certain northeastern state (hi there, Rev. Huckerell!) decided to form a country-club church. Because churches are tax-free, they planned to build an auditorium on the grounds and hold weekly services there; the auditorium would pay for itself, or nearly so, by attracting other groups who would hold their meetings there during the week. Then, on the "church" grounds, they planned to build a swimming pool, polo & tennis courts, and all the works -- even a golf course -- and all of this would be tax free, since it would be operated by a church! But their plan fell through when they applied for admission to the American Unitarian Association and the Association, getting word of their real plans, balked. They figured, apparently, that if anyone would let them in, the Unitarians would, and they needed membership in a denomination to give them church status. This was told me by a Unitarian minister, who swears that it is true.

A PROPOS DE RIEN #7, 96th FAPA mlg; Jim Caughran, 2650 Durant Avenue, Berkeley 4, California. All mailing comments.

DISCORD #13, July, sixweekly, LOC's, trades, and also if you pay 10¢ for one issue you will get the next issue: you must pay after receipt.

comment Actually, I have no particular comment on this issue that I haven't already made to Redd, but I decided to be sneaky and put what I'm going to say under "comment" instead of in the regular listings where it belongs, because I want all you people that have been going thru Cot reading only the parts headed by "comment" to read this too.

What I wanted to say is this: if any of you have by some astounding lack of perspicacity not been getting Discord, then get this issue (#13)! The article by A. J. Budrys is extremely significant for modern sf readers and if you have any interest at all you should read it and digest it. In essence, it is a defense of modern science-fiction against its

Gernsbackian critics which in defending it produces the most worthwhile rationale for modern science fiction I have ever read.

Not everyone will agree with this: I must say that I'm glad Jerry Page & Hank Reinhardt will read this after I get back to Oberlin!

PARSECTION #8, August, sixweekly, trades or 20¢, 6/#1 (or 6 for 6/0 in England); George Willick, 856 East Street, Madison, Indiana. A generalzine.

THE BUG EYE #8, v2n1, July/August, LOCs, trades; Helmut Klemm, 16 Uhland St., Urfort/Eick, (22a) Krs. Moers, West Germany. Generally fannish; Alan Burns on witchcraft. Highly recommended.

BANDWAGON, #9, April, 95th FAPA mlg; Dick Ryan, 116-3rd Street NE, Washington 2, DC. DYNATRON #6, July/August, bimonthly, LOCs, trades, or 15¢ & 8/#1; Roy Tackett, c/o Chrystal Tackett, 915 Green Valley Road NW, Albuquerque, N.M. Generalzine.

For some reason this magazine makes me feel enthusiastic. Must be the title.

YANDRO ## 101, 102, & 103, June, July & August, monthly, trades (no LOCs) on a one for one basis and 20¢, 12/#2, or (in England) 15d and 12 for 12/-, or (elsewhere) 2/45¢ or 12/2.25; Robert & Juanita Coulson, Route 3, Wabash, Indiana. Generalzine.



BURP! #20, June, O.P.A 28th mlg; Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. Continuing the round-robin fannish-humorous-science-fiction serial "The Wall". (Try translating that into German!).

EMANATION #1, February, irregular, published LOCs, trade, 6/1 or 6 for 8/- sterling or 10/- Aus.; John R. Foyster, 4 Edward Street, Chadstone SE10, Vic., Australia. Bibliography & stf.

CELEPHAIS # 28, v7n4, August, FAPazine; Bill Evans, Box 86, Mt. Rainier, Id. Mailing comments and a speech by Willis E. Stone opposed to "Federal corporate activities" which presents an unbelievably distorted picture of the Federal government.

FANFARONADE #3, July, irregular, LOCs (no postcards), trades, or 15¢, 2/25¢; Jeff Wanshel, 6 Beverly Place, Larchmont, New York. Humor--excellent.

VOID #25, June, LOCs, trades, or 25¢ or 1/- each; I'm NOT going to list all those editors! Special item of interest: a Marion Z. Bradley story of fans called "Breakoff" which is excellent, although it treads a mite too close to the edge of space opera. (Now there's a Freudian typo: I meant to say, "soap opera".)

WARHOON #12, July, quarterly, LOCs, trades, or 20¢ each; Richard Bergeron, 110 Bank Street, New York City 14, New York. Generalzine circulated in SAPS. Noteworthy for long discussion on John Birch Soc.; also Willis, Berry, Bradley. (I note that I have fallen back into the habit of listing contents, which I forewore at the beginning of this column. But, damn it, I get so enthusiastic about these zines!)

AXE continues regularly from Larry & Noreen Shaw, 16 Grant Place, Staten Island 6, N.Y. and FANAC from Walter Breen, 1205 Peralta Avenue, Berkeley 6, California.

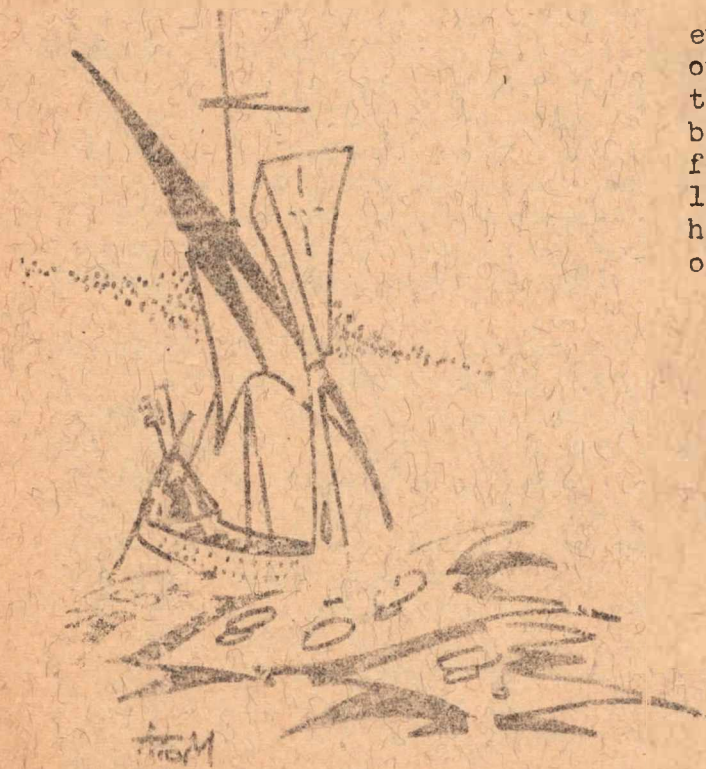
This column was closed on September 17, 1961, and all fanzines received after that date will be held for next issue (but see editorial).

Rigorous law is often rigorous injustice.

-Terence

THE NATURE OF INFINITY

"The nature of infinity is this: That every thing has its own Vortex, and when once a traveller thro' Eternity has passed that Vortex, he perceives it roll backward behind his path, into a globe itself infolding like a sun, or like a moon, or like a universe of starry majesty, while he keeps onwards in his wondrous journey on the earth, or like a human form, a friend with whom he liv'd benevolent. As the eye of man views both the east & west encompassing its vortex, and the north & south with all their starry host, also the rising sun & setting moon he views surrounding his cornfields and his valleys of five hundred acres square, thus is the earth one infinite plane, and not as apparent to the weak traveller confined beneath the moony shade. Thus is heaven a vortex passed already, and the earth a vortex not yet passed by the traveller thro' Eternity." --Blake



FUGATO

First, some letters of comment on #2...

JERRY DEINUTH, 3223 Ernst Street, Franklin Park, Ill.: You are right in proposing a reorganization of states. But just giving more power to the federal government is not the answer to many of the problems. Our present dividing lines of states is a detriment to this country. The present lines were set up with nothing in mind --and we are suffering for this. We must knock down the present boundaries and draw up new states along intelligently chosen geographical lines so that each area or state would have a specific and individual set of characteristics. Illinois here is in a mess in several spots. One, the Chicago area extends down into Indiana. Two, there is East St. Louis which is actually a part of St. Louis, Missouri--people live in East St. Louis, work in St. Louis, and pay taxes to East St. Louis and Illinois, et cetera. Third, the southern part of the state (where I attended college for two years) is part of the South (anti-Negro, Dixiecrat, etc), farther north it is conservative Republican territory, and in the north there is the Daley Democrat machine--all of which results in Illinois being decadent politically. The constitution is an obsolete mess, no one has any guaranteed rights (minority groups, workers, etc.), and the state has a sales tax (the highest in the country at 4%) and no income tax. What also needs reforming is the city areas, especially in the days of commuting and the formation of Negro cities surrounded by white suburbs. The middle and upper class whites live off the city which must also support minority groups who are held down by crooked (Negro as well as white) real estate operators while the whites pay taxes to their local governments. City areas must become a complete political entity--which might also help end some of the crookedness which is aided by the different groups and towns pushing off problems onto each other. A change in city areas would be relatively easy to make--but it will never come as everyone is living off the present system. The press could wake people up but it too lives off the present set-up and creates phony issues which are only a superficial part of the problem. A revolutionary movement is needed--but such a one would be squashed by the powers which extend from top to bottom of the political-economic system of this country. I'm not advocating overthrow here--just a radical change.

[Well, I think you are a bit overpessimistic, but who can blame you, living in Chicago? Actually, what is needed are large states which contain within them enough different kinds of peoples and regions that no one of them has a majority--and a system whereby no one of them can gain a spurious majority in the legislature, as the rural Republicans have done in Illinois. Only then will we get the real competition for office which is the essence of democracy. It would be nice, too, if the boundaries of the big cities could be extended to include all, or practically all, who work in the city, which would force them to pay for the services they are now getting free. But that's practically impossible as long as the upper-class whites in the suburbs have control of the state legislatures with their rural friends, when by all that's reasonable they should be in competition with each other. As a result, the cities have been forced to take other, less satisfactory measures: Denver taxes income earned in Denver, whether or not the earner lives in Denver, for instance. Many cities have started charging a fee for non-resident

users of their facilities, such as public parks and libraries. If cities could start pursuing this principle in earnest (but the states wouldn't allow that, I'm afraid) then we might find the suburbs begging to be allowed in. Their two main advantages now are lower taxes, which the above-mentioned remedies would nullify, and self-controlled government -- and perhaps New-York-style federalism could solve that one. --ed/

11/SGT L. H. TACKETT, HANS-1 (Comm), IMIG-1, 1stIAW, FIFPac, c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, Calif.: Your remarks about revising the constitution do have some merit. The trend, of course, is towards centralization of all governmental functions in the larger governmental units. County government was the major unit in the days when communications were less speedy and the state capitol was way off over yonder somewheres. Today there is nothing more useless than county government. The counties can do nothing without aid from the state or the nearest large city. It certainly appears that the individual state governments are rapidly becoming obsolete, too.

If, however, your proposals were adopted it would become necessary, I think, to abolish the state governments completely. First of all your proposals would require an increase in the outlay of federal funds. Which means an increase in taxation.

The assumption by the federal government of many of the functions now carried on by the states would decrease the financial requirements of the states, it is true, but I doubt that there would be any moves on the part of the state governments to reduce their tax rates. And taxes are too blasted high now. I don't think the public could stand an increase in federal taxation without a reduction in state and municipal taxation.

(...)Your comment in your review of XERO 3 that stf clubs serve no useful purpose is true in the states but not true elsewhere. Here in Japan the Science Fiction Club of Japan found itself with people who wanted to read stf and people who wanted to write stf and the absence of any vehicle for the accomodation of both groups. The result was UCHUJIN, a fanzine very like a professional magazine, which has pretty good circulation and has developed several writers to the point where they have gone on to professional writing and national prominence. The various local German clubs, I'm told, have banded together in something called "Eurotopia" for the express purpose of putting out a German prozine. They expect to have the first issue out late this year or early 1962.

What's so attractive about discouraging the competitive spirit of mankind?

[I suppose what I'm really after is rechannel the competitive spirit of mankind so that it will build instead of destroy. Laissez-faire capitalism does not do that, unless one refers strictly to building things, and civilization does not depend on things. --ed./



JOHN FOYSTER, 4 Edward Street, Chadstone SE 10, Vic, Australia: The discussion on the States interests me. In Australia there is a move afoot at present to add a new state: to divide Queensland in half in an East-West direction and to continue this division right across the top of Australia. The claim is made that the northern towns of Queensland are so far away from the state capital, Brisbane (over 1000 miles) that no matter how loud the complaints are in Townsville the Brisbane state government finds it very easy to play deaf. On the other hand I would like to see the abolition of all states in Australia and let the whole thing be dealt with by a Federal Govt. And our federal government has the power to implement this should it wish to do so. In the USA the differences in the laws of the various states seems too great to me to be allowed to continue much longer. Hope you and Boggs succeed.

[And now, for some comments on #3...ed.]

WALTER WILLIS IN '62, 170 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland: (...) It's nice to see your back again, and Cadenza causes a warm glow in my heart. (I offer this sentence as a handy multi-purpose one for a form fan-letter--there would be an optional "h" to be struck out at the end.) I've been on holiday and the fresh air has swept away what ability I used to have for writing letters of comment but I must say I liked the editorial, appreciated the pun at the end of the play even if I didn't understand the rest of it (those footnotes reminded me of a cross sword puzzle), and admired your fanz reviews...especially the bit about the Void editors. I liked the lettersection too, though it made my conscience twinge at the memory of how I meant to write and congratulate you on Encounter. A memorable piece of faan fiction and truly a nova idea. [I like egoboo, too, Jeff Manshel--ed.]

Talking of which, I had a letter from Les Gerber the other day which will interest you. Talking about the incredible progress of the TAVFund, he says:

"I'm a bit sorry in a way that we've gotten so much money so fast, since it makes my own emergency position on the committee obsolete. You see, for once the puns about vice chairmen were really in order. That girl Charles Wells met [I!!--ed] who read Fanac had offered her services to the Willis Fund during the Season if we still needed the money, and I was supposed to be her...business manager."

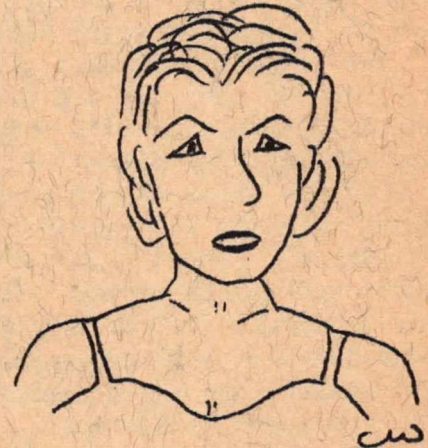
I think you'll agree this is a fine and original idea for fan fund raising, a noble example of brothelly love, and it's a pity that Marion has revealed that these girls don't really like their work. If what Marion says is correct about these girls who as she puts it sell sex retail (surely she means wholesale?) it would be too much of a contribution to ask from even the most dedicated Fanac subscriber. I've heard of people paying through the nose for things, but...

Liked you and Harry on the carrying of guns by private citizens. You'd have enjoyed an item on BBC TV the other night, when their reported interviewed various passers-by on Dallas and asked them if they owned a gun. You could hear a faint rustling as the hair of ten million law-abiding British tv viewers rose on end while these typical US citizens were describing the armaments they deemed it necessary to carry for personal protection. They ranged from dinky little pearl-handled automatics to, I think, one oil millionaire who had a private ICBM. It was quite sensational. However the BBC did it all dead pan, with no comment other than a reference at the beginning to the fact that murders in the US averaged nine thousand a year as against 135 in Britain. We were left to start drawing our own conclusions and the Americans to continue drawing their guns.

[Well, Walt, when your ability to write letters of comment comes back, let me know. / Unfair! Unfair! BBC knew very well that Dallas is probably the gun-slingingest big city in the US, with the possible exception of Ft. Worth. Stick 'em up!--ed.]

JOHN M. BAXTER, PO Box 39, King Street PO, Sydney, NSW, Australia: JERUSALEM ENTERED was hardly rib-tickling, side-splitting comedy, but a vagrant chuckle or two snuck out while I was reading it. Reinhardt must have quite an armoury. Perhaps he'd be interested in some additions? Out here in the boondocks, we have a nice range of weapons that would warm the warm the cockles [what? what?--ed.] of his heart. There are shovel-nosed spears, boomerangs, and, of course, the nulla nulla, a heavy wooden club which, by reason of its phallic shape and suitability as a weapon for hand-to-hand combat, I'm attempting to popularize in Stateside fandom. Could you use a gross? Each one gift wrapped, complete with instructions on use, with special attention paid to foul blows, technique when applied to hard-headed BFFs, soft-headed neos and other faanish types. Should go like wildfire, I think.

Why is it that Marion Bradley has this bug about lesbiana, the psychology of prostitution, etc.? Her constant appearance in various fan lettercols with impassioned tracts on the mental attitude of the whore is becoming monotonous. This will probably blight my career in fandom, but I don't care about the prostitute's state of mind, and, should I ever feel the inclination to explore this particular facet of our noble culture, I'd read something on the subject in the public library. It isn't a subject for fandom, and I don't see the point of arguing about it in the lettercols where there are, I'm sure, far more interesting things to talk about. (The fact that a substitute doesnot spring immediately to mind can be attributed to some kind of brain-fag, I suppose.) Trouble is that most people these days are really fascinated by the subject of sex, even more than they have been since the dawn of history. It's all bound up in the general easing of moral restriction during the last half-century. And fandom, of course, is reflecting the trend, just as it has reflected other movements since before the war. Look at the heavy political bias to fandom back in the pre-war years, and even after; the modern jazz bit; the beat generation; and currently the antisegregation trend. Far be it from me to question your views on segregation, but I would point out that it's only of late -- say the last five years -- that fandom has developed a conscience with regard to the Negro problem in America, for which reason I tend to treat the whole fannish attitude to social questions with suspicion. But about sex...I wonder if all the people who make such blase comments on prostitution in FUGATO really care about what they say on the subject, or even believe it. Perhaps they're just following the crowd? It'll be interesting to compare the comments on ENCOUNTER with those on your antisegregation editorial in Cza 3.



[Well, you make a good point in saying that fandom's topics of discussion tend to follow trends on the "outside", but you fail to make clear whether you consider this a Bad Thing or not, and if so, why. If you accept my view of fandom -- that it is one big conversation-by-mail -- then I can't see why you think anything is wrong with going from one subject to the next; one doesn't refer to a current topic in a live conversation as a fad, so why should the current fannish subjects of conversation be suspect? When one talks about what other people are talking about in a conversation, one isn't "following the crowd", one is sticking to the subject, which is usually considered the polite thing to do. Of course, this situation induces many people to talk about things they know nothing about, but can that EVER be avoided? --ed.]

JERRY PAGE, 193 Battery Place NE, Atlanta 7, Georgia: The play was rather good, wasn't it? In stage directions names should be in caps; next time maybe you'll let me revise my first drafts into something presentable. Do you think anyone will understand that reference to pigeons and mirrors? (Come to think of it, do you understand that reference to pigeons and mirrors?) [No. --ed.] This seems a rather blunt introduction of Hank Reinhardt to an unsuspecting world. Oh, the world has suspected and subconsciously perhaps known (for example: the tip of one of Hank's spears was shown in a panel in the comic strip in Monday Evening Ghost #11). Still... With the title ["Jerusalem Entered"], are you going to send a copy of Cza to Avram Davidson? I would have preferred Antan or Dersam or Storisende, myself, particularly with the reference to the pigeons and mirrors.

(...) I have to tromp you about utilization of symbols being man's most unique talent; and in tromping you, I make reference to (of all people) Korzybski. He seemed to think that symbol-using should be utilized to increase our ability at time-binding--the (apparently) unique human faculty of progression from one generation to the next. Where most animals merely do the same things or nearly the same things their parents did man takes what the past generations did and develops them a little farther along. Korzybski founded his theory of semantics with the sole aim of improving and directing our powers of time-binding. (He had three classes of life: chemical binding, or plantlife; space-binding or animal life; and time-binding or human life. I think he went a little too far in his almost pathological denial that man is an animal, but I'll never be happy until I've had time to thrash a lot of things out along this line.)

But every writer uses a definition of science fiction, in most cases a borrowed one. None of them fit and their usage certainly doesn't enhance the field. The main trouble is this it's either fantasy or realism kick. It's neither and it's both. The fantasy element which is present in stf grows out of the realistic element which is also present in stf. Only through exploring that can we regain the one element which is not present in science fiction these days but which should be there: imagination. (Oops! --one other element which can only be summed up vaguely in two words: honesty-integrity. Budrys does not have it; Knight, Matheson, not even Sturgeon. They all seek archetypes to satisfy cravings which are more concerned with acceptance than with expression. True, this tends to put things on a literary basis rather than the commercial basis it's on, but I'm not one to say there's anything wrong with literature.

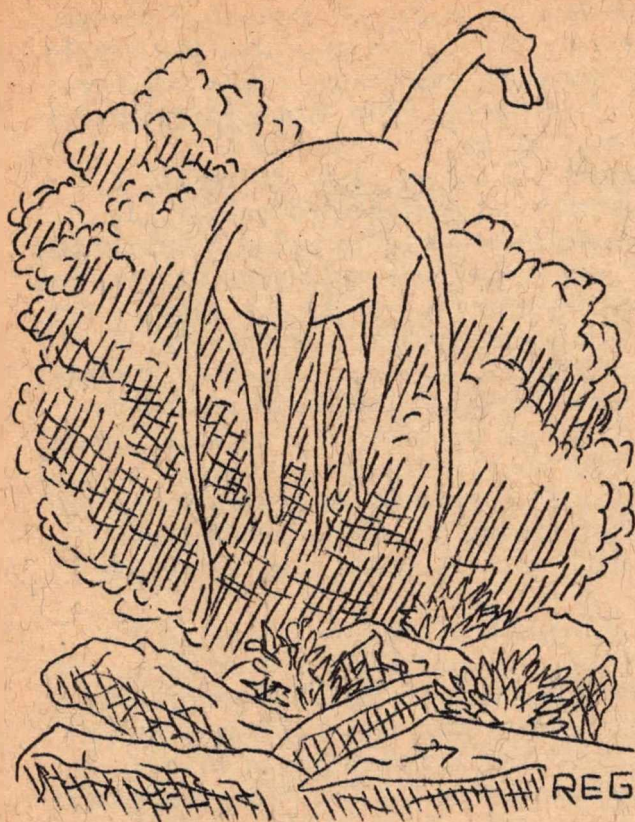
Will Marion Zimmer Bradley or someone write in to explain to me why people take points in fan-fiction such as Revelation or Encounter more seriously than they do stf?

[But isn't it the very fact that man uses symbols that enables him to be a time-binder? --ed.]

GREG BETFORD, 204 Foreman Ave., Norman, Oklahoma: Your fanzine reviews have dropped a bit, perhaps because the general run of fmz has fallen recently -- or at least the ones you reviewed. I wish you'd said something about VOID other than a few notes tossed off, tho. Not many people review V today, primarily I think because it changes theme often at the whim of special projects (Willish) and the writing habits of the editors (who are now 4 count them 4).

(...) I noted Seth Johnson parroting the same old bit about recurrent wars and depressions being caused by capitalism. Unless Johnson is an utterly complete economics-is-the-source-of-all-history fanatic, I would be interested to see how he finds that wars & depressions are inherent in capitalism (note present tense).

Looking at my letter, I committed an error -- I haven't lived under socialism for a long period of time. I was talking about this to someone who had while I wrote the letter, so I suppose that's how it got in.



BETTY KUJAWA, 2819 Caroline Street, South Bend 14, Indiana: Good points you made in your review of NEOLITHIC on "creativity" and all--well put. (...) And go ahead and cast all the aspersions on homemaking you wanna--I'll help. Seriously, I always put doen wife instead of housewife when writing in my occupation--am far more a wife to Gene than I am a "wife" to the house. (...)

Along with Seth Johnson's comments I'd be happy to see New York City made into an International City--or a Free State or the like. Pity the poor alien tourists who only can afford to see NYC and not the actual country of America--with its population and all, it's be far better as a place unto itself--I wouldn't miss it one bit!

[NYC would certainly be better off under such an arrangement -- it could cut taxes by a fourth, I bet, since it would no longer have to support upstate New York.--ed/

ANDY YOUNG, 42 Prospect Street, Somerville 43, Massachusetts: I liked your editorial very much; I can imagine how Atlanta must seem to you after a year at Oberlin.

Page's intrusion is justifiable only

by the footnotes, and that's not enough justification.

I also liked very much your extended discussion of "animal" characteristics in man in your "review" of KIPPLE. That is very good thinking, the sort that reminds me of the old CW we used to see in FAPA. You have the ability to show the fairness of your thought in public, while I tend to mentally blast my way through to my conclusion and then present only the conclusion for others to see, without the reasoning which led to it. This goes all the way from arguments in fmz to scientific pers.

The letters clearly raise a point of Rotsler's: that fans are "square" politically. You do find surprisingly few people of any degree of political enlightenment or originality in fandom. By this I do not just mean that fans are politically conservative, but that they tend to spout stock arguments without, apparently, doing any real thinking of their own. To be sure, as you point out elsewhere, not everyone can be an expert in politics, and in a republic you incorrectly used the term democracy in this connection) we are asked only to choose the people who do the actual work. But this still imposes a considerable responsibility on each of us to have some clear idea of the political situation and to do a little thinking about it, or be penalized by getting the kind of government we usually get. I frankly do not think that more than 10% of the population is qualified in any reasonable sense to vote, and I do not include myself in that 10%. Furthermore, I would feel a lot more secure if voting were restricted to that 10% than I do now. Maybe even 10% is too much and it should be 5%. I would not like to see it go below 1%, though.

But to return to the line of thought that led me into this: there are a lot of things in today's world that have got to be ordered by a small group of people in governing positions or they just won't get done. The reason they won't get done otherwise is that you cannot enlighten the general public -- you haven't so far at least -- to the point where it will willingly spend the money for a number of things

that must be done. Right now a major example is public schools. Aside from the fact that there are regions so poor that taxes cannot be raised to support a proper school system, one sees that there are lots of very rich regions in which the people are simply unwilling to spend what they ought to spend on education. When you have a situation like that, you simply have to force it on people from above (the Federal Government), and if this be socialism, make the most of it.

Public schools are a marginal example, however. I can imagine, at least, a world in which people had enough social consciousness and enlightened self-interest to support their schools voluntarily. I cannot imagine a world in which people would voluntarily support the lighthouse or the Stanford Linac or a space telescope or research on thermonuclear warfare; indeed, it has been extremely difficult to get support for these things out of small groups of informed people in positions of authority.

This is, in fact, the main difficulty I see with the world envisaged by Ellington and his anarchist friends*. They imagine a world in which the ordinary day-to-day aspects of life are better arranged than they are at present; and to this extent I sympathize and approve of their ideas. But I feel very strongly that society ought to support some activities which have no apparent practical ends or applications and which represent a cultural benefit that may be appreciated by only a handful of individuals; and their society will not support such activities as long as people are human.

Tracing my thoughts back further, I was thinking specifically of some of the things I was doing yesterday; I was assembling a three-element lens system which had cost you, the taxpayers, \$940. I just cannot imagine you spending that money voluntarily for the purpose of seeing how bright the planets are, which is what we are going to do with it. In spite of the big publicity which has been given to the "space program" there were a couple of middle-aged ladies in the Obs just yesterday who looked at a model of the Moon and asked, "what in the world do they want to go there for if there aren't any plants on it, even?". Middle-aged ladies make up a large part of the population of any society and the anarchists don't take them into account. Let us be idealistic and utopian for the good of our own souls, but let us also be realistic for the good of each others' souls.

It should also be remarked, in connection with governments, that having them be as directly responsible to the population as ours is has some strong disadvantages. Thus, a few years ago the Congress decided it would never spend a penny on studies of the circumstances in which we might surrender in a future war. This is pure bravado, and might turn out to be a suicidal decision. Herman Kahn, in his recent book, On Thermonuclear War, points out that it might be very desirable to surrender on certain terms in a future war, and that we would be much better able to do this if we had thought carefully about it beforehand. "It may make sense for us to fight to the last man," he says, "but it would be stupid for us to fight to the last woman and child." I urge you to read the book, taking into account the fact that he has probably overestimated our ability to survive an all-out nuclear war by a factor of 10 or 100. I would say that recent decisions of the Administration on civil defense and nonnuclear forces indicate that a number of people in Washington have been reading this book.

[Well said! I can't remember when I have gotten such a quotable (and interlineationable) letter. / A quibble: I used the word democracy in the sense I did

*who are as politically naive and unthinking as the rah-rah for capitalism, or nearly so. They are replete with stock arguments -- almost as replete as a Communist agitator. But NB: In spite of my insistence on central government, I would prefer [word indecipherable here--ed.] anarchism to fascism. I am left, not right, politically. [These are, of course, Andy's footnotes.--ed.]

advisedly: I used the sense offered by a Government teacher in your dear ol' alma mater Oberlin. It goes, "A democracy is a system of government in which policy-decisions are made by representatives chosen by a majority of the people in elections where there is a choice between real alternatives, with the understanding that policy will be made by a majority of the representatives." Or something like that. That is an ideal (in the philosophic sense of "ideal") to which, I think, the US government is a good approximation. For an extended discussion of this, see my article in an upcoming issue of Jerry Page's SI-FAN (plug).---ed.7

JEFF WANSHEL, 6 Beverly Place, Larchmont, NY: I suppress a groan at the artistic content of this; the one ground where we seem to differ completely in opinion is artwork. There isn't an illustration in the whole issue that I like. For my money, Burge isn't a very good artist; and this is a below-average Gilbert. REG still does not seem to know how to use shading; it shows. I like some of his work (his most recent YANDRO cover, notably) but most isn't very good at all, at all.

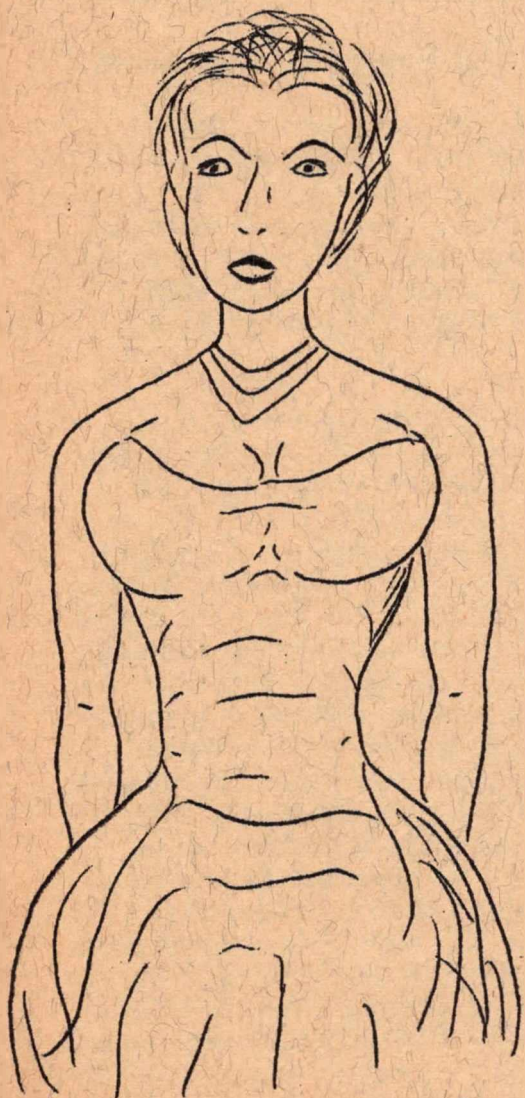
(...)Good grief. Why scrap a piece of yours to run two more letters? That's pretty ridiculous; there's no sense being crowded out of your own fanzine.

(...)I'll go along with saying that regular schedules and justified margins are

not fun; we disagree, tho, on fancy layouts. I wouldn't call F'ade's layouts fancy, but they are more involved than most; and they will probably get more out-of-the-ordinary as time progresses. This may seem like a lot of work to you, and to you, it undoubtedly would be; to me, however, doing the layouts for my zine comes second in enjoyment only to writing the editorial. I wondered why the painstaking job of making sure lettering is straight and evenly spaced and thinking up original layouts should be so enjoyable to me when to others it is but extra work; and I found, finally, the answer. Jeff Wanshel, Boy Psself Psychologist. You see, for about three months, I produced torrents of artwork; said artwork was uniformly miserable and displayed no talent whatsoever, if original. After I'd been rejected by everyone in fandom (practically) I got wise and sadly gave up something I enjoyed but had no talent for; my ego was smarting a little too much. Then came F'ade #2, and the realization that layouts could be artistic; and so, all the originality and ingenuity that went into my art has been channeled into doing my layouts, and that's just fine. Some of them are damned original, if I may say so myself; and so, I get all the benefits of my "artistic" urge to create, minus the smarting ego. (...)

The Page article was rather shocking. Why? Well, frankly, I never liked anything that Jerry did, and never expected to. The fact that this is very enjoyable humor is highly croggling. It's the first humorous Page I've seen, and I hope not the last. (...)

On Xero #4: "The comic book section...is segregated...and bound back to back with the rest of Xero, which is a clever idea, a real ace ((un-



ao

derlining mine))/he means his, not mine--ed.7of an idea..." Aggh! Watch for low-ceilinged puns; clearance three inches...

I'll have you know that ace pun was intentional! / You will notice (previous page) that I am printing my own artwork, now. The things you give up at 13 I adopt at 24. There's a moral there somewhere... / You will also note that I am adopting a Creative, Flamboyant, & Artistic layout this issue, namely, I put Counterpoint's title halfway down the page instead of at the top. Ahem. --ed.7

RICHARD BERGERON, 110 Bank Street, New York 14, NY: The Introit was Boggsian. And very well done. (...)

What pinko bloc voters in Atlanta City? Wasn't that the city where Nixon got his first and one of his most impressive turnouts of the campaign? At least it seemed to have been stunning in such a Democratic state or do they equate Republicanism with "pinko" down there? I can never keep up with political usage (...).

If it's true, as you say, that "most fans are ill at ease in the presence of people" (I assume you include the presence of other fans in the term "people"), then wh are so many of them trying to meet me? I can bear that out personally: I'm very ill at ease with large groups of people (which is why you'll find me avoiding conventions like the plague) and am particularly ill at ease with people I'm meeting for the first time. (...)

In answer to Jeff Wanshel: Charles Wells stenciled that Bergeron cover on #2 and, I think, reprinted it from an old Wellszine.

You think right about that cover on #2. I intend to reprint more artwork from old Fiendettas in future issues of Cza, since the artwork fta had is one of the few things about it that I am proud of. / Pinko bloc voters referred to the chronic rural-county-politician charge that Atlanta should be kept disenfranchised as it is under the county unit system because of the large Negro bloc vote in Atlanta. Compared to the rest of the state, Atlanta is quite liberal, hence "pinko". Compared to other cities of its size, Atlanta is quite conservative; only Houston and Dallas seem to outdo it in conservatism. --ed.7

MSgt L. H. TACKETT (address above): In your comments on BATE you pretty well sum up the way that the government is chosen -- and run. By group. Like that by pressure group. Perhaps you cannot expect everyone to be interested in politics, as politics, but you should expect everyone to be informed on the affairs and issues of government. Apparently most of the people are not only not informed on what is going on in their country/government and the world, but they just don't give a damn, either. They prefer to let the group leaders make the decisions for them and follow the leader's instructions rather blindly. (Hello, here we are back on the subject of sheep again and this is the wrong fanzine. This belongs in DISCORD or CRY.)

(...) Saying that science-fiction magazines are better than they used to be is a statement that takes a bit of qualifying. Better than they were two or three years ago--yes. Better than they were oh, say, 15 or 20 years ago--well, it depends on what you mean by better. I will grant you that the writing is improved, that characterization is better (in some cases but not all), that the magazines themselves are toned-down and not so, ummm, wild in appearance (conformity in the publishing business), but I will not agree that the ideas are better now than they were then. Much of the flare and verve has gone and, for the most part, the stories have become pretty tame. I think that the thing I like & out AMAZINE these days is that the stories still show flashes of inspiration and imagination. They may not be as well-written as the cute little pieces that appear in T&SF but they are more fun to read. ANALOG, well, ANALOG is still ASF and while I grotch and groan about the general contents of the magazine these days and bitch about the psi-kick and

wish that JWC would get back to science fiction, I still think it is the best around.

Poul Anderson's letter in SPECREV says that fans, instead of complaining about the lousy magazines these days, should congratulate the editors for doing as well as they are. Poul indicates that good stf just isn't being written nowadays. That is pretty obvious. (...)

You say, "I believe that the government should do for the people whatever they can't or won't do for themselves," and add that the addition of "or won't" makes you a liberal. Huh?

To my way of thinking the addition of "or won't" makes you a totalitarian rather than a liberal. Your statement implies a big brotherish philosophy. We know what's best for you and if you won't do it yourself we'll do it for you. If the people will not do a certain thing or take a certain action then it would seem that they do not want it. Forcing it on them--for their own good--will not make it acceptable.

Have the liberals reached the stage where they believe the government knows best regardless of what the people desire? Properly the role of government is to carry out the desires of the people--not to force its desires on the people. And if you get the impression that I am baiting you, you're right.

[And I rise to the bait. A totalitarian government is a government in which the ideas of the dictator or the oligarchs as to what is good for the people is force upon the people, whether the rulers are the Church, the intelligentsia, the "revolutionary" leaders, or the men who have engaged in military service a la Heinlein. I am a democrat; I believe the government should be chosen by the people in elections where they have a free and real choice. It is true that in such a situation most people vote by group, as you point out, but that is irrelevant so long as they are not forced by economic or other pressure to vote by group. Well, then, what if "the people" want the government to do things for them that they don't want to do for themselves? Many people do not want to save money for their old age, but they are quite happy with the government doing it for them in the form of Social Security. I am a liberal; if I were in office I would vote for things like Social Security which do for people what they don't want to do for themselves. If the people didn't like it, they could vote me out. I wouldn't have it any other way; I don't want ANY oligarchy, not the proletariat, not Andy Young's 10%, not Heinlein's ex-servicemen, not Nevil Shute's Oxford graduates. How then can I be called a totalitarian? I am one of the few real democrats in fandom.--ed.]

HARRY WARNER, JR, 423 Summit Avenue, Hagerstown, Maryland: Your editorial leaves me with the impression that you don't take a test at the wheel of the car to get your driver's license. If you need only the eye test and application forms, no wonder there's unemployment in Georgia: no jobs as driving instructors. At that, I've never heard of anyone in Maryland failing to get a license for flunking the road test; the troubles usually come when applicants must park the vehicle with not more than three vack-and-forth jockeyings to enter the stall.

I assume that Jerusalem Entered is bubbling over with all kinds of subtle references to events and personal characteristics from the fannish lore of Atlanta. But it leaves me with nothing but the sensation that I should learn about Atlanta fandom as much as I know about Los Angeles or New York fandom to enjoy it.

(...) [On the review of Neolithic] In my limited experience with fans-in-person I've found them more at ease in front of groups and when the center of attraction than most persons. Of course there are the occasional exceptions who are whirlpools of energy and controversy behind typewriters and inconspicuous mealymouths when faced with other fans. You fail to point out the logical and ultimate horror that the current worship of creativity could involve. It would be something like the Gondo-

liers situation in which everyone is somebody so nobody is anybody. If everyone writes novels and designs airplanes and so on, how in the world are we going to find some non-creative persons to set type for the novels and construct the airplanes?

We are in agreement over the unimportance of the continued existence of the pro-zines. It's a little difficult to imagine fandom without them, but it existed before Amazing Stories in such diverse forms as men who collected stf in books and mundane away publishers who occasionally emphasized fantasy in this or that issue. I feel quite certain that fandom will survive several decades at the least after the last prozine issue appears, through sheer momentum. There are portents already, in the recent appearance of West Coast fans recruited through college contacts rather than directly through stf publications.

(...) I wonder if it isn't as meaningless to say that a prostitute is frigid sexually as it is to say that members of the United States Navy are chaste during long cruises at sea. That book by Polly Adler gives several examples, as I remember it, of girls from her house who married and became dandy wives. I know of one such case in Hagerstown, the wife of a social leader, too. (I wish I could remember the title of that book. I know why I forget it: I always wished so desperately that she had used the most logical title, "Let Me Live in a House.")

[For the record: one does have to pass a driving test to get a license in Georgia. What I was doing was getting a beginner's license, which requires only an eye test. --ed.]



MAGGIE CURTIS, Fairchild, Oberlin, Ohio: I enjoyed "Jersusalem Entered" and hadn't expected to. The thing is not, I think, outstanding by any stretch of the imagination; this type of work has doubtlessly been better done before. Yet I enjoyed it very much. It is a change of pace from previous issues and is just what you needed to add a little spice (an odd word for what I'm speaking of, but it's what I mean) to the zine...

Let's see, Budrys almost drowns, Calkins is hot-rodding it in a Jeep, and Grennell almost kills himself with ricochets while writing a gun article. Somebody should start a society for the preservation of reckless fen or something.

WE ALSO HEARD FROM (Hi. Pat!): RUSSELL K. WATKINS, 3510 Newburg Road, Louisville 18, Kentucky, who wrote a very interesting letter but one which I felt that if I printed it no one would understand it because of the personal references; BILLY JOE PLOTT, PO Box 654, Opelika, Ala., who can't figure out whether I'm pro or con segregation; BUCK COULSON, Route 3, Wabash, Indiana; RUTH BERMAN, 5629 Edgewater Boulevard, Minneapolis 17, Minnesota, who apologizes for sounding "pretentious" (but I don't think you were, Ruth) and says that when she said "assonance" she meant "alliteration"; and probably several other people whose letters were lost in transit between Atlanta and Oberlin.

--editor.

MEMO

TO ROG EBERT

by G. Wadsworth Pagefellow

What has six legs, blue spots, claws,
Seventeen speckled spine spikes,
Fourteen glowing
Fiery red-hot
Eyes
And rhymes with Grulzak?