

# PARADISE LOST

N.Y. 12/20 NOV.

DICK ELLINGTON

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THE DIVE IS DEFINITELY BREAKING UP. WE HAVE GIVEN NOTICE TO THE LANDLORD AND WILL BE DISSOLVING THE MONSTER BY THE 15th OF DECEMBER. LIKE LOT, WE SHALL NOT LOOK BACK UPON OUR RUINS.

Frankly most of us are sick and tired of the whole ridiculous business and what with the huge stacks of complaints the landlord has on noise and such, we would undoubtedly be evicted very soon anyhow.

The parties up here have relaxed tho since this decision. We no longer try to take any really special pains to avoid the noise on Saturday nights. For some unknown reason, the younger element in town has decided this place is better (and cheaper) than a dump hotel for some purposes and we have had all sorts of people popping in and out of various rooms lately -- mostly poor Curran's.

This does mark the end of an era though. Outside of Toad Hall, inhabited by Lin Carter, semi-fan Stan Serxner and one non-fan, I don't know of any other slan-shacks in the country today. The last was the boarding house in L.A. that catered to fen for many years and which has now gone by the boards.

In the past, literally every actifan in New York and almost all the pros in the city have been up here for parties or visits or Circle meetings, or just to see what the hell is coming off. Not to mention the hordes of out-of-towners that have visited and/or slept here at various times.

This includes the Torontoites, the Washington/Baltimore crowd, JeAndYoung, Ackerman, Ron Ellick -- hell, I could go on half the night with the list. The parties held here have rivalled -- for size, noise and plain old hell-raising -- any fan parties ever held in the country.

One of the latest visitors was the hot-rod Midwesterner and poet laureate of fandom, Randall Garrett, with a girl he introduced as his fiancée name of Jane Kearny -- who also happens to be John W. Campbell Jr's stepdaughter.

The Dive will hold its last brawl the 8th of December and it should be a real blast. We're even getting the jazz group, made up out of some of the anarchist-fen, up here to play the roof off the place.

Goodbye to the Dive, it was fun while it lasted, but we're glad it's coming to an end.

Mail will be forwarded faithfully, and shouldn't be delayed more than a day to the new place, which will undoubtedly be somewhere in Manhattan for me. DE

REMOVAL UNC. (even this moves!)

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# THE EDITORIAL WE CONTACT

YOU

We have never before realised just how fast time moves on. With this publication schedule half the readers haven't seen issue 3 yet, and we're winding up issue 4.

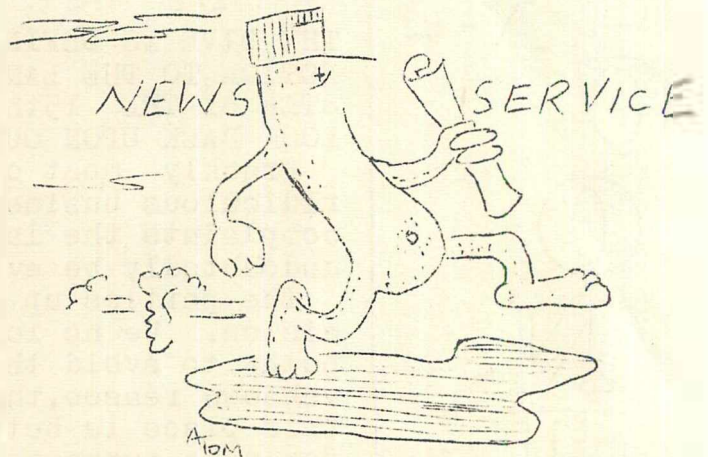
But even the slow surface mails have managed to get comments on issue 1 from the States, here. And from that quarter, as from England, the most popular question is: What is the 'CONTACT GROUP'? It would be too much for even the best digest writer to cram in the small space at our disposal here. The *raison d'être*: simply to ensure that our magazine does not fail due to lack of funds in its first months of life. The cost of producing a mag of this type, with a large initial 'sample' mailing list would be too much to carry on one's shoulders. Hence a few of us talked it over and the Contact group was there.

But while it will ensure that Contact will survive for a while, it will be left to fandom in general to keep Contact going indefinitely. If not enough fans are willing to subscribe, we must admit that all of us were wrong in thinking that Contact filled an empty gap in the field.

Contact does not support any one candidate for TAFF. That answers the other question that most letterwriters asked. We just hover over the scene with an enigmatic, inscrutable smile. If you see some candidates mentioned more frequently than others, it is due entirely to the fact that they happen to send in news, and the others don't.

We want to thank all our correspondents for their letters and news, and regret only that we have not always been able to reply. It was especially pleasant to note that other members of the group also received a fair share of ego-boo. Continue to do so, Fanjan wants to relax when they're over for the Twerpcon.

## CONTACT



A  
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# FAPA 77th MAILING SESSION PARTY

ALEXANDRIA (VA) 15 NOV.

The first FAPAcon - mailing assembly session for the 77th FAPA mailing - was held 12 November at the OE's home. Members from New York attended: Lee & Larry Shaw, Bob & Barbara Silverberg. Harlan Ellison and Charlotte, his wife, came along; they'd all been at the Philclave in Philadelphia on the 11th, and drove down afterwards in Larry's car. Larry called up at 0130 in the morning from the other side of Washington and I figured he'd better stop there rather than try to find his way across the wilds of the Nation's Capital at that hour of the Ayem. And then he had to drive all the way to Alexandria before he could find a motel with vacancies.

Washington area fans: Bob Pavlat, Ted White, Bill Evans, Dot Cole, John Hitchcock, Chick Derry & Fred North arrived during the afternoon and the group assembled eleven DC produced fanzines and then packed ready for mailing the 538-page FAPA-mailing.

Everybody was so late I had to

RICH ENEY-O.E.

hold up till 4.40 running the 20+ pages I had on master because I had to wait for Ted White to bring more paper and ditto fluid over.

Nuclear Fizzes were had by almost all, but I notice that all 3 bottles of hard likker had remains in them at the end of the party, while 24 bottles of soft drinks had been killed. A buffet supper was served about 6.00, just before the NYorkers had to head home -- they had to work on that day, otherwise a US holiday.

Non-FAPA activities included a sightseeing trip to the Smithsonian (local museum) where I fell down the steps and practically busted a couple dozen bones. Harlan Ellison wrote a story about a dinosaur with its brain in its rib case rather than its skull and Larry Shaw left a camera behind and goshwow and like that. Oh, we had a ball, man!

Plans have been laid for a better, and better-organized, party next time. That's in February, thank goodness. RE

## Another Corner

Quite a few people will be wondering where ARCTURUS n<sup>o</sup> 2 is hiding out. Pete Rigby now informs us that although some of the issue has already been duplicated, the magazine is folding.

There are several reasons for this, but the main ones are the usual lack of time and money. As you may know, neither of the three editors are as yet wage-earners, and they just couldn't keep up with the constant drain on their sparse resources caused by fanzine production.

Also, this business of taking education well beyond the normal stage will stand them in good stead in later life, but one can't spend most evenings studying and take part in fan pubbing as well.

So, ARCTURUS is no more. PR

## Another Corner

Since his (her?) return from the Middle East, Sandy Sanderson has been rather inactive in fandom. He now mentions that a publication of his will be in the December OMPA-mailing, or as a postmailing soon after.

This will be a new title, and not OMNIBUS which will be sent out to people whom Sandy feels will like the mag, and approx. 90 copies will go out to them free before Xmas.

In a future issue of OMNIBUS, the full story of Joan Carr, as revealed by her correspondence files, will be published.

Sandy as you undoubtedly know is at the moment staying at the home of the Clarke's, 7 Inchmery Rd, Catford, London SE6. San

WE ALSO NEED YOUR MONEY.

# THE FACTIONS RIDE AGAIN \_ \_ \_

NEW YORK 20 NOV.

DICK ELLINGTON

"...of course you know this means war."

First of all, let me state that I'm not "Don Murray". The name is a nom de plume for another New York fan who doesn't wish to be identified. I agree with him only in part.

The split was actually caused by those of us here in Riverside Dive deciding we couldn't stand Circle meetings at the Dive anymore. Since all the officers of the Circle were Divers it was a simple matter to almost dissolve the club by having them all resign. This left the Circle without its collection of benevolent despots who for so long had ruled the Circle with the traditional successful dictator's weapon of an iron hand in a velvet glove. The Circle had functioned well enough under the rule of the Fanarchist-remnant, without it the whole thing fell apart.

Of the two factions, I'm at loss as to which to boost and which to knock. The remaining Circlites lack enough get-up-and-go to do much without help. They are very much to blame for the original split, especially a group of left-wingers who had vague ideas of making the group into some sort of political action front.

The other group states that they wish to be a group of "quiet, mature people with a serious interest in science fiction". Yet they have started off with a group containing one of New York's best known

troublemakers, who is also one of the group that participated in sending that telegram to London from the Nycon. Two of the members of the group were active participants in the Merrill Fughead Faction at the Nycon. This is the group that worked unsuccessfully for a rumpcon next year and created enough ill-will to last them a lifetime.

Among the hoo-has that we here at the Dive have noted is a 45 min debate at the first meeting of the "NYSFS" over what to call the club. Their choice of "Lunarians" as an informal name is rather unfortunate. Any of you who cannot imagine what they are being called by the opposition better go back to N3F.

It is particularly interesting for CONTACT readers to note that none of New York's so-called "fan-clubs", ESFA, NYSFS and the Circle, contain any actifen in the fanzine correspondence sense of the word - unless you want to count Sam Moskowitz who may still-for all I know-be just making the eight-page dead line every year with FAPA. I dunno if it proves anything or not but it's worth mentioning.

Me? Oh, us ole blasé fen, better known as the Ex-Benevolent Despots of New York, are sitting at home over our Bheer and Whine laughing cynically over the whole thing and trying to figure out some way to devil either one of the two groups.

DE

## SKULLDUGGERY IN NEW YORK

BY DON MURRAY

NEW YORK'S NEWEST FAN CLUB ALREADY HAS TWO STRIKES ON IT. THE NEW YORK SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE LUNARIANS HAD AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING SO FULL OF DIRTY POLITICS AND BLACK-HEARTED TREACHERY THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW IT CAN BE A CONSTRUCTIVE FORCE.

DAVE KYLE AND COHORTS WRESTED CONTROL AWAY FROM DAVE MACDONALD WHO ALMOST SINGLE-HANDEDLY HAD ORGANIZED AND BUILT THE GROUP.

Most serious-minded NY fans have been getting more and more dissatisfied with the Circle, especially since it has been meeting at

the Dive (a very well named place). Recent meetings have been characterized by raucous noise, drinking,

necking and petting on the floor and halls, and Lord knows what else in more private quarters. I am sure that the many pros who were brought up to speak were highly shocked.

These disturbances were bad enough, but after the World Convention, worse happened. Most of New York fandom seemed to lose interest and the Circle was dying on its feet. Dave MacDonald was persuaded to become director of the Circle and to try and revive it. In accordance with these aims he drew up a new constitution and a new program.

The old Circle members heard about this and rushed down to the next meeting. A most disgusting exhibition occurred. MacDonald was shouted down. His program was laughed off. He was unable to maintain order. His constitution was cut and amended beyond recognition. Impeachment was threatened.

Convinced that these juveniles had already ruined the Circle, MacDonald determined to form a new group. He drew up a new program and a new constitution. He made numerous phonecalls. He contacted people at the November E.S.F.A. meeting and at the Philadelphia Conference and managed to get about fifteen people interested in his new group.

It was decided to organize the new group at the next Circle meeting. MacDonald, as Director of the Circle, contacted the speaker scheduled for the November meeting and persuaded him not to come. He then drew up the schedule for a dramatic walk-out.

The opposition heard about these plans and tried to frustrate them by being quiet, well-behaved and electing a good slate of officers. The Lunarians were equal to the occasion, however. Aably led by MacDonald, they withdrew from the Circle, if not as dramatically as could have been wished, at least in a well-publicized way.

Ten people piled into Dave Kyle's car and went up to Belle Cohen's apartment in the Bronx: Dave MacDonald, Ruth Landis, Frank Deitz, Belle Cohen, Allan Glasser, Bill Donaho, George Raybin, and Dave Pol-

lard. Three others were unable to attend: Sam Moskowitz, Kay Brinkman and Fray Forman.

It had originally been planned that all members of the new group would resign from the Circle, but several of the organizers had not been on MacDonald's original list and refused to do so. They further showed their true colors from the beginning of the meeting. MacDonald had visualized a group more or less like the Circle, minus the troublemakers, of course. This was thrown aside.

The Lunarians decided to be a small, close-knit group with a very limited and restricted membership composed entirely of quiet mature people with a serious interest in science fiction. The Lunarian membership policies are based on those of the Hydra Club, but the Lunarians do not intend to let in the large number of people that the Hydra Club did.

The Lunarians will have 6 to 8 closed meetings a year and 3 to 4 open ones. No non-member may attend a closed meeting. At an open meeting each member may invite one guest and the President may invite as many as he pleases (about 5 or 6 per meeting). It was mentioned that if a congenial out-of-town fan or pro was in town when a closed meeting was scheduled, an exception might be made.

These changes were not too bad, and MacDonald was even in favor of some of them. The constitution, when adopted, was close to what he wanted, in spirit, if not in form. But the election of officers was a bitter disappointment.

MacDonald naturally expected to be elected President since he had almost single-handedly organized the Lunarians. Kyle defeated him 6-3. He tried for secretary. Defeated 6-3. It was a bitter and undeserved blow. No office at all.

But in spite of all this, MacDonald intends to give his best efforts to the new club. It may succeed in spite of this unpromising start. New York has long needed a group like the Lunarians, a truly serious, constructive group working for science fiction. DM

# GROWING-UP PAINS?

Frankfurt

E. Mills

In a recent interview with the Benfords I discovered that they had discarded the practice of wearing blue jeans for the more 'intellectual' one of wearing slacks.

Their mother is pleased at this turn of events albeit a little dismayed at the sudden rise in the cost of outfitting them, and the large cleaning bill.

She confided that she was non-plussed at their sudden shift to more formal attire and speculated that perhaps there might be a girl somewhere off-stage waiting for the proper cue.

The twins themselves bemoaned the difficulties they were having with the 'juvenile delinquents' in their class who are unable to "see the value of non-conforming" and are always after the twins to "sit back here with the rest of us". According to the twins, these conformists take turns getting beat up and acting in true Blackboard Jungle style.

Greg and Jim are by no means incapable of defending themselves as I witnessed while on the way to Kettering. The sight of Greg working over that old man was blood-curdling....

EM

# TENSHUN

Ken Potter, ex-ed of Brennschluss has left England recently for an unknown destination in the Middle East. He is expected back in about ten months. His new address; 23177665 Cfn. POTTER K.,

1. Inf. Wksp. R.E.M.E.

B.F. P.O. 300 (GPO, London). IG

Cato Lindberg has been absent recently due to his call-up in the forces. Left with little time for fanac, he yet hopes to resume correspondence soon. New address: Radioelev 120 LINDBERG

BSHsb

JORSTADMOEN / Norway

CL

Dr. Donald L. Corbett, Jr. on his way to the West Coast, phoned Stu Hoffman to say he was leaving from there for Guam. Don is in the Air Force as a lieutenant dentist. He will be on Guam for 18 months, and expects to return to the States via Europe. No new mailing address was given.

SS

Bobbie Wild informs us that so far 156 members have been noted down for the 1957 WSFS. Of these 121 are Americans (Canada included).

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