

NEW YEAR BUDGET

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4 Jan 57

Published twice
monthly by the
Contact Group

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YEARLY SUB RATES
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Verantw. Uitgever

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FIVE IN SEVEN TO GO

You were of course wondering what news item in fandom could possibly be important enough to headline on the first page this time. I know. I wonder about it all the time as well. But for this issue it was simple, and set well in advance of publication date.

You wanted to know how CONTACT was getting on. You wanted to know its chances of survival on the basis of the income it would draw from subscriptions.

So here come the startling facts: issues one through five were paid for by the donations of the Group which came to a total of 1.850 francs. Expenditure on the first five issues came to 2.018 francs, leaving us in the red for only a comparatively small amount of 168 francs. Unfortunately hereby also ends the special price obtained for the duplicating of the magazine, and our sincerest thanks to the mysterious background figure of Antwerp fandom.

In between mailing out issue one and the date of writing, subscriptions have trickled in... during the last fortnight have become a downpour. Up to Xmas in the States and New Year in Great Britain, sixty three fans subscribed for varying lengths of time, adding up to a total of 3.685 francs actually available.

Besides this, approximately thirty have promised to cough up later, when the expensive 'gift-period' is over. So that at the moment we may count on having five thousand francs at our disposal for the publication of this year's CONTACT.

This will obviously be insufficient. But we have to consider that at the time of writing, CONTACT is still relying on its original mailing list for subscribers, and netting approximately a quarter of said list as immediate supporters is a sign that it fills a need.

As more mention of it crops up in other fanzines, we trust that support will follow more easily.

At the present moment the budget says we should have at least 12.000 francs in order to complete a still nebulous programme. I may be optimistic, but I somehow feel that we're going to get pretty near that figure before the year is out. And I want to express my thanks to all of you who have actively supported the magazine allowed it as it were to make sure of a good start. On behalf of the group, and personally speaking, I wish you all the best in the New Year, and assure you that we'll be around to wish you the same next year.

Janjan

PERSONALITY

MAL ASHWORTH

Ethel Lindsay suggested to the Group that we might occasionally run a Personality Column. This appealed to Jan and myself at once. I remember in the earliest days of ORBIT running a short column of pen pictures of Leeds fans, and the column devoted to personalities in PLOY has also been successful. The difficulty is exactly who to choose to write about.

Most fan who have been around during the last couple of years are as well acquainted with current fandom and esoteric associations as are the fan who are cold and tired. Therefore do excuse us if we are spotlighting someone you yourself know very well. Remember there are CONTACT readers to whom these well-known personalities are but names.

The days of the Leeds SFA as a thriving fanzine-publishing group appear to have passed. Those days at the Adelphi when Tom White and Mal Ashworth but dreamed of a fanzine of their own and meanwhile were put to work on ORBIT seem long ago. BEM appeared early in 1954, three years ago. Today we have the news that the long-promised last issue of the magazine is in the earliest stages of production. Tom White is these days but a name on the lips of Mal.

And Mal Ashworth?

Well, it has taken me almost forty lines to get around to Mal but he seemed an ideal personality on whom to experiment with regards to this column. In fact Mal is ideal for any experiment.

Mal, standing a couple of inches short of six feet, with hair that tended to style itself in a crew-cut, first bombarded fandom in the latter half of 1953 when he saw his name in print under a piece of verse in Eric Bentcliffe's SPACE-TIMES, following this up with a dead-pan piece of humour in the Liverpool group's excellent SPACE DIVERSIONS. From then on there was no fan-writer to compare with Mal for sheer witty and original pres-
(next door)

QUICKIES

As reported in our previous issue Ellis will be moving to Freising temporarily. Address there is:

T/Sgt Ellis T. MILLS
AF 15 259 311
7140th School Squadron
APO 207 - NYK.

After a forty day course he will be back at the Frankfurt address.

Bobbie Wild, Loncon secretary, has a fractured right thumb (though rumour first insisted on a broken left middle-finger!) and apologizes for any delay in replying occasioned thereby. Queries are being answered in handwriting, as it is impossible for her to type. Perhaps there is something to this "two-finger" typing after all...

With a torn-up thumb and a chewed-up jaw, Ron Bennett's worries are not yet over. Preparing this year's Directory he finds that having cut three pages, he already has three changes of address.

Dalles again makes for fannish news, with Richard A. Koogle (?) of 5916 Revere Place, DALLAS 6, Texas, planning to publish a new mag: V.V. CHEPA 'soon'. More meat for DD?

Fanjan has been honored by a one-man committee, namely Jerry Greene, of Hialeah, Florida, who gave Jan the "SOLAR HERO OF THE YEAR" title for work on Contact. No comment!

entation. He became a regular contributor to Hyphen and other top-line fanzines on both sides of the Atlantic - even Nirvana, and BEM flourished. All went well until the cheerful grin which heralded Mal's presence fell into the clutches, against the better judgement of his Uncle Chuck, of a woman with whom he is now contemplating marriage. While we would certainly wish to see more of Mal scattered around the fanzine world -- or for that matter scattered around period -- we do wish Mal and Sheila a happy future together.
RMB

CALIFORNIA

LASFS

OLD, BUT NEW

As you will see further in the mag the LASFS did not hold their traditional Thursday - before - Xmas party. Since printing that news however, the Xmas party has been held and enjoyed on the Thursday following. Together with the expected games, refreshments, yakking and so forth, election of the club officials was to take place.

The job of director is almost as unwanted as the position of OE in FAPA, so some surprise was occasioned when two candidates stood up for the position.

Barnay Benard is a wizened little punster who made quite a name for himself at the 1956 Westercon in Oakland by shouting more puns per square straight line than anyone else in the hotel.

George Fields is one of the newer members of LASFS, and is known to general fandom chiefly for his projected SCIENCE FICTION TIME CAPSULE, a sercon project which seemingly isn't working too well.

Details of the outcome are not yet available. Mail doesn't go that fast. (Where's that ticker-tape?)

OLYMPICON

The Olympicon, organised to coincide with the ending of the Olympic Games in Melbourne, failed miserably in its attempt to attract visitors and athletes of the Games.

As has come to be expected, the convention turned out to be a financial failure, but it definitely was a social success. As such, it has seen a disappointed committee nevertheless arranging to hold its annual convention at Easter.

Melbourne will again be the place, and Easter the date, for the 6th Australian SF Convention. Melbourne again, because it has the only organised fan group strong enough (or silly enough?) to run a convention. Bob McCUBBIN

Just to recapture the spirit of the 'good, old days', a practice that seems to gain more approval each time we pick up another fanzine, we will quote a good old-fashioned saying from our collection:

South Gate in '58 .

LOCAL '57 AFFAIR

WESTERCON X, the 10th Annual West Coast S.F. Conference will be held at the Hotel Knickerbocker, in Hollywood, California, July 4, 5, 6 and 7 this year.

Join now at \$1.00 to Lew Kovner, 1113 N. Myers, BURBANK, Calif.

NEW YORK

The Lunarians of New York, about whom we have run a news item a few issues ago, have sent round a press circular (if such nasty words may be used in fandom) from which some additional information is to be gleaned.

Members of the Lunarians will also have to be active members of the WSFS; the Lunarians are not "in competition" with any other NY fan groups, and the original group of 12 will only enlarge slowly due to lack of space in meeting quarters.

Comments and suggestions are appreciated and should be sent to the Secretary: Belle C. Dietz, 1721 Grand Avenue, Bronx 53, N.Y.

oooooh !!! wa' ze'de gij schoon!!

The Circle will be re-activated, with Macauley as its Director. Art Saha will work on speakers and activities while Dick Ellington will publish the OO "Metrofan". This magazine was published way back when though under its present form it will not be more than a 6-page monthly mainly devoted to local news. DE

PEOPLE

Experimenting with duplicating ink is done by most fan publishers in the course of their fan-pubbing career. In order to save some of you some trouble we pass on this info rec'd from Archie Mercer:

"Smell anything by the way? Vinegar? Salt? Because both are present in the duplicating ink up there. Thought I'd try it as an experiment. Smelt like a fish-and-chip shop, and when I can smell it, it SMELLS.

But it didn't blesh in the ink - I regretfully announce that salt-and-vinegar will never take the place of turps-substitute."

Feeling that London news can be covered quite well without their help, Joy and Viné Clarke half intend emigrating to the USA where entire regions await coverage by Contact reporters.

In order to earn their bread tho' since Contact doesn't exactly pay decent wages, they'd like to see US mundane magazines in order to get an idea of possibilities. Your used copies of sundry magazines would be very much appreciated at

7 Inchmery Road, LONDON SE 6.

KEEP IT QUIET !

We have mentioned in an earlier issue that an attempt would be made to publish a complete fanzine listing. By fanzines we understand those amateur magazines which are devoted to any forms of sf & fantasy, and to fandom and fans as a raison d'être by themselves.

A magazine that would normally fall into this category has been mailed out on the 23rd December which will not be included in this listing, nor will ever again be mentioned in this magazine. Full of the wildest accusations and hateful attacks on people like Mason, Stark and (how is it possible?) on Andy Young, there is only one possible recourse against this faned's action. Utter ignoral of his existence.

Started herewith.

Eric Needham, fantaisist extraordinaire, has perhaps because of this quite a few rumours floating around. We will not go into detail about pressure cookers and wives, but only mention his change of occupation. Finding window-cleaning a business fraught with peril he is switching to radio and t-v engineering. We sincerely hope this'll not entail installing aerials.

YANDRO SPECIAL

Sometime next Spring (probably the March or April issue) YANDRO will publish a special TAFF issue.

This will consist of an article on TAFF, a one-page article on each of the candidates, and (naturally) a ballot. Suggestions for other articles for this issue will be considered, though it can't include much else, considering the mag's size. So far, they've received promises of articles on five of the 8 candidates. RSC

Ken, I am a gentleman! See?

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England.

DUPAC - NEWS ON FANPUB ACTIVITY

News which definitely strikes us as a hoax, was relayed by Greg Benford, claiming Ron Ellik as source of information.

ABSTRACT 10 is out! Vorzimer, long the national fugghead of America, has returned in all his glory. The magazine is dittoed in a sloppy manner and carries no illo's except for the cover, with absolutely no work on layout at all.

The contents are supposedly all written by Vorzimer, and were all full of vindication about Rayburn, Terry Carr and even Ron Ellik. Most amazing factor is that it was mailed in San Diego, little Pete's new address being given as 777 - 48th Street, San Diego.

There is of course a possibility that Boyd Rayburn has coaxed Cliff Gould into sending Ellik fakezines around.

We pass this on with appropriate warning that it may be a hoax. Pete has not been heard off the last year, but Ted White published an issue 10 of Abject, in his magazine Stellar, which was a take-off on Pete's former magazine. Possibly this has furnished someone with the idea to pass news of a revival around fandom.

Mike Gates, Frankfurt fringe-fan, will be using the Benford duplicator to run off a new fanzine ACTI in the near future. Irregular, the policy will be 'trufannish'.

Artwork and a cover will be supplied by Jerry Hines, with material by whoever cares to send some in.

No address is given for Mike, but mail sent c/o the Benfords will get to him. Probably fall straight into his hands.

Whereas after a period of indecision, Bob Peatrowsky decided to fold CONFAB, John Hitchcock after a similar period ran off UMBRA 16 for mailing out during the Xmas holidays. Issue 17 will be published round about Easter. We wonder whether the omission of UVE may be due to Dick Geis' review of the magazine in the recently revived PSYCHOTIC.

INNUENDO which has so far been circulated in FAPA is coming out to enter the subscription field. Of course it will not accept subs. You figure it out.

Dave Rike, Box 203, Rodeo, Calif. & Terry Carr, 134 Cambridge, San Francisco, Calif. have indeed decided to make Innuendo a non-APA fanzine and will only make it available to editors who send their fanzine to both of them. If the fanzine is a dual editorship one, two copies of Innuendo will be sent in return, otherwise only one unless the editor insists on receiving two.

As the run of publication calls for 125 copies however, Dave mentions that copies will be available in exchange for a contribution, an advertisement (1/4 page for 25 cents, 1/2 page for 50¢ and full page for 75¢.) and a very limited number for letters of comment.

This latter is a very limited number, as trades, contributors, advertisers, friends and the like, will get first claim. Faneditors whose only activity is in the apae will not have their publications counted as trades, since Dave Rike is a member of the four apae of fandom. They will therefore have to find a place among the other categories in order to receive INN.

CAMBER, needless to say, is late again. Alan Dodd writes to say that he hopes to finish it shortly as he has just bought a British Olivetti typewriter. As soon as the rickety table and shaking gramophone record box have been replaced by a new desk, he should be typing stencils full speed.

A small group of Science-Fiction fans are engaged in publishing a letterzine for and by stfen aged forty-five and up. Any reader of the required age who may be interested, please notify Eva Firestone UPTON, Wyoming. Name of this group is 'The Youngsters'. There are no dues.

FAPHRD is now all stencilled, half mimeographed. One day soon...

XMAS

HERE & THERE IN FANDOM

The Benford twins, affectionately known as The Brats, have found a new toy to while away their time, and during the Xmas meeting at which ex-patriated US fandom was present a rug was designated as arena for a battle between remote controlled cars.

A system of points was worked out for various types of collision and the two opponents retired to respective corners of the room to do battle. Guy won hands down all round with Pete Reischer making the best showing against him. Greg followed third.

There is little likelihood of the game becoming a regular thing, as the cars don't stand up too well under battle conditions. EM

In NY a group of fans went on a picnic Xmas eve under the George Washington Bridge. They brought along appropriate warming agents to prevent freezing.

Baltimore held their party over the post-Xmas weekend, with Bney, White, Stark and the Youngs descending on John Hitchcock's home.

Los Angeles scheduled a meeting for Thursday 20th Dec. but word has it that there would not be a special Xmas celebration as has been traditional for at least four years. No later news has been recd.

Antwerp had Fanjan frantically trying, and failing, to catch up on his correspondence. He does not however despair of one day attaining his goal.

APPROVED SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

"As for the bickering between the Londoners and the Northerners, it strikes me that it might be a good idea to assemble everybody concerned at some likely spot -- such as Kettering, or Trowbridge -- assort them in pairs on a basis of their London or Northern affiliations, and knock said heads together -- hard. If it's just a put-up job to make it seem as if Anglofandom's more alive than it actually is, same applies." Archie MERCER.

Subscription rates per year (24 issues) are 7/- or \$ 1.00 . Agents are
US: Dick Ellington, 98 Suffolk St., Apt. 3A, NEW YORK 2, N.Y.
UK: Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthur's Avenue, HARROGATE, Yorks.

CONTACT

Periodical
Tijdschrift

Nº 6 4 JAN '57

VERANT. UITG.

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