

doompub #192/5/5/66

Sturgeon was all wrong. He said that 90 % of everything was crap. Well, judging by the content of the slush pile at F&SF, I'd say it was closer to 99 percent. Seriously, most of the stories that I get I have to continue reading to the very and bitter end, just as you have to do everything right up to the end in the very latest type of nightmare. The stories tend to fall into separate groups, and I find it easier and easier to classify the stories according to type.

Some are written by married women in New England or the Middle West. These are the ones that tell all about a housewife being raped (or something) by an alien from Somewhere Else. Then there are the flying saucer stories, told as a narrative. In fact, most of the stories are told as narratives, with no dialogue. This ain't the type of story I pass along. I'd say about 40 percent of the stories have no dialogue, although they are the type of story which must have dialogue (conflict) between two or more characters in order to get someplace.

Then there are the stories that end up by having some god-awful pun as their whole basis (all 5,000 words of it) which the author manages to put in the last sentence even if it really doesn't go there. I'd say about 1 in three stories is this way. And then there are the types where things seem to be going along okay, but then a little man pops up from off-stage and explains the entire solution to what the author has meant as a convoluted plot (you know: a typical plot for a starting author must be Van Vogtian, in order to prove that the budding author is up there with the rest of the Professionals) before you attempt to work it out on your own.

The last type of common story is the one in which the entire story is really a single incident with about 800 dangling threads (which if tied together would make the story about 400,000 words long) sticking out of the middle, beginning, and end (this assumes, of course, that one can break the incident down to the point where you can see a beginning, middle and end, which is next to impossible).

The entire procedure is completely incredible, and the stories do rightly deserve a dozen or so articles in fanzines, that I think I'll just about end this thing right here and sit down and write those half a dozen articles. By the way, there has so far been exactly one story by a fan in the entire three weeks that I've held the job (and that means some two hundred mss. gone through. Howcum, gang? Where are all the budding authors that fandom is always boasting off here is they? I'd welcome (and give more attention than the average) a good fanfiction story written by a fan. John knows that the average fan fiction in a fanzine is better than a lot of the stuff I've been reading.

And here's a tip to LEN BAILES, BARRY GOLD, & JACK HARNESS: Don't you idiots realize that your fannish parodies, over which you're spending so much time and so many pages, are good story telling. If you'd just take out the fannish references and start writing clearcut science fiction, that stuff would sell. Especially you, Len Bailes, good buddy, don't you realize that you're doing damn good writing? It pains me to look at all this stuff which is pouring out of your fannish souls in such sweet abundance when you could, with a few alterations, be getting paid for doing it. You FIAWOL types give me a pain (disclaimer).

And now, before I get carried away (tarred and feathered, no doubt) here's some ~~thank and killy~~...uh, ~~brad and ellyses~~...uh, oh yeah, Failing Comments to pre-
ify you wild people out there. You will find them things on the next page. Yes.

Cover (Johnny Chambers): I don't know what we're gonna do with you; this is one of the funniest covers I've seen on a magazine since I got caught in the whirlpool; as a founding member of the Age of Weekly apae, I demand more!

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Right now I'm listening to Radio Unnamable, which has just gone through a MayDay Marathon, mainly because they ran out of money. I pledged a small sum, and New York fan Bob Rodriguez offered for sale (all proceeds to the station (WEAI - that's our friendly Pacifica Foundation station here) several hardcover Tolkiens and 3 maps of middle earth plus a Frodo Lives button in elvish. They went for \$50...

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Kio-Kup 25 (John Kusske): Well, John (scuse, John) I was just being facetious and applying TAPS (read: inside joke) terms to dwaino. What with everyone in TAPS calling everyone else a moral crud and a little shit (alho I did thing the expression "shit" was Too Strong for this here Family-type Apa...) Heck, everyone in New York (in the Fanoclasts, anyway) calls everyone else that. "Dave Van Arnam," I said recently, "I understand that Ted White has told you an ultimate and denigrating (whatever that is) DNQ which in my capacity as phone fan I'll learn sooner or later. So how about telling me now and saving me phone money?" "Sorry, Andy, you'll have to ask Ted," replied DG Van Arnam. "Van Arnam, sir," I replied, properly ~~happy~~ incensed, "You are a little shit and a moral crud." "That's White of you, Andy," says Van Arnam. "I gotta go; I'll see you tonite." ...it's happy little things like that as have got us into special (and squeaky) situations, on occasion. It's like "I almost break your feet." Well, we didn't break Steve Stiles' feet, and he's in the Army. I'd gladly break your feet, John, if you asked me to, in order to save you from a Fate worse than Death (and Taxes, too...).

Riders of the Clouds 2 (Al Lewis): The AFT here in New York has been very effective in getting pay raises for teachers; something that was rare to unheard of before the mid-fifties. I suppose I follow this with a little more than outside curiosity: two cousins of mine are teachers (first-grade and junior-high physical education) and my father was a high school teacher until the time of his death. When he was a teacher, with a Bachelors, Masters, and work nearly completed on his Doctorate, he was getting less than a starting teacher does now in New York. He had to supplement his income from several other sources in order to make ends meet. But then you can ask Dave Van Arnam how his father (high school english, I think) got his seniority taken away when he moved (that's another touchy situation; right?).

Probably Something 22 (Tom Digby): Beatle Juice is an incorrectly run page of the editorial section of Algol.

BY Strange Etc. 14 (Dwain Kaiser): I see this is clean concise writing, and it only took you a month to draft it. Well, well! I must admit that my remarks suffered from Over Reaction, the bane of the weekly apa. But they don't suffer from Over Reaction that much, I feel. Perhaps I did react a bit too much, seeing as how I am #1 on the inactive waiting list. Arnie and DaveH shd have known, tho, that Ted had no intention of accepting his being moved up, but I took offense at your remark for a simple reason. Dwain, as I've said before, it's the way you said it. Just like your comment about Tom Gilbert burning himself out, and just like some of things you've said in your comments on the BoF:65 anthology.

I'm also sorry that you refuse to send me your TAPS publications; I'm in the thing for the act of communication, and now I'm forced to put out an AS in order to do this. By the way, why do you see me as a threat to your membership in TAPS? I have no intention of doing anything like that. Steve Barr, now, is another case... I think you would save much wordage if you would see how others see your comments... but now I'm out of room, and I can only hope that you're keeping your knees loose --

Andy P.