

DEGLER! 254

DEGLER! #254 is published for the attentive if confused attendees of a session on fanzines and fandom at the SF Festival, University of Connecticut, March 18th, and for various fans and friends, by Andrew Porter, who is currently paying the rent at 55 Pineapple Street, Brooklyn New York 11201. Today is March 15th and Hitchcock's "Foreign Correspondent" is on the TV, interrupted by the usual dumb commercials, as I type this. Doornublication #???

WHY IS THIS THING CALLED "DEGLER!" ANYWAY: Once, many years ago, a particularly inane and obnoxious fan entered fandom, name of Claude Degler. At that time fandom was much smaller, and the fans were stretched thin across the face of America. It wasn't unknown for ~~xxx~~ fans to cross the country, stopping each night at the house of a fan who put them up and offered them hospitality. Fans, after all, were rare: no more than two hundred at most among more than 120 million Americans.

However, Degler was strange, and today we'd call him a Crazy: he had an idea of a "Cosmic Circle" of fans, and, on a piece of land in the Ozarks owned by his mother, proposed a "Cosmic Rest Camp." He even had plans to start a "Cosmic Race" with a retarded girl from the local area [Once again, science fiction predicted reality, mainly Mr. Hitler's ideas for a super race. For further reading on this subject, see Norman Spinrad's "The Iron Dream."] To make a long story short, and to end this paragraph, Degler's presence in assorted fan homes was frequently followed by missing volumes in the host's SF collections. This sort of thing culminated in Degler's ostacization from fandom, and the beginning of a legend, if only in a small branch of a small genre read by a small bunch of fans. And so, when it came time to start a weekly fanzine, I thought DEGLER! would be a good name, and it was.

HOW LONG HAS THIS BEEN GOING ON?: DEGLER! has been published since late June of 1964, originally for apa F (explanation in the course of the afternoon, or someone can ask if I don't get around to it). Later it also went through apa L, and still later it metamorphosized into S.F.WEEKLY, a weekly newszine which ceased publication in April of 1968. Except for three or four sporadic issues over the years it had effectively ceased publication until I revived it, under the old name, last June, to mark the tenth anniversary of apa F. Unlike the old days, when it came out every single week, punctual as all hell, this incarnation has seen frequent lapses of publication. This issue, in fact, is coming out 3 weeks after the last.

PAUSE FOR A COMMERCIAL MESSAGE: Despite what the pretty poster issued by UConn implies, ALGOL is hardly a fanzine anymore. ALGOL is printed on slick paper; the contents are set in type and that type has justified margins; beginning next issue it will have full color covers; and currently it has the largest circulation in the world of any quote fanzine unquote. This week I had a resubscription reminder printed up and the printer, although asked for 200 copies, obviously printed something like 400; thus the ad on the reverse of this issue of DEGLER! (in these days of inflation it's not wise to waste paper) which serves double duty: I hope some of you reading this will subscribe to what I think is a pretty damned fine magazine. But if you want to see real fanzines I suppose you'll have to look at the batch of miscellaneous ones I've brought up here today, and which I'll hand out at your request. At this point in its development ALGOL is to other fanzines what the New York Times is to the Storrs Times-Picayune (or whatever the name of the local news sheet is). It is definitely not typical, and many fans claim it is no longer a fanzine at all.

Gee, "Foreign Correspondent" really was a true fine motion picture. Let's all go out and buy War Bonds today. [Loose Lips Sink Ships, to quote Mr. Roosevelt.]

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March 14, 1975

Dear ALGOL Reader:

You're receiving this letter because your subscription to ALGOL has expired. In some cases, you bought one or two issues of ALGOL, but didn't subscribe. This is your chance to re/subscribe before prices go up in May.

Yes, again the price of ALGOL is going up. In last issue's editorial I announced the increase, and this is the finalized figure: \$6.00 for six issues (3 years) and \$1.50 for a single copy.

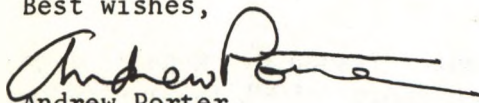
But you, dear readers, still have a chance to resubscribe at the old rates of 6 issues for \$5.00.

Here's a brief lineup to show you what you'll be missing if you don't act now: the May issue will feature a 4/Color cover by Mike Hinge; Jack Williamson on "The Campbell Era;" Ted White on getting into print; Lupoff's Book Week; a hoped-for article by Harlan Ellison; Ursula K. Le Guin talking about her writing and THE DISPOSSESSED in a long-delayed interview. Also in the files for this or future issues are articles by Tom Monteleone on Roger Zelazny; Brian Stableford on the social role of SF; and other articles currently being produced.

Finally, ALGOL is going through a modest redesign, to make it even easier to read, via a new typeface and three column format. It will still be recognizable as ALGOL, but should be, if possible, even more professional in appearance.

Please use this coupon today. I hope to hear from you all soon.

Best wishes,


Andrew Porter,
Publisher

Make cheques payable and mail to: ALGOL MAGAZINE, P.O.Box 4175, New York NY 10017.
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