

a weekly journal of informal news, views, and provocative musings, gathered and distilled by Donn Brazier, 1329 N. 33rd St., MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN. Price? 5¢ per copy; 4 issues.

20 January 1947

H.F. Heard, Author of The Great Fog,  
Wins \$3000 Ellery Queen Contest with Story

A Washington Post, Jan. 12, clip sent in by George Tullis reveals that H.F. Heard copped the first prize in Ellery Queen's short story contest with a story called, "The President of the United States, Detective." The action of the short story takes place in 1977. A new novel by him, "Doppelganger", takes place in 1977.

Author Fredric Brown of Milwa kee had submitted an unusual story to this contest, titled "You'll Die Laughing". It was unusual in that the reader, a slick gimmick making it possible, turns out to

be, not the murderer, but the murderer's victim.

Her Washington Post clip, Jan. 12, gives 14" of space and a small cut to Mr. and Mrs. George Tullis. The occasion was Hellen's radio participation as 'Ellery Queen for a Day'. The story of how George and Hellen met is told. (The two 1's are 'just for the hell of it', according to Hellen.) Because she is nearly blind, her advanced studies at Columbia required a reader, which chief yeoman George applied for and filled. After the study material had been read, George would read something lighter: Thorne Smith, progressing rapidly to 'the more bloody volumes, which are his favorite'. George spent several days at my house years ago, and even then his hobby for reading to others was apparent. I think it was a New Year's Eve that he spent reading some fantasy to my mother, who wondered what the devil it was all about.

Random Notes: UNKNOWN will be revived, says Campbell, when the paper shortage has completely resolved. March issue of ASK will feature a cover made up mostly of half a spaceship. A new club has been organized in New York, called the 'Spectators', made up of half NY and half NJ fans, it is limited in membership to 10. They publish an organ called 'Speculations', 2nd ish soon to appear. 2nd ish of Ron Maddox's Jupiter is due out soon. Merritt's 'The Fox Woman' has been sold out for some time, though certain dealers still have copies at \$5 and up. Rumors say Arkhar House may reprint 'The Outsider and Others' at \$7.50. Mark Relasberg visited Tullis in Washington 2 weeks ago. Mark's father is a candidate for alderman from Chicago's First Ward.



artwork



Ralph Rayburn Phillips, Artist,  
Paints Weird Subjective Color-Forms

by Miles Eaton

A new star appeared in the galaxy of Fandom at the Pacificon last year. This was Ralph Rayburn Phillips, ultra-weird artist. As his out-of-this-world paintings have elicited considerable and varied discussion, some of which expressed bewilderment, the time has come for a comment about them.

The paintings are full of sea-spawned monstrosities from Innsmouth, which express the timeless motion inherent in Mr. Phillip's personality. This is a characteristic common to all his paintings but beyond that their effects are purely subjective. Colors and forms are chosen and presented in a manner calculated to express certain psychological basics which vary according to the observer. Where one might see a Chinese dragon, another would catch an impression of the most seductive of Houris, depending upon his psychological irregularities. He without imagination sees nothing in them.

True art does not complete the story; it suggests and the observer receives in the measure of his awareness. So the paintings vary from day to day and from person to person, and to attempt to define them would be as ridiculous as to limit life or bind the constellations. Let us therefore look once more and admire if we will or praise if we will but remember that each picture is a carefully organized mirror that bares our own face....truly ultra weird art.

(Popeye cont.)

Of course, Popeye gulps down his can of spinach, becoming visible and snapping his chains. Significant is an X-ray close-up of his arm muscles, which bear the legend "Atomic Bomb". He now conquers single-handed the entire Martian armed forces, and races earthward once more in his rocketship.

Ridiculous and unscientific as the cartoon is, it should provide amusement, at least.

"Popeye" Goes Scientifictional

by Tigrina

The influence of atomic power and current rocket discoveries is no longer confined to newspapers, magazines, and radio, but is now extended to the more juvenile theater audiences through the medium of "Popeye the Sailor" film cartoons. A "Popeye" animated short feature in Cinecolor currently showing has a definite scientifictional trend and is aptly titled "Rocket to Mars".

"Popeye" is carefully explaining to his girlfriend, "Olive Oyl", the intricate mechanisms of a rocket ship, how it is "repelled by jet repulsion" when she sits down on a control, inadvertently launching the machine on its journey through space. While Popeye is taking down the "gastronomical figures" from the instruments, Olive Oyl, admiring the scenery, falls out of the window and is presumably carried back to earth.

The cartoon, of course, has no regard for scientific fact. The Milky Way, for instance, is portrayed by myriads of little white milk bottles in the sky, and Venus is a large yellow sphere containing the shadow of a curvaceous gal languorously combing her long tresses.

While flying over Mars, Martian vegetation was visible, consisting of "ammunition plants", "grape shot vines" and "bayonet trees". Popeye's rocket is pulled to a forced landing by a magnetic device, and our hero is chained in a dungeon by a disappointingly human-looking evil giant, who renders Popeye invisible with a ray gun.

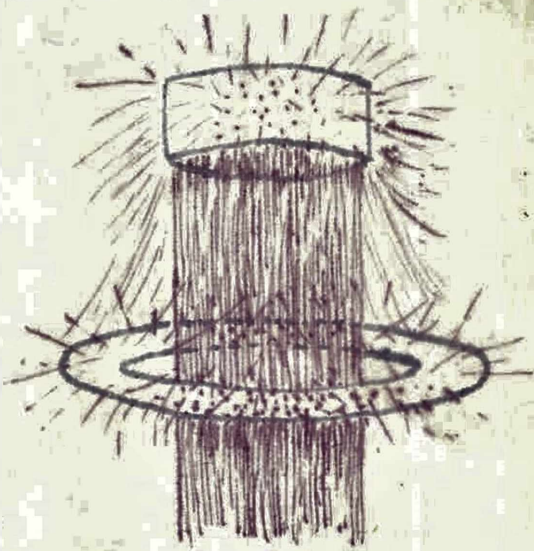
By a strange coincidence, the Martians were just preparing an attack upon Earth, with the giant leader directing frenzied preparations. If the animators lacked imagination in their idea of the leader, they made up for it in the Martians themselves. Oddly shaped seal-like green creatures, scurrying about in commonplace military preparations, without any futuristic indications prevalent in science-fiction magazines.

(continued left column)



More from Norm Stanley on a possible atomic-drive rocket. If you will recall, Ember printed some comments from Stanley in regard to "The Man Who Rocked the Earth", by Arthur Train and Dr. R. W. Wood. The spaceship in that story was driven by a ray which caused uranium to disintegrate, the particles shooting off at near-light velocities, and driving the ship according to Newton's 3rd Law. Stanley continues: "Now no such disintegrating ray is known or likely to be discovered, but it is interesting to consider that a concentrated beam of neutrons (the neutron was quite unknown in 1911 when the story appeared) would have almost exactly the same effect if it were trained on a mass of pure U-235 or Pu-239. Compare Campbell's description in the Dec. Air Trails of a hypothetical experiment in which two chunks of U-235, each of less than critical mass but together totalling a mass greater than critical, are made to approach each other slowly. As they come closer and closer a flux of neutrons and fission products passes between them and this mutual bombardment results in a strong force of repulsion being set up between them. It's just possible that we have here a means of obtaining a jet of particles of very high velocity which could be used for rocket propulsion without involving necessarily the production of extremely high temperatures."

Suppose, for example, that one of the U-235 masses in the Campbell experiment were cylindrical and with one of the end faces made concave, so as to produce a focussing effect on the particles leaving it. The other mass could be toroidal -- doughnut shaped -- as in the diagram at the right. Then if they were forced close enough together to produce a moderately violent chain reaction (but not so violent as to be explosive) the stream of particles leaving the end of the cylinder would mostly go shooting out through the hole in the doughnut, and the whole outfit -- with attached rocket hull -- would move in the opposite direction. The actual amount of matter which would be thrown off as particles would be very small, but the high velocity would impart a strong reaction to the rocket.



(To be continued. Next it gets technical!)

#### ODD NOTES...

Way back in December Ackerman confided to me that he had just had three scientific dreams. One concerned the current Argosy which had a story by George Allan England, which puzzled 4E, until inside he saw that it was a reprint from a 1916 issue of Railroad magazine. Another look at the cover and England's first name had become Glannigan, and then a check inside showed it to be Lannigan. "I wondered, in the dream, if Glannigan had been his real name, and Geo. a familiar one he had adopted." The second dream concerned his meeting a new fan with a rare fantasy book with a title 4E had never heard of. The last dream, probably why he told me about them at all, concerned me, your Embereater. I had drawn a cover for

Astounding, and what's more, had it accepted! It was a 4x4, showing 4 kittens with their claws encircling the globe (earth). But upon looking closely at the kittens, you see that they have human faces and are mutants. ((Maybe that cover would go fine on the first Unknown to be revived; the very first one had a globe on it, with encircling fingers. I bet Ralph Rayburn Phillips could paint those faces so that to most they'd look like 4 kittens, but to those in the "know" they would be mutants.--ed.))

Miles Eaton and Phillips are trying to get up a group of Northwest Fans. Anyone interested please write the former at 10635 N.E. Skidmore St., Portland 13, Oregon.





Under the title, "Iteration and Afterthought", Alexander M. Phillips writes in the December, 1946, PSFS News of Homo recens Ancestry. Phillips worries that he may be beating a dead horse, but to Fandom at large, who missed his talk on anthropology and science-fiction at the Nov. 24th meeting of the Philadelphia group, his iteration and afterthought should be well received. Drastically cut, and dismembered in one spot, his article appears here:

Man's Animal Ancestry..... "We found anthropologists in unanimous agreement that Homo recens had somehow evolved from a simpler, less complex Primate form, but in chaotic disagreement as to just what shape that form assumed. However, though there is disagreement and confusion concerning man's special, individual ancestor, there is unanimous agreement concerning his general ancestral type. Modern

man is certainly descended from some primate animal, tangled, complex, and mysterious though that descent may be. I know of not a single biological scientist writing today who does not recognize this descent. The roster of anatomical characteristics which modern man exhibits, and which are peculiar to the primate line, is truly impressive.

One tiny anatomical feature is so interesting and significant as to deserve brief exposition. There is a little bone in the wrists of all primates known as the os centrale. It is a separate, distinct bone in all but three primate forms. In these three groups the os centrale fuses during growth with another bone of the wrist, on which it forms a small process. And in which three primate forms does this fusion take place? In chimpanzee, gorilla --- and in man.

Our psychological inheritance is considerably less obvious than the physical indications of our primate origin. Among these psychological relics of our animal ancestry I list gregariousness, and the almost universal human ego. Gregariousness is an animal characteristic not confined to the Primates -- witness the herding of many kinds of Ungulates. But the ego roots directly in the primate forms.

To descend to personal observation -- I have found the human ego surprisingly mean and frequently ridiculous. It presents itself to me as tireless in its search for assurance, approval, and inflation; and this seems to apply equally to the intellectual and the dull. Astronomers I have known have been astonishingly avid of recognition and position, and who should be more abstract, more aloof from the smallness of the personal, than the astronomer?

Such a structure is not adapted to the 'artificial' and almost monstrously complex environment in which our wandering primate, Homo recens, now finds himself. Whether he will adapt is an interesting problem. And it is within range of possibility a vital one for this generation. But Homo recens was and remains a generalized animal, and in this lies a large part of his strength.

For those who would like a fuller exposition I mention two books: "The Mind in the Making" and "This Simian World". Both throw light on the restless primate riding within us. Will your ego accept the revelation? "



Comments.....

"Your fine paper ticks 99% with me, the remaining one percent being your condensation of the article by brother Hinkle M D. This is typically lacking in imagination and belongs back in the days of the rattle shaking with-doctors along with most of the medical profession...MOST philosophical systems are outdated...The flaw of course is his failure to include as a system his own scientific METHOD which in a few more years will be as obsolete as Christianity and Jehovah. Without a doubt the few valuable tenets to be found in the aggregate of sophists are too difficult for his understanding which finds more usefulness in speculating as to why a fire burns or how many germs can dance on the head of a pin. What he is searching for is a code or set of laws which can produce wisdom without understanding. The value of speculation lies not in the laws which follow but in the understanding of them." -Wiles Eaton.

"...the smug and idiotic statements of Hinkle make me indignant and angry. I can't argue with him or people of his type, however, because it is useless to cast pearls before swine. Hinkle states-'I take a dim view of Philosophy in general', of course -a dim wit's view. Profound and sublime Egyptian and Buddhist philosophy is not for the dim-viewers." -- Ralph Rayburn Phillips.

"Every time I see one of your quotes from Aldous Huxley or Thayer, I hug all the closer to orthodox scientific thought and method. I have no patience whatever with introspection as a source of general truths. It may be an adequate source of some wholly subjective truths, but not objective ones. -Don B. Thompson.

"These people, like H.C. Goble, who write pieces for Amazing and tell about their wonderful, revolutionary inventions, which, for various ill-defined reasons they are unable to develop, irritate me profoundly. Why don't they take out patents, if they think they have something

on the ball?" -- Norman Stanley.

"I still think that Schumann is doing wishful thinking in hoping that the mass of the people can influence governments. Also his idea of - Today millions, tomorrow the world - presupposes that the people who are convinced ((according to a set of precepts originated by Schumann for the good of the world...)) can travel so that they can convince others. His plan cannot have a single starting point, because it would be possible to convince all the people in one small town, but the rate of diffusion from that town might be very small. Also what is to prevent one of the governments from starting their own program of convincing and making the people think that the gov't is doing what is best???" -- Al Lopez

**BOX ON THE APPEAL - LIVE LONG -**  
Ember's Status: **YOUR SUB IS UP**

Bob Stein	6	Redd Boggs	5 1/2
LE Ackerman	4 1/2	Tigrina	4 1/2
Milt Rothman	4 1/2	Norm Stanley	4
P. Klingbiel	3	F. Robinson	3
George Tullis	2 1/2	Sam Russell	2
Jack Speer	2	R. Hodgkins	2
Boff Perry	2	R. Nelson	2
Al Lopez	2	Nick Carr	1 1/2
H. Elsner	1 1/2	R. Richardson	1 1/2
P. Schumann	1 1/2	J. Kennedy	1 1/2

and 23 others have earned points by financial and literary contributions to Ember; the prize is the choice of one of five fine fantasy books . . .

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Ember has some first issue s-f mags that it will sell for only 25¢ each, postage postpaid. This is in keeping with a campaign to get prices down to normal in our circle. Subscribers to Ember will get the nod over others -- but write and tell me what to hold. I have: Cap Future, Future, Dynamic but sans cover, Science Fiction, Stirring Science but tattered, SF Quarterly, Planet, SuperScience, Astonishing, Marvel, Comet, Witch's Tales, Science Illustrated.



### Wanted

Someone to collaborate with me in the publication of a fanzine. Arrangements already made for cutting of mimeo stencils. I can supply artwork and articles. For further details write Bob Stein, 514 W. Vienna Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Neoteric Press, editor "Fantasy Illustrated".

(paid advertisement)

Plans Dept: Ron Christensen and Ron Maddox are getting up a magazine to be called "The Fan Pictorial". It will contain about 30 pages of professionally done photo-offset material. Included will be pictures of authors, editors, prominent fans, etc. The jacket will be similar to the Fanyclopedia. First ish will be dedicated to Sam Moskowitz. Ron M. says they would like submissions of photographs you might have. Prepublication price of the book is \$1.00.

Air Trails will not attempt to compete with Science Illustrated says Ron Maddox. (That's good, because the letter is degenerating into a more general 'gadget' book to appeal to the masses. A good sub-title for it now might be: House, Garden, and Car Illustrated, with information on Milady's Boudoir and Silk Stockings. Ember is in accord with Milt Rothman's letter printed in the last issue of the SI reader's section.))

FMZ received this week.....

Fantasy Times, #33, a weekly news-sheet published by James V. Thurnell of 101-02 Northern Blvd., Corona, NY @ 5¢ or 6 for 25¢. This is a mimeo'd one-sheet newsie that carries CNE news releases as well as FNS releases. The former is Cosmic News Service, an eastern ring handled by Alvin Brown; the latter is Foundation News Service, a western outfit handled by Rusty Hevelin. ((Plans are afoot to link Ember with these two groups in a three-way tie-up with your editor handling a mid-west FNS, Robert News Service. Thus, with Stefnews from the west, Ember from the mid-west, and Fantasy Times from the east, the doings of Fandom should be very adequately covered.))

Stefnews, #75, a weekly news-sheet from James Hevelin of 3761 Third St., Riverside, Calif. @ 5¢ or half that for Foundation subscribers. This is a Ditto one-sheet newsie.

PSFS News, Vol. VI No. 9, from Allison Williams of 122 S. 18th St., Philadelphia 3, Penna. @ 10¢ or 6 for 50¢. This is a mimeo'd multi-sheeter which branches out this time into articles of interest to all Fandom. Included is the Phillips' piece condensed in Ember this issue, also a biography of William Seabrook by Al Pepper, and other notes and reviews of interest.

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Raber #29



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