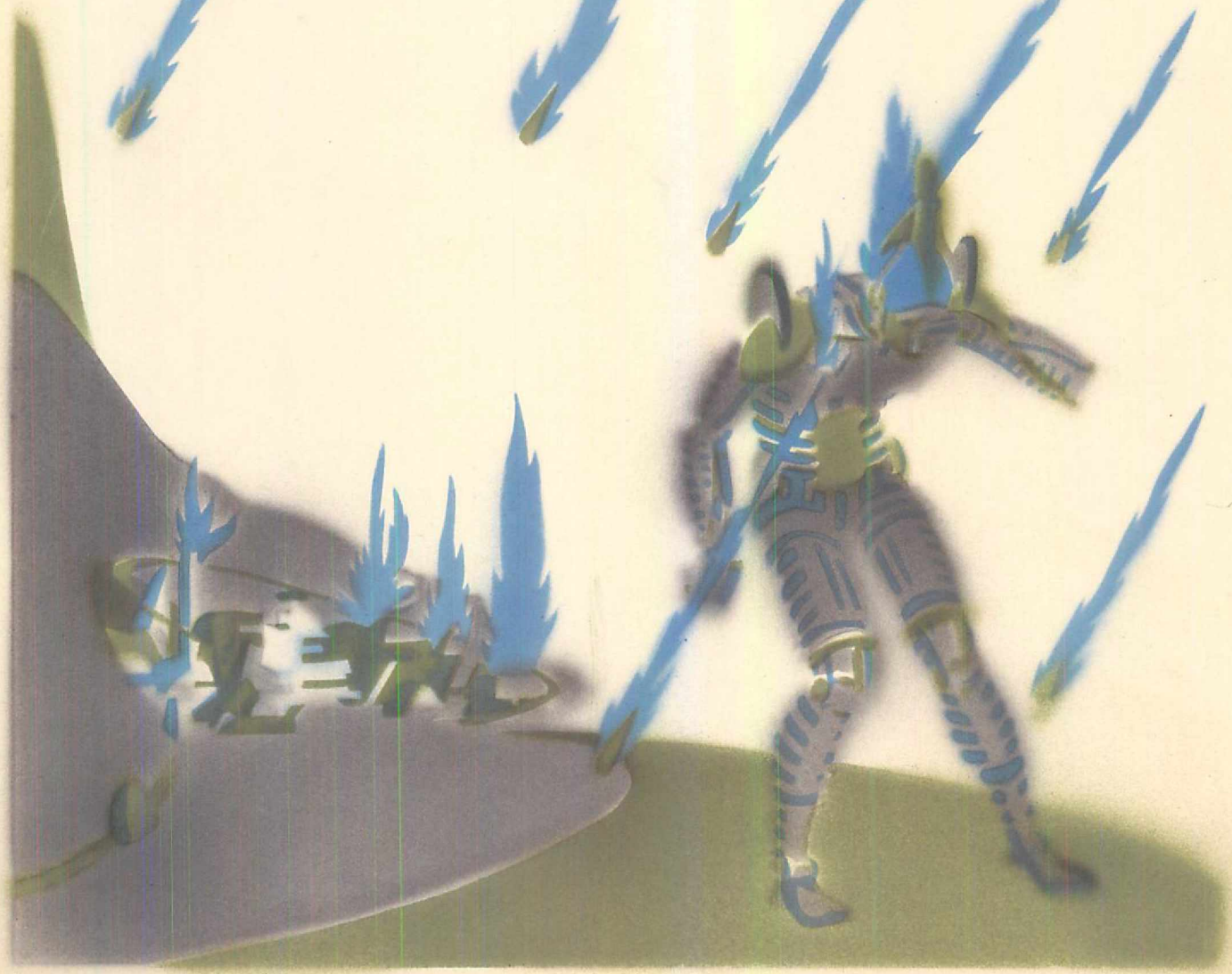


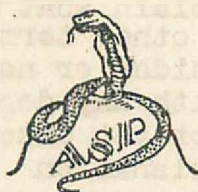
# En Garde



EN GARDE!

A FAPA PUBLICATION

WHOLE NUMBER X.



Temptingly Tendered In Toto By  
AL and ABBY LU ASHLEY of  
25 POPLAR, BATTLE CREEK, MICH.  
JUNE, 1944, MAILING.

### PRO TEM

Fapadom seems to be currently engaged in a frenzied search for some suitable substitute for the term "fan". Catching the spirit of the thing, we off Slanshack have dug our pipes and magnifying glasses out of hiding, donned our double-visored caps, and set forth upon the same frantic quest. Furthermore, our ineffable deductive faculties and perseverance have brought their inevitable results.

Such terms as "stefnist" and "fantast" have been offered to fill the undoubted need for a substitute, but closer consideration brings out their hidden lacks. Our substitute must a short word like "fan". If it is not to begin with, it will rapidly shortened in the course of usage. "stefnist" would thus become "stef"--- a word we already have; "fantast" could only be shortened to "fan"--- the word we are trying to escape because of its undesirable connotations. Another thing, both these terms possess that damnable "f" that has made fandom a league of sputterers. As a result we are forced to conclude that the terms so far offered are noble suggestions, but they somehow miss being quite the term we need. One then begins to wonder whether another angle of attack on the problem might not be more productive. Thus wondering, one progresses to action.

As Robert Heinlein brought out so well in his Denvention speech, fandom's most striking characteristic is the "time-binding" ability---the ability to view the past, present and future as one. The past and the future are nearly as real to us as the present, and we evaluate nearly everything from this viewpoint. But when we attempt to reduce "time-binding" to a three or four-letter, one syllable word, we run smack into several varieties of brick walls. Remembering that all good little English words are derived or made up from Latin roots or something, we quickly grab our Latin dictionary and thumb through it feverishly---to no avail. Momentarily stumped, we try thinking again. Beside this time-binding viewpoint there is also the fact that probably the majority of out stf and fantasy literature deals with time in one way or another. A story may be laid in the distant past, far in the future, some nearer location in between, or in any of a number of parallel pasts or futures. It may even deal directly with travel in time. It appears that "time" itself plays a large part. The Latin word for "time" is "tempus". That shortens beautifully to "tem"---the one syllable word we've been seeking.

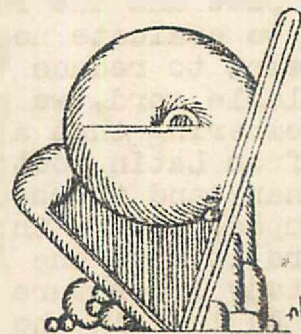
But let's not get excited about our success yet. Our word meets the test of shortness, and its derivation is pretty sound. However, there are other things to consider. Does it explain what we are to an outsider? No, it doesn't. Still, could any other term that satisfied the rest of the requirements? The outsider or non-fan who could grasp any explanation of what we fan are with any degree of understanding, would be a potential fan who had not yet discovered fandom. One who could not understand a lengthy explanation would scarcely be helped by a one-word one. To such a one we must ever remain a mystery. And if such a one must be answered with something that will serve to satisfy his curiosity and retain his good opinion of our sanity, he can be told that old story about our being interested in the hobby of amateur publishing. It looks like we may not have to worry about the word being self-explanatory. We proceed to other tests.

Fen have a penchant for combining words, often with a telescoping effect. They love alliteration, and they also have a penchant for punning. Does our word "tem" meet this test? Let's try it.

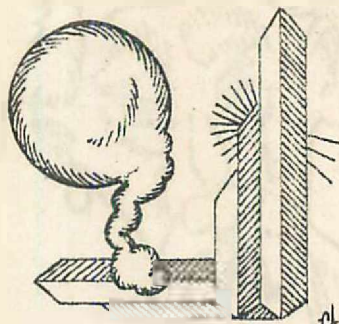
We have tems or temz for the plural form, and the feminine naturally becomes temna. The combinations of temag and tenzina are obvious and euphonious. Tempest occurs to us and we have no difficulty in naming him. Ha! This really begins to look promising! We search for nice alliterative temzine and column titles---and lo, we find them in abundance! Tem Times....Tem Tales....Tem Talk....Tem Topics....Tem Tattler....Tem Type....Tem Titles....Tem Titters....Temprattle....Temporments....To-tem....Temtorial....gosh, there's a million of 'em! Some tem could even put out a hyper temzine and call it System. Then all the rest of the tems could try to "beat the system"! Egad! What possibilities! But to go on, we have such terms as Temart....Temartist....Tempic....Tempotation (Shades of the Foo Foo Special)....Temiscience (for the state of being completely posted on tem history and affairs)....Tenarticle.....Temmeeting....Tempotentialities....is there no end to this? By the use of the letter "s" between two consonants when prefixing Tem, the #1 Face becomes the Mainstem! Tucker, the "kept korpse", would become Mortem. One might even say that a fan who had become a dogfan had gone to the Temnation bow-wows. One can go on and on! Just picture a horde of tem marching down the street to the strains of "It's a long long way to Temperary....."! Surely we have found the word we've been searching for!

Play around with this substitute term, fellow tem. Think of all its possibilities. Think of the fact that most of the usages of the term fan have been worked to death---have become so trite that when new tems come along and rediscover them, we are unable to suppress our groans. Then think of all the new, fresh possibilities the term Tem opens for our exploration. Then plug for

TEM, the TERM OF TOMORROW! YEA TEM! YEA, TEM! YEA-A-A-A TEM-N-M-M!



## DEBRIS DEPARTMENT



"Rupture on the  
Rilla-ra"

We've simply gotta apologize for the many typographical errors and other mistakes in this issue. It seems that the Temlins got loose in our typer. As a result we offer you an issue replete with omitted words, piled-up letters, and strike-overs. And while we managed to get started on this issue a little sooner than the last time, we still ran into the pressure of last-minute rushing---which didn't help matters any. Hope we can improve the situation by next time.

thetemplins'llgetinyourtemdrilsifyuhdon'wate

Perhaps you recall our telling in a recent issue of En Garde, about how we've been feeding Walt Liebscher arsenic for some time, but that the results were very discouraging.

A "P.S." on a subsequent letter from Norm Stanley had this to offer: "If the arsenic doesn't work, I suggest you feed Walt to the lions. Of course, keeping lions is a frightful nuisance---but then, so is Walt....."

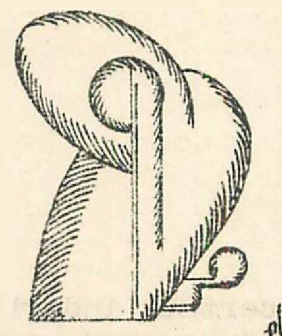
butthelionswouldn'thavehimokthelionswouldn'thavehimsonowwhatdowedo?

Someplace in here we ought to mention SLANSHACK BOOKSHOP, so we'll take this occasion to do so. All ye lovers of fantasy, sf, and weird books should really send for a FREE complete catalog of new and used books. Write to SLANSHACK BOOKSHOP, 25 Poplar, Battle Creek, Michigan, U.S.A. And if you really feel that you must, you can add, Tellus or Sol III, and/or anything else that you think might be helpful to Uncle Sam's jolly old mail-carriers.

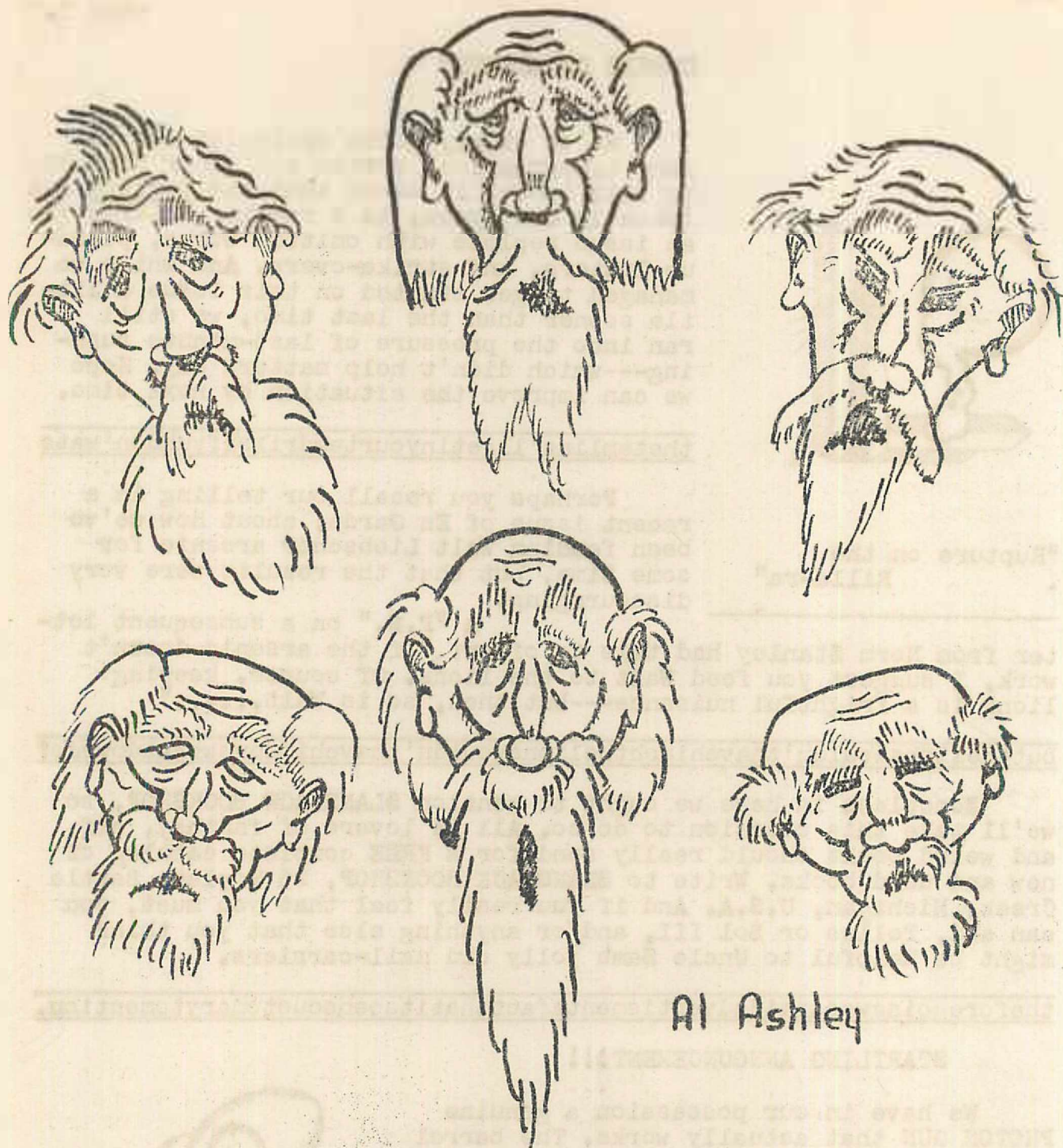
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## STARTLING ANNOUNCEMENT!!!

We have in our possession a genuine PHOTON GUN that actually works. The barrel is made of some plastic with probable dielectric properties, and the muzzle is rimmed with what appears to be some strange (at least to us) alloy. The conventional trigger one usually expects on any gun has been replaced, logically enough, by a push-button. It is powered by self-contained batteries hooked in series to obtain the maximum voltage. There is even a cleverly designed adjustment to vary the tightness of the photon-beam it projects, and the thing has a range of several hundred yards. Of course the beam isn't fatal, but it's damn handy for finding things in a dark room!



b-flat minor



Al Ashley

### SCOOP!!!

A certain individual has, for some time, been spreading tales among the younger, newer fen. He has told them they were being held down and denied their proper place in Fandom by an OLD GUARD that was jealous of its power and position. Braving unbelievable dangers, and at great effort and expense, En Garde's roving photographer has captured a picture of the culprits, plotting their plots!

" . . . . . with jaundiced eye."

BROWSING #4: The sketch map of Great Britain placing the Anglofan population is very welcome. It's one of those things we like to know, and could easily work out for ourselves, but never would in all likelihood. Discussions and reviews on fantasy books are thoroughly appreciated.

BROWSING #5: Your "collection arrangement" troubles proved very interesting, and we feel a great surge of sympathy welling up in our throat to tug at our uvula and inundate our third molar. We too have found ourselves faced with this problem and the need to deal with it. Like you, we plan to have our promags bound. While waiting for the required funds, we have lined them in some semblance of order on row-after-row of attic shelves (homemade). We started to file our fanzines in looseleaf covers. However, we later decided to have them bound also. Aside from the money, the only thing delaying that project is the fact that none (at least very few) of our files are complete. Obviously it would be absurd to bind them until they were, and it would be a shame to punch holes in any more of them for looseleaf filing. Thus, some of them are stashed away in boxes and the rest simply piled about here and there. As for books, we started out with a set of "show-off" shelves containing all of the handsomest bindings and choicest titles. Then we filed those of the more prolific writers according to author. Then . . . . . then we encountered the misfit problem (even as you, and you). Thereupon we racked our brains, finally wrecked our brains, yet still found no way to handle them. Finally, out of the depths of our frustration, came the answer. As any fool can plainly see, any volume ceases to be a misfit when a number of others of the same type can be found to go with it. We have simply set forth on a quest for such companion volumes. This keeps us so busy buying new books all the time that we have time to read but a few of them, let alone worry about how they are arranged on the shelves. Simple, is it not?

YHOS: You certainly manage to find an abundance of neat material for your mag. Art. Gardner's article was swell. NFFF cartoon was really clever. Your bended-knee plea for the race question articles is answered in this mailing.

LIGHTS Everything considered, a very good issue. There is much sense in your remarks about the CC. However, you overlook certain points. Fandom is not accustomed to making clear-cut decisions and following them with forthright action. Most of all, there is yet no authoritative body existing in fandom which could gather and present all the data on any subject in an unbiased manner. As a result individual fan had varying degrees of accurate knowledge about the whole thing, naturally accompanied by varying notions about who was to be blamed for what and what should be done to whom. Second, having no body capable of taking action in the name of fandom as a whole, individual fan hesitate to invite censure by individual forthright action. Instead of disposing of a problem in one grand sweep, they find it safer to take turns edging up on the problem a step at a time. Thus, no one fan appears overly bold, and the final effect is that fandom in general appears to have finally made up its mind. Usually, by that time, the problem has either ceased to be one, or has become of minor importance. It's just like post-

poning the answering of letters. After a while the fam drops in to visit you and after that it would be silly to answer the letters because you've probably already discussed it all with him in person. But let me hastily assure you that I don't subscribe to this philosophy.

**FANTASTICONGLOMERATION:** If you're trying for the longest single-word title, you've got a good start. Best pic in ink in upper left corner of page 7. Front cover a dilly and will be cherished. Spider-lover is fantastic to say the least, and one is forced to agree that mangle is rather unique. All in all, an interesting hodge-podge.

**FLEETING MOMENTS:** A very neatly done publication. But how can we comment further. We appreciate the beauty of the poems, yet their beauty seems of the light and cheerful variety. To us life is very cheerful and happy, therefore our full appreciation and deeper feeling must be reserved for the utterly fantastic, the weird, and the melancholy.

**XENON:** An exceptionally well-done little mag. Nice balance of art and material, both of them good. Liked "Nightmare" best. Enjoyed everything. Come often.

**HORIZONS:** Discussion of baseball curves was interesting and, to me, informative. Sorry no can offer anything to help it along. !!!!!!! At last! In me you have found a fellow lover of Theodore Roscoe. But are you aware of the sad part about it? Perhaps you read of the very recent death of the writer who uses the pseudonym, Max Brand. Well, alas, he was also Theodore Roscoe, as well as George Challis and a number of other top names. His longer tales were the ones I liked the best. Beside those you mentioned, there was one of Germany invading some Balkan country. The queen was a pacifist and she arranged that the invading armies be welcomed with open arms and flower-strewn boulevards. This so delighted, but confused and disarmed the soldiers that the whole invasion fell flat on its face. It sounded very convincing---at least at the time. Another was a Voo-Do story of Haiti, and a terrifying flight down a mountain attempting to escape some zombies. Roscoe had an uncanny knack of creating a situation wherein the only possible explanation was an utterly fantastic one. He would build it up until you were just about to accept that unreality, then point out a perfectly normal explanation that you had overlooked. But before you could quite subside to normal he'd introduce something to abolish that normal explanation and throw things into an even more fantastic state. He would keep this procedure up until you didn't know just where you were, and even the final normal denouement left doubts in your mind. The guy could pile suspense upon suspense until the reader well-nigh went mad with the strain. It will be a long time before Roscoe is equaled.

**PHANNY:** My, my. Such nice heavy paper! How do you do it in these days of 18 lb. stuff? Your comments on the Stan Center idea were read with interest. But I find myself on a small spot. When I first tossed this idea to the tender mercies of Fardon, I merely suggested some of the possibilities and sketched a general outline of

what appeared to me to be a workable set-up. The plan should borrow greatly from the principles of the co-operative, yet have certain modifications of its own. I've watched with interest and studied carefully the reception Fandom has given the idea. As it looks to me now, we need a carefully chosen nucleus of about ten stable, married men, and of course such single men as seem likely to qualify. I'm inclined to think that Slan Center should consist, at first, of a rather tight little group with a high probability of being completely congenial. Then as the group becomes firmly established, and the problems mostly solved satisfactorily, it can gradually be thrown open to general Fandom. I have never visualized it as a means of withdrawing from the outside world. Rather, it would be a banding together of persons whose general outlook and interests had much in common, for their mutual benefit and greater enjoyment. It possibly could be used as a means of actual withdrawal from the outside world, as Widner suggests, should such an eventuality ever become desirable---a thing I very much doubt. But at best, such action can be considered only an inherent potentiality of the Center, not a part of the plan.

That is the way it looks to me now, although further ideas and discussions may change the picture entirely. In the mean time I wish a lot more men would express themselves on this idea. Before going further into details of the plan, I'd like to carry on some correspondence with likely candidates for that nucleus, and to do a lot more thinking about the various problems and methods of procedure.

**BLITHERINGS:** Really liked "Fragment from The Second Messiah". Bravo! for remarks on Campbell's nags. As for Unions, you are gnawing on the wrong bone. As far as I, personally, am concerned, I'm extremely unlikely to be working for any large industry, unless as a very temporary measure. But others will and do work for large industries, so let's consider industrial unions and the points you bring up. 1.-I will NOT admit that this union would not obstruct technological advance. If such obstruction meant more jobs under that union's control, it probably would. Providing jobs for its members is one of the union's greatest talking points. And even though such advance would lead to greater over-all employment for the country as a whole, as history shows it usually does, that particular union would still not want anything that would decrease its membership, and hence its income. Perhaps the IDEAL union would not reason that way. Nor would the ideal politician line his own pockets. But we are not dealing with idealities. If you, Chan, are an ordinary union member, it is not hard to understand your adherence to your expressed ideas. But don't forget there is the behind the scenes picture. The father of a very close friend of mine is a tool and die maker. He became Secretary of his local. Because he seemed to possess certain capabilities, one thing led to another, and he moved up from one position to another, and at increasingly fantastic salaries. But the higher he went the more he saw of the inner workings, and the harder he found it to stomach what went on. In the end he turned his back on the last and highest paid offices and went back to his original work in the factory. Unfortunately, most people's stomachs don't bother them when sufficient money is involved.

2. Strike loss vs. strike gains is really a matter of opinion as far as we are concerned. As neither of us are apt to obtain accurate data, we can't really argue this. I know of cases where the ~~loss~~ loss was greater, and you may know of cases where the reverse was true. But the national average will probably remain a question. 3. You may not find racketeers in the large industrial unions, but that isn't necessarily because they aren't there. They may be simply smart enough to cover themselves. And there is every indication that the big-time labor men are doing just as well for themselves as the big-time politicians. And it isn't a question of whether the cleaning-up comes from outside or in--it's a question of whether there any longer can be, or will be, a clean-up that amounts to anything. Did you think jurisdictional strikes and even increasing mixing in politics are to secure better pay and working conditions for the laborer? 4. As for the laffability of an isolated individual acting as his own spokesman with a large corporation, I never suggested such a thing. You better reread what I said in the December En Garde.

I have no quarrel with the union principle. If a union can or does exist that is devoted solely to preventing industry or capital from exploiting labor, and not doing so merely so it can do the exploiting itself, that union has my support. But the able and successful exploiter does his exploiting under the guise of helping the exploited. I don't care to be one of the latter. I ask only one thing of the unions as they exist today--that they keep out of MY hair. And I consider that any benefits I may receive indirectly from their efforts are more than outweighed by the harm they are doing the laboring class from behind the scenes (and thus doing to me).

**A STATEMENT FROM THE FUTURIAN SOCIETY OF NEW YORK:** Issue must be taken with the subtle distortion involved in the remarks about my use of the term *Slan*. I have never stated that fen were supermen, or mutants, and have used the term *Slan* not in the original sense, but in a special sense to indicate the differences between fen as a group, and the average man. Further, I have taken pains to make this distinction clear. Degler's conception of himself and, perhaps, some of his supporters, as the first of a super-race, all started in 1942, or earlier,---long, long before I ever made any sort of use of the term *Slan*. The Futurian penchant for insisting on defining "*Slan*" in the original, and only the original way, regardless of how it has been used subsequently, is as absurd as the implication that Degler derived his "superman complex" from me.

**AGENBITE OF INWIT:** Your comments on genius and superman bring out some good points and were much appreciated. The speculation about transmission of acquired characteristics suggests a thought we hadn't considered before. I like your definition of poetry much better than any other I've ever seen. The series of trials of F&NY members proves interesting. Keep them up. And may the bloody Green Guna epic continue its murderous pace unabated.

**SUSTAINING PROGRAM:** The only thing you go into enough in this issue to arouse me to comment is Beyond Which Limit, and you cover your topic so completely you leave me nothing to say. You are

right, though about there being no legal definition of "obscene". Thanks for the fotos. That pic of the "shack" is the best view of it I've seen. Back cover is certainly a cosmic conception, and the execution is---shall we say advisable?

**MATTERS OF OPINION:** My definition of progress is far simpler than you expected: "progress is a state of forward movement". Racial progress is the moving forward to something new---whether it is better or worse is beside the point, being solely a matter of viewpoint. Competition has been an integral part of all life on this planet since life first developed here. It is part and parcel of our make-up. Those best able to compete, survive. Racial evolution and individual development both depend on this principle. Remove the necessity for competition and you remove the incentive to progress. Whether the direction of that progress is toward your idea of a worthwhile end, or mine, is immaterial. Personally, I do not relish the prospect of a world of dilettantes. I cannot become excited over a future wherein the competitive instinct has been completely submerged, man's every need supplied, and nothing is left but the languid search for amusement. Even the drive of curiosity, strong though it is, could not long survive in such an environment. The Christian conception of Heaven as a place of an eternal life of flitting from cloud to cloud, twanging away on your ukelele, and singing, "Hallelujah!", and strolling along golden streets, would doubtless appeal to the unthinking man who is nearly submerged by the mere effort of physical survival. Equally without doubt, there are many who can visualize nothing more delightful than an economy that provides for them without the necessity of their competing for what they consider their due. Under the specious reasoning that this releases them to devote their time to the serious and cultural things, they seek to justify their fear of competition instead of overcoming it; to stunt their personal development and thus help to halt racial progress. It is natural that we all crave security, but we needn't be shortsighted about it. The clear-thinker has but to search either or both his personal past and the racial past to discover that the only real and permanent security is the inherent or acquired ability to compete with all comers and adapt to any environment he is apt to encounter. When man learns this lesson and quits dreaming of having everything handed to him on a silver platter, he can start on the road to attaining that security for which he yearns. I, for one, have no desire to be a "kept man", either by some woman, the federal government, or the Vitons. Rugged individualism does not imply lack of all restraint. Certain basic rules of behavior, and a minimum of cooperation are necessarily concomitant with life in an organized society. But there is no call to carry this restraint to the extreme of actual (whether obvious or not) coercion, and the abolition of the principle of individual self-determination. And surely you are not so naive as to suppose that the present governmental trend is not in that direction! Nor is there any call to aid, abet, and further the "parasitism of the unfit". I do not use the term unfit in the physical sense---rather in the sense of unfitness to survive because of general inability or unwillingness to compete and progress with the rest of the race. Mine is a philosophy of "necessary selfishness". That which I have in greater quantity than I need, or desire at the moment, I gladly share to help another. After all, he may someday return the favor. But when I desire something

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others also want, and competition is indicated, I go after it, and devil take the hindmost. If I am beat out, I simply seek to discover what lack caused me to lose, endeavor to supply that lack, and thus develop and progress.

Let's not be suckers for the propaganda of those who seek to stifle potential competition by fostering the illusion that federal dispensation, or communism, is the over-night path to Utopia. We have no right to condemn them, for such is merely one of the more subtle means of competing. But we needn't be so gullible as to be taken in by their glittering arguments.

Viva Progress!

THE S-F DEMOCRAT: Yea, all Primates were created equal!

THE PHANTAGRAPH 11 II: As for oil, when you can no longer find it tailor-made, make your own---and they did! As for hisses, you seem to have something there, DAW. Soulful looking ghost on cover.

THE PHANTAGRAPH 11 III: Cover very attractive---exceptionally so. No particular comment on rest of mag.

THE F.A.P.A. FAN #13: Jots and Jets gives a helpful explanation.

GUTETO: Oh Mamma, that man is here again---with unspeakable story!

SARDONYX: Fapafile was unusual and thoroughly interesting. After all, don't most of us so speculate about the various fem when we read their letters and fanzines? One of the most fascinating facets of being a fan is, to me, the attempt to get an ever clearer picture in my mind of the various personalities, what they think, and what they think of each other. Mag as a whole very interesting, but nothing to drag me into a discussion this time.

WALT'S WRAMBLINGS: I strongly second the idea of the annual, or bi-annual bibliography of current books. It is something every fan should value highly. Let's everybody get behind this idea and help out by taking the trouble to send Walt the information of this sort that may happen to come into our possession. This Norm-Walt-Rooster feud assumes horrendous aspects. All in all, a neat and interesting mag.

A TALE OF THE 'EVANS: The "scoop" is certainly something---fantastic to say the least. Whatever sound basis the so-called hunch may or may not have, it strikes me that the important thing is the ability to recognize one when you come across it, and to distinguish between a good one and a bad one. But I have a sneaking hunch that knowledge and use of the laws of chance will net you more money in the long run. A nice issue.

EN GARDE: Now do you find this nude to be at all lowd, or in any way offensive?

MILTY'S MAG: Math Dept is just another blow driving us to the point of getting down to studying math. We've (there I go on that editorial we) long had a feeling that I've been missing a lot by not knowing higher math. Ollie Saari has been doing a good job of proselytism, and one weakens fast under such pressure.

FAN-DANGO: I'm afraid you've been somewhat in your further thoughts on Stan Center. Perhaps you'd have done better to stop with the first ones. If you have a feeling that I'm a bit impractically idealistic, it is possible you may see your error after we move out there and you and I can meet in person. After all, I've been hacking for some time, and I never was one to turn his back on life when it appeared a little seamy. Also, it could be that LA fans are not representative of fandom as a whole. Not having met many of them I wouldn't know for certain, but the fen who live around this part of the country, or have stopped in in passing, have never indicated any inherent inability to live like normal humans, aside from their wider variety of interests, and perhaps a slight tendency to natural bohemianism. If they have any particular psychoses they have apparently learned to tuck them in instead of letting them dangle for the world to stare at.

FAN-TODD: Fully as interesting and enjoyable as any mag in the Mailing. But strangely I find nothing in the whole issue this time that either demands comment or on which I have anything particular to add at this time. You certainly do a swell job of mineography, Norm, and the covers on your mag are always neat. Maybe we can tangle over something in the next issue.

BEYOND: Another beautiful fanzine job, and a very enjoyable one. Truly a rather odd collection of fiction, and some fine artwork. Glad to see the increase of art in FAPA mags.

SAPPHO: Naturally I like the cover, and the material was enjoyed too, but damned if I'm going to stick my neck out commenting further on poetry. I may write a little now and then, and much of it I appreciate reading, but I'm no poetry critic, and have no intention of pretending to be.

THE FANTASY AMATEUR: Much thanks for the "hierarchy list". It is interesting, and to me a useful reference. Norm's suggestions about organizing the Waiting List are epic.

THE NUCLEUS: We just wish, Trudy, that somebody could discover just what would bring the girl-fen into more active participation in fandom. A number of attempts have been made to get the potential and the expressed femme fans to take more active part, but the response has been disheartening. I've wondered if it is some difference in their mental outlook on things in general, or maybe less inclination to be vocal via the printed word. There may be some male fen who disapprove femme participation, but there are also many who would welcome it, if a way could be found to accomplish such a thing. But from all I've seen, maybe not you, but most girl fen don't seem to attach the same degree of importance to their fanning that most male fen do. Whether that is because they really don't enjoy it as much, or not, is something beyond my ability to guess.

rubadubdubanalliedsubanddownwentthesquintytothebottomoftheseaglubbb

Oh yes, we don't/ to be beating our breast too much about these things, but we're running for FAPA Vice-President this election and your vote will be much appreciated. Thank you!