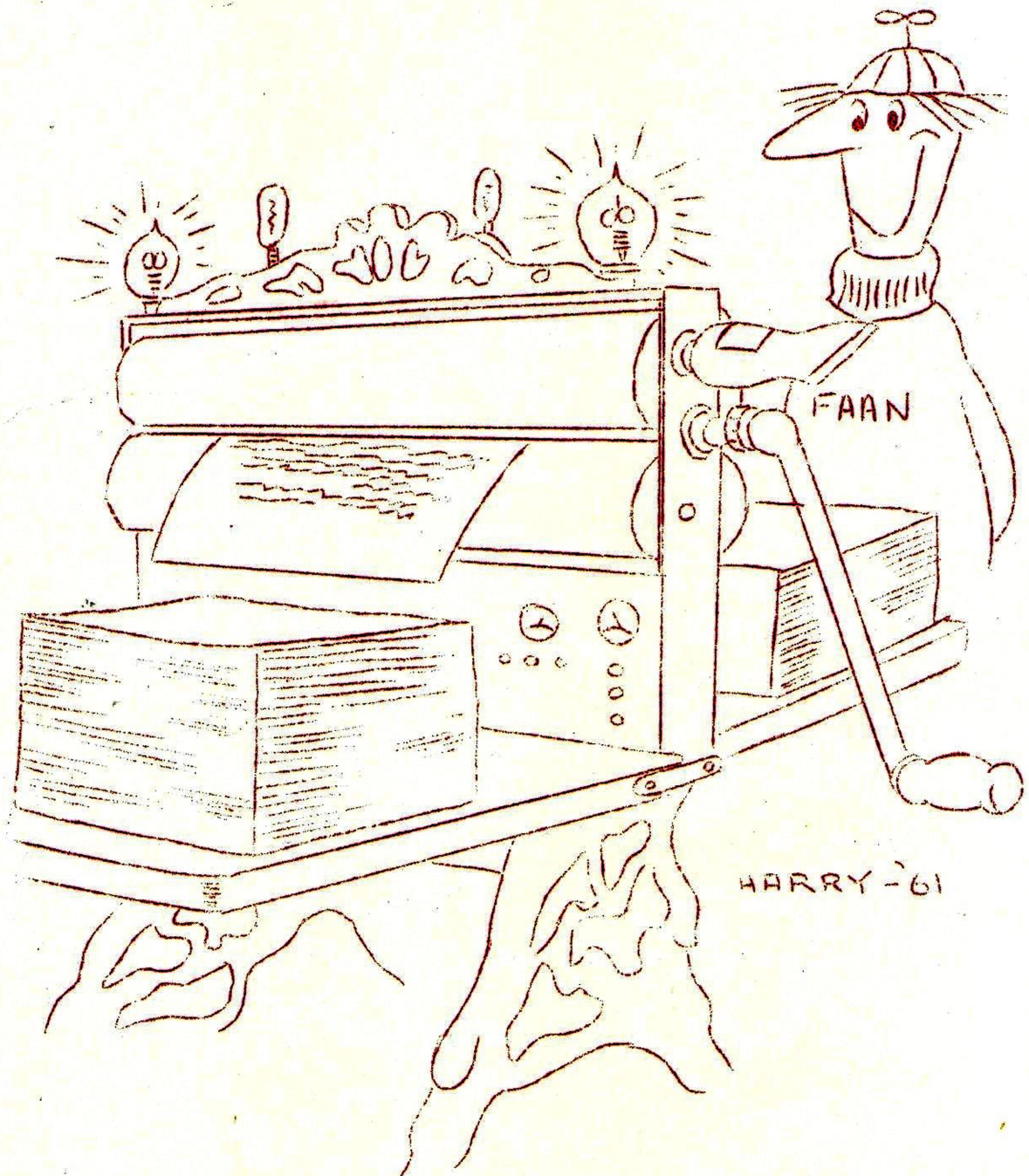


envoy 6



For the Thirty-second OMPA Meeting. (June 1962).

HAVE

AT

YOU!

Actually in this section I intent to comment on YOUR comments about my comments on the 29th Mailing.

That is, I'm going thru' all the 31st Mailing zines looking for the bit that says "Envoy 4, Cheslin" and then I'm going to reply to your several observations.

The Mailing in general I will deal with under another heading.

Oh, by the way, I'm very pleased with this mailing, it seems to be, at first reading anyway, to be of very decent quality... I was particulary delighted with the COVER, (a reprint it seems) of Lynn Hickmanns' CONVERSATIONS 17. And I was also impressed, by the care and origionality taken by Fred Hunter with his cover. Comments on the contents of these two zines follow later. And now....



ARCHIE MERCER.

THE KING MUST DIE...hum, actually since you put it that way I'm inclined to agree with you.

But, just for the sake of argument, suppose he did believe in his gods, and 'heard' the voice of Poseidon, it does not follow that the author intends you to take Theseus's beliefs seriously, she may assume that the reader will automatically class his experiences as self-hypnosis - or similar - after all, the style of the book does not readily permit Renault to digress into long explanations of the real reason he hears voices etc.,.

THE RING GIVERS.....I confess to just a little disappointment, I felt that there could have been a lot more story. But, what was there was interesting and enjoyable. The "escaped serf" was not merely that to these warrior though. After all, he'd killed enough men to arouse quite a bit of superstition about him, I suppose he was mad too, that would not detract from his reputation. I didn't feel there was anything ridiculous about the situation.

JOHN M BAXTER.

Yes heard about this IQ thing at the ChiCon. Most interesting.

"Following" fandoms as opposed to "Participating" fandoms. I hadn't considered it from that angle. I do believe you have hit upon a new viewpoint of fandom, a viewpoint very probably worth exploring. // Anyone else ever noticed this about our fandom? //

TERRY JEEVES.

Size. As of this I'm back to quarto, having used up the legal stuff. I like the gold-yellow legal paper...the colour I mean. Ah, (twirls tosh, light of battle flashes in beady eyes) You mistake my meanings, or read into them your own assumptions. IQ to 120 and all that. Admitted that the "average" IQ is 100 regardless of its true significance(?)...I mean I understand that you mean IQ 100 is like the 0° on the centigrade table. But, it must have been obvious that what I mean't was that the society I envisaged would have a 100 IQ which would be equal to an IQ of 120 if judged on our society's scale.

All this aside. IQ 100, I have been under the impression that THE AVERAGE IQ is 80. But, I suppose, it depends on which - whose - method (of measuring IQ) you are talking about. I believe - courtesy Mensa bits and papers, that there are at least two scales, and there is a difference of about 6 points between them.

JHIM LINWOOD

ffff fake fff fanzines? On the brain? Jeem, did you not read - somewhere on the inside cover - information to the effect that Dick and I are,

for the nonce at least, publishing OMPazines of the SAME title, the no; of the zine being the difference, we alternate. Maybe I shouldn't have written quite so strongly re;- CND sit downers and the risks they run compared to the Sufferagettes. BUT, on the other hand that is all most of them do...RUN THE RISK. Now when a SFCETTE went out and chained herself to the railings, or smashed windows, she was not risking arrest, they were Inviting arrest. I think the idea of the Weathersfield people in giving themselves up in scores could be very effective, especially if all demanded prison. Of course I guess the people who were dedicated enough to spend lots of time in jail would have a difficult time holding a job. I mean, long absences. The idea of CND types being sacked merely for being CND tho', tastes nasty.

JHIM LINWOOD continued.

Now you mention "Bevin Boys" I seem to recall - dimly - something of the scheme. A pity it didn't work. Any idea why not?.

"Coal Board overproductive and overstaff" ..well, damn me eyes, I thought the whole problem was to get more men, and more coal. I'd like to hear more about the Coal Board etc., from the inside, if you'd care to write it Jim.

JIMMY GROVES

Yes, the fossils came from Wrens Nest. Got some good ones there, embedded too firmly for me to cut out though. Minerals eh? hummm.. Velikovsky, most interesting. I was under the impression that the method - coal laying - was that vegetable matter was gathered by rivers and streams and then deposited in lakes, thus making piles of rotting matter to make up thick seams. It occurs to me however. SEAMS. like they are seams?. Im that case how could a lake theory fit, a seam is not wide enough to have been an old lake bed, as I can see. Maybe I was thinking of oil? You tell me. I'm interested. Oh, any theories on how coal seams were formed?. Will remember the name of the book you recommend.

Conformists trends appear in the sciences as well as outside. Sounds Campbellian, but there is of course no reason to suppose otherwise, after all they're human too.....I guess.

JOE PATRIZIO

Catamersans..speed. I'm not the type to go all reckless, speed crazy, (I hope), a twin-hull would be OK with me, I don't figure I'd try to carry more sail than was needed just for..er..puttering about. I suppose there is a thrill in getting the most out of a boat, I can understand people "hotting up" their craft. I'm fundamentally lazy, just idling along would do me.

The BBC programme I saw about twin-hulls didn't actually say they were absolutely uncapsizable, it merely said that they were very safe and that they were easy to right if they did capsize.

H-bombs...it figures, I reckoned that after the bombs the real troubles would start. Only thing is to dig in and wait. Normal population would, will, have very little chance of survival. Edinburgh and Glasgow, I had no idea of how near they were or I wouldn't have wasted a bomb.....

Fooooonnyyy, you should write about huge spiders...our house of late has been infested with them...is this Significant?.

BOB LITCHMAN

Remarks re rich and poor. One thing I was thinking about the other day. How can a bloke who professes a religion which advises - more or less - giving and sharing can 1. hold on to his money, 2, also profess his religion. Question. How many votes did Keneddy lose or gain because of his religion?

Rat race and conforming to social pattern...what can we do about it?. I suppose we could find some remote place and hole up, but where can you find said remote place?. Now, When I Make My Millions.... we'll organise a town composed completely of fans.....in the States I think...har! The People!.

Six cats...well, 5 now. some details in this mailings ENVOY, - 4, 30th Mailing. By the looks of things I'll have another 2 or 3 cats by the time this - 31st - Mailing is due....Matilda has been out on the tiles again...with the expected result, sigh. I'm afraid that they'll have to go.

WALTER BREEN

now I look it over again I can't detect anything commentable pointed directly in my direction.

I read, with great interest, your various comments, Timebingling like, \$1000 etc., but apart from being interested I can't bring to mind anything to add etc., to it.

Oh, Joan, Was in a pb edited by Valentine Dyall, called I think Famousse Mysteries. I would not like to vouch wholeheartedly for the authenticity of the story? because I do not know Dyalls scources.

FRED HUNTER

Good to see you Fred, I'd hazard an OMPA mailing that you'll be an asset to the APA. These islands ye have mon, hoots, ~~ye/god/ta~~, what's the climate like?. Who wants a house anyway, got any nice big dry caves?

I will not bandy words (?) with you about jazz v jazz-with-song as I know very little about jazz. I merely remark that of the jazz I've heard so far the song - in most cases - detracts from the... music.

ETHEL LINDSAY

FOR TAFF. Please keep on drawing my attention to spellings, un re-written material and the like, you do it so... Ethelish... that I delight in it. I guess I should reform... but... well; I guess I should reform.

Joan... "book which delves into the facts"... well, if there is such a book I haven't come across it yet, I'll tell you if I do come across such a one.

Shooting strikers. weel, I admit that I would most probably not issue such an order, if it lay within my power.. but, by god, they do make me feel so mad sometimes. The trouble is that if I, or someone with.. (eh, new phrase) less ruth than I, were to start ruleing with an eye to efficiency etc., rather than with compassion then that would seriously encrouch upon another fixation of mine, the right of an individual to be as free as possible, within the limits of protecting other individuals from him.

Camp Crazy... the difference, as I see it, between "spooks" and "mental.. emanations solidified" is the difference between, if you can grasp the point from my ramblings, regarding disease as the result of the onset of diabolical beings, and the scientific germ angle. There might be, I propose, a reluctance to investigate thouroughly phenomena which is put down to spooks... but putting the question as an investigation, a scientific investigation, into the same phenomena, by describing them as the aforesaid ~~2~~ solidified mental emanations, something might be achieved. Like rearranging the "public image" of spooks. Anything which explains... - note; - not destroys - superstition is good in my book. "well-stocked mind" gratifying. I suppose that a well litter basket could be described as well-stocked too though.. sigh.

BRUCE BURN

Ah, now theres an idea. A convention in the Seven Sisters. I assure you that there'd be room enough, for an American sized convention too. The first chamber is truely cathederical. Bigger by far than any con-room I've heard of to date... although one of the US con hotels migh rival it. I do believe, useing more of the workings, we'd get damm near all fandom underground. Hum.. thats an idea, a subteranean hotel, needs money to develope it of course, and so convenient if some nasty charachter should decide to start an A-War. Of course, food and drink and air would have to be stored, and blast-air proof doors. Still, its an idea.

ELINOR BUSBY

THE KING MUST DIE...the ill-luck of Theseus after breaking his oath to Ariadne's father.

As I said, in effect, in my Archie chapter, readers may read into Renaults book things that the author did not intend to be read into it, or did not care what was read into it, but, another idea suggests itself. If I may submit it for your consideration, there are accident prone - see many references re; - insurance companies - why, I venture to suggest, could not Theseus be of a similar type, a bad luck prone... maybe his oath breaking working subconsciously pushed him over the borderline mentally untill he started to "radiate" ill-luck attracting... brain waves? I hate to put anything down to "supernatural" sources... say, unknown origin, as of yet.

BILL DONAHO

Bricklayers, carpenters, price of building a house. I wonder, how much it would cost to convert a natural, or man-made cave into a suitable dwelling. Possibly the costs would be prohibitive?.

Actually while I'm not too favourably inclined towards postmailing I could concieve or concieving - sense? - that a post-mailing could be necessary. And, as you say, as long as the pm does not become overly bulky there doesn't seem to be any necessity to put an official ban on them. An occasional frown from the members would be sufficient to keep them within reason. Commenting or not commenting on pms must be left to the individual OMPAns discretion.

NORM METCALF

Arabs. I did use the word to describe the Moslem civilisation, yes. I was not aware of the Roman or Roman based civilisations long influence. I had assumed that Rome etc., had ceased to be a significant factor about the time Europe was trying to emerge from the Dark Ages. Most interested in this furthur data, I have much reading to do before I can try to fully appreciate it full influence.

What, what, what! Joan electrocuted? what gives?

I wouldn't say that I'm against post mailing, that conjours up a vision of me smiteing and hacking at the postmailer. Lets say that I'm not particularly in favour of them, and they should be avoided if at all possible.

JOHN ROLES

see above for postmailings attitude. Seems to be at least some support aimed at doing away with postmailings. Personally I don't think it would be a good idea to officially enforce a "no-pm" rule. Might alienate some good OMPAns. I wouldn't mind finding out the attitude of a majority of OMPAns to pms.. but even if 25 members were in favour of outlawing them I don't think it would be a good thing to do an official outlawing.

DICK SCHULTZ

just to say hello Dick, I'll do the comments proper later on. Hows it going boy? OK?

All ready for Willis?. Boy, I'm looking

forward to the Horrogate con...not long now, only a couple of weeks.

See our Ella is on the waiting list now, gad, will OPMA ever survive her?. Be interesting to see what sort of a zine she puts out. eh?. Anyway. End of this section. See ya. Ken.

IDOL THOUGHTS OF

AN IDLE FELLOW.



RID

(1924) IMPRESSIONS OF SOVIET Russia...C Sarolea...just shows you how wrong you can be. Predicts after his, or along with, observations that Russia will soon, or eventually, return to the fold. Interesting.

The Gods of the Greeks by C Kerenyi I haven't read enough of to form an opinion....should be OK though.

THE BIRTH AND DEATH OF THE SUN, is one I'm waiting to get back to with some impatience, have hardly started this book. Gamow has a good reputation I hear.

continued on p. 18....

Which means, actually, a brief rundown on my reading between - approx - Jan. 30th and March ...hum...28th.

Inspired by various other OMPans I merely wish to, er, to put it crudely, get onto the bandwagon.

Besides, my page count needs this extra one to get the next heading lined up right.

Start with those I'm still reading.

NJALS SAGA...trans...is a little slow paced...but is not so surprising seeing its more of a verbal saga than one to be written...and translated. It must have been told for generations by the skalds before anyone wrote it down. Date about 1010ad Icelandic fueds...particulary of one NJAL and his kin.

BLACK MAGIC STORIES edited by John Kier Cross more or less explains itself...dissapointing so far.

AN EXPERIMENT WITH TIME by J W Dunne...interesting anyway, porporting, if I get his meaning right, to be a new theory - the correct one of course - of the nature of time. No comment yet.

55 Short Stories From the NEW YORKER...most of it is utterly drivel, bores me.

GREAT TALES OF FANTASY & IMAGINATION...edited by Stern. Is right enough title actually, but I found it too much to get through in one sitting. So will take up from halfway as soon as possible...not bad at all.

to get there

now



If you remember, from the note in front of HAVE AT YOU, I expounded my new scheme for doing mcs., ie;- personalized items first, and now this. "This" means a general look around thru' the 31st mailing.

OFF TRAILS

1. Can't you persuade this British Museum bloke to contribute to the mailing? Darn idle b-----d gets all OUR zines....ho hum. Uhuh, only 12 on the wl, not quite enough for a coven, yet. Ah, back numbers, so thats how its done.

The egoboo thing, sorry, I don't feel I know my way around OMPA well enough to hand out points fairly. I commend the lad who had the thought of stapleing 2 Egoboo poll sheets to the back of the OO, people like me never, but never, mutilate books or zines to fill in forms etc., (like for prozine subs) I'm appalled that some people can do such things, and without a qualm too. And turn down corners, and put toffee papers in as book marks..ugh.etc., By the way, Election Ballot, looks curiously like a Russian ballot for...plenty of choice.....

AMBLE 9

Ah,hello Archie. I would like to ask;-

You,J M Baxter,Don Ford,C W Demmon(just about),

Bruce Burn and Norm Metcalf. Why,please, have you not a cover on your zines?. Then,all the rest of the Mailing; Why have you got covers?.

Oh,Ethel illos in E3,not as I depict her Archie,I can't claim any credit for them,was all Dicks work,original idea,drawing,cutting the stencil, all I did was to run it off. - is rather nice eh? -.

Strang,Herbert Strang, if I mistake me not this bloke is the author of my first-favourite-nostalgic story,Palm Tree Island. Ah,still get the old butterfly stomachache when I remember it.I've no idea how good it would read to you lot out there,but this was given to me when I was about 8-9,and being written for the 15-18 age,felt very wonderful satisfying and adult. The plot is fairly straight forward,shipwreck,south seas,mutiny,hannibales,but,come to thing of it it reads very well as a post atom-war survival book. Well written to my mind,in a sort of un-modern fullness,and richness. Um,probably overglory it in my rememberings. Gosh,I once scored 3 runs playing cricket at school,I didn't like it all that much...or football,but you had to go along anyway. I don't - gough,cough - disaprove of the various games and sports,if you play them, but I don't particulary care for the sideline experts.

By Jove Archie,now you come to mention it I recall seeing unpainted pencils only in Government offices,and my niece informs me they are still used in schools. Backlog of stock mayhap?.

Most interesting is your account of your conscription and early...adventures?...in the Army. I have no comments,observations then,to make though. Heh,heh,can't let you get away with this.Must see if I can remember enough of my NS to write a page or.(two). Write on Archie. What,with you and Ethel,we will soon be able to change the OMPA to Autobiographical Amatuer Rress Alliance. AAPA!. Is good.

Ah. C S Forester.Its years since I read any of his books. His fiction that is. I found all of them worth reading,admitted,some are not as good as others. I think he gets his charachters,if not in all cases alive, then at least believeable. Monseratt,in one or two books,reminds me of Forester.

SOUFFLE 2.

You,J M Baxter,are exasperating.Or,possibly,its me. You know I can't think of a single thing to say about Souffle..or even its contents,offspringe ancestors,relatives or friends. So. Suggest.ANYONE know where I can get hold of a sheaf of IQ type test papers. I rather like the idea of sending a paper around to OMPA. Be rather interesting. The best one I ever saw was a Navy paper. Testing ability to detect patterns...not like the MENSA one which is mainly an educational test.- in my opinion.

Ps... I don't think I'll sign this paper of your John, on looking it over I'm engulfed in awe and despair,weeeel. Poetic licence y'know.

By the way,question for OMPAns,if they'd care to make any remark upon it. I have always enjoyed various mental type tests and exams...ie;- the Forces exams,school even,and so on. How many of you have attitudes towards doing these test things,and,what are those attitudes...AND,most difficult in my estimation to answer, WHY do you think you have the attitude you have?.

ERG 11

The first and most obvious thing that strikes one about these two articles, E C Tubb & J Rackham, is the utterly different approach they have to answering your question. - I assume of course that you did ask them more or less identical questions in more or less the same words.

Tubb, the practical businesslike man, goes ahead and damn well tells you his ideas, covering quite a large area. While J R sets off on what could be described as a branch road. Not a diversion exactly, but he does look at it from only the one angle....probably an important angle, I admit, but nevertheless from an angle.

At least they were both good enough to write for you. For this much praise to both.

Lets have a nose through TTs bit again. Hmm, hmm, reasonable peramble to his observations...and he doesn't go off wild in para 2.

Actually I figure that - while nothing is certain - it would not be too much of a coincidence if things worked out much as he says.

Certainly Africa has yet to make her mark on the world, and the way things are going now something like a Nazi-Africa is not impossible. Can't see much benefit for the majority of Africans this century at least. As soon as, - or if - all the European nations pull out, or more probably, in spite of the continued presence of Europeans or, even MORE probably, because of the continued presence of Europeans, like South Africa, there is bound to be trouble, war. And of course between the rival African States. God help us all if some fool lets them get their hands on A-weapons. Things are bad enough as it is with France making bombs, and Isreal, I hear, thinking of making some sort of an atomic weapon.

One thing I am doubtful about, if there is a nuclear war say in 20 years time, I find it difficult to believe that the fallout problem will be solved. Unless there is found some way of converting deadly radiation of long life into light, heat or short life radiation as it explodes. Cleaning up after a bomb is of little use I should say...there may not be time to clean up after every bomb, and the background count would go up and up. Of course, maybe the war will be fought with heat rays, or germs, or continual sabotage, ..or maybe there will be no hot war. Maybe it'll stay a brainwashing war. I can't see why the Russians would want to drastically change the present situation. They're winning the cold war.

But China now. Ah, now theres the rub. China could well start another war...even Krush isn't too happy about his Chinese mates. I can see a China egging Russia on to war, then stabbing everyone in the back at the best opportunity. On population alone China might be expected to survive a nuclear war.

On the other hand. Australia. With a bit of luck, and planning enough manufacturing plant, and skilled technicians, might survive to reconstruct the whole world, if it is in too bad a state to start doing so itself. Anyway, Australia might have technical superiority enough to enforce reconstruction along her own lines, and do away with nationalism while she's about it.

Space Travel, sigh, will have to be the way TT outlines, no one man or firm can afford to build or run a spaceline. Even if they had Government permission. On the other hand, if some budding young Edison should just happen to be messing around with his electric blanket, and invents a practical anti-gravity device.....but hardly likely.

ERG 11 continued. John Rackham. Did you see that item on TONIGHT about March 19th? A 60 ton computer flown into this country, the lad said, and then went on to introduce a 200- lbs computer. One of those rare characters who are mathematical wizards...or at least, human calculating machines, I have no idea how creative this Proff; was. Most interesting, spouted long, correct series of numbers at the drop of a fraction. And doing it all, seemingly effortlessly, at normal speaking speed.

Actually, what JR says boils down to him saying that we could do with a method of training this faculty into anyone we want.

True. I would be a help in many fields. And there are other "talents" similar to this, edict memory for instance. Now that would be useful too. But JR can no more suggest a method for accomplishing these things than I can.

But I suppose someone just might.

CONVERSATION 17, & 18.

17 has the most superb cover. Such detailed repro...perhaps, it must be! an electro cut stencil. 18. cover was very decent too.

Last time one of our cats got stuck up a tree, - it was out white persian, I had to climb up and get it down.. Darn thing scrabbled about and finally clung, but clung, to my hip, all the way down. Trouble is that she loves climbing trees, I figure she has monkey blood in her somewhere.

"Community leaders of Newburgh decided that people should no longer be asked to support chisler".. "The City Council of Italy" "refused federal aid after a tornado". I do not notice that the average townsman was consulted on either of the two actions. "Community leader" "City Council".. har, b....dy har. They are all right Jack. Darn right they are. And how about this town Italy, how many poor citizens suffered because of the pomposity...stupidity, the self satisfied "patriotism" of the City Council...all of whom, I BET YOU, were well heeled enough to survive the after effects of the tornado. AND probably made a lot when it came to handing out contracts for reconstruction work.

Frankly, Lynn, I think you have a blind spot whenever the, dreadful? words "Welfare State" are mentioned. And I've noticed a lot of other Americans have the same reactions.

Not only that, but this letter from New York you quote, says "Socialism-communism wouldn't have a chance" by god, that's just about the oldest and dirtiest trick in - or out of - the book. Call your opponents something socially abhorrent, - give a dog a bad name and then hang him. Communism has got the pants scared of the majority of Americans, and those who aren't scared are careful what they say, just in case they get the sack, or a brick bugged through their window.

You only have to link something, SOMETHING INNOCENT even, it doesn't really matter. And, the MacCarthy Syndrome does the rest. To have a good opinion of anything linked with - wait for the dirty word - communism, is committing social suicide. That's the way it seems to me.

UND...just because, probably, some fat slob in the AMA and so on fear and hate the idea of a National Health Service, - which could be limited to real hardship cases easy enough - they have damn well plastered the idea with muck, said Welfarestateism is Communism, or at least, the first loathsome tentacle. AND millions of Americans will swallow it.) and British too, John Roles doesn't approve for one (

But, you, a fan. I'm surprised.

Lazy slob take advantage of the service in some cases, yes, but

THE SON OF THE FANALITIC EYE Etc., Wal, I don't know wether useing
me as an example of the type
of information in Who's Who is
to be taken as a compliment or an insult. Oh well, take it as no. 1.
BNFs who are not in, are not in because they did not reply to LDBs
circular (or perhaps he just missed them).

Croggled at the thought of Ron Bennetts' Grandmother, at the
age of 7, teaching him Hearts. I suppose they marry young in Rons
family.....

Harry has been busy. He's not bad eh?.

PACKRAT 4 Island in the Pacific where natives are subjected
to higher radiation - background? - than the
world average. I've heard of it too. I heard it
was 100 times as high as normal, but..well, 100 times?. The health
of the natives in question I have no data on. But regard the
statement of "exceptionally fit and intelligence" with grave
doubt. At least, if they are so it soesn't follow that the radiation
level caused this...tho' it might have eliminated the less fit, to
give these higher averages.

Jehovah's Witness. their...curiousideas. MY GHOD! well,
amend that, THEIR God!.

BINARY 1. Hi Joe....and just what was Irene doing in that
barrel!. Hmm. A pity, I'd have liked to have written
more, just can't think of anything, ah well. Hope
your stay in OMPA will be a long and happy one.

CHICKEN-WAGGON 1 I don't partuculary care for this type of
repro myself, still its clear enough. Talking
about a jetflyer who walks away after a chrash.
landing reminds me....There was one lad at the place I was stâtioned
who crashed in the woods just about half a mile from touchdown. He
landed in the middle of a small river and got out and walked up the
the bloke at the end of the runway..runway contoler..and says "I've
crashed in the woods back there" "Oh yes," say the Sarge. "like a
cup of tea?"...and we collected his A/C later on...rather amusing
at the time. Especially as no-one had noticed him come down until
he knocked at the runway controllers caravan door. Then there was
the time.....

Saga of the visit to the dentist appreciated...

ZOUNDS 7. Loverly, luverly, cover...Litchman, Mate! I just
love you sticking in questions. It sort of gives
one a basis to expound from....Wonder if other
OMPAns feel the same?... anyhow;-

1. condition "ability to learn the job". i/c British Museum. Then
I'd be able to get my hands on, well, practically anything.
For a second choice, or rather the first choice if I did
not have to adear to the "8 hour day" rule. I'd like to be a
full time archeologist. Reason? Extreme interest, combined with
Sense of wonder.

ZOUNDS 7.

2. Destroy the worlds entire stock of atomic weapons, Destroy every produced of fissionable materials. Destroy every mine where they are obtained but one, in CANADA, - a safeguard? - Reason. By the time atomics got into production again things, internationally might have cooled down.

Might even go so far as to distribute arm to all civilians in the Soviet bloc.

Would not touch anything pertaining to rockets or space-flight if at all possible. But would probably destroy all the records in re;- Political hate lists, Military lists of stores, equipment, names etc., of members of the forces. Without paperwork it is extremely difficult to run a modern army.

3. Appearance? hum. minimum legibility. Good cover. Duped on white paper in black mimeo. Clear headings to all articles stories etc., table of contents. Name and address of editor in prominent place, hum. Quarto size.

I don't know, can't think anything else, I'm no hand at describing, or imagining, a good fanzine format.

QUARTERING 1 un-usual cover... But What Has It Got To Do With Science Fiction?... tar rrrrrr!.

Shucks, only nit picking...

Say, you express my, um, way of fanning(?) to a T, I'm better at responding to things, like mcs, than producing something really original, creative. Which is why I admire/envy John Berry and similar highly productive types.

re;- little line at bottom of p.1. you put it there just to show how wrong such statements can be, didn't you? after all, flowers have been mutated to do both these things... tho' you could split hairs and say that then its not the same flower....

OLLA PODRIDA whatever that is supposed to mean. Hell, reminds me that Key, or Asimov or someone mentioned in one of their fact articles a certain Father Hell, a German priest... strikes me as rather funny, like the last war. A german officer named - I think - English, and the English officer named German... who met. Now all we have to do is find a demon, or a Black Witch or something named "Heaven".

Sentimental as hell, thats me, my Irish heretige I suppose, but I've watched things on... TV... -ugh! shudder, - that were real horrible examples of tear jerkers... and I've been criticizing them, literally tearing them to pieces... with tears in my eyes; I guess I'm just an old softie... um, particularly these "dog about to be destroyed by overbearing neighbour thus blighting the poor we masters life" sort of things. I HATE LASSIE!

OUTPOST 1 a particular apt title, Fred. Most original cover. now, uh, see, uh, if I, uhgg, can get, hurrhh, get that, uuh blasted stamp off... No, I might rip it. Not that I really wanted it, I don't collect the things.. Level 7.? I considered this thing to be over-rated... the bit about both the US and the USSR "Level 7s" reactors playing up put me off, it was a gimmick to end the story as far as I can see, if they did go wrong their should have been some rational explanation, like sabotage...

SCOTTISHE 27

the one with the psuedo Mukkinese Battlehorn on the Cover....Anyone see that GOON picture? or DOWN AMONG THE Z-MEN?, or that RUNNING JUMPING etc., film they

made in a field?...or,um,Postmans Knock,or the two new Sellars films?

"The Mailing My Number Came Back" eh,Ethel?.I rather like the idea of keeping the numbers too.

I'm wondering....this about giving activity to save another member from the axe. I would like to put this question to you,and the APA in general;-

Do you think it would be to the betterment of OMPA if the membership of OMPA was enlarged?.

This would,perhaps,give us enough numbers to absorb what I have heard called the "brilliant deadwood".

Also,should the miniac; be reduced again,or COMPLETELY abolished?

Suppose,just suppose, we did away with minimum activity requirements as such, and substituted something like this;-

Members pay 14/- a year. Members who produce less than the present miniac lose,pay,all the 14/-. BUT,members who do produce the required number of pages, "substantially" his own work, then they get 7/- of their money back....or held in their name towards the next years dues.

ETHEL! you know,cheat is a favourite of mine too,tho! I've played it only a few times...appeals to my low nature I suppose...another one I like is the bragg game where you make one set out of about a dozen cards,and you can swap cards with the pack,and with the other players, of course its not what you could call a highly skillful game,but it sure id fun...talking about games.

For those of you who have not discovered the WADDINGTONS game called R I S K, buy it! its wonderful,Tony,Jack,Daphne & I have been playing it for over two years now,and we still enjoy every minute of the game.....and KIMBO is OK too.

Of course,we make our own games.....at 70 men at arms and 30 knights a side....on a 2,000 square board...or our GALACTIC TRADER...ASTRONs big,big brother....

Machavarley....saw the TONIGHT coverage of this "Japanese are White,Chinese are Coloured" thing..rather droll eh?. Was cynically amused to hear of SA police molesting an oriental entering a "WHITE" bogs..er,convenience,under the impression he was Chinese,it turned out to be embarrassing for the police as the lad was a Japanese Embassy official.

Dig the moronic SA government...bigoted nit-wits,they have a big deal on with Japan so Japanese are declared White. Har,so much for all the guff they've talked about "a matter of principle" segregation is mostly economic it seems...if the "coloureds" have something you want then they're "white".

I should think that the Japanese people are seething at this too. Insulting when you come to think of it...being - officially only - declared "white"..when the SA can't tell a Japanese from a Chinaman anyway..and legislated against them.

Still,the Boers are renowned for their biblequoteing hypocrazy and their Untrustworthyness....at least,on the whole. Trouble is that they don't want negros in SA,yet they want cheap labour.I wouldn't emigrate to SA for \$1,000 partly because I dislike the SA policies,and I wouldn't be surprised to see SA involved in an open race war.

SCOTTISHE Machavarley parody of the situation much appreciated.
Willis...noted...what else could I do?. The reprint
of the "THE GLASS" article would actually be very
suitable for VECTOR. Think about it Jimmy?.

Please, please, continue your nurseing memoirs.

SIZAR Bruce; what is a weak breed of cat? As far as I
can see there are only two types of cat, 1. wild type
cats haveing nothing to do with humans. 2. cats that
live with humans, and, for their own purposes mostly, wear a thin veneer
of..er..tameness. No cat is really domesticated...not in the way some
breeds/individual dogs are. A cat has more self respect than any dog.

THE WALL Part 4. Conclusion. BRAVO Ethel, very adroitly polished off,
although I shuddered to think of everyone being
unable to speak in anything but a Scottish accent.
I don't blame Joe for goggleing at a "pea-sized" me. Words of thanks
for the story..great stuff.

DOLPHIN 1 Hmmm their seems to be a lot of "ls" in this
mailing...not that I'm complaining...like, Hello
Elinor, Howdy, etc., Nice cover..Atoms always are.
"A busby is a big hairy hat worn by guards at Buckingham Palace", did
you tell 'em they can use your name?...or perhaps...hmmm, you can't
have had that kind of a busby as an ancestor.

You make Seattle sound a nice place to live, all those
lakes and things..John B gives a good description of the approaches to
Seattle too, nice country it all sounds.

I haven't read any - yet - of the Meyers Meyers books...but
that title "The Wild Yazoo" sounds as if it would be a wonderful fanzine
title..hmm, yes..I like it.

Please, Elinor, don't advocate US types in OMPA going all British
and drinking tea and things to get into a British mood. I see enough
British as it is...y'konw, I figure ATOM could do one heck of a fine
cover cartoon around your .. idea. You know, suspender, sipping tea, typer,
wearing an awfully British expression...the kind Atom does so well.

ASP. 1. rather like the curious cover, feels kind of ,er,
Lilliputan. I don't know why, it just does. Ah, 'tis
an OMPazine from Big Bill Donaho. Digression;- The
name reminds me of western films..like Wayne, Ford etc., I've had an
ambition for years and years to get a part in a western...a "bad man"
role...I could be "English Fred" the "Boss" right-hand man, evil type
who shoots people in the back etc., just like real life. Actually my
interest goes back years. When I was in the RAF we got to talking about
all these un-realistic westerns and we worked out a film that would be
different. The "crook" would be a fat cowardly slob, the Marshall an
heroic type....Crook would have an extended career of crime, then the
Marshall would arrive and challenge the lad to a gun fight. You know
the traditional walk down main street. Only in our film the crook pulls
a fast one and uses a rifle on the Marshall from ambush...then skips
over the border to live in luxury on his ill gotten gains...I have a
suspicion however that the film would be banned...or like that.

ASP continued I saw a cartoon, the Sculttz "Peanuts" one in which is depicted a cat. Only a recent addition to the "cast" on this side of the Atlantic, this cat has just about the same personality as does my Tough Guy, his brother is more tommyish than he is though....
End of The World... I heard was passed of, as so many of them are, as a "miscalculation"... heh. Still amazes me... astrologers, and the many deified Hindu religion.. At least I assume that all the characters are deities... John Roles%.

POSTMAILINGS. I hereby propose that ALL British members of OMPA be forbidden to postmail. Overseas fans to retain the right tho'.. sometimes it may be the only thing they can do. Opinions?

I usually send extra copies of my OMPazine out after I have recieved the mailing. Reason. So that I can check up on the waiting list. If I were to go by the old list I would perhaps send 2 copies, to some people.

Ever thought of building your own house, with stones you collect from the countryside.. there must be places where you could collect rocks of suitable size... or would it take too long? Q. do you have to have any sort of planning permission or approval of the local authorities before you can build?.

I liked Wrights DELUGE and DAWN, they seemed so realistic.

UL 6. I liked NO TIME FOR SERGANTS, but DON'T GO NEAR THE WATER not as much... there seem to be a few decent little pbs around in this general area now.. liked one called CRY FOR HAPPY... DON'T STEP ON MY CLOAK AND DAGGER, and so on....hmm, DANGER, MARINES AT WORK, think I've read that too.
Parable if Isms... much appreciated..

MORPH.. 26 Read through the letters back and forth about this LOLITA thing.. my eyes!!! I figure money must mean more to publishers etc., - at least to most of them - despite all their squirmings. Its more profitable to have a best seller than scruples. Anyhoo, haven't read this Lolita thing myself, don't suppose it has any.. "message" anyway.

ENVOY 5. Hi Dick, again. Well, I can't think of anything to say this time. Actually, thats why I started this at the bottom of the page. So that I could start the VAGARY comment on the new one. Anyhow, next time perhaps? Ho. bust up over here about newspapers criticising the royal family. The Express was particularly picked on and printed, words to this effect. The Duke of Edinburgh was at some dinner and he gets up and says. "The Express is a bloody rag, prints distortions of truth, and has nothing more in mind than increasing circulation" Express comment was " We reckon that the Duke can look after himself he can too. I like the Duke.

VAGARY 15

I was extremely interested in those letters, er, essays, by the children. - tried to get niece mk.2 to comment on the bomb, all I got was gibberish, must try again sometime -. But, no generation yet has ever done its best for the children. Not that I doubt that to-days weapons make any war a far more disasterous one than has ever been...its just that every generation has thought that its own war was the most horrible. Hmmm I'm not getting across properly.

The only real differences between this and say the generations of 100 years ago is that we can do a tremendously more thorough job at wiping ourselves out. And, this, what you call "lack of reliance upon a Higher Power....children should have something to turn to when adults let them down"

Of course I don't say that there hasn't been disillusionment and "lack of someone to turn to" before this generation, Actually I guess its pretty inevitable that there are, have been, similar situations ever since man invented god. Its just that, 1, there's more of it now, and, 2. people notice it more. Actually I reckon that children in many cases substitute something like..say, a favourite toy, or TV, for a god when the parents bitch at it.

I was going to say "after all, who needs a god anyway?" but on reconsidering I can see that most(?) people would feel lost without one...like, it fulfills a certain human need. I wonder why people need a god..hmm...something that personifies all their perfections...to cry to for comfort, to rouse against ones enemies?, to feel ones fate is in far safer hands than ones own puny little paws?. Could be.

Most interested too in the items on witches, black and white, the black I prefer to avoid - tho', who knows, I may be unknowingly rubbing shoulders with them every day? - the whites sound a decent enough lot...rather more sensible than the organised religions too.

Gamesmaster pun...er...(eccchh) .. noted.

And thats about all this time round. Mayhap there will be some-----
POSTMAILINGS?!?!?



LDOL THOUGHTS OF AN
IDLE FELLOW,
continued...



LISTEN, YANKEE. C W MILLS, on the recent revolution in Cuba. Another lad here is chastising the States. Taking his words as entirely accurate, States deserve everything he says.

USES & ABUSES OF PSYCHOLOGY, by H J EYSENCK... might be interesting, have only gotten half-way through it yet though.

THURBUR COUNTRY, himself. No need to say anything about JT, some like him, some don't, mostly I like him. Anyway, would buy any book with a Thurbur label... within reason of course.. pbs.

CONTENT TO LIE IN THE SUN, by, W E Harney... seems to be a travel type book about Australia. But the wild parts not the towns. What got me was the photo of the author with an abo tracker on the frontpiece. I'm interested in Australia and its weird designs... like, 'roos, playpuss, bunyips.... J M Baxters..... lefthanded boomerangs... oh well.

THE INGOLDSBY LEGENDS, by Thomas Ingoldsby Esq., which I've heard of somewhere, but never read, yet.

AMERICA THE VINCIBLE, E J Hughes... seems to be a good swift kick in the pants for Americans who live in a fat smugness. I hope it does some good.

THE TRAVELS OF MARCO POLO, trans., could be written much better actually, but I like it anyhow, stirs up the old sense-of-wonder.

THE STONE AGE IN NORTHERN AFRICA... C B M McBURNEY, in spite of the scholarly gentlemen's atrocious style I like this... but I'm having a Dickens of a time sorting out information from the all too excessive verbiage and Un-communicative phraseology

BEN HUR, L WALLACE, someone told me I should read this years ago. So, am now going through a borrowed copy.

THE AMERICAN SLAVE TRADE, J R SPEARS, caught my eye a week or so ago, but I'm not very far into it yet. I hope it will prove interesting.

THE RIVER WAR... by Winston Churchill.. a re-print of a book originally written in 1899 which describes the expulsion of the Egyptians from the Sudan by the Mahdi and the death of Gordon, and then relates the events leading up to the battle of Omdurman, the battle itself, and what happened afterwards to the Dervish Emir.

Heartily recommended.

AND THEN of course I bought 2 new books to-day...EATING PEOPLE IS WRONG...which I've been looking for since I saw it in the Penguin list...and a thing called, THE CANTERBURY TALES, by some bloke named Chaucer...- translated by N Coghill -. Been meaning to read this for over 10 years..ahar! now I've bought it.

UND NOW, for der veddy virst time revfeeled to mortal mans, these books I have read.

THE GREEN SUNS, H Ward. wal, I guess its SF. Reads like a cross between Bernard Newman & Denis Wheatly spy stories, but watered down...with the Green Suns being practically an unnecessary inconvenience. Foo.

A CASE OF CONSCIENVE, J BLISH, this rated high? this thing was controversial? my saited er, podon! my Sainted Aunt! So-so book, only thing I regret is that Blish didn't use the Lithia background in a decent story..seems to me to have been thrown away...also the Earth population problem..seemed to have been thrown in, almost off-hand, perhapd even tiredly.

BLAST OFF AT WOOMERA, by H WALTER...alias Wlter Hughes - met him at a Wolverhampton Writers Club meeting some time ago, seemed a decent type. The book however, A "rover boys" type 17 year old midgit rides a rocket up 100 miles or so to take a peek at PICO where - wait for it!- strange dome-like objects have suddenly apeared. Is not really too bad...but not very good either. I'm rather wondering wether to try to get the next book in the series...THE DOMES OF PICO...just to see how he works things out ..hmmm.. Oh, a juvenile.

THE TROUBLE WITH LICHEN, J Wyndham. Opinion that it was written for a general readership .. reads like something out of WOMANS OWN ...or a warmed up Ethel M Dell. Extremely dissapointing.

THE BEAST IN ME...&...THURBUR ALBUM. I enjoy Thurbur.

ISLAM by A Guillaume. What it says. a short history of ISLAM. Reccomended but with reservation. It is too short.

THE EDGE OF TOMORROW, H Fast. Darn me, I forget all about this one..can't even recall one story...say, well, average.

THE GIANT STUMBLES..J Lymington. Very similar in athmosphere to The Green Suns..in a way...but thats about All I do remember, oh, something about the Earth stops rotating for a second...no good.



PEMMICAN, by V FISHER. Actually I rather liked this. Practically no story in the usual sense of the word. But writes of Indians, the Hudson Bay Co., etc., good.

THE MIND CAGE, A E van Vogt. Ah, I remember, a sort of dictatorship post atom-war. With an immortal leader, Fuhrer. Well, it isn't all that bad..but it isn't too good either. Below average.

ROLL SHENANDOAH, B LANCASTER, this I enjoyed. About a lad who is invalided out of the US Army and then returns as a war correspondent. American Civil War. Follow Sheridan around, gets himself a wife, and in the end his commission back. Not a wonderful book. But very adequate, I enjoyed it no end. Based on fact the blurb say..wouldn't be surprised.

ZULU ROYAL FEATHER, by O WALKER. A history of Dunnsland, almost, no.: more of a story of Dunns life, and a resume of what happened to his descendants. Dunn was a white man, English, who had the confidence of the Zulus for many years...round about the 1840s to '70 plus, he married scores of their women and at the time of his death his descendants numbered about 400. The part of Africa covered by the basin of the Limpopo is swarming with them yet. The book is actually his life story. Throws a very interesting light onto events in SA, then, and helps to figure out there results in the present. Recommended.

So, end of
"Book reviews"
for this time
anyway. I
begin to
wonder about
the advisability
of cutting
them next
mailing..heh?.

THE SKYBLOCK, by S Frazee, is not as good as THE MURDER OF THE USA even...oh, it has its moments, quite good ones at times...but the characters are never fully developed.. Read it if you can get it for free.

WORLD AFLAME, K Bulmer, I may be doing Ken a great disservice, but I can't remember a thing about this one.

DRAGONS ISLAND, J Williamson. Well it would have been great in a 1935 AMAZING...where it might well have come from.

THE SUN QUEEN, H Kaner. I haven't forgotten this one...eccchhh!!!! run 100 miles rather than read this warmed up 1920ish tripe. (I like lots of old SF, but this is not only old, it stinks)





SEX IN SCIENCE FICTION

John M. Baxter - for IPSO Mailing 5.

(Cartoon by Philby).

"Tell me a word that you've often heard,
Yet it makes you squint if you see it in print.
Tell me a thing that you've often seen,
Yet if put in a book, it makes you turn green.
Tell me a thing that you often do,
Which if described in a story shocks you through& through.
Tell me what's wrong with words or you
That you don't mind the thing, but the name is taboo."

D.H.LAWRENCE, 1925.

Like all vociferous minority groups, fandom holds that certain truths are self-evident. Perhaps we don't go as far as claiming that we have an inalienable right to engage in our chosen hobby, but nevertheless we do have our articles of faith, a base on which fandom stands four-square against the advance of mediocrity. Foremost among these tenets is "Science Fiction Is More Than Escape Literature". It is closely followed by "Fans are different to ordinary people", and less important but no less strongly held "Sex is permissible in science fiction if handled with taste". This we believe and are sworn to uphold.

I don't suggest that our blind acceptance of these dubious conclusions is an example of stupidity or narrow-mindedness. Certain subjects have been discussed ever since fandom began, and after a hundred article writers and convention speakers have examined a question and all reached an identical conclusion, we can hardly be blamed for accepting their logic without querying it personally. The role of sex in science fiction is a matter which has had the usual amount of publicity, and the conclusion of Those Who Know has been

that the important thing in approaching sex is that it be handled with sympathy and understanding, and that it be an integral part of the story. If these conditions are observed, it is acceptable, even desirable. Magazines and books which use sex to titillate are universally panned. If we accept this evaluation, we are doing no more than we were advised to do as children - listen to those who know more than we do.

The difficulty in accepting the opinions of our elders or superiors is that often those opinions are the result of erroneous logic or biased thinking. A professional writer who tells us that sex must be "tasteful" is probably voicing a subconscious envy of his colleague who made a packet from questionable material. Or perhaps his dislike of "sloppy" writing overshadows other aspects of the work which should be considered. He may even be covering up for some childhood trauma. Whatever his motive for panning "sexy" sf, he is usually expressing a conclusion based more on emotion than logic. Professional writers are too close to the subject. They of all people are least likely to give an objective valuation of the books they read.

I think it might help to define our terms in this discussion. What exactly is meant by "sex in science fiction". The committee's question was (perhaps intentionally) vague on this point. Basically, there appear to be two types of sexy sf - the erotic and the scientific. However, most fans tend to refer only to the first whenever discussing the general role of sex in the sf field. By "sex", we generally mean eroticism; descriptions of sexual relations between human beings be they male, female, neuter or any combination or multiple thereof. We mean material which is specifically written to excite and stimulate the reader sexually. It is this type of fiction which sparked the entire controversy, and about which the discussion continues to rage.

As I pointed out earlier, we have been conditioned into believing that eroticism in science fiction is bad. This is based partly on the combined opinions of reputable critics and partly on our own observation. Sex in science fiction is almost invariably handled clumsily and without feeling. It has been touched on only in passing, and with the possible exception of Theodore Sturgeon, no writer has ever given it a great deal of thought or produced any stories with a sexual element which could honestly be classed as sympathetic. It is generally approached with the characteristic hamhandedness of an action writer working with unfamiliar and refractory materials. Good erotic writing requires skill and imagination, tempered with sympathy, a quality not common among writers of science fiction.

Naturally, when we encounter a piece of eroticism produced by the average science fiction author, we are repelled. We feel uncomfortable. The writer handles his material as if it were shameful, and the reader in turn feels some of this shame. In reading it, he is contravening one of society's strongest rules. No amount of education will convince a man of the twentieth century that sex is not somehow disgusting. En lighentment will, one hopes, come in the future, but for the moment we must spend our Victorian legacy, meaning that the subject must be approached circuitously, obliquely, the ideas suggested rather than described. If sex is handled in this way, our sensibilities are assuaged. Because the prose is delicate, even poetic, we can read the erotic descriptions without fear, telling ourselves that it is the writing that appeals to us, and not the sex.

The primary interest in biological science fiction centres around alien life forms and processes, or around customs, human or otherwise, which could change our attitude to sex and reproduction. Some good work has been done in this area of late, but in view of its limited appeal and range, it is unlikely that it will receive much attention in the future. The discovery of biology as a legitimate area of speculation will make itself felt, but in view of the relatively limited possibilities offered by this science, the changes will be negligible. It must be admitted that, as a basis for sf, biology has been a disappointment. Only one writer, Philip Jose Farmer, has devoted any real thought to the theme, and his results have been reiterative and unoriginal. His stock plot (human being trapped in alien biological system) was the basis of some interesting stories, but it is not one which lends itself to adaptation or enlargement. There is more to science fiction than setting up a strange ecological system, and then explaining it.

There are more possibilities on the sociological side, but these have been almost worked out. We often forget that science fiction, even at its mildest and least critical, relies heavily on sociological and sexual extrapolation for its plots. Almost every story has a sociological theme which attacks one of our conventions, and as many of these conventions are sex-based, a great deal of mainstream sf is actually "sexy" in the terms of the committee's question. Sexual intercourse with aliens is discussed openly, and often approved (Boucher's SEABRIDE, Sturgeon's AFFAIR WITH A GREEN MONKEY). We have read about the possible effects on our society of an oral contraceptive (Charles Eric Maine's WORLD WITHOUT MEN), approved homosexuality as a weapon against overpopulation (Beaumont's THE CROOKED MAN) and a religion featuring ritual prostitution and cannibalism (Robert Heinlein's STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND). This novel also introduced the ultimate in perversion and voyeurism, a complicated sort of telepathic feedback employed by men and women whereby each enjoys the others' sensations. Even in sf, this is strong meat, but the frequent acceptance of polygamy, polyandry, perversion, flagellation, nymphomania and necrophilia has prepared fandom for it. In writing about sex in the future, science fiction is way ahead of everybody else, as the committee's question proves. We are so used to it that we don't even recognise it when it's placed in front of us!

To sum up, erotism has its place in science fiction, as does legitimate biological and sociological extrapolation on sexual themes. The first, however, is not receiving the encouragement it deserves from fandom, while the latter is perhaps taken for granted. Erotism, about which the entire discussion revolves, should be criticised on the frankness and honesty of its presentation, but not for its appearance, which is perfectly legitimate. The only basis for criticism can be its degree of titillation or the clarity with which it is written, and not the fact that it describes "taboo" actions or situations. Erotic science fiction should not be condemned merely because it is erotic, nor should we frown on its appearance because it is unsophisticated or blunt. If we are uncritical enough to welcome and enjoy "good old-fashioned space opera", we should be equally agreeable to the publication of "good old-fashioned pornography".

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AND THE CON TOO

The convention this year, as it is every year, was a rather strange and, perhaps I may be allowed the term, wonderful thing.

For a kick off there were a good many more fans arriving than had been anticipated, Ron had TWO Hotels booked...he had to go off and find TWO more. I have a vague feeling that British Conventions are getting bigger and bigger - Why, I remember the Brumoon in '59, only about 40 people turned up. I have an idea that the BSFA is the cause - or one of the main causes anyhow - of this upsurge. It is rather a good thing.

The BSFA? Oh didn't I tell you about that? Well its a sort of organisation some fans dreamed up...or more accurately I might say "revived"... back in...um... '58 it would be, yes, it says here, July 1958, and in April '59 they put on their first convention...oh, conventions aren't all of course, they have one of the best lending libraries - in a speciality field - in the world, probably the best in SF and Fantasy...Oh, no, you have to be a member, and living in Great Britain or, in some circumstances, Germany, before you can get to use the library, books get damaged so easy, and the BSFA isn't rolling in money to replace them. Japanese membership...?, Well, why not? we

see that there are many US members, and Australia and New Zealand are also represented. Think it over eh?.

Anyhow, I was telling you about this last convention, - do you have conventions or anything like that? - well the hotels were booked for the weekend of Easter.. April 20th, 21st & 22nd actually, with the first thing on the programme timed for 8pm on Friday evening.

- there has been a dearth of convention reports of late of course, there haven't been many conventions in the past 6 months, but -

Anyway, I borrowed my relatives car for Easter and 'way before dawn on Friday... about 3-50am, I rub the sleep from my eyes and stagger off downstairs, mooch around for a while, then grab a few bits of luggage that still had to be packed and into the waggon and off to call and get Dave.

In the, poetically speaking, regretfully unimisted darkness we stuffed a couple of 6ft long imitation Nikes into the car and set off.

We were out the other side of Birmingham - 12 miles ENE - before dawn and off up the A453 towards Nottingham to pick up Jim.

We got lost around Nottingham. After doing 12 or 15 miles we finally asked a 'bus inspector who - happily - directed us towards Netherfield, Jim, and breakfast.

Breakfast of course was enlivened by sparkling backchat... hurrm, who am I kidding?. Still we were all awake by the time we set off again.

I can see that if I continue in this vein I'll not get around to the con until next Easter.

So, about 12 miles short of Harrogate, under the eyes of mundane drivers in their thousands, I had a bit of an accident and bumped the front of the car, to cut a long story short we left the car and got a taxi into Harrogate.

Harrogate... damn me. Harrogate, I don't think I saw much more of it than the bit in front of the hotels, and during my walk, later to the railway station.. I was much too busy dashing back and forth between two hotels.

Its awfully difficult to describe a convention, its full of little incidents that need to be written up the moment they happen, or else they slip back and are forgotten in the incandescent glow of post convention memories... you know, I have a theory, Conventions never really take place, they are just a sort of mass illusion that certain people are subjected to once a year.... mind you, there were some preceety rare illusions this time.

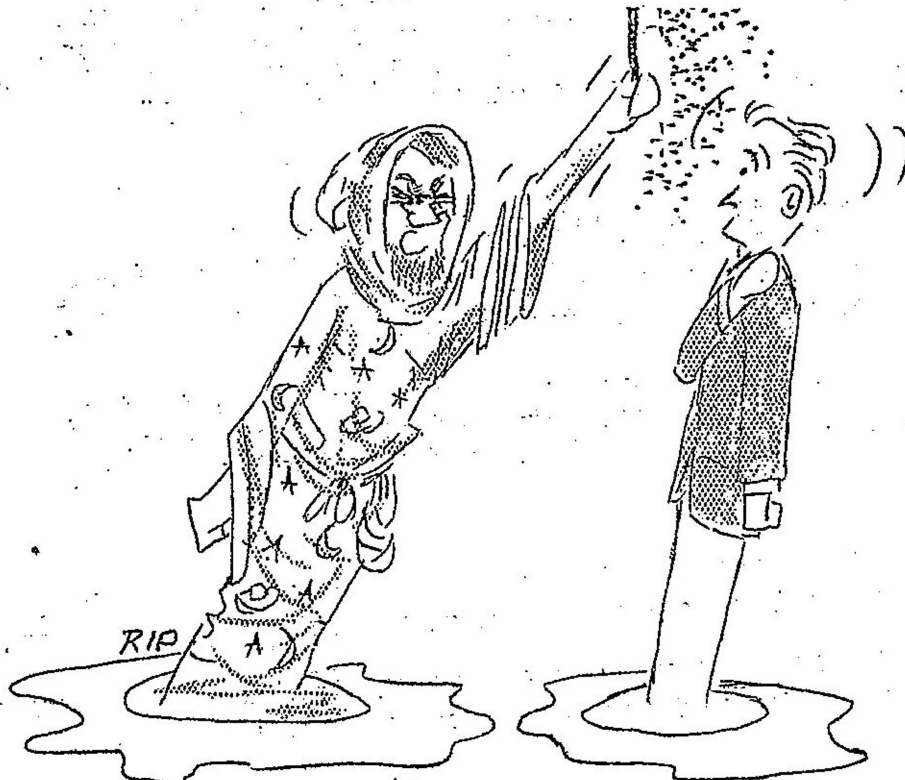
As I was saying, ages ago, the con-programme proper was supposed to start at 8pm on Friday evening - a "Welcome to Harrogate" thing - no-one (well, not those who'd been to a couple of cons aforetimes) was much surprised when the welcome thing got sort of lost - time drifting I guess - and didn't occur until about an hour after the time it was supposed to - sigh, thats like I guess -. I can't even remember what Ron said.. welcoming words I remember, but no details, I spend all my cons in a sort of extra-dimension. Why? don't you?.

Oh, you just have to attend a con to get the full impressions.

Saturday we had the tape (via Brian Aldiss) of the recent BBS PROGRAMME in which Aldiss, Amis, Bulmer, Brunner and editor Carnell gave - onto a BBC tape, which was later edited etc., - were asked questions on S/F. You know the things they ask S/F people in the better radio programmes, well this was a bit more sensible than that, although the BBC type made one or two - remarks? observations? comments? - which drew almost derisive laughter from the audience...it would have been derisive if it hadn't been tempered by a certain understanding. After all, the bloke wasn't a fan, so tolerate his faux passe was the attitude.

E R James, was interesting enough when it came to his turn in the programme...although he unfortunately speaks too softly. His attitude to yaga I found rather disconcerting, perhaps he is too willing to believe? maybe. He started his speech of right enough mind you, he broke the ice by standing on his head in a yoga position, and its not every con where you see that. Good luck to him I say.

I guess that the most interesting item of this day, possibly the most important of any day, maybe of any con for years, was the Tom Boardman - of BOARDMAN BOOKS - speeck...or rather discussion.



"AND ZTLUHCS AND NILSEHC TAKE YOU, FOR THY MINAC?"

The point to grasp about Tom Boardman is simple, but - in my opinion - rather important.

He is not publishing in a specialised field.

Now, that statement may look unsurprising and innocuous, but have you ever stopped to think that the only publishers-editors, the people who can get things into print, who have shown any interest in S/F can be, - or could be - divided into roughly 2 categories.

1. "getting-on-the-bandwagoners, as in the '50s boom, and
2. The specialists zines, S/F magazines.

Outside of these two categories I suggest that there are very few who are genuinely interested in SF.

There are even fewer who show a genuine sympathy, and a desire to further the "cause" of S/F.

Tom Boardman, I believe, is one of the precious few.

At the convention, - if I can believe my ears -, Mr Boardman made a suggestion which boils down to; - "I'll let you lot pick a certain number of stories, to be written by those in your ranks, and original, and I'll publish an anthology containing the best of them"

Now, there has been some talk aforesaid about the BSFA choosing a certain number of stories each year, which would have, of course, appeared beforehand in print, and submitting them to a publisher known to use S/F with a few words to this effect; - "We represent the most active and articulate section of your S/F readership. They, via circulars, have voted that such-and-such stories (- authors, where published etc. (- would be most likely to appeal to the general S/F readership, and we suggest that you might like to bear these in mind when constructing another S/F anthology"

That is very roughly what has been discussed before.

Tom Boardman's offer, you will appreciate, is as much like the original idea as cream is like dried milk. The original idea would - if we could interest publishers - be a good thing, but the new idea... well, the convention was struck dumb.

I don't know if Boardman thought us rude or unappreciative, we certainly were not. But I for one was stunned and speechless, and so was everyone else, at this amazing offer. Right out of the blue.

Now, at the time I'm writing this for the next OMPA deadline, I'm not too sure what is going to be done about it, the offer, I mean.

But, I DO NOT HAVE TO KNOW WHAT IS BEING DONE. the most important point is that we have made just about the strongest ally S/F has ever had in mundania.

If, that is, Tom Boardman thinks of himself as mundane.

- Kingsley Amis, you may say, is S/F's greatest ally in mundania, but! I say - with all due respect to Mr Amis, that he is insignificant compared to Tom Boardman.

My reason for this opinion is simply. I concieve Amis of being interested in S/F merely as a vehicle for Huxlyiteisms and other forms of social satire...the "looking for the True Significance" school but;- this attitude restricts S/F, therefore I consider it harmful,

On the other hand, it seems to me, Mr Boardman knows darn well that S/F read and written for enjoyment, not as mental toungetwisting, and its forte is the exploring of anything and everything. If that results in mindstreching concepts, OK, but its got to be interesting reading too, and if it results in Social Satire, well, thats fine too, provided that the story is worth reading.

But, we'll have no limits set on what we call S/F.

How where was I?. Oh yes, this is supposed to be a convention report.

Hmmm. it says AUCTION here, yes, I kind of remember it. These auctions you see, well fans bring their spare S/F books and prozines.. and fanzines too, along to the con where they are auctioned off to the other people attending the convention.

The resulting money is used to defray the convention costs, or to help TAFF or similar worthy causes.

TAFF?...oh, I'd forgotten.

Well, TAFF is merely initialese for Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund, see?.

NO?, oh. well, you see the shceme started some years ago...concieved I believe under the name of the Big Pond Fund.

The idea is very simple - eveything in fandom is very simple, includeing the...agarrhrrhhhh!

What happens is this;- each year either an American fan is sent to a British con, or an English-British fan is sent to an American con.



RIP

To win TAFF a fan has to be nominated by 3 US fans & 2 UK fans and then his name, together with an "election platform" written by the nominees, and the names and platforms of his rivals, are circulated as far as possible throughout Anglo-US fandom,

The person who finally makes the trip is chosen by ballot. To VOTE for a TAFF candidate a fan has to sub a certain sum towards the TAFF funds, he is then entitled to vote, and by voteing indicate the manner in which he wishes his donation to be spent, if possible.

As far as I know the Taff candidate, to win, needs only a simple majority; I can't remember hearing of any TAFF campaign when the candidates got so nearly the same votes that there were arguments.

Outside of these TAFF campaigns there have been/are other schemes for getting particular fans across the Atlantic. The original Willis trip for instance, and the Berry Fund.

The latest idea, going full swing and assured of success already is the plan to send/fetch Walter Willis across the Atlantic again this year, the 10th anniversary of his first trip.

This gives me two excuses. I can now say:- "That reminds me, I met Willis at the con" or I can say. "Ron Ellick was this years US TAFF representative. When I saw him at the con I....." etc.,

I did so meet both of them tho'. I think the most distinct impression of Ron E I have is of him sitting there playing brag.

Honest. I have difficulty imagineing him in any other setting. Tho' I do have vague pictures of him standing up.....even of standing up with Eric Bentcliffe and talking about TAFF plans....but I just can't dissasociate Ron and Brag anymore. Heaven Help US Fandom When He Gets Back...and all that.

Even Walt Willis, (eh? Ron?) I have few clear recollections of. I remember James White, and McAuley, and Bob Shaw, ah, I can't remember Bob Shaw at all, sigh. But White, I remember his wild eyes and, honest, flashing, gnashing teeth when he was on the pro panel.

Willis, as far as I saw him, was quiet and reserved...well, quiet then..maybe what it was was he hadn't warmed up when I first saw him..thats when (logically enough) I formed my first impressions, I wish the con had lasted a couple of weeks I would rather have liked to have known him longer.

The Fancy Dress party was dissapointing this year, scarce a dozen people dressed up. The Gnays were their usual superb selves--er, non-selves, again, I suppose they were dissallowed because of the very proffessional appearance they made? It would have been no competition otherwise.

Darned if I can remember who won the fancy dress...Ethel was one of them..with a "Sector General Nurse" outfit..but the others?

Oh, I had a helmet thing lying around, and, for the fun of it, stuck it off Slater Jnrs head, being vaguely Tolkienish myself I said "Strider and Hobbitt" to the judges, slung Slater Jnr, (who enjoyed herself no end) on my shoulder, and she won us a Special Commendation, or something of that nature. Gratifying. I'd made my outfit actually in the expectation of another battle royal. The room was too small tho'.

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Most of the talking I did at the con was with the German contingent. The 7 of them had traveled together to the con. Most enterprising of them. I was fascinated by their schedule of a con every three months...and particularly by the idea of their main con which - if I recall accurately - lasts a week or so.

While I think of it. Thomas Schlueck, HANNOVER, Altenbekener Damm 10. West Germany... who was at the con, has produced an English language zine. Whilst I haven't yet - sorry Tom - gotten time to read it, I have heard that it presents a different point of view on Gerfandom than THE BUG EYE does.

I've said it before. TBE is OK by me, but I would still like to hear another Gerfans opinions.

This is your chance.

Now...um...yes the Fancy Dress was not as good as it has been.

Some time later, when things had quietened down a little someone produces four mad little Soggy type characters on horses, carved out of wood and painted in a most delightful manner. With this set of riders it was proposed to have races, and we did.

The riders & beasts were mounted on small stands of wood, string was attached to the front of them and they were then dragged across the carpet towards the controlling fans. If a mount & rider fell over it was disqualified. With Ron Bennett & Phil Rogers working the tote, and four new fans each race hauling the pieces a wonderful time was had by all.

That was Saturday. That was.

The first thing next morning was the AGM of the BSFA, apart from the Tom Boardman bombshell there were only a couple of things of general interest.

The consite next year. London was bidding, and at the last moment practically Ken Slater put in for Peterborough. He got it too, in the afternoon, by a 39 to 25 vote, or something very like that.

I think it was the younger fans that swung the vote, I think that they, rather unrealistically, were annoyed at Ella because of the supposedly fantastically high prices she was telling them they would have to pay. I think we're going to have to wake up to the fact that the prices we have been paying are better than we had any right to expect, and, sooner or later, whether we like it or not, we will just have to pay to get a suitable hotel. This it is said would be hard on some of the younger fans...I couldn't say. Anyone like to?



I voted for Peterbro'. To my mind there was but one thing I could do. I had no bias, except perhaps towards Ella and co., but, Peterbro' offered BSFA perks, the London con did not, its that simple.

Why, I do not know, for the 2/6 off the BSFA bookings would have made no difference to the Loncon, because they know, or, should know that the BSFA has funds to aid cons. These funds are available on request and would, if necessary, easilly outweigh the 2/6 lost on the BSFA bookings. I should hate to find that London lost a con just because of an oversight, I imagine other people voted the way I did for exactly the same reason.

Pros.. White, Aldiss, James, Harrison (!), and two more. One named Ball I think... interesting enough, but I figure its better, if you can, to let pros natter than ask them questions... the discussion was OK but apart from Whites wild eyes and Aldiss' passionate (yup) outbursts pretty well unexciteing. Oh, Harry Harrison is a scream.

Somewhere around here the TAFF Talk got lost. Instead Ken Slater got on with a sort of "Ask Me Another" S/F Quiz game... I did OK really, answered one question almost by myself, was told another by the audience, and more than half guessed a third.. still, it was great fun. Great fun.

What was probably one of the most interesting items of the whole con, I missed. I'm looking forward to reading accounts of it tho'.

That was, the talk by Mike Rosenblum on early fandom in UK. I got the first bit, about how the '37 fans were bemoaning the impending degeneration and collapse of S/F, and how all the youngfen had no money - sounds familiar eh?. Then I had to leave, pity.

Its a most peculiar feeling, meeting someone like Mike Rosenblum, one of the "Elder Ghods", it makes you think about the future, the lads in 1980 for instance, what will they be doing-reading-saying then? and what present-day fans will still be around.. and so on.

Later on, about 7-30 or 8 the film was shown. Not too bad actually not really S/F I suppose..hmm, tho' I suppose it probably has to be classed that way because the action takes place in a hallucinatory world, after a sucessful operation the protagonist ceases to have the hallucinations. Yes, come to think of it, the film was pretty good, enjoyable anyhow.

And later that night Ron Ellik showed us some colour slides. Pointing out various fans and commenting when anything needed comment-ing on.

I hear there was an exellent film show, LiG, in the Other Hotel later that night, it seems nearly everybody knew about it but me, sigh. I missed it, which is more the pity because I've seen LiG film shows before and can appreciate what I have missed.

Well, thats it more or less; I struggled off about 10am next morning. The con seemed as if it had vanished like a morning mist. All I have now is a warm glow and a memory...until next year anyhow.

This has been. ENVOY 6, for the 32nd OMPA Mailing - June '62.

From, K M F Cheslin, 18, New Farm Road, Stourbridge, Worcs., England.

The cover is by Harry Douthwaite, the illo on p 21 was on the stencil JMB sent, probably philby, all other illos in this issue are by the inimitable Herr Schultz.

The John Martin Baxter item first appeared in IPSO, and is here reprinted with JMBs permission.

I guess you can figure out for yourselves who wrote the rest of the zine?.

Oh, the Con Report Thing. Was something like an experimental thing...any comments?

The RACKHAMART thing I would have liked, but it falls into the very same sins that JP accuses fannish art of in his editorial or foreword.

Thought for this week.

Have any of you thought how droll it is, that the base from which the latest series of US atom-tests are being carried out should have a name like CHRISTMASS Island?

Comforting statement by Ministry spokesman, "It would take at least 2 100megaton bombs to completely destroy this country".

As to optimistic statements about "getting the 100 megaton missile before it can reach us" I find it rather hard to believe that the Enemy would be so obliging as to send ICBMs over singly, just to give us a sporting chance.

Oh, Statesides,

VIVA GLENN!
