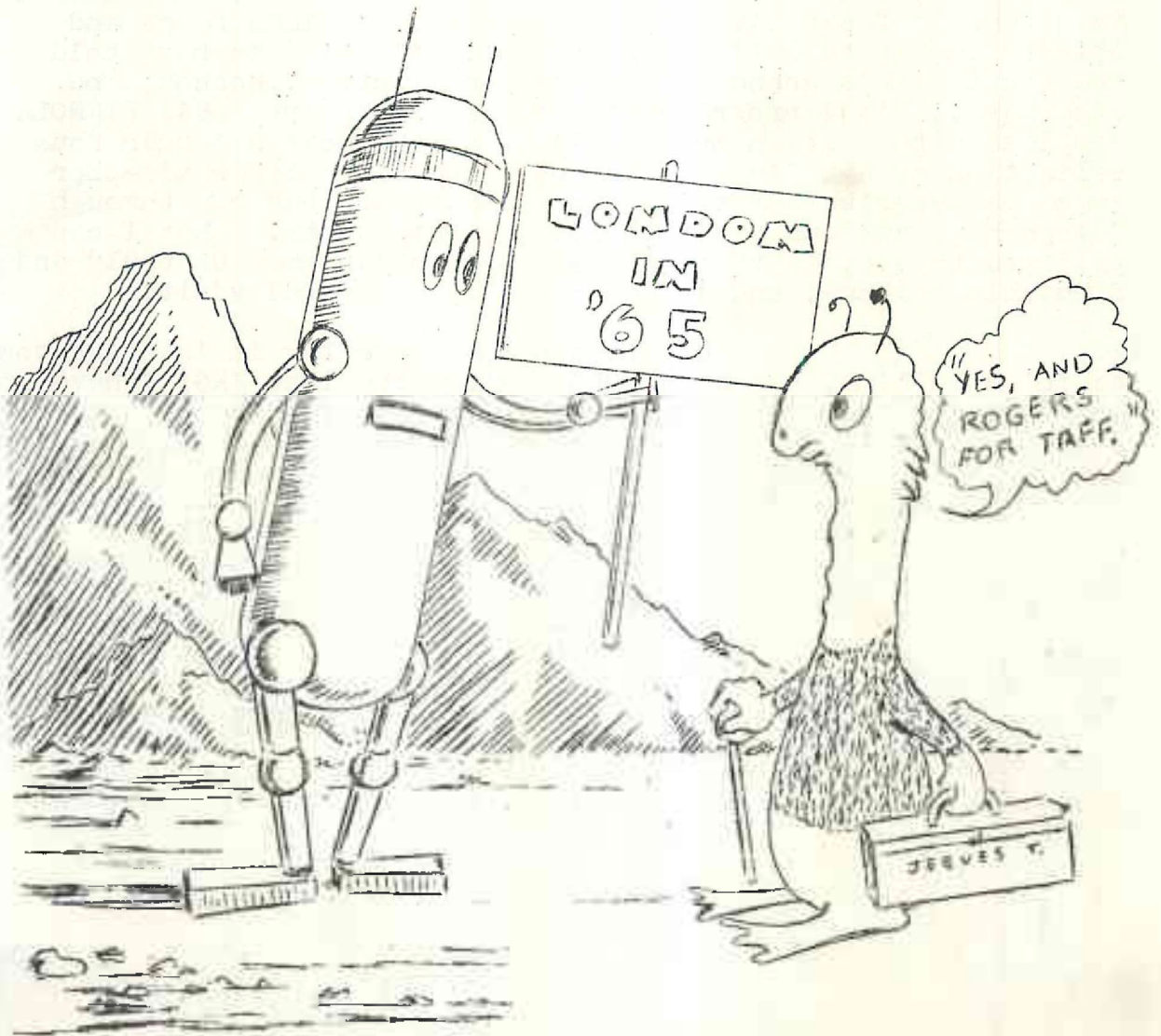


RECEIVED JAN 18 1964

ERC 18.



ERG 18

DECEMBER — 1963

ERG is printed and produced
by Terry Jeeves from 30
Thompson Rd. Sheffield.11.

Greetings Gentlethings,

This issue should have contained a rip-roaring account of the trip made by Val and I up the great A.1. traffic artery (with suitable pauses to refill the boiling radiator from a hotwater bottle) to the teeming parking-meter studded Tynesdie town of Newcastle. Had I not run out of time you would have heard of the great hospitality extended to us by Alan Burns and his mother. I can honestly say that we have never been made so welcome anywhere else I have visited. Nor have I even been so faced with a variety of foods, wines beers and spirits enough to satisfy any palate. I'd like to have told you about Alan's grand colour slide collection...Moscow, and elsewhere.. His Ferrograph and Brenell recorders, His PIANOLA complete with umpteen music rolls, and the most heterogenous collection of s-f I've ever seen. There is neither time nor space to describe our trip down the harbour, our run through Colwyn Bay, and our visit to local beauty spots. What I can tell you though, is that Alan and his mother made us truly and fannishly welcome, and it was a really wonderful visit.

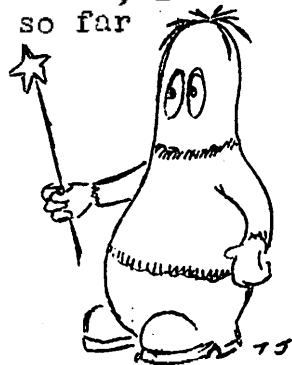
One reason for the delay in 'getting down to it' this time, has been WORK. Since the last ERG, I have not only completed the Astounding Checklist Part.1. (adv) but got down to part.2. The first attic has been wallpapered, a new landing carpet laid, the toilet ceiling tiled, and several asthma bouts weathered.

Speaking of the asthma, I'd like to take this chance to thank all those good people who had indicated their support for a Jeeves for Taff campaign in '64. I'm afraid that this asthma made it both impractical and unfair for me to run at this time. The campaign would have been a stress, but had I won, I would probably have been forced to withdraw at the last moment. However, some slight improvement seems to be appearing, and I'm hoping that by the time the next U.K. nominations come up in a couple of years that I might be a better bet.



Philately has also managed to call me back to the fold once again, and although I never really packed up the hobby, it has lain rather fallow until fairly recently. I got around to exhibiting about 250 'Sputnik' stamps at the

Petercon, but not many fen saw them, as I didn't like leaving them unattended for too long. Since then, I've extended my British and American collection so far that I've had to invest in a third album. It now works out at 1. Sputniki and Britain. 2. Argentina and USA. The rest of the World fills book 3. So if any of your throw your stamps away...how about throwing 'em at me ? Ta.



At the time of writing, Lord Hailsham hasn't remembered to get around to becoming Quentin Hogg...a thing he seemed indecently anxious to effect when Mac resigned. I did hear that a new Peer may be created so that Hogg could contest the safe seat and thus enter the Commons. Which just shows how much Democracy is worth as far as one's vote is concerned..No doubt even Joe Stalin or Nikita Krushev would get in without a murmur if they called themselves Conservatives. I'd prefer something along Swiss lines, where elections are held almost weekly whenever a major point arises. Seems more practical that way, than a blanket vote which has to stand for 4 years and cover everything from bomb banning to old age pensions (not to mention parking meters and Purchase tax)...and all this of course is assuming that our elected representatives follow the people's will, and not slavishly vote 'Party' Oh yes, a wonderful system. Before someone says.."it evolved and is better than..." I agree in both cases. It's better (in many ways) than Communism, and it did evolve..trouble is it then stopped evolving as far as I can see, and we're stuck with an archaic, tradition ridden incubus around our necks..or wherever you put your incubus.

Remember all those people after Mac's head for not purging Profumo (and a load of others) on the first word of scandal, and without any proof. "He should have done something about it". Latest fun is this brouhah caused by some clot who did do something. To 'protect' the workmen of Camberley or somesuch, a list of 'wives to avoid was circulated. Naturally this bit of 'doing something' caused a stink. Seems you can't win where morals are concerned...apart from the workmen, who were no doubt tickled pink to be given a visiting list to save them any wasted time

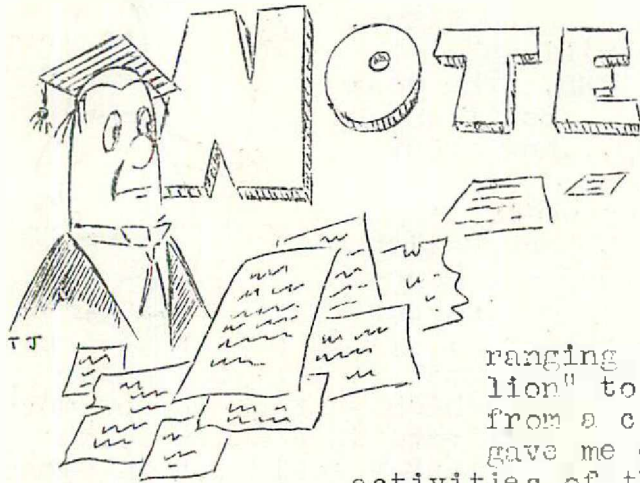


"MOTHER WAS FRIGHTENED BY A HAIRBRUSH"

chatting to the more prudish housewives.

And that concludes the ERG capsule this time round. Bess twitches, Terry

WORTHY OF



Being a schoolmaster has all sorts of unexpected surprises hidden around the corner.

Schoolboy howlers are legion ranging from the "Equator is a menagerie lion" to the little gem I once culled from a composition on Christmas...it gave me quite an insight into the sex activities of the genus parento communio.

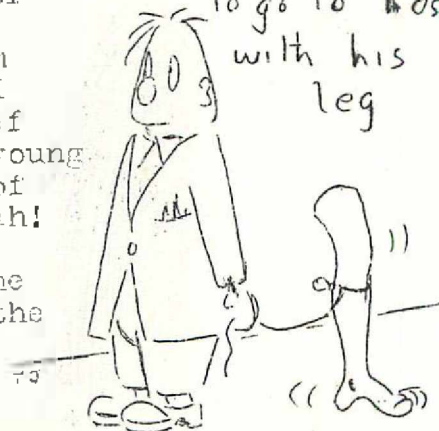
I quote..."Father was in the kitchen raping a parcel"

However, there are other sources of howlers..the type which crop up when the pupil is called upon to supply an excuse for leaving undone something which he ought to have done..or even for not appearing at all. Common items in this class, are the following... "Sir, I had to go the hospital with me ear", "Sir, I had a bile" "Sir, I didn't have any shoes to wear" The beauty of utter simplicity was reached the other week by one of my class. He returned after two week's absence, and slid quietly into his seat. I called him out and asked for his excuse...the answer was a masterpiece of brevity..."Sir" This was followed by an expression of blank idiocy. Further probing elicited two more 'Sirs', and a bubbling noise which gradually simmered to a stop. After promising the offender a closer view of the latest educational teaching machine (my cane) the tongue de-gummed itself, and revealed that a cold in the head had caused the absence.

Because of the difficulties of separating the true from the truant (similar in difficulty to the problem of parting the Isotopes of Uranium) I (and the Headmaster) insist on a brief note from the parent explaining why young hopeful graced me with the pleasure of his absence....Simple solution? Hah!

We have now proceeded from the known to the unknown...to wit, from the familiar ground of the schoolboy howler to the futile ground where the parent sows his (or her) wild notes. The following literary

"Jimmy had to go to hospital with his leg"



gems should prove something..if only the fact that the modern educational system is turning out the same type of moron as we had in the old days. Next time someone says..."We had to write proper when we was at skool"...wave one of these letters under their nose. The letters, and the grammar are genuine..only the names have been changed to protect the guilty.

"Stuart had to go for his suit and shoes. Why he didn't go Saturday was its to busy"

I might add that Stuart having had the day off for a spending spree also begged leave to pay his dinner money at the end of the week, as his mother would not have any money until then.

"Dear Sir, I am writing over Ronald ((Poor lad)) as I were going to get permission of Mr. XXXX to go for his Whitsuntide clothes only I was ill before I had time to write to him. I hope it was all right for him to have it of"

"Dear Sir, I am writing over Ronald ((again !)) only he as had pains in his tummy and sick"

Then one parent keeps promising/threatening to come to visit me..so far I haven't found out why, but the following little set of letters seem to show a distrust of violent headmasters and great faith in my miracle working.

"Sir, I am going to see Mr. XXX the Headmaster of (name of a different school). I am coming up to see you when I come out of hospital. Kelven by the way is a nervous child, he must be braught out of it; it is because he as always been ill with one thing and another. Can Kelven say his tables near your desk he knows them.((does he hell)) Please do what you can for him. ((Lead us not into temptation))

Part.2 of this gripping epic...

"I was coming up to see you concerning my Son Kelven he as been ill lately. I let him out to play Saturday & he was taken ill again. So please see he is not taken ill at school."

The latest communication..

"Kelven isn't well these days ((who is)) he as had his glands bad, also he seems to be all nerves, also he as a bad caught. on no Condition must he take his Vest off I thought he had finished being ill now he's 11 years old, He's had it very rough. he's had every thing wrong with him. ((Sob)) Please see he is alright I will be coming up to see you when I feel well myself"

The last epic carried a rider in the form of a scrap of paper 3" wide and 1½" deep bearing only the cryptic information...

"If he does not feel well while he's at schoal please send him home"

The foregoing letters are all written by upright English (?) speaking citizens. My final offering is from a Pakistani who has only been in England 8 months...I am having to teach his

6 English before getting around to normal work. The grammar may be slightly precious...but compare the spelling..AND the standard of English with the earlier gems. Yet I venture to bet that most of those upright 'British' parents would feel themselves greatly superior to the Pakistani....and his sons is trying to catch up which is more than the others do.

"Dear Sir,

My son named XXXX XXXX, who could not attend his classes for the last two days at 21¹⁰/₆₃ and 22¹⁰/₆₃ as he was sick and he had been attending the hospital in the town.

Therefore, sir you will excuse his absence from the school. And moreover, you will allow him to go to Hospital at 12 Noon as he is advised by doctor to attend the Hospital tomorrow on 23¹⁰/₆₃.

Thanking you sir.

Yours Faithfully.

XXXXXX XXXXXX

Dated :- 22¹⁰/₆₃

Incidentally, he also used a sheet of writing paper rather than follow the herd and use either toilet paper (Viva Bronco) the back of an envelope, or the margin torn from the edge of a sheet of newspaper.

In case you happen to be a parent..next time Junior is away from school, watch out in case your slip is showing. And if you are one of the legible letter writers...praise ghu and be proud.. ..you seem to be in the minority.

-o-

A Checklist to ASTOUNDING. Part.1. (1930 to 1939)

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(b) Listing by author
(c) Listing by story
(d) List of all fact articles

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Faneds who duplicate this ad. or pass on the information will earn my undying gratitude.

My thanks to the purchasers who also thought to include postage, it was (and is) greatly appreciated.

OMPAVIEWS
OMPAVIEWS
OMPAVIEWS
OMPAVIEWS

7
Here it is, November the 8th, and Erg still no more than a dirty gleam in my last tube of duplicating ink. Therefore, though these reviews were prepared just after the arrival of the last

mailing, they will have to be re-capsuled in a shorter form for me to get them done in time. That's what comes of putting odd jobs before the serious business of fanning.

OFF TRAILS..Just a query or two here. How come Vol.10 No.1 and whole number 37. I work this out at 3.6 issues to a volume. Is queer ??

SCOTTISHE..BEST COVER .. This is becoming a habit..it's time you had some competition. Good for Atom. Good idea to return surplus Ompazines with the mailing..OR send out with OT to the Waiting List. Machiavarley..incomparable as ever. Another good issue..(and Asf has dug another rut don't you think ?)

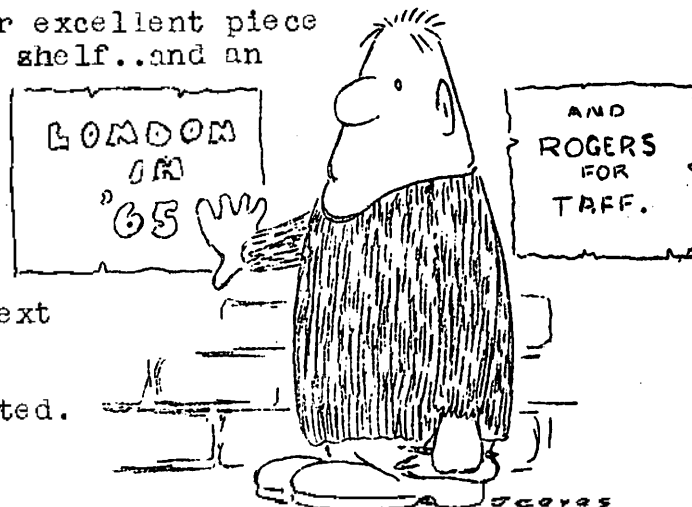
OUTPOST..2nd Best Cover, and the BEST interior artwork. I'm afraid the next satellite issue will take some time, as any spare fanac time is going on Part.2. of the Astounding Project. This was a very good issue, and I particularly liked 'Clip Joint'

MORPH Runner up in the Cover stakes. How about raising our page quota to 16 (or more) and cutting down on membership to 45 ↑ This way, we might get better mailing response. Agree that the old Dracula was far better..Cushing (in technicolour) makes me either giggle, or wince with embarrassment. How did you get permission to wear Punjabi dress rather than KD ? Only time we could doff KD was up to sunset when on leave. After sunset, we had to re-uniform so that girls could see we were not officers, and we couldn't go into the Taj Mahal, or Green's or the Harbour Bar. The pub for O.R.'s was either Mongini's in Bombay, or the Casanova in Calcutta.

CHECKLIST TO SFA..Another excellent piece of work for my reference shelf..and an idea to crib for Part.2 of my Asf Checklist

PLAIN PSYCHO..I enjoyed filling this in, and then forgot to post it until I just found it in the pile...Oh well, next time huh ?

TAFF FORM...I already voted.
(Wot about U ?)



DOLPHIN This wine making caper sounds rather dicey but just
Messrs Birchby and Shorrocks are devotees, but for me it
involves too much work. You misread me. I don't dislike Sheffield,
I love it, that's why I live here. Sorry those dislikes make the
zine chilly, but in that same issue, I also said I liked..cars,
drawing, Analog, 8mm cine, 35 still filming X words, Atomillos
and the Petercon...and George Willick.

WHATSIT Your query answered..the fine stencil line was cut as
described in Erg 17 (with a gramophone needle). Slater's
book losses recur every year, which is one reason why he now no
longer leaves his stand unattended if he can help it...seems fen
can include all kinds doesn't it. Ban the Press might even be a
good convention theme for future years, do you agree? Yes, I'm
in favour of flogging surplus Ompazines..or even mailings, if the
floggable mailings are obtained by reducing the membership and
upping the page quota. Agreed that 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 averages
out at 5, with 4 figures above and 4 below.. but did you notice that
four figure's out of nine is LESS THAN 50% below average? and so it
goes.

DETROIT IRON W Mailing Comments are increasing, yes, but it is
about time more Ompazines showed signs of pre-
planning for quality rather than a haphazard slap anything on
paper to make up a page quota. We can't all do it all the time,
but by gum, some members come in, go out, and NEVER do it. Also,
you will not improve mailings by increasing membership to bypass
the deadwood...why bypass 'em anyway?? Chuck 'em out and make
room for interested members. Low activity requirements only
attract deadwood. Your turn to bash at me now.

ZOUNDS Viva the poll, and I enjoyed your ramblings. I'm in
favour of peace, but not bomb banning. What is your car
by the way, on the same page you refer to it as an 'Olds' and a
'Wolksvagen' Is it camouflaged?

POOKA That stickpin affair read like something out of the 'Status
Seekers' You know the sort of thing, God and the Co. and
like that..I didn't realise it was that bad. Like your idea of
retiring to an old age of fan pubbing, but who turns the handle?

AMBLE...That man doing the refusing..what would I have done?
Simple, seen a doctor. DON'T RESIGN FROM OMPA..NO. No.

SMOKE Fraid that cover gave me the haddabs..enjoyed Lockjaw,
and Sellings..both very good. You want artwork? just
send a stencil and I'll desecrate it for you.

NAMSASCF Hearty wedding congratulations...further, I'm just
wondering how many thousand movie scripts you will get.
Meanwhile, I'm looking forward to seeing you at the '65 Loncon.

HEX Although I enjoyed your mailing comments, I just can't get
around to commenting on comments...so, no comment.

And a Happy New Year to you all.

Terry

PHIL ROGERS FOR TAFE

THE CON-GOING FAN.