

Dedicated to the
proposition that all
Sputniks are equal.

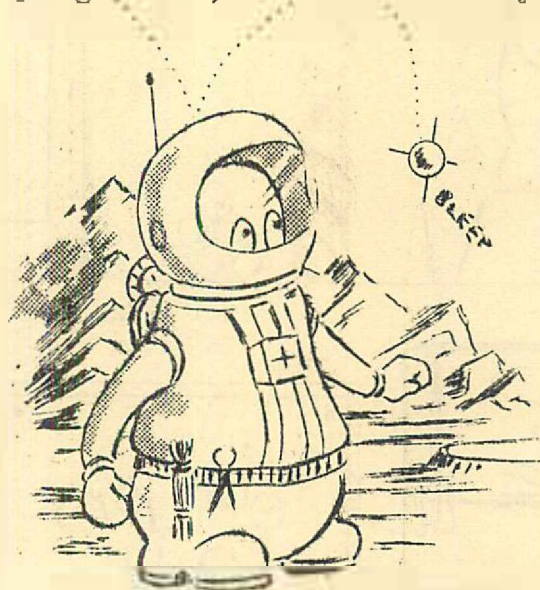
ERG. 7.

February 1961

This issue of ERG comes to you without a table of contents for the simple reason that I haven't put one in. Instead, I intend to rattle on about odds and ends which have percolated through my noggin during the last few months.

SOGGIUS

Since the last issue of Erg, the Soggies have found another market in the Amateur Cine World, which gladdens my heart more than somewhat, since this magazine has just started a weekly publishing schedule as distinct from its previous monthly appearance. Incidentally, some of the cartoons in this series have s-f slants, and the odd fannish name here and there. The old stand-by, 'Tape Recording & Hi Fi' continues to feature the regular Soggy spot, now nearing completion of its second year...BUT..and here a disturbing note rears its head (if notes can rear heads)(assuming they have heads). A new artist has appeared in T & H-F, with a character very obviously based upon the Soggies. The only differences being slightly longer legs, a billiard ball nose, and a regular mouth. I don't know whether to be alarmed at the obvious plagiarism, or flattered by the implied compliment.

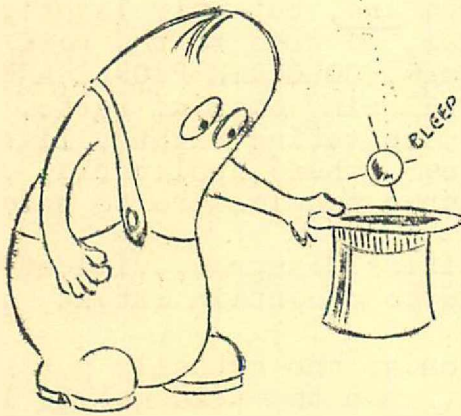


SPUTNIKUS

This issue is devoted in part (and here and there) to the cause of the misguided missile. With so many birds performing as their designers intended, it seemed a good idea to launch the Jeeves sub-miniature non-rotating push-pull reciprocating satellite into its (highly erratic) orbit.

For the technically minded the launching vehicle was three and a half yards of 1/4" elastic, and the booster involved twenty three disused bed springs. As a result, the orbit is rather unusual.

Printed and published from the stately crumbling Jeeves' mansion at 58 Sharrara Grove. ERG is designed, perpetrated and composed by Terry and Valerie Jeeves. Viva Ellis Mills.



Latest addition to the assorted electronic gadgetry that rambles around the place, is a cine projector to handle the films produced on the camera mentioned in the last issue. Before lashing out cash lolly on an expensive gadget, I mailed off urgent queries to Ted Carnell, Eric Jones, and Norman Shorrocks asking for their recommendations as to the best type of projector. Ted replied right away, and enclosed a leaflet advertising a projector. Eric Jones mailed a tape along after

a couple of months, and with typical Jones thoroughness, forgot to mention projectors. Norman hasn't replied yet, though Ina sent us a lovely card commenting on something else. Realising that Norman would no doubt tell me all about things at the next convention, I decided to jump the gun, and make my own choice. After much catalogue hunting, soul searching, and account balancing, I plumped for the Eumig P8m Imperial, which comes complete with sound coupler for hooking on to the Ferrograph. Other advantages of this projector, are its ability to project 'still' frames on the screen for more leisurely inspection (Valerie and I found about six people on the wedding film who we hadn't even noticed at the time), and it can also project films in reverse. Before the purists start to holler.. "Who wants to see films backwards", let me hasten to point out that this facility is much handier for running the projector back for a re-showing of a brief sequence than having to re-wind the whole film and go through it again. The sound synchronisation seems to be pretty good too, though at the time of writing, I haven't given it a really good work out.

SEGREGATION

Was the theme of a television broadcast made by the BBC quite recently. Locale of the film was in Nashville, and the theme, was the recent lunch room 'sit in' dispute, where the negroes were refused service. Now I know that this segregation business is a prickly problem, but nevertheless I feel like commenting in ERG, so here goes.

First of all, I know the usual arguments which start off.. "Oh you don't live with it, you don't appreciate the problem" Be that as it may...I heard the same argument in Durban in 1942, and in India during 1942-45. No doubt had I been in Germany during the Jewish purges, I'd have heard it there as well. Racial Integration can be quite a problem I admit, but I don't notice half the bother over integrating Swedes, Irish, Chinese, Japanese, Norwegians, Germans and any of the other

4. Umpteen and one nationalities which go to make up the U.S.A. Obviously, the answer to that one is..."They aren't coloured" Ignoring the fact that many of them are, but only lightly in comparison with the Negroid peoples, we come to the real barrier reef of the thing. Amazingly enough, COLOURED PEOPLE ARE COLOURED. This leads us to the following amazing facts.
1. All U.S. citizens are equal...with voting rights, liability for service with the armed forces (where applicable) etc.
 2. The US Supreme COURT says coloured peoples are to have equal rights.
 3. Certain individuals and communities disagree..violently.. with the Supreme Court.....and to a certain extent, get away with it

Skipping over the violent ones, who actually get shoved into clink for their naughtiness...when the evidence is 101% dead against them, I would like to know just what justification ANY individual can offer for

(a) allowing an individual to give his life for a society in which he isn't allowed to live a normal life.

(b) Where a shopkeeper is prepared to sell any article to a negro, to accept a negro's money with no quibbles, but NOT to allow that Negro to eat in his lunch room.

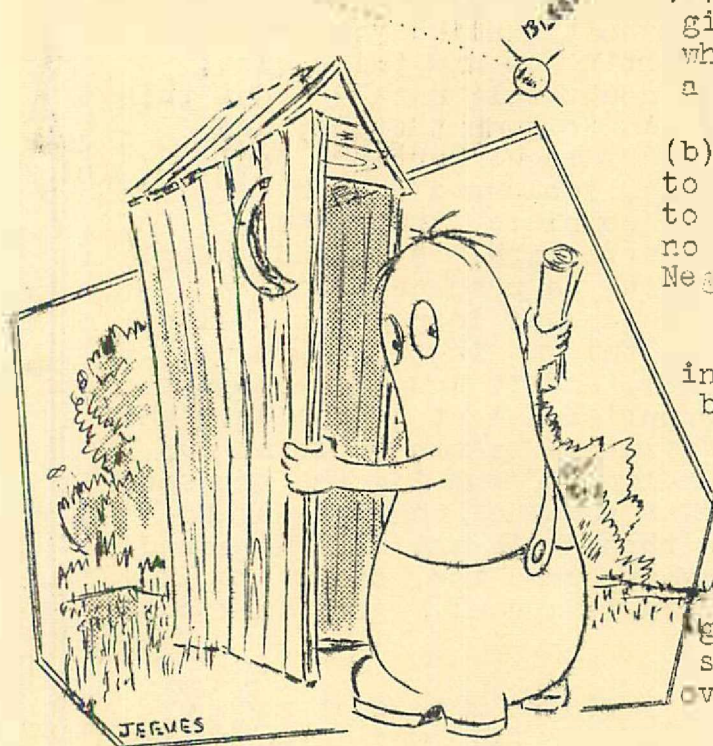
Yes, I agree you have problems in the States over this question but don't you honestly think that MOST of them are caused by that small minority with more energy than brains ?

We have them in England as well, but over here, they go around hunting foxes. Still stupid and cruel, but a shade over human baiting

HYDROGEN

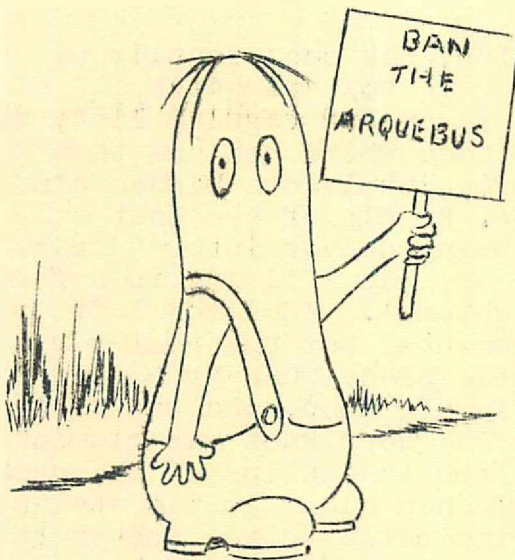
Bombs and the like seem to bring out the crackpot fringe in England, with people marching here there and everywhere in protest. This

sort of thing COULD be effective, if people all over the world could band together to do it...but if people all over the world could organise such a protest, they would be so united that such action would not be needed anyway. I've never heard of an international 'Ban the Murderers' campaign, but I gather that most civilised peoples have outlawed murder without marching over the countryside first. I'll fully agree that Nuclear war is idiocy...but so is plain War. The simple fact is that nations are populated by idiots, and until people in general learn to act



"I'M ALL IN FAVOUR OF
BIGGER OMAHA
MAILINGS"

like human (civilised-type) beings, then banning one nasty type weapon isn't going to do much good. Logically, you would then have to go on banning every lethal weapon in sight right back to original murder weapons used in the Cain-Abel routine. Personally, I feel that unless great strides are made in international relations, we're destined to end up with a nuclear war....but banning bombs will only make it a plain war...no great improvement with some of to-days weapons. Instead of banning the bomb, we should try to ban the kind of politics where Nation A cannot defer to Nation B without losing face. Naturally, B cannot defer to A for the same reason. Result WAR, plain or fancy. If we USED the United Nations properly and abided by its rulings, that would be a much more positive step than the moronic and purely negative attitude of 'Ban the H-Bomb'



SOAP-BOXES

have now been stowed away and two of my favourite hobby horses ridden to the ground, I can now turn to mailing comments. This time, they constitute a sort of random sampling, so if you don't see your brain child here, it isn't because I don't love you, I just picked the real highlights for comment.

SCOTTISH Full marks to Brian Varley for his marvellous piece, I laughed out loud at the idea of getting your rubbish returned to you.

VAGARY Liked Bobbie's 'straight from the shoulder' comments, and agree with her about Bertrand

Russell...nope, I've only read his footnotes and prefaces, but his whole personality rubs me the wrong way. Glad you didn't think too highly of 'Chatterley'..personally, I feel that if that book is literature, heaven help us...and NOT because of the four (and five) letter words...It's about eighteen years since I read the unexpurgated version (NO, NOT in England..and I thought it a lousy book even then. AMBLE..Getting a better production every time. Agree with your views on newspapers. Val and I got sicker and sicker over the 'Popular Dailies', and eventually cancelled the lot. We now get the 'Observer' on Sundays, and for our daily news, we take the American Christian Science Monitor (Val is C-S) and find that it has just about the most unbiased reporting you can get.....Incidentally, the CSM reported an item about some coloured sailors having to leave a British ship..which we'd not encountered on the home front.

6.

GLOOM..Sorry you didn't get your cardboard bath-tub. They were removed from all overseas copies by the Customs...We have some funny customs over here. Sorry you don't like Brando, personally I think he is the best ACTOR on the screen to-day. I formed this opinion gradually as I came to appreciate his versatility, and ability. The first film I saw of Brando was(I believe) called 'On the Waterfront' and firmly convinced me that this Brando character was an out and out lout, little better than the half-wit he was supposed to portray. The excellent acting, I put down to the fact that he had probably grown up in such circumstances. Then I saw 'Guy's and Dolls', and realised this Brando character had something...I became even more firmly convinced of this, when I saw 'The Young Lions', where I thought his portrayal of a young Nazi torn between loyalty and humanity was a masterpiece. More Brando sez I.

TELLY-VISHUN

rarely claims our attention, but occasionally we go GAFIA settle down before the goggle box and watch a programme. ITV's 'Candid Camera' is on our regular list, but only because of the rare piece of gold which now and then pops out from the dross. The program involves a hidden cine camera, and a faked-up 'situation'. Pearls of the past included a car without an engine being driven into a garage for a check up, and another screamer, was 'filling in a form for an application to buy fire-lighters'. 'Selling left handed tea-cups had its lighter moments, but the real gem, recently, appeared in a corny little piece whereby a shopkeeper was apparently locked in his shop, and was trying to obtain help from a passer-by. The door knob was gimmicked to come adrift, and the 'fun' came from the antics of the poor helper when this happened. This plodded along in pedestrian fashion, until, the 'shopkeeper' indicated to the sucker that he should pass the door knob inside to him through the fanlight. The sucker was too short to reach the fanlight.. then the 'shopkeeper opened the 'locked door' and handed the sucker a pair of steps and re closed the door. Believe it or not, but the nitwit used the steps to pass in the knob.

Things are not always so happy however, as with the cruel way in which two old people were kept waiting in a cinema foyer while others passed straight inside...then the mild mannered little man in the paper shop, who was ignored time after time after stating his want. Still, it is a programme to watch for that once in a blue moon flash of sheer go-nish humour.....which reminds me of Benny Hill's new series.

And so, as our ship sinks slowly beneath the waves, it only remains to say...

THIS WAS ERG

.....Terry Jeeves.