

Faint header text at the top of the page, possibly containing a title or reference number.

First main paragraph of text, starting with a faint opening word.

Second main paragraph of text, continuing the narrative or report.

Third main paragraph of text, possibly containing a transition or new section.

Fourth main paragraph of text, the longest block on the page.

Fifth main paragraph of text, appearing as a shorter block.

Sixth main paragraph of text, possibly concluding a section.

Faint footer text at the bottom of the page, possibly a page number or date.

THE TWO BACKWARDS, by J. Bellamy Loney

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As long as I'm able to have Fan-Dango in each mailing, I shall inflict upon you all an ACTIVITY INDEX. I am deriving this by dividing the number of members into the number of items in the particular mailing, and the object of it all is to furnish data for consideration the next time we expand our over-all membership. I have no preconceived ideas, but I am anxious to find out whether or not an increased membership may not result in too large a proportion of "reading" members as opposed to "publishing" members. For the 26th mailing, let's boost my figure to a neat 1,000 -- 100% participation

24th Mailing	*35 papers from 51 members	690
25th Mailing	23 papers from 65 members	400

(* - I include HEADER AND COLLECTOR and PEGASUS with the 24th mailing)

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SCIENCE FICTION FANNY. Positively the best exposition of the aims and ideals of the Comic Circle I've yet seen. (The Comic Circle is NOT to be confused with the Cosmic Circle, or is it?) The interior sheet of FANNY makes me think that the Shangri-Laughing Hyenas are not the plans they would have us think they are, for all true supermen obviate the need of mess and fuss by evacuating their waste products neatly packaged in cellophane.

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RAHUUN TA-KA. No particular comment.

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HAVE AT THEM, KNAVES. Why not mark all the mistakes in the heading? Contents very interesting and worthwhile. I hope, however, that this discussion of artificial languages can be curtailed as much as possible. I deeply relished the paragraph on Pogorus, and wish to pat you firmly on the back. Fell Wood.

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PRESENTING RONALD CLYNE. Glad to meetcha. But I hope, Paul, that you lay off the single sheeters. This mailing had a plethora of them.

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GUTETO. Sam Russell must not have seen this issue when he said that you were putting in enough fan content to make Gooty recognizable as an FAPazine. Just the same, this was interesting; though a little more would be too much for me. I might be interested in learning Esp some day, but first I think I should master English.

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BROWSING. Ah, one of my favorites. Needless to say, I turn a most loathsome color when I read of so much stuff that I never heard of, and very possibly may never see; but keep it coming. Speaking as a veteran of two mailings, you and Liebacher put out the best material of any of the members. (I exclude, of course, such one-time appearances as Golden Atom, and the poetry sheets.) Your idea of machinery doing the chores of mankind is all right, except that all staunch upholders of the profit system will rise up in their might. Hadn't you heard? The object of a machine is not to make leisure time, it is to enable the owner of said mechanism to pile up larger profits. Let's change this too, eh?

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THE SCIENCE FICTION SAVANT. Page one is passable; in fact, enjoyable. The balance of this rag was annoyingly exhibitionistic and immature. I do not begrudge our younger members all the space they wish to use, but hope that they can do a better job of filling them. This did not seem nearly as good as the one issue of SCIENTI-FUN which I have

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THIRTY NINE This is absolutely magnificent. The only real fault I can find with it are the quality (though readable) micrography, and the tendency of the last pages to seem unfastened, and such flaws are minor when overbalanced with a plethora of such magnificent material. CRITICISM is painful when everything is so good, but I believe that The Last Martian, the Lovecraft story notes, and the hunting experiences of the Very Young Man proved most enjoyable. I can not stress enough the fact that items like this are far more interesting to me than the more conventional form FAFazine; in other words, I personally am more interested in fantasyworld, etc than in generalized bull-fucking. I'm going to be very much vexed if Farsaci doesn't publish this mag regularly after the war.

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XXXIX Your criticism on the editing of the Fungus From Yuggoth is not applicable to Evans, as the numbering of these sonnets is Lovecraft's own. I'm inclined to believe that he started another story in verse (a la Psychopompos), and then later decided to write individual, unconnected sonnets. Thus you will find a sequence among the first four or five, but no narrative connection among the rest. I might add that there are actually 36 of these in the complete series. Omitted from Evans' pamphlet are XXXIV, Reapture, XXXV, Evening Star, and XXXVI, Spontaneity; the last named having appeared in the winter 1943 Analyse, and Reapture in the May 1930 WZ. I have no record of Evening Star, but it is highly probable that this appeared in some NAPazine at one time or another. All 36 are included in Beyond The Wall Of Sleep.

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WUDGY TALES The first couple of pages were highly amusing, but as I read on and on I came to the conclusion that too much is somewhat more than enough. In other words, I believe that something like this is more effective when there is not quite so much of it; in an issue of this size, the various items compete against each other so strongly that the whole thing falls on one, just as an exclusive diet of ultra-horror tales will in time become tedious.

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WALT'S WRAMBLINGS The cover is super, particularly the two boy little worms. Book reviews worthy, as usual.

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23 Ditto I am glad that there weren't 15 fans on this trip to write WZ up in 15 FAFazines. This outfit must be a repetitious bunch along about convention time. (These remarks also apply to Messia, Eidner, Charvenet, and Stanley.) Seriously, when something like these trips is committed (hm sounds funny) why not collaborate on one masterpiece instead of each participant writing up the whole thing? Naturally, it is interesting to get the different viewpoints, but it seemed to me that I knew both these jaunts by heart by the time I'd finished the mailing.

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DISSENSION It seems to me that boycotting of FAFazines by the membership is a very poor precedent to set. Personally I'm not in favor of post-mailings either, but one of the nicest things I've noticed about FAF thus far is the surprising amount of tolerance. If we start boycotting this publication and that publication, first thing we know there will be a schism or two and we will be broken into half a dozen mutually weak and inane groups--much as the broader field of amateur journalism is today. If the OG is ambitious enough to send out post-mailings I think we should be willing to read them without prejudice, but I don't think that the membership has any cause to expect more than the four bundles per year. I know that if I ever fail to get my stuff in on time I'll expect it to be held over until the next mailing.

HORIZONS (cont). Your admonishment to Elmer is a masterpiece of understatement. You'll doubtless remember my trying to enroll you in the NAPA last spring? At the time I was going wholly on a basis of NAPA's admittedly glorious past, and had not seen one of their current mailings, but one look -- or rather, one SMELL -- was enough to save me! There are NAPA members--Thrift, Edkins, Cook, Kleiner, and three or four others-- who put out good, solid stuff, and who are worth knowing, but the vast bulk of the membership is a bunch of lightweights. These few who do put out good stuff are all men of middle age or older; the younger members are hopeless. NAPA has probably 400 members against our 25, but in three months publishing we put out nearly as much wordage as they do in six. Furthermore, our wordage occasionally means something, which is more than can be said for 95% of NAPAZines. The ideal NAPAZine is a small, printed leaflet filled with inanities about organizational politics; the few worthy mags--ACONIAN, GO-AHEAD, LUCKY DOC, TRYOUT, MASAKA, and one or two others-- usually fail to arise much response among the members, and as a result do not go into the general mailings (with the exception of TRYOUT) but are sent merely to the handful of members who are capable of appreciating them. For example, the editor of GO-AHEAD, a finely printed mag of general content which costs nearly \$1.50 a copy to produce, stated to me that although his first issue went to all NAPA members and included a request form for them to fill out and send back to him if they wished further copies, his circulation (free too, bejabbers!) is only about 100, and many of them are non-FAPAs. In other words, 75% of the members cared too little about one of their three best magazines to send a postal asking to be placed on the free mailing list! I'm probably getting off the beam a little, but what I started out to say (ah, we get to the point) is that a press can be made a magnificent adjunct to FAPA, but the very tediousness and difficulty of setting type makes it awfully easy to slip into the leaflet habit, and that the abuse of a press is what has torn down all other branches of amateur journalism except our own. I congratulated Elmer in my last issue, and I still congratulate him, but at the same time I sincerely hope that he makes a suitable use of this new equipment.

I'm truly surprised to find any discussion of planned time, as I thought all intelligent people took this as a necessary part of their lives! In addition to being serious minded, I am, I see, a bit naive. How do you think ACOLYTE has gotten out on time to the day five issues running if there isn't a pretty rigid time-table? I envy those of you who can drift carefreely from one day into the next, but I imagine you weren't fetch up as rigidly as I was.

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THE NUCLEUS I maintain that Trudy, by her own definition, is NOT a fan, even though she does read the Campbell twine and keep up her FAPA membership. That she is an intelligent, inquiring sort of gal I have no doubt, but her main interests are far more conventional than those of the type of people I consider to be fans. Plenty of people who would never dream of reading ASF are seriously interested in making a brave new world for us, and in bullfisting about this and that in a pseudo-authoritative way. To my mind, a fan is one who (1) reads critically, (2) collects violently, and (3) corresponds actively with a goodly number of other fans. If he is a hyperfan, he probably publishes a subscription fanzine (or did before Pearl Harbor) and contributes to the other fanzines. This of course is nothing against Trudy, but it brought up a point that I've been pondering for several months. Will some of you folks be so kind as to publish a definition of a fan in your next FAPAZine? I should like to see just what you different people would have to say about it.

As to this matter of racial equality, you covered the ground admirably. I'm wondering, however, if you've read the recent South-Atlantic Native Son, which is, I believe written by a negro. According to this

The new format is a good idea, and makes a great difference. In your remarks on sin center, I think you stray a bit from the beam. As I see it, the greatest single advantage of this scheme is to enable people with definitely unusual tastes to get together. If you go filling it up with a bunch of non-fen--no matter how intelligent they might be or what other qualifications they might have--you are going to negate the one thing about it which attracts me. As to this idea of going away into a miniature Shangri-La of our own, foove! Unless our "civilization" is armed a lot stronger than anything I can imagine, we will live our own lives just about as long as some aggressor nation or nations wants to leave us alone. Furthermore, if we turn our backs on civilization, such as it is, it means a lifetime of grinding, back-breaking toil just to exist. The only reason we are able to devote a little time and energy to intellectual pursuits is that other people do enough of our dirty work for us so we can work but 8 to 10 hours a day. If we went into a primitive new frontier, our time would be taken up with raising food and making buildings, clothes, everything that we take for granted now. Y'wannta remember Old John had atomic power!

If I may borrow the inelegant word-choice of Milty and Yhee, a mighty belch and a small pihnt to you, Sir Arthur, for your very untimely bit of labor baiting. With all their hideous faults, the fact remains that it is the unions, and the unions alone, which make the lot of the common man as tolerable as it is. If some wealthy corporation gouges the public out of a few million unearned dollars, it is good business; but if the unions try to grab two-bits for themselves, all the old guard and black republicans start keening about a red scare. The guy that works for wages will be democracy's forgotten man if anything is done to limit the powers of these laborers to get in and escap with the big boys on a reasonably equal basis. Most corporations and business men would like to keep their help on a semi-slave basis, and if certain movements now being directed against the right to strike, the closed shop, etc. succeed, you will find yourself in the same pickle, whether you are a union man or not. Want to argue about it?

---oCo---

MR GARRE Anice issue, but there just isn't anything in it that I want to argue about! Smith article is fine

---oCo---

PA. Speer's report should be filed away tenderly to serve as ammunition for the opposition about the time some drip starts to bleat on the whiekery "fans are slane" theme. If someone DOES dig out a constitutional requirement demanding that the OE make postmailings, I for one say we should try an amendment.

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PAU-DANGO I must apologise for the rather chip-on-shoulder attitude of my note on the fanzine anthology. My inexperience with WAPA is largely to blame, as I'd rather expected to get some response in letters from some of you. One WAPA member wrote me direct, and all other response was from non-members who had seen propaganda copies. As a result, I wrote in a huffy frame of mind, not realizing that I would get so much response in this mailing. I'm sorry about it. Further remarks on the subject will be elsewhere in this issue.

---oCo---

This section of commentary has been strictly experimental. In an effort to save my definitely limited time, I have been composing direct on the masters, and have made no attempt to erase. If I make an error, it is either struck over or xx-ed out. The other portions of this issue have been written out first and rather painstakingly revised, but anything as ephemeral as these reviews deserves no more attention than a personal letter. I hope they aren't too utterly bad. FTL