

FANTASY FICTION FIELD

Founded by Julius Unger

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PALMER, SHAVER in Pornography Probe

The Milwaukee area recently had itself a real "who-done-it" mystery. In the confusion the finger of suspicion was pointed at former AMAZING STORIES editor Raymond A. Palmer and "Shaver Mystery" author Richard S. Shaver. Seems the whole thing developed as a result of Cleveland Amory's article in SATURDAY EVENING POST on the subject of pornography, wherein Freedom Publishing Company was cited as "the worst of the worst" among the paperback companies peddling alleged pornography.

Amory listed the publisher's address as Milwaukee, which put the Milwaukee County District Attorney in the position of having to do some investigating. THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL, who gave the story several days of feature coverage, said the DA received a complaint about the books from a New York Roman Catholic priest.

As the mystery unfolded, it was discovered that the address the company listed was actually that of a Milwaukee attorney who said he did some legal work for them and used his office as an address for service of papers, as the law requires an address for that purpose for corporations. He said he had earlier resigned, and another lawyer had taken over his functions. This attorney said all he did was handle financial statements and forward mail to the man he said was the firm's president, Richard Shaver, who lives in Lanark, near Amherst, Wisconsin. The DA said that one of the publishing company's directors was Raymond A. Palmer, who operates the Palmer Publishing Company in Amherst. Palmer denied familiarity with the company when questioned by a reporter, but admitted he had signed his name to a report listing him as a director, as a favor to Shaver. Shaver denied having anything to do with picking the books or publishing them. He said he had allowed friends to use his name, in return for which he was paid. He said that he and his wife, who is listed as secretary of the firm, received \$200 a month from friends in Chicago for the use of their names as company officers. Palmer later gave notice of officially resigning from the corporation. The law enforcement agencies seem to still be in the dark about who does the actual publishing, but apparently the investigation of Palmer and Shaver has been dropped. However, a Wisconsin legislator who reigns over Palmer's district is preparing an "investigation" into the "pornography being published in my district."

One of the feature stories in the newspaper is a less than serious article concerning Shaver's present activities and his past connection with the "Shaver Mystery." Shaver is pictured as disgruntled by the attention to the so-called pornography, rather than to more important matters like the picture stories he sees in the local rocks left by an ancient civilization. #

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AMAZING STORIES august lineup

Reign of the Telepuppets (novella)	Daniel F. Galcuyc
"Utopia? Never!" (short)	Thomas M. Disch
Dr. Jeckers and Mr. Hyde (short)	John Rackham
The Lesson For Today (short)	David Rome
Mine is the Kingdom (short)	Harrison Denmark
JOHN W. CAMPBELL: The Writing Years (SF Profile)	Sam Moskowitz

coming in FANTASTIC in august

Bazaar of the Bizarre (novelet)	Fritz Leiber
The Red Tape Yonder (short)	Vance Simonds
The Grass, More Green (short)	W. Lee Tomerlin
The Devil in Hollywood (fantasy classic)(short)	Dale Clarke
Sometimes I Get So Happy (short)	David R. Bunch
Cornie on the Walls (short)	Sidney Van Scyoc
A Hoax in Time (serial, conclusion)	Keith Laumer
Two More Tales for the Horried at Heart (vignette)	Brad Steiger
Three Fables of the Past & Future (vignette)	Thomas M. Disch

Odds & Ends

Mike Deckinger reports that the proposed New York Silvercon in 1964 has been abandoned due to the inability of the committee to coordinate the necessary factors in maintaining the con. Instead, the annual Lunacon in April will be stretched an extra day to encompass a weekend.

No further word has been received from those closely connected with the MidWesCon, which is taking place June 28, 29, and 30. This is always an informal affair and is usually attended by many well-known fans and professionals. Reservations are made directly with the North Plaza Motel, 7911 Reading Road, Cincinatti 37, Ohio. I expect to be there this time--so remember your umbrella and rain wear. I always provoke a rain when I approach Cincinatti.

The City College of New York SF club has elected new officers, with the following results: President, Jacob Waldman; Vice-President, Berry Greene; ENGRAM editor, Al Schuster. The club will have a party at Greene's on June 29.

G. M. Carr informs in a letter that there was a fire in the Hyatt House Motel in Seattle (?). That's where the Seacon was held in 1961. The fire was believed to have started in the kitchen, and damage was estimated at \$200,000. Flames were reported coming out of the roof, so GEM speculates that the convention hall over the restaurant was probably gutted.

THE FANZINE FIELD

by Mike Deckinger

ISCARIOT #8 (trade, LoC, contributions, 15¢, quarterly, Al Andrews, 1659 Lakewood Drive, Birmingham, Alabama.) Actually published by Richard Ambrose (who indulges in a regrettable amount of co-editing as well), ISCARIOT is at its best when Andrews takes the helm. Ambrose seems intent on registering more typos per page than anyone outside of Bob Jennings. When these typos extend to raised headings, as has been the case, a cry for restraint does not seem unwarranted. Lost it seem that Ambrose tips ISCARIOT in the wrong direction; I'll point out his series on the supernatural, "Remarquez Les Ghouls," which reads like a high school term paper, but sandwiched between its drab and sophomoric prose every now and then imparts some miniscule fact or anecdote that makes the entire column worthwhile. The editorial policy of ISCARIOT seems to rest solely on editor Andrews' judgment of what he terms printable material. Everything from a nicely written article on Vance's "To Live Forever" to a non-sciencefictional jd story which Hal Ellison could have used as an outline, expanded to ten thousand words, and sold to the slicks, is present. The latter item, titled "Tarzan and the Apes," by Ed Gorman is one of the few genuine gems that editor Andrews professes to seek. Its internal structural faults can not completely offset the smooth characterization and intensive introspection written into the few pages it comprises.

THE TWILIGHT ZINE #10 (trades, contributions, LoC, quarterly, Bernie Morris, 22 Hilliard Street, Apt. 1, Cambridge 38, Mass.) Despite the frequent editorial assertions that TZ is not a fanzine, and the staff are not fans, only the most naive would accept this as fact. TZ is as much a fanzine as CRY or MANDRO, and its roster of former non-fans who mold its pages only goes to prove that fandom is neither as stabilized nor as rigid as some may think. Anyone can gain admittance to the fold. Even M. I. T. students. John Berry leads off with a fannish story that is quite good, in comparasion to other fannish tales, but still lacks the verve and animation that was a significant aspect of previous Berry tales. John is no longer as aggressive in print as past performances will show; instead, he has been adopting stylized fannish plots, fastening transparent embellishments on them, and letting fanzines use them as is. They're not really bad, but they could be better. Berry's story is followed by a thoroughly predictable fictional examination of Genesis, which nonetheless is a supreme delight because of several biting lines the author has stuck in his story. This theme has been done before, but rarely in such an enjoyable form. The longest item is, curiously enough, a term paper, written several years ago, which examined "More Than Human" with an exhaustive degree of insight and understanding. Publication of this makes me wonder if perhaps other treasures lie gathering dust in some college's vaults, condemned to an indifferent existance by thoughtless instructors. Perhaps some college fen might look into this matter to see if anything readable and reprint-

THE FANZINE FIELD, continued

table might be unearthed. Elsewhere we find such diversified and amusing items as a takeoff on Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" and an appropriate quote pirated from CATCH-22. And anyone who's read CATCH-22 must be a fan.

NEOFUND (Harriett Kolchak, 2104 Brandywine Avenue, Philadelphia 30, Pa.) This is really not a fanzine, but a small multilithed handbook containing the Neofund's charter. I mention it here because Harriett wants publicity. So, publicity: The Neofund is one of the most irrational, unfeasible, nonsensical, and unnecessary projects I've encountered in fandom. If it succeeds at all it will surprise me tremendously, though the likelihood isn't much to speak of. I usually admire those with a charitable bent in them, who consider and practice the rule that it is better to give than receive. That, basically, is the motivation behind the Neofund, but the sheer unworkability of the project becomes apparent as soon as the "constitution" is read. For one thing, I have no sympathy with any individual, fan or not, who abruptly ups and goes to a convention, giving no prior consideration to the supplies or money he will need while at the hotel. If this person gets stranded because in his haste to be the first on the road he forgot his cash, then it's his fault alone, and a session washing the hotel dishes or warming a cot in a local jail might do him some good. Admittedly, there are genuine instances where, through some fault unconnected with him, a fan at a con may discover his cash has suddenly vanished. If Forry Ackerman's not around he can telephone home to his parents for some added money. If he's passed that stage, there are always persons present he may borrow from. The concept of a rigid bureaucracy determining who may and who may not receive free handouts has a faintly distasteful edge to me. If the Neofund wants to distribute money, let the collective members do so by themselves, and I shall be the first in line. Not because I've ever run out of money at a convention--I haven't--but because cash with no strings attached can brighten my disposition far better than nearly any remedy known. And if someone wants to play the sucker, then I shall be only too happy to help. The "constitution" of the Neofund, in addition to its vague and uncertain tone, contains some of the funniest lines I've ever seen crammed into a "serious" report, and if I didn't know Harriett better I would brand it immediately as an outrageous hoax. As example: "No one committee member shall make any formal or drastic changes of policy without the consent of the rest of the committee present: Nor shall any committee member make loans without the approval of the committee, except in the case where the member is the only one present at the particular convention where the request is made." There is also an amusing stipulation which exercises a deliberate discriminatory power over fans over 16, who are required to repay the Neofund loan within 130 days after the convention. What happens, I wonder, is a loanee becomes 16 during the con; that would really put the Neofund into a fine kettle of confusion. Not to imply that it already isn't immersed in one. But don't take my word for it. Write Harriett for one of these booklets, and try to read it through without laughing. No fair cracking a grin. #

EDITORIAL NOTE: Harriett will be granted equal space in rebuttal, if she desires to defend the Neofund.