
FANTASY FICTION

THE NATIONAL FANTASY REVIEW

FIELD

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BI-WEEKLY

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AMAZING STORIES—october

Drunkboat (novelet)
The Prince of Liars (reprint, novelet)
The Fastest Draw (short)
Stand-By (short)
The Misfit (short)
SF PROFILE: Edmond Hamilton

Cordwainer Smith
L. Taylor Hansen
Larry Eisenberg
Philip K. Dick
Roger Zelazny
Sam Moskowitz

Cover by Lloyd Birmingham, illustrating "Drunkboat"

FANTASTIC—october

The Screen Game (novelet)
Let There Be Night (novelet)
The Wolf Woman (reprint, short)
King Solomon's Ring (short)
The Mating Season (short)
A Night With Hecate (short)

J. G. Ballard
Robert F. Young
H. Bedford-Jones
Roger Zelazny
Wilton G. Beggs
Edward W. Ludwig

Cover by Emsh, illustrating "The Screen Game"

ODDS & ENDS IN FANDOM --

Bill Rotsler did most of the photography for SEX, SPICE AND THE SINGLE MAN, a softbound collection of photographs now on the newsstands. It is a collection of pictures with irrelevant remarks supposedly by the person in the picture, in this case usually an undressed lady. Not pornography, but clean and mostly funny. Rotsler and his camera appear in one of the pictures, and in some of the captions the last names of well known fans are used.

Forrest J. Ackerman says that he plans a leisurely and long-lasting drive across the country to attend the Discon, visiting as many monster fans as possible on the way. There was a rumor he made such a trip in the 1930's, but when Harry Warner asked him about this he said it never happened, but he liked the idea so much he decided to try it out this year. Of course, it would have been SF fans he visited on the former trip, had he made same.

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A Defense of NEOFUND

EDITORIAL NOTE: In FFF #12, Mike Deckinger, who reviews fanzines for this "news" sheet, reviewed NEOFUND, a booklet published by Harriett Kolchak and associates. This review, you might recall, was not exactly favorable. While there is no doubt on my part about the good intentions of the fans connected with this project, I am inclined to agree substantially with the views expressed by Mike. However, I think it fair that both sides should have an opportunity to express their opinions, and an invitation for a rebuttal was issued at the time the review appeared. Following, therefore, is a defense of the Neofund, as written by one of Harriett's close associates, DON STUDEBAKER.

I'm not going to get emotional and slobber all over the keys, so anyone looking for a show can retire. Mike raised some good points, and I hope I can answer them. Unfortunately, the points are often concealed in flamboyant prose which lends conviction without reason. For instance, he starts off saying: "The Neofund is...irrational, unfeasible, nonsensical, and unnecessary..." I am willing to give Mike his right of opinion, but opinion just isn't a valid way to consider a project from a critical standpoint. The Neofund is not irrational in the opinions of the committee and of the people who have had reason to make use of its facilities. As to its being unfeasible, I'm not sure what he means. If the Neofund were unfeasible, it would not be able to achieve any degree of success in its aims. As the Neofund has existed for about two years, or possibly more, and has achieved some degree of success despite opposition, I would say that the criticism of unfeasibility is invalid. Nonsensical is a nonsensical word to apply to a project. As to its being unnecessary, well, what the hell am I answering that for? The people to whom it is necessary feel it to be necessary. Persons having no need for the Neofund's services will naturally view it as unnecessary to themselves.

Read the Charter with a little less hilarity, and you will discover that the Neofund is not set up to help people who don't need that help. For this reason, we don't expect people to come to the con expecting us to pay them off. Sad fact: You say that you've never been stranded at a con, that if Forry isn't around there is always someone to borrow money from. Welllll, that is just not always true. There is not always someone to borrow from. And bringing Forry into the picture...didn't you notice that Forry is on the Committee? I'll admit that the Neofund might have in it that touch of altruism the Ayn Rand followers so de-

THE FANZINE FIELD

by Mike Deckinger

DOUBLE-BILL #5 (Bill Mallardi, 214 Mackinaw Ave., Akron 13, Ohio, contributions, mt1, trades, LoC, 20¢) DOUBLE-BILL is finally developing a distinct and recognizable personality, due to the combined efforts of Mallardi and Bowers in producing the zine. The repro has been stabilized to an almost perfect degree of readability, the quality of the material has been steadily advancing, and the appearance and format have been progressing in equally commendable leaps. DOUBLE-BILL also appears to thrive on controversy. First Mallardi directed his verbal talents toward castigating the integrationists, and was roundly trounced for his trouble. And in the last issue Bowers attempted to examine the workings and motivations of a fan and received a good deal of comment. In both instances I felt the articles themselves were basically insignificant, but the mail they have pulled and the concepts they have activated have helped to revitalize the lettercol. Mike McQuown has a fairly good fantasy here, marred by a predictable ending, though reinforced by good writing. Coulson's usually dependable fanzine reviews are present and are as good as ever. A lettercol taking up close to half the issue is the big standout of the zine and apparently will continue to be. Both editors seem to be enjoying all the fuss stirred up by their previous writings and give indications that there will be more of the same, which would in the long run be advantageous to DOUBLE-BILL.

ENCLAVE #3 (Joe Pilati, 111 S. Highland Ave., Pearl River, N. Y., trade, cont., LoC, 25¢, bi-monthly) Possibly the nearest thing in fandom ENCLAVE can be compared to is KIPPLE, yet it lacks the stodgyness and intolerable verbosity of Pauls' zine, while retaining a good measure of stimulating thoughts and pleasant reading. The emphasis on fandom is very slight here, the biggest acknowledgement granted is probably Juanita Coulson's article promoting Marion Z. Bradley for TAFF. Joe writes surprisingly well on a number of diverse and unrelated topics, sprinkling dry wit with informative data. Someone named Julian Scala, who seems to be a present day equivalent of an "angry young man" (with the emphasis on "young"), attempts an iconoclastic outburst vilifying societal conformity, and giving his reasons why he refuses to participate in Governmental sponsored acts. His sentiments are valid enough, but the state of emotional agitation he reaches in presenting them is hardly favorable. Don Thompson has a short article on the comics found on Rice-Chex and Wheat-Chex boxes, and John Boardman writes about American concentration camps, which he compares to Auschwitz, Dachau, etc., etc. Factually I am in no position to either corroborate or deny John's charges. I'd like to see more information on the topic. There is also an amusing, but superficial, inquiry into other lunatic fringes by Enid Jacobs, but I resent the intimation that fandom too can be classed as a lunatic fringe. Subgroup and ingroup yes, but not a lunatic fringe. (Of course, we do have some lunatics in fandom...) Those who like folk singing should enjoy the first installment of a column on same by The Coulsons, who can't be accused of not bearing the

THE FANZINE FIELD, continued

qualifications to write on this topic. I found it mildly of interest. The lettercol is very well edited, Joe's interjections are disciplined and well suited to the letters, as opposed to some editors who use every sentence as an excuse to crack some witticism in the midst of a reader's letter.

PHOENIX #7 (Dave Locke, no info given) The reason for the omission of Locke's address above is because it appears nowhere in this zine, and I'll be damned if I'm going to go hunting through my fanzines trying to locate it. Locke has typed this complete issue with type that resembles script. It's attractive as hell from a distance, but reading it in one long stretch as I was forced to do gradually reveals the shortcomings of this type face. Of course it does no really great harm to the issue that it is difficult to read; there is little in this issue worth reading anyway, and thus you are spared a distracting verbal excursion. The other material, outside of Dave's surprisingly cogent editorializing, includes an article by Ron Haydock, lifted from one of Perry Ackerman's magazines, if I'm not mistaken, another Peghoot, hopefully titled "The Last Peghoot," tho I doubt it, and a boring and unnecessary article about life on other planets. The whole zine displays an aura of dejected apathy, as if Dave was resigned to the fact that he would produce a sub-standard zine from the beginning and thus did nothing to improve it. This faulty thinking has become alarmingly prevalent, and if the respective editors would only stop to consider the illogic of their decisions they might produce better fanzines instead of shallow excuses like this.

JELERANG #2 (Harriett Kolchak, 2104 Brandywine St., Philadelphia 30, Pa., 25¢, letters, irregular) JELERANG strikes me as being basically a club-zine which is timidly dabbling its feet in the streams of genzine fandom, while restraining the needed courage to take the plunge. It has several things in its favor, including near-faultless multi-lith repro (though it needs artwork badly) and a seemingly filled-with-enthusiasm staff who are determinedly toiling away at it. The material within is not outstanding, but it's not really bad either. A pseudonymous character calling himself "Saturated Fats" writes a superficial account of New York's Lunacon, spending too much time in his travels and too little in the actual con going on. There are several feghoots, none of them too good, but then what ones are? One is the product of the devious mind of Randall Garrett and thus immediately distinguished: it's dirty. A shoddy free verse attempt under the unimaginative title of "A Fragment of a Scream" fails miserably. And someone named Harvey Forman does a fairish job of reviewing fanzines. Harvey wants to know why I didn't review JELERANG #1 in the pages of FFF. Easy, Harvey; I never received JELERANG #1. I refuse to review zines I haven't seen first. The letter column is dragged down by a sophomoric science argument, and the only worthwhile item was a short letter by another character I've never heard of named David A. Spector, who does some beautiful things with sentences ("Lord Bron was good, only probably not").

SAM #8 (Steve Stiles, 1809 Second Ave., New York 28, letters, trades, cont., irregular) This probably the best issue of SAM Steve has published and one of the most amusing zines out today. The accent is entirely on light, whimsical material. #

NEOFUND, continued from page 2

plore, but then we are concerned with the organic body of fandom. Joe Phann, who calls home to mama might give up on fandom, and we, fandom, lose a valuable talent. Or just a nice guy.

Now about that rigid bureaucracy and the free handouts. You did read a little further, you commented on the fact that the loans from the Neofund had to be paid back. So where are there any free handouts? The Neofund can't afford free handouts at this time, probably won't be able to for a while, and isn't contemplating it at all. Ever occur to you that maybe that someone who is always there to borrow from, and often not get it back, might be financially tired of losing?

Now as for your serious objections--yes, there is a vague tone to the booklet, and there are some pretty bad sentences. I'm a lousy proof-reader, and some things will get by that don't sound quite right. But the Charter as printed is more of a guide book for the Committee than anything else. The Neofund is still a very young thing. It hasn't had time to explore its possibilities thoroughly, and it is still in the formative stages. Rather than tie ourselves down with hide-bound regulations that might prove unworkable in the future we have made it deliberately vague. We have allowed ourselves a little bit of elbow room in which to grow and expand, to reseat ourselves and hit on a workable system. The booklet we published this year was not, as the booklet plainly states, intended to be a final definition, but merely a report on our progress.

In the section you quoted about policy change one section which would seem to allow a single member to seize control over the funds, you should have noted the relationship to the next sentence. The part that requires any member making decisions on his own without the approval of the Committee, to be responsible for those decisions.

On your question: As Neofund monies are not loaned until the end of the convention anyway, then the possibility of a fan turning sixteen during the con doesn't occur. The age of sixteen was chosen as many states allow a person of sixteen to have a drivers license. Anyone who can afford a car should be responsible enough to pay back a debt of honor and money. But you should note that there is a certain amount of flexibility in all our rules, so that there is only the smallest discrimination.

All in all, Mike, your article was funny, and even the taking of quotes out of context made for amusement. But you gave very little idea of what the Neofund is about. Seems like you did not read with so much thought as laughter. One idea we can agree with you on. If anyone wants to find out what the Neofund is, they should write to Harriett. (2104 Brandywine St., Philadelphia 30, Pa.) She has a supply of the booklets, which were written and published to take the place of endless letters like this. #

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exp

5 sent
15/100

9/3/63