

"A Cosmic Publication"

# FANTASY-TIMES

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

"The Leading Fantasy Weekly"

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## SHAVER TO EDIT FANZINE

Richard S. Shaver will be the editor of a new "Lemurian-style" fanzine, to be published soon by Chester S. Geier of Ziff-Davis. The magazine, as yet untitled, will feature articles and fiction too lengthy or "scholarly" for Amazing. The first issue will contain a story by Shaver (reworked by Palmer) and material by Geier, Hamling, and others. It will sport a cover drawing by Shaver himself, and will run about 78 pages -----price 50¢. -jk

## EX-FANS FORM RECORD COMPANY

Vanguard Records, a new company which will specialize in off-trail and difficult-to-obtain musical items, has been organized by James Blish and Robert W. Lowndes, both former fans. The first 3 records of the new label are now on sale in stores, or may be ordered from 787 Washington St., NYC 14. Record #1 is jass; #2 is Song of Worlds Unseen composed by Chandler Davis, fan and ASF author; #3 is a song by Mahler, backed by a previously unrecorded song by Robert Franz. #1 and #2 at 75¢; #3 at \$1 plus tax. A future Vanguard release will be Albert Galpin's Lament for HPL, published in Marginalia. -jk

## SCIENTIF BOOKS

by Joe Kennedy

Due on the newsstands soon is The Avon Fantasy Reader, edited by Donald A. Wollheim. Advance reports indicate a very good selection, including The Women In The (continued on page 2, column 2)

## HOW TO BE A SCHIZOPHRENIC IN ONE LESSON, or RICHARD S. SHAVER'S THE MIND ROVERS

The Jan. 1947 Amazing has a long novelet by Richard S. Shaver The Mind Rovers that throws some interesting side-lights on the Shaver controversy.

Palmer in The Observatory says "In a way it is part of the famed 'Shaver Mystery' although it is presented as straight fiction, yet we know that psychiatry would not approval to the background and admit that in this respect it is one hundred percent scientific fact. .... So, when you journey into a weird world in the mind of a man in prison, remember that you are being treated to an adventure that COULD happen in a man's mind."

Well, let us see what this is all about. The story concern an inmate of a prison who breaks the bonds of his body and finds his ego living in the world created by the mental images of himself and others. In fact they become so real that they are material according to the story. There are several main themes. First, the whole story is based on a persecution complex and over and over again it is brought out that society has plotted to railroad-sane men to asylums, and innocent men to prison in order to get the money that is given for their upkeep. Such a statement, of course is false. The poor conditions in prisons and asylums are due to too little money, rather than too much. Examine the budgets of these institutions. If it was advantageous to keep men in prison (continued on Page 2, column 1)

why is the parole board letting so many out all the time, many out all the time, many who later commit crimes of the worst sort? The reasoning regarding the persecution complex is often found in Paroniacs, and will be recognized by readers of the Palmer-Shaver Hoax.

Now the dream sequences are very close to those indulged in by schizophrenics, i. e., victims of dementia praecox. The dream world created by these unfortunate people, according to those who have recovered, often resemble exaggerated creations of fantasy given by this story. Unless one were familiar with psychiatry the only other way to have gotten the correct dream development would have been to have been a victim of dementia praecox, and my guess would be the katatonic type. The withdrawal from reality the peopling of the dream world with creatures that exaggerate desires, such as abnormal women types, extreme sex sensations, persecution complexes that tend to drive them deeper into the dream world, and especially the glorification of self in this world as a mis-understood big shot escaping from an unappreciative audience is characteristic behaviour patterns to any good psychologist or psychiatrist. The statement that such adventure could happen is true insofar as any one can go insane and have such fantasies but not in the sense of reality if an indication of such tendencies itself, actual existence of dream worlds with a physical basis of matter-energy, space-time, body-mind relationships.

One characteristic I have noticed in the Shaver stories. The heroes are big men physically, and even in this story bigness of body is emphasized. The intensity of bigness suggests a suppressed shame for physical deficiencies in one, such as small size, impotency, or poor health. Do you recall the concept of the blond

beast, the utterly callous super man was created by the physical weakling, Frederic Nietzsche? Watch for hidden traits come out in the Shaver-Palmer hoax. Sex, sadism in regard to sex, physical size, etc. You will be amazed at the secret wells of the heart, to use an old phrase, escaping to reality in the creations of the mind. That is often found in fiction.

-a review by Thomas S. Gardner

SCIENTIBOOKS

(continued from page 1, column 1)

Wood by A. Merritt, and other top notch items.

The Chinese Doll by Wilson (Bob) Tucker, has been published at \$2.50 by Rinehart & Co. This is a mystery story with a few touches of the fan field, which, from the author's background in the field, might be well expected. The book is receiving favorable press notices.

Puzzle-Box, by Anthony More, the first book from the new fantasy publishing house, Trover Hall, has just been released. The book sells for \$1.75 and contains six short stories of the supernatural.

Tales Of Hoffman, a deluxe edition of ten selected stories by this famous master of the Gothic horror story, has been issued by A.A. Wyn at \$7.50. E.T.A. Hoffman was the greatest forerunner of Poe, de Maupassant, and Mr. James according to many literary authorities. No comprehensive selection of his work has been available in this country for many years.

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