

FAN VARIETY

MAY-NO 8³

1951



Figleaf

Last issue I didn't get my mimeograph in time to print Fv No.7 and thank god too. I got it for next to nothing and now I know why. There are a few little kinkers in it that I'll have to iron out. Those minor details are it cuts off the bottom of the paper, also the top (but not at the same time). Also it won't ink evenly. After just about filling the drum with ink, so much that it seeps out the sides and at both ends too. But oh no it won't come through the stencil. It's one of those closed drum deals, so I'm going to cut it open then I can get around in there. It will no doubt be a very delicate operation. I'll need a blow torch (which will of course warp the drum) and a hacksaw. Anyone care to join me in surgery? Besides that it crumples and tips the paper. Last but not least the automatic feeder ain't automatic. But what's perfect. Yea, that's a good question cause this damn mimeograph not.

If this issue reaches you, that will mean I've cut open the drum with success and am inking wildly with one hand while feeding each page, one by one with the other. Or I may carry the whole mess over to Fisher's house and print it there.

I know you don't suppose to talk about your fanzine in the editorial, but I get around that, this is here is a--uh--well-uh, that is, well it not a editorial.

The apparent neatness and absents of misspelling in Redd Boggs article is of not fault on my part. He stenciled it himself. I love people like that, cause it saves a lot of work on my part. Joe Gross also cuts his own column. Speaking of said bit of material Redd has in that article what I also think would make a mighty interesting column. It's the part about having something somewhere devoted to fan news. That is tell what's news in fandom with the fans themselves. When you read the article notice it. If you send in some news of that sort I'll print it here in Figleaf. I'll try to dig up some myself.

Speaking of fan news I suppose you saw Bill Venable story in the latest OTHER WORLDS. Bill sold them a 1700 word story called "Vision. It's illustrated by Jon Brian. One thing I'll say for Rap's mag, he sure has the art work. That Bok cover is eye catching (would you class a orange frog under bam or just miscellaneous ((I started to put miscarriage))). Also Bok's illustration for Red Coral is slightly great, much better than the story it goes with. Being new in fandom I can only wonder has Ray Palmer ever written a good story. Oh well that's one nice thing about being an editor. You always have a market for your own material. I should know. That Cartier illustration is nothing to sneer at. But I liked Grossman's picture bestest. Galaxy should latch on to that boy. His stuff is first class. If Rap were editor of Galaxy I might think the ed was drawing under a pen name. But Gold wouldn't do that or could he? There must be a reason for such rotten artwork, at least I've got an excuse for my bad spelling. Good lord, how did I ever get this far off the track.

I also heard that Bob Tucker sold a sf novel to Rinehart that should come out this fall. This I can't wait to read.

Is there such a thing as a fanzine index. If so how does one go about getting it. Has you got one you could send me? I'd just like to see what I haven't got.

By now you must of noticed the S. S. BOYS. You'll find them sprinkled through the pages of Fv. They are a element of the Insurgents and are created by Bill Rotsler. I hope they will keep on appearing in Fv. I'm going to try to talk him into making them a regular feature of Fv. They sure would ad a lot of life to this mag.

Well I made it to the bottom of the page without help of a drawing so I guess I'd say so long for now.

max (you can't see the stencil for the correction fluid) keasler

How to Drive TUCKER and TAURASI out of business!

by REDD BOGGS

YOU WANT TO START a new science fiction newspaper, but you're afraid. You look at the competition you'll have to face and you consider the weak and dying efforts of fan newspaper editors who have tried to buck that competition, and you think, "My god, I wonder if my pet newsie can beat Tucker and Taurasi, either?" You peruse the statements of Sam Merwin Jr., who said that Fantasy Times and Science Fiction News Letter are the best stf newspapers of all time, and you mutter, "What's the use? Fandom doesn't need another newsie. Heck, I'll start a stf poetry mag instead."

Stop, youth! You're wrong. You can match Tucker and Taurasi, and even beat them at their own game -- if you're willing to study their weaknesses and then work like hell to take advantage of them. Furthermore, fandom does need another newspaper -- it needs one even if Walter A. Coslet's imposing new venture hatches successfully. When Bob Stein and I were launching the fannewsie Tympani (which was published in 1947-8), somebody said encouragingly, "Fandom can never have enough fan newsies." That's even more true today, when the stf field generates perhaps 100 per cent more news than it did in Tympani's heyday, which was just before the big boom in science fiction.

So let's look at the newsies and see where your new enterprise might fit into the picture. We'll have to admit right away that Sam Merwin is probably right -- that Science Fiction News Letter and Fantasy Times are surely the best stf newsies of all time. They print the news more fully, more promptly, and more intelligently than any of their predecessors, and they probably circulate more widely than any newsies of the past. Their general excellence does not mean, however, that they are without weaknesses. Let's look them over and try to find their faults.

F-T and SFNL represent two different types of newsheets. In the past few years F-T has grown more and more into a regular newspaper instead of the newsmagazine it once resembled and even tried consciously to emulate. For years it experimented with a Time-like format. Now it has abandoned cover pix and magazine format and adopted a newspaper setup, with the lead story headlined on page 1, smaller stories and the departments inside, displayed on columned pages. Occasionally it uses a tabloid-type cover -- the headlines splashed across page 1, with a notation beneath, "See story, page 3."

On the other hand, Tucker's approach in SFNL is less formal and is basically unnewspaperlike. SFNL is not set up like a regular newspaper. Much important news is departmentalized on inside pages, rather than headlined and featured in separate news-stories. The front page often contains columns or feature stories or less important stories than those inside. One has the feeling that even if Astounding Science Fiction became a slick weekly, edited by the ghost of H. G. Wells, Tucker would put this news into a "What's Doing?" department on page 5. But Tucker's policy is not necessarily bad, for remember that his sheet is a "news letter" and an informal, personalized approach is expected in a letter.

You'll notice more differences between F-T and SFNL when you study their writing styles. Tucker's style is as informal as his format: there is little attempt

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to write in accepted journalistic manner, using the "inverted pyramid" type of development. But Tucker, being the good writer he is, naturally puts important facts first, and offhandedly writes stories that are more acceptable in some details than amateurish efforts to write like the New York Daily News. For instance: "Jack Williamson's volume, The Cometeers, won the January award for excellence in design (fiction class), given by the trade magazine Publisher's Weekly." That isn't a lead just as a trained newsman might write it, but it gets the important facts right up there at the beginning.

Tucker also editorializes to his heart's content whenever he feels in the mood: "(If they pay the usual royalty of 1¢ per copy, neat, Mr. Clarke, neat!)" Such expressions of satisfaction or glee turn up in SPNL when you least expect them -- and maybe that's why you read the sheet.

Fantasy Times, on the other hand, attempts to report the news in straight journalistic fashion, using an objective approach. Unlike Fantasy News, the pioneer stf newsie from which it descended, Fantasy Times is always passably grammatical, gratifyingly free of bias, and it usually contains all essential information. Its biggest weakness is that it fails, often as not, to play up the important element among the six elements that every journalism student knows comprise most news-stories: Who, What, Why, Where, When, and How. If they are important to the story, most of these should appear in the lead sentence; the most important one should appear at the very beginning. F-T often forgets this.

You can take almost any issue of F-T and find mistakes in emphasis. For instance, nearly every story based on a publicity release from a prozine contains a "Who" at the beginning, where a "What" is called for. Like this: "The Fantasy Veterans Association announced today that their first convention will be held Sunday, April 22." "H. L. Gold, editor of Galaxy, announced today that his magazine will... put out a French edition." "Popular Publications, Inc., informed Fantasy Times today that their fantasy magazine A. Merritt's Fantasy Magazine has folded." "Our west coast editor, Arthur Jean Cox, announced today that Forrest J Ackerman revealed that soon there will be on the stands a companion magazine to Marvel Science..."

That last lead is especially bad, for it starts out with two "Who's" that are unimportant to the story. If a trained rewrite man had news releases like these handed to him, he'd probably bat out the stories like this: "The Fantasy Veterans association's first convention will be held on Sunday, April 22, in New York City, at a site not yet chosen." "Galaxy will be the first American stf magazine to publish a French edition, H. L. Gold announced today." "A. Merritt's Fantasy Magazine became the first American stf magazine to fold in the postwar era, as Popular Publications announced that the magazine would discontinue publication with the October issue." "A companion magazine to Marvel Science Stories was forecast today by fantasy agent Forrest J Ackerman."

In other words, the rewrite man would emphasize what was happening, rather than who told the newspaper about it.

F-T's penchant for emphasizing the source rather than the import of prozine publicity releases shows the exaggerated sense of indebtedness that F-T's editors feel toward the prozines that supply them with such news. Another indication is F-T's use of the title "Mr." when referring to stf celebrities, especially prozine editors. Most newspapers use "Mr." only when referring to ministers or in mentioning the deceased in obituaries. F-T's unreasonable courtesy toward professionals smacks of servility and apple-polishing -- something that you will of course avoid when you establish your newsie.

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F-T often muffs the lead in another way. It begins a news-story with a superfluous phrase or sentence like this: "A number of changes is taking place at Fiction House." There's an incorrect verb there, but the real fault of this sentence is that it says nothing. The story goes on to reveal that Two Complete Science-Adventure Books will be published only three times a year, rather than quarterly, and that Malcolm Reiss will replace Jerome Bixby as editor. That's the real story -- the facts of the change, not that some changes are taking place.

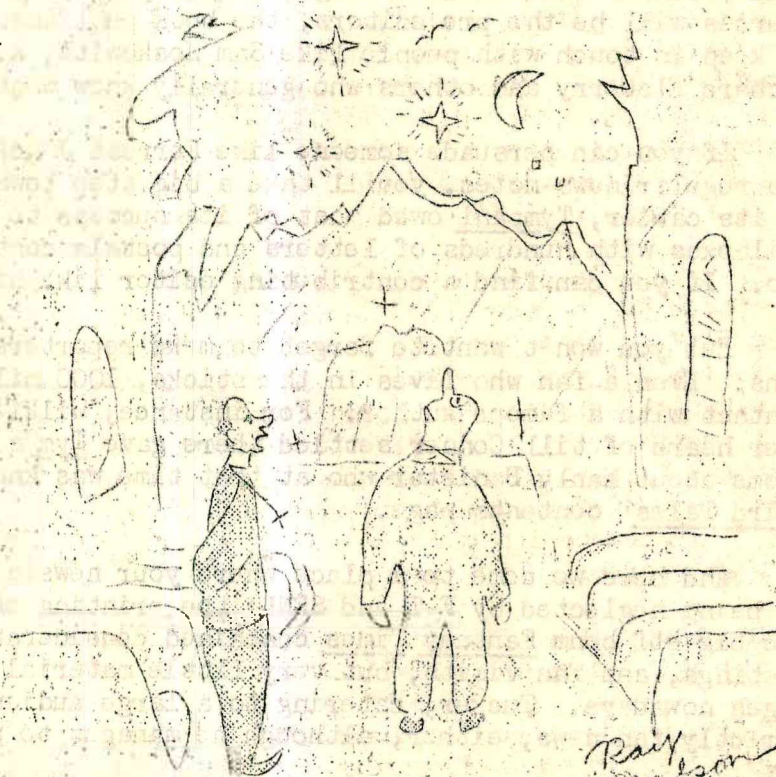
Besides obscuring the important facts of the lead, F-T sometimes misses the feature of the story entirely. "Missing the feature" means that they emphasize the wrong thing in a story. A good example of this is in their story about Out of This World Adventures folding and a new title, Avon Science Fiction Reader, being established. In F-T's story, Ootwa's demise got the lead, some remarks about Ten Story Fantasy followed -- and the new magazine was mentioned only in paragraph three! Yet the new magazine was the most important fact in the story.

Maybe the classic example of "missing the feature" in a stf newsie occurred in Tympani. Donn Brazier of Milwaukee wrote to tell how, when he went to the newsstand to buy the July aSF on the day of publication (sometime in June), he found the August issue on the stand. Somehow the magazine had shown up a month early. Donn went on to reveal the table of contents for the August issue. For some reason, probably because of our envy of Fantasy Times' "prozine previews," I played up this story as follows: I outlined the whole table of contents for the month-early issue, and in the last sentence revealed: "This information was obtained when, due to a distributing error, the August aSF was placed on the newsstands June 18 -- a month early -- only to be hastily gathered up again a few hours later." I kick myself every time I remember how I muffed the story. It was a pure case of "missing the feature."

Since Tucker has the "news letter"-type of sheet pretty well under control, you'll probably want to try the newspaper style -- and here is your first good break: if you avoid the errors that Taurasi makes, you can beat Fantasy Times in the news-writing department, if nowhere else.

If you've taken a course in journalism, you'll consciously try to avoid such mistakes. If you're not a journalism student -- and few if any of fanewsie editors have been -- perhaps a study of some elementary text in journalism may help you.

But you still face the handicap of competing with Taurasi's and Tucker's news-gathering machines. This will be tougher than improving on their news-writing styles. Both Tucker and Taurasi are old-timers in fandom and have many friends who were once fans and are now professionals in a position to feed them



"The roof was blown off during the war, but we will soon have it repaired. The sight of the stars distracts the people's attention from my sermons."

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hot tips about impending events in pro circles. Furthermore, both "T's" have been publishing newsies for a number of years and have earned for themselves a certain prestige among prozine editors. Most editors know them and will think of them when their prozine goes monthly or increases its size while reducing its price. You've got to start from scratch, build a news-gathering machine from the bottom up. It will take time. You'll have to write every prozine editor, letting them know you've got a newsie. You'll have to contact every big name fan and ask them to pass along any news heard. You'll have to make a lot of contacts all over stfdom.

To begin with, you'll probably have to "lift" your news from F-T and SFNL. Is that legitimate? Sure. News itself can't be copyrighted. Since the beginning, all newspapers have carefully scanned their competitors and picked up any news their own reporters missed somehow. You can do it, too. Like as not, both Tucker and Taurasi will even give you permission to quote their news-stories in full, if you ask their assistance. Both of them are genial guys. When Tympani was getting on its feet, Jimmy Taurasi was almost embarrassingly generous with help in the form of news-bulletins airmailed to us.

But you won't want to quote their stuff exactly as they write it -- even if they say it's okay. You'll want to improve it stylistically if you can. Often, too, you'll want to add a bit of information or get a fresher angle into the story.

Of course, you'll always read your competitors, just to be sure you're not missing something -- and you won't catch all the news yourself even when your news-sources are twice as good as Tucker's and Taurasi's combined. But you'll gradually extend your own tentacles and begin to scoop in news on your own. Your primary news-sources will be the pro editors, the book publishers, the fantasy agents. You'll also keep in touch with people like Sam Moskowitz, A. Langaley-Searles, Rick Sneary, Richard Elsberry and others who generally know what's going on.

If you can persuade someone like Forrest J Ackerman or Arthur Jean Cox to drop you regular news-notes, you'll take a big step toward complete coverage. During all of its career, Tympani owed most of its success to Forry Ackerman, who bombarded our mailboxes with hundreds of letters and postals containing the latest news, fan and pro. If you can find a contributing editor like him, you're "in"!

But you won't want to forget to make reporters of other, less well-informed fans. Even a fan who lives in the sticks, 1000 miles from another fan, may be in contact with a famous author. For instance, Wilkie Conner of some town nobody had ever heard of till Conner settled there gave Tym a number of small but printworthy items about Manly Banister who at that time was known to fandom only as a name on Weird Tales' contents page.

And here we come to a place where your newsie can really perform a service that is being neglected by F-T and SFNL: the printing of fan news. Before the days of the big stf boom Fantasy Times contained considerable news of fan conferences, fan meetings, and fan visits, but very little material of this kind creeps into their pages nowadays. Tucker, catering to a large audience beyond fandom, can't emphasize strictly fan news, either, although he manages to publish more than F-T does.

Walter Dunkelberger's Fanews undoubtedly owed its popularity to the amazing amount of fan-gossip it crammed into its legalength pages. Tympani also reported all the gossip it received about fans. There isn't much of that type of stuff in today's newsies, although several of the ephemeral newcomers published it when they couldn't get pro news. It's a shame, really, that more fan news isn't published.

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Fans want to know about Marion Zimmer Bradley's baby, and about Walter A. Coslet's new Chevrolet. They want to know that Ed Cox is in the army now, that Art H. Rapp is covering court martials for the Third Armored division, and that Lee Hoffman is laid up with an injured back. All of this is fan gossip of the recent past, but to my knowledge none of it got into the newsies.

It's no longer very sensational news when a stf celebrity shows up at a regular club meeting, but what he says when he addresses the group might be news. There is another badly-tapped source of news. Most fan newsies of the past and present have not reported speeches as they should be reported -- and would be reported if they had sufficient significance to be covered by mundane newspapers. If you can get a copy of the man's speech, or get a good summarization of the speech from someone who was there, you've got a potential story, and one that the other newsies won't have. That "if" in the above sentence is a big one, but it's worth overcoming. You'll realize that when you thumb through the back files of your competitors and find that speech stories, if they appear at all, are written like this: "Mr. Sam Merwin ... said that he agreed with Mr. Browne that the day of the pulp was nearly done, but stf is holding better than almost any other line."

"The day of the pulp is nearly done," your lead will begin, "but stf is holding out better than almost any other type, Sam Merwin Jr., editor of Thrilling Wonder Stories, told the fifth anniversary meeting of the Eastern Science Fiction association last night." And your story will continue by summarizing Merwin's further remarks, if possible direct-quoting him here and there.

In these and in other ways, you'll extend your coverage of news into areas that have been neglected by Tucker and Taurasi. You'll soon find, I think, that the fan newsie field is big enough for three "best stf newspapers of all time" -- Tucker's, Taurasi's, and yours.

In light of the suggestions I've thrown at you in this article, what will the blueprint of your budding newsie look like? You'll have your own special slant, of course, but it will probably look something like this: Your newspaper -- let's call it Timestream -- slants toward the Fantasy Times side of the fence. You write the news in journalistic style -- but better, when you can, than Taurasi does it. For variety, perhaps, and just to show Tucker you don't want to neglect him altogether, you throw in a column of breezy chatter, where the news gets the once-over in a pongish manner -- but better done than Pong's stuff, if you can manage that. You remember that, after all, stf news is pretty insignificant and scarcely a line of it is worth the big headlines you'll be splashing around. So you'll let down the bars once in a while. If Burbee sends you some news about F. Towner Laney which is written in Burbee's usual style, you won't take a blue pencil to it. Rather than wrench it into newspaper style, you'll leave it as it is so that everybody can enjoy it.

Above all, you won't let the pros run your newspaper. You'll treat them courteously, of course, and probably you'll send them stamped, self-addressed envelopes when you ask them for the story lineup of the next issue (though you know full well that you're doing them a favor by printing the plug). But you won't feel obligated to kiss their foot. If a pro editor sends you a publicity release that isn't newsworthy, you won't print it just to keep on his good side. And when a pro editor's letter about his terrific new magazine descends to philosophical blatherings about the state of the world, you won't hesitate to cut him off and run something else.

"Something else" will probably be fan news. You'll run fan news alongside of pro news and not be ashamed of it. You'll remember that big city papers laughed at

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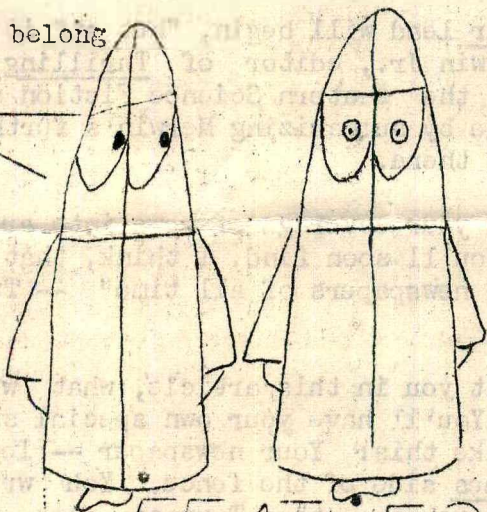
the country press for running numberless columns about Mrs. John Doe being a caller at the home of Mrs. James Smith -- and then found it good business to run the same sort of thing themselves, only it was Judy Holliday calling on Gloria Swanson in the big town sheets. Knowing that Joe Kennedy, Ray Nelson, Bob Pavlat, and Bob Johnson are as big names in this microcosm as screen stars are in a slightly wider world, you'll figure that their doings are worth space in any issue of your newsie.

As I said at the beginning of this article, starting a newsie will be a hard job, but, despite the stellar competition you'll have to contend with, you can look forward to success if you try hard and have the stuff to beat Taurasi and Tucker at their own game. Go to it!

Send me a copy of your first issue -- and while you're about it, better send one to Jimmy Taurasi and to Bob Tucker, too. After all, they like to know about what's going on around stfdom just like the rest of us do!

"I want something big, something clean" "Why don't you wash an elephant?"

You don't belong
to any fan
Club?



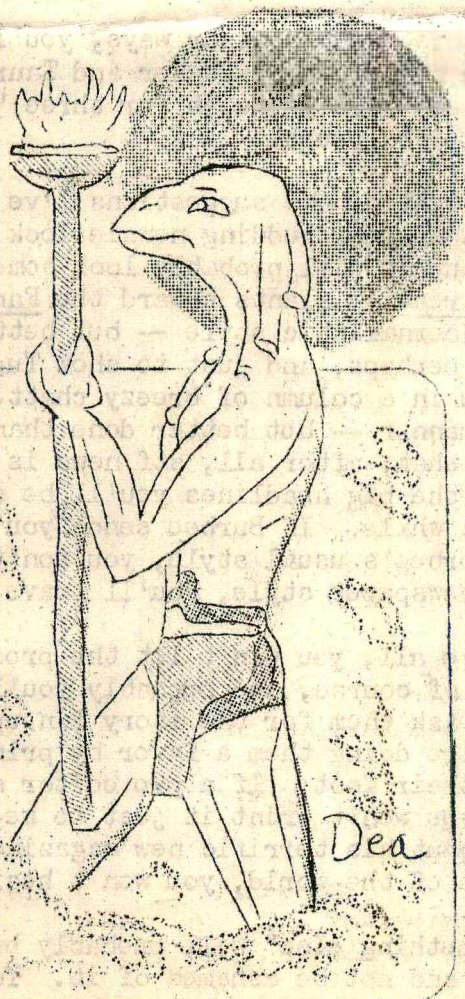
FEATHER OF FATE

A Venusian plume from an emerald crest
Gave power of wealth and dominion,
And one orange-tipped wing from Uranus possessed
The gift of enchanted opinion.

There was magic from Mars in one silvery plume
Portraying a knowledge foretelling
All the future would hold, be it fortune or doom,
While Jovian fuzz blessed dwelling.

The collection was willed to the meekest of men,
Who wanted no wealth from a feather;
He sang while he worked in his heremite den,
And prophesied only the weather.

By Orma Mc Cormick



all our yesterdays

By Harry Warner, Jr.

Most of us collect fantasy books, in a big or little way. But I don't think that anyone active in the field today collects them as H.C. Koenig of New York used to do. He hunted the best editions or the oldest editions of the fantasy classics. Then he proceeded to tell about these books in *The Reader and Collector*, a publication which he issued through FAPA. Koenig has dropped out sight lately, and never was really active in fandom, being twice and three times the age of most fans. Here are some of the things that made a lot of collectors droll, excerpted from the December, 1941, issue of his publication:

"No collector of books on the weird and fantastic could lay claim to a complete library if he did not possess at least one copy of 'Frankenstein'. My special bookcase holds a very nice copy of this book, issued some years ago by the Limited Editions Club. The book is printed in a new type face, cut by Goudy. The side of the book is covered with linen, the back binding is a rich red morocco. The illustrations are unique and unusual, in that the illustrator, Everett Henry, attempts to capture all the horror of the story, without ever showing the monster.

We come to a copy of 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland'. One of the best-known and best loved nonsense books, it nevertheless belongs in every fantasy collection. My copy is small size, 5 3/4 x 8 3/4 inches and runs a little over 200 pages. The book is completely bound in full French levant morocco, stained deep wine in color. Stamped on the front and back covers and on the back-bone are designs made of type ornaments. The one on the back-bone is made up of inter-twinings of drawings of Alice, The Mad Hatter and the White Rabbit. The designs, incidentally, are stamped in genuine gold. My copy bears the signature of Mrs. Hargrears, the original Alice.

That brings to me to an interesting book made in Japan, 'Kwaidan' by Lafcadio Hearn. This book is completely Japanese; the paper is Japanese linen; the binding is Japanese brocade; the illustrations are by a Japanese, Yoshimura Fbuljita and the book was printed by the Shimbi Shoin in Tokio. The book contains about twenty illustrations in color. I understand that the opening illustration required fifty-one impressions. The outer-case for this edition is a wrap-case. It is made of heavy Japanese silk and is wrapped around the book itself and fastened by two ivory tabs. The book is not bound the way we do it in this country. The front and back boards (covered with a golden brocade) are laid on the top and bottom of the stack of sheets and the whole sewed together with blue silk"

Incidentally, Koenig was the only person to my knowledge ever to produce fanzines as most of us dream of producing them. He wrote the stuff, then turned it over to his secretary for stenciling, duplicating, and assembling.

The days of the costume ball at science fiction conventions seem to be dying away. Here's how Milt Rothman described in the December, 1941 issue of *The Southern Star* the getups worn at the Denvention that night.:

"Mr. Heinlein, Adam Stink, the world's most lifelike robot. In other words, no costume at all. Mrs. Heinlein, Queen Nipher from 'Figures of Earth,' by Campbell. She wore a sort of semi-oriental dress with much costume jewelry.

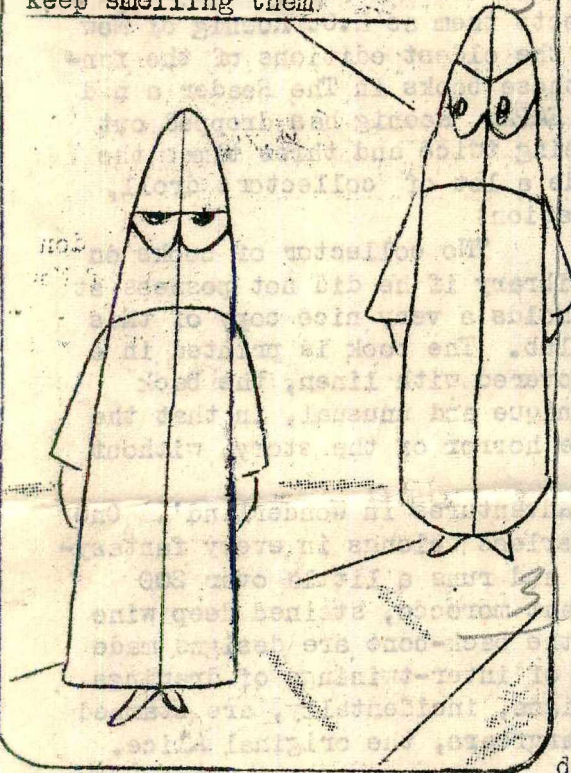
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All Our Yesterdays

Walt Daugherty: A Galactic Roamer. His costume was put together out of plastic material which he obtained as remnants from the airplane factory in which he works. The stuff actually cost \$500 to make, counting the experimental work involved in obtaining the particular shape.

E. Everett Evans: Bug-Eyed Monster from Ahea. Completely hand made. A blue and yellow suit with a helmet made of dozens of feathers pasted on a ~~iron~~ one by one. Horribly hot to wear.

Well if your going to keep letting them, then you can just keep smelling them.



Art Widner: He obtained a frightful rubber mask, and came as Granny from 'Slun', with speech and all.

ok ok
demon knight: A sloppy looking sort of John Star complete with Junior G Man medal.

Ackerman: A most horrible looking rubber mask. Indescribable. The same for Morajo.

William Deutch of New York put on a little beard and a French accent and handed out Life Line prophecies.

Chet Chosen grew a Christ-like beard and came as a prophet; Cyril Kornbluth looked natural and came as a mad scientist; and Doc Lowndes put a mercurochrome cut around his neck, powder on his face, and eyebrow pencil on his eyes and was a lovely zombie. The three of them did not put on the act which they were supposed to.

Elmer Meukel, of Washington (state of) appeared in fancy blue shirt and orange bathing trunks to represent the Probable Man."

The Southern Star was the official organ of the Dixie Fantasy Federation. The people who were back of it have vanished completely. I think a virus must have gotten them, although the draft was blamed for a while. Joseph Gilbert, Harry Jenkins, Lee Eastman, Fred Fischer, Art Schnert, and the others--where are they now?

Claude Degler and his Cosmic Circle were going strong in 1943, with plans for starting a colony of fans in the Ozarks, mimeographed publications in incredible profusion, and Degler himself hitchhiking from coast to coast on a "good will tour of fandom" that caused a spectacular set of fusses and feuds. He even planned a competitor for the FAPA as one of the minor facets of the Cosmic Circle, and issued a bunch of stuff representing one mailing of the Circle Amateur Publishers Alliance. Much of this mailing was devoted to Degler's complaints against T. Bruce Yerke, who had gone so far as to suggest that the Cosmic Circle might not be all that it was cracked up to be. Typical of Degler's pacification methods is the following excerpt from Cosmic Circle Commentator No. 4:

"WAR OF NERVES". For several days all manner of furious activity, intended speeches, heated debates and argument, which at times reach alarming proportions, have been taking place.

A circular was sent out by Bruce Yerke, & the articles in the ANALYZER & RAYM'S 'BULLETIN' by other side. Various factions took sides, one way or the other. Many persons & things having no connection with the original argument or matter whatever, came to be involved & dragged into the melee. Should this matter have continued even one very small, little step further, no one, and nothing on earth could have kept this Society & all Fandom from having become involved in fanwide controversy that would have certainly resulted in the most gosh-awful mess any of us can possibly imagine. HOW NEAR this actually came to happening, no-one but the few key

All Our Yesterdays

persons directly concerned will EVER KNOW. After much controversy, heated discussions, 'Strategy of terror', by 'measures & counter-measures'--& long and serious discussions with everyone involved...the so-called ' War of Nerves' has now been relieved."

(I make no effort to reproduce the more mysterious aspects of Degler's punctuation, and I resist the temptation to quote about eight pages of this magazine, that sound suspiciously like a war of nerves in themselves. Instead, here are a few "Headlines" quoted from the same issue:

"J. MICHAEL ROSENELUM ENGLISH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COSMIC CIRCLE PLANET FANTASY FEDERATION, if this acceptable to him. World has not yet had time to received from him.

MISS HELEN BRADLEIGH MADE 'PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR; a position higher than that of the Psychological Ministry. The new position is connected with the 'OFFICE COSMIC EDUCATION(OCE).....

HELEN CONDUCTS SUMMER SCHOOL FOR THE 'COSMIC' CHILDREN WORLDS 1st STP. COSMIC SCHOOL. Sometime we will have our own schools for Cosmen. We of the COUNCIL PLEDGE that we will never give up the 4 year-long WAR we have fought with the 'Powers of Darkness' (Unenlightenment & ignorance) until this is so." end

he: Everytime I hold you something snaps.
she: Yes, I know, just a mintue and I'll fix it.

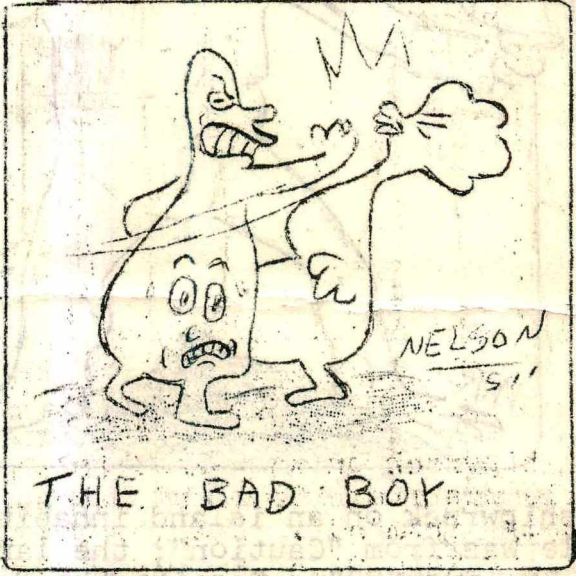
Walt Klein's

space man's
song

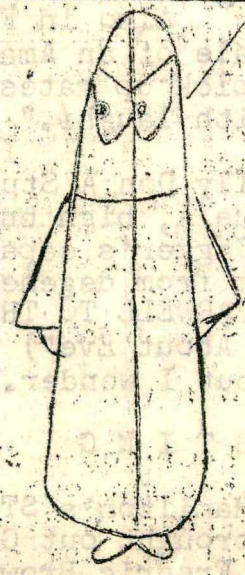
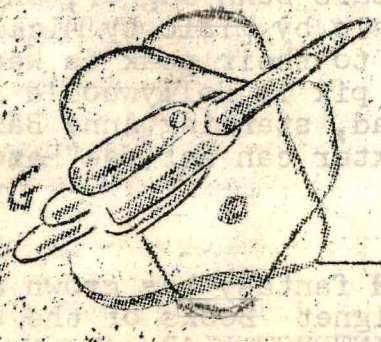
Long flaring feather plumes of slim rocket exhaust jetting in endless timelessness across the unsurprised staring of space void immensity!

Like cosmic seeds spreading in eternal ripples from the ages dead, deathless mother of life let me settle all worlds, probe all mystery, touching all worlds, remaining aloof, untouched and alone, mating with none.

For better the meteor's swift roman candle burst over dark curtain skies than the dying candle's sick sputtering in its own rencid oil.

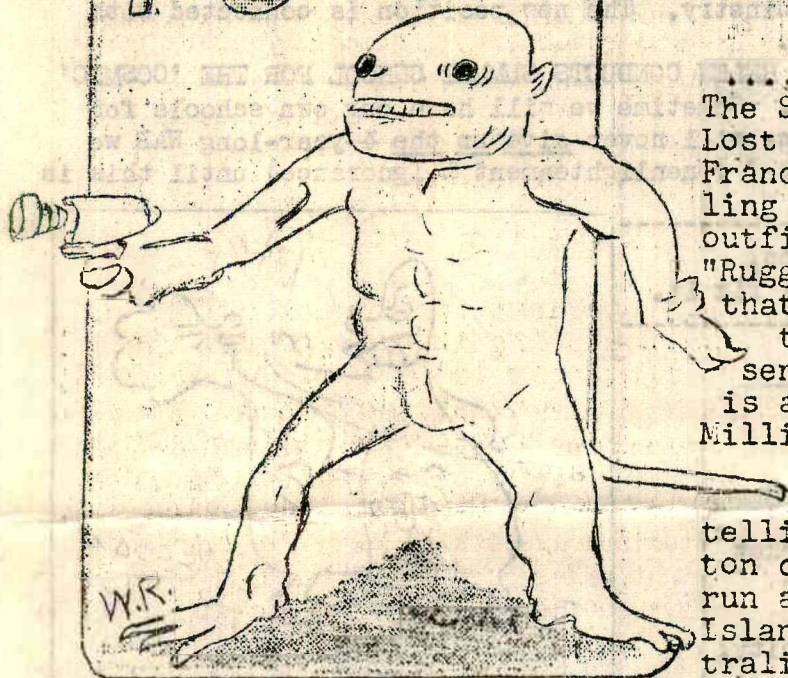


Whaddya mean; I get crumbs in the bed?



FANTASY NOTE BOOK 3

BY CHASM



.....OF MANY THINGS
The Sterlying Production of "Two
Lost Worlds" recently played at San
Francisco's Paramount Theatre. Ster-
ling Productions is an Australian
outfit, the same ones that released
"Rugged Riordans". TLW is a picture
that fantasy fans can well afford
to miss. In fact, it should be
sent back to Australia. The film
is a spliced reel of shots from "One
Million BC", "Captain Fury" and "Cap-
tain Caution". Added is a
documentary-type monologue,
telling of the adventures of a Bos-
ton clipper ship that make the long
run around Cape Horn to the Spice
Islands, ran into trouble off Aus-
tralia, and then shoved its members
into a pirate raid on the colonies,

and shipwreck on an island inhabited by prehistoric monsters. The sea
battle was from "Caution"; the land fights from "Fury", and the monster
rally from "BC". Despite the fact that it drew capacity crowds, TLW is
is no more of a fantasy flicker than "Next Voice You Hear"...another
booby trap.

Also in Frisco at the time of TLW, was "Prehistoric Women",
a neat tale of an Amazonic society, in which the females go on the war
path to pick up mates. The Chronicle reviewed PW as an "anthropology
lesson with laughs."

In production are two other fantasy films. "The Thing"
(originally Don A Stuart's WHO GOES THERE?) stars Dean Jagger, and will
be a grade A, high budget picture. Original music by Mistic by Micklos
Rosza. Jagger's capabilities will be strained to their peak to keep
this film from degenerating a la TLW. The other pix is Hollywood'd ver-
sion of FARWELL TO THE MASTER, with feminine lead, starring Anne Baxter
(of "All About Eve") Need I say more? Miss Baxter can act (see "Razor's
Edge"), but I wonder.

DIGESTING DIGESTS:

Pocket sized fantasy has grown and
grown, Hamilton's STAR KINGS was released by Signet Books of the NAL;
Century brought out George O Smith's OPERATION INTERSTELLAR; Bantam
published Fredric Brown's WHAT MAD UNIVERSE; and Philip Wylie's NIGHT
UNTO NIGHT and the nonfantay but delightful OPUS 21 have hit the stands
in 25¢ editions.

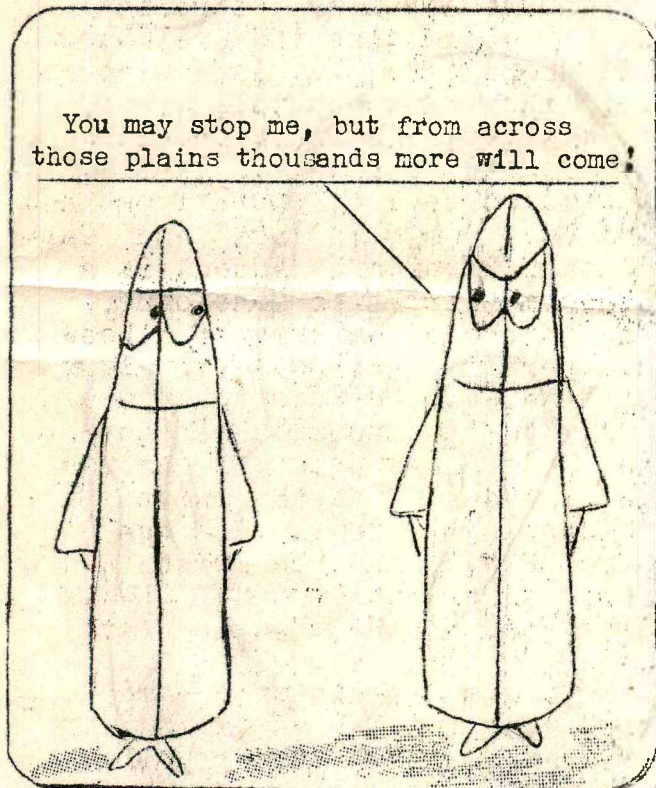
FANTASY Note Book

Signet has released two Mentor books of interest to fantasy fans: Margaret Mead's SEX AND TEMPERAMENT (in 3 primitive societies) and Ruth Benedict's Patterns of Culture. Numbers M56, M2, respectively. Also available---M44 COMING OF AGE IN SAMOA, Margaret Mead; M50, NEXT DEVELOPMENT IN MAN, L L Whyte; and M23, Hereditry, Race and Society, by L C Dunn and Th. Dobzhansky.

Hillman previewed Worlds Beyond with Jack Vance's DYING EARTH, and issue premiere printed an excerpt from fantasy.

The Avon series (PRINCESS OF THE ATOM, Cummings; GREEN GIRL, Williamson; INTO PLUTONIAN DEPTHS, Coblenz) now has Farley's EARTHMAN ON VENUS (originally RADIO MAN). Also sequeled C S Lewis' OUT OF THE SILENT PLANET with the second in the trilogy, PERELANDRA.

Avon's FANTASY READER puzzles San Francisco fandom: number 14 can out before number 13, and the mag is generally mixed up as to distribution.



W R I T E R ' S D I G E S T N E W S

From the last two issues of WD, ca, the following information...Avon will shortly issue 10 STORY FANTASY, a pulp devoted to more adult fiction....SUSPENSE magazine will shortly make an appearance, featuring primarily men's fiction, including stf and fantasy, as well as adventure and western: supposedly topnotch fiction....DYNAMIC SCIENCE STORIES will be revived in February, while MARVEL will pay up to 5¢ a word for stories (what they've published so fan must have been given to the gratis!).... Popular Publications has dropped the Merritt Mag, and digest-sized many of it titles, including FFM and ADVENTURE, BLACK MASK....Fiction House dropped its off trail INDIAN STORIES, after three issues, while Bixby has purchased new novel-lengths from Blish, Clarke, others... A A

Craig, in the latest PLANET, is Poul Anerson (thanks Fantasy-Times)....
...Kenneth Putnam, several in PLANET and WONDER, STARTLING, is Robert A. Heinlein....
Woodrow Wilson Smith, of a 1946 WONDER, is Henry Kuttner..
....Carter Sprague, Matt Lee, being Sam Merwin jr, editor.....

O D D S ' N ' E N D S :

From Redd Boggs in Skyhook, 2nd annish: "Dream of a Rarebit Fiend (1908, Edison, US) frief film tells of a man...after dining too well.. dreams of a wild midnight journey through space..... This film made at a cost of \$350 in only 9 days"

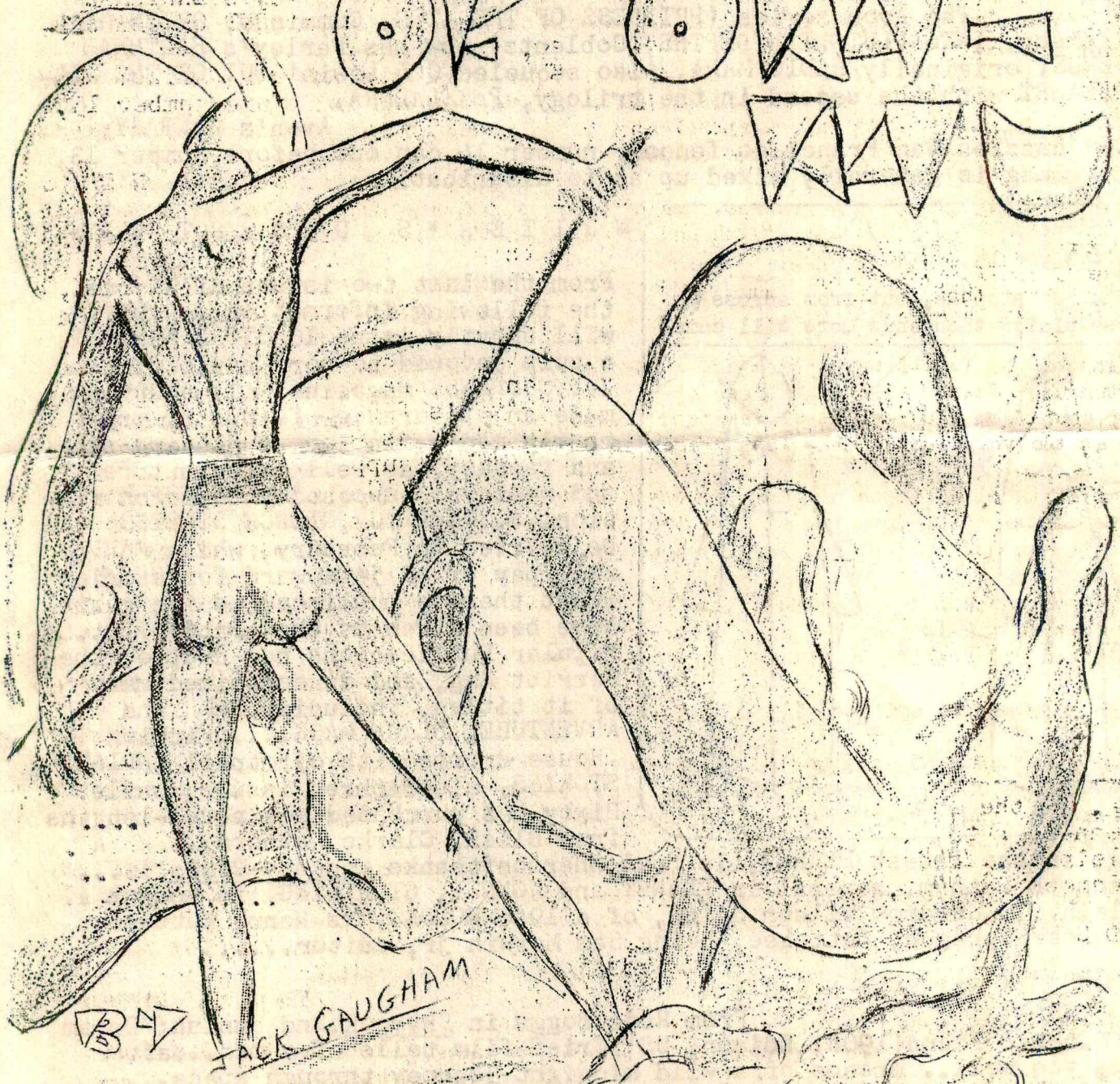
New offtrail addition to Fiction House chain is SHEENA, the pulp version of the cosmic book. Ki-Gor had better watch his laurels. Lewis Carroll on present day science fiction-fantasy field: " And thick and fast they came at last, And more, and more, and more-----"

SALUD !

4 4 4 4

DRAGON

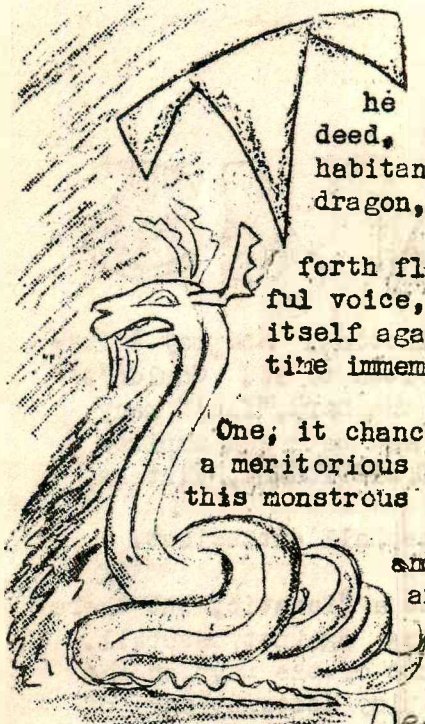
OF OMA-
WAU



B 4

JACK GAUGHAM

WAWOOWO V.
GAWCY



he dragon who lived in Man-as-mor was a very great dragon indeed. His breath wasted the land for miles, and there was no inhabitant free from terror in the cities of Man-as-mor. For this dragon, like all dragons, slew even at a distance.

He would flash forth flame, and they who lived might hear the crack of his hateful voice, when the hardened, poisonous spittle of the beast flattened itself against the rocks which were the protection of travelers since time immemorial.

In the reign of him who was called the Great Horned One; it chanced that a citizen of Man-as-mor bethought that it would be a meritorious deed to rid his people forever from the depredations of this this monstrous creature.

He announced his intentions before a great assemblage and upon finishing his words, he fell down again upon all fours and began to crawl rapidly through the rocks toward the haunts of the dragon.

The hero snaked his way through the tall grasses, behind great rocks, and down the bed of streams *Dea* which had dried up in the fierce summer heat, or perhaps from the breath of the dragon.

The wily hero traveled north in this fashion for three full days and nights, and a great multitude slithered selently in his steps.

On the morning of the fourth day, all heard a fearful, sharp crack, the monster himself giving tongue. There followed a flash of fire and all assembled saw a poor passing bird droop down from the sky, its life-blood flowing as it hit the earth with a sickening thud at the very feet of the last dragon in Om-Mu, holy be the name of the homeland.

The mulititude, or those of them who dared lift their eyes, beheld the monster itself. It towered six feet into the air, on two long and muscular legs, and one could see it was tailless, and that it had an ugly head covered with hair like a beast of the forest.

The young hero never ceased his advance through tall grass which stretched to the very feet of the dragon, but all lesser souls tarried at a distance, nostrils dilated, eyes fixed and staring as the epic drama unfolded.

Suddenly, might all see that the grass by the monster was agitated like the surface of a great pond in high wind.

A great shout arose, when the good citizens of Man-as-mor saw plainly that it was the hero who had seized the fragon by its feet and drawn it to the ground where it waved its arms wildly, after a long tube-like appendage broke off from its body, aprobois sperhaps, for smoke still curled from one end of it.

The people surged forward when they learned from those who had stretched highest that the hero had the dragon by its horrible throat. There was a hero! But the struggle of giants was soon over.

The hero took his teeth from the dead dragon's throat, and rose on his hind legs and tail.

he said, "You are free!" "Rejoice, O Lizards!"

So it was that the terrible, bloodthirsty Man Kind vanished from the earth, and civilization made there upon, gigantic strides.

I, Fe-il-Lon, set this down as our ancestors have chanted it for twelve hundred years.

There were Lizards in those days!

Given in the reign of the Three-Horned One.

FANS OR SLAMS

May I point out the name, "fan," has no distinction. And may I further suggest that the general term, "fandom," has an annoying itch to it. Couldn't we do better than that? The baseball patron has monopolized the word, "fan," many years ago, and the average citizen has a hazy notion of balls and bats and umpires whenever it is mentioned. FUNK & WAGNER COMPREHENSIVE STANDARD DICTIONARY, vintage, 1935, gives the following definition:

fan, (slang) A fanatic; baseball enthusiast.

course we could exist under the first part of the definition as a "fanatic," but there is that baseball nailed to it with a semi-colon. I have nothing against baseball. Anyone visiting our house during the season will find the "Game of the Day" on the radio in the day time and Larry Ray making with the play by play description of the Kansas City Blues game at night. Even the television will be off.

But couldn't we science fiction and fantasy enthusiasts cook up something more original than "fan", "fandom" and "fanzine"--- something with a little distinction.

For example we could coin a word made up from the first letters of our yearly prozines. They were Amazing, Wonder, Startling, and later Thrilling Wonder. And we have a, w, a, s, t. The first thing that leaps to the eye is SWAAT.

that guy?"

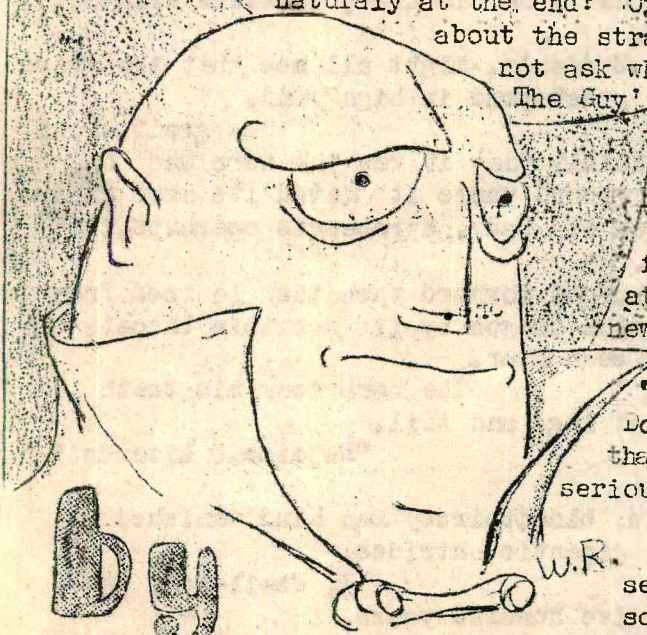
"He's a Swatt!"

"A what?"

You see? You get the idea? Think of the advertizing value in a term like that. Read the above dialogue, using the term "fan" instead of "SWAAT". Does the question, "A what?", come naturally at the end? Of course not, because whoever was inquiring about the strange behavior of our fellow enthusiast would not ask what a fan was. He would think of baseball. The Guy's from Brooklyn. Probably got hit by a foul fly in the bargain.

Of course the term doesn't have to be SWAAT. It may have a buzzy, fly-a swatting sound to it that many would not care for. From the letters suggested above we could at any combination. We could invent an entirely new word. The organized clubs would have something worth while to do. They could promote "the word". How about SATWAZINE and SATWADOM. Do you feel like you are a SATWA? Do you feel that this is a SATWAZINE? Now don't snicker, this serious--DO YOU FEEL IT? You don't well---

Let's mix 'em up again. What about WAATS! Say it over several times. Say it out loud. Does that sound good to you? With WAATS we get WAATSDOM and WAATSZINE. Now, there's a difficulty here.



by
TE Watkins

Fans or Slans

It sounds a little like "wHat". But WAATS has no "h" in it. Say it very carefully and you'll see the difference. I know it sounds a little like Abbott and Costello. You know, "Who's on First, What's on second." Since this danger is inherent in the word, why not make it **WHAATS**? Where can we get an "h"? Did anyone ever publish a "Hellish Stories"? Ever heard of "Hot Plots"? Maybe with a little nudge from us some publisher will start one with the title "HooooOOOOOT"! A magazine like that would sort of call from the newsstands for quick slaes.

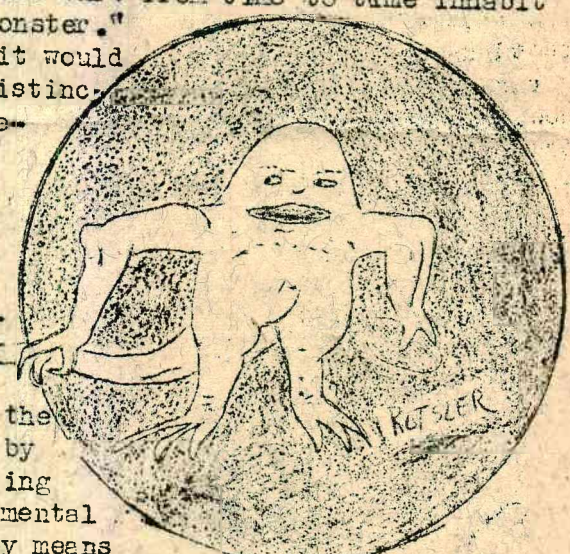


But at the present we have no "h". So that cooks **WHAATS** and with it **WAATS**. You don't like **SATWA**. I don't like **SWAATS**. Perhaps the first letter of our early prozines could be worked up into a usable term, but let's move on to another suggestion.

Every art, profession or business has its own language, terms that have become a part of the jargon used by those interested, but unintelligible to the general public. Science fiction has its shop jargon. We might latch onto one of these words to describe ourselves. How about **BEM**. This word was coined in the letter columns of **Startling**

Stories and was used to describe certain characters that from time to time inhabit the cover of the magazine. **BEM** means "bug-eyed monster." I realize the "bembom" would be hard to say, but it would be apt. However, you feel that the term has no distinction, it is degrading and we want something complementary.

How can we do any better than **SLAN**? This word was coined by one of our best authors, Van Vogt. The **Slans** can be found in the novel by the same name and are a new race of mankind. They are mutants. They have two great differences from human beings, first, they have a super high order of morals. (And we could use a little of that in these days of cold wars, basketball sixes, and the R.F.C. loans.) second, the **slans** can communicate by mental telepathy. They have short tendrils sprouting out of their heads by which they send and receive mental messages. They can eavesdrop on private thoughts by means of these tendrils. Their high order of morals, however, prevent them from being sneaky about it. We can't do any better than **Slan**. We are the **SLANS** of **SLANDOM**. We use a special means of communication, the **SLANZINE**, in lieu of the mental telepathy which we are sure to develop some day. We could even past tendrils on our foreheads at conventions as an easy means of identification and for advertizing purposes.



How about it? Will it be fans or slans? I would much prefer to be a slan myself.

BEWARE OF THE WHITE
COMMING SOON RABBIT

DEFENSE OF THE BELLY BUTTON

BY BOB FULTZ

This ornament on the front of all members of the human race has always held a weird sort of fascination for me. Only in the last few years has the belly-button really gained a prominent place in life. For years men and women kept their belly-button hidden beneath one or more articles of clothing; but then came the Bikini bathing suits and the belly-button (female) was thrust square into the goggling eye of the public, where it proved far less painful than a cinder in same.

But even before the Bikini suit, the belly-button had been a constant source of wonder to me, atleast. I have even classified belly-buttons under three headings. There is A, The receding type; B, The flush type; C, The protruding type. I have personally always admired the receding type where the belly-button hides itself in a rather deep recess in the subjects belly.

It has always been my constant shame that my own belly-button is of the protruding type, though not vulgarly. Even so it is rather embarrassing--imagine how a lone protruding belly-button must feel when it is bared in the presence of the several receding or flush-set belly-buttons. And people are always asking me: "Have you been ruptured?" This always burns me. My belly-button doesn't protrude that much. I know. And I'm not at all certain that being ruptured would cause one's belly button to protrude. Other places yes; but I personally never saw a rupture cause a belly-button to thrust belligerently out at the world.

Another interesting thing about the belly-button is the amount of dirt and lint it can collect. As lint gather, the belly-button is without a peer, with the possible exception of one other part of the anatomy, which modesty forbids me naming.

I am also firmly convinced that the belly-button is one of the 13 places which provide a stamping-ground for that romance-wrecker, BO. TO prove this before you take your next bath, lean over and take a good whiff of your belly-button. When you revive, take a bath, brother-- you need it. One fellow I know does this to find out when to take a bath--if he can stay on his feet after the first sniff, he doesn't take a bath.

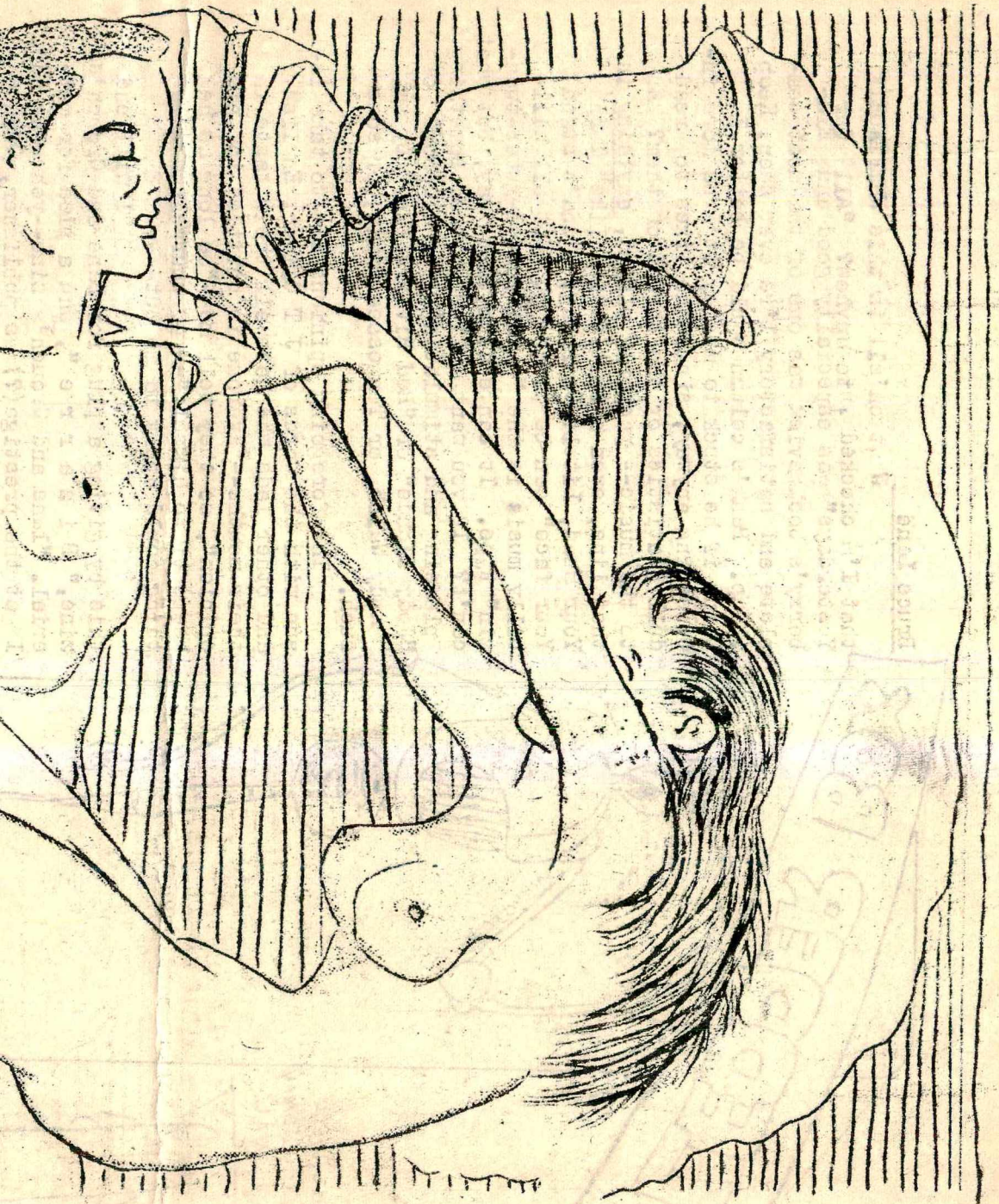
Some persons, even in these enlightened days, are ashamed of their belly-buttons. They look upon the innocent belly-button as an object to avoid mentioning. That is a wrong attitude to take. Among buttons, the belly-button is unique in that it is devoid of useful purpose at all except ornamentation. Other buttons fasten together shirts, keep pocket-flaps down, and generally pay their way in usefulness. The belly-button has no uses as these; an attempt to fasten a shirt to a belly-button would be worse

than idiotic-- it would be a dismal failure. The belly-button is solely an ornamental object, put upon one's person for the exclusive purpose of beautifying its wearer. (Biologists may deny this; who cares, I ask; I am no biologist.) And how can an ornament beautify if one persists in keeping its beauty under a bushel?

I am in favor of Bikini suits as wveryday wear, especially on ladies.

I am in favor of





LEDDER BOX

Bruce Lane

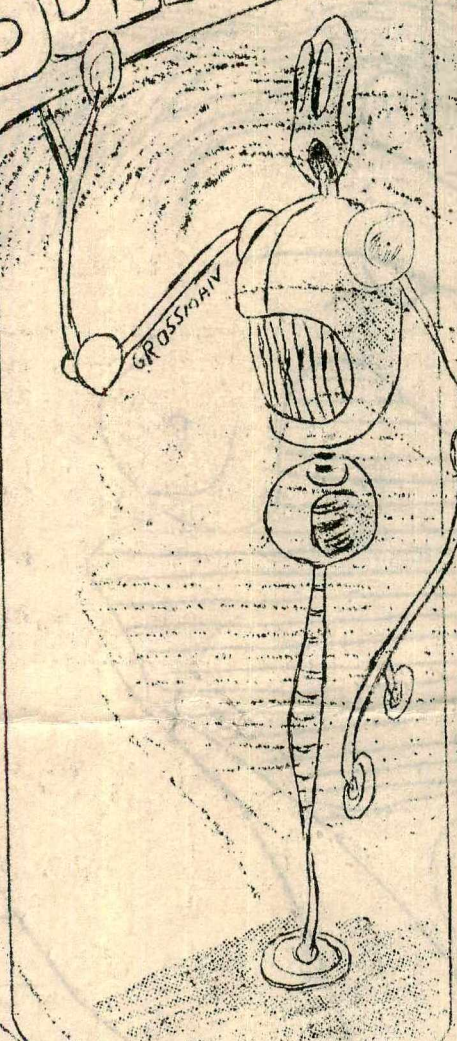
What on 'ell is this ~~WEMTAQEIF~~ that I'm checked into anyhow? "All Our Yesterdays" was especially good and Eisberry's bookreview was one of the most complete and satisfactory I've ever seen. Keep it up. Bank's column would be better, I think if he stuck to music, it'd be more interesting anyway, since who likes to read dull statistics or the threat of them? As to the music-- properly played, anything in that line, even a imitation like "Turn Your Head, Little Darling, I can't stand Your face" can be pleasing. Not all hillbilly music is the "nasal-voiced-guitar-twangin'" type. It can be done that way, but what can't? If you want a lively tune, something pleasing and stimulating, try a record of "Jody Blonde" or "Red River Valley" by say Rudy Walsh, or Tennessee Ernie, or some such.

The foregoing opinions are to take issue with the words of J T Oliver, English and other leds who have all their taste in their mouths--"everone is entitled to his opinion", so they tell me--"so long as he keeps ti to himself"-- of course the same thing could apply to me but-----

I will end this by giving a plug for Lane and Crouch's zine, "B i z a r r e", and a plea for material. "lane and Crouch's zine--yeh --as eds. I get the prestige(?) as publisher, Crouch gets the work.

T'hell with it
1630 Old Shapoee Road East
Minneapolis 20, Minn

WELL, WELL
A GROSSMAN
ORIGINAL



Redd Boggs

That's a mighty hefty woman on the cover. Who fouled up her right arm, the artist or the stenciller?

Re Bank's hillbilly records. I don't see much difference between the so-called hillbilly songs you plug and the so-called popular ones. Your hillbilly songs are written by hacks, just like most popular type. What's the point of all this evidence that "nine of ten pop hits are steals from the ranks of the hillbillies"? I frankly don't give a damn, and I wonder merely if that's why the popular field has sounded so bad lately? If it's supposed to prove that hillbilly stuff is really better than popular, I'm not convinced. By that logic, you could prove that comic books are better than Galaxy, or that Edgar A Guest is a greater poet than T S Eliot. Incidentally, I know Eddy Arnold's voice, all right, and think he's pretty fair, as hillbilly singers go. I like folk singers, like Burl Ives and Lead Belly and Susan Reed, but I don't think much of most manufactured "hillbilly" music, which was composed by two guys in Brooklyn.

Ah, Banks tops Calvin Thomas Beck's joke in Chimerical Review (Beck said fandom drove Degler to suicide, and had poor Claude's blood on its hands!). But Banks' remark "...the greatest Mother's Day song ever written, M-O-T-H-E-R," knocked me to the floor, where I rolled, trying to gasp air. Oh, my God.

Redd Boggs

I'm glad to see Elsberry has reviewed Animal Farm, probably for the first time in fanzines. I've wondered about that book ever since it first appeared on stf dealer's lists. Good review.

Warner's "All Our Yesterdays" is almost a substitute for his defunct department "When We Were Very Young" in Horizons. Very good. By coincidence I'm reprinting something from the issue of Scienti-Snaps he mentions in the next Sky Hook. I hope you'll keep Harry at the task of fishing these items up for reprinting in future issues. As for his suggestion that an annual selection of fanzine material be issued, I wonder if it's feasible? There is a lot of good stuff in fanzines every year, but so much of it is topical.

2215 Benjamin St. N. E., Minneapolis 18, Minn.

John Davis

The cover was OK, as is Rotsler's work always, but the buxom babe looked a little too muscular to suit me.

All Our Yesterdays seems like a good idea--I hope it keeps up as well as it is now. I tried what he quoted from Jack Speer--trying to think of something original while copying some thing on a typewriter. I can go over such well-worn things as the Gettysburg Address and Hamlet's Soliloquy (Spell it right, dammit.) (Ed's note: who ever hear of spelling soliloquy as r i g h t, that davis boy is slipping) easily, but trying to think up such original things as "How much is one and one?", I can't do it.

Cartoon by Graham very enjoyable--but how come the name Startling is on the back cover of the rag?

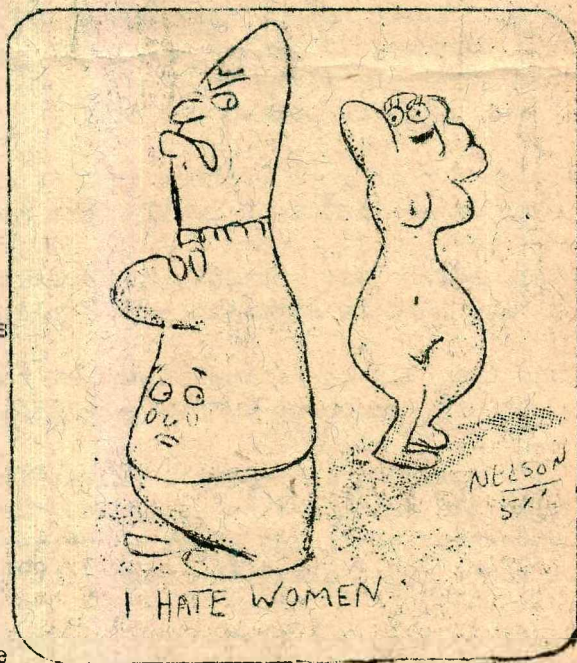
Summer Day was worthy of a proz. He should've tried it with Galaxy or somewhere. It was really good. What you need is more of that type of stuff, instead of such crud as "The Truth about Child Care".

Stuff (Gruff) the Guff (from off) by Mr. Banks was interesting, I'm one of those who like the sports in his column, though I think it should be longer. And he should have something in his column about racing--stock, midget, or hotrod, it'd improve his column to have something of my favorite sport in it, at least to me. Also, Let's have a little less of hill-billy music, huh?

Animal Farm reads like a book review of a book I read once called Animal Farm. Coincidence, huh?

Memoires was even funnier than last time, if it's possible. Those cartoons by Gross for it are just as screamingly funny. I want to thank Joe for all the nice things he said about me. I wish more people thought that way. Then I'd have some of the seventeen stories, eight poems, and 3 drawings, not to mention the twelve cartoons I've sent you, printed.

931 East Navajo Road, Tucson, Arizona



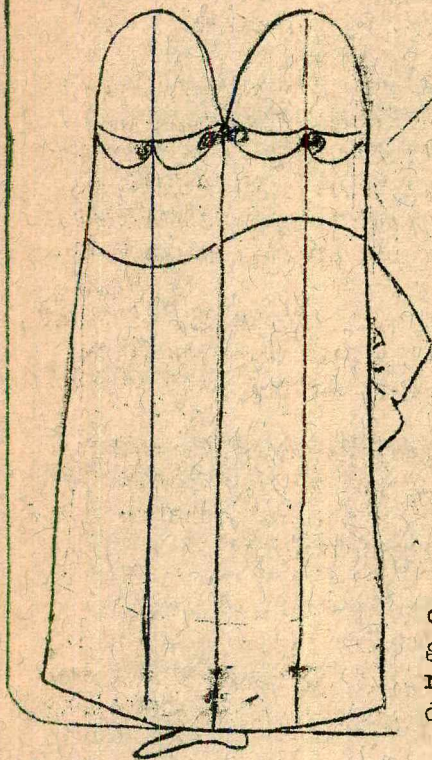
David English

Mon Dieu! Another column? You got six already. Your puts? I've heard of letterzines and fiction-zines---but a column zine !!!

Say did you know that page 22 was printed upside-down? Is this part of your style, like rotten spelling.

I tested on Silverberg's quiz. I found out just exactly how much I know about old stf. However I am not discouraged; I will go on...

If you don't get that hand back,
I'll scream



David English

Memories improves. Joe Gross is going to lose you your Ghoddist readers if you aren't careful. (If you have any) He will get you boycotted yet, mark my words.

He also draws good pictures. Does he draw them at a desk as I do? Then he is a desk drawer. (Ed's note: not to be confused with the type that draws on the floor)

Please remember not to print anymore pages eupside-down, as when I read upside-down all my money falls out of my pockets.

203 Robin Street, Dunkirk, New York

Bob Fultz

I can't wait to see what the SS Boys" are. To keep a reader in suspence, awaiting something new, is an old trick, but it still workds.

Harry Warner's column is the best thing you have yet run. Makes me want to get hold of some of those old fanzines, m'self. If anybody reads this, lorme hear from you. Don't know what kind of a deal one makes for these things, but maybe you-alldo.

I made exactly zero sense out of what Speer was talking about; among Warner's excerpts. The reason, I suppose, is that I so seldom think. So hard on the brain tissues, and all that, old boy. Why think in these days, when everything is spelled out in the big red capital letters, or spelled out orally and loudly on the radio?

Once in a great while, a really good poem gets printed in a fanzine-- like "The Annimal." Short only twelve lines, but those last four really made me shiver.

Summer Day was fair; probably better than fair, but I just couldn't fit myself to the mood of the thing. If it had a mood, I mean. And what is Akhnaton, pray tell?

Silverberg's prozine quiz stopped me cold-- No. 6 was the only one I knew. And at that, I didn't know the year it came out. This was undoubtedly composed by a mag-collector for other mag-collectors.

If Banks drops hill-billy records, and sports, all he'll have left is his own version of the Korean War, which I'd just as soon not read. He says he'll write about what the reader-maj-ority suggests; well, how about a movie-review and radio-mystery column? He can write he just don't write about the right stuff, Write, right- all mixed up.

I like long book reviews generally, but Elsberry practically gave us the whold darn book, this time. It only had 118 pages. I've just figgered it out that Joe Gross is a psuedohym for John Grossman. Note the similarity, or is it coincidence? Anyway, his Memcires are funny, regardless of his identity. The last page-and-a-half was a scream.

Oh, yes-- the art wasn't so hot this time-- even Rotzler's girly-girly cover. Her right arm-the thing's too foreshortened, son.

How is Bill Venabe's zine really spelled? At present, there's 3 versions. Sneary calls it Alpha-Null; you call it Alph-Null; and scewhere I saw it spelled Aleph Null. It get's confusing in the long run.

Rte 1, Bcx 203, Tamas, Ill

(Ed's note: It's spelled AlephNull and as for the cover drawing, I messed it up in cutting it on the stencil.

Richard Elsberry

The cover was a sexy thing. I think a conservative estimate would be that that lady is built like a brick s_____ (ed's note: really Rich, besides I thought they didn't stack it that high).

I have figured out WHMFTOEIF. Hey, that's different from last time. I've been sabotaged! Oh well, let's give it a try. Why Has Max Forgotten The Old Elsberry In Fanvariety. No? I didn't think so.

Now to get down to Silverberg's quiz. #1 is not quite right. Astounding also had large size as long as Unknown. They both quit it with the April 1943 issues. I think #3 might have been Comet. The ones I've seen have all been very small size-- you could call it digest. #9 is right bur Cosmic's black and white covers had red and other colors for backgrounds. #10 is also shot. Fantasy Book went digest size with #3 issue not number seven.

Boggs hasn't made a favorable impression on Banks...in fact I don't think Banks likes Boggs Anyhow I know Banks is full of when he sez that Eddy Arnold sells more records than Crosby. Crosby has sold more records in the past twenty years that Arnold ever would in a hundred!

Memories goes a little toofar I think, and it liiks like Gross is straining himself in some spots. I don't mind satire and I like humor but when you have to base your humor on ridiculing religion then that is going a little too far. Of course when I do it it is differnet-- but I haven't done it yet and probably won't.
413 East 18th Street, Minneapolis 4, Minnesota

Marie Louise

Joe Gross's Memories, Summer Day, and All Our Yesterdays are three excellent reasons why Fv's popularity continues to wac, and is a growing menace to other fanzines.

You've injected some sort of personality into it, Max. Given it an air of nutty nonchalance that leaps at the reader and is very intriguing. So don't change the name of your baby. You might put a hex on it. Besides, the present title cover the contents pretty thoroughly,

I used to be one of oranges before the advent of Joe Gross and his Memories. Now I look fearfully at the navel and wonder if it's safe to eat it. Dear Herr Gross- When the saga of the oranges reaches a final end (It will, won't it?) why not take the padlock off your diary and reel off the real stuff? Methinks it might be even juicier than the oranges.

TE Watkins-- I could tell you the name of the best poet in fandom, but modesty forbids. Besides, that stinker Max, refuses to print them on the grounds that they are too passionate and make him uneasy. But thus has genius ever been crucified down through the ages.

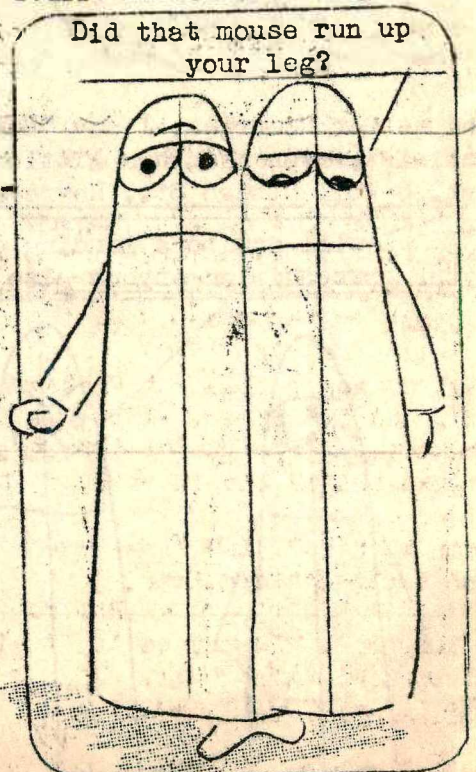
I've figured out what WHMFTOEIF means. We Have more fun than anycther fans in fandom (RIGHT!)

Howard Richer

It would be a good idea if you dropped the Ledger Box down to minimum as it takes up a great amount of space and says almost nothing. I am surprised at you for publishing a report on Animal Farm. It is as much S-F as "The Decline & Fall of the Roman Empire" is pure fantasy and S-F. Orwell's Annimal Farm, as well as "1984", is a social satire.

Nelson's cartoons are good, but the ones that are outstanding are very scarce.

Maybe I'm stupid, or something, but what does WHMFTOEIF mean?
1041 Neslon Ave., N.Y. 52, N.Y.



Orma Mc Cormick

I see I am still a member of the WHMFOEIF. Some day I will learn how much this is costing, or will I?

First choice this ish? Bob Silverberg's Quiz. Second Richard Elsberry's Bookshelf, as this is a splendid review of Animal Farm.

I note some of your letters give Banks a rub, now what is wrong with hill-billy records, except that they are called hill-billy? I like mountain music, western love songs, folk tunes, and bagas of the trail. If these must be classed as hill-billy, the I like them. I wouldn't want a steady diet of these, but to rule them out-I stand on Banks' side.

You say to watch out for the SS boys next ish, do you have a boy SS watcher society?
155 W. Hazelhurst St. Ferndale 20, Mich

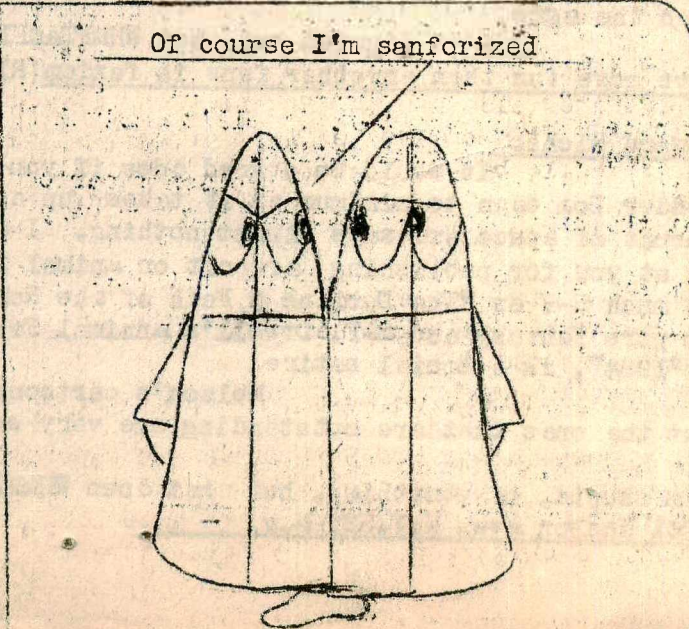
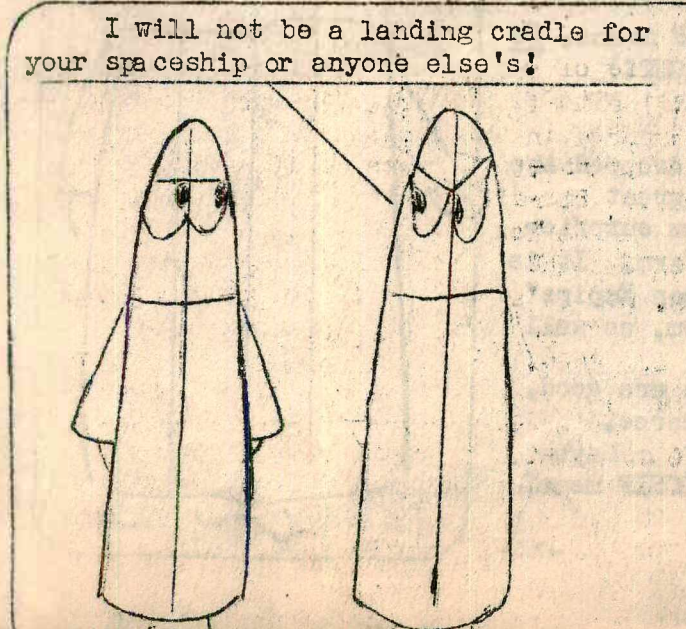
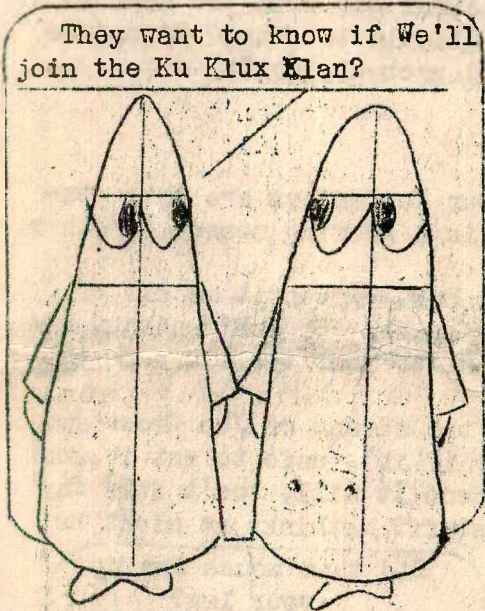
Anna Lee McLeod

I want to than W C Butts for his very kind answer to my snotty criticism of his report on the Philadelphia conference of Nov. 12th. My accusations were utterly groundless, and I very much appreciate his answer, which appeared in the March ish of Fv, and I consider him to be a gentleman.

I am glad to see another one of your fauns, she reminds me of my daughter..the ears canserve as horns. All Our Yesterdays made me quite sad to think that I didn't know that Str existed ten years ago.

Summer Day sounds as if Walt Klein had read "The Egyptian": I liked Summer Day very much... I think that Akhnaton was just as ineffective in his attempt to bring the Egyptians under the belief of the "one true God" as the sun was in withering the wheat. R J Banks' GSFOTC is DK, only I would not give up the sports if I were he; there has to be something of interest to the "hill-billy music haters". Richard Elsberry's bookreview of "Animal Farm" was good, I thought, for it was so complete I thought I had read the book when I finished it.

And as for Memories, I say "WOW" to both the words and the pictures..he is a very good satirist, even though a little sacreligious. We can stand more of Joe Gross, though,
Apt. 5--571 Otsego St., Havre-de-Grace, Maryland



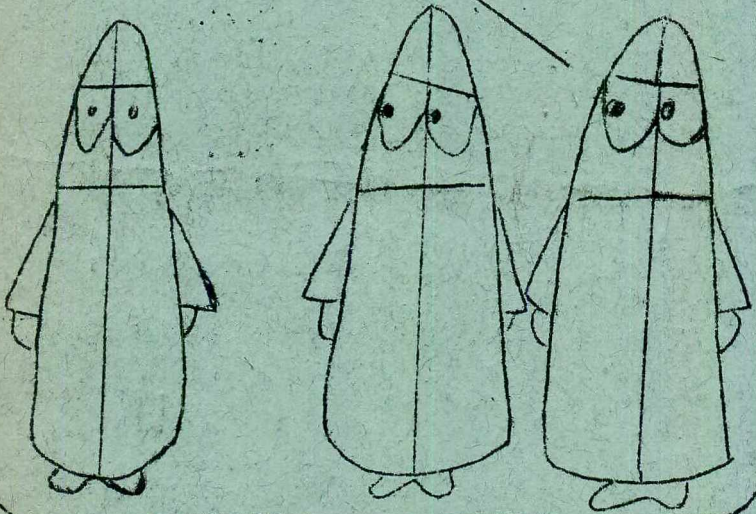
W. Paul Ganley

The current issue is not so good, mainly since it has no shining star like Marie-Louise's opus to offset the mediocrity of the general contents. Of note is Warners column; it is not scintillating like "Relatives", but may prove to be a good drawing card. It's a good nucleus around which to build future Fvs. By all means keep that Warner in your fold.

What did I get on Silverberg's quiz? Twenty points! And that brings me to a pet peeve I have: these nonsensical stf quizzes that appear here and there. Al Leverentz and I both agree on this point. The way NOT to make up a stf quiz is to spend two hours searching for the most difficult questions you can find, and then say that anyone who doesn't get at least half is a stf nincompoop. There's nothing that takes less part in the essential makeup of a fan than knowing that "Bizarre Osculative Fiction" went from 126 to 129 pages for two issues back in October and November 1634.

Joe Gross is just as moronic as before. His letter sounds intelligent though; how about writing for Fv when you're sober, Joe? If I were interested in hill-billy stuff, Gruff Stuff might be very enjoyable; as it is, I skip it.
119 Ward Road, North Tonawanda, New York

We know all about him... he throws away his old promags!



Here is a letter that I think is noteworthy of being printed about some past Fvs.
Walter A. Wallis

I was particularly interested to see the name of F. Towner Laney. So this is where he has been lurking since Warp went West. After Nelson's article--one of the best horde's of fans I have struck, this lad Nelson. How many of him is there anyway? I cowered away, waiting for the bloodshed. But what happened to the pitiless Laney, the Terror of the fuggheads? All sweetness and light is he now, suffering the fuggheads to come unto him? I am disillusioned. Pity I read his article.

Marie Louise's poem (B.O.) in was sumptuous. (Don't bother to look that one up, you have a car haven't you? What do you drain every thousand miles?) This is the sort of poem I want to see in Different. The girl has talent. (Girl? Don't tell me it's Joe Gibson again)

Sorry to see your slacking off on the pornography. Spice is the life of Fv, so don't bother to keep the repartee clean. For instance get Marie Louise to finish that limerick she started in #6. It seems to be one I haven't heard before, in which case don't look now, but the world has just come to an end. I see Bob Silverberg makes an impassioned plea for artier sexwork. No, I'm sorry, it was sexier artwork. In either case, I second the emotion, and wait with bated breath for the result.

I liked your editorials--that's a good title for them, Fig leaf. I suppose it's because it covers the private parts of the magazine. Bye for now, and keep those Fv's chasing each other across the Atlantic.

170 Upper Newtownards Rd., Belfast, Northern Ireland

ed: The response to the last issue was very good as you can no doubt detect from the Letter Box. I had to leave out a number of letters because of lack of space. The ones that were left out were the late ones, so it was a matter of first come, first served. I will keep the extra two pages to Fv in this letter section, so if you want to make this zine 26 pages just keep the letters coming.

FAN VARIETY

edited by
Bill Vensble &
W. Max Keasler

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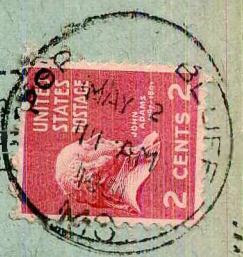
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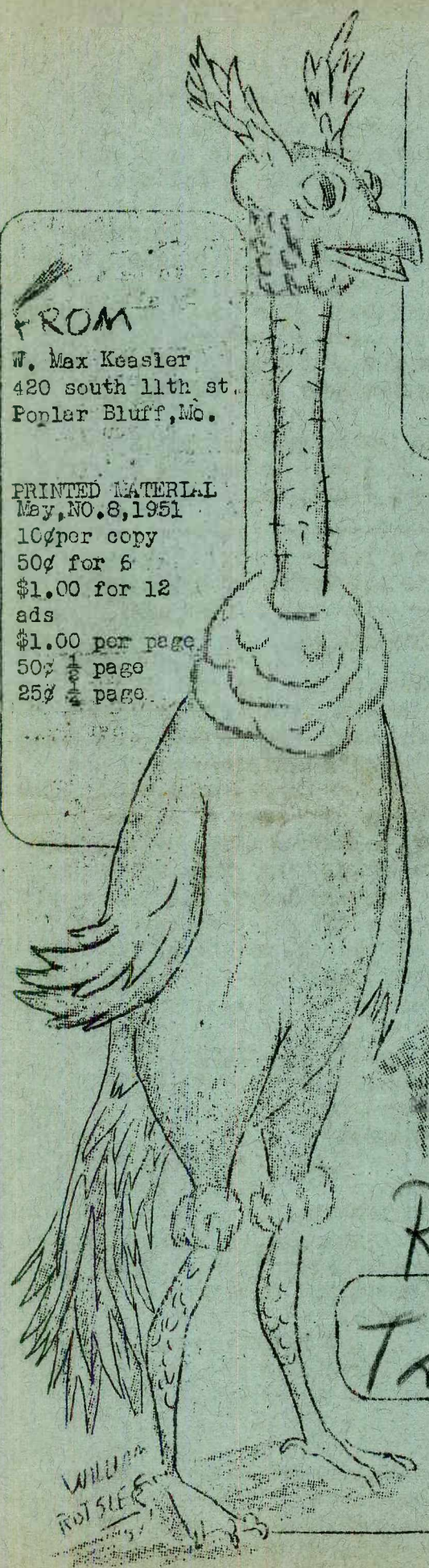


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TO ROBERT FULTZ

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1951