

KNIGHTS OF THE PAPER SPACE SHIP

MAY 1974

SCIENCE FICTION

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 6



KNIGHTS OF THE PAPER SPACE SHIP
May 1974, Issue VI Volume I

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Editor: Mike Bracken

EDITOR'S PAGE
by Mike Bracken

Since Knights of the Paper Space Ship first came out in December 1973 many things have happened. The first major change was when we switched from a single column ditto to a double column mimeograph format. The mimeo allowed us to produce more, better looking copies. At that time - the second issue - we went from a distribution of under 150 to over 300 and were then able to reach more people.

Another interesting thing happened about that time; we sent copies of KPSS to a variety of high schools around the state. Two replied, Dan W. Peters, english teacher at Alto Loma High School, and Mark Shocklee, editor of Galactic Etiquette Report, a science fiction newsletter produced at Fontana High School. (Since that time we have sent copies of KPSS to 40 high schools in California and they are still the only people who have replied.) We set up a trade with Galactic Etiquette Report and Mr. Peters began sending us student manuscripts (two of which we have used - Watch the Flowers Grow by Pat Lasswell, issue 3 and A New Beginning by Joe Colombero, issue 4).

John Robinson, a long time science fiction fan and graduate of Fort Bragg High School, was on Christmas vacation here shortly after the first issue of KPSS came out, found out about us, and offered his help. Since that time we have used two of his stories (The Red King, issue 4 and One Lone Assassin, issue 5). We also stumbled upon Adrienne Berry of Wil-lits, Calif., though through different circumstances, and she submitted a manuscript which we used (The Experiment, issue 2).

Since that first issue we have built up the feature department

from one regular feature, Book Rack, to four fairly regular features, Editor's Page (first in issue 2), Words From Other Worlds (first in issue 2), Important Events (first in issue 4) and Book Rack. We hope to add a Movie Review column sometime in the future.

Our second major change was the head. It changed from block letters on issue 2 to simpler, more easily readable, letters on issue 3.

Our third major happening happened on the cover of issue 5. Up until that time all of the covers had been simple drawings by Brutis; on the cover issue 5 was a drawing by Don Ensley which improved the overall effect of the cover.

Right around the time issue 4 came out we began sending copies of KPSS to some of the more established science fiction fanzines. The replies have been very encouraging.

After issue 5 came out Joe and I attended the Santa Rosa Junior College/Press Democrat High School Press Conference and passed around a few copies of KPSS. The conference, besides having workshops, had writing contests covering many facets of writing (mainly news-writing). Joe and I both entered the Creative Writing contest and, finally, when the winners were announced, Joe had come out of the contest with a third place for his "... and then there were eight." ("... and then there were eight." first appeared in a slightly different form in issue 2 under the pen name J. A. Van Horn) and I had come out with a stomach full of blasé spaghetti.

Anyhow, KPSS has been a very interesting experience and we hope to continue with it through the summer and on into next year. Anybody wishing to receive KPSS as it shifts into its summer phase contact Joe Walter or myself and have continued on page 6

FROM THE OLD SOLDIER'S HOME

by

Mike Bracken

"What I am offering you," said the man in the black suit as he paced across the porch, "Is a chance to live sixty or seventy years longer than you will if you stay here; rejuvenation and, after rejuvenation, you will be a functioning member of the community again. No longer will you sit in broken rocking chairs; no longer will you view the world through the eyes of a shut-in; no longer will you have your sons and daughters resentfully visiting you, waiting for you to die so that they can collect your insurance.

"Yes veterans, this is offered to you - free. You will no longer have to remember divisions of the marshes of Vietnam or the sand of the Mid-east. You will once again be able to pay your own way, no longer depending upon others, no longer a burden to the world.

"Sixty, or seventy, more years of life - productive years, if you just sign the releases now."

A few old men eyed the young upstart while rocking in broken rocking chairs and viewing the world through the eyes of a shut-in. A few slept. They thought back to the days of the Vietnam War and the Mid-east conflict when they were young and remembered the fun they had had. They remembered when they had been productive members of the community, able to pay their own way and deadset against any form of welfare because it was the first sign of communism; and now, collecting a form of that welfare because they were no longer able to work.

They signed the forms - those

that did not sleep.

Samual Jones flexed his new muscles and lovingly played his fingers over them as they rippled along under his skin. A new man - rebuilt from the ground up. Soon he would be let out of the hospital into the community where he would perform those tasks best suited to his abilities. The tests had shown him to be an able chemist now that he was back in control of his body - but of course, he had been an explosives technician during the Mid-east conflict.

He looked down at his green uniform, so reminiscent of those days as a young war hero, and wondered why he had been offered the chance to be rejuvenated. But the thought slipped quickly from his head as the nurse walked in - more like, swayed in with his dinner. She placed it on the stand beside him, raised his head so that he could eat, and swayed back out.

He ate dinner slowly and didn't notice when the intoxicant took effect. The tape started when he fell asleep, "Samual Jones, you have been drafted into the..."

Samual Jones stood in the doorway of the plane waiting to jump. His hand laser poked him in the ribs and he reached to move it. Below him the USSR stretched itself off into the distance in many directions. A new war was about to start, and he was a part of it. He was again a productive member of the community, doing what he best knew how to do.

The voice inside his helmet said jump and he leapt from the

plane, falling towards the fields of the USSR, prepared to die, but

always with the chance to live an extra sixty or seventy years.

Editor's Page continued from page 4
yourself put onto the mailing list.

And remember, contributions of any sort, fiction, articles, or art, will be reviewed for possible publication.

KPSS depends on its readers - so contribute.

Other Notes: Because there is another John Robinson in the world of fandom our John Robinson will begin using his middle initial: M. Ashwing arriaved just after issue 5 came out and was well worth the time spent in reading it.

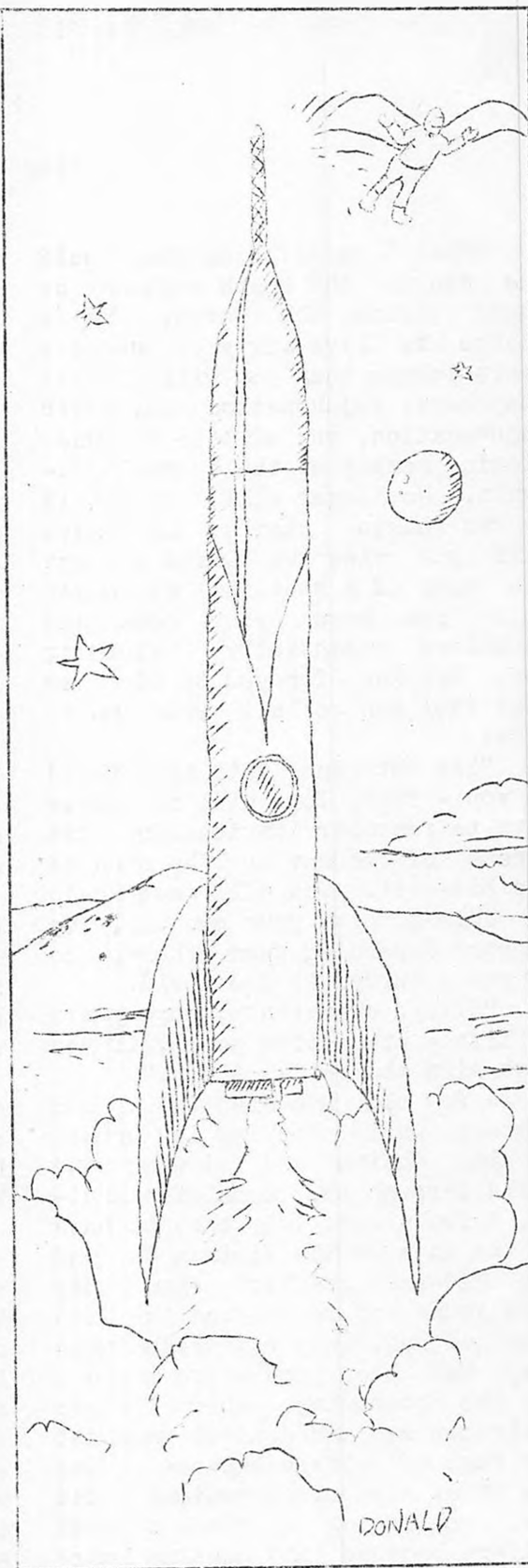
A Note From The Higher Ups
Joe Walter Speaks

I regret to inform everyone (actually I'm pleased to inform you) that, as of the June 1974 (volume 1, issue 6) edition of Knights of the Paper Space Ship, I will no longer be co-editor.

But harken, all is not lost, nor is the night as dark as it seems. I will begin editing my own mag under the SF Press banner (which, if you take a quick look at the credits on the content page, you may note that KPSS, as of this issue, also goes under that banner).

This means, also, that Book Rack will be retired from active service for a short time as it makes the transition from KPSS to my own mag. In all probability the inimitable John M. Robinson will take over the book reviews, though under a different head.

More information will be available in the next issue of KPSS, in the meantime, anyone wishing to rap with me about my new project can write to me at: Joe Walter, PO Box 1077, Fort Bragg, CA 95437.



Book Rack
by
Joe Walter

This month we pay a visit to the moon with the aid of Arthur C. Clarke and his novel, A Fall of Moondust. We shall also meet Kalian Pendek; a man who died violently and yet still lives, in Robert Lory's book, Identity Seven.

Identity Six, while living on Usulkan as Kalian, Pendek, was violently murdered by person or persons unknown. Six had been an agent of Hunters Associated. Now it was up to Identity Seven to take the place of Six as Kalian Pendek head of Sub-Oceanic Transport. Seven would maintain cover while trying to find out who had done in Six and why.

Hunters Associated is a kind of glorified lost and found (although if the price was right they would find things that had not been lost in the first place, for that matter they would do anything if the price was right). Their prices were high, being costly in lives as well as material things.

The agents of Hunters Associated went by a number, in fact, the hunters did not even know the name they had started out life with. The only bond of loyalty they owed to the association were the excessive amounts of money they recieved for their services.

More than thirty identities, maintained by as many agents on as many planets comprise this particular arm of Hunters Associated. These agents are as physically and mentally alike as possible and with the aid of a little cosmetic surgery can take the place of any other agent at will.

And now the very Association itself is threatened, Seven must step into the shoes of Kalian Pendek. The last agent to stand in those shoes had been murdered with

a blaster; a very messy way to go. Identity Seven, by Robert Lory was copyrighted in 1974 by Robert Lory, and was first printed in 1974 by Daw Books.

The Selene cruised across the Sea of Thirst, so named because it was a sea, not of liqued, but of dust, Moondust.

In his book, A Fall of Moondust, Arthur C. Clarke weaves a tale of tense drama on the face of the Moon.

Before getting into the meat of the subject, a little background is necessary. Several years ago, around the time this book was written, there was a theory going around concerning what man would find on the surface of the Moon. Namely that due to the two extremes of heat and cold produced by the movement of the Moon from freezing darkness into the blistering sunlight, causing a continuous shrinkage and expansion of the moonrock, this would in turn result in small particles of rock (dust) in flaking off of the larger chunks of rock. This is none too accurate and discounts the heartbreaking story of hard-hearted meteors slamming into the tender surface of the Moon and causing even more havoc. Suffice it to say, Arthur C. Clarke made assumption (for the purpose of his story) that there was a large amount of dust on the Moon. So is born the Sea of Thirst, ranging in depth from 20 centimeters on the fringes, to 40 meters near the middle of the sea.

The Selehe is the Moon's only dust-cruiser and had never, in its history, had an accident of any sort. This clean record is about to be marred. Gases which had been forming for millions of years in the still hot core of the Moon are about to force their way to the vacume on the surface, the Selene will be swallowed and buried under fifteen meters of Moondust.

Fifteen meters, fortyfive feet. Light dust under one sixth gravity, not enough to crush the fragile hull of the Selene. Air, water, and food enough to last (with rationing of the latter) to last about a week, plenty of time to, be found and rescued. However, being rescued depends on three factors, 1; nothing goes wrong with the air, water, food, or the ship itself, which is still supporting your life with the remaining, functioning machinery, 2; that you can be found at all when there is only one faint clue as to what has happened and where you are, 3; that you can be rescued at all if you are found.

Extremely good reading!

A Fall of Moondust was written by Arthur C. Clarke, and was copyrighted in 1961 by the author. Reprinted in 1974 by Signet.

MAGAZINES: Part 3 by Mike Bracken

Joe Walter started a three part review of the science fiction magazines available on the market which he can not finish, thereby putting me in a bad position. So, forthwith I now complete the task.

The first magazine on the list is Thrilling Science Fiction which is published bi-monthly by Ultimate Publishing Company and costs sixty cents.

Unfortunately I have read only one issue of Thrilling and can not judge it very well as I do not know if that issue is a good representation of its average. I found Thrilling to have some good fiction - some fair. I liked it but something was missing, I'm not quite sure what though.

Next is Fantastic Science Fiction and Fantasy Stories, which is edited by Ted White and produced bi-monthly by Ultimate Publishing Company for a price of sixty cents. I think that Ted White

does a better job editing Amazing and that Fantastic is more of a side venture. Its contents range from terrible to mediocre - though at times it does have an excellent story or two. It tends to be humorous (or at least tries to be) and the humor does not fit my taste. It may suit yours, so why not give it a try?

The third prozine to be reviewed this issue is Fantasy and Science Fiction, which is edited by Edward L. Ferman and produced monthly by Mercury Press for a price of seventy-five cents. It is one of the best magazines on the market; its fiction is almost always excellent, never less than very good. Baird Searles' movie reviews are fantastic, and having a different writer review newbooks every issue is a nice change of pace. I rate Fantasy and Science Fiction very high.

Previously Joe stated that he was going to rate the magazines from "numero uno to fit only for the trash can!". Since he is not here to do that I will rate them according to my standards.

- 1) Fantasy and Science Fiction
- 2) Galaxy
- 3) Vertex
- 4) If
- 5) Amazing
- 6) Analog
- 7) Fantastic
- 8) Thrilling
- 9) Science Fiction Classics

IMPORTANT EVENTS

MIDWESTCON

The 25th annual Midwestcon will be held June 28 through 30 at the Quality Inn Central in Cincinnati Ohio.

For more information write to Lou Tabakow, 3953 St. James Terrace, Cincinnati, Ohio 45236.

WESTERCON 27

Westercon 27, the 27th annual West Coast Science Fantasy Conference, will be held July 3 through 7 at Francisco Torres, Coleta, California. The Guest of Honor will be Philip K. Dick. The Fan Guest of Honor will be Charles Burbee.

Among the activities planned for Westercon 27 are the Art Show, the Fashion Show, Gypsy Camp, and, for the first time at any science fiction convention, Dr. Walter J. Daugherty's Space Stamp collection will be presented.

Membership is \$3 supporting, \$5 attending through May. For more information write to Box 1, Santa Monica, CA 90406.

AGACON '74

Agacon '74, 13th annual Deep-south convention, will be held August 23 through 25 at the Sheraton Biltmore in Atlanta.

Registration is \$7.50 for an unstructured program (discounts given for costumes). For more information write to Joe Celko, Box 11023, Atlanta GA 30310.

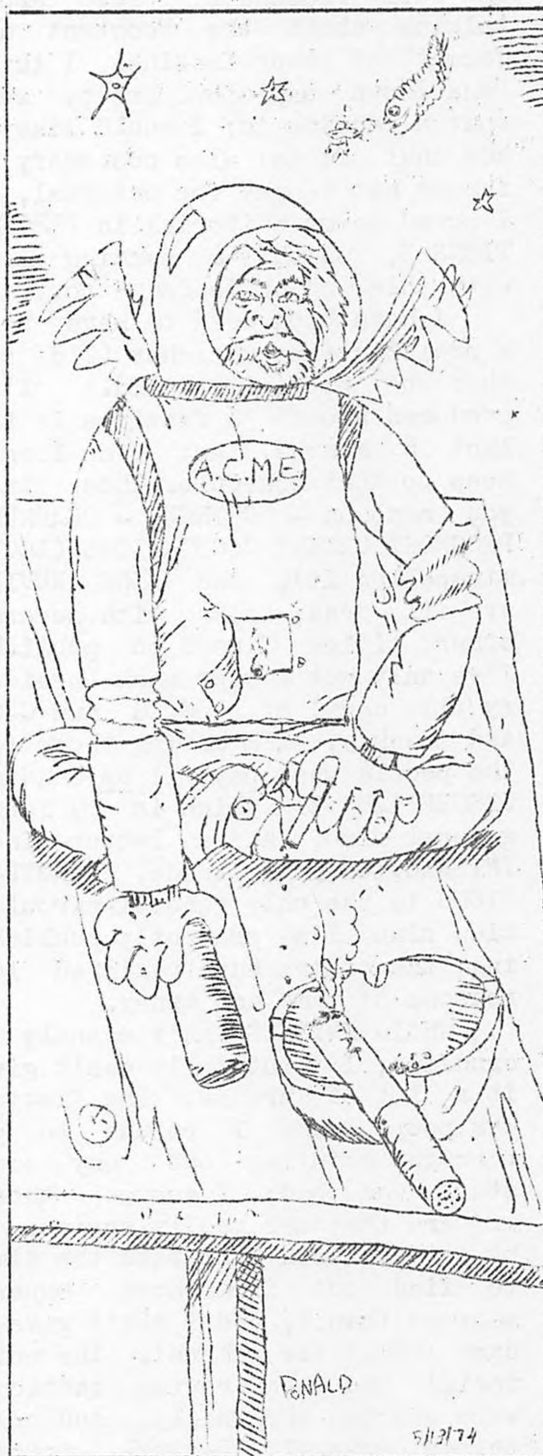
DISCON II

Discon II, the 32nd World Science Fiction Convention, will be held August 29 through September 2, 1974 at the Park Sheraton in Washington DC. The Guest of Honor will be Roger Zelazny. The Fan Guest of Honor will be Jay Kay

Klein.

At Discon II the SF Achievement Awards (Hugos) and John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer will be presented.

Registration is \$3 supporting, \$5 attending. For more information write to Discon II, Box 31127, Washington DC 20031.



WORDS FROM OTHER WORLDS
letters to the editors

Dear Editors,

Thanks for your letter and KNIGHTS. While I myself only turned 16 a few days ago, I've been in fandom for well over a year and so can feel reasonably safe about talking about the "content and format" of other fanzines. I think Dena Brown explained pretty well what a fanzine is; I would like to add that it is also customary in fandom not to pay for material, as I noted in my editorial in PERCEPTIONS 3, which I'm sending along with this. Which leads me to...

I have been said to have been a prolific fan publisher (I'd rather be proficient. Ed.) I've produced about 30 fanzines in the last 6 months, but I no longer keep up that schedule. Those zines you mention - CRINKUM - CRANKUM, PROGNOSTICATIVE COGITATIONS (LOCUS misspelled it), and ZINE REVIEW are all dead, along with several other titles I used to publish. I've only got 1 copy each (besides my file copy) of PROGCOG and C-C, and frankly, I'M saving those for the people who pay. I am sending PERCEPTIONS 3, which is my large general zine, and a letter-zine, INTERACTION 2 in trade. PERCEPTIONS is the only general-circulation zine I'm presently publishing; the others have vanished for reasons of time and money.

While KNIGHTS isn't exactly a crudzine, I truthfully can't give it a lot of praise. The fiction was poor (and I refuse to go through pointing out why each story was bad; I assume those writers that are really serious about their work will take the time to find out from more expert sources than I, and I don't give a damn about the others). The editorial and book review sections were written very badly, and contained several factual errors

(such as "Analog has been around for eighteen years, and before that it was called Astounding Science fiction." The name was changed in 1960; therefore it's been called ANALOG for 14 years not 18. And before that, for about three years when the magazine first started back in 1930, it was known as ASTOUNDING TALES OF SUPER SCIENCE or somesuch.) This is from the guy who complains so vehemently in the editorial about people who don't know sf very well--- or at least, those he doesn't think know sf very well.

...fanzine addresses was of slight interest; those that are interested in fanzines could find out from other sources rather than relying on your, in some cases, erroneous information. (The Snider's address is B-19 889 Edwards Rd., Parsippany, NJ 07054 rather than in Orange. Brett Cox is only a co-editor of LOCOMOTIVE; the other is Ken Gammage, Jr., 7865 East Roseland Dr., La Jolla, CA 92037. The name of my zine is PRONOSTICATIVE COGITATIONS. Etc.)

Overall, I would encourage you to keep it up. I'd tend to stay away from the fiction, and concentrate more on getting good articles and reviews. KNIGHTS is not a good fanzine yet, but keep working on it, and it's bound to improve.

Best,
Warren Johnson
Geneva, Ill

(Mr. Johnson, I don't feel that I should have to explain Fanzine Addresses to you but I will anyhow: Most of KPSS's readers know little or nothing about the world of fandom and would not know about the "other sources" that you speak of, so we act as a sort of go-between in case anyone is interested. We are sorry if some of the information is wrong and thank you for correcting it.

What I would like to know, Mr.

Johnson, is how you managed to put out "30 fanzines in 6 months". That is more than one a week. Could it be that you take no time to correct your typos?

And, Mr. Johnson, if PROGNOSTICATIVE COGITATIONS and CRINKUM-CRANKUM are anything like PERCEPTIONS and INTERACTION it would be a waste of money to pay for them.)

Ed.

To "WHAT" it may concern (cast and crew of KPSS):

Just recieved my new "ish" (such juvenile fan lingo as "ish", "mag" and "neato" has been sprinkled throughout the course of this letter. Pay attention and take notes; a test will follow) of Knights of etc., etc. and had a few million things to say, ergo...

Things (figuratively speaking, of course) are looking better "re" (fans never spell anything unless a pair of pentatentacled parapeds are besieging them): the magazine especially the "galaxy-reknowned" (absurd fannish superlatives) Don Ensley's artwork. As several letters pointed out, this area of the magazine was sorely lacking representation.

Everything in the April issue was interesting and eminently readable, but was sorry to see the quantity of fiction so drastically reduced (of the four stories published, two were little more than "fillers"). J.A. Van Horn's story started out as a terrifically droll little farce which unfortunately didn't live up to its own expectations. Since it was obvious from the beginning the experiment would go awry in some way, apparently the meat of the story would be in a twist explanation ending. Unfortunately the ending not only didn't explain anything, it twisted right out of the readers comprehension.

The "mag's" (paying attention?) real winner is Patrick Myers' minor opus on the fallibilities

and foibles of future technocracy. It was immensely amusing from the title to the last sentence (in regard to Mr. Myers' question "Why me? Why is it ALWAYS me?" see Kurt Vonnegut Jr.'s Slaughterhouse-Five for an answer).

Re: Book Rack; really excellent this month, Joe (although relegating such Van Vogt works as Slan - universally considered a modern classic - and The Weapon Shops of Isher - amongst the science fiction writers on the Nebula Award Committee it is considered the thirteenth best all-time story written in the field - to the list of "other titles by Van Vogt" was rather negligible.). (This is only because they were not available at the bookstand. Ed.) Your tri-part review of "sci-fi" (did you catch that one?) magazines I've found personally valuable (besides being interesting they make a heck of a door stop!).

Now, for the much-ignored debate currently raging between myself and Book Racker Joe about Kurt Vonnegut and his work. Despite your rather sobre reply to my altogether flippant rebuttle I'll press on and hopefully bring this thing to a close.

Your carefully contrived opinion about opinions is not particularly applicable in this case. While it is inarguable that everyone is entitled to an opinion, it is useless to fall back on such statements since any argument, no matter how immaculately doubtless the evidence, can be blown away with a "well, that's my opinion." Even a statement as simple as "the sky is blue" is debatable because neither you nor I can prove what "blue" is.

Now this is all hunky-dory for budding philosophers, but critics such as yourself have a somewhat more difficult task. You're not there just to spout off your opinions. Any ass with a typewriter, television or dictaphone can do

that!! (God knows, I have!) As a critic, you are telling me "what is and why (WHY!!) something is" worth wasting my time on, whether it's reading James Blish, going to see a new Sam Peckinpah flick, or walking down to the end of the street to curb my dog. Likewise it is your business to tell me what isn't worth wasting my time on, and again "why". Nine times out of nine-point-three-three-three you accomplish this in your column. However in Kurt Vonnegut's case you didn't (and, for that matter, still haven't) do this. If and when you do tell me why Kurt Vonnegut is a worthless writer (if there is such a thing), then I'll write back, tooth and nail, and tell you why he IS a worthwhile author. S'alright?

That about covers this month's "ish" (hmmm?) except to say the editors page was top-notch, the best one thus far. Now how about an essay on "just what does and does not constitute "Science fiction?"

Absurdly,
John M. Robinson
Alameda, Ca.

quiz:

1. Which of the following terms is the most repulsive?
 - A. "ish"
 - B. "mag"
 - C. "neato"
 - D. The entirety of this letter
2. Don Ensley's art work is...
 - A. reminiscent of Donatello's late period (1435-1448)
 - B. putrid
 - C. galaxy-reknowned
 - D. a little tastier than cold spaghetti
3. What might induce a fan to spell something?
 - A. an attack of pentatentacled parapeds
 - B. Joe Friday on one of his "good" days
 - C. two free tickets to World

War III

D. a seven foot two inch, five hundred and ten pound Japanese Sumo Wrestler with athletes foot

(Well, first things first (or vice versa, depending on which end of the pen you prefer to hold). I'm going to start off by taking the quiz:

1. E, all of the above
2. C, galaxy-reknowned
3. A,C,D, and B respectively and in that order

Next things next; regarding Book Rack. I quite agree with you concerning Van Vogt's books Slan and Weapon Shops of Isher (both of which I have read more than once), it's just that I limit myself to discussing books which I have on hand, or readily available. This cuts down on the number of mistakes (Klono knows, I make enough as it is), like mistaking Jommy Cross and calling him Jonny Cross. The part of the Book Rack which says, "other titles by so-and-so" simply means I've read the books but do not have them on hand.

Finally, concerning our raging conflagration about Vonnegut and books written by the aforementioned individual. I have a confession to make - I simply can't explain why I have such a hatred of Kurt Vonnegut's work. Perchance you could write us a small essay (not shorter than 10,000 words) explaining why Kurt Vonnegut is worth reading.

Two possibilities may arise from such an expenditure of energy on your part; 1) I will either be converted to Vonnegutism or; 2) I will be able to rearrange your essay into a "Why I hate Vonnegut" essay on which I can put my own name.

Finally, before signing off, Mike has a question: What is a pentatentacled paraped?) JW co-ed.