

The Lesser Flea

ANNOUNCEMENT —

I hoped, after the split-up, the LC business could have been dropped but it has been pointed out to me that my last statement could have been mis-read to mean that Ken Bulmer thought that there had been skulduggery in the LC. At no time did I say there was such skulduggery; at no time did I say Ken agreed with us that there was: at no time did Ken say there was skulduggery.

What I was referring to was the following: we claimed that a meeting to which some paid-up members were called to discuss financial matters, whilst others were not notified of such meeting, was wrong. As the following quotation will show, Ken agreed with me on this:-

"When we made a mistake - as the meeting that wasn't notified - then we tried to correct it as you know by instructing one of the LC members" (Vine) "to send out a call-up order."

I trust this matter will now be dropped all round.

Joy K. Clarke.

No 14

THE

SECRET

1944

ANNOUNCEMENT

I have been thinking for some time about the future of the organization and the need for a new direction. It has been a long and difficult process, but I believe we have reached a point where a change is necessary. The old ways of doing things are no longer effective, and we must find new methods to achieve our goals. I am confident that with your cooperation and support, we can overcome these challenges and build a brighter future for all of us.

The following changes will be implemented effective immediately:

- 1. All members must attend the next meeting on the 15th of the month.
- 2. The committee will be reorganized to better handle our current needs.
- 3. A new set of guidelines will be distributed to all members.

I trust that these changes will be well received and that we can all work together to make the organization a more successful and enjoyable place to be.

Joy L. Clark

WELL

TLF

and here it is the 23rd mailing, goddammit, and time has so flown I hardly know what's happened to it. Anyway, to revert to mailing 21 and get those comments out of the way first of all:

APATHY: ADDENDA For this we used the new (secondhand) duper Vinç bought and continued to use black ink before turning over to blue for Aporrheta once again. As an additional surprise, we were handed a tin stencil box containing about 18 stencils all in good condition, a silk signature plate (on which the title was cut and which seems to give pretty good solid blacks), and a very good guillotine - one with the type of handle you lift up and whack down, which pivots at one end. We tested it out with one sheet of paper and it sheared it off...whoof!...clean and no bent edge. Quite a bargain.

ARCHIVE QOS Your comment on Blunts...we too hope that sometimes something by Vinç can be run in OMPA...we have our eye on a new amended and added to edition of Duplicating without Tears (But a Helluva Lot of Cussing). You re TLF ...well the way I looked at it, I tend not only to comment on the magazines but on the comments as well. And since as Big fleas (the comments) have lesser fleas (the comments on comments) I decided that Lesser Flea was it.

You know, I too am puzzled about Agapothere...I suppose the final e should (sorry) be pronounced and the emphasis placed on the gap but if anyone has a better knowledge of whatever language the word comes from I'd be really delighted to know. Currently I pronounce it A-gap-o-their (with a very thin 'th'). As for a fanzine title, if it were an apazine, I reckon I'd turn it round and call it APAGothere.

Alternating current - your trouble is you are thinking of it as going backwards and forwards. Try thinking of it as going up and down, along. Much as a side-winder snake would do. It's a long and involved explanation for paper work but next time you're down here, I'll try to explain. It just needs the right phrase to click and very often one can't pick the exact click first go off.

Re Marsolo - surely Shinty is a violent form of hockey? Chortled over the Mrs. Gerding is a good Nan. You re Erg - I missed that about the Negroes in the News Chron... naturally we get a later edition than you and I expect it had been shuffled down to a $\frac{1}{2}$ " para by the time ours was printed. I'd have been interested. Good for the Chron to have it in at all though - I think it's a damn good paper. Have you noticed that most of the people who read it behave in a Finnish way - I mean they are almost a fandom - they're delighted to meet others who read the Chron - they discuss the stuff in it with avid interest - they are fiercely partisan about the paper and of course most of them have liberal tendencies....yep, a lot like fans.

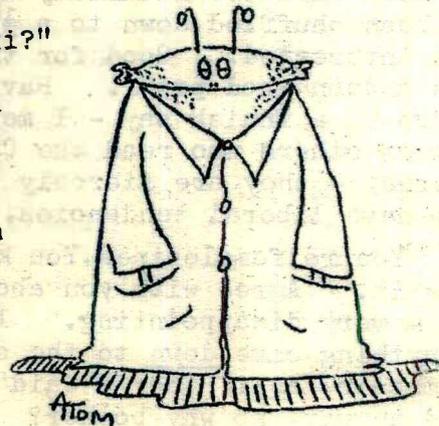
You're femalezines. You know how argumentative we women are - that's what does it. Agree with you about Zenna Henderson's finale to the People stories - very disappointing. In the same way the final Wilmar Shiras story was. Everything came down to the same level instead of going UP. It seemed anticlimactic, as if they'd said to themselves, well it's the last, the thing's sold anyway, so why bother? Pity. Whoopee for your book section - I must try 25th Hour. An interesting issue, Archie.

BLUNT I have always believed in telepathy - Sandy's comments on many items now confirm my belief. I wrote my comments at work and didn't alter them when typing and Sandy didn't see them until after he'd written his, which were also not altered in typing. The fantastic thing is that we haven't discussed the magazines either. But look at the same points he picked up...AQOS- Outchmery...JD/A - Kyle...Phenotype - obstruction...Peals - Emsh films...Rot - Mescaline...ah well at least he phrases his comments differently.

BULLFROG BUGLE. Whoopee. What is all this about that front row in college? Tell me, tell me, tell me..it sounds interesting. I enjoy your zines very much.

BURP. Nothing to comment on except TAFF and that I can only repeat what I said to you at Inchmery - that Bob really had himself to blame for letting almost a year go by, knowing there had been an undercurrent of worry about TAFF, before ANYTHING was put into print to relieve the situation. Meanwhile Gem Carr starts a side-hassle and yet still nothing was done. Had you two got together at once and issued a statement saying what you intended to do and how you intended to run it - as you did here - I don't think there would have been half the row that's been kicked up. In fact, it might have completely wiped out the worry many fen felt - still it wasn't done and now it's all over. Let's hope something better can come of it this year before disillusion sets in, the whole structure rots away. So often something left UNDONE causes more trouble than something done carelessly - what a pity.

ERG Like the little 'J' imprint. Agree that voting is an out and about farce in Britain nowadays ... do not agree that the only alternative to a rise in background radiation is subjugation by Russia. And it is NOT "the possibility of some future date"...the time is NOW. The background radiation is rising at an absolutely frightening rate ... so much so that even the Sat.Eve.Post (usually a for-H-Bombs zine) ran an article which, however slanted towards the editorial viewpoint, still is enough to chill one's blood at what is happening through radiation NOW. So maybe only (!) an EXTRA 200 children will die yearly at the moment - it's not many out of the millions born - no, it's not but each child meant much to its parents. The thought that moves me is "How would I feel if it were Nicki?" and the imagined anguish multiplied by 200 isn't worth the so-called protection afforded to the British by H-bombs. For one thing, few of us will be left alive if Russia enters a nuclear war for us to worry about subjugation by them. We will be wiped out by them IN SPITE of any bombs we have, because of the rockets based here. As I said some time ago, Britain is now AIRSTRIP NO. 1 as Huxley (or was it Orwell? I can never separate those two) had it - we don't need



to wait till 1984 for that.

In any case, I don't believe the next war will come from Russia. For some years now, I've predicted that South Africa will be the nucleus of a torrent of race-hatred that will trigger off a massacre. The Negroes won't be able to take the treatment they are now receiving from people who've stolen their land and who now want to make it impossible for them even to live, for much longer. We'll get sporadic eruptions - as the one where the women rioted over the breaking-up of home-stills - until eventually, the whole thing will explode right in the faces of the Apartheid Government. The French Revolution will have been a picnic in comparison: and it happened for precisely the same reasons, but with considerably less cause. It won't stop there, either - the negro races throughout Africa are already beginning to see an opportunity for self-government (Ghana is almost a beacon to them) and they'll demand their own lands again. Resistance by arms won't be much avail either against the hordes they can supply. This would be enough to spark off a campaign in every country where negroes are in large numbers and quite candidly I couldn't blame them one little bit. The emotional appeal of the riot could affect the uneducated ones in precisely the same way that the Moseley stirring up affected the mentally-low whites in Notting Hill. Rioting is easy enough to start amongst people not used to thinking for themselves, swift to build to proportions where it is impossible to stop until it has burnt out. If I'd had to take what some of them put up with, I'd have broken long ago.

Regarding your tape piece - on frequency response - I'd suggest a good way of checking whether anyone has ears that can still handle the 16 Kc/s is for them to switch on a television set and let it heat up. If you are uncomfortably aware of a high-pitched whistle all the time, your ears can hear the 16 Kc/s all right for the tv whistle's at 17Kc/s. I'll not have a tv set in the house till they eliminate that. Incidentally, Terry, it seem unwise to condemn the idea of buying a recorder from frequency response - if you look at it that it is cheaper to replace a poor microphone or a poor speaker by a best-quality job than it is to buy a completely new taper, so it would be advisable to buy a taper with the best possible response in the first place. I would also point out that, with the new continental models, freq. response on the $1\frac{5}{8}$ and $3\frac{3}{4}$ ips is now the equivalent (if not, in some cases, even better) than those at $3\frac{3}{4}$ and $7\frac{1}{2}$ ips on home models. In other words, one can record music extremely well at $1\frac{7}{8}$ and perfectly at $3\frac{3}{4}$. Correction too on the tape date - as given in Ron's directory. Vinç/Sandy and I can only handle $3\frac{3}{4}$ and $1\frac{7}{8}$ now as we have Telefunken 76's with four tracks.

Must pick you up on one point - you say to criticise the BSFA one should join first. Does it also follow then that to criticise the Labour Party one must first join it? Surely you try to "shape it nearer to the heart's desire" first, and THEN join? Your comment on Peals - a pie crust is a 'pastry case' - you mean pie crust that goes on top of a pie - the Americans mean pie crust that goes UNDER the pie - which we call pastry case or flan case. Another interesting issue, Terry.

52nd. STREET. Voughly...voughly...maybe it'll come to me, but at the moment I'm puzzled. Anarchy would never succeed until EVERYBODY

X has a conscience which is used...it entails discipline of personal desires for the benefit of the community and WITHOUT the use of a superior force i.e. police, to enforce that discipline. Only education can ever bring the whole community to such a state, and I think, when that has been achieved, anarchy will follow naturally. The only snag is, I don't see the whole of Britain, say, ever achieving such a blissful state of self-discipline, because there will always be someone who has such an over-riding ambition that he doesn't care how he hurts others. I remember reading an s.f. story in which the law was - you were guilty IF anything you did hurt or damaged another. It's a good system but - how to get it?

GRIFFIN Hal again George. Another nice issue. Liked the comment about selling worthless trinkets. Fascinated by your campus life piece, more please. Went particularly for the "Well, old Ben was all likkered up" quote, particularly. Also the "freedom of thought" quote on the back page, and the real snakes one, too. Fascinating.

X GROUND ZERO. Good. Particularly liked Belle's prevue on World the Flesh and the Devil. You know about that reviewer who said he couldn't see any reason why Bellafonte threw away his gun. Well after I saw the film that comment sickened me - the whole basis, the whole ethic of the film was that Man would not war on Man and this B. had realised: his ideals being too great for him so that he would permit the other to kill him rather than outrage his ideals. Yet a critic has no realisation of this! It doesn't seem possible, does it?

MARSOLO Sorry to hear you missed some 20th mailing zines. Hope that all those included in the 21st mailing arrive in good shape. Re your comments on Peals' - the American/English dictionary: I think the probability is that Britain does a lot of exporting to Canada thro' Empire preference of course and that that may account for the Candian use of both British and American terms for the same thing.

X You re Morph. I had considered the alteration of page rates for those using micro-elite (as Prexy) but after discussion, we decided that only those who have a lot to say (gabby like myself) would need and use a m-e anyway. Since most of those with a yen for m-e do, as you say, already publish far more than their quota, there would be no necessity for a reduction in page rate. However, if somebody who only had a m-e typer were to join OMPA, then perhaps we should have to reconsider the matter. Of course, if we were to alter the page rates for m-e, we should also have to reconsider the use of Pica as standard for 8 sheets and give another reduction for the use of elite...and extend the sheets required from those who leave nice white space on their pages, say Artists, which immediately complicates the situation to a remarkable degree. What for instance could we do with an art folio, where each page had one picture, each of which consisted only of two or three sweeping lines? Re the Bicroft article, you will see I too was interested.

You re Blunt. I think most people in OMPA would know who the blabber-mouth Sandy refers to is, and certainly everybody in FAPA would. But I do agree that when no names are mentioned (as TAFF for instance) the

TLF

wrong person could (and in the past has been) be landed with the blame. Interested to get Dave Vendelmans' new address. Hope you get a 'feeling' for OMPA soon.

Re your Skyrack comment (amusing) I think that while we can keep tabs on people with direct personal contact, we have no need to worry about the holding of a con. It is when we have to deal with people who can't be bothered to answer letters for about six months, or to do the things they have promised to do, as with the Worldcon, that we get all balled up. (Since you feel names should be named, I'm referring to Kyle. We or rather Bobbie as Secretary, had to write to Belle and Frank Dietz, so that they had to VISIT him, before she could get answers to some most important queries.)

Liked Bruce's Rambling. Exceptionally cogent on fanzines and communication. As for his tape talk, see further back, on ERG, for details re continental repro at lower speeds. A good user of a tper can make his stuff seem continuous by judicious use of the 'pause' switch - he does not need to talk solid for a couple of hours. (Our TF76's have a foot pause switch too which is marvellous - you just lie back in the chair with the mike and prod away with your foot when you want to natter, relaxing all the time. Glorious).

Re national libraries, the one in Sweden is at Upsala...don't know about Greece or Canada. Clayton on Classics -- yes Black Flame, we've had a copy for years. Got a paper cover as the frontcover is missing but it's a favourite. Gather Darkness is good but I rate Leiber's best as Conjure Wife. And ah, Dear Devil - I keep that copy of O.W. just for that story. Rebirth, and Farewell to the Master are both old and well loved favourites. My nomination though, particularly apt because this year is World Refugee Year, is one whose title I believe to be "Troglo-dyte" - can't remember the author either, but it's written as a news-story from a reporter, telling how the earth opened up in some Central European country and thousands and thousands of white humancoids poured out. But nobody bothered about them - they were refugees and became more and more pitiful as the story built up. A marvellous piece of story telling. The other favourite is E for Effort (T.L.Sherred) which I can read time and again (my criterion for a good story is one that I CAN read over even though I can remember the story completely - it seldom applies with detective stories incidentally although both D.L.Sayers and Michael Innes comply). Another zine I thoroughly enjoyed.

What is there about OMPA mailings that, the smaller they are, the more enjoyable the stuff in them? So far I haven't panned a damthing. And I shant'start (oops - shan't start) on Morph whose excellent cover - the only one to celebrate our 21st birthday - is really terrific. If those pieces of foil are toffee papers, I feel sorry for John's jaw.

MORPH Glad to see the return of Roles' Rollings...is there any chance you will eventually put the whole thing out in one separate zine? Your book column is once again fascinating and, as you know, your comments on The Ring has inspired us to take home Sandy's copies and try to plough beyond Chapter 3. We'll let you know how we get on eventually. (At the present date 18.2.60 we haven't had a chance to open them.)

X You re Peals - suggest possibly the States use 'braces' for things that shore things up - you know beams of wood for holding up walls and so on. Don't know though. As to the definite article in front of various place names - we did discuss this and came up with the suggestion that it indicates the dropping of a word after the country's name i.e. Argentina but The Argentine (Republic) - whereas words like Germany, Canada and Texas refer to an area in a whole name. We came up with others, such as The Steppes, The City (of London), the Ganges (river) - as to The Bronx - well, I know that one now. Apart from information Belle gave us when she was over here I've been reading - and it took three whole days while nothing was happening at the office (some months ago this) - The Columbia University's offering on their bicentennial and the tricentennial of New York City collated by John Kouwenhouver (I think). It is a fantastic, fascinating, enchanting book. It contains nothing but pictures starting with those from the very first formation of New York as Nieuw Amsterdam to modern photos, ending with the one taken in Rockefeller Square with the all-round lens that shows 7 or 8 skyscrapers poking up from the edges of the picture into the centre which is clear sky. Anyway, each picture has a caption of 10 or 12 two-inch-lines and the whole history of the city is laid out. Remember I read at about 500 wpm and you'll imagine the size of the book - it's about 3" thick and H+E+A+V+Y. Early in the formation of New York, Joseph Bronck built a "bouwery" on Bronx and, as you would say - I must go down to see the Shorrocks - they said I must go down to see The Broncks. Eventually, when old Joe had been almost forgotten, it became The Bronx. I reckon I know more about New York now than I ever did before I read it. This, with your New York Guide is terrific for building up a picture of the city. Incidentally, why is "brownstone front" a sneer - I find them most attractive.?

To your comments on TLF - and though I can see why you made them though I cannot see that you can possibly call them logical. First expatiate on the muddle-headedness of my reducing your argument to absurdity by using the Luton beat Norwih analogy - present day life revolves about the dissemination of news, by newspapers, radio and television, and, a long way behind, by cinema newsreels and by word of mouth. Therefore a certain amount must be taken on trust. This itself is not opposing the statement that policy is dictated by the bosses of the papers. If you know X paper is labour oriented and Y paper Torywise and Z known to be pretty factual in its reporting, do you not automatically discount a certain amount of what X and Y say, trust as much as you dare of Z, and find a steady median that you can believe?

X Re the Pleiades - I certainly did not intend to insult Bobbie and if you think I did, then I apologise. Bobbie however is used to making jokes herself about her sight and my only fault there is however thoughtlessness. As to Kyle, just how much money did you personally lose over his prevarications? Do you know that EJC says that he himself believes that Kyle said that the 10% charge additional to the aircraft cost would be given to the con and that he can only disprove this by checking through old papers, but that he believes we were due the 10%.? If you know this, then how can you expect me to be other than vicious? I lost a great deal of money over his behaviour.

so I guess i'd better stick the heading in the middle from now on.

DUPE Can we hope, now you're standing for TAFF, that we'll see this more often? Or, having been bludgeoned into standing, will you do no more than you usually do?...dammit, you can write so well. Why don't you do more of it? Your comment re Phenotype - Dick is in a job where he's got to be something of a specialist on medical materials. X

You re Peals - just in case the icepick isn't covered elsewhere - it's a small pointed metal head on a handle about twice the length of a razor handle. Also, I believe you can get them just a long pointed metal handle which you drive into the ice and lever bits off with.

You on Mescaline - you realise of course that it is not YOUR article that caused our main comments (which have exaggeratedly been called 'screaming', 'jumping on Ashworth' and so on -). The main article that drew comment is the one in Fijagh wherein complete details about how to get peyote and so forth is set out. Is it any secret after Falascafandom had finished, that the Nunnery was also a place where Marijuana was grown? X
Our contention is...no before I quote what I believe let me make two points.

First, when I use the word 'immature' in the following statement, it refers not to the bodily development but to the type of mind that cannot marshal facts clearly in its mind. Secondly, we know of one fan who, after reading your article, wanted to try mescaline but couldn't get it - Donaho's article told him where to get peyote and how cheap it really is.

Now let us get to the contention: I believe that immature people may not get sufficient 'kick' from peyote or mescaline and may try something else (until they find themselves addicted seriously to some drug) and that any article that encourages that type of person to attempt taking ANY drug is dangerous. To take a milder case, do you remember OBLIVON? "Take Oblivon - it will make you care less about your worries" - yeeaaaah! So what happened? So many damned young fools overloaded themselves with it and committed crimes and caused deaths - because they felt nothing mattered - that the Government had to put it on the poisons list i.e. you can't get it without being known to the chemist and signing his poison book. Mind you, it's possible an occasional chemist would hand it over to an unknown who had a damned good story why he wanted it, and that unknown could write a false name in the poisons book, but that does not minimise the fact that it is, to all intents and purposes, unobtainable generally. Peyote and mescaline, for any normal person, hold no more danger than Oblivon. But, for that very reason, it is ill-advised that articles extolling the virtues of any drug should be published.

Another point - I am compelled to cross busy main roads: it is an act which is essential to my life and livelihood. I do NOT HAVE to take Mescaline or Peyote. Therefore, your point about negative aspects falls to the ground. Just in case you don't believe that even a mild recommendation would cause people to take such an item, remember the following. A few articles appeared boosting anti-histamine as a cold cure (in all its varying forms): although many counteracting articles have appeared telling people that it is not a cure-all for colds (although it does relieve discomfort for some people) over \$ 2,000,000 were spent in 1 month on anti-histamines.

Your last para was a dilly: Sandy never said it was a social menace. He said it might be a possible social menace. As to its being little-known, expensive & unobtainable, try READING Fijagh again absorbing what it says: you have sufficient intelligence to realise that the prices given X

and the addresses, completely invalidate your argument.

A very commentworthy zine.

ERG Lovely cover - that is the old book plate, no?

You and your tail end of summer we haven't blamed on the bombs. Surely you realise nobody blames the atomic bombs for good weather, only for bad? No atomic bombs were let off for some considerable time prior to that summer, no bombs were exploded during that summer, and that fact tends to add strength to the claim that explosions of atomic bombs does cause bad weather, i.e. if explosions cause bad weather, no explosions may permit good weather. No?

Remember that volcanic explosions have caused bad weather in previous years. Required reading for arguing on a-bombs and the weather is the article in the ASF that carried James Blish's cover story "Death's End" or "At Death's End".

How I appreciate your comments on teachers. But tell me, where were we holding barefist prizefighting, cock-fighting and bear-baiting just prior to World War II? Are you not a few generations out in your contention that the present generation is as good as the generation that indulged in such 'entertainments'?

Oh GOOD - your bit about people seldom trying suicide for a kick.

As to Kyle, when we first met him, we liked him too...then we had to deal with him over the Worldcon. After waiting six months for replies to URGENT matters, so that finally we had to get someone to call him to get ANYTHING at all out of him, how would you feel? This sort of thing is still going on, but see later in TLF for further news.

Hard luck about not getting sf into the T&HF Mag. But you're doing well - I saw TWO soggytoons in one issue.

GRIFFIN I do enjoy your zines, George. Now when we get to America, which we hope will be 1961, I shall hope very much to meet you. Liked the Fan National Park.

Crumpets. We usually eat a dozen or so between us each weekend. Just before the war, there used to be a street-salesman called a muffin-man (naturally) who would walk round with a tray of muffins on his head, ringing a bell. (Muffins are different from American muffins and different from English Crumpets. They are about the same size diameter as crumpets but about 1 to 1½" thick.) There used to be a song called "Oh, do you know the muffin man? He lives down Drury Lane." He vanished with the war and never reappeared - and muffin themselves have given way completely to crumpets now, although some specialist bakers occasionally sell a few.

The 'Inspiring Message' made me shudder.

~~the~~ Notes from Undercover was brilliant - particularly the bit about the one reel movie.

MARSOLO Think I'd like to see your Synergetics stuff - if only so I could try and understand what it's about. Will take up the suggestion about extra copies with the officers when we're all together at the Con.

Your story appeared to have a new twist and as such should be worth a smack at the professional market. Why not try?

TLF

PARAFANALIA This I found most enjoyable and was very interested to see your picture. I used to enjoy amateur dramatics before I got caught up in fandom and had no more time to spare. I remember once playing the part of an old woman of 80 - managed to get a real crack in my voice, too.

PHENOTYPE Aaah, the Tucker Hotel.

Re APathy - I was trying to keep to consecutive numerals for OMPazines: hence counting yours as nonumbered, since you do not actually have an identifying number solely for P. The snag with using the mailing number reviewed is that there is usually a time lag with American zines reviewing mailings as compared with British zines reviewing mailings. Flt it was best, therefore, to leave that out.

Belts and braces on British trousers - it is common here to have brace buttons on every pair of trousers, except those specially intended to wear with belts. With a suit, belt loops are seldom provided. Trouble is most of our manufacturers are too lazy to make sufficient sizes so that anyone could walk into a shop and buy a pair of trousers that would fit both hip and waist without falling down.

Bravo on drugtaking.

Magic eyes on tapers - ours often have a slow dying time and hence are not so effective as a meter. Personally, having been a radar mech., I would always prefer a meter.

The sulfuric acid episode caused me to chuckle. Did you get free replacements for shoes and trousers?

Liked your answers to the dots problem too.

Can you get Wally to continue writing for you - too few people in OMPA get a chance to read his stuff.

POOKA. Hi, and thanks for the greetings card. I love Hannes' style.

As to the H-bomb parades, believe me, over here, although we have cranks joining in, the majority of the marchers are seriously concerned about the bomb - and its effect on their children and their children's children. Their idea is not a booze-and-women orgy at all. It may be in the States: that is something only USfen can tell. But here it is something where deep concern is shown and a belief, almost as of a religious crusade - which, in a sense, it is.

There will be a parade while you are over here - if it finishes in Trafalgar Square and not at Aldermaston, may we take you to see it, hear the speeches and meet some of the marchers? Brunner and Hammett in particular. I think you will be impressed and it will certainly wipe away that sneer of yours.

Don't quite know what you mean about 38 c in size, but our shoe sizes are different from yours. Women's clothing is sold in the same sizes as American but are usually designated by bust and hip measurements rather than the size number. However, all sewing patterns are in sizes as in the US.

As to the Red Cross, you are so way off the beam that it is impossible to understand you. It is obvious that you were never a prisoner-of-war, or related to, or know one. If you did, you would never criticise the Red Cross as you have done. Maybe, after all, you ARE, as you say, an S.O.B.

TLF

SATAN'S CHILD Deep-freeze. There was a case of this further back than the one you mention, Dorothy. A woman was kept in deep freeze for about 6 or 7 months, at the end of which time, during which her pregnancy developed normally, she was safely delivered of a child. Forget why she was in deep freeze but I think that too was the result of an accident.

STEAM Congratulations and best wishes.

SCOTTISHE What we sent FAPA - Sandy'll tell you.

Your piece on hospitals at Christmas reminds me of when I had Nicki - on Christmas Day the gynaecologist was playing the piano whenever he had a spare moment - not carols: classics - it was wonderful. The first break I'd had from popsongs and carols. Could that man play! The hall was wooden and acted as a wonderful sounding box for the piano and he didn't play for nearly long enough.

The snag with carols sung by nurses is that I wanted to giggle when they tried to turn round in the ward: it was a leetle cramped. Three volunteer groups sang carols in the Hall and one woman in a very small group had an absolutely terrific voice.

Your ending paragraph was a stroke of genius.

WILD PUMBLES Ah yes, pumbles. Present day stf. I find it awfully difficult to remember stories these days (not my memory at fault, but the stories). I start to look at the current zine and think, now did I read that one yesterday?, and I have to get half-way through it before I can be sure I did. The most outstanding one of recent times, though oldish in the states, was FLOWERS FOR ALGERNON (MoF&SF).

Hell Bound Train I haven't read yet - but I was in the American Embassy Library the other day and discovered a mag that nobody has ever thought to tell us about. Best Articles and Stories - a monthly I believe. The current one has in it the statement that Bob Bloch won the Hugo at the Detention for "That Hell Bound Train" and reprints it. One lunch time, I'll snatch a minute to read it.

Randy Garrett seems to have started a lot of hares at the Panel. Why should pros have respect from fans? Do they respect fans for the job the fen do? The pros have been paid for their work - surely to have respect, they must first deserve respect: and there's not many of them nowadays that do. From present day stf I'd say the majority are doing no more than a competent job. Those that do a GOOD job get the respect all right - Bloch, Asimov, and so on. When Garrett can - as we say in Fleet Street - "write like an angel", then he'll get his respect. As for neos - see Ethel's statement about Vinç in Scottishe. Love your unused notes - the mind goes pumbling, building up wonderful fancies. I love your zines.

STRAIGHT TALK This I like. Will send you the coupon as I can't remember whether I commented on your stuff in the 20th mailing or not.

FANMARK GREETING CARDS Brilliant, brilliant - the idea, the captions, everything. You could make a good profit selling these to fans, so let's start a studio card shop.

GRIST Thanks very much indeed for the information on previous issues: I don't know if I can get the complete addenda in this mailing but if not it will be out next time. These notes will help considerably.

I gather from your comments on Peals, that "The Moon and Sixpence" was shown on TV in a new version, since you mention Olivier in connection with it. I remember seeing the film and being overwhelmed by the sudden rush of colour towards the end of the film, as the pictures blazed from the screen after the sepia of the rest of it. A film I'd dearly like to see again. Thanks, too, for the information on Kibitzer - I find this very interesting and think you must have found the actual basis for it .. I've seen peewits doing this and can imagine the link quite easily.

As to potatoes - they're delicious aren't they. But if you eat mainly protein foods otherwise, I see no reason why you shouldn't lose weight. But if you do, you won't be the Ellis we knew. Ours is a roundish cheerful Ellis, and we were tickled pink to recognise him on the screen when we ran the Solacon film the other day.

Part 2 of Grist shows jolly good registration of your two machines - I think you'll have no bother there. Liked your definition of Prang.

Thank you too for the details on IBM - these are interesting and I was tickled immensely by the you wanted to know and "I'm a goin' ta tell ya". Could just imagine you standing there while someone's trying to get away, doggedly saying, well you asked me, here it is. Lovely.

As to Lady C's Lover - Penguin's are going to publish it in June this year, unexpurgated, in order to commemorate some anniversary or other. Find your judgment of the book extremely interesting and, until I've read the thing, I'm unable to comment on it. I do feel however that it is very possibly the most accurate statement yet about it. As for your quote from Anything Goes, I could just hear Frankie singing it as I read. I pity your poor arm after filling in 'is in poor taste' on every copy.

Re Peals: I was very interested in your comment that there is a high rate of turnover of SF at Fort Worth. This should be correlated with statements such as those reported by the magazine editors that SF is in the doldrums. How about SaM doing some market research on this?

Fascinated by the kits you were listing - Harry Warner sent us a copy of the Christmas Sears-Roebuck catalogue and we were drooling all over it. What ridiculously low prices (even on our money): incidentally, for more on prices read me on JD/A later. A fascinating zine Ellis.

MORPH Congratulations on the cover, John, and on the write-up of the press coverage of the round trip of the moon rocket. Very good indeed. Incidentally, you give the Daily Mail High praise - have you noticed the new John Jelley column, Second Opinion? The man is a FAN! Wish I knew if that were a pen-name or note?

You re APathy - Platime 2. I have no record of this at all: is it the one Norman was permitted to send out with OMPA, although he was no longer a member of it, so as to save him wasting the zine?

Who said, incidentally, that we regard tobacco and alcohol as innocuous? As to Sandy's drinking himself insensible within 2 hours of arriving at the Cytricon, aren't you forgetting a few facts? Such as that Sandy had travelled 3,000 miles and gone a devil of a long time without sleep, and that he was not drunk but just damned tired? Neither Sandy nor I said no one should experiment with mescaline - we do say that you

should not encourage others (i.e. the fan mentioned in my Rot comments) to do so without medical supervision, yet that is what Donaho's article was doing, since he gave full details of how to get peyote. Your logic is slipping in the comments on Blunt.

There does happen to be a ruling in Britain about Mescaline - it says that Mescaline shall not be obtainable just by walking into chemist and asking for it. I think it's a very good thing too.

As to Sandy's comment about Madle's fakefan and your being niggled about it, a joke can be a joke the first time you read it (as this was) and also the second, and maybe the third. But by the fifty-dozenth time it gets boring, and right now it's boring. Since we never in the first place said OR IMPLIED that Madle was a fakefan, why the hell does he keep on inferring we did? He WAS NOT, however, an internationally well known fan. We are not, however, the only people who have noticed Madle's continual gibes - Ron Bennett, the neutrallest of neutrals, has done too.

I should point out that there is absolutely no truth in that statement of yours that there was a kernel of truth in "fanzine fandom didn't even know we existed". A comment was made at the time Madle won taff, that, after all, he did have 1½" in the index of the Immortal Storm. The truth however is that Madle, pace his own listing of what he had done prior to TAFF was not internationally known to the then present-day fans: he was a club and convention fan as he himself admitted and as was pointed out by several people after his listing of his accomplishments. Cool off, John, you're far too annoyed about nothing.

Staggered to discover that Evans' book came out so long ago. I remember that it came out just after we had been to his lecture at the Society of Ethics, or whatever their name was, and that seems no time at all ago. It's not fair the way people keep swiping time from under my feet. Why can't they add a bit, instead?

However we may disagree, I still find your zine fascinating.

A L'ABANDON Ah, Jim, if only you would expatiate on your adventures more. What was it like while you were at the Canyon de Chelly? Many thanks indeed for the Ariz. Highways, which arrived and which I found delightful. The pictures were glorious and made me want more than ever to visit it. I envy your having a job there.

Social Security. The amount deducted for a man is approximately 4% to 5% of his salary over here, taking an average salary (i.e. clerical as well as manufacturing workers) as being in the region of £11/£10 per week. The man's deduction is 9/11d. per week. This, however, does NOT entitle him to a pension, an iniquity about which I could carry on for hours, but I won't bore you here. It does, however, cover his medical and unemployment 'compensation'.

I WISH I could see a flying saucer.

Agree about lower-class usage of four letter monosyllables. It seems to be worldwide. Hooray for your statement about logic and fanaticism.

Beast - I didn't mean it was pronounced Apporohta - I meant it was pronounced with a long e. Grrrrr!

Nice, but I want to read more on the Canyon de Chelly - your personal experiences.

And that leaves all the JD/A's and the quiz. I've answered that

direct to Lynn, but must add that it appears to be directed towards proving that fanzine fans are a load of bums. Also some quite unfounded statements are incorporated in it, such as the one that sf is the only group which has a fandom. Where this idea sprang up I have no idea, but it is built on a very treacherous quicksand. Anyone who has done market research (Daphne, like to say something here?) will tell you that answers based on false assumptions will give nothing at all like the facts. Leading questions must always be valid.

The result however will be interesting to see. I hope they'll be published in OMPA.

JD/A 48 What a lovely cover - how that fellow Barr can draw. I assume he must do commercial work, too. Bob's report appears to be rapidly drawing to a close. He should save his souvenir crown. It will eventually be fairly valuable, especially in mind condition which those mounts are intended to keep them in.

As to British prices, Bob is considerably off in his comparison. For instance, where did he get the idea that petrol, even in 1957, cost only 3/- a gallon. The basic cost did, maybe, but there is a 50% purchase tax slammed on top of it. Petrol has been 4/6d. approximately for so long that motorists are continually grumbling. Cigarettes are more expensive than American ones. Food generally in the States costs NO MORE than in Britain. I'll give a table shortly of just some of the items, comparable in both UK & US, to show you. These prices were taken in August 1959 from personal purchases (the cheapest possible rates I could find - and I live in a district where prices are probably the lowest in London) and for the U.S. from advertisements in the August daily papers. Where your prices are higher - i.e. occasional cuts of meat - they are not so much higher that they balance out the difference in earning power: it is usually only a few cents per pound more. Your really expensive items, in comparison with ours, is in items where personal expenditure is concerned - mechanical repair-men, haircuts, and so on. However, these are not a daily expenditure, as is food, and the difference does not alter the standard of living so much as the British "establishment" would like the British to believe.

Food in Britain, far from being cheaper than the US, is in most instances more expensive. Rents are anything but reasonable: nowadays, an unfurnished flat with one bedroom can cost between £3 (-9.00) to £5 (\$15.00) (1/3 to 1/2 a man's wages) a week. And the size of the rooms nowhere equals yours. Nor will a refrigerator or a telephone be included. A month's rent for an apartment in New York usually runs on average to one week's wages. A month's rent for an apartment in London, unfurnished, will run to somewhere in the region of two weeks' wages! And more often than not an unfurnished house or flat is more expensive than a furnished one, as it has security of tenure, whereas furnished accommodation doesn't. We pay rent, now, at the rate of very slightly under two week's wages a month. At Catford, we paid more than two week's wages a month. This is fairly normal pricing for postwar accommodation and I don't mean post-war built, but post-war entered. People who have lived in their houses since before the war are in a far better position. I'll put the table on the next page.

As to Bob's wondering why most of the active British fen do not support the BSFA - well, we are asked, in effect, to give £1 for charity each year. Charity, because we get nothing from it - except a 'quarterly fanzine' which, having seen, I cannot claim to be near £1 a year, in worth.

Oh, yes, and the use of a library - though I must claim our own is almost certainly superior to the Cheltenham one.

Many more fen would have joined the BSFA at, say, 10/- a year giving it willingly to subsidise the finding of fen. But not £1. Even the neo fen brought in, are not renewing their subs because, as they say, once they've made contact with fandom, they don't need the BSFA: it has nothing to offer them either. Vinç brought this out at the very beginning and our arguments on this - that all we really needed was a contact bureau not a fully-fledged society, are taken as being invalid criticisms because we are not members.

However, the misguided people who use that excuse should remember that, at the time we made these criticisms, THERE WERE NO MEMBERS of the BSFA whatsoever! Until fans had actually made application and paid £1, any fan had a right to comment on the Association as it was being formed. Inchmery were denied the right, although Vinç had put in more work than anyone, and I personally spent a great deal of time making CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS and offering help in publicity. This, however, is no place to discuss idiotic editorials in the present BSFA OO so I'd better say no more. A pity indeed that Terry was not able, through other commitments, to retain editorship of the OO - he made an excellent job of it. It looks now, though, as though the BSFA will shortly be nominated the British NFFF in its old connotation.

Your reply to my letter - about the Kyle affair being laid to rest. All along we have said we are willing to drop it, but not while a \$35,000 lawsuit is being brought on. When Kyle drops that, we'll drop our complaints. Any fan who thinks he's worth \$35,000 should start thinking again...he has an exaggerated idea of his own importance.

I'll leave room here for the table of comparisons of prices:

Fresh Sweet Corn.	UK 10 ears	5/-	US 10 ears	25 cents	(1/9d.)
Tomato Ketchup	15 oz bottle	2/3	Two 14-oz bottles	33 cents	(2/5d)
Sirloin	average per lb.	5/-	average per lb.	89 cents	(6/4d)
Ham	average per lb.	4/-	average per lb.	49 cents	(3/6d)
Camay soap	regular size tablet	9d.	three reg.size tabs.	31 ¢	(2/3d.)
Frozen Strawberries	8 oz pack	3/3	Two 10-oz packs	39 cents	(2/9d.)
Frozen Shrimps	1 lb pack	14/-	5-lb pack	\$3.19	(22/9d.)
Nylon style identical fabric	£8.7.6d			\$14.98	(£5.7.0)
Court shoes	identical model	55/-		\$6.98	(49/-)
Nylons	6 pairs	53/6	6 pairs	\$5.94	(42/-)
	(both countries 15 den.51 gauge fully-fashioned stretch mesh)				
Little X foundation identical model	39/11			\$5.95	(42/-)

Anyone still think US prices are fantastically higher than British?

Oh - that Sears-Roebuck catalogue Harry Warner sent us was from their rival firm - Montgomery Ward. Sorry.

JD/A 49. TEW's letter. Everybody arguing about focal points seem to have missed the main thing about Quandry. It is not that it is now a focal point, but that at the time it came out it was the ONLY magazine that gathered so many British & US fen together as readers of one magazine. For that reason alone, it is the only true focal point there has been. Since that day, many zines sprang up each with their own clique of US & UK fen, but Q was the only one at the time that worked on hands-across-the-sea and all that.

A lovely letter from Ron - he's a very dear friend.

Well, even on December 31st I didn't know whom to vote for for TAFF, so I never voted for anyone. I knew whom I would like to see but didn't know if the vote was deserved. I felt Don was deserving of the honour but cagey (oh he knows it: I'm not saying this behind his back) because of his method of counting votes. With two popular fanzine fen and a general all-round fan standing at the same time, I suppose that really there was only one possible answer. But I could not feel right in giving that answer so held my tongue. I see from the results that it wouldn't have made much difference anyway.

Your picture section was very good.

The films B'n'F put on over here at the symposium impressed me no end - the main item was the professional slickness with which Pitt put over their bid for this year's con. It was an example to all cities and I suspect it had been assembled, written and rehearsed by a professional advertising man. Had it? X

JD/A 50. Short and sweet, hmmm? Glad to see Belle's column is doing so much good for fandom. You're not the only zine to have done so well from it. The very best of luck to her & Hans. X

What is the difference between drawing on stencil and drawing on multilith masters? X

MAILING COMMENTS This is unfortunately at home, but one piece sticks in my mind. In it, Dick says that if I pay for Kyle to disband the WSFS, then Kyle will do so!!!

This seems to raise a point or two to me. Did, or did not, the Solacon advertise themselves as a WSFS con? Did, or did not, they make a good profit? Since yes is the answer in each case, then it seems to me the WSFS funds have more than sufficient to pay Kyle for carrying out orders given to him by THE SOLACON COMMITTEE. I didn't order Kyle to disband the WSFS - for that matter, Falasca is the one who's raising the roof about it - why doesn't Dick ask him to pay? Or could it be that any excuse, included under the heading of 'Inchmery won't do this that or the other', is good enough if it will get Kyle out from under? Well, this time it's not going to work - see over.

Meanwhile, remember I personally (not any club or amorphous body but me, Vin and Sandy personally) lost quite enough money through Kyle's procrastination. It may not be generally know, but the donation to London was only given, provided nobody made a claim against it for personal losses incurred. Yet Kyle wants me to pay for disbanding the Wsfs. Well, if it'll shut you up, I'll do it. Over is the copy of a letter I sent to George Nims with copies to Ellington, Kyle, B'n'F and for information to Fanac, Ape, JD/A and Skyrack.

Dated 18th February 1960.

I have just read Dick Ellington's OMPA mailing comments. In these he states that, provided I (personally) pay for the dissolution of the W.S.F.S., Dave Kyle will thereupon carry out the orders that were given to him so long ago at the Solacon.

While it is not, therefore, my place to pay for work ordered by the Solacon and while the Solacon - run and advertised as a W.S.F.S. Convention - made more than sufficient money to carry out this job, I intend to call the bluff.

I have made arrangements with my bank to transfer the sum of \$4.00 (four dollars) to the funds of George Nims Raybin, to be paid to David Kyle immediately upon his effecting the final dissolution of the W.S.F.S. as previously ordered in 1958.

I understand that the full amount required for the dissolution of the W.S.F.S. is \$5.00.

However, since Kyle has already disposed of certain W.S.F.S. property, for which he received the sum of \$1.00, I am forwarding to him, via George, only sufficient to make up the total of \$5.00. I trust the dissolution will be performed now speedily and efficiently and without any further procrastination.

It seems to me to add insult to injury to expect one whose money was lost at the 1957 Worldcon through Kyle's prevarication now to pay for him to carry out orders given to him by the Solacon. However, rather than have his nauseating display drag on any longer, I am paying the money for the dissolution of the W.S.F.S. I expect to hear that it has been dissolved - and I expect to receive that information within a very short while.

And that, let us trust, will dispose of that bone of contention. All we need now is for Kyle to withdraw his \$35,000 lawsuit and things will be looking good in fandom, won't they?

Do you remember George Nims telling us about the time he kept smoking cigars for free? Well, I've just been reading a book about boxtops and other premium offers. It appears that, usually, the number of people who ask for redemption on such offers as "We'll buy your first 3" whatever-it-is, is in the region of half of one per cent. George must have been a horrifying shock to them...probably made up the whole half of one per cent all by himself!

What do the following quotes describe? Can you tell me?

"Why is it that, whereas a bad love story or romance is condemned merely on its merits as a defective specimen of a respectable class, the.....
...story is apt to be condemned without trial in virtue of some sort of assumed original sin?" Sorry no room for the other quote - next time, probably. But have a guess at the above.