

NIFLHEIM 2

This is NIFLHEIM #2, Edited and Published by Dave Hulan at 228-D Niblo Dr., Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, with the intent that it be circulated through the 62d mailing of the Spectator Amateur Press Society, for the purpose of providing my initial activity requirement in that sterling organization. Jotun Publication 19.

This, the first page of the zine, is the last to be stencilled, so that I can safely say that I have produced twice the required amount of material for my initial activity requirement. Except for this page the balance of this publication is entirely mailing comments; I like to write MCs and intend to do a full set on every future mailing also. However, one of these days I'll have more time and hope to be able to write something else for the benefit of those members who don't like mailing comments. One of these days...

I introduced myself rather sketchily in NIFLHEIM 1, which was however mostly an Irritated Zine and didn't leave much room for personal information. I also say a good many things about myself here and there in the pages to follow, so I won't bother here to go into any vast amount of detail on my personal philosophy or background. My primary areas of interest outside fandom are history, linguistics, military science, political science, math, and the game of contract bridge. Which except for the last probably shows in the sort of things I chose to comment on. I will probably do an essay sometime soon on Why Contract Bridge is the Greatest Card Game Ever Invented, though I haven't decided yet whether it should go in SAPS or OMPA when I get in the latter. They seem to discuss card games more in OMPA - is anyone in SAPS interested in cards?

I think that all members of SAPS have gotten copies of my genzine, LOKI (a few have even commented or traded for it...); if anyone hasn't, and wants one, drop me a line or mention in in your next SAPSzine and I'll put you on the ML for the next ish.

Does anyone happen to know why Lancer Books - a firm which I had up to now associated mostly with sex novels after the manner of Beacon, Fabian, et al - has suddenly come up with two SF classics, and apparently intends to print more? THE DYING EARTH and A MARTIAN ODYSSEY are two of the scarcest well-known SF titles around. True, the Weinbaum volume isn't a reprint of the Fantasy Press collection of the same title (I'd have chosen different stories; THE RED PERI is still in print and at least two of the five in the Lancer book are from that collection. Actually the title story is the only one that's unavailable elsewhere, I think.), but it's a good thought. There are a great many old FP books that I would like to see reprinted, especially the novels of Campbell and EE Smith - I wonder if there's any chance... Pyramid is also coming up with some classics, in a very attractive format, and the Ace reprints of Burroughs are welcome. It seems as though the PBs, after a hiatus of publishing mostly new material, are once more beginning to reprint stories from the '30s and '40s. May their shadows never grow less...

And this about runs me out of things to say. I enjoyed the mailing, as I have enjoyed all the mailings I've bought since I got on the WL, and look forward to a long membership full of delightful arguments.

And this portion of NIFLHEIM will be titled, in an original manner...

MAILING COMMENTS

A Folio of Philby - Bob Smith: I've seen this already in DOUBLE STAR, but it was enjoyable. Philby seems to imitate Rotsler too much, though.

Sui! #2; Thru' the Porthole #4 - Bob Smith: So "Sui!" is Japanese? I thought it was Arkansan - the leading football cheer of the University of Arkansas goes something like "Whoooooooooooo - PIG! SUI!" The team being known as the Razor-backs and all...which brings up an interesting question. US sports teams all have nicknames, like Tigers, Lions, Rams, Trojans, Golden Bears, etc. - I wonder if the same practice is followed in other countries? Australia I know is considered one of the most sporting of countries - would your teams, for soccer and cricket and such, have this sort of nickname? And you might answer it from the European side, John.

Overseas fans who filled out LD's questionnaire got free copies, I think; so did members of the Southern Fandom Group; but most US fans still had to pay for theirs. It wasn't, after all, a listing of BNF's; it was a listing of every fan he could get info on, and rather expensively reproduced. He has said that he was losing money selling it for 50¢ a copy, so you can imagine that if he gave away a copy to every one of the several hundred fans listed he'd be out the devil of a lot of money. Broyles is a good man, but neither rich nor a philanthropist.

Sappy #1 - Lawrence Crilly: Ok, you're a fan. Welcome to the Waiting List. Keep responding to SPECTATOR and one fine day you too will be invited to active membership...

The Dinky Bird #4 - Ruth Berman: I'm engaged in an effort to bring Allan Drury's A SHADE OF DIFFERENCE to the attention of fandom - by any reasonable definition it qualifies as SF, and is a fine novel to boot. I recommend it to all fans - if you don't like it, I'd like to know why.

"The Case of the Coffee House" was enjoyed. As I become more familiar with all sorts and conditions of fans, I begin to enjoy faan fiction more. When I first entered fandom I couldn't stand it.

Coconino - Owen Hannifen: For the record, it's Bob Jennings, not George Jennings, who perpetrated A TRIP TO HELL. I don't think there is a George Jennings in fandom, but if there is he is owed an apology (and should probably start operating under a pseudonym to avoid confusion). I understand from other sources that Jennings made several changes in Berry's original manuscript; whether they toned it down or made it worse I don't know. Another thing; Jennings is no longer a member of N3F. He is, I regret to say, still a member of SFPA; he is not, however, any longer its Mailing Editor, although he was listed as such in the Lichtman N3F Fandbook about apas. I'm now the holder of that post.

Genesis by Weber - Dick Schultz: However, I have not been in SAPS long enough to be able to appreciate the Fellowship of Nothing.

Special Convention Zine - Ruth Berman: But the Coventry stuff has been so thick that I'm beginning to catch on to it - I liked this. I like your writing anyhow, Ruth.

Outsiders #49 - Wrai Ballard: Now that I'm in, I'm quite willing for the membership to be reduced to thirty again, as long as it's done by attrition. If

you'd supported such a thing while I was still a waitlister, I wouldn't have approved at all. But then in SAPS the membership has very little to say about such things anyhow...

The plural of "opus" is, technically, "opera" - but used in reference to music it's likely to be confusing.

You didn't comment on my zine in the 60th mailing - or doesn't failure to comment on WLzines count against you in this sort of competition?

Pot Pourri #25 - John Berry: A delight to read, but I can't find anything in particular to hang a comment on. "Concluding Act" didn't quite come through to me, but everything else was excellent.

Watling Street #14 - Bob Lichtman: I didn't even have a Nonvention to go to - I spent the Worldcon weekend seeing the World Championship Tennessee Walking Horse Show. I would have enjoyed it a lot more if I knew or cared anything about horses, but then there you are. Katya (my wife, for those of you who don't know me) is a great horse fancier, though, so there I went. If there'd been any chance of making Chicago we'd have gone there instead, but the doctors had said not to go over two hours' drive from Huntsville, and the WCTMHS was the only thing of significance within that range. So never a fan I saw. But hopefully we'll make DC in '63 and see some of you Good People.

Actually I think that a lot of people get a bit off the track in the phonics-vs-word recognition arguments - the first thing a child has to do when learning to read is to be able to recognize the printed form of words he already knows orally. I doubt if anything in the average fifth-or-sixth grade reader would be unintelligible to a first-grade child if it were read to him. You can't learn how to pronounce words you've never heard of in English until you've had a lot more reading and talking experience than most first graders have had; the language is too irregular in spelling. What phonics claims to do is to enable a child to approximate the pronunciation of a written word closely enough that he'll be able to recognize it as a word he knows. It seems to do this reasonably well - whereas word-recognition won't. word-recognition makes English into a good approximation of Chinese as far as correlation between the written and the spoken word is concerned.

Pot Pourri #24 - John Berry: Why did #25 come before #24?

So Hiroshima and Nagasaki got atom bombs dropped on them and no other city did...sure, the atom bomb is several orders of magnitude more powerful than the HE and incendiary bombs used on other cities, but they only got one each - in point of lives lost and property destroyed, Hiroshima got no more and Nagasaki rather less than a number of other cities. That's how they can be compared. Of course, there are other ways in which they can't - it depends on your point of view.

Again, a most excellent zine which offered nothing much to comment on.

Resin 11 - Norm Metcalf: I wouldn't call STARMAKER exactly a sequel to LAST AND FIRST MEN. At least, I didn't consider it such when I read it, several years ago. I don't have a copy of the book myself, so can't check my memory, but it seems to me that STARMAKER starts with a man of our time and sends him out into space to observe the evolution of life throughout the Galaxy, with little or no reference to the future of the human race shown in LAST AND FIRST MEN.

Incidentally, in an issue of RESIN a while back you had some sort of rundown of the electoral college. I don't know where you got your figures, but I do know that your figure for Alabama was drastically off - you said 6 electoral votes, while in the 1960 election Alabama had 11. Next election it will only have 10, because it failed to keep up with the national average in population growth, but at any rate it certainly had more than six. I didn't check your other figures, but if they were this far off then it's no wonder you came up with such wild differences between what a state should have and what it had. In fact, the EC is weighted somewhat in favor of the small states, since no matter how small the state is it gets three electoral votes, and the total is limited to 535, but as far as it goes it is weighted according to population, as of the last decennial census.

Stupefying Stories #57 - Dick Eney: What sound is the character "6" supposed to represent in Akrean? If Indonesian can use "2" I guess you can use "6", but I'd like to know how it's intended to be pronounced. I get a headache trying to read something with names in it I can't at least pretend to pronounce somehow. So I didn't finish reading SS. The idea seems interesting enough, though - maybe I'll take a shot at writing a story based on the setting sometime. And maybe I won't.

There were no true nomads among the North American Indians. The true nomad is one who makes his living by herding tame animals, and the Amerinds in this continent had no domesticated animals other than the dog, which doesn't fall into the category of a herded animal. Amerinds were mostly hunters in the Plains, with primitive agriculture in the Eastern forests and some rather advanced agriculture in the Southwest. But the first nomads in America were the cowboys, not the Indians...

Pleasure Units #2 - Gordon Eklund: I am one of those on-stencil composers whom you so greatly deplore. When I'm doing MCs, anyhow. I usually try to think out what I'm going to say in a particular comment before I start typing, but not to the extent of writing it down first. That's too much like work. For more formal work, of course, I take a different attitude - sometimes. NIFLHEIM #1 was first-drafted, but that was because (a) I wanted to be sure what I said was what I meant, and (b) I wanted to make sure it would fit into no more than two pages, because I was having to pay for it.

I can see how you, and Breen, might form an incorrect impression of my views from that letter in DISCORD. This was one reason why I published NIFLHEIM #1; I knew I wouldn't convince Breen, but I thought I might at least get more of my views on paper than Boggs allowed in DISCORD. He cut about half of the letter as originally written - the opinions weren't altered, but some of the qualifications were omitted. As you say, it's human to jump to conclusions; but no one but Breen saw fit to jump into print on the subject, and in a zine which he had no reason to think I'd ever see. This last was my main objection; I don't particularly mind insults, I just prefer them to be made to my face.

Hardcover SF was virtually nonexistent in 1940, from all I can gather. There were a couple of volumes of Weinbaum, privately printed as a memorial to him, and possibly a few others, such as Taine and Burroughs, but magazine stories just didn't get into book form. SF book publishing took an upturn along about '49, about the time I became interested in magazine stuff - ASTOUNDING didn't even have a regular book review department until the middle of 1950 or so, because SF books came out at the rate of less than one a month. The contrast now is delightful for the SF fan.

My experience with Burroughs is markedly similar to yours, except that I ran through it at a somewhat earlier age - I went on my Great Burroughs Jag at the age of 10-12, discovering ASTOUNDING then and more or less dropping ERB. I'd read all of his books in print, and a few that weren't, anyhow. Despite the word of many fans in recent publications that THE MOON MAID is his most serious work, I still feel that CARSON OF VENUS, a biting satire of Nazi Germany, should claim that honor. It may not be quite as good a book as TMM, but it has always struck me as Burroughs' most serious work. The entire Venus series is as much satire as anything Stanton A. Coblentz ever did, and to me is almost the only real science fiction Burroughs ever did. My personal lack of interest in THE MOON MAID may be due to the fact that I only got around to reading it about a year ago, and I may be more critical of something that I didn't read and enjoy at an early and impressionable age.

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At this point I pause to make an Announcement. Between the cutting of the last stencil and this one, I became a father. Roy Thomas Hulan was born at 1:16 PM on 13 November, weighing 6 pounds, 10 ounces. He and Katya are fine, though I find myself in need of more sleep than I've been getting since his homecoming...

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Engram #2 - Gary Deindorfer: Ghod.

"another Odyssey" I liked. The rest of the zine didn't quite come off for me, chiefly because I don't like that sort of thing even when it's well-done.

Flabbergasting #24 - Burnett R. Toskey: Once I too had the ambition to get a Ph.D. and teach math in college, and maybe write a textbook even. But along about the end of my first year of grad school I got tired of school, quit, and told the Army to come and get me when they wanted me. And killed the rest of the time till I got orders teaching dancing instead. Now I suppose I'll go back to work in a mathematical-type job, take some courses on the side, and maybe even get an advanced degree sometime or other. Meanwhile I'll save your paper from the last SAPS mailing and comment on it when I've refreshed my memory enough to be able to understand it without having to spend hours digging out enough buried information to understand each step. Maybe for the 100th SAPS mailing I'll surprise you and all the others who will unfortunately have forgotten all about it, if I haven't forgotten all about it myself by then.

Agreed that SECOND STAGE LENSMEN is rather better than GRAY LENSMAN. While I enjoyed the entire series, I wasn't as impressed with GL as some seem to have been. Chiefly, I think, it lacks the scope of any of the others; Kinnison is more alone and more limited in his action.

Stumping #2 - Jim Webbert: Interesting, but no comment hooks.

Por Que? #15 - Doreen Webbert: Sorry, I don't have an inverted interrogation point on this typer and bedammed if I'm going to take the stencil out and put it in upside down to give you title its true form. The above will just have to do.

Was GLORY ROAD retitled PODKAYNE OF MARS?

The Glass Pig #3 - Calvin Demmon: As usual, inimitable. To coin a phrase, you are a Funny Man. However, what more is there to say?

Seven Eyes of Ningauble - Larry Anderson: Admitted, my position in NIFLHEIM #1 wasn't impeccably logical; in two pages there wasn't room to plug up every hole in a mathematically exact manner, even if such a thing is possible. I was only trying to be reasonably explicit, so that people could see where I stood. Personally, I'm not extraordinarily interested in either Civil War or Civil Disobedience, though either can hold my interest if discussed in an interesting way. And I like to argue practically anything with anybody. This latter trait of mine has gotten me, in some quarters at least, the image of a Serious Constructive type fan, which I don't consider myself at all. I just like to argue - and what most people want to argue is Serious Constructive type stuff, so that's what most of my writings turn into.

I wonder how much the distinction between participles and gerunds really means in English? Is it a fruitful distinction, or as sterile as trying to apply the distinction between "nominative" and "objective" cases to English nouns? Or gender, for that matter? There's a helluva lot of English grammar that is utterly irrelevant to the English language, but rather an attempt by scholastics to graft Latin terms onto another language. I even had one English teacher in high school who tried to convince us that English had a dative case, for Ghod's sake! At least English does preserve an objective form in six or seven (depending on whether you still consider "thou") pronouns, even though it no longer exists in the noun. There hasn't been a distinctive dative form in English for a good many centuries.

One reason why a phonetic alphabet isn't used in English (or perhaps I should say one argument against one) is that the same word is pronounced differently in different dialects, and there is no consistent sound-shift in many cases. Take, for instance, the words "tight" and "five". I, and most Southerners, pronounce the two words with quite different vowels, while most of the rest of the country gives them the same vowel. Again, in the South and New England "r" before a consonant acts only to modify the vowel; in the rest of the country it has a regular consonantal sound. This sort of thing might make English even more complicated to learn - now, everybody knows there is no necessary correlation between a word's spelling and its pronunciation; if the phonetic alphabet were adopted no one would understand why their pronunciation learned at mother's knee didn't agree with the published one.

Hobgoblin #9 - Terry Carr: The saga of Heloise the Fallen was remarkable. I thought of doing an exegesis to see how many different fairy tales and such are alluded to in these few pages, but I don't have time. Maybe some more energetic SAP will - if no one does I may try it later sometime.

I agree with you, Ted, about the rottenness of both the Hothouse series winning the Hugo and the general lack of quality (though I didn't think them bad enough to call "rotten", generally reserving that term for the works of Robert Moore Williams) of the series anyhow. But you can't win...

I didn't like either VENUS PLUS X or TROPIC OF CANCER, myself - I have no objection to writing about sex, honestly or otherwise, in itself, but I'll admit I can't think offhand of a book about sex that I especially liked. Maybe because I don't find writing about sex very interesting, although the thing itself is very much so. I agree with you that sex is just sex, pretty much what each in-

dividual makes of it for himself - and for that reason I prefer making something of it myself rather than reading what someone else made of it for himself, especially when this sort of thing is hard to communicate accurately anyhow.

I don't think it so odd that "fuck you" is considered invective. The word is normally considered active - for the male act, the female act being expressed by the passive voice of the verb. So saying "fuck you" to a man implies some sort of homosexual act, which would be an insult to a society which disagrees with homosexuality (and most through history have, the classical Greeks being an obvious exception).

MEST 11 - Dave McDaniel: Fandom is getting overrun with Daves these days; now one pops up right within all the major apas and all that sort of rot... Welcome to the clan, anyhow.

Collector #31 - Howard Devore: I notice that SAPS now has voting control of the N3F directorate, what with you, me, and Art now in office. Though why SAPS would want control of the N3F Directorate is something else again... It's mildly interesting to note that as many Directors belong to SAPS as to N'APA.

Don't you know Negro is now spelled with a capital "N"?

The situation with likker in Mississippi is fraught with humor in many ways. Technically, of course, it's illegal to sell anything stronger than light wine and beer anywhere in the state, but as in the case of any "dry" area I've heard of there is no real difficulty in getting hold of it. In order not to deprive the state of this important source of income, there is a tax (20%, I think) on all "illegal sales". And the state annually realizes several million dollars from this tax, believe it or not. With this sort of experience, is it any wonder that Mississippians have little respect for the law?

Bootleggers get by because they're usually relatives or friends of the law enforcement authorities. A friend of mine at Arthur Murray's once told me that he was planning on running for sheriff in Quitman County, Miss., and that if I wanted to run bootleg in the county that he'd let me. I don't think I will, though...

The Pink Platypus, etc. #1 - Tom Armistead: You were right, we both got invited the same mailing. So I won't have to clobber you for getting ahead of me on the W/L after all.

Arkham Sampler - Ed Meskys: Besides the things you mention, I'm Publicity Director of SFG and #2 on the OMPA waitlist. There's nothing like being hyperactive... Actually it isn't as bad as it looks - being OE of SFFPA is pretty much of a sine-cure, since the only real work involved is running off the O-O and making up the mailings, which all told takes about 6 hours every three months. LOKI does double duty as an SFPazine and a genzine, so belonging to SFFPA doesn't matter much. And I enjoy doing mailing comments, such as I do in SAPS and N'APA, so they're no particular problem. I don't know how, but I manage some way. Maybe some of you will tell me I do it by writing mostly crud; this is quite possible.

Since everyone else seems to be listing the states they've been in I guess I'll get into the act. I've been in every state east of the Mississippi except the five New England states, plus Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. One of these days I expect to go westward, though - maybe to Mordor in '64?

Well, look'ee here! I've gotten my minac done already! Now all else is gravy - and there should be at least three or four more pages of it.

Mistily Meandering #2 - Fred Patten: I don't like my points and conclusions in NIFLHEIM #1 either; my problem is figuring out anything better which is at the same time possible.

Psilo #6 - Jane Ellern: Kublai Khan was ruler of what was, at the time, the most civilized kingdom (or better, empire) in the world. It was also the greatest area to ever be under the rule of a single man, including all of what is now China, Indochina, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea, and most of Russia. Of course, he didn't have atomic submarines, but what the heck - gunpowder was the latest secret weapon at the time, everywhere in the world.

Excuse me for sticking my nose into an argument I know nothing about, but I do know something about the Mongol Empire - and admire it.

Thanks for your comments on NIFLHEIM - I don't know if Breen is too erudite and intellectual, those seeming to me harmless in themselves, but the bit about being enchanted with the sound of his own voice looks like fitting to me. Though I enjoyed his conrep in Whhn this round .

Ignatz #32 - Nancy Rapp: Katya read your description of your delivery and says she might counter with one of her own (Will This Replace Coventry??); if it's in the zine she did.

Spacewarp #75 - Art Rapp: I can tell you're in the Army, I can. If you want I'll be glad to publish stuff for you in NIFLHEIM; however, you won't have any trouble finding a market, I expect.

An advantage of being a faned is that you can inflict stories of your Little Precious on whole crowds of people instead of just your co-workers. Just wait till Roy is a bit older...

Retro #26 - F.M. Busby: The missing waitlists of SAPS and OMPA (which seem to be filling up again of late) are not on the SFPA roster. Of the current eight members, all have been in fandom over two years except the two of us who are either waitlisters or members of SAPS and OMPA, and none of them were remotely interested in any other apa until SFPA came along. I wasn't either, for that matter, though whether I'd have become interested without SFPA is a moot point. But if SFPA is doing anything it's interesting some fans in apas who weren't interested before, and is helping the waitlists if anything. MAPA lasted only two mailings and seems defunct, but it drew primarily from the N'APA crowd. BARF I know little about; maybe Tom will tell us who the members are.

One reason why there isn't a lot of difference between a person's writings in N'APA and SAPS is because there isn't a lot of difference in the two apas. The quality of material is higher in SAPS, but the type of material is much the same, the activity requirements are the same, and there is nothing significant (like the problem of overseas mailing delays with OMPA) to cause separate reactions to the two apas. I write MCs for both, and the main difference is that I write more for SAPS because the mailings are longer. Not to mention the fact that they have 14 members in common - not a vastly different audience, really...

Let me make it clear here, if I haven't already elsewhere - I am not bugged at Walter because of his views on defense. I couldn't care less about what Walter Breen thinks about defense - or I should say, I'm interested in his opinions but have no interest in trying to change them. If Walter were President of the U.S., now, ~~I'd enlighten~~ I'd be interested in trying to affect his opinions, but his influence is too minuscule on the scale of the issues involved for it to matter to me one way or the other. His opinions on fannish subjects are worth trying to change (if for instance I were trying to get fandom to do something and he opposed it), since he has a not inconsiderable influence with a certain part of fandom, but in an argument about defense there is no useful purpose served by trying to convince him. And I am never one to get bugged at someone because they disagree with me on a matter where agreement or disagreement is purely academic anyhow. I disagree with Ted Pauls, for instance, about as much as I do with Walter as far as issues are concerned, but maintain friendly relations with Ted because any sniping we do at each other is out in the open in the KIPPLE lettercol. The only thing I objected to sufficiently to cause me to pay for the privilege of hitting back was that he was going at me behind my back. This bugs me, yes; it would also bug me (not equally, because I'd not be personally involved, but to an extent) if say an SFPA member called Walter a "notorious loose-living beatnik" in a zine intended only for circulation in that apa. I happen to be of the persuasion that anything derogatory said about a person should be made known to that person if it's made known to anyone, at least insofar as this is feasible. And I didn't get a postmailed copy of SAPTERRANEAN...

The Zed #801 - Karen Anderson: Delightful, as usual, and as usual I can't think of a thing to say about it, though this is the first time I've had to admit it in print. (I think this is known as a "nothing comment", isn't it, TMB?)

Son of Saproller #27 - Jack Harness: I recollect that story that had a game with archers, horned beasts, etc. in it - the hero played the game in his dreams. I remember that much more - but can't think of title, author, or source. I read it not too long ago (a year, more or less) from the quality of the memory, and I don't believe I was excessively impressed, but that's about all I can get from sittin' and thinkin' five minutes or so.

Yeziidee #1 - Dian Girard: Plot complication that there's a bad guy who is a double for Tarzan? I've read all the Tarzan books as far as I know, and I only recall three times he used it. Two were in successive books, TARZAN AND THE GOLDEN LION and TARZAN AND THE ANT MEN, in which Esteban Miranda served as the double; this really should count only as one instance, since Miranda was alluded to in the closing lines of TATGL as being still around and was obviously intended for further use. The only other instance I can think of is that of Stanley Obroski in TARZAN AND THE LION MAN; actually this is a reverse twist, since Obroski doesn't portray Tarzan, Tarzan portrays Obroski (when there is any impersonation at all). Am I forgetting something?

Whoever told you not to discuss politics and religion was probably smarter than I am. But willy-nilly, I'll discuss anything, whether I know what I'm talking about or not...

Sapterranean #7 - Walter Breen: Well, well, look who's here! After grotching at you throughout my mcs on other zines, now I get a chance to grotch at you directly.

It looks like to me that you have said more or less what Fred Patten did, if not so honestly. Agreed that the situation doesn't look too good, what are the

alternatives? You never suggested any to the three I proposed. Agreed that any arms race increases the probability of nuclear war; the question germane is whether the increased probability is sufficient to make unconditional surrender advisable. Do you think so? I do feel that a conventional-type arms race (if you want to call maintaining a strong conventional-war force that) is the safest course except total surrender. Look, we already have all these nuclear weapons, and barring surrender we aren't likely to get rid of any of them. The situation at present is comparable to that of two men in a small room, each of whom has a knife and a hand grenade. If knife-thrust can be parried with knife-thrust, the grenades can be kept out of it. If one throws away his knife, then he has the alternative of letting the other cut him to pieces or of blowing both of them up with his grenade.

I am the last one who will argue with you about the horrors of nuclear war, the improbability of the human race surviving a major one, or that fallout shelters are anything but a mass delusion. Where I disagree is in the choice of how to best avoid such things. If I thought there were no alternative between a nuclear war and surrender I wouldn't hesitate a split second in my decision - I speak a little Russian, am good at dissembling my true feelings if I so choose for reasons of expediency, and would probably get along better in a Russian-dominated America than most. But for the present there seems to be a reasonable third ground, and I can't say that I'm enthusiastic over the prospect of surrender.

"These rights and freedoms have continued and are continuing to dwindle/away..." when was the Golden Age? In every era some things are freer and some more repressed than others; in many ways our society of today allows more liberty than it once did. For instance, take censorship - TROPIC OF CANCER and LADY CHATTERLY'S LOVER were contraband not so very long ago. Remember the Alien and Sedition Laws? Emphasis shifts, but the total amount of freedom remains about the same, or so it seems to me. Can you prove different? And what, by the way, is standing between you and the knout - or have you had a taste of it?

Who said I was dedicated, anyhow? I believe in backing the Government as long as it's doing me more good than anything else I can think of could, but I'm not a crusader or anything resembling one. I wouldn't make a particularly good politician; I lack the sort of glad-handing hail-fellow-well-met-ness that such a profession requires. Me for Civil Service. I'm no longer entertaining thoughts of professional soldiering; having done my share, and now being married and with a child and therefore not enjoying the thought of the forced separations common to military life, I am preparing to return to the Great Civilian Masses and become a wage-slave.

Are you pushing, or have you suggested, any sort of solution? Or are you completely convinced that the world is going to hell in a handbasket and that there is no hope of salvation? If so, why don't you go quietly? (Come to think of it, why do I argue about it? Because I enjoy it, of course. No doubt you have the same motivation - if so, go right ahead. If not, why?)

I don't deny that there are plenty of recorded instances in which something more than the silencing of the opposition was the object of a war - I only said "usually", not "always". Compare the list of wars to the list of ideological wars and I think that the large majority of them will fall into the non-ideological class. Besides, I don't see where this bears on my point - violence might not have settled those particular issues (though it seems to have settled the Albigenes pretty well, to cite one case at random), but the assertion made by

Lowndes (I believe - that original letter was so long ago that I don't remember the whole thing entirely) was that violence never settled anything. This I contend is patently false, and presented a few examples where violence did settle things. That's all it takes to disprove a universal statement - I did not say in fact that violence always settles everything, so you can't disprove my point by counter-example. I'll admit you every ideological war ever fought without harming my argument in the least, unless you disagree with me that violence settled the question, say, of whether a state could secede from the Union.

You should have a NBF roster now, since you joined at the Chicon (welcome and all that rot...); Pat MacLean (nee Scott) is a member, along with her husband.

Which is enough comment on so short a zine. Despite my sometimes critical comments about you here and elsewhere in NIFLHEIM (but not elsewhere, since you don't get my other zines), I'm not trying to start a feud. I have an entirely different way of looking at life from you, which leads to considerable differences of opinion on various matters (see my article in KIPPLE 31 for my idea of why), and I am often turned off by the magister dixit way in which you deliver your pronouncements from Olympus; but now and again I'll admire something you've written (notably the conreport in this of Wrhn and the censorship article in BANE 6) very much. I'll acknowledge that I perhaps got a bit snide a few places in NIFLHEIM 1; I was irritated for reasons mentioned earlier, and I think with reasonably good cause. But if you're willing to forget the whole thing and agree to disagree in a friendly manner, I am. On the other hand, if you aren't, I'm not scared. I like to be on good terms with everyone, as long as it's not at the cost of my self-respect, and a number of my friends whose judgment I respect say you're a nice guy basically.

Speleobem #17 - Bruce Pelz: What would be your ruling if a member ran something simultaneously through SAPS and another apa with the same mailing date (which was almost the case with MAPA - was, till it folded)? I've run into this because SPPA and N'APA mail on the same date, and Tom Armistead ran about half his zine through both apas. I gave half credit in SPPA; don't offhand recall what Bob did in N'APA. Though in fact the SPPA mailing went out a couple of weeks before the N'APA one, and Tom and I are the only common members anyhow.

I vote against covers on SPECTATORS - they've been very artistic so far, but it's much handier to have a closed zine lying around as a reference table of contents whilst typing MCs than an open one - only takes half the area, y'know. And I hate to double-fold it so the cover starts back around the other side.

I filled out your Farley File questionnaire. How's the project going with the rest of fandom? I may be using its services in the near future if it becomes reasonably complete; I can think of some useful things it could tell me.

Spectator #61 - OElephant: (I'll decide how well the appellation fits if you make it by Huntsville next month). No comment on this one, but you goofed in describing NIFLHEIM 1 - it wasn't standard letter-size, it was 8x10½. I wondered if I would sneak that one through...

That concludes the mailing; now for the postmailings.

Warhoon #17 - Richard Bergeron: I was beginning to think I'd been left out when time went by and no Wrhn appeared, but it finally got here, a bit crumpled but intact.

I hate to admit it in the company of all these patrons of the muses and such, but I am Bourgeois - or perhaps lazy is a better term. I am unwilling to approach a work of art and exert myself to appreciate it to any considerable degree. If its initial effect on me is pleasing, then I like it; if it has no or a negative effect on me initially then I don't. And I have no particular interest in how the artist achieved this effect if it does please me. I'm not averse to reading criticism, and remembering it so that I can sound intelligent when a conversation turns to such a topic, so I enjoyed your editorial on Picasso - but I'm willing to bet that I'll never try to look at Picassos and try to figure what he was driving at. Any more than I listen to music for that purpose, or read books for deep levels of meaning. In literature I accept the plot, plus any little games the author includes (such as the allusions in SILVERLOCK, or the puzzle of a detective story), and that's about all. Having Laid My Soul Bare, no one will be deceived into thinking that I'm speaking from my own experience when I make critical statements about works of art. It'll be something I've read somewhere, for sure...

I will be most interested to see the results of Blish's inspection of the GALAXY letter files. I, for one, would not be especially interested in a lettercol in GALAXY edited by Pohl, and suspect that the odds of getting one by Willis approach zero as a limit, but one edited by Jim Blish, say, or some other pro with an outlook friendly to fandom (so that maybe a mention of fandom might sneak in occasionally...) would get my support. I really can't see that the lettercols of today perform any useful function, except that BRASS TACKS does give the readers of ANALOG a chance to comment on Campbell's editorials, if you're interested in that sort of thing. When I look at my old pulp ASEs and TWSs and SSs, with their highly interesting lettercols, and compare them to the vapid counterparts of today, I sometimes think GALAXY may have the right idea. Unless they can find a Sam Merwin or Mines to edit the thing...

You were in San Francisco in July 1961 and nearly froze - in 50 degree weather? I was up and down the East Coast in the summer of 1960 and damn near suffocated. Ye gods, what humidity! Not that Alabama is a whole lot better (though it is to some degree) if you're outside, but practically everything is air-conditioned; a situation which I did not find to obtain in Maryland or New York. 50 degree weather would have seemed sent from Heaven. I can always put on a jacket - but I can't take off all my clothes (except at home) and it would have been too hot even then.

Hey, I've just done some MCs on WARHOON! Even though I knew that this would be the last page of NIFLHEIM, I bravely attacked the Blue Monster... Wrhn is beyond question the best fanzine around, but I enjoyed the two issues of SERENADE that I've gotten rather more. Does the appearance of GREEN THOUGHTS in Wrhn mean that Srnd is kaputt? I hope not.

The Wild Colonial Boy - John Foyster: Sort of a hodge-podge, but amusing. Do they spell "whiskey" "wiskey" in Australia, then? I note you spelt it thusly twice at least.

Flug #2 - John Foyster: Did Gordon Eklund mimeo this for you? I didn't need to take that gummed label off, so I needn't die - I can see that my copy was originally intended for Eney. Did he get mine? No, I probably wasn't on your ML, me being a LKF outside N3F and possibly the readership of KIPPLE. But wait till I've been in all these apae another few mailings...

And this concludes our comments on the 61st SAPS mailing. And to everyone but Berry, Eklund, Toskey, L. Anderson, Meskeys, Patten, Ellern, Busby, Girard, and Breen - BDYDCOMZ!