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PLEASURE UNITS

Number One

SAPS Fifty-nine

April 1962

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Since Bruce Pels invited me into SAPS last February, I have been planning on getting the necessary six pages out of the way real quick like. However, today is April 1, 1962 and to celebrate the occasion I am finally beginning to place parts of this zine on stencil. Hopefully, I will make the deadline and finally be in SAPS. Time will only tell, I guess.

Oh, yes, you are undoubtedly wondering who I am. Well, to save you the trouble of looking back into the SPECTATOR, I'll tell you. This publication is being produced by Gordon Eklund, 14612 18th Ave. S.W., Seattle 66, Washington. This issue will contain exactly six pages. The reason for this fact is that I simply don't have enough time to do much more. Maybe in the sixtieth mailing, things will have changed.

Introductions are generally quite space filling. It might be best if I try my hand at one as I find that there are a number of SAPS members who I have not come into contact with previously. It might be said that Wally Weber in the last mailing made an introduction unnecessary from me. However, I was not exactly pleased at the course Wally's introductory material took and in order to rectify the situation I'll do my own introduction now.

My name is Gordon Eklund which should be obvious if you had read the second paragraph. I was born on July 24, 1945 (do your own subtraction) in the heart of the thriving metropolis of Seattle, Washington. I am a Junior in high school and a science fiction reader even. Even though, Tom Corbett, Space Cadet was one of the major heroes of my youth, I didn't actually begin to read science fiction until 1957 or so. I chanced upon fandom through the NFFF and the Nameless Ones. I attended the Seacon which certainly was a wonderful thing. I originally appeared on the SAPS Waiting List in April of 1961 when I occupied the twenty-third spot on the then lengthy WL. SAPS was my first apa contact as I appeared on the SAPS WL before contacting other apa groups. My interest in SAPS came about as a result of seeing three or four publications from the 49th and 50th Mailings during the latter part of 1960 which I enjoyed very much. Besides my probable SAPS membership, I am a member of N'APA and a waiting lister in FAPA, O'PA and the Cult. My interests include a multitude of things such as history, eating, card games, any and all types of reading matter and almost anything else you can name.

The remaining five pages will by necessity be composed for the most part of comments on the fifty-eighth SAPS Mailing. Next time I hope to be a little more organized and be able to do something better. This issue is being published simply to get me into SAPS so I'm afraid literary quality is going to be lacking.



## MAILING COMMENTS

The above ~~is~~ admittedly not a very imaginative title. Since a mailing comment section is, almost by definition, composed of unimaginative meanderings, the title will have to suffice--for the time being, at least. The following comments are not complete--they do not cover all the titles in the mailing nor have I commented on everything I probably thought was deserving of comment. I, unfortunately, do not have enough time to do complete MC's. Maybe next time.

oOo

GI'BLE 3 (Johnstone) This was a fairly interesting contribution. A very workmanlike job here, Ted, and thanks for sending it through SAPS.

As for the stories themselves, I am a bit lukewarm towards them. Let's see, "Prelude to a War" was fairly interesting. Your major difficulty here was in trying to use a story to introduce characters that you wanted to use in other episodes. I enjoyed the first half of the story quite a bit. I was kept interested in it, I would say, by the fact that I kept expecting something interesting to happen very quickly. By the time I had passed the half way point, I knew for certain that nothing was going to happen and my interest lagged.

Bruce's story had a little more action to it, one could say. The plot that was lacking in your story is to be found in Bruce's effort, however "Prelude to Linn" was not as well constructed as your story and suffered from this deficit.

The final few pages by Stanbery were unreadable. The same comment must be applied to the other Coventry item in the mailing. Esoterica is fine in its place but I'm afraid that the place for this form of the genre is not SAPS.

SON OF SAPROLLER 24 (Harness) Vaguely interesting. The story itself has lost any semblance of continuity that it might have had. This is to be expected, I suppose, from Round Robin serials. The puns in the latest chapter are not as evident as they were previously. Of course, it is probable that I'm simply missing half of their points, fortunately.

WATLING STREET #11 (Lichtman) The cover is excellent :: (Seattle, also, is minus the advantage of having a truly liberal newspaper. This seems to be the case in quite a few localities. The Times, however, is a fairly good newspaper which is much more than could ever be said for Seattle's other paper--the Hearst Post Intelligencer.

Since I am at the moment in a fairly well fed state after having just completed my lunch, your discussion of food should appeal to me, I suppose. I certainly do like to eat. However, I would much rather eat food than talk about it and so I'll by pass your plea for food commentary.

WHEN THE GODS WOULD SUP 4 (Lewis) This is the most difficult item in the mailing to comment on. Your essay was different--very original--and, I suppose, quite scholarly too. I can't help thinking that this issue was aimed at the wrong audience but I suppose, as was mentioned in AXE, prison ships are as legitimate a topic in an apas as comic books. Your writing certainly is improving at a tremendous rate.

WARHOON #14 (Bergerson) Fascinating. Far and away Wrhn 14 is the best in the mailing. Of particular interest to me in this issue were Blish and Willis. I was rather surprised to see Blish take the pro reviewers apart since I had always considered them to be somewhat like sacred cows when it came to slashing comments upon their worth or worthlessness. To tell the truth, most reviewers now frequenting the pro sf mags are incapable of writing much of worth on the science fiction field so maybe it's best that they spend much of their space yammering unintelligibly on their own private mundane hobbies. It's really too bad that Damon Knight was forced to leave the field. Blish's comments on AnLabs--which ASFF has dispensed with, I believe--makes me curious as to just how many votes are usually received through that median. Not many, I would say.

Despite its rather obvious faults as a book, Stranger in a Strange Land has certainly justified its existence by the number of excellent reviews that have been written on it. Blish, Ted White, and, now, Walter Breen have been superb in their reviews of the book. Excellent fare.

Willis is stimulating and a bit frightening. The deductions he makes from the seemingly unrelated Eskimo episode and the First Contact are not pleasant by any means.

While this may be only an indication that I fail to keep up with the news, I must admit to having seen little or nothing on the peace march in the mundane press. About the only thing I can remember seeing on the subject was the photograph and caption that Ensy reproduced in the 57 SPS mailing on the back page of SPY RAY. There were also a couple of other minor mentions of march in Russia.

The Seattle Post Intelligencer published a map of the city once that showed what areas were considered "safe" "unsafe," "dangerous," or "blast area" if a nuclear bomb was to be dropped in the middle of town. To tell the truth, despite the immeasurable public service this chart provided, the fact that I was listed in an area marked "reasonable safe" didn't make me feel too secure. I wonder why...

Like everyone else it seems, the threat of a nuclear war seems, to me, far off. It may be that man cannot conceive of such things unless he is actually brought directly into contact with them. Logically, I will be the first to admit that war is a frightening plausibility. I am not always logical, however, and this is one of those cases. Despite all the fright talk and fear mongering (and, yes, fallout shelter building) going on, I am not worried at all about a nuclear war. People never believe in the worst (and what could be worse than the end of civilization) until it happens....if it ever does happen.



SAPRISTI #2 (Main) My recent reading indicates that the Democrat Party agrees wholeheartedly with your remark that if Lincoln were alive today, he would be a Democrat. High-ups in the Democrat Party are, I understand, quite put out at the Republican's Lincoln-Jefferson day dinners. On the other hand, Republicans protest that if Jefferson were alive today, he would be a Republican for sure. Both remarks contain a good deal of validity even though my first thought upon reading the statements--coming from whom they did--was to laugh the whole thing off as a bit of humorous partisian politics. However, after thinking about it while typing and before that, I can easily see why Jefferson might fit in well in the Republican Party--if he believed much as he did in 1800)if alive today. Jefferson was, of course, an extreme advocate of the Rights of the States. Fear of any strong central government was a major political drive in the man as well as his high regard for the middle and, in particular, lower classes of people in America and in Europe. He'd fit in well, you might agree, with a bunch of Southern Democrats and Conservative Republicans. :: Lincoln was<sup>not</sup> completely a liberal, politically. For instance he was against the slave vote and the major reason for his Emancipation Proclamation was as a political maneuver against Britain. There can be no doubt, however, that Lincoln sympathized with the common people much in the manner of Jefferson. Unlike Jefferson, though, Lincoln was born and raised in the lower/middle class of the West. Both must be considered great men even though they were complete opposites in almost everything except for their regard of the common man and his rights.

I completed all my PE credit last January and am admittedly most relieved to finally get it over with. I had to take 4 semesters of PE even though the supposed requirement is only three. The reason for my being forced to take the extra semester was that the usual course to be taken along with PE in the high school Sophomore year was abandoned for the year that I was in that grade. It was a course in Drivers' Training and Education and was dropped for a year because the school district could not longer afford to pay for the damages that were done to cars by students in previous years. Here, like everywhere else it seems, much more money is spent on PE than on any other subject--even more now than in previous years since the Word went out that high schools students were soft and needed to Build of their Bodies.

HOBGOBLIN # 7 (Carr) I am a fairly slow reader, myself, unless I'm being compared with an average high school class. I am quite able at recognizing the various styles of different writers. Whether my reading speed has something do do with this, I don't know, but your remarks do make it sound probable. I don't, however, sub-vocalize which may be a reason behind me--a slow reader who does not sub-vocalize-- being able to differentiate between styles to a fairly high degree and you--an even slower reader, I take it--being able to parady styles and/or write in others' styles to an extent that it is often imposible to tell the real style from your "imitation."

HOBGOBLIN was one of the more enjoyable zines in the mailing this time. I particularly dug your remarks, Terry, on the Sense of Wonder even though I have nothing much to add to them :: Ted White is interesting, slightly aggressive, and surprisingly brings about no comments. He must be slipping.

POT POURRI #20 & #21 (Berry) Today is the third of April and I have but two more stencils left to fill up and I'll finally be in SAPS. I may shave the deadline pretty close but am becoming more certain that I'll be able to, at least, make the mailing. However, this has nothing to do with John Berry or POT POURRI, so we'd better take a look at him and his fanzine in the next paragraph.

Both of these are excellent. The Eddie Jones cover on PP 20 is also very good. Your writeup on Eddie is fine, I guess; you almost convinced me to vote for him. Almost, but not quite.

I enjoy the historical issues very much and hope you'll continue them. This area doesn't really have much in the way of old historical towns or such; there is a completely rebuilt facsimile of an old frontier fort or town in Tacoma but I haven't been there for five years and cannot recall much about it.

RESIN 7 (Metcalf) Where did you come up with the idea that Presidential Electors are divided up amongst the various States by political influence (?) rather than by population? Surely, you are aware that the number of electors is found by adding the number of U.S. Senators from each State to its number of Representatives. Since Representatives are chosen as closely to possible by population the number of electors in each State is also going to be according to the population of the State. I have a feeling that I've misunderstood your remark here, Norm, but don't have the time now to try to check the remark so will have to take it for granted that what my notes here beside me say is also what is found in the mailing.

Oh, and while I'm at it I might mention that the number of electors is not fixed. The number is changed every ten years after the national census. For instance, the number will change with the 1962 election with some States (particularly California and Florida) gaining a couple of Representatives and, hence, electors and some others (Oklahoma is one, I believe) losing some. Go ahead and complain all you want about the Electoral College, Norm, and I'll be with you all the way; however, let's get our complaints down so they are in fact rather than vague guesses we aren't certain about before rushing headlong into cold, cold, print. :: Wilson did receive more popular votes in 1912 than did either of the two other major candidates. Taft and Roosevelt combined had more than Wilson but neither separately did. Adams in 1824, and Hayes in 1876 and, also, Harrison in 1888 are examples of candidates winning in the electoral college and becoming President while the majority of the voters favored other candidates. (Strike up a point for nit-picking historical statistics fandom on that count, please.)

BANG #1 (Gerber) The Warner letter excerpts were excellent. I particularly was fascinated by Harry's comments on his period of pro writing. More, please! :: As far as I know the U.S. has never vetoed anything in the U.N. Such action has never been necessary, I guess. I'm not naive enough to believe that the U.S. would not use the veto if it ever really became necessary--say, in the event that Communist China was almost certain to be voted into the U.N. by the Security Council.



THE BALLARD CHRONICLES (Jacobs) This is, unfortunately, much too short. Other than this, the thing was quite enjoyable. I am rather curious as to how you'll end this installment but, by the time you read this, I ought to know.

THE SPELEOBEEM #14 (Pelz) Someday, Real Soon Now, I'm going to have to get ahold of a copy of Silverlock and read the book--just to find out what all the yelling is about, of course. I think I'd probably enjoy Myers' historical novels, also, from your descriptions and from others I have read. Might be best if I'd look these up, too, someday. The problem is that there are simply too many books that I really would like to read for me to read--or buy--all of them and still have enough time for other things; like SAPS, for instance.

Wouldn't you say that it would depend on which apa a piece of non-mailing comment material was being sent through as to whether it would receive more comments in the apa than in a genzine lettercol. I'll do non-MC "creative" material for an apa when I have time. Unfortunately, I haven't enough time to do much else than these spotty mailing comments for this issue. Maybe, I'll get around to doing a couple of more "creative" things for the next mailing I hit. It is much quicker to do mailing comments than general material for me, at least.

The definite history of the CRAP is neither a history or is it definitve, I suppose, but I still found it to be of interest. Indices of any thing I am even vaguely interested in usually fascinate me, and I guess your "Definite History" is no exception. A good issue, Brass.

THRU THE PORTHOLE #2 (Smith) Okay, just how do you pronounce Fukapunyal correctly?

A MERITT'S FANTASY MAGAZINE (Meskys) Yes, now that you bring up the subject there is quite a bit of space taken up with this "I haven't time to write (publish) but I'm trying as hard as I can." I'd delve deeper into this subject and try to find the True Insight but, as you may have noticed, I haven't enough time.

I can't help feeling that the size of this issue was a wee bit sour-grapeish. However, it was kind of interesting, I guess.

-oOo-

And here my notes end in dripping green...well, not exactly. I've still got a couple paragraphs of comment devoted to OUTSIDER 46 but will have to by-pass Wrai this time. Instead I'm going to fill these final lines with a few spot remarks on the zines not commented upon. Of particular interest and excellence among the outcasts were the two excellent issues of Rapp's SPACEWARP. Unfortunately, I can't say much more about the mailing except: See you next time.

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This has been Pleasure Units #1 and has been published by Gordon Eklund, 14612 18th Ave. S.W., Seattle 66, Washington. It will appear, hopefully, in the 59th mailing of SAPS. This issue is dated April, 1962 and is Gumshoe Publication #7.  
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