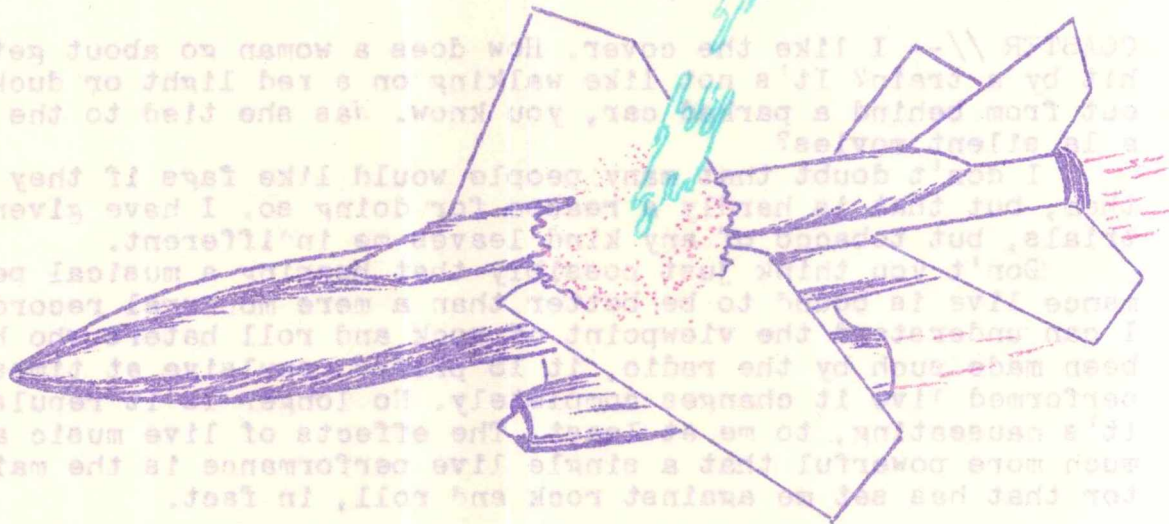


The  
Saturday  
Evening  
Ghost

-  
eight



SAPS #50

Well...Happy New Year! Let's not dwell on what happened to Hallowe'en. This is the middle of November for me. Naturally, Christmas is still a month off. Apparently, no one realizes this, because the Christmas decorations have already been put up downtown. Odd name, Christmas. I wonder why they don't change it to "Clausmas" instead.

I guess everyone has heard about the Ice Age by now. I think 2000 is the predicted year for its arrival, or sometime thereabouts. I read an article on it, but somehow it didn't penetrate too well. It's supposed to get warmer first, tho, so I guess Pop-sicle isn't ruined yet. I always did want to go polar bear hunting, anyway. At any rate, there can be no possible cause for alarm. I'm sure that the newspapers will warn any area that might be in danger several days before it hits. I like to look on the bright side.

One warning however: I may have another SAPSine out before mailing time. I'm going to try hard. I have never really believed that I should be taken in small doses. I don't see, tho, how Toskey did such feats of windbag-type production while he was in college, while I am plenty busy with high school. Maybe there are two of him! What a thot. On the other hand, he may just have more to say. Oh well, who cares.

Robert Lee (Box 3581 Tulsa, Okla.)

COMMENTS ON FORTY-EIGHT  
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Being the usual thing in the way of argument and egoboo, dedicated solely to YOU, you wonderful, intelligent, disgusting SAPs. I don't think I'll even try to review the mailing this time. It's getting a little topheavy.

COASTER //-- I like the cover. How does a woman go about getting hit by a train? It's not like walking on a red light or ducking out from behind a parked car, you know. Was she tied to the tracks a la silent movies?

I don't doubt that many people would like fags if they tried them, but that is hardly a reason for doing so. I have given them trials, but tobacco of any kind leaves me indifferent.

Don't you think just possibly that hearing a musical performance live is bound to be better than a mere monaural recording? I can understand the viewpoint of rock and roll haters who have been made such by the radio, it IS pretty repulsive at times. But, performed live it changes completely. No longer is it repulsive; it's nauseating, to me at least. The effects of live music are so much more powerful that a single live performance is the main factor that has set me against rock and roll, in fact.

IGNATZ //-- Such things are hard to comment on, you know. Hmm. I won't be flattering by saying that quality is more important than quantity, especially in view of your past offerings, but I will admit you've been having a pretty rough time fanpubbing. Tch. Better luck next time.

POOR RICHARD'S ALMAYAC //-- You are partly right. I do sound like a fanatic sometimes, but most of this is just enthusiasm. Now I'm starting a policy of ignoring everything, though. Perhaps I can at last be truly ignorant! Hmm. One thing, though, I don't really tear down beliefs. I think of a belief as an unproven hypothesis. (Har, har!) I do not, however accept such a belief as fact. Assumptions, on the other hand, are often based on fallacies and rationalization. This I don't like. If you'll notice, I care more about HOW people think than WHAT they think.

It may seem artificial, but I do expect my comments to be on the intellectual side. First of all, I'm good at writing this kind of stuff, and it helps me to fill a page that would otherwise be non-existent. I look at it this way: if you don't want to read all this gook you don't have to, but it often does provide more material for me's than fanfiction or a journal of all kinds of goings-on.

Why do I collect dead mice? I used to think that they would be very handy for dissection, so I built up a big supply. They're not as interesting embalmed, of course; I've come to realize that only live specimens are fully satisfactory. Anyone want to buy some carcasses?

---

A monsoon: that's what Scotch girls want.

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BCG //-- Gee, if I'm really not cynical, then why do I have to pay all this syntax? It appears to be August 3 today, by the way. (Now isn't THAT interesting!)

Birds this time. Rather unusual birds, too. I guess you know that llamas spit on people all the time. Is that what that one bird does? Huh? Maybe? Why don't you WRITE some of the things the other one whispers in your ear? Come to think of it, I've never heard real Canary dialect.

The blood bank is advertising on the radio now. They suggest you come in and cool off a bit, and while you wait they take some of your blood out and put it in their little refrigerator. No doubt they drink the stuff.

BLABBERCASTING TALES //-- I think you'll find that people don't interfere with government affairs as much as it might seem. Otherwise, why the large national debt? Most people just read, listen, and worry. How many people do you know who "write to their Congressman"? Those few that do are usually organized in some such asinine thing as the "Christian Republicans' United Drive." I doubt if many people know even half the laws that they are supposed to obey. Besides that, there's just plain ignorance. People will tell you in the same breath that income tax is convenient and a good thing, but that Communism is the scourge of the earth. Unfortunately, party politics does not include the advocacy of moderation. (They may do it, but they don't say so.)

I have been pretty fortunate in the past year as far as education goes. I understand math (no comment) and I have a memory of some sort. But, history....well, some parts of it are rather futile. There are times, of course, when it does more than tell an uninteresting story and when it goes into the analysis of an event, but for the most part it was, as you say, "training." Training in the good old American Way Of Life.

A word bank might not be a bad idea, at that. The Doctor would probably be interested. Or how about setting up an agency for word inventors i.e., people to think up new words for those that have been outdated, misunderstood, misused, and otherwise ruined by the pipples e.g., dialectic, tautology, materialism, heart, sensation, love. There are many others.

SAPLING //-- In Jr. Hi I had a social studies course which touched briefly on Jung psychology. Now as far as emotional stuff goes, I don't like the use of an introvert-extrovert system, but when speaking of INTELLECTUAL outlook it's often useful. Like a lot of students don't CARE about knowing and understanding the world. This is true more so in the U.S. than other countries. If they have a good memory they can make out all right, but if not, they usually end up in the lower classes.

I don't agree that speech is unnecessary at all. I only wish that I had time to take it.

I doubt if any religion turns out the way its originator plans. If it's new enough to be original many of the first followers, not having had the beliefs before, are bound to digress from the original doctrine. Epicureanism has changed completely, (tho this is not a religion) and I doubt if Gautama had the foresight to visualize the modern popularity of Zen.

NANDU //-- Don't you suppose possibly one reason for the decrease in small religious bodies is marriage? Most people belong to the same church as their family, so that when two people from two different families, with two different religions marry, I would imagine, if for no other reason than to go to church together, that the one adopts the faith of the other. The large denominations would usually come out on top, of course, because of prestige, power, and the larger number of members to be married.

I put a check by your comment on humanity for some reason. To describe humanity would be meaningless and apparently you already have the general idea of the definition, so I guess all I can add is this: inhumanity and humanity are powerful in different ways. A clash between the two in the form of nations or groups of people would probably result in inhumanity crushing humanity, for this is where its strength lies. But, left alone, social trends and pressures usually increase the humanity in any group.

As regards communication, you are probably correct. What is communicated is more important than how it is communicated. In this sense, newspapers are probably more at fault than TV, for although television is understood by a larger number of people, the subject material is in the realm of entertainment, whereas the newspaper industry forms the opinions and ideals of the people. This is a much greater responsibility and the failure to fulfill it may lead to harmful results. Anyway, I think magazines are much more open-minded don't you?

I'll tell you what will happen to the world calendar. Various organizations, maybe even a few cults, will support this thing for several months. They will make little progress, however, against the negativistic attitude of the church. Then, out of the clear blue, Russia will start promoting it. Britain and Germany will threaten to give us up if we back down, the press will circulate the various and sundry articles on the subject (nearly all one-sided) and in a few more months the U.S. will have forgotten the whole thing. As for the Russians, they will have another example of the West's refusal to coexist or cooperate, which their propaganda experts will feed to Asia and South America in large doses. Or, on the other hand, the whole idea may be ignored.

Selfishness.....just what is the proper definition, anyway? Old Noah says it is the desire for comfort to the extent of infringing upon the rights of others. No survival desire implied. Egotism is the proper word, or egoism. All human desires are based on egoism. Even altruism usually turns out to be the wish for happiness of others of your own race, nation, species, world, and so on in varying degrees.

Like, don't overestimate Jesus. He believed in hell-fire and all that Medieval jazz too. On the other hand, he did not object to adultery or pacifism, which civilized churches have frowned upon, as you know.



"Read any good bricks lately, Shanisurpal?"



When I say "synthesis" I don't mean it in a Hegelian sense. Actually, synthesis was not what I meant, and time has nothing to do with it. The idea is this: I was gathering knowledge at that time, as opposed to analysing what knowledge I had, as the case is at the present.

This comment seems to be, up to now, mostly a succession of definitions. So, to continue this practice, I see I must explain "sense" and "mind". What the mind is is irrelevant, it may be any number of things for the purposes of this example. However, I do not see how one can agree with the statement that nothing enters the mind except through the senses, and at the same time say that there is "extra-sensory" or above-the-senses experience. If you mean esp literally as an "extra sense" then what observed proof have you that this exists? And I DON'T mean inferences!

"Civilized" is a terrible word. Sorry I used it.

Dictionary meanings useless? Mighosh, if people went around without knowing what each other were thinking, at least approximately, we would all be communicative cripples existing in a world of solitary contemplation. The idea is to rid your thoughts of associated emotions and extraneous concepts (try and translate THAT!) that you say make definitions useless.

Ethically, you seem to be like everybody else. Everyone wants scientific ethics, scientific practical philosophy. But, nobody notices scientific pure philosophy. One of these days, people will wake up and realize that they are surrounded by scientific pure philosophy and drown in it. And I'll laugh.

OUTSIDERS //-- I wonder why some people have such an antipathy towards big words? You know, I don't think they object to the length of the words themselves, for there are also many complicated short words, but mainly they dislike the idea of having to strain their tired brains for a frame of reference or two. I don't think, however, that too many fans are this way.

Now that you mention it, I don't think any of the deadlines come at the right time of year. The trouble with me is that I am in the habit of doing things in spurts. As soon as I get the mailing, I usually start some comments, but after writing a couple pages, wham!, no more time, no more mailing, no more comments until about a month before the deadline. I think next time I'll do it more slowly. Every day I'll review one fanzine from the time I get the mailing until I have it done. One per day, come rain or shine. It would take about a month and a half. And I WILL, too!

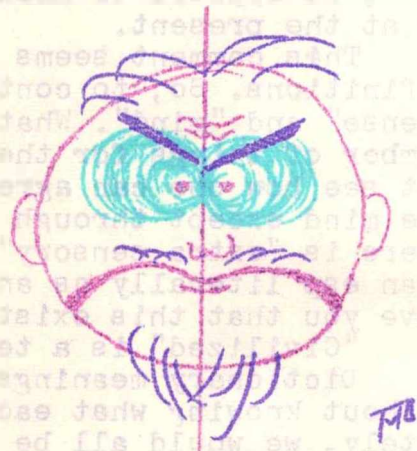
PCT PCURRI //-- What can I say? All the stories were interesting, even ghreat. Of course, there's no doubt about the advanced mental powers of chickens. Few people realize it, but their system of reason and logic is far higher than that of the human rave. You can tell by their well-phrased language, their high degree of culture, the large number of books published yearly by the Poultry Publication Foundation Inc. Yes, it's undoubtedly true that bantam hens are the most intelligent creatures on the earth.

PENCIL POINT //-- Pretty obscure. I know that more than one fan did this. By any chance, was it put out at the Westercon? ( Yes, I'm asking YCU! Don't look so damned innocent. You know who you are!) And I know what Don Fulano de Tal means, too.

THE BEM AND I //-- Like, welcome to SAPS, and all that razz. This is, tho, a hard type of thing to comment on. You have an advantage over me; you can get blue masters. I'm limited to purple, red, and green; the black masters are cruddy. I've never tried yellow and brown. Tch. Sob. I can't get them either. Hint.

An individual weighing 112 lbs., 5ft.4in. tall, (like me, for instance) has a surface area of approximately 1.52 square meters. How about THAT!

Oh ghreat! The kyew on this refugee from an Erector Set of a typer is bro-ken. Now my day is complete! Gafia, where is thy sting?



THE BIBLE COLLECTORS //-- The majority of the population is of the opinion that morals are impractical. There are without doubt fans who think likewise. But, they are the same people who look at the world from an ivory tower and act on the principle of every man for himself.

When I say parable, I don't just mean the neat-little-word itself, but rather the idea of a symbolic story with a moral. It would be ridiculous to say that there could be no parables before the Taverner revision, simply because you could not call them "parables." (Like, "What's in a name?") I am saying that the Bible is mostly parables partly because we cannot be expected to believe that everything was created in seven days, or that a man could live for a long period of time in the gut of a whale, etc., etc., etc.

There are problems to evolution. The mutations that cause differences in phylum or class usually take place at a pretty low level of life i.e., we are not sons of monkeys, ony cousins. Also, the development of these different types takes TIME. What I mean, tho, is this: if a human being were to be mutated, even to the extent of having advantages over the rest of the populus in his ability to con... overcome natural environment, modern society would prevent him from reproducing. In short, we are not now the type of society that is conscientious enough to let itself become "Slan-ized." Oh yes, by evolution I do mean the biological type. Herbert Spencer's evolution is something else again. Hmm. Probably contradicted myself SOMEWHERE up there.

Sometimes I wonder just what it takes to "offend" people. (tho in this realm I am not one for experimentation) Apparently taking a fence at something communicated is some kind of guilt reaction. I would guess that some people feel guilty of knowing certain words. Why else are more literary or technical forms of "offensive" words used? The whole thing is completely without reason. Cos, are you more "shocked" at reading "His viscera was protruding." than at "His guts were hanging out."? Ch well. Every minute of the day I say to myself, "Man is a rational being." But, it's things like these that make me doubt it. And that is also why I gripe all the time!



I'm now typing on some weird new kind of master. Don't even know if it works, yet. Yep, it does. Weird, tho. You wipe your fingers on it and nothing happens. It has some kind of paraffin on the dye sheet.

SPELEOBEM //-- Cover very effective, as anachronisms usually are. What IS the last original thing in fandom? Aren't most fanzines original? If not, why give base credit for them? Actually, few things are original, when analysed. Most people get ideas for innovations by making comparisons and by changing other things so you can't tell what they are. Hmm. Not too much else to say this time.

Segregation is a useless argument. Segregationists, even many integrationists, are such that you could not convince them with scientific proof to 101 decimal places that the other's viewpoint is correct. "Southerners" is a bad term, indeed.

This master looks a lot like blue! Wouldn't be surprised if it turned out that way.

NEMATODE //-- Potrzebie is Russian, isn't it?

This whole thing about Hoyle is getting to be a mess. One of the points he emphasized was that the universe did not necessarily need a cause. So why bring a God into the picture? His theory, however, does introduce a possibility more important than the dispute over myths, creation, or origins. If true, it would mean that as Earth and the old stars we now see die, we can always hop back toward the "source" to find new stars, planets, etc., provided we decide that it's worth the effort. I wonder why EEGraphing has not been used in ESPeriments?

FLABBERGASTING //-- No comment on the size of this little gem.

I don't quite grasp your idea of empiricism. Where do you think theories come from, anyhow, if not from observation? You are, in effect, saying that the experiments with the changing mass of speeded up electrons would not have disproved Newtonian theories, even if there had been no Einsteinian theories. Theories are merely abstractions of phenomena sequences, anyway, and not equal to your mathematical tautologies. (Damn, that should be tautologies. Can't seem to stop leaving letters out.)

Tosk, whenever I mix Cerulean Blue, whenever anybody mixes Cerulean Blue, they use green. Whether or not you can see it may be of concern to your optometrist (ophthalmologist)(?), but not to an artist.

I think you'll find economic and strategic conflicts just a bit more common than ideological ones. They are more tangible. Not all the Western Allies are democracies, you know. However, we are willing to overlook these details in securing security.

I believe there used to be a "cult" of some kind a few years ago in Rome. Called it "Christianity" I think.

You imply in saying that anarchy might work in an "idealistic situation", but would not fit in with human nature, that such a situation is BEYOND human nature. May I remind you that one advantage man has over most lower animals is the ability to change. We won't always be Beasts. (So, rahh, rah for us!)

CONTRC //-- You said it.

GO TO HELL //-- HMMMMMMMM. Look, just because the political leaders of today are not doing a very efficient job, it is not necessarily true that anybody else, i.e. the masses, could rectify their mistakes. The piddle who don't vote are also those ( in general ) of a lower intelligence strata, and just what kind of unbiased, clear-headed decisions do you think they would make. For that matter many so-called educated people are not ideally adept at making wise judgements.

I think everybody changes all the time. Yeah. Naturally. For example, I have had to revise several mailing comments this time, before I typed them, simply because my opinions had changed. That's one of the nice things about MC's. You know that you can't blame anyone for their beliefs, because they are changing constantly, but it's a ball just arguing and discussing them.

At any rate, I think that this here GTH is a Good Thing. We may not learn much from this type of fanzine, but SAPS can always yammer back and forth about it, and of course it's good practice in expression and all that razz.

Prepare yourselves for a (?) poem.....

#### SOME PEOPLE GET SO UPSET OVER NOTHING

You've been my friend a long time...Gee.

That's why I simply cannot see  
Why you would say you don't like me.  
You're kidding!

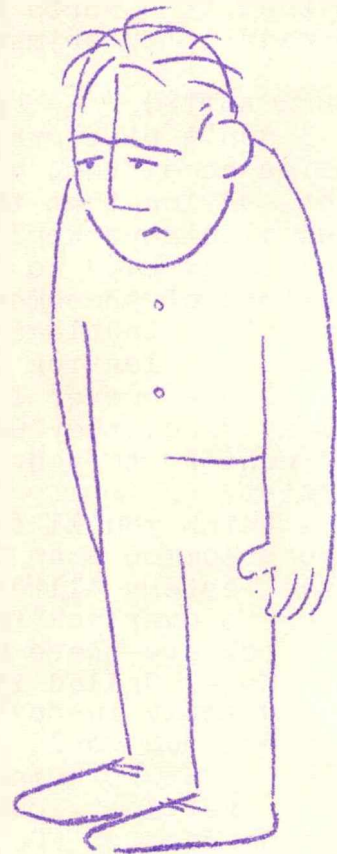
Why, I lent you my car last night.  
You said you'd bring it back, all right.  
But, now you say it looks a sight!  
You're kidding!

And when you tell me personally  
About the draft board calling me,  
Although my age is forty-three;  
You're kidding!

A lawsuit? You must be insane.  
We both can see it very plain:  
My trees don't scratch your windowpane.  
You're kidding!

Now, you can't mean that my wife, Sue  
Is leaving me to marry you.  
I know that that just can't be true.  
You're kidding!

Don't clutch my wrists! Aren't you aware  
That I am trying to be fair?  
You keep repeating, "I...need...AIR!!"  
You must be kidding!



That might make a wonderful song.