Spitfire

35

Wsh 1964

Scottishe Contents

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Sounds from a distant attic

by arthur thomson

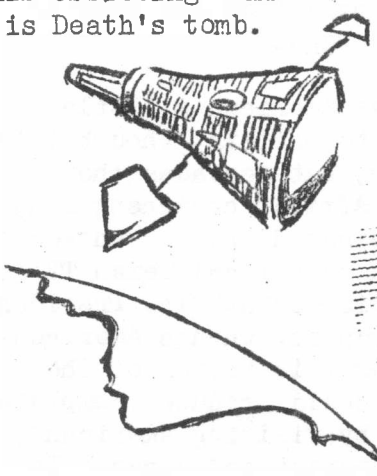
I've a little Monster
I keep beneath my bed
he's very much like you or I
But only has one head

Grokking comes quite naturally
So the Martians say.
But I didn't think of Water Brothers
in quite <u>that</u> sort of way

Fantasy worlds
are really fun,
this is the fifteenth
I've begun

Tolkien tells
of adventures rare.
I'm sure it's something
in that MORDOR air.

You Bastards.
GET ME DOWN
this orbitting womb
is Death's tomb.



MachiaVarley

This particular Scottishe would seem to be developing into a "why I hate America" issue to judge from the sample of letters shown to me by Ethel. It's unfortunate that this should show itself so clearly in Scottishe, run as it is by the most pro-American Briton I know, but it may be some consolation to American readers to know that a lot of this is based on a good dollop of virulent green envy.

I have no intention of writing a diatribe to condone, condemn, or commend the American way of life, like the curate's egg, it's good in parts. I don't see that America is basically all that much different from any other country. Naturally if one is disposed to, you can write an almost unending list of people, things and aspects which one dislikes. However you can also cap each item with an equivalent one that you like. For every McCarthy there's a Kennedy. The only trouble is, and this applies to almost anything, it's more difficult to produce the good aspects. To paraphrase a well-known cliche, the evil that man does is head-lined, the good is oft interred on an inside page.

Let's examine this dislike of America and things American a little more closely. It is most certainly not confined to Britain, though it's easier to find where there is no language barrier, but pervades the continent of Europe, Latin and South America, the African continent and, naturally, Asia. When President Kennedy was assassinated the BBC showed a film of an interview given by President Johnson to a local Texan TV station. In it he enumerated the places he had visited as Vice President and said how whole-hearted was the enthusiasm shown for things American by the peoples of the nations he had visited. Now this is one of the most obvious pieces of misdirection a politician could produce, completely ignoring the rioting and stone-throwing provoked by visiting American politicos in such widely varied places as Latin-America and Japan. In excusing this blatant piece of misdirection the BBC said that the film

was originally made with the intention of only showing it to the Texans. One can only assume from this that Lyndon Johnson thought his fellow Texans to be so complacently insular that reality never impinged on their gun-toting dream world.

Reverting to my original theme I think it will be agreed that envy is the basic cause of anti-American feeling, at least in the so-called under-devloped countries. This can be readily understood for whilst three-quarters of the human race lives in abject poverty and in a state of perpetual starvation, America has a vast surplus of grain left rotting in silos. Make no mistake, capital is continually being made of this state of affairs by local politicians throughout the world. There is no easier way to power than on the back of anti-Americanism. Who can expect a man with starving kids to even attempt to understand the, to him, facile explanation that the release of this grain would destroy the economic balance and rock the Stock Markets.

In Britain, in particular, the envy is of a more complex nature.America has now usurped our glory as the premier power of the world. Our government pathetically clings onto the vestiges of power by buying obsolete American atomic arms. In the last two world wars,from the British patriots viewpoint, America has been the Johnny-Come-Lately.Before stepping in, in her role as the 8th Cavalry to steal the glory without getting too gory, she systematically milked the British gold reserve and built us a beautiful deficit under the glamour like title of Lease Lend. She also took over, as a sort of dividend, the markets of Britain's mobilised industries.

One can see also that the American point of view is completely reasonable. The 14-18 war was really none of her concern. The Kaiser offered no threat to American security. There was a great deal of sympathy with the German cause from the German-American section of the community. Also, and most fundamental, there was little sense and even less political popularity to be gained from sending American troops to fight and die in Europe. Wars are fought for profit and what did Europe profit America?

Similar arguemnts applied to Hitler's war. In fact to a vast section of the American people Hitler represented a military bulwark against the spreading threat of Communism. It was Peral Harbour that eventually brought America into the war and I do not doubt that, but for this, a long time would have elapsed before America commited herself to either side.

Any Briton who nowadays protests that he doesn't see why we should risk total obliteration in a future war between the USA and USSR is tacitly admitting the rightness of America's reluctnace to enter the two German wars.

British resentment does, in fact, go deeper than this. Our role as the major worldpower has been taken from us, yet the days of Empire and glory are recent enough to make their loss felt. Well within living memory we bestrode the world, a rich and arrogant imperialist. We

exploited the Empire, ploughing back only a fraction of our profits and then only in payments to feudal rulers and the building of roads,railways and airfields for our own convenience. On the European continent our elite holidayed at the best hotels and finest resorts. The phrase was "the wogs begin at Calais" and "the servile wog" would take anything providing you had the money.

Now we resent our loss of glory and power and envy America's assumption of our god-given rights. It is my opinion that we ought to thank America for removing the burden of dislike that once was ours. The brickbats and insults that America now receives from the very "underdeveloped" countries that she supports financially would at one time have been ours. The American tourist is now the prey of the Continental con-man, the Briton in his second-class hotel is not worthy of the effort. The waiter might treat me with familiarity, but at least he probably desn't spit in my soup.

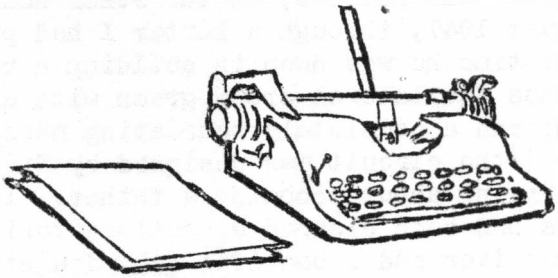
My main complaint about the American viewpoint is the insistance on regarding overseas aid as being charity bestowed out of a fullness of heart. This is a load of crap. There's no charity between countries, these payments are made solely for the purpose of maintaining American influence and blocking Soviet advances. He who pays the piper calls the tune. Stop paying out and the Russians with their roubles move in, it's as simple as that. One has only to consider the Aswan dam project in Egypt to see the truth of this. Nasser went to America for aid and technical assistance and was summrarily rejected. Now the dam is being built with the aid of Russian technicians, Russian machinery and vehicles cover the ground. Russian influence has got a firm hold and will be well nigh impossible to remove. Was it charity that caused America to pour money and goods into Viet-nam and to the aid of the repulsive Syngman Rhee in South Korea? Not on your nelly!

Not charity then, not even aid, but a political instrument. Viewed without the rose-tinted spectacles of nationalism it would be fair to describe it as the containment of an opposing ideaology on a never ending hire-purchase system. Not that I am decrying the money given by America, for the end result is often the bettering of the standards in the under developed nations. Nor do I wish to run down nationalism. A pride in the land of one's birth is a natural thing and it is understandable that the majority of people should think that their way is best. Also, we are, all of us,indoctrined from birth to believe that our nation is best, is right. Read the school history books, say the French and English versions of the Napoleonic wars and, apart from the names of the main characters, you'd think it two entirely different conflicts.

Yet I do not disparge nationalism as such, only when love of country is allied with a dislike and lack of understanding of other peoples does it become dangerous. Then we have a foundation on which war can be built.

Brian Varley.

WARBLINGS



WALT WILLIS

I REMEMBER ME, AND JAMES WHITE

Even the most circumspect of fan writers eventually accumulates a backlog of unpublished articles, and even more frustrating one of half-published ones. The latter kind is the worse, for while an unpublished article can always be repulped and issued hopefully afresh, a half-published one is almost a total loss. When someone pays you the compliment of asking you for material, it does not do to send him something which has already been published, however carefully you explain it was only hecto, ten years ago, and to the tiny fan population of Oshkosh,Wixc. For if you or the editor fail to mention that fact, it is a law of nature that every surviving member of the Oskosh Science Fiction League, now scattered all over the fan world in positions of vast power and influence will leap to the nearest housetop and denounce you for a fraud.

No, the only thing to do is wait until you are an old fan mumbling through your memoirs, when with any luck it will be found that that old article is so relevant to your subject that it would be a crime to destroy it. Here, for example, I have two little biographies that James White and I did of each other in July,1952, for someone called Henry. I think it was Henry Oden, and I think they did eventually make a faint ghostlike appearance, in either spirit duplicating or hectoplasm, in an illfated fanzine whose name I can't remember. I don't think anyone else in present-day fandom will remember it wither, except of course the ex-members of the Oshkosh Science Fiction League. But anyway, here are James White and myself as we were in those far-off days before James

became a big-time professional author.....

Walter Willis
by James White

The sorry state of this country today cannot be blamed entirely on Mr Wiilis, for although he is a Government official with a position of some importance in the administration---he has his own personal staff, which he naturally calls his shillelagh---his work is comparitively harmless. His hobbies, on the other hand, are hot. I first met him in August 1947, through a letter I had published in a British prozine. At that time he was deep in building a radio that would have turned the Venus Equilateral crowd green with envy, all shiny alumbnum panels outside and a completely nauseating mass of multi-colored spaghetti inside ((the circuit was designed by Signor Macaroni himself--WAW))++ and worrying about becoming a father. It wasn't until both these matters had been cleared up satisfactorily and he had a super-efficient receiver and a bautiful baby daughter that he turned his attention to fandom. It all started when a fanzine arrived one day(I won't plug it; it folded anyway) and Walter said surely we could get one out as good as that.....The rest, as they say, is history.(Too modest, James---it's your story too.--WAW) His chief occupation at the moment is of course fanning, though he still devotes some time to governing the country, and in the summer varies this with climbing an odd mountain, playing tennis. ((Not, of course, at the same time You would need an even mountain for that.--WAW) If there's a deadline to meet he often dashes in between matches in his nice white shorts to operate the press, engages in a half hour of whirlwind activity, and dashes out again in his nice black shorts. In appearance he is slim and about medium height,6'1" to be exact, is very quiet spoken, has thick brown hair, keen blue-grey eyes and a thin sensitive tanned face with the high forehead of a true intellectual. ((It has to go back next week--WAW))And he's got knobbly knees. He puns a lot, and his slightest utterance is received in a suspectful silence and examined for cracks, ambiguities and innuendoes before a reply is ventured. The English language just isn't safe to use when he's around. I don't really feel qualified to be writing a thing like this, and I wouldn't be doing it only that Mr Willis has been very kind and I'm deeply in his debt.
I don't think I phrased that very well somehow.
+Note sophisticated translation for American market.
++The interpolations date from 1952 too, I decline to be held responsible at this date.

James White,Art Editor of SLANT
by Walt Willis

Those keen-sighted,or crosseyed fans who have been reading between the lines of that account may have conjured up a mental picture of James spending the long summer evenings slaving over a hot press turning out SLANT, while I enjoy myself in the sunshine, tanning my knobbly face and thin sensitive knees. They may even have got the impression that James does all the real work on SLANT while I collect all the

egoboo.
Nothing could be nearer to the truth.
With real feminine intuition Lee Hoffman, without ever hearing dirextly from James, summed him up as follows:"I've always had a special sense of affection for James White, partly because he is--as far as one can tell--so quiet. He seems to go quietly about his tasks, performs them all with efficiency and despatch, and never gets as much as a nod or a thank you for doing them".
This is very true indeed. James puts more into fandom and gets less egoboo out of it than anyone I know. Each issue of SLANT is more his work than anyone else's, and yet he is so quiet and unassuming that even me and Bob Shaw, who like and respect him more than anyone we've met, are inclined to overlook the fact that he is the mainspring of Irish fan publishing, the power behind the zines. Nevertheless it is quite true to say that without James SLANT would not be what it is today, or even exist at all. Apart from his linocuts, where without any previous training or experience he has worked up a technique which puts most professionals to shame, every issue represents hours of patient conscientious work by him setting type and working the press. We all look up to James here, and not just because he is about 6½ feet tall.

That wasn't of course the first published writing by James White. To be scrupulously correct, his first published words were "These views on the great Smith are not those of the typesetter,J.White", diffidently but stubbornly inserted in parentheses in a column by Clive Jackson in Slant 4. Slant was now dying, being replaced by Hyphen, and with the disappearance of linocuts and of the labour of typesetting James's post in Irish fanac was becoming redundant. So we urged him to start writing. He kept saying he couldn't write, but after the London convention in 1951 he turned up at Oblique House one evening with part of a convention report. If it had ever been finished it would have broken all sorts of records, because after 24 closely written pages he had got no further than 8.30pm on the night before the Convention started. I ran a fragment from it in Inclinations, a duplicated letterzine transitional between Hyphen and Slant, and persuaded him to send a rather longer piece, rewritten as a story to Vince Clarke's SFN. There it was duly published in the issue dated March 1952, under the title The Unconventional Fan. We didn't appreciate just how important this debut was, but we were determined it shouldn't go unnoticed,so Bob Shaw and I mounted a campaign. For weeks Vince was getting letters of comment like this:

Bikodney Atoll

Dear Sir,

I have been writing to fanzines for 75 years now, yet I have never read one before. But something drove me to read James White's story in the current SFN. I was profoundly stirred, as if I had swallowed an eggbeater. This story, sir, is a masterpiece. It will stand the test of Time. Indeed I venture to say that when the ephemeral scribbles of lesser authors--Heinlein,Van Vogt,even Willis--are forgotten, this story will live on, bringing inspiration to countless thousands. When I read this story first I was unable to contain myself, and poured over it again and again. But now I am exhausted and can only proffer these pithy comments.

yourth thintherely.Prof.Harold Urine(No 1 fan)

Or this on the back of a picture postcard of Windsor Castle:

Dear Mr Clarke,

We were amused by the story about the Unconventional Fan by Mr White. This is one of our favourite subjects.

yrs

E.R.

X---This is our room.

My grandmother's postcard album wasn't restricted to British scenery:

Capetown

Great! Colossal! Goshwowboyoboy This guy White is terrific.Why doesn't he try for Slant? Don't let Gold get him.Throw out all those other hacks of yours and let White fill the whole magazine. Give him his head.(What are you doing with it anyway?)

Yours for more White

A White Fan (A.Caucasian Winnower,Mr)

Tropical Palms Court,Florida

INTERESTED FILM RIGHTS WHITE SUPERCOLOSSAL SMASH HIT EPIC STOP OFFERING $10000.00 OR SUB TO SLANT STOP WITH WARM CLASP OF FRIENDSHIP HANS TORRID RIO

Elbbrucke,Hamburg.

My Dear Mr Clarke,

I like White!

Yours sincerely,

D'White Eusenhower(General)

Meanwhile Bob was busy too:

Dear Vincy-wincy,

I have just read your cute little SFN,I love every line of it.Would you do a little girl like me a bi-i-i-g favour?You would! Oh you dear boy.Just send me the address of James White who wrote that adorable story. I feel we are sould mates. I can just imagine him--dark,strong and ever so brutal. I must meet him--that super-dooper story convinced me. It was great! So vital, don't you think?

Yours eagerly,

Leva Firestone(Miss)

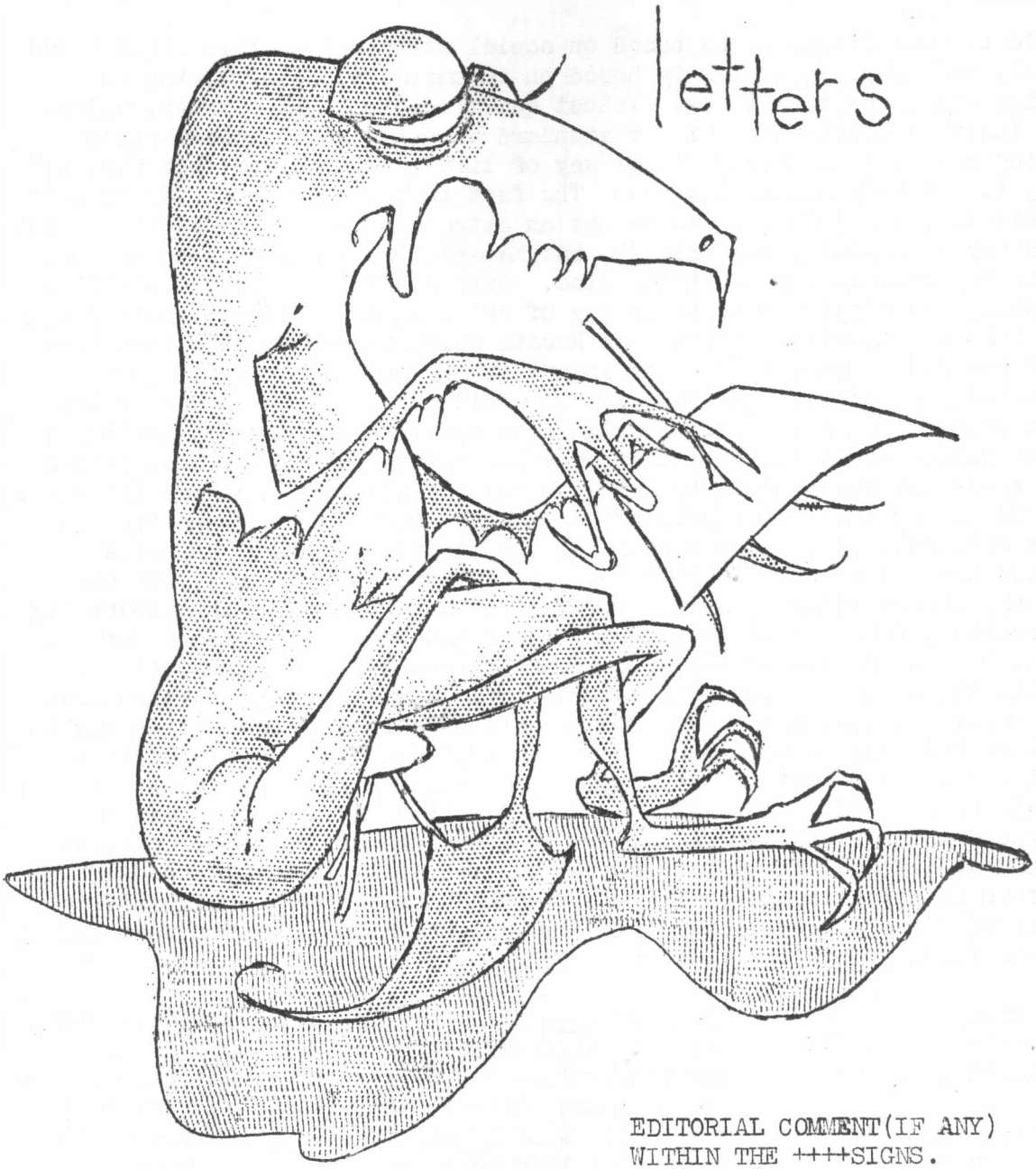
SEXY SEX STORIES

Could you send me White's address? I want very much to get him into my magazine. I think he is the very type we need.

X.Tasy,Editor.

And so on. I wouldn't be surprised if James got more comment on that first story than on anything else he has written subsequently.

Walter A.Willis



EDITORIAL COMMENT(IF ANY)
WITHIN THE ++++SIGNS.

Charles Platt
8 Sollershott West
Letchworth.Herts

"Your list of America's good points provoked me to write this, since I think you've written down a lot of the wrong ones. Certainly the American constitution makes very inspiring reading. So do parts of the Communist Manifesto. It is hardly necessary to point out a country should be judged by actions rather than ideals expressed by its leaders. Where race discrimination is concerned apparently a lot of Americans do not uphold the part about man being created equal...America is not burdened by our class conciousness; it has its own variety. This I would have thought differed from the British kind in that while ours

would be more likely to be based on social standing(yes,this still holds true), the American system is based on income.Standard of living is a highly dangerous term to use without qualification. Is a happy, underfed Indian labourer at a higher standard than a worried, ulcer-ridden status seeker in America? Their way of life is attractive, but this is only in a purely material sense. The fact that the American way of life is all the time coming to us is not an attractive prospect for all of us. This may seem stodgy and British, but materialism and bad taste can be taken to extremes like anything else. With regard to American politics of which you mention only their way of choosing a President, would you say that the American attitude to Russia which has changed in tone from "any possible aggressor" to "our enemy" in the past ten years(I quote from Life magazine), was condusive to world peace? This is the attitude of a great many Americans. The American capacity to lose all ability of level judgement at the slightest provocation(the Presidential elections you speak of, for example)is hardly to be praised...It may seem illogical for me to say now that I prefer the American way of life to British in many respects. I deplore certain of the attitudes current there(as passed back to me by my father who visits there once a year), but the country itself offers a way of life that, as I have said, is undoubtedly attractive, from a distance. I hope this has acted as some sort of reply to your praise of the US. One thing you should have mentioned, really, is their scenery, which makes ours look drab by comparison.Also you mentioned various facets of an American trait without getting right back at it: that of being able to think in large terms, to react to a challenge, and to think fast, realtively unhampered by tradition. By itself this results in inbalance; in moderation it is an invaluable characteristic to have....I take it your magazine is a science fiction fanzine. I found very little connected with sf in any of its pages." +++This is a fanzine put out by an SF fan who reserves the right to have in it whatever interests her at the time. I am the piper who pays and who,therefore,plays the tune.+++

Wim Struyck
WiileBrordusstr 33B
Rotterdam.Holland

"Click Clique:To me people with a maniacal hobby (is this English?)always seem so tiring. I know the kind. They may be very nice..but for me there always comes a moment when I like to ask:Could we talk about something else now! I am a musician, I am interested in music, but there are musicians who talk music all day. I've known heated discussions to the point of fighting about which chord should be played at a certain part, and about one note of that chord. Should it be put above the other note or underneath...That benevolent dictator. vBoggs versus Ethel. I8m not quite sure about the impossibility of a benevolent dictator. I think I know what Boggs means..I can't agree about your comeback at Boggs, I mean what you say about the nun and the nudist. Because what you say here for the dictator goes for any government too. Which goverhment can be benevolent towards a nun and a nudist? With any government there are dissatisfied groups. And we should not accept this from a dictator, but we should accept it from a democracy, because it is the wish of the majority then?? Well, maybe but I can't see much difference for the dissatisfied group

Betty Kujawa
2819 Caroline
South Bend
Indiana 46614.USA

"Boggs and his "Nobody ever did, nobody ever will, live long enough to earn a million." I suppose to Redd that means by 'honest labor'; ditch-digging or slogging in a coal mine? I wish he'd define earn. 'Cause earning a million is done today..take Charles Percey, still young..with his dandy little Polaroid camera this kids a millionaire at an early age indeed..for others who sprang from non-rich parentage I list..Liz Taylor,Arthur Godfrey,WIlliam Holden,Ed Sullivan, Ray Milland,Red Skelton and heh, even Liberace. Now I know Redd would sniff and insist that this is not earning a million..I'd still like to know what type of labor he qualifies as Approved or Noble. What most of the above did was make it in television and then invest in land,business,oil wells etc..and sigh, I suppose this to many this is unforgivible and 'capitalistic'. Ignoring the fact that the tv fortune of Art Linkletter is used to create the following..a partner in a glamor school, a bowling alley,sheep ranch in Australia,½ of an airport, 85 oil wells,Broadway play,rice-growing in New Zealand, lead mine in Colorado, plus 17 other businesses. Ethel, figure out how many states have employment thanks to this one man. Think too of the fact that due to his millions he is able to take chances and risk things that ordinary investors couldn't afford. As he said "Through this golden goose called television, I have been able to be wiped out repeatedly and come back." ...I couldn't agree more with your comments on GLORY ROAD.Fantasy is not MY new love. Let us indeed have something new and not rehashed old legends etc..I have already gone back to detective stories. As with you I skipped lumps of GLORY ROAD waiting and waiting for something to happen. STF this aint, and oh but I am sick to death of those icky-poo name and titles and all. ++++Icky-poo names..Betty.. I just loved that! ++++

E.C.Tubb
67 Houston Road
London SE25

"Re:Things I admire about America. Lets reverse the procedure. The thing I do not like about America and which would fill me with dread were I to live there is their concept of justice. Maybe I've been falsely conditioned by tv but the fact still remains that anyone accused of a crime in the States is tried before he ever comes before a jury via the newspapers etc. This glaring fault in the American judicial sustem has been recognised by the Americans themselves but it still continues. Second dislike stemming from the first; the electoral system of appointing state servants, dog-catchers, police judges. You do as your patron likes or you don't get the chance to do it. How can any system avoid corruption,lickspittling and the general concern with hanging onto the job and doing it by dispensing favours in return for patronage? Third dislike; the incredible callousness of the health services. You pay or you die-if you can't get charity.Blood sold by the pint.Still, let's be honest. In a free country even doctors have a right to do as they want. But the hypocrasy of claiming that this free market in health is a defence against socialism gets me. Better to admit that, in a fiercly commercial society, money is God and that's all there is to it. And, while on the subject, I do get so tired of hearing all this guff about liberty and freedom. Campbell in Analog has said some pertinent things about the easy mouthing of these words. In any case just what do they mean? Liberty in my dictionary means freedom.

'Right or power to do as one pleases. Freedom-guess what! Means exactly the same thing ie.power to do, think or say as one pleases. Now can anyone honestly claim that there is a single country, nation or state in the world which can lay claim to having liberty or freedom? Sure,America is 'free' and so is England -until you say or do the wrong thing. Then you have to pay for it. And so,I understand in Russia. Now say, ah yes,but we are more free than they are. So tell me how you can be half-free... Freedom is a word used by those for their own ends.Nkrumah uses it.Basta uses it.Castro is fond of it.Kenyatta likes it and so does Kruschov.So does Lord Home and a gaggle of statesmen. Do they all mean the same thing when they use it?"++++When it comes to an abstract word like - 'freedom' you can surely expect that every man will put into it his own meaning. By your own showing America differs from the rest in this not one whit.++++

Terry Bull
60 Manfield Rd
Northampton.

"I'll dive straight into the political discussion if I may..There are strong historical reasons for anti-American feeling in this country, the War of Independance, the War of 1812, the Civil War in which we angered the North by building Southern Commerce Raiders and the South by not declaring war on the North(which we nearly did) Then there was the Venezualan Border Dispute and the American lassitude in joining us in two world wars, Suez etc. You may feel that these reasons for historical enmity are forgotten due to the American aid in the Wars and the Marshall Plan. They would be except for the natural jealousy felt by a declining power towards her usurper. A little fanciful? I don't think so, among the men in the street there is a strong anti-American feeling, perhaps they are not aware of the hostorical reasons for this prejudice which have been handed down. We have been exposed to a giant dollop of American culture via Hollywood and this emphasis on US affluence has provoked a sour response in the lower classes(as a member of which I think I might be classed)....Class conciousness is not a perquisite of the Old World except that in the US it depends rather more on$$ than on birth and education,1/5th of American people have a low living standard..America gave us jazz, or rather a variation of African music developed into Jazz in the US but they also gave us jive ugh. I shall <u>not</u> make the obvious remark about Ella. "All that is new in Art today comes from America",I must disagree here --besides which most of what is new in art is rubbish anyway..Ok a commercial magazine called Amazing Stories did appear in 1926 bringing the first pulp sf but wasn't there an obscure writer called Wells writing in England before even that? As for fandom well there was someone called Walter Gillings..You may see the above as pointless quibbling but your subjective paen of praise made me want to step in and make the obvious counter statements."++++Well, yes I do think many of the things you wrote pointless quibbling, and when someone dismisses modern art in the way you do I see little room for argument. I am sorry that I could not quote your letter in full; but there are still some mightly long ones to be edited down and keep this fanzine in manageable proportions. As some have gone over the same ground I have tried to give a fair airing of the views that came in. The letter response to the last issue was a bit overwhelming this time, although I am naturally very pleased to see it.++++

Charles Smith
61 The Avenue
Ealing
London W13

"This issue seems particularly concious of America hardly surprising I suppose after the so-recent death of the President. My feelings mirror your own considerably. I criticised him, but the news of his death hit me very hard. Can anyone imagine the same kind of emotional reaction to arise if any of our own politicians died, even in similar circumstances...How can Rip Schultz say that the American negros are the first race to fight without violence for their rights. How about the Indians under Ghandi's influence..And all that bloody cheering when Johnson said that the best thing Congress could do to honour the late President's memory was to pass the Civil Right's Bill; they cheered, the same people who had been presumably holding up its passage...Ian Peters seems to be falling into the trap that so many people fall into in this country: that of overstressing national characteristics and giving races labels. All Americans are braggards; all Germans are war-mongers; all Russians are swine; you know the rest.++++Indeed I do know; and I think it sad to see many sf fans as prone to this as anyone else.++++

Peter White
75 Ashley Road
Epsom.Surrey

"I feel I must add my own contribution to the American debate,I can't go along with that bit about the US leading the world culture, as if it were a race anyway. The fact that she has produced many leading artists must be considered alongside the fact that her leading novelist,James Baldwin, is in the eyes of many of his fellow countrymen, a second-class citizen..An endearing feature of a young nation is its ignorance of history and the naive belief that it is creating history itself. Perhaps Dick Schultz has never heard of Sandhi, or even of our own hunger marches, besides which I thought the blood and guts were flowing in modern America anyway. Does Schultz think that fiery crosses on the hills and messy murder in the streets, not to mention JFK's demise, are triumphs of civilisation?.. Your final remarks about the "will of the people" are sadly naive. As Harry Warner sees the political motives of 'the people' are and will be until everybody is free from financial anxieties, puerile. Dictators remain in power by giving people what the want, not by excersising whims. For interest, my vote for best and most intelligent politician would go to Castro. Let no one say his dictatorship gained power against the wishes of the Cubans, he had to have a working majority..It may seem that my dislike of the US could apply equally to my own country. This is true, I see very little evil in the US that we do not have here. However here my unusual political alingnment does not cause me much social embarrassment, while in America I would soon be labelled 'pinko' or 'red' with more than a little consequence to my social life and future career."++++You have not heard of the young socialist banker I met who confessed he had to keep his politics quiet at work?++++

John Boardman
592 16th St
Brooklyn.
New York 11218

"I have been very impressed by the response of foreigners to the assassination of President Kennedy. In the week after his death, almost every foreigner of my acquaintance wrote me a letter of condolance as if it had been a member of my own family that had died. And thes letters came from nations as

far divergent in outlook as Czechoslovakia and S.Africa.Dick Schultz's letter raises some Civil,War and Reconstruction issues that are not too well known in America, let alone Gt.Britain. The history of thes years is best told by John H.Franklin in Reconstruction. Prof.Franklin documents his facts from records of the period, and demolishes the segregationist myth that Reconstruction was a period of unrelieved anarchy, corruption,harsh northern military occupation, and revenge by Negros upon their former masters...Seth Johnson can find a definitive non-fiction account of Heinlein's personal philosophy closer to home than SCOT. In recent issues of KIPPLE and account of a pro-war advertisement to which Heinlein subscribed several years ago.(This is the Crackpot Manifesto referred to by Willis)In this article Heinlein supports the idea that opponents of nuclear war are Communist or pro-Communist. John Pilgrim, writing in Anarchy 34 has rsher words for Heinlein. He says "His tour de force Starship Trooper is one of the very few examples of retrogressive, one might even say fascist thought, in the entire range of sf writing" and "the appearance of Heinlein's Day After Tomorrow proved beyond all doubt that Heinlein is that virtually unique creature, a fascist science fiction writer" ++++Fascist..now that's another of these abstract words..what do you mean by the word? When I try to find my meaning..all I get is a vague impression of Mussolini..++++

Tom Perry
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"Your Natterings are quite flattering to us Americans.One thing I admire about the British system is symbolised by the lady on the stamp--the separation of the ceremonial head of state from the actual one. If we had something like this, our Presidents could get more work done while someone else met the girl scouts etcetera, and perhaps they would be exposed less. I doubt though that any such system could be initiated over here(though doesn't Germnay have something like it?), and even Britain might not be able to sustain it were it not rooted in your history..I was pleased that someone in another country could feel so much like so many Americans did over Kennedy's death. My feelings were and are almost identical to yours, especially about the attacks the man got from both sides. The deep thinkers who take it upon themselves to tell us whether a President was great or merely good have assured us that, at best, JFK was "a good president who might have been great had he lived". It seems to me though that your feelings and the fact that so many felt the same testify to his greatness...Is Machia Varley the same as Brian or his wife?++++ MachiaVarley is a nickname for Brian,.he ia definetly not the same as his wife++++

Desmond Squire
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"With reference to the letter by Seth Johnson, he complains that Heinlein has presented three different philosophical outlooks. Why should Heinlein have to explain himself in his writing? and why should he restrict himself to writing from one viewpoint?Johnson says "What does the man believe in?", this is Heinlein's own business. It is to his credit that he does write from more than one angle. It prevents the same characters and plots returning with only thin disguises like e.g. Kingsley Amis. You say that Heinlein's women are "unrealistic". But are not the majority of women is sf "unrealistic". Which authors do you think

have portrayed their women realistically?"++++If you mean women in sf only I'd say none of them are realistic in the sense that they come alive to you as you read. With two sterling exceptions--Em in EARTH ABIDES and Paula in THE DISAPPEARANCE.++++

Keith Otter
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"Boyd Raeburn's points about Income Tax and Estate Duty were noted with interest. I am glad to see that at least one fan does not believe in fleecing the rich simply because they are rich. I know nothing about Canadian tax law, and a search in our office library produced nothing more interesting than a 1919 edition of "Cutforth's Audits" marked "Not to be removed from the Institute library". In this country the banks and insurance companies have formed an organisation commonly known as "EDITH"(Estate Duties Investement Trust Ltd)which purchases approved shares from the estates of deceased persons whilst allowing the heirs to retain control; such an organisation would possibly help to stop Canadian firms from falling into American hands. One argument commonly advanced against a graduated system of Income Tax is that it lessens the incentive of people to gain qualifications which would enable them to earn high wages or to accept the responsibility which goes with these wages. A person paying the top rate of Surtax would receive some £11 out of every £100 rise he was given, but as a person paying the top rate of Surtax would be earning some £340 a week at least, this question is rather academic. The main argument in favour of a graduated tax system(apart from the fact that it means that I only pay some 10/- p.a in tax) is the fact that the more a person earns the more of his salary he can afford to lose- 30% of £5,000 is a nice sum, 30% of £500 is laughable. Again, I don't know anything about foreign tax laws, but under the British system everybody who receives over £200 gets at least that much after tax, over £2,000-£1,300, etc, so that, if a man earns £3,000 he will end up with just as much as a man earning £1,500 PLUS a high proportion of the excess. It seems to me that when I wrote the last letter that you published of mine it was slating your arguments and vaguely right-wing, but when it was published it supported you and appeared overtly communistic. Your magazine obviously has a very good editor - the rat."++++I feel real hurt! Can I help it if your economic theories are way 'bove my touch? Taking no chances..this is the only letter in the column completely unedited. But no use you fellas <u>all</u> calling me a rat. Once only!++++

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"Humans act politically and in the past seemed to want a strong man to tell them what to do or to serve as the active element in government. This could be because of the good thing you mentioned in American politics, in the Declaration of Independance, about "All men are created equal--" This is an ideal, and when sought as an <u>absolute</u> it would mean we would assume any man is as good a leader as the next. Some people probably assume this is an absolute instead of an ideal. To point out that certain political ideas can be carried to extremes, one school teacher I heard of goes to one of his brighter students and asks if it would be okay for him to take 20 points from his grade and give it to the poorest student thus equalising the grades. There is a reaction against this, for it is seen that the

brighter student had more initiative, and if this grade equalizing was put into effect it would ruin his initiative to do better, and at the same time not inspire the dull student to work harder." My! that's a nice problem in ethics you've set up for my readers to chew over++++

Mike Moorcock
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"Re GLORY ROAD, while I dislike Heinlein's 'philosophy' and accept no excuse for it from his admirers(he strikes me as being a sort of SF John Wayne), I find him a very good story-teller on the whole--a quality becoming rarer in modern SF...Re.Ian Peter's letter, I gather you do what I do when the 'subject of America'comes up in conversation. Many aspects of American life terrify me, yet, having met a good cross-section of Americans(most of them not fans)I find them basically very fair-minded and courteous people who (there are important exceptions)tend to have mental-blanks on certain subjects of the kind which Socialists tend to bring up. In conversation on Medicare or Nationalisation, I have often found myself smiling vacantly at a vacantly smiling American having reached one of those awful points where neither understands the other.I have come to the conclusion that we make a mistake in thinking that a common language makes us (to quote Ian)'blood brothers across the ocean'...At the heated time of Kennedy's assassination, I said to Hilary that the real aliens are the Americans(I don't use 'aliens' in the sf sense, naturally). The worst and the best in America certainly showed up then--on hearing the news I really wanted to withdraw all connections with the States. On reading the comments of the American press, I could only admire the wisdom and integrity of these commentators and my reaction swung the other way. It certainly is an odd country. I think I'd like to live there. Which means that I'm just as mixed up as anyone re America and don't know what I mean...Re Schultz's letter. I read somewhere a negro saying 'What makes the white man think that what they've got is so worth having?'Which may be something to bear in mind when talking about integration. Living in an area which is becoming predominantly negro, one realises that they have values and aims which are not necessarily the same as ours. I remember with delight a Hampstead party where the liberal-minded host had invited the traditional negro(there is always one, rarely two). A similarly-minded guest went up to this negro and began to sympathise with his plight. After bearing a little of this, the negro said evenly'What the hell do you know about it?'. As the white man turned away , I allowed myself to facy that I saw his lips frame the words 'Uppity Nigger'. The paternalistic attitude of many white integrationists often seems to me to have strong similarities to the attitude of many white slave-owhers(or S. Africans as they are called nowadays). This particular negro, who seemed a pleasant enough man--may have had a chip on his shoulder, but it seemed to have been put there by his resentment of well-meaning people who regarded him as a cause rather than a person."++++ Your anecdote made me smile, I too have seen that kind of well-meaning person operate..makes you squirm as well as smile though.++++

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"Have you ever read the Declaration of Independance? I mean, from start to finish? Well, remove that magnificent second sentence, that gem of English prose..."We hold these truths"...and what is left? I shall tell you:- a long, dull list of carping complaints, biased to the extent of historical libel, against King George 111, in most pedestrian prose. As a political document it may have been a breakthrough; I am not well enough versed in political history to know if that statement that Governments are instituted among men to secure the rights of the governed is historically primigenious. In this context I would merely draw a passing reference to the real democracy of the Ancient Greeks. But a closer look at that rousing sentence may be instructive. "All men are created equal." That cliche was a potent "truth" in its day; it helped to smash the class barriers, achieve goverment of the people by the people(so the people think anyway)and remove the injustices attendant on hereditary aristocratic rule. It may be a political truth and indeed must be the basis of just government but it is not a scientific or philosophical truth. At anyrate such is my contention. I will go further and suggest that the human race has been pulled up by its bootsraps by a tiny fraction of the population, the 2 or 3% of homo superior present as leaven throughout history and nowhere more apparent than now with the great static admass taking the place of the debased peasantry of earlier times. Look back over the mists of past history and you can see the true unfettered minds like beacons amid the darkness of ignorance and prejudice but how many unsung geniuses were pulled down to extinction...Liberty, that much abused word, took another beating in the Declaration. This was written by Jefferson, surely one of the greatest humanitarian reformers of all time and a man who put his principles into everyday practice. He believed fervently in democracy and that "a man's a man for a' that" and in many ways lived a really saintly life. As originally penned by Jefferson, the Declaration contained a noble denunciation of slavery, for the suppression of which he fought all his life, but this was removed before Congress would adopt it. It is interesting, nay heart-breaking, to note that this fine man of high principles, well in advance of his time, should have been guilty of an "unmoral opportunism" in his treatment of the Indians. His greed for land, said Henry Adams, equals that of any settler on the border, in reference to his efforts to extinguish Indian titles. Liberty, for which the Americans fought was only liberty of the state, not of the individual, it was a political, not a humanitarian doctrine...Thus we find on a close examination of this most revered of America's documents:Historical falsities, flaws in logic,extreme bias,embodied in a rambling, mainly unimaginative doctrine..CLASS CONCIOUSNESS in America to a casual observer like myself takes a different but more vicious form than the diminishing class distinctions in this country. The phrase in USA is Status and people seek it avidly(social climbing we used to call it), conforming, even to the extent of changing wives, in each and every respect. Certainly it is based, not on birth but on ability to survive in a commercial struggle but it is only another name for class conciousness...AMERICAN CAPACITY FOR SELF CRITICISM.I fail to appreciate your point here.Nothing so virulent and effective as TW3 exists in America (oh I know they copied our version in New York, but from all accounts

it is an anaemic and rather ineffective copy), or, I believe could exist there. McCarthy may have gone but that type of mentality still exists. Is not Lehrer one of those sick comedians? How can that record mimicking Kennedy and his family compare to Saller's party political broadcast or Rushton's takeoff of MacMillam? I had the pants near scared off me a couple of days after Kennedy's death when I saw a TV interview with Johnson where his main point of view was the wonders of American life and how the other peoples of the world looked on it with awe and envy, whearas you know and I know that anti-American feelings are fife all over the world. The death of Kennedy left me in an extremely emotional state and this Readers Digest type of outlook was the last straw. It is this refusal to indulge in self-appraisal which is so prevalent in America,e.g.the AMA.,the National Geographic Magazine, the struggle for Civil Rights etc,etc..ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION is indeed worthy of the highest respect and admiration. But of course Scotland had Andrew Carnegie. It does diturb me to know that an American capitalist was able to amass such a fortune and I would like to know more about his business methods and labour relations etc.He made his money in oil and it is the artificially high and protected price of American oil that helps to keep our petrol so dear...AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CULTURE.This is a difficult one since the arts are such a matter of personal taste. Personally I have been unable to bring to mind a single modern American artist but then I do not call the bulk of so-called modern art, art at all. In photography, the Yanks are tops. In light music and musical comedy they are hard to beat but there is a powerful commercial stimulus there. In popular music they have dragged the standards down to an all-time low. Jazz is negro, SF is British historically, Wells,Doyle,Haggard,Shiel,Kipling etc. As to aspiring to America's standard of living:by all means let us raise the living standards but Heaven forbid that we should develop a similar society here. I close with the traditional Jewish viewpoint:"Let every nations follow its own gods"." ++++Dear readers, as you can see,Ian went through my words point by point..at that I cut out one paragraph..Space forbids that I should do the same..besides it would be futile. There are many people who are strongly anti-American - and Ian is one of them. He is a man of strong views all round and I doubt very much if any of them could be changed. We believe what we want to believe:all of us,after all. I strongly disagree with practically everything that Ian has written. He likes to read however..perhaps I can persuade him to read GO WEST YOUNG MAN in which the author explains America much better than I could++++

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"So I n Paters is amused that a "good Socialist" like yourself should jump to the defence of the Americans. I suggest that he enlightens himself as to what it means(or should mean) to be a Socialist. Fundementally Socialism is an ideal of the brotherhood of Man. It is a search for peace,co-existance, understanding, equal rights and opportunity. It does not entail condemning outright a whole nation because its political and social outlook differs from one's own. In your talk with the Young Socialists

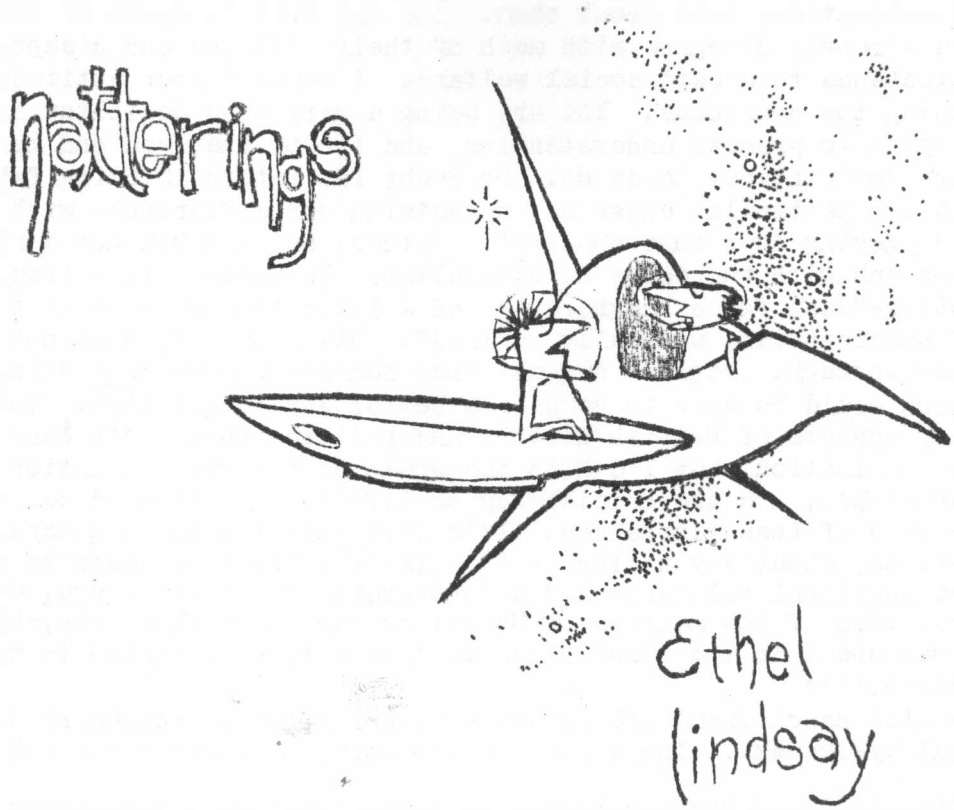
Ethel, you defended the American people and argued against some popular misconceptions held about them. You did this in spite of the fact that you strongly disagree with much of their politics and disapprove their reluctance to accept social welfare. I commend your attitude in defending the Americans. You are being a very good Socialist indeed by helping to promote understanding, and I hope that you and many more like you continue to do so. No doubt Ian Peters is being faithful to his own particular cause by emphasising our differences with America and playing down that country's virtues, but let him not confuse this approach with the cause of Socilalism. To quote a line from Ian's letter-"Just for a laugh,Betty and I tried to make up a list of facets of American life we really admired". His sincerity does not quite show through. Might I suggest that someone who was not doing it for a laugh would be able to compile a better and longer list. There are many aspects of British history and politics that don't bear too close an examination, but I'd hate the whole of the British nation, the British people, and the British way of life to be condemned out of hand because of these instances. It's very easy indeed to generalise in this way about any nation, but it isn't going to do much to further international tolerance and understanding." +++Thank you, Colin, your idea of the meaning of Socialism marches with my own;which is why I was upset in the first place to find anti-Americanism in my local branch.++++

We also heard from: ArDupla,Sid Birchby,Peter Weston,Harry Warner and Paul Wyszkowski. Thank you and I'm sorry that space ran out on you.

AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION

Ella Parker has donated two copies of THE ATOM ANTHOLOGY to be auctioned in aid of TAFF.
Send your postal bids to me. Highest offer gets.
The deadline is 31st August.

SUPPORT TAFF and get an ATOM ANTHOLOGY too---



One of the peculiarities of sf fandom is the small amount of women in it; a fact that everyone knows but which causes little discussion. Now and then we hear harsh words about ourselves; but mainly are treated with much more "equality" than is to be found outside fandom. One could ponder on why one woman in ???(I do not know the odds)is attracted to sf but it would be doubtful that this attraction stemmed wholly from the same cause.

In my own case I attribute it to the fact that I lived from the age of 3 to 12 in a small street in which I was the only girl among the six children that lived there. I had no girl friends in those years; school-mates all lived too far away. So my playmates were boys and my sense of values was distinctly boyish. By the time we had moved from there I had absorbed a boyish contempt for anything 'girlish' and to a great extent have never completely lost this. Even yet, I can be surprised by the amount a woman expects from a man simply because she is - a woman..and by amount I do not mean cash.

It was in those years that my reading tastes were formed; I read all the boy's magazines and found the girlish equivalant tame in comparison. From there it was a short and easy step to detective stories of which I read millions in my teens. From boredom with the amount of poor stuff turned out in this genre I turned to sf. I can trace another interest which came from reading of those detective books..I much preferred the American ones and absorbed quite a lot of background detail from them.

Natterings 4

I hope you found these three extracts interesting. And of course if someday the world could combine a pride in nationalism with a forbearance for ways that differ; it would be possible to breathe again. Like many others I did a spot of free-breathing after the Cuban confrontation.... but today it is easy to feel despairingly that things have become rapidly worse again. On all sides areas of dissention; lack of understanding; suspicions of other's intentions; large generalisations; blanket condemnations. Maybe I can no longer retreat into the cosy world of sf where all ends happily in the future. Maybe I can no longer be content to look ahead to centuries - I'm too busy trying to guess what will happen in the next six months.

With this issue SCOTTISHE becomes a genzine and no longer is an apazine. I will be cutting down the number of copies after this. Trades will continue to be honoured(but for Joe Gibson its a sub exchange);and letters of comment receive a free issue. The rest will go to people who subscribe only. I am spending too much money on my fanac and must cut down somewhere...I want to attend the German convention this year.. and so need all my bawbees.

To my newer readers I would like to explain the series that is being written by Walt Willis. Many a long day ago Walt was a member of OMPA; he then started writing up his fannish recollections by the device of using his letter files. When he left OMPA(ochone the day)his column was continued in SCOT. This series is of value because fannish history vanishes so quickly. History in fandom is as valuable as anywhere else; for unless you know the past you cannot understand the present or guess the future. A new British fan wrote me recently asking "Who is Walt Willis?" - to older fans who think this funny - I must point out that unless it is recorded somewhere the whole of present day fandom can vanish into limbo. Reading an old fanzine is not much help; it is often impossible to tell whose opinions were important and who in fact were the ones who moulded fandom into its present form. One way or another Walt has been of influence in fandom for many years.

This year I received a Valentine card..unsigned. It showed a Red Indian on the front speaking the words ME KNOW HOW! Inside it said.. WANNA KNOW WHEN AND WHERE! My answer to this unknown gallant is - I'd have to see a signed affidavit first....

I'm a canny Scot.

Ethel.