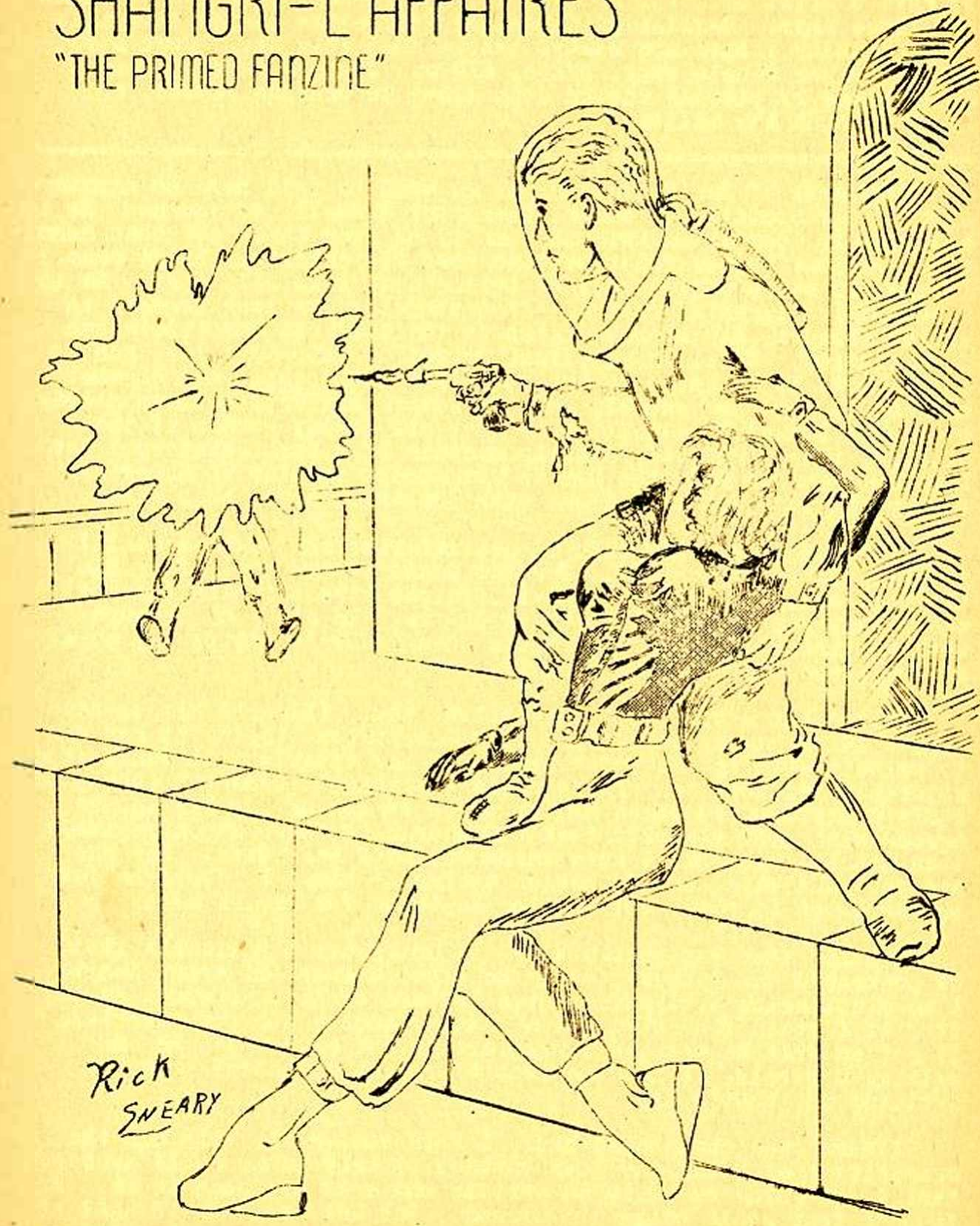


SHANGRI-L'AFFAIRES

"THE PRIMED FANZINE"



Rick
SNEARY

Shangri-I'Affaires, Pacificon Edition, July 1946. The club mag of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, issuing from the vicinity of 637¹/₂ S Bixel St., Los Angeles 14, California, every seven weeks and three days. Regular editions are four times bigger than this one. Regular issues are always better than this one. Cost more, too. 10c per single copy, 3/25c, 6/50c. You can subscribe easy as anything by passing enough coin along to Charles Burbee, who is at present the editor.

The saga of Sam Russell might as well be told here as anywhere else. I am speaking of Samuel Davenport Russell, of course. He is a scholarly looking individual, and if he ever takes off that scholarly overcoat (after first setting down his scholarly brief case,) I know his shirt collar will be soiled with scholarly dirt. He is a pleasant, congenial fellow, often standing for long moments in uffish thought, Sam Russell--known to the trade as Throttletwitch X Gankbottom. He is an excellent writer of fair articles, and to most people he is known as the co-editor of Acolyto, though what editing he does is probably done by remote control, because nobody ever sees Samuel D Russell as he goes his lonely rounds of the cinemas, libraries, and possibly museums of natural history. But I am not here to describe him to you except insofar as description might be given coincident with the relating of this saga.

It is so very difficult to get material out of Sam Russell! In fact, it is impossible. For two years I have been after him to write something for Shangri-I'Affaires (the Literate Fanzine) and he has yet to write something for me. He did come through with two articles once, but that's when I wasn't editor any more. He'd written them for me, he said.

Laney has a time with Gankbottom, too. (Laney's his co-editor). Laney has an awful time with Gankbottom, trying to get him to write something. I think everybody has trouble with Gankbottom especially if they ask him to write something. Crozetti (the poor fan's Dunkelberger) asked him to write something for her and he agreed with such alacrity that I wondered if there was more there than met the eye. But I knew there couldn't be. Gawd. But she stopped publishing and so ceased bothering him. No doubt he felt better about it then--not writing anything for her, I mean.

I hound that boy continually. I write him a veritable flood of postcards and letters, which he often answers at great length. I am considering publishing these letters of his. I would do it, too, if I could find them. I am always asking him for material. It got so that he stopped coming around the club (said he was writing a novel). I know he wasn't writing any novel. He was avoiding me, that's all.

I have even threatened him. I told him, once, with all the sincerity that I and the four bottles of beer in me could muster, that I was going to write an article and sign his name to it. I thought that would bring him around. But hell no. He thought it was a fine idea. He thought it was a wonderful idea. In fact he got positively enthusiastic about it. I got out of there quick before he convinced me I should write his novel for him.

(concluded on last page)

RICK SNEARY'S FANTASY POLL

One of the favorite pastimes of fans is the taking of polls. They ask what mags you read and what authors you like. Some even ask what stories you don't like. And lately the Daugherty census has prided into the personal life of the average fan. But at last I think I have a completely new poll. New in every way. First, the questions are different than those asked in other polls. And second, I have already gotten the answers, or at least the answers of a number of high-ranking fans. So you don't have to do a thing but read.

First, here are the questions I asked. If you want you can write down your answers and see how they compare with those of the other fans. If you agree with all the answers you are an average fan. If you agree with only half the answers you are an average fan. And if you don't agree with any of the answers you are an average fan.

THE QUESTIONS

1. Would you be willing to be the first person to land on the moon if you knew you would die there alone?
2. Would you be happy in a world without men (if man)? Women? (If woman)
3. What two colors clash the most to you?
4. Would you be willing to live on another world where you would not see Earth people, if you could do so without danger?
5. How much, or what, would you take to kill a person you had never met?
6. Do you believe dreams foretell the future?
7. Would you like to have been born 50 years sooner?
8. Would you like to know when you are going to die?
9. What fan do you like the least?
10. Do you think all fans should live in the same town?
11. Next to fandom what hobby do you like most?
12. With whom would you like to be lost on an asteroid?
13. What type of car would you rather be hit by?
14. What story gave you the most bad dreams?
15. Would you like it if everyone could read minds?
16. What piece of music do you call the most fantastic?

And here is a list of the people that answered the poll. Bob Tucker, George Coldwell, Boff Perry, John Cockroft, Forrest Ackerman, Sandy Kadet, Dale Hart, Al Ashley, Gus Willmorth, ELLEvans, Alva Rogers, Rick Sneary. I want to thank you all for your help. And a special thank-you to Myrtle Douglas for her help in getting others to answer the poll.

And now to those answers. I might explain that right after the question number will come the complete results in figures, and after them any remarks made by the fan as they filled out the questions. And then after the word REASON will come the reason I asked that question, just in case you wonder.

1. No, 8. Yes, 3. Maybe yes, 1. Maybe no, 1. Douglas, Evans, and Hart were the only ones to say they were willing to do it. And then Douglas said she would only if it would help someone close to her that way. Kadet (the "Maybe yes") said it all depended. Said he would rather be the first to land on one of the planets. But that he would be willing to die alone. Coldwell (no) said no because the fellow dying on the moon wouldn't be famous. I disagreed with this as the fellow would claim the moon for his country which would be reason enough to put him in the history books. REASON: I read some time ago that the first rocket to land on the moon would be unable to take off again. (Or anyway the fellow writing the article thought not). So I wanted to see if there were any fans willing to have the honor and yet die on the moon.

2. No, 5. Yes, 5. Not sure, 3. When it started out the noes were in the lead, but yeses kept coming in till it was a tie. Two answers were so worded that I decided that the answerers didn't understand the question. So I put them in the "not sure" group. REASON: The stories by Doc Smith, and the short story "The Last Man", among others, pictured worlds run by women. I wondered if fans would care to live in a world made up of the opposite sex.

3. No definite answer, so will give them all to you. Tucker said "purple and drone" which is about the same as my purple and green. Ackerman and Coldwell said yellow and purple. Perry, yellow and violet. Douglas and Hart said brown and black. Evans, light green and Chinese red. Ashley, pink and dark green. Cockroft, red and purple. Willmorth said red and orange. The fan artist Rogers failed to answer. REASON: Do the same colors clash to everyone?

4. No, 6. Yes, 4. Not sure, 3. Cockroft said not willingly, but that he could no doubt get along. Kadet said it might be interesting but wasn't sure about not having Earth companions. Coldwell said "Only if the place was inhabited by beautiful creatures similar to women." REASON: In so many stories the hero gives up a lot to get home to Earth. I wondered if fans would.

5. Well it seems fans are not ghouls after all. (Some are boys) Only one gave an answer in money, (\$13,000) and that, I think, was done only to have something to put down. (I'm not going to tell who it was, either.) Only other offer was from Dale Hart. Answer, "Complete collection." Most everyone else said they wouldn't do it, but some said they might if they had sufficient reason. REASON: There is an old saying that every man has his price. I wanted to see what it was, but it seems the fans don't know themselves.

6. No, 9. Yes, 1. Sometimes, 2. Not sure, 1. Coldwell said "Yes, from personal experiences with my mother." Tucker and Evans said that they did part of the time and Kadet said he didn't know...
REASON: To see if fans believed in dreams.

7. No, 12, Indifferent, 1. A few said they would rather have been born 50 years later. REASON: Some people talk about the good old days. Wondered if fans thought so.

8. No, 11. Yes, 2. REASON: Just wondered.

9. No answers from seven. They said they didn't dislike anyone. Ackerman said "The fan that I dislike more than the one I dislike next most." Which should class him with the no-answer group. The few names mentioned will not be mentioned here. Many for Tucker gave one vote for Rick Sneary. Ha ha. REASON: Every poll asks what fan you like so I thought I'd be different. Evans gave me quite a talk on why he liked all fans. He said as people there were some fans that he wouldn't walk across the street to talk to. But as fans he found them interesting. He went on to say that he had talked for hours with fans that he would not want as friends, and had enjoyed himself. In other words, as a fan, he liked anyone that was interested in fandom.

10. No, 13. And after all the talk about Slan Shacks, too. It seems that most fans agreed that if all of them wore together it would end some of the more enjoyable parts of fandom. There would be no letter writing, and little need of fanzines. REASON: To see if fans would really like to live together.

11. No one answer so will have to give them all to you. Ackerman, movies. Coldwell, shorts. Douglas, Esperanto. Cockroft, gas-model airplanes. Ashley, making things. Willmorth, mythology. Evans, music. Hart, politics. Kadet, writing fiction. Sneary, stamp collecting. Perry, playing pool. Tucker said, "Are you kidding? Rosbud, bud!" and Rogers didn't say. REASON: To see what fans did on their days off.

12. Evans, "any compatible person." Hart, The Black Flame. Ackerman, Simone Simon. Coldwell, Joan Leslie, June Allyson, etc. Kadet, "If you meant fan, John Cockroft; if outside of fandom a pleasant young lady I have the pleasure to know." Rogers, "A certain girl." Tucker, any attractive young lady. Sneary, Captain Future, (let me explain before you burst out laughing. Did you ever see him stay on an asteroid long?) or Dragon Lady. REASON: Guess.

13. Tucker, Stanley Steamer. Coldwell, "One of those nice pedal kind that little kids pedal around. Beep Beep." Kadet, Austin; if you mean larger cars, Buick or Cadillac. Ackerman, Kiddie Kar. Evans, "an imaginary one". Cockroft, Chrysler or Cadillac. Ashley, a phantom car. Perry, Austin. Willmorth, Kiddie Kar. Hart and Sneary, Mack Truck. Douglas, GMC Truck. Rogers, "Would it make a difference?" REASON: You wouldn't believe me if I told you.

14. Rogers, Jekyll-Hyde. Cockroft, The Return of the Sorcerer. Ashley, Fu Manchu in 1924. Evans, The Pit and the Pendulum. Hart, The Picture in the House. Douglas, Sinister Barrier. Tucker, The Well of Loneliness. Coldwell, In the Martian Depths. The rest couldn't think

of any. I will say that a radio story when I was about 12, where a hand came to life and played Danse Macabre on the Steinway, had me quaking for a week. Kadet had about the same experience with a zombie movie at 10. REASON: Just curiosity, I guess.

15. No, 5. Yes, 9. Coldwell ("no") also said that it would be nice if he could, though. Perry voted no, unless one could shield his mind. REASON: To see if fans would like to be like Kuttner's Baldies.

16. Willmorth, Traffic Jam. Ashley, Mars, Bringer of War. Evans and Rogers, La Valse. Douglas and Hart, Gloomy Sunday. Ackerman, music for the picture "Spellbound". (I might mention that a number of others spoke of this odd music, too. Tucker, "A swing version of Rock of Ages." Cockroft, Night on Bare Mountain or Fire Bird. Kadet, Ride of the Valkyries. Sneary, The Sorcerer's Apprentice. (Though I almost agree with Kadet.) The other two didn't vote. REASON: To see if any one piece was weirder than the rest.

Well, there you are, the answers as given by thirteen well-known fans. I'm sorry I didn't get more names in it, but I only had a short time. Maybe I'll have another poll some time. Maybe I'll ask you some of my quixotic questions.

(concluded from that other page)

Why, lately, I even gave him a subject to write upon. And my enthusiastic outline of it was an article in itself. If somebody had taken it down in shorthand SDR could have had his article right there. If he'd given it to me, I'd have used it. If I thought it sounded a little familiar, that would be to my credit, since I never remember what I say, anyhow.

One of these days, perhaps, Samuel Davenport Russell will write an article for Shangri-L'affaires. One of these days he will hand it to me with a facetious Prussian bow and click of the heels and will say something in flawless, fluent Johnsonian English. And I, speechless for once, will accept the thing. Perhaps I will murmur some little banality like "Well, I'll be God damned." Perhaps I will just stand and stare at that fantasy of a man showing evidence that, at long last, with heart and hand, he wrote me something.

With trembling hands, my stomach cold and skittery, I will open the manuscript. And there it will be, a genuine SDRussell, in his impeccable language. Erudite it will be, and deep, and with a sad searching wonder. I will not understand it at all. And then I will look up to Heaven and say, softly, "All right, Gabe, you can blow now."