

This is an issue of SPY RAY, see? Operation Crifanae CCVII, see? Yeah. Sorry if my reading of all sorts true crime stories for a project I'll tell you about some day has been rubbing off on me, but I gotta get this typing done quick and can't wait for it to be resubmerged.

It's Eney's Fault

I never did trust this stencilcomposition method of sitting down with the stencil in the typer and the fanzine beside it and blasting thru, rather than checking off points by a preliminary reading, but I just gotta try it on mailing 58. If you don't know why, wait till the convention.

DINKY BIRD Though I confess a lingering nostalgia for Paul Cox's character Captain Hadacol, I think I'll try to con WSFA into presenting your little play for the benefit of the Guggle-Fuss on our next tape. I'll let you know how it turns out.

DIE WIS When Bergeron preaches heresay, do you mean the legal or the theological offense? *** But...but...isn't a Hand of Glory supposed to be to put people to sleep? Surely you didn't mean that.

POT POURRI Alack & alas, I've just started off on a kick of collecting folkmusic records...possibly for the sake of the songs, which I like a good deal. Why, after flying all the way up to Boston to find the long-sought Dyer-Bennett 3 record (for the sake of "Spottlied on Napoleon's retreat"...oh, I specialize, I tell you!)...after that...gosh, I wish I had room to tell you. Think I will have something next issue, too...a bit on the Fort Hunt of Fort Hunt Road. ** The only thing I couldn't figure out, from context or remembrance of how we do it on this side, was: what are biscuits? Sort of square pads?

RESIN Nuclear testing affects the weather just like beets build red blood.

NANJU That's the sort of cover that makes the fortune of people who hang their works in Musee of Modern Art. Hey, the con this year surely will be close enough for you to have something in the art show,,? ** "This organization won't snap or break or crumble because it has elastic strength."? Gad. Sounds like an advertisement for us.

SPACEWARD Wrai looks so happy that I suspect somebody has done something about him. Us crusty cynical ol' bachelors don't get that sort of grin for nothing. ** Aaark, my sins return to plague me. I wish that that story of St. Nelson and the Emperor of Foofoo had corrected the typo that made Ray Nelson Archbishop of Wisk instead of Wisc., spelled like that (it wasn't even my typo, snf.) Everybody knows about Redd Boggs publishing William Atheling jr., but I hope lots of them also remember Robert Glenn Briggs, Duke of Brandy in the Rosconian Empire. (Down, Coventranians!) ** Heh, the local pacifists have been reading the stories about my beliefs spread by ----- and ----- and ----- ("The task of filling up the blanks I'd rather leave to you", tra la...) If you have SPECULATIVE REVIEW to hand you'll find that my comment was that I gagged on the thing as excessively didactic. ** Nancy, you see to it that Art doesn't miss any more mailings, you hear? Get an old stencil and run off single-sheeters if you gotta...

OUTSIDERS Think that the plural I was plumping for was "a concussion of gun bugs".
Speer claimed that special collectives would spoil the functional utility of the English language because its functionalism is increased by generalized collectives, useful for many different words. But I was going to argue (I think we got interrupted first) that these specialized additions were additions to, not usurpations of, the function of collectives of wide application; since they were for show rather than use they could be elaborated even as gargoyles. He would probably think up some counter to that, too, though. ** Tallying them up, I find that the only states of the US I've missed are Utah, Wyoming, and Maine. I've been in Hawaii and, if you count the six hours the transport docked at Adak in the Aleutians, in Alaska, though not when it was a state. ** Oh, but the SAPS table is the one where the OE is...right, Pelz? Ruling! Appeal! Fingers...!

SIX PAGES Mirac indeed, but why not some dope on bookbinding costs? Nobody ever gives leads on places that don't charge outrageous prices...

COLLECTOR I've got a batch of old but good & scarce-used type for a standard printing press you can have for the postage...or if you're in no hurry wait till the Chicon & I can hand it to you. But let me know whether, & which.
** The Sinuk story was hilarious. With funny fans like this, Howard, why don't you throw another Detroit gonzo's to attract new blood to the DSFL? ** Well, I can tell you some people who'd object to pulling all the humans out of Indiana and sealing the place off. Robert Heinlein wrote about an area where civilization had done just that, and you remember what he called it? Hehehehe.

FLABBERGASTING You were referring to one "ordinary person, such as you and me"!!?
Speak for yourself, Burnett R.! ** By gholly, I didn't think of that. Do you suppose Garçon would contribute something if we changed the name to something other than "Art" show? ** Bob Silverberg said he drove up to the rain forest, toured it, had something go wrong with his car, and still got back the same day. So I figured it couldn't be far distant. ** The MENSA test sounds depressingly like one of these Otis things, unless perhaps what you describe is a preliminary screening test before the Real Thing with a Certified Witness. I had had the impression that it was something fierce and mindwrenching.

B*A*N*G Well, figure out the number of targets needed to knock out a substantial fraction of US & ~~USSR~~ Communist Empire productive capacity, calculate the appropriate production of fallout for that many blasts, and then figure out how much background count that'd give us. Knowing the MLD₅₀ for radiation, you can see that it's not going to kill the lot of us; an almanac or obstetrics text will give you the figures for neonatal deaths from birth defects, and for a rough approximation we'll assume that all birth defects are mutations — that'll compensate for the omission of non-fatal birth defects — and you can calculate from that the number of fatal mutations we can expect. (It increases directly as the background count.) But all of this is really a point I wish I'd passed over now I see the interpretation that's being placed on it; I was trying to convince Walt that he shouldn't use this argument because it was weak (like, if you argue that any atomic war will kill everybody and someone proves it'll kill only 70% of us he's refuted your argument in the eyes of the Rabble), but rather ought to point out what a mess even a non-ultimate atom-pitching session would make. Of course, what I said was that even the most trifling nuclear war would upset the even tenor of our lives a good deal (Walt, god save us, thought that that way of expressing it was meant to be stiff-upper-lip encouragement...) and was hardly compatible with the sort of future life to which we'd like to become accustomed. Any way, getting back to your original problem, if we're both agreed that War with All the Stops Pulled Out is class A lunacy, it isn't really important

that you think it'd kill 90% of the race and hurl us back to 1850 BC while I suspect it'd do in 50% of us and hurl the rest back to 1850 AD. The point is interesting but when calling it in question means we get into a misunderstanding of the essential question — whether a nuclear war would be Good or Bad — it isn't worth it. ** Sure George Scithers and George Heap have similar first names, but you can't tell that just by looking at them. And no, a nametag isn't part of "them", dammit!

THE PROSE OF KILIMANJARO One sort of left-handed consolation: the Africans will get away with soil-robbing farm practices for just about one generation. After that they'll grow up fast or never...

FENDENIZEN Darn it, Elinor, it is so important that/why you're feeling depressed about SAPS & your membership! ** Is that "dirty athiess" bit a quote from Don Marquis? Now I'll bet I'll learn that you've been commenting all over about likeing Don Marquis' work and I never noticed.

RETRO Well, you should know by this time: it's LONDON IN '65, and George Locke will be back there by that time... ** Hey, just a bleddy ghoddamn minute h'yar, kindly old FM Busby! This certainly was not the first time the phone-smear bit had raised its head in this hooraw. In fact, it set off the present chain of argument...wait a bit, I think I can trace its development point by point. The HGD-is-Red phone campaign was raised by, I think, Bergeron — dunno if I got in on it. He used it as an instance...if it was him...of Nixon style smear techniques and asked whether you wouldn't require some evidence if somebody made a remark like that about Elinor (& they were far enough away to prevent a more obvious response). You drew a distinction between public officials campaigning and private citizens going on trial and that's how we got into the argument about the nature of evidence which I'm sure you remember. Recall it now? A year and a half ago, that's not too long. ** But the "method of combatting Communist operations in this country" acceptable to opponents of HUAC needs no invention and no specificity. You collect your proof and bring it & your suspects into court and have a trial, like what you're supposed to do to criminals. Then if they're guilty of espionage you electrocute them for that, like the Rosenbergs, and if they're guilty of giving aid&comfort to the enemy in time of war you shoot 'em for treason...or if they're trying to overthrow the government by violent and unconstitutional means, I suppose, hang them. (Nothing discourages people like six feet of dirt, after all.) And then on the other hand if they're innocent of any of these activities you let them go scot free and they sue hell out of anybody who made the accusation out of malice or to get himself a batch of Americanlegion type votes, and that's a nice effective discourager too now I come to think of it. We have had for years & years laws that permit people to be kilt daid, not just harassed, for doing anything that is recognized by the Constitution as outside the pale of permissible anti-government activity; for this lot of half-assed vigilantes to pretend that they need extension rather than enforcement is bilge of the first water. ** By the way, you dirty rat you, that rubbing gimmick works with hardly anything else: I (with my soft brown eyes shining trustfully) tried it with Master, Speed-o-Print, ABDick stencils. You can see the result on the first page of that STUPEFYING STORIES I sent you. Yargh, sir. ** Aside from its virtues in making one side feel superior, Buz, I don't dig this postulated division of humanity into sheep and wolves. If you must lump your postulated moieties under the names of predator & herding herbivore, I suppose you could improve the image by using tigers and buffaloes; surely you dint mean that the Good Guys imitated the bourgeois by running in packs, and whoever heard of anybody being trampled by a stampeding sheep herd? Anyway, the allegory itself is open to the allegorical objection that the wolves/tigers that make the

naïve aren't the dangerous ones, and to an even stronger objection to the whole idea of trying to set it up: if you haven't, Heinlein surely has heard the old description of an old-fashioned "gentleman" as a lion to his foes, yet a lamb to his friends.

THE ZED Will have to check the status of forces in this Coventranian thing more carefully, I see. Pelz is shuffling around three or four divisions in his one corps, and you figure on raising hell by capturing a cutter? Mumble mumble.

WARHOON How many people spotted the repetition of "into into anything" as you went around the corner from page 51 to 52? ** I fear your expectation is vain; I much doubt that any of us have never heard of catch questions. After all, when two or three people are trying to make out that I'm all in favor of immediately starting a nuclear war and then you chime in with a query whether I'd be so eager to start one if it were certain that it would wipe out the human race, can you be surprised that I thought you were Leading Up To Something? However, Creeping ~~Paranoia~~ Paranoia aside, I'd be surprised if you didn't see the application of your question to the general discussion on the likely upshot of nuclear war. To pose your question in such a way that the upshot was taken for granted begged the general question, not your specific one. ** Oh, and while we're on the subject, I wouldn't be in favor of a general war with unlimited use of nuclear weapons even if it demonstrably wouldn't destroy the human race. I'm hardly even in favor of limited wars with TNT and bullets. Unfortunately, as Willis points out, that won't do me any good unless the other chap is equally pacific. ** Heinlein seems to contemplate the existence of a (possibly small) civilian working population as well as the resisting guerillas, so I fancy he hasn't really stopped to think what a world-ruling Communist Empire would be able to do about the matter. ** Of course I wouldn't, just as you don't, accept the notion that JHVH's misconduct in office justifies any misdeeds of mine. But Sis' Busby isn't a dirty athiess like us. ** You startle me. I'm certain that Nixon's smearing of HGDouglas in the campaign way back when was what we were discussing to start off this whole flap. I wonder if -- I've only got six months' fanzines available for reference, unfortunately -- when the point was raised I simply took it that everybody else who mentioned Nixon's smear had the same thing in mind I did? BiRoscoe, it may have been that, for I can't (despite a pretty accurate memory) call to mind anybody who gave a flat statement in SAPS that the smear took place thus&such a way. ** Agreed, Walt was talking about whole classes, not individuals. But I've cited elsewhere the find in Shanaidar Cave (in Northern Iran) which showed that even Neanderthals, let abee noble Indo-Europeans like ourselves, when possible kept incapacitated folk alive even when, like the Neanderthals, their level of culture hardly allows us to imagine a compensating exchange of "less obvious gifts". So I suspect that something other than profit-and-loss tallykeeping backs activities of this sort. ** "The civilized and virtuous we number among the convinced"?? Didn't you read Walter Breen's comment on the SPY RAY where I made the comments starting all this? ** Fortunately bureaucracy introduces a distinction between the dedicated martyrdom-loving ~~Communist~~ Communist and the trigger-pulling Givan with his boss



"Now, let's all check on this again: when he yells 'Shazam!' we all rush out and..."

in the Pentacle building. (Well, the OO of the Russian Army is RED STAR...) So the fact that the members of the Communist Party think martyrdom an honor -- if they do -- doesn't obviate the presence of realistic imperialists at the policy-making levels of the Communist Empire. Just for curiosity's sake, what other assumption do you think we can make (consistent with the evidence) other than that there are intelligent calculating folk somewhere about the fountainhead of Communist policy?

WATLING STREET DUCKSOUP You will probably survive as livestock, at least. That's better than nothing, isn't it? Hm? Well, perhaps not, at that. ** Pity the ditto red&green is the wrong color to work with the glasses.

SAFARI If there were no such affliction as lisping, fans would have to invent it.

SAPTERRANEAN Your MC's showed extreme Restraint and other Bourgeois Virtues. Cheers.

POR QUE? Title as given in the OO, so blame Pelz, not me. ** Of COURSE I left that out of my conreport. There are things a gentleman doesn't mention. (Any time you think you can be sneakier & treacherouser than me, gal...)

SPACEWARP It makes me feel better to find you also bobbling fus/ze. The bond of mortality, it must be. ** Well, the grocery stores here stock vigil candles or the Jewish equivalent, so if you can't find them in Michigan or Pennsylvania all you have to do is buck for a Pentagon assignment. ** Yes, but the difference in price between that vile coal-tar-and-cottonseed-oil concoction at 21¢ a pound and good wholesome honest butter at 83¢ a pound is "negligible" -- as compared, that is, with the difference that would be required to justify eating the former rather than the latter.

IGNATZ Foosh, we can always make an exception for you when it comes to Weeding Out the Weak in the world of atommageddon. You're strong minded, aren't you? Come to think of it, I'd better ask Art.

SLUG That description of the Minuteman being buried pointy end up so that at a moment's notice they could be buried all over some other country pointy end down was a real gasser. ** Did you have the best magazine in the mailing this time?

A MERRIT'S FANTASY MAGAZINE But isn't it copyrighted? ** Well, Mark showed up, in DC, only at club meetings, so his uncommunicativeness in small groups wasn't evident. He made quite a Thing of his devotion to Bok (& even wanted us to make Hannes the official DisCon artist, ghod help us), gave two detailed talks on HB with examples from his collection and even some specimens of people Bok had studied under/learned from...like you say, he's real Gone on Bok. But he didn't act nuttier about it than other fans do about their pet hobbies.

THRU THE PORTHOLE All together now: "people who put typed text in yellow on white should be roasted alive over a fire of buffalo chips!!" ** Why not hitch a ride on one of those ships and make it to Chicon that way? If your fellow-contryman Hinge(?) could do it, after all...

TELEKINETIC TERRACE TIMES REVISITED THE BALLARD CHRONICLES Why didn't either of you S*p*e*a*k at the Philcon, though? And it really should be Philco only you're excused because maybe you are Prejudiced. You do something with electricity, after all, don't you? ** But what DID happen to the last SAPS tape, dammit?

GIMBLE

COVENTRANIAN GAZETTE
c/w CIAWOT TELEGRAPH

The original of that verse about "the day they give fandon away with a 10¢ packet of tea" is the one Buz gives; he didnt explain that that dates from depression times when -- Green Stamps not having been invented -- firms offered gifts to their customers -- say, a 5 pound ham for anybody who bought over \$5 worth of groceries at the A&P, I remember as a f'rinstance. (Of course you gotta remember that back then \$5 worth of groceries was about as much as a grown man could carry...) ** It is jolly to reflect that when I get the chance to inflict some of the Akrean mythos on you you won't have any way to plead that it's duller than yours...

SPELOBEM

"Bobadill" may be close to Bombadil, but it's still closer to Bobadilla, the first Spanish viceroy of America. You know, he kat that sent Columbus back in chains. ** Tsk, when I started to explain you remarked that my objecting proved that I was guilty. So I'll let you wonder why I joined the N3F & re-joined in December...like, I don't care that much what conclusion you draw. Rowr bazzle. ** I thought it was Wally Weber at Detroit who started the SAPS table tradition, because there was a remark next year about his being out & unable to participate. Could have been Tosk, though. ** For the third damned time, I think the river that plowed thru the sea as if it had the right of way was the one in Phaiakia, which stopped the current of the sea to let Odysseus swim ashore there. Got any better, like non-Grecian, ideas? ** If you wish I'll take back that "sloppy" I called Coventry -- only I'll substitute "slipshod" for it, I'm afraid. The main defect of Coventry seems to be your (you-plural's) confusion of a Fun Thing with the Anything Goes Caper. That is, you seem to be figuring that since it's only imaginary, it doesn't matter how you slap things together because any inconsistency is overlooked in the name of the game...for instance, Stanbery's calling himself "Paulus Edwardum Rex", which you defended with the plea that it was a Coventranian and not a Latin name and that allowed him to use anything he thot sounded good. Or look at Jane's palace -- nicely laid out on the principles of swank architecture, but who the hell originated the notion that nomadic tribesmen would, or even could, build that kind of pad for their ~~deed~~ Margravine? This can't even pass as Civilized Comforts, for she could have easily had a nomad-style palace: the pavilion type that was good enough for Genghis Khan, and which would even have the advantage of distinctime individual style instead of being the sort of thing any other Coventranian could "build" if he cared to. Or look at this setup you've got for your VIII Corps (we pass over as too gharstly even for criticism the lunatic convention by which the paralysis-weapons circulate their effect in such a way as to imitate exactly the effect of swords & such, even to being preventable by bandaging): it indicates that you think Lieutenant-General is a reasonable rank for a battalion commander...and, incidentally, that you think medieval armies were organized in line units and service branches that corresponded to those of post-Frederician armies. (And, not to miss anything, that you think "marshal" is spelled with two L's.) The general plea that you advanced at the SeaCon -- that you could and would do whatever you pleased, right or not -- of course covers you and is OK for froth; but if you're going to admit the restrictions of others' imagination & Stanbery's tentative veto, you lose the excuse that you can roll your own rules at will. Capital ships! 700,000-man armies! "Legions" in a feudal state! Chattel slavery under a government of personality! Ten CGs poisoned in two years! High officials running around in disguise! YAAAAARGH!

THAT PUN, BY THE WAY: Dunno how many people complained that they couldn't pin down all the puns in CCON, but I had four in mind, viz:

- (1) the pun on SeaCon; (2) the one on Seattle's location (even if none of us did spot the ocean from Hyatt House); (3) on observation -- like see Con, you know;
- (4) for the con report appearing as my 200th fanzine. Now, who got some entirely different puns, huh?