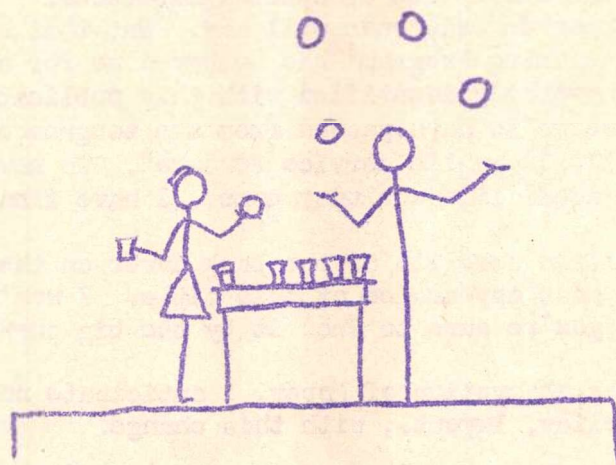


Speer's

△ SUSTAINING PROGRAM △

SUMMER/47



Where will you be when
August ends?

Naming a fanzine is a funny thing. You're fixing to publish one, and you look around for something to call it, and a name pops up that strikes your fancy, and you slap that on the magazine with hardly a second thought. Later you may become discontented with the name you picked, but it's too late to change without contributing to that irresponsibility in publishing which some of us decry.

But occasionally a name is so bad that you do make a change. I did that with Ramblings. Ramblings is a disgusting title, as indiscriminately applicable to any nonfiction as "song" is to any verse or "fragment" to any literary prose. So I rechristened the sheet Matters of Opinion--little realizing that not long after I'd be hitting right and left at the idea that a distinction can be made between opinion and something else. "There is nothing save opinion," said Crane, and I think he was right when he said it. Even taking the popular signification of the word, however, as opinions particularly subject to controversy, the line between Mopsy and SusPro has been a wavering one. Much of the most controversial material has been in Sustaining Program's review section--and some of the fully developed discussions in Matters of Opinion seemed to leave less room for controversy with the members than articles in SP. Much of the reason for a separate Mopsy was to provide elasticity in the amount of material I could publish, and provide space for long discussions. But, as my alter ego told me in an unpublished interview shortly after V-E day, I need the discipline of space limitations.

So Mopsy's separate existence will end. But that ain't all.

The name "Sustaining Program" has bothered me for a long time. To veterans the phrase is probably identified with this publication; its use in connection with radio seems to have passed from the tongues of men, being replaced by euphemisms like "A public service feature". To newcomers it could mean nothing, and must sound like a clumsy name. I have finally determined to discard it.

So the repetition herewith of the back cover on the original SusPro (Fall/1938) signals the last appearance of this title. I won't tell what the new title will be, but you're sure to know it by the big purple letters on the package.

Aside from the absorption of Mopsy, I anticipate no considerable changes of editorial policy, layout., with this change.

Jack Speer, 4518 16th NE, Seattle 5 Wn

REMARKS ON THE THIRTY-NINTH MAILING

Rusty arrived too late to be reviewed; we'll say something about H-1661 next time.

Pp 1, 2, 3, 4,
5, 6, 7, 8, 9,
14, 15

QUOTE-WORTHY QUOTES

I didn't realize I'd read so much in The Tyranny of Words.

Pp 10, 11

MAN SAGT

There's something wrong with covers that require lengthy explanations, and something wrong with lengthy explanations of covers that don't require them.

Pp 12, 13, 14

ITEMS FROM MY SCRAPBOOKS

"Say not the days are evil; Who's to blame?"

P 15

REJECTED!--VAMPIRE

Something tells me there was only one thing that I was interested in having comments published on.

P 16

KEEPING UP WITH CAMPBELL

I had hoped to begin Catching Up With Crud in this issue.

Pp 17, 18

REMARKS ON THE THIRTY-NINTH MAILING

Sustaining Program: Methinks the article on p 12 proves too much. It would shove into the category of fantasy much material which is considered s-f. And it seems to base the distinctions upon the actual, though only partly discovered, structure of things. But the only basis on which fantasy makes sense begins with an interpretation of probability in terms of human (limited) knowledge, not the real order of things, and interprets similarly the uncertainty as to whether or not given happenings are consonant with natural law. " In connection with Maturity, I meant to remark apropos the sneer at Emuclaw that the town's name means "Place of the evil spirits". And since this is the nearest I'm likely to have to an excuse for mentioning it, I will add that Snoqualmie (name of pass, river, town, and falls not far from Emuclaw) means "Moon people".

The point of the title Willie Acquires an Italian Hand escapes me. If I were interested, I'd ask why this appears at this late date, and in the name of what member it was entered.

Stop swigging the Moonshine, Moffatt, and tell us if you seriously think that the two billion people on earth are descendants of one family of ancestors of only four thousand years ago. " I doubt whether it is possible to judge the inherent poetic merit of poetic books of the Bible. /As I type the radio is giving out with flying disk reports. Doggoned if it doesn't sound just like the opening pages of a story in Science Wonder./ Obviously the only original poetic merit that could survive translation would relate to matter, not manner; beauty in the particular words and phrasing must be credited to the King James translators. Moreover, the words have been overlaid with such a host of associations, from the long centuries when only one book was common to all Englishmen, all Europeans, that one cannot fairly judge the naked words (of my impulse to print in Ara Gratia Artis a passage from Lady Windemere's Fan merely because it had been worked on in our public speaking class years before). I can assert that Emerson is every bit as fine poetry (his prose works, that is) as the Bible, and doubt that the assertion can be disproved. " Len reasons a little wrongly when he says: The ancient songs make you feel blue; a blues song should make you feel blue; therefore the ancient songs are good blues songs. Different causes may concur to a same (high-order abstracted) result.

In Fantasy Amateur, I love "see if you can sublimate your publishing urge with sex." " Please note, everybody and Elmer, that the street number 4516 for me is wrong. " Why contains the treasury report no reflection of the surplusstock sale to the Foundation? The list of droppees contains some shocking names. Farsaci, one of the original twenty or so; and intelligentsia like SDR, Swisher, and Youd. " The version of the constitution published in my first issue of the Fantasy Amateur seems to have most of the info Elmer indicates as unavailable to him, but there is no clause requiring six months' wait before returning to the fold; I could have overlooked it. Our official records are in filthy condition. All amendments and by-laws should be definitively entered in that book of the secretary's.

Burblings: Yes, Al, and how about that semiautomatic fanzine assembler you were blueprinting? "You'll never build anything more complicated than a paperweight" is beautiful. " My reaction to the last copy of the last page of my fanzine isn't deathly sickness of publishing--I get to feeling that way about 1/3 thru--but a disappointment that I don't feel more exalted at the completion of the great labor.

Glom's cover cut reminds me of an unmarked detail in Blondie. Dagwood had his pipe going and was smoking out a mouse from its hole. The corner of

the room became full of smoke and out of one billow of it rose a little mushroom cloud. " Are we to gather that our Cleve Cartmill edits the LA Daily News? Possibly you've already specifically stated this, but I have that bad habit of used to have of forgetting. " Every time some advocate of interplanetary flight talks about the unguessable benefits that are sure to accrue, citing Columbus et cetera, I think of Antarctica. There's no rush of tourists and souvenir hunters thitherward, yet it is not so hard to reach (though hard enuf), nor so hostile, nor less unearthly, than Liza. " I thot space was charted, not chartered (or un-).

Coswal, do you hafta set type on a drum to multilith mags like Snix? Just once in business college I did that for some type of reproduction, and I've never found out what it was. No, I guess your process is the one where you cut a stencil of thin aluminum or something. Is it really better than mimeoing? " Ah, yes, Rickey Slavin is characterized as the feminine headache of the ESFA. Don't you read Shangri-l'Affaire? " The second tetrahedron never matches the first because it's seen from a different position, speeding straight ahead. A squarely side view would show only a triangle, so I tip it up a bit to show the second face. " Certainly the lead curtain around Neff's administrative deliberations has been a bad thing. But the only way full proceedings could be made generally available to the public would be publication in the official organ, which would unduly load it with minutiae. At least, there is no reason for swearing the board to secrecy. Publicity for diplomatic manouverings couldn't be instituted completely on a national scale unilaterally. That is, if other states, or other parties, decline to disarm, a good cause may be weakened by full publicity--imagine all of Henry Wallace's private conversations being made available to the kept press. " AA:94 is Al Ashley, whose score on a quasi intelligence test was 194; and Whirling Dervish is Daugherty, whom Larry Shaw characterized as the Whirling Dervish of Fandom because of his projectomania. " The setup of your 1946 index was a bit hard to grasp at first. To prove that I read it all, a few comments: You're an expert on pseudonyms; why not identify such critters as Queen's Knight? You neglected to show the source of Shaver's Land of Kui. (Incidentally, the lineup under RSS's name is a good refutation to RAP's current attempted refutation of those who complain of an overdose of Dick.) Why'd you drop the distinctive spelling of The Cormium Helmet? The Whitehead stuff is reprints, isn't it? " Heroes of Science was nice; where's it cribbed from? " You gotta remember that dogs have been selectively bred for different characteristics; let them run wild and promiscuous and they quickly revert to a basic mongrel type. It may be, though, that their genetic makeup is naturally less stable than H sapiens's.

'Tator: Is that Avon binding you compare with Amazing's of 1926 the so-gonarrnt "perfect" binding? I recollect that they claimed the cryptogram page for Buried Treasure could be taken out and stuck in again. It seems that with all the materials we have nowadays a better binding could be developed, practically to specifications.

FAParition might have been--stop, Speer; let's have no caviling, but gratitude for promising newcomers at this dark hour. " Oh, but you can be sued, Minor Jewett. Probably not ex contractu, but ex delicti. " CAPA would have sounded like the Circle Amateur Publishing Alliance of Claude Degler. " Can sound waves be pushed? " Your three-dimensional checker game sounds more like the two-dimensional game in which you try to get half a dozen (I forget the exact number) men in a row. Only there you don't move 'em; you just place 'em one by one. " Yeah, you're supposed to get permission to re-

print stuff like you see in Glom. Maybe Ferry does, but i doubt it. " Hey, somebody, which came first, Vombian or OASmith's Yah-Vombis? " I have that impulse to strip pocketbooks of their protective coatings, too. I also have an annoying habit of hunting for dead sunburn to peel off while reading, or scratching for scalp-flug. " No controversy about your preference for the Grecian style in women's garbs, unless you assert it's absolutely more beautiful. I don't believe in absolute beauty, think our standards all trace back in some way to practical considerations--cleanmess, simplicity, pleasure in complexity, and baser factors. " Trevor Hall claims that Anthony More is a new author, nespa? Anyway, you probably know that Anthony Gilmore is nobody's name. " You couldn't be expected to understand Null-A less you've read something treating of it. " To get rid of the spot commercials, i prefer the idea of subscription radio, the subscription paying for rental of a gadget which will unscramble the specially scrambled broadcast. But it looks like the Interests succeeding in killing that project; have heard naught of it for two years. " Yah, i too think cities need snow. Problem of men getting too much control of the forces of nature before they're fitten to use same. But let's build cities that don't need to be snowed on to look beautiful. " Jewett has a knack for dry humor. Speaking of Hanling & Geier Literary Productions, he says "The junior partners (senior partner is a type-writer)..." I don't quite understand that, but i like it. " Remarkably, there's no failure of inspiration as he takes up the various prezines in 'Snow Use. " Maybe all of us did wait for all the rest of us to write the SatEve Post praising Hoinloin. In the case of our Nycon writeup in Time, however, we seem to have defeated our purpose by too many of us writing in. I got back what was practically a form letter (their replies are usually individualized) and was somewhat discouraged about writing in to editors in stef's behalf. " How about a few comments on The Beginning or the End? I thot it succeeded very well in conveying the feel of the events, though doubtless hily inaccurate in detail. Perhaps chief drawback was having Donlevy play Groves so that people who've seen the movie will never be able to distrust Groves. Was the version you saw prefaced by a phony News of the Day, showing atomic personalities (represented by the actors who played them) at the burying of a time capsule containing the film?

Harold W Cheney Jr has a mutant idea for an individzine title. " Suggestions on collecting seem workable and valuable, but methinks 25c is a bit too low an offer in these times; hardly pays for the guy's trouble in phoning you up. " Too many fanzine publishers don't use those manila envelopes. My special peeve is people who staple their fanzines in folded shape.

Horizons: Yeah, and i wonder who does those wonderfully informative synopses. Surely the author doesn't know in advance how his serial's going to be broken up, but if Campbell does them, he never gives you a bum steer. " Lilliput, from copies i saw in Algiers, is a pocketsize ^{English} magazine whose content is of a generally higher caliber than its American counterparts, but does not particularly run to fantasy. " Blessed if i know just how the Animist Party thinks of itself. I think that they, like the Technocrats, expect Americans educated by events, or by a wave of sanity, to turn to them and tell them to go to it. " Yeah, familiarity has a lot to do with what i like in music; but perhaps too the songs and compositions i've heard sufficiently to recognize are keyed to about my (the mass's) level of appreciation. I have tried exposing myself to Sunday afternoon programs while typing or reading, hoping my subconscious would get its taste educated, but see little results. I think another good point was made by my philosophy prof:

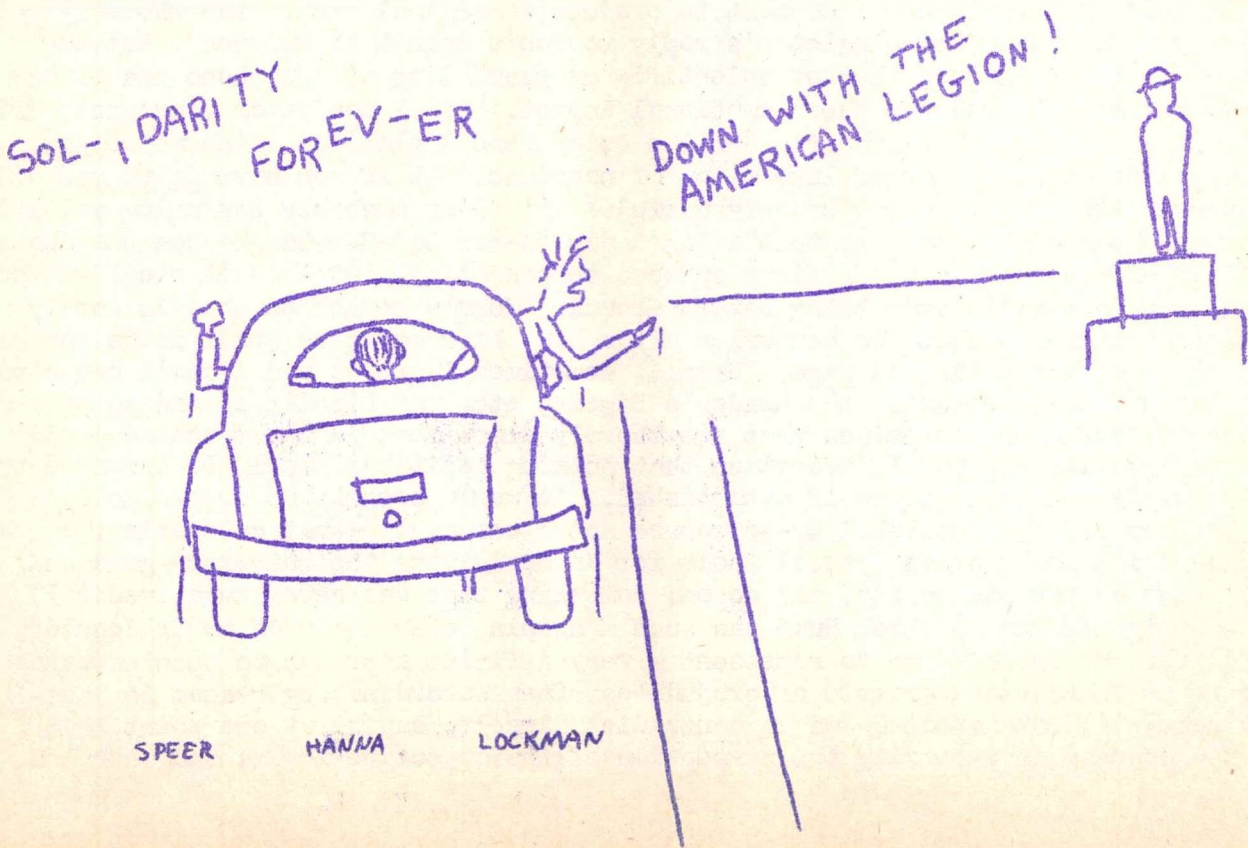
most of us come crippled to music--we can't appreciate straight sound, and have to have a visual image for a crutch, a "story" to give meaning to the music. I suppose the theory of enjoying music is that it evokes in new combinations buried clusters of associations that single sounds and patterns have for us from previous experience--that is, the naked sound would mean nothing for us but for the past associations. But we differ in the degree to which flavor from other associations sticks to sounds lifted into new contexts. Disney helps those associations to adhere by giving suggestive sights as well. " I have no conviction about the imminent end of civilization, in the sense of what people usually call a certainty. I just think it's more probable than not. But the probable benefits to be derived from acting on the assumption that we will be able to save the situation seem to outweigh the benefits of action on the other assumption, though the latter be the more probable. While I haven't changed my way of life by reason of my desire to be a survivor, the prospect of bombing is one of the factors which makes living in a metropolis seem undesirable, and I no longer consider living permanently either in Seattle or an adjoining suburb; therefore my search for the best place to practice law has been into other regions. A year ago I was, apparently seriously, studying contour maps to place a good big mountain between me and the Queen City, and checked up on several pieces of land that seemed like possible refuges. I don't know what I had in mind, because even then I didn't expect to be in Seattle until the time when war can be expected. This attitude probably reached its height at the time Rusty visited us, when we sat around discussing what it would be desirable to have stored away, and Rusty said he was buying a piece of property out in the desert to fix up. Then came the temporary turn for the better in international affairs around Yuletide, and about the same time Campbell's editorial on radioactive jet planes made me much more doubtful of the security of small towns in the atomic age. And lately Chan's professor hath prophesied universal doom. So, while I discussed the best site for Fanburg Oregon with Paul and Don on our trip up the Willamette, I no longer felt like I was discussing a real eventuality.

" Tucker neglected to tell us what his other glandular types mean, / his fame sounds like several I know. The aural fan he describes is probably ^{specialty parathyroid.} A--W-----, but that worthy says the Laird questionnaire showed him barely an ambivert, much less an extrovert; and his hairline, alas, is anything but low. And have you seen the famous suppressed bathing suit picture? " I suppose Harry knows of the phrase *Senatus Populusque Romanus*, one that has an unaccountable emotional kick for me, seeming to sum up in itself the unquestioned and rightful rule that was Rome's. " What were these demonstrations related to the draft about which you speak? " Oh, yes, statistics on childlessness of divorcing couples are about the first datum in that field. As you might guess, divorces are much less frequent where there are children; but these correlates may be double results of another cause, rather than cause and effect. (The same observation, as to causation, applies to myriad other correlations that are popularly noticed.) " (Yuk yuk. This is the sort of solidly-set page that typographer Viviantas detests. Are you reading it regardless, Helen?) " Since you've translated Faust, Harry, would you mind giving a rough rendition of a passage from Spengler which Atkinson claims is untranslatable?: "erstaunlich umfangreiches, ihm ständig präsent, Wissen"; also one of the same species from Goethe: "exakte sinnliche Phantasie". And by the way, is there any reason why Goethe couldn't be spelled Götthe? " God's discourses in Faust seem to be considerably more engaging than the sweet paste of his lectures in Paradise Lost. " "this toiling and dwelling entropy which should compel all of us to shell out for The Cause" is neat satire; but do you feel no special concern for the last descendants of Pericles? No, I'm a great sentimentalist. " I beg to report that the nearest thing to an Avon

Plaza in Seattle is Aven Crest Place, in such a location that the house number 191 is unlikely. And there are no Shakers in the phone book. Mrs Chauvenet may relax. " Fantasy is so universal in the movie cartoon field that i think we should throw it all in in a lump and seldom examine it more; even as we do with children's animal stories. Our concern is with what everyday entertainers reject--almost by definition, stef can never conquer the earth, for whatsoever does, is no longer fantasy.

I wonder if Plenum is as much a Russian word as English. I doubt that it exists in German. " Math dept at the U of W has a lot of models similar to that sketched on your cover. They're made out of plaster, with networks scratched all over them. Darnedest things; i just look at em in dumb wonder, here and there seeing a conic section that i recognize. By the way, am i correct in believing that any shape (such as a typewriter) can be expressed by an equation completely? " I don't know how Sylvia got into it, but the editorial is thought-provocative. It seems that Rothman may be exaggerating a bit. There is an occasional gleam among the newcomers, as in Elsner and Stein (the latter showing up chiefly in private letters). And Kennedy has his serious side, though the Zeitgeist forbids him to show it very often. And i think the picture of the Zeitgeist is overdrawn, even taking it as an admittedly onesided picture. Popular songs and the cinema are no more insipid than in our day, Milt, and i'm not sure what's the basis for your characterization of modern literature as dull. I strongly question "the colorlessness of modern language", and doubt that American emancipation is more slovenly than in the time of Jackson (which i consider America's most vigorous period). I would agree with the general picture to this extent: That with prosperity around us we have less of that animal sharpness that comes from a struggle for existence. But i can think of only one time when we haven't been soft-seeming in the absence of adversity--i refer to the Progressive era early this century,

CENTRALIA WASHINGTON:



when the public did all sorts of things that it didn't seem really driven to--broadening democracy, curbing business, raising the downtrodden--simply because its conscience was aroused. No, perhaps there was another similar period, of reform coincident with prosperity--the middle of the last century. But now the needs are in an area of bitterly conflicting interests, and I don't think the enemy will yield anything except under pressure of circumstances. ... Which seems to be a bit of a digression. On Rothman's point, my opinion would be that while the current manifestations of national fiber are depressing, it's doubtful that they signalize an underlying condition that would justify a hopeless outlook.

"The white space in Extension was an excellent idea, since solid pages of mathematical discussion are particularly likely to be skipped. The diagrams are well tied in with the text, and the latter is lucid almost to the point of speaking down. The first paragraph I think could be eliminated without losing anything. Let me see, I have some annotations on other particular passages: There is a fraction with rather complex numerator and denominator, isn't there, which gives pi? Then what do you mean by saying the number is not the solution to any algebraic equation? "If all the imaginable numbers can be fitted into their proper niches along this thin little line ... what are we to do with all this empty space going to waste on each side of the line?" sounds like something that pretends to be an argument for the existence of other numbers, but really would prove nothing. Isn't z an unfortunate symbol to use as on p 11, seeing as how in the Cartesian system it indicates another axis? You should have put $\sin z$ on the cover, thus using that space to utilitarian advantage. I have a notation opposite the first paragraph on p 12 that I was not clear how this was done; and a note that $x + iy = (x,0) + (0,y)$ on p 11 is difficult. "Which gets me to the back page, where the only note is opposite "so that an equation acquires a semantic meaning", "you mean a semantic reaction, don't you?" Probably a word more generally understandable would be gestalt.

Where was New York this trip? The next journal I run into is Bostonian Blitherings. And the first question is, what does "default of macVert" mean? What your vapazine? "The poems start weak as far as I'm concerned, but the last had enough intellectual content to produce a marginal mark. The theme is not new (see, for example, Singleton's reply to Poe's Sonnet to Science), but the question is unsettled, whether scientific understanding of the phenomena of nature necessarily reduces their emotional impact. "I can match your quote from Struck with one from Birkhoff: "On the metaphysical plane on which we've been considering this it sounds like a lot of nonsense, but if you have faith you will discover that nonsense can be very useful." "I am probably consuming valuable space unjustifiably to note that I don't dig "A-bar-bar-Ree-bar!"--Ree Dragonette "We have discussed uncertainty apropos temponautics, but I don't recall determinism-v-freewill's ever being batted around. Hume's remark on this is lovely, and it is amazing that two centuries after him, Life magazine still drags the old debate onto its editorial page. Damn it, sometimes I get so mad I can't see straight, at the way the Luce axis, the Reader's Digest, etc. can blandly spread to the millions untruths and doctrines that are thoroly demolished in the educated world. "I question old Dave's assertion that nothing additional could be inferred from an intelligent first cause if established. It would seem to me proper to draw therefrom a higher probability--ofcourse not a certainty--that categories natural to mind are the best analytical tools for investigating the universe--good and bad, the law of similarity, and so on; something that was never negatived till the Enlightenment in which Hume was such a shining star. "As to Dr Johnson, I differ; he seems to me to represent a very definite approach to puzzles, and to be an instructive example of prejudices often subordinating reason to themselves. "Rubinstein seems to contradict himself, saying at one point that consciousness is primarily the perception of the objective world, and then that

(or is this Korzybski?) "Consciousness arises and develops on the basis of human activity and is indissolubly bound up with the development of speech and language." What about animals? "Is there something about being a Marxist that makes the reality of universals an article of faith? Men Against Myth and Blatherings to the contrary notwithstanding, I can declare with perfect confidence that the group "dog" does not exist as a group, any more than the group "animals 1 meter long \pm 1 cm" has special existence. "I've never gotten around to reading an empirical English grammar, but I suspect that the conjunction is not one of its parts of speech. The group of words ordinarily described by this Latin loan has no recognizable common characteristic, either of meaning or rules as to usage. At any rate, I shall go on cheerfully using "like" in place of the clumsy phrase "such as". I've just looked it up and find that the Merriam brothers consider "like" as a conjunction, among other things. "Probability of manually balancing the rod absolutely zero? Oh, come now. As long as it's possible the probability can't be zero. "Methinks the Sceptics were ultraconservative in merely doubting the newspaper dateline. Most people know it's not true on morning papers. Since the meaning of "doubting themselves" is not explained, I can't criticize their conclusion, but I suspect that it was due to a verbal confusion involving that multiple-meaninged word "believe" (in). "I'd like to come to Van Vogt's defence. I've already impliedly criticized Tomorrow on the March, but I think he had some points there which are not to be dismissed so cavalierly as Seedy does them. One of vV's early points, the importance of training, seems sound. Translating that operationally, it means that training can make a much bigger difference than you'd think for. Caesar's legions was a good example, and the Wehrmacht. The next step is less well established, but proper I think: That the enormously greater effectiveness seen in the trained individual is one manifestation of a mode of functioning of the human organism, which is rarely utilized ordinarily. Yet we have all had some experience of this function, when we learn to type a word without thinking of the individual letters, when we notice extemporaneous speech being better than premeditated, when we rise to an emergency;. I think this mode of operation is the "instinct" which played an important part in the climax of Tomorrow and Tomorrow, and have an impression that something like it has appeared elsewhere in our literature. V-2's interpretation of it as thalamic flow has a phrenological clang to it; but an hypothesis that it exists, even if the exact theory be wrong, may lead to making greater use of it. No doubt Lloyd C Douglas was hitting at it obliquely in his fictionized sermons, and The Varieties of Religious Experience might throw some light on the matter. As yet no method of tapping this hypothetical mode has been discovered which is suitable to utilization by most people, and individuals who have found ways to it are prone to set out the method that worked for them personally as the sole and broad highway. But Van Vogt is our type of guy, and what suited him may have an especially good chance of suiting us. "I suppose you know what "transcendent" and "immanent" mean. An immanent God is one that has no dwelling place off in the stars or in another dimension or anywhere but in the stuff of the world; it is no more than a name for a super-universal, which would have meaning only to an anti-nominalist. A transcendent God might be figured in scientific language as one composed of the "unused lumber" in Eddington on World-Building, one displayed in some of the 240 measures of structure that are not needed in an accounting of the physical world. As opposed to an immanent, pantheistic God, however, the transcendent one may come all the way down to a bearded gent sitting up above the clouds, in concreteness. "If one could assume that the universe was made by a consciousness, "the final purpose of human existence" might mean more than the utilitarian interpretation you give it. However, the real trouble is that "purpose" has emotional connotations which survive in these religious uses of it while its rational denotations are lost.

" The dissertation on Uncertainty touches a point at which I can't go along with the pragmatic assertion that a proposition is meaningless which couldn't possibly be reduced to human observations. I think there is a real difference between activities within the area of uncertainty proceeding absolutely at random, and proceeding in response to antecedent forces (position and speed and direction) even though these forces taken together are beyond any scheme of observation that we can think of. The Heisenberg assertion that the similarity of the aggregates of sub-electronic activities to the aggregates of hilly complex macroscopic activities is merely coincidence sounds exceedingly weak. You would have a stronger case if you said the similarity was due to macroscopic activities of the second type intervening between the submicroscopic stuff and observation. " "Bliss & Knight said sinking on the coroner, lost the fought" sounds like an imitation of Ulysses.

Fan-Tods's cover intrigues. Could it be circular reasoning--or is it the circular method of physics (this is the interval that measured the stress that ... the interval)? " A longer version of the cover poem was published in an early Comet FAPazine under the name of some stf pro; I specifically remember "Through Forests of the Then." " Who was it thanked God for the Atom-Bomb? " Expound "ultimate Reality is continuous, not discontinuous" operationally. " Why the electron manages to maintain its individuality has seemed puzzling to me, too, but I suspect this results from thinking of it according to inappropriate analogies. " Van Manderpoetz seems to be saying just the opposite of the truth in "Einstein proved that energy is particular." " Isn't density mass per volume? " Can you give us some examples of O/O expressions amounting to various quantities? " I wonder what "entirely mental in their reactions to environment" means. " For the benefit of the half-hundred readers who don't remember them, the first interlineation on p 13 is from my Spoon River (crow, crow), and the second is an alteration of Sykora's prefistic challenge at the postNylon Philco. But, Norm, you should have a care about quoting passages such as that concerning Napoleon; some of our StLouis-in-1950 boys are likely to take it as an occasion to assert that Bonaparte (in common with everyone else of any attainment) was grist for Kraft-Ebbing. " The Scopes trial was the year after The Land That Time Forgot. " I dropped out of Chan's first cerebuster about the time that he supposed the formula to be true for any given N, then proceeded to show that it is true for N+1. On second thought, I guess you can do that when you've shown it true for N=1. I'm kinda dense. I actually followed the math all the way thru, but much of it was that kind of reading with the skin of the mind which keeps practically no permanent impression and certainly doesn't criticize. " The Night Land excerpt on undeserved flogging seemeth to proceed on a system of rights rather than pragmatic considerations. I don't believe in rights. " Check on a great phonetic difference to one being almost undetectable to adherent of another dialect. 'Tis probably because one gets one set of intervals embedded in his mind that we can never learn to pronounce foreign languages natively. Now, for me, short a and short e are utterly different, never to be confused; I would never lighten had so much as to sound like head. And for a long time I couldn't understand why dictionaries insisted that the a of care was a different sound from the a of cat. Even now, I can't write the shorthand abbreviation for where, "ar", without mental resistance, the vowel seeming utterly different from that of care. R and L have a special tendency to alter preceding vowels, however. " Speaking of Amaziff's concepts, I thot the argument for printing readers' concepts indiscriminately was most Amazing. It seems that when a new species of weed is discovered, no one insists that its utility be discovered before its existence is published; therefore when a new concept is discovered, it should be broadcast, regardless of its uselessness. The analogy is rather strained. " But as to notion

and concept, when Birkhoff was here I noticed that he used both words, and seemed to mean different things by them. In general I was struck by the way mathematicians use common words like "cot" and "ladder", instead of Greek roots, to express new--uh--concepts. I anticipate a day when they will speak of "baskets" and "ropes". B was lecturing mostly on group theory. The two lectures I attended, I sat back and gaped and understood about ten percent of what he said. But I enjoyed it, perhaps like human beings enjoy a concert. "The "Three slaves" you cite seem to support my approach to the "group mind". They themselves were perfectly happy after the thing had been done to them, but I'll bet nearly every reader of But Without Horns took a dim view of their condition. " Due to the need for more extended argument, the case of the people versus Stanley has been removed to Matters of Opinion. " Re Ex. B, I would be surprised to learn that Jim Blish had been a member of FAPA before the time quoted. Sorry I haven't my '42 FAs to hand to check on your final exhibit. " There must be a point to "Quotation not permitted" --The Kiplinger Washington Letter, but it eludes me, unless you're defying Kiplinger by quoting that much. " Does anybody know what that alleged statute is that makes rocket robbery a federal offence? " Ya, I saw Ripley too claiming that letters are recognized by their tops. Probably the only grain of truth in that is that they are recognized more by their tops than by their bottoms. But your illustration is good proof that we couldn't abolish the lower half without making reading difficult. " I think what Saint K was getting at in his monotonous repetitions of "rests therefore ultimately on structure" was to abolish the idea that there are entities of different kinds in the universe. Contrast the 19th-century idea of 80-odd different kinds of atoms, and the current idea, which of course is not shared by the specialists, that when you've reached the cerebrum, or at all events the individual neurones, you can't analyze any further, but must ascribe a set of characteristics to this ultimate unit and stop. I think that's what he means. Unfortunately, in his system "structure" is made to cover everything, and a word which can be applied to anything is rather superfluous. So is a concept like "Allah has willed it." I thought AK's disproof of instantaneous change of place was rather cute. For a while he almost had me believing that Slipstick Libby could discover relativity a priori. " It hadn't occurred to me, but perhaps the everybody-trying-to-save-humanity theme of Slaves of the Lamp was Campbell's rather than Zagat's. Johnny has added themes to stories before, but never on this scale. " Tut, Chan, it's not our awareness of external events which alters them on the atomic level. The machines used in our laboratories to make them susceptible of observation would affect them exactly the same way whether or not the scientist happened to be wiring them. Of course, when taking notice affects one's own actions, it goes without saying that they in turn can affect the world outside our skins. But the truism is of value; so many people at a primitive stage of thinking, having discovered that some difficulties are merely verbal and that one's powers are increased by clearing away subjective blocks, get the idea that if they just try hard enuf they can do anything, even to wishing the clouds away from around Mount Rainier yesterday. " One's reasons for wanting to live are personal, and die with the person (indeed, all reasons for value judgments may be personal), and therefore if one looks at the event objectively, it necessarily loses its coloring of injustice. Perhaps this idea that came to me may contribute something to the discussion: You're touring in a community where there are plenty of dogs; everybody who wants one can have a dog easily. Unseen by anyone else, your car accidentally kills a canine, one who belonged to no man. Do you feel sorry? If so, why? " "E = mc² does not require relativity"? You'll have to argue that with H DeWolf Smyth. Don and I asked him why c was a significant figure there, and he said that involved the theory of relativity, which

(Continued on p 14)

QUOTE-WORTHY QUOTES

Here are a lot of semantic quotes accumulated in my first year or so in college. Let's see how many I would omit if I were gathering them now:

Rather than go to the trouble of describing the characteristics one did not like in an animal or a plot of soil, one said, "It is bad." All right, a useful short cut. Then the word was made into a substantive, "badness." At this abstractive level, it became something ominous and menacing in its own right. One had better not be associated with badness. Badness was incorporated into rigid standards of judgement, especially moral judgment: "This girl is bad." The statement implies that she is wholly bad, a veritable chunk of badness.

--The Tyranny of Words

Zealots, fanatics, "confirmed Republicans", "confirmed Democrats", "uncompromising anti-Fascists", "100 per cent Americans", Carrie Nations as well as people who know that "pigs is pigs" and "relief is relief" and "criminals are yellow rats" are equally the victims of our primitive habits of mind--of objectifying their abstractions, of "knowing" therefore what things "are," ignoring the infinity of differences that exist between events.

The habit of mind of thinking about "things in themselves," therefore, has only a limited usefulness. But the habit of mind of regarding propositions (concepts) as conveniences which have structural implications, suitable for putting events in the order necessary to get work done, is useful in a far wider range of human activities--in fact, in all the sciences. The former habit of mind ends in dogma, which is the inevitable result of "knowing what things really are." Its results are disastrous, as the history of the world amply shows, since the conflict of dogmas can be resolved only by force. The latter habit of mind, which includes all the useful functions of the former but goes beyond them, leads to the possibility of progressive improvement in the structure of our "concepts"..

To restate the case as simply as possible, our primitive habits of objectification enable us to "know" what "chairs", "pigs", "banks", "relief", "insurance", "Jews", "Fascists", "humanitarians", "bureaucrats", "real liberals", "Trotskyites", etc., "really are". "Knowing them for what they really are," we act "not out of mere prejudice"; we are "simply facing the facts, which speak for themselves." This is merely another way of stating that we have achieved what the psychologist calls "complete conditioning" (or, as Korzybski calls it, "unconditionality of response"). Some of us get into a panic every time we see a snake, poisonous or harmless.

--The foregoing all sound like Chase, but I think they came from the same source as this:

The notion that science or the scientific attitude "dictates" courses of action is embarrassing enough to the scientist, but to the layman and non-scientist it can be the source of tragic error. --Public Opinion Quarterly, April '59

Name calling is a device to make us form a judgment without examining the evidence on which it should be based.... Today's bad names include: Fascist, demagogue, dictator, Red, financial oligarchy, Communist, muck-raker, alien, outside agitator, economic royalist, Utopian, rabble-rouser, trouble-maker, Tory, Constitution wrecker....

"Card Stacking" is a device in which the propagandist employs all the arts of deception to win our support for himself, his group, nation, race, policy, practice, idea, or ideal. He stacks the cards against the truth. He uses under-emphasis and over-emphasis to dodge issues and evade facts. He resorts to lies, censorship, and distortion. He omits facts. He offers false testimony. He creates a smokescreen of clamor by raising a new issue when he wants an embarrassing matter forgotten. He draws a red herring across the trail to confuse and divert those in quest of facts he does not want revealed. He makes the unreal appear real and the real appear unreal. He lets half-truth masquerade as truth.

--Propaganda Analysis, Nov '37

If we can agree--if sane men generally can agree--on a series of things in the real world that may properly be summarized by the label "communism" then the question has meaning and we can proceed intelligently to its discussion. Otherwise not. Can you and I and Jones and Finklestein come to an agreement about what is meant by "communism"? Try it sometimes with Jones and Finklestein. Yet until agreement is reached, the question can liberate plenty of emotion but little real meaning. Jones will follow his meaning and Finklestein his, and be damned to you. --Chase

You should know the source of this one if you've read your Bible (first edition):

And in the latter days Homo appeared. Now, he knew not; and Homo called the change Progress and the How he called God.... For speech was ever a comforter. And when Homo came to study the parts of speech, he wove himself a noose of words. And he hearkened to himself, and bowed his head and made abstractions, hypostatizing and glorifying. Thus arose Church and State and strife upon the Earth; for oftentimes Homo caused Hominem to die for Abstractions hypostatized and glorified: and the children did after the manner of their fathers, for so they had been taught. And last of all Homo began also to eat his words.

Next question: Why does a boomerang circle and come back?

Here are a couple of provocative quotes picked up more recently, which i don't necessarily agree with:

"It is a fallacy to look to any theory for motives. We get our motives from our spontaneity, and the business of philosophy is to show that we are not foolish for doing what we want to do." --The Holmes-Follock letters

"No one can see the lens of his own eye." --SRL 29/III/47

"Gimme a bottle of something that says 'Use only as directed'."

Handwritten notes and stamps at the bottom of the page, including "notaneT", "e-n-f-r-f-l-a-q", "this month", "x e v o s", and "On".

MAN SAGT

San Youd, aw of London, loads off:

This is White -- sorry, Whit -- Monday, and as auspicious a time as any for a good resolution. So I am carrying one in to effect by asking you if you would mind presenting my resignation from FAPA through the usual channels to the proper person.

There are a number of reasons for this. One is that there seems no reasonable possibility of financial exchange between USA and GB becoming normal within the next five years at least. Another is that I have no longer the facilities or the energy to produce a fan magazine myself and it seems rather unfair to continue relying on kind-hearted people at your end for the duplicating. Finally, of course, there is the question of the increasing dullness of FAPA mailings, when I receive them. From the time I left Austria, a year ago, until now, only one mailing has come through, and that the latest under-sized affair containing -- yourself and Milty and Sam Russell apart -- just about nothing of interest except to children.

So here ends a reasonably long but (for FAPA at least!) rather unprofitable association. I have no right to keep some keen youngster out. And anyway, the whole thing is too lop-sided towards America for it to be much use to Britons. I suppose Mike Rosenblum will stay on, but he's a completist.

Don't seem to have heard from you in a long time. For my part, I was demobilized last October, married a little before that, and in January began editing NEW FRONTIERS. It only saw two issues before getting completely messed up in publication, distribution, advertisement -- just about everything you could think of. Now, starting from June 1st, I get £250 for the next year in return for a promise to devote myself to creative writing. It's a grant from what is known as the Atlantic Awards in Literature (don't know whether the title means some philanthropist on your side is connected with it) and has no strings attached. Joyce (my wife) is looking for a job herself and when she gets one we should be able to get a flat of our own even in London where accommodation is somewhat scarce. At present we are still staying with Benson Herbert, who published N.F.

As a rather inauspicious start to creative writing I have sold a story to Wally G's FANTASY, provided we can agree on the amount he pays me for it. He tells me it's reminiscent of Sturgeon. I must read this fellow Sturgeon some time.

You may have heard indirectly that we are still continuing to survive Mr. Lucc's sentence of doom, and even enjoying ourselves in our own poverty-stricken, depressed British way. Michael Rosenblum is in town with his wife this week-end, chiefly on a bookhunt. I told him lugubricously before he arrived that there was no hope of getting any worthwhile books at a reasonable price in London. Then we ran into him while eating at the Salad Bowl in Coventry St., and he informed me placidly that he had picked up a copy of "World Below" for me -- at 1/6d.! He also discovered that a bookshop about three minutes from here, which I have passed hundreds of times, is run by S. Fowler Wright. He just has a gift.

Johnny Burke has another daughter, as you may have heard, Bill Temple and Ted Carnell also having further offspring.

20: What for our ideal of an international republic of scholars? It is not, and was not, obvious, that living under different governments makes a difference that a Britisher cannot take an obvious interest in things which are not for Americans. It is as to the other reasons alleged. Suppose that the reason for the condition of international science is unable to visit his part in an American organization is invited to ask us to do it for him. That is not such a terrible proposition; I would offer my services in that line. But Harry Barker and others stand always available for that, and if the schools are already, comparatively, little burden is imposed on them. The danger of the fallen standards of the millings is uncalculable, but it is certain that they will not be helped by people like Paul Carroll, and I have not any other names in mind.

Nothing gives our view, and our that may be indicated in France.

The funny thing is the way these cultists always claim to be ahead of the orthodox scientists -- "My new ideas are so startling that none of the scientists will recognize them." But actually the converse is true. The dilettantes (to use a kinder word than crackpot) are usually about fifty years behind modern science in basic attitudes. That is, they continue to use the idea of "ether" when that's been discarded by "orthodox" science since at least 1905. They are always talking about energy as if it were some sort of fluid permeating space, and in general they continue to use mechanical explanations (which they call common sense explanations) which have long been discarded as being too clumsy and useless by the scientists. And they always neglect the fact that for a theory to be useful you have to be able to calculate things from it. The dilettantes don't like higher mathematics very much, and try to hide their ignorance by denouncing the stuff.

Well, I was up to New York the other day, and found the remains of Futurian social life surprisingly active. In the afternoon I went up to see the editors of Astounding. Campbell was out, but Jay Stanton was there and Ramon del Rey popped in a little later, and we spent the afternoon drinking beer. (del Rey is married and living in the Bronx, incidentally.)...

So in the evening I went down to Jim Blish's place. He married Virginia Eaden recently, and living with them is Ree Dragonette. It seems that a party was in progress over at Judy Ziseman's place, so we went over there and it was like old home week, with Lowndes, Damon Knight, and couple other characters cluttering up the joint.... Also there was a person named Paul Class, better known as William Tenn. Somewhere along the line Stanton materialized, and proceeded to do a guitar-banjo duet with Sturgeon. Stanton is an expert picker of the banjo, but Sturgeon is strictly from ham....

23: That so much crackpottism is based on ignorance I regard as a hopeful thing. Because if effective components were the entire explanation, little salvaging would be possible. But if part of the reason that people act dumb is that they've never read certain types of textbooks, have never attended particular sorts of meetings nor met some types of people, don't realize that their bright new concepts have been thoroughly examined and discarded for clear and convincing, but to them unseen, reasons, have never visited important industrial establishments, cities, or sections, have seen no realistic portrayals of foreign ways of life, then the increasing sophistication which seems to be in the cards, haphazard though it be, should do much to improve our intellectual tone and our chances for survival.

For the sake of consistency...

Regarding PAPA: I'm seriously thinking of joining, as that's about the only place nowadays in fandom that there is any good stimulating discussion going on. How long is the waiting list, & to whom do I apply?? A lot of the stuff would no doubt be too deep for me (those pages & pages of math in fan-tods, f'rinstance) but I think I'd enjoy it. At least I could sound off all I wanted to about social and economic stuff without any subscribers to holler. ...

The Mopsy on Animism was certainly most interesting. The inconsistency seems to me to be in Madole's reconciliation of "free enterprise" with his announced ideal of running things like a cosmic machine (or something). There seem to be quite pronounced traces of Deglerism. Regardless of how well intentioned the aims of the present officers of the movement are, it is apparent that that type of system when installed would almost certainly mean absolute fascism, containing as it does the union of free enterprise and absolute political control. You certainly aren't going to have scientific control under an unlimited freeenterprise setup -- which means that either that the "experts" are just "front men" with real power behind the scenes, or that the "experts" are appointed by the Big Boys. (As you so aptly mentioned AMA, NAM, etc.) ...

SusPro was of course quite interesting, tho you'll have to explain the Dewey 50¢ piece to me. Does it stem from a joke I missed, or is it just your weird way of expressing changrin at possible Republican victory in '48??

By: As soon as the "control" issue came out, it seemed to me that many folks might resent it as perpetuating the memory of certain political ideas that they disliked; and I think too how unlikely it would have been for such a thing to be approved a few months later by the Congress that renamed Boulder. Was there a chance in my present pointless parades of saving all color of the issue back that year that by hands, I noticed that all but the wild-holler and holler are not in the presidential service, and thinking that Dewey will be our next president, I took the unlikely-ventuality of the GUP taking change flowers to me living to see his re-election in 1952, as a chance of making the vertical distance between me and DR. You are forbidden to take that any way other than it is intended.

"I saw a Vicon the other night over Green Lake." --Lockman

Continuing, and I hope concluding, my mailing comments from p 9:

he wasn't disposed to go into on that occasion. " The editor of Husbandry has confessed to me that he has no definite idea of how to switch the world onto another timetrack. Up to now, his efforts that I've seen have been directed mainly toward remolding the world nearer to his heart's desire. But perhaps a by-product will be to jump the developing edge of things into the modern age without those twin flowers of nationalism and a certain interpretation of individualism, so lovely in their inception, which now give off a deadly poison we are dying of. " Why, Chan, you know I commented on your stories immediately in letters to you; and I have a horror of repetitions. " I should say that we have now the required unanimity of purpose to "solve ... problems in an engineering spirit", since we are fairly well united in desiring to live. But we are still blocked by the predilections carried over from our less serious conflicts on such matters as making a living and achieving power. " There are other difficulties in applying your translation of
(Sorry, folks; mush on to p 15)

ITEMS FROM MY SCRAPBOOKS

Haven't a lot of steinal junk accumulated this quarter, so maybe I can save some space on this page for fillers..

The May 47 issue of Columns, W humor-and-light-fiction magazine, has The Tale of Eustance 36.61/43.5. "The little hormone started zipping through Eustance's blood and from that day the world was doomed."

Lichty is still in there grinning and bearing it. This time it's a passenger on the Cosmic Research Expedition Space Ship No. 3, Mars or Bust, speaking to his wife at the takeoff: "This trip is mainly in the interests of science, dear!... The fact that your mother is visiting us, is secondary."

Here's something torn out of a magazine that had a cover by John W Krupa. The rag's name is The Grail, and in a fragment of the editorial section that I can't find at the moment, the editor complains that too many people who are supposedly good Catholics are thinking for themselves instead of relying on the wisdom of the Church, which is much safer. Anyway, here's the section that justifies mention in SusPro: "The repetition in four Hungarian towns this year of what is doubtless the worst crime after Judas's betrayal of our Master is most frightening. Some ten years ago the Holy See found it necessary to make very definite regulations for priests about the custody of the tabernacle keys. Tabernacles were being broken open not that the sacred vessels could be stolen, for they were being left intact. But the Consecrated Hosts were disappearing and were being used in diabolical worship. ² This is what is being reported in some towns of Europe today...." Follows a condensation of a Golden Bough description of the Black Mass. The editorial goes on to report that a year ago in Yugoslavia mass possession was rampant--one doctor reported four hundred cases, in which the afflicted walked on all fours and barked like dogs. "Have we come to a day when the devils have been released to torture sinful man?"

Are you agnostic about leprocheums?

Conclusion of mailing reviews from pp 9 and 14:

"All generalizations are false". Does "assume" imply absolute certainty, or merely a degree of probability sufficient for sensible people to act upon? If the latter, I am afraid that we will go on assuming that our conceptual structures will correspond exactly to observed structure. " You have a point for economic selfsufficiency. But would synthetic rubber plants here owned by our fifty families make you and me less liable to exploitation because the British-Dutch monopoly was foiled? " I am afraid that our conclusions that given statements are sense-free are based upon our mechanistic metaphysic. If one believed that good and evil, truth and beauty, were real and ascertainable qualities apart from the perceiver, the proposition that a beautiful world is no less irrational than an ugly one, would have meaning. " Somebody send Chan a copy of the first Fantasy Critic. That's true about Campbell and the other big names, Seedy. Oh, shucks, I mean NFS. " Hah! Fulton Lewis accusing the UP of slanting left of center is like Southern reactionaries speaking of "radicals like Bob Taft". Where one draws the center line doubtless depends a lot on his own beliefs, but my impression is that the term "center" is not as constantly shifting as the balance of power in our governments. " I could carry the discussion of "novelty" in metaphysics further, but have forgotten to what practical end we were employing the word "novelty"; and without a practical aim in view abstract discussions eventually become mere verbalization (vulgarly, hot air). " "Cerebrotonic"., were introduced to Americans by Huxley in Harpers some three years ago; he distinguishes types whose hearts are in their heads, their muscles, and their stomachs, and correlates them with physical types. " Turisnot?

REJECTED!--VAMPIRE

This really was rejected, folks, though it's a letter, because despite the opening request it didn't appear in Vamp along with other parts of the same letter commenting on Vamp. I'll try to delete most of this as i go along:

I hope that you'll make space in Vampire or somewhere for comments on Fantasy Review, because some of the remarks i want to make i'd like to see published. ...

Looking at the contents page, it occurs to me that you might well have written up polls and the major conventions in separate departments instead of throwing them into the year's events. ...

You don't credit anyone else for Fantasy in the Books on the contents page, but an awful lot of the report sounds very much like Searles's style--and opinions. " A third reason for the expanded book market might be improvement in public taste, such that many demand better fiction than most mags supply. Improvement does happen, you know; i recently got a #1 Science Wonder, and the modern age would never stomach it, not even our dyed-in-the-wool pulpists. ...

You sabotaged my paragraphing, you scoundrel, and i hope not many people were made unhappy by the deletion of the more favorable portions of a couple of FAPazine reviews. ...

I frequently wonder about the British and Canadian reprints, whether they pay anything for the privilege of reprinting. ...

Dunkelberger's NFF writeup is not so badly biased as to call for the separate writeup from the other side which i suggested. Nevertheless there are numerous implied and express errors in it. " Attributing the "darker side" of the club's past year to postwar reaction is hogwash. Evans and Dunk talk as if the NFFF had had a period of real prosperity. It never has; it's always been like this. " The designation of the Bill Evans prozine index as The Great Bibliography is inaccurate and likely to lead to confusion. A bibliography is a book-list, and the phrase "The Great Bib" was coined by Boucher to refer to a complete index of fantasy in book form. " The matter of the Welcom booklet has been hashed over in board correspondence; suffice to say that the intended implication here is as misleading as that in the next statement. " What he neglects to say about the Pacificon move for the directorate to formulate a program for the rest of the year--and it is possible that he never did understand this from Tripoli's letter /D's departing bleat in TNFF indicates that he did/--is that the placing of this responsibility on the board was conditioned on Dunk's agreeing to stand aside as active president, which the Pacificon called upon him to do. When he failed to respond to this in any way, there was no occasion for the board to try to take the helm in spite of him.

bobbie drew his deadly slide rule and aimed it at the onrushing cosmogonist.

Might as well show what the deleted compliments were. Of The Unspeakable Thing i had said, "featured two typewriter faces and ruled lines all handled according to the artistic canons of printers to produce a pleasing page; it received Japanese artwork, libidinous material, and learned comments on fanzines in and out of FAPA, from editor Crane in Nippon (both of these recruits from the ayjay field rather than fantasy fandom)." And, "Among Timebinder's credit-side items was a long letter from the late Russell Chauvenet (Winter mailing). It demonstrated the fallacy of some religious arguments so clearly that even Evans was stopped; but went on to tell how LRC had adopted Nock's theory that mankind is divided into humans and anthropoids who cannot be judged by the same standards--distinction which his colleagues on the Brain Trust concluded was little more than an attitude and hardly basic."

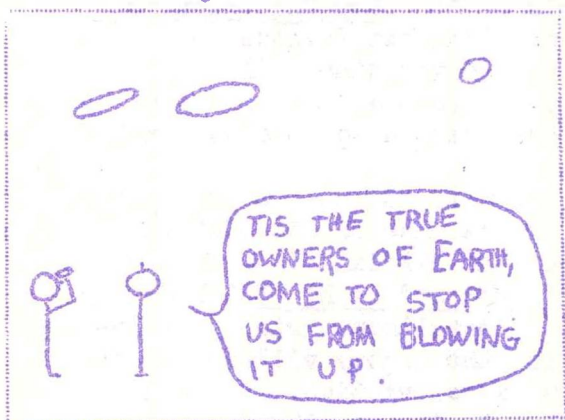
KEEPING UP WITH CAMPBELL

The June 47 ESF has a very good cover. Centaurus II 45.2 is at a disadvantage because nearly everything in it was anticipated by Universe. It is a good reworking of the material, however, and gives a convincing picture of the inability of one generation to hold the loyalty of another as yet unborn and to be beyond its control. Some interesting questions are raised, too, as to how good an environment a person "deserves" to be born in.... Letter to Ellen 34.8 interested for its use of Brain-Trust topics. The intended surprises in it fell rather flat, despite what seemed to me on first reading--i forget the details now--an attempt to mislead us as to the narrator's age. I remember being somewhat confused too about where Ellen came in and what the time of writing was. Heck, i should extend the device i've used on a few stories, of jotting down my comments at the end right in the magazine.... As to The Model Shop 63.-36.12, methinks the "right component for the job" idea is applied to the wrong situation, because in Chris's case the most important thing wasn't to get any particular result accomplished, but to inject one little adventurous episode into his life--an adventure that

would mean far more to him than to the romantic Kennedy.... Errand Boy 63. struck me as rather slight. The boy's peculiar ideas of our time are the best stuff in the story. I wonder if you fellows with card files will show this as belonging to the same series as Child's Play. For the future world referred to is obviously the same.

With July 47 we may make remarks on Fury (add 34.5) as a whole. It seemed to me that Kuttner muffed nearly all his best chances. The few detailed scenes of the conquest of the surface were excellent,

but they were nearly lost in the wordage devoted to the Harker intrigues. In describing the decay in man of the Keeps he might have turned out observations as pointed as Heinlein's in Methuselah's Children--or he might have taken the opposite view that man is so adaptable that he could find a permanent way of life in an unterrestrial environment. He hardly discussed the matter. The character of Ben Crowell might have been a living link with our time thru whom we could see the story; he is minimized. And what turned out to be the main theme, that men like Sam Harker are needed in critical times, seems very weak to me--particularly in the form it took, that next time a crisis came around, the thing to do would be to wake Sam. I grant that men of supernatural drive are needed at crises (and the times do not always produce them; France needed a hero and all it got was DeGaulle), but not necessarily combined with supernatural selfishness. One time the man demanded may be an altruist of impeccable character--Washington--or one who combines brilliant grasp of essentials with a sure understanding of the common people--Lincoln. In either situation Harker would be a disaster like Napoleon. "I also want to quarrel with the temporal theory embodied in Ben Crowell. If the future is so firmly fixed that it can be accurately foreseen without knowledge of every detail in the current situation, it must be because history is governed by mass forces (as in Spengler) which the individual "free will" could not change. And therefore it would be doubly impossible to change the future by the push of a finger, as Crowell claimed to do.... With Folded Hands 36.13-44.9 was overdrawn. The same point could have been made, with more relevance for the present day, without going to the extreme of requiring robots to open doors for you. I would like to add



that I disliked the anti-scientific attitude expressed by Williamson, particularly the swipe at General Semantics. Science and the scientific method are not alone a sufficient standard to live by, but they should never be overruled by anything else, faith or sentiment or whatnot. If some people lose sight of the purposes for which we do things and worship efficiency, that is no fault of science, but of ethics. " For robots directly hooked into a central brain which approached omniscience, it seemed to me that the humanoids were improbably blind to what was going on in Underhill's mind and manifested by his conduct. " I wonder too just what the nature of the Prime Directive was. If it was merely a verbal formulation, all sorts of difficulties are introduced which machines, lacking judgment, would be unable to resolve. What is "harm"? Why should this part of the Directive be given precedence over "To serve and obey"? Is the precedence absolute, or a matter of degree (human example: You prefer health to wealth, but you would not sacrifice all wealth for a bare chance of making a slight improvement in your health)?... Logic 34.4-42.1 is a nice exemplification of some aspects of the null-A system. I don't know yet whether I like Timmins's interior style, but it's a worthy experiment. And his egoism appears undimmed.... Silver's second puzzle in Brass Tacks sounds like a calculus problem in which 12 o'clock is a limit never reached. Shades of Achilles and the tortoise! " Obey That Impulse! SOAP suggests that Campbell goes too far in accommodating his friends. Or maybe he actually wanted something light to pep up the magazine. " The Story of Modulation (81.3 or 81.6, SDR?) held my interest as far as I went, but I got into trouble on pp 93 and 94, and as there seemed to be shoals ahead I got out.

In the August issue, I naturally took special interest in Indifference --Cosmic Scale 45.7A, but I think that here, as in the case of his editorial on galactic government, Campbell virtually ignores the likelihood of future improvements in organization and correlation. " The End Is Not Yet had better remain unclassified for the moment. The first installment grips your interest, and you get some satisfaction out of seeing the mighty villains of our day damned. Yet I'm afraid the picture is lacking in conviction. There is no reason to believe that Luce and his friends want to destroy the United States --they only act as if they did--and I have seen no signs of an attempt to corral or kill all scientists. A personal devil is always a dangerous myth, because the people will be less likely to recognize the real devil. " The "No-actual-persons" clause is once again openly flaunted, as Elron all but names Haushofer. " Some of Astounding's worst proofreading seems to have gone into the setting of this story, which is especially unfortunate for the heightened style in which Hubbard opens his story. Many are likely to smile at it. " And I wonder why he chose a name as charged with associations as Charles Martol.... Insomnia, Inc. 34 supplies some arguments for the immediate discharge of Pat Davis. As for the story, it failed to surprise. Nothing much can be said about its theory on sleep, without knowing the constituents of the antisleep treatment.... The Person from Porlock 44.3/94 reminds me of SDRussell's article on Bradbury's weirdies in which delusions turn out to be the truth. I wonder that Amazing Stories hasn't published several like this; it would be right down their alley. " The reasoning of Stone is hilly suspect; he not only ignores the probability of many negative instances occurring (other defectively lettered numerals at less vital points), but also adopts the theory, which I continue to disbelieve, that the chances against any particular thing's having occurred at random, are also the chances that it's the result of conscious intervention.... I note that in In Times to Come the magazine is called Science Fiction in the first paragraph and Astounding Science Fiction in the fourth. And the spine still carries a hyphen.... What are the recent reports from Japan, referred to by McIntyre in Brass Tacks, that have a Tomorrow's Children flavor?

