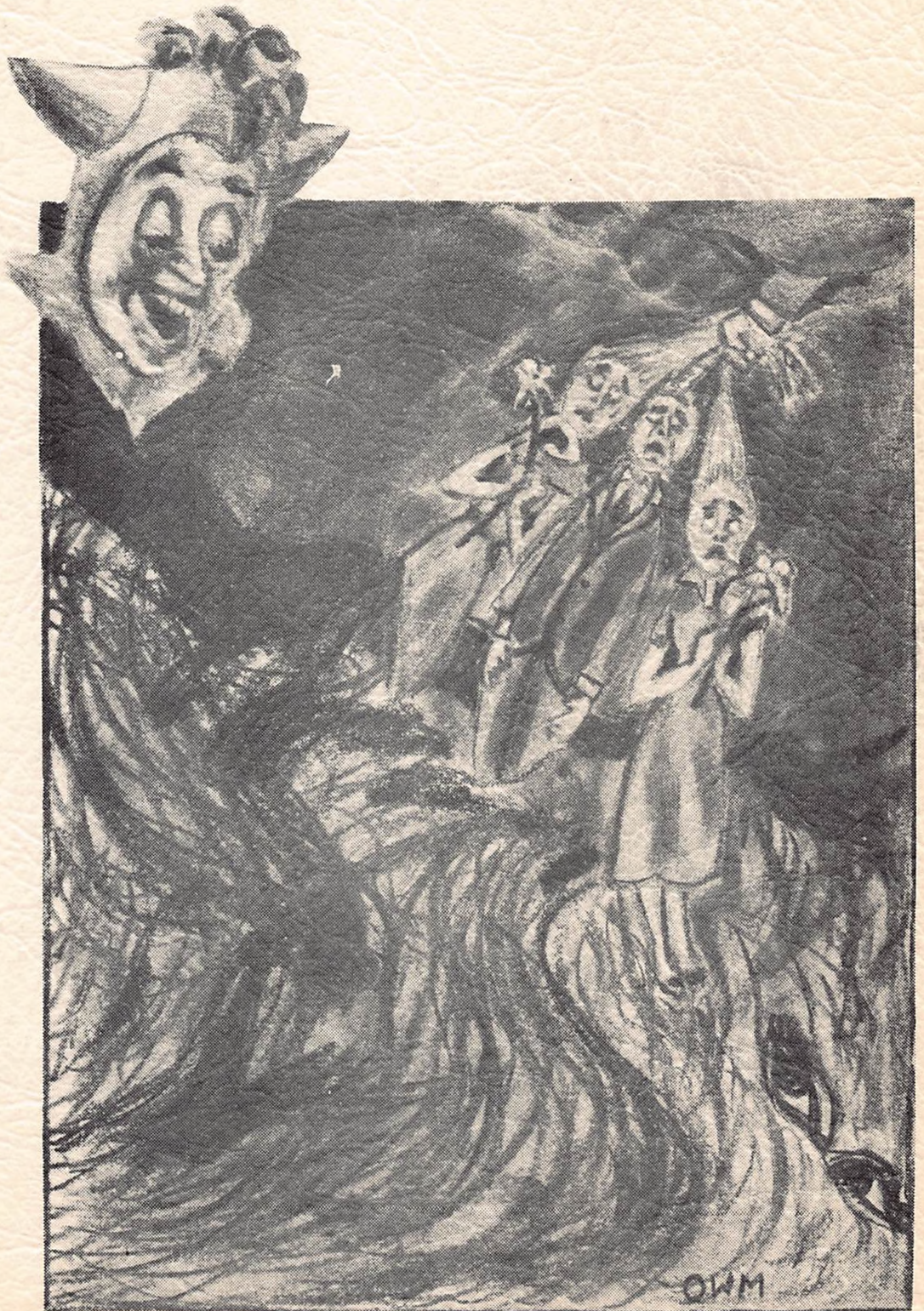


VANATIONS

S
E
P
T
-
1
9
5
2



IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

PAGE	AUTHOR	ITEM	TYPE
2, 3, 4	Norman G. Browne	Editorial	Filler
5	Dick Clarkson	To crud or Not to Crud	Humor
6	Alastair Cameron	Addendum; Censorship	Serious
7	Alastair Cameron	Fantastology	Serious
8,9	Carr, Browne	Borothy Bix	Humor
10	The Reader	Statistics	Filler
11	The reader	Comments	Filler
12	Tod Cavanaugh	The Question	Humor
13	Norman G. Browne	Telepath	Poem
14		Story Construction	Filler
15		What Censor Missed	Humor
16, 17	Anonymous	Decline of Fantopia	??????
18, 19	L. L. Layton	Communications	Serious
20	Ronald Van Veldt	Yesterday & Tomorrow	Poem
21		Left Overs	Misc.
22, 23		Letters	Misc.
24	ANNOUNCING THE FIRST VARIATIONS SERIOUS ARTICLE CONTEST		

Editor and Publisher: Norman G. Browne
 13906 - 101A Ave.,
 Edmonton, Alta., Canada.

This fanzine will continue to be sold according to the PAR system as outlined on page 23 of the first issue. If you have all ready acknowledged receipt of this fanzine, then your name is on my permanent mailing list. If you have not, then I advise you to do so if you want to continue receiving it. One of the easiest ways to acknowledge receipt is to fill in the enclosed questionnaire and return it to this magazine.

Interior illustrations by Gordon Hunter

Cover by Orville W. Mosher.

For a period of seven days before and after the Chicon II, I will be on the road and in no position to answer any mail. Please be patient about receiving replies. For a period of four days during the Chicon II I will be found in the vicinity of the con hotel bar or in any one of a number of smoke-filled rooms in the con hotel.

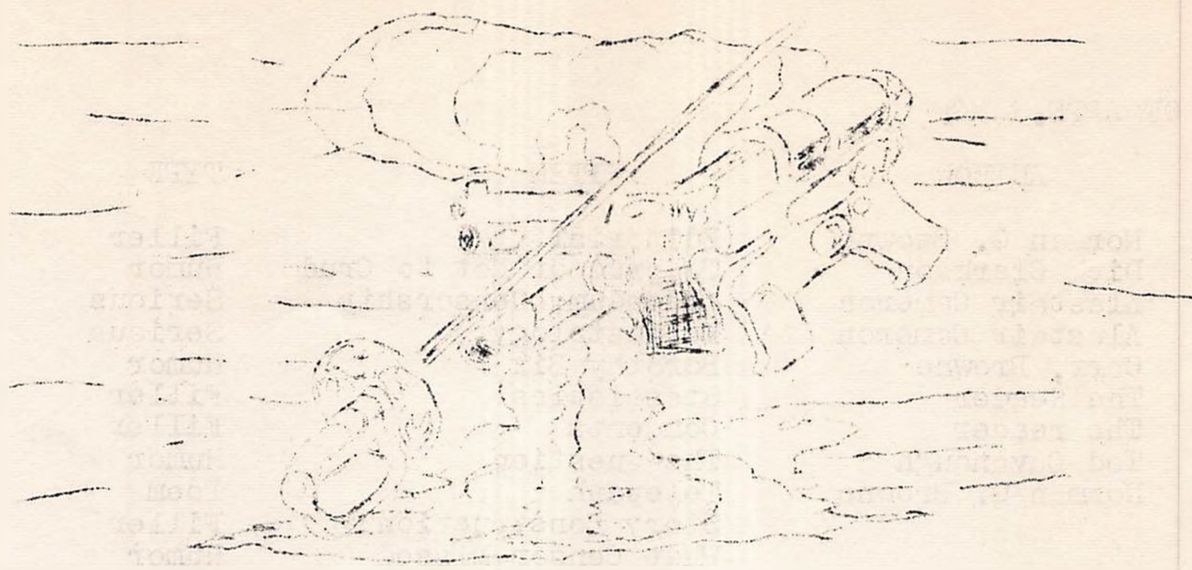
This fanzine is a member of Fan Variety Enterprises

This fanzine is issued approx. bi-monthly.

Contributors may receive up to as high as five issues in which their material appears and a life time subscription to all future issues. Contributors may also receive a certain amount of free advertising in this fanzine. Payment of any sort will depend upon the quality and quantity of material submitted.

This is an anniversary issue. ~~MM~~ August 30th, 1952 will mark the first anniversary of my entrance into fandom.

IT IS A PROUD AND LONELY THING TO BE A FAN.



POLICY: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

During each instant of time, new data is received by our senses, and integrated by our conscious and sub-conscious minds. Thus we are at present more intelligent, have more knowledge, and are less naive than we were during the previous second. Of course, this continuous maturity from second to second is imperceptible; but it adds up. Also the rate of such maturity depends upon the age, temperament and environment of the individual.

The planning for the first issue of VANATIONS covered a period of four months. The actual construction and work was done over a period of another three months. Sometime during that period I formulated the policy of the first issue."

My basis for the formulation of the policy of Vn. #1 revolved around various observations made during that period of time. It seemed to me, that understand the majority of fanzines, the casual reader must have read any number of back issues, know the personalities around which the stories are being written, know the personalities behind the the writers of the stories, and to a considerable extent know much about the class of people to whom the magazines are being sent. I likened it to a highly exclusive group. A highly exclusive group of which the reader must have much knowledge and experience in dealing with before he can become an accepted member and understand the inner meanings and thoughts behind the material in the fanzine.

With this view in mind, I formulated a policy of the exact opposite for Vn. #1. I formulated a policy for a fanzine that I would like to read; that I would enjoy reading; that I could understand.

Meanwhile, time passed; and as time passed I received, integrated, and stored new data. My knowledge of fandom became considerably more complete; my experience became more comprehensive; my understanding became broader. Thus, while my policy for Vn. #1 remained static, my opinions changed so considerably that I now regard it in much the same light as do many of you.

As I explained to Bill Venable recently; the policy of this and future issues would depend for a major extent upon: (a) The reaction to the first issue as determined by the answers on the questionnaires received; (b) The type of material I receive; (c) The mood I am in when I set up an issue. The policy of complete and utter generalness will be toned down considerably, but not to the point of complete and utter personalism which I tried originally to get away from.

THE
STORY
BEHIND
THE
STORY

AN

EDITORIAL

ANALYSIS OF VARIATIONS NUMBER ONE

THE COVER - Frank Stephens is a professional photographer, and while visiting his house one day he showed me a picture he had taken of the model spaceship that rests upon a pedestal atop one of the administration buildings at the Vancouver Airport. Some time later I conceived the idea of him taking a typical shot of Vancouver and superimposing on it the picture of the rocket. The actual printing of the cover was done by the extension dept. of the University of British Columbia. All I did was rough out the format, pick the ripple-tone cover stock and lend them the negative. The inside poem was written with no connection in mind and originally titled "Mirage". I saw a very noticeable tie-up between the poem and the cover and used it in that connection.

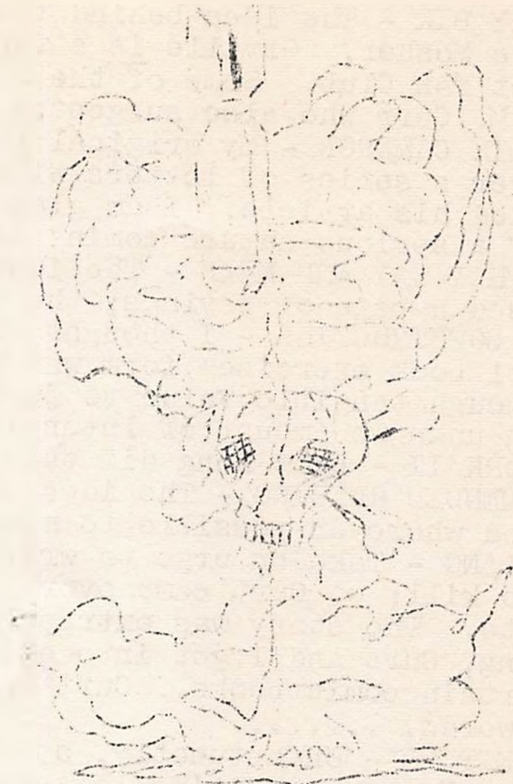
JIM WILLS - At a club meeting held in my home, Jim sneaked away for a few moments and rattled off two of the pieces that were in Vn. #1. They were not written with the intention of going into Vn. but I rather think he wrote them as an excuse to try out my typewriter. After the club meeting was over, I was cleaning up and started to throw "Inane Babbings" in the wastebasket and the usual work of an amateur on a foreign typewriter. Fortunately, I noticed they were not the usual typing exercise and decided to read them. It took me two weeks to stop laughing.

WHAT THE CENSOR MISSED - Usually I read a stf story as a complete whole and not sentence by sentence. But either the cumulative effect or an overdose of sex in one story caused me to notice a particular sentence. I later read it off to Curt Lang and laughingly said; "What the censor missed...." Some men like money, and some want power, and others bring out fanzines.

POEMS - TERRY BARKER - These were contributed by mail by a small town school teacher and I lack first hand information on their origin. But in a letter accompanying them, Terry told me to get after Bill Gallienne to do some artwork for me. I did. The result was page 21.

REJECTED MANUSCRIPTS - I thought this a very original and novel idea. But the amusing thing is the fact that all the manuscripts I rejected were my own! I had originally written them over a year ago at which time I was nothing but a rank neophan. I had matured so considerably since I wrote them that I could view them objectively and reject them just as objectively.

ART WORK I - Vic Miller was given a multilith plate and a special pencil and asked for a page of artwork. I just published it as I recieved it; and had no control or say in the resulting piece of work.



ROTHY BIX - The idea behind this resulted through corespondence with Orville Mosher. Orville is a fan counselor and presently head of Project Fan Club. Some of the material was written by myself and some by G. M. Carr who also suggested the final form of the name.

ALASTAIR CAMERON - My original limit to material was 1,000 words. But over a series of letters with him my viewpoint changed and I accepted his article. I am glad I did. And I am glad to see more material of a serious nature coming in.

WHAT THEY SAY AND MEAN - The idea came to me one day so I sat down and composed a page of sayings; the final form of which I published.

STORY CONSTRUCTION - I thought the idea of presenting plots in a "School book exercise" form was novel. In my opinion, the material had enough tangible value to justify its publication. Besides this it had an unknown amount of intangible value.

ART WORK II - Curt Lang did this in a manner similar to ART WORK I

RECOMMENDED READING - The idea and construction was quite simple, and I tried wherever possible to make the couplets echo my own opinions.

CURT LANG - Take an urge to write, a lack of a typewriter, and an evening to kill; so Curt came over to my place and that piece was one of the results. The story was extrapolated on fact. At a previous club meeting, Curt and I got into quite an argument over the relative merits of certain comic books. Curt has taken fencing lessons and I own two swords.....

FAN LETTERS - Unfortunately, space did not permit me to develop that idea fully. I regard writing letters as a science and plan someday to write a series of articles dealing with the portions of letters.

FANZINE REVIEW - The reason I didn't include any addresses in this column was because none of the fanzines existed. It was more of a test to find out if any of you readers had sufficient knowledge of fandom to realize that they were hypothetical. Hereafter I'll make a special column for fanzines that don't exist but could or should. All ideas are welcome.

CRUD - This was donated upon request and more material will be published in future issues. The name Graham Stone is a pen-name and has since been changed so as not to clash with a prominent Australian fan of the same name. By-the-way, he is using his new pen-name in an article in this issue. Can you pick it out?

IF THE MAILMAN - This was also donated upon request and served as a filler in lieu of anything else. The book mentioned at the bottom of the page doesn't exist; although it could.

ARTWORK III - I presented Bill Gallienne with two multilith plates and a grease pencil. He threw away the pencils and tried ink. The ink ran on the plates so he threw them away. Being a commercial artist and draftsman, he was able to obtain the right type of plate to take ink, and at three in the morning he finished the job. Page 21 was the result.

THE BIG IDEA - I thought it was, but evidently very few other fans agreed with me. Oh, well.

PAR - Unfortunately, nothing of note stands out in my mind about the development of this idea. I am, though, quite proud of it. And it's a good way of finding out if fans are as lazy as everyone claims they are.

Norman G. Browne

"My ambition in life is to see a pregnant woman in a bathing suit."

- Curt Lang

TO CRUD OR NOT TO CRUD

by Prof. R. W. Clarkson, Ph.D., Ph.A.N.

It seems that my eminent colleague, the venerable Prof. G. Stone, in his extremely learned dissertation upon his non-conventional theme as to the question of the origin of the present addiction of fandom to the word "crud" has failed slightly as far as the first appearances of said word are concerned. The three schools of thought presented by this undoubtedly erudite and scholarly gentleman are merely the more modern trends. The truth lies in the fact that the ancient Greek culture originated this semantic form in their verb cruddoni ---- which, in its principal parts, takes the forms: cruddo (trans: I crud), cruddoni (trans: to crud), crudedoni (trans: I shall crud), and crudphagon (trans: I have crudded). However, the Romans arrived and conquered Greece just as this word was gaining prominence in the language.

The Romans, of course, immediately realized what wonderful properties this word possessed, and appropriated it for their own almost overnight. The Latin form began, naturally, crudo (trans: I crud) crudere (trans: to crud), crudivi (trans: I have crudded), and cruditus esse (trans: to have been crudded).

This verb has been confused quite frequently with credo, credere, etc. - the Latin verb "to believe" - by even the most eminent scholars, while translating newfound manuscripts excavated from ancient Roman ruins. Many times, as a result of these two verbs' amazing similarity to each other, crudo has been mistaken for credo, and therefor the whole sentence has become nothing more than nonsense. Thus its apparent non-existence. The translators, believing the verbs both to be credo, never accepted the existence of the other, even though the meanings of the Latin sentences were to suffer as a result.

But here, it seems that a few - or at least one - comparisons and examples are in order. For instance: on one historic occasion, Cato and Virgil were discussing the works of a recent popular author - Michaelus Spillanus by name - and, during the talk, Virgil tried to press the point that the man was an idiot. His remarks have been translated as, "I have never seen such terrible writing --- it is unbelievable!" That "unbelievable", however, was not the verb that it was translated as. Although translated credo, it was, in actuality, crudo. Thus, the actual remark made, very freely translated, was, "This writing is not only terrible, but it is pure, unadulterated crud!"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

"If you can't make an issue out of my material, send it to Dr. J. J. McCann; I'm sure he could....."

- Contributor.

ADDENDUM: FANTASY CENSORSHIP IN CANADA

Alastair Cameron

Since I wrote the above article for VANATIONS, there have been a number of developments concerning fantasy censorship. In early May one of the Members of Parliament asked the Minister of National Revenue to table in the House of Commons the list of publications which were barred entry into Canada. This was done on May 12, and I heard about it on May 16 through a news item on the radio. I immediately wrote to the department of National Revenue to ask for a copy of this, which I assumed they were now ready to make public. I received in reply a letter from W.B. Stuart informing me that the list was available only through J. E. Williams, Chief of Parliamentary Papers, Room 167, House of Commons, Ottawa. In reply to my inquiry, Mr. Williams told me that the list could be seen if I wished to call at his office in person, but that I could not get a copy made of it, as his staff was insufficient for such work. I wrote back to ask him if it was possible to get a photostatic or microfilm made of it, and also asking him if the items listed in the VANATIONS article were still on the list. To this letter Mr. Williams has not replied.

However, on June 7, Mr. Stuart replied to the last letter and informed me that of the items in question the following were still banned; DOCTOR INFOLDE, by Tiffany Thayer; HEAVENLY DISCOURSE, by C. E. S. Wood; and TEST TUBE BABY, by Sam Fuller. In my article I expressed the opinion that there were no valid grounds for banning the first two, and that I could not judge the third because I had not read it. Here I rest the case against the Department of National Revenue. I would suggest that Ottawa readers might make a trip to Mr. Williams' office and see if any fantasies have been added to the list since 1946.

Corrigendum to the previous article: In the discussion of DOCTOR ARNOLDE, one sentence should read: Its immorality is much less than that of almost any book you can buy in a modern bookstore.

-- co(oo --

FANTASTOLOGY

Alastair Cameron

In the last issue of VANATIONS, Norman Browne conferred on me the degree of Doctor of Fantastology (how does one abbreviate that, Norm: D.F., D.Fs., or D.Fant.?). The degree originates with him, but the name originates with me, so perhaps this is an opportune occasion to explain what it means.

Etymologically speaking, the word is derived from the Latin "fantasticus," meaning "imaginary," plus the combining form "-ology," meaning "a science or branch of knowledge." Hence fantastology is the "science" of fantasy (more properly, fantasy arranged to form an organized branch of knowledge).

Fantastology lives up to its name at present in the sense that as an organized branch of learning it is still mostly imaginary. I felt that it was worth while to coin the word, however, since my principal interest in fantasy lies in the analysis of its constituent elements. The sum total of these and all similiar efforts will eventually fill out the field of fantastology, and perhaps one of the best ways to interest other people in any subject is to name it.

An indispensable start in the right direction has been made through the compilation of fantasy classification systems. These attempt to list the important fantastic elements, which enter into stories in the genre, in some sort of logical framework. Such systems have been formulated by Jack Spicer, Samuel D. Russell, A. Langley Searles, Everett F. Bleiler, and recently by myself. There may also be other systems that have not come to my attention. With such a system available it becomes possible to study individual fantastic elements in a unified and comprehensive manner.

Fantastology must treat fantastic ideas as pure concepts: in this respect it is the antithesis of a fantastic story, in which an author seeks to build a plot and a series of characterizations around some aspect of the fantastic idea. The key word in the development of fantastology, as in mathematics, should be "generalize!" Let us see what this would lead to in one example of a traditional weird concept: lycanthropy. In this case one must ask the question, "what are the most general properties of the werewolf transformation, and are such properties susceptible to extension?" The most obvious property is the physical change of human to wolf; this should be recognized as one branch of a general transformation of one entity into another. It is seldom that one reads of were-cats, were-frogs, were-bees, were-snails, and other were-transformations that readily come to mind when the broader point of view is adopted. I am sure that the field of fantasy would be much richer if the authors would let the poor wolf alone for a while and try some of the alternative were-forms. The fantastologist, proceeding in his orderly fashion, would list all the major classes of life to which such a transformation might take place, and he would then proceed to deduce the limitations and opportunities which would be presented to a human personality in each form class. Undoubtedly there are other properties of the transformation which can receive similiar treatment.

There are a tremendous number of fantastic elements which can be analysed and extended in this manner. I will list a few of them briefly; What are the logical developments which could arise if history had taken a different course at various points in the past? What kinds of planetary environments are likely to arise in systems surrounding stars of various intrinsic luminosities and spectral classes? How would a galactic library handle, classify, and make readily available all the vast quantities of printed material it would receive? What legal problems would arise in a society of telepaths? I could go on for pages, but that should give some idea of the enormous diversity of topics which lie within the jurisdiction of fantastology. Each of these problems would ~~require~~ require a great deal of research, and I hope that someday that research can be carried out. Fantastic stories can only answer minor aspects of these questions; I believe that an intensive study of all aspects of questions like these would make valuable additions to man's totality of knowledge.

It should be noted that it will require a large number of people with a wide distribution of specialized knowledge to do the various types of research which can be carried out in this field. This really stems from the fact that any human activity has imaginative extensions

BOROTHY BIX - FAN COUNSELOR

Dear Borothy;

I am the program director for a stf club. My chief trouble is in trving to get a discussion going amonst the members. What should I do?

WORRIED

Dear WORRIED:

I suggest that durin a lapse in conversation at a club meeting, you come out with the statement that you hate Fogo.

Dear Borothy;

I have decided to publish a fanzine. It will be one of the leaders in the field; no articles, no stories except maybe an exceptional one. Photo-offset, too. I will need a partner to put up the money and do the work, though. Do you think I should ask somebody like Bob Tucker to drop his fanzine and come in with me?

HOPEFULL

Dear HOPEFULL:

I am sure any well established fan would be delighted to drop his own fanzine and come in with you. However, in order to make sure that your proposal will meet the success it deserves, I would suggest you take some preliminare measuros first. The one I would suggest would be to fill a bucket with water and immerse your head in the water completely three times; taking care on to remove it twice.

Dear Borothy;

My husband was badly mauled during an argument that broke out at a recent club meeting. He was program director and to start a dis- cussion going, he said he hated Fogo. Can I get compensation?

WORRIED'S WIFE

Dear WORRIED'S WIFE:

I suggest you forget the whole thing. Anybody that would come out with a statement like his, deserves what he got.

"Uneasy lies the head that sleeps on a railroad track."
- Walt Kelly

BOROTHY BIX - FAN COUNSELOR

Dear Borothy;

I am an experienced fan of 16 and have been reading science fiction for the past 15 years. Recently I have noticed that the girls on the promag covers are tremendously artistic. Gee, Bergey is a wonderful artist! I could sit for hours staring at his covers, they are so life-like. I used to like Bonestell covers but now I think Bergey's are much more artistic. Do you think he would send me an original if I write and tell him so?

EAGER

Dear EAGER:

There are probably quite a few reasons why the covergirls appeal to you more than they used to a few years ago, but I doubt that the artistic merits of Bergey vs Bonestell have much to do with it. If your enthusiasm for Bergey's art becomes any greater, I would recommend cold showers and long outdoor walks rather than an original painting.

Dear Borothy;

Mine hosband and I we ain't been getting along so good togedder by a long time before since mine hosband he been reading this stuff science fiction mit the covers, yet. Always on Saturday nights he used to looking at me and slamming the door nit a frown on his face, then not conink home til midnight drunk, yet. But now he sits instead in the basement reading these books mit the girls on the cover and comes up smiling with his eyes shut and turs out the light before he comes into the bedroom, yet. Now, dear miss Bix, my trouble is this---we got too many kids all ready. How should I stop him from reading this science fiction, yet?

PERPLEXED

Dear PERPLEXED:

Your husband is probably just reading the wrong science fiction. If you were to buy him a subscription to GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION, he might become so depressed that he would not come to bed at all!

"Nothing pleases a bug on a radar screen like being mistaken for a visitor from another planet."

Both BOROTHY BIX and WHAT THE CENSOR MISSED will be dropped with this issue because I lack sufficient material to make up the column. If you readers would like to see the columns continued, you will have to dig up some more material for them. Or, has anybody got any ideas for replacement columns???

The editor

STATISTICS

I Like facts and I like statistics. Thus, I am devoting this space to a statistical analysis of the first issue based upon the answers to returned questionnaires.



I will not say how many responded to the first issue, but I was quite disappointed. I wish to thank each and every person who did so, and I hope that you will continue to send in the questionnaires in this and future issues.

ITEM	LIKE	SOSO	DISLIKE	NO OPINION
Policy of Generalness	58%	30%	3%	9%
Art Format	65%	20%	12%	3%
Art Work	44%	41%	12%	3%
Poetry	41%	32%	11%	6%
Bonethy Bix Column	39%	29%	32%	
Article - Alastair Cameron	76%	6%	13%	5%
Satire - Jim Wills	27%	30%	38%	6%
Satire - Curt Lang	33%	35%	24%	8%
Undeveloped ideas	41%	32%	21%	6%
Crud - Graham Stone	27%	35%	38%	
Rejected Mss. Dept.	36%		59%	5%
Cover	97%		3%	
What the Censor Missed	60%	17%	23%	
Fanzine Review Column	56%	6%	36%	2%

The PAR system was favored by 48%, disliked by 35%, and 17% had no opinion. 50% approve the publishing of S-F stories, and 38% disapprove. A letter-to-the-editor column was favored by 50% and not favored by 41%. 9% had no opinion.

MONEY RECEIVED - 22% sent in a dime; 42% sent in 15¢; 11% sent in 20¢; 14% sent in 25¢; and 11% sent in over 25¢.

COMMENTS ON THE FIRST ISSUE

MENASHA BRODIE

"Thought your cover was terrific (what city is pictured?)"

PAUL WYSZKOWSKI

"Keep it clean. There is enough sex in others."

DOUG MITCHELL

"Cover was fair to good. Rocket ship a bit Buck Rogerish tho."

G.M.CARR

"The mimeography and reproduction was excellent, so was the artwork. A fine looking job all around."

CHESTER D. CUTHBERT

"I can only say that I think you did a tremendous amount of work, but that aside from Alastair Cameron's article which I considered to be excellent, your work was wasted."

ARTHUR HAYES

"It's good to see and read satirical fiction but your issue of VARIATIONS passed the stage of being funny and I did not enjoy it, despite the fact that you probably worked hard to get it out."

ALASTAIR CAMERON

"Your What The Censor Missed appears to be an attempt to rake up all the dirt and near dirt that can be found in late issues of prozines. This ignores the fact that most of the authors quoted were trying to place sex in a fairly realistic setting as it is actually encountered in life, and I am afraid that it is somewhat a sign of immaturity to drag all this out of context."

DICK CLARKSON

"I not only liked the cover.....that was actually secondary. What I liked so much about it was its QUALITY. The best in any fanzine, no doubt. Good, heavy paper that won't tear loose from the staples in less than an hour after mailing."

GERALD STEWARD

"I think the art in this zine is the best fanzine art that I have ever seen. Keep it up if you can afford to. And the format was wonderful."

ORVILLE NOSHER

"And thanks for mentioning my name in the best fanpub I have ever seen. I think your zine beats Quandry and Slant by a mile."

BILL MORSE

"Thanks for VARIATIONS. Except for a few neo-type pieces, I liked it fine."

BARCLAY DELAY JOHNSON

"At any rate, your zine certainly shows promise, and looks a lot better than plenty of well established ones."

(The spelling of various words in the following story is used to illustrate the various differences in pronunciation. Each of the words used has a different pronunciation; and that difference will be noted if the reader will pronounce the words as they are spelled....The author)

THE QUESTION

by Tod Cavanaugh

It was a small party, as parties go on Venus, and it was well in progress when the fat, overdressed tourist arrived. How she learned of the party and how she got there will remain an unsolved mystery. It remained up to the host to look after her, and he led her over to a group and made introductions. Her first words were her undoing. She gushed, "Oh I'm just dying to meet a native Venearian!"

All conversation in the room stopped. All eyes turned to look at her. Startled, she tried to rectify her error.

"Is the word Venoozian...?"

Black silence.

"Veneeshions....?"

Someone coughed.

"Venezuelan...?" She blurted out.

Someone snickered.

"Venisite...?"

Someone cleared their throat.

"Venoozite...?"

Not a face changed expression.

"Venearight....?"

Someone laughed.

"I..I..is it Venerial?"

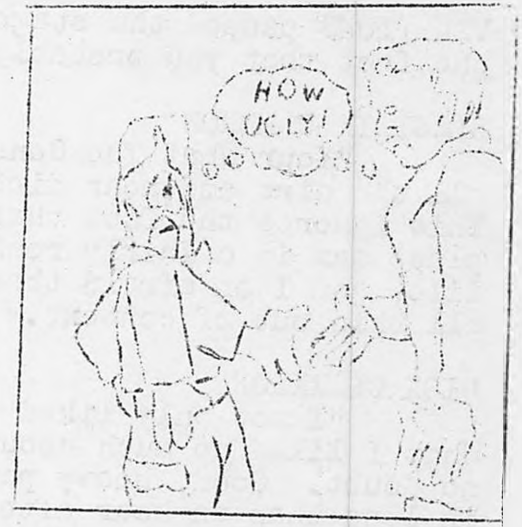
Everyone gasped.

"Venevsreel? Venooshion?"

Silence. Someone smiled.

"Venuser..?" She babbled.

The host nodded to two men.



"Venooshite..?" She spoke in a whisper, all composure gone.

The two men moved through the assembled people toward her.

"Venewser?" Her face was white with shock; her body was trembling; her voice was hardly a croak..

The two men took her by the arms and led her toward the door.

"Venusary...?"

The door closed behind them.

The party returned to life. People moved, cigarettes were lit, conversations were continued from where they had broken off. The party went on as if the recent disturbance had not occurred.

"Too bad about her," said the professor.

"Yes," said the host, "But it doesn't happen as much as it use to. Our program of education and propoganda has kept many people from falling into the same trap as that of our recent visitor."

"It's a good question." Mused the professor. "What would you call a native born inhabitant of Venus? What would you call a Venus-born Terrestrial? What would you call a cross between the two.....?"

T E L E P A T H

That first faint mental tingle,
Rippling through his brain.
Then a rhythm like a jingle,
Then a roaring like an express train.

At night awake he had lain
Was this.. Was he.. going insane?
Slowly the beat grew stronger,
Could he stand this much longer?

Gradually the awareness grew,
Then suddenly he knew!

It was pure cold thought,
But not his own....
But why? And how? And for what?
What God had given this in loan?
All the Power, all the Glory,
The friends, the enemies, they'd be sorry.

What a laugh
He was a TELEPATH...

Norman G. Browne

THE
CONSTRUCTION
OF

NOTE

WELL...
1-11
1-11
1-11

Although the following is not a good beginning, it has the possibilities of a good story. It's an interesting idea; what would you do if someone knocked on your front door and said his name was Henry Kutner:

NOTE: The Visitor.

BEGINNING: I opened the door. A tall elderly man stood there, looking rather frail and nervous.

"My name is Henry Kutner," He said.

It took a minute for his words to sink in and my Null A training came in handy at that moment.

"Come in," I said. "Take off your coat and stay awhile." I hung his coat in the closet and led him into the livingroom. After he was seated I asked: "Can I buy you a drink?" He looked a little puzzled at this question, but after a moment's hesitation, said yes. I went to the liquor cabinet in the dining room and borrowed one of my father's bottles of whisky. I thought the occasion warranted it.

"Do you care for a gin and tonic?" I asked.

"Water please," He responded to mix the drinks.

After a few minutes had passed down with our drinks, we began to chat.

"How did you get my name?" I asked. Again he looked puzzled and bewildered. He seemed to reply but I interrupted.

"I imagine you have my address on some of the leaflets in book store," I said. He made no reply. Very subtly I asked the next question: "Would you like to see some of my writings?"

EXERCISE ONE: If you think you can do anything with this idea, you are welcome to it. But please, if you do finish it, send it back to this magazine. I'm sure there are many people besides myself who will be wondering how it will end.

EXERCISE TWO: My own suggestions as to possible endings are as follows;

- A - He really is Henry Kutner.
- B - He is just another man with the same name.
- C - He is just some guy who has the wrong address.
- D - He is just some guy wanting to use the phone.
- E - He is a crook intending to rob the joint.
- F - The father comes home and finds his good liquor being consumed.

NOTE: Don't do anything about printing. Measures 9" X 11". Well executed. Symbolic & ideographic???? Title "Moon Maidens. For a price and more information write; Paul Wyszowski, 129 Lawton Blvd., Toronto, Ont.

WHAT THE CENSOR MISSED



SPACE - May 1952

Page 33 - Col 1 - "Instead of protesting, she reached down and began unfastening the buttons on her dress. "Your turn now, Willy....."

STARTLING - May 1852

Page 25 - Col 2 - "L loved the flat-brained animal, enough to lead him into the bedroom if that's what he wanted."

Page 45 - Col 2 - "Three men in my life---but, Charles, not three men in my bedroom."

Page 60 - Col 2 - ".....you would not applaud me if I slung you over one shoulder and carried you down to your stateroom for a spot of seduction."

TWS - Feb. 1952 :

Page 76 - Col 2 - ".....I will not tolerate your juvenile seductions being carried out in office time."

Page 13 - Col 2 - "All you do is sign a check. I have to marry him, get in bed with him."

Page 15 - Col 1 - "He deftly unzipped her garments, laid them on the couch."

Page 12 - Col 1 - "How old are you?"

"I'm---twenty."

"Take off your clothes."

FOR SALE OR TRADE

Will trade for copies of Dark Carnival by Ray Bradbury or sell at following prices. Space on My Hands - \$1.50; Skylark of Space - \$2.00; Edison's Conquest of Mars - \$1.75; Foursided Triangle - \$1.50; Murder Madness - \$1.50. Address all inquiries to Norman G. Browne 13906 - 101A Ave., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

(The author of the following story should get a prize. He has achieved the ultimate in anonymity. His manuscript came in a blank envelope postmarked United Nations, N.Y. and franked with an United Nations postage stamp. He should get a prize, but where would I send it? He may live anyplace in the world....NGB)

THE DECLINE OF FANTOPIA

Miami Beach, internationally famous tourist attraction of the Florida peninsula, readily attained its position as centre of world fandom. Intellectual freedom was one of the factors favoring this development. The fan is inclined toward postulation of theorem that there is a Brotherhood of Life. As such, the municipal ordinances forbidding certain types of discrimination, created a favorable climate for the professed fan. This was helped by the racial and religious homogeneity of the place which ensured freedom from possibly disturbing strange influences.

The ingathering of the fans was accelerated by the many city publicity bureaus of which the Convention Committee was the most successful. This useful tool of the hotel interests had skilfully exploited the tendency, almost the instinct, of the fan to engage in fan-claves.

Early fan pioneers found the "modernism" of the architecture pleasing. The extreme functionalism of the glass brick dwellings was praised when it was learned that the glass shaded from clear to opaque from south to north. This effectively shut out the view of the large stream of discolored waters off the northeastern beach resulting from the effluent of the cities disposal system.

With the increase of sficiondados in the population, the politicians hastened to secure the votes of this bloc of citizens. The local population was largely transient and one "voting" citizen was of more appearance than might seem possible. This resulted in long speeches - usually given from bars operating handbooks - praising the sficiondo. His intellegance was praised, stf was praised, the prozines were praised and the fan showed an unlimited appetite for such manifestations of modern byzantinism. All conveniences were put at the beck and call of the fan and "interested" groups could get showings of film classics such as Destination Moon, by applying to the Recreation Department. This city bureau had built up an almost complete library of scientifilms.

Favorable conditions such as these caused a constant immigration of fan and they soon became the predominant element in the population. As a result rapid political changes were taking place. None of the politicians had been able to formulate policies acceptable to all, or even a majority of the fan, and the fans had elected their own candidates in an effort to find equity. General tourism fell off as visitors found themselves uncomfortable amidst the clannish exclusiveness of these new cultists. Many tourists were appalled by the proselytising zeal with which these devotees promoted their interests with all the assurance of being a chosen people.

Politics, or rather practical city government dragged to a stop. The various cliques of fandom could find no common meeting ground and mutually cancelled out each other's votes in all matters. Each clique found all others so intolerant that the position of mayor was abolished and a rotating chairman was set-up. As this position went around like a merry-go-round all parties had a chance to formulate policy.

The intellectualism of the citizens paralysed all of the commonly accepted forms of labour. Work was incompatible with the dignity of such high I.Q.'s. Along with the rapid decline in economic and political life, the population was dwindling rapidly. Some felt that this was caused by the incestuous unions which had resulted from the long continued policy of endogamous alliances. It was believed these marriages between close kin had lowered the racial vitality..... Another explanation of population decline was popular among the psychologists. They believed that the imaginations of the fans had been so stimulated and titillated that mere reality would be too drab to interest them; the fan were tired, too tired.

As the fans degenerated into small groups full of mutual hatred and distrust even the food situation became acute. The incompatibility of such groups as the Shaverians, the Cybernetics groups, and the Dianeticians, to name but a few, made any sort of concerted effort in food raising or distribution impossible. Some psychologists expected their survival needs to be expressed in anthropophagous ceremonies, tendencies toward which they claim to have seen clues in the habit gestaltes of the fan. The parasitism of the fan could find no victims except from its own ranks.

Among the last to leave the city completely to the mercies of the fan were the psychologists. They had been holding their annual convention at Miami Beach for many years and this new cultural development interested them. The chief cause of their leaving the area resulted from an especially acrimonious debate at one of the forums. They were so wrought up that they forgot to make a motion to hold another convention.

Into this gotterdamerung of the elite came news. The first space ship had returned. The scientist had been killed by alien life forms. His beautiful daughter had been captured and tortured by the lascivious monsters. She had been terribly flogged before making her escape. Now, dressed in a transparent plastic suit, she was lecturing on her experiences. She was from Edmonton and had started her lecture tour there. The fan arrived in droves to hear of the wonders of the spaceways and to see this lovely girl who had been so far and suffered so much.... The audiences became so large that she made Alberta her permanent headquarters. Slowly the news reached Miami Beach, Florida; Fantopia U.S.A. From hotel and hovel and from avenue and alley the fan took their departure. The roads were lined with their presence as they hopefully tried to hitch-hike north.

The hegira was on.....

John Gold Bixby Jr.

COMMUNICATIONS

by

L. I. Layton

This is a subject that has been kicked around by science fiction authors for a long time and in spite of the brain work put into it little of value has been said. In the case of interplanetary communications writers have a tendency to go to extremes, and betray their ignorance of the world they live in. Either their hero pays sixty bucks to send his telautograph from White Sands to Luna City -- or he uses his Dick Tracy wristwatch radio phone to dial the Asteroid belt from New York. (Ten cents extra for long distance calls beyond the orbit of Saturn.)

The actual facts will lie somewhere between these two extremes. The telautograph, a device for transmitting handwriting by wire or radio, is not a device of the far distant future but a rather interesting toy developed several decades ago. As far as wrist-radios capable of transmitting a signal over several million miles; it could be done but, and here's the rub, the signal would be so weak that background noise in the receiver would drown it out. However it does seem quite probable that radio will someday serve for communication between planets in our solar system and that the transmitters used need not be excessively powerful. Present day equipment would do the job quite well.

Since present day receivers are as sensitive and as selective as it is possible to make them, the only way to improve on our present communication system would be to place satellite relay stations about each planet. In this way we could avoid much of the noise and interference found on the surface.

A technical discussion would mean very little to the reader and would mean a lot of hard work for the author, so with your permission we will advance into the realm of pure speculation -- the discussion of interstellar communications.

For the sake of this discussion, we must assume that someday we will be able to reach the stars. After someone discovers a method of driving a space ship faster than the speed of light, the next problem will be to find some method of sending signals through space faster than the ships can travel. A few very ingenious schemes have been dreamed up but most of them are sheer nonsense. The worst common error in logic seems to be this; "Radio waves carry sound through space at the speed of light, therefore I can speed up radio waves in a similar manner."

The error in logic lies in the fattial assumption that radio waves somehow increase the speed of sound and carry it along with them. This

is not true. The sound in question goes no farther than the diaphragm on the microphone of the radio transmitter. The mechanical movement of this diaphragm can be used to modulate a radio frequency current which in turn can be broadcast from a suitable antenna. Your radio detects this in the form of an electromagnetic wave of varying amplitude and/or frequency, turns it back into an electric current and uses the variations to recreate the original sound.

Since radio waves and light waves are both electromagnetic in nature and all electromagnetic waves appear to travel at the same constant speed, it is obvious that there can be no such thing as faster-than-light radio. This, however, does not preclude the possibilities of energy forms that propagate at a faster rate.

The unified field theory implies that electricity, magnetism, and gravity are all inter-related. Studies have shown that although an electric current will flow through a conductor with a speed almost equal to that of the speed of light the movement of the electrons causing this energy transfer is much slower. The electron movement is so slow that ordinary vacuum tubes cannot be used for ultra high frequency radio and radar work.

It seems safe therefore to use this fact as an analogy in our search for faster energy transfer. In case the point has not been made clear all forms of communication -- voice, sight, telephone, and radio -- are forms of energy transfer from one point to another. If it could be shown that an electromagnetic wave travelling through space produced secondary effects in a manner similar to an electric current flowing through a conductor, our problem might be solved.

Suppose the energy form we are seeking is gravitic in nature. Why not? No one has ever generated a gravitic field so no one can say how fast gravitic energy is propagated. Now to draw our analogy. A planet could be compared to a huge electromagnet with a steady magnetic field. What generates the gravity field of the planet? Well, that is a good question. For the sake of argument, we will say we have a collection of atoms with their orbital electrons spinning at random according to the energy state of the individual atoms. Each moving electron would generate its own magnetic field and since these fields would tend to repel each other, the cumulative effect would be moving field between the center of the planet and the surface. We then assume that the secondary effect of this field is the gravity field of the planet. If our analogy is correct this gravity field should propagate at a much greater rate than the magnetic field, just as a magnetic field propagates much faster than the electron movement causing it.

Now that we have explained gravity, we need a method of generating and broadcasting gravitic energy at varying amplitudes and frequencies in order to modulate it to carry sound. Then we need a method of detecting and reproducing the sound. At this point my imagination fails me. However one thing is sure. If gravitic energy can be generated

and broadcast in a high frequency wave, the necessary detection and receiving equipment will quickly be discovered by experimental means. We will then have a way to make our voices heard beyond the stars. Of course we could try it with radio; but who wants to wait a thousand years for a radio message to creep a little way across the Milky Way?

Of course the obvious solution is seldom the best or easiest. It would not be exactly easy to drive ships or messages across space by brute force. Maybe someone will find an easy way around the problem.

L. L. Layton

YESTERDAY AND TOMORROW

by

Ronald van Veldt

Who was in Heaven on misty
mornings when the dark
boats at docks did dreamily nod?
God.

Who watched and blessed from
Heaven the old farmer who
through his daily toil did plod?
God.

Who in the heavens watches the
spacewars, the atombomb blasts,
the burns, the wounds, and scars?
Stars.

Who is the hope, the consolation
and strength of the old
office clerk burdened and down trod?
God.

What is the hope, the desire,
the burning ambition of
all young followers of Mars?
Stars.

Where do we slave to go
all our short lives, bent
under fate's indifferent rod?
To God.

Where do we yearn to go at any
cost from behind gravity's
heavy prison bars?
To the Stars.

LEFT OVERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Another mistake, so common that it has never been investigated carefully, is the idiomatic expression "He is a non-believer." The actual words meant "He never cruds." And yet another: "A cruder person I have never seen." How this mistake came about in Latin is incomprehensible, but it did. The correct idiom is, naturally, "I have never seen such a crudlike person."

And so on, down through the ages. The world owes a vote of thanks to fandom for finally proving beyond doubt that the verb "to crud" exists.

Dick Clarkson

BE A DISTRIBUTING AGENT FOR YOUR CLUB!

Do you belong to a local stf group that holds periodic meetings? Let me send you 10 to 15 copies of VANATIONS. Then sell or auction them off at your next club meeting. After you have ~~RECEIVED~~ collected the money for the copies, deduct 20% and return the rest to me.

The more copies of VANATIONS you sell and the higher you sell them for; the more commission you make. Think of it! By selling VANATIONS on a commission basis you can eventually save enough money to bring out a fanzine of your own!

Although the mighty American Dollar is only worth 95¢ in Canada, I will accept it at PAR. Besides cash, other forms of payment may include international money orders or postal notes. Please do not send checks or postage stamps.

The Editor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

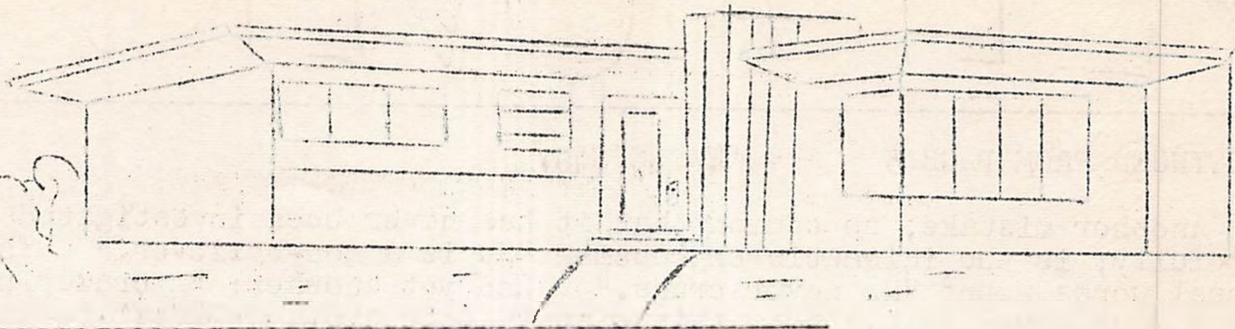
which comes within the scope of Fantastology. Since the full and logical development of all these ideas would result in a mass of material greater in amount than all our existing knowledge, people who lack this kind of research will never lack for interesting problems.

Note to prospective fanzine editors: I hope to start a zine of my own in a year or so in which some of these ideas can be developed, and I hereby reserve for it the title of Journal of Fantastology (abbreviation J. Fant.)

Alastair Cameron

"I may differ with a man's opinions but I will defend to my death his right to say them."
- Voltaire

13906-101A



TWENTY-FIVE YEARS TOO LATE

803 Tallmon St.,
Syracuse, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Having read your letter published in a recent science Fiction magazine, I decided to take this opportunity to write you.

It is my hope to organize a group of science fiction enthusiasts, so that we may discuss topics of material interest. These topics could include both the real and the unreal, as well as current events or any subject you may desire.

We could, I believe, benefit from the various viewpoints of the group and thereby derive a better understanding of the subjects under discussion. Perhaps we could each propose a topic and have the other members write their opinions, which could later be collected, digested and re-issued to the membership.

In any event, whether or not this idea of mine interests you, I would appreciate your future correspondence.

Very Truly yours,
Wm. P. Clemons.

I take it that through chance you bought a stf magazine, read it and found it contained a new type of literature. I also imagine that you found that other people are interested in it, but are unaware that such a thing as fandom exists. The situation is possible but highly inconceivable.

First of all, groups of science fiction enthusiasts already exist. But the word has been shortened to "stf" or "S-F"; and enthusiast has become "fan". Many means of collecting and re-issuing opinions already exist. One is known as the "Round-Robin" and the other is called a "fanzine". A discussion about fandom would be too lengthy but I imagine many readers will contact you and help to expand your knowledge. I

COMPLETES VARIATIONS WITH ASF

129 Lawton Blvd.,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Norman;

I am tempted to accept VARIATIONS as my birthday present, but it would be a dirty trick on my part. So I enclose 35¢ which is as much as I pay for ASF my favorite magazine, and you may take it as a compliment. I think my chuckles were worth it.

I disagree slightly with Mr. Alastair Cameron on his definition of freedom of the press. I admit that censorship is often biased and

prejudiced, but there is a grain of justice in it, as well. The freedom of press does not mean right to write anything but freedom to write what's right. The former applies to licence. Libel, obscenity, crime, are excluded by the very definition of freedom, and certainly books dealing with those subjects no matter how great pieces of literature they may be, cannot be accepted by a free society only by a licentious one. I think Mr. Cameron will agree with me on that, after considering it with impartial mind. I might add, that books attacking religion are definitely abusing freedom of belief. I don't see why anyone should write such books except because of his fear that there might be something in religion after all.

Paul Wyszowski

ROBERT BLOCH OBJECTS

740 N. Plankington Ave
Milwaukee 3, Wisc.

Dear Sir;

I am writing to you at the request of my employer, Mr. Robert Bloch. In my capacity as his literary secretary, it is my duty to read his mail aloud to him at such times as I deem him sober enough to comprehend messages.

During one of these rare intervals I went through VANATIONS in great detail, even going so far as to spell out and define many of the longer words.

Mr. Bloch was much impressed -- at least, he seemed to be, and I have learned to detect his reactions by interpreting certain signs on his part such as chain-smoking of marihuana, etc.

Unfortunately, when I came to the final page of the magazine, I ran across a reference to one Jim Wills, described as "Canada's answer to Robert Bloch". Upon hearing this line, Mr. Bloch became so enraged that he almost upset the wheelchair and ended by throwing his false teeth at me. I saw them coming and beat a retreat towards the kitchen, but I didn't quite make it -- and he bit me in the pantry.

Naturally, what angered Mr. Bloch was the fact that this Jim Wills is apparently some sort of humorist. As a serious literary artist of high standing (6 ft. 2 in. to be exact) Mr. Bloch objects to invidious comparisons: He is a grave and decorous temperament and not given to uttering witticisms except for normal obscenities.

Mr. Bloch wishes me to tell you that in the future he would prefer to be compared to such men as Albert Einstein, William Shakespere, Abraham Lincoln and Bill Morse. Compared favorably, too.

He has no objection to Jim Will's humor; it is just that he himself is serious and when he says something funny it's no laughing matter.

Hoping you are the same,

Cecil Slotch
Secretary to R. Bloch

∟ I am deeply grieved over the fact that I was the cause of your misfortune. I sincerely hope you applied the proper first aid. Both rabies and lycanthropy are transmitted in such manner. To please your employer I will retract the offending statement. Hereafter be it known that Jim Wills is not Canada's answer to R. Bloch. Robert Bloch is America's answer to Jim Wills. Jim Wills in turn is Canada's answer to Walter A. Willis. The others I have heard about but who is Bill Morse?..NGB_7

ANNOUNCING THE FIRST VANATIONS SERIOUS ARTICLE CONTEST

Why do you read Science Fiction?
What value do you derive by reading Science Fiction?
How has reading Science Fiction changed your way of life?
What do you expect from Science Fiction?
What purpose do you think Science Fiction should accomplish?
How active a fan are you?
Why are you a fan?
How has being a fan changed your way of life?
What purpose do you think fandom should meet?

All articles must have the title; WHAT SCIENCE FICTION MEANS TO ME.
All articles must be accompanied by the authors true name.
All articles must be serious in nature.
All articles must deal with both Science Fiction and Fandom in proportion to the amount of interest the author has in them.
All articles must be comprehensive and searching; and answer the problem voiced in the title of the article.
First prize is either Vol. 1, No. 1 of Air Wonder Stories or Vol. 1, No. 1 of Science Wonder Stories; with first prize winner having the choice.
Second prize winner will receive either Vol. 1, No. 1 of Air Wonder or Science Wonder Stories but have no choice.
Early Cornsback Amazings will be given to the next five best articles submitted. Winners will be determined by reader vote and preference.

PRINTED MATTER ONLY
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

NORMAN G. BROWNE
13906 - 101A Ave.
Edmonton, Alta., Canada.

Unless otherwise checked, this issue is being sent on a PAR basis.

- Contributor

- Trade

- Subscriber

- Review