

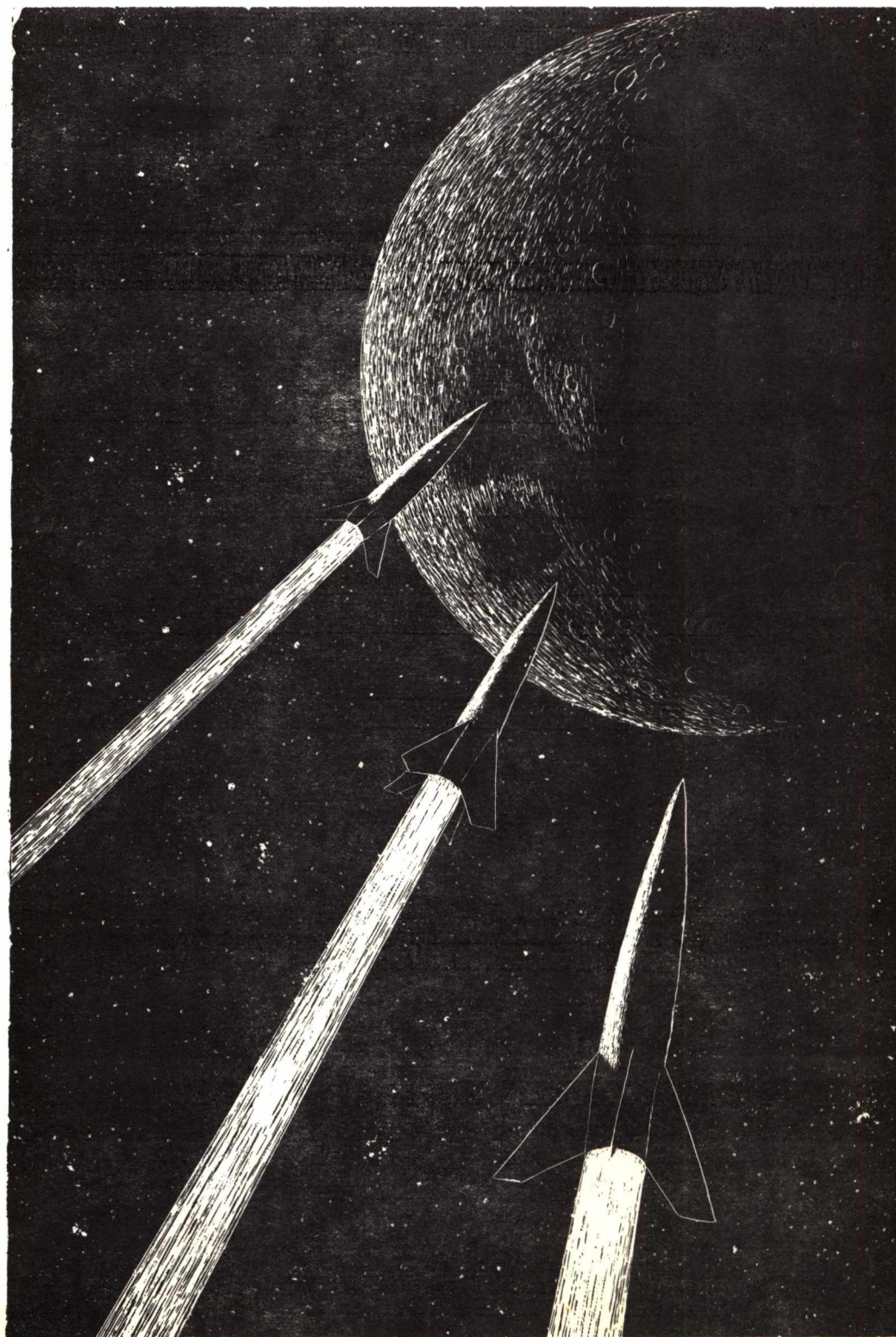
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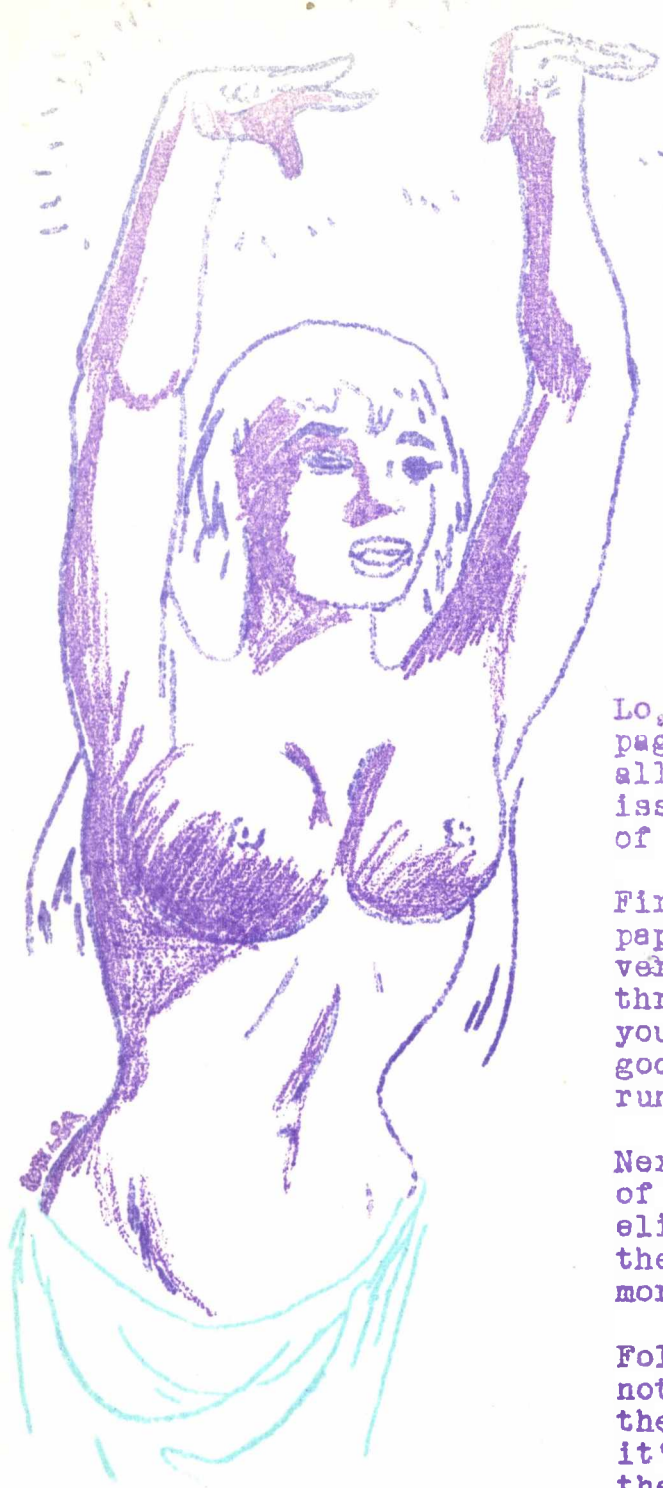
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# FROM WHERE J SJJ

MMMboy? I'll bet this must be the classiest-looking editorial page to be in any fanzine! That Rotsler can really cut a mean figure!

Lo, appears ABstract #4 with a bale of pages and a host of changes. I wore out all my editorial demands with the last issue, so this will be mostly babblings of one sort or another.

First thing you'll notice is the 16lb. paper. Now don't yell, but it is still very readable (the print doesn't show through), and will enable me to send you all the ABstracts to come, with a goodly amount of pages...so in the long run, it helps you as well as me.

Next thing you'll notice is the absence of a contents page. Three cheers, it eliminates something un-usuable (since there are no page numbers) and adds one more page for material.

Following, in order of changes you'll notice, will be the extreme length of the letter column...19 pages. I know it's long, but you said you liked it as the best thing in the issue, so I thought I'd give you what you wanted--and lengthened it. Satisfied?

Next, you'll notice that there's a pleasant absence of fiction in this issue. Too much fiction (15,000 words for my first three ishs) is not warranted in a fanzine. Some fanzines can go numerous issues without any fiction, but this isn't so hot either. My contention is: Don't run any fiction, unless it's excellent--and if it's excellent, don't run too much. And so ABstract will go one or two issues without fiction, then I'll pick up by running a story by H. Ellison in Sept.



Editor: I'm a little disappointed when you edit a magazine, and all the stuff you've written, is now old news. Well, I'm probably already thought me crazy, after reading my 3rd paragraph (there's a new word--"paragap") paragraph, where I stated that this is being pubbed on 16lb. paper. I had to go all the way back down to the printers to get the 20lb. stuff.

I saved a little dough on this issue, but went and bought a new lettering guide to make some of my critics happy. Do you like the new lettering guide? I'll get one more and alternate the three of them in the next issue, besides that, I have the ability to turn out pretty good hand-lettering.

Actually this is being typed as the last thing in the issue instead of "Looking." I can't wait to get this darn thing assembled. But its 19:45 now, and there's school tomorrow, so I'll let the better part of the stapling go til tomorrow.

ABSTRACT is still in need of some good informative articles and some interesting columns. Also letters. The letter section seems to get bigger with every issue. Never can tell, someday I might have just a letter zine...then Balint won't be yelling about the fiction anymore.

I case anybody's interested, I'm doing a thesis on fandom. Oh it'll really be a corker. First chapter: The World of S-F Fandom, Second: What Silverberg Started, Third: The Zines and their Editors, Fourth: Fandom and Me, Fifth: Conventions, or Please pass the Beer, Sixth: Correspondence, Seventh: Hoaxes, Eighth: Fandom and Its Values, Sound interesting? Well, there'll only be one copy, that'll be bound (all the theses have to be) and kept in my library.

Be sure and get the FANish (that's next issue), because remember my little blood purge. If you owe me a swap, or you haven't written, you're not getting the next ish. I'm cutting my pubbing schedule down to a narrow minimum. There'll be twenty ugly mugs (everybody from Geis to Willis) adorning the cover--so be prepared. I don't want any lawsuits regarding heart-attacks resulting from glancing at the cover.

The toxic Methanol fumes are becoming too much for me, I'll have to go over and shut the 90--I mean open the windows. My Rex-0 is also grugling. It's about as popped as I am. But, you're opening this mag fresh as a daisy expecting the best from Vorzimer, and as I'm writing this Vorzimer feels like tuning off and going to bed. But Vorzimer can't tune off and go to bed until he finishes this blasted page. And I don't want to use it up with filler, because I can't see straight enough to trace another Rotsler special. By the way, what do you think of these Rotsler masterpieces? Well, I don't care what you think--I like 'em, and I'm going to run more of 'em. Also got some stuff from Naaman and DEA and Terry Carr.

I don't think my mother cared for this nudity or semi-nudity in this issue and I know it might shock some of the girls I know reading this issues. Wacky dames like Jill, or Audrey, or Mary Lou, I though I'd give them a real charge by letting them see their names in print--or perhaps I should print their pictures. I'm sure they'd love that.

Look at all the glaring errors on this page. Burt Satz, my greatest critic, says my punctuation is pure Victorian--and after the way I tore after Corey on A la Space--I should talk? Yeah, that's the trouble, I talk too much. Well anything to get to the bottom of the page....p.jv...

# When Fame Collides... STUART NOCK, NOCK, WHO'S THERE NOCK

How many times have you bought a copy of a current science-fiction magazine down at the local newsstand? More times than you can remember, I'll wager. Now, have you really gotten thirty-five cent's worth of enjoyment each time? Have you been satisfied with the quality of the stories with each issue? I'll bet more times than not, you did not enjoy the yarns you paid your hard-earned money for.

There are approximately twenty-five currently published professional science fiction magazines today. Only a minute fraction of that number offer top-flight stories; even these are not always consistent. So why be a fool? Why not run those crap-zines off the newsstand? Why spend money for trash? With the exception of a few, science fiction magazines are generally a complete waste of money. The authors are usually little-knowns, or pseudonyms of someone else who by now has such a poor reputation he must write under a fictitious name. The stories are of poor quality because the rate are so low the author endeavors of quantity rather than quality.

So let's face it. The only good science fiction tales appearing today are contained in anthologies and the few decent sf pro-mags. Ostracize the poor magazines and let them go back to publishing westerns. Keep the trash out of science fiction.

\* \* \* \* \*

I have found, in my many months of publishing The Cosmic Frontier (I knew I could sneak a plug in somewhere,) that sometimes I get pretty disgusted with format and the same routine every issue. I say to myself... "Why not put out a completely different magazine next month... change the name and all." It does get rather monotonous publishing in the same format issue after issue, without variety. I think John Magnus has been the only one brave enough to change his zine drastically. He is going to publish a completely different SF the next time, or so he mentions in the last issue. Oh yes, Larry Balint experimented with different types of formats before he settled to his present quarter size. He published ESCAPE in an odd shape and I understand he had a few other types before that.

A good method of breaking monotony of the same routine every ish is to sprinkly one-shots during the period when the regular zine is not coming out. An example is the editor of this magazine here, Pete Worzimer... He has published at least two one-shots and has also minted HA! and other items, such as a newsletter which he now issues. Almost every other fanzine which I receive originate from 1311 N. Laurel Avenue. But this editor seems over loaded with money.

))Normally, I wouldn't break into this column, but I feel here it is certainly the right time. I am definitely not overloaded with money. At one time, up till last month, I worked almost every day for three

...and paying for Abstracts to come, nothing else. As for the large number of pages in ABSTRACT...the cost is the same as the magazines that are distored that have only 26 pages, only I get my stuff at wholesale and pass the savings on to you. HA! is dead and I've given up pubbing one-shots. Vorzimerzine, the newsletter which you referred to is only two pages, and is put out whenever I'm in the mood and have extra paper left over from ABSTRACT...and only then. The rest of my fan-pubbing time will be devoted solely to ABSTRACT...nothing else)!

\* \* \* \* \*

With all the science fiction anthologies being published at the present time, before long they will outnumber the novels. Ballantine is the chief offender, if it might be called an offense. I just saw a couple of new collections at the newsstand yesterday.

There have been some exceptional pocket-sized anthologies which have appeared, however. I doubt if there will ever be another like BEYOND THE END OF TIME, edited by Fräderick Pohl and published by Per mabooks a while back. It contained nineteen yarns that were really well written. Several of them have been re-anthologized into other volumes because of their popularity. One of my favorites has always been INTERPLANETARY STORIES, edited by Orson Welles. The lead attractions in it was supposed to be "Invasion from Mars" the radio script version of H. G. Wells' "The Warr of the Worlds," although there were several other excellent tales, including "The Star-Mouse" by Fred Brown, a tremendously humorous story of a German scientist and his pet mouse, Mitkey.

\* \* \* \* \*

In a column by Lyle Kessler in PSYCHOTIC, "How Are You Fixed for Blood?", he mentions that 7th Fandom was a thing of the past, and that Peter Vorzimer, Denis Moreen, John Fletcher, Don Wegars, John Hitchcock, and myself are the vanguards of 8th Fandom. Don Wegars responded to that in his magazine, FOG, by stating that he still considered himself to be living in the era of Seventh Fandom and he hadn't even realized it was dead. I don't know about the other fellows, but I hold the same feelings.

But, it might be a good idea to launch this new fandom, but I doubt that it will last any longer than Seventh did. It seems, however, that the fanzine trend will be a gradual change to small or personal-size zines. My own mag, and a few others of the latest fandom are small size. Half legal size will soon become very popular, I predict, and small size zines are more distinctive than the larger ones.

I hope 8th Fandom, if it really is here, has brought with it a new crop of fanzines, and fan writers. It is for the good of the masses to change from time to time, and this may be the time.

\* \* \* \* \*

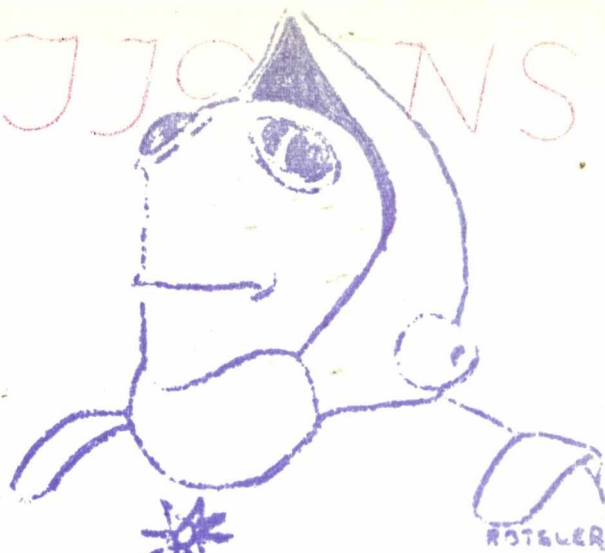
I had originally promised Pete an article, but decided to write this column instead. The only trouble is whether I can keep it up every month or not. We shall see next month...if I'm here again, I shall have thought of enough material to discuss, if not, well...

-skn



# ABSTRACTIONS

by BOOB  
STEWART



Maybe there's still a little spark left in this fan. Here I pledged never to darken a fan's mailbox with my writings and tonight I'm writing my autobiog and started this column.

The trouble, I guess, is that even though I think fandom a waste of time I enjoy writing. And where else can I see my slop printed if I'm not good enough to sell professionally?

Of course, I have to be in a certain mood to enjoy it. I'm in such a mood now. At times, I'm asked to write something and I drag out a paper and so forth and begin writing. I get nowhere. By the end of an hour I have three crumpled up pieces of paper in the basket and going on a fourth. At other times I can bang away at the typer and write something fairly presentable and enjoy doing it.

Or if I don't have anything to write for fanzines or such, I pull out our album of Scherazade and write impressions of it. I've done it several times now and have never gotten the same thing.

Did you ever try that? --writing impressions of your favorite classical piece (some popular and jazz works too). Just get comfortable at your typer with a blank piece of paper inserted, the phonograph playing fairly loud and let your fingers do what they want. In especially easy to follow pieces, such as a concerto, analyze each note and what the note means to you in words.

You can get some pretty weird results. Here's something from my third try at Scherazade, first movement:

...the gun was raised and the finger that held it, tightened. The tiny pigeon way, way up in the clouds that was singing Yankee Doodle and accompanying himself on the guitar, exploded like a balloon touching a hot stove. He fell, he fell into the arms of some field mice...

I hardly remembered writing that when I read it afterwards. My mind became so wrapped around the music that the words just came to me and my fingers wrote them down without a word to my headbone that they were doing so.

The first day of the term I was waiting in line in the gym to be signed in the class. The teacher was sitting at a little table with a pile of slips stacked in alphabetical order in front of him. He

leaped through them, shouted out a name, and someone would run over and give their eyes and so forth and he'd dismiss them. Like I said, I was waiting there, thinking about nothing in particular and nearly asleep. Suddenly, I heard it!

At first, it was only a dim whisper in my clouded headbone. It grew in volume. I looked up; the teach was leafing madly through the little white slips muttering:

"Fout! Goddam lousy, no-good, fout! Oh fout! Where in blazes is it?"

I looked again. I couldn't believe my ears; the mark of a true fan! I listened:

"Fout! foutfoutfoutfOUT!"

My eyes examined his fingers for the tell-tale nicotine stains and blisters from opening fanzines. Sure enough! I looked at his forehead searching for the antennae. Ghod! My own gym teacher!

He was still muttering the sacred chant. His voice boomed suddenly and echoed all thru the gym: "FOUT!"

I stepped up quickly. I must find out for sure! "Sir," I said, "Mr. Neff, sir,--" I dug in my wallet for my OF card, "you wouldn't happen to be a--"

I was interrupted by a tow-headed, freckle-faced little low freshman with horn-rimmed glasses who said meekly, "Here I am, Mr. Neff."

Have you ever seen two fans come to blows? I did, last Saturday night after the GGFS meeting.

If you've never, I'll tell you how that it is both the most boring kind of fight and the most hilarious fight in the world. This one lasted an hour and a half and the whole time I sat there and roared.

I can't remember how it started, but suddenly I looked around and these two were taking off their jackets, emptying their pockets and so forth right on Cambridge Street a block from Carr's house. The streets were dark and quiet and the booming fannish threats probably brought out many a sleeping non-fan to his window wondering what manner of argument this was, that two people stood with their arms folded and called each other flowers and headaches.

Here's a running dialogue of the fight:

"You know, Joe, I hate you; I hate you bad."

"That's nice."

He turns to me and says, "I hate him; I hate him bad, but he won't do anything."

One swings and misses.

"Aha! You missed! Let me try!"

Another miss.

"Hmmm. This is getting us nowhere..."

A car drives by slowly. One turns to the driver and says, "Drive on, mister, it's just a floating crap game."

Another exchange of taps, in which one emerges violently swearing in Assyrian,

"Sharamuto! Haka bissey sonovabeesch!"

"You're a rosebud! Fugghead! May you die in FAPA! May your fanzine be dittoed!\* May you--

More taps exchanged. One runs up the street and hides behind a telephone pole.

"Oh, you there! Come out, come out, wherever you are!"

The other ambles down the street. "I'm no chicken."

"You are."

"I'm not."

"You are."

"Hmmm. Deface this name again. Call me a coward again."

"Coward."

"Alright, better watch out now. Deface this name again."

"Coward."

"Call me a coward again, I dare you!"

"Coward."

"So?..."

One might have thought the two boys were blindfolded, the way they fought...but finally they were really punching it out. The fighting was as obnoxious as the name-calling. When they got too tired to fight, they exhausted their fannish vocabulary. It was really a fight to end all fights...nobody got hurt.

I guess that should do it this time. I'll see you again if Bafia doesn't completely take over.

-----Boob

\*hmm, this will have to be changed. What's wrong with a dittoed fmz?

I think I should have changed it, after all this mag is dittoed. I think for a magazine to be hectored would be a much worse curse than to have it dittoed. Well, that was Graham's line, so what can you expect. The only thing I can yell at him is, "Sharamuto!" --ye ed.



# AND, HAVING WRIT

GREGG DECKING

TAKES CHEERS FOR  
FIRST FANDOM! - ACKERMAN

"Up with 7th  
Fandom!"

6TH FANDOM  
LIVES ON!

DOWN WITH  
7TH FANDOM!

"TUNNIS, Anyone?"

.....Which is the title that Bob Silverberg used on his second article on Fandom. Those of you who read the original article in QUANDRY know that Silverberg had a point in his comparison to Stapledon, but those of you who have read this article, appearing in ABSTRACT, will find it equally apparent that this time Silverberg is all wrong.

Not content with the chaos he has already made of 6th and 7th Fandoms, Silverberg writes this second article with a basic premise that 7th Fandom is already dying on its feet, and 8th Fandom is straining at the leash.

If we back off and try to take an objective look at fandom, regardless of the current number, we will find that Silverberg is now very far from the truth. 7th Fandom has come, to be sure, and it is leaving just as quickly. But we are not ready for 8th Fandom yet...not until 6th Fandom has complete its turn.

You see, 6th Fandom never died.

7th Fandom was supposed to have come into its own in a blaze of glory with the death of Lee Hoffman's QUANDRY, and to the casual eye it would appear this is just what happened. But now, from the vantage point of an extra year or two, we find that 6th Fandom was just amazed by these rash newcomers and stepped back to see what would happen. Enter 7th Fandom--exit 7th Fandom.

Now that the dust has settled, look at your score cards to see who is in possession of the field. Joel Nydahl, 7th Fandom--missing in action. Walter Willis, 6th Fandom--actively publishing his own magazine HYPHEN, and also writing his famous QUANDRY column, "The Harp that Once or Twice" for OOPSLA!, Don Cantin, 7th Fandom--whereabouts unknown. Shelby Vick, 6th Fandom--actively publishing his own fanzine, CONFUSION, and writing several columns for other fanzines.

Some other 6th Fandomers are:

Ian Macauley, erstwhile publisher of COSMAG, now reviewing fmz for Charles Lee Riddle's still-active PEON. Bob Silverberg, himself, publishing his own SPACESHIP; Max Kessler, of FANVARIETY and OPUS is planning a new fanzine, ALBATROSS, from his Navy base in San Diego.

Of all the names of 6th Fandom only one is gone from the scene, and that one is Lee Hoffman's. Can Silverberg tell us that Lee Hoffman was 6th Fandom, and with her passing, so did all the rest? Nonsense.

All boiled down, we find that 6th Fandom had a temporary lapse with the fall of QUANDRY, and in the interim, 7th Fandom, mistaking quiet for defeat, came too soon. It didn't have time to prepare itself, and it didn't have time to plan. And so it fell, leaving only a handful behind it, who are now being gradually absorbed by the second coming of 6th Fandom. Even Silverberg should realize that now. -G.C.

# THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH.....



Gregg, I can appreciate your nostalgia for the time-worn 6th Fandom, just like I respect the old southerners still shouting for the Confederacy...but that's not going to do any good. As a matter of fact I think the Civil War makes an excellent example.

The North won and came along, and the South thought they could go along and continue to do things the old way. But soon after they found themselves and realized that they were all just one again. The same holds true with our now-numbered fandoms.

No, Sixth Fandom never died. After all, neither did the First. 6th Fandom actually became a part of 7th Fandom, the new order, without fully realizing it. Members of 7th Fandom are now dying and so in will march 8th Fandom and again the hangers-on will adapt themselves. Sure, it's all fine to get sentimental about the old order as do the old Confederate soldiers--but let's face it, you're in the present. Do you see my point?

My explanation to the whole mess is this: When QUANDRY died, 7th Fandom came along. Willis chimed in, so did Silverberg and the rest, because they had what it took to go through a complete change--to adapt to a new fandom. Then VEGA went, but 7th Fandom has had the stability to hold on. Now, if and when Psychotic folds, 7th Fandom what's left of it, will fall flat on its face and 8th Fandom will be ushered in, and Tucker, Bloch, Grennell, Silverberg, Willis and yourself will all be 8th Fandomers whether you realize it or not. Do you see what I mean?

And believe me, this won't be too far away! Certain mags, now prominent in the 'top ten' will fold and mags like FOG, SPIRAL and ABSTRACT will be on the top. DIMENSIONS, by Ellison will be the Eighth Fandom change of his original, SF BULLETIN, nothing more.

The thing that the older fan don't realize, and which only a new-comer could see is this: 6th Fandom died...the boys that didn't go, joined the 7th Fandom band-wagon. 7th Fandom will die and those that didn't die, together with those that stuck around from 6th, will hitch up to the 8th Fandom band-wagon and so on through the rest of Fan-History.

In a number of years, like Ackerman from 1st Fandom, there will be fewer and few 6th and 7th Fandomers and more and more newer ones. The fandom is only where they were born, and as long as they are publishing, they are part of the fandom that is existing at present. The same holds true with OOPSLA!...it is a magazine of 7th Fandom, and when 7th Fandom folds, OOPSLA will become a magazine of 8th Fandom and so it will continue, until at last (sob!) OOPS folds.

This is absolutely my last word on this most controversial subject. I'll let someone else carry the ball, and resign myself to my editorials. If I want controversy....I'll turn on the McCarthy-Army hearings!



Since the first issue of ABSTRACT, the letter-column seems to be getting more and more popular with my readers. In the last issue I ran nine pages of letters--almost 1/2 of the entire issue. This issue, at the present time, I can't tell how many pages it will have. As I receive them, I print them. It is evident that if you like the letter section, you like those appearing in it. This seems to be one of the few sections that makes everybody happy in one way or another. For those who love to read, there's plenty of material in here for that. And for those who just like to read interesting letters which discuss interesting things, you'll find plenty of them in here too.

I was afraid there weren't going to be many letters until I received today's mail. (Today is the 12th.) Plenty of controversy in this batch. People calling me a lousy reviewer and all that sort of stuff. In this issue, I'm going to take up a little more space in my answers to some of these questions. Some of the questions have been asked more than once and should be answered. As of now, there are at least 10 pages of letters, there might be more. God only knows!

GREGG CALKINS:

ABSTRACT #3 received and noted, and much better than the previous issue. One thing about the covers... the use of litho'd covers is wonderful, providing you can afford it, but why throw away good cash putting an illustration in litho that can hardly stand mimeographing? Why not stick to the ditto'd cover until you really have a worth-while print for your cover? Personally, I didn't think the one you had on #2 was worth the cash the litho took--unless you have a "deal" whereby it doesn't cost you much--but, of course, in the end it's all up to you...you're paying for it. I wish to heaven I had the cash for a litho'd cover--I have two or three excellent illo's by DEA that are really terrific, but I hesitate to approach them by mimeo and I'm waiting until I can find somebody who can give me a hand on them.

Found Geis' FAN-FARE very interesting, and if you can continue to put out this sort of thing, more power to you. Unfortunately, most guest-editorial/biography sort of things degenerate into something worse than nothing. We'll see how yours does. Personally, I advise only one per issue--good subjects will be hard to find soon, and you'll have to start repeating...or am I being pessimistic? By the bye, I noticed one thing I abhor in your last few pages of Geis...you aren't correcting your errors, but just running through them and letting them go. Tch, tch.



THROUGH RAIN, THROUGH SLEET, THROUGH SNOW, etc., etc.

Just read through the letter column again and noted your answer to Geis' query. Now I have one... can you fix me up with the AMERICAN OFFSET PRINTERS? How many copies will they run for the \$6 price you mentioned? Man, that's just about in my price field. Incidentally, I note here that quite a few people are in opposition with my views of your cover on #2, upon re-checking and comparing it with the price and also with your cover on #3 as reproduced by ditto. Well, I still don't think it was worth it.

You know, I don't know why I complain so much, because I really do like ABby... you have one of the best letter columns and fanzine reviews to be found anywhere. I must admit that the way you rate the fanzines surprises me exceedingly sometimes, but after all, you're entitled to your opinions... that's why everybody keeps trying to turn out better and better fanzines, after all.

Well, let me try to analyze ABby in my thoughts... okay on the editorials and excellent on the letters and fanzine reviews. FAN-FARE is fine, too. I guess my main objections are: too much room devoted to fan-fiction, which I never read--it's almost a blood vow with me--and not enough (or any) good columnists. Minor objections are the colors you print in and the fact that you don't take enough care with your stencilling and corrections and artwork... they could all stand touching up.

Am enclosing something of a short article for you, if you like it. It was originally written as my column for Harlan Ellison, but all of a sudden Ellison decides he's changing his editorial policy to an entirely different style than he ran in SFB and so he wants a different slant on his writing. Now that's okay with me, but I wish he'd tell me in advance. You get to writing for a certain audience, and all of a sudden he wants to change the audience. I was going to expand it some before sending it to you, but I've got the column to write again for Ellison, one for SWARK, and one for A LA SPACE, all before the 15th, so I guess I'd better get busy on them first.

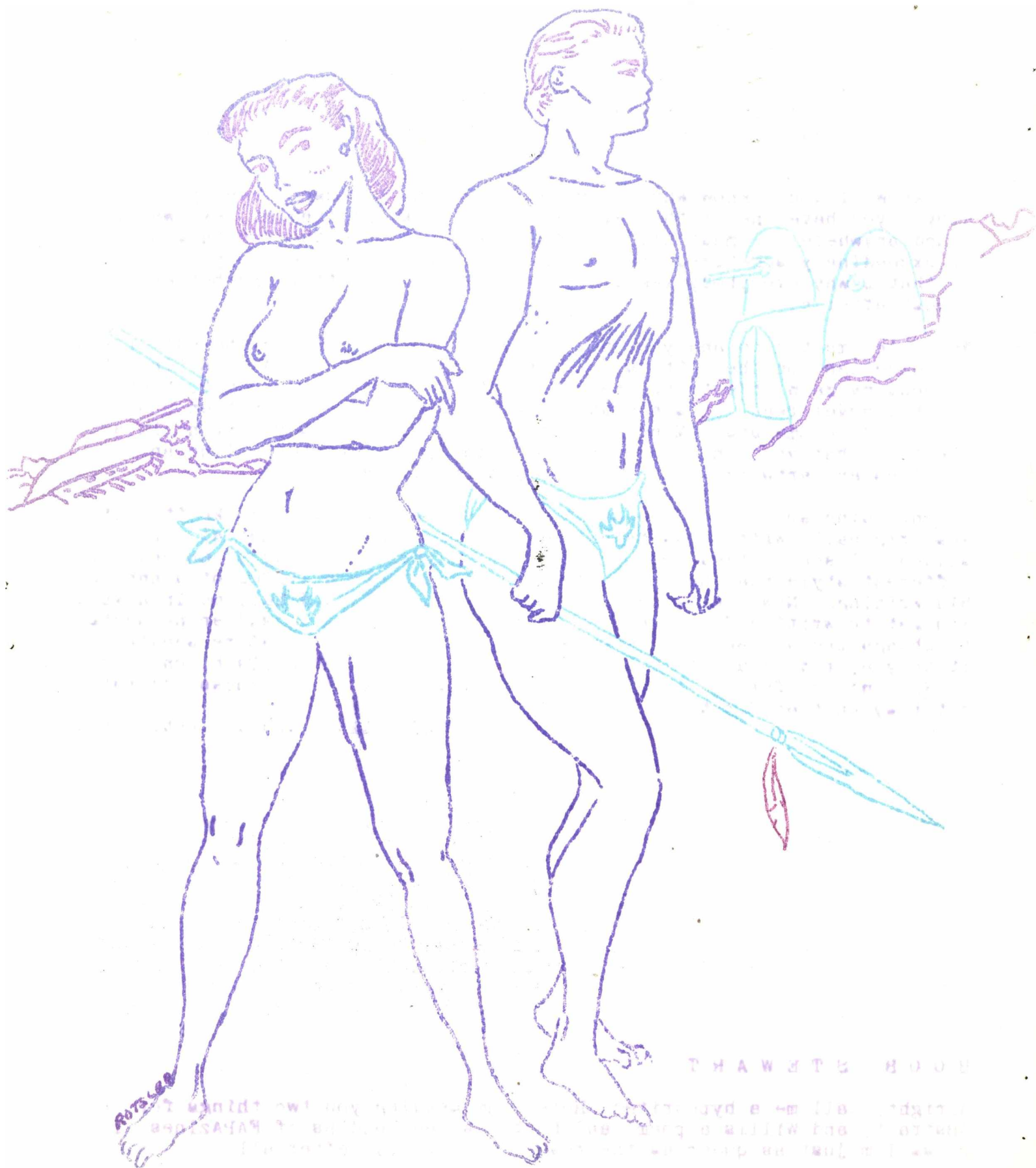
2817 - 11th Street, Santa Monica

(( Regarding the litho'd covers: Not only can I get the at \$6 for a thousand (which, in itself, is definitely not a bad price), but I have recently found a place that will do 200 (on 40lb. stock!) for \$3.50! This is definitely not out of the price range of a thrifty fan. Especially when you take into consideration the price of the cover if it was ditto'd on 40lb. paper (approx. \$1.25). As for your comments on the cover of #2, I think you've already realized that the majority of the fan are not in agreement with you. I earnestly hope that the fan will like the cover on this ish. Sorry about the typos, that few pages were about the last few that I did, and I was, naturally, in a big hurry. Will try harder this issue. Thanks for the compliments and criticisms. They'll be well-taken. ))

B O O B   S T E W A R T :

Alright, call me a hypocrite! Here I am sending you two things for ABstract, and Willis a poem, and Burbee seven bundles of FAPAZines. I guess I'm just as queer as the rest of you people after all.

I hope no one took that letter too, too seriously. I was slightly



p.s. "d at Carr and mad at Thompson for cutting me low in letters to Maiz and was thoroughly disgusted with the whole mob after seeing THURBAN II. But along comes Willis in " and THE ENCHANTED DUPLICATOR and I realize that fans can be fairly mature and so forth.

In other words, the Gafia has worn off. I'm even putting out a last issue of BOO! --monstrous thing, I hope, with all kinds of people in it. This'll be short for that reason; I've still got to write some more letters to people.

Please excuse the crampiness of this missive and the abbreviations. I'll write later on, maybe.

274 Arlington St., San Francisco

(( Well, BOOB, one of the craziest and best faneds is back. For the record, I received my first piece of fan-correspondence from Boob, and what a piece of correspondence it was! It blasted me from here to kingdom come. That was the first piece he asked me not to print. The letter he mentions in the above letter, is another piece he asked me not to print. Mmmboy! The black-mail I've got...and you'd never guess the names of some. I see your point of view on THURBAN II...it would drive anybody out of Fan dom. As for Willis and the Enchanted Duper, I've given up hope of ever seeing a copy. I've sent Willis every copy of ABSTRACT, including this one. Have written him two letters and one post-card asking for his autobio...but not one lousy reply! Can any one tell me whether or not he ever got rid of that pneumonia? ))

DENIS MOREEN:

It's about time I wrote you a note or two or three or more concerning the various stuff you've sent this way, especially since they've reached of recent the tender number of three. So here goes:

Thanks kindly for the two ABSTRACTs and the VORZIMERzine. The first offset AB was quite extreme in its material -- some very good items and some very bad items. It was an average first issue.

And then comes #2, the hectored or whatever it was. This I like! Your personality shines thru much better (probably because of the larger space in which you say things). The cover was beautiful (as was #1's in a slightly less manner). The reproduction of the entire issue is amazingly good -- in other words, it couldn't be better.

THREE LOVES HAD MICHAEL was so good that it forced me to go back to the #1 issue and read that (I must admit that I had previously skipped over it). DonHD is really good at expressing words so that they mean something, so that they say something. It is the knack of a poet. Each of these stories, of course, would be fine separately, but will the last in the series be dependent on previous happenings? Believe me, I'm actually waiting to find out what comes next, something which rarely takes place these days in my attitude towards fanzines.

The letter section (and if you think I'm gonna type that out, pardner, yousa gotta the wronga ideassa!) was excellent, full of spontaneous ideas, which, in my opinion, is the essential part of any letter section. In other words, it's far from dead.



Carol McKinsey story --ye God! 2 stories -- was also excellent. Where do you dig up all this good stuff? I envy you. My only regret is that page 27 began printing two inches too late, cutting off some intriguing dialogue. Really nice story, though.

Turn the sheet over and there I shall make an attempt to list my top ten in fandom. Out of modesty, I shall not even consider SPIRAL, whether it be worthy or not.

(helpful hint: the best method for reading the other side of this sheet is to turn it over.)

The following listed are seriously, and in the order, my opinions, as based on the issues received, and on the fact that the magazines are still being published (VEGA is not being published, at least for these purposes): 1) Psychotic; 2) Oopsla!; 3) Fog; 4) Confusion; 5) Hyphen; 6) ABstract; 7) Grey; 8) S-F Advertiser; 9) Confab; 10) Vamp.

This list, by the way, was achieved by going through my trade lists and adding any additions to your list. Then it was a matter of elimination. As a conclusion, I would say that the number of good fanzines is quite small -- not more than 17 or 18 at the most. The rest are unreadable.

Even after reading your correction of the matter, I still am at a loss as to how you could have had that FAN-FARE #10 instead of #2. Rather clever trick, Rosco. The series is quite interesting, particularly as no other fanzine is doing the same sort of thing right nowadays.

All in all, ABstract, in my opinion has climbed into the top ten easily within two issues, being graced with both good reproduction and good material. May it continue monthly as you say?

If you would have any use for a Moreen column or Moreen article or Moreen story or Moreen poem or Moreen art (even Moreen has no use for the last 2!) speak up because I'd like to do something for AB. Maybe a column if I can think of something to write about along the lines of my editorials in SPIRAL. Just a thought.

214 Ninth St., Wilmette, Ill.

(! You're definitely not the only one who put aside the first part of THREE LOVES, only to read the superlatives and find out they were right. You've got plenty of company. I think I'm safe in assuming that this will be the fan-story of the year...some fan say it's the best they've ever read in a fanzine. Since the only compensation Don gets (we pay no lettuce) is your letters, I'm sure I can say for him his heartfelt thanks for all the wonderful things you've said about him and his writings. Don't usually pub the 'top-ten' lists sent in by each fan. Don't know why I did this time--just felt like it. Will be more than glad to see something by Moreen gracing the pages of ABstract. The more columns the better. By the way--and this is important--I guarantee that ALL THE READERS OF ABSTRACT will be shocked with surprise upon receiving the next issue of ABstract. Aside of the photo-cover with the pics of twenty fan--ABstract will have something really different for its fifth (and possibly the rest) issues. Watch for it...I think you'll be pleasantly surprised.)

CAROL MCKINNEY:

My ghad, what did you do, get out of bed on the wrong side the morning that DV turned up??? Couldn't you find anything you liked in it???

I'm still at a loss to know why you suddenly decided to spring both barrels at me...

Natch, I like your honest opinions and all that, but why try to accuse me of something which I did ~~not~~ do??? I'm referring to your statement that my Fanistory feature is a direct steal from you Fan-Fare! Now really, Pete, if I actually thought you were serious about it I just might get peeved over such an accusation! (Don't know for sure because such things rarely upset me and my sunny disposition...) But you know darn well both our first ishs came out within a week of each other--so howinell could I have copied your idea???

And you're aren't making a bitter enemy if that was your object... I've been raked over the coals by experts and still remain unburned. I just can't see getting upset over a hobby. It just isn't that important... Like I said, I appreciate your honest criticism!

I wasn't satisfied with the cover thish, either. I told Dottie when she practically insisted on drawing the cover this time, that I wanted the satyr chasing a couple of wood nymphs, and that's what she came up with, when it was too late to do anything about it. I have my doubts about the number of covers she'll do for me from now on... but keep it (oops! I didn't see it until now! a violation of fan-ethics--I'm sorry I let it slip, but I don't think she'll see a copy--but, after all, it's not that important--ed.) under your hat, hmmm?

I can't understand why you didn't like DEA's bacover tho???

Liked the latest ABstract... was going to comment on it more fully, but just discovered I sent it with a bunch to a fan in England. ABby will be a well-traveled gal now..

Must cut this short now. Got to finish stencilling my SAPSzine, IMPACT, and try to get it runn off next week. 18 pages including the covers. (You've probably heard of Fred Malz, from San Francisco? He's doing the cover. He'll be one of the staff artists of DV from now on, too. You'll probably even have to break down and admit you like his work!)

Oh, yes, did you or did you not like that article I sent you a couple of weeks ago?

Sta. 1, Box 514, Provo, Utah

(( Sorry to goof on the word 'not' above, but the underline is so near to the '&' sign. I am in dead seriousness when I say that you made a direct copy of "FAN-FARE", and as for the fact that our first issues came out within a week of each other, you are dead wrong. The first issue, with the first fan-fare, came out in JANUARY. Your first issue came out in MARCH. The latest you would've seen ABstract would be around the middle of FEB. In my opinion, you still stand accused. One more thing, even though fan-pubbing is my hobby, doesn't mean that I take it too lightly. As one man, for a mag of this size, I put too much time and energy to excuse anything pertaining to it, lightly.

I'm talking to the readers, and many people agree with me. But, I don't expect you to like it, especially since you said that you're only reading it, so I'll let it go. Not to sound another damn, but Donnell himself (that is, if STANLEY continues...) is thinking of doing another Fan-Fare type thing. ))

D O N W E G A R S :

As Nock says, "all faneds turn to the review section first." And since you saw fit to review FOG in such a nice manner, you'll get a nice letter, the exact opposite of my cutting self.

Your cover wasn't goo, but since you sort of appologize for it, it doesn't strike me as being too bad. On that DEA drawing, though, you experience the same kind of trouble that I had in turning out my cover for FOG #3. The carbon doesn't pull off in some places, no? (No,--ed.) Sometimes its just the carbon sheet itself, but most of the time the trouble is tracing the original onto the master on too hard a surface.

Your editorial is good. You leave yourself wide open, though, because if you don't get the things you ask for, Jee Fan will think of you as an editor who has no drawing power. You probably will get it, though.. POW! right in da kisser!

I haven't read Donnell's story yet, but only one thing is obvious. You'll have a much better zine when next issue rolls around. More space will be used for more features, since the Donnell story, being pretty good, takes up a lot of room.

Don't give me such a big build-up, PLEASE!! I mean that ad you ran as filler. I'm eternally grateful, but I don't like to disrupt the facts. Fog #3 was 24 pages long, not 30. It's published irregularly, not monthly. The price is 5¢, not 10¢, and my zone number is 2, not four. But thanx anyhow...

HE WHO HOAXES LAST was pretty good. I get quite a charge reading stuff like that, because it reminds me of some get-togethers that I have with some of my contemporaries. They aren't faaaaaaans, but then I got along better with non-fans I think. I met Carr, Menicucci, Joseph, Stewart McKinney, and Rike at different times, and though I didn't knife any of them in the back, with the exception of Carr, McKinney and Rike, the others seemed rather 'queer' to me. That's what Stewart says about most fen, and, in a way, he's right. But Stewart thinks I'm queer and I think he's fannishly queer. Isuppose we're both right....

Only thing wrong with Geis' autobiography...I couldn't find the first page. The one on the flip side of the last page of the HOAX article was blank. Maybe you got an extra sheet around the house you could send up? If not, I'll have to guess whether Geis was born or hatched...

And that, my friend, brings us to the review of FOG. I suppose I should be pleased and just forget it. But comparing my zine to Psychotic is like comparing Jane Russell to my girl... They both got the same things, but one has a bit more than the other. And don't blame White for the cover! He drew it, and it was a darn good cover when it came out of the envelope, but as it took form on the master copy, I went ape. I juggled the spaceship around, putting it into the air instead of on the



ground as White drew it. I cut out some foreground... I went wild! And as the thing came sliding off my (The One Geis used on PSY 1 & 2) ditto, I knew my monster was a Frankenstein. But, since paper costs \$2.40 a ream, I couldn't junk it...

And so, as ABSTRACT sinks slowly in the files, we head out to sea, sure of finding a much better zine next time, with more space devoted to features, and better layout since the editor won't be so rushed...

Your article is SO right! I'll run it in the next issue, not because I get a charge out of mention of my name, but because I agree with you --at least about 75%. I think I'll run it as an Open Letter to 6th, 7th, and 8th Fandom, unless you have a serious objection.

By the way, I'm enclosing two cartoons by a girl artist what calls herself Maxine Parrish, Cooter, Missouri. Funny name, no? (No, funny city, --ed.) But, if you don't find them funny send 'em to Carr. He's got a bunch of troubles now, might just as well send him some more...

Damn, this letter took me one whole hour to write. I wonder if you're worth it, Pete. Perhaps when the revolution comes, you and I will form a triumverate and rule over fandom from our Golden West... And then I'll stab you and say...

Fen, Romans, and countrymen... Lend me your money.  
I have come to bury Vargimer,  
Not to praise him...

2444 Valley St., Berkeley 2, Cal.

(( You got me wrong on that cover. But you can't please everybody. There were quite a few who liked it. Let me set you straight--I didn't apologize for anything but the lack of a photo-offset cover. Other than that, I thought the cover was of above average quality and so on.

When I review a magazine, one of the things I do, is not to let a magazine's reputation influence me, or not to let other people's opinions influence me. Just because a magazine is one of the top and just because its previous issues have been terrific, does not, in any way, prevent the next issue, or any one after that, from being a real piece of crud. When I took up FOG to review, I held it up against the latest issue of Psychotic (#10) and found it, in my opinion, much better. With Geis in it, he sort of proved to be his own competition. As for that, I'll let the matter rest right there. Don't look a gift horse in the mouth. By the way, that review was no gift.))

J A N J A N S E N : (Europe's only faned)

Me so sorry, me late! Expect you'll be used to that by now. I soon did after starting meddling myself in fanac. And don't start making me out for "old" so-and-so, please. I resent that. Not the so-and-so, which I most likely deserve, but the "old." And I like to think of myself as being a nice, young chap. (Jan is 26 --ed.)

You should have received Alpha 3 by now, along with that beautiful pic or did you chuck it away? You'd better not tell me if you have, because

you'll never get another. Couldn't swindle one of Dave, but have hopes of getting a pile of some chaps together this coming summer. If I don't forget. I'm liable to, you know. I'll be sure and send you a copy.

Actually, I should be turning my efforts to the job of supplying you with a letter of criticism on ABSTRACT. I've got one gripe against the thing--there isn't enough of it. Tad's story is good, and very neatly done. I really enjoyed it better than THREE LOVES. (WHAAAAAT?? -ed.) This is possibly due to the fact that it would be O.K. when read together with the next two parts, but considered on its own, it has nothing to do with fans or stf. Don't tell me, I can guess the other loves, but that's why I say the three parts should be read together. As a story teller, he should do alright though. Even if of no direct stf interest, it did read fluently. Glad to see the feature Fan-Fare: I always did like to know what the guys did, and are doing, or have been doing, other than their Stf Activities. Having an idea about the background gives you the feeling they are more or less personal acquaintances.

From the dates on the title page of ABSTRACT, I see I should have had ABSTRACT #2 as well as the supplement. Something wrong in the New APA or waiting to hear from me? Most like the latter, but I wonder if you could tell me the date you received Alpha 3. It was mailed here on 3/4/54. So, as I can base myself for second class mail delay?

As you might have made out reading our third ish, we also have a sense of humor, over here. Or did you guys think this sense is purely an Anglo-Saxon monopoly? And is that the reason why we get a "serious" fanzine, whilst they're hiding away HALLA? How do you guys manage to get the photo-offset though? Have the prices for this type of machine gone down so much, or does one or the other firm or organization place it at your disposal?

229 Berchemlei, Bergerhout, Belgium

(( Got Alpha 3 alright...you mailed it from Twerp on the 16th and it got here on the 24th. Not too bad...but not very good. Your pic has been received. A very civilized-looking fellow, that Jensen boy (ah! does that make up for "Tole" ad-and-aw?). I don't agree whatsoever on your taste regarding the stories in ABSTRACT #1, but won't go into detail...that's ancient history now. Your third to last sentence was slightly cryptic--didn't get it. You refer to ABSTRACT as being piloted by "they". I say, old boy, unless you are referring to me as a schizophrenic or being two-faced...there's only one boy who's piloting this mine...me. (I think.) As for Alpha, you'll find it reviewed in the back of this issue. You've got quite a list there, Jon, Europe's only fanzine. I think that's quite a distinction...now let's see something really worthy of that title in forthcoming issues. ))

G R E G G C A L K I N S : (again?)

Considering the pile of unanswered mail I have, I shouldn't even be touching this letter for two weeks yet. But you've got a point that has me excited, and I've got to write you about it before I blow up.

Considering these photo-offset covers--I've gotta have a couple. Tell you what. Since you know the guy and where he is and everything, I'm going

THROUGH RAIN, THROUGH SLEET, THROUGH SNOW, etc., etc.

going to send you two pix I'd like done next time I'm up in SM...no, I guess I can't at that, since I won't have any money by then. Well, how about doing it anyway? I'll mail you the pix the 15th. If you happen to have the spare cash, I'd appreciate it if you'd get them run and let me know before the 20th or the 22nd, at which time I'll send you the dough. However, if you don't have the cash, just wait until it arrives from me and then put them in, okay? One thing--I'll trapeze over to your place to get the finished covers. Try and let me know if you have them done before the weekend of the 22nd and if so, I'll be over that weekend. If not, I'll wait until the next one and pick them up.

I'm taking for granted, of course, that you'll help me out on this--I would really appreciate it if you would, because it would be pretty hard for me to get into LA twice in a row. Another thing: how far do you live from Wilshire Blvd. and La Cienega? Those are about my only reference points in that area, and I'll have to go from there. How is the best way for me to reach you from Santa Monica?

My Ghod--200 covers on 40lb. stock for \$2 apiece or two for \$3.50... it's fantastic (It's wrong! -ed.) Maybe I'd better have four run before the crazy guy changes his mind...

Sorry my article on 7th Fandom was so short, but for a while yet I'll have a bit of catching up to do and everything. I've got a column commitment to Ellison that I'm not sure I'll be able to swing, yet. I'm not sure I can write the sort of serious high-level stuff he wants, but I'm going to try. I know I can write fairly capable fan humor, but that's not what he wants now. I've also got column commitments to A LA SPACE and SWARM, but I think I'll get out of them and plead lack of time if I can. I'm really not a prolific writer, and with OOPS and Ellison I have about all I can handle.

Be that as it may, I'll try and make ABSTRACT #6 if I can. I'm going to take a 30-day leave in late June and early July, and I'm not sure yet how that will effect OOPS and my writing, tho I tend to think it will make a hole. We'll see.

Would like to send you my pic, but I'll have to look around and see if I can find one. I may have a few small ones in SM, but I'm not at all sure if they're big enough. But as they're all con foto's from Chi, perhaps you might find one or two of them worthwhile, as they contain Bee Mehaffey and (in another) Marty Greenberg as well as my ugly ran.

Damned if I see where you get the dough but if you can run a FANish, a CONish and an ANNish during the remaining months of '54, I predict that ABby will be an all-time high in production. Before I forget, be sure and put me down for a CONish, and I'll bring you my quarter when I come for my covers. I'll bring you your copy of OOPS #13 then, too, as I'll probably beat the mails that way, anyhow.

I'm a little disappointed that OOPS didn't turn out higher in the poll than it did, but I guess that's the way it goes. The only thing that really distresses me is finding INSIDE and SPACSHIP over OOPS--INSIDE because of the relatively few issues it has produced so far and SPACE-SHIP because I heretofore thought fandom preferred a light zine to it. SKYHOOK isn't really a subzine or even actually a fanzine, but there's no denying the fact that it's tops, both in reproduction and editorial



THROUGH RAIN THROUGH SLEET, THROUGH SNOW, etc., etc.,

capability. Personally, I find more of interest in ABSTRACT than in SKYHOOK as far as reading goes--but SKYHOOK is undoubtedly the best fanzine.

Ah, well, there will be other polls, and other issues of COLS...I think my annish this year--tho probably not as spectacular, by far, as yours--will boost me a notch or two, and I have ytet (that's 'yet' -ed.) other plans in store...

All for now, and I'll send you the pix this coming weekend (the 15th) with the request that you do what you can for me...and thanks.

2817 - 11th St. Santa Monica

I find we've got the prices wrong. I must have been wishful thinking when I suggested those prices, though the artists even brought the low price, and are very reasonable. They are \$3.50 apiece for 40th. As for a matter of fact, I've been told the weight is 80th, for 200 copies. An invitation you over for the HAI meeting on the weekend of the 22nd - You are to be one of my surprise guests. Hopefully, this will appear after the HAI meeting. I might even present the abstracts at the meeting. Have a heck of a lot of posters about the polls. Since I've taken so much pains in making this poll (which by the way, won't be until completed until the next issue), I'm going to continue keeping it up-to-date. If and when DASH and I finally fold, and a big like I think it comes in--there will be quite a switch-around. Then you'll undoubtedly (together with the rest of the top ten) be pushed up a notch or two. See you on the 22nd...

R I C H A R D   G E I S :

Now that format on the cover of #3 I like. Simple, yet interesting. I suggest you keep it. A definite improvement. I frown, however, on that, "donnell, geis, carr, vorzimer, and others..." business. Are you a pseudo-campbell? On the other hand, it does fill up space.

My response to the total issue: "MAN, DIG THAT CRAZY RAINBOW!"

Seriously, Pete, with regard to the various polychrome effects you get: don't you think that possibly you are overdoing it a bit? It seems to me that color other than the basic type-color should be used as a decorator item; a sort of accent. In your letter column, and especially in the fanzine reviews, you use color like a color-blind bull in a paint shop. Sure it's bright and colorful, but that is not an end in itself. Color should be used with discretion, even if it is cheap and easy to put in a zine. In the first flush of enthusiasm, you seem to have gone overboard.

Donnell writes a good story, and there are parts of his story that ring true to life and actually seem to be taking place as you read. There are other places, however, where he seems to overwrite, and suddenly the reader is aware that what he is reading is corny and pruple. I suppose this is true of all amateur writing to a certain extent. It may be that Donnell should put his stuff away for a month after writing it and then look at it and rewrite. In any case, I agree with you that he is potentially a very fine writer.

THIS ARTIS WHO SIGNS HIS WORK 'R.E.S.; HE IS PERHAPS, RON SMITH????????

It was with a shiver and a peek over my shoulder that I noted the ad for FOG wherein you have killed off Psychotic and relegated to FOG, the mantle of something-or-other. I half-expected old man death himself to touch me on the shoulder and say, dolefully, "Come." You might at least wait til PSY goes bi-monthly. And I don't plan on that at all. I mean, gad... I'll venture a statement to the effect that Psychotic will outlive both ABSTRACT and its erstwhile successor.

HE WHO HOAXES LAST gave me a chuckle and a laugh. If I ever get down to California again in my lifetime you can be assured I'll look at the pocketbooks first and ask questions after. That was quite a switch they pulled on you.

I looked at the heading of the FAN-FARE, and I looked away. "Ghod," I thought aloud, "Now Vorzimer is doing it." And I refer to the scandalous highlighting of my middle name. Is nothing sacred? Hitchcock started it all, and by heaven, I'll get him if it's the next to the last thing I do.

The heading for your letter column was real cute. I approve. "Blessings upon thee, oh little heading."

REST IN PEACE is a good title for a fanzine review. But believe me, I don't think many will rest after the going over you give them. And I must say that one the whole I don't like a bit your tendency to maul the better zines without due cause. Of course you are perfectly within your rights in stating your opinions, no matter how fuggheaded they may seem to others. (At this point you sneer and say, "Aha, Geis is sore cause I panned PSY.") What bothers me is the standards you apparently use in judging these zines. Witness the A/ you give FOG, the B/ you give SEETEE, the B/ of THE COSMIC FRONTIER, and the A you gave VULCAN. Contrast these high ratings with the C you gave STF TRENDS, the B- you gave PSYCHOTIC. Now really, Pete, how on earth can you justify, as an example, giving an A/ to FOG as opposed to the B- of SPACESHIP? Good as FOG is now, and as much as it promises, it still doesn't even come within a mile of SPACESHIP from any standpoint. What are your standards? What are your criteria? What do you judge a zine by? It is almost pathetically obvious that you are not being objective in your estimates. Rather, prejudice seems to govern your rating. That's perfectly O.K. too, it is your right to print such things if you wish, but it does seem a bit thick that you should pass them off as authentic fanzine reviews. Some fans have been known to buy zines as a result of reviews in other zines, and it just don't seem right that you should mislead your readers as you do. But then, a perceptive reader will realize from a careful reading of the reviews precisely what you are doing, and will write them off for what they are.

I sure can get dirty when I want to, can't I?

And so to bed...

2631 N. Mississippi, Portland 12,

!! Does people like the cover on #3, some didn't. I don't blame everybody, hence the reason for the permanent switch to the new format I'm now using. NO! The artist who signs 'always' his name H.E.A. is Halik Stajankowski. You know, with the fact that, someone really poor like of A.Y., somewhere deep in the chaotic world of mine, I thought you would fold now if you'd care to make a wrong go to the cutlines who... you know, you should give us back. You'd say... & to I. How about it? Now, to the argumentary part of your

THROUGH RAIN, THROUGH SLEET, THROUGH SNOW, etc., etc.

THOUGH, AGAIN, I DON'T LIKE IT VERY MUCH. IT APPEARED TO ME VERY DRAB, TYPE TOO SMALL, AND TOO MUCH READING MATTER IN THE WAY OF FICTION. HUMOR OR SATIRE WOULD MAKE IT TERRIFIC. LYNN SAYS THE PRINTING IS GOING SMALLER, AND THAT'S WHERE I GIVE UP. I THINK MY GRADE OF '3' WAS IN LINE FOR THAT PARTICULAR ISSUE (114). ANY MORE COMMENTS? ))

ABOUT STF TRENDS... I DIDN'T LIKE IT VERY MUCH. IT APPEARED TO ME VERY DRAB, TYPE TOO SMALL, AND TOO MUCH READING MATTER IN THE WAY OF FICTION. HUMOR OR SATIRE WOULD MAKE IT TERRIFIC. LYNN SAYS THE PRINTING IS GOING SMALLER, AND THAT'S WHERE I GIVE UP. I THINK MY GRADE OF '3' WAS IN LINE FOR THAT PARTICULAR ISSUE (114). ANY MORE COMMENTS? ))

PETER GRAHAM:

I received ABSTRACT today, and I read it. VOUS IMBECILE!

As you may have gathered, I have a bone to pick with you. Here it is: You state in your review of Spaceship, and elsewhere, that you consider it an unfair trade to trade with other mags of lesser page size. Now, let's pick that apart; first, there is the thing in fandom, it just isn't the thing to be so damned picayune about the amount of stuff you get when you trade. Every fanzine, bar none, is the result of the best the editor can do at the moment. Perhaps it doesn't have many pages one issue (or any issue); it may make up for that in superior illustrations or format. Then again, artwork may be entirely missing from the zine; it may make up for that in superior material and lots of it.

Then there's the fanzine that's just generally cruddy anyhow. Don't laugh--it's still the best the editor can turn out (no editor is going to purposefully turn out a grudzine) and should be recognized as such as being worth something. If he sends it in trade, he wants to trade--



and it's your duty if you have any conscience at all, to trade with him, regardless of page, size, number, or color.

There's the minor point that Spaceship is a vastly superior to AB and that if anyone is getting the raw deal, it's Silverber--but we needn't go into that.

"...I'm paying much more than a dime for each trade I get, but rarely, if ever, get my dime's worth." Quit being so mercenary. Are you in fandom to have fun or to make money? If the latter, drop out quick; it's easier to lose money by getting drunk, and probably more fun besides.

But let's go into cost for a moment; you say it costs you about \$13.50 to put out an issue of AB. You've already itemized your expenses, so let's itemize what I believe is the average mimeo-zine per issue cost;

Stencils (1 Quire) approximately \$3.50 (average over the country)  
Paper (for 20 pages) (13 sheets and 200 circulation) -- 6 reams @ \$2 is \$12  
Ink (1 Can per ish) \$1.75

That totes up to \$17.50. Not too awfully much over your figure, but for a lot of today's faneds (without a kindly mother--delete from printed) it's rather difficult for them to raise that much for an even bi-monthly zine, much less also put out a lot of work and time and effort on it, as many of them are teen-agers going to high school and college with very little spare time.

The reason for not having more pages? Twofold; first, there's the practical reason that stencils come in packages of 24, unlike ditto masters. Therefore it's just as simple to make an issue that size (Spaceship has 26 because his mailing wrapper is from one stencil 3 years ago, and his cover was stencilled and donated by Carr). Second and even more practical, is the fact that it would cost more money, not only in stencils and paper, but in postage. Let's estimate, dropping postage out of the picture-- 14 more pages, for a 40-more pages, for a 40 page zine (at 20¢ per stencil) comes to \$2.80 more for stencils, and 3 more reams would be \$6. That's \$8.80 more, a grand total of \$26 plus, so lil ol' peter j vorzimer can get his dime's worth.

It's a good thing I'm writing this after I saw you at the NAPACON...

The rest of AB was it's usual best, and marred by the usual typographical errors you seem to be subject to.

Oh, Ghod, here I go again. I just looked in your editorial and noticed that you want an article on 8th Fandom yet.

HASN'T FANDOM (and haven't you) HAD ENOUGH OF THE 7TH FANDOM RUCKUS?

7th Fandom was one of the most stupid, assinine things to ever happen to sfandom. Poor Silverberg didn't know what he was writing when he wrote that article, but you can sure as hell see the fruits of his labors now! A bunch of self-styled egogoo-seeking teen-agers, that can't gain recognition at home or in school for reasons of their own, so set themselves up as "VANGUARDS OF 7TH FANDOM" or the like, merely to boost their own ego. Someone better wise them up. They are the typical adult stereotype of typical teen-age typical clubs. A secret society (7APA), the leaders of the group merely the loudest of all, (Dennis, Vorzimer, for-

heatedly declaring their loyalty to one or the other of the Fans, etc.

Please, Pete, lets not start that again.

You ought to try Rike for both a good columnist and for original cartoons. He should be able to help you--hope you sent him a copy of this.

It's getting late, and I'm too tired to comment much more on Abby. Maybe more on tape later (which reminds me, I've got one here ready to be sent to you...must get to it some day...)

Box 149, Fairfax, California.

Oh, clear the floor, Pete, I'm mad, madder than I've ever been at a fan. Pete, dear, the things you said, man-boy! The way you mixed up the facts. I've got to get sinnered down. I've got to count to 10, so I don't blow my cork and go incoherent. Let's do it nice and calmly.

I'm disregarding everything you said about if a fanzine lacks this, it make up with this, etc., etc., because in the case that you cited (Blackmail), I didn't make up with anything this time. You're still only talking about issue #20, AND ONLY ISSUES #20! Not Big names. I found it boring, and poor for a 20th issue.

The first thing that made me blow my cork was, "There's the minor point that syndication is a vastly superior line to AB, and that if anyone is getting the raw deal, it's Silverberg." The only answer I can give you is: I don't think you're right. But don't consider yourself my friend if you say the opposite to my face. (which you have.) Another thing about prices. God, there's so many fallacies in your statements. I'll say this. I scrounged, I went all over Los Angeles, and I mean all over to beg people to sell me stencils, paper, fluid, for wholesale. I walked my feet off trying to get a better deal. And by god, it payed off! Sure, you guys sit on your fat rectums and buy your crap at \$ .20 per stencil, or \$2.40 for a ream of paper, you're too god damn lazy to go out and see if you can drum up a better deal! I mean it. So what happens? I get this stuff at good prices (6¢ per stencil - \$1.23 per ream) and I pass the good deal onto you by giving you 44 pages in AB? Then people like you tell me that because of my prices mimeos too much more than ditto, so you can't be expected to put out more than 26 pages. Why don't you get off your fat tails and see if you can get your stuff for less. I take the bus a good 15 miles to get my paper at \$1.23 per ream. Sometimes (more than likely) my mom takes me down. I pay 1/2 of what you guys pay, only because I get out and look!

Another thing, you seem to be going under the pretense, when you say, "and it's your duty, if you have any conscience at all, to trade with him, etc., etc.", that I'm not trading--that I'm holding out because I don't get what I want. Well I trade, with everybody, with those who even send me one sheet, like Grey and others. It was always a private gripe with me that others didn't find a cheaper way and pass their savings on to readers. I mentioned it in the past, and YOU LOOK UP THE CONSIDERATION THAT I'M HAVING OFF THAT. I DON'T WANT TO BE A LITTLE BIT MORE THAT ANSWER YOUR GRIPE. Another little fallacy was when you said that

THROUGH RAIN, THROUGH SLEET, THROUGH SNOW, etc., etc.

V. PAUL NOWELL:

Promised you a letter after Issue One came out, and here it is after issue Three. Better late than never, I always say, though I don't know if you agree with me in this case. Let's get one with a rating of ABSTRACT, though, shall we?

The reproduction one the whole, was absolutely marvelous. Never seen such work. Rex-O-Graph Company ought to award you a free machine if you'd advertise their machine in ABSTRACT and display such beautiful dittography (that's a word?). Try it. Cover was fair, though there wasn't much there to comment on. I don't think your one lettering guide was so bad. At least it's better than the hand-made lettering in my first issue.

FROM WHERE I SIT was fine. I resent your crack about Prozone Reviewers, as I happened to have had such a column for the past six months. I've since abandoned it since I cut my collection of mags way down, and I don't feel that I'd be providing a proper view on prozines by reviewing such a narrow field.

THREE LOVES HAD MICHAEL had a beautiful ending. I've already written Don and congratulate him on the nice work. That story is good enough to sell professionally. All it needs is a slight bit of a polishing up in a professional style. I repeat, it was a beautiful story. Three Cheers for Don.

Enjoyed all of your illos for two reasons: (1) they were well drawn, well placed, and well-colored, and (2) there weren't too many of them. I like magazine that have some solid pages of print. Too many illos (fillers) ruin a mag, just as too few do, also. You had the right amount, and you had them well placed to make them interesting, decorative, and add the right touch to ABBy.



HE WHO MOANES LAST was hilarious. Especially the end. I should have been there to meet Joseph...like to see if he DOES look like Batz, like somebody told me. Face Critturs were very good and made the article just right.

FAN-FARE #4 (RICHARD E. GEIS) was also very good. My favorites to appear in this column sometime in the future are: Balint, Ellik, Mutltog (because he's still going strong), Moreen, Watkins, Calnek, and Ellis (Georgina). There may be more, but that's all I can think of now. OH YES....YOU! Who is more deserving of such a position but you?

Letter section was good. Every letter had something worth while to say (and by the same token this will go into the wastebasket by Pete's desk!). A request: I'd like to see VORZIMERzine #1, and SATURDAY REVIEW OF TRASH #1. Haven't seen either. Still haven't got Fantastic Story Mag #4. Didn't get one at your place that day I was there.

Say, you are a smooth one. You and Park have the right idea. Printing a zine--only 60 copies and send it only to the Bnfs. Damn good mag. One of the best to grace my mail-box--only one thing--it didn't grace my mail-box until I demanded and issue. Wassamatta? Aint I a Bnf?

Your reviews are good, but I'm shuddering waiting to see what you say about DIFFUSE. And I have a gripe. You have twice in ABby, in #2 and #3, run SPACEWAYS into the ground. I protest. I'll admit that the hectoring on #1 and #2 wasn't too good in places, and that the mimeoing on #3 was hard to read, but it wasn't IMPOSSIBLE to read...! I read the entire issue through, and enjoyed it. Though Jimmy Clemons story was good. I'm not trying to start an argument, but when you mention SPACEWAYS poor repro work, at least mention that some of the material enclosed was worthwhile.

Pete, you have a driving force the likes of which I've never seen. There's some reason for your boundless energy and dynamic enthusiasm. I'd wear myself to a frazzle if I went at your rate. In fact I don't think I could run myself at your rate. How much do you weigh? I weigh 200 myself, and I don't think you top me. Let's us both run up to Portland, to see Geis, and lose weight at the same time, what say?

When I look at DIFFUSE and then at ABstract, I feel a pang of shame... and yet I wouldn't give up DIFFUSE for anything in the world, because it's mine, and that's a wonderful thing to be able to say, BEST OF LUCK. Abby is going up faster and faster. I have no nominations for the Top Ten, since I receive very few fanzines, but I'd place ABby up there SOMEWHERE! How about getting some Eastern fans, now, and some big ones at that? Again, Good Luck.

6528 Gentry Ave., N. Hollywood.

10 Thank for the loads of compliments, hope to live up to them in future issues. As for my doing my autobiog in AB, nix, other than what I feel as an important article, plus my editorial, that's all that'll bear my name (or any pseudonym, which I never use) in ABstract. Just ethics of some sort. I do have some sort of an autobiog, coming out in the next COSMIC FRONTIER (Glu Neck, RFD #3, Castleton, N.Y.), you might be interested. Between this and Proton...I'm fagged. Though, no matter what the fan might say about my waning driving force, I'll lay 5-1 that ABstract won't



its way, HYPHEN. I imagine PSY is on its way out now. Geis will carry it sporadically for six months or so and quietly fold it and steel away to FAPA. C'est la vie, I guess.

But back to ABSTRACT #3. The DEA cover is fairly nice, but could have been nicer. In your acknowledgements you say that Geis was your first contact in Fandom, yet in a letter to Boob you said HE was...not given?

"THREE LOVES HAD MICHAEL" both overjoyed and disappointed me this time. The first five pages or so are the best he's ever written. After that it became all too obvious that he was trying to keep the wordage down. I would have rather seen it go another installment and be developed fully than tainted like this. Still, even as is, it's by far the best fan-story I've ever read, and better than a hell of a lot of pro stories. Are you sure that it'll be printed pro this year, or have you just persuaded Don to re-write it and send it out? Frankly, I rather doubt it will make the grade, simply because it is off-trail...and no matter what McCain says, I still contend that the pros have a lot of taboos. He Who Hoaxes Last is a good enough CONrepert, but something about it bothers me...I don't remember doing some of those face critturs. Did you do them, or was I farther gone than I thought down there? Geis' autobiog is rather disappointing. He spends too much time on background and personal experiences, methinks. If you're going to go into a few personal experiences, you might as well go into a lot of them, because the autobiog will be unbalanced if you don't. Your fanzine review is pretty good, as is the lettercolumn. Both have the advantage of being nice and long.

My choice of the top ten fanzines: HYPHEN: OOPSLA!: INSIDE: SKYHOOK: PSYCHOTIC: SPACESHIP: ABSTRACT: PEON: SPIRAL: DAWN...

That's not quite in order, but let it go at that. I think SPACESHIP should be a bit higher, but that's life. Of those top ten, I'd say that three, PSYCHOTIC, INSIDE, and SPACESHIP, have fallen down with their latest issues. SShip is on its way out, what with Silverberg going pro, and Ron Smith is having money troubles, and Geis is having the same troubles. The others are all getting better...oops, forgot to include HYPHEN in the list of those slipping. The thing is, tho, that HYPHEN is so great it can afford to slip!

One last note on ABSTRACT #3: the Boward fillers stank. Get better ones or get rid of him. He does a fairly good job in ALAS, but this stuff turns my stomach.

Thanks for the nice review of VULCAN. I'd appreciate it if you'd send your ratings on the issue this time, like you promised to do last time and never did. I'm currently stencilling V-5, but it won't be out for two or three months yet. The GGFS seems to be on shaky ground, though I can't say why. Three weeks ago we had our best meeting in the last two years, with that Fannish Revival Hour that we taped to you and some really good discussions going around. A week ago exactly four people showed up for the meeting, so we called it off. Boob and I are currently working on another program for the next meeting, this one to be a humorous history of the fan, from his barbaric stages to his fashioning of the first few crude implements (the churchkey being the first) and finally to his ultimate life. Since most of the effects will be visual, we won't be able to tape it to you. Too bad you couldn't make it to one of the meetings and see these programs. We've got a million ideas for them, and the club is in favor of them. Maybe one of these years



you will. Maybe we'll put the X-Con on...I rather doubt it, though. If we do we'll end up doing one of the club programs.

Well, methinks I've rambled enough for now. Tell Don that I'm waiting for the story he promised me...and tell him to let it go up to 3,000 wds. if necessary. I want something at least half as good as THREE LOVES.

With that, I go...

134 Cambridge St., San Francisco

(( About the future is my second little life...my first contact in fandom was through his mag, REVIEWS, at the time, which was the first magazine I saw. Through it, I met and copied of his. My first fan-correspondence. Now, my first, my first mag, and first fan-friend (although he was an enemy of the time) was Don Stewart. Does that almost remind you?

I can you agree with me about Whip and some of the other places that now occupy the top ten. See if you can straighten out Peter Graham for me...he needs it. Doubt if I'll be able to attend any JCR meetings until around October or November and even then it's doubtful. I'll see all you guys at the Con. Don't forget to send me the dough for the Conish.

LYNN HICKMAN:

(( I seem to have misplace Lynn's postcards, temporarily, but I'd like to say a few words to him. Lynn wrote me that he won't send me 25¢ for my CONish...says that he thinks that a trade is enough. For 100 pages, plus 4 pages (48 pics) of the CON, I think 25¢ plus a trade is not too out-of-line. Therefore, I'll yield to nobody--no trade--no CONish. I hate to be this way, but without those quarters, I can't afford the extra 50-plus pages plus the 4 offset picture pages. I must get 100 to at least 75 quarters or the ish doesn't come out. ))

Well, I've got a little sap--today is definite--see what I meant--today is definitely not my day for writing. Someday, somebody will invent a correction fluid for diction. Deal with me Ten, read over the mistakes, don't beat me out of fandom for my typos. Acknowledged letters from Redd Boggs, DKA, Bill Reynolds, Norman Peterson, Charles Wilson, a whole slew of people. If I published the letters I wanted to, I'd have 12 pages of just letters. Anyone for a letterzine? Don't know what I'm going to do. I said, "Votziner, you're not going to have any backlog, and any letter that comes in regarding ABstreet or something printed there-in, goes in--the current issue." But now, I'm faced with a 50-page issue, and my postage will go up and up and up. I can't take it much longer, and I don't want to go the way of Geis. So I'll have to keep under 40 pages from now on. The columnists say so according to the way the readers feel. If you're a decent columnist and you don't like a columnist appearing herein--send me in your own column, if I like, I'll put it.

I have a story by Harlan Ellison, which is very good, not stf, but I'm going to put it anyway, I think--perhaps for the Sept. issue. Also some stuff by Jeffery Carrahan. Next issue you can expect some drastic changes in ABstreet. I think you'll like them. The entire magazine depends solely upon what I find residing in my mailbox within the next month. There aren't many reviews in this, that's not my fault...I don't get any. So, the review column stands or falls on what I receive. Same for everything.

# FAN-FARE #5

with



*(He's a Boy, himself!)*

I've been asked to do one of these autobiographies. (As you might well guess if you see it in print!) That's odd, because I'm not a BNF and worse yet, I'm not a fan.

I'll get around to that later. At the moment you're probably anxious to find out how I got mixed up with Fandom (most likely, you're not, but there's not a damn thing you can do about it!). It seems to have happened way back in the last days of 6th Fandom. I met Peter Graham when he was still buying Amazing and being audited for engrams and together we met Terry Carr and converted Keith Joseph.

I went on in a merry little nec-fannish way for about six months, subscribing and reading fanzines religiously and eventually graduated from Amazing to Galaxy and such.

Then came the dawn. I put out the first half-size, hekto'd issue of BOO! I was making only \$10 a month then off my paper route and Ghod knows how I managed to publish two issues a month. They varied in quality from horrible to just bad, all of them, and when the eighth had been mailed I was just fed up with being called an SOB by so many fans. But I still had hopes.

I was promoted from carrier to inspector of routes in my district and made twice as much. I thought maybe I could put a good fanzine out with all that extra money. But alas! That fall I entered High School and had to buy car tickets, game tickets, cigarettes (I'd taken up smoking) and began meeting more girls that didn't deserve my fanning money.

I had more hope, though, when I got another after-school and Saturday job at a local butcher shop. Now I was making three times as much as my route and inspection, plus that money (I still kept the Shopping News jobs.)

But alack, alas, and Alaska (to steal a line from Herb Caen), I got interested in liquor. I spent about half my pay check each week on beer and naturally, didn't have enough for my fanzine. So I quit. Completely.

That's the way it's been for quite a while. The most I've done in the past months is put out a four-page issue of BOO! and a few letters to Pete Vorzimer. I've even given up reading stf--as Carr quoted me last issue, "It makes me sick." I've read the Caine Mutiny, Kon Tiki,

Cosmopolitan, Rusty Desmond, Hell's Kitchen, since giving up and that type of fiction seems to be replacing stf. And Harper's, Look, Cars, Motor Trend and a few other slicks are replacing fanzines in my reading diet. Movies, drinking parties, and such un-fannish-type things are replacing GGFS meetings.

My oh my.

Of even smaller interest than the above is that I'm fifteen, have brown hair, 150 pounds of meat shakin' on the bone and stand close to six feet in my shoes. (I might add that Boob's picture will appear on the cover of the next issue--ED.) I plan to go to college, and possibly earn my daily bread through a writing career, though Ghod knows how I'm going to do it with a "D" average so far.

I've accumulated in the past two or three years of stfing and fanning: a collection about 1500 large of mags and stuff, a typer, a mimeo, three hektos and so forth. A whole kit.

That's that. Now where did I put my copy of the New Yorker?

X X X

### W A R N I N G !

As I have said in previous issues, the time for the Convention is drawing nearer and nearer. I just got my membership card billing me as prisoner number 189. But aside of that the Convention means one more thing to both me and you, my readers. It means that I have got to start thinking about my special Convention issue, the one that will boast 100 pages and 4 full pages of pictures.

The price of this October issue, will be 35¢ to non-fans and the fans will receive it for 25¢ plus their own magazine in trade. In other words, it's going to cost you 25¢ more than the previous issues of AB. But believe me, it's going to be well worth it!

Starting with this issue, and continuing with the July, August, and September issues of ABstract, I will publish a numbered list of those who thus far have sent in the quarter for the CONish. There will only be 100 printed...and the first 100 quarters take them. So, in other words, get your quarter in as soon as possible, I might get all the money within the next two months or less and those of you who plan to wait awhile, will be stuck without an issue.

Pais so far are:

1. Don Howard Donnell
  2. Stuart K. Nock
  3. Burton S. Satz
  4. Jimmy Clemons
  5. Charles Wilgus
- .....only 95 left.....

Deadline for all money will be the 15th of August.....no later!

Material in that issue by CARR:GEIS:VORZIMER:NOCK:WEGARS:DONNELL:  
TUCKER:GRENNELL:BALINT:HICKMAN:MOREEN:WILLIS:STEWART:HALL:CALKINS.more



## Claude R. Hall

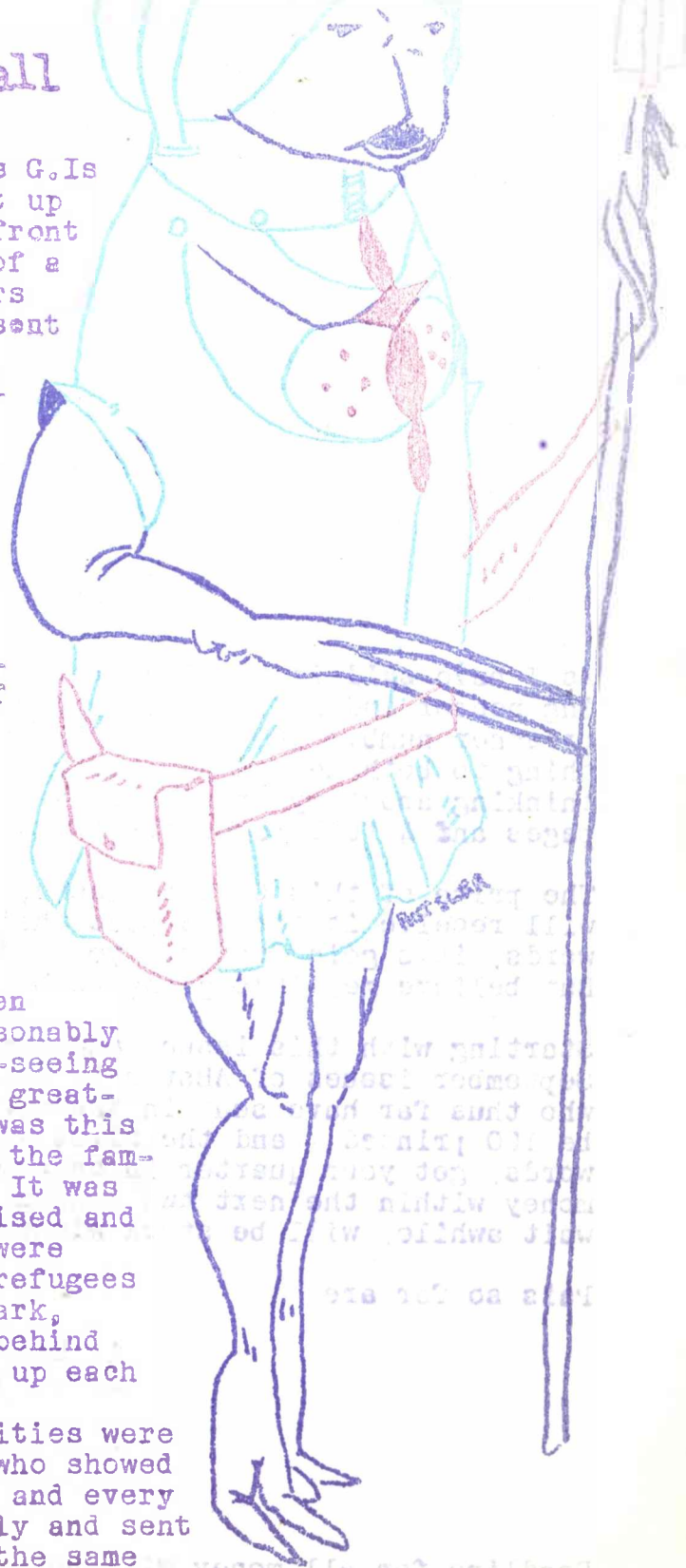
You can be assured that all of us G.I.s were worried for a while. We're right up in what you might call the Communist front yard here in Germany and war is more of a possibility every day. And then, rumors started floating around that we'd be sent into Indochina to help the French out down there. The Korea situation still hadn't been settled either and all of these too imminent factors kept our spines tingling. Of course, the H-bomb and a supposed Nitrogen bomb gave us a little relief but then word came out from behind the Iron Curtain that they'd issued hand atomic weapons to the red troops and had an H-Bomb too. We were all very nervous--just wondering if they'd hold off until we got rotated.

But yesterday, I'm proud to announce, WAR ended, figuratively.

War, strife, fighting, common difficulties, racial prejudice, religious differences, hunger, poverty--everything that has plagued man since the beginning of time.

I had applied for and received a three day pass in order to visit Sweden and the American Express tour was reasonably cheap--so Tuesday I hopped on a sight-seeing bus and we left. Enroute, one of the greatest and most thrilling sights to me, was this "dream-city" designed and laid out by the famous Swedish scientist, Yann Danders. It was only one of the many that had been raised and were now being used. Thousands more were being built all over the country and refugees and peasant people from Germany, Denmark, France, and several of the countries behind the Iron Curtain were rushing to fill up each city upon its completion.

Several basic qualities of the cities were explained to us by the Unit Director who showed us through. He informed us that each and every "citizen" was psychoanalyzed thoroughly and sent to the city that contained others of the same fundamental protuberant ideas, beliefs, creed, etc.



After visiting the schools, several of the housing sections, the atomic power division, the food-making machines, the parks, etc., we were given a two-hour lecture on how some of the devices to eliminate work operated. I was greatly impressed with the school system. It operates via TV sets and a device similar to a lie-detector. Each child is placed separately in eight foot cube room like stalls. He sits down in a comfortable chair and fastens the brain wave recording device to his temples by slipping on a skull-cap. Then the lesson is implied through watching TV and his capability and understanding is recorded in the control room. If the child doesn't grasp the meaning of the lesson, his circuit is switched over onto a channell for the more backward mind until he can progress again to the main circuit. As soon as his control-room meter indicates that he's earned his quota for the day, he may leave. Or, if he desires indicate an advanced learning capability, he'll be advanced into higher studies.

I didn't understand the food making machines. They were certainly too complicated for me. I gathered, from the director's lecture that it was related to an atomic nuclear change of the atoms of rocks, earth, etc. At dinner, I discovered that it didn't taste too bad. The director gave us to understand that this wasn't the basic food--just something to keep from starving in case the food supply was cut off. Hydrophonic gardens supplied most of the food consumed in the 20,000 populated city.

Working hours, he explained, were held to a maximum of three hours per day for a two day week. Of course, scientists, chemists, etc., had the liberty to work at will. The common laborman would be eliminated as time went by and the education level increased. Estimated time was three generations to produce a standard of almost genius among the populace.

The city, itself, was covered with a huge plastic dome that reached from mountain to mountain between the narrow valley. Both ends were open to the weather so as to insure a proper amount of fresh air. A narrow stream twisted the length of the city and rippled over a man-made waterfall in the park. However, drinking water, etc., was gained from deep wells.

At the lecture, the Swedish scientist, Yann Danders, was introduced to us and he informed us of the "dream-cities" now being constructed in Germany with plans to spread to France later on in the year. He also stated that soldiers were deserting from the Russian army and sneaking across with their families to enter the cities. Russia, he stated, had asked to examine the "cities" and their delegates were expected to arrive later on in the week.

The U.S. Army were presently considering the idea of turning all of the Grand Canyon into one large city and the President of the U.S. had advanced the possibility of soon disorganizing the army--if and when the Reds would consent to do the same. No statement was given by the many AWOLs from troop bases in Germany and France.

So, immediately after we left the city and I returned to camp, I cabled Walt Willis to see what he thought about this idea I'd landed upon. He'd read something about the "dream-cities" in a magazine and was very responsive to the suggestion I made. He even had the ideal location in mind--a narrow valley near Belfast in Northern Ireland. I got in touch with the Swedish scientist, Yann Danders, and he made an offer on a finished "dream-city" of \$1,000,000. The reason the cost is

Now, is what the building methods have been economized and most of the parts, machines, etc., were being mass produced now.

So, here's the situation, fen! An average city like this holds about 20,000. At \$1,000,000, this will cost us about \$50 apiece. A very agreeable sum.

As things stand now, everyone in the more populated sections of the world will be living in dream cities within the next 10 or 15 years. As science-fiction fans, we will probably be herded into the same city sooner or later anyway. We should stick together. We should make sure by going together now. Don't let some nit-witted psychoanalyst mess up all of us! If we chip in now and buy this dream-city, we'll be years ahead of the rest of the world! This has several good points--for instance, we could have a fan convention once a week or even more often. You'd be able to live next door to maybe Walt Willis himself and hear all of the witty things he says when waking up every morning that never see print in fanzines. And naturally, you'd save more than \$4,00 dollars per person on postage for letters and fanzines alone! I also understand that taxes will be reduced once everyone in the world is settled in dream-cities. We could beat the government to the punch by stopping payments on taxes now. We could declare out independence from the world! Think of all the possibilities! A paradise! A once-in-a-life-time deal! A no-money back guarantee!

So, hurry. 20,000 fen is the limit and you'll want to be with all of the other BNFs. Send a letter now to Walt Willis 170 Upper Newtownards Road Belfast Northern Ireland and ask him for extra particulars. For only fifty dollars, you can't afford not to write! Of course, boat fare over to Ireland will have to be at your own expense. So, Bob Shaw and others have set up a loan fund for American and Canadian fans who want in on this caper.

Better hurry.

-----Claudius





DIFFUSE: V. Paul Nowell - 6528 Gentry Ave., N. Hollywood, Cal. VI, NI,

Material-wise, this mag is very good. But Ghod! that ditto! Ghod! It's published by the Scarlet Tanager Press alias John "Crazy-Legs" Hitchcock. The ditto is the worst I've ever seen. (Boy, I really get 'em--the worst dittoed mag, and the worst mimeed mag.) "Career" by Don Donnell is pretty good. Guest editorial by yours truly, tells of the start of NAPA and some interesting meetings. Also by the great bard (damn, that was almost 'bare!'). Verzimer is "How to be Popular at a STFCOn". More stuff, all pretty good. If and when the next issue is dittoed on my machine, I'll guarantee you'll see a world of difference, production-wise. Nowell's schedule is somewhere between three or four ish's per year, but unless he maintains somewhat of a regular schedule, his zine will never be appreciated. Should improve greatly. C

PROTON: P.L. Knister (anon) --here I go reviewing the home mag before

GREEN: Doug A. Greenwell - 408 Maple Ave., Fall Jo-Lee, Wisconsin. No. 20

Here, in my estimation, is the best fanzine I've come across since I've been in Pandom. There might be better, but I haven't come across one, and I've seen a heck of a lot. The ratio that Doug spoke of in my last issue, on the Castles is superb! Never been equalled except for photo-offset and printing. Material is top notch, with the select column using up 2/3 of the issue. Hooker's column is its usual best and really got me thinking. I want to my files and dig out some of my old Dick Tracy and Cap Marvels. This reminding got me. The cover, and the little blurb, "The only magazine that has a tithy on Mars named after it" is also very good. The use of the different typers came out very good. All the material is older fan, that was one thing I noticed, even rather a bit viqueish. If by any chance, you haven't as yet seen this zine, get it! You'll never regret it. It's one you can read from cover to cover and which you'll enjoy every page. Indeed, the best. Get a "tithy" A by me!

SFCOn PROGRESS REPORT: #2 by Ms Cole, Sta. "A", Box 325, Richmond 2, Cal.

This is the second progress report to date. With it, I received a circular from the Sir Francis Drake Hotel regarding their rates for a single, a double, etc.. Also received with the Report, was my membership card, done very nicely, I might add. You get your dollar's worth. Con-Notes by Cole was very promising and very interesting. Also very good was Poul Anderson's "On the SFCOn." It seems that they don't want your filthy money for your room until you get there, so don't hesitate, for lack of money at present, to reserve your room with them. You reserve it through the Con committee, not the hotel. The prices are a little steep, but you can get around them by sharing your room with a couple of hundred other people, which will bring the price down to pennies. (also the hotel detective down to your room.) Prices are \$7.55 for the cheapest single, and \$9.75 for the cheapest double. Try the big squeeze, less cough. A

ALPHA: Jan Jansen - Dave Vendelmans - 229 Berchemlei, Eorgerhout, Belgium.

An excellently readable fanmag from Belgium. Although it lacks any inside illustrations whatsoever, it makes up for it in other places. The mag has 22 pages on good stock. The cover is poor. Sort of like the one on ABstract #3 with just a little illo in one corner of the cover. Since the first two issues of the mag were more or less newsletters of a sort, I would reall consider this the first issue of this mag, as a fanzine.

# REST

# PEACE

## FANZINE REVIEWS

One of the reasons why a faned pubs his own zine, is because he wants a place where he can give out with all his opinions. He can review other magazines in the seclusion of his own magazine. He can even retaliate if he choses to do so.

I've been accused, of late, for reviewing in a highly unfair manner. Most of the letters on this subject end like this. "I realize that it's your own zine, your own letter column, and you're entitled to your opinion, but...." Now I'll explain the way I review a mag.

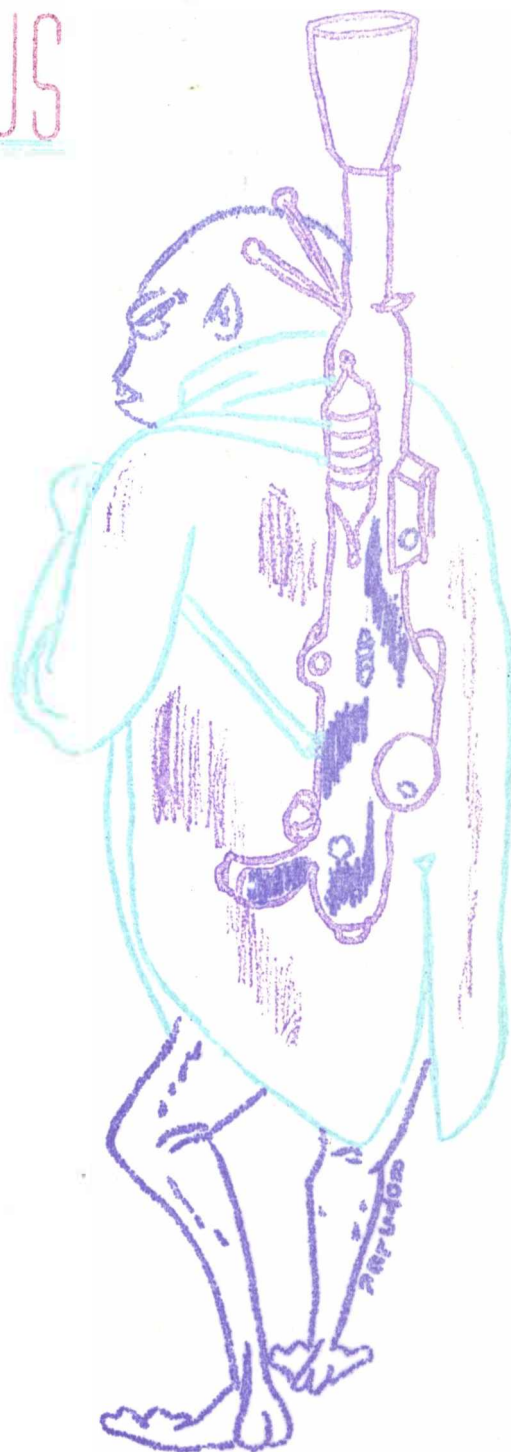
First: I don't care if a magazine has run for 103 (perfected after 102 brews) issues, that has no bearing on this issue I'm reviewing at present. Second: I don't care how good a zine it's been in the past, I'm just dealing with the copy before me.

Third: When comparing a magazine to another I compare it with a contemporary issue, not with somebody's Annish or a good issue it had way back when. Do you read me?

One thing I must admit, I clamped down a little too hard on Ralph Stapenhorst last issue. Yet, one shakedown isn't too much for a faned who deserves it. Ralph couldn't help but see as the first sheet rolled out, that it wasn't going to be readable. He should've stopped at that point, and saved himself a couple of reams of paper. As for the boys who pilot the top zines...if they have put out a poor issue, let's face it, it's poor whether or not it's been rated one of the best or not. This is my final word on this subject. Now, let's get on with the reviews....

GREY: Charles Wells - 405 E. 62nd St., Savannah, Georgia. Vol. 2, No. 1.

A newssheet/gabsheet combination probably used as mass correspondence, but very good, and very interesting. Some people ought to junk their zines, with all their un-important slop and stick to this sort of stuff. For



three or four of these, I get more value in trade for ABSTRACT than some zines I get. Chuck makes some interesting announcements and puts one or two letters. This is sort of a digested fanzine. Something like Fantasta.B

ISSUE: The Editor: 100 South Union, San Jose, California, Number Two

When an issue fails to do what it was on the top, it's quite noticeable and so is the case with Issue. At one time, I rated Issue and Fantasy as the two top mags. In that order. Now, I doubt if Issue will remain in the top ten should it continue as is. With those three fully offset issues, the editor is beginning to find his place. He also is becoming another Fantastical World, a semi-prozine. Now this I can't say had, but you can't have your cake and eat it too. In other words, you can't appeal to both adults and fans alike. Their tastes aren't the same. With issues three and four it seemed like you was in the middle of the road. Now I think he's gone to one side. And so go the fan, or the majority of them anyway. What I felt was the most worthwhile part of the whole magazine was the first paragraph of "Why I Quit Science Fantasy Art" by Dennis Bok. Other than the article by Sackett, and that, the zine was not worth much. Critique were pretty good. Don't fail this issue.

PROTON: P. L. Shaeffer - 2322 N. Beachwood Dr., Los Angeles, Calif. #2

Here is Eighth Fandom's magazine. Silverberg's article, "DAMMIT" is about the most informative and best thing I've read on the numbering of fandom's. He's all repentant. Grennell's "I GO SPILLANE" is hilarious. Fourteen pages of letters. (That's my influence on the magazine.) Ditto'd in three colors. One of the letters is a most interesting one by Lee Hoffman in answer to one of Park's queries as to whether or not there would ever be another Quandry...takes up four pages of the letter column. Other material by Willis, Bannister, Ackerman & Sneary. This zine is great. I'm now assistant ed of this thing and secured the Sneary-Ackerman play. Only 60 copies printed. Strictly a Bnf audience. Very, very good. A

XENERN INDEX LETTER: Bill Knapheide - 992 Oak St., San Francisco, Calif.

This seems to be a waste of time except for Knapheide himself plus one or two others who want to keep a file of Fandom in the prozines. However I could be all wrong about this. I'm just not interested myself. It just didn't appeal to me. Bill's taste in fanzines seems to be slipping...especially when it comes to rating Deviant ahead of Psychotic. B-

DEVIANT: Carol McKinney - Station 1, Box 514, Provo, Utah, Number Two

Cover: Lousy. Material: Fair. Reproduction: Excellent. Art-Work: Lousy. Now that's over with. Carol had better get new artists or leave out art work at all. "Wind" by donnell was very good. Calkin's FAN-FARE was very good. Poems are the most sickening I've ever seen. Rick Sneary's article was excellent. Most of the features and stuff are entirely too femalish. For the birds. Worse than the first issue and from the way Carol speaks, it'll remain the same way it is. FAN-FARE is a sparkling spot in the mag...it should be...I ORIGINATED IT! Worse than 1st Ish. C- I've stretched a point with that "C-," but it really isn't too bad. It ranks 26th...and could be a comer...if only it wasn't so damn girlish.



PSYCHOTIC: Richard E. Geis - 2631 N. Mississippi, Portland 12, Oregon. #11

Oh, me. Oh my. I just know I'll lose dear Rich as a friend if I don't give him at least an "A" this ish, but I won't...I can't my heart won't let me, much as I want to. I'll give it a B+/, but that's all...I think that's plenty. The issue is a flop (will somebody get a doctor for Geis?) no! no!...hear me out. The issue is a flop--physically. The paper is low grade...I'm not sure of the weight--either 16 or 20. Covers not on different stock anymore. Dittography--better than average, but not better than average for Geis. Material (and this is where a wave of relief comes to Dick): is excellent...very good. Of course I don't agree with Calnek in his answer to my column, which he calls, WHY NOT BLAST THE CRUDELINES? And I certainly don't agree with whoever wrote the first letter in the letter column (somebody who thought that because he got blasted, he should blast everybody else.) Somebody who likes, "An eye for an eye, etc." or "Revenge is Sweet." Another Calnek. Damn fine material...if only Geis would go back to his better paper. The material is A+ but the mag itself is only a C, which averages out to about B+/ in my book. BLNT. B+/

Don't blame me--I've scrounged me bureauidrawers looking for more mags to review. You didn't send them in--so how in blazes do I review them, by ESP? Of course, now you'll swamp me and I'll probably have a backlog as big as Carr's and Geis' put together, but why wait until its too late. Send those zines as soon as they come out--unless you don't like the Vorzimmerian system of reviewing.

NOTE TO McKINNEY, GRAHAM, BOWART, ELLIK and others with whom I've taken to feuding within the last month. I HATE FEUDS. But most of you have given me provocation to feud, and too much, not so much with McKinney and especially not with Bowart with whom I'm having a friendly feud, but with Graham and Ellik with whom I'm fighting in dead earnest. Ellik, you've gone too far with your juvenality--too far. You don't know when you see a good hoax--you wouldn't know what one is. Everybody sees through 'em so why make yourself obnoxious. And you Graham, if you think SSship is so darn head-over-shoulders over AB, see if Silverberg will carry you through all the ishs I've carried you...a fine friend. Let's call it off and be friends--how's that. Of course we could carry this on forever, but let's forget things...and make like it never happened, after all we're supposed to have some degree of intelligence. O.K.? Good! See You.

At times, I think I should change the name of this thing to "THE EDITOR LAMENTATIONS". After all, this is where I look back at all the lovely typos, goofs, fluffs, mistakes, errors, spasticisms, etc., so actually this is my lament.

Well, now where do we start? Oh yes, the case of the missing page, yes somewhere around here, I'm positive there's a missing page. But first I'd better explain myself (no, that's too complicated, I'd better stick to explaining the magazine). I had all the stencils typed (40 of them) all except for this last editorial--it figured out perfect. Then, on the third page of the letter column (now occupied by a picture) I goofed, I put the third page where the fourth should be and went on, leaving a blank page, thereby showing the whole issue, up one page. So, I filled in with the Retsler drawing. But, the funny thing was later when I still came out perfect, even with the added drawing! All told, somewhere I'm missing a page. But where?

One thing, instead of getting progressively better at dittoing, it seems I'm getting progressively worse. Damn it! I'm making typos left and right. That's four in the last sentence. As Calkins puts it--what other editor can make that statement?

As I stand by my faithful Rex-O, inhaling Methanol fumes by the room-ful, I suddenly flip when the darn machine starts creasing all the sheets. Well, I tell you, I almost tore the darn machine apart trying to find out what was making it do it. In case you've been having the same trouble, my heart bleeds for you. I think I've found the solution. You're putting in too much fluid--or the bottle is. This causes the paper to curl, and when it comes to the second big roller, instead of flattening the paper out, it creases them. So bear with me if you have a creased paper, and if you don't consider yourself lucky.

If anybody wants to know the size of my room its 18 piles of 8 1/2 x 11 sheets of paper long, with 2 inches between each pile, by (that's 8 1/2 side, I was talking about) 12 piles wide (on the long side, 11"). I can tell because the piles cover the whole room.

Next issue I'm going to swear to have less than 40 pages. This issue my will power was weak. I swore I was only going to have 38 pages, and look where I am 42! Still 4¢ apiece for postage. Next moth--month, there's only going to be 36--you watch! Darn, I keep forgetting, next ish is the FANish--it's going to be 50 pages--well the 36 pager will be the ish after that--and so on down to 32 until the CONish.

Well, well, this means ABstract #4 is over--#5 coming up. I think it was Balint or Ellik who told me that if you go five issues, you're certain to be around for quite a few more--shows you're stable and all that sort of rot. Well, I'm going to work on #5 as soon as I get through here.

Warning: I'm going Gafia. Yes, you read right, I'm going Gafia. After the Conish (October, ish #9), I'm going to hibernate until my ANNish, #10, in January...so you'll be two months without seeing me, you lucky people. I'll be looking forward to those restful months. I think I'm doing right by allowing myself those months. You don't know how many people have said that if I keep on the way I've been going--I'll get Gafia Finalius--Gafia-fer-good. This I wouldn't want. After the ANNISH, however, I'll

be back ~~again~~, as usual, only bi-monthly, with 50 pages every ish. I'll continue from there on to infinity--and if I've got the guts, continue on until I'm an adult, married with three kids. Even then, I'll publish, if the wife's a fan. Then too, my son might be the only fanned to continue to publish a mag put out at one time by his father--I can just see the little lad now. Stanislaus Vorzimer of 84th Fandom, editor of ABSTRACT, now going into its 482nd issue--with 19 years of publication. HMMMMM.

Well, I'd better get this finished. "Atomic Attack" is going on at 9:30, at which time dear Martin Varno will be over here, swiping cookies and helping me put ABSTRACT together. I'd better put it together myself before he gets here, you know what happened with the second issue. Egad! It hurts just to think of it!

Again, I'm bushed after another issue--yet as soon as I set this down, I'm going to put the Peterry Carrahan manuscript on carbon, same with Fletch's report of the FanVetCon. If the NAPA meeting is as good as I think it will be, I might include a one or two page report by some member, plus some other junk. Remember what I said about the surprising change.

Some people have told me that I'll never maintain a strict schedule, but nevertheless I'll do it--this is just an example. I'm already finished AB and its only the 18th...a full 11 days before its supposed to be finished!

If anybody wants to read a good book, they should read Wylies's "TOMORROW". Simply great! The end of the world bit--done by the master himself. If you like that, then you can read OPUS 21, if you like that go on to GEN\*ERATION OF VIPERS, if you like that, go on to THE DISAPPEARANCE, and so on. The DISAPPEARANCE is great, all about what happens when DOOF! there goes women. Disastrous!

Ever since that dirty-yeller livered rebs bit in the back of last ish, the boys from the South haven't written me--I know when I'm getting the freeze. O.K. Bowart--this here's yer last ish of ABSTRACT until I gets me an ish of ALICE--and as fer Corey, there aint enough words fer me to express my sentiments towards him--only one of you gits AB from now on.

You other leechs out there who've been receiving ABSTRACT in trade and who haven't traded, or those who've just been receiving it period--this is your last warning--a letter of criticism or a trade or POOF! there goes ABSTRACT from yer mailboxes. I'm darn mad at those lice! You know who you are.

AND YOU, P.G., you haven't traded anything yourself, well, on second thought I did get that LOOKING SOMEHOW, but other than that, that's only two trades (SEETEE is the other) for four ishs. From now on, only the issues traded for, will you get. Otherwise cash--this is the blood purge of June '54!

Need more mags to review--otherwise no review column for the next ish. AB depends solely on the stuff you send in. No stuff--no mag. Don't forget your dough for the CONISH. Latest tallies have 19 sold, only 81 left. Deadline August 15th.

Time change: Just got through with "Atomic Attack". Was pretty good, although everybody had a good time over-acting. Martin swiped his usual quota of cookies and is now gone, real gone, as I will be at the end of this line...



Peter J. Vorzimer  
1311 N. Laurel Ave.  
W. Hollywood 46, Calif.



Charles Wells  
405 E. 62nd St.,  
Savannah, Georgia