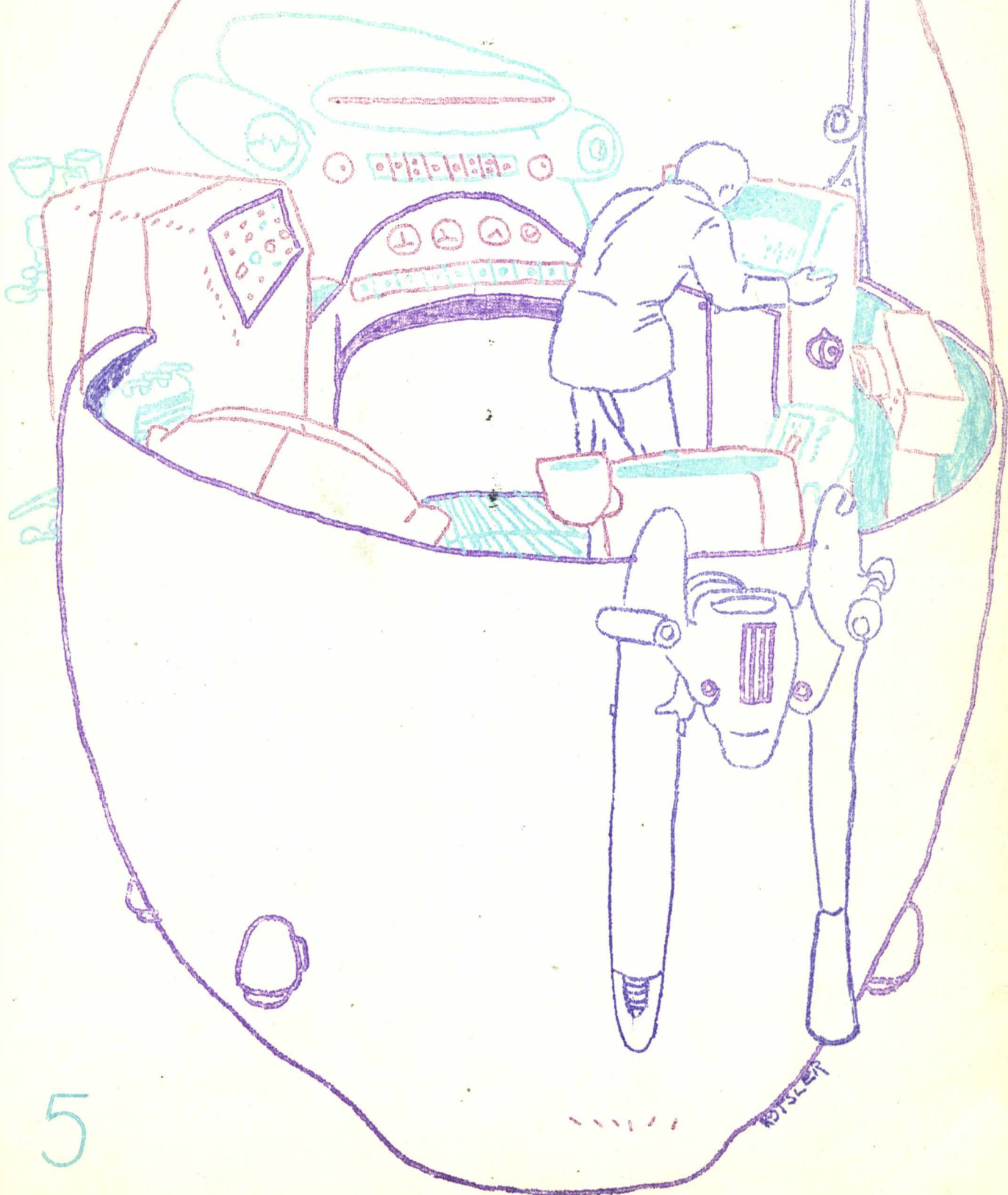


ABSTRACT



WISSEN



FROM
WHERE
I
SIT....

This issue of ABstract has gone comparatively slower than any of the previous issues. I haven't any idea as to why except that I'm just generally a lazy cuss anyway.

This first editorial is always written when I'm about half way through. As it stands now, this ish will have 32 pages in it. But if I know the way things go, it might wind up at 40. It's

the letter column that does it. Because each day, as I work on completing the zine, new and better letters come in. And I like to add them. This letter column has received much praise from many people. That was the reason for having 20 pages of letters last issue. There will probably be 20 pages this issue too.

Well, this is the fifth issue of this here thing and there's only two more issues before the monster (the CONish). Don't forget that quarter to reserve your issue. I'll start pleading for some of the CONish material in the next issue.

There's a gross breach of ethics that I pulled last issue which I must definitely rectify or face annihilation. It seems that when I was composing the cover for the last issue, it was necessary to do a little cropping on the drawing. And, in cutting it, I succeeded in chopping off Ralph Staphenhorst's name. Not only that, but to add insult to injury...by not having a contents page...his name appeared nowhere in the magazine. I hope Ralph will accept my apology. There were certainly many comments on the cover. I hope to be able to continue having offset covers.

At the present time, the cover for this ish (the fan-pics cover) is residing in my drawer, only half-done. Tch, tch. I'll have to complete it today and see if I can't get it to the offset place tomorrow (Saturday) or Monday latest. I've been real lazy in the compilation of this issue.

I think, for a while last week, I had a short attack of Gafia. But that's sort of the way I arrange things. I'll work like a dog for one whole week getting this out, then I'll have three weeks in which to take a rest. Really, when you've become sort of established and have regular columnists, it's really more or less up to them--and your (the editor's) only real job is to bang out the words onto masters.

I may be crazy, but do I detect a slight slump in fan activities? In the last two weeks, I received but one or two zines. Of course, at this point my severe critics will say the reason for this is my method of reviewing that is not attracting the zines. But really, I thought I detected a slight slump. I think the reason is that this is right around final exam time for most of the fan and for that reason have intelligently devote the better part of their spare time for studies.

Myself, I'm going right on to College now this summer. I'm not sure exactly where but I should darn well make up my mind within the next couple of days. This also means there will be a change-of-address for me coming up pretty soon. I don't know now what it'll be--you might find it in Looking Back as that will be the last thing written for the ish and I might know then.

I would like to take a little space here to run Lyle Kessler into the ground. If ever I've met a character in my life, this boy takes the cake. I've gotten several nasty letters from him--strictly unconstructive babblings and now it seems that both he and JGFletcher are out to get me. You see, I, at one time, was planning to run JGF's FAN-VET CON report in ABstract (it was going to appear in this issue) but after reading one of Lyle's letters, I decided I would not. Then out comes PSYchotic #13 with almost the identical story (rather, con report) by Kessler in his column. Now, I had decided not to use the F-V Con report before I saw PSY, but obviously Kess thought I was going to run it, and so tried to ruin it all with his handy-dandy little column. Better luck next time, old boy.

I've also gotten myself quite a host of new correspondents since last ish. The feuding and the fighting brought out some of those dormant ones whom I've been sending AB too. I will say that there was entirely too much feuding in AB#4..but you won't find any here (except, of course, with Kessler).

Here is the list, as of today, of those who've paid for their CONish. Naturally, I'll leave some out who've paid because I've been very lax in keeping a list:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Don Howard Donnell | 11. Denis Moreen | 21. Laddie London |
| 2. Stuart K. Nook | 12. Richard E. Geis | |
| 3. Burton S. Satz | 13. Bill Reynolds | |
| 4. Jimmy Clemons | 14. Paul Mittlebuscher | |
| 5. Charles Wilgus | 15. Raleigh E. Multog | |
| 6. Tom Piper | 16. Forry Ackerman | |
| 7. Janice Sadler | 17. Alex Montoya | |
| 8. Gregg Calkins | 18. David Wilhoyte | |
| 9. Jill Openheim | 19. V. Paul Nowell | |
| 10. Ted E. White | 20. Ralph Stapenhorst | |

Deadline for those quarters: AUGUST 15th. Final list to appear in the September ish of ABstract. Only 79 ishs left. For clarification: AB (for the CONish) is 35¢--for those who trade--25¢. No other way to pay.

THROUGH

RAIL

why should I bother?
you know it!

"Hell's Kitchen"

"The Pending Post"

"Choose Your Weapon"

"Drawing First Blood"

"What's the Deal?"

This letter column has gotten quite a reputation, both good and bad. Last issue I was feuding right and left--but not so with this issue. Plenty of people have written me that here is their favorite section. I thought I was overdoing it a bit with 20 pages, but the letters I received were not of the same opinion. I don't know now how long this is going to be.....

DEAN GRENNELL:

I fatched along ABstract #3 and your letters in hopes of getting a chance to answer them. I haven't had a chance to write letters for nearly two weeks and there's an appalling backlog of the things, staring at me in mute reproach. I mention this so you won't feel harshly toward me if I'm slow in answering mail at times.

ABstract first: I think this is the first time I can recall ever seeing any of DEA's work done in ditto. For some reason, it looks better than most of her stuff does to me when it's done in mimeo. Don't seem to have any special comments on your editorial beyond a mild admonition that you'd better watch out you don't drag down too stiff a schedule or you might wind up with Nydahl's disease. Remember, chum, all those pages mean an awful lot of hours at the typer and the duper and gathering, stapling, and so forth. And even the most rabidly enthusiastic publisher can be laid low by a crippling attack of gafia if he exhausts himself and weakens his fannish constitution with huge, frequent issues. I could---but I won't-----name a few magazines that turn out big thick issues and then there isn't a blasted word in the whole thing worth plowing through them to get at. At risk of sounding pontifical, it is quality, not quantity, that counts. What you say, now how you say it. Assuming a certain threshold of legibility, subject matter is vastly more important than the most beautiful reproduction you ever saw. I'm sure you must have encountered a few magazines that come flawlessly done in photo-offset and the reader wonders why anyone would even print the stuff on hektograph, let alone such a flossy method.

Matter of fact, it almost seems as though a fanzine loses a great deal of its quaint charm when it is done by any method that entails very much effort or expense. That's why, with few exceptions, your best fanzines are done on either spirit ditto or mimeo. If an editor is setting type or shelling out \$200 and up for each issue's print bill it is an overpowering temptation to comb out all the little things that add charm and flavor to a fanzine. Everything is re-written and condensed until it loses any spontaneity it might have had to start with. But what am I saying this to you for? After all, you're a Rexographer.

THREE LOVES HAD MICHAEL: This seemed to be better than most of the fan-fiction that one sees. It's hard for me to work up much enthusiasm for it because my preference in fanzine material runs more toward humor and satire but it's good enough that I don't want to say anything bad about

it. I am sorry if this seems that I am damning it with faint praise. Actually, I'm praising it with faint damns. That is one of Bogg's jokes.

HE WHO HOAXES LAST:.... I liked this a lot--liked the writing style and the layout and the illos and everything. Real nice tho I wasn't quite able to figure out if Keith Joseph really was KJ or if there really is such a guy or what. I think he's in FAPA or on the waiting list of something and I think I sent him a postmailing last time and it came back for the proper address which I didn't have but I'm not sure. Ain't that a doozie of a sentence tho? I can't begin to keep track of all you West-Coast fans....sometimes it seems as though half of fandom lives in California.

REG's autobiog was most interesting. Gads, how that guy has skyrocketed up! It seems like only a little while ago when somebody mentioned that Richard Geis was starting a fanzine and I barely knew who he was (tho he'd had a few items in Filler but thoses were sent down by Norme Browne). And now look at the guy--weel, as they say at Sing Sing, more power to him.

TEN TOP FANZINES: Merciful Heavens...for third place you list one called "INSIDE" and I can't for the life of me recall having ever heard of it, much less having seen a copy. I'll see if I can think of 10 mags that I'd want to vote for. Not newessarily in order and I may even leave one out unintentionally because I have that kind of memory.

Skyhook, Hyphen, Opsla!, Deviant, Hodge Podge, Spiral, Vamp, Canadian Fandom, Psychotic, Spaceship, Spacewarp (a Sapszine and available by sub and better than most of the mags in this list) and--hmm, how many do I have here? O dear. So there's 11 there--you decide which one to drop out ...I can't.

No special comment on the letters other than to note that Burt Beerman lives at Madison, Conneticut--not Madison, Wisconsin. I've not@d this same mistake a couple of other places and the first time it happened I was about on the point of writing Ted Wagner (of Madison, Wisc.) to get in touch with him. Just though you'd like to know.

You certainly get good, clean, readable results with your Rexograph, Pete ...much better than I ever got from mine. But I will say this, speaking as one who has used both, if I ever have to go back to spirit ditto it will wrench my soul. The Gestetner is brutally more expensive to run but when I look at the copy it turns out, it soothes my ravaged pocket-book no end. Also the mimeo stencils are a lot easier to cut (for me, anyhow,) than the Rexo masters were. You can see what you're saying on a stencil while I always had to cut the masters white-on-white without a ribbon if I wanted clear letters and I was developing a stoop and a squint, which with my hooknose, made me look startling like Dick Tracy.

REVIEWS: I think I must like Spaceship summat better than you do. As I said before, a count of pages is a poor criterion of value in a fanzine. I've seen some that had 100 8 1/2 x 11 pages of pure slpp and I've seen single-sheeters that were delightful. A rough rule-of-thumb guide in pricing fanzines is to figure about 1/4¢ per 8 1/2 x 11 sheet to the nearest nickel. This would make a 26 page mag and a 32 page mag worth 13 and 16 cents, respectively and both would round off to fifteen cents. But you haven't encountered such heights of optimism as the guy who sent a six page deal consisting of nothing, miserably mimeod on a post-card machine and wanted to swap

it for Grue or Miller! Most of these guys make a point of wanting, nay--demanding contributions too. Some of them mention that they will pay for them. I place a purely arbitrary value of \$3.50 an hour on my spare time and I either give it away or I charge that much for it. What few fan-eds seem to realize is that prospective contributors are weighing their mag to see how contributions would be presented if they were sent in. This is especially true of artwork. In some mags a pic looks better reproduced than it did originally. Such an ed won't long be lacking for contributors --especially if his publication goes to a fairly large list of well-chosen readers.

As a general rule, your better fan-writers and artists don't turn out any great quantity of work and when they do produce something good they rarely send it to manuscript bureaus and such places. Instead, they carefully select a publication where its appearance will do them the most good. There are exceptions but this is generally true. Though it may sound rather blunt, it is perfectly true that fanzine contributors labor for egoboo and they do their best work for the magazine that gives them the mostest of that prized commodity. I mention all this for your guidance, not as oblique criticism. I'd say that ABstract will be attracting some very worthwhile material at the rate it's going and I think you're already over the worst part of starting a new magazine. A fan editor, to achieve much success, has to be his own best contributor for the first few issues till he sets the thing in motion. Some eds never succeed in turning out a mag of their own that anyone else wants his work to appear in. A good letter column such as yours, can be one of the most valuable single factors in building up a magazine since it makes interesting reading (if it's a good one); it brings in fresh blood since a letter is a contribution just as much as an article, poem or story and it assures future would-be contributors that their effort will be commented upon.

I didn't work out the cost for 125 issues of the 50 page GRUE #20. In fact, I'm afraid to. I do know that the ink alone came to very nearly as much as your entire cost for ABstract. The Gestetner takes a very special past-type ink and that blue runs \$2.75 per pound tube, black being \$2.50/lb., but I don't begrudge the extra 25¢. And sympathize with me when I say that Bill Stavdal still holds the distinction of being the only person who ever paid for an issue of Grue. Some chap in Massachusetts sent in a buck for a sub but I don't accept advance payment so I sent the buck back, along with a copy, and told him to return a quarter. But I didn't hear from him. Next time I'll know better and just send change. Ironically enough, Bill Stavdal is one guy who would have gotten each and every copy free of charge too...a very nice, highly talented guy who could be a whiz of a fan if he wanted to work at it.

Perhaps I should explain my somewhat odd subscription policies for Grue. The price varies from issue to issue according to the number of pages. If someone wants to see an issue they drop me a card and request it. Then, when I've got the issue made up I set aside 68 copies for FAPA, send out my swapping-copies and allocate the rest where I think they'll do the most good. If there are enough copies left, I send them to people who wanted to see one and they send the required amount of payment. If they don't send money or a contribution that I can use or something I can consider as value received then they've seen their last issue as far as I'm concerned. No matter how many issue I print there are never enough to go around since it's shockingly easy to give away fanzines. That's why I'm always happy to hear that someone is passing their copy around. I like to reach a lot of readers but 125 copies is about all I want to produce ...cost and work being the items that they are. The reason I don't want

advance subs is that I don't want to become obligated to keep on grinding out issues if I don't want to and besides I loathe bookkeeping.

402 Maple Ave., Fond-du-Lac, Wisc.

((Agree with you whole-heartedly on almost every point you made in your letter. I think that spirit ditto has rimeoing beat by a mile. On only one point does mine have a benefit--and that being the black in sharp contrast to white to give a "printed" look. Other than that extremely minor point--give me ditto any time! Thank for the clearing up on Beer's address--no wonder he's not been giving comment on the lower A's--he must think I'm mad at him. Thank for the very compliments on my type reproduction...this issue makes the previous ditto jobs look puny. Right now, I'm hanging away on my Remington Portable and to blame with the Underwood. I've found out now (partially through you, Dean) that you can obtain a simply beautiful master by typing without a ribbon. As for the reproduction, this issue, by far, has the best dittoing I've ever done.))

Your letter, Dean, is a perfect example of why I am tempted to go letter-size. Your letter in part, is a criticism of AP#3 and the other part is article. I'm sure many fan will read and enjoy your letter, like I did, and it serves now as actually an article. As you yourself said in your letter, "a letter is a contribution just as much as an article, poem, or story and it assures future would-be contributors that their efforts will be commented upon." See?))

P A U L M I T T L E B U S C H E R :

In the interests of coherency, suppose we begin, logically enough, with the cover. In my personal estimate it is very good, nay, even excellent. Simply but tastefully done with a minimum of superfluous lettering. My congratulations.

Before progressing farther, I should like to make two suggestions, neither of which, at first thought, will appeal to you: (1) Cut pages to 25. (2) Publish irregularly. There are several very valid reasons for taking these steps, later assuming that I don't become too immersed in other points of contrivency or that my fingers, unused to typing, don't become weary unto pseudo-death I shall endeavor to offer explanation.

As for you mother or the "wacky dames" being shocked by the nudity or semi-nudity in this issue, interesting but I fail to perceive any nudity, couple of dames displaying their breasts to be sure, but this hardly constitutes nudity. "State of being without bodily covering" is not achieved. Naturally nudity can be a state of mind and shocking revealment of an ankly was once wanton-like practice, 'tis said. But the covering of the breasts has not been, nor is, a universal practice, in face, one Science Fiction effort goes so far as to predict that within the relatively immediate futur we shall have abolished this taboo. Referring, with the hope that my memory serves me, to "Wine of the Dreamers" by John D. MacDonald (SS May '50). But while we're on the subject...Redd Boggs says in SKYHOOK #16, "some psychologists declare that the center of sexual attraction has shifted from the hips to the breasts" and "I've no doubt that the female breast has aroused the ardor of men since love began," neither have I if that means anything, a fine upstanding female is always a pleasure to view me-thinks. Perhaps before reaching a decision tho it would be best to consult the debauched advocay of Eros, Bob Stewart, after all he does smoke, (Ohh!) and drink (Horrors!). Who knows what other vices he doth possess. He might even be a Captain Video fan...who knows?

Noek's column seems to be about the best thing he has done so far in Fandom. I found the "grand revelation" wherein he arrives at the stage of connoisseur rather sardonically amusing. Can you not picture it, the nony little fan who has supported regoriously every magazine on the market clutching pitifully one of the late copies and is struck by the great light. Suddenly all is revealed! Cosmic voices sing, yes, a stupendous theory is born. "ALL STF STORIES ARE NOT GREAT, COLOSSAL, MAGNIFICENT, THOUGHT*PROVOKING, ADVANCED CONCEPTS, WHAT IF, SAGAS AFTER ALL! Shed a tear, for the youth is on his way to a rendezvous with the remainder of us cynical, jaded, beard-stroking wise ones who know just how putrid most Stf is. "Quantity rather than quality." But naming the deteriorating factor, Stuart, does not eliminate it. Both your discourse and Calkins constituted a waste of paper. This "Sixth Fandom"/"seventh fandom" business is one which leaves me wondering just what fools these mortals be (anyone care to fued over what color the left nostril of the pterodactyl was?)

Calkins is correct in bhastising you for the number of typos. I feel that most come about either through haste, carelessness or a combination of both, which is one reason I advise a decrease in pages and an irregular schedule, allows for more time in which to produce your publication.

You are fortunate in possessing an extremely readable readers section, a letter zine is, however, a definite gamble, Oft-times the letters just don't come in when there is no other contents on which to comment. Most are Failures tho ConFab seems to be the exception that proves the rule.

The "top ten" thing is rather amusing to me, the sheer egotism of Corry and thou is something to behold, "publish a couple of issues and assign myslef to the top ten...yeah man...I'm a Wheel ya know...ha cha."

Re your reply to Carol McKinney and review of her mag...So you ORIGINATED the idea of a fan-file? Now that is interestin. Of course the identical type of thing was used by Nydahl in early VEGAs and by leteray hundreds (including Tucker) in the past. All those obscure people like Bradbury, Moskowitz, Wollheim, Madle, etc., who had autobiog's published, all of them stole your idea...are you going to let them get away with that..... are'nt you going to sue...after all YOU ORIGINATED the idea didn't you? And the title "Fan-Fare"...you originated that too didn't you? Sure you did. Why don't you let the ignorant hordes know so they can appreciate your true genius. I'm sure W. Paul Ganley would be enlightened to learn of how you conceived the unique title of "Fan-Fare". Get this straight, Pete, unless you have your mag copyrighted, I or anyone else, can use your title ABstract, all your headings (such as FROM WHERE I SIT) and in fact copy any specific issue of your mag WORD FOR WORD (substituting my/their name as "editor") without you being able to do a damn thing about it...clear?

Most of fandom DOES prefer a "light zine" Gregg...unfortunately...I happen to be among the minority that appreciates SPACESHIP however. I'm sure Gregg's statement pleased you Pete, dislike to darken your beaming countenance, but I can't subscribe to that theory, AB doesn't even approach SKYHOOK in quality, reproduction and most of all "maturity". Not that I'm sneering at Gregg for his preference, after all I'm sure someone must consider STAR ROCKETS the elite of the elite. I'm sure we all understand the "one specific issue" deal, why continue to apologize for the rating you gave SPACESHIP? Youre entitled to any opinion, the fact that I do not agree with you has nought to do with it. As for lack of interior illos...well Robert enounters mucho trouble cutting stencils, thus few illos. Don't be surprised if SS goes on a two-a-year schedule, or irregular, shortly. As for your question "I gave SS a B-...is that really so bad?" It wouldn't have been if you hadn't given things like FOG and COSMIC FRONTIER higher ratings.

For once Graham makes a profound point, this scolding debate about Fandom is the most childish yapping I've come across in ages. Of course, it is amusing to contemplate all the feverish juveniles spending hours worrying about what fandom they are in at present. I attach all the importance to this "vital" question that I do the percentage of rice devoured by club footed water buffalos in the East portion of China in 1785. Further amusement was provided by your remark following Howell's letter. So you are normal? Everyone else may be sex-crazed, an outcast, a weakling, but NOT ME...oh no...all these fans are carazy...but me, "huh!" Seems I've heard that before.

Aside from Geis and Stewart, you credited Tom Piper as he who introduced you to Fandom. Geis seems to have made himself unpopular by his frankness, everyone of the newer fans apparently is desperately hoping Psy will fold.. and just a shor time ago all the neo's were acclaiming Psy as the "Great-est ever published" and similar assinine speeches of lasting devotion. You contradict yourself all over the place, first articles like "Why blast the Crudzines?" and then you heap abuse on things like "Spaceways". Make up you mind, huh? GRUE is not that good m'boy. Large charge out of "all material by older fen". What you mean is that ther e is an absence of any of the adolescent California crowd, don't you? Shouldn't you have mentioned that GRUE is FAPA material and not a subzine? I found that remark in your review of INSIDE rather pathetically amusing. "You can't appeal to both adults and fans, relly? Granted many fans don't measure up to the Worlds definition of Adulthood, I hardly think that all spend their existence in the state of perpetual juvenileism you seem to think. Smith has made clear the fact that he intends to publish material other than Science Fiction, I don't particularly care for much of the fiction he has used but it is noworse than that used by FW, DESTINY, etc, certainly I'd prefer more articles, but I'm not editing the thing. It is definitely a better publication than you credit it as being, I'd be the first to agree tho that 25¢ is high and the the cover on #5 was among the worst ever to grace the exterior of a fanmag. In essence, pete, you strike me as sort of a watered down Harlan Ellison, the same boundless enthusiasm, the same thin hide. Knock off the feuding, get rid of the breathless, "Gotta publish, gotta publish, gotta publish" attitude and play it Kool, you'll last longer...

PM???/c/o George Werneke, Sweet Springs, Missouri

((Before I start answering some of the fine point you brought up, I've got to scream this... "MAN, YOU HAVE THE MOST AVANT GARDEST, MOST PERIOD-LESS STYLE OF STREAM-OF-CONSCIOUSNESS WRITING I'VE EVER SEEN IN ALL MY BORN DAYS. Your spelling is abominable and you used about 17 periods in all of your 3-page letter. You're a living sucker/example of/for the RUN-ON SENTENCE. No wonder we poor editors make so many typos.

- 1) Nudity: I won't delve too deeply in on this one--I'll go way in over my head. The "naughtiness" of nudity or semi-nudity is determined by Society as it is today PERIOD. Not what you, or any other character thinks it should be. If the majority of people think (and they do!) that a bare breast is nudity, then it is--after all, they're the ones that make the definitions.
- 2) Will stay monthly until October...then a small skip...then to bi-monthly. Always on a schedule--whether it be "no" or "bino". The readers/contributors/subscribers have a right to know when the darn thing can be expected in the mail box. ("Around the first of the month," is my motto.)

- 4) as long as the "Dear Smith" is as traditional as (which I am assuming) no change... Editorial, or no Editorial, I don't care. And I'm in... Thanks by making a very readable letter-line.
- 5) I desired only and only this: That, at the time that Abstract #1 came out (January, 1954), I was the only contemporary fanzine running a Fan-Personality Column... and still on, at present, with the exception of Mrs. McKinney the only contemporary. That's all on this point. Carol and I have made up--so let's forget the whole blooming mess... this is what I mean about keeping the letters flowing.
- 6) I disagree quite a bit with Gregg's choice of SKYHOOK over Ab. However, I think Gregg meant it more or less in another sense. SKYHOOK, with me, is #1. (Hear that Redd?) I vote PSYchotic #6 now...although he was (in my book) #2. He's fallen so far with these/ column-less, review-less, skimpy, poorly dittoed PSYcs (#12, #13, #11) it isn't funny.
- 7) Reason for rating Fog and TCF over SShip: Don and Stu put a heck of a lot more work into their mags than Silverberg did with his. See? Riding on reputation. The fact alone that Bob finds it too much trouble stenciling on art work (interior illos) shows that he isn't putting enough into it as Don and Stu do with their mags. Granted, the quality might just be a wee bit better in SShip...but my money's on Fog and TCF.
- 8) To be very frank...I would like to see Psychotic fold. But not for the reason you think. More or less (and soooo humanitarian) like shooting a horse with a broken leg. By now, Geis is on stitches on the floor. You see, Dick doesn't see it, but he's doing just what I predicted he'd do. Ebbing away. He's getting cruddier with every issue. He'll finally give up and die quietly with Nydahl in FAPA. And believe me, out of only kindness (mixed with a certain normal amount of eagerness) would I like to see him die now than keep on getting cruddier with each succeeding issue. (here's where that letter comes in from Geis!)
- 9) That sums it up for me...from here on in, I'm going to let other people stick their big feet into it. I open my yap and everybody's feuding with me. And that's not the way I'd like it. Let the readers battle it out among themselves while I sit back and relax (a la Geis). Eh, dicky boy?

R O N S M I T H :

Got the latest ABstract. I don't like it. I don't like it. Because it is too much a copy of PSYchotic. Psy I like. I enjoy every issue and haven't received a bad one yet. But I don't like imitators, so I'm very disappointed at ABstract's lack of originality. Nice cover this time, I will say.

Of course, all fanzines have similarities. All magazines have similarities. Most of them are printed on paper. DESTINY has things in common with FANTASTIC WORLDS but one isn't imitating the other. SPACESHIP has

things in common with PEOB but each editor has his own ideas of what a fanzine should be and each zine is different. From what I've seen the only ideas you have are other people's. (Maybe that's a bit strong, but I like mine straight.)

Sorry to see that you thought INSIDE went down with this issue. All things being a matter of opinion I'll have to concede the point and admit you are right. But I'll have to add that I don't agree with you. Blame this on your letter and your review. The logic didn't convince me. You say that INSIDE has gone out of the fanzine field and is now semi-pro with this issue. If this issue is semi-pro (and since when was this title something degrading?) and the two before weren't what makes up the difference. #3 had three short stories and 2 articles. The stories were passable for a fanzine, as I think most of them have been. The articles dealt with Science Fiction authors--of interest to fans was my reasoning. The next issue contained three stories and two articles. And a letter column and face critturs--a definite step away from fandom? The articles dealt with sci-fantasy movies--of interest to fans I reasoned. The latest issue contained four stories--two fantasy and two science fiction. So far, no one has like all four of them. But no one has dislike the same ones either. Matter of opinion I'd say. The articles were by a science fiction writer, ex-artist, and fanzine, (or semi-pro) editor about themselves--of interest to fans I should think, of more interest than any of the previous ones probably, not because of quality of writing, but because these are personality pieces about pros, not objective but written for the fan. The letter column this issue was 5 pages. More face critturs. In my opinion, the artwork and the layout were improvements over previous issues. If you will compare Price, Hunter, and Morton's work with anything that has come before you'll see what I mean. So with a letter column, face critturs, and articles slanted more toward the fan, this is going away from fandom? My idea all along hasn't been to get away from it or to get completely into it, but to hit a happy medium. Compare #3 and #5 again. Is #3 really more fannish?

Your statement that now I appeal to adults instead of fans amuses me. Are we to take by this that you mean fans are children? In effect, this is what you've said. I give them credit for having adult tastes to some degree, depending on the person. That's why I try to edit a fanzine with adult appeal. I certainly wouldn't edit one for children. Would you?

Well, I've spoken my mind. See seeing you in the mails....

549 South Tenth, San Jose, Cal.

((Granted, I made a ridiculous statement when I divide the fan-public into the two categories of "fans" and "adults", but you made one just as stupid by saying that ABSTRACT wasn't in any way original and that it was a copy of PSYCHOTIC. Is ABSTRACT done in blue? Does ABSTRACT have Lyle Kessler or V.L. McCain as columnists? Do you see "de" or Bike artwork in here (not that they aren't good)? Am I some 28 pages? Do I have dittoed covers? Do I come out irregularly? Is my name Geist? Are my columns called Section 8, The Leather Couch or the Observation Ward? The only thing PSY and AB have in common is that we are both Rexo'd. That is all.))

M R S . M A R G A R E T D O M I N I C K (DEA):

Well, well, well. ABSTRACT #4 just arrived. Expensive cover. Very nice

too. Editorial peppy as usual...nice. That undernourished, poor girl, want to mesmerize the reading public right on the beginning? Interesting. Oh, just a regular ad for some falsies, huh? Bob Stewart article was flat this time...and that dialogue...goodness me!

More interesting was the letter section...too much feuding might make this a regular battle ground, some will cry for more blood or veto anything. Frinstance, What do you mean, damn girlish? Isn't that phrase, damn boyish? Hm? Where is my dictionary? I can't find it. To bad, this is no my language you know, and I definitely don't want to sound damn robotish or something worse.

Pass the salt....where were we? Aha! Another Rotsler pipe dream! Not bad, not bad at all! This pair is in a tight position. Boy has a spear and a small head. Doesn't look smart at all. Aha, the girls know all the answers. She doesn't look scared at all. Sure, they just teleport themselves from this spot to the other side of the planet. So why worry?

B&b Stewart again. Fan-Fare #5. This one I like...fast, funny, amusing. Enclosed some treasure before I'll get left out...for the CONish. More articles...good. And another Rotsler beauty. A mean-looking warrior ogling our girl on next page. Tragedia infinitum.

Fanzine reviews. Lots of fanzines, I like to see. Some I saw, like Deviant. Are you sure you were fair with that remark, damn girlish? Hmmm. Sounds silly, like words from a 7 yr. olds mouth. Correct me if I'm wrong but isn't lose talk and certain dialogue "damn boyish"? Anyway, pass the salt. I've found my dictionary at last. But who needs the old thing, anyway, I'll wait for the next ish of AB with interest. Who Knows? I might find another Rotsler pic in it. A glamour boy, maybe? Say...how 'bout some film reviews?

Box 175, New Brunswick, N. Jersey

((The cover on AB#4 was not expensive at all, in fact, it didn't cost me a darn thing. The guy did a batch-up job (or so he thought) on the offset, so it didn't cost me a darn thing! This ish it's costing, though. Glad to hear you like Rotsler...both you and he do the most work for AB. We mustn't forget Stapanhorst, Cobb, and Duke. I also have some interesting stuff from Camiles, Halls, and Heaman. About the film reviews, I can't stand them myself, but if enough people like you ask for them, I might be tempted.....))

L A R R Y T O U Z I N S K Y :

Previous issues of ABstract were paged through but they failed to interest me enough to give forth my comments. The 4th issue was received and read and enjoyed.

Yesterday I ran across a copy of your first issue and I started to read it to see the comparison with your 4th issue. Skipping the fan-fiction I found that I was finished with this issue before I got started. Fan-Fiction I like, Fan Fiction I read, but amateur pro-fiction I dislike and don't read. Unfortunately too many fans think fan fiction is amateur pro fiction. Actually fan fiction should be fiction about fans. This was brought out in the last CAPS mailing by Lee Jacobs, who is a past master of writing FAN fiction. Now on to some comments about this issue.

One of the blessings of photo offset is that detail illustrations can be done justice...I don't think your cover illo done the photo offset process

justice. There must be many fine illos available for photo offset, so why choose a mediocre one?

Glad to see the 19 page letter column, this is one of the best features a fanmag can have. I'll probably comment on some of the letters later in this letter.

Stewart's idea of boycotting the crap zines had been brought up many times and yet nothing much has come of it. I think the main drawback is that everyone has their own ideas of what mags they like, and every mag on the market no doubt has its core of loyal readers. Of course, as the mag grows crapier this core decreases until eventually the mag craps itself out.

Funny thing, before fandom knew it was divided into fandoms, the period of time it existed was longer. Now it seems as though every one is starting a new fandom every other day. Getting so a zine ed will be afraid to say what fandom he's in, by the time his mag reaches his subscribers, he might be 4 fandoms behind.

I find myself in agreement with Gregg. I'm one of the latecomers of 6th fandom and was more or less disgusted with the premature birth of 7th Fandom. Now that 7th Fandom has matured, I find my interest in fandom returning.

Whether we are in 6th, 7th, or 8th, Fandom, who can say? I only fell sorry for the future fan historians who will have the job of trying to figure out where one fandom ended and the next began.

Through Rain, Through Sleet, Through Snow, etc....., appropriate title, very good letter section. I can't say that I agree with your method of reviewing fanmags, I gather from your answer to Geis that you grade the zines on the basis of the way they stack up against their previous issues rather than how they compare with other zines. I haven't been following the fanzines this past year, but there always are leading fanzines and there always are a lot of poor zines. As time goes by, a fanzine editor gains knowledge and experience and his fanzine generally improves with each issue and sets a higher standard.

The leading fanzine naturally have higher standards than the rest of the field and all editors are going to slip from their high standards once in a while. The point that I am trying to make is that the leading zines could slip considerably and still greatly outclass the rest of the field, but under your system of reviewing the fanned that slips from his high standards would be graded lower than the average or below average fanned that improves his zine even though the first fanned's mag is 100% better than the second. The flaw in your system of reviewing is that many fans could get the erroneous impression that the zines with the higher rating are better than those with a lower rating, which is usually the case when things are rated competitively.

I notice a discussion on trading with fanzine of lesser pages. Pete, I like ABSTRACT and I can't believe that you are talking about quantity pages but quality pages. After all, which is better to trade: a 50-page fanzine with 5 pages of fair to good material, or a 10-page fanzine with 10-pages of fair to good material? There is a lot of wisdom in the following quote from a letter written by Redd Boggs which appeared in the second issue of FAN TO SEE: "...Me, I've got a weak back and a strong mind (despite allegations that it's just the other way around) and I hate to exert myself lifting a heavy fanzine that isn't heavy also on good things to read..." Inasmuch as Redd was referring to my first issue of

FTS, I disagreed with him that FTS only had 8 to 10 pages of worthwhile material out of 34 pages, but everyone has their own opinion of what constitutes worthwhile material, and Redd made an excellent point which all faneds should note.

I disagree with Peter Graham on the cost of publishing a fanzine as quantity plays a very little part if any, in determining the value of a fanzine. He may be right on the prices, but Pete's wrong in making the cost a point to be considered on the issue of trades. I seem to be stuck on the subject of trades...It's my opinion that if 2 faneds are trading their mags, they should trade all the way through. If one faned wants to publish a special issue for one reason or another I fail to see the reason why he should say NO TRADES. 25¢ OR NO CONISH. I know only too well the financial facts of life of fanzine publishing, but first last and always, it's a hobby.

Too often fanzines are carried too far. The editors get too wrapped up in it and spend too much time and money. As a result he has to charge between 15¢ and 30¢ for his zine and then he still only gets a small part of the money he spent returned. 10¢ should be the highest price charged for a fanzine, if the editor is foolish enough to publish more pages than this 10¢ tag will allow then he should stand the expense.

I I would ever return to fanzine publishing, I'd try to publish a small zine at short, regular intervals, roughly on a monthly schedule. The size would be around 10 or 12 pages and not more than 20 pages. I'd try to get 2 regular columns, 2 articles, each around 2 pages long, a 2 page editorial and the balance of the issue rounded off with a letter section. The price would be no more than 10¢ and no subs would be accepted for more than 3 issues. I hate book work, and in the event the mag would fold there would be no outstanding money in subs. Whether or not I would stay within these specification, I don't know as there is a strong tendency to add a few pages here and there.

I'm not saying that all fanzines should adopt the above, I firmly believe that they should not charge more than 10¢, if any faned can afford to publish a large zine then more power to him (as they say at Sing Sing?-ed.) All faneds that have limited means should not try to go overboard as in most cases they do, and after a few issues they are forced to fold up for one reason or another. I'd better get off this subject if I plan to finish this letter today.

Pete, you've got a good letter section but it appears that you publish the full letter. I think you'd have better luck if you'd edit the letters and just print the parts that should go in the section. This way you'd get more letters in less space without greatly affecting the meanings of the letters.

Now Claude, why should we go all the way to Ireland when we have an Ozark Rest Camp for Fans. For particulars write today to Claude Degler! Time to wind this up. I'm enclosing a copy of my SRRSzine, The Archives. This is a poor issue for general distribution as all it contains is mailing comments of the last mailing. Had a very good last ish, but was short on paper and just ran enough for distribution in SAPS. I'd rather not have you review this as I am not accepting subs and usually only have a limited number of extra copies to send out. This ish is dedicated to the stationary clerks who give you 16lb. paper for 20lb. paper.

2911 Minnesota Ave., St. Louis 18, Mo/

((You've got my reviewing system all wrong. I plainly stated in the way I review...read it again. You are also dead wrong about my Council buying no trades....I DO TRADE!...for 25¢. With 100 pages, articles by every great fan writer and 48 pictures, Abstract would cost a non-fan or rather a non-faned, 35¢. Since trades I value at 10¢ apiece (which is what the regular AB sells for), I'm charging 25¢ plus a trade for my CCHish...clear? I give almost 40 pages (in fact, I average over that) for 10¢...100 pages have to be paid for.))

Abstract officially becomes a letter-line with the next issue: Yes, all contributions, in the form of articles, columns or other stuff will come in the form of a letter and will be printed as such...approx. 36 pages for the August and September ish. The regular features, such as Fan-Fare, From Where I sit, Rest In Peace, and Looking Back will still be run as usual.))

DEAN GREENELL (again?):

By Phu, I'll have to hand it to you--you put out one of the hardest mggs to refrain from commenting upon that I can remember in recent times! AB#4 have into 402 Maple yesterday and here I'm commenting by return mail--unheard of in this day and age.

I like your cover this issue...very good indeed.

One thing that continues to jar me, though, is what seems to me to be an unduly high frequency of typographical errors. In most cases a guy can figure out what you meant though there was one that baffled me--can't find it offhand and wouldn't be able to tell you where it was anyway, lacking page numbers (what's the reason for omitting these anyhow?)

I note one place here that you are pining for a correction fluid for ditto. Heavens above us, man--don't you know how to correct on-master? All you need is one single-edge razor blade which can last you the rest of your fannish career. If you make a fluff--and everybody does that at the top if it's a unit, and gently scrape with a blade, after cranking the master up a bit, the deposit of carbon from the backside of the offending letter. Then you merely stick a corner of an old master--carbon behind it, crank the platen back down, make the correction, roll the paper up to remove the correcting carbon, roll it back down and go on till the next one. It's simpler than it sounds, really it is. And, I assure you, it is worth the extra time. When Grue used to be dittoed I felt profoundly disturbed if more than 6 typos appeared in any given issue...and those were ones I spotted after the copy was printed. I don't mention this because I want to find fault with you, Pete--only because I honestly think it's one phase where you could effect a lot of improvement with comparatively little effort. And you don't have to print this if you'd rather not.

Another place where a wee bit of improvement might be possible is in your own editorial attitude. My impression is that you tend to be just a bit excitable...this being especially noticeable in your answer to Pete Graham and Carol McKinney. After an objective reading of both Pete's letter and your own reply, it seems to me that he was, in the main, trying to be helpful in a friendly way. Perhaps he didn't phrase his sentiments in the most suave of diplomatic terms and that's unfortunate. But when you pop off to a reader like that you want to remember

that your readers are listening in (which is why many of such discussions are best left out of letter columns). And when you bubble and seeth in such a fashion I doubt if it raises your personal stock in the eyes of many of your readers. Now please don't fly off the handle and get mad at me for telling this to you. I only mention this because I think you show more promise than most of the newcomers and I honestly think you will benefit if I can put the idea across to you.

I realize too, that this may seem a poor way to show gratitude for the nice things you said about Grue in your review. If that's your impression then I'm sorry, I apologize and forget the whole thing. Seriously, I did appreciate the kind words--so seldom anyone even reviews Grue, let alone praises it. For some reason, submitting a mag to FAPA disqualifies it for review and such...or so it seems.

As for Grue being "even rather a bit cliqueish"--all I can say is that it isn't intentionally so. It's true that I try to maintain a fairly homogeneous atmosphere in it...try to keep a certain slant of material that gets along with the rest of it. But the pages forever yawn hungrily for the words of anybody who sends me stuff that meets those hazy qualifications. It's true that the same people keep turning up nearly every issue but that's because they send me the kind of work I want to use. Get that: "send". I can't use anything unless I first get it. I never bothered to count up all the fans who appeared in the last issue but they would crowd several good sized elevators. If you're wondering what kind of stuff I like, I'm partial to accounts of goings-on from the early days of fandom, humor (strong accent on this), satire and just about anybody who has something interesting to say and who says it in a fluent, literate, interesting manner. Thank again anyway!

As to exchanging fanzines, my own policies may seem quite a bit deplorable to some. If a mag arrives uninvited, as they often do, I scan through it and if it strikes me as interesting...something I'd like to see more copies of...then I either send cash or a copy of my mag or a letter of comment or something else. If it doesn't hold anything of interest to me I toss it on the top of the stack and forget it. If the editor wants it back he can send postage and I'll return it. In a lot of cases I lay a mag aside in the hopes that I'll get a chance to comment on it later but all too often the chance never comes. That has been my policy as a general rule--if I don't like it, I ignore it. It seems to work well in practice for me. In the case of a few of the mags that turn up fairly frequently--PSYCHOTIC, DAWN, ECLIPSE, HODGE PDDGE, etc., I don't get around to commenting on each and every issue but I take hope from the fact that I'm on record as liking the magazine and I trust that the editors will understand. I may have panned a fan magazine at some time (certainly I've seen some that I thought deserved it!) but I can't recall ever having done so.

You see, Pete, there's an obscure psychological factor at work here. If you go around knocking people, no matter how richly they may deserve it, your contemporaries eventually come to regard you with uneasiness... they may get along with you but it's through fear and not affection. There's always that question in their minds, "What does he say about me?" or "What is he apt to say about me next issue?"

402 Maple Ave., Fond-du-Lac, Wisc.

I'll try to get the article with Graham later, but at least I'll
send him a copy of your letter. I'm not that way all the time--and I
know I'll be in his way again. My humble apologies to Mr. Graham,
although I still disagree intensely with him, and to Mrs. P. Dixon.
Don't worry, Dean. I didn't expect (nor do I ever expect) favorable
comments in return for other favorable comments--just speak what
you mean, and I'll appreciate that more than any numerous amount
of compliments you could give.

CLAUDE R. HALL:

ABSTRACT #3 finally floated in with the tide--surprising to say the
least as I had never received AB#2 yet. #1, though I had. So, the
slight change from offset affected me none. And after I stopped shak-
ing some three hours later I was able to read ABBY with gusto (which
is very relaxing because the eyes are focused deep in their sockets
and never see the printed page.)

Ah, begging for material again, I see. Not from me, old boy. Least
way, not now. Never heard about that what I've sent you prior to this
yet. Some filler art--okay. Tis enclosed.

Having missed the second Love of Michael, the third love was boring.
And it was also greatly loused up in details. Seemed clear to me that
Donnell has neigher been in the Army nor around White Sands, N. Mex.
Of course, that has little to do with the story itself--but for basix
background he should have perked himself up on info. Never seen a Capt.
sent out yet on a detail to pick up EM or otherwise. And all of that
artillery wouldn't have been necessary. Either everything was okay when
the jeep tried to get past the guard-gate or huey-bluey. I suppose that
this was a good bit of fiction though. But to say that it was better
than any fiction yet pubbed is strictly ridiculous. Of course, you
wouldn't know about Fan Fare, the Paul Ganeley zine. There was some
good fiction! His was a fiction zine and very little else, but it was
noted as the best of its kind along about the so called plurge of sixth
fandom. I can only remember one contributor to that zine now (not having
my file at hand) but Dave English was therein at least once.

"HE WHO HOAXES LAST..." was interesting. Fand-Fare was disgusting.
Richard GEESE I care not to know about. The letter section was the best
thing of the issue. I like it, I like it, I like it. Rest in Peace
--relax, man! Are you trying to be another HGeis? The world can hardly
support even one! I noticed something that seems mighty weird to me.
Re: STF Trends, you state: NEEDS IMPROVEMENT. Just like some of Geis'
tricks! What gets me is this: --how can you say that about another
faneds' zine when your own zine is staring you in the face like an old
wet mop? No wonder most fen join Saps or FAPA and leave you goon-birds
to scrabble among yourslef.

Well, thanx for ABby. I'll try to send a copy of my SRRS zine your way
after the deadline. Okay.

(517th Medical co (Clr) (Sep1, APO 42, 4PM, New York, N.Y.)

((You sure spent valuable letter space splitting hairs. Capt'ns will
pick up enlisted men--especially if the EM are officers, and work
for AEC--damn right they will! STF Trends, regardless of the state
of my own rag, NEEDS IMPROVEMENT. Very expensive waste of space.))

RICHARD E. GEIS :

In the first place I feel you are making a very big mistake with those 100 page issues you are scheduling. Very big indeed. Afterall, you say that you've seen the light and are cutting down on pages and compressing nothing but good stuff into the few pages left, yet you still insist on talking about these monster issues. Isn't that a bit inconsistent? Where on earth are you going to get enough material after that. Later Psychotics would suffer from a lack of top grade material.

Frankly, I think fans like ABstract because of its beautiful repro, its color, and the way your enthusiasm and personality fill the mag to overflowing with vim, vigor, and vitality. But I hardly think it deserves a number three national rating. Unquestionably ABstract is in the top ten, but more toward the second five. Can you honestly say to yourself that your zine is better than Hyphen, Oopsla!, Skyhook, Psychotic, Peon and Destiny. I'll not mention Spaceship.

Admittedly your zine is interesting, but then it would be strange indeed if it weren't considering the way you thrash around in the letter columns and editorials. But you have had very little really top grade material to bolster the always popular letter column and review section. You need two good columnists and a few articles per issue. That is, for a well-balanced general-zine.

A fanzine will be successful if the likes of the editor are the same as a majority of other fans. Simply accept and print what seems to be good according to your own likes and dislikes. That way you risk your personality before the bar of fannish opinion, but you'll be worse off, even if you don't come off in first place, if you copy another zine, try to find a magic formula to popularity, etc., because the latter course is that of shallow fuggheaded neoism. To Thine Own Self be True.

I don't agree with you that a fan should not rely on the review of a zine as a guide to the fanzine field. You are saying that, I suppose, because you do not agree with the reviews given zines by other fans in the columns. Yet the zines that are known and reputed to be good get that reputation that you speak of only through reviews by otherfans. And if you will notice, the best reviewers are the most experienced and mature; the fans who've seen zines by the thousands and have shown an ability to judge the zines fairly. And, candidly, in reviewing you show neither maturity or fairness. Certainly you do not have the experience to do a good job.

I'll go into that a bit more fully perhaps when I give my opinions on #4. My political affiliations are with the Republicans in this state because the Republicans control it; this way I vote in the deciding primaries. Actually, however, I'm heart and soul a liberal Democrat. I subscribe to the Reporter, read Harpers, and Atlantic Monthly and Saturday Review and the New Yorker. Also Frolic and Glamorous Models. Also MAD and PANIC and Pogo. I like Jack Woodford.

ABstract #4: That scratch board is superb. Cobb could easily become your most popular cover artist (if you keep with the litho covers), and that cover layout is now an extremely attractive thing indeed. You couldn't have done better.

Regarding the nudity or semi-nudity...mothers are always like that. Thank Phu, I live alone and like it.

The column by Stuart Nock is pretty bad. He starts off with a bit of... ..what? I suppose you could call it a truism and a cliché combined some

how. There is also a bit of questionable logic, to say nothing of his obviously faulty basic premises. Then he gets some odd ideas about format changes in a zine. As if merely changing the format will automatically improve a zine and ease the terrible monotony of publishing a zine with the same dimension every month. There is something wrong with the faneds attitude toward fandom and fanzine if that is the case; it doesn't matter a bit what size a zine is. What matters is the content. He didn't have much of anything to say and said it badly. He doesn't write too well; not well enough to sustain a column.

I don't like Boob's contemptuous sneer toward fandom. I recognize it is a direct result of a bruised ego (BOO! was not accorded the reaves of fandom that Stewart no doubt thought it deserved) but it still gripes me a bit. Enough to write the above, anyway. The account of the fight was interesting, if slightly incredible.

No, Pete, much as you want to kill of Sixth and Seventh (precisely as 7th Fandomers wanted to kill of 6th), you will have to face up to the increasingly apparent fact that 8th Fandom is not yet. And there is good argument to the effect that 7th is really not yet to boot. You have a definite likeing for the idea of turning over all the applecarts and roaring to the top of a new fandom in an era of raw and lusty turbulence, etc., but such is not going to be. I see the signs of Fandomitis in you: you want to kill off the leading zines and tear down the current Bnfs so that YOU can vault into the limelight. ABstract is interesting because of this probably unconscious desire on your part. Do you realize what is making you tick?

Yes, it surely is a shame that willis hasn't written you, Pete. I mean, after all, here you've gone and condescended to write him and send him zines, and all that stuff like that there...and he doesn't do anything about it except ignore you. As you say, "not one lousy reply!" It is a crime. However, you'll be glad to know that he has written a good part of his column about you in Oopsla! last. And most of his article in BEM is about you, so feel not that he has slighted you. He may feel that he does not deserve the honor of appearing in ABstract that you offered him. Or did you demand that he appear?

So I turn the page and come to a letter from Don Wegars and note that he confirms a point I made last letter I wrote you. And I am reminded that FOG contained an article by you about how to enjoy a convention. And I remember also seeing the same damned article in The Cosmic Frontier. Both zines came to Portland within a few days of each other. And now I just remember something about your editing and publishing ethics about not running your autobio in your own zine. I am reaching a conclusion (with no trouble at all) that your ethical values are a pretty weird set indeed. Especially considering that you perversely like to printparts of letters the writers expressly instruct you to leave out. You even print the deletion instructions! As I read through the issue, first one eyebrow. the both eyebrows arched up; I found it hard to believe that anyone could be so...

You want to be good money that ABstract will outlast PSY? Phooo, I won't take you money. You are in the middle of a convulsive attack of fanace the likes of which I have never seen. T'won't be long before you are burned out like a rocket tube lining. At least at the rate you'regoing now. Two 100 page issues within six months....

While I am at it I suppose I should devote a bit of space to your refutation (?) of my charges of incompetence with regard to the fanzine reviews you do. For actually, you are in effect saying that all the better rev-

iewers in Fandom, all the fans who had the experience and have the maturity to properly judge zines, are wrong...because you don't agree with them. Oh, sure, you say every fan has a right to his opinion, and that you are but expressing yours...but how do you explain the wide gulfs that lie between you and them? Isn't it just barely possible that you are not applying the proper set of values and criteria? Could it possibly be that "God's gift to Fandom" is mistaken? Gad, the mere thought must send you gibbering to mother.

In your refutation of Graham you seem to feel that because you are willing to get out and scrounge, that everyone else is obliged to do the same so that they can then pass on to you a lot more pages in trade. BUT HIS INITIAL STATEMENT IS STILL VALED: "...it just isn't the thing to be so damn picayune about the amount of stuff you get when you trade." All fans are not so lucky as to live in a large large large city as you where dealers are competitive to the extent as they seem to be in L.A. No one has said that you didn't trade with anyone...what is being said is that you should not grumble and complain because everyone else cannot or will not put out forty-odd page issues of a fanzine every month. Man, you are exhibiting a lack of perspective the likes of which I have never seen. But then, I've only been in Fandom for about a year myself. Give me time. I suppose I'll see lots of idiots come and go.

You know, it IS possible to buy a correction pencil for ditto work. Or you can even use a razor or penknife. Works quite well. When I can I correct the mistakes as I go: scrape off the wrong letter or word, insert a carbon, type over the mistake, take out the carbon, then go merrily along with the page. OR: Make the mistakes and strike over and xx out and leave them go hang, then when the page is finished, take to work table, and with a razor, scratch and scrape away all mistakes. This is hardest because you have to learn to read upside down and backwards.

Enclosed is a quarter for that CONish. And (idle query) how the devil are you ging to assemble it? Eh? You'll have pages lined up all over your house. The walking you'll do! I'm tired thinking of it.

2631 N. Mississippi, Portland, Ore.

((I'm surprised at you, Dick, we've corresponded for quite awhile. I thought you knew me pretty well. Oh, I don't blame you for blasting me for some of the things I said last issue--I deserved it. But to treat me like an absolute imbecile is more than I can take from you or anyone. The tone in which you phrased your entire letter was distasteful to say the least. Your words about my Fan-Conditis, my contacts with Willis, my ratings and reviews, and my refutation to Graham interested me not. You cannot rely on other people's word to buy anything--oh, yes, sometimes an expert in a mechanical device...but as far as reading matter goes--no one's. That's the way it is with reviewers. About my half-living Psy, I think I will--barring something unforeseen like heavy college work, or no money...outlive Psy. You're right about that CONish--it's going to be murder--but it's still going to be 100 pages....))

WALTER A. WILLIS:

Oh, dear--this is just the sort of letter I was afraid I might get after that thing in Copsla. I wished later I hadn't written it because I suppose many of the hordes of people to whom I owe letters will think the same as you did.

However, let me do my best to clear up one misunderstanding. I have nothing but the friendliest feeling for you personally, Pete, and for ~~Abstract~~ and the only reason I haven't written is that I just haven't had time to write to anybody. I owe letters to I'm sure more than a hundred people from Gold right down to Norman Wansborough. When I got your postcard (I didn't get any letter later though you said you might be sending one and it looks as if you did from what you say now) I put it aside to do the autobiography because I just hadn't time as this stage what with the Transfanfun and Hyphen and then your card got tucked in someone else's envelope and I only found it again after many weeks. I sent you an apologetic postcard a week or two ago about this but you'll hardly have got it yet.

I wish I had time to write a proper letter--this is being scribbled at work, and at home there is a huge pile of stuff that I haven't even had time to read yet -- I just got off the boat this morning from the British Convention--but I did get those ABstracts and enjoyed them very much.

Cordially,

Walt

P.S. It wasn't Multog who wrote the letter I quoted in Oops--it was another Baltimoron.....

170 Upper Newtownards Rd., Belfast, N. Irl'd

T E D E . W H I T E :

So far, only #s L & 4 of ABby have reached this humble door...whether by intention or not. I would like to see #s 2 & 3, so if you have any extras of those ishes, I will PAY for 'em.

By far the best illos in ABby were those by Rotsler...this is not marred by the fact that all the illos are by Rotsler. Do you have his address?

Boob Stewart: This guy must be an alcoholic, neurotic, schizo. I was utterly nausiated by his Fan-Fare. He must really think he's a big MAN. Frankly, I considered him one of the lesser evils of fandom and one to be ignored. So he's turning to the finer things of life, eh? Caine Mutiny, cigarettes, Cosmopolitan, liquor, Hell's Kitchen, and drinking parties.

Quite a diet for a guy who has only recently entered high school. His candid little autobiog would really interest a psychologist, I'm sure. Most of the kids who smoke before they hit high school and take up drinking shortly after, are the misadjusted kids who have to be BIG, like the upper classman who've learned a little of the responsibility Boob hasn't seemed to attain.

If what he has written in Fan-Fare is true, I don't think Fandom is losing much. I don't agree with Nock 100%, but his column WAS fairly good. ABSTRACTIONS--all thots of Boob aside--is nothing to brag about. Again Boob (an appropriate name) goes about his duty of being offensive. He considers fandom a waste of time, but after all they are the only ones who'll print his self admitted slop. Fout, as far as I know is no fan-nish word. It is used a great deal around here, but, up til thish, I never saw it in a fanzine.

I agree with you on your thing on 7th Fandom. No fandom completely changes when a new one moves in. Tucker and Ackerman are good examples.

1014 No. Tuckahoe, Falls Church, Virginia

REST IN PEACE

fanzone reviews — "WHERE ALL GOOD FANZINES COME TO LIE"

FITE ONE: Don Chappell - 5021 East 4th Place, Tulsa, Oklahoma. No. 1

I have here before me, issue #4 of one of Fandom's promising new-comers. Don Chappell will get this mag up there yet. Names like Wegars, Fletcher, Mosher, Walker, Hall, Riddle, and Stewart on the contents page, replacing some of the others, are a sure sign of the mag's improvement... legal size with quite excellent mimeo prove to be very good as well as unique. Could have a little more editorial. Fahrenheit 32 is quite good--by Brad Raybury. Mosher's column is very good, but too short. Missed PASSING IN REVIEW, Lee Riddle's excellent review column this ish, but will be seeing it again with the next issue. LOVE by Fletcher is as old as the hills--each time I swear I'll never read another piece of fan-fiction. CLAUDE RAMBLES by Hall is fair--certainly worth reading anyway. Letter Column, quite long, is the best thing of the ish. B

SKYHOOK: Redd Boggs - 2215 Benjamin St., N.E., Minneapolis 10, Minn. 21

Here is another new-comer to this review section, and certainly one of the best. I usually bring down these old zines, because they kind of have then tendency to fall back on their reputation. But not so with SKYHOOK. Double columned, for the most part, and even margins make this zine, simple, neat, and carefully laid out. Together with the excellent material by Boggs, Grennell, Atheling, Bloch, plus some interesting letters. Atheling's big guns are booming again, this time against some poor character-named Arthur Zirul, a new writer appearing in the March, '54 ASF. Grennell gives a leisurely, and quite good review of F&SF (my favorite mag). Excellent zine. Wonderful mimeography. A

GERZINE: Gertrude Carr - 8325 - 31st N.W., Seattle 7, Washington # 2

With the exception of Gerty's blasting reviews, this mag is pure nothing. Sure, you might think I'm retaliating for some of the reviews I've been given...but this mag is still pure nothing. Mrs. Carr seems talented in only one line....passing her great judgement upon other people's effort. Yet, you might think that by seeing and reviewing some of the best mags, some of the stuff might brush off on her. But it doesn't. The poetry and her columns are strictly for the birds. I do like the reviews, and I read every one of them. Her green paper only makes the fairly good mimeoing look worse. Absence of any illustrations inside doesn't help the mag any. Mrs. Carr shouldn't put out a mag, just a review sheet. C--

CANADIAN FANDOM: Gerald Steward - 166 McRoberts Ave., Toronto 16, Ont'o

Here is an excellent-looking zine. Nice and neat. Justified margins. Gestetner mimeo (which automatically says "go and buy this one"). The only, and most abominable thing in the issue, was the last page on which there were three cartoons. If this is Canadian wit, then boy, I'll stick closer to Ireland. Steward's editorial was good, but I found most of the magazine uninteresting. Maybe it was because it was slanted toward the Canadian side of the border, but I doubt it. Not good, not too bad. C

Another mag, as yet unreviewed in any ish of AB. And here we go.... One of the unfortunate things for this mag, is that I've seen a previous ish--one of the best--and this is a drag-down. If all the mimeography was as good as the contents page, it would have been a very good ish. Only twenty pages, one is blank, and one is pure filler for a page yed forgot...making eighteen pages. Kind of sickly. I think the degeneration is partly due to the fact that it is now a FAPazine. Oh, poor zine. Eight boring page (but not so for FAPAns) of mailing reviews, this leaves ten pages. Cover was good---would have looked a little better in color. FTA has really gone down since that issue I saw...and those FAPA reviews are partly ruining it. Letter column isn't worth much. Mimeoing is pretty good and editorials are very good.

C

UNERA: John Hilt-Heck - 15 Arbutus Ave., Baltimore 28, Maryland ???

This thing came here stamped THE DAILY TOILET, a horrible and juvenile title. This zine is fast becoming better. They've (I really mean, JOHN--who's the only person on the thing) swiped a few things from me...mainly the use of color in the fashion that I print my letters. Next, he'll be reviewing mags in different colors. DROODLES by Raleigh Multog are for the birds--toss out Multog. No offense, to Raleigh personally, but he can't write or droodle worth a damn. Thedittography is quite good---even very good. This mag is certainly improving. With the elimination of the mimeod (and quite horribly done) pages, and the good ditto, this is destined to get even better. TENTATIVELY RECOMMENDED. B

PSYCHOTIC: Richard F. Gais - 2631 W. Mississippi, Portland 12, Oregon.

Slowly but surely coming out of its little slump, PSY has improved quite a bit with its material. Due to my policies of not reading fan-fiction, I didn't read CONTACT by McLeod. Dittoing of this thing seems to be getting progressively worse. What's happening Dick? And now I can safely say that it's worse than mine. Section Eight is getting less interesting--mostly because different people have been appearing in it of late. It is mine own contention that a letter is as good as or equal to a column or an article--it's just in a different form. And so, when the better letter-writers go, the quality of the mag goes. Bob Tucker's letter form was good. Reynolds is his usual best. Kemp wasn't. I was interested in the Ellison/F&SF bit, and send my thanx for the clearing up. PSYCHOTIC definitely needs improvement. But still good. B/

SPACEWAYS: Ralph Stappenborst - 409 W. Lexington Dr., Glendale 3, Cal.#4

Here's a mag that I've long blasted because it wasn't readable. I published it this issue and I must say it has improved, but not quite enough. It wasn't the fault of my Rex0, just the fact that Ralph had to go and buy cheap Sears masters. The issue is quite excelling in material and is coming up that ladder fast. The scratchboard cover (a la ABstract) is one of the best I've ever seen. This zine is dittoed with an offset cover. THE MISSIONARY by Don Howard Donnell is little more than fair, yet Don's fiction is still head-and-shoulders above any other fan-fiction. Some scientific columns prove a wee bit tiresome, but Pinney's column (where he tells of a trip over to my house) isn't too bad. This

Phil only knows what this thing is! It's some sort of an EC journal, the name being taken from some one of the EC mags. It's the type of thing that a guy could put out when he has simply nothing better to do. And boy, you know it. We have some sort of a little clique here, with Ted White, Larry Stark, and Bob Stewart. If you're an EC fan, you might enjoy this...but you'd really have to be crazy over them! There are 34 1/2 size pages. Only fairly done on a postcard mimeo. Some of the pages are done in blue. Seems like the trend these days is going towards blue mimeo or blue ditto. Price? I don't know. Unless it's 2/5¢ it ain't worth it--even then I don't know. It's not too bad an effort for what it is, it's just that knowing these three guys (I only know two somewhat the other I don't know at all), I'm pretty sure they could put this effort towards something better in the fan-pubbing field. Only fair. D/

ALIPSE: Ray Thompson - 410 S. 4th St., Berkeley, California

Here we have a little monster done with mimeo on gold-colored paper. The zine is very good material-wise, Bob Stewart's column being one of the interesting things, but the mag lacks quite a bit in reproduction. Whatever made Ray leave ditto? In heaven's name, ditto is a heck of a lot better than mimeo. (Sound: Hisses, boos and cat-calls from mimeo-users.) At present, I can't find my copy, which makes reviewing kind of hard, but this is not too bad a way, for to judge a mag, you have to think back and see just what remained with you. Stewart's column is apparently the only thing I've remembered. From my point of view, it's about the only thing that held the issue up. What's the matter, Ray, I know you can do better. Seeing as how a mag thrives on its reviews, it's hard for me to actually give it a "D". Don't condemn a zine because one issue is bad. Poor. D/

THE ENCHANTED DUPLICATOR: Walt Willis - 170 Upper Newtowne's, Belmont...

Aha! This is one of those things that make Fandom worthwhile. Fandom is a hobby--and should be enjoyed. Therefore, the greatest people in Fandom, and those that will be remembered longest will be Fandom's humorists. One of the greatest is without a doubt Walt Willis. Walt proves and betters his reputation with this one. But let us not forget Mr. Shaw who had his great hand in it. Jophan, is his quest for the Enchanted Duper goes through the Hekto Swamp, the Jungle of Inexperience, the glades of Gafia, meets up with Typos, neos, Magrevoos, and all sorts of imaginable things. Well worth the 15¢, and if you're lucky, you might still be able to procure a copy. Get this one, it'll long be remembered and not quickly forgotten as one of Fandoms' best. This, like GRUE, gets A*****

FANTASTIC STORY MAG: Ray Ellik - 232 Santa Ana, Long Beach 3, California

Fandom does need a good reprint mag--that is definitely ascertained. But the stuff (the quality, that is) that is reprinted is another question. Mr. Ellik doesn't come anywhere to reprinting the material worth of such repetition. Instead, with the exception of maybe one article, he picks the dullest and least interesting of the reprints. I feel, that this is possibly because he goes back a little too far. With his new policy, that of taking a particular zine, such as Quandry, and reprinted the best from it, is very good and worth of publication. And it is for this reason that I'll recommend reading of FSM. As it is now, it barely gets that C.

No matter what Dick may say, PSY isn't even a shadow of its former self. For some unknown reason (unknown to me, anyway,) the dittoing has also been getting progressively worse. I haven't the copy here, offhand as I write this. Miss Dick's reviews a lot and also his long letter section. This is long, but it interests me not, as it seems to have lost its old spark. Since Dick decided to skimp...his mag has started to slump. Still, as somebody said (I can't remember who) in my letter column, a top-notch zine can come down a notch and still be well above the others. This has been true with PSY, however, I don't know how long it can hang there. It seems to me that the only thing that saves this mag is its three week (B) schedule plus what's left of the old PSY. Go back, Dick. STILL RECOMMENDED

PROTON: R. L. Stoffer - 2322 W. Beechwood Dr., Hollywood, Calif. #3.

Park really bungled the heck out of this issue. To go from a wonderful mag running top stuff--to the degree of lowness that this has stooped to. Park and I had a heck of a fight and so his mag came out mimeod. What crud! What crap! Willis saves the issue again with his "MORAL CODES & ETHICS AS PREACHED IN NORTHERN IRELAND". I got a dozen laughs from this. Other than that the mag is pure crap. He's got his own crappy little fillers lining the page--seeing as how he fired me as art-ed. He should hand out a magnifying glass. The zine is so crudly mimeod you can see a darn! Willis and the litho cover do something for the mag. Oh yes, Parker has cut me off his list of 60 Enfs who get the zine and is looking for some one who's interested in subbing. Don't get this one...it's for the birds.D

THE COSMIC FRONTIER: Stuart K. Nock - R. F. D. #3, Castleton, N.Y. #9

Here is the best issue yet of this nice little zine. It's one of those that has a small amount of pages--but what's there is "choice." You can read it from cover to cover and not be bored. Color introduced in this. Material is getting slightly better. This zine will be something one of these days. WHIRLPOOL by Wegars is interesting. Stosser's column is equally interesting. Letter section is slowly enlarging. More color, more pages and better material should really push this mag. 28 1/2-size page would make this mag equal to a 14-page 8 1/2x11 mag. About another 28 pages and I'll be happy. For then TCF can begin to compete with its contemporaries. Other material by Stu Nock, Bob M. Stewart, John G. Fletcher and SIX TYPES OF FANS by yours truly. RECOMMENDED. Good. B

DAWN: Russell K. Watkins - 110 Brady Street, Savannah, Georgia. No. 22

Boy! Stapenhorst is becoming quite a cover artist. Last issue on AB, and now on to DAWN...and very well done on ditto too, I might add. Yes, Ralph is a wonderful fan artist and deserves much fannish recognition. MAIL AT DAWN, Dawn's nicely-lengthened letter column takes first place for the issue. Second, I'll take Mr. Watkins' editorial. Third, DUSK, Denmo's column (Denmo: not Den-mother, but Denis Moreen). FANZINIO is by far the most useful thing in a fanzine that I've come upon in a long time--very, very good. The face critturs were definitely not up to par--Carr, methinks, is running out of good ideas for them. This mag, now in its 22nd ish, is durable to say the least. Very good. RECOMMENDED. B

FAV-FARE # 6

WALT WILLIS



JAMES WHITE

The sorry state of this country today cannot be blamed entirely on Mr. Willis, for though he is a government official with a position of some importance in the administration--he has his own personal staff, which he naturally calls his shillelagh--his work is comparatively harmless. His hobbies, on the other hand are not. I first met him through a letter I had published in a British prozine. At that time he was deep in building a radio that would have turned the Venus Equilateral crowd green with envy, all shiny aluminum panels outside of a completely nauseating mass of multi-colored spaghetti inside (the circuit was designed by Signor Macaroni himself -WAW), and worrying about becoming a father. It wasn't until both these matters had been cleared up satisfactorily and he had a super-efficient receiver and a beautiful baby daughter that he turned his attention to fandom. It all started when a fanzine arrived one day--I won't plug it; it folded anyway--and Walt said surely we could get one out as good as that...The rest, as they say, is history (too modest, James, its your story, too-WAW).

His chief occupation at the moment is, of course, fanning, though he still devotes some time to governing the country, and in the summer varies this with climbing an odd mountain and playing tennis (not, of course at the same time--you would need an even mountain for that-WAW). If we have a deadline to meet he often dashes in between matches in his nice white shorts, engages in half an hour of whirlwind activity at the press, and dashes out again in his nice black shorts.

In appearance he is slim and about medium height, 6'1" to be exact, is very quiet spoken, has thick brown hair, keen blue-gray eyes, and a thin sensitive, tanned face with the high forehead of a true intellectual (it has to go back next week-WAW). And he's got knobby knees. He puns a lot, and his slightest utterance is received in a suspicious silence and examined for cracks, ambiguities, and innuendoes before a reply is ventured. The English language just isn't safe when he's around.

I really don't feel qualified to be writing a thing like this and I wouldn't be doing it only that Mr. Willis has been very kind and I'm deeply in his debt.

Somehow I don't think I phrased that very well.

--James White

*reprinted (my ghod!) from Starfarer, a zine with Lee Hoffman, Joe Semenovitch, Walt Willis, James White, Lynn Hickman, Lee Riddle, and others that folded before it was started. PERMISSION BY WALT WILLIS.

FAN-FARE # 7

"IT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN TO A **BOG!**"

LYNN HICKMAN

Late one rainy night a nosey bird flew over the domicile of George Edgar and Pauline Lois Hickman, somewhere in the wilds of Northwestern Ohio. You see, they were hoping for a blessed event. Instead, they got me. My dad has been a great bird hunter ever since.

When I was born, the doctor slapped me three times in the face before he knew the difference. This warped my little mind and I was destined to become a science-fiction fan.

As I grew older I passed through school, studying G-8 and his Battle Aces, Argosy, and all the science-fiction magazines I could beg, borrow and/or steal. In school I was voted the boy most likely to become a BEM. I succeeded.

As soon as I left school, I went into my profession. That of being a science-fiction fan. Also in my spare time I sell farm equipment.

I was born in Ohio and then lived in various and sundry northern states. THEN I moved SOUTH to Mississippi and became a rebel. I HATED to move NORTH to NORTH Carolina but the company insisted. At least I had the consolation of living in the SOUTHERN part.

Oh yes, I am a male, very thin--in fact if I stand sideways you are liable to miss me. This is a great benefit when bill collectors call. I am married, my wife also being a science fiction fan and co-editor of the magazines I publish. She has both the brains and beauty in this family. Have a 5 year old son who is the pride and joy of my life, and also a science-fiction fan. In fact he was the littlest monster of the Little Monsters of America.

Was Master Monster of the Little Monsters of America, Pres. of the ISFCC, belong to the N3F, the Napoleon Fantasy Club, the Variants, the Atlanta Science-Fiction Organization, the BSAW, and Exchange Club. Edit and publish STF Trends, combination of what used to be T.L.M.A. and Little Corpuscule.

Anyone interested in buying a subscription of STF Trends, a pickup hay-baler, or a godd manure spreader, should contact me immediately.

--Lynn Hickman

*another autoblog reprinted from Starfarer through permission of W.Willis.

Well, this marks some sort of a turning point for good old AB. There've quite a number of changes in this issue and also quite a number that will come with the next issue. Now, with this issue, I am using my little Remington portable with this nice, large, readable type...I personally think it bangs out a beautiful stencil--much more so than the old Underwood--and so I'll be using this for all the issues to come. Also, you will notice that the mag is becoming letter-column heavy. Well, with the exception of FROM WHERE I STT, Fan-FARE, REST IN PEACE and this column, the entire mag will be letters. Now don't get alarmed or fly off half-cocked. Remember, my columnists...Mr. Calkins and Mr. Nock and possibly Mr. Stewart will remain writing their columns...only in letter-form.

There will be, from now on, illos breaking up the monotony of the solid printed page in the letter column. Autobiogs will still be run the same way. By the way, I have got autobiogs from: Lee Riddle, Lee Hoffman, Dean Grennell, and Joe Sememovich....you name the ones you want. I'm going to publish two with every issue.

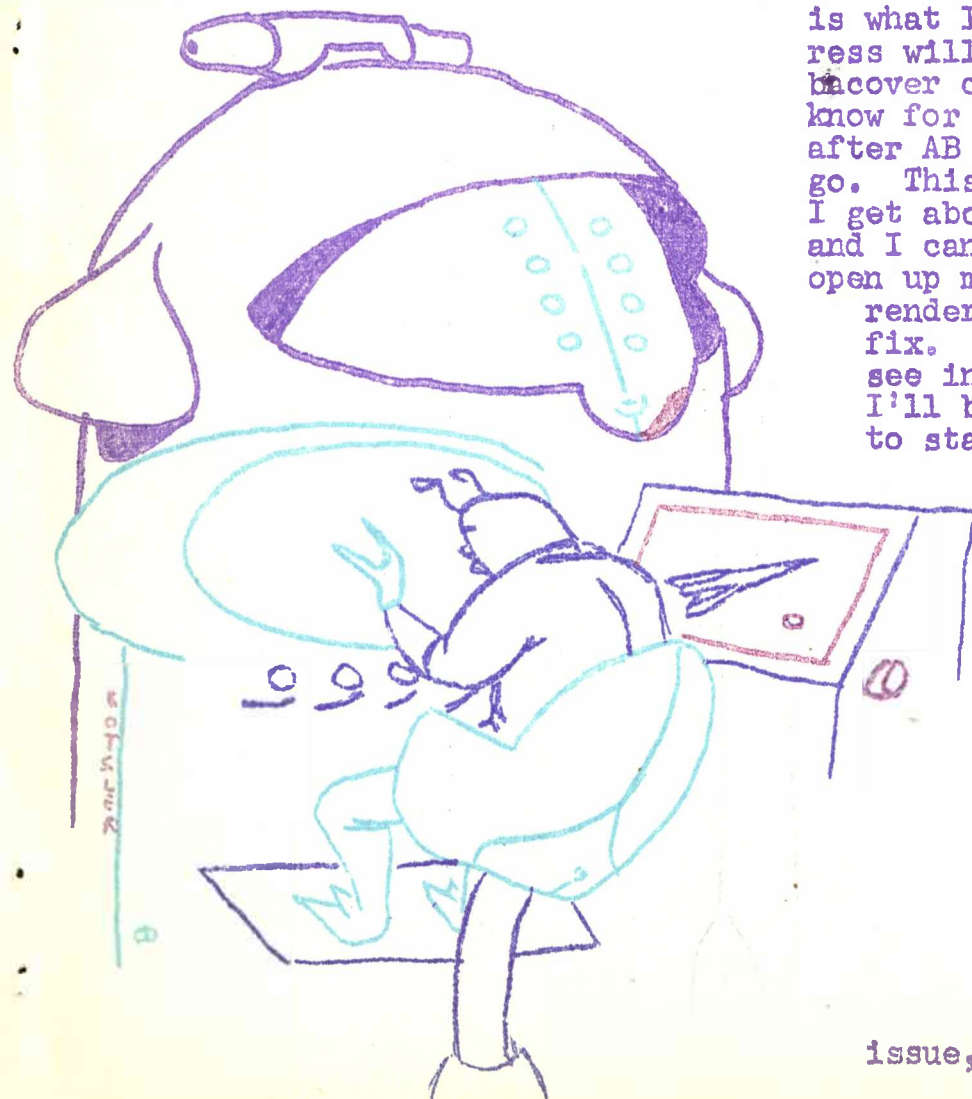
You out there who're going to submit--just put your submission in letter from--way whatever you want to say--and mail it here. Now, here is a very important thing: MY ADDRESS WILL CHANGE AS OF JULY 1st! Trouble is, I

don't know the new address now. Here is what I'm going to do. My new address will be rubber stamped on the backcover of this ish. You see, I'll know for sure by the end of this week, after AB is all stapled and ready to go. This is VERY IMPORTANT to me, as I get about 12 or more letters a day and I can't very well come back to open up my box after I've already surrendered my key. That would be a fix. And that's not all--for you see in September, around the 12th, I'll be moving up to Santa Barbara to start College up there. That

will mean another change of address--then to a box number at the Campus P.O. Please bear with me as this correspondence means a lot to me and is what keeps AB coming out.

Be sure and write and let me know ast to what you think about ABstract going letter-zine--or at least part letter-zine for as long as the departments are not letters, then I'm not completely letter-zine.

I do hope, that with this issue, I have ended this worthless



feuding. After all, AB has really been a unique site. Usually, in the letter columns, the readers feud with themselves while the editor acts as somewhat of a mediator and determines how far things should go (as in the prozines or some of the more prominent fanzines). But not so with ABSTRACT--it seems that all the readers are just fighting with one person--me. Now, I'm no one to shirk what's coming to me--I've faced up to what I deserved--yes, I'll admit I've deserved most of what's been thrown at me. But enough is enough. Have mercy on this poor soul. Let's forget about the whole thing.

There, now that that's over with, I'm a little happier and there's a load off my shoulders...now I can devote good time to making ABSTRACT better--instead of pounding out letters. Yes, last week I actually received 54 typewritten pages of letters, some pro--mostly con. Out of a sense of duty (more likely a sense of guilt--I think) I answered them all personally, not out of the letter column. My mail has doubled since AB#4 went out.

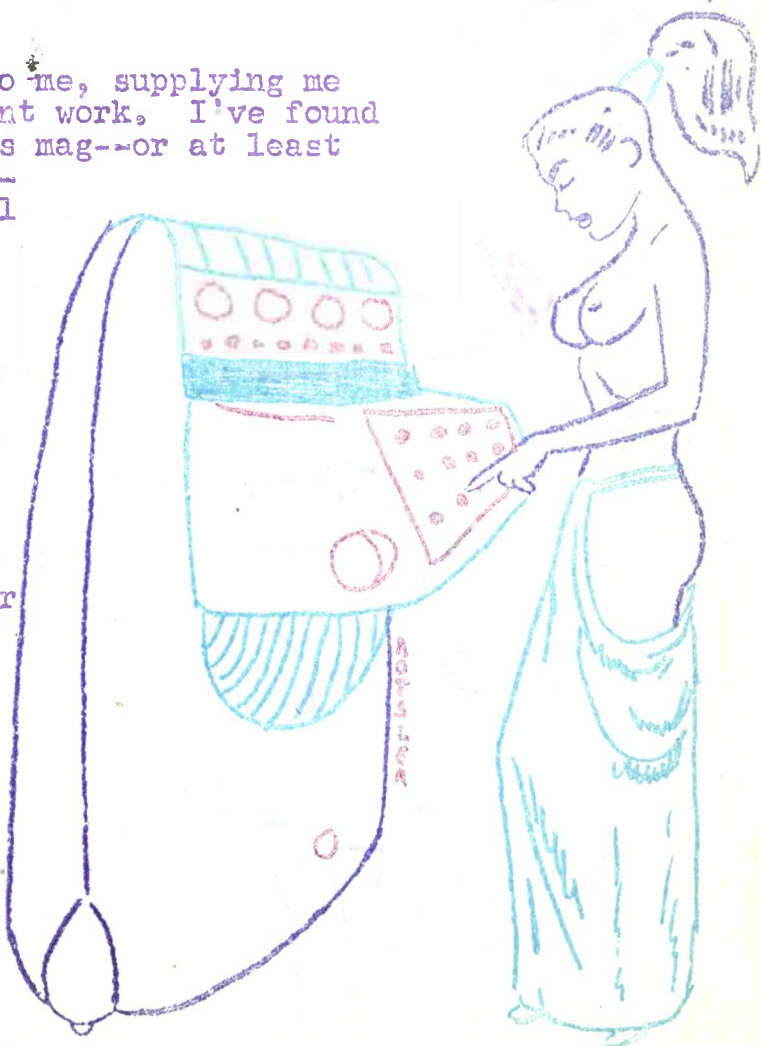
I've read these autobiogs I've already got--and believe me, they're tops! I've got four good ones so far--two for each issue (the AUGUST and SEPT.).

With all the letter pages, there wasn't much space to include illustrations--and I've certainly got enough of them. Believe me, there are certainly some good fan-artist sources that have seemingly never been tapped. In my opinion, DEA, Rotsler, Bradley, Geis, Kellogg, Nanman, Cobb, Duke, Stapenhorst, Malz, and Canales are the finest fan-artists. Oh, I know I must have left some out--egad! I forgot Hickman! and "de"! and Harness, and, oh, I give up!

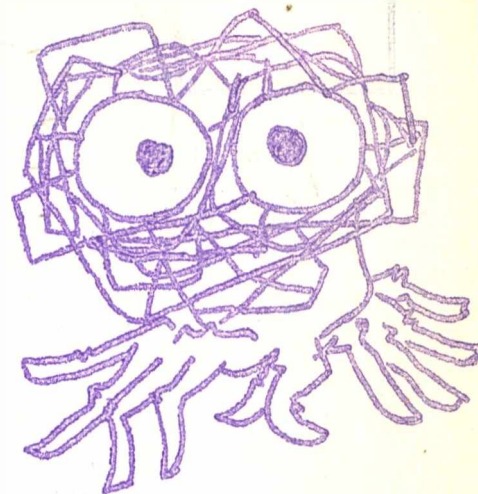
Rotsler has indeed been very kind to me, supplying me with vast quantities of his excellent work. I've found Bill Rotsler to be the best for this mag--or at least one of the best. You see, his drawings are not overflowing with detail and thereby they are easy to trace, and easy to do well--though I still doubt if I do them full justice.

I've just now discovered that I have one more page (making three) in which to babble. Right now, I feel I could use up another three. I hope I'm not boring you.

Let's see, there are always so many questions thrown at me in the letter column that I don't get around to answering. Oh yes, Dean Grennell asked me about my not having page numbers. Now I could have page numbers but the reason I haven't had them is quite simple. One can hardly ever predict how many letters will come in, and how many pages they will each take. Now, that doesn't mean I couldn't have them if I wanted to--but tell me, how many people actually do use



a table of contents. Besides there are many people (and I trust many who read ABstract) who read right through from cover to cover anyway. A table of contents, much like a deadline or a limited or set number of pages, or a definitely small page size, both cramps and limits and editor. Many an editor goes out of his way and puts up with it, but it shows nevertheless. This enables me to have a casual and more independent manner in which to pub AB.



Many article-writers and such people will go out of their way to blast fandom or to knock it down, picking out all of its faults. Let me say, that only a few short days ago, it looked like I would have to stop pubbing AB and maybe quit fandom. Of course, there'll probably be some hecklers out there that'll be unhappy to hear that I'm not, but I for one am glad I didn't have to abandon this. I've found fandom to be a terrific and constructive hobby. It is a place where your work (although seemingly small and unimportant in an adult light) will be appreciated and taken for its worth--regardless of whom it's written by. I'm quite sure that fandom, right now, is breeding some future Bradburys, Heinleins, or Van Vogts. Personally, I think this amateur publishing field should and could be carried into other fields like newspaper work, regular-fiction work, or ham-radio or other hobby work. Even today, schools (especially out here in California) are giving their kids a free hand in their school newspapers. All this is very similar to the fanzine field and Fandom.

As the old saying goes, "You never knew what you had until you lost it." That's not a correct quote, but it'll suit my purposes. Like the guy who knows he's dying and first begins to appreciate the world and life around him. Well, when I thought I'd have to give up fan-pubbing and the stuff that goes with it, I first began to really appreciate what it had to offer. The fans (you out there, my readers) have been especially good to me. Why for my mag to stand up alongside of other zines on the market, would be tossed out in a second...where can someone find a willing audience? You all know the answer.

In a way, Fandom is something like the House of Representatives. Our voices, since we are not together as a meeting group, are our magazines. Each one of us has a say. And those who don't have their own zines, speak through another's. We learn what our contemporaries like, and by giving them such (whether it be by directly appealing to them, or through our own tastes--it doesn't matter) we form a more perfect union and have a smooth running piece of machinery. Yes, eventually the neocism wears off--sometimes not before a good shakedown cruise (thank you, Mr. Geis), but it does wear off. Fandom seems to me somewhat of a give-and-take proposition...you work hard for a while, then sit back while others do the same. Fandom is something to enjoy, not to lower your head and charge into like you want to make sure you get something out of. This is all actually, completely superfluous--because I'm just repeating what the older, more experienced fen have said. I suppose it's just a perfect picture of a bull-headed neo seeing the light--but believe me, no matter what the older fen can say--you must really learn by experience. See you next ish.

NEW ADDRESS: NO CHANGE - NOT MOVING

ABSTRACT



You are requested to:

SUBSCRIBE _____

CONTRIBUTE _____ ✓

SWAP _____ ✓

COMMENT _____ ✓

This is your:

Contributor's _____ copy

Subscriber's _____ copy

Trading _____ ✓ copy

Complimentary _____ copy

Reviewer's _____ ✓ copy

% _____ if you do not acknowledge
receipt of this copy, this
is your last.....

Please remail enclosed ballot sheet

(same address)

LAUREL AVE.,
HOLLYWOOD 46,
CALIF.,



TO:

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

K A S T M I N U T E " S T O P T H E P R E S S " N O T E

Here I sit at my typer...tired, disappointed and forlorn. I was supposed to have a "fan-cover" this issue with the pics of 28 well-known fen. But what happened? I waited until the last minute before bringing down the dummy to the printers. I found out that the little guy that had been doing all this work for me at dirt cheap rates blew town. He left this poor faned high and dry. So I take the picture cover and start to shop around town for a good cheap printers. I already knew that American Offset herein L.A. would charge me \$10 since it had pics, but nowhere in the entire city could I get it done for less.

In desperation, I junked the fan-cover idea and called Ronnie Cobb. He dashed out a beautiful scratchboard for the cover and I mounted it and added the letters, format, etc., and took it to the American Printers who'd do it for \$5. Here I was already three days late. So they do it all right, but for some odd reason they trim the white margins off the page leaving me $\frac{1}{8}$ " short on the right side. This is no good, so I have to take it back. So here it is, July 2nd, 1954, the date around which you should be receiving AB, and I have yet to mail it out. However, you may rest assured that #6 will have that offset cover and will be out on time (around the first of August).

Whhheeeeeew! Now you see. I've got a few things to say. Brother, this is no picnic typing up 34 stencils, stencilling art-work, running the damn thing off, sorting, piling, collecting, stapling and adding poll sheets, typing out names, licking on the damn stamps and shoving them into the box. It takes a lot of work for one man.

I hate the bloody thoughts of my coming CONish. At 100 copies, and only 100 copies, that means 10,000 sheets of paper--perfect condition, or about 22 reams of paper...at \$1.20 @ ream (gee, I finally got to use that sign!) it comes to about \$25 for paper....about \$2.50 for fluid....\$5.50 for masters...\$20 for picture section...MY GHOD! \$53 smackers! That's at least \$33 above what an ordinary ish of AB would cost, and some of you characters are complaining about the price! Pity me. Well, it'll be my slam bang wind-up of publication for AB in '54. Next ish will be the ANNish in Jan. '55. I've allowed myself those 3 valuable months for recuperation.

Thanx go to BERT SATZ for helping me sort AB...also for Bill Rotsler for being so kind as to supply me with artwork so this Rex'od cover would be possible.

As you'll notice by the complete mess I made out of the bacover, I did not move after all. There was a big hullabaloo about that, which is another one of the many excuses I could give you about not having AB out on time. Later for that.

All you true fans out there should run right out and buy SCIENCE-FICTION by Sauter-Finegan. It's a real fan's version. Try it.

Other news out here in Southern Cal is that Richard Carlson will be starting Science-Fiction Theatre out here in the fall, a filmed playhouse with all the leading SF short stories dramatized.

Don't forget to order your CONish, and fill out and mail back the ballot sheet enclosed herein.

You should receive the next ABstract within the next three weeks because of the delay of this one.

You'll all have to excuse me, peasants, I've got to hurry up and eat dinner so's we can start our every-other-week poker session on Fritnes, on time. Don Howard Donnell, our leading fan-author will undoubtedly lose his shirt tonight, as he won over \$10 last session. I won about \$2.50 that session and the staff of Starlight plus about 10 other guests lost their shirts. Ho hum.....see you in three weeks....PJV