

ABSTRACT



"THE 1954 WORLD CON"
"...where fan meets fan...."

NUMBER
SEVEN

ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT

is edited and published
by Peter J. Vorzimer

ART EDITOR is

William Rotsler

ABSTRACT has been
published monthly
since April, 1954
and will continue
monthly until Oct
ober 1954.

This is fandom's
only monthly--rated
#5 in the TEN TOP
FANZINES POLL--and
is therefore fandom's
leading monthly. Ny-
dahl--what do you
make of that? I for-
got, NYDAHL is on the
black list.

Also published by me
are: The Vine, The
Egohoo Lovers' Gaz-
ette, and The Fantasy
Interliner.

This is volume #1,
number #7.

This is also the next-
to-last issue of AB-
stract for the year of
1954

SEPTEMBER

Cover: When Fans Collide by Talon
(borrowed from MAD comics)

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Department designs: Courtesy of Walter Bowart
of Enid, Oklahoma. Other fillers by: Rotsler,
Dea, Vorzimer.

No fan-fares this issue. Saving #10 and #11 for
the Conish. All Conishes (except 10) have been
sold. No more than 100 will be printed.

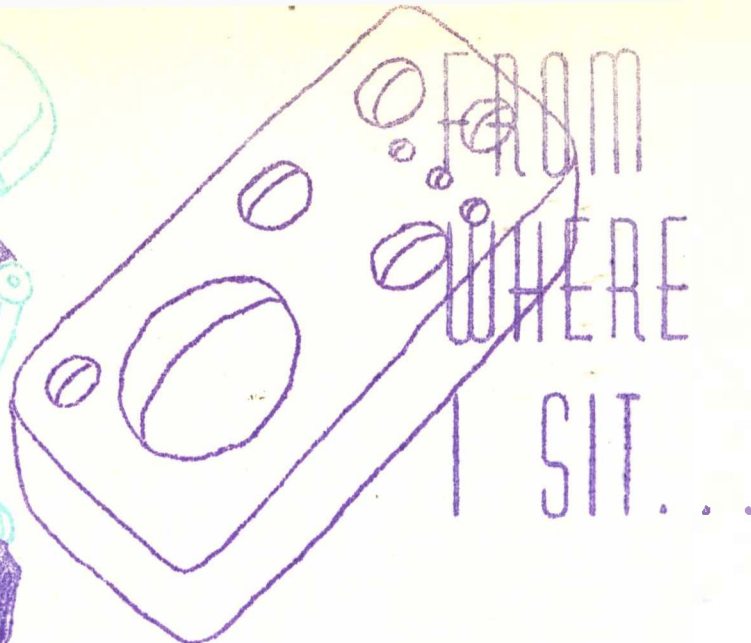
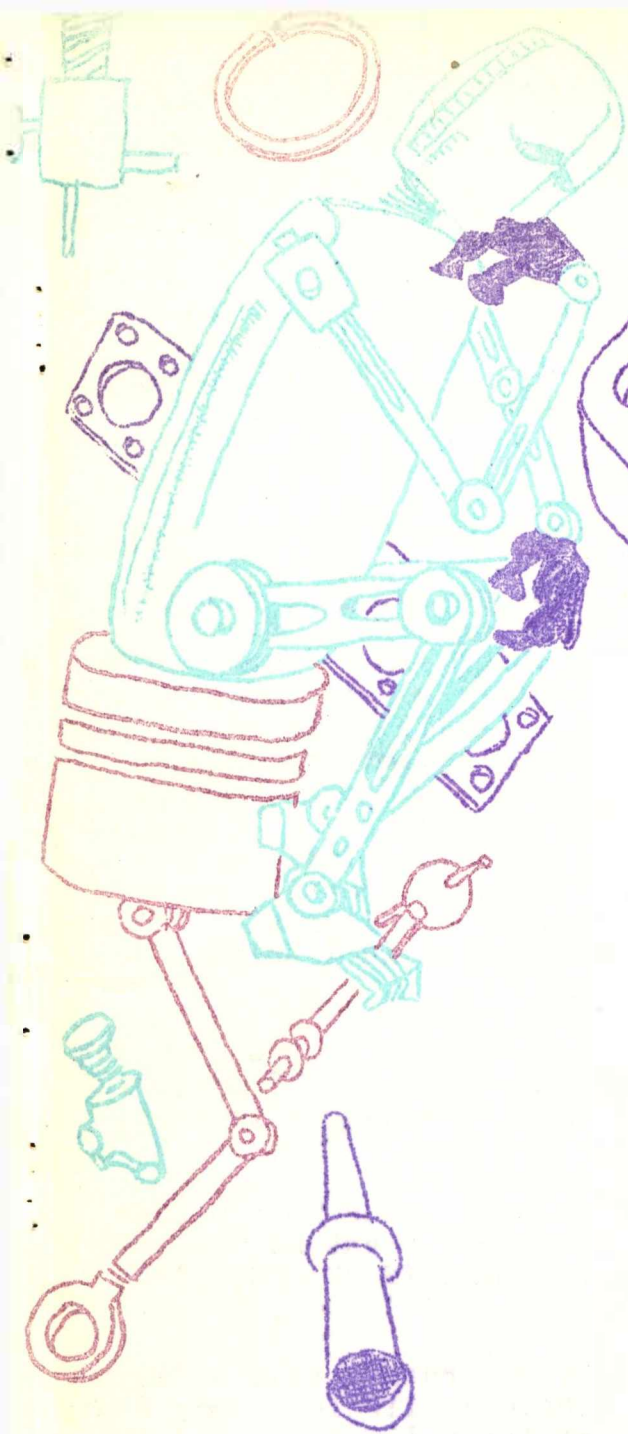
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46, California. Single copies are 10¢ apiece. No
more 3-ish subs for 25¢. 3 ishes will now cost
you 30¢. No subs of any kind.

This issue is being printed today, August 15th.
It'll be mailed on the 20th. You get it from there.

PETE VORZIMER

1311 N. Laurel Ave.,
W. Hollywood 46, Calif.

Expect a VINE somewhere around Convention time.
It'll be a short one--giving my college address
which will go into effect on the 13th of September.



I've just recently made a startling, earth shattering realization: I'm a fake fan. O.K., go ahead and laugh. I don't care if it does seem funny to you. It doesn't to me. After hearing all the fannish oaths shouted at the so-called 'fake fans' and then finding out that I'm the one they're talking about, I'm pretty broken up.

I'll put it this way: Ole PJV is not a science fiction fan. The first stf mag I ever picked up was one of the first couple of issues of Galaxy. (This might wind up as an autobiog!) I read a few of the stories in it, enjoyed some, detested the others. I put that mag down (somewhere back in the ancient '50s when Fandom was Fandom with out Vorzimer), and never picked up another stf mag until May, 1953. I was dragged by Don Donnell, my best friend, to the Westercon that month where Kris Neville, in a pleasant stupor, shoved an advance copy of F&SF in my pocket. This was the 2nd stf mag I read. I still was not keen at all on the stuff.

Now look at me..no, don't. To date, all the stf I've read amounts to this: 2 ishes of Galaxy, 4 ishes of Startling, 2 ishes of Planet, 3 ishes of TWS, 1 ish of Astounding, 2 ishes of Fantastic Story Mag, 1 ish of SF Digest, 1 ish of Orbit, and Every Issue of F&SF. The books I've read are: Every Heinlein book (in the kiddy series), every Bradbury book, 3 anthologies and two pocket books. What does it amount to? NOTHING. Why I'm a barefaced neophyte...a babe in arms...a totally ignorant stf fan. Can I call myself a 'fan'? I can't look myself in the face these days---it's that bad.

In a way, I must be hiding it rather well. Nobody has yet accused me of being a fake fan. Maybe because everybody knows it! Here I am, editing what is reputed to be one of the 'top ten' fanzines and I'm a living hoax! In Geis' words, "Should such an unmitigated crud go unchallenged?" Of course, Geis said this about my old mag, CRUD...I just slipped in the "an". But that's the way I feel. I've now worked myself into a nice little inferior-

ity complex. All I've got in AB is just a plain zine. I once wrote quite a little neo-fannish article about where the word Science-Fiction went as far as fanzines go...Naturally, it was rejected, but recalling this to mind, a pang of fear darts across my nervous system. Here I am, a perfect example!

It all started off when I was having an intellectual's breakfast, reading HYPHEN 1, CHAPTER-PLAY, and SPACESHIP. It actually happened as I started in reading SS. It was Bob's last issue. Here was a lead article by Boggs, it was on Doc Smith (See? I'm learning already!). I read it and kept wondering to myself who this Smith character was...the way he talked about him, you'd think everybody knew of him--and almost everybody does--but me.

When Tom Piper took this little innocent wide-eyed neo under his wing and told him just exactly what the thing called Fandom was etc., etc., I was immediately interested in starting my own zine. Eventually, dear old AB was born. I ran THREE LOVES, that was just barely science-fiction. I enjoyed it. It was that yarn that started the whole thing--if I hadn't enjoyed it, I'd have never printed AB#1. After three issues I was rather glad to see it go, even though it was rather a huge success. (Still heralded as being the greatest piece of fan-fiction.) After that, came the letters, that's what occupied most of the mag...and so on up to now.

I enjoy publishing a magazine...whether or not it's science-fiction, is not a point involved. I enjoy corresponding and talking to interesting people (such as 'fans' are). I enjoy talking...and a magazine's editorial is as good a place as any. I've tried to make AB interested...and I think I've succeeded. But now is the time for the confession.

If I go to the Con without revealing this highly-kept secret, somebody might ask me if I've seen Bradbury around...and I might say "Bardberry?" or "Bradbury? --who's he?" In short, I might be trapped into revealing this terrific weakness. I'd rather 'tell all' now.

I know, it's a pitiful crime and I'll be laughed out of fandom, but please have mercy on this poor fake-fan. I'll try. I'll go out right now and read SLAN...or something on Dianetics...or even THE DEMOLISHED MAN! I've got to do something. I'm only half a fan.

As Durt Satz put it, I'm more or less of a "fan's fan", rather than a fan of Science-Fiction. I know you'll all hang me, dangle my lifeless body from the banquet-room chandelier...but I won't care...at least I had fun and enjoyed it while it lasted.

Latest and Final CONish sales we be listed on the next to the last page. O.K., so the pace is beginning to tell...so this ish is 24 pages...so it is rather "skimpy". I'm cutting down mainly because I'll be saving mor money that can be used on the CONish. The printer's goof on the offset cover of #5 was rectified, but instead of throwing it on #6, I kept it for the CONish, nothing like an offset cover--and it really is going to be beautiful.

Another rather important discovery I learned was that it wouldn't be a good idea for me to print 80 out of the 100 CONish pages before the Con and slip the CON reports and stuff in later. 20 pages now 80 after. Running out. 'Bye. Oops! more room than I thought. I'm planning to get an Oklacon report from DON CHAPPELL, possibly (and I haven't worked on this yet) a Bellfontaine report from EEEvans, plus a Con report of the Friscon by me, completely illustrated with about 50 face critturs. No telling what will come in from Tucker, Grennell, Willis, or the other boys. Undoubtedly, I'll be handing you boys your copy of this mag up at the Con....those of you who arent going will have received this on About the last day of Aug., so you'll get it before you go to your local Con.

BACKWARD 5 TIME

TERRY CARR

The letter I've selected this time is an interesting one from Mack Reynolds, and I don't want you readers to get the idea from this and the selection last issue by Robert Krepps that I intend to print only letters from pros here. In the first place, I haven't got that many, and in the second I have some interesting fan letters begging for exhumation (?) too. It just happened that I pulled out pro letters these first two times. And so, without further ado, let's get to Mack Reynold's letter, dated July 15, 1950:

Dear Terry:

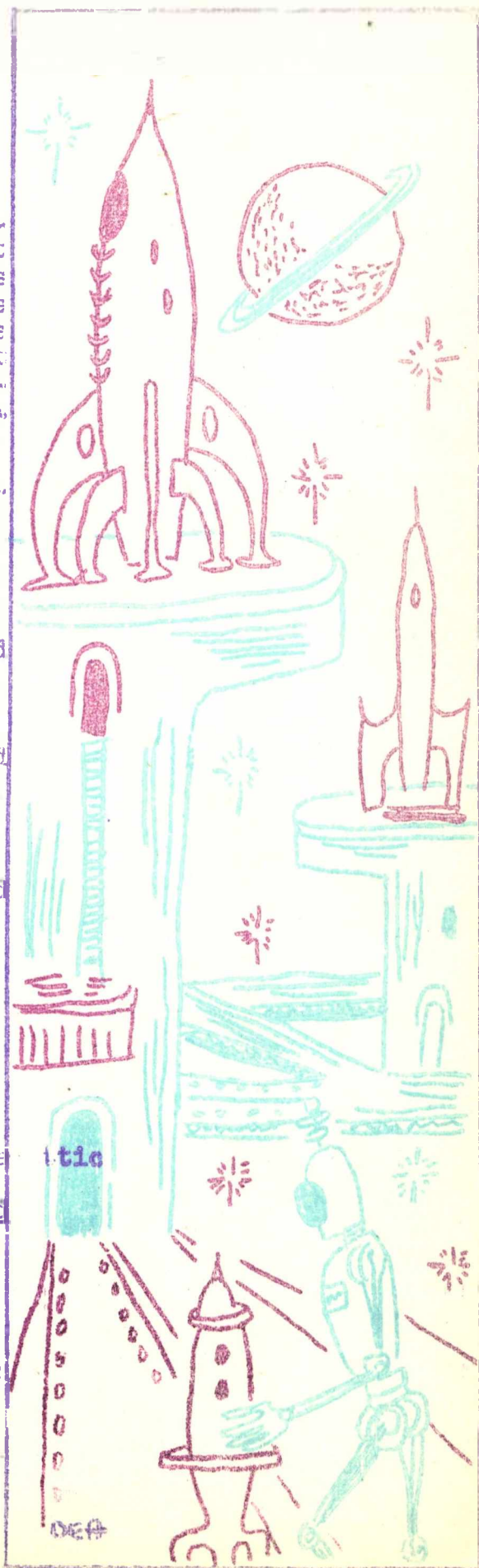
Okay, to get back to our murderous argument: whether or not van Vogt, Heinlein and Hubbard would descend to do short stories these days.

First, the stories you see today were sold possibly a year or more ago before the current boom started. There were about eight stf mags in the spring of last year, there are over twenty-five now. In those days the better known stf writers did write shorts and were probably glad to get the dough.

About van Vogt and the shorts you see by him. Leave me let you into a secret, chum. Van Vogt is somewhere in the vicinity of 40 years of age, I assume. When he was twelve, he used to write (once again, I assume) little stories for his eighth grade teacher. After she gave him c-plus for his compositions he stashed them away in a moldy old trunk in the attic. Today, all van Vogt has to do is get one of these relics out of the trunk and send it off to a brand new stf magazine. They'll buy it!!! Isn't van Vogt's name signed to the bottom?

The same applies to all the big names. Clunkers they've had in their files for years are selling like hot cakes.

About Heinlein still selling shorts--sure, for the clicks. He wouldn't waste an idea or the time on a pulp story. Bob probably gets about a thousand bucks a throw for a Sat. Eve Post story and it doesn't make any



difference how long it is. Slick magazine buy on a flat rate, not by so much per word.

By the way, I don't know if you've heard that Ray Palmer of Other Worlds fell down a flight of steps and is now in bed partly paralyzed. Bea Mahaffey has taken over and is sweating blood trying to keep things going. I hear that Howard Browne and Bill Harding of Amazing and Fantastic Adventures have been pitching in and helping Bea but I imagine it's quite a strain.

Cordially,
Mack Reynolds

The above is cut quite a bit, since there was quite a bit of material that wouldn't be interesting at this late date.

Fifteen fans in this club and I have to be elected Prexy!

I have always felt that I am one of the luckiest fans alive (I make this distinction because many fans are dead--take Willis and Tucker, for example, --and then too, many are just deadheads.) You see, I have a mailman who is a faa-aa-aa-aa-aa-an!

I shall pause for a few lines and let this sink into your craniums while Vorzy cries about the wasted space.

(That's enough space for you, Carr! --ed.)

Back again. Yes, you heard me right, my mailman is One of Us. I discovered this about a year ago, when Keith Josepph was at my Crypt. Up the street trudged the mailcarrier, his eyes on my house as if it was a cold bottle of Bheer in the middle of the Sahara. The reason for this, as all actifen know, was that he was carrying a ton of mail for me.

Keith and I dashed down the steps and met him next to the mailbox, groveling in the dirt before him as all True Fen do when confronted by mailmen. He bid us rise, seeming a trifle embarrassed for some reason, and bowled me over by tossing the mail at me without varhing. I went to the dirt again, and the letters went flying.

My mailman grabbed one in mid-air and was about to hand it to me when the return address caught his eye. It was, "11th World Science Fiction Convention".

He looked at me and said, "You read this slop?" pointing to the return address.

"Yes," I said a bit belligerantly.

"Hell," he laughed. "I've been reading this crap for thirty years."

Keith and I looked at each other, avestruck. All I could think of was Mighod, and somehow I felt as though that would not be an appropriate comment to make.

Well, the upshot of it was the he had started off with the Burroughs Mars books (on which he gave us a lengthy discourse) and had gone on bliss-

fully reading science fiction books--though no magazines--for quite a few years. He had tried some mags later on, but only one he liked was Amazing, which at the time was featuring the Shaver Mystery (as he put it, "They were bull----, but they were good reading. "). Astounding was too deep for him and Galaxy left him cold.

I was despairing about this time of ever converting him to fandom, because of his obviously primitive tastes. However, I would have tried, had I not visualized what it might be if I was to succeed. Gad, his house was half-block away before mine on his route. If I converted him he'd probably be stopping off at his house every day to read my fanzines! Then he'd get eyetracks all over the things and I wouldn't enjoy them half as much. Besides, I'd probably get my mail even later than I did then if I was to convert him.

So I didn't convert him. When Keith made a casual reference to fandom, I kicked him in the shins, treated the mailman to a chicken----t snile, and said, "Yes, we have a new fan coming today, but they didn't send it by mail. Shut up, Keith!"

The * End

GROAN
DEPJ.

No real groans this time...just the last page of the mag. Carr's column was a little short this time--but will be back--bigger and better than ever in the Conish. Hope it'll run about 5-6 pages. Then, Terry will havee-opps, can't go into details. I want that Conish to be a surprise. Today's the 15th and things are coming along right on schedule. Trouble is, only 50% of the C-ish material will be done before the Con.

Had the extreme fannish honor of visiting the pad of one Charles E. Burbee. (See that, Charles...your name--again!). There I met Ed Cox, Don Wilson, Lee Jacobs, and a couple of others--including Mrs. Burbee. Oh, what an honor. Gee,.... Got the Fantasy Amateur plus some other FAPA (#68) zines. I'm 10th on the dang list and it looks like I won't get in until May, darn it. Oh, well, maybe OMPA, WAPA, and SAPS will accept me a'fore that.

Expect to run off V. Paul Nowell's DIFFUSE tomorrow. Believe me, this is definitely an up-and-coming zine. A Geis-column, yet! And done by the superb dittoing process of the ACME PUBLISHING CO.! (Me.) I suggest you all buy a copy of this one...heartily recommended. Also arriving over here will be a gal by the name of Janice Jacobson--a fan who put out a little zine called BEMS IRC., at only 10¢! She's 14 now, and think's she might pub again...only much better. I'll announce if and when she's going to put the new one and the name. Oh yes, Paul Nowell's address is 6528 Gentry Ave., North Hollywood, California.

P.L. Shaeffer is temporarily out of the anpubbing field, being that I took the ditto away, and has taken away to heated feuding with Denis Moreen. Believe me, Park is going to be another Vorziner in fandom. Moreen, from what he, Ellik, and Park tells me, is going to explode! His Geis-worshipping article in PROTON #4 was a dilly. For this he's after Park--claims Park printed it under his name. Thassall.

pete

NOCK NOCK WHO'S THERE

STUART NOCK



Who cares about the ten top fanzines? There are too many polls being conducted in fandom to determine the ranking amateur mags. Vorziner is conducting one; Wells is compiling a list of the ten best. And I don't know how many others are doing the exact same thing. These polls cannot be accurate for the simple reason that the participants in each are for the most part members of one group of fandom. For example, those who are being polled by Pete are naturally younger and newer to fandom than those who Charles is surveying. Most of Pete's mailing list is composed of 7th Fandomers, although not entirely, by any means, and they would naturally lean toward a 7th Fandom zine such as ABSTRACT or PSYCHOTIC. Which is all right. They are both fine mags. However, GREY, CW's publication is sent around more to the old-timer's on Chuck's mailing list and these fellows who have been around Fandom for a while might choose the type of mag like HYPHEN; a more mature publication. So the average young-fan might turn in a list something like this: #1 PSYCHOTIC, #2 ABSTRACT, #3 FOG, #4 A LA SPACE, #5 SPIRAL, and so forth. Not that these aren't good mags...they certainly are. It's just that this fan left out others worthy of note such as OPSLA and PEON. A fanzine like PSYCHOTIC, whose mailing list covers just about every part of fandom, would be better suited than one like GREY/FIENDETTA or ABSTRACT to conduct such a poll. (Author's note: That introductory statement does not necessarily express my opinion. I care about the ten top fanzines. I voted in both polls mentioned...but controversial subjects make good material for columns, so I made the fanzine polls controversial by disagreeing with them.)

* * * *

Two Baltimoreans (/shouldn't that be Baltimoreans? -ed./) recently paid me a visit. Coincidentally, they happen to be fans, too. Raleigh Multog and John Hitchcock, to be more specific. They came up last weekend for three days. I was working part of the time, so I didn't have as

much time with them as I'd liked to. We did have fun, though. We spent part of Saturday and Sunday morning publishing a small one-shot. Some of you may have received it. It was a rather poor job, being thrown together in such a short time.

* * * *

Did you ever stop to figure out the fanzine you most like to receive? Probably, sub-consciously you have, but then what magazine is it? (Ten Top Fanzine Polls anyone? -ed.* I used to wait by the mailbox for Psychotic, because it had such interesting fanzine reviews and other features. (huh for this you stayed up nights and days, in rain and hot weather for one whole month?-ed.) But now it's changed; some of the appeal is gone. Mags like Peon and Skyhook, although top magazines, do not appeal to me so much because they contain longer articles and stories and do not have all of the small, interesting features that I look for in a mag. But I do recognize those zines as perhaps the finest in the field. I like to read ABSTRACT for its letters and reviews; they are interesting as well as informative. It has a neat and fascinating layout that draws my attention. The perfect example of my type of material--er fanzine rather, is The Cosmic Frontier. Although its material certainly can't compare with that of Skyhook or Peon, it has all the short features and the interesting layout which make it attractive. I wish that someone else published CF and sent it to me. (That's the sneakiest way to get in a plug I've ever seen.)

* * * *

I would very much like to see next year's convention held in New York City. The most important city in the world is not good enough for fandom, I guess. There are really very few active fans in the area compared to Los Angeles, for instance. The South has many fans and so has the Mid-West. But us poor New Yorkers. I doubt if there would ever be enough people from New York at a Con to vote for it as the next site. Not even if I went.

* * * *

You've all noticed that Ted White has gone full-size with ZIP? I don't know...I kinda liked it the other way. Did you notice one fanzine which had kept up monthly for a long time now has sagged off? You guessed it--TCF. I'm tired...been working all summer. I guarantee an issue before the month is out though. Enough of me for one issue. --S.K. Fock.

VORZIMER ADDITION: Stu, I have practically the same mailing list as Dick Geis does. Give or take a few, we are about the same. Guys like Ackerman, Burbee, Boggs, Tucker, Carr, Riddle, Caneley, Ellison, Hickman, Johnson, Hoffman, Ish, Willis, English, Calkins, Nydahl, Riddle, Senenovich, have been around a heck of a long time. 7th Fandomites occupy about 20 out of about 100. Check the back list of Conish purchasers and see. I think you'll be surprised....50% have been in since before '50. See? #/No offense against Multog and Hitchcock in the "Baltimoron" term--just phrasing the great Bard Willis.

Have you heard? People can no longer bow to Willis, for indeed, Willis (name must now be spelled with small case letters--and he must be referred to as Rudolph--no, not Randolph--Rudolph). For Willis' god is Burbee.

Got an affectionate letter from IRG. (Never good) Browne stating that a certain boy up in Canada will come out with a mag soon, that'll beat any subzine now on the market. More of Browne's bragging, or....? PJV

GUESS

WHAT?

Don't get mad. I get pretty sick myself writing such a large dose of material for ABSTRACT. It's just that I have this page to use up--it's an extra page--I was only supposed to print 24 pages, but added reviews and junk added two more pages. So don't complain.

Many rather fannish things have happened to me in the last week. I visited Burbee's--drank some of his special home brew, met many interesting fan and had a general good time. I had an interview with 57th Fandom--some 10 year old stf fans at the ice-skating rink where I was skating. I met a femme fan from this area--one Janice Jacobson who pubbed BEMS INC., at the age of 10½. I pubbed both this issue of ABSTRACT and also pubbed Paul Nowell's DIFFUSE #2.

What went on at Burbee's will go down in some column I'm going to write, so I won't bother to talk much on that subject here. The 57th Fandomites I met were mainly interested in the nudity of recent issues--rather than just an interested outlook on stf or fandom. However, one of these boys, a youngster name of Peter Gray, bought a copy of AB--and who knows, but maybe in a month or so we'll have some neo-fannish piece of tripe from him and another faned will be on his way.

Today, Paul came over and we went about Pubbing Diffuse. Actually, Diffuse alone was an all day job, but I had to go and try to finish AB today also. Well, it's finished, but Paul has all gone home. It took us some 6 hours to do up Diffuse--and here I am doing the remainder of ABSTRACT. Janice Jacobson dropped over to see how the other half lived. We showed her the ropes...but she didn't seem too interested in activfanning. She said she might come out with a crud-sheet called "JINX", but she seemed rather doubtful. I say, let's wait 'till she grows up another four or five years before she pubs again. She hasn't seen a fanzine in a long time. And believe me, it doesn't take long out of fandom to forget names, or to find they've since dropped out of Fandom.

All told, I've had a rather fannish week. Why, even at the beach, Clemons would constantly be asking me to tally up what I think it'll cost us for the Convention. So I did. I said it would run something like this for the average L.A. fan leaving with our group: Carfare (by Greyhound): \$12.00; Food (for 4 days): \$15.00; Room (splitting one with 3 other guys): \$7 per the whole Con..or \$1.75 a night; plus spending, gambling, and entertainment money. In short, the average fan who's looking for a good time should bring from \$50 up...with an absolute minimum of \$34.

We've been talking about this for a long time and we're all looking forward to it. As yet, I haven't bought a camera with which to take any of my Con-ish pictures. Since I sold my Graphic, I've still been looking. Anybody got any recommendations to make concerning a Leica, Contax, Cannon, Exata, or such? Reflex and Press Cameras are now out with me--except for special occasions.

Hope you'll notice (you can't help it) that this one page of purple is better than any other single page of the issue--and I can't even know for sure, as I'm still typing the dang thing. Rex-0 is sure going to get a complaint on their blue m.u.'s--they don't last past 60 good copies...they're crud.

PETE



THROUGH RAIN, THROUGH SLEET, THROUGH SNOW ETC.,

Last ish I had to cut you short because I had used up most of my space for other stuff and I wanted to stay under 32 pages (which I didn't). This ish, I must stay under 24 pages, which even gives me less room. I can only print two letters, from Mr. Boggs and Mr. Grennell.

from
the

DEAN of

GRENNELL....You are indeed fortunate to have the service of Rotlser..he's very good and seldom seen in subzines these days. The blue printing on the first page looks good. There is always a period of low fannish activity around July-August...the Dog-Day Doldrums you might call it. Then there's a period around the Con that gets very inactive...everybody is going to, attending, coming from or recovering from the affair and we stay-at-homes get a chance to pursue our non-fan activities. Then it picks up, with a slump at Christmastime, to a peak which usually falls sometime around February-March. Some math-minded fan should chart the thing graphically sometime. If you want to send me a CONish, I'll send the 25¢ postpaid upon receipt. I used to send cash in advance for fanzines but I've been amply cured of the practice. Or maybe I could barter something else for them. I customarily charge 25¢ apiece for photos (4x5 contact prints)..anybody you want to see photos of? Yeah, in the know--you need money to pay for supplies with. But at the moment, I'm in the same position and I plain can't spare a quarter if I wanted to. When his last name is used as a possessive, Redd prefers that it be used thusly: "...one of Boggs' jokes." Minor quibble, but important to him. From the letter I've seen by him lately--in Abby and others--Mittlebuscher seems to be shooting for the currently-vacant post of Chief Bellyacher of Fandom. He has a subline gift for rubbing people the wrong way..and some nice qualities too. For some time now I've been trying to concentrate on his good points and like the guy in spite of his faults. But I must confess I'm about ready to give up. I'm a fairly tolerant slob ordinarily, but when a guy she-dogs it up because somebody likes my magazine--in which he, himself had a contribution--even my good-nature starts to fray at the seams.

Trouble with Mittlebuscher is that he can't seem to separate fact from opinion and tends to treat his personal opinions as if they were self-evident laws of nature. This is a common trait among fans but Paul runs it into the ground. The thing that corks me about him is the way he's forever and forever going on about what he'd do and what he wouldn't do if he was editing GALAXY or if he was running some fanzine or other. I would truly like to see the result if he ever does get around to publishing something. I won't say I'd like to read it but I damned well would like to see it. If he's as godlike and omniscient as he lets on, it would be a dilly and if he puts out the tub of creadle I think he would, then

He'll get his own medicine back--with interest yet. Nancy Share put it rather well in the last issue of HODGE PODGE: "Get lost, Mittlebuscher." To which I'll add, "We promise to miss you if you'll just get gone." (Credit Walt Kelly) And for Mittlebuscher, of all fannish people, to sneer at you or anybody else about their typos...Jesus H. Christ! Clear back to your reply to Hall's letter now--I think you are a bit confused over the term "Enlisted Man". You say, "Cap'ns will pick up enlisted men--especially if the EM are officers." That makes about as much sense as saying, "Dogs will chase rabbits--especially if they are dogs..." The term 'enlisted man' is applied to a person in the US Armed Forces who is (1) masculine in gender and (2) not one of the commissioned grades--i.e., from 2nd Lieut. through General. Exception is the Warrant Officer and Flight Officer who are neither fish nor fowl...theoretically, one doesn't salute WOs and FOs but they're apt to chew you out if you don't and they are, after all, tolerated in the Officer's Club. And, to be quite fair, I'll quibble a bit with Hall too. I have seen an officer (and he was a Captain too) go out and pick up an enlisted man for some detail of other. Matter of fact, my Range Officer frequently picked me up and chauffeured me in to the base when I was pulling Range CQ and had to eat at early mess. It wasn't that he had to but just that he liked to drive jeeps. Does this help to clear anything up? Only a Willis could coin a term like "Baltinoron" for Multog and his fumble-witted crew.

Mittlebuscher may now scream in triumph but, honestly Pete, I can't see that Grue rates the same rating as WAW's incomparable THE ENCHANTED DUPLICATOR. Even in my smuggest moment, I couldn't rate Grue in the same class with that! You wouldn't have been stretching things much if you'd given TED an A***** (10) rating and I guarantee that if you go back and administer such an accolade, you won't have to dust it off and drag it out very often. Only thing I foresee in the immediate future to come up to TED is the FANCYCLOPEDIA II, which Redd Boggs and Walt Willis are cooking up. That, I'm faunching to read!

Finest thing in the issue--and well worth the price of the magazine by itself--was, of course, the James White/Walt Willis Fan-Fare. This almost--quite literally--killed me. I was just looking it over and re-reading it preparatory to commenting on it when I dragged a deep lungful of Dunhill fumes and hit the "..even mountain" just at the precise unpropitious time. I snorted, choked, and still have a sore throat from it. Curse you, Willis, and you the Great White, farther.

Enjoyed the Hickman autobiog too...though I doubt greatly that he'll find anyone in fandon interested in buying a manure spreader. Most fans seem to do alright without one of these!

Only way I've found to lick the page-numbering bugaboo is the system I use in GRUE--number the letter-section separately, and when you've finished your lead-section and your letter section, bring the numbers up to date on the concluding page or two. You're right that nobody needs a table of contents but page-numbers are handy when your readers comment on the issue. Gotta chop it off now. Please hold your answer till Grue 21 arrives in a couple of weeks. OK?

((You're right about Rotsler, I am indeed indebted to him. He furnishes about 90% of all of AB's illos. By the way, the artists will really be represented in the CONish...I'm sending stencils out to DEA, Rike, Malz, Gilbert, Rotsler, Bowart, Canales, Hickman, Geis, Bradley, and a whole slew of others. Having them do their on-stencil should produce much better effects. I made just one serious goof regarding my CONish...a rather selfish and unthinking goof, Dean. Anybody who does material for the Conish, gets a free one. So, at any rate, you

get a free ish for your contribution...and so do a lot of others. Glad you like the blue...trouble is, during that issue, after I finished one page, I ran into some trouble. The blue carbon didn't contain enough actual carbon to run off more than 50 ishes. Just yesterday, when I called up R&Q-CGRAPH to order stencils for this and the coming Conish, I found out that R-Q-G now makes blue, green, and red master units. Hip, hip, hooray! But then my problem still isn't quite solved. I purchased 24 of them with which to run off this ish. They still, however, are not quite satisfactory. I was lucky this time, however, because I'm dropping 20 subbers from my list with this issue, which brings me down to 90 ishes. 90 is the perfect number for these blue stencils so at present I'm quite happy. The Conish, however, will have to be done in purple. The pages will also be numbered for the Conish. Thank for your long letter.....))

now, we hear from Der Sgob. which is REDD BOGGS backwards...

A few words first about ABstract #5. I find I don't have much to say, except that I think making it a letterzine is a miserable idea. Bob Peatrowsky seems to be doing quite well with Confab, and you may do equally as well with your fanzine, but the trouble with letterzines is that they become stale and inbred, with little fresh grist (pardon the mixed metaphor). The letter department of a regular fanzine is usually pretty interesting because the articles and columns in the previous issue always give the letter writers something new to talk about.

It seems to me that you don't know what you want to do with ABstract. Apparently you decided in the midst of publishing #5 that you'd make it a letterzine, but now you are soliciting an article from me so apparently the letterzine idea is just more water over the goddam.

Gee, this is the first time I've commented on ABstract, yet I find myself quoted in three places in the letter section. I like nearly all the letters, and was particularly interested in Mrs. Dominick's. This is the first time I've seen a letter from her, I believe, and I thought it was very amusing and well done. While all the letters are interesting, I think they contain some material that could have been omitted without hurting them. If one trims too stringently, much of the spontaneity is lost, but on the other hand, a bit of judicious cutting may sharpen a letter's effect.

Thank for the review of Skyhook. Very nice and I appreciate it...The Fan-Fares were excellent (especially the asides by Willis).

Regarding page numbers: they are useful even though you don't have a table of contents. In the first place, they keep the pagination straight during the production of the issue. In the second place, they indicate to the reader how the sequence of pages is supposed to go in case there's a mixup or a page is omitted. Recently I've received several magazines with pages missing and I'm not sure but what there's page missing in AB#4, where the text breaks off in mid-sentence at the bottom of one page and is not continued on the next. In the third place, page numbers are useful in referring to something in the magazine one wants to cite. For instance, I'd like to tell you where that mixup occurs in AB#4, but all I can say is that it comes in the "Rest in Peace" section, breaking off at the bottom of some page or other....

To your letter. I'm glad you could use the Rotsler artwork. He is a fine artist indeed...I've got all the styluses I need, thanks. What is the other lettering guide? I might be able to sue it, unless I have one like it already.

The address I've got for Jack Harness is 595 Park Avenue, Meadville, Pennsylvania, but I'm not sure but what this is his college address and myx not be good in the summer. I dunno.

I don't think six issues proves too much about your "lasting" qualities. A lot of fans have produced six issues in a burst of frantic energy on first contacting fandom. Most of them don't last much longer, having burned themselves out in no time. I hope you are right about your "boundless energy", but I'll believe it more surely when I see you still publishing ABstract next summer with the same enthusiasm.

You're going to Medical School? That's a good thing, of course, but from what I hear, it'll be a place where your boundless energy will be tapped again and again. My sister pals around with a girl who attends the U of Minnesota medical school; she's a smart kid (got here Bachelor of Science degree cum laude) but they're really running her ragged. Good luck.

There was a time when FAPA allowed waiting listers to circulate mags in the bundles, but there were so many hassels as a result that it hasn't been allowed in recent years. I think 1950 was the last time. However, you can put out a special magazine for members and mail it to them yourself. It won't be an official FAPA magazine, but will reach everybody just as well as if it were. As a waiting-lister you will receive a copy of the August Fantasy Amateur, the official organ, in three weeks or so. It contains the complete rost of all members and waiting listers and their addresses, so that you can use it as a mailing list.

For that matter, it seems barely possible, though not too probably, that you'll be a member by the time of the November mailing. You probably won't know for sure till mid-October, however. Several on the waiting list have failed to take advantage of the opportunity of joining, so that the list has shrunk faster than I anticipated.

I tried to fill out your fanzine poll, but fouled up too much to use. However, I will say here that my favorite fanzines are Hyphen, Psychotic, and Opsla!, probably in this order, with Spaceship, Grue, and a lot of others up close, but I'd hardly know how to rate them on account of their more specialized slant. In fact, for sheer enjoyment both Spaceship and Grue should rate in the top three, but both are fapazines now and as such perhaps do not deserve to outrank the subzines. I dunno. As I say, I can't vote at all, so don't count this as a ballot.

((You got me there. AB is not a letterzine, nor will it be. I was highly undecided as to what it should be...and the strong readers influence regarding my letter column tempted me to put AB#5 as a letterzine, with #6 I changed my mind and this is where I'll be staying. The goof on #4 you cited was not quite a full goof. The first page of reviews, instead of continuing on the very next page, skipped, and went on to the next page and then doubled back. The goof was caused by my dittoing the wrong page in back of the first page...actually, all the text is there. The other lettering guide I found I could use (you will notice its use in AB#6 and #7), and it was (though I didn't realize this at first) the lower case to my larger lettering guide. Sorry. O.K. So 5 ishes don't prove anything...I'm working on #8 now...doesn't that prove anything? Maybe if we put it this way...3+2 printed page of ABstract for 1 year. That would be 15 24-page issues. Don't forget, when I said 6 ishes, I meant six of AB. So far this year, I've printed 23 different mags approximately 1220 printed pages--that's about 50 24-page mags or the equivalent of one 24-page mag every week for a year...or in monthly terms, what the averaged editor pubs in over 4 YEARS! I'll re-

quote your letter in the July-August (#12) issue of AB in '55. Of course, I must admit that I'm slacking down a little bit. You won't find any 1230 printed pages for 1955--more like 192 pages of AB, 96 of the BOO LOVERS GAZETTE (my FAPazine). That'll be 6 32-page bi-monthly issues of AB and 4 24-page quarterly issues of TBLG. Of course AB will cease to exist after #25 (which, by coincidence, falls two months before I enter Med. School--Sept. '57). In the meantime it will be bi-monthly until November '55 when it will replace the Gazette as my FAPazine and then will remain quarterly until Sept. '57 when it will demise. Who can tell? Maybe someday some punk nec. by the name of Aloysius Vorzimer, will enter fandom, pub a zine called ABstract (marked #26) and some aged, broken-down fan will remember the name and proudly declare that here is the son of Vorzimer, another broken-down fan of the 7th Fandom era!

With Redd's and Dean's letters, I planned to use up 6 pages, but here I am already done, about 1 2/3 pages early. I have some quotes from many, many, letters that I'll use here....

GRAY BARKER: May try to make the SFCON. Myself, I like a good fight now and then; perhaps that was what made ABstract so interesting and entertaining. If you think SFandom is complicated, you should take a crack at the saucers. (No thanks. -ed.) RICH BERGERON: I'd rather see 5 20-page issues of ABstract than a 100 page ANNish. (You forgot the 100 page CONish! -ed.) GEORGE VIKSHINS: Due to an elongated attack of Gafia, I have been out of touch with all my friends' in fandom. So, to those people who know me and are reading this--cheer up, I'm coming back. (SOUND EFFECTS: Groans, cries of "boo!" etc.,). There are two things I'm glad of: 1) Lyle Kessler is slowly getting to be rather unpopular and so is Richard Geis. 2) Stuart Nock is becoming a BIF. (I feel the same way about Stu, I kind of felt I've given him a helping hand too...-ed.) RAY THOMPSON: Nobody thought of such a thing--a letterzine--that is, until Peatrowsky came up with COMFAB, and now, look at you. (Tch, tch, n'boy, it's a shame that nobody thought of a letterzine before...I wonder who's going to explain to Forry Ackerman that his 50 issues of VOI (Voice of the Imagination) are not original, even though he preceeded Peatrowsky by 20 years or so! -ed.) DAVE RIKE: I'm a sixth fandomite, entered in 1950--Carr is a Fifth Fandomite, entered in 1949. I'm off like TempestStorm's bra... QUOTECARDS FROM WILLIS (Courtesy Mr. Boggs)... "Of course, printing runs in our family and I have merely reverted to type" Willis, Slant #2. "There is absolutely no prize for collecting a complete set of quote cards." Stearn registered Trade Mark." RICHARD E. GEIS: Things up here are looking rather dim (for me at least) concerning attending the con; it all depends on transportation. That and the urge to go. I'm not too sure even now that I really want to. One part of me says: "Don't be an idiot, of COURSE you want to go and meet all those faccassians." and another parts of me says: "Don't be an idiot, of course you don't want to meet all those faccassians." And judging from past performance on my part...since I dislike crowds and loud noises...I probably won't go. I would like to see and meet you tho, and Galkins, but not in the phrenetic atmosphere of a Con. Small congenial groups are fine, but I'm by nature an anti-social intro-spective hermit-type. A real mixed up guy, ne. (Oh, Dicky boy, I doubt if I'll be able to make it up your way, unless I can persuade someone up at the Con to go with me and pay you a visit--even then I've got to dash right home to run out AB's Convention issue and need that precious time. I hope you will go anyway, tho.-ed.)

I've got hordes and hordes of letters but they're all filed away nice and neatly in my letter-file and I just don't have the heart to go tearing through the dang thing just for a couple of lousy quotes. Besides, I'm going to use the following page for ten-top fanzine results.....pjv

THE TEN TOP FANZINES POLL

The original ten top fanzine poll started with a small quarter-page filler in ABSTRACT #2. Actually, I suppose I had nothing better to do than take up space with a filler. I had never heard anybody say that any zine was "definitely" one of the best. It was just his or hers opinion. I decided that maybe I could undertake such a poll. By the time AB#5 came out, I had 169 votes. I think it was in AB#4 that I announced the end of the first poll. I was not too satisfied with just 169 votes. The results of the first 169 were:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1) SKYHOOK | 2) PSYCHOTIC | 3) INSIDE | 4) SPACESHIP ^{ABSTRACT} | 5) OOPSLA! |
| 6) PEON ^{SPACESHIP} | 7) HYPHEN | 8) DESTINY ^{PEON} | 9) GRUE ^{DESTINY} | 10) SF ADVERTISER |

There was a small lull and AD gained enough points to overcome INSIDE and ascend to 3rd place. I must confess that most of the votes came from West of the Mississippi--although I'd like to state here and now that this is all being done on a fair and impartial basis, and has been from the start.

Now, with 232 votes taking in some 63 votes from East of the Mississippi, things have changed a little. AB has lost some of its popularity (mainly due to feuds) new mags have entered (DIMENSIONS being the notable example), and fandom has changed. Up to date, the results are:

- | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1) PSYCHOTIC | 2) HYPHEN | 3) OOPSLA! | 4) GRUE | 5) ABSTRACT |
| 6) SKYHOOK | 7) PEON | 8) DIMENSIONS | 9) SF AD. | 10) Destiny |

Even now, the polls cannot be considered closed as long as there is a fan who hasn't voted (and there must be another 50-75 of them!). Why, if this 50-75 group should all vote STAR ROCKETS first place..that would make SR the top dog and shaft everybody. For example: 1 sheet came in rating AB as #1 with GRUE not listed in the top ten. Another came in listing GRUE as #1 and AB as #4. Now according to my point system, a 1st Place vote is worth 10pts., 4th Place is worth 7pts. That makes GRUE 10pts ahead from what it was, and AB 17pts. from what it was. Now AB was 879pts., and GRUE was 891..this change makes AB 896 and GRUE 901--only 5pts. difference instead of 12. If just one 6th Place vote comes in, without any top ten votes for GRUE, AB is then 4th..and that holds true for any other zines in their places.

I might add that HYPHEN is close to becoming the best fanzine. DICK GEIS won with 1313 (believe it or not) while HYPHEN had 1295. Now if Willis (who, by the way, hasn't voted), Clarke, White, Shaw, and some of those boys voted "-" as best, it would give Walt some 50-100 more points, enuf to swamp PSY. I've lost the figure sheet now, but I think these numbers are right. I believe that OOPS has 1226, about 19 votes behind "-", this, as you can see, can also be changed by two or three people. The greatest gap in this poll is between 3rd and 4th place (1226 and 901), meaning that HYPHEN, PSYCHOTIC, AND OOPSLA! cornered most of the votes with GRUE and AD soaking up what was left, leaving the top five with about four times (more nearer to 6 times) as many votes as the bottom five of the top ten.

I'm quite anxious to see the results of Charles Well's poll to see if it tallies with mine. By the way, if anyone wants to accuse me of dishonesty, feel free to go right ahead. I won't mind, you won't lose me as a friend, I have all the figures, quite accurate, and even a list of names which I would publish--but not next to their choices.

peter vorziner



PROTON
1954
1954
(deceased)

In the past, I've given NC some rather good reviews. And, for its size, NC was a rather fine zine. This issue it didn't do quite so well, I was a little disappointed. One of the reasons why a mag like Shangri-La (the official organ of the LASFS) is not popular with the general public, is because the mag is rather localized and not of interest to many other fans. FAN-FICTION, one of the things I loathe unless it's exceptionally good, was rather predominant this issue. One more thing, though I hate to say it for what I owe him--Don Donnell is getting rather stale. Sorry, old boy, but there are getting to be quite a few other people who feel the same way as I do. Your characters are perpetually named Roberta, Sally or Paula--and I know all three of them. However, that is of little consequence where the writing ability is involved. There is no doubt, Don, that you have the ability, but you consistently handicap yourself with the same love plots and characters...the mush gets a little monotonous after a while--same holds true for your man-and-woman end of the world plots. Enough, this is supposed to be a criticism of NC. Hitchcock's column is very poor--same with Mosher's. SMOKE SIGNALS is fair. Claude Rambles is the best thing in the issue..and that is not the best I've seen Claude do. Letter column interesting--but the letters have been cut somewhat---it lacks that well-known VVV. Rather poor ish this time.C

Hearty congratulations to Ron! You've finally caught on. After reprinting mostly inconsequential crud for many issues, you're finally reprinting some more-or-less worthwhile material. This is a revival of Quandry, and a welcome one, for I mayself have never seen an ish of Q--there are many others, I believe, who haven't either. The names of Willis, Elsberry, Hoffman, Tucker, Silverberg and Sneary help perk up the issue. This zine is improving quite a bit. Tho I must say this is probably due to Shelvy's influence, rather than Ron's. Ron announced in this issue, that LE ZOMBIE will be revived in his next issue. If Ron keeps up this policy (tho surely he'll run out in another four issues) he'll have himself up in the top 20 mags. Ron lacks good inside illos. His reproduction of illos is rather poor, which may be one reason...other than that, the mag is quite readable and rather interesting. RECOMMENDED for a try. Pretty Good. B4

Maggy (that is a cute name--isn't it?) gets me so confused with his name changes. At first I thought this to be a one-shot of some variety, but it turns out that this is actually another issue of SF or VAMP. John says this change will be permanent and it will be VARIOSO from now on. John certainly puts out a neat magazine, very nice with Vicolor, and very readable. The material, though by big names, proved somewhat uninteresting to

me. HAL (Mission of Gravity) CLEMENT has an article called "Characterizing an Alien" which interested me little. THE SUBTLE ART OF LETTERHACKING by Dick Clarkson proved somewhat interesting. Letters by Boggs; and Grennell. The mag is a well-put-together 24 pages. Very Well Done. B

HYPHEN: Walt Willis - 170 Upper Newtownards Rd., Belfast, N. Ireland #8

This mag is just simply terrific. I love a mag that makes me laugh till my sides split (though I do feel quite uncomfortable this way). Hyphen does all of that. The report of the SUPERMANCON was terrific. I just can't express how good it is. Here's just a small quote from it: "I'm not sure whether it was Ken Potter or myself who started this, but the inspiration was probably Vinç Clarke's 'quotecards' --small pices of pasteboard bearing fannish messages which circulated all during the Convention. There were a thousand of them, with 100 different messages. Later Chuck Harris took to handing them gravely to passers-by in the street, sometimes with a muttered "Ghod bless you, Sir" and sometimes with a glance up and down the street and a finger pressed to the nouth. The rest of us lagged behind watching the victin's reaction to such items of information as "I HAD A POSTCARD FROM GHOD THIS MORNING" or BLOODY PROVINCIALS". "-Willis As you can guess, this Hyphen is a real treasury of humor! I loved and read every page of it and would heartily suggest that you send Walt some dough for it. It has 44 pages and should be worth at least 25¢ in good old American currency. DEFINITELY RECOMMENDED. Get it, it's terrific. A/

GPCon Progress REPORT: Les Cole - Sta. "A", Box 335, Richmond 2, Calif.

This is the 4th ish from up yonder. Ronn Cobb, my good friend and cover artist for AB#2 and the CONish, did the cover for this one (I think.) and there's a nice ad plugging the boys from Burbank and their organization, THE CHESLEY DONOVAN FOUNDATION. PPRROgress (that's not my spelling error) Report by Poul Anderson makes some interesting revelations. By the way, if you haven't sent in your buck as yet you'd better hop to it, these Con Reports aren't worth missing. There's also been (for the last three ishes) an ad on the bacover for CLEVELAND IN '55...and I for one am definitely against it. If they make Cleveland in '55 that means out of four Convention years, the East will have had it for three years. They had it in Chicago for '52, and Philly for '53...now the west should get two turns. Why not vote for L.A. in '55? I'm sure we can support it. I for one, would like to start an L.A. in '55 campaign. And if Cleveland pulls too strong--we can work on L.A. in '56. What about it. Get that buck in now. B/

SAUCERIAN: Gray Barker - Box 981, Clarksburg, W. Virginia. 35¢ #3 Feb.

Extremely good-looking cover--must be lithoed. The reproduction is rather poor in this copy, but Gray informs me that mine is up in the 400's, and for ditto that's amazing (no, it's SAUCERIAN). I envy the boy, getting 440 copies of a ditto master. The mag lacks inside illos--hardly but one or two. There is only one color--purple. The material doesn't interest me at all. Personally, I can't stand any of these flying saucer addicts myself. Gray doesn't seem to be too much of a fiend on the subject. He says that he's interested in it and something is up there--what it is, he doesn't know. I agree with him on that point, but heartily frown on these religious fiends who say the world is going to end or any of that crap. 64 pages all told...sells for 35¢/ It's worth it if you're interested in sauners--has some good factual material. You might try it. Hood. C/

When I first took a hold of this zine, it seemed rather impressive. The cover, though done rather simply, served its purpose and added some pink color to the all-white zine. The thickness of the mag (42p.) also impressed me. That was about all. I could tell by just looking at the cover that the zine was being published by a girl...and all along I thought this "Lee" was a boy. Now here we out, being a girl doesn't put two strikes against you in my review column...except when the femininity comes out in large doses in the mag itself. None of the names on the contents page rang a bell...some a distant buzz, but no bell. Brian J. McNaughton, Juanita Wellons, Beverly Ames, Carol Puma, and Dave Jenrette were those names. The zine is mimeod, not too badly. I guess the reason for all the more or less little-known names is that this is some kind of organ of the Indiana Science Fiction Association. Fiction, an article on music, some cartoons (not very good in either idea or drawing), A History of Weird Tales and some more fiction and poetry use up the 40-odd pages. No price on the mag. I wouldn't advocate this zine if you're a staunch fan. Nothing either fannish or humorous in it. Fiction doesn't appeal to me, not fan-fiction anyway, so I can't recommend the fiction--I haven't read it. Oh yes, this is the first issue, a rather important thing in a way. She could possibly go places--she puts out a neat zine--if she reached outside of Indiana for material, and widened the mag's appeal. Rather poor. C-

FIENDETTA: Charles Wells - 405 E. 62nd St., Savannah, Georgia. #8 FAPA 104

Chas. announces in his editorial that he is going to publish an INTERPLANETARY ARTFOLIO of some of fandom's top artists...he's sending out to 100 fans when he's through. Artwork is being asked for.. There's a rather interesting column by McCain this issue...some fiction and Russ Watkin's column where he argues with one of the points I made regarding trading. I thank him for the egoboo and for the criticism..he made some good points there. One bone of contention to take up with Mr. Wells...sort of in defense of Boob Stewart. You, sir, are a cad! Your so-called "Foofs" are a direct steal from Boob's BOOBS. They don't look "a little" like the BOOBS.. THEY ARE BOOBS! Suggest you contact Stewart or that he contact you. The captions were good...but when I opened to that page I thought for sure they were BOOBS till I looked below. The little bit of "BIAS: 65" was rather good...I'd like to see it again. Now, for an over-all review of Fta. I am still appalled at Fiendetta as it is now, compared to what it was some months ago...It's come down drastically. If FAPA does that to you, boy, then quit. Fta was a wonderful and most enjoyable mag in its earlier ishes, now I don't know what to say. I still enjoy it, but not at all compared to how I liked it before. The mimeo instead of ditto, the number of pages, there are so many reasons. Get some better material. Keep McCain, he's good. Don't use quite so much fan-fiction..and definitely get some art! C-

THE E.C. FAN JOURNAL: Mike May - 9428 Hobart St., Dallas 18, Tex. #6 - 54

E.C. Mags make for good, fannish reading. This Fan-Journal has little to do with Fandom, other than a few fan-names (and not big ones) in it. The cover, dittoed, is done quite well by "Spicer". Fairly good reproduction. No, on the other hand, it is good reproduction. Larry Stark takes apart E.C. by criticizing many of the past issues--very uninteresting. Somewhat like POTRZEBIE, which I reviewed a few ishes ago. I have just about the same thing to say: "If you're at all interested in E.C. comics, you might find this rather enjoyable". Otherwise, you can take it or leave it. C

TIPPOON V. Paul Powell - 6528 Gentry Ave., North Hollywood, Cal. #2. 10c

Very nice cover. Well laid out--resembles AB a bit. Printed by me, DIFFUSE HAS IMPROVED 100% production wise. Material has improved only a little bit--has still a way to go before it acquires the "top grade" mark or something near to it. Geis' column does not hold my interest. Very unusual for Geis. Paul reviews in a very interesting manner, devoting a full page to each zine. However, when I finished reading the one page review of AB...it didn't leave me with a feeling that he really graded it in any way. He didn't commit himself--same with most of the other reviews. Actually, what he really did was review--not grade. Here a distinction must be made. Diffuse is most excellent this time compared to its former self. I'd now place Diffuse somewhere around #20 in order of the fanzines I like to read. Paul plans big things for #3 and future issues--and of a lot of people I've met in Fandom--Paul certainly has the most capabilities. Would heartily suggest your ordering Diffuse and its future issues. This is, I guess, what one would term an 8th Fandom zine. RECCOMENDED. B-

PSYCHOTIC: Richard E. Geis - 2631 N. Mississippi, Portland 12, Oregon. #15

Congratulations, Dick. This issue, by far, is the best ish of Psy, to date. Fine Bergeron Cover. Ellison Article about how Ghod of 7th Fandom speaks, highly interesting--tho I tend slightly to disagree with him. However, I agree more than disagree on the article as a whole. If that means anything. Most noticeable thing was the presence of most excellent artwork. Kellog, Bergeron and Bradley are all very good. Tucker excellent. That Bellyfontaine bit was hilarious. Remind me to bring piles of crudzines to Howard when I need some good liquor at the Con. The incident by Jim Harmon was very good. After Hours Visit was excellent--Reynolds is his usual best. As I said, best Psy to date. I'll bet my bottom dollar that Psy will really improve now. With the future schedule of being bi-monthly laid out by Dick, those nice, thick, juicy, 50 pages ishes are really going to be something. With McCain's PADDED CELL (which didn't appear this time), Reynold's AFTER HOURS VISIT, Kessler's HOW ARE YOU FIXED FOR BLOOD?, Ellisons' THOUGHTS FROM DEEP SPACE, plus THE LEATHER COUCH, SECTION 8, OBSERVATION WARD, and 2nd SESSION, he can't help but be the best. Geis deserves that 50 page elbow room--he can do his doggondest. He can also run other articles besides. Man, I really reccomend this zine now. It was falling a bit, but not now. A/

ZIPA Ted E. White - 1014 N. Tuckahoe St., Falls Church, Virginia. #5 - 5c

Material this issue is for the birds. I know, my critics don't like me using that term...but damn them, it's the truth. Wegars' bit and Stewart's column held up the issue a bit. The zine looks sloppy and generally cruddy. I've known Ted White for some months now, and this is the first thing I've seen by him. Definitely not what I expected. Very poor issue this time. When I first got the dang thing, I opened it the wrong way cause I couldn't tell which was the cover and which was the bacover. NOT RECCOMENDED. C--

WATERSBURY: SACW: Walt Willis - 170 Upper Newtownards, Blf't. FAPA

Aha! Willis--and in Fapa! Usually, I don't go out of my way to review FAPA zines unless they come in from the editor himself as a trade for AB. This is a highly humorous ish, devoted to pleasing Charles Burbee. It succeeds very well--and even gives the average bystander a good bellylaugh as do most of the things Willis publishes. I'm #10 on the FAPA waiting list at present and heartily reccomend membership to all. Very good. Both. B/

Here is really one of my real favorites. GRUE really is (as it says on the cover) "the fan's magazine". For here they all are...Grennell, Tucker, Bloch, Willis, Silverberg, Boggs, and plenty of others. You couldn't want bigger names and better material. The cover of this ish shows the beast from 20,000th Fandom, with "I am not Shelby Vick" on his breast plate. The I REMEMBER DEGLER article by Tucker was highly amusing and informative. I could go on and on about this mag and tell you how great it is, but your voting on the ten top fanzines has justified this. GRUE is the Nation's 3rd best fanzine..only a few points behind HYPHEN, the 2nd. Of course, the votes for GRUE came in previous to this, the 21st issue. Otherwise, GRUE might have captured 2nd place. GEIS, you'd better watch out for this one. It's now a subzine as well as a FAPazine. I think DEAN awoke to the fact that fans outside of FAPA would be more appreciative of GRUE, and so is now sending out more copies. Most sensational thing of the issue is how DEAN managed to mimeograph PHOTOGRAPHS. The reproduction is fair on the photos--they look better if you hold them at arm's length. Besides, Tucker and Bloch, I believe are naturally that ugly. Silverberg is simply charming. Also pics of Evelyn Gold and Bill Calabrese. This, in my estimation, and Hyphen are Fandom's two best mags. Followed by PSY, AB, and OOPSLA! I recommend this most heartily, and anybody who doesn't order this one, or who hasn't seen a copy of GRUE is definitely a sucker! GREAT! A*****

SPIRAL: Denis Moreau - 214 Ninth St., Wilmette, Illinois. Number Eight.

Here we have another up-and-coming zine. SPY nabbed 11th place in the fanzine poll and came in a shade behind 10th place, Looks like I won't SPY's most active fan award. DenMo proclaims this in his editorial. He calls me a "mass-producer" and yells at me to stop or face the consequences. Don't worry, Den, I appreciate the thought, but for Fandom to be without the Plague--er, I mean Vorzimer, is something too good to hope for. No, I'll quit fandom around 1957, when I enter Med School because the two won't mix, but after a lapse of six years you never can tell, I might be up in my attic burrowing through old junk and come across the 25th ish of ABstract and decided to enter fandom once again. At any rate, I'll be around for another three years. INSEDE FANDORA'S BOX at least helped me know why AB hasn't been reviewed yet...a rather interesting article by Mari Wolf. THE VIOLENT WARD by Geis, is o.k. Best thing in the entire issue is DenMo's own editorial, whereing he reviews fnz, degrades people (though not too frequently), praises others, passes editorial wisdom (I'm sorry for all the typos), and votes on the top ten fanzines where he rates AB 8th, and gains my ever-lasting hate. 34 jam-packed pages--all good material by a competent editor. RECOMMENDED. Get this one. A-

PROTON: Parker L. Shaeffer - 2322 N. Beachwood Dr., Hollywood, Cal. #5

Things have finally come to a head between Park Shaeffer and myself. After I cut him off without my ditto. He came out with #4 last month, even cruddier than the one before..the ninceo he uses is 27 years old--a flat-bed and a real antique. His material, I must admit is tops. I can't see how Willis condescends to write for such a zine--bet he's glad it's folded. The issue I have here is the 5th and last issue--thank God. Actually, it was my influence that has ruined him--without my reviews and my machine, and my asst. editorship, he couldn't continue PROTON. This issue is entirely unreadable. NOT RECOMMENDED. Last issue. F

Now here I have a ZIP that has really improved over its previous ish.

ZIP: Ted E. White - 1014 N. Potomac, Falls Church, Virginia. #1 - 10¢

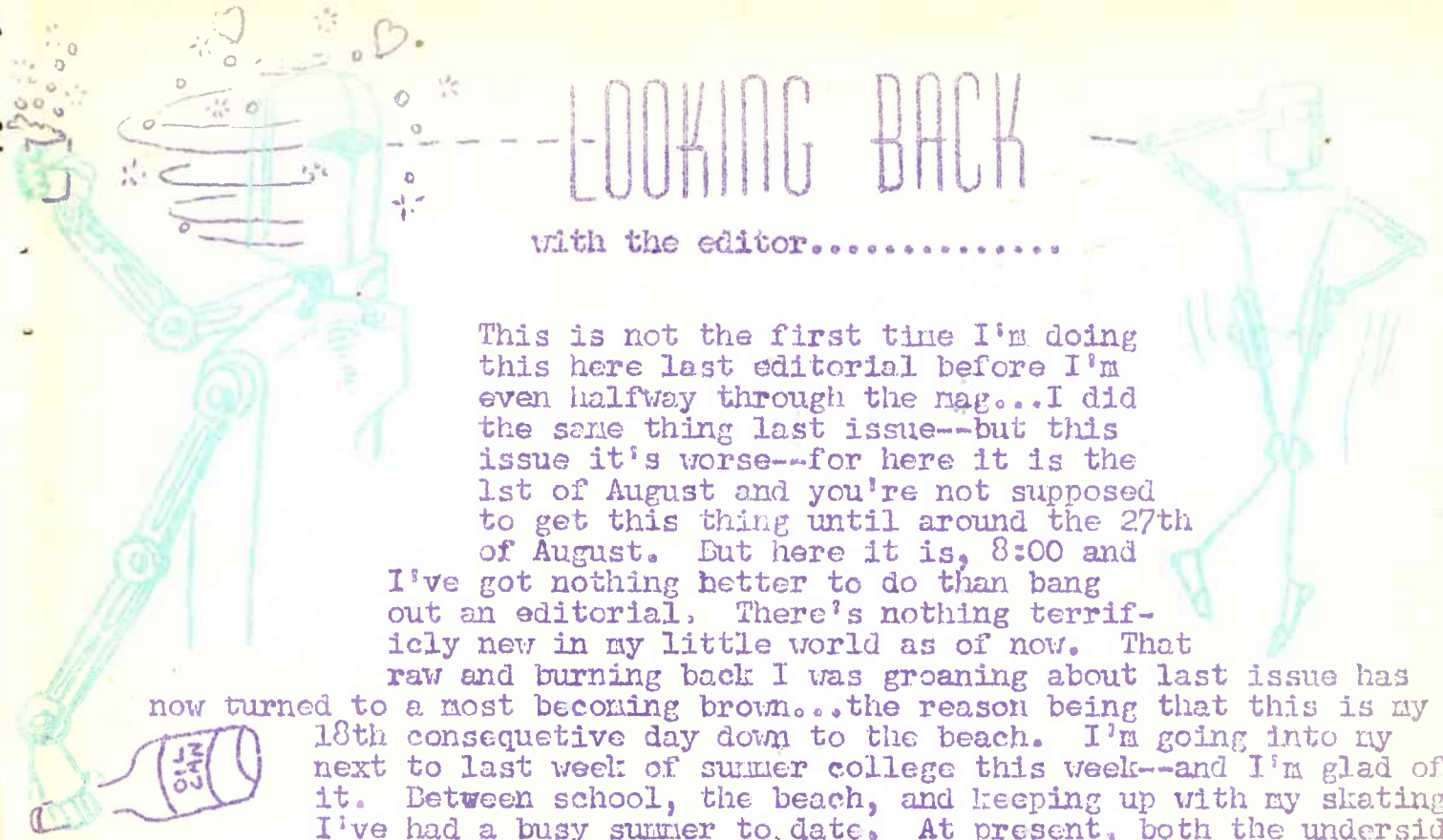
The cover is very beautiful. By Ted, himself, it is a nice piece of multi-colorwork. The backcover is most excellent also. By far, these two pieces are the best color mineography I've seen. Mineography has improved over 100% and the mag gets a well-deserved RECOMMENDED. That shows how a mag, with a good man at the helm, can jump from rather poor to very good. It appears to me that the Bob M. Stewart-Ted E. White kinship is pretty strong. However, POTR/EBIE and the other crap is more or less Bob's influence. If I had to pick on of the two--it would be Ted--he seems to be the good influence of the two. Bob is a right kid, but he seems to have a knack for pubbing crud. He handles himself very well this ish--makes for some rather good reading. Very excellent material and very good reproduction. Good. B44

A BAE: Boyd Raeburn - 14 Lynd Ave., Toronto 3, CANADA. Vol. 3, No. 3. 10¢

Through a friendly warning from Howie Lyons, I knew of the impending purge on me planned for this issue of this rag. One thing I must say now, this is Vol. 3, #3 of this zine and all I've seen are #1, #1, and #2, #2, I don't believe there were any other issues. Fie on thee! Prove it. You list the others, but I'd like to bet there were no such issues. Getting back to the terrific Vorziner blast. Very good. At least, if I guy has to be called down he can have it done in a rather humorous fashion. One thing, I'll bet dollars to doughnuts that that conceited b-----d, Norman G. Browne, had his finger in this little pie--you know what you can do with him! The other boys I've had no occasion to talk with--other than P. Howard. A lot of the things they said were true--but alot--the better half--were false. One more thing...I AM NOT LITTLE! I am 18, am 5'11" tall, weigh 168 lbs. That is not little. I am old enough to get drafted and carry a gun. Old enough also, to carry it to Toronto and put N.G. out for good. Ghad! Even the poetry is directed at me. I guess I should be honored. Ron Ellik is 17½--fie on thee. Gettest thou, the facts straight. Oh, you pick on me, and I am so worried. You boys had something to say--and you said it. You seem to be a little slow on the draw with Reviews of AB#3 and #4 when already #5 and #6 have been out for some time now--and here comes #7 only about a week following the receipt of A-B. Believe me, I wouldn't have yelled from here to kingdom come about my Conish if I didn't have to. But, by Ghod, I wanted to pub 100 pages and I didn't intend making it all crud or paying for it all myself. I've worked hard at a job to pay for AB...I can afford to spill out so much and then no more for my hobby. I screamed for good material--even went so far as to pit one author against another for even better stuff. I had to squeeze the money from the fans, like blazes. Certain other views of mine have changed since AB#3, Mr. Raeburn. You'd realize this if you read AB#5 or #6. Once, I don't mind, however, should you see to continue to deragate me in future issues, I shall refuse acceptance of same and stop sending you and ABstracts. However, up to this point, I'm still quite cheerful about the whole thing.

MEUA: Menicucci-Malz - 38 Seville St., San Francisco, Calif. #1 - 25¢

Here we have a zine--a combination of the talents of both Mr. Menicucci and Mr. Malz. The zine is litho'd, tho not very good to what I've seen done by that same means. My Rex-O, (tho not using this ish as a comparison--the blue masters only gave a 60 copy run which I had to stretch out to 90) is capable of better reproduction. Material was only fair, but with future ishes it will get much better. Best thing in the ish was "Paula" by Don Howard Donnell. Might try this one. Bids to being a fair zine. Try it. C



LOOKING BACK

with the editor.....

This is not the first time I'm doing this here last editorial before I'm even halfway through the mag...I did the same thing last issue--but this issue it's worse--for here it is the 1st of August and you're not supposed to get this thing until around the 27th of August. But here it is, 8:00 and

I've got nothing better to do than bang out an editorial. There's nothing terrifically new in my little world as of now. That raw and burning back I was groaning about last issue has

now turned to a most becoming brown...the reason being that this is my 18th consecutive day down to the beach. I'm going into my

next to last week of summer college this week--and I'm glad of it. Between school, the beach, and keeping up with my skating, I've had a busy summer to date. At present, both the undersides

of both my right and left forearms are blue and green to the elbow. That comes from leaning on those dang colored carbons. Enough of that, that'll all go into the little article I'm going to write about ME AND ABSTRACT. If Geis can do it, so can I! As of today, there's only 31 more days till the Con...when you get this there'll only be about five more days. If you're going to be up there, you'll recognize me as the fellow with the beanie and short pants.

The CONish looms ahead of me, and I almost dread the thought of it. Fear not, friends, for this is not a forboding sign, for that's the way I feel when approaching the Rex-0 to do any ish of ABSTRACT. I've changed somewhat since last ish. I'm now going to do about 30 pages before the Con, and 70 after...I'll be assured of much better material that way. Then, the Conish will mark the end of one year of publishing for me. Actually, as of this December, I will have been in Fandom 1½ years. From May, 1953, to Dec., '54. I've been in active fandom (with HIA!) since Sept. '53, marking this Sept., as my first year of fan-pubbing and Jan., as my first year with AB.

Gregg Calkins has informed me that he won't be going to the SFCCon. He says he hasn't got the dough. He might still go, tho... I'll be up in Frisco on either the night of the 1st or the night of the 2nd. I might want to get there on Thurs., so I can try some skating at Sutor's...San Fran's big skating rink, seeing as I won't be able to skate much during the Con. I'll be dragging my camera up to the Con to take some real keeno-dandy snaps of all the more awkward, homely, mal-formed fen up there.

Oh yes, right as well brag a little. In the poll, AB got 46 first place votes, 26 2nd, 11 3rd, 9 4th, 19 5th, 20 6th, 7 7th, 5 8th, 7 9th, 3 10th. Thanx, boys, for your loyal support. Gee...only 409 votes behind PSY. If I dig up 40 buns to vote for AB, that'll be.....

Cut 20 leeches off my sub list...they weren't subbers, more or less free-loaders. Some of them are: Larry Anderson, R.J. Banks, Joseph Drennan, Don Cantin, Gary Curto, Dave English, John Fletcher, Paul Ganley, Nan Cerd-ing, Vee Hampton, Dave Ish, Keith Joseph, Joe Kinne, Joel Nydahl, Henry

Oden : James Taurasi, Val Walker and Parker L. Shaeffer!

V. Paul Howell tells me he's revived from Gafia and that Diffuse #2 will be out shortly. D#2 will be done on my Rex-O, and will be some 20 pages. Paul and I were discussing it on the phone this evening. It'll be out in about two weeks or so--should get to you out there around the same time this does. Paul Will also be going up with me to the Con.

Looks like GREY and the VINE have another competitor, a good one. LA BANSHEE, pubbed by dag has just come out. The mags keep flowing in giving me lots and lots to review. I just finished goofing a page this ish. Two certain review pages were supposed to be back to back, instead I did them each on separate piles, leaving me with two empty pages that can only be filled in with reviews, the mags better start coming in, or I'm cooked.

During my little gafia period after the Conish, I'm just going to do nothing but write articles and Little Willies. Ahh, that welcome period of respite. But it won't be all rest, for I've got two new mags coming out! I can hear the fan-audience now, screaming for help. Yes, two new mags. One, THE EGO-DOO LOVER'S GAZETTE, will be my Fapazine. The other, THE FANTASY INTERLINER, I'm contemplating joining WAPA or OMPA (Ving Clarke's new org). Copies will be available to non-Apans on request--both are 10¢.

LATEST FEUD NEWS: Parker Shaeffer is now living it up with Denis Moreen. Man, those two guys are really battling it out. Seems it all revolves around a certain article in PROTON by him, telling all about why he is supposedly copying PSY and why Geis is his idol. Now, don't get me wrong, I'm not saying all this is true. Me? I'M THROUGH WITH FEUDS! (Anyone may interline me on that one--just put my name next to it.)

It's a rare occasion when there's a two-party feud in AB and one of them isn't me. Now, it's Grennell vs. Mittelbuscher and Shaeffer vs. Moreen. TOO LATE NOTICE: Just today I get a letter from the Dean of Fond-du-Lac saying he was glad I didn't print his letter in AB#6. I'm glad too: I printed it in AB#7. No don't get me wrong, gang, but the letter arrived a little too late. The page had already been printed up, besides, the Dean says his attitude towards Mittelbuscher hasn't changed. PAUL? Do you hear me? I'm not taking sides on this one either--I just love feuds when I'm not involved.

The cover of this ish depicts Shaefer and Moreen at the SFCCon. Nice, quiet little boys.... By the way, you're right if you think the cover was stolen from a Mad panel. It was from G.I. Shmoe--a buddy of mine drew it, but again I didn't realize it was a steal until after the cover went to press and somebody who dropped by happened to mention it was not original. Oh well, so they'll only sue....

After the numerous comments regarding the front cover of last issue, I hereby solemnly swear never to print another nude on the cover. I'm lucky the darn mag even got through the mails. Grennell was utterly aghast!

At present, my living quarters are a mess. Pubbing #7 and the CONish one right after the other can be pretty hectic on ones' room. However, Carter's obligingly produces a sweetly-scented ditto fluid making a toxic, yet still sweet-smelling fluid.

My mail's been pretty thick lately. Mostly last minute quarters that come rolling in. This I'm happy to see. The contributions aren't all in, though, and I get the last-minute scare. I hope I get the last minute rush.

Fellow ditto-users, WE MUST UNITE! These blue carbons are sheer crap! I'm lucky I'm only printing 90 copies this time--they sure couldn't hold up to 120! Why, they start fading out around copy #60. Purple is a nice color, I'll stick to it. This is the first time Rex-0 has put out a blue carbon...at the same time, they've put out Green and Red carbons. The green, so far, is the only worthwhile thing they have except the purple. The fifth, and hardly-ever-used color, is black. It's not a black black, tho, and gives off a rather watery, greyish-looking black. Someday, I'll get a free sample from Rex-0 and give it a whirl.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Don Donnell | 31. Don Wegars | 61. Tad Duke |
| 2. Stuart Nock | 32. Fred Malz | 62. Jim Bradley |
| 3. Burton Satz | 33. Mary Southworth | 63. Gil Menicucci |
| 4. Jim Clemons | 34. Richard Bergeron | 64. Dave Rike |
| 5. Charles Wilgus | 35. Dean Grennell | 65. Jerry Burge |
| 6. Tom Piper | 36. Redd Boggs | 66. Peter Graham |
| 7. Janice Sadler | 37. Gray Barker | 67. Larry Balint |
| 8. Gregg Calkins | 38. Dick Clarkson | 68. John Magnus |
| 9. Jill Openheim | 39. Alan Elms | 69. Charles Wells |
| 10. Ted White | 40. George Viksnins | 70. Naaman Peterson |
| 11. Denis Moreen | 41. Bob Madle | 71. Charles Burbee |
| 12. Richard Geis | 42. Rog Phillips | 72. Lee Hoffman |
| 13. Bill Reynolds | 43. Bill Rotsler | 73. Dwight Agner |
| 14. P. Mittelbuscher | 44. Bob Tucker | 74. John Hitchcock |
| 15. Raleigh Multog | 45. David Norman | 75. Ron Ellik |
| 16. Forry Ackerman | 46. Bill Berger | 76. Charles Riddle |
| 17. Alex Montoya | 47. Don Chappell | 77. Bob Silverberg |
| 18. Dave Wilhoyte | 48. Art Kunwiss | 78. Ron Smith |
| 19. V. Paul Nowell | 49. Robert Gilbert | 79. Ray Thompson |
| 20. Ralph Stapenhorst | 50. Walt Wilfis | 80. Russell Watkins |
| 21. Laddie London | 51. Bob Bloch | 81. MR. X |
| 22. Margaret Dominick | 52. Walt Bowart | 82. Dr. J. J. Vorziner |
| 23. Carol McKinney | 53. Harlan Ellison | 83. Mary Ellen Vorziner |
| 24. Claude R. Hall | 54. Roger Canales | 84. Peter Vorziner |
| 25. Lynn Hickman | 55. Terry Carr | 85. File |
| 26. Arthur Rapp | 56. Bob Stewart (Cal.) | 86. File |
| 27. Jan Jensen | 57. Edgar Hayes | 87. Norman Shorrocks |
| 28. Mari Wolf | 58. Ronnie Cobb | 88. Larry Teuzinsky |
| 29. Sam Mohnson | 59. Burt Beerman | 89. Bob Stewart (Tex.) |
| 30. Howard Lyons | 60. Boyd Raeburn | 90. Lee Jacobs |

That's them. 90 of 'em. The remaining ten will be sold at the Convention to some unsuspecting sucker. If you're not on the list--you can get one at the Con--rather order one of them at the Con. The mag won't be out until the middle of September some time. I'm printing no more than 100. If more than that number come in..all those after #100 will be rejected.

Well, next thing, I'll be at the Con. You can all recognize this character. I'll bet half of you who've never seen me before will be able to recognize my fannish countenance. Tho please don't confuse me with P.L. Shaeffer, we've been told that we look alike (both have dark hair and wear horn-rimmed glasses). That's the last thing I want to be told: that I look like that bird!

Who knows? Perhaps I might be handing these things out at the Con to some of you. (Save postage, you know.) A whole bunch of us are leaving A LA GREYDOGGY on the morning of the 2nd. We'd like to get there the night afore the Con, so we can case the joint. I'd also like to measure the drop from the roof. I'd like to get the velocity of a falling tomatoe. Geis, watch out! Nuff said, that's all for this ish. Be seeing you...

ABSTRACT
1311 N. LAUREL AVE.
HOLLYWOOD 46, CAL.

#7

LOS ANGELES.



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