

# FANDOM SPEAKS ✓

No. 1, Oct. '47









Oct. '47

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FANDOM  
SPEAKS!

Number One

12 for \$1

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## Apology Page

Well might it be. As much as it irks us to have to start an editorial with an apology, we fear it must be done. This issue isn't anything like we had planned it or advertised it. It doesn't have 16 to 30 pages, as advertised, it doesn't have litho covers on the front or back, it doesn't have any ads-- Oh my. Well, it's like this. The cut in size can be explained by a lack of time on the editors' part. If we had made it as large as planned, we could have never got it out. We had to cut down on pages to get it out by Sept. 15, deadline. (Which we are still going to miss by a few days.) No lithos--also because of lack of time. (Jack is working in a newspaper office and Rex is going back to school. The number of spare hours they will have to work on FS with will be agonizingly low.) But we have a beauty coming up from the Cookrofts'. Keep an eye out for it. We're as sorry as hell about having to postpone our ads; we had a flock of them -- but with our reduced number of pages, we just couldn't work a one in. All we can say to those who purchased ads in the first issue is, "We are truly sorry." We'll work as many in as we can in the 2nd issue. " We wish to make it clear that the opinions expressed in the letters in this magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the editors. " A point to keep in mind when writing letters to FS is that we want a date on your letter. Also we'd like a written signature to stencil on the top of your letter. And regardless of what kind of a letter you write, please vote for the best letter in the preceeding issue, willya? Because we give prizes for the best letter in each issue. (Ahem. We had planned to give the original of the lithoed cover, but now our plans are shot. We'll still give the original of the cover, for what it's worth. Not that Tom's pic isn't tops, it is, but we fear it's not the best prize we could give. Bear with us. We have a few better ones in mind for the future. Maybe some books; who knows?) " As you can see, we are using 24-lb. stock this issue, which is higher'n'-hell, (almost three bucks a ream) but worth it in the longrun. If possible, we'll try to keep getting this stuff, tho it certainly is scarce. " We have a little poll coming up, unique in the fact that it contains only one question. Watch for it; more details in the next issue. " Say, here's an oddity to add to your list: six letters in this ish from Californians, and two from Floridians! 'Twas through no fault of ours either--just turned out that way.

Rex Ward breaks in in the first person singular for a moment to say: "All you old VoM subscribers, don't be surprised when you see FS in your mailbox. Forry Ackerman turned all the money in subscriptions over to FS to finish out the list. Brother, they don't make 'em any better than Forry! Thanks, thanks, and thanks again!"

Guess that clears everything up for the first ish. We're a little late, and as we said, in an entirely different form than that which we had originally planned. But you'll notice that we're only charging a dime, instead of the intended 15¢. And the mag's on regalength paper, instead of letter, as we had also originally planned. So we guess that might be called just compensation for our sins. PS: And it's a monthly boys!--Rex & Jack.

## AN X

FANDOM SPEAKS  
IS  
PUBLISHED  
MONTHLY

- here ☐ means your subscription has expired.
- here ☐ means you have one more issue coming.
- here ☐ means a trade with your mag.
- here ☒ means a complimentary copy. How about a sub?



From 1010 Garcia Road, Santa Barbara, Cal, we hear from Santa Barbara's Lone Scientifan, who thinks there is a crisis in fandom. In a letter dated 26 July 47, he says: "I would like to take this opportunity to bring forth a problem which has been slowly but surely pressing harder and harder on the furthermost parts of my noble Cerebrum."

"FANS OF THE WORLD, BEWARE! We are losing ground! Although the change is hardly perceptible, the regal group of inane-sounding-fans-with-great-brains is dying out. The tempo of the old-time pulse is slowing down. Time was when Fans could express themselves in zany space terms, etc., but now... death approaches. What with the return of Servicefans from the war, who are slightly bitter and resentful of any humor (I hate to say that, but it is true. Note the recent uprisings of Servicemen against initiations in College fraternities, etc.), attempts are being made to put the dampers on Fandom. An apostle of Evil, name of Willmorth, is attempting to break up the ancient preachings of FANCYCLOPEDIA and others, infiltrating the false religion known as Beernomia, or 'BEER IS THE ONLY TRUE GHOD.' The teachings of Ghu are even now being forgotten.

"The great CHADIO and JOKE have been finally beaten down, forced to retreat into hermitage, with only a few innocent blitherings in the one remaining promag with the proper letter-section, PLANET, to remind us that they were the chosen apostles of Ghu. Even fanzines are slowing down. The rating of A's in the pages of SS has been growing less and less full.

"One of the reasons for this slowing up of proper Fanactivities is within the stories themselves. Science is, thought it need not be said, catching up with Science-fiction. So far, Scientifiction has been about the only form of fiction which has opportunities for new plots. Science-fiction does not necessarily need the elements of conflict, goal, etc., which a dried-in-the-wool adventure story does. The reason for the slowing up of the old Fan regime is contained in the fact that the Stf authors, in looking wildly about for new plots which have not been made trite by science itself, are turning more and more to the psychological story--- the mental plots, as distinguished from our beloved 'space operas.'

"And mental plots, such as the recent 'Treveler's Tale,' 'You Are Forbidden!,' and 'Come Home From Earth', (there have been better ones) require more serious thought than does the Opera. A reader is sometimes astounded, deeply moved, by a 'Mental' story, whereas the majority of Operas fail to approach this goal. They are merely adventure stories, placed in a fine background of space-ships, etc. Of course, they still have a more broad field to work in, and the deviding line between the two types is very vague, as is the line between 'prose' and 'poetry.'

"To use a recent story, the HoF classic, CIRCLE OF ZERO, reprinted in SS a short time ago, is not quite a mental story. And yet, it could certainly, indubitably, NEVER be called a Space Opera! The thought is sickening. And where does all this lead us? Well, it is certain one cannot talk prolifically of 'Pee-lots, Xeno,' and the 'Blooo-o BEM', when surrounded by the deep thought which science-fiction is sure to provoke, especially the newer type of story which is slowly undergoing evolution. That is, one cannot talk of suchthings, and be therefore a crusader of the ancient Fan tradition, UNLESS--- HE REALIZES THIS CHANGE!

"Once the fact is realized that under the outer layer of inane remarks and joyous revelry in that specialized type of humor which only Scientifiction Fans can out forth there is a 'heart of gold,' or rather, a heart of INTELLIGENCE and ability to understand the makeup of the universe and the world's destiny better than the average man, then such humor can go unimpeded. (And don't say that we Fans do not live up to the standards presented above. WE DO, whether we realize it or not. Stf is on too high a grade today to promote any other line of thinking other than that stated.)

"So, just because of the knowledge this is happening, we can again revive the Elder Fandom. It is realized, naturally, that its death is not apparent. It is happening slowly, very slowly. But it is happening! Within the hearts of many fans today, I know, must be the same feeling.

"So BEWARE! Let's all head for a great revival! Jam new life-force into your Fanactivities. Put out Fanzines! Most of all, let the more mature aspect of Science-fiction be an aid to this activity, not a hindrance. You read Science-fiction! Therefore, you are priveleged to act, react, talk and think any way you damn please!

"Let's get going! I hope I have made myself clear.

"Fantascientifictionally yours."



The Sage of South Gate,  
inimitable letters, written  
On the 26th of July, 47,

he favors us with one of his  
as only he can write them.  
he wrote:

really going to turn into a letter zine?" ((No; it was rumored that 2000 would turn into a letterzine, but in actuality it has not and will not. It will continue on as usual, tho on a regular basis of publication now: three times a year.--Editors.)) "Well tho I am sorry to see the rest fold I can't say I'm too sorry. A good letterzine I still believe to be a good thing. As you know I started one, but lack of everything needed has and is holding up further issues. So I'll throw all the stuff I would have put in mine in yours. A sort of misplaced editorial.

"Well, I'll swing this thing away from you and turn it out on your readers. I believe you said there were about 200. Well this gives me a wonderful chance to let a lot of people in on some things that have been going on. And I hope it will get you some action.

"First of all, most of you have either read the now-famed letter of Palmer's in the last issue of Vampire or heard of it. The letter in which this old time fan called Don Wilson and fans in general a lot of things that wouldn't pass a radio censor. All because they objected to his printing of the Shaver stories.

"Now in the past, like a number of other fans, I have just been sitting around and letting the Shaver thing take its course. But on reading this letter I got mad. Not that RAP should write such a letter to Don, because I don't know what Don wrote, but the remarks he made about the rest of fandom. I read some back issue editorials and got madder. And I started to do something. First was a letter to Palmer. I tried in less questionable words to explain my point of view. I also made quite clear that I spoke only for myself.

At the same time, the elections of Young Fandom's officers (a new fan club for younger fans) was just ending and I found myself one of the advisors. I decided that I would try to get the club to back me in my movement. So I wrote the other advisors, Harley Sachs and Norman Storer asking what they thought about it. They both said they agreed with my stand. Also other members agreed. I then wrote a bill that would have put in the form of a vote the question of stand before the member ship.

"It was turned down by everyone. Now do not think that I am finding fault with either of my friends. They made it quite clear they believed it was best the club should not become involved in such matters. And they said they thought persons outside the club could do as much as the club.

"Beside the two advisors, the President Tom Jewett and O-E George Caldwell were against it. But for other reasons.

"Tom believed there was actual danger to the club and fandom in fighting Palmer. Claiming that RAP could if he wanted ruin fandom. By first bringing up some of fandom's old mistakes like the Cosmic Circle and the foolish feuds. Thus discrediting fans to his readers. And then telling them to have nothing to do with them, or the things they read. The other prosines, fearing loss of their readers, would then drop fandom and their readers' columns; thus cutting off all new blood to fandom.

"Editor Caldwell was more mercenary, decrying the loss to fandom of gifts from RAP because of such letters as Wilson's. He had received a large number of illos from Palmer to help in the forming of the YF, and he now believes he will be unable to obtain more. In the latest issue of his otherwise fine fanzine LUNACY he ran an editorial on the subject criticising Wilson and all others that openly object to RAP's actions. And asked his readers to send their names in to be put on a letter to Palmer apologizing for the action of other fans.

"Now, I ask you, as other fans, what do you think? Do you believe as I do that we should openly show our disrespect for RAP. Or should we, like Jewett, wait till the whole thing blows over (which may be quite a while--they won't lose 200,000 readers soon)? Or should we do like Caldwell and crawl back with apologies in hopes he will throw us a bone? What do you think?

"As far as the YF goes, it is all over. The bill is dead, and maybe they are right. A club shouldn't try such a big thing, not at least when it is just starting. I personally find I haven't the time to carry on the fight alone. I have too much back mail to keep up to waste on RAP any more. But I ask you, what would you do?

"If this doesn't get a few letters for Rex's and Jack's next issue you are a bunch of wooden heads. Oh yeah, hope there are no hard feelings caused by this. I still think Jewett and Caldwell are a couple of swell guys and working for the best interest of fandom, as they see it. And I'm herewith inviting them to take a crack at me in this same magazine.

"short items: Has anyone heard from any of the NFFF officers outside of the tire-



less Carlson? Could it be that the deros have done away with them?

"Buy 'The

Sign of the Burning Hart'. \$1.50 to N3f-ers, \$2 to others.

"Call for a Friscon in '48. The Golden Gate deserves it." ((Too late now; we suppose everyone knows by now that the '48 con will be in Toronto.--Editors.))

"If you want a NFFF director that won't drop out of sight and reach the day after the election, risk a vote on Rick. I couldn't do less.

"Send your sub to Fandom Speaks you cheapskates. You want all this free??

"Yours till the next issue."

((Whew! am I glad that's over! Now I can sympathize with Kerwin and the other pro-editors who for so long corrected that Snearyspelling. Don't make me do it again, will you Rick? They're better like you write 'em.--Rex.))

Don WILSON, of 495 North Third St. Banning, Cal., in a letter dated 23 July 47, enlightens us further on that letter in Vampire; Don should be a very authoritative source, considering that he sent in the letter. Says Don:

"The main controversy now going on in fandom, it would seem, is the RAPalmer business. Maybe the Art Widner episode is more important, but the Ziff-Davis controversy is a little newer and consequently, I imagine, of more interest.

"Had no idea what I was starting when that RAP letter was sent in to Joe Kennedy. He replied, telling me that he was in such complete agreement with my comment, 'Let's call him what we think he is, as he does us' that any further commentary from him would have been redundant. At the time I imagined that most fen would feel that way, and probably a good deal of them do. Rick, I know, does, for one. And indubitably many others. But the fandom anti-Rap crusade (ridiculous sounding, isn't it) is not so unanimous a thing as might have been expected after fen had heard themselves called 'bastards' and so on. So far, the principal friend of the Shavermystery in fandom has been George Caldwell, who launched into quite a tirade against yours truly in the latest issue of Lunacy. Incidentally, tho this has no bearing on the subject I am discussing, Mr. Caldwell had no more right to speak as the mouthpiece of Young Fandom than I did to speak as the mouthpiece of fandom, which I didn't. By no means all of YF is as much in favor of the Chicago Demon as he is. Yet he talks as if the organization had appointed him as its spokesman. Just like Rap, contradictory and misrepresenting. But I'd like very much to know just what the opinion of ALL fandom is on this controversy, not just a few loud-mouthed characters like myself and Jawge Caldwell. And since I happen to be the bum who started the whole biz, here is my suggestion.

"I'd like to devote some space in the second issue of Dream Quest, which by the way will be out far enough in the future to make sure enough time is allowed for everyone who has any opinion on the matter to get his 'vote' in, to a poll on the subject. If the thing had been aired early enough, DQ #1 would have announced the forthcoming poll; but frankly the idea didn't enter my head until Caldwell's rantings had been read. Naturally, this poll will not prove anything, or be of much actual significance, as are the deLaRee and Fsyrevue polls. But a lot of space in the fanzines is being devoted to Mr. Palmer and his Rosicrucianism, and I think a good deal of fen would be interested.

"So I'd like to ask all who read this and care enough about the matter to have any thoughts on it, pro or con, to write on a postcard their opinion of Amazing, Mr. Palmer, Shaver, the Mystery, deroism, and whether or not they are in favor of any fandom-wide action for or against Rap and his mythos, and mail it to me. I do not propose to propose any action, or to act in any way using the results of this poll as a guide. All that I propose doing is publishing the results in the second issue of Dream Quest. As far as I can see it, the results ought to be interesting. And anyone who would care to expound further on the subject than a postcard permits, pro or con makes no difference, is welcome to do so. I shall publish as many of the letters received as space permits. Whether you are violently anti-Rap or in league with the cavern people, I want to hear from you.

"That

takes care of that. Your combination letterzineadzine sounds definately okay. There ought to be more letterzines for a general airing of opinions on fantasy, stf, fandom controversies and subjects. Henry Elsner Jr ought to do okay with his -- he had about the best letter section in fandom when it was merely a department in his fanzine, and now that it is launched independently for NOTHING but letters he can really go to town." ((I received a copy of Elsner's mag, Thats, and was very disappointed with it. I fear he, like Kennedy, is losing interest in scientifandom, and predict that within a year he will be gone entirely.--Rex.))



"Hope you get plenty of circulation for your own zine. Partly for a purely selfish reason, because I'd like to get wide coverage on that rapoll. ((We are sending out 200 copies of the first issue, and keeping 50. Satisfactory?--Editors.))" By the way, would appreciate it if the newsies would pass on that information. About the poll, that is.

"...There seems to be a sort of trend going on in pro stf publishing. A trend toward less quantity and more quality in the pro mags, and toward limited edition book publishing. Also toward non-limited edition books, in a way, too, altho not to the extent I'd like to see. Everyone seems to have noticed the amazing improvement program under way in TWS and SS, which by the way seems to have culminated in a cover-reform program -- the symbolic cover on the September SS, a mighty good one. Planet is gradually on the upswing. Specialization is running rampant, in fact every stfzine left seems to be specialized in some way or another. FFM has specialized itself into a rut, and may specialize itself out of existence, if nothing is done to salvage what's left. WT has done much the same thing, although not to quite so catastrophic a degree. AS has come up quite a bit recently, from a rottenness never before equalled -- the Cult of Witchqueen period -- down through the Early 1947 novels, to So Shall Ye Reap and Hamilton's new novel, and the gorgeous cover Smith did for it. FA still remains a last abode of good straight adventure fantasy, with an occasional thoughtful yarn such as 'The Children's Room' in the newest issue. Planet, I repeat, is on the upswing. In fact, the only zines that aren't are FFM, ASF, and WT -- the last one is still pleasant reading, though not history-making, ASF is still good enough despite its decline to almost capture first-place, and FFM is the only one which has deteriorated so far that it is nearly hopeless. I rate TWS first, not because of any real superiority of quality, but because it has improved so much. Starting at near zero in 1945, it has moved up to near-great heights. And then, of course, there is AFR, which shows great promise if it continues to be a reader's anthology as DAW puts it, and doesn't turn into an editor's anthology. That is, an anthology which prints nothing the readers want. Aside from the price, which is a little high, Avon's chief drawback is that it cannot print long novels. If that could be taken care of -- through a new zine, or increase in size -- everything would be swell. I note that Avon is founding two new mags, but they will apparently feature exclusively new material. That's too bad -- there ought to be some promag that could print reprint long novels from ANY source, not merely nonmagazine sources like FFM.

"Then of course there are the amateur houses, most promise among which is shown by Mr. Eshbach's wonderful Fantasy Press. If that company keeps on at its present rate, the redoubtable Mr. Derleth, of Sauk City fame, may be given a run for his money -- which might be a good thing, since it would stimulate Arkham into newly renewed activity. For the better, that is. THE LEGION OF SPACE was a beautiful book; the autograph feature adds the final touch of quality. I only hope that the present quality is kept for future ventures. And that the next book is as much of an improvement over the present one as TLoS was over Spacehounds. If that happened, The Forbidden Garden would be the book of the century, not merely of the decade. Hadley, too, shows signs of great possibilities. Altho they have not yet been realized by any means. No doubt it is these three -- AH, FP, and HPC -- that are the big 3 of the amateur fantasy book market. On the other hand, such places as Winsome, tho obviously with not so great a scope and consequently more limited possibilities, are mighty fine-sounding too. By the way, I'm compiling a catalog of the amateur houses for a future DC, possibly #2, and have so far these listed -- Arkham House, Hadley, Fantasy Press, Carcosa House (which by the way slipped my mind above, it is one of the big 4 if its books live up to its ads), Shasta Publishers, Fantasy pub Co Inc, Pegasus Pubs, Winsome, and New Collector's Group, Prime Press (also great possibilities), Argus Books (presumably also Ben Abramson, am I right?) and Trover Hall. If you know of any others, would appreciate having them called to my attention -- would like to make the listing as complete as possible. Wot say? ... see I've wandered off the subject still again. And did you notice SAMerwin Jr., when asked why no stories from his mags had appeared in the stf anthologies, replied, 'Wait till you see OUR anthology.' Hope this means that one is forthcoming. Understand Derleth is editing one. All in all, stf seems to be growing up. The reason for this is not too difficult to see. Magazine stf, and consequently magazine-reprint book stf, is only 21 years old. When it first appeared, the majority of people attracted to it were young. Even the editors. Ten years ago the average among fandom was 18. Now, enough time has elapsed to allow these young readers -- those who stuck by their stf -- to grow up physically and mentally, consequently the mags they read were forced to grow up too. It seems that when you get past the age of 20 without ever seeing stf, you have very little chance of being attracted to it later on, Why I dunno. Phooey. Did all that rambling mean anything?

"Well, the fountain of ideas has run dry. No doubt all the 'ideas' are a rehash of somebody else's. Best of luck to you and your zine.

"Sincerely,"



Stan WOOLSTON, of 12832 S. West St., Garden Grove, Cal., drops us a short ramble on 28 July 47:

"Your letterzine will fill the gulf of fanpublications made by VOM and Rick's mag. 'Tis a good idea. But perhaps your suggestion I write isn't so wise; I may turn out to be writing a short-story length letter." ((Hardly; it's short, all right, but . . . Some of your letter was cut, because it was a combination of a personal letter and one for publication.--Eds.))

"I like the idea of a reader's forum unattached to a prozine. There's independence from the editorial policy of each, if criticism is given. And also there's things worth saying that don't fit into a pro's pages too well.

"Controversy without hair-pulling can well make a delightful letterzine, and the field's wide open. I for one vote you keep a close watch of the contents of letters; wise use of editorial scissors to remove repetitious and uninteresting details is a good idea." ((We wonder about that. Our policy, you know, is to print letters exactly as we receive them. . .--Editors.)) "Perhaps you could include a section of quotes from the letters not included in full. Letters are ideally suitable for poll-answers, so why not try to work out some from time to time?" ((See the Editorial.--Eds.))

"Many people write letters who don't write other things at all. You can get anything in a letter you can get in an article, review or column. It seems easier to write letters than articles; I wouldn't doubt that you'll get many interesting letters almost suitable for article-space as is. I hope you'll print some.

"The only prozine I subscribe to (not the only one I read) is Astounding. So many friends of mine seem to think it's a grand mag practically without reproach that I'm sometimes inclined to rebel a bit. In it are quite often examples of one of my pet science-fictional gripes, the stories that are built up of repeated themes, such as the atom-bomb doom of mankind and the mutants. Indeed, atom-bombs are awe-inspiring sights (as seen by newsreel), as they develop in instants into huge thundercloudlike exclamation-points. Atomic power is worth deep thought, but overworking the theme may lead to apathy... Although I doubt if this will happen, I still believe there is room for many other themes being played up more often.

"Sometimes I wonder if science-fiction is really progressive and thought-broadening. Some of the stories that seem to be based on emotional rather than thoughtful processes seem to stun the ability to judge. Newness almost invariably places the brand of 'novelty' on anything. Newness in engineering means development; a story that carries a theme one step forward over a previous yarn is an engineered one.

"Each magazine seems to have a definite idea what slant is 'suitable' for their story. This slant is easy to detect in science-fiction prozines, and sometimes the effect is depressing. Even when it isn't blatant it's quite often likely to cause a sequence of stories of one type. Soemtimes that's bad.

"Personally I think Astounding's editor is ideally suited to edit a mag of stf...his style in story-choices shows a distinctive flair that must indicate his well-rounded, thoughtful, and adult approach. In fact, the variation from childish and blatant themes seems to be the main difference between Astounding and some of the other mags. In following this policy it is sometimes too conservative for my sometimes clashing natures...

"I got a letter from Len Moffatt the other day, and he called my attention to the Jult issue of Writers Digest. Margaret St. Clair has an article in it about writing science-fiction, and mentions most of the pronags, fans, fanzines and the background of imagi-fiction. It's featured in the magazine, and is the first of two articles. Second article will be more about stf, fans and writing. I think you'd like to see it...She says she hopes Amazing will toss Shaver out so some other writers can get a story in...

"...Adios!"

---

An old-timer in the letter-writing field, *Len* MOFFATT, known for his letters in VOM, steps forth from 5918 Lanto St, Bell Gardens, Cal, with a very important and thought-provoking problem: letter dated 28 July 47:

"O! My aching back! What boundless energy! What's this guy trying to do? Overthrow the Ackerman regime? Awk! What am I saying? For that I'll be shot at sunrise. With marshmallows.

"Kidding aside, fandom does need a new letterzine--now that VOM is gone. Selling more than the usual amount of ad space should almost finance the mag and cost you nothing but the time and trouble to publish it. Almost.

"As I recall, VOM didn't always stick to subjects scientificational. A



variety of subjects were discussed...

"So...the following subject may not be strictly stf but it should bring some comments pro and con from our fellow-fen. I hope so. I'm a curious cuss. I like to know. Do fen have logical minds? Are fen superstitious? Are they prejudiced and if so--how?

"The subject? In my opinion (worthless as it may be), one of the most important subjects...one of the most important problems in the world today:

"Race-prejudice.

"It is one of my pet gripes. I am prejudiced. I am prejudiced against race-prejudice. I am sick and tired of hearing people who are supposed to be normal, intelligent human beings griping about 'kikes' and 'niggers'. These holier-than-thou jerks remind me of the man who bites off his nose to spite his face...as the saying goes, and I think it goes well here. When a 'white' man stands up and screams that the Negro race should be eliminated he is suggesting elimination of his own race. The human race.

"All of us...regardless of race, creed or color...are all in the same boat. And the little-men-with-the-big-hates are rocking that boat. It is prob'ly too late to teach these anti-bodies that race-prejudice isn't logical. But what can we teach our children so that they may grow up with clean, clear minds? Tolerance? As amigo Woolston said in a letter to me, tolerance isn't a very good word. These aren't his exact words, but the gist of it is as follows. (Needless to say, I agree...)

"When we say we have tolerance for something, it sounds as though we are just 'putting up with it'. We must have more than tolerance. We must treat each and every fellow-human...as a fellow human. If we must judge our fellow man let us judge him by his deeds. The color of his skin or the accent of his speech have nothing to do with what is in his head and heart.

"Fandom, of all 'places', should practice this. Aren't fans supposed to be people who think? Yet sometime ago I read where Forry introduced a negro-fan to members of the LBSFS and said fan received what is known as the 'cold shoulder' from most of the lasfsers. (Correct me if I'm wrong about this, Forry.)

"So step up, fellow-fen! What's your opinion? I have more to say on this subject but would rather bring out my thoughts and your thoughts on the matter by letter-discussion in this mag over a period of time. The problem of race-hatred is 'sciencefictional'...that is: has as much to do with the future of this world as does atomic power. A-power can blow us all to hell. So can race-prejudice.

"Happy Days."

---

*John Van Covering*, who neglected to put a date on his letter, has this to say, in a somewhat lighter vein (from 902 North Downey Ave, Downey Cal.):

"In the field of fanzines, I have been many times advised to 'keep away from fan-fiction' by well-meaning folk, including you, dear Ed. ((He means Rex.--Eds.)) Why? I think fan fiction is the natural way for fans to express themselves. After all, if you don't like it, nobody's forcing you to read it.

"But my point is, fan fiction is no matter what never like pro fiction. There is an unrestrained something that a fan puts into his fiction, knowing that he won't be haunted by an ed's blue pencil, knowing that he's doing this for fun and not for a career, that sort of makes me like it. And the best of the fan's fiction is his humorous stories.

"Satires, puns, barbs...the fan uses these freely. In his serious fiction, which he no doubt writes more of, these are suppressed to give an atmosphere of intelligence and deep thought. Unfortunately, fans do not like to see intelligence and deep thought in fan stories...at least other fan's stories. Unconsciously they look for entertainment in other people's zines...and the first and best form of entertainment is humor, subtle or slapstick.

"I've talked myself into it. I'm going to print a fanzine devoted to fan humor, to the lighter side of fanjoyment. But first there are obstacles...material for one, time for another. I'm counting on you fokes out there, reading this now...after all, who wants to pay a quarter or four bits for advertisements when one may get it free in a letter column? Put that pencil down, Rex, I'll buy an ad anyway...."((He did, too, but---. Maybe next time, Van.--Rex.))


"...name is the first step. FANNY-BONE. No? No. A little too....too...just a little. FAN-HOUSE? Welll.... NITROUS OXIDE?...Hmmm...nope, they'd say it put 'em to sleep...ahhhh, I have it!



A sisterzine to SINE NOMEN...SINE CURA...no, then they'd say it meant 'without cure' instead of 'without care'. Ahhh nerts. Try French, maybe....JOI DE VIVRE ...Spanish: TODO ALEGRE. Pooey. My brain has bogged down. Any of you birds ready and willing with a name for an all-humor fanzine? Well, send 'em to me. As many as you want. Best name gets three free copies.

"Well, now that I know I'll have an all-humor fanzine (humorous articles will I accept also) I might as well sign off. Thankee muchly for the chance to give muhself a plug, Rex. I'm much obleeged.

"Thine."

 CARTER, who lives at 865 20th Ave So, St Petersburg 6, Fla, has a new idea. In an undated letter, he says:

"Here's an idea I've been coddlin' around for a long time and seein' as how 2000 will be composed of letters, I thought this would be a good time to get rid of it.

"What is the biggest drawback to amateur publishing? I think it is the stenciling and printing. A fan may have plenty of dough, ambition, material and time but if he doesn't have a mimeo or hecto, he can't publish.

"And why do so many of our truly good zines drop out? The accumulating trouble of stenciling and mimeo finally breaks the editor down and/or conflicts so much with his everyday life that it becomes impossible to continue it.

"How can this problem be solved? Why not have some dependable organization run a bureau which would contain the facilities for hecto, ditto, mimeo etc. Rates could be set (cheaper by necessity than professional rates) and, no doubt, considerable profits would be gathered.

"Say a fan in East Gormfer Falls wants to put out a zine, but hasn't the facilities. He writes the bureau, and arranges rates, publishing date and mediums. Then he goes ahead, soliciting material and sales, advertising, etc. On a specified date he mails the typed material and originals of the illustrations to the bureau, and a short time later, receives the 100 or 150 copies of the finished product and stapled and ready to mail out. As simple as that!

"Now as to whom could take on the responsibility of running the bureau--- I'd say the NFFF, with perhaps the FAPA and other organizations helping. This project would fill a long-empty place in the fanworld.

"How about it, boys?

"Sincerely."

GUERRY BROWN, who did not sign his letter with a signature (do it nexttime, will you Guerry?) drops us a few lines from PO box 1467 Delray Beach, Fla (17 Aug 47):

"Glad to hear that you're starting a letterzine. So, I'll give forth with a few comments of my own on various and sundry matters. I'm sorry to hear that you're killing off your mag, 2000 AD. ((I'm not.--Rex.)) But, at least you have this one to replace it with.

"It seems that there've been quite a few new fanmags coming out, to replace those old ones which have died off. Fans, of course, are sorry to see the old mags go, but many of the new ones which have cropped up to replace them are just as good. You, yourself have done pretty well with Time Travel Tales and 2000 AD. I was especially sorry to see the former one kick off, after



only three issues. Specialized fiaz are few and far between, and yours was a good one.

"I'd like to say a few things about the 'Shaver Mystery' which has been running in Amazing Stories, now, for over two and a half years. In spite of all the screaming about the Shaver stories being a collection of hoaxes, and that Ray Palmer, AS's editor is a crazy old crackpot, I haven't seen any proof of either fact. There have been 'hoaxes' pulled, but those were done by various individuals on their own initiative. There hasn't been one single thing about the Shaver stories that has been proven false by active fans! Fans can boycott Amazing Stories all they want to; it doesn't affect AS's circulation any. The vast majority of Amazing's readers are not active fans, and don't give a hoot one way or another. I'm not criticizing any fan's personal privilege to consider the Mystery false; that's his natural right. I'm not trying to put a gag on him, and even if I were, I hardly think that I'd even begin to get any place! It all adds up to the fact that nobody pays any attention to what the fan says about Shaver; there just aren't enough of them to swing some action. At least, I never heard of any fans bringing about a change in a mag's policy. If I'm wrong, will someone please correct me? If you can do it, I'll retract my statement. If fen want, really WANT to prove the Shaver Mystery false (if it is), let's see them doing a little investigating. There is one thing I'd like to find out; will someone please tell me what the Rap 'insanity hoax' was? I never did actually find out what had happened, so if someone would care to give forth with a little information about this, I'll be most grateful.

"Aside from that, there's something else I'd like to find out; namely, what do fans think of the Shaver stories as fiction, as regular stff? What do you think of them?

"Until next time."

Editorial note: The following is all we know about the Rap "Insanity hoax". It is reprinted from the 1946-47 FANTASY REVIEW, edited and published by Joe Kennedy, 84 Baker Ave, Dover NJ.

"An airmail letter from Hamling to EJackerman revealed that Rap had suffered a 'nervous breakdown, really a mental crack-up'. According to Hamling, Palmer had implicitly believed in the Shaver Mystery, began hearing voices, believed his life in danger. The letter went on to relate that RAP had been dragged out of a coalbin by Browne and Hamling, as Palmer still clutched a magnet and a piece of carbon. To check up on this somewhat startling development, Speer phoned Ziff-Davis, got confirmation that Palmer was 'seriously ill', and that Hamling was doing the editing of AS and FA. In his enthusiasm, Palmer had bought over a million words of Shaver stories; it was claimed that the mags would return to normal as soon as this vast back-log was used up. Later Palmer claimed the whole thing was a hoax perpetrated by fandom -- yet contradicted himself by admitting that he and Hamling had cooked up the gag. How much fact and how much fiction the report contained is still uncertain."

Whether you were aware of this much of the "Hoax" already or not, we do not know. You can take this information for what it's worth. Can any of you readers add anything to this?

Next issue: In unusual type of letter by Brooklyn fanne Rickey Slavin, something definatelly out of the ordinary; a very long, interesting letter by Bob Boyer of Pennsylvania, covering a lot of territory, (and wordage); a missive touching on a different subject than has ever been touched on before by none other than Wilkie Conner himself, in person! Also Leslie Hudson will be present, and another Snearyarn, plus a scorching note from George Caldwell, in defense of Shaver and Rap. And of course, any other letters that may come in in between publication dates. Publication deadline for #2: October 15th. See you then.

Rex & Jack



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