

FANDOM SPEAKS

#2



Nov. '47

No. 2

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FANDOM SPEAKS!

EDITORIAL

Still rather cramped for space, tho we've added two pages over last issue's quota. All our ads have been squeezed in somehow, and before we forget it, rates are \$1 per page, 50¢ half, etc. '' We'll try to clear up any thing which may need clearing up, or getting-out-of-the-way. No paragraphs this ish, a means of saving space. VoM followed that idea once, and as we remember Jack Speer didn't like it, and Larry Shaw did. Your opinion, please? All remarks in double brackets and underlined with hyphens are the editors. Wish this typer had tildes... The Sneary and Caldwell letters were crowded out, though we have both on hand now. We'll work them in next issue. '' Our little "one-question poll" will have to wait another month, as arrangements are not entirely made now. '' From time to time you'll be seeing an unused VoM letter appear, as Forry Ackerman handed over five recently. We extend our thanks for this gesture, and also for giving us permission to reprint that master-letter by Bill Temple from VoM #36. We consider it an honor. '' A card from Tom Jewett begged us not to give away the original of last ~~issue's~~ cover, as he had not intended it for that purpose. So here's what we'll do: For the best letter in #1 we'll give the original of the 2000 AD #2 cover and devise something far better as a prize for the best letter in that mag. At the presenttime, McDaniel and Wilson are tied with three votes each, and Sneary and Moffatt with one. We'll hold the voting over one more issue, then award the prize. '' Off the record: the letter by Sneary next issue will not be edited, praise Allah! '' The forecast for the next ish was rather short, as at that time a good many letters had not come in. Here's a more complete list of the treats we have in store for you in the near future: Ackerman, Orrok, McDaniel, Don Wilson, with a scoop to end scoops, Gibson, Greenleaf Jr., Mongold twice, Graham BriceStone, Edwin Sigler, Van Couvering, Jack Speer himself, Caldwell, Sneary, Kennedy, and others. And ~~it is~~ believed that EEEVans will soon favor us with a missive, and Willmorth says he will try to explain his "True Ghod Beer" idea. So stick around--we want to make FS all that VoM was, and more, if such a thing is possible. Are we succeeding? Well, we hope so.

It isn't necessary to call your attention to the cover this month. So we won't. But we will mention that next month's ~~issue~~ will carry another litho by the other Cockroft, John, and it's a beauty. #3 should be out by 8 Nov if everything goes well.

Name-writers are beginning to appear, with Laney and Speer starting the ball rolling. Now if some of those boys write in that F. T. mentioned in his letter, all will be well, and FS will indeed be following in the footsteps of VoM.

Which takes care of things pretty well.

--R&J

FANDOM SPEAKS is published monthly by Rex Ward and Jack Clements, at 428 Main, El Segundo, Cal. Send letters and subscriptions to either editor....

- ☒ Your sub has expired; will you renew?
- ☐ You have one more issue coming on your subscription.
- ☐ This is a trade with your mag.
- ☐ A sample copy; how about a sub?
- ☐ Complimentary copy.

Bob Boyer, of 243 Rowe Street, Tamaqua, Pa. leads off with a letter dated 27 Aug 47:

"When I got Vol. 1, No. 1, of 2000 AD through Uncle Sammy's mails I was very well pleased with its contents and over-all appearance. I was especially pleased, with an extreme sense of delight, to read in the very interesting "Highs and Lows in SF" column that Rex had taken allegiance with those fans against that woe-begotten mess of bunk, the Shaver Mystery. // I can't recall when I first purchased Amazing Stories but, believe me, I was quite surprised to find such a theory in a modern SF magazine. Such things, in my humble estimation, belong back in the Dark Ages when hobgoblins and ghosts presumably rode the night air and innocent persons were burned at the stake because they were suspected of witchcraft. Perhaps that time is the one in which Shaver and Palmer, the editor of Amazing Stories, should have lived. They might have cleaned up a fortune. ((Yeds' question that statement: are they not cleaning up a fortune now?)) Or else, they would have been burned at the stake. Amazing Stories was crossed off my 'must get' list quite awhile ago. // Sure it's nice to read about witches and goblins and what not, they have their place in fantasy; it's fun and when you've finished a story of the same you experience a joy of having visited other strange worlds and times. It's pleasant reading, but that's all. // And when you see Frankenstein's monster, Dracula, or Kharis, the Mummy in the movies you get a thrill. At least I do, and I believe I'm human. // It's good entertainment, but when it goes beyond that---brother! Let us close our eyes and piously cross ourselves and point forth the index and little fingers on our right hands to ward off the evil spirits. // To me, whose main delight in life is SF and Fantasy, the Shaver sagas are not in the least bit interesting. In my mind, Richard S. Shaver is just a plain guy who one day stumbled upon his theory and thought, "Gee, here's an easy way to get stuff printed and make lottsa money." Money, that is, from fans who are ignorant, shall we say?, enough to worship at Ray Palmer's artificial shrine. It has wondered me that Palmer and Shaver haven't started a fund as yet to investigate the "mysteries of the caves." // As fiction the Shaver tales might be good, but even in that form I prefer not to read them. Of course, we all have different tastes in trifling matters, and thank the Good Lord above that we do so or this world of ours would otherwise be a pretty dull place. But when it goes so far as to tempt people to believe in such a thing, that's much too much. // In the last issue of Joe Kennedy's Vampire magazine there appeared two letters under a column headed, "In Caverns Below." One was by Palmer and the other was by Don Wilson who had recieved the same Palmer letter in reply to one he had previously sent to Amazing Stories attempting to de-bunk the Shaver Mystery. The letter by Palmer was one of the most egotistical and slandering missives I've ever read. His misanthropical state of mind towards those who were against the whole silly business was plainly evident. Each sentence of his letter reminded me very much of a frantic, gibbering dictator who tried to make others bow down towards him. If you can get hold of a copy of that issue of Vampire magazine, do so by all means and get a clearer picture of the man behind Amazing Stories. It might open your eyes if you are still one of the fans who believes in the Shaver hoax. Palmer makes himself look ridiculous. // When I was a child, I believed in childish things, such as witches, fairies, gnomes, and so forth. It was nice, in a way, because it transported me from the humdrum daily life to a world of make-believe. Sure, it's good to tell a youngster about the sand-man and his bag of dreams. He goes to sleep faster at night and loses his fear of the dark. It is all a let's-pretend matter and you, as an older person, know it. But you love to see the light in a child's eyes when you tell him about foreign lands where lollipops grow on trees and chocolate drops are found like grains of sand on a beach. It's a world to which they can turn their little hearts and minds before they face the actuality of a cold, cruel world. How you wish you might be in their shoes, sometimes, if just for a few fleeting seconds. How little they know about the real world; but how happy they are! // But let us face the facts. We are no longer children. We are too old, now, to believe in tales of fairies and goblins, tero and dero. Yes, let us forget those things, face the facts squarely, and grow up to a world of reality. // Perhaps this whole bunch of words I've written sounded crazy or egotistical to you. If you are for Shaver and Palmer they did; but if you're not a sucker they didn't. Maybe, by now, after reading to this point, you think I'm another frantic, gibbering idiot. That's O.K. with me, it's a free country. I believe freedom of speech is still listed among our priceless heritages. Take your own views on the Shaver matter. You have a mind, and that's all you need to think. // As for me, about the year 2000 A.D. perhaps, fans will proclaim at last to all SF and Fantasy fandom that the Shaver theory is nothing but a hoax, and a big one at that. It will go down in fandom as one of the biggest hoaxes ever played upon the American public. // Yours truly."/

Once in awhile we run across something a little different, a letter which does not follow the cut-and-dried policy of most letters. Here's one here, from Brooklyn fanne
It's a *Rickey Slavin* of 1626 Coney Island Ave., Brooklyn 30, NY.
DRIVEN CONFESSION OF A FANNE, or... HOW RICKEY WAS
TO FANNESS.

"Coughs discreetly, flutters eye-lashes coyly, pats hair speculatively, and begins. My name, as you have no doubt already noticed is Rickey Slavin, and up till now, my sole connection with acti-fandom has been as sec of the E S F A, and my friendships with fen. Also an amazing correspondence with various fans all over the country. I got bitten by the stf bug in early 1944, and was usually found with my nose buried in any mag that blessed silver could purchase. I was actually reduced, many a time, to reading books when no mags were available. // I went on my merry way for two years reading and building up my collection of mags. Early in 1946 I was introduced to fanmags through Sarge Saturn's

letter column, and subbed to many of them. In Apr. '46, in a letter from JoKe, I received a circular about the meeting of the A-Men, a club in Newark. He very gently suggested that the club would appreciate members, even me. Soooooo, I packed my little purse full of beautifying material, crammed my head with all the miscellaneous bits of info that I had about fen, and scooted down to Newark. // For the first hour, I was busy gushing over every new introduction, and shrieking at the corny jokes that flew around. What's a gush? This, for instance: "'SaMoskowitz (seventeen exclamation points) I've been dying to meet you for years.'" "'NOT the Joe Kennedy? Well, I'll be \$%#&_()*@11* etc.'" // I very unselfishly agreed (oh yeah) to undertake the easy (!) job of sec. I was immediately installed with Sam's pen, and the backs of some envelopes for paper. // During the next few months, I met a few fen that lived down in the Village, and started to become a 'fake intelligentida'. I continued to collect mags, met more and more fans, and---momentous occurence---got a teriff crush on some fan in the E S F A. The fan in question shall remain nameless. As of now, nothing earth-shaking has occured, except (very usual) I got a few stories and poems rejected by various people, and continued to grind out stuff like this. // I met many of the authors and artists among the attendees at the meetings. I struck up several lasting friendships. // S'long, and here's to fandom. May there be more male fen, and more female fen to chase them."

"I've heard of these all-letter 'zines," says WILKIE CONNER, of Bx 2392 West Gastonia, NC, in a letter dated 25 Aug 47, "but I've never seen one. Should be interesting. // This should give me an opportunity to wax loudly on a subject that has been buzzing about my cranium for some time. I once wrote an article for the fanzine 'Centauri,' defending the comic books---especially those of a stf or fantasy nature. I argued that they would never replace the good ole fashioned pulps, that they would, indeed, lure more fans into the fold. // More water has flown under the dam since then and I have changed my mind. // I have decided those atrocious little magazines---some llo of them!---are using far too much precious paper. And there is nothing---absolutely nothing!---anyone can do about it. Yet, if something isn't done---if someone doesn't accomplish the impossible---there will soon be a time when John and Jane Fan can't get their favorite reading material in magazine form. // One has only to look at the record of Street and Smith to see how pulp magazines have fallen from their heights in the last 8 or 9 years. S&S, about 1938 and 39, published a long string of pulps. To-day, they publish only several monthlies and bi-monthlies and quarterlies. One of their old-time weeklies, the famous LOVE STORY is now an annual. That darling of the fans, UNKNOWN WORLDS, was the first to perish. Paper has been given as the reason for its lack of survival! // Paper is given as the lack of monthly publication of such magazines as Thrilling Wonder, Startling Stories, Weird Tales, etc. Recently, Ziff-Davis made Amazing and Fantastic monthlies, at the expense of suspending their two detective pulps. // I daresay that such magazines as Astonishing Stories, Unknown, Super Science, etc., would find their way back on the stands if a sufficient supply of paper could be had. // A sufficient supply of paper will never be had as long as those obnoxious 'funny-books' remain so popular. // It is true, more children than adults read the comics. However, a dime from a 10 year old makes just as loud a noise in a cash register as the same dime from an adult. And thereby, I believe hangs the solution! // Heavy circulation means the life or death of any prozine. If more people could be coerced into reading good science fiction and better fantasy fiction, more of those magazines could be sold. One of the best ways to get sales is to lower prices. I believe if a magazine was printed on thinner paper and issued more oftener, and priced at 10¢, the more intelligent who now read the comics, would begin a swing toward the better magazines. Especially if they were profusely illustrated in color. Now, this sounds terribly expensive, but it isn't. Look at any comic book! They sell for 10¢ and have very few ads. Yet they make money! // Also, I've noticed that lately some newstands have been hesitant about buying and displaying stf magazines. While they don't risk any money---the unsold are reclaimed by the distributor, the backs ripped off and returned to the publisher for credit, the bodies shredded into paper excelsior---they don't make any money on unsold magazines. And newstand space is usually limited. So the dealer either doesn't fool with the magazine, or else consigns it to a very inconspicuous place, on a shelf or hidden in a rack. One almost never sees them displayed. I think this situation could be remedied if one made a note of the name and address of the guilty dealer and wrote the magazines circulation dept. Enough letters---enough!---would get action. // No paper, the publishers' cry! Yet each month new comic books come out. A local newstand gets a large delivery twice a week. I feel that it is a lack of interest on the part of the reading public, rather than a lack of paper. Therefore, the only way to combat these comics is to combat them along their own lines: 1. Cheaper prices. 2. Gaudy illustrations. 3. Equal newstand display. 4. Earnest work on the part of all fans to educate more people into reading a good magazin instead of a comic. Leave copies where non-fen can find them. Read them with great enjoyment in libraries, busses, trains, etc. Write articles, as I intend to do, for local newspapers praising them. // It will be a hard, bitter fight. But I am optimist enough to believe the comics CAN BE WHIPPED!"

Next on the list, a letter from
of Roseland, Virginia. He states:

Leslie Hudson "A lot of people will probably say that I could have found something better than the latest Fantastic Adventures to talk about. But--the October Fi was better than usual. There were two surprisingly good stories. One by Rog Phillips and the other by--can it be?!--Richard S. Shaver. // Phillips gives us "High Ears", in which he departs from his recent policy of filling his yarns with his own so-called scientific theories. Although the plot was an old one it was very well handled. In my opinion

the story was both interesting and entertaining. // Shaver deserts his caves, Titans, torture scenes, etc., to give us a story which is at least readable, maybe more. Something that most of his others have not been. While definately not a classic, it is far above his usual efforts. We still have the telougs, augmented devices and such but not in quantity. After reading "Witch of the Andes", I am almost ready to believe that there is a possibility that Shaver can write. // So much for the two stories. Though next month Shaver may revert to his deroes and Phillips presents an astounding new theory---it was good while it lasted."

Don Wilson, of

495 N. Third St, Banning, Cal, tells us what he said in that letter to Rap. Letter dated 25 Sept 47: "Cover excellent. Line-drawings for mimeo can be swell at times -- I would like to point to Father Ambrose ((Pic in Don's superb fanzine Dream Quest)) as an example. Just so they aren't too elaborate. // Before we go any further, I'd like to say this -- I'm not in favor of the red mimeo ink. It makes the mag much harder to read; while no means as blinding as that stuff Burbee used in Shaggy a few issues back, it's still too hard on the eyes. Red is okay once in a while, to relieve the pages and pages of black type, but it doesn't seem too good as a steady policy. Keep it on the artwork, tho. // Editorial okay, even tho it was the usual firstissueapology thing. But then if beginning editors didn't apologize they's probably be lampooned all over the place for being egotistical. // (Pause of a couple minutes while I spread out the mag in order to be able to see it.) Now to the letters. SVMcdonial, or Daniel, raises some interesting points. I wonder why he thinks the old, goofy, fandom was so desirable? I doubt if those letters in the ether viberates and similar columns put fandom in any better of a light with the non-fans than the present style of his mags. I wouldn't be surprised if many -- or at least some -- readers who might have been interested in fandom were turned away by those letter sections. Now, things are somewhat better, but the effectiveness of the column is cut down by the inclusion of too many repetitious letters. But this letter of comment is on ES, not SS, so we will leave that. It'll be better for everybody concerned if fandom can manage to get itself on a plane of discussion, rather than purely one of satire and stuff. I agree about the BEER IS THE ONLY TRUE GHOD idiocy. Wish Gus would advance some reason, or something, for that flood of remarks. I doubt if it does any real harm --even in the Fantasy Advertiser, which reaches a lot of non- or borderline-fans, but I hope it never gets out in the pros. The flood of fanzines and activity that he pleas for seems to be materializing, even if gradually. Once the present, uh, officers are cleaned out of the NFFF, a great step in the right direction will have been accomplished. Oh, yes -- I emphatically don't mean Carlson to be included among the aforementioned. // Rick Sneary's letter is swell. Jewett, at least, advances some plausible reasons for his stand.--tho they don't sound entirely correct. As for Merwin and the other editors who now support fandom dropping said support merely because Rap prejudices his readers agin fandom -- nuts. For one thing, Rap's readers read AS alone, and consider stf merely a pleasure for morons -- I mean the Shaverists. I doubt if Merwin's and Rap's readership overlaps TOO much. And a lot of readers -- I'd venture to say nearly all of them -- never read any of the editorials, readers' columns, fanzine reviews, or any thing else of merely fan interest, concentrating solely on the fiction. Of course, even granting the almost nonexistent possibility that Rap's ravings should eventually result in the elimination of all fan-support from the other prozines, that WOULD be a blow from which fandom would never recover -- altho a certain species of 'fan' would be eternally grateful for the fact that no new fans were coming into fandom to possibly someday offer a challenge to their seats of glory. // Many have wondered about what I said in that first letter to Rap. Here, for the world to read, is a quote or precis from memory: Sirs: This is for the editor, Rap or Hamling or whoever he may be. I've read your February editorial, in which you imply that WS Baring-Gould in his Harpers article said AS was at the bottom in circulation, and in which you quote circulation figures to prove him wrong. He did not say that--he said AS was at the bottom in QUALITY, not circulation. You have deliberately misinterpreted. This is cheap rottenness, and part of a vicious campaign to smear honest stfandom in the eyes of your crackpot readers. ## I then went on to say that I supposed he couldn't be blamed too much, because of the titanic profit he was making. A few days later, enclosed in an envelop in which Rap had received something or other from Art Joquel and then re-used, the Vampire letter came. I hope that the phrase 'honest stfandom' can't be interpreted to mean that I said I was speaking on behalf of all fandom, which he inferred from the letter. And as I say, in my second letter to him I said I was on my own, and he replied thus: 'okay, you are on your own. And of course you have enuf contact with fans to know their opinions.' I would have never mentioned the case to anybody had I not thot fandom would be interested in the names it wuz called. My plea for anti-Rap action has been regretted since, chiefly because it sounded childish after pondering, but nobody less than JFS has made the same plea, so I guess it wasn't so bad after all. // Please delete any of that that sounds silly to you. No doubt a lot of it is. ((We delete nothing, unless it is demanded by the writer)) // Well, the next thing I want to take up with you is your snide reference to Thots. So it disappointed you? I liked the mag, myself -- my main reason being the pleasantly informal tone, which is just right for a letterzine. I had th b t. from STFIST that Henry was a sort of ultra-serious chap, but he, to my surprise -- and it was a pleasant surprise -- has proved otherwise. Mebbe Elsnor will quit fandom, but that's really nothing against him. The reasons he gave were perfectly valid. The reasons JoKe gave were valider yet. Any fan publishes his fanzine because he likes it -- as a hobby. When the fanzine begins to grow away from the status of a hobby -- and it is easy to

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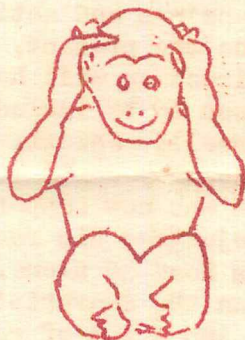
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happen, particularly if the zine is popular -- something has to go. And naturally nobody can drop his education, career, job, or what-have-you merely for the sake of a fanzine. Elsner is in fandom because of his love for stf. So are a lot of other guys. Are you going to condemn them merely because they aren't in fandom for fandom's sake alone?? ((Rex wishes to explain himself on that remark: I did not mean to slander a rival when I said that I was disappointed by Thots. In fact, I am happy to announce that my statement was in error; I did enjoy Elsner's mag very much. It is just that I expected something more. Please forgive me, Hank, and Don. and I am not condemning anyone for dropping fandom; when one is about to drop fandom himself, he does not condemn anyone else for doing it.)) 77 Woolston shouldn't hold it against ASF for the atomwar stories. The writers get into a rut, as JWC has recently confirmed by refusing to accept any more mutant, atomend, or timetravel stories. That's an awfully drastic step to take, but I guess it was worth it, the way things were getting. I'm beginning to wonder if the oft-repeated assertion that editors have cut-and-dried formulas and refuse to accept any GOOD stuff isn't a myth. It would seem so, considering the fact that Campbell had to adopt such a drastic method of breaking the vicious circle of hack! // Len Moffatt is 100% true. The example of 4e's introduction of a negro fan to the LASFS may not be entirely valid tho -- for is that mess representative of fandom as a whole? Maybe it was then. But right now it might be a good idea to drop our antagonism toward Rap and instead concentrate our energies on boycotting, ejecting from fandom, and if possible eliminating completely the LASFS. ((WHAT!)) // Hope Van gets some good titles. // Lin Carter's idea is a fine one, all but for one thing: he suggested that the NFFF carry his idea out. Haw! Maybe, tho, if it was handed around to committees, a different one each year, or even oftener, interest could be kept up. Such a scheme really would help the zine-eds. // Guerry wants to know what we think of the Shaver stories as fiction? They stink. No kidding, they really do. No other author, before or since, has turned out such a large number of consistently rotten stories. A few examples -- THOT RECORDS...QUEST OF BRAIL...THE MICRO MEN...MASKED WORLD...CULT OF THE WITCH QUEEN...THE SEA PEOPLE...RETURN OF SATHANAS...all rotten stories. A few have been fairly good, but even Ray Cummings has turned out passable stuff from time to time! // Will close this thing with an attempt for a free plug. All you zine-eds -- have you heard of the Fanzine Contributor's Handbook? For the benefit of those of you who haven't, it is a guide which I intend publishing as an aid to fanzine editors who can't get material and fanzine writers/artists who don't know what fanmag would like their stuff best. Just write down what kind of stuff you like best, whether or not you want artwork, and if so what kind, any payment given, and the usual masthead data, and shoot it in. As soon as a reasonable majority of the zines have reported -- I'd like ALL of you, but of course some will be too lazy to submit their requirements -- the thing will be issued. I hope to make it a periodical. A fanzine writer's digest is something that should have been issued eons ago. Oh, yes, -- this applies to ALL kinds of zines, FAPA as well as independent. // That about covers it for this trip. One thing I almost forgot -- the quotes around letters are unnecessary, don't you think? ((We do. We are stopping it right now.)) // And I had to forget this, too. I dunno how valid this is, because it depends on one vital point, and I've forgotten whether or not this vital point existed. Remember 'Barrier'? Well, I'm wondering: If the Barrier was constructed in time by those who came after the Barrier -- this is the vital point, and to save my neck I can't remember -- then they could never have existed. For, when the normal course of time reached the Barrier, it would have stopped dead, and the possibility of anybody, or anyTIME, ever existing after the barrier would have been forever impossible, hence the people who built the Barrier could never have existed and hence never have built the Barrier, ? // Of course, if the barrier was built by people who existed before it did, that theory's shot. But they still would have ended their race, because the barrier, which halted time-travelers, would also have halted the normal course of all Time! Or did it?? // Please, if you can, clear up this dilemma. I've been wondering about it for quite awhile, ever since Howard Miller and I thought it up. // That's all. This REALLY is the end. // Sincerely."

St. Bell Gardens, Cal. spouts off, 23 Sept 47:

Len MOFFATT, 5918 Lento

ion that I didst receive FS # 1. How it brings back fond memories of the old VOM. Of course, compared to VOM, it was lacking in some respects. No litho-cover, no forry-esque puns, no nudes, no wacky cartoons but the manner of introducing letters was similar and the reglength was likewise. No contents page but the letters, most of 'em, were as adult as Vomletters. // The cover was no great work of art but t'was attention-catching. // The editorial was the typical fanmag editorial...full of apologies, promises and sincerity. Am looking forward to the poll (With only one question?? That'll be a relief!), the litho covers, the letters..... Yes, the letters. About time I was commenting on them.... // But first: enclosed find one buck for 12 issues of FS. You're welcome, kind editors. // Best letter was Don Wilson's. Being the longest, it covered more subjects and was interesting. The other letters were interesting too---with the possible exception of one. // Taking the letters in order of their appearance...S.V. McDaniel: Disagree with the idea that returning Servicefen are resentful of humor. Some are completely bitter, true. But you can't judge the whole by the actions and reactions of a small part of the whole. And nuts to Ghu and Beer too! In times like these we should all keep cool. Serve Ice Cream! Agree that stf mags are "growing up", that "mental plots" are replacing "space operas" to some extent, that fen and fanzines should be a bit more mature in their

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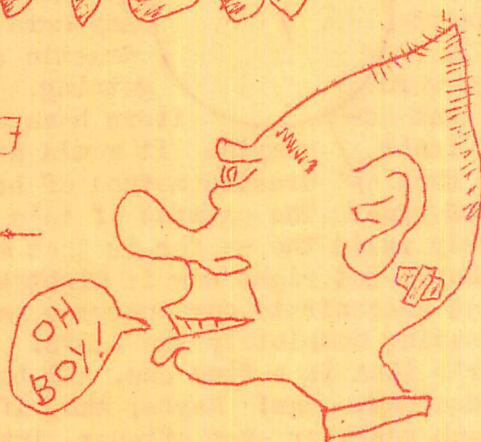
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thinking and thought-presentation. But let's not lose our respective senses of humor in the upward drive. // Rick: Resolutions, bills, letters, etc. by the anti-dero-belief fen aren't going to hurt Amazing or Palmer or Shaver very much. So Palmer called us names. So what? If you don't like the idea of Amazing advertising their tripe as "Truth disguised as fiction" don't buy the mag. I don't. I'll start buying Amazing regularly again when it gets over the Shaver binge. I read a copy of the mag now and then just to check up. (A friend of mine buys 'em and lends 'em to me once in a while. He doesn't believe in deros either but gets a bang out of the stories.) Hmmm. Better modify that remark up there. MAYBE I'll buy Amazing again when they knock off the Shaver hoax business. Depends, of course, on what type of material they are using. // Don Wilson: Agree that the promags are "looking up" with the exception of Amazing and FA. My interest in TWS and Startling has been revived by recent issues. Dunno about Planet. Will have to try a copy of it sometime soon. FFM and WT could stand improvement, you betcha. Avon Fantasy Reader has at least one excellent story per issue and usually several good'uns. None of the selections get below the "fair" mark, in my opinion. Why couldn't it print long novels? If the novel was really worth printing or reprinting it could take up the whole mag for one issue and I doubt if there would be too many complaints. Or it could be run as a serial tho most of us would prefer it in one piece. // Woolston: Agree with Stan's gripe about tales on same theme going on and on in a mag over a period of time. The readers blame the editors. The editors blame the authors. The authors, no doubt, blame the readers. For instance: S.F. Writer writes an atom-domm tale. Superduper Science Adventures accepts the story, publishes it. I.Q. Fan writes in and says the story is lovely, a beautifully depressing tale of the wonderful dim, dark, dank, stinking future. The editor of SSA accepts more stories of the same type. Why not? The fen said it was wonderful. The writer writes more tales of the same type, knowing that the editor will accept them as long as fen continue to like 'em and buy the mag. A rut is established. Finally I.Q. Fan gets fed up with reading about the dim, dark, dank stinking future. He writes in and says so. The editor agrees but what can he do. He has several of the stories in stock already paid for. He must use them. He must use them. And the writers, by this time, are so obsessed with the idea of a dim, dark, dank stinking future that they keep on writing about it. Now the editor can't reject all of the stories he gets. But he's gotta bust the rut. He's gotta get the mag on another theme. I.Q. Fan keeps yappin' for another type of story. Eventually, the editor and the I.Q. Fan writes in and says so. Here is a letter that cannot be completely comprehended by fen of average intelligence. Perhaps only the Great Mentality of an Ashley or a Burbee can fully understand the subtle meaning of this epistle. But, ordinary mortals can understand the missive by reading between the lines.... Ah! And what have we seen between the lines of JVC's epistle.... Blank space... // Kidding I'm serious in his intention to produce an all-hu-I'm all for it. The great LEZ is gone. It can but a bright new funzine can never be objected to. sir...what type of material dost thou desire or dost thou give a hang? // Lin Carter: Your idea of a publishing bureau has much merit and the NFFF is obviously the organization for the job. But who is gonna volunteer to take on the mammoth task of reproducing copies of various and sundry fanmags, a time-stealing job ((as we so well know!)) if there ever was one. Many a fan gripes when turning the mimeo handle to produce his own fanmag. Would he (or she) be willing to labor thus for another fan's mag? Certainly fen have been helpful to each other in this respect in the past but only because they were amigos, or belonged to the same amateur press club or because one was in the service and t'other felt it was his patriotic duty to reproduce the Servicefan's mag...and in many cases it was simply the idea of the Golden Rule in action. Let's hope that there is that much "brotherly-love" in fandom.... Of course, the "official mimeoers, hectoers, printers, etc" could get plenty of ego-boo by having their names appear in all the mags they worked on....hmmmm. Maybe it's a workable idea, after all. // Guerrey Brown: Common sense proves the falsity of Shaver hokum. As someone has already said, if all the stuff about deros, caverns, etc. is true and Shaver has definate proof why didn't he go to the newspapers or to the FBI? Why "disguise the truth" and sell it to a pulp mag? So if he went to the newspapers or the FBI no one would believe him. They would if he could prove it. Disguising the truth as fiction is a rather unusual way of getting people to believe that such-and-such is the truth. When people write fiction or write "truth" in the guise of fiction and sell same to a mag, their purpose is obvious. They want to make money. The more sensational they make their stuff, the more sensation-seekers will want it, the more money is made. Common sense. // So much for the first issue of FS. A good beginning. It could have been better but---considering that the editors were pressed for time---a very good beginning. In any mag there is always room for improvement and methinks Rex and Jack are the boys who'll see that this room isn't vacant overlong. // All the Best!



Francis J. Laney, of 816 Westboro Ave, Alhambra, California, acknowledges (29 Sept 47): Thanks for the copy of RANDOM SPEAKS; though I'm no longer a fan, except for FAPA, it definitely brought up nostalgic memories of VOM, which I liked very much. Your chief weakness, as you probably realise more than I do, is a lack of "name" letter writers. I'd like to see in the next issue Speer, Rothman, Tucker, Widner, Liedscher, Warner, and some of the other boys who used to

make VOM into a poor man's FAPA. This is not to detract from Don Wilson, Gerry Brown, and one or two others who are well up to FAPA standards; but merely to underline the fact that it would be nice to have the old familiar names too. ((Any time Speer, Rothman, Tucker, Widner, Liebscher, Warner, etc. would like to write a letter to FS--the gates of welcome are open!)) // Sneary unconsciously points up one of the typical fannish foibles which has always irked me--windmill tilting. Now here is this boy who definately has better than average intelligence, and who has enough of a writing style to make his stuff sound pretty plausible even if one disagrees with the thoughts it portrays. Does he use this intelligence to tackle some problem which is not only of practical value, but which is well within his power to do something about? No, he spends a bunch of time trying to get a club which is one of the less significant organisations of a highly insignificant field to take a meaningless stand about Lemurianism, an issue the resolution of which means absolutely nothing one way or the other. The same amount of time and energy applied to learning how to spell would have improved Rick considerably. It is even within the faint realm of possibility that if Rick Sneary would devote some energy to self-improvement, he might in time develop himself to such a point that he would be able actually to influence important matters; at worst, any improvement in Sneary would be gratifying both to his friends and to himself. As it stands, I can scarcely imagine an unedited piece of Sneary's writings having any influence on anything or anybody except perhaps to give a moment of incredulous amusement. I hope that Sneary realises that my comment is given in a spirit of friendly helpfulness, and that I will not be made the recipient of any explosions. Think it over, Rick. // This whole matter of Lemurianism which seems to preoccupy so many of you seems like a tempest in a teapot. Science fiction has two really successful editors: Campbell and Palmer, and each of them has risen to success in the identical way. Each has gotten a post with a reputable and financially sound pulp house. Each has picked out a segment of the reading public, analysed it, and built up a magazine designed to appeal to that particular segment. Each has sold his publishing house on himself and his magazine, and thus gotten a reasonably free hand in its editing. Campbell is, perhaps, somewhat more honest intellectually, and certainly publishes material of far greater adult appeal; Palmer, on the other hand, has made up for this lack in his own magazine by his financial astuteness in slanting it towards a much larger segment of the reading public. Campbell publishes largely for technicians and technologically minded people; Palmer publishes for the mystics and crackpots. So what if you don't like AMAZING? No law requires you to buy it. If 200,000 people like to read about Lemuria, what is it to you? The stuff in AMAZING is no different in type or scientific validity from the stuff put out by all the other crackpot groups like Rosicrucians, Yogians, and such. The crackpot type of person is going to find this sort of pap somewhere; he might as well find it in AMAZING. You fans should be pleased that a former member of your circle has proved astute enough to take these people for a nice comfortable salary. // Carter's idea on a mimeographing bureau would sound more interesting if he had a few suggested preventatives that would keep the people that ran it from getting tired of it all. // The real point of my writing you is to plug FAPA a little bit. Though I have not received any election returns at this time, I am assuming I have been elected vice-president of FAPA since I ran unopposed, and am taking a chance on going ahead in that capacity. (If there was a dark-horse write-in that beat me, it at least will be good for a laugh.) // The Fantasy Amateur Press Association is the one facet of fandom which seems to be able to hold a fan's interest after all the rest of fandom has palled on him. Speer, Warner, Perdue, Rothman, Widner, Ashley, Tucker, Laney....many others--all of us one-time fan bigwigs, and now merely FAPA members. The group must have something to hold us, don't you think? // It so happens that just now FAPA is in a momentary slump, brought on by some extremely incompetent officers who goofed off at the wrong time. Where a year or so ago we had ten or twelve people begging for admittance, we now are seven or eight short of our membership limit of 65. With a new administration, it will only be six or eight months before we again have a waiting list; but right now some of you guys could join and get into the fun with no wait; moreover have a chance to be one of the ones who helped build FAPA back into a new golden era. // FAPA puts out four mailings each year. These mailings, in good times, run as high as 400 to 450 pages of fanzines, mostly items not circulating outside of the organization. The smallest mailing I have gotten in nearly five years of membership contained over 120 pages. // Publishing for FAPA is a breeze. You have to make but 70 copies of your magazine, you have no mailing lists or correspondence to take up your time and energy. Just bang out your magazine and shoot it to the official editor. He puts it in the bundle and sends it out for you. // It's unbelievably cheap, \$1.00 per year dues and that's all, except for the expense of producing your own magazine. // The biggest bargain package in fandom ---a good 1000 pages of fanzines for a buck. // Entrance requirements are easy too. You must have had material published in two different fanzines located in two different towns in the year previous to your application, OR you may have published your own fanzine. No other requirements. // I'd particularly like to see Ward, Clements, Wilson, Brown, and others of your bunch get on the FAPA bandwagon. A mailing is going out the second Saturday in October. Send a buck to Chas. E. Burbee, Jr., 1057 South Normandie, Los Angeles 6--and you can have it. // I hope this contribution will rate me a FANDOM SPEAKS #2; however, I'll send a back issue FAN-DANGO to each of you boys in a few days when I get time to dig it out. Good luck with FS--and won't you come into FAPA, fellows? Come on, gamble a buck on my sayso. // Sincerely.

GORDON KULL, of

1608 11th Ave, Frisco 22, postcards: Liked your mag a lot, some letters pleasing others peaving. I had wanted to make this a letter of contrib, but I'm so tied up with V-II that this will suffice. It's a good thing that RAP is around so that these fans who like to continually attack someone or something can get their money's worth. But I guess they could always find something. What is fandom for--decrying everything or for

constructive criticism? I choose the latter. Name calling gets no where. If a fan doesn't like a policy such as AS just don't buy. If enough don't buy it will show up front office. If the sales aren't appreciatively affected--cross it permanently off your list, and leave it and its readers to their misery. THEN FORGET ABOUT it. There is no good name that Stf has built up to lose. It never had a name (publicly) wasF-V-I. Will it ever? Only if WE try--but time spent name calling isn't trying.

Redd BOGGS, drops us a line on 2 Sept from 2215 Benjamin St NE, Minneapolis 18:
Let me explain myself in re the Shaver Hoax. It is true that I don't get Amaz at present (I am weakening; I may buy it again and file it away like I used to do), but I have made a minor study of the affair, partly from reading snatches of Shaver's junk at the second hand book and mag store, and partly from judgements pronounced by various correspondents of mine. Slanry was kind enough to explain the hoax to me after my letter in Stfist, and quite a few others have naturally commented at length on the thing. Add to that the many diatribes and commentaries in most of the fanzines during the past year or so, and I think you'll agree that it builds up a fairly comprehensive picture....I don't recall that I ever go up on the soapbox and harangued (is that spelt right?) against Richard the Beardless, at least. not for the reason that his stuff stinks, literally speaking. As you point out, Planet, for instance, frequently dishes up tripe as bad as Amaz does. But it's the air of the whole thing -- the air stinks. As fiction, the Beardless One's stuff is okay, but presenting it as truth is giving all stf a black eye. "Outsiders" are apt to mistake the crackpots that rally round Shaver's barberpole as stfans. // I think it's quite possible to enjoy Planet, and not be able to stomach RAP's mags. I do. It's like this: A mag is not just a periodical collection of fiction, articles, letters, and ads. Each mag has a personality of its own. The personality comes welling from the parts of the editor and the writers that get tangled in their contributions. Planet exudes a friendly air; you figure that the editor is trying to please his readers, is trying to give them what they ask for. Amaz probably tries to do the same thing -- any mag does, of course -- but RAP's endless parade of editorials contains so much that it is irritating to the average stfan (that mythical being) that it is difficult to enjoy Amaz. Particularly displeasing is his repeated boast that Amaz is tops. is publishing the classics of stf, is presenting the greatest writers, etc. Just as example, I remember that some years ago, he took sort of a survey of readers' likes for the previous twelve issues as reflected in the Amaz readers' dept. When he published the results, did he say that these were the best stories Amaz had published during the past year? No, he printed them as the

DON'T MISS

SPACETEER

CRUD BY—

Joe Kennedy, Donn Brazier,
Norm Storer, Lin Carter,
Guerry Brown, Jack
Elements.

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ST. PETERSBURG (6)
Florida

top ten stories of stf of the year! It's that kind of needling untruths that gets me. It slides under my skin like a splinter and irritates me so much that it's virtually impossible to enjoy Amaz. No, I'll stick to Planet, thank you.

John (Duckroft) brings up an interesting point. From the old manse at 4 Winship Ave. San Anselmo Cal. he says (27 Sept):

Fandom Speaks #1 arrived today and for my money really looks o.k... In time it will amply fill up the cavity left by the late lamented VOM. At the present however it seems to be suffering from a vast overdose of Shaveritis. This I'm sure will be more mature fan is roped into your columns. // The whole Shaver business is very distasteful to me. The fans are equally as much at fault about the supposed mess that has come from the notorious affair as is Palmer. Fans are reputedly intelligent free thinking individuals with a goodly amount of foresight. Organized fandom in general certainly isn't living up to these standards today. Of course individuals are and I'm not intending to slight but generally speaking fans take the cake when it comes to pig-headedness and immaturity and downright ignorance. They are things, egotistic to the extreme. They haven't the slightest idea that their pugile ideas are not the firm convictions of organized fandom and they seem to make no hesitation in so going to the bother of finding out or quizzing themselves about their authority in so doing (actually a criminal offense if they stand up on their plaster pedestals and shout their soundproof boxes believing the whole world is listening to their saints and martyrs. Actually, all they are doing is ment by the carload to thousands of more people to realize more fully what is going on. They are greater success, exactly what R&P has been years: prove that fandom is centered on the fringe. (personally I'm beginning to see that point) // Too many young people with a violent history have been under the belief that organized fandom is 'a political regime' (an actual regime'). I believe that the results. (Moskowitz' Immortal to those thing more received opinion to inter-occupied up a hobby nerves brought worthwhile advantage. My idea of a hobby many more bad names I can think of face that he can think up and insane when all of this energy that most self-respecting // It is slightly gratifying trivial nonsense is wrought ority of whom have yet to futile part of the whole ly nil. The whole affair accurate analogy would be would buzz and swoop about placed them in the jar the experiment at any to mention just who inflamed (a poor of the various ever could possibly such as the Shaver Mystery few true, has and the day news a subject grasp the it you are over the Shaver

mess the better for Palmer. Hoaxes like thrive on notoriety. If you don't like something just quietly ignore it and turn to something you do like. The time you spend spouting off on what is offensive to you might be better spent in enjoying the pleasures of something more dear to your heart. Think it over well. // Fandom is merely organized for the furthered pleasure gained from coming in contact with other persons interested in this wonderful fantastic fiction of ours that we find so enthralling. We share ideas and opinions with the intent of helping others and ourselves as well, to get more out of it than if we kept to ourselves. Constructive criticism is the criterion here, not the bestial tearing of throats that we are presently witnessing by the more violent "fans" (fanatics is the word.) // Some say that fandom is dying out. If fandom is what the muddled loosely organized mass of sciencefictionists of today is called, I say: "Let it!" It will be only dying a natural death. The reptiles died out too, so that a higher order of things might come along. TRUE fandom will not die out--it may go into a state of suspended animation for a greater or lesser time but it will not die out.. The stagnant morass that is present day "fandom"; the scavengers of fandom--who are actually but scavenger of themselves if they'd but realize it; the ones who crow the loudest about being hurt (by their own actions, really) will die--and I say: "Thank God!" // It is an immature mind that is unable to grasp the important things in life and must cling to the little trivial things as though they were all that counted in this vast complex world which is as inconceivable to them as higher mathematics is to a plow-horse. // Actually I don't know why I am writing this letter. I suppose that it is merely to get it off my chest where it's been for the last couple of years. I don't expect it to do any good as the narrow-minded characters who have been the cause of this speil will give it about as little attention as Ray Milland would to a milk bottle; while the others will sit back and sigh -- a little indulgently perhaps-- with the thought that here is another item in the seemingly endless reams of material on the Shaver Saga. // I do hope that this will be the first and last time I have to lift a pen (or typewriter key) or engage in discourse upon this very disagreeable subject. As it is I've wasted a perfectly good evening that could have well been spent in something more profitable. ((Such as getting Stell #6 out maybe??)) // How much better your Fandom Speaks would be if it were filled with letters such as Len Moffatt's racial "tolerance" rather than all of the Shaver tripe which deserves only to be printed on little 4 3/4" squares of soggy stock. // Sincerely.

Martin Carlson

has these words, from 1028 Third Ave So, Moorhead Minn:

I'm a little slow getting a

letter started to FANDOM SPEAKS. I'm certainly glad to see someone take over the VoM-letter. 4e was doing such a nice job of it too. I understand that Henry Elsner is doing a King size similar to VoM, also. Well, the more letterzines we have the better. I do like to read what other fans have to say. I guess the promags got me started on that. I'll try to get a letter out once in a while but with my official work and "Welcom" work there is very little time left in the evenings. The family is neglected a lot as it is now. // I was really sorry to see Vampire, VoM, Star Rover and Stf-ist go out of existence. They all were top zines and were well worth the time speny in reading them. There is a rumor that FANEWS is on the skids also. Tympany is carrying on the EMBER-style newszine and is well worth reading. // The new fans should do more letter-writing to the fanzines and become acquainted with fandom quicker. Ahem! Follow the example of Redd Boggs! (tho he is NOT a new-fan). How he can get so much stuff out to the various 'zines is beyond me. More power to him tho. // Well this is as far as I go---perhaps I can steal a few minutes at some later date to comment on the #1 issue of "Fandom Soeaks"---Adios.

"In a Man's Letters His
Soul Lies Naked"
— Samuel Johnson

Next issue: Letters by Edwin Sigler, J. Van Couvering, & most of the gang this ish--plus others: and a big surprise! Remember that famous Bill Temple letter in VoM #36? It rates without a doubt as being the best letter ever written by anyone--and we have permission to reprint it in FS! For those of you who have read it--read it again; and for those who haven't--here's your chance. All this--and even more--in FS #3, deadline: November 8. --R&J

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