



NO. 4

It destroys the IDENTITY of one of them.

(Same where a parent tries to dictate to a matured and grown child -- keeping that child "tied to the apron-strings" as it were.)

There are reasons why a certain amount of law is necessary in a complex civilization, true. But one of the great troubles of the world today, as I view it, is that all too many law-makers want to over-reach this line, and start laying down laws for the regimentation of whole peoples in those matters which are wholly outside of legislators' legitimate province.

This all seems to me to be but common-sense. If it is also "open-mindedness" or "broad-mindedness", then I feel justified in accepting the accolade which was bestowed upon me. I merely had not so previously considered it.

But whatever you wish to label it, I think this tolerance, or rather this feeling of the innate rightness of the individual to make his own decisions as to his beliefs and actions, is one thing that should be practiced more definitely and continually by everyone.

And most certainly, it should be practiced with extreme care and generosity when it pertains to those of another color or race or creed than our own. The general habit of so many people of crediting whole races or nationalities or creeds with the lowest of actions or motives, rather than specifying as to individuals within one of those groups, is a source of great distress to me. Yet there I go, judging others when I have no right to do so.

But I do strongly commend this subject to all of your readers as a worthwhile Adventure Into Thinking.

Good luck on your new mag. I think it's a fine thing. ##

Rickey Shaver

gives us two letters from 1626 Coney Island Ave.
Brooklyn 30, N.Y. first dated 4 Oct 47:

Got F S today, and have spent some time on the letters the better to give you a really good letter for the mag. I must say that it is one of the several fms of the day that are really good. I like only the fiction fms, but in your case I make an exception for the newsletterzine is very good. Nuf sed.

I really think that squib at the end of the letters will make every one of the creeps, (including me) get the next ish, if only to see the letters you promise them.

What does that guy mean, 'fans are intolerant' or words to that effect. There is a little Japanese boy in the ESF, who was introduced to fandom by various means, and he contacted me. I had him to my house, and he met my parents like all the other boys that I have had over to see me. I never thought about it very much, but along comes an article in some mag about it, and I sent off a letter. In fact, I never cared one way or another, but I suddenly realized that he was different, to say the least, and it still doesn't matter. I am Jewish, and so I know what intolerance can mean. I'd never knowingly treat another human being like some have treated me and my friends. I am the most tolerant (horrible word, because one should not tolerate another person) of creatures, and cannot understand the misguided humans who think like that. To me it is inconceivable that one person should not like another one for the reason of color of skin, or the shape of his eyes, or the faith he follows. I often say I am an agnostic, but really I do not believe it. I follow no preconceived religion, but I can say nothing against those who do. I should be the last one to censure someone because of his ideas, faith or belief.

Lin Carter has a very good idea there, and I think he is perfectly right. I know I have never tried to put out a fmz because of the details, and work involved. I have had access to a mimeo, but I don't dare go through the trouble of stencilling, and can find no one to draw the cover. I prefer to type out missives for other fans to print. I think that this makes everyone my friend (or enemy) and since the editor has complete control over the stuff he puts out, there are often some themes in the fmz that have no direct connexion with fandom. I'd rather see the purely fan fmz, instead of the ones with Esperanto, Communism, Neopotism, Poetic Inspiration (there is one) and everything else you could think of. I am for the policy of pure s-f or fantasy in fmz, and no politics, philosophy, or personal opinions. Of course, this goes only for the so-called fiction, or article fms. A letterzine is different. It is organized for the simple purpose of promoting the opinions of the readers, and writers. It gives them a chance to air their pet theories, and ideas. It is ideal for this purpose, and recruiting disciples for some of the more violent theoretic utopias. Everything from Shaver to sex, that is the letterzine, but it is not supposed to be the regular fmz. I want everything in its place, and a fmz is not the place for outlandish fms ocracies, anditics.

I guess that's about all on that topic, but in that next issue use some less violent shade of the spectrum, will you? ##

And the second, 21 Oct 47:

Got F S today, and was I surprised at the letters. For the first time in a long time, I have found a letterzine that was as interesting as any fmz.

My own private opinion as regards the Shaver Saga, is that althou it is some times well written, in a degrading sort of way, it still is too much. It is the label, 'truth (or something like it)' that we

Have been very much interested in your splendid new "FANION SPEAKS", and am glad to see such a medium of expression coming out once more. The demise of "VOM" and of my own "THE TIMBERBINDER", left a void which your new mag is capably filling.

In the first issue, I was especially struck by Len Moffatt's mention of Race-Precjudice, and Tolerance. I have a few ideas on the subject myself, which I would like to include in this worthwhile discussion.

Some time ago a group of us were talking about a variety of subjects, and after one comment of mine one of them turned to me and said, "Evans, you are the most broad-minded man I ever knew."

I was very happy about the compliment, though doubtful of its accuracy. But I have tried to keep open-minded and broad-minded about things. Later, I gave the subject consideration thought, and began to wonder a lot about the whole question.

The more I thought about it, the more I found that there is to this important subject, and the more I felt that I knew -- and practiced -- so little of it in comparison with its totality.

I found that while I try to be broad-minded about the doings of others, that I am far too often too critical of such actions and statements as do not conform to my own ideas of what is right and wrong.

After all, how does any-one of us actually KNOW that his views and beliefs are right, and those conflicting with him are wrong? That being the case, what right has anyone to criticize the beliefs or actions of another?

I feel that everyone should set up a continually-growing standard of beliefs and conduct for himself, increasing the height of those standards as he grows in wisdom and knowledge and understanding. Thus it can well be that things he formerly felt were all right, he now feels are entirely wrong -- FOR HIM! (Please notice that I emphasize those last two words!)

However, does that mean that they are wrong for everyone -- or even for anyone -- else? After considerable deliberation, I have come to the conclusion that they do not so mean. Now then, can I condemn the one who still does or believes those things?

True, there must be certain standards of conduct, and certain "must nots" in any such a complicated system of living as our present civilization. Things in that category do not enter into this discussion at all -- the inalienable rights of others which must not be molested; the single acts that must not be allowed to be disrupt or endanger the public or its component parts.

But single facets of belief, or single acts of commission and omission that benefit or harm the individual who holds them -- and no one else -- these things, I believe, must be left to the discretion and desire of the individual.

Because I do not choose to harm myself by the use of alcohol does not mean that I should condemn one who does -- even though I feel that it is harming him -- UNLESS his subsequent actions also harm the group.

But in the lesser things -- little habits which I do not desire or choose to make my own, but which another person does -- have I the right to criticize him for performing them?

Another's religious or political or philosophical beliefs may not co-incide with mine. I may think them silly, stupid or unwholesome, but have I the right to criticize him for so believing? I have the right to try to change his beliefs to mine by argument, education or other feasible means, it is true, nor am I true to myself if I do not do so. But that does not mean I should belittle or ridicule his beliefs. For, as I asked before, how do I KNOW that mine are right and his wrong?

Am I keeping myself open-minded if I come to the point where I feel POSITIVE that mine are the ONLY right beliefs or actions or habits? Certainly not!

That being the case then, am I justified in feeling smug in my attempts to be broad-minded? In fact, is it broad-mindedness, or only simple decency?

I have long felt, and have so taught my children, that each person is an individual, responsible to HIMSELF for the things he believes and does. For it is HIS life that is most affected.

I feel, and have tried to practice, that parents are to give their children all the help, advice and assistance they can in the settling of the child's problems, but that the child, himself, must make the final decision. True, when they are very young, the parent often has to make those decisions, but it is surprising how early, after proper training, the child is able to make decisions for himself -- good, sound decisions.

The same thing, I feel, applies to the husband-wife situation. Just because they have mated does not mean that either should have to lose his or her identity, or right to decide what is best for him/herself. Never could feel that either one should be the absolute "boss" of the family. Of course, if they come to a point where the decisions of either prove of such nature that the family life is disrupted, then separation is clearly indicated -- but NOT that one should take on the job of making all decisions and of enforcing them. That mere-

How to a favorite thought of mine.... why are the female fans treated so differently in all fandom? I know, I've told you all this before, but it still remains the same. I mean it. Either the boys treat us as if we are freaks, and not worth the common courtesy they give to any girl, or they put us on a pedestal and treat us as the marvels of the age. I detest both attitudes. Although I am myself often wrong in some of my actions, I feel that any fan should treat another fan exactly the same. There is not that much difference in this way. I hate to see fandom made a vehicle for every fan's personal ideas, whether they be free love, communism, technocracy, liberalism, or just plain orneriness. ##

Ed Cox of 4 Spring St., Lubec Maine, has these words. (7 Oct 47):

Thanks for the comp. copy of "Fandom Speaks." Here's my buck for twelve issues.

First off, I'd like to place my vote for the best letter for Don Wilson.

S. V. McDaniel

has a point there. The fans are cutting out a lot of the "Xeno" and "Blooo-o Bam" stuff. They can express their opinions in any way they please but I'd rather not have Merwin start that "Frogears" stuff in his mag again. The kind of letters in the Vizigraph are entertaining but do we want a steady stream of 'em in all the letter columns? Not I.

On the prozines, I'd say that ASF is on the upswing. Little by little the whole mag is improving. JWC should have "Brass Tacks" every issue though.

By now, I think

Don has the Avalon Co. on his list. That company is starting out nicely too.

Seems

there isn't much I can say about Stan Woolston's letter. He seems to have taken care of everything nicely.

Len Moffatt brings up an important subject--if a negro or an Italian or a man with yellow-colored skin has the intelligence, foresight and all the other things that make a person a stf-fan, why shouldn't all of us act like a fan, not just to accept him but let him weave himself into the whole pattern of fan life. What I mean is, just don't say "okay, he can join our club, have use of clubroom, etc." and let it go at that. Oh yes, I sit way up here and write about it, and what can I do? Nothing. But there are people who can.

Well, onward! I don't think I can think up a name for Van's funzine but anyway he's going to turn "Sine Nomen" itself into the funzine. A nice letter in a lighter vein.

Lin Carter comes up with a darn good idea. But, will these organizations work on their plan? Nice if they could do it.

Guerry Brown asks what we think of the Shaver stories as fiction. The first two stories were passable but I stopped with "The Masked World." They just degenerated to a point where it was almost sickening!

Well,

you can't call me a "woodenhead" now, can you? ##

Len (MOFFATT) speaks from
5918 Lanto St. Bell Gardens. Cal. 19 Oct:

FS #2: The cover, of course, was very well done. The interior illustrations were unusual if not always understandable if not always understandable. ((Oh, mixed!--pardon the repetition of that phrase. Len--wasn't keeping my mind on the typing.--Rex.)) In reply to your query in the editorial: you are succeeding. FS will be as good as VOM was and will be better if the letter-writers make it so. So there.

Methinks (along with a goodly number of others) that the Shaver Misery has been discussed and cussed just about enough. Let's discuss more important subjects--or, at least, more entertaining ones.

Getting rid of the too-numerous "comic books is an excellent suggestion but do we have to have gaudy covers on stf mags to compete? Equal newstand display of course. Cheaper prices? Yes--if lowering the price doesn't lower the quality of the stfmag's content.

But I doubt if the gaudy covers would help. One gaudy cover will sell one stf mag to one customer but after said customer peruses the mag and finds it doesn't live up to the gaudy cover...pfft! No more will he buy the mag (unless he is converted to stf... "grown up stf", that is). Of course, if the mag's contents do live up to the gaudy, sexy, comic-book-like pics then the whole idea from our point of view is useless. The customer may as well be buying a comic book.

It seems that there are more male fan than female fan so the Chase as proposed by Rickey Slavin should be an interesting field event. Wish FS would publish a photo of Miss Slavin (as VOM used to feature fan's photos on the cover) so I'd know whether to trip (conveniently) over a stump or run like blazes... Of course, if I did trip Miss Slavin would prob'ly only stop long enough to bash in my ugly head with said stump and race gleefully on after more handsome prey. Oh well.

Eliminating the LASFS because some of the members have race-prejudice (and according to core expert sources, certain other mental

whole (if I may repeat a phrase)... The "defect" or "disease" of race prejudice can best be cured by education. Yes, it is difficult to educate people who are "set in their ways" but, at times, it can be done by logical argument. That's why I brought up the subject of race-prejudice. I wanted to get a "rise" out of the negre-haters, the Jew-haters, etc. I knew there would be fan on the side of common sense, fan on t'other side too. An open debate on the subject should eventually lead to "conversion" of those people suffering from race-prejudice... unless they are incurably stubborn or incurably stupid. But thus far: no "rise"... Let's hope that this is a good sign, that most readers of FS are "without race-prejudice", or that those who have the disease are really ashamed of their "convictions" and won't debate them in open. OR some could be hypocrits... Which is it, fellow-fen?

Huzzah for the FAPA plug by Loney! FAPA is the best fan organization yet, no doubt of that. ##

Dorothy de Courcy of 517 Douglas Circle,
this letter, asking us to publish it as

Lake Grove, Oregon, sent us
soon as possible. Dated 8 Nov 47:

This is costing us a lot. It has cost us a lucrative market and now, the affection of one of our best friends. Perhaps integrity is too costly a possession, perhaps not. Any way, we're maintaining ours and we hope you will too.

We sold the first story we ever wrote to Palmer. We sold it because we told him it was "truth." We made up an elaborate hoax which included a mysterious "spirit" known as "Joe" and because of this, we sold all the stories we could write to Palmer. We know this is the reason he bought them because those early stories STINK. You see, we thought the "Shaver Mystery" was a hoax and we were playing along. That was before we met Roger Graham.

It was after we moved to Seattle that we met Roger. We spent many an evening with him, reading his yarns as they were written, as he did ours. We drank barrels of coffee and ate tons of ice cream together. We laughed, played chess, spent hours in philosophical discussions, sublime evenings that we'll never forget. And yet, we come out and ask that the fanzines have nothing to do with Roger's fan column. Indeed, this is costing us a lot.

It cost a lot too when we stopped writing for RAP. But like Ackerman, we know that integrity and personal decency have no price. It happened like this. We found out from Roger that Ray actually believed in the "Shaver Mystery" and in Cthulhu. Worst of all, so did Roger. Knowing that we probably would never be able to sell another story to Palmer, we confessed to Roger, and by letter to Ray, that we were fakes, we didn't hear voices nor did we have any strange powers.

Palmer, however, refused to believe our confession, insisted that we were lying, that our fictitious "Joe" was real, and that we were part of the ~~truth~~ proof of the Shaver Mystery. Perhaps he actually believes this or perhaps it is politic that he appear to.

Prior to this confession, we had gone overboard in our deception. Remember the person who warned Ray that he might be kidnapped? That was us. Remember the "spirit" who sent Ray a machine? That was us. When we discovered that the "Shaver Mystery" wasn't a stunt to improve circulation, we were sorry we had done these and many other things and we're STILL sorry.

We took it on the chin when our stories finally began appearing in print.. We got editorial comments like "who write a la Shaver" and "behind whom is a tremendous story we haven't yet told you." There were editorial changes made in our yarns and suggestive subtitles given them so that they would fit the "Shaver Mystery." We took it because we brought it on ourselves.

We stopped writing for Amazing and tried elsewhere. We had some pretty slim meals and we admit we were tempted to go back on the bandwagon. But we didn't, we haven't, and we never shall. The main reason is contained in our letter files. We have hundreds of letters from poor, frightened people who just weren't stable enough to take it when they started following the "Shaver Mystery." Three of our correspondents have disappeared, not to the "caves" however, just gone. They became too frightened of "cave people" and other horrors. There are others who have been hounded by phantasmagoric demons to the point of hysteria. They weren't nuts. They weren't crackpots. They were just simple people looking for something to believe in and they got hooked.

Think of the thousands seeking stability, something they can cling to, those who live alone, not knowing but what in the next a light brighter than a hundred suns will burst over their heads, not knowing but what they will awake in the night to hear men running and shouting hysterically in the streets gripped in the unreasoning frenzy of riot and revolution, these people, alone in a world girding itself for war and perhaps world suicide. Some turn to religion, some to alcohol, some to science, but many do not know where to turn and not a small percentage of these found, and will yet find, the "caves". Are they mad? Or is anyone sane in this world of insanities?

We ask, is it worth it? Can any number of dollars buy back the sanity of these? Would proof of Ray's sincerity relieve the mind of a young girl in Canada of its nameless terrors? Will a brilliant, new fan column find a lost boy who is somewhere in Kentucky, preparing to sneak into the Mammoth Cave alone? If he fails to come back, which is not

incredible human inexperience and the spirit of adventure may lead him into the endless labyrinth of his hunger or thirst, will Palmer then be justified?

The foregoing is not fiction. We feel responsible, in part, and we've tried our best to help these and others like them. But Palmer bears the bulk of that responsibility and until he tries to repair some of the damage, we will NOT associate with him in any way. He still has some of our stories in his files but we would buy them back if we could. They're not "cover" stories but even there, we feel responsible.

The "Shaver Mystery" is monstrous. No! It's a monster! It's a monster that has Palmer in its clutches. Perhaps it's too late to save some people but we are not going to help in any way to push more people into the clutches of this monster. Yes! Palmer is entitled to his beliefs but he has NOT the right to propagandize them, to incessantly pound them into the minds of his readers, until at last, the reader succumbs. It's a rare mind indeed that can withstand incessant propaganda. Could the Germans resist it? Could some of our own citizens? It has been well said, that a lie repeated often enough becomes a truth to the listener. That is the much touted "truth" behind the "Shaver Mystery". And if you are laughing at "The Shaver Mystery", stop and remember how we laughed in 1933 at the little corporal with the Charlie Chaplin mustache.

If fandom cooperates with this fan department, how long will it be before there are no further attacks against the "Shaver Mystery"? How long then until there are tentative articles, tacitly approving? And then one day, someone, perhaps in the hope of getting favorable notice, will come out in favor of it. Yes, yes, we know! "It can't happen here." We realize and we hope you do that it CAN and MAY happen.

Are we complete fools? Is Ackerman? Maybe so, but we fervently hope that neither we nor Ackerman will be in a position to say, "we told you so." Think about it. Does our integrity come to high? Or does yours come too low?

We have just submitted a story to the Portland Science-Fantasy Society. It was written for them and had never been submitted elsewhere. We hope to be able to do this for lots of fanzines. We hope you'll LET us for we have faith in fan and fandom as the vanguard of science and society. However, the chips are down and we must echo Ackerman's statement. Fanzines reviewed in Amazing Stories will not receive contributions from us for if we won't SELL stories to Ziff-Davis, why should we GIVE them to her satellites? Yes, this is costing us a lot. It has cost us a lucrative market and now, the affection of one of our best friends. We're sorry, Roger.

John & Dorothy de Courcy

EDITORIAL NOTE

We feel it only fair to let our readers know where Fandom Speaks stands on this controversy anent the fan column soon to appear in Amazing Stories.

Fandom Speaks is cooperating wholeheartedly with Log Phillips and his proposed column. He has made it clear that the column will contain nothing pertaining to Shaver, or any allied subjects. The moment something of this sort does creep in, our cooperation is gone. But we feel certain that it won't.

Palmer is evidently willing to relent his war on Fandom, and we feel it only fair that Fandom come half-way, and cooperate with Log, because this column is a perfect way to smooth over the controversy, besides being a wonderful thing for fandom itself. It can only benefit fandom.

But we are not trying to sway you either way. You can think for yourselves. Do so. We are merely letting you know where we stand, so that if you feel as Ackerman and the de Courcys, you need not write anything else to Fandom Speaks. If you have some sense, and agree with us, and see the column for what it is, then go right ahead as always, and write in.

The de Courcys are not the only ones who have lost a friend in the deal. There are many others. If you are in the same boat, choose for yourself what to do. We have told you how we feel, our course of action. The lost support of Ackerman, de Courcys, et al, will mean nothing to our circulation. There are many others who are as blind as the above mentioned people, without doubt, but we feel that there are many, many more who have a little sense, and will cooperate with Phillips.

So be it.

JACK CLEMENTS, Editor
REX WARD, Publisher

11 November 1947

Armistice Day, 11:00 A.M.

Several people have inquired about the shading effect on the cover of FS #2, especially Sweet, Lockman, Johnson and others. We asked Gordie Cockcroft to explain it, so here's a brief explanation from the man who drew it.

You wanted to know how I got that effect on the last cover I sent you, well, I'm sending a small scrap of what is called "stuck screen" it is printed callophane one side is coated with wax. You place the sheet wax down, on the part of the drawing you want shaded. Then you rub over it with your thumb-nail or a penny, until it seems to be stuck to the paper. With a razor blade you cut the callophane to the outline of the part you want shaded, pull what you don't want off. Simple, no? ##

Tom

JEWETT, now, from 670 George, Clyde Ohio, 28 Oct 47:

Gordie's cover for FS #2 was darn good. The "tone" on the spacesuit was a neat touch; I'd like to see more of it. Thanks for not passing on my FS #1 cover drawing: as an original it smelled.

Wilkie Conner has a thought: namely, that comic books use up a lot of paper which could be used in sfantasy magazines, but let's be broad-minded about this. People read sfantasy and people read comic books. You can't ban the comic books just to get more paper allotted to the sf mags. can you? Heck, maybe more people read comic books than (Perish forbid!) sfantasy. After all, people have their likes and dislikes. You can't minister to one and only one. Nor can you suppress that which you don't like. That, incidentally, was one of the reason why I apposed Rick Sneary's measure to give Palmer a verbal hot-foot.

Trying to tell people what not to read and where not to read it is an attempt to suppress reading material, and shouldn't happen here. My reasons which Sneary quoted in FS #1 were weak, I admit it. But I didn't like the idea in the first place, and I couldn't quite formulate my reasons. But I had to give some reason. So I did. And they were good enough because that's the way the incident could have ended -- with promag support cut off and fandom up a tree.

But for what reasons are wars fought? For freedom of the press, among other things, and here the anti-Shavers are, trying to dictate what people shouldn't read and boycotting magazines that won't straighten up and fly right according to these arbitrary standards.

Drawings were fair, but don't put them in the middle of the page with reading matter on both sides of it. Kind of hard to put the split sentences together. ((Don't worry--we've learned our lesson about THAT)) Have the artwork at the side where sentences won't have to be split.

Len Moffatt, a good editor realizes that a writer-fan rut as you visualize is almost certain to spring up at one time or another. The editor has to keep on his toes and make with the variety in his magazine or he won't be an editor anymore. That is, unless he rakes in the money with his particular rut like Campbell and one other. I can't remember his name right now. Campbell is switching.

I am not in favor of the red ink. Why not use black? Easier to read. For instance, I was reading the red ink on one of the yellow pages. Looked up at this letter. Lo and behold! The black typewriting was GREEN! Complementary-color phenomenon. I guess.

Except for the middle-of-the-page drawings and red ink you've got a very superior fanzine here, chum. Best of luck. ##

HUTCHISON, of 7 Tacoma Ave, Toronto 5, Ontario, Canada, editor of coming fanmag, MACABRE, writes on paper with the grotesque head pictured below, undated:



Number one was quite good thanks to Messrs. Sneary, Wilson, et al. And your supplement to #2, which I received just today, was controversial indeed. Personally, I'm opposed to Acky in this instance. I think this Amazing column can mean a great deal to fandom and fans in the line of increasing fandom's ranks, not to mention the circulation of several fanzines. I only hope the fans respond favourably to the idea.

Don goes on to say that he needs material for his fanzine, and would appreciate any that you might be able to send him. Help him out, how about it? ##

MACABRE

Rickey Slavin wants to organize a Brooklyn fan club, and wishes to hear from all nearby fan who are interested. Her address is given in her letter this issue. She also says that she will subscribe to any fanzine sent to her. Sounds like an easy sale, fans, so send one in.

AND TO ALL BROOKLYN FANS, WRITE TO OR SEE RICKEY SLAVIN, FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS ON THE CLUB

BLAINE DESHOND, no signature, no address (by his request) says, in an undated postcard:

What do your readers think of Hitler? I contend he was the greatest man that ever lived.

perhaps not as a war-leader, but as a philosopher. I am willing to argue the point over a period of time in Fandom Speaks. ²⁴/₂₇

Joe
Bronx 57, New York. 27 Oct 47:

Schaumburger, 1822 Bathurst Ave,

First of all, the format. I thought it was rather good. Black ink might be a wee bit more legible, but somehow red ink is more impressive. Is it blood or ketchup? The only thing I didn't like was the way the artwork sprawled itself out among the letters. After swivelling my eyes back and forth in a vain attempt to read Cockcroft's letter, which was draped around one of the nakeder type of nudes, I came to the conclusion that Fussy would be better off without them (nudes, of course).

The whole Shaver thing could be solved if Shaver would speak at a fan gathering. The fans would tear him from limb to limb, thus stopping the whole farce.

Something should be done, tho, about those two lice Slavin and Mason. She and it (I won't dignify it by calling it he) are two of the lowest, most revolting fans that have ever disgraced fandom. Slavin is just a poor weak-minded lecher, and I pity her in a refined sort of way. Mason, however, is that rarity among the degenerate, a thorough going stinker. At one time he pushed things to such an extent that the FBI was after him for dope-peddling. He is also rumored to have homosexualistic leanings, but this, unfortunately, cannot be proved one way or the other. He took his last bath in 1943, I believe. The only nice things about him is that he smells so horribly that he can be detected and avoided while he's still miles away. I am launching a holy war to rid fandom of this pair of stinking worms. Anyone interested in defending what little good fandom has left, get in touch with me and become a charter member of the movement.

I was shocked at Laney's unkind remarks about Rick Sneary. Laney wouldn't recognize genius if it was handed to him on a silver platter. (That I'd like to see.) Rick's spelling isn't miserable, it's ART. Ask yourself, how many people can spell the way he does? Obviously, very few. Therefore, Sneary is an original genius. Remember, they laughed at Edison. (Or am I thinking of Bell).

I eagerly await the next issue. If it is half as good as this one, 'twill be worth waiting for. ²⁵/₂₅

Now we hear from Lin Carter who gives us no address or date:

Ah me. Was very glad to see Eff-Ess again and SO SOON. What is it - a bi-weekly? If so, I cheer. Good issue, too, but Ah! that red ink on orange paper! Gad. I don't care for this large size, either.

As for the contents, cover good. Gordie is almost a rival for Jawn. Inside stuff okay. Don't care for solid pages. Hard on the glims. Why not break 'em up into paragraphs, at least. Put a cartoon here or there, etc.

The writers seem unduly concerned about the Shaver Mystery. One letter would be OK, but a whole issue? ((He goes on with a long paragraph about Shaver etc, saying nothing new, so as we said last issue we had to delete it--merely a case of something getting beat into the ground, so we take it out. Sorry, Lin.))

But to lighter subjects. Wilkie Conner: I'm in favor of comic books, because of their reprinting possibilities. A guy likes Buck Rogers, or Flash Gordon, he looks around the newstand, sees a couple pulps with similar covers to his comics, reads 'em - bingo, another addition to Slandom. Besides, comix use a different grade of paper. I don't see how cutting down on them would help our mags.

Den Wilson: I don't quite understand why you say once we clean out the NFFF officers, the org will have taken a great step in the right direction. This last year, the Neff has been extremely active, what with pubbing the Finlay Portfolio, issuing FANTASY ASPECTS and now Keller's book.

Fran Laney: The news that FAPA has nobody on her waiting list and is actually eight short of her membership limit came as a shock to me. Why, I remember when membership in FAPA was a highly exclusive, hard to obtain, much longed for thing, when a person's main ambition in life was to get in. Gad. I'd join myself, but I'm afraid SPACETEAM is crumbling from lack of support. Only ~~shaf~~ ish out, too. Kull and Cockcroft had interesting letters.

Some more notes on the publishing bureau: it would have to be located in some city where there are a number of highly active fans, such as Los Angeles, or Philadelphia. The publishers would get egoboo out of their names appearing on the mag's mastheads (as Len Koffatt suggested), also I should think it could be arranged for them to have all the free advertising space in the various and sundry slanzines, free copies, etc. Then, too, there's be a slight profit. I think the professional mimeographers get \$3 per page (on both sides, that is) that could be cut a good deal, I should think. Where would the bureau be located? In LA, the most active fan center. They have a good mimee and (Y) hocke equipment. Not sure about the latter. Oh well, anyway, it's an idea.

That's all for now. Good issue and good luck on future ones!

That's all the letters for this time. Next ish. letters by Rapp, Woolston, JVC, McDaniel, Speer, and others. Deadline, January 1.

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EDITORIAL

(Yeah; on the back page this time,
for a change.)

The surprise we promised you last issue, as you have probably guessed by now, is that the signatures are in red, just an added feature.

The poll card is enclosed with this issue, and you are asked to please fill out the blank, and drop in the nearest mail slot. Put your name on the return address blank on the outer side of the card. Your promptness is appreciated.

Anybody want to put their names in big red letters in Fandom Speaks? You can get a lot of ego-boo by sponsoring a litho cover, you know. Six dollars will do it. Or if you please you can do it without having your name splashed over the editorial page, if you're that kind of a person. Any takers?

Vom letters have been returned to Forry Ackerman. As we can't find room for them, the way the letters are pouring in. We also thought that Forry would want it that way, upon learning that we had swung over to Roger Phillips' side. But we just received a letter from Forry this morning. He says:

It is a mistake to imagine that you would be doing me a favor by omitting all mention of my name in future issues of FS. I place FS beyond the pale of ordinary fanzines. If it is to serve fandom as Vom did, the FS must stand not only for Fandom Speaks, but FREE SPEECH! On such subjects as Negroes, nudes, Technocracy, Inverts, Palmer policy, Esperanto and other controversial topics, certain individuals stand at the exact opposite poles. But the names of Speer, Laney, Elaner, Searles, Ackerman, Wilson, etc, should never be excluded from FS if they wish to contribute.

Forry asked us to print that part of his letter, to make it clear that his contributions to future issues of FS were not violations of his noncooperation declaration.

Poor Don Wilson, who hasn't missed an issue yet (4 letters in 3 issues!) was cheated this time, because of our earliness. No fault of his, and we'll wager he'll make it up with two in one again, soon!

That's all for this time.

For you