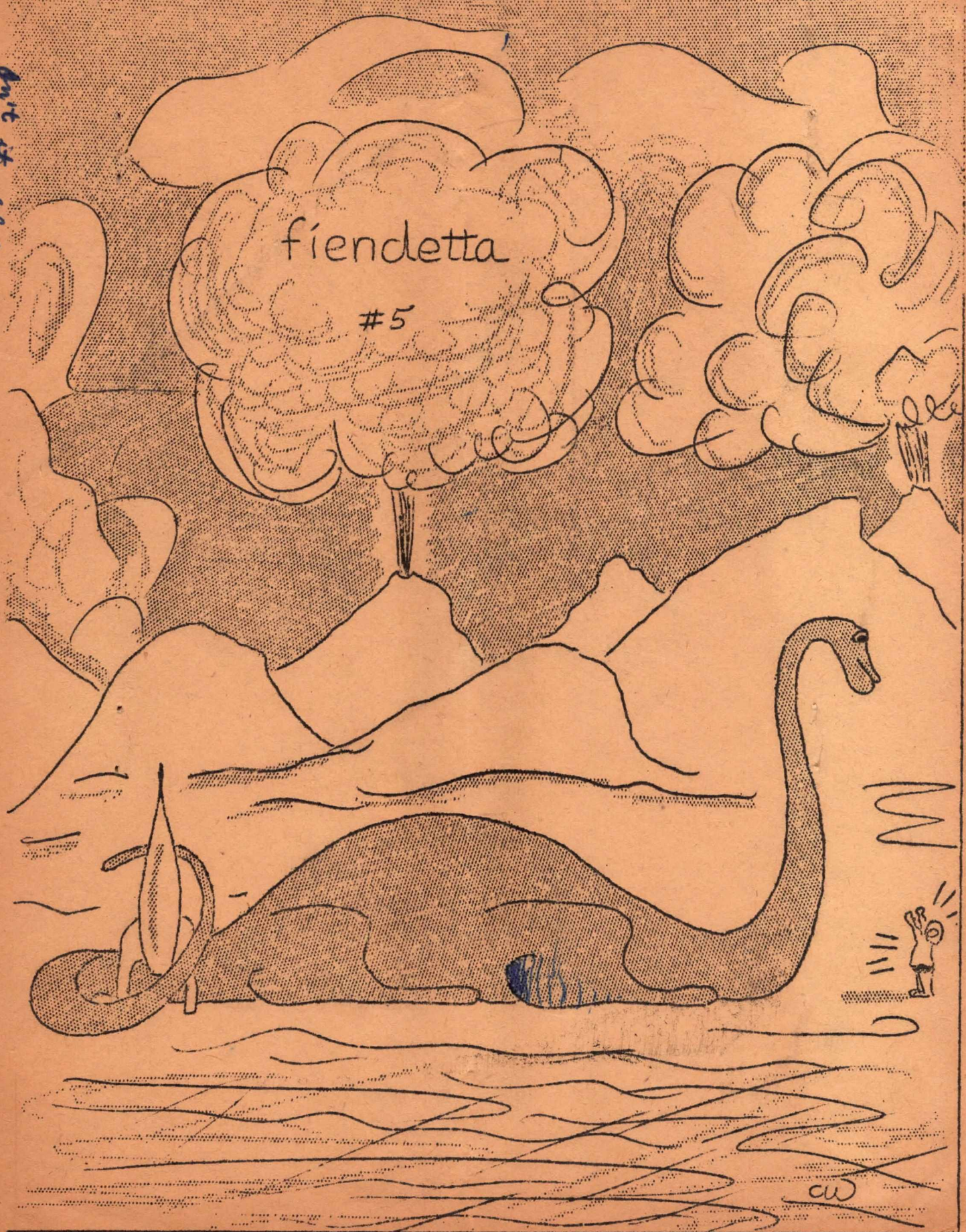


Isn't it likely that the more polluting Mexico will remain that

fiendetta

#5



cw

Fiendetta~

vln5

a crazy little mixed up publication

January, 1954

This issue of Fiendetta arises from certain vry peculiar circumstances. I had left over from the Fish an article by Dick Clarkson which couldn't get in from lack of time, money, and stencils. This was originally scheduled for Grey, after I decided not to put it in the Fish. But there was the matter of the letters of comment on the Fish, too...the next issue is an all-Hoffman issue, and the letter column will naturally contain letters from Hoffman. And then, ~~several~~ people complained when I published a one-sheet announcement of the Fish and numbered it as an issue of fta. I don't see what they are complaining of—several mags, such as Shelby Vick's CONFUSION—on of the best on the market—have published publicity issues and numbered them as regular issues. But to set the record straight, I am numbering this number five. fta is the only mag extant that has had two five issues! And one of them after the sixth issue, too...

Since this is a regular issue, tho not of full size, it counts off of every-one's subs. After all, I didn't raise the price of the Fish. But if you didn't get the Fish—having subbed since, or being a Q-transfer-sub—it doesn't count off. I don't know why I have to be so fair to people.

"Let us not say I was born, let us say I was crated..."

So right here in the middle of what is not the contents page starts

The Numbers Racket

by Dick Clarkson

The big hullabaloo nowadays is centered around 6th fandom vs. 7th fandom. You all know how it started; an article by Bob Silverbeg in Q back a while ago. Well, we all agreed that it was a damn fine article then. But look what it started.

I may as well stick to the arbitrary categories, for more simplicity. Sixth fandom began, according to those categories, generally about Room 770 at the Nolacon. At least, tho not actually born there—the original get-togethers, mainly via correspondence and meetings of a few sixth fans, gave the impetus previous to the Nolacon—its first central meeting may be said to have been there. Sixth fandom centered about the fanzines cf., Q, OPUS, OOPSIA!, and the like, its central comic ghod was Pogo, and the big names were Hoffman, Vick, Willis, and Keasler, among others. And it is supposed to be on its way out((this was written in July)) with the disappearance of Keasler, Calkins, Hoffman, and Burwell, notably, from actifandom and the correspondence lapse in their fanzines.

Clarkson adds & substracts some more:

Seventh fandom is taking over now. MAD replaces Pogo to a large extent, with SFB, VEGA, PSYCHOTIC, GRUE, and their companions being the leading fmz. The bigger names are (always I'm bound to leave out some): Grennell, Magnus, Browne, Nydahl, Ish, and a lot of others. The beginnings, according to my analysis, were probably the same, more or less, in that correspondence and a couple of small fanclaves (such as Nydahl and Macauley, or Magnus and myself, both noted for the production of oneshots) preceding or coming soon after the MEcon, held in Ellisons apartment, just before the last Midwescon this May. The MEcon was the first general meeting of a large number of primarily seventh fans. They are now, as a rule, heading the crowd.



Then there are those who are "straddlers", who are participating both in sixth and seventh fandoms' affairs, and others who are switching to seventh fandom from sixth fandom. Here, names aren't necessary; you know them already. They've mostly been around for about a year or two, at least. These are the ones who are following the natural tide; they aren't classifying themselves, but are going along with the trend, and when sixth fandom fades and seventh fandom grows, they're right there.

Me? I'm not classifying myself; for several reasons, the most sensible of which is that this is exposition more or less, and I'm trying to be objective. I don't enter into this except in your own consideration.

From an outside viewpoint, or one as objective as I can make it, it seems to me that the last category of fans, the "straddlers" and "drifters" are the smartest. Reason is that cliques can be fun, but they can be equally disastrous. I'd hate to see the cliques draw apart—as easily can happen; witness the testimony of several fanclubs which have folded for those reasons—and, while arguing about which fandom they're in, cause the demise of Fandom. With a capital F. If this business of fandom-classification gets taken too seriously, the results can only be a lot of hurt feelings, angry people, feuds, and general nastiness. That would be very inane. I don't think it's as important as all that.

This brings up the question of just how this potential situation came about. In simple form, my analysis is this: after fans had digested Silberberg's article, the majority of them began to classify themselves into one of the two fandoms. This was especially true of the newer fans, who, seeing that sixth fandom was right full, saw also that here was a chance to get in on something. A lot of them called themselves seventh fans, and classified other fans as well. (This isn't true of all of them; just some. But a lot of their classifying took on and held.)

This classifying made a big gap; either you're sixth or seventh, to the way of thinking of many fans. Very few are on a real middle ground, and those who are naturally lean to the seventh side due to the activity there. But this break which was caused seems to me to be somewhat unnatural. Things are forced. If let take its course, the changeover from sixth fandom to seventh fandom would be more gradual,

Clarxon adz and subtrax even more---III

more natural. This sudden "forcing" of the change has set up a semi-unstable fandom. It should stabilize, sooner or later, however.

You see, sixth fandom isn't yet totally dead, nor is seventh fandom yet in absolute power. My hunch is that things will develop that way in the end. However, as of now things aren't that way, and that's why Fandom isn't ready quite yet for a sharp division. As time goes on, a sixth fan will either shift or drop out, probably gradually. But there is no sense in forcing the issue. While sixth fandom is still around, let's continue to get fun out of it.

I am against neither sixth or seventh fandom or fans. But I disapprove of this classification which may bring chaos which will be hard to resolve. ((Sic)) We are all fans, and in the long run it's that which will count. When we stop being fans to be cliquish, we are endagnergery Fandom. That I don't like. We're liable to be sacrificing our hobby, Fandom, and the fun we get out of it for an arbitrary designation of negative aspect. I'm not asking that we stop designating; I think a lot of fun is to be had from it. But I do ask that we don't get serious about it to the point of diminishing returns. My case is for Fandom and Fans, per se, rather than either for or against sixth or seventh fandoms or fans. Matter of fact, I like both. As I said, they are all fans. Hell, if it gets too rough, we'll never make it to Silverberg's eighteenth fandom. That must not be.

A quick summary here should, while being repetitious, help you out. It can be very short in that all the background can be eliminated. One sentence in fact; while the arguments about sixth and seventh fandom go on, remember that you're first a Fan and second a member of a subdivision of Fandom, as a whole.

I want to thank Norman Browne and John Iagnus, two topnotch fans and friends of mine, without whom I could never have written this article. My discussions re fandoms with them, and the opinions resulting from them (the same in all cases) gave me a big shot in the arm.

If you have read this far, you have put up with a lot. But I think I make sense. So before I close, thanks a million for your attention. See you all in Philly. Wouldn't miss it for nuthin'.

—Dick Clarkson

"Xornas falani e sprekhnen avan Rhodos nun?"

The editor does not necessarily agree with the opinions of the contributors of this magazine and all that sort of stuff.

ARTWORK CREDITS: Cover by Wells. Hopkins, p2; Rotsler, p6.

Right here, according to page 8, belongs the scores for last issue as gleaned from the letter column. However, since the results were so inconclusive, I won't include them. But it should be noted that David English, with THE LITTLE BOY WHO BIT PEOPLE and A GOOD MAN IS HARD TO FIND came in far ahead of everyone else. If everyone will list the material in order of like and dislike, I will include results in each issue. This is the system on which SPACESHIP operates. Saves including a poll each issue.

So, because I didn't include the poll results, This Is The Short Page, Dave.
...Private joke, people...cw

THE CRYING FAN—letters

The comments on the Fish were exceedingly variable, as we expected. And there were a lot of them, so without further ado, here they are...

ROBERT BLOCH, Weyauwega, Wisc: I received the Annish today, just in time for our ceremonial lighting of the Yule fire. Liked it all fine, especially the Tucker autobiog. bit and the charming illo on p.3 which apparently represents a typical meeting of the LASFS.

Did I mention the foofs yet? I meant to. They are curiously like the things I see whenever I close my eyes. Only some of mine have busts.

But I'm afraid the real highlight of the issue for me is MORIS LABROCHII. A masterful job, and I hope it finds a wide and appreciative audience.

In that connection perhaps I can help clear up a minor mystery. This poem is ascribed to "anonymous" which leads me to believe you are actually unaware of the identity of the author.

He is, or was, rather, an obscure Latinist named Lucian (or Lucius) Carrollus.

Of course, this might be merely another pseudonym of Henry Kuttner, but I doubt it. Kuttner has done several foreign language poems, as you probably know, but is partial to writing in Bulgarian. In fact, he is noted for his Bulgarity.

Hope you and FIENDETTA have a happy 1954. If you do a Hoffmanish, it would delight me to see you pay proper tribute to Kehli. My suggestion is...a picture of the horse's head on the front cover. On the back cover, of course...

Hoping you are the same, /Bob/

((I printed your letter verbatim, which is the best way to do your letters. Yes, I knew who authored the poem; it was the translator who was anonymous.))

PAUL MITTELBUSCHER, no address on letter: Previous issues of F have been competent and relatively entertaining if far from great. But putting it bluntly your Annish stunk. The best thing in it was the EDITORIAL (and when such can be said I'd term it a sorry Annish), the only others which were worthy of inclusion were Stewart's "Takeoff" on Conklin's GALAXY reviews (definitely amusing)((I sure do wish my correspondents would learn how to spell "definitely")) and Watkins' column which was mildly interesting. Tucker's thing was apparently dashed off in the midst of a hangover or sumpin'....English's story wasn't the worse I've read but for Dave it was POOR. The cover was good....beyond that I absolutely refuse, mercifully, to comment, the material doesn't deserve it.

Yours, /Paul/

((Wish my correspondents would put their addresses on their letters. I file by states, which is no help when I forget what state a spondent lives in. / Have you ever heard of libel, Paul? I don't mind if you dislike my stuff, but there's no need to get libelous about it. Referring to your comments re Tucker.))

JERRY BURGE, Atlanta, Ga.: ...I kinda liked it. Editorial very interesting. But rather short, don'tcha think? Mountain Justice was interesting too, but not very.

I presume you did the translation of Jabberwocky? Amusing, but why anonymous? Or are you trying to fool somebody? O frabiose dies! The Little Boy Who Bit People is reminiscent of the little fellow in Pogo. Pretty good, as was Mistake, fan fiction. Fanzine fiction, I mean. However these two, and a Good Man, etc., are very similar in development. They read like they were written by the same author— which, perhaps, they were?

Well...Li'l Peepul, Puffins, and now Foofs.

The readers go on thinking they are literate—II

Russell's Ramblings very good. ...Watkins is one guy who always has something interesting to talk about.

Heck. All the other stuff was good, too. You trying to put out a good mag or something? You're doing it anyway.

...Do you or Russell Watkins have any ideas about a southern conference?... Ian Macauley (who is back at his old address in Atlanta) is all for the idea in case you're interested. While I don't think any southern city is capable of handling a large convention, I do think those who like the idea should get together about it just to prevent chaos. For all we know you guys may be planning a Savannah conference while Shelby Vick and Joe Green are planning one, say, in Lynn Haven while Ian plans one for Atlanta. On the other hand, everyone might be sitting around waiting for someone else to get things started. Just thought I'd mention it...

...It will...be sometime in February or March before another issue of Asfo will manage to get itself born. The STROM ((gad, that's STORM)) keeps me pretty busy...

Yours, /Jerry/

((I chopped your letter all up trying to sort the fta stuff from the other stuff. / No, I didn't translate JABBERMOCKY. I honestly don't know who did. And Fletcher is not English. He's American...I mean, not David English. Excuse me, David. As I was saying, you may write to John G. Fletcher, 347 Oak Road, Glenside Pennsylvania and see if he is real. Not that if he answers it means anything, of course.))

JOHN G. FLETCHER, Glenside, Penn: Don't scream, don't yell, don't bang me on the head with your thesaurus.

Stop swearing.

I'm going to ask you a favor, a horrible favor. So horrible I'm afraid to ask it....

/Johngee/

((Well, don't, then))

REDD BOGGS, Minneapolis, Minn.: I've always known that the whale wasn't a fish, but now it turns out that the Fish wasn't a whale. It was quite appetizing, though.

The color mimeo work was excellent; congratulations. I liked most of the headings, especially those with a colored background shaded in behind the lettering. The cover was quite impressive as a technical achievement though there doesn't seem to be much point to it. The only day-brightening aspect of it is that the Gulf of Mexico looks womb-like in your depiction.

Editorial was mostly interesting. Why not tell us all those things, next issue maybe? Especially tell us how you first met Lee. That'll be a good item for an all-Hoffman issue.

David English, almost singlehandedly, saved the issue with "The Little Boy Who Bit People" and his cartoon, page 13. "A Good Man Is Hard To Find" was lovely, too. Bob Ticker's "Mountain Justice" was unjustifiably confusing. Apparently he was serious about this story, even though it was humorous. Why? I liked passages of it here and there, but mostly it just sort of lay there. (This sounds remotely obscene, doesn't it?)

What's John G. Fletcher's address? 405 E 62nd? (!!)) I am fascinated by Rotsler's picture there on page 15. Is that e-t doubtfully regarding a carrot, or perhaps a sapceship? ((Sic)) Or has she just given birth to a new little e-t?

"A Fan History" was awful.

So was "dedicated to Pogo". Cantin used to have a wondrous sense of humor.

Watkin's column continues to amaze me. The poor chap seems to have absolutely

The Bears go on—III

nothing to say and apparently seizes upon such items as this one about radio programs as absolute last straws. But somehow, with a desperate skill, he makes the column rather interesting after all. It reminds me of a football game in which Minnesota was beating Texas 47-0, when the Texans suddenly made three touchdowns in a most outlandish way. You can follow the analogy through; I drop it here, disinterestedly.

One of the best things in the issue was the contents page, with that listing, "bacover BACOVER bacover bacover". I love that.

Sincerely, /Redd/

((—I thought I had something to say here, but I don't guess I did...))

DENIS MOREEN, Wilmette, Ill.: So this is the Fish, eh? Interesting. Very interesting.

Having not seen a full FIEND before ((did you ever look into the mirror?)), this is a surprise. Yes. (I can't seem to think of any glowing sentences today.)

Colors are nice and bright, quite nice and bright. You use them well. Cover is pretty droobily but is a cover. Don't like it, but maybe I don't see the point if there is one. Contents page inviting, what with the red, blue, and green.

There's something about the Fish which doesn't appeal to me. I think it's that you exercise very little editorial policy over your stuff. You just print it and let it gallup where it will. And for somereason your interlineations don't appeal to me. I'm afraid you're copying, rather than creating, in this field.

Editorial the regular annish one, but I do like the twist you gave, even tho oldfashioned in use. And I won't ask what the ABB/1260 or slight variations are, so there! Besides, I think I know.

...Tucker quite good. Poetry unijspir-
ing (as is this!). Stewart item the only real
fannsih twist included. Wonderful! Poll
returns of no consequence, to me that is.

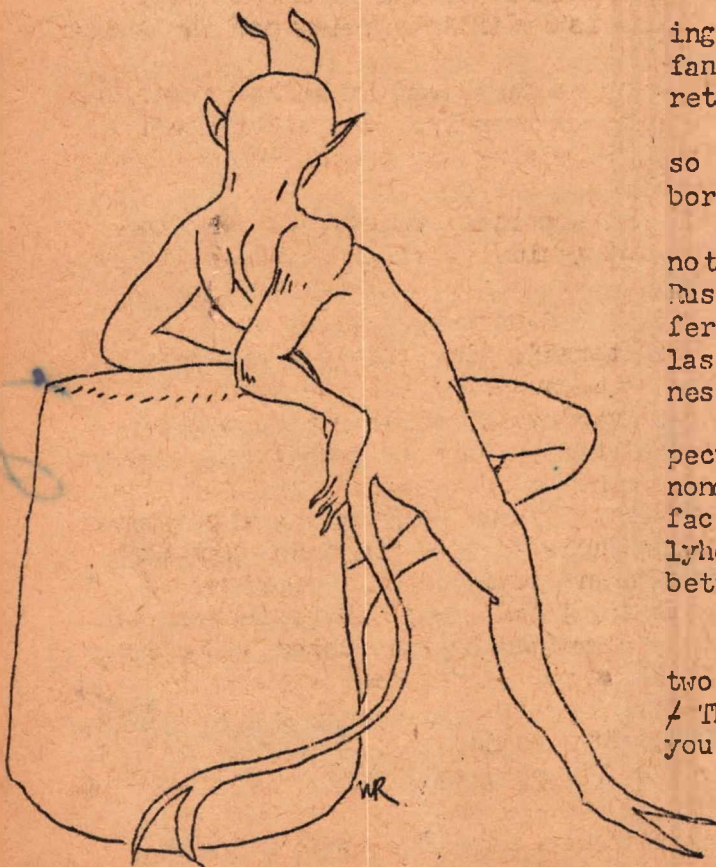
English story interesting. MISTAKE not
so interesting. A FAN HISTORY perfectly
boring. So what if it has puns?

Definitions is good. DEDICATED TO POGO
nothing. Poisongreene item too confusing.
Russell for once doesn't seem so hot. Dif-
ferent from usual. PROJECT DISPAIR nothing
lasting. Letter esction quite good, and ho-
nestly!

Your art is okay. This is a rather
peculiar fanzine, with a lot of material,
none of which seems to pop out and meet you
face to face. Perhaps if you did some bal-
lyhooing about it or something it would be
better...

Off to the salt mines, Rosco. /Denny/
((Why d'you spell your nickname with
two n's but your regular name with but one?

/ There is no point to the cover. But could
you duplicate/with your mimeo? /On most
ishs of Ita I do exercise more editorial
policy. I think I overdid myself with
this one, in that matter. But I'm glad
to see that you think, as I gather, that
there is no particular sort of material that
six



Various fen keep kuh-rying—IV

fta uses. I have always made the claim myself, but various people keep telling me, "When I wrote this, I thought this was just made for fta,..." / Old fashioned? I defy you to find another article that uses the same gadget I used in any fanzine. / Rosco? Heil Ghu!))

KATHERINE ANTONESCU, Albany, NY: The annish was quite good—in fact, I think it was your best issue. Your color work was impressive, especially the cover and the contents page. I like your handlettered headings, too. Too many people use those lettering guides, which look unnatural somehow.

As for your material, well, most of it was all right. But there were a few yhings that didn't go well with the rest of the magazine at all. Such things as DEDICATED TO POGO, and FIENDETTA's FIVE STAR SHELF, would have gone good in mags like these new things that call themselves "Seventh Fandom fans". ((I'm sure you did not mean it that way, but did you know that you just referred to Seventh Fandomers as "things"?)) By the way, I am glad to hear you dissociated yourself from that. But as I was saying, Cantin's and King's things didn't sound like fta. Fta is generally the type that prints serious stuff. Even your humor is serious, so to speak. It isn't wild and corny like Cantin's and King's.

I notice you use a lot of fiction. PROJECT DISPAIR was the best of the serious fiction. Its surprise ending really surprised me, which you cannot say of most surprise-ending stories. If it had been a little more polished, it would have been pro material. MISTAKE, the other fiction, seemed to be written tongue-in-cheek, to me. All the English stuff seemed the same way too...but I see you have "fiction-satire" beside THE LITTLE BOY (I wish all psychologists could read that!), which indicates its attitude. I would think A GOOD MAN would be in the same category.

Just discovered I missed Tucker's item. This is definitely below par for Rucker's usual fiction.

Russell Watkins' column is peculiar. It would be very good if he had something to write about that was interesting, but he hasn't, apparently. The other stuff I won't take the time to comment on, except to say the poetry was good. But why would Jabberwocky's translator want to remain anonymous?

Your cover was pretty to look at, with all those colors (four?), but the contents page was simply gorgeous. It was a stroke of genius to stick in those little Christmasy things betwixt the contents listings...

Sincerely, /Katherine/

((I don't think mechanical lettering is "unnatural". The only reason fta's headings weren't stencillettered long before this is because I'd like to have a variety of styles of letters, and to acquire such a variety takes time and money. / I think you'd better take a second look at the old ftas. Half of each issue, except maybe #3, till I got my mimeo, was just such material as Don Cantin's and Karl King's stuff. And if it were corny, I wouldn't publish it. Except maybe King, whose virtue is a kind of corn. Isn't it, K? / Of course Tucker's item was below par for his usual fiction. If it weren't, it would have been published in a prozine. / Like I have been saying all over this letter column, I don't know who authored, or rather translated, MORS IABROCHII so how could I know why he/she wanted to be anonymous? I suspect it was Carolyn Wells, but I'm not sure. She's dead anyway.))

RICHARD BERGERON, Newport, Vt.: Pointless cover, I'm afraid.

You once told me that you worried a lot about Fiendetta's layout. One would never know it from looking at your contents page, or even at most of the rest of the issue. That's just the way things stand there, I guess. Pages 3 (that's just my subconscious speaking) 4 & 6 were about the best, I should say. Your skip-a-space lines in your interlineations, the ABD/1260 thing, which contributes nothing to the seven

good enough for a prozine as it is good enough for fta?

The Crying Fan finally stops...V

magazine itself and only confuses the reader, and the broken line at the top of those pages of type which go clear to the ceiling all help to give the effect of sloppiness. So much for your layout. Next body: "Mors Iabrochii". Enough people make it possible that they don't, as a general rule, read poetry, already. Why give them another reason not to?...

"I was disappointed to find that more people seemed to favor Seventh Fandom than reject it." Just because a majority of your readers happen to recognize seventh fandom as proposed by Silverberg doesn't mean that they favor it. Perish the thought.

The pages of English material didn't seem worth the ink...

The foofs were obviously filler material. And the "More on page 21" is certainly superfluous considering that 21 is right across from the start of the foofs.

I'd forgotten all about the Watkins stuff. Him I always like. When he's being himself that is. Material like his "essay on fans" isn't worth the time to read. And my time is entirely worthless.

...That's the corpse. Your amish seems carelessly thrown together with junk. Tucker may have been good, Cantin wasn't bad, the kind of neohannish, and Watkins couldn't help but be outstanding here. Is this really your sixth issue, Charles?

...Sincerely, /Rich/

lost ((At the top of the letter, he has penciled: "One thing I forgot to say: your reproduction has improved radically. A little more practice and strikeovers and you'll do as neat a job as Boggs." I suppose he means a little more practice and less strikeovers. / The letter I had to quite badly chop up, so I could get in other stuff below. Everything I edited out was stuff he said he didn't like. But he said he didn't read MISTAKE or MOUNTAIN JUSTICE. / Just for you, Rich, I didn't put any spaces between the hyphens in my interlineations this issue. But I feel I ought to have some sort of line at the top of the page, and not a solid one, so I am using singlespaced hyphens there too. Approve? / What's wrong with the contents page layout? / The ABD/1260 thing was strictly temporary, to help me discover what the best type of stencil is. I have settled on ABDick film stencils, varying in price from the green stencils to the 960 blue ones. / You are right about the foofs and page 21, altho they were not filler material. You were also right about the Seventh Fandom deal. altho your letter generally sounded as if you disliked fta intensely it has proved very helpful. Some other fans who believe in a particularly nauseating brand of destructive criticism should take note.))

Restless about the magazine's growth

ART WESLEY, or rather DEAN GREENELL, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin,: Yess, I gott (gotta stop writing letterrrs to Redd, I guesss!) the new fta and likewise also the last, final copy of Q for which thanks on both counts...

There doesn't seem to be any point in commenting on Q.../however/...I would comment on the Fish only for the unfortunate fact that I can't find the blame thing...

I remember being pleasantly impressed by your skillful handling of the multi-color work and the general quality of the reproduction.

The best thing in the issue—by a fair margin—was Dave English's hilarious business about the boy and his mother and their anthropophagous cat. I am speechless with ecstasy over this thing, so, therefore, can't say much more about it.

Gosh it was funny though...

Bestest, /Dean/

((Thanks also to Bobby Stewart, Larry Anderson, and a couple or three others who wrote, but whose letters I haven't room to publish. I gleaned from all these letters which piece was liked by each best, and if possible, which was disliked by each the most, and tabulated the results. You'll find them on page three. / Don't know now whether the longheralded Hoffmanish will come off or not. My new mag Grey is so much fun I might even fold FIENDETTA. Hang by your toenails!—cw))

at present the scene of
distinctiveness is simplicity.



VANNA

Boggs is just about the only
fan ed, who seems to reat-
ize this, though Rich Celi
also has done several fine
layouts for his Psychiatric

through dms somewhat inclined
to think that Geis' success in
format is due to an instinctive-
good taste more than to a know-
ledge of any principle or principles
of layout.

"Dileant" in issue # ? praising
several over done pages of that
magazine as being top notch
in layout as being top notch
the slight would appear to put
concerning lie to any assumption
of his knowledge the ~~former~~ extent
of the go of the (flattering)
layouts of format.

what's on this side that's so intriguing?

Richard Bergeron

RED #1

Newport
Vermont

Friendletti

fandom's shortest leadcoming
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