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NUMBER SIX 13 Aug 1971

Your Editor
Dave Kyle

THE PRESSING OF SOME KIND OF COSMIC BUTTON, that's what seems to have been the effect of the publication last month of NUMBER FIVE of the FFNL. Several lifetimes seemed to have passed by since then to now, both literally and figuratively.

FF

THE DOUBLE BLOW which staggered us were the deaths of John W. Campbell and August Derleth. They were just a week apart, July 11 and 4, respectively. John was 61 and in poor health; Augie was 62, seemingly recovered from serious illnesses and operations. Augie, a First Fandomember, was famous for founding Arkham House and for his fantasy (H.P.Lovecraft) interests-John, of course, was not only Don A. Stuart, but also Mr. Astounding/Analog. Their genius will very much be missed.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER ISSUE FIVE had been mailed, your editor (thus stimulated into neo-ish fannish enthusiasm) began issue number SIX, not realizing arapid flow of events and sudden spurt of FF activities would change the emphasis of this issue. Thus, the next two pages were stenciled and printed before this one. This front page to what-should-have-been-the-front-page may make the other pages sound slightly disjointed. (For example, it is now obvious that our membership list of addresses is not just a bit out-dated, it's a mess here at the FFNL Editorial Office. And the "AS IT MUST TO ALL DEPARTMENT" sounds discordantly anti-climactic.) And don't let the page numbers throw you.

REPERCUSSIONS TO JWC(jr)'s DEATH have shaken up our plans for the SF Hall of Fame Award. To make a rather lengthy, complicated story short, the Award will now be made posthumously at the Noreascon Banquet. The NY TIMES obituaty actually said, "In 1970 Mr. Campbell gained entry into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame, an honor awarded by a committee of writers and readers of science fiction, called First Fandom, for his contributions to science fiction." Dave Kyle immediately sent the following letter to the TIMES: "Permit me, for the record, to make a correction in the obituary of John W. Campbell as published July 13. Although the process was initiated in 1970, Mr. Campbell was not to have entered First Fandom's Science Fiction Hall of Fame until this par. The award, hitherto supposedly secret, will be made posthumously the 29th World Science Fiction Convention (The "Noreascon") being eld this Labor Day weekend at the Sheraton-Boston hotel in Boston. I'm occasion, due to his unexpected death, unfortunately will not be the joyous one we had anticipated." A clipping or photocopy of this correction would be appreciated by your editor. Incidentally, John's eulogy will be delivered by Lester del Rey. FF

NOREASCON, SITE OF THE NEXT FIRST FANDOM PARTY/MEETING: Bob Madle reports that arrangements have been made for a room for 90-100 persons, The Hampton Room, from 5:30 till 12:00 Saturday night, Sept. 4th. (Tho partytime isn't before 8:00). Lou Tabakow, natch, is official host.

ECHOS FROM #5 (OR PERSONS VE'VE HEARD FROM): Gerry de la Ree, John Flory, Jack Agnew, Don Franson, Al Lopez, Frank Adrasovsky, Lou Tabakow, Lynn Hickman, Bob Madle, Stan Woolston (a BIG letter!), Dick Wilson (in person) & Phil Bridges (who paid for his blazer badge three years ago, got overlooked at the Baycon, was just now gotten it! Oops!)

NUMBER SIX
FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH August 1971

Address all correspondence to:

Dave Kyle, "Two Rivers", Hamm Court Estate, Weybridge, Surrey, England

THREE WEEKS from this date is the 29th World Science Fiction Convention. We hope to see you at the First Fandom meeting/party at the convention hotel—The Boston-Sheraton—over the Labor Day weekend.

THREE YEARS AGO we had our party at the Baycon (Oakland/Berkeley--and what a funtime that was!). It reached such a "new high for attendance, interest, enthusiasm, nostalgia, etc." that Our President Bob Madle collected and published "A Symposium"about it. Bob Bloch immortialized it in verse and Alva Rogers described it as "one of the most enjoyable fannish sessions I've ever attended at any time or any place." So now we have another chance--this time on the East Coast. Let's all come to this party and set a new new high.

....Incidentally, just for those who were at the Baycon bash in 1968, here, published for the first time!, is part of that "absoglorly lutious discussion of tadges and bies." AN EXTRACT FROM DAVE KYLE'S REPORT: "First Fandom ties cost \$2 versus \$2.50 because of postage. (Please! Please!) Yes, the cost of the ties went up for the Baycon because of extra airmail postage charges. But I set the price at \$2.00, which covers the ordinary postage. To keep me from going crazier than I am I have kept the price at \$2 -- when I could have paid the customs charge and resigned us to double the amount, the cost; would you believe a \$9 or \$10 badge? I know--and most of you know--that Bob Madle says the price is \$2,50 so as to keep me from losing money. However, I'd rather lose money than my mind. Some ties would technically be \$2.50 and some ties \$2.00--so just forget it. The price is fixed at \$2. (That's not to say I haven't appreciated some of you who did pay \$2.50 apeice.) If you feel like making a contribution, make it toward expenses of the FF News Letter. And talking of letters, a letter from Baxters Badges, dated August 30th, 1968 -- a week ago -- informs me that the badges have increased in price slightly. Twelve of them (12) formerly were 27 shillings eight pence and now the last two dozen were at one pound right and ten per dozen. This is an increase of \$1.68 or 14¢ per badge. Therefore the price has to be increased to all members who have not yet bought or paid for a badge. Formerly the price was \$6.30. The new price is \$6.45. (Although I continued to sell badges at the Baycon at \$6.30 when they were costing 15¢ more, I can't try to back bill anyone, nor is it worth it for the small amount. If anyone feels guilty, just remember to buy me a drink the next time we bump into each other soft drink, that is to keep the records balanced, or maybe the mix if I bring the bottle.").

THERE ARE TWO BLAZER BADGES on hand. The price is \$6.50. Orders for more will be taken, but the price will be significantly higher, what with decimalisation from old pence to new pence and such--But you don't REALLY want me to try to EXPLAIN it, do you?!

OUR MEMBERSHIP LIST is still being prepared. Dale Tarr, Lynn Hickman and Rusty Hevelin have all been working on it. Chances are good that it will become Page Two of this News Letter. If not, Lynn will publish it sometime in a future First Fandom Fanzine.

FF

AS IT MUST TO US ALL DEPARTMENT: Since our last report on the subject, death has taken at least one more of us: George Nims Raybin. He died

in the late Spring of last year after several operations. We really should keep more accurate records of those who pass on up to Fandom's Valhalla. Correspondence would be appreciated informing us of any other deaths in First Fandom besides the following: Dale Hart, Andy Harris, Tony Boucher, Don Ford, Groff Conklin, Willy Ley, William Houston, Herb Schofield and Lee Riddle.

OVERLOOKED: Add to the list of Associate members Clarence (Bob) Hyde.

ALSO OVERLOOKED: HANK EICHNER (which is difficult enough to do, but after all, there was no roster at the St. Louiscon FF meeting.) At Heidelberg, Hank told us that in reconstructing the attendance then for 1969 we had skipped him. So now the record is made straight-provided each of you goes back to your file of News Letters and corrects that issue. (You do keep up a file of these, don't you?)

SPEAKING OF HANK EICHNER, he has for a long time been willing to work on getting out the News Letter. This is an offer which has never been exercised because there never has been PLANNING—News Letters simply HAPPEN. So HEAR YE! HEAR YE! all you West Coast First Fandomeers—next time you see Hank give him some material to help put out another News Letter, <u>published from the West Coast</u>. In fact, why not mail it to him (the material, that is) as Lynn Hickman (your editor of the FFFanzine) and I (your sometime FFNL slave) don't get it from you? Perhaps if you don't have to mail it (letters, articles, notes, or whathaveyou) all the WAY ACROSS the country, it will be shmehow be easier to do. (Are you listening, Hank? Your bluff is being called!)

ADD TO THE HEICON REPORT: Last News Letter we told you of the party at Heidelberg. This is about the serious part. (Yes, I know, parties are serious for FF, too.) The serious part means the presentation of the First Fandom Hall of Fame Award. The moment came at the most honored time, the speech-making at the "Hugo-Banquet" in the Salle Royale of the Chateau de Heidelberg. Dave Kyle, representing FF and wearing his blazer badge and tie, stepped up to the podium and said: "It is my high honor to represent the unique organization called First Fandom in order to present its annual First Fandom Science Fiction Hall of Fame Award. First Fandom members are those fans who were active over thirty years ago. We did not invent science fiction--we just like to think that we were the ones who discovered it." (At this point Dave mentioned how many were present in the audience and asked all FFers to There were a considerable number scattered around the room and the round of applause was heart-warming.) "The Science Fiction Hall of Fame Award (Dave continued) goes each year to someone whom we believe deserves special recognition. The recipient is also one who has made an exceptional contribution to the character of science fiction over the years of its existence. Because of the huge size of the trophy, only a color-photograph will be passed around from table to table in order that you might appreciate its magnificence. (Thanks go to Ted Engel for producing the photo and to Jack Chalker for delivering it.) Unfortunately the very old timer who received the award this year can not be with us. We apologize for not having his photograph, too, to show you. Going into the Hall of Fame this year--which eventually will in part become a mobile deisplay at world conventions -- is an artist. He is the inimitable Virgil Finlay. The inscription reads: Virgil

Finlay. First Fandom Hall of Fame Award. Presented at the World Science Fiction Convention, Heidelberg, Germany, 1970. Presented in apreciation of the extraordinary imagination and versatility that gave him an affinity for the unusual and for the genius that made it possible for us to share his art work of such quality as to rank Virgil Finlay among the immortals in his own time. (end of inscription) May I thank you for your attention on behalf of First Fandom and ask that Henry Eichner accept this symbolic award on behalf of Virgil Finlay.
...Friends I will now ask Wendayne Ackerman for a German translation—a courtesy made feasible only because as a substitute speaker I have not eulogized Virgil Finlay in the full manner with which Sam Moskowitz is so capable." (Hank Eichner accepted it in French. So the presentation was exceptionally effective, many of us thought.)

A FIRST FANDOM LUNCHEON has been under consideration for the Noreascon. Bob Madle reports that scheduling is about impossible, conflicts inevitable. (Saturday noon the Burroughs Bibliophiles meet.) However, Sunday between 11:00 and 2:00 is a tentative time, with the cost about \$6.00, including tip and tax. (A service charge to the club if liquour service is provided will be about \$35 plus drink charges.) Bob has appointed Art Saha to "ramrod" the luncheon if we have one. Bob suggests we send our comments to him (4406 Bestor Dr, Rockville, Md. 20853) with a copy to Art Saha (307 N. 8th St, Kenilworth, NJ 07033).

LATEST NEWS ABOUT BADGES: There are now NONE on hand. Any orders?

LATEST NEWS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP LISTS: No word yet from Dale, Rusty or Lynn. (A PC from Lynn offers hope.... Incidentally have you heard about how Lynnwas down at the Cape for the Apollo 12 moon shot, sitting in the VIP's stands lonely amidst a thousand spectators -- when whom should he see wandering around but Dave Kyle? The spirit of First Fandom was science-fictionishly acute on that damp historical morning.) So there'll be no membership list publication in this issue. On the contrary, this will be a plea for help again. (Last month's plea brought two immediate responses: John Flory ('I haven't lived at the address you used for the past seven years!") and Gerry de la Ree ("The News Letter brought the first news I've had from the group in more than a year _-and it arrived only hours after I heard of John Campbell's death."). In the four weeks or so since FFNL No. 5, more than eight have been returned as "not forwardable." Almost twice as many haven't even been sent! So, anyone knowing any of the following addresses, please drop me a line (preferably with a publishable comment): D.McPHAIL, P.J.FARMER, K.KRUEGER, L.SHAW, F.COOK, W.DE BRA, E.LOGUE, M.GREENBERG, R.W.LOWNDES, B.TAYLOR, J.CHALKER, A.DAVIDSON, J.CHRISTOFF, S.SKIRVIN, B.MAHAFFEY, H.HARRISON, L.ESHBACH, S.HOFFMAN, M.SPAHN, and R.WRIGHT. If you can do this today, your help will be useful when Noreascon meeting time comes. (Undoubtedly there are more names which are still circulating unwanted through the postal system.)

\$\$ FOR THE RECORDS: Received from Phil Bridges \$2.50 for a tie to be ordered. (Any other orders, anyone?) (At least a three month wait.) Received from Al Lopez (he now lives in Maine instead of Virginia) \$4 in dues. YES, WE'LL COLLECT MONEY THIS MONTH BY MAIL FROM YOU! SEND IT TO ME (Dave Kyle, WPDM, Potsdam, NY 13676) THIS MONTH. I'LL TAKE IT TO THE CON AT BOSTON & TURN TT OVER TO THE TREASURER'S OFFICE.

...Better yet, you take it to the Noreascon!...