

G2

no. 10

march - 62



...VISITOR - NON-ALIEN -

2

SEVERAL LETTERS WERE ON TOP...

PETER SINGLETON, 10 Emily St., Burnley, Lancs., England:

I don't know quite what to make of G2. An unusual fmz, that's certain. It seems to have something about it that defies description. Vaguely sinister it is. . . . I do get strange ideas at times, I must admit. . . . Anyway, I'll be discharged from hospital tomorrow. . . . I DESERVE G2, I think.

+ Don't you realize, Peter, that rambling letters of this sort are
+ easily made to express somewhat more by the simple, if scoundrelly
+ process of lifting a few, choice phrases out of context? Anyway,
+ it's two months now since you've been let out so we'll just save
+ the "Get Well" card we'd planned until you're in, again. What put
+ you in there? We don't know if you deserve G2 or not -- you're on
+ the "occasional samples" list until you sub some British fanzine for
+ us; Yankee imperialism, y'know.

FRANZ ROTTENSTEINER - Quarb 38, Post Ortman, NO - Austria:

Many thanks for your sending me G2. I really hope you'll understand what I'm going to say for my active knowledge of the English language is from excellent to perfect and I always suspected that you Americans don't speak it as well as we folks do. (Ha! You should hear my pronunciation.)

+ Much better that you should NOT hear my version of Bavarian Deutsch --
+ but you know, you're right, because I've heard many Continental Euro-
+ peans speak English much better than we Americans. We simply won't
+ bother ourselves about it.

If you want me to sub G2 I regret to say no. That is to say, I didn't understand a word in it! People I don't know speak about things and people I don't know! . . . Am I to understand that you would like to get a sub to any Gerfanzine? I would like to get you one. ((+If you do, you
+ will get a sub to G2. So if you don't want the G2 sub at all, don't
+ do it.+.)) I would like also to send you some of our "very best" German sf if you speak German. ((+No -- I can't read it, either.+.))

In G2No 7 I found a page that I did understand.

Although I wrote more articles than almost anyone else in our fanzines last year, I think that I'm not a fan at all, but a mere collector. I don't know more than about six fans here or abroad. . . . G2 is the second American fanzine that I've ever seen in my life. Your artwork is far better than anyone has seen by a German artist. . . . In No 6 you wrote something about private stf libraries. By now I have got some hundred pocketbooks & mags but only one hardcover (Adventures in Time & Space). No, I really think I'm not a fan. . . . I never was member in any s-f club or editor of a zine, I don't write letters and I'm not going to cons.

I would like it if you could write to me whenever it pleases you. Really, I would like to know what's G2 about. ((+Some American fans would like to know that, too!+.)) I know when most sf-writers were born, I've read most of Sturgeon, Kuttner, Heinlein and others, I know that Sturgeon is a pseudonym

for Edward Hamilton Waldo, that there is no Tenn, Maine or Clement, and things of that sort, but I don't know a bit about American fandom and folks such as Moffatt, Lichtman, Trimble etc. and I'm not so sure that I want to know it.

- + In addition to writing fanzine articles, collecting stf and all sorts
- + of odd stories about writers' pseudonyms and suchlike, Franz admits
- + having written "some nice truths about our German writers & publishers"
- + for which he's been declared the enemy of Gerfandom. And yet, he says
- + he's not a fan! Collecting, writing, already feuding -- but NOT a fan!
- + I don't know what my publication of your letter will bring you, Franz,
- + but you should be getting a lot more than just two American fanzines.
- + Also, while caution is never to be denounced in a stranger (and even
- + deserves approval, perhaps, in someone new to fandom) I am certain that
- + you will feel very much at ease after you get to know many fans.

ETHEL LINDSAY, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey, England:

G2 itself strikes me as being different ((+'Twas my ungrammatical fault that she starts off this way -- she'd been admiring the blacks of my covers.+)) though I suppose this is because it shows your personalities strongly. Plenty of other zines do that but as all personalities are different..well I think I know what I mean!

Of course it was fun to read Len's VENUSIAN BLUES but sigh, I'd much rather hear him sing them. ((+You may have let yourself in for something, there!+)) I studied your sub system with care, it seems a fair enough one to me; and I hope you will trade subs for Scottishe. Only you calculate who owes who ...I can't count for peanuts. ((+Okay, sucker -- a year of yours for a year of ours; now, doesn't your conscience make you want to throw in a bottle of scotch?+))

Your zine was the first that cleared up Alva and Sid Rogers' names for me, for which I am truly grateful. Sidonie I should imagine came from the French but where would Alva come from? ((+You're tempting me, girl!+)) How nice for them to both have unusual names. I got my name of Ethel from my Mother's desire for a name which could not be shortened. She was Elizabeth and never got her right name being particularly plagued with Lizzie. Tho when Lizzie is said softly I like it, but alas, nothing is said softly in my birth town! Of course she didn't figure on the folks who would call me Eth.

That theory that advertising would help the prozines and that book advertisers should be interested is a good one. Snag I have thought of though.. sure, most fans spend a lot of money on books, but advertising probably could not make them spend more, for without a doubt they already spend more than they can afford! I know I do, and what with fandom being an expensive enough hobby and book-buying being as much so..I'll never get that fur coat I want. It gets cold here.

I had, of course, read your article on the whatnots in fandom and what to do with them, in Shaggy. So read Buz's letter with interest. I had to

grin at the way you told him to get his horse out of there. I do see your point, but wonder if there will ever be anyone who will do as you suggest and name names, when they have been cheated or ill-used by 'fans'. And of course with lawsuits beginning to fly around, everyone will soon be frightened to. I doubt if I would in such a situation ever name names myself, but I think I would voice my displeasure to the person concerned.

G2 goes in my permanent file..it almost goes without saying!

+ Perhaps the question should be phrased in this way: suppose you'd done
 + as you say with some 'fan' who'd cheated you ... then, a few months
 + later, you learn he's just cheated someone else in fandom the same
 + way? (Someone who's just as quiet about it, wouldn't you know, as
 + you were!) How would you feel about that??

+ Your comments on lawsuits echo the sentiments I've heard expressed by
 + everyone, Ethel -- with one or two youngfans wondering if anyone would
 + support SaM's side, just for kicks. I've been fuggheaded enough to say
 + the Moskowitzes might be right. In this, I was just as foolish as all
 + the supporters of Ted White who really know very little about the mat-
 + ter (I've noticed the ones who do know say very little). But perhaps
 + it wouldn't be so foolish to say that fandom's just as open to lawsuits
 + as any other social group -- and just as likely to have them, both with
 + group-members who will sue and others who ask for it. I can remember
 + wondering if the WSFS Inc fuss&feathers was the 9th or 12th lawsuit
 + fandom'd had. But there's another fact we shouldn't ignore: that all
 + this heated discussion concerns a very small percentage of fandom. In
 + that respect, I've been as guilty as anyone, with my Shaggy thing. So
 + I'm tempted to close shop on this business with a report on fandom's
 + general response to it. While I'd anticipated much of it, I got some
 + shocks, too -- yes, that should be interesting! But not now. Later.

DON WOLLHEIM, 66-17 Clyde St., Forest Hills 74, N.Y.:

Thanks for g2. Interesting, provocative, Gibsonian confusion. Brilliant thoughts started but never finished. Logic hanging in midair. Anger, but never at what. Pro and con the same thing in the same article.

Well....

You must be the same Joe Gibson who flickered in and out of my life a couple times in decades past.

Too bad Sobrante turned out to be in the Bay area. I expect to be in the LA area sometime next month; hoped to run into you. I remember that Joe Gibson was real fun to argue with in person. Would have liked that.

+ D'you see it there, in the very first sentence? From now on, we're
 + using it; and those of you who've complained about the awkwardness of
 + typing "G2" can finally complain about something else. As g2 it looks
 + good, I think -- just took a Ghughuist to see it! I agree with all
 + Don's criticisms; but probably, I'll ~~always~~ be guilty of 'em....

...AND THEN, TO BUSINESS: BOOK ADS SPELL TROUBLE!?

JOHN W. CAMPBELL - analog - 420 Lexington Ave., New York 17:

Ah, you happy dreamer you!

So you think advertising would be the key to all our financial worries, eh?

Tsk tsk!

In the first place, book companies are among the very stingiest of advertisers; the hardcover boys are the only ones who'll advertise at all, and they aren't rolling in it so deeply these days, you know. They have production costs, too!

In the old days, Astounding was in a regular chain-advertising package ----and with great difficulty, after several years of effort, I pried it out. And got rid of all the ads for "RUPTURE? NEW TRUSS WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY!" that used to grace our pages. We weren't getting very damn much money for those ads, anyway.

The book publishers have the feeling that they're doing fairly well without buying space in our books----so why should they? Besides, the New York Times has much more prestige!

And....please note carefully how many big magazines, with huge advertising sales, have slipped quietly into the unknown in the last few years. There was Collier's, to begin with, and then there was....oh, but it's a long, sad list.

And so long as J.Q. Reader lays his cash money down on the counter to pay for what he wants to read, he'll get what he wants, and no advertiser---by paying the bill for him----will have earned the right to decide what Johnny shall, and shall not, be allowed to read.

Try reading about how lousy Hugleflatz's products are in a magazine that Hugleflatz & Co. are keeping out of the sea of red ink!

Try reading in a photographic magazine supported by ads that UFG developer is chemically unstable, and Hugo Meyer's telephoto lenses have lousy resolution, but that Panthermic 777 developer, which doesn't advertise, is extremely stable, very uniform and reliable, gives top film speed, and very fine grain.

The guy that pays the freight, perfectly properly has a right to say what freight gets hauled. If you don't want to pay for the magazine ----then you lose the right to have it serve your interests!

+ And this is a damned important point to consider. In fact, when you
+ get into Big Money Advertising, you're dealing with the advertising
+ agencies even moreso than the manufacturers. Those agency boys don't

want you insulting anyone who's even potentially a sucker for a fat contract! Rather than a dozen or so advertisers, a magazine like SatEvePost (now biweekly) has, in reality, four or five big advertising agencies over on Madison Avenue calling the tune, because they're the ones who represent all those different advertisers.

Judging from what I've seen of this untapped market for books -- that is, from what I've seen on the bookshelves of fans and casual readers of science fiction -- this is a market only for certain kinds of book publishers and certain kinds of books. It's certainly not a market for potential "best-sellers" which are advertised in the New York Times! A clear indication of the nature of this market might well be that it'd be a good outlet for many university press publications in hardcovers.

Many book publishers carry a certain number of "prestige" books on their lists which do not sell well, and aren't expected to -- but which are the very books that would sell to this market. This group includes a small percentage of the paperback publishers; I don't believe any of this particular percentage publishes any science fiction, either reprint or original. I could be wrong, tho.

How much such book advertising should cost would depend on how much money could be earned from this market. It needs a market analysis. If the remuneration would be small, it's not worth the bother. It would have to be fairly profitable -- because I doubt if any magazine could handle such advertising without the staff, organization, and publisher's backing found in True or Playboy. The managerial staff of such a magazine would certainly have to fight against exactly the kind of infringement and constraint of their editorial freedom as you suggest, and they'd have to fight it constantly. Aside from this, the effect on the magazine's format -- slick paper, color illos, size -- is almost incidental.

But with this, I'm dreaming myself way out beyond the reach of most fans' interest. Thanks very much, John. I enjoy this.

+ ...There will be other times when I'll fire something off to Campbell
 + for his consideration. Perhaps I'll explain how the Dean Drive works,
 + and doesn't work, and some refinements with which it still wouldn't
 + work -- except as something else. Then there's psi. Now, BSP and PK
 + simply do not obey any of the physical laws regarding distance, time,
 + conservation of energy, and what goes up. Those of you who've read
 + WHO KILLED SF? know that E.E. Smith was considerably put out with this
 + unscientific nonsense and Campbell's dabbling in it -- or should I say
 + dowsing? Fans, themselves, have been downright vituperative. Well, now.
 + Suppose I could show how the stuff works in a perfectly acceptable manner
 + which doesn't violate physical laws in any way whatsoever -- and still
 + does exactly what's claimed of it? And all quite simply, too. In
 + fact, I've discussed this with several people, and the ones who don't
 + like it are the ones who'd really like to believe in psi! Well, I'll
 + get around to it, eventually....

NEWS ITEM: Rog Phillips (remember that old hack-writer for Amazing?) has just sold two more short stories to Alfred Hitchcock.

EXPLORING A FEW STARS

...and, just possibly, some real science fiction

POUL ANDERSON, 3 Las Palomas, Orinda, Calif:

In answer to your remark "I've been trying for over a year to figure out how the hell Poul Anderson's sail-rigged dirigibles could tack upwind without having any keel," I'm afraid I must confess to a sin of omission. In the magazine version of the story I forgot to mention the keels, which were retractable affairs with propellers. Bob Mills, who is a Good Man, slipped that additional description into the proofs for the Best of F&SF book at my request.

Of course, a flying windjammer would still be a slow and clumsy craft, as the story admitted. A good deal of maneuvering depended on rising or sinking to a level where the breeze was blowing approximately in the direction you wanted to go. See the story "Progress," a couple of F&SF's back, for an account of the blimps that got built as soon as technology had gotten to the point where electric motors were economically feasible.

(I may do a few more stories in this particular future history, if readers want. The basic idea is one that rather fascinates me: a civilization which cannot live on its capital of natural resources as we do, but must get by on current income. Given a highly developed science, how much can it accomplish? And perhaps more important, how much will it want to accomplish? I think myself they'll do quite a bit; but then, I feel rather strongly that we today should try harder to live within our own income.)

+ You must remember that I found those "beanie" daggerboards rather hard
+ to accept, too; I was even toying with the idea of a working model to
+ test out various notions. The whole idea's fascinating. Windjammers
+ not only seek (or wait for) favorable winds, but must conceivably take
+ advantage of the prevailing winds that are there to use. Wonder if
+ we'll have a highly developed, but impoverished culture, ourselves --
+ with population boom, economic inflation, the race for space and maybe
+ 60% income taxes? Owell, it was just a thot.

Spaceships driven by light pressure were discussed in an article in ASF some years back, with a long supplementary commentary by Willy Ley. The conclusion seemed to be that they were possible, all right, but would be too slow for anything but the most highly specialized purposes. The crew's time, plus care and feeding, adds up to more than the fuel of a rocket drive would.

You underrate rockets, you know. Even those we've got now. At the AAAS convention in Denver just before New Year's I heard an all-day symposium on manned lunar flight --- I mean all day, from 8:30 AM to 7:30 PM plus a banquet I skipped --- and we have today got the capability of interplanetary flight. All we need to do is develop it. Just the other day the paper carried a story on a later-generation Saturn, now being planned, which will have a payload capacity of over 100 tons.

Of course, if you're going to have regular intercourse you need atomic energy, and all you dirty-minded types will please let the double entendre

lie where it fell. You'll even need nuclear rockets for exploring the more distant planets, and probably Mercury, which is rather far down in the sun's gravitational well. But they're on their way, boys, ~~on~~ their way. Perhaps this is what Joe had in mind, and perhaps he wouldn't call an ion-drive ship a rocket at all. Okay, it's a semantic quibble. By "rocket" I mean a device which goes one way by expelling mass in the opposite direction. Call it a reaction engine, huh?

+ It's your quibble, not mine! My argument against rockets isn't to deride their possibilities at all. In fact, I certainly think the principle of mass-reaction will be the basis of any space drive -- I just wonder if we'll end up having it enclosed in any kind of mechanism. And I suspect rockets and interplanetary flight are fine for the newspapers, but not so much for science-fiction anymore. It's time we were on our way, too.

And I really don't see any other way of getting to the stars, either. Not till John Campbell floats in my front door on a whirling bathroom scale, and somehow I doubt he will. The reaction engine can be made immensely more powerful and controllable, though, than anything we now contemplate. It can, that is, if interstellar exploration seems worth anybody's while; which we all hope it will, someday.

In case you're interested, the mass ratio required to reach so high a velocity v that B~~in~~steinian effects become noticable, is $\left(\frac{1 + \frac{v}{c}}{1 - \frac{v}{c}} \right)^{c/2k}$ where k is the exhaust velocity and $c/2k$ is not a cofactor but an exponent, approaching $\frac{1}{2}$ as k approaches light-speed c . I did some calculations once for a story which assumed k had an average value of $3/4 c$. Then half the speed of light could be reached with a mass ratio of 4.35 --- which, however, must be squared to allow for deceleration, and so is really 17.8. This isn't intolerable. With a higher k , you can reach a higher v for any given mass ratio, but even given k practically $= c$ I wouldn't expect to travel at more than, say, 80% light speed.

+ Poul, if you get k practically $= c$, what's the B~~in~~steinian effects inside that exhaust pipe gonna be for the rest of your ship? And I don't mean with regard to acceleration or velocity....

There is one theoretical possibility, however, which might let you go faster. When you travel extremely fast, you bump into a surprising number of interstellar hydrogen atoms per second. You have to do something about them anyway, or they'll ionize and kill you with radiation; so perhaps you could scoop them up in some kind of field --- like an electromagnetic field taking advantage of electric or magnetic moment --- and feed them into your mass converter. ((+Why? Mass is mass; scoop 'em up, charge 'em, and bounce 'em off the tail!+)) I haven't done any figuring to see whether this is a very helpful idea or not, but if it is, then your spaceship can live off the country and go as close to light speed as the captain pleases. Hence the crew can use the time contraction effect and arrive at Polaris in a fairly short time, to them. (I'm not sure they'd want to, though. That particular one is unpleasantly big and hot, which means too much UV

and other radiation --- besides which, it's very doubtful that such stars have planets.)

Navigation in a ship like this would be weird and wonderful, what with Doppler effect making the stars all the wrong colors and aberration putting them in all the wrong places. But it could be done, of course. One idea which comes to mind is using radio "stars" for beacons, with a computer to deduce from their displacement just where you are and what your velocity is.

I enjoyed your piece on our stellar neighborhood and fully agree that it's more exotic than most of the imaginary places the writers dream up. It should be used more often. Lessee, though ... Hal Clement has done so now and then, notably in "Mission of Gravity;" and there was a book last year by some obscure hack name of Henderson or Enderson or something, called "Orbit Unlimited" by the publisher, which tried to be realistic about e Bridani; and a few others have been done.

+ Lissen here, Enderson or Henderson or whatever-your-name-is -- !! No,
+ not yet. You've a few more things to say, getting yourself firmly in
+ place on that limb

A cavil or two: while we don't know for sure how planets get formed, I wonder if Alpha Centauri, or any moderately close multiple star, has much to show in this line. The gravitational field of the companion would, I should think, keep the primordial dust cloud so stirred up that planets might not have a chance to coalesce. I seem to remember calculating once that the average effect of Alpha B on an object circling Alpha A at one A.U. distance would be just about equal to that of Jupiter on an object where the asteroid belt now is.

Then some astronomers have begun to think that all novas are double stars...

I don't want to be dogmatic about this, I'm just striking a cautionary note. If I were outfitting an expedition to look for planets, I'd figure on going to Tau Ceti first.

I think you're a little unfair to the galactic empire boys. You can't have a faster-than-light drive in hard science fiction, true. But how hard must science fiction be? If you refuse to postulate anything which is not taught in today's physics classes, then you are in effect postulating that all the important laws of nature have been discovered as of today. I know damn well that isn't true of the atomic nucleus --- they're still trying to figure out how it's put together! --- and while it may be true of astronomical phenomena, that subject also has so many obscurities that final pronouncements look rather reckless.

+ Okay, now -- it's my turn, Mr. Anderson. I can't help but feel that
+ I've been grossly underrated by you! It seems almost as if you had
+ judged me by others' statements that you'd been accustomed to hearing
+ and that, still hearing them, you missed the meaning of my own state-
+ ments altogether! In criticizing the galactic empire boys, f'rinstance,

+ I am NOT joining all the Science buffs who've ranted against faster-
 + than-light or "hyperspace" drive. In fact, I don't agree with them
 + at all!
 +

No, Poul, I'm not ag'in galactic empire stories or even faster-than-light drives. My criticism is this: I don't think we've ever had a galactic empire story! Seems to me the scope of just about any one of them just covered enough for maybe a local star-cluster, somewhere, and not a very big cluster, at that. But galactic?? Pfui. None of 'em have given so much as a hint, to my mind, of the real magnitude of a galaxy. They've been sheer fantasy, by comparison.

And as stories with the scope of a small star-cluster, they had no real need of faster-than-light drive. In most cases, their treatment of it seems more fantasy than honest speculation, too. And worse -- as I said -- it's fake-fantasy.

Rockets and interplanetary flight, even interplanetary civilization and first flights to another star, have been red meat to stf up til now; I have no argument with what they've been to us, or what they are now to science and our immediate future history -- but I believe that's for the newspapers and magazine "fact" articles, now. I think it's time stf took another step forward. A big step. I'm arguing for a general trend, here.

A future culture that converts the moons of Jupiter and Saturn -- perhaps even the outer Big Worlds -- into garden spots for human monkeyshines might be interested in an "asteroid belt" around Alpha B. Even tho inhospitable Polaris has no planets at all, they just might build themselves a world or three! To me, such ideas aren't sheer fantasy; but rather, they suggest cultural themes and motivations which have yet to be explored by a science-fiction writer. The prospect sounds rather exciting.

Of course, anyone can go back through stf and find stories which already fit this general trend and perhaps predicted such a trend. But the stories which establish it have yet to be written. Hal Clement's "Mission of Gravity" postulated our infiltration of the local star-cluster on a good, hard, technically sound basis -- but for our purposes, I'm afraid the yarn was simply full of bugs! (Oh, stop cringing like that!)

We have yet to get a clear, full-color picture of our stellar neighborhood and of mankind spreading through it -- much less, where it's located with respect to other star-clusters and the rest of the galaxy -- in stories which fully utilize this Theater of Operations as the next major phase of human history. Fully utilized, such a theme would almost certainly dominate whatever human culture you postulate, the motivations of your characters, the outcome of your story-situation. In this respect (tho perhaps only in this respect) I find the whole thing somewhat comparable to early stf, to early stories of rockets and interplanetary flight; but you could easily ignore this as mere coincidence. The interstellar frontier is one hellova lot bigger and more exciting than the old interplanetary frontier. To me, this is red meat for today's science-fiction.

Of course, someone might also write a real galactic empire story.....

ANDY YOUNG, 36 Gray St., Cambridge 38, Mass.:

As you doubtless intended, I was intrigued by your guided tour of the solar neighborhood. However, I would have liked to see some remarks relating this small volume element to the galaxy as a whole; you did not even mention Gould's Belt, much less mention the importance of the M dwarfs as high-velocity stars of Old Population I.

Furthermore, you did not mention the importance of some of these stars. Castor C (YY Geminorum), for example, is one of two stars holding down the lower end of the main sequence calibration; its interpretation is made difficult and uncertain by the appearance of bright and dark spots on the surface of the components, which introduces irregularities into the light curve.

+ Reading the next few letters here, Andy, will show you how much of an
+ unknown wilderness this is to stf -- and how easily you can (as yet)
+ "talk shop" completely over its readers' heads.

And as for naming, I'll stick to catalog numbers that tell me something, like BD or HD numbers. If you're going to tack names on the 1011 stars in the galaxy, you'll run into naming problems before long. ((+ But man, we won't even be using the same language by the time we get out of the local stellar neighborhood!+)) It's been bad enough just naming the 1700 asteroids with roughly determined orbits. In fact, the main trouble with names is that we have too many of them already. For example, Castor C is also (in addition to being YY Gem, as I pointed out above) BD+32°1582 and GC 10121. If you go to the southern sky, things can be even worse. For example, consider HD 22053. This star has two durchmusterung numbers (CoD-26°1336 and CPD-26°388); it also has four variable-star designations (Zi 199, HV 3038, 202.1907, and finally RZ Fornacis). You can give it an eighth name if you want, but I can't really recommend it. ((+ In Sears catalogs, a product's numbered; customer orders "sheets"+))

I also complain that your list of nearby stars left out most of the closest ones. Where, for example, is Munich 15040? Innes' Star? BD-12°4523? All these are within 10 light years. Where are those darlings of Project OZMA, Tau Ceti and Epsilon Eridani? They are closer than 11 light years. Why not mention that Barnard's star (BD+4°3561) has the largest known proper motion (10.25 seconds of arc annually) and is a high-velocity (space velocity about 150 km/sec) double star with a period of 1.07 years?

If fans are time-binding, are astronomers space-binding?

+ Now I've got a question: who should have written that article -- me?
+ Or you??? Or perhaps the question should be, why was I the one who
+ did write it? Andy, we need you, or at least someone like you.

JOHN BOARDMAN commented:

What is your reference for the orbital period of Proxima Centauri being 1.3×10^6 years? The last figure I heard was 3×10^8 , but that was at least

10 years ago. Spica is a binary, all right, but not like Alf! Alpha Kentauri is a visual binary, while Spica is spectroscopic. This means that the separation of the components of Spica is much less than the separation of Alf & Alf. ((+Will this be noticed by the cook's helper on a starship "hove to" off Spica?+))

In case you want to go in a direction where Contacts with other sentient critters are possible, your road map along the Ridge is the wrong direction. The greater stellar density towards the center of the galaxy makes such Contact statistically more likely in the Scorpio-Sagittarius direction. In fact, Spica's out near the North Galactic Pole, and Tau Ceti and Epsilon Eridani are in the direction of the South Galactic Pole, where stellar densities are as small as they'll get in this neck of the galaxy. If I remember correctly, the nearest stars which lie in the galactic plane are 61 Cygni and that little high-speed job in eastern Ophiuchus.

- + I'm not sure I want to make any Contacts -- but in speaking of areas
- + with greater stellar density, aren't you talking about regions which
- + are really a considerable distance from our little fishpond? What I
- + read about Project Ompa -- pardon, OZMA -- didn't convince me that such
- + statistical probabilities could really include Tau Ceti or e Eridani.

ROSEMARY HICKEY commented:

After all those A.U.'s you slathered the pages with, my flip to Denver in December is like nothing. Only one thing missing. Any honorable tourist guide/agent/host/???? is ready to advise the shutter-popping tourist on needful info. For instance, when we stop at Capella; it would be wise to have in my gadget bag a sunshade, a polaroid lens, maybe an amber filter to cut down actual glare....but with the spectra violet to red... now this is something I would be most anxious to record with my camera. What filters would I have to use to correct my film and get an honest recording of the colors?

RICK SNEARY commented:

The article on The Ridge not only took me out, but back. Back to those days when I was reading 1940-1 Astoundings, and a world of new ideas was opening up.. Reading something like this only points up what I've been missing in the current stf.. The same sort of thing as this would have appeared back then, with four to six thousand words of plot thrown in, and we'd lapped it up. (I lapped it up in 1947-9, but it was the same). As with few things now, your article told me less than I needed to know to understand what you meant ((+Sorry, Rick -- ment; your first one, so far! Is this what a Sense of Wonder does to you??+)) ...but enough for me to be able to work it out with a little thought. I've never read much of astronomy or stellar navigation, and at first your coordinates didn't mean anything to me -- though I tried to read them off the dial on the cover.. But as I went along I worked it out.. The numbers being the "direction" from Earth, and the degrees being that above or below the plain of galactic ecliptics (?). Very simple when it hit me..



"EARTH-TYPE PLANET"

I see though you are still trying to show a three D star map, on flat paper.. My mind still fights it, though I'm keen on maps. I got to thinking about a "star tank". That is the only way I'm going to see stars in the right way.. But how to do it.?

My first idea was to have a solid block of some kind of soft plastic substance. With an ice pick you poke a hole to near the center of the block, and then shove a bead down to the middle to represent the sun. Then carefully push the pike down at the proper distance out, and at the right direction.. Then push other beads down these openings to the right depth, so they were at the proper degrees.. This shouldn't be too hard.. But then I hit on what might be not as good, but a lot easier.. Two window screens, mounted about two feet apart. You could tie beads to threads, and tie them tightly between the two screens, the proper distance and degree from each other...

Well, maybe you don't want to.. But more articles, huh??

HARRY WARNER, JR., commented:

You reawoke some sense of wonder in me with A Saunter Along the Ridge. I was back on the front porch swing at the age of 12, reading the only book on astronomy in the juvenile section of the Hagerstown library which didn't permit those under senior high school age into the adult stacks at the time, with a large-size Wonder beside me containing The Colloidal Nemesis or A Baby on Neptune, and I was abstractedly sucking at a large hunk of ice wrapped in a piece of cloth to prevent my hand from freezing. I suspect that the only thing that would cause me to want immortality or at least ten times my probable lifespan would be the chance to know what really is on the planets around the other stars.

+ You guys with your hoary, old reminiscences are gonna have younger
 + fans claiming that I'm echoing Sam Moskowitz for "a return to the old,
 + the REAL stf" with its sense of wonder! What I'm wondering, myself,
 + is whether I'm the only guy who's seen that modern stf could become
 + more exciting than the "good, old stf" ever was?! And how it could.
 +
 + But the sources for my article were extremely meager. For those "co-
 + ordinates" I used, I simply went to a college bookstore and bought a
 + star-map; the coordinates of its map squares were, of course, marked
 + in hours of sidereal time along its bottom margin and in angles of
 + declination up the side -- with zero hour & 0° declination smack in
 + the middle. I didn't want to explain all this. Sidereal time is based
 + on the 24-hour clock; you'll note my numbers were like military time --
 + 2400, 1630, etc. -- and you should visualize it as a 24-hour sundial
 + lying flat on the solar ecliptic with our Sun in its center. The angles
 + of declination (like +10° or -12°) mean the plus angles point above
 + that plane, the minus angles below it. Imagine a rod sticking out of
 + the Sun at a certain angle, measure the length of the rod to denote a
 + certain distance in lightyears, and there's where your next star is.
 +
 + It's exactly like the "directions" used by bomber crews since WW2,

probably best remembered from movie dialogue between pilot and gunners during an attack by enemy planes. They simply used the 12-hour dial on their wristwatches for directions. A "bandit at 12 o'clock high" was above them and straight ahead, intercepting them with altitude for its attack. A "bandit at 6 o'clock low" was under their tail; "coming in at 4 o'clock" was one making a pass from the rear and slightly to their right. The pilot shifted the bomber so his gunners could get attacking planes in a crossfire, or at least to give them a shot at one trying to approach in the bomber's "blind spot". (But gad, has stuff like this already become Ancient Lore?)

Our Earth-based sidereal timeclock and solar ecliptic plane would suffice, I think, for navigation through our local stellar neighborhood. It might tell some bloodthirsty aliens that we're from a planet with a 24-hour rotation, tho, and our choice of an ecliptic plane could tell 'em which sun has that planet. Maybe we should change it a little.

A *A* *A*

+ ...There was something else in a letter I was quoting, above, which
+ leads into our next item of business. It's from:

JOHN BOARDMAN, 166-25 89th Ave., Jamaica 32, N.Y.:

I believe that the fan club which I helped start at UC in 1950 is the same one that exists there today. Tom Seidman, George D'Asaro and I sent out a call for a meeting, and were answered by a large crowd which proceeded to elect officers, perform a ritual exorcism upon Shaver's dero-tero cult, and put out a fanzine. I didn't stay with the club for very long, as I was overawed by the superior fannish background of most of the people who showed up for the meeting.

Ray Nelson didn't show up at UC until the 1951-2 academic year. He was then married to Perdita Lilly, his first wife. He, Tom Seidman, Mike Girsdansk, Seymour Nelson and I obtained some brief notoriety in that year as the result of a planned Black Mass. (Seymour is no relation to Ray; his version of the common surname was originally Katznelson.) We had planned to conduct a Black Mass at a Halloween party in 1951, with Ray serving as the high priest and Perdita as the altar. However, the story got out. A Catholic student heard about the proposed diabolism, and carried to the university's chaplain a story that we planned to steal communion elements. The chaplain told Cardinal Strich, the Cardinal told the university's president, and the principals in the escapade were confined to quarters.

Libera nos a perfidiis superbisque!

+ It occurs to me that perhaps there is no other fanclub in existence
+ -- perhaps even in the whole recorded history of fandom -- which has
+ had quite as remarkable a beginning as this one! And of course, this
+ one, the Univ. of Chicago S-F Club, is sponsoring this year's world
+ convention, so I'm not about to leave the matter there. Let's have

- + the full lowdown on this fancub! Whatever happened to it after that
- + notorious birth??? And a Black Mass, indeed!!!!
- + Herewith, then, we shall concern ourselves with ---

THE GHOSTS AT CHICON III

ED WOOD, 160 2nd St., Idaho Falls, Idaho:

. . . G² #8 prompts me to put down for publication some of the unknown details about the University of Chicago Science Fiction Club. Since I was at the founding meeting and attended most meetings until my induction into the U.S. Army by my neighbors and enemies for the 2nd time in March 1954, I can talk with authority about the early days. The facts are not from memory but my diaries which I kept at the time. . . . This should help Harry Warner or whoever is writing fan history at the moment. The information consists of an informal memorandum to Frank Robinson on May 13, 1953 and a list of the 1st 21 meetings. To brag about it, it is one of the few fan organizations to have had a Nobel Prize winner as a sponsor.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

Organized January 18, 1950 at the University of Chicago by Tom Seidman and George D'Asaro and John Boardman at Ida Noyes Lounge. About 40 people were present and Ray Solomonoff was elected President.

Presidents: Ray Solomonoff-January 18, 1950 to June 1951

Tom Seidman-October 1951 to March 1952

Ray Nelson-March 1952 to Summer 1952

Summer 1952 to date (5-13-53)-Evan H. Appleman

Vice-Presidents under Appleman: October 1952 to March 1953, Robert Johnson (editor and publisher of Orb); March 1953 to date, Michael Girsdansky (Previous vice-presidents not important and in little evidence.)

Faculty Advisors:

1. Carl Anderson (designer of Synchro-cyclotron at U of C) 1950 to mid 1950
2. Anatol Rapoport (important in General Semantics and Mathematical Biophysics) mid 1950 to October 1951
3. H. C. Urey (Nobel Laureate in Chemistry) October 1951 to October 1952
4. Nathan Sugarman (noted radiochemist & member of the Institute of Nuclear Studies, the University of Chicago) October 1952 to date.

The club is open to all residents of the Chicago area, however only students of the University of Chicago can become club officers. Due to the student regulations of the University which insist that every student organization must have a faculty advisor who is responsible for the good behavior of the organization, the club has had a number of very distinguished professors as advisors in its short existence. None of them having much admiration for science fiction. ((+Nor Black Mass, either, I'll bet!+))

The club itself does not publish a fan magazine nor has it made much of an impression on fandom per se; however it has had more than its share of speakers and people important in the field attending the meetings either as contributors or as guests.

Examples: Fritz Leiber, Melvin Korshak, Donald Warren Bratton (once very active in Los Angeles fandom), Leo West substituted for J.A. Winter, M.D., who was to give a talk on Dianetics 8-18-50 at which more than 170 people turned out (no further talk on Dianetics was ever held), E. E. Smith, Wayne Proel of the Chicago Rocket Society, Lewis J. Grant, Frank M. Robinson, Robert L. Farnsworth, Rog Phillips (guests)---Judith Merrill, Bea Mahaffey, Joe Kennedy (of the long-gone Vampire) and a hell of a lot of others.

1950: The early meetings were used to set up a constitution which is rarely used today. They were held in the Classics building due to the small size of the club at that time. Ray Solomonoff, at that time a student in the Physics department, was the first President and did the bulk of the work in notifying members of the meetings which were held at irregular intervals, 3-4 weeks apart. Most of them were talks by authors or publishers and about science fiction in general. The biggest meeting of the year was the 8-18-50 meeting on Dianetics (it has been the biggest meeting to date).

At the end of 1950, plans were made to broaden the scope of the club which had been set up on the modest aim of being open to anyone interested in science fiction. Plans were made to hold movies and also to publish a fan magazine.

The fan magazine and its planning became a source of friction. There was talk of it being triangular in shape and using "fan" fiction. It was pointed out in no uncertain terms by E. Wood, C. Freudenthal and T. Dikty among others that "He who controls the purse strings, calls the score." Since the club was at that time, and is today, financially unable to put out a fan magazine of the most modest pretensions, a bitterly contested election relinquished all rights to the fan magazine to E. Wood and Charles Freudenthal, who were able to publish 4 issues of The Journal of Science Fiction before calling a halt to the fruitless enterprise.

1951: The club by showing the film "Things To Come" was able to accumulate some badly needed revenue, club memberships (\$1.00 per year) being unable to cover expenditures. Other movies were however spectacularly unsuccessful. No movies being shown in 1952 and 1953. Meetings were somewhat on the dullish side but perked up with the news that the 10th World Science Fiction Convention was to be held in Chicago in 1952.

1952: A period of deterioration under Seidman and Nelson but improved remarkably under the presidency of Evan H. Appleman. Many meetings were however ill-conceived, ill-organized and ill-presented. Also work for the 1952 World Convention intruded on the time of many of the more active members, Ray Nelson and Perdita helping out on the ballet "Asteroid" as one example.

Late 1952 to date (May, 1953): . . . Certain innovations were made. Refreshments were served at the meetings which are held in the much more comfortable and convenient Ida Noyes building.

[In conclusion,] the UofC Club presents a representative example of what might be aptly termed "phantom fandom"; the members being almost without exception (Ed Wood of Journal of Science Fiction, Earl Kemp of Destiny, T. Dikty, and Frank Robinson) heedless of the main stream of fandom, caring little for the many feuds and eddies which have come to mark the fandom characterized by the average fan magazine. The meetings have an extremely social air, consisting of a talk, debate, panel, etc., and refreshments with a minimum of business. After the regular meetings, further discussion follows at any one of numerous eateries. It represents at the present time, the only organization consistently meeting in the Chicago area devoted to science fiction and allied topics.

List of Early Meetings ((+Slightly abbreviated -- sorry, Ed.))

1. 1-18-50 Organization meeting at Ida Noyes; Solomonoff made President.
2. 2-6-50 E. Wood talked about fanzines with samples at Classics 17.
3. 3-6-50 Meeting postponed because of coal shortage.
4. 3-24-50 Pollard, Freudenthal, Solomonoff & Wood talked to Fritz Leiber.
5. 4-10-50 E.E. Smith guest speaker, spoke of his past & future work.
6. 4-24-50 Fritz Leiber talked about his work & dealings with Campbell.
7. 5-2-50 Wood talks to Solomonoff regarding future course of action.
8. 5-8-50 Don Bratton talked about Theory of Games.
9. 5-22-50 Melvin Korshak spoke about publishing, gave opinions & news.
10. 7-3-50 Informal meeting with Bratton, Freudenthal, Solomonoff, Wood.
11. 7-24-50 Meeting on Dianetics, speaker Ray Solomonoff.
12. 8-18-50 Dianetics by Leo West (not J.A. Winter) at Rosanwald 2.
13. 10-5-50 Wayne Proel talked about rockets, Classics 10.
14. 11-1-50 General talk on fan magazine, future world convention.
15. 11-18-50 Howard Browne was ~~scheduled~~ to talk but since Ziff-Davis pulps had moved to New York, he was unable to appear. E.E. Smith very kindly substituted and spoke about future power sources.
16. 12-5-50 Discussion about fan magazine.
17. 12-13-50 General meeting about fanzine, movies.
18. 1-11-51 Movie "Things To Come" 50¢ admission; club made \$40.00
19. 1-15-51 Meeting-Wood not there, few people present.
20. 1-26-51 Meeting at Fritz Leiber's house; Robert Bloch also present.
21. 2-14-51 Movie "The Invisible Man" did not arrive and "The Monster Maker" (J. Carroll Naish) shown instead; club lost \$15.00

This could go on for pages but it should give an idea of what went on in Chicago in the early 50s.

PS: Where but in fandom will an Idaho recluse write to a California fan magazine about fan doings in Chicago in the early 50s?

- + This is a modest beginning of a fanclub. Any oldtimer at LASFS could
- + chronicle more fannish doings; any oldtimer at ESFA could compile a
- + more impressive list of meetings. It's also, naturally, one fan's
- + compilation; we may have response from Ray Nelson, nextish. But the

+ real purpose of publishing this was not to praise or bury a fanclub.
 + I could do that, myself. Praising it, I could remember fabulous
 + meetings. Robbie and I attended from '55 to '58; and burying it? Sir,
 + I do not choose to bury the U of Chicago S-F Club. No, the real pur-
 + pose wasn't this, despite the slight ribbing I've given Ed Wood and
 + John Boardman (and Ray Nelson, sometimes, but you don't know about
 + that). I want you fanzine fans to have a look at this account of
 + fanclub fans, tho, because I've found many of you don't know much
 + about fanclubs. Here's a rather wild beginning and modest growth
 + of one. And where does it lead? You can see that in Chicago, this
 + coming Labor Day weekend. If you'll take my word for it -- believe
 + me, it's fun. But it's also rather different from fanzine fandom.

HOW TO MAKE A STONE AXE OUTTA ROCK

ROY KAY, 91 Craven St., Birkenhead, Cheshire, England:

Thank you. G² was a surprise...but a welcome one. I'm sending a sub for you to ORION, so I'll be looking forward to the next issues. ((+Fine! But without knowing how much you subbed ORION, how much should we sub you to g2??+))

Didn't see much of you in number nine, most of the mag being taken up with letters. What I did see I liked. Including the Tinkershop Notes column idea. Hmm...seems those ancestors of ours weren't as dumb as some people think. Now you have set me thinking about other possible uses for the 'hand axe'. Perhaps they are just pointers of some kind? No, have to hand it to you there, your brainwave was a stroke of genius. It's just struck me how the idea of your column corresponds very closely to the idea behind all good SF. The enquiring and inventive mind of Man. Infrequent or not, this is something I'd like to see developed.

And HARRY WARNER said:

On Tinkershop Notes, I've always felt about early weapons as I do about evolution. I can't understand how they evolved from rudimentary to really useful form, because they must have been so nearly worthless when they were really rudimentary. I can imagine the act of throwing a stone with a sling as a major advance in the art of food-getting and enemy-killing. But I can't picture the noble savage chipping away, getting dull edges that must not have done any more good than the edges to be found without this handicraft. Did he sense that this was not doing much good but other generations to come would figure out ways of getting better edges that would be really effective? Your theory about the mine fields seems quite sensible, and I think that non-experts might throw light into other conjectural matters by producing similar radical theories.

 -- And haven't you voted for Bthel for TAFF yet?!

While RICK SNEARY said:

I'm affraid I don't know anything about the Paleolithic or making stone tools.. I don't even have any idea -- though it seems like a clumsy animal that would fall over stones. Certainly it would have to be ox-like.. -- Did you get any answer.

+ Now gentlemen, the way I heard it -- and I'm speaking from memory,
+ here -- you don't just "chip away" to make stone tools. They might
+ never have been invented that way. But you pick up a rock and play-
+ fully bang it against a boulder, maybe just to make noise or feel the
+ shock, and you can knock a big flake off that boulder. Make a game
+ of that and you'll learn how to knock off different kinds of flakes.

+ Now, these can be crude, rudimentary tools, but they're not much good.
+ So you're just fooling around one day, with nothing else to do, and
+ there's this bump on a flake-tool you'd like to get off. So you hit
+ it with a rock and bust the tool in half. Okay, you won't try that
+ again. So nexttime, you try to rub the bump off with another rock.
+ And you scrape, and push, and press. And a little chip pops off.
+ You stare at it, then try pressing at another place. Another chip
+ pops off. So you've got a new game. Funny things to do with rocks.

+ Flake-tools become tool blanks. Skilled pressure-chipping can shape
+ tools remarkably well, with beautifully sharp edges, straight or curved
+ as you want them. Different kinds of stone give different results.
+ And how badly do you need tools or weapons? The relatively simple
+ Paleolithic tools were developed in the last interglacial period; the
+ world was warm, and Man the Hunter roamed almost everywhere. The
+ more advanced Neolithic spears, axes, arrows and such came during
+ the last glacial period -- perhaps the need was greater.

+ Modern axes, adzes, scythes, saws and knives were first developed to
+ that practical, useful shape in stone. Early bronze armor with its
+ overlapping plates like scales was first developed in leather. Early
+ writing in stone and clay must also have appeared, and perhaps earlier,
+ on tanned cowhides. Sometimes I think it was a pity that the Conan
+ series was fantasy, rather than historical fiction!

+ And no, Rick, not clumsy animals! Nature very seldom arranges a field
+ full of sharp-edged, upright stones to cut an animal's feet -- and if
+ stampeded, even such fleet-footed creatures as antelope couldn't dash,
+ wild with fright, across such a mine-field unhurt.

+ But I've received no answer, and I don't expect one. When the article
+ appeared in Scientific American, they remarked that Prof. Howell would
+ probably be in Spain on another dig. But I think perhaps the experts
+ may eventually come up with this "minefield" theory themselves, and my
+ piece merely offers the satisfactory proof that I thought of it first.

+ But first, you want my stellar coordinates explained -- now, you want
+ you gotta know how to chip out stone tools! How can I write brief
+ articles if you expect me to tell you all this stuff?

LETTERS, postcards, more letters -- is there no end?...

ERIC BENTCLIFFE, 47 Alldis St, Great Moor, Stockport, Ches., England:

...BASTION THREE should be out before too long, I've almost all of it on stencil now and it's merely (!) a matter of enticing Norman Shorrocks away from his distillery long enough to get some duplicating done! You probably think I'm joking, but I'm not....the last issue was delayed due to The Troubles In Africa, this one is being delayed (apart from general laziness) because aforesaid Shorrocks has started his own booze factory!! Everywhere you go in the house there's jars of stuff fermenting and maturing, the only trouble is none of it is ready to be drunk yet....

And now he's bought a car - not an ordinary car you understand, but a '36 Austin '20' which will comfortably seat eleven! I don't know if he's going to use this to peddle the stuff in, or whether he now envisages a portable still for conventions. Nothing would surprise me!

((+ I feel eyes glowing out of the dark from the direction of Berkeley at all this! Big Bill's Mob are looking toward the purchase of a larger house, too -- "something in the country" with a few dozen acres of dense brush roundabout. They'll probably be getting a fleet of lorries next!+))

Would appreciate any plugs for TAFF you care to insert in g2; it's difficult, as you probably realize, to keep the interest in TAFF alive due to the lack of Big News Stories (and the recent dearth of TAFF candidates) and suchlike copy. I sent off a reply to Ed's SPRINGBOARD piece in SHAGGY a couple of weeks ago which might help to straighten out the picture a little. Personally, I'd put down a great deal of the current disinterest in TAFF (if such there be!) to the smaller number of candidates per election we've been getting over the past few years. Short of going out with a shotgun when TAFF Nominations are invited there's little the TAFF Administrators can do about this! Ideas are invited.

Apart from all the hoocha...TAFF is doing reasonably well. It is succeeding in its aims and more TAFF Delegates have crossed the pond in the past few years than during any other period of fan-history. Donations, big and little, are being received and I think this year will see two TAFF Delegates crossing over. It's certain Ron Bliek will be coming to the UK.... and it's reasonably certain (if everyone gets up off their collective soap-boxes and votes) that a British TAFF Delegate will be at Chicago.

One item of news regarding TAFF....whoever the successful candidate is - Eddie Jones or Ethel Lindsay - he or she (funds allowing) will be flying to the States via Iceland. A reservation has been made with Icelandic Airlines. This has been done so that the successful candidate will not only have the fabulous Stateside Trip but will also be able to hear the wonderful Icelandic Bells - you've heard, of course, of the Eskimo Knell....

((+I'm still toying with that idea of using a shotgun.+))

 Robbie: "Never mind all you've got -- what can you LEAVE OUT?"

STARSHINE'S

KINDA BRIGHT HERE....

JEAN CARROL, 117 West 46th St., New York 36, NY:

Here's an item for your fanzine: I'm engaged to be married to Theodore Engel -- he was an oldtime fan who has recently returned to fandom. I finally found the guy who fits my idea of the type man I wanted. . . We may be able to get things set up by the time of the Chicon.

+ Congratulations, Best Wishes & all that common +
+ chatter doesn't express our sincere joy for one +
+ of our favorite people. +

ARTHUR THOMSON betimes "Atom" has paid us the best of compliments that man can express -- and as yet, we can't do him proper justice. As anyone kin plainly see, I'm far from being skilled enough to trace really good artwork on these thick multilith mats. Anyway, offset's needed to do him proper justice and this, right now, is beyond our means ... when it isn't, we'll let Atom know posthaste!!

The best we can do, Art -- and, man, this pains me -- is to pass your work on to someone else, for now. Roy Tackett's a good and conscientious man, and last DYNATRON spoke of needing artwork muchly....

And OL' DOC SNEARY sez:

Regarding Bloch's complaint about my letter.. I don't remember you publishing a letter I didn't reconize--so the first thought that you had printed a forgery couldn't be true.. As I read the same way I write -- I didn't notice any difference my self.. Could it be that you are getting use to my brand of writing.. I suspect you read my letter the way I wrote it and automatically translated it into normal Gibson words. -- Some day, maybe all fandom will reach the point were they can read my letters without seeing anything wrong.

+ I dunno about the rest of you, but I feel better +
+ already!.... +

--meanwhile, back in
the lettercol---

More letters, postcards, letters...

NANCY SHRINER, 318 N. Bailey, Hobart, Okla.:

...There's a book of three little tales, very light ones, which I think effectively combines fantasy & s.f. It was written by Cyril Kornbluth, or one of those pseudonyms. However, the name escapes me. Anyway it's about an inventor who does very brilliant work when drunk, but then can't remember what his inventions are for when he sobers up. He is abetted by a narcissistic robot named Joe -- remember the book? If so, what in the world is the name of it? I want to read it again.

+ "Robots Have No Tails" by Lewis Padgett. You like it, too, huh?

THOMAS DILLEY, Box 3042, Univ. Sta., Gainesville, Fla:

...You became, it seems, terribly carried away, and seemed to call down the gravest invectives upon the heads of all those who talk about such things as politics. ... Encouraging the pursuit of sf is one thing, and a good one. Declaiming the discussion of anything but sf is quite another matter. Actually, the really big thing that you seem to have done--which is to establish a fanzine in which sf or fantastic super s. is well treated --is the best possible answer to the problem of sf anaemia in fandom. And any space you have would be much better spent in promoting sf and super science than it would be in blasting at all competing subjects.

And RICK SNEARY said:

I eather understand you better than some, or don't read you as closely, as I found -- or did not find, the statements on subs and politics confuseing.. Seemed quite clear to me. I can't see how anyone could have miss-understood you to have said fans interested in politics were nerotic...

E.W. Bryant, Jr., Route No. 2, Wheatland, Wyo.:

I would like to comment on the "Buried ASF's." I suggest that perhaps that large wooden crate was put together with a number of metallic nails. Why not use a metal detector to find the box then? . . . As perpetrator of this idea, I would like to claim 20% of the take if Roy Tackett or some other person finds this cache using the metal-detector idea.

Bruce Pélz, 738 S. MARIPOSA, #107, LA 5:

What's wrong with my Mariposa address that you keep sending G2 to Mathom House? I've been at the Mariposa apartment since 1 October, and will be there until at least the end of June, probably longer. Please change my address on your records.

Ron Ellik, 1825 GREENFIELD AVE., LA 25:

My memory fails; but perhaps FANAC has not been published since November when we moved, and that is why you still use the address on San Lorenzo?

Or don't you read FANAC? ((+Now that you mention it, no.+))

Al Lewis and I have this snazzy apt which is wall to wall with books and you are invited to drop by on one of your frequent visits to Los Angeles. ((+And he knows puffedly well that we haven't been to LA since the Solacon+)) If my copy of Silverlock hasn't gone to glory or whatever borrowed books do, you could bring it by with you, on one of your frequent etc. ((+Nope. Robbie says she hasn't read it twice, yet.+)) Bought my tickets--leave Friday the Thirteenth. ((+Keep away from the girl named Irene at the Golden Lion in Congleton, Cheshire. She smokes cigars.+))

ROSEMARY HICKEY, 2020 Mohawk, Chicago:

There'll be a wingding "oldfashioned" 4th of July celebration in Telluride -- street contasts, water fight by the local firemen, restaurants run out of food -- all in all, entertainment of a different kind. Our cabin should be usable the 2nd week in July. It's a railroad car -- didn't I tell you?

We'll be at the Skyline Guest Ranch from about July 1 to July 7. By then we should have been able to clean out our railroad coach/summer home at Trout Lake and be able to live in it the next week. If you have sleeping bags and/or tent, you're welcome to use either the interior or the land around our coach. The big deal is that I'm inviting you to my birthday party.

+ Ah, north of Durango -- some of the most beautiful country in the Terri-
+ tories, up there! Girl, you know what it means for Robbie and I to have
+ to say we can't make it -- into that country, with kids like you waiting
+ -- but that's the way she goes.

LYNN A. HICKMAN, 224 S. Dement Ave., Dixon, Ill.:

Remember how I used to sit in your apartment in Chicago and we'd listen to Robbie tell us of all the virtues of Idaho? ((+And I kept saying "Too damned cold!" -- yeah!+)) Well, I may move there this fall. Will be going to the northwest and Oregon, Washington and Idaho are the states under consideration right now. I'll be working an area from St. Louis, Mo., northwest to Vancouver, B.C.

+ Betty Kujawa, for chrissake, while this po' suth'n boy is still there
+ in the Midwest -- will you kindly take him aside and explain, in simple
+ and easily-understood terms, that he's a damn fool not to use an air-
+ plane? The likker situation wasn't so good up there, last we heard.

HARRY WARNER, JR., 423 Summit Ave., Hagerstown, Md.:

I really did find that negative of the 4-H girl on the farm with kittens and I enclose a small print and proof that the situation is just as I described. If the kitten had been expected to fall from above, I would have readjusted the setting somehow to put more detail into the fur. As you can see, the side and back lighting is just right for everything else in the photograph. She got engaged just a couple of months ago, by the

way -- the girl, not the kitten -- which must be additional proof that I am either a perfect gentleman or an awful example when I go out to get interviews with young ladies.

"The one thing we don't want around here is anybody's 66-page fanzine." I wonder how many other fans wish they'd had the guts to come out and say so in print, just as you did? I'd rather like to resume that fanzine review column that I was doing for Oopsla! and I think that I have the time to spare now. But the thought of getting on the mailing lists of the fanzines that don't come now is the discouraging factor.

You don't make it clear if that book list represents those read or unread or half-and-half. ((+It didn't occur to me, since we apparently can't stand to have a book enter this house that doesn't immediately get read!+))

John Boardman's reference to the Necronomicon fascinates me. . . . I know that a New York dealer had the Necronomicon in his catalog for a while, and I wrote to inquire about it, but he told me that it was just a joke entry, inserted to please some fantasy fans on his mailing list. It's quite hard to believe that anyone would set type and print up just one copy of a Necronomicon, and yet I haven't heard of any survivors of Lovecraft fandom possessing one of the things.

All the way through Jim Caughran's adventures, I kept wishing and wishing that Bill Rotsler had been along.

I think that reasons should be added if we're going to say in fanzines why we don't like this or that fan, referring to him by name. Now I don't know if Wim Struyk disliked Sture Sedolin because Sture did unpleasant things or simply because they rubbed each other the wrong way. I know that one prominent British fan got a thing about a prominent American fan visitor: she couldn't stand to look at him but she didn't object to him in any other way. It would be a shame if some fans got the reputation of being bad guests simply because they had happened to have some unavoidable bad reaction on hosts, without doing anything in particular to create it.

+ Instead, wouldn't you have certain fans getting the reputation of making hollow judgments of other fans like this? Seems that would be worth knowing, too. I rather suspect Wim Struyk has been asked about his remarks before this; if not, he'll see these remarks.

(+We may learn to spell his name right, too+)

You could start a scientific investigation into what kind of dowser or divining rod would be used to determine the presence of underground fanzine caches. A wand from a bottle of correction fluid, pivoting on a stencil top, perhaps, or a filled-up quotecard at the end of a plonker rod?

+ Warn't no fanzines in that cache, Harry.

RICK SNEARY, 2962 Santa Ana St., South Gate, Calif.:

Gor! I'm glad you don't have 66 pages.. You have to much to comment on as it is. Neb-ber mind what Lichtman says, Harry and I want to read your

Hoary Old War Stories. I'm all for listening to anyones. You ought to hear Len tell about the time he fell off the cliff and almost got shot in a tree.

-- I do think it would have helped your case to name a few examples of current doings anyway. Your charges were sort of like saying "there are 138 Communist in the State Department." How come though you let Struyck mention Sture's name, when you have censored other people (like me) who named names?

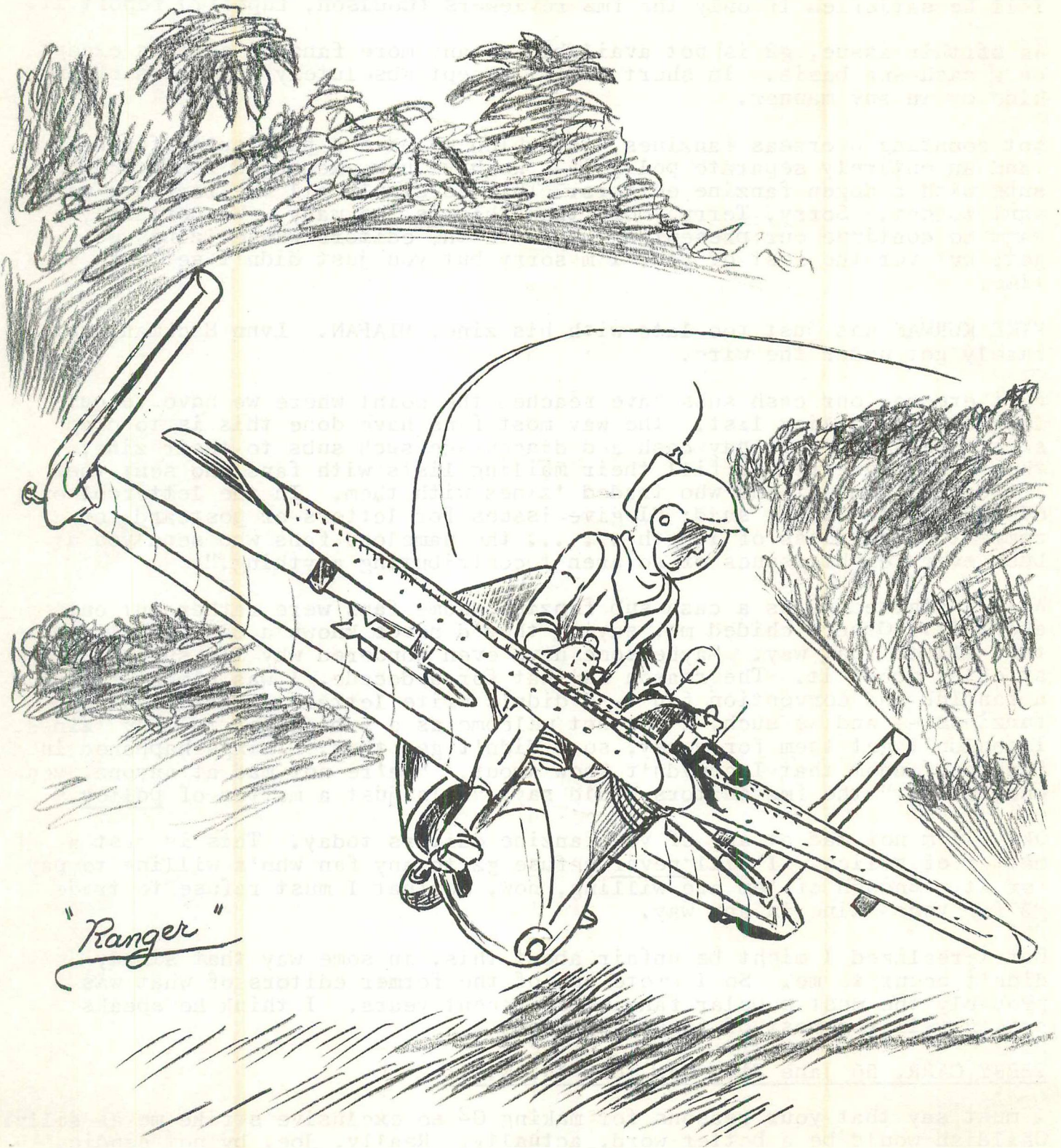
+ Bighod, there seems to be a blind spot in the minds of most fans! Wim
+ was stating his own beef about somebody, Rick. You were only saying
+ what you'd heard somebody did to somebody else, same as Buz did. Now,
+ this was the reaction to my Shaggy article -- and it was a fairly wide
+ reaction -- that really startled me.

But let's take it from the beginning. There were three basic things which prompted me to write that article. First, fandom had gotten pretty well stirred-up by an accumulation of little (it seemed to me) irritations; there was a growing amount of petty snarling and biting in fanzines. Second, our DNQ policy had been effective only in protecting a growing number of undesirable characters who remained good fans to anyone who hadn't been "in on" that DNQ stuff; I'd heard the DNQ stuff and I knew fans who hadn't and wouldn't. And third, we've got some characters who'd gleefully exploit such a situation to raise hell, start feuds, and make themselves look like Big Shots; that's been done before, and I know the kind of characters who'll do it.

So I wrote that I was afraid we were heading for another cleanup of fandom -- and I warned that such cleanups are always dirty, that some people get hurt who don't deserve it. To support this, I described some undesirable characters without naming them. Why not? Because ~~naming~~ naming them would start the very cleanup I warned against! (The only names I gave were two fans undeservedly harmed in one of fandom's previous "cleanup" campaigns) Now, the ironic thing about those characters is that none of them needed to be named -- with one exception -- so far as West Coast fandom was concerned. I tested this by deliberately including one case known only to myself and the fan who did it; and this one bit of public misconduct was the only case I was personally questioned about by anyone from Berkeley or LA -- because they already knew who all the others were!

But the rest of fandom didn't know. That's how "effective" our DNQ policy is. And this, not the undesirable characters, was what I tried to speak against -- not the bad ones we have in fandom now, but how they get in and stay in. And how more of 'em can keep on doing it.

And yet, reviewers and fans writing me say I asked for a cleanup of fandom -- when that's what I warned against -- and ask why I didn't name names. Fine. With that kind of a cleanup, we can keep the DNQ policy. Maybe that's what fandom wants. What I would rather see is less DNQ or none at all, and any fan who gets a dirty deal standing up and sounding off loud and clear about it. He's the one to name names, and that's when.



...While I'm having this rip-snorting session, here, I may as well bring up something else that'll have some fans howling with indignation. But I'll be satisfied if only the fmz reviewers (Coulson, Lupoff?) report it.

As of this issue, g2 is not available to any more fanzine editors except on a cash-sub basis. In short, we'll accept absolutely no trades of any kind or in any manner.

Not counting overseas fanzines, for which we have a particular fondness (and an entirely separate policy) -- we have now exchanged reciprocal subs with a dozen fanzine editors. This is simply all the fanzines we want to get. Sorry, Terry, more than this is too many. We certainly want to continue our present set-up with the editors whose 'zines we get; but for the rest of you, I'm sorry but you just didn't get here in time.

MIKE KURMAN was just too late with his zine, MIAFAN. Lynn Hickman just barely got under the wire.

Furthermore, our cash subs have reached the point where we have to cut down on our mailing list. The way most fans have done this is to drop subscribers who only pay cash and discourage such subs to their zine; they much preferred to fill their mailing lists with fans who sent them letters of comment and who traded 'zines with them. In the lettercol of CINDER #9, Ted Pauls said: "I give issues for letters or postcards of comment, regardless of length ... the nameless fans who send you a buck every eight issues or so aren't contributing anything."

When I started g2 as a cash-sub fanzine, some fans were rather put out about it. Others chided me, saying they'd never known a cash-sub 'zine that stayed that way. Maybe some have even wondered why I'm such a stickler about it. The reason is that for a decade, I was almost strictly a fanclub and convention fan -- I didn't write letters or articles for fanzines -- and as such, I was not welcome as a subscriber to many 'zines. I couldn't get them for money, so I didn't get them. Things happened in fanzine fandom that I couldn't know about. "We're not mad at anyone, you understand," the fmz editors would say; "it's just a matter of policy."

Okay, I'm not mad at any of you fanzine editors today. This is just a matter of policy. I will never refuse g2 to any fan who's willing to pay for it. Enough of 'em are willing, now, so that I must refuse to trade g2 for your 'zine in any way.

But I realized I might be unfair about this, in some way that simply didn't occur to me. So I wrote one of the former editors of what was probably the most popular fanzine in recent years. I think he speaks pretty well for most of fanzine fandom.

TERRY CARR, 56 Jane St., New York 14, N.Y.:

I must say that your reasons for making G2 so exclusive strike me as silly. Childish would be a better word, actually. Really, Joe, by not sending