

VOL. 1 No 3

GRIPES and GROANS

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CENTS

RICK SNEARY

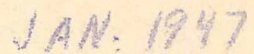


Once again we humbly dedicate
this issue to a fan who has been
active for many years and yet has
not lost interest or enthusiasm
over it.

One of the few old timers still
around and still welcoming the
newer fans and offering them
encouragement.

You should know who we're talking
about by this time--no?--well it's
Forrest J. Ackerman
(of all people)

We also didicate this to H.G. Wells, G. Burbee, Ray Bradbury
John Cockroft((Ahem!)) and a gal named Lou.



tution squabbles and the disputes between officials, exchange Spear and Dandeleberger, ad nauseum, might not have to re-join the organization when their dues-paid period of membership expired.

Paul Cox's letter was quite good, tho I can't say the idea of fan's adopting the metric system is such a hot one--after all, fandom is hardly a nation by itself, as some of its devotees would have it be. Such examples of altering from the norm when there's really no reason for it smacks just a little of exhibitionism and/or escapism. ((Well? R.)) I can imagine going into a store and buying a couple of reams of mimeo paper 21.59 by 27.94 centimeters....

Jawge Caldwell seems like an intelligent sort of guy, and his list of requirements to determine a "classic" is soundly laid out. Lovecraft would have a hard job passing requirements #3 and #5, nebbe #4 too--but I like his stuff just the same.

Coslet's agonized plea for the manuscript bureau brings to mind the bewhiskered whooze about the fan editor who once proclaimed: "I want material and I want it bad!" He was ungrammatical, of course.

Wetzel's article was probably the best single item in the issue--maybe he really has something there. You argue that Lovecraft is not so well known as Poe--well, an HPL society might even be set up similar to The Baker Street Irregulars, that sterling organization of Sherlock Holmes fans. There was an organization of Lovecraft fans mentioned in the FANCYCLOPEDIA--The Outsiders Club, of Washington DC, with their official organ, The Outsider --not to be confused with the Los Angeles group of the same name. It may be argued that Lovecraft's tales speak for themselves, as proven by his growing popularity -- even so, the Lovecraft Society is a good subject for future discussion. ((I asked about "The Best Supernatural Tales of HPL" at the Los Angeles library, and they said there was always a demand for it. No Los Angeles is reading it....I guess I should R.))

I liked Forty Love's space poem, for some reason. ((See folks, that's why this guy Kennedy made #1 on the fan hip parade. He always is saying nice things about people. Some of the Old Guard ought to try it. You can get more votes with sugared words--er something. R)) ((Rick, are you implying that Joke is using soft soap? For shame. Jc))

Chris's letter contains some good points. Couple of months ago I was seriously considering forming another Amateur Press Association--don't laugh--with a basis primarily stiffish. I even drafted a constitution, rather frankly modeled after that of VAPA, and designed to include only a bare minimum of red tape. I still prefer VAPA's system of having one central manager to handle all the club business, with a board of advisors to represent the membership at large. I don't care for VAPA's system of electing only one officer each year; it makes it too easy for one bunch to remain in control of the works. However, VAPA, has much less dispute over the constitution than the FAPA and functions with a minimum waste of energy. At any rate, I even picked a name for my proposed APA--the Comet Amateur Press Association, CAPA of course (pronounced Kapa, not Sapa, incidentally). I briefly mentioned the idea in a letter to Ray-Mar Carlson. He seemed favorably impressed. But then I began to consider the amount of work which would be involved in getting such an organization on its feet, and also the fact that it would require a large amount of cooperation on the part of the scattered minions of fandom from coast-to-coast (gads, but I'm full of trick phrases today.) ((Ackerman would say something funny here, got any ideas? R.)) Then it occurred to me that I wanted to belong to a fantasy APA more than I wanted to organize one. At the time, I

was already in VAPA--but I still prefer the fanzine field, as distinguished from the semi-literary efforts. ((Is he saying that fanzines aren't literate?))-R.)) Lack of time and unwillingness to take on more fan activities than I could handle combined to force me to drop plans for the CAPA. The final decision was to wait another year or two and maybe by then I'd at long last be in FAPA.

Praise the Gods, the FAPA waiting list seems to be moving along very briskly of late, and I am now in FAPA, having received the summer mailing last week. Chris is mistaken in his remark about "newcomers who can't even get on the waiting list of FAPA...". To get on the wait list, a candidate for Fap membership has but to file his name with the sec-treas and sit back and wait. FAPA requires that applicants have some experience in the fanzine field, either through editing, publishing, or writing. The present Secy.-Treas. is Al Ashley, tho an election is now on which will put either Laney or Widner in office.

Yet somehow the enthusiasm and ambition of the new fan makes the idea of another stifish APA an intriguing one. Despite sloppy duplication, crappy material, and general new fans are much more enjoyable than some of the heavy-weight, carefully polished attempts at super-intellectuality produced by the old guard.((Rick, ole man, methinks you have copied the last sentence wrong..tch,tch..Jc)) There's a certain something found only in the newfan publications--and, moreover, fans of one or two years' standing are usually still vitally interested in stfantasy. It makes a difference. So, although I dunno if anything will come of it, I still think the concept of a brand new APA which would throw its gates wide open to the new fans is an idea with intriguing possibilities. It might not be literary, it might not be intellectual, two-thirds of it will probably be a heck of a lot of fun!

((Joke sent a copy of the constitution he had drawn up. It is too long tho to print here, and besides there are a few changes needed. I am for the idea, and as you will see, so are a lot of others. All we need now is for some one to start the ball rolling. I'd kind of like to see Caldwell's "Young Fandon" take it over..R))

PINGPONGPINGPONGPINGPONGPINGPONGPINGPONGPINGPONGPINGPONGPINGPONG

I got a swell letter from Bob Tucker too. But he spoke about the N3F election, and by now that is old news. It is enough to say he liked the idea of a fanette off the Board of Directors, and that he was backing me for the same office. Thanks Bob, please give us another chance. Oh yes, in personal talks with him he said he would like to get into any new APA that was started. That assures one readable mag at least.

HARLEYSACHSHARLEYSACHSHARLEYSACHSHARLEYSACHSHARLEYSACHSHARLEYSACHS

A short note from South Bend and Harley Sachs;

The cover of #1 was swell--except for the space ship. Nice format.

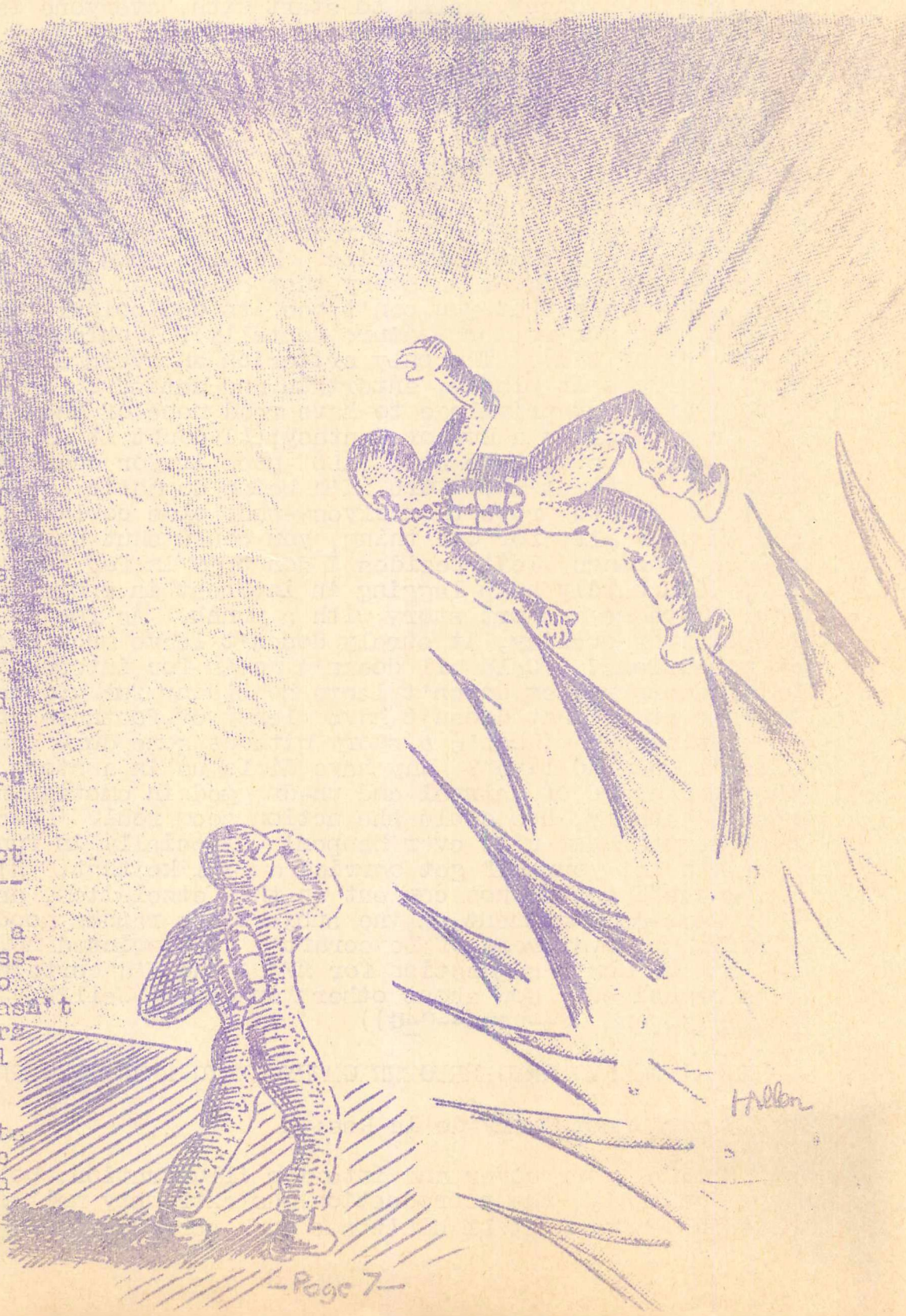
I have a suggestion to make. It is hard to find out where the letters end and your comment starts.((that makes it all the more interesting. Wassa matter, don't you like guessing games? Jc)) How about a little cartoon drawing with each letter, like V_n Splawn does with his Star Rover? ((That's the Star Rover, and he can draw

buddy, when in heck are you gonna send me that list of people that have paid for Stellarite? I sure would like to get the matter cleared up.))

Cockroft was a wonderful tonic for your mag! Cover'zokay--but why not in multicolor? ((I was out of colored carbons at the time Je)) And what's this about Forrie's dream bursting on the brink of reality? ((You explain it John, R.)) ((I've never seen anyone explain a dedication..they are all the more personal if no-one else can understand them. However, it was in reference to 43J's collapse at the Pacificon.

Je)) Edit-
orial very
good--Cook-
foftinn-in-
serts spice
it up nicely,
too. ((See
John, some-
body likes
you. R.))

As for
Cox's bally-
hoo for the
metric system,
I say, Fooie.
Heh--we got an
argument start-
ed already! I
might as well
go to town on
it, as long as
I've gone this
far, so: As
for the learn-
ing of it be-
ing easy. I'd
~~like~~ say that
most everyone
who's gone thru
the science
course of a
highschool--let
alone college--
has already
learned it to a
greater or less-
er extent. So
what? What hasn't
changed matters
any; We still
use feet and
inches, altho
most scientists
use the metric
system quite a
bit. And all
we philatelic
measurements



Danced with din and dying lays
O'er the ruins of my days
O'er the dimless timeless day;
When the fifty, drawn at thirty,
Seeing thrifty yet the dirty
Lucre of the market was the
lost that I could raise.

Flonds controlled it,
(Let him hold it!)
Devild hold for me the inkstand
And the pen.
Ah now the days of grace are o'er
(Ah Lenore!)
I am but as other men,
What is time, time, time,
To my rare and runic rhyme,
To my random, reeling rhyme
By the sands along the shore
Where the tempest whispers,
"Pay him!" and I answer
"Nevermore!"

I guess that will be all from me this time, I'll turn the rest of this page over to JC. Let him worry about it.



