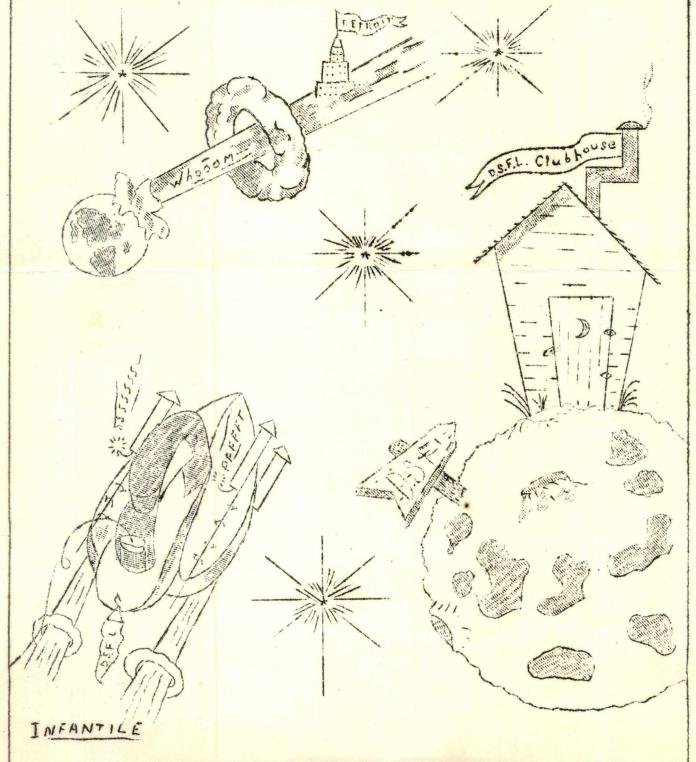
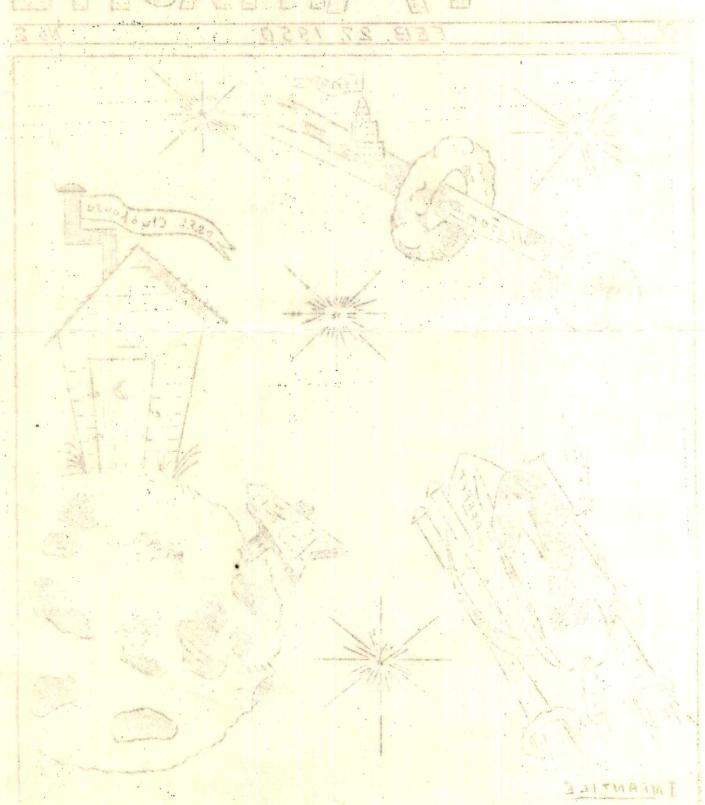
MICHIGAN FANTASITE

VOL. I FEB. 27, 1950 No. 2





News Bulletin of the WOLVERINE INSURGENTS Vol. 1 - No.2

LAST MEETING As usual, we had 100% attendance at the last meeting of the Wolverine Insurgents. Unlike members of the average local fanclub, Insurgents like to attend fangatherings, because Insurgent meetings are fun.

Last Saturday and Sunday (Insurgent meetings are occasionally long-lasting affairs. There is no hampering time-schedule, no cumbersome red tape. They may last five seconds or five days, depending on the sentiments of the attendees) not only were all known Insurgents present, but their numbers were equalled by visiting members of the DSFL, fans whose minds have been gently nudged toward Insurgentism by the joyous propaganda which we publish from time to time.

te the principles of Insurgentism to the visitors, we even held a business meeting. Someone or other called the meeting to order (no officers in Insurgentism, so anyone can act in the name of the group). We had to dispense with the minutes of the previous meeting, because we don't keep minutes. We had to waive the treasurer's report, because we have no report. In fact, we have no treasury. There was no new or old business, because we take care of that sort of thing without a lot of parliamentary red tape. The business meeting was then adjourned. Elapsed time:; 15 seconds.

After which Insurgents and visitors alike plunged into the second case of beer.

In the course of the evening, without in any way diminishing the sociability of the occasion, we not only conceived, wrote, stencilled, and ran off an entire fanzine, but made it a mag which will be cherished by its readers for years. Freed from the stodgy conventionality of bureaucratic bungling, Insurgent intellects soar on the lofty pinnacles of imagination, producing original material, not merely rehashing of ancient moldy themes. Don't take our word for iterad Bar-Rag in the next SAPS mailing and judge for yourself!

FANNITIONS Non-Insurgent fans use a "slanguage" all their own. Here we will try to give a few and also their meanings:

DSFL: Deroes' Social and Fraternal League, or: Debauchery, Sex & Free Love.

FANCLUB CONSTITUTION: A document written by the ruling clique to maintain their control over the gullible herd.

BUSINESS MEETING: A scheme whereby the membership is allowed to delude itself that it is taking part in formulating the decisions which the administration has already made. It gives the club something to pass time until the tardy members show up.

CLUB MEMBER: Anyone with the price of a year's dues. If he has ever read a science fiction story, he becomes an officer.

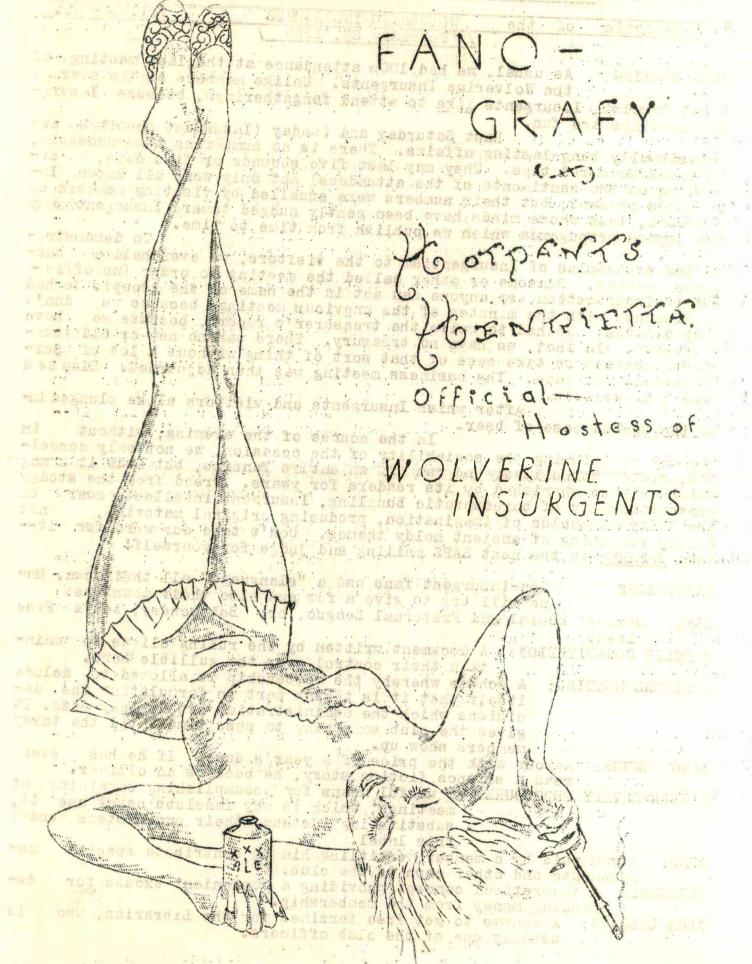
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE: A useful means for accomplishing something at meetings, which is why fanclubs never use it, substituting instead, their own systems under this label.

DUES: A sum paid by a member, entitling him to contribute special assessments and other cash to the club.

TREASURY: A theoretical concept providing a convenient excuse for demanding money from the membership.

CLUB LIBRARY: A scheme to get free fanzines for the Librarian, who is usually one of the club officers.

LATERATION OF



RAISED EYEBROWS DEPARTMENT "Hope I'll be seeing most of you at the meeting, for I know you will enjoy yourself when you come." -- The Detroit Stfan, Feb 20, 1950.

enjoy attending an Insurgent meeting, even if you don't come!

COINCIDENCE? It is our unpleasant duty to report an instance of underhanded imitation which has come to our attention...

If you get that redtape-bound pamphlet, The Detroit Stfan, you must have noticed by now that they persist in copying the layout and format of this sterling publication, The Michigan Fantasite. This is understandable, if not excusable: after all, our unbound-by-bureaucracy artistic perceptions are so far superior to the poor plodding esthetic sensibilities of the Detroiters that one can hardly blame them for trying to give a modicum of interest to their pitiful little leaflets by imitating more successful publications.

But if you got Vol. 1 #2 of TDS, you can hardly fail to notice the striking similarity of its cover to that on the magazine you are now reading. That this occurs only a week after a visit by DSFL members to the workshop where this mag is prepared seems suspicious, to say the least. Indeed, the DSFL must have a guilty conscience, else why would they fiendishly try to confuse the issue by backdating their publication to 20 Feb? Expecting such a transparent subterfuge to impress readers with their priority is an insult to the intelligence of stfen.

Compare the two covers. The Michigan Fantasite bears a gem of artistic technique, a fascinating, edifying, amusing picture. Compare the shoddy imitation which disgraces the DSFL rag. Notice the sinister attempt to disguise the imitation by making subtle changes in the scene -- changes which do not hide the basic identity of the two drawings, but only spoil the point of the delicious Insurgents humor which is so integral a part of our picture. It is hard to be lieve, but apparently the DSFL intends their drawing as a serious artistic study, a laughable intention when one notes the crudity of the technique. We leave it to you, gentle reader...which picture shows a realistic scene? Notice that this is a typical DSFL attempt to ignore reality, to blot out the unfavorable aspects of their environment. This unsemantic approach is always used by bureaucratic fans. Like ostriches, they bury their cellective heads in the sand, or swathe themselves in blindfolds of red tape.

CHICANERY AND DOUBLE DEALING For some nebulous purpose of providing propaganda, the DSFL maintains a surface attitude of friendliness toward the Wolverine Insurgents. Were it not for our unvarnished reporting of the truth in The Michigan Fantasite, no doubt readers of the Detroit zine would get a warped and distorted viewpoint of Insurgentism. But to show how cleverly the DSFL disguises their opposition to Insurgentism, we need only tell you the ingenious method by which they keep us from attending DSFL meetings. It is probably because they realize the presence of Insurgents at a red tape-bound DSFL meet might fan the sparks of revolt which are already gnawing away at the rank-and-file of the DSFL, despite the careful censorship and propaganda which their administration feeds them.

cally, the Insurgents get a copy of the DSFL zine at the same time as the club's members do. But, to keep Insurgents from attending meetings the DSFL administrative commissars address the Insurgent-destined zine incorrectly. Normally this would mean the P.O.Dept would return the odicus thing to its senders -- but that would foil their sinister plan. So they mail our copy first class mail. The mag eventually arrives, but only after three to five days' delay in the Post Office. We wonder how the DSFL dictators learned of this fiendishly clever procedure; obvious

ly it is too complex and subtle to have originated in their bureaucracy -doped brains.

-- ". Brids DO CORRESPONDENCE CORNER We don't suppose the writer of this letter would want his name mentioned, so we'll suppress identifying data. However, as his letter shows, he is a prominent West Coast fan, editor of a well-known local-club 00:

"Potential Friends

"INTRODUCTION I am a member of the N3F, Eugene-Los Angeles-Portland Science Fantasy Socities; Fortean Society; Corvalis Nudists; Norwescon Committee, etc. I am a broadminded, thinking person. Editor of (CENSORED), and an active stfan.

I have been active in fandom about a year. I've read stf "HISTORY and fantasy for about fifteen years. Man of many trades, but specialize in (CENSORED) and allied fields.

"PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER As a denunciation of your FANTASITE I'm afrai that perhaps I cannot make this strong enough. it would seem that Michigan is the nest of a group of juvinal dilinguents (sic). A few small things; a bombing; and this. The you might hear from others of this group, most of them feel it fiting (sic) to keep silence and to forget the fact that such an element exists in fancem. Because you are pro-Nerwescon-or-Pro-NFFF does not immediatly (sic) bring me to arms for my comrades or make me feel any special sense of loyalty.

"It's a dirty shame that you aren't here, so I could express a little more vehemantly (sic) my opinion of a person or group of people claiming to have mature minds, calling organized fan-dom (sic) bunds. Why then, do you belong to the N3F? SET TO TRIBUTE BUT SETON O "Sincerely the talk blue but in the set of the set

"P.S. I am passing your bulliten (sic) around to various fans thruout the state. Perhaps they will write to you and say these things I am trying to. What is this music you mentioned?"

This letter fascinates us. First, it is based on a unique form of logic which seems to be characteristic of members of the Fortean Society. At times we are tempted to join Tiffany Thayer's esoteric little group, just to find out how this logic operates. Obviously, any system which can use the fact that we were bomb victims to condemn us and justify the throwers of the bomb, offers infinite possibilities in the political, theological, or advertising fields.

There is also the system which our correspondent uses to help fandom "forget the fact that such an element exists in fandom." The system, "passing your bulliten around to various fans throug the state," is one which the Aristotelian minds of Insurgents could never in the world have conceived for this purpose.

Let us add that a reading of this letter convinces us the writer is not only a serious, constructive fan, with a fine mind and broad mental horizons, but he may even be star-begotten. We hereby nominate him for a life membership in the Cosmic Circle. And we recomment to the L.A. Insurgent Element that they prepare for him one of their certificates of recognition, suitable for framing. It couldn't happen to a worthier guy.

"Bund: ... a band or association ... " -- Winston's Collegiate Dictionary.

INSURGENTISM AND THE NFFF The N3f, until very recently, was the most bumbling and bureaucratic of fanclubs. B these days its inefficiency has been slashed, and the red tape that remains is only that absolutely necessary to hold together a scattered organization the size of N3F.

Furthermore, N3F is now beyond the amateurish and juvenile stage, and is being operated on a businesslike, responsible basis. It performs a number of useful functions in fandom, and we Insurgents who support it are devoting quite a bit of time to building up and improving it. (Some Insurgents are anti-NFFF. We don't care, as Insurgents, what opinions members of our group may have on the subject.) We have pendered the question and concluded that there is a vast difference between local fanclubs and a national organization like NFFF. There are a few local clubs we would join if we were in their area. The Cincinnati Fantasy Group, for instance, or the Outlander Society. We do not oppose a local club if its members are (mentally) adult, responsible, and regard the club as a means, not an end in itself.

ever plunges again into the morass of bureaucracy, we'll sharpen our talons and sink them into it. If any local fanclub pulls out of the snarls of red tape, we'll lay off it. We have had local fanclubs here. We have seen how they operate. We have been vital cogs in their purposeless machinery.

We know what we're talking about when we say a local group of a few dozen fans is crazy if they waste time on constitutions, officers, formal agendas, etc. These time-and-effort consumers are the principal reason why so little is accomplished in fandom. We've had our fill of bureaucracy and we say to hell with it.

TREASURER'S REPORT Not required by the constitution. No constitution. Income...sufficient to cover expenses.

No balance. But no deficit. No record-keeping. No headaches. Try it sometime.

THIS IS AN UNPAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT (With no treasury to fill, we don't have to charge for advertising space).

STUPEFYING NEW OFFER !!!

Just the thing for local fanclubs...order your supply now!

RED TAPE

Slightly used, but good for many a meeting yet! Makes hard, firm knots, almost impossible to untangle.

SLOT CLOCKS

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Time your meetings with one...it will let your officers arrive on time for once! Special stopping mechanism so clock can be turned off during the business session.

BOOK BARGAIN

Robert's Rules of Order, handbook of parliamentary procedure.
Mint condition, not even eyetracks. Uncut pages. Edges timeyellowed.

 MANPHEWS: We will try to have a review column about every other issue, that is we will if we get suitable fanzines to roview and they contain the usual amount of material which needs commenting upon from the Insurgent viewpoint. at bas . erada elimevot

o om est and the different way recently, was the more

SIRIUS, 1308 Hoe Ave., Branx 59, New York. No price quoted. Contains an article by one of our Insurgent members. How many contributions to fanzines have DSFL members produced in the past six months?

THE DETROIT STFAN, 5037 Maplewood Ave., Detroit 4, Mich. No price quoted. Bulletin of some local group in Detroit, we presume. Some good interior illios, but the artist's name isn't mentioned. Internal lousy, perchance? et line (vicetnem) ers stednem sti it defo la

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