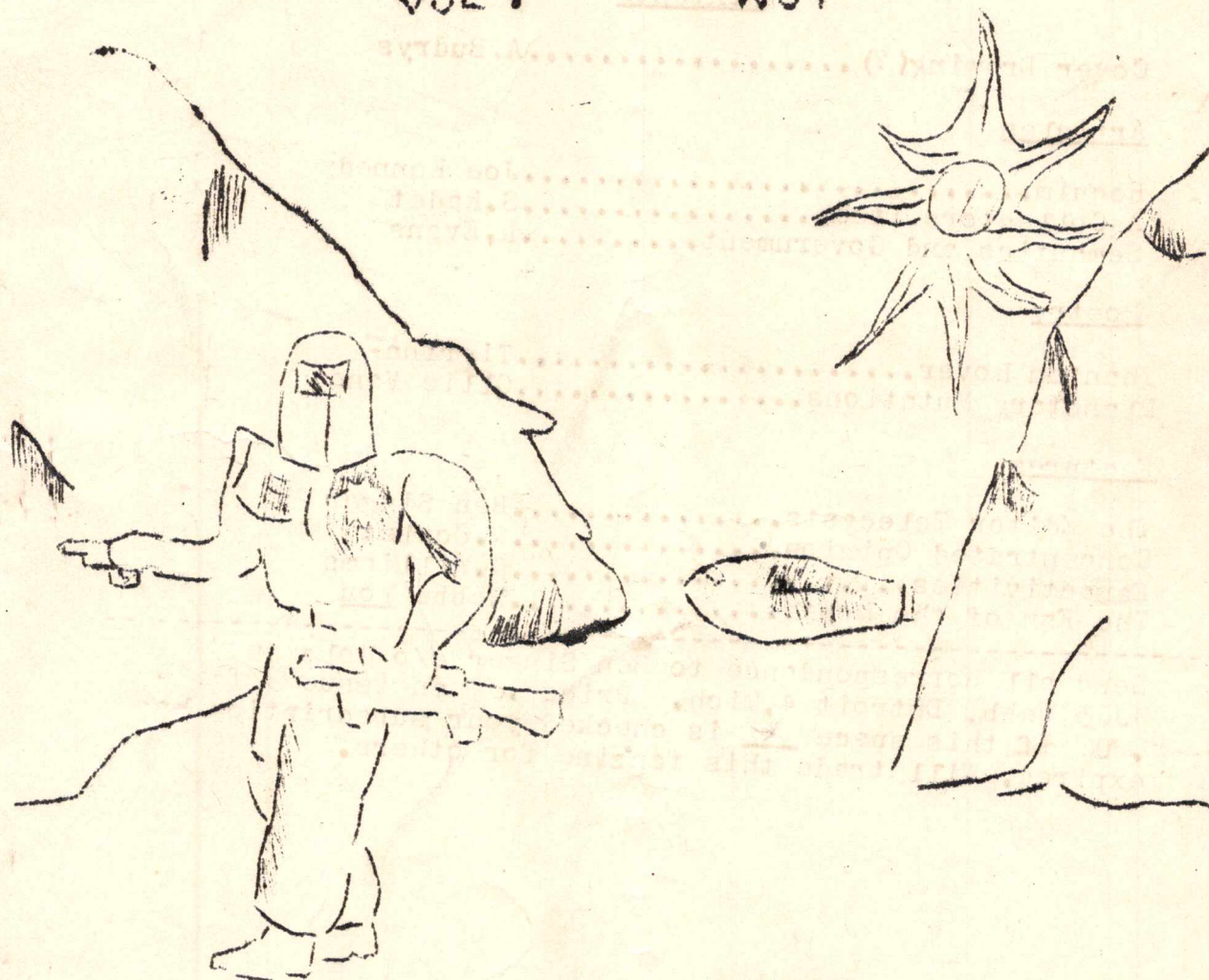


the
MUTANT

VOL 1 NO 1



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The Mutant

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Send all correspondence to Ben Singer c/o Holzman
4005 Webb, Detroit 4, Mich. Price .07 an issue 3 f-
.20. If this space X is checked your subscription has
expired. Will trade this fanzine for others.

REQUIEM

by

Joe Kennedy

To put it bluntly, folks, the old style of s-f that we've known for the past couple of decades is dead. As a matter of fact, many of us were too young to think of such things as reading science-fiction when Hugo Gernsback launched the first all sf prozine. But the collectors and avid fans in the audience should be familiar with the more famous stories of yesteryear, for much of their efforts in laboriously picking up back issues of ancient pulps in the course of their collecting activities have not been wasted. Even the newest of fans should be familiar with the style of the science-fiction of yesteryear, for much of it has been reprinted in the Hall of Fame department of Startling, and a few choice samples have appeared in such anthologies as Groff Conklin's The Best of Science Fiction and Don Wollheim's Rocket Book of S.F. So that when we say that the old type of science-fiction has had its day, that it is going to give way to something new, we can be pretty sure that it is, that most of the readers and fans have noticed the trends of the past which seem to indicate that a newer, different type of futuristic fiction is on its way in.

We all know the remarkable way science has managed to catch up with some of the wildest-seeming predictions of such pioneers of s-f as H.G. Wells and Jules Verne. The atomic bomb... new rocket developments... increased medical knowledge acquired during the war... many pages could be written about the things which s-f has foretold that have taken their place in actual history. For science today is progressing faster than ever. The more man knows, the faster he can go ahead and learn even more. So it is that even the age-old dream of the science-fiction-minded--travel through space--seems now to be at the threshold of reality.

Old-timers have pointed out that many stories which would be considered science-fiction twenty years ago hold no appeal whatever to the fan of today. Tales of high-powered radio, aircraft capable of doing 500 mph, (continued on page 8)

A Collectors Item

by Sanford Kadet

If you are a science-fiction fan; if you are a collector of science-fiction and fantasy books this should interest you. Even if you are a fan with no collecting interest you should find some gratifying information in this piece, at least such is my hope.

We of fandom, that have been collecting second-hand and out-of-print fantasy and sf volumes for some years now are beginning to find it harder and harder to get these books. In years past it wasn't hard for any fan to get these books. It wasn't hard for any fan who wasn't the owner of an extensive fantasy library to walk into a second-hand shop and pick up an addition or two to his collection. Times have certainly changed; and its about time we relized that.

No longer are fans the only people searching for items of fantasy, in fact we have been usurped! Tisn't easy to belive, but the percentage of fantasy collectors has risen at a pace greater perhaps than anything since the growth of detective-fiction. Not only are they buying older stories, but take a look at the number of new books that are being presented, and are selling well. I have spoken with a prominent downtown rare book dealer and he told me he has one customer that comes in every day, searching only for fantasy. There are a number of others that either come in weekly, or have asked to be notified as soon as anything of sf or fantasy interest appears, new, old or otherwise battered, beaten and done-in.

I think the reasons behind this sudden interest are self-evident; the sudden upswing in the fields of science that have been predicted by science-fiction of the past is one of them. Frequent mention of s-f in non-scientific articles and a general trend towards a new form of escape reading are two others.

But what of this new fantasy interest-- will it last?? Who knows?? Nothing definite can be said but--my money's on an even greater movement towards fantasy than in the past, for all the reasons stated above and at least one other important cause. People are starting to get tired of detective yarns. (Can't say that I blame them, either) The detective story has had its hey-day, with its loss of popularity folks are going to search around for some other branch of "literacha"...and I think they'll find fantasy.

Exactly what'll happen if fantasy gets a sudden rise in popularity cant be said for sure, but I've a hunch that cheap publicity will follow, third rate fantasy movies and such. This or a drop to obscurity?? Which is best?? I don't know, do you??

Most of the arguments for and against this or that or the other thing are addressed to what Mr. Thurman Arnold in his book, "The Folkways of Capitalism", calls the ability to choose between right and wrong, the qualities of the "thinking man."

What Mr. Arnold knows, but few of us realize, is that none of us are able to choose what is really right or wrong. What we pick is what we have been conditioned to since the day of our birth. Our education, (in the broad sense of the term, including all of our life's experiences) determines where we stand. Most of us have been diligently educated to the so-called "American Way" supposedly just in the center between Fascism and Communism (That is if you realize that Fascism is the extreme right)

This is between government by a through and through group, government by a few and by all. America is government by many. That is, a large number engage in government, a few getting most of the products of industry, many getting some, and many more getting little or almost none.

That is the way we have been conditioned--conditioned to believe that our system is best. A German believes his system best. Why? He has been conditioned to believe so. A Russian believes his system is best. Why? He has been conditioned, taught to believe this. An Englishman believes that his system is best; he is just as sure of this as you are---and for the same reason as you, the Russian, the German, and anyone else you care to name.

Therefore I say that free will is exceedingly rare. However, some people who have not been educated into contemporary folklore, who go to the heart of them, matter without concern for their immortal souls, or principles of economics, etc. have it. Many others perhaps, who haven't been bludgeoned into belief by their early education. Men perhaps as Galileo, Darwin, Copernicus, Arnold and others.

Words such as these and others like Fascism, Communism etc., have meaning only as a description of how goods are produced or people live in the countries for which they are being used. Capitalism, Democracy, free enterprise, are what we have in the U.S. They mean nothing in the abstract. As conditions change, so do the words -- for words are only noises. These noises are descriptive -- no more. And this printed page is only a symbol for those noises

The Editor Telecasts

by Ben Singer

Well here it is....another one of those things. The field(?) is so gutted with fanzines that before you can pull a dime out of your pocket-- to buy one, two or three more pop up. But you can't stop enthusiastic fans that's why I'm here. (Continued on page 3)

CONCENTRATED OPINION

by Walter A. Coslet

The stories in the Sept. '46 Astounding are extremely hard to rate. The cover yarn, Ray Jones' Toymaker, does not particularly stand out in the memory, yet there is very little in it which one can put his finger on, and say, "This is weak." Either we are getting calloused to the average ASF yarn, or ASF is losing its punch. Though perhaps both are, to some extent, true; the latter is probably the most effective. The story deals with humanoids of Jemal, third planet of some distant solar system; long after the time the Tellurians have annihilated themselves; and is another of the stiff suggestions for preventing war. The recipe?--- toys treated to reflect thoughts of certain kinds along a specially recorded sequence. The result was; all the children pleading for peace. The best illustration for this story is on page 29. IN TIMES TO COME seems a little late with its announcement that the front cover title is going to undergo change___ we wonder what he thinks it has been doing...

Blind Time by G.O. Smith has a nice idea---but strictly PROBABILITY ZERO. All in all, the story is quite interesting until the last page, where it becomes hazy and confusing; if it wasn't for that fault, it would be an easy first place; as it is, however, it doesn't come out much ahead of any other stories. The basic idea has occurred to us before; with the thought that it's obviously impossible for an object to be supported through time-- and if it was impossible, the object would be some distance "back" in space or "forward" in the actual position the rest of the object is operating--but if that were true, Smith wouldn't have had any story... Also, when one passed his hand along the juncture, it would seem logical for the hand to follow along the timewarp.

"Lawrence O'Donnell" returns (we still wonder if these O'Donnell stories .. aren't collaborations between Hank Kuttner--L. Padgett, to ASF--, and his wife, C.L. Moore) with VINTAGE SEASON, a time travel tale containing much of the Moore broodiness. We never did care much for a C.L. Moore story, in spite of the acclaim they receive elsewhere, and O'Donnell yarns suffer from the same ailment. The main point of the whole story seems to be that disease scourges of unknown varieties are sometimes carried on meteors. Page 89 claims about the best of illustrations for this yarn, tho even it is none too good.

Perhaps the best story in the issue is EVIDENCE, another of Asimov's well-worked-out robotics tales. This also contains one of the best illustrations in the issue, on page 128. The issue closes with the conclusions to Zagat's Slaves of the Lamp--Natlane in charge. The keynote of this yarn is the same as for the first ish, The Toymaker; methods of war prevention. The story rambles on at perhaps slightly below the level of the average ASF. If the stories must be rated, they come out about this way: 1--EVIDENCE, 2--BLIND TIME, 3--TOYMAKER 4--about a tie between SLAVES OF THE LAMP and VINTAGE SEASON. By the way, did you know Timmins' studio was blown up? You don't believe it? Look on the cover and see!

REQUIEM

By JOE KENNEDY

(continued from page 3) bombs potent enough to devastate whole cities at a time--these would have thrilled and captured the imaginations of the fans of years gone by. Today, in the view of the average sf fan these out-dated tales produce only a yawn. They are considered of historical value only; perhaps discussed once in a while, but seldom, if ever, read.

Compare the thud and blunder of yesteryear to the slickly polished plots of the better stories which Astounding features these days. Stories of trips to the moon which enthralled many readers in 1929, seem trite today. Lengthy scientific explanations have given way to the smoother, more readable Campbell method of working in any scientific background along with the development of the story-- instead of presenting the science element of a story in huge, indigestible lumps. With a few minor exceptions, of which some of George O. Smith's technical tales may be quoted as an example, the sf of today includes sociological, philosophical, and historical elements. "World of A", although considered by some fans to be of little value as a story, was definitely a step in a new direction with the introduction of semantics to science-fiction.

In an era when covers of popular science magazines resemble the sf covers of ten years ago, it seems obvious that science-fiction today must search new fields if it is going to survive and grow as we expect it to. The old style of rocket-and-ray-gun is soon going to be overtaken by reality (it is no longer considered of any great worth as either literature or prophecy, inasmuch as current trends have either made the prophecy elements invalid for the future, or have rendered them hopelessly inadequate to be fitted into any story of the present or the recent past.) One foothold remains for the old-style of science-fiction, with its buns and bloody battles, and soon damsels in distress: Planet Stories, which still adheres to an old and practically antiquated policy. We can safely predict that some great changes in policy should be taking place soon in PS. The science fiction of tomorrow is being made by the history of today. And history isn't going to wait for one, or two pulp magazines to grow up.

The Editor Telecasts by Ben Singer

(continued from page 5) Next issue is to have Readers Page and Want Ads, so how about some of you readers sending in your comments on this ish. And if you have any ads pertaining to sf send them in. All ads up to 15 words will be accepted (Continued on page 11)

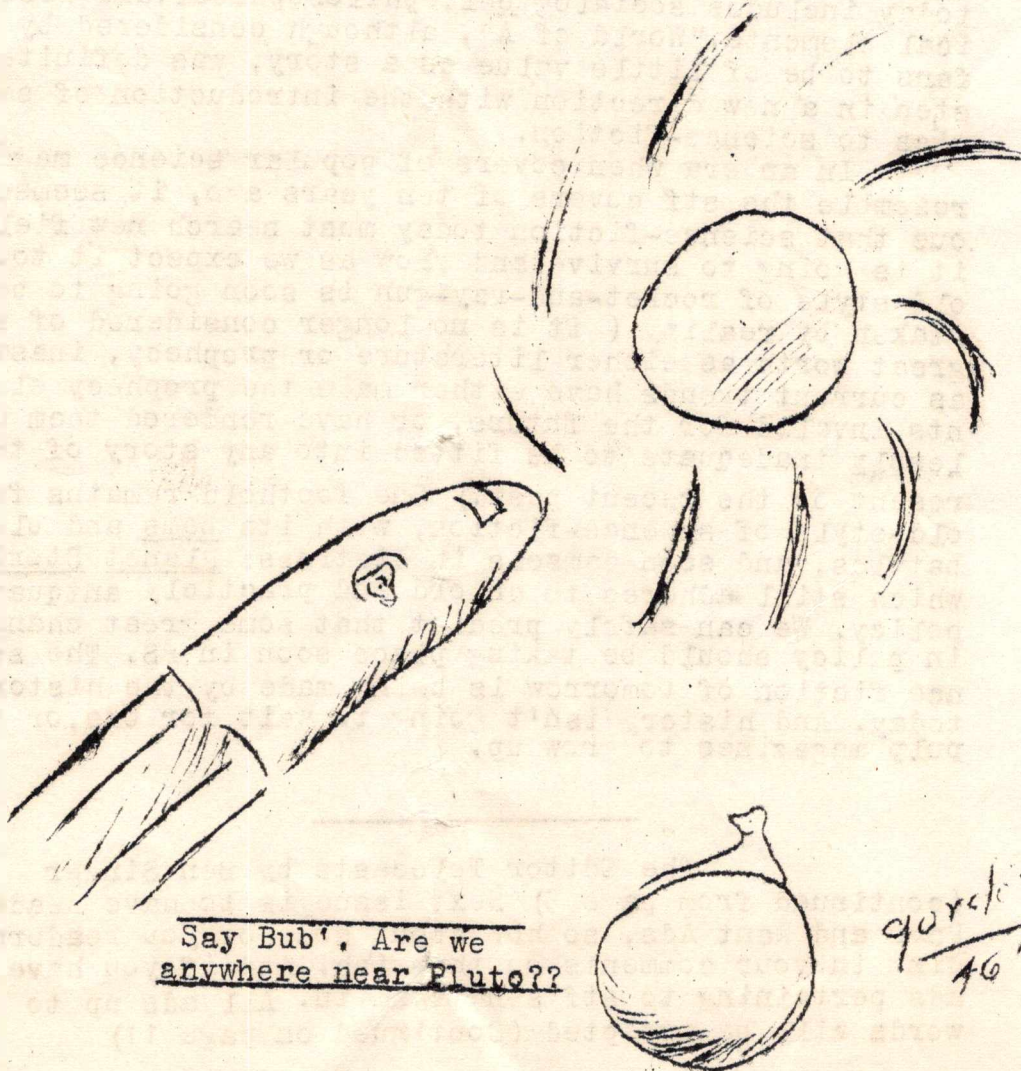
The Fan of the Month

The purpose of this feature is to give recognition to those fans who have given their utmost to make fandom a better medium of enjoyment for all of us.

The fan whom we have chosen this month is one who is not as well known or as famous as many of the big-time fans. He has given much of his time to help many fans publish their fanzines, by sending them material from his manuscript bureau. By now you must of guessed his name. Yes! It's Walter A. Coslet. In the event that any new (or old for the matter) editor needs material for his fanzine, just drop him a line at Box 6, Helena Montana, and he'll be glad to help you in any way he can.

#####

Watch for the next "Fan of the Month". It might be you,



Say Bub'. Are we
anywhere near Pluto??

gordon
46'

FANACTIVITIES

by Gerry Williams

To you, the readers of this column, however few and far between you may be upon this first issue, let me render my deepest apologies. When first I accepted this column I had high and mighty ideals and ambitions about turning it into something really worth-while, filled with a goodly variety of fan-news gleaned from the four corners of the realm of fandom. Yet now, when it comes time to set all this in print, I find I still have the mighty ideals and ambitions-----but not the news!!!

The reason for the news shortage is simple. I simply didn't have time to get it all in from the fan I contacted. This column is your column. I merely act as the reporter and interpreter. In other words you dish out the dope and I'll do my best to pass it along. (Plus any orchids or onions I decide to add, natch!) The policy of this is vague even to me. But its function is mainly to present interesting, humorous, and possibly in certain cases, censored news of fan and fan clubs. So how about throwing a rope to a drowning man and sending in your scrap of news? Anything you think might be of newsvalue, about yourself, your club or other fan. Send all info to 4711 Verdun Avenue, Verdun, Quebec, Canada.

But now, before you lose interest completely and stop reading, (if anyone has had the patience to read even this far that is!) Here's a few notes I jotted down in the hopes that they might be of interest.

Did you ever wonder about the name of the fan "TIGRINA"? I have and I'm sure many others have too, so here's the story in her own words. "Tigrina was the name of a fan character in one of those sensational "Examiner" newspaper Sunday supplements, which constituted practically the sum total of available "fantasy" reading when I was a child. I took a fancy to the name and adopted it, not only because of parental opposition to fantasy, but as a mode of self-protection when writing to members of the LASFS, who were then unknown to me. All my fan friends know me by that name, and it is thus that I sign the manuscripts of the few stories that I write. Tigrina is not just an alias to me. It seems more my name than the original one, which I feel belongs to another personality that I left behind in my home town when I came to L.A. to be a fantasy fan.

Tigrina is now secretary of the LASFS, hosts and hard workers of the Pacificon. Besides reading fantasy she writes stories and poetry, (One of which is in this issue.) corresponds, and has a natural yen for fantasy/mystery movies and radio participation shows where she spends most of her time.

Now for a word about Ben, ye lowly editor. Ben spends most of his time trying to read every mag he can lay his hands on---- fantasy mags, but natch. That is when he's not ~~tearing~~ ~~out~~ the last clumps of hair from his noggin waiting for overdue material like this and using words that put solar heat to shame. (continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9) He also has a hobby of writing weird letters, I'm still trying to decipher his last one myself!

Out in Fargo, North Dakota Dunk is tied up with the coming elections and the recent fracas in the NF-FF with which both he and another member were connected. Through quick action Dunk has been successful in stopping this rift in fandom which otherwise might have proved a disastrous blow to all fandom.

Down in California again Gilbert Ayala has taken up Rick Sneary's cue in Planet and laid the foundations for a correspondence club in which members (as usual) do the work. How about getting with it gang and joining??

Beak Taylor is the fan Canadian fandom centers upon. And up in Toronto where he is a freshman in the arts course at the University of Toronto he turns out a mean mag. "Still the biggest nickels worth in Fandom. (Quote used without the permission of Beak Taylor who originally used it without the permission of Poll Kat Art Widner. I wonder who gets to sue me?)

Les Croutch of Barry Sound is another "big" man of Canadian Fandom. A traveller at heart he recently paid Beak a visit in Toronto. His varied hobbies are all centered 'round the fantasy field. And his wit and good humor are known throughout fandom.

There we lay the pen--till next month. (yeah, 2nd month you mean Ed.) Send in the news and we'll do our best to print it. Au revoir.

Phantom Lover by Tigrina

My phantom lover comes to me from out the lonely night
My eyes trace, through their tears his misty shape with
the gloom
and I feel his loving presence within my empty room.
I know that he is there, though out of sight,

In whispers I repeat to him our hearts' eternal vow,
The flickering phantom moonbeams are the lovelight in
from the open window it is not the breeze that sighs
And wafts sweet phantom kisses on my brow,

My true love is a prisoner upon another plane.
Some stranger has usurped his earthly body for his own
And does not know that I know, and knowing, crave to be
To summon up my phantom love again.

Planetary Mutation

by Ollie Vane

I Goopsees

The Goopsees have never a thot for the past,
They've lived there on Venus for many a tast;
Their heads are so small and their bellies so vast
They look like a snowman just gasping his last.

They've large spreading feet and arms curled at the hand,
They cram their green food and no meal do they plan.
These queer, waddling creatures were fathered by man!

II Wadtees

The Wadtee is one of the funniest of men;
He's blue and he's purple and yellow again;
He's green and he's orange with burgundy wen;
So odd and so funny you'll think he's not, then.

He's tall and he's thin and he's short and he's fat;
His stomach's a bean pole, his head is afire.
He'd scare away any respectable cat.
A native of Mars, he claims man as his sire!

The Editor Telecasts

by Ben Singer

(continued from page 8) What do you fen think of Gerry Williams's "Fanactivities"? Write in and tell us. Best letter wins subscription to "The Mutant". Anybody got an urgin' to correspond with other fen?? Ye Ed has decided to act as a medium for these parties. So--if you're lonesome and know how to write(or type) send me a line or two, and I'll fix you up(Heh HehX)

In future issues we may review old stories of the "Big 3" Wonder, Amazing, and Astounding. What's your reaction to this??

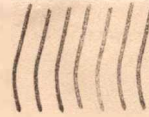
In future issues you may also look for an improvement in the mimeographing of "The Mutant". With school starting we didn't have much time to work on it.

Well--guess that's about all for now.....see you in two months(I hope!)

-the Editor

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page, including "LATE", "A", and "11/11".

"THE MATHS."



HENRY ELSNER JR.
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