

# WALKER



# P H A N T E U R

an amateur publication

p e r p e t r a t e d   o c c a s i o n a l l y

b y

D. B. Thompson

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Imperial Nebraska

F A P A   E D I T I O N

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Cover by Jim Nelson

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As usual, I haven't lived up to my good intentions. There were to be some book comments and discussions in this issue--but this is April 29. No book notes.

The cover depicts the instant at which our intrepid explorer, Jim Nelson, first sighted that biological monstrosity, Pseudosaurus grinninattus. As you all know, this, the first e-t intelligence ever encountered by Man, is a super telepath. For lack of any other identifying symbol, Jim called this first one "Lew," since its mental diction was an exact duplicate of the pear-shaped tones of a famous American Man of Letters, Lew Lehr.

You may notice that Lew's snout is very dim. This is because Lew, working just like The Cheshire Cat, only in reverse, had not quite materialized at the time of his discovery.

It developed later, that in an atmosphere, Lew had a beautiful singing voice, an accomplishment perfected through carefully listening to the major renditions of Andy Devine. Great guy, that Lew.

Got stuck in a blizzard again the last week in March; had to spend the night in a dormitory at the Construction Camp near the Dam. The mid-April blizzard missed this part of Nebraska, although it dumped a foot of snow on the Eastern half of the State.

Al Laney displays a knack for writing satire in his first prose contribution to the FAPA. I'm hoping Si and his pal, "Skillet Sam," will be back soon.

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William Bade, whose third story, the novelet "Lost Ulysses," appears in the April ASF, has just been named top scholar at Nebraska U. Bill finished with a 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -year average of 93.5, highest in Nebraska U history--and as a clincher, averaged 97.5 for the last two years. He also acquired a wife in Febr. He plans to take his Masters and PhD--presumably in Math and/or Physics, and then teach in College. (Concluded on page 13.)



EXCERPT FROM  
PROCTALGIA

Published  
occasionally

for

FAPA

by

Si N. Tific  
Wheatopolis, Neb.

Well, Fellers, all I know is what I read in the fanzines. So yesterday I climbed on Old Bettleguse, my jet-propelled jackass, and accelerated down to the crossroads mail-box. The first thing I seen sticking out the slot was that FAPA mag, Wild Hair. Boy! Was it well named! I was standing there flipping the pages and Old Bettleguse was reading the page headings over my shoulder. (He only reads fantasy stuff). All of a sudden he got a glimpse of a couple of the fans' faces (I mean one face for each fan, I hope). A wild look came into his eyes, the hairs of his tail stuck straight out, and off he took;--before I could get back home and reverse the control switch, Old Bett was entering the gravitational field of Alpha Centauri.

After supper I settled down and read her through. Liked the editorial and a couple of pieces by that feller Laney. I wonder where he got that name? I guess F. Towner is the only literate Laney in these latitudes. "Skillet Sam," a pal of mine, dropped in. Sam graduated from one a them California colleges; a brilliant but a bitter man; never has a good word for anybody. He's a ranch-cook; guess he got that way from eating his own cooking.

Sam looked the mag over and I asked him what he thought about those fellers getting together and writing a whole fanzine in one night. He lived up to his reputation, alright. Said they ought to call themselves the M.A.S. --Mutual Admiration Society. Said he got a mind-picture of a herd of fantasses setting around on their fants and yelling to each other, "I just love you, you old Big-Name-Fan, you!" "I just love you, too, you old genius, you!" Said while they were patting each other on the back with their writing machines, they oughter hit a little higher up and forwards a little. (Sam's kind of ornery.) Said he read somewheres that if you set two monkeys down at typewriters and let 'em hit the keys at random for millions and millions of years, eventually they would rewrite every book ever written. I don't know what he was driving at; that college stuff is over my head, Fellers.

Guess I'll sign off with a little society item. When Old Bett took off so unexpected-like, he blew a couple of rear jet gaskets and I went over to the County Seat to replace 'em. Thought I'd take in a picture-show and stay in town over night. The Wheat Growers was having a convention and I couldn't get a hotel room anywheres. Had to spend the night in a cat-house; didn't cost me much though; ran into some kin-folks.

Well, as the say in Newbrasky; stay in the buggy, Boys! So long; I'll be seeing you.

Si N. Tific

per

*Al Laney*

Literary Agent

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### "By Their Works Ye Shall Know Them"

FANTASY AMATEUR

I'm glad to see that the OO is more <sup>nearly</sup> completely legible than it has been some times lately. Slip-sheeting would help a lot, but isn't really necessary.

Our good President should consider, perhaps, the advisability of not mixing obviously facetious "rulings," sober decisions, and some others which seem to lie somewhere between, indiscriminately throughout his Official Message to the Membership. The OE calls attention to two mutually exclusive decisions; I think there are others almost as bad.

I still favor a ban on postmailings, except for the purpose of meeting activity requirements; and I think now, that at least four pages or the equivalent should be required in the regular mailings, before regular deadline, as a pre-requisite to the acceptance of a postmailing for activity credits.

As I type this--April 9, about a month before the next deadline, I have three postmailed magazines. One is a late attempt to meet activity credits, and is sufficiently good to to indicate that the member responsible for it would be a satisfactory member if he would stir his stumps. I wonder will he?

I can see no reason whatever why the other two should have been postmailed. One of them is from one of our heaviest contributors--Speer--and is almost a year late; a couple months more would make no difference. The other also represents the work of several top contributors; the mere fact that it was a one-night cooperative job is no justification for postmailing, however; it would read just as well in May as in March.

I have no objection to raising the membership limit, although I'm not sure that it is necessary at this time.

I'm opposed to the "membership by invitation" as the one and only means of getting in, but would be glad to see it adopted as a supplementary means of recruiting desirable members. Experience in VAPA, I think, shows fairly conclusively that inviting members of known ability does not insure good mailings. The level of ability in VAPA is rather high, but, if such divergent qualities may be compared, the percentage of deadheads is even higher.

I suggest, in this respect, that a study of past performances in the FAPA might be enlightening; of those who were practically unknown but who got into FAPA on the minimum requirements now in force, how many became stronger-than-average members? And of those who had written and published for years, and who would probably have been on an "invited" list, how many have failed to continue activity, or to produce much worthwhile material? I don't know the answers, and I'm not going to hunt them up, but those answers would be a valuable guide to the constitution-changers. As an offhand opinion, I should say that the "unknowns" would compare fairly well with the others.

I see by the Poll Results that PHANTEUR and its Editor didn't do quite so well as the previous year. I wonder if one reason could be that activity in the Fall is worth more than activity in the Spring?

The general worthlessness of the "Worst Member" classification shows up rather plainly this time. I submit that, with the exception of two names, the list is composed of members who are there because of personal pique having nothing to do with their value as FAPA members, or else they are "humorous" listings. Hmmm; change that "two" to "three;" however, the third name I have in mind got a very small "Worst" vote.

Laney's reverence for the Constitution when it suits his needs and/or desires, and his bland disregard for those parts which interfere with his freedom of action seem to call for some comment. Perhaps we should have an amendment to the effect that the Editor should pay into the treasury, an amount equal to the individual mailing cost of any illegally-included matter; subject of course, to revocation of the fine by majority vote at a regular election. The "illegal" entries this time are all that Fran says they are, of course. Hmmm; at this rate, it will take 20 pages to review the mailing; too many.



BURBLINGS COLB. W/F.A. Rotsler seems to be as obsessed with roundtowers and battlements as Dali is with clocks.

Burb's gladsome gurgles of gle<sup>h</sup> over the Egoboo letter are justified, I think. Marijane--glad to see our gal jumping into the middle of the stream with both feet, or other mixed metaphors. "From referent.....to Dousters" is well done, even if I do disagree with much of it in the first part; as for the last part, She knows and I know that Dousters jest ain't reasonable, but....

Bratton pulled some factual and logical boners in his article, and the Shaver influence was <sup>not</sup> evident to me, because I've never read Shaver, if for no other reason. But still, I think "Crackpot on a Pogo Stick" is an excellent label for the Tremaine series. I did read the series. The idea of such narrow and short-range inheritance of such complex abilities as writing or designing airplanes strikes me as being completely out of line with actual workings of the laws of inheritance. Are "genius," derived from the genii of the Arabian Nights, and "generation," derived from some form of the latin gens, as is "genes," I believe, related philologically? (If you ar confused, the subject of the preceding sentence is plural, and consists of "genius" and "generation," aincha happy now?) Idon't know whether the words are related or not, do you? Anyhow, please come back again soon, Marijane.

Stibbards Prattfalls have me on edge--the influence of the Burbee fencing technique, no doubt. I think I should prefer to witness the Art School Fall; it is too far down the Capital steps, and it would probably be dark in the theatre.

I am not going to file my fanzines systematically. I always have a half-hearted system for current 'zines (not over two years old, generally) so that I can find them by name, fairly quickly. I keep em in folders in a carton. I never refer to them, anyway. As for FAPazines, I stick them back in the envelope, labeling the envelope with the date. I never look at them either. But I still don't like postmailings!

Daugherty on the phone was pretty important, I guess; appears in two different FAPAmags simultaneously. Actually, the writeup does sound like Daugherty, sure enough. Incidentally, the latest issue of SHANGRI-LA lists "Prof. Oxnard Himmel" as one of the contributors to the Anthology number. Does that count as Burbee, Fran? I'm afraid some of your deductions are only too right; some of them are a little too severe to be credible. Anyway, the recent issues of Shanri-La, if not worth the \$50.00 (which they aren't, of course) are rather good. Hershey, in particular, among the newcomers, seems to be a valuable addition.

CATALYST 1. I for one hope that this illegally mailed publication becomes a legal and regular part of the Mailings soon. About the only thing I find wrong with it is the size of the pages.

"Was Manhattan Necessary" is a neat piece of satire. That I don't think the touted Civilization of the descendants of the barbarous tribes of Manhattan, Brooklyn, etc., as presented in the article, has anything to offer doesn't reduce my enjoyment of the piece. Toput it bluntly, I doubt if a civilization based on the Liberal Arts could survive without slavery.

If the recommended books are all comparable to Heavenly Discourse, I'd sure like to read them.

"Leprechauns Have Eyebrows" is best described as delightful. The circumlocutions of traditional Irish "logic" were never more ably displayed. Sure, and it's convinced that I am, Leprechauns DO have Eyebrows!

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## FANDANGO

I am abashed and AMAZED. That Laney should admit his own fallibility in the case of the lost Burbeescript, is, horrendous though such an admission may be, understandable in terms of the man's tolerance and breadth of insight, not to mention oversight; but that he should admit that BURBEE HIMSELF, like an ordinary mortal, is also fallible --I had not expected to live so long!

If "Bureaucrats and Bumpers" is at all typical, I'm about ready to claim that, far from the Government Services with which I am familiar having anything to learn about efficiency from monopolistic free enterprise (what a combination of opposites that phrase is!) the business world might learn from the Government agencies. I know of other examples of such inside battling.

The only other reviews of Pilgrims Through Space and Time, as I recall, said much the same as Condra.

Ah, yes, Gus; organize a fan club to do your dirty work for you; they are sure to do it dirtier than you can! Which reminds me, Gus; before I subscribed to Fantasy Advertiser, I got it regularly; since then, not one issue has come my way. A bookkeeping error, no doubt; and I never cared enough one way or the other to write you a card about it. I still don't.

Speaking of Fan Clubs, I think the Colorado Fantasy Society comes the closest to being a desirable Club of any that I know much about. Their more-or-less unscheduled meetings are social get-to-gethers and gabfests, with everyone talking a mile a minute, and no topic is exempt. As a group, they do very little; individually, they accomplish quite a bit. Mullen, with Gorgon, Prism, and his pro work; Hunt, with illustrations and other art work for various publications, amateur and pro; Hansen, with Damballa and, occasionally, Alchemist, and Peterson, with the Fantasy Index, soon to appear, plus contributions to Mullen's and Hansen's publications, and Al Laney, who is just beginning to take an active part. And Olon Higgins was at the last meeting I attended; he was quite active in pre-Donvention days. There are others, too; Sophie, who is a swell hostess, and some soldiers from Lowry Field who get into the meetings when they can. Feuding seems to be kept at a minimum. They are a good bunch.

"Jazz Note," at first glance, seems to be written in English; I'm sure part of this discussion is in English. The rest; I dunno.

## GLUM

A very satisfactory publication from beginning to end, in spite of the fact that Graham is casting aspersions throughout in the specific direction of FAPA's Fair-Haired Boy of Science-- and best article writer. (Looks like Rog might give Milt a run for that last title.) -- SKRewd does his stuff well; Page O, dealing with the vagaries of conversing with Burbee for some 8 hours before breakfast, is enlightening, and page OO is notable for the brief and effective jab at the Racial Superiority urge.

Our President has ruled that Graham can't review any Fapazine in the Clubhouse (someday, Graham, I'm going to discover that one issue of AMAZING contains stories by you, and Robert M. Williams, and Robert Bloch, and nothing by Shaver and one or two others; then I'm going to buy the issue and, along with the stories mentioned above, read The Clubhouse) unless said mags are mailed to you separately by the Editor thereof, for that particular purpose. That seems a little silly to me; why should Graham get TWO issues of the 'zines to be reviewed? Wouldn't specific permission printed in the mag in question, or perhaps a card mailed separately, granting permission, be satisfactory? Because of course, Rog can review any and all of the FAPA publications if he wishes; nothing could be done about it, except, perhaps, to expell him by majority vote, and I don't think a majority would vote that way. Most FAPA mags are not particularly suitable to procolumn review as a whole, but



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specific items often appear which would not be out of place in any pro review. For example, Milty's articles on Semantics and on the creed of the scientist would be good; much of Burbee's and Laney's stuff, when not too closely tied to personalities (which tend to make it unintelligible to non-members) some of Warner's articles, or even such speculative whimsy as my own "As Time Goes By," when well done. Such a policy would permit treatment in some detail.

"The baited hook" in pages 1 thru 5, and the very sharp and very obviously exposed barb on page 6, I hope, will stir Milty sufficiently so that he can come back in full charge, bristling with all the armaments of modern physics, not to mention the older kind.

When I studied my brief course in elementary engineering physics, Einstein was still the fellow who was said to be comprehensible to only seven men in the world--which doesn't speak too well for the profs of my period. In any case, I'm certainly not qualified to discuss the Einsteinian concepts with Graham or Milty, either one. If there is a baited hook, I can't see past the worm.

I had, however, gained the impression thru the years that Newtonian and Einsteinian laws governing motion were not quite so exactly in correspondence as Graham says; I was under the impression that Newtonian laws, in terms of Einsteinian concepts, were merely very close approximations, which were exact in special cases--those special cases being the conditions normally encountered. I think the precession of the orbit of Mercury, for example, was not adequately explained by Newtonian physics; but perhaps that is outside the limits of Graham's discussion.

There isn't any doubt that science and math students are often handicapped by instructors who can't make a step off the beaten path without falling flat on their faces. It is also true that the courses are loaded down with so much detailed trivia that it is very difficult indeed for a student to discover the broad highways leading off in all directions from the narrow path traversed by the instructors. But the fact remains that a hell of a lot of practical results come about, so there must be some good in the system, however much of bad there may be. As Milty says, the test of an hypothesis is, "does it work?" And, as Graham has pointed out, both the Newtonian and the Einsteinian systems work exactly alike--most of the time, anyway.

"On Sophistry" is good. Graham implies, but does not say, that he is above using sophistry himself. He says that Milt has been guilty of deliberately using sophistry in serious discussion. As for me, I assert that Graham, in stating "Name ONE law of science which is certain," was also using sophistry of a sort; he was FORCING Milty to use "The argument of the shifting premise," by pretending to believe that Milty meant to be taken in the literal sense, instead of the sense in which laws of science are normally understood; that is, highly probable postulations that work most of the time.

And now, if Milty and Graham will just go to it some more, I'll be glad to hold their coats.

#### HORIZONS

Well, at last, we got an issue of H that is clearly legible throughout. About the only thing remaining now that would improve the reproduction is slipsheeting, and that is a time consuming operation. I do it, but it is almost necessary with my nimble fingers to run a sheet through the machine under the impression sheet--so I just run my slip sheets through that way. Have to deslipsheet only once per sheet that way, too, instead of twice.

Quote "I don't care for Wagner in translation, and yet I don't think the argument that it makes his operas seem 'easier' than they are." What does that mean, Harry?

I like Harry's argument in answer to Cox on the racial discrimination question better than my own. "If ....Jews....scored higher in an IQ test, ....would you think it just to undergo the same treatment you have been handing the Negroes?" is getting down on the personal level, where it can be felt.



My copy of the UNKNOWN WORLDS anthology is quite clear and legible, although the paper is a little yellowish, and the type is slightly less than black. The six or eight copies which appeared on the stands in each of the stores handling magazines all disappeared very quickly.

It may be "The Grandest Opera," Harry; I'd have to take your word for it, because I wouldn't be able to tell.

#### HISTORY CARDS

Wonder how many of the members who have come in during the last two years have any idea what this series is all about? I read over the cards, and noted some instances where the writers' predictions had come very close; others, of course, where there was no relation to actual events at all.

#### LIGHT 37 & 38

There is practically nothing of interest to me in No. 37, although the seeming unpleasantness stirred up by McCoy's curious "report" on the Torcon, as shown in No. 38, yielded a moment's interest. In No. 38, the cartoon opposite page 2, showing the fish fishing for men and women, is rather well done. -- Diner's review of "World of Null A" is rather good, I think. I'm wondering whether or not, had this been published sooner, Moe would still be a member, since he was dropped for lack of activity. Publishers, it seems to me, have some responsibility in this matter; when an item needed to complete activity requirements is submitted in good faith and in plenty of time, failure of the publisher to put it out in time works a real, and often irremediable hardship on the contributor. I don't know whether the above applies in this case, but the idea was suggested by the conditions in this case. -- To Lamb; don't you ever get tired of reading those old, boring stories about wars that never happened, and probably couldn't have gone as depicted, anyway? Gibson "On Sea Ladies" is rather good; he seems better informed on them than I.

#### MASQUE

Stibbard's cover--at least on my copy--suffers considerably from lack of ink. The orange and yellow smears on the frothpiece are remarkably effective against the buff background.

F. Towner's rambling discourse on bookhunting--and other things--with Burbee, is mildly interesting. About ten minutes of such toil is always enough for me; but ten minutes isn't enough time to accomplish anything, of course, so I don't start; thus I save another ten minutes for equally useless endeavors along other lines. Towner's recital also reminds me of the comments of "Skillet Sam," whose immortal words appear on page two of this issue of PH.

The page of Rotsler sketches is good, as usual; perhaps the most intriguing is the ogre holding the expostulating nude in the palm of his hand.

"A Coinage For Fandom" falls flat. That seldom happens to Burbee's prose, so I guess he can stand it this once. -- Urk! Another round tower. -- Back cover looks OK; its fantasy too, ain't it? A female gigantanthropus and pals.

#### MATRIX

Who, pray tell, has been turning out good hecto jobs? If my copy is a fair sample, you, Mr. Toth, have done about as well as any. But I don't know of anyone else using hecto since

Hugh McInnis quit using it, and you do much better than he did. You probably have confused ordinary jelly-pan hectoing with Ditto and other liquid-process duplicators, such as used by Pederson, Coslet, Mullen, etc.

"Customs Declaration" certainly wasn't good, but was hardly as bad as you make it out to be. Still, a half-bad egg isn't very palatable, unless you are very hungry. -- I gather that Toth likes hargay covers. --

I'm somewhat astonished that anyone should resent the use of Alice in Wonderland themes in writing modern science fiction. As you have pointed out, there have been some fine tales of this type, and I expect to see a good many more.

"How do you know you are sane?" presents a good selection of related quotes. Adler's is the least satisfactory and least convincing of the lot. Incidentally,



I wonder to what extent the "feeling of inferiority" of which Adler writes is due to the unremitting efforts of priests and philosophers to keep us feeling that way? Most of the quotes in MATRIX are from philosophy, I notice.

"A Fusty Fable....." is very well done indeed, and is probably justified, although it might be well to mention Gorgon Press and the Portland Ore. group, as representative of the fan-publishers who obviously make a rather successful effort to live up to commitments. Incidentally, did it ever occur to you that acceptance of membership in the FAPA constituted a commitment of much the same type?

#### METEOR SHOWER

Coswal thinks of the darndest ways to make himself popular in the FAPA! Seems to me, Walter, that the precarious status of the VAPA and the SAPS should make you a bit dubious about the success of this organization you propose. The VAPA, of course, isn't a fantasy group, although the mailings sometimes read as though it were, and their material is generally of interest to would-be fan publishers and writers; yet this year they dropped the "subscriber" classification as a rather worthless adjunct to the regular organization. The big joker in your plan, though, is to give credit to members only for fantasy material published. Defining "fantasy material" is going to take a lot of doing. Let us know next year how the GAPA is doing.

You wonder why none of your stuff ever rates Laureate? Well, let's see if we can dope out any reasons. Consider first your Reviews. You cover the entire mailing, as do most of those who rate mention (in my personal opinion, you understand). I'd say, first, that you rarely discuss any of the topics upon which you comment; rather, you ask questions out of context, without stating your own opinion on the matter. For the rest, your comments are extremely cryptic, generally incomprehensible unless the item being "reviewed" is in the hands of the reader--which, I should say, is very rarely the case; never is with me.

Now, let's consider articles. Have you ever made a definite attempt to write anything unique or exceptional, both in content and in execution? I don't think you have. Your "speeches" before the Toastmasters' Club, for instance, are probably prepared with some care, but they contain little of interest to FAPAns, since it is all very old stuff to us. The only interest for us is in the fact that you are doing something to publicize the fantasy; we may either approve or disapprove of your efforts in that line; you would have to be at least a Rothman or a Graham to make such a topic interesting to FAPA.

As another example, consider your brief article on numismatics in the present issue. I think it is rather good, even though I have no interest whatever in the subject, other than the collection of my bi-weekly check. But the article is not outstanding; after all, only four or five articles in each mailing can be mentioned in that category. Look over the list of articles which I consider worthy of mention this time, and see if you don't agree.

I think, by the way, that in your comments on FANDANGO #18, you answer your own insistence on all-fantasy content. "You can discuss the fantasy angle of anything." Quite so; had it occurred to you that an article which contains no direct reference to fantasy may be derived largely from, or in part from, speculations originating in fantasy? Politics, for instance, or Education? Marxist theories, for example, are still essentially in the field of abstract "just supposing;" so is the problem of whether a thorough grounding in The Humanities or in General Semantics is the better preparation for life in the modern world. They are, therefore, properly within the field of fantasy, in the form of speculative articles. It isn't necessary to mention the word fantasy to establish the connection.

I don't think anyone would request more pages of interesting reviews than Harry would write; like you, other members are also short on time. The only exception that I can think of would be someone who was wealthy enough to have



both typing and reproduction done commercially; and who, at the same time, is inordinately fond of very long review sections. I'd like to see 10 pages of Warner discussions, myself, but I haven't the time to do the work involved.

I notice, Walter, that your Reviews of the Fall Mailing (wherein you catch up) are somewhat better than any preceding ones; specifically, there is some actual discussion of EGO BEAST, MORPHEUS, MOONSHINE, SKY HOOK, etc.

The Review of SUE R SCIENCE is fairly good, although we disagree on some of the items. The way you recall specific stories, dates, authors, etc. always amazes me; it doesn't seem likely that you actually look them up; for that matter, I couldn't even do that, under a week, since I rarely remember anything but the story, with no idea who wrote it where when.

I am not going to join the SAPS!

This is the best Coswal production to date, I think; and it may rate in the Review category, on the basis of reviews encountered so far.

#### MIKROKOSMOS

"There Must Be Easier Ways...." Yeah; almost ANY would be easier, I should think. Has Coriell leaned to read a Burroughs story while standing on his head on the high wire, and holding the book with the title up? -- The review of the movie "Intolerance" is adequate, I think; I wonder if I saw it, back in "The Good Old Days," when I distributed handbills as a means of getting in to see "Birth of a Nation"? I still remember a few scenes from that; I'd probably remember some of "Intolerance" if I'd seen it, so I suppose I didn't. -- I rather like "Cosmic Cyelo."

#### MICRON

Somebody is sure to say that "Quoting Korzybski is an easy way to get activity credit," so I'd like to say right here that such quoting as Jack has done here represents a helluvalotta work. It seems to me that he has presented a very fair job of excerpting relevant paragraphs; and anyone who has read S and S, in full or in part, knows that that is a difficult job. Still, I doubt if the quotations are really comprehensible to anyone not somewhat familiar with St. K. and his work. I may be entirely wrong about that, though.

Your analysis of Cox's "racial problem" article is OK; reject his premise that Negroes are "stupid," and his whole article falls to pieces. Treat each Negro as an individual, and Cox's article also falls to pieces.

#### MOONSHINE

"Change of Station" is dry and pedestrian. I reckon that was the intent. Reading it, I got the curious feeling that such an assignment would be every bit as boring as Tackett made it. Quit messin' up dreams, Tackett!

Stan's comments on the Paul Cox article are awkwardly expressed, but sound, I think. Len does it a little better, but of course, he uses more space. Attacking the article through the meaningless expression, "The Negro is inferior or he appears inferior" is good; Cox left himself wide open on that one. I'm glad Len made the point about the very black-skinned American Negroes who are indistinguishable, in intelligence, from their lighter brothers. I've known one or two such, among the few Negroes I've known at all well. My own observations in the South indicate, incidentally, that the most intelligent of the Negroes are careful to act in the emotional, irresponsible manner which coincides with the character assigned to them by the Whites. That is good sense.

#### NEW PURPOSES

"The Salesman as a Culture Hero" is very, very good. I'm a lousy salesman, incidentally; tried house to house selling during the pre-depression recession; and while I did better than any other member of the crew, I still couldn't make expenses. I'm also a rather poor prospect for salesmen to work on, I think.

I don't know whether or not the point of "Turnbook for the Atomic Age" is intended to be taken seriously, but if it is, I'm in violent disagreement. The one sure way to prevent the development of a genuine, worthwhile d



"Science of Man"--or, if you prefer--"Art of Living," is to halt the dizzying development of physical science. The opposition to social anthropology and related fields of study, and to the findings of General Semantics, is already very great; the single effective talking point for such study today is that it is needed to bring Man-as-a-whole up to his physical environment. Stop physical science, and, in my opinion, you stop philosophy, art, and other non-physical activities in their tracks.

"Caspar...." contains some good writing. But if he is endeavoring to find the answer to the "question," "What is the meaning of Life?" he is wasting his time, it says here. Because the "question" isn't a question; it is just a nonsense arrangement of sounds, cast in the form of a question.

NP of course, is another "illegal" entry in the mailing. I like it, tho.

PHANTEUR

Lotsa pages, ain't it? -- So far, I haven't come across any poetry that I like as well as the two poems by Chan Davis. -- I'm hoping that the article on Education will stir up some controversy.

PLENUM

As an article for the FAPA, this is slightly--but only slightly--less interesting than previous articles in PLENUM have been. Because, so far as I'm concerned, it isn't in any sense controversial; I'd have to know a lot more about physics than I ever hope to know to be able to determine whether or not any part of it is controversial. However, within the limits actually set forth--without, that is, the implied calculations involving Einsteinian and other concepts, I don't think the article is particularly difficult to follow. That is due, no doubt, to the semantic over-simplification. It would, I think, have made a good article for ASF.

The cover, I presume, represents two three-dimensional curves in ecstatic embrace. (There is that "ugly head" rearing itself again!)

PRIMAL

The cover is supposed to mean something?

I should say that careful analysis would result in "I think, therefore I am," and "I think that I think, therefore I think that I am," reducing down to the same thing. The second "think" in the second quotation appears on a different level of abstraction from the first and third, does it not?

For Mr. Wilson-Miller's information, he hasn't been estivating; not in the winter time, he hasn't. Even if Southern California weather were as described by the Chambers of Commerce, instead of the way it is, he couldn't estivate in January. He'd have to get south of the equator.

Hmmmm; whose responsibility is the money paid in for subscriptions to DQ? What do you mean, nobody commented on Merger or Ego Beast? Seems to me I read a lot of comments. If you mean personal comments by letter, you just haven't gotten acclimated to FAPA yet!

Every so often somebody has the brilliant idea that we should have a "controversy" over the matter of "sex in science-fiction." Why should the matter be handled any differently there from the way it is to be handled in other fiction? -- "Cave of The Winds" is almost uniformly good; I think the selection and pruning which went into its preparation must have been well done. I think that Guerry Brown and Redd Boggs make the most worthwhile contributions, with Laney and Moffat close behind.

"Utopia Stein" is unimpressive. As for the desirability of revolutionary change as compared to gradual, evolutionary change--whatever you want, the latter is what you always get; the revolution may change the surface or superficial form, but actual change in social and political and economic forms do not conform with the superficial appearances. Consider the American, French, and Russian revolutions in this respect.

The second appearance of the Daugherty phone conversation reminds me to tell the OE that he counted these three pages twice in making up the page-list.

"Imagination" is good in part, not so good as a whole. I think the



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can you give me one good reason why the Legion should not engage in this very popular international sport of propagandizing the tenets of their faith? The Churches do it, the Communists do it, Wallace does it, Dewey and Truman do it, Avery of M. W. does it, the Pacifists do it; why pick on the Legion?

"Eye to the Past" is very likely to be listed No. 1 in Mailing Comments this time. One thing that bothers me; how do you manage to get such long, complete, interesting discussions in so little space? Yes, I know; maybe you use a lot of preliminary pruning, and all that, but that isn't sufficient to account for all your success in this line.

The cover is well drawn, but not particularly interesting. On the back cover, I fear Jerri's long-legged nude must be very uncomfortable.

SPARX                      You can cure you spots of "bad appearance" very simply. Just use plenty of ink, and then slip sheet. Yeah, I know; slipsheeting takes time.

"Detonator" is rather good. As you say, it is mournful, but the "happy ending" is much more frequent in fiction than the opposite.

"Misfire" doesn't hold my interest at all; situation too artificial, I think. -- Grebsiew's verse is worth a smile. -- "Labyrinth." ?.....? "Velocity" is....well, just indifferent, I guess. "Hank's Story," ditto. Issue as a whole not quite up to some of its predecessors.

SYNAPSE                      Yeah, Jack, it should have read "fifth decade." Just an error that I didn't notice until the stencils had been run, so I let it go. -- I guess you were right, in not considering the possibility of the G.P. nominating a "liberal." Dewey was much too liberal, it appears now, for most of them. -- Has "Communist Propaganda" appeared in PH? When and where? The only thing I can think of that you might so interpret is the comment that our present treatment of intelligent Negroes made it rather easy for the Commies to take over the Negro sympathies in specific cases; I wouldn't call that Commie propaganda; I'd say it was just point up the failure of some of our own propaganda.

The back cover is almost as complete and effective as Burbee's "Big Name Fan." A good issue, but not one to call for much comment, unless several pages are to be devoted to the Review of Reviews.

WILD HAIR                      The gal on the cover has a thumb considerably smaller than the tip of her nose, and hands and arms proportionately small. And she musta busted her left leg sometime.

The top item in the issue is "But Why Not Read Fantasy?" closely followed by Burbee's "I was Captain of a Space Ship. I may add that I don't know, from personal observation, of more than one fan who is primarily a collector, as distinguished from those who buy stuff primarily to read, then keep such of it as appeals to them. And he reads considerable fantasy, at that.

Burbee's "Spaceship" yarn is pleasantly hilarious throughout; shore was a wizard at getting out of "impossible" situations!

Stuff like "Banning's Leading FAPA Member" always leaves me in a state of befuddlement. I never know whether it is intended to be faken at face value or not, especially from Lancy or Burbee. I'm inclined, though, to accept this "disclosure" as the real thing. Hiya, Don Miller?

Rog's bit isn't quite as good as might be expected; I suspect he felt a little out of place in this wild typewriter jam-session. Anyway, Aokie knows now.

The other contributions to WH No. 3 are rather so-so. Anyway, this issue is definitely superior to its predecessors. Ulp! I overlooked the Widnor bit; it is rather good. Too bad, that Art should turn against what was in part his Brain-Child, the NFFF. Ah, well--thus it is with the follies of youth!



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first stanza is definitely superior to the rest. The last four lines are incongruous, in that a serious conclusion is expressed in triple rime--almost always associated with humorous or burlesque verse.

"Hall of Mirrors." I've enjoyed the discussion of "bomb dodging," but I can't take it seriously. I still think radioactive dusting the most serious threat to continued existence, and I can think of no place that would be safe from that except some completely isolated and unimportant area, like a small and distant island or island group. -- Hmmm; more shop-talk about jazz. The only part that interests me is that crack about going round in circles on a ladder. -- Your 15 questions constitute about the best and most effective rebuttal so far for the inanities present in Cox's racial theories. Bravo!

Add Kennedy's name to the list of superior contributors to the discussion of the Warnereducationalarticle. Thirty hours of college work not too painful? I'm not exactly a stupe, but I found 16, when it included technical studies for half the subjects, to be plenty! -- I don't think anybody could teach me to play any musical instrument competently.

I like Miller's towering spaceship.

SKY HOOK

The quotations on page 2 are interesting. Are they supposed to point in any particular direction? Zinsser makes the most sense to me.

"The Poll You Didn't take" might have been interesting. Take favorite sports, for instance. As I've grown older, my favorite participant sports have changed from tennis (in my 20's) to table tennis (in my early 30's) to golf and horseshoe pitching at present. The latter was my first interest, too, incidentally. All individual sports; I'm too slow and clumsy to make a good "team" man. I always did want to play Art and Milt in table tennis; I've competed against nationally ranked players--unsuccessfully, of course, but with sufficient skill so that they could enjoy it. And I competed on Club teams in tennis and table tennis.

I like practically all spectator sports, with college football ranking first, basketball second, track and field third. Have never seen ice hockey, but suspect that would rank high after I learned a little about it. Baseball only so-so; once went to sleep in the grandstand in the fifth inning of a pitchers' battle--the kind of baseball game I like best--and didn't go to another pro game for ten years or more. I coached a very successful high school track team one of the years when I was teaching.

Most of the other classifications, I couldn't answer specifically; I have no favorites in most of them, and couldn't remember them if I did. But of the giveaway programs on the air, the only one I enjoy is "It pays to be Ignorant," which is, of course, a burlesque of the "real" thing.

I remember that one of the Canadian fans won the Canadian intercollegiate 3-mile run one year recently, but can't remember whether or not he is a FAPate. And I didn't go to any intercollegiate football games last fall, because I was working overtime, and couldn't get to Lincoln or Denver to see them. I did get to see some college basketball, though, in Lincoln and in Denver.

Burbee's efforts to contact the elusive Mr. Flugel (he might have been Fleugel or Fluegel, in English pronunciation) makes quite as good reading as most Burbeescripts.

I can't read "Cause not so Celobre." Even the simplest of "poetic" abstractions is a blank to me; I get obscure hints, but can't tie 'em together --and it doesn't bother me in the least.

"Don't Hit Him Again, Fellers" is very good. For a good many years, I haven't liked "stories of a vast concept" particularly well, but I liked them when Tremaine was publishing them in AS. And some of them I still like. Also, I was well aware that "Shaverism" had nothing to do with Tremaine's articles in TWS; but I still think Bratton's "Crackpot on a Pogo Stick" very apt. (Hmmm; I said that to Marijane, too, a few pages past.)

The Legion "Dictionary" is, of course, a propaganda booklet. Now, please,

YELLUM

The Reviews, what there are of them, are adequate.

Some of the present members of SAPS, to judge by their attempts to get "older, more serious" fans to join, aren't entirely in accord with the original purpose as set forth here by Ron. Ron's idea is better, I think; we don't need two FAPAs, just alike.

"Land of the Fabulous Frontier," obviously a steal from a professional publicity release or travel folder of some sort, is definitely interesting, but I can't see how it can be counted for activity credit. Probably won't be needed, anyway.

Laney gets all kinds of testimonials, doesn't he? Not all as complimentary as this one by Ron.

Well, that ends the Reviews for this time. Lotsa pages, lotsa words; I hope there is something else.

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DEPARTMENT of EGO-BOO  
THE PANTEUR'S SELECTIONS  
February 1949

FANZINES 1 Skyhook, 2 Primal, 3 Glum, 4 Wild Hair, 5 Burb. C. w. FA, 6 Horizons  
ARTICLE 1 Graham, 2 Rothman, 3 Nuttall, 4 Laney, 5 Boggs, 6 Warner  
COMMENTS 1 Boggs, 2 Speer, 3 Warner, 4 Coslet, 5 Widner  
FICTION Burbee, Thomas; also, non-mems, Fowler & Bennet, Leiber  
POETRY 1 Davis, 2 Carson (non-mem.)  
ART 1 Rotsler, 2 Miller; also non-mems. Stibbard, Grossman  
HUMOR 1 Burbee, 2 Graham, 3 Laney, 4 Widner, 5 Toth; non-mem. Fowler & Bennet  
REVIEWS (books, movies, etc.) 1 Condra, 2, Warner, 3 Stein, Widner  
SPECIAL FEATURES 1 "Cave of Minds" (Primal) 2 "Once over Lightly" (Condra)  
3 "Quoteworthy Quotes" and "Ivory Tower" (Speer) 4 "Timbinding"  
(S & S quotes, Riggs) 5 Related Quotes (Toth)

I'd like to see BOOK REVIEWS and SPECIAL FEATURES (perhaps combined) added to the list of POLL classifications; they don't fit into any of the other categories, usually, yet they often add greatly to the interest of a magazine.

Failure to make the above list does not imply lack of merit, etc. etc.; obviously, not everyone can be at the top. Other items I thought well of are mentioned in the comments on the particular publication in question.

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(Cont. from p. 1.)

By this time, you have probably discovered that p. 13 is on the back of p. 11, and page 12 on the back of p. 10. Anybody can staple a page in place in reverse; not just anybody can mix the pages as thoroughly as I did this time, though.

Stevenson's ALBI has just arrived, far too late for the extended comments it deserves. Very glad he decided to maintain membership, if only because he writes the longest, most complex sentences of anyone in the organization, except maybe me.

I rather doubt if I am still a "fan" in the narrow sense--or should I say in the complete sense? I still like to read science fiction; I like the FAPA, but rarely write anything of a "fannish" nature in PHANTEUR any more. I correspond with several about as "fannish" as myself, and sometimes even mention fantasy, although not often. I like to think that science fiction--some of it, that is--stirs the imagination in a fairly healthy manner. I like to read Porter Sargent, and Stuart Chase, and John Erskine. I will not join the SAPS! I like almost all sports--definitely an unfannish characteristic. I like an evening at the Colo. SFS, where fantasy is sometimes mentioned. I like to read Stevenson, and Laney, and Boggs, and Burbee, and---waddaya say, huh?