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THE POLYHODE ROLLS WITHOUT SLIPPING ON THE HERPOLHODE LYING IN THE INVARIABLE PLANE

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## ABOUT VARIOUS THINGS

THE 1959 PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE: George Nims Raybin & I arrived at the Sheraton Hotel at about 1:30 PM Saturday, Nov 14, via the Pennsylvania Railroad & Phillie's "Magnificent" subway system. After wandering around the hotel for some 15 minutes, we found the "Constitution Room, where the con was to be held. Just as we got there, the huckstering tables were being set up, & a few minutes later Harriett Kolchak, among others, started doing a brisk business.

At 2:15, Hal Lynch finally succeeded in calling the meeting to order. After making a few remarks about the attempted style of the convention & asking for suggestions on future ones, he introduced the first speaker, Hans Steffan Santesson.

First Hans gave a preview of the next few issues of Fantastic Universe, most of which is now dated (This stencil is being cut 8 Feb.), including the January "fan-line issue" which contains 23 pages of fan-oriented material & no pseudoscience. One article which still isn't scheduled for a definite issue is Hannes Bok's "Translations from the Martian".

Then he gave a defense for publishing pseudoscience in his magazine (essentially he read the editorial of the Jan. issue) & announced that Prentice-Hall will publish in April a "Fantastic Universe Anthology". He gave considerable emphasis to the fact that it would contain 83,000 words.

There was a question from the audience about what we could do to help his magazine to which he replied that all magazines need our help in getting better distribution & display.

After making some announcements, Hal Lynch asked how many had seen "Murder & the Android" the previous Sunday, how many thought it was reasonably good, especially for a TV production, & how many had written the station praising it. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the audience answered affirmatively to the first 2 questions, but none had written. He then asked the audience to write calm & intelligent letters of praise to NBC so as to encourage the production of more decent shows.

To think that once voracious fandom has to be reminded to write! This is another indication of the trend Mr. Lowndes noted in his editorial in the September SFS. (OK, OK, I'll admit it. I hadn't written either, altho I did 2 days later.)

Hal concluded by noting that the story "Excellence" by Tom Ferdan in Amazing had an event in it which took place at last year's Philcon ((Hal recently told me that he was referring to the duels which the story was about, & that the author got the idea for the story or the much panned "duel" of last year's conference.)), & introduced L. Sprague de Camp.

At 2:45, after a few joking remarks about his beard, L. S. de Camp began his talk on "Why I am no longer writing science fiction". The talk, centered about a questionnaire he received from Earl Kemp, lasted one hour & is given in detail as a separate article on pg 5.

There was a half hour break which (strangely enough) did last a half hour. At 4:15, the meeting was again called to order & Dave Kyle made a few remarks before THE debate was to begin. He asked everyone to think about what the purposes of fandom are. "Is the purpose of fandom to discuss stf, promote it, or take a professional interest in it?"

The Taurasi-White debate, which these questions introduced, I'm certain, will be reported on in great detail by many others. Taurasi stressed the provisional nature of everything, while White attacked the breaking of the rotation plan, the detailed proposals as outlined in SFTimes, & the crowds that would be in NY for the fair. The discussion ended with a question & answer period where someone, supposedly pro-Faircon, just about succeeded in turning everyone against it by remarks like "But why have a rotation plan at all? There just about are no fans on the West Coast anyhow!"

And so the hot air flowed 'till about 5:25. Announcements were then made about the party at Harriett's, & Sam Moskowitz gave his illustrated talk on "Collectors' Items in Science Fiction". About 25% of his talk was devoted to items of which



he had the only known copy in the world, one of the only known 2 copies, etc. This must have made the completists feel sick with despair! Illustrating his talk with slides, he showed, for instance, the cover of the July 1959 Satellite. He has one copy, Mr. Margulies has the other, & try & get one for your collection!

The rest of the talk was more mundane. A considerable portion dealt with fan-published books, quite often printed with hand-set type, the early days of Fantasy Press, Arkham House, etc., & a few fanzines. Among other things, he said that the presence or absence of a d/w on Lovecraft's The Outsider means a difference in value of \$10.00.

In the field of magazines, he said for instance that Oriental Stories is worth considerably more than its successor Magic Carpet, & that Strange Tales published 1930-1 was far better than Weird Tales.

Sam finally ground to a halt at 6:28, & everyone scattered in all directions looking for restaurants.

After feeding my face in the company of George Nims Raybin, Jean Carroll, & other ESFAers, I went up to Harriet's for the party. I didn't stay long, tho, 'cauz Alan Howard offered me a ride into NY & he left early.

But one thing I do remember--just about everyone there went upstairs to admire the fantastic collection of barracks-type art collected by her husband, & I suspect a few spent the whole evening browsing.

There were 5 of us in the car going back to NY--Alan Howard, of course, Alan Howard Jr., Jean Carroll, Geo. N. Raybin, & myself. We were on the Jersey Turnpike for about 10 minutes, when we had the thrill of a blowout at 12:30 AM. This inspired morbid reminiscences on the part of Jean about various experiences which were almost disastrous.

This conversation was one of the highlights of my day, & I had intended to give a summary at this point. However, those who saw the draft told me that the report was 1) inaccurate & 2) uninteresting to read, & hence not worth revising.

So, on to the next topic.

**THE INTERPLANETARY EXPLORATION SOCIETY** During the late summer of 1958, John W. Campbell presented his ideas for a society of "gentlemen amateur scientists" & an appropriate journal. Since I was in a happy mood, having just received my 1st assistantship check, I decided to splurge & subscribe. 10 days later, on Sept 27, the first reply came, which was a form letter signed by a Michael R. Todd. The next communication was postmarked Dec 2, & contained 3 mimeographed sheets. 2 pages consisted of ego-boosting stuff about how amateurs made all of the great revolutionary discoveries, & ended with a plea for journal subscriptions. It said that of the 2000 subs necessary for publication, "...we are, as of Nov 15, 1958, about halfway to the goal." The third sheet announced the first meeting of the NY chapter of the IES, to be held at 8 PM Wed, Dec 10, "at the Hayden Planetarium." The proposed agenda was: "1. Discussion of the Purposes of the I.E.S. 2. Presentation of a Gentleman Amateur's research-project: 'A Re-analysis of High Fidelity Music and Human Hearing' by John W. Campbell, Jr. This item is an effort to show - by example - a representative type of project we hope will be given at future meetings. 3. Business of the meeting: Fixing a regular meeting schedule. Open discussion. Adopting rules and regulations to gain a functioning chapter. Open discussion."

The planetarium guard told me in a bored tone that the meeting is NOT there, but in the Museum of Natural History, 2 blocks down. After wandering around for a while, I finally found an unlocked door under the main stairway, & met another man going in. He made some quite appropriate remarks about meeting a "fellow \$5.00 fish" as we took the elevator to the top (I think) floor. ((Note--all of this took place more than one year ago, & I didn't take notes at the time. Therefore some error is likely.))

I found a grand total of some 12 people talking in the foyer of the auditorium, one of these people being Mr. Campbell. He was talking of his experiences the 2 or so times he had been on the "Long John Show". (I don't know how well this show is known outside NYC, but it received considerable publicity in the local papers a year




or so ago. It is an unconventional interview program which is on the radio some 35 hours a week in the early mornings, & has received considerable notoriety for the not infrequent appearance of the "I Talked to a Venusian" type characters. Lester Tel Ray appears on these programs quite often as a sort of "devil's advocate" or skeptic. I believe that about 5 hours a week of excerpts are broadcast on the network, while the rest is only local.) By when we moved into the auditorium, some 20 or 25 people had arrived, & the total attendance was 30-40. We felt quite swamped in the 500 seat auditorium. Just as Mr. Campbell was about to start the meeting, Isaac Asimov walked in, & was called upon to make some introductory remarks.

Dr. Asimov told of a Dutch janitor who was a member of the British "Royal Society" & had discovered how to make a very strong magnifier. Dr. Asimov had intended to surprise the audience at the end of his talk, but halfway thru he accidentally let slip that this magnifier was the microscope.

Then Mr. Campbell gave his talk. My recollections are haziest about this part of the meeting, but as I remember it, Mr. Campbell stated that he decided to try a new principle in building an amplifier for his HiFi set, & he likened its method of operation to an analog computer. I can't remember the principle, but I know that it involved breaking the sound wave up into pure sine-wave components (ie, Fourier analyzing the wave mechanically). However, when he built the gadget, his wife--a musician--kept telling him it sounded "razzy", but could not explain further.

His ultimate conclusions were that: the human ear can distinguish between

  
that it can detect phase differences between the sounds picked up by the 2 ears & use this to detect direction IF the soundwaves are complex, & not pure sine waves, & that most important of all for him) it can distinguish a complex wave form which is natural from one synthesized from its Fourier components.

The actual business session, conducted by Mr. Todd, then started. He said that the already established group does not want to be just the NY chapter, but that a separate NY chapter should be set up & that the already existing group should become the parent national organization which would give help & advice to the local groups which would be set up thruout the country. After finding out the geographic distribution of the audience, he said that he will call a recess while the Jersey & I residents go to opposite corners of the auditorium where somebody should volunteer to act as a provisional officer, take the names & addresses of those present, & to call the next meeting.

2 or 3 people agreed to act as provisional officers for the NY group, & we all agreed to a proposed meeting some time during the Christmass holidays.

Mr. Todd called the meeting back to order, received progress reports from the groups, & adjourned the meeting.

The officers held at least 3 committee meetings & mailed a progRept out on 29 Dec. It announced that there would be no meeting on Dec 30 (I never knew that that was the scheduled date--perhaps there was an earlier notice which I hadn't received), resume of the committee meetings, & a tentative constitution (1 single-spaced page, listing 6 officers!) & a questionnaire.

On 7 Jan, a post-card meeting reminder came, which I no longer have (see below) I can't quote. As I remember it, it had rather detailed instructions on how to get to the meeting place by car & by subway, & promised a surprise program.

This, like all subsequent meetings, was held on a Monday evening--a time I had to be at school at that semester. I returned the questionnaire (which I do not consider worth quoting) & mentioned on it that Monday is out for me, but apparently it was most convenient for everyone else--or at least for those who attended the first Monday meeting & picked the time for the future meetings.

Not having attended any of the meetings, I will just quote the next few notices. (All meetings were held at the "Woodside Branch Library", 54-42 Skillman Ave., Woodside Queens, & I will delete all references to meeting place & traveling instructions, except for the May meeting which I will quote completely.)

"Monday, February 2, 7 PM. Four short talks--1. Robotics - Max Altbaum 2. Cybernetics - Norman Bauman 3. Flying Saucer - Cliff Garvin 4. "Psychical Physics"



# WHY I AM NO LONGER WRITING SCIENCE FICTION

(paraphrased by the editor from an address given at the 1959 Philcon)

by

L. SPRAGUE DE CAMP

Recently Earl Kemp (of Chicago) sent around a questionnaire inspired by the recent decline in science fiction. It had five questions:

- 1) Do you feel that magazine science fiction is dead?
- 2) Do you feel that any single person, action, incident, etc., is responsible for the present situation? If not, what is responsible?
- 3) What can we do to correct it?
- 4) Should we look to the original paperback as a point of salvation?
- 5) What additional remarks, pertinent to the study, would you like to contribute?

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Mr. Kemp will compile the replies he received and will publish them on April 15, 1960. Copies will go only to contributors (deadline for contribution was Dec. 26) and perhaps to SAPS. No one else will receive a copy under any circumstances.  
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My talk will consist of an expansion of my answers to these questions.

- 1) Science fiction is not dead, but it is in a state of gradual decline.
- 2) This decline is caused by impersonal social forces.

To understand this, let us look at why science fiction became popular in the first place. For a genre to flourish, three things are needed.

- 1) Technically equipped publishers
- 2) Enough competent writers
- 3) A receptive, enthusiastic audience

We do have the publishers, but the fault lies with the other two.

First, to find the place of science fiction in literature, note that fiction can be broken up into two divisions, realistic and romantic.

Compare the two books The Shark by Hull, written in the '20's, and Graham Greene's The Quiet American, written about five years ago. Both books dealt with far away places, were quite characteristic of their times, and the differences show that the foreign locales are no longer exotic.

Because of today's "scientific materialism," "willing suspension of belief" is seldom to be found except among some of the intellectuals.

Therefore, foreign locales and the supernatural are no longer suitable backgrounds for romantic fiction. This just leaves the past, the future and other worlds.

Note that the events in the Odyssey took place about 500 years prior to the time of the writing. It was equivalent to a contemporarily written novel about Columbus. But the first real historical novel was written about 150 years ago by Sir Walter Scott. Incidentally, my new historical novel, The Bronze God of Rhodes, will be published by Doubleday on January 21. (Adv.)

Science fiction encompasses the other two—the future and other worlds. Before looking at what has happened to science fiction and its readers, let us look at the authors for a moment.

In the last decade, other fields have lured away, with higher pay, many authors. For instance, I could only write three or four good sf stories a year—that is, ones which would sell at the highest rates of about 3¢ a word. I could write many more stories, but then the quality goes down, and I can only sell them at 1¢ or 2¢ a word.

On the other hand, other fields pay 10¢ a word and up. There are five such fields which are absorbing science fiction and other pulp writers. They are:

- 1) Television writing. This has swallowed almost all of the pulp writers of the '30's. It catches the competent and voluminous writer who is not a genius.
- 2) "Men's" magazines. Recently a tremendous upsurge has developed in this field. I don't know if it is a boom without sustenance like the one sf experienced in 1953, but some of the magazines pay 10¢ a word and up.
- 3) Juveniles. By this I mean the non-fiction picture books. I have one published, two more sold, one being considered and one under contract. This too pays 10¢ or



ore per word, but it is not easy to explain something to a ten-year-old so that he understands it and is entertained.

4) Popularization of science. There has been some expansion of this field also lately. The magazine of the field today is Scientific American, but it accepts articles only from scientists working in the field. The editor has considerable difficulty in his pursuit of this policy. First he has to prod the specialist into taking time out from research to write the article, only to receive a 20-page monograph in technalese which no one but another specialist could understand. Finally, after innumerable letters and/or conferences a readable version, with luck, is finally obtained.

5) Technical writing. In the last few years this field has grown from non-existence to tremendous proportions. See, for instance, Les Collins' article in the December '59 astounding, "The Writing of Science Fiction." This field includes the writing of advertising brochures, operating instructions, etc. for scientific apparatus. There are now several textbooks on technical writing.

As for the general audience, it has dwindled away as a result of progress. Science fiction becomes dated. The "flying banana" type of helicopter, for instance, gives certain science-fictionists a kick for it resembles the ones written about the 1880's or '90's. Only the latter had 10, 12 or even 20 rotors instead of a measly two.

Space travel is becoming just another extension of aircraft, and the peculiar appeal of speculating has dwindled. It is no longer exotic or romantic.

3) The dwindling has occurred in the general audience, and we can do nothing about it.

4) The paperback will not save a genre destroyed by social events.

5) Science fiction will go on for a long time, but it will split into two branches.

There will be pure science fiction which will deal with realistic possibilities. It will have a tendency to disappear as facts catch up. The next breakthrough will probably be in the field of psychochemistry, as recently written about by Huxley.

The other branch will be the unrealistic and impossible. It will include such things as time-travel, alternate universes, and probably ESP and UFO's. It will eventually merge with adult fairy tale, and will be written as a labor of love. For instance, although Tolkien has had a good sale of his Ring trilogy, it took all of his spare time for 14 years to write them. It just will not be possible to make a living from this sort of thing.

Science fiction magazines will probably survive for 50-100 years, but it is very doubtful that there will be another boom like that of 1969-1973.

26 Dec 59

Dear Ed:

Here is your ms. I have marked the report on my talk as I should like it to appear. Parts that I didn't say, or which were not correct, I have marked for deletion.

Cordially yours,

L. Sprague de Camp



## I GO TO A LOT OF MOVIES...

By Jean B. Bogert

I go to a lot of movies, particularly sci-fi and fantasy films. I saw **THE KILLER SHREWS** and **THE GIANT GILA MONSTER** last Sunday, and of the two, I preferred **THE GIANT GILA MONSTER**, in spite of all the dimwitted teen-agers cluttering it up. In **THE KILLER SHREWS**, there seemed to be a theory, which I've encountered before in movies, TV and books, that scientists can't possibly be sensible or practical, and that a female scientist would never be objective. There were 4 scientists in the thing--an elderly biologist, his daughter (who had a Swedish accent, for some unexplained reason) and the biologist's two assistants. One was a near-sighted, absent-minded type, and the other, who was more or less engaged to the biologist's daughter (she was a "zoo-ologist") was an unstable neurotic who kept getting drunk. All this nonsense took place on an island in an unnamed location. The drinking scientist had, a short time before, been responsible for some experimental animals, overgrown shrews, escaping and over-running the island, while they grew to the size of mastiffs. One man was eaten close to the start of the film--an innocuous Negro gentleman, the pilot on the boat in which the hero came to the island. Oh, the hero was one of these poisonous people who don't give a hoot about anything else--though not willing to gossip and listen to gossip, it appeared. One of the giant shrews gets in the house via the collar, so things get slightly more exciting. A Mexican servant gets bitten--though not eaten--by the outsized rodent, and it turns out that their bite is poisonous to humans, due to their having been able to assimilate some deadly poisons meant to kill them. Some of the close-ups showed that the gigantic rodents were stuffed. The zoo-ologist decides that she's basically a housewife, though she couldn't cook or do anything else. The myopic, absent-minded one is the next to perish, after which the hero, heroine and heroine's father escape by using oil drums as cover--the drunken one gets eaten--after which, according to the heroine's father, the king-sized shrews will soon devour each other, until there's one left, and it will starve in 24 hours. So much for **THE KILLER SHREWS**.

As for **THE GIANT GILA MONSTER**, that appeared to be a little more life-like in close-ups. Gila monsters are rather pretty in coloration, it would appear. Of course this one was larger than most trains, and could move almost as fast as an express. It also ate people, I lost count of the people it devoured, including some of the passengers of an express train. It was destroyed when a young man used his car as a bomb--the car had a few containers of nitroglycerine in the front seat. I found myself wondering if anyone was hungry enough to find out what roasted gila monster tasted like. At the time, I hadn't had my dinner, which explains my attitude.

Just the other day, I saw something rather ridiculous called **THE TINGLER**. This was supposed to be about a monster born of fear that grew along the spinal column, and which could only be hampered in its deadly work by screaming--so in trying to scare the movie audience into screaming, they became quite ridiculous. I have a good ear for voices, so when the picture went dark, and a voice warned us that "The Tingles" was among us, so we must scream for our lives, I knew it was a part of the film--the voice was that of Vincent Price, who portrayed a scientist of sorts, not even a mad scientist. As for "The Tingles," it resembled the result of a mesalliance among lobsters, snails and millipedes--it had the outer covering of a lobster, horns like a snail and a millipede-like means of locomotion. The widely-advertised "new process of PERCEPTO" was a set of vibrators in certain chairs, actually rather soothing to my peculiar nervous system. At what was supposed to be a most exciting moment, some young lady emitted a piercing screech, upon which two young men, grinning like apes, came scooting down the theatre aisle, carrying a stretcher. They promptly put her on the stretcher and carried her out, all three laughing fit to be tied. She supposedly had been overcome by terror, and they, I imagine, were posing as internes, or something. Quite a few of the audience were having mild hysterics of laughter, to say the least. One character, supposedly a deaf mute, couldn't scream, so naturally she died from the presence of the tingler--with some help from a human agency, of course. There weren't very many in the audience who



were screaming from terror, that's certain.

Of course, the movie was being shown in a large theatre of Central Philadelphia. Presumably, if the film were showing in Narberth where I live, the reaction might be slightly different, though I doubt it; we have some very violent-type juvenile delinquents here, too. It seems to me that the most terrifying horror picture is a pleasant bedtime story compared to the actions of some adolescents, though I've been told that these weird films are very bad; "They scare little children." What about the westerns that are supposed to be appropriate fare for youngsters? Some of them are so full of sadistic behavior that I've found myself wanting to throw up! Have you ever watched a western and wondered how the hero managed to keep his hat on during that rough-and-tumble fight? What intrigues me even more is that, after he and the villain had been splashing around in the river, our hero's clothing dried with astonishing rapidity. They surely don't have nylon, orlon, dacron or any "drip-dry" fabrics in the 19th century, so--how come? Little things like that amuse me out of proportion to their actual humor, I suppose.

Did you see the movie THE BAT? I rather liked it, myself, except that I don't care for Vincent Price. Somehow, I always receive the impression that he doesn't think much of his co-workers, and he seems so blasted stylized in his acting. Also, he never appears to be doing anything spontaneously. Even if he sneezed it would be all calculated and well-thought-out beforehand, which isn't usually the way with sneezes. At least, not with most people! Anyway, his voice--which many people say is delightful--annoys me for the same reason. It's a planned sort of voice, even when he's supposed to be angry or something. The word for Mr. Price, to my way of thinking, is COLD and quite mechanical. Maybe he is a robot! (It's a cinch he's not likely to portray a robot--at least, not for a while, anyway.) I liked Agnes Moorehead in the movie, and she has a darned good figure--better than some of these top-heavy lasses, to be sure.

Last week, they had THE BLOB at the Narberth Theatre. The little monsters in the audience were bellowing their little heads off, but NOT from fear--just general noisiness. When the film-makers put together a horror picture, they sometimes pile horror on horror, admittedly, but when this is done, the audience is apt to be laughing--and not because they're frightened, either.

I went once to see a movie on a Saturday during a children's matinee which I think was a pretty good film to show the yelling type of brats. It was one of the few movies I've seen that scared the brats into silence. There should be more movies like that shown at the children's matinees, since I don't believe it does the average child any harm to be given a scare once in a while. How else can you account for the enjoyment kids have for a ride on a roller-coaster, for instance? It often scares them, but they seem to enjoy it, and the same goes for the old-time fairy tales and ghost stories, which I would call forerunners of science-fiction and fantasy. I'm not scared of spooks and such, just of the dreadful things that can happen every day.

Have you ever read a fairy tale and mentally turned it into science-fiction? There are some parallels, such as the invisible wall which sounds like a force-field to me. There are lots of others, probably, if I took the trouble to find them--which I doubt I will have the time or the energy to do!

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## HOW TO RUN A WELL-ORDERED FAN CLUB

Ray Nelson

Since meetings are an important part of any fan club, we will start there. The meetings are made known by sending out bulletins or post cards. It is a good idea to send these the day before the meeting because then you are sure the members will not receive them on time. This will enable you to call everyone on the mailing list thus giving you the opportunity to engage in a delightful conversation with each member. After this is taken care of there is nothing to do until the night of the meeting.

If the fete is scheduled for 7:30 be sure not to arrive until about 9:00, especially if you are one of the officers. This gives everyone the idea you are a very important person having many other engagements and that you come because you are a generous soul and fandom needs you. Newcomers, in particular will be impressed.

After the majority of members have assembled (about 3 or 4) you are ready to begin the business meeting. We start by having the president ask the secretary to read the minutes of the last meeting. She being extremely efficient opens her notebook to the correct page. It's very blank.

"Oh! I remember now," she says, "I've been so busy going out with my different boyfriends that I just didn't have the time to write them up. Besides it wasn't a very important meeting anyway."

"Thank you madame secretary. Now that we've heard the minutes, let's continue."

A NOTE TO NEWCOMERS TO FANDOM: A loyal member will try to make the meeting as long and dull as possible. By the time it is all over all are so weak they can't raise their voices over a shout. After everything in sight has been devoured the balance of the evening is usually spent discussing topics of intellectual interest, such as; fanwriters, sex, magazines, sex, authors, sex, artists, sex, etc.

Now we come to the moment you've all been waiting for, the entertainment. Naturally, any good club will have a planned program.

The subjects are finally exhausted, at least all except the discussion on sex. This is usually concluded by the whole group leaving to go to a burlesque show

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EDITOR'S NOTE. When I first received the manuscript for the above, I found & corrected a few typographical errors; however, my power went to my head, & I made numerous changes, & sent a revised copy of the manuscript to the author for approval of the changes. Despite the fact that Mr. Nelson said that he doesn't object to them, I have repented & removed all changes except typo corrections.

In the same letter, I suggested that perhaps the article could be expanded, & included 1 or 2 possible things which might be discussed. He suggested that I do the expanding, & print the article as a collaboration. However, I decided not to do this for I don't think I can write humorously, & there already is too much drivel by me in this mag

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ABOUT VARIOUS THINGS cont from pg 4

- Archie Matteson, - - and a hour and a half for group discussion....Your friends are cordially invited".

"Monday, March 2, - 7PM, Discussion of Constitution and Bylaws. Your suggestions are welcome!"

"Special Meeting - ILS. Monday, March 30, 7PM To consider a proposed amendment to the Pro - Tem By - Laws; "...to strike out March 30, 1959 and insert June 30, 1959!" ((Sorry-I goofed and left out "article 13 of"; hence the quasi-quotes.))

I was able to attend since this fell during Easter vacation, & decided to do so despite the unappealing meeting notice.

There was a total of 7 ± 1 other people there; 3 were HiSchl students, the others were people in their 30's or 40's. I don't remember any of the names of the attendees and I suppose that Cliff Garvin was not one of them. (I had complained that after



giving excellent directions on the first notice, which was sent out by Cliff Garvin, the later ones were so vague that I could never have found the place if I hadn't kept the first. The secretary asked to borrow my copy so that he could include the info on the next notice, & promised to return the original by mail. The bum never did! Anyhow, if Mr. Garvin were present, I don't think that the borrowing would have been necessary.)

As implied on the card, the pro-tem constitution stipulated that a permanent one must be adopted by March 30, & it just wasn't ready. I got a brief glimpse of a constitution (probably the pro-tem one, but it might have been a proposed draft of the permanent one), & I was flabbergasted! It was at least 5 pages (not sure of the exact number) of close single-spaced type, & stipulated among other things that the dues would be \$7.00 per year, payable in advance, with a special student rate of \$4.00 payable in 4 installments.

Among other things discussed was a possible change in the name of the chapter, & a program for the next regular meeting. One of the students said that there was a "good telepathic receiver" in his school, & that perhaps he could be persuaded to come down & have some Rhine tests run on him.

Before & after the rather short business meeting, there was much informal chatter. Since this group had its origins among sf readers, I mentioned the impending Lunacon, & the pros that would be there, but it raised absolutely no interest. I also found out that some 20 people had attended the meetings with programs, while only some 8 had attended the other one without a program, which only considered business. Also, the "surprise program" in Jan had to be put off, & was the announced Feb program.

I was rather disappointed with the group, especially its almost exclusive interest in psi, its high dues, & its preoccupation with red tape & lengthy constitutions. However, I decided that during the Summer I'd go to another meeting or 2 to get a better idea of the group before making any decisions.

The next 2 notices read:

"THE SOCIETY FOR NEW APPROACHES\* (New York Chapter - IES) ---- Monthly Meeting - Monday, April 6, 1959 - 7:30 PM EXPERIMENTAL WORKSHOP - E S P ! A highly sensitive "Receiver" will be present. Rhine Card Testing - Are you a good "Sender"? and two Hieronymous machines - Why not bring yours. --- Rome wasn't built in a day; be patient! Const. Comm."

"PSI GROUP MEETING AT THE LIBRARY MONDAY EVENING, MAY 18, 7:00 P.M."

And that's the last I heard from them. Apparently some sort of internal revolution took place & the group went out of existence. I just phoned the library where they used to meet, & the librarian told me that there wasn't a meeting since last April, & mail addressed to Cliff Garvin has been returned stamped "moved--left no forwarding address". (Funny tho--first class mail just disappeared, while a fanzine sent by Alma Hill was so returned, & it too was sent 1st class.)

I guess about an internal revolution because while all previous notices were rather stuffy (such as this "New Approaches" business & their constitution) the last was simple & to the point. Two other things--all previous notices had been hektographed, while the last was handwritten, & during the meeting I attended several copies of sheets of mailing stickers were hektographed but the last notice was addressed by hand. Perhaps the April meeting had lousy attendance despite the elaborate program, & the officers just quit in disgust.

Anyhow, I probably never will find out what happened to them, for I have exhausted possible sources of information. (The librarian had no names &/or addresses of ex-officers or members.)

My next contact with the IES was again from the central or national group run by Mr. Todd, & was in the form of a 1-sheet bulliten. This "BULLETIN of the INTERNATIONAL PLANETARY EXPLORATION SOCIETY incorporated", dated "July 1959", arrived on 20 Aug. It was sent as printed matter & contained no exposed return address, "form 3457" or guarantees of postage, so improperly addressed copies were just lost. Excluding logo, it contained 1367 words & 8 articles ranging in length from 97 to 337 words (excluding headlines. The 1st, signed by JWC, began "The primary pur- ((page 17, please.))====



## PESKYS on 2

POLHODE-1 (Meskys) I'll take this space to comment on the future of Polhode.

This is probably the last time that Peskys will appear as a part of Polhode; after this it will be printed as a supplement which will only go to N'apa & any outsiders who ask for it. While Polhode will appear only 2 or 3 times a year, I hope to have a Peskys in each mailing.

I would not have included it in this issue either, but I already had the next 3 pages printed up; in fact, they had been printed in late Nov., which makes them to some extent obsolete. (I started typing them in early Nov, & by the 20th I saw I was getting nowhere fast. I then thought that I'd at least get the comments in the mailing, & send the rest of the issue out as a postmailing. However, there was a foulup with this page, which is being recut 15 Feb with a new cartoon below by Dick Schultz, which put me past the mailing deadline. This, & the way the other postmailings were handled, discouraged me from trying.

From internal evidence (subrates, letters, space for addressing individual copies, etc) I gather that most of the zines are also distributed to non N'apars. Since I had some space left over on pg 14, I used it to list these. However, some of the information is obsolete; for instance, Ground Zero is folding with #5.

About the next issue--with luck, it'll appear at the end of June; if not, then just after the Pittcon. (Since it's being published primarily for N'apa, if an issue isn't ready on time for one mailing, it must wait for the next--the mailings are on the 15th of March, June, etc) Whether or not I can get an issue out on time after finals end about June 1 will depend on how many contributions of material I can dig up (Advt), but the chances will be much greater if Belle Dietz is elected M-E. (Then, I can just give the copies 10 Jun (deadline) 'stead of having to mail 'em out about the 3rd)

About the last issue--after I distributed about half of the copies, I found 4 of the remaining ones with pg 4 blank. If any of the others did, I'll try to replace it if you want.

A few people asked me to translate the titles & headings (the suckers!) The quote appearing on the cover is taken from pg 161 of Classical Mechanics by Herbert Goldstein, Ph.D. (Addison-Wesley, 1956). "Polhode", "herpolhode", etc, are terms used to describe the rotation of tumbling bodies in free fall, & are based on such concepts as "ellipsoid of inertia" (a generalization of "moment of inertia"). Someday I might take a page or so to try to explain what this is all about, but after reading Berry's "Psychology of the Gaiitas" in Metrofen # 3, I've just about given up all thought of so doing. Incidentally, as I once mentioned in my column in Metrofen, I believe that this is the same "invariable plane" as that referred to by Poul Anderson in his excellent story "Condemned to Death" (FU, Oct '59, pg 41, bottom left). The derivation of "Peskys" is obvious, "Perkinas" is so corny that I refuse to translate it, & finally, "laiskai" simply means "letters".

N'APA YAP (Terwilleger, OO) I'm not too satisfied with the constitution, but since I don't like long haggling over fine details I won't raise a stink if it stays the way it is. But if a vote ever comes up, I'd vote for a simple majority being enuf to increase the membership limit.

We should also be required to send in a few extra copies to make up extra bundles in case of loss (as already happened to Art Hayes) & to sell to waiting listers. I'm satisfied with the current mailing dates. The postage on my first bundle was 15¢.



NOW AS YOU  
WERE SAYING  
BEFORE WE  
WERE INTERRUPTED





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You say "Had expected to find several large size zines in the mailing. Perhaps next time...." Well, somebody recently told me about the large uns in Fapa; seems there recently was a 60 pager on how to play the tuba or some such! What the heck does this have to do with fandom? I certainly wouldn't want large ones in the mailing if they were devoted to this kind of drivel! After all, my dues money must then be wasted sending me 60 pages of crap which I would never read.

CONJURE-2 (Deckinger) Pg. 2 brings back old memories--I haven't seen a beast-film in I don't know how many years (well, really it's about 3). I used to go to them with a feeling that altho they're poor, they are stf & I should support them. Then I read Bloch's "Worst Foot Forward" in the May '56 Inside, & I stopped seeing the monstrosities without any pangs of guilt. But I have seen several SF films since (such as "World, Flesh, & the Devil", but NOT "From the Earth to the Moon") & even some semi-beast films that looked like fun ("Forbidden Planet"), but that's about it.

That brawl at the METROFEN meeting wasn't between "grass-throwers"; it seems that Leslie Gerber brought a rather immature ex-fan down to that meeting. Said ex-fan (who was well known in NY fandom for creating disturbances, together with another fan, at meetings of the defunct Cibole) persisted in throwing missiles at various members. After the president told this ex-fan to cease & decist, the ef threw one at the president. The meeting was quickly ended as the president tried to kill said ef.

What is the meaning of those idiotic drawings on page 5?

"Little known facts about the first fanzine" was clever, but I have seen better fan-fiction.

QUADZINE-2 (Hayes) Keep sending in the Quadzine, I find it interesting. I find the summaries of the various non-technical scientific articles that you do in your various zines interesting. I stopped buying Scientific American regularly several years back because I just didn't have the time to read 'em. I do pick one up every so often when it looks interesting, especially if it has an article about the Maser.

THE SAVOYARD-2 (Pelz) I've met L.S. deCamp at several ESFA meetings, & altho Willy Ley was there also, I only got to talk to him at any length after a lecture he gave at Seton Hall college (for the NPGCS science council, if I remember correctly) 3 or 4 years ago. Both seemed friendly, & neither struck me as a snob. (This is getting ridiculous--commenting on a mailing comment!)

I've been seeing the word "fugghed" used quite a bit lately, & from context, apparently this is someone who disagrees with your esteemed opinions.

Once around on this Gilbert & Sullivan kick was enough--lets not overdo it! Personally, I don't care in the least whether it or Rogers & Hammerstein survives longer. 10,000 years from now neither will probably survive, just like everything else written today.

GUANO-#3 (Hayes) If you're going to superimpose title & illo, why don't you use a different color for the title? I'm sick & tired of fan-fueds, & let's not start another one. About Ley & de Camp, see comments on Savoyard, above.

How can you put out a fanzine every 3 weeks? To write, print, & colate POLHOD-1 took me some 50 hours, plus another 3 or 4 to print & colate another 50 copies for a 2nd printing. You must be much more efficient.

I agree with just about everything you said in your 2 page com-



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ments on Savoyard-1, go along with your constitution suggestions, TAFK comments, & Berry Fund comments.

What strange stuff these Saucerians put forth!

DREAM STUFF-2 (Carr) Fair, but not great, piece of fan-fiction. The dream-idea is a cleaver way of tying it all together, & does give you a fair title. Some ~~st~~ stories I like more, some less, some not at all. This, like Deck-ingers, falls into the middle grouping as far as I am concerned.

I was thinking of using psi-phi (or more accurately,  $\Psi\phi$ ) as a title myself untill I found out that it is already being used. I first got the idea while sitting in my quantum mechanics course. The prof was using Greek letters to designate vectors & ordinary ones to designate scalars (ie, ordinary numbers), & for about 5 minutes he kept talking about taking the inner-product of the vectors " $\Psi$ " & " $\phi$ ". After hearing "psi phi" about 20 times, it suddenly stuck me as a wonderfull fanzine title. I wonder how Lichtman thot of it--think I'll send him a marked copy of this when the whole POLHODE is finished.

TIAMAT (Blackburn & Alfonseca) Beautiful front cover, altho I didn't care for the back one. I'll bet Gerber just loved that mention! I keep forgetting to ask him whenever I see him. If I were a Romar fan (or addict) I suppose that this would help me track down stories of his which I haven't read. But since I've never read anything of his (altho I do own 5 of his pb's) this wasn't of particular interest. My! You're rather outapoken in your mailing comments, aren't you?

FEALS-3 (Diets) Cute cover, & Chris's Corner was interesting. At first I thot --This'll convert none of the users, addicts, or whatnot, & bring a heap of adverse criticism for being "preachy". But on re-re-

-----  
20 Nov, 12:45 PM. Two things just came up which just can't wait 'till I pub the rest of POLHODE in the middle of Jan. I just got the 1st Nov issue of Science Fiction Times, & was flabbergasted by their scoop! Astounding Science Fiction will become Analog Science Fact Fiction! It--it's unbelievable; what's this world coming to? Oh, what drove me to subscribe 6 weeks ago?

Also, if you missed the Sept '59 Amazing with the Leinster Novelette, "Long ago, Far Away", get the new Gold Medal PB (#s937) Four From Planet 5. It's an expanded version of the former, & undoubtedly the same wonderfull adventure yarn. ((It is expanded, for I compared the first few pages of chapter 10 in the 2 versions & found several extra paragraphs in the PB version.))

Back to the mailing comments.

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reading, I noticed that it was just intended as a warning to would-be experimenters.

Altho Frank's anecdote was only mildly amusing, I thot Belle's "Orange? Black? ...." was wonderfully funny. All that work just to change the color of mineo ink? I've seen mineod fanzines running at least 4 colors (Alan Lewis' one & only issue of Postals, for instance); how can they do it?!

The rest of the magazine was enjoyable reading, but nothing outstanding the way the technicolor article was. I suppose that that's one trouble with printing an outstanding item in a fanzine--everything else in the issue pales in comparison.

One little thing in the mailing comments did grate my nerver somewhat, but I already mentioned it to Belle at a Metrofen meeting & there's no use dragging it out in public.

Animus CURIAE (Raybin) A pleasant & interesting 8 pp, especially the part about getting something for "nothing".



GROUND ZERO (Dietz & Raybin) Well, the "most black & blue zine in fandom" was pleasant reading. I especially appreciate "Coming Attractions" on the next-to-the last page, but wish that either GZ come out more often or the various con committees would send you the info a little earlier. Just saw World-Flesh-Devil; I agree-'twas great!

APA-TITE TIGHT (Coewel) Interesting mailing comments, but why nothing else? (I should talk!)

YONIA-2 (Firestone) Fair, but I prefer your "Hi!".

BRUNO'S GEMPLUN-2 (Tolliver) Yes, the Leslie Gerber story was confusing without the prequill. But it is funny to think of that little shrimp as a fighter. I somehow feel that the thing by Bjo on the backover is supposed to be a cartoon, but I just don't get it.

INTERPLANETARY EXPLORATION SoC-5 (Hill) see comments in " about various things ".

HALF LIFE (Woolston) Oh, well, nothing to comment on.

MOONSHINE (Terwilliger) "Oh Roll, Oh Roll, Oh Whee!" was a fairly funny piece of fiction (at least I hope it was fiction!), but I just can't picture a teacher pulling those juvenile delinquent stunts.

WHIZZ (Weber) No comment.

FAN-DEN (Higgs) Yes, all of the N3F O-O's are good. From my experiences since I joined in Jan., I just don't see why all those rude cracks are always being made about the N3F & its zines.

RAVING MAINC-IAC (Hamlin--postmailing, Sorry I never got around to answering your welcome letter, but 7 months have passed & I guess that it's a little late now. Someday I'll get around to sending my 3F (is it?) for a copy of the Terran Daily Gazette.  
-----  
illo on pr 11 by ( I hope ) Joe Casey.

NOTE TO NON N'APERS-----  
Of the fanzines in this bundle, the following are available for subscription:  
PFALS-IBM, 6 for 50-Belle Dietz, 1721 Grand Ave, Bronx 53, N.Y.  
GROUND ZERO-15¢, 10/31-" - - " - - "  
IN, LAF SOC-Free to interested-Alma Hill, Lee, Maine  
TALAT-15¢, 4/59-Dan Blackburn, 65 E, 91 St., New York 28, N.Y.  
& my own POLHODE

Of the remaining, The Rover & The Maine-IAC are distributed also as "quodzines" (which I understand are printed round-robins, or small apa's), some consist only of mailing coments, & of the remaining I know that the following have copies distributed outside of N'APA (altho no sub-rates are listed):

- Conjre-Mike Deckinger-85 Locust Ave, Hilburn, NJ
- Guan,-Art Hayes-Cardiff, Ontario, Canada
- Drea Stuff-Gl.Carr-5319 Ballard Ave, Seattle 7 Washington
- ANIMUS curiae-George Nims Raybin-1326 Grand Concourse, Bronx 56, NY
- Whyoma-Eva Firestone-Upton Whyoming (50% is mailing comments)
- Bruno's Gemplun-Steve Tolliver-337 W. Riggon, Monterey Park, Calif.
- Monshine-Guy Terwilliger-1412Albright St. Boise, Idaho.////Know that these're distributed mostly from such interna evidence as letters.



by

ART RAPP

When Walter . . . Goslet gets around to writing that Scripture translation of his, he might translate one verse like this:

What shall it profit a fanpublisher if he gain a Hugo but lose his shirt in the process?

Now of course mere financial considerations are far less vital to a fanpublisher than to the pro publisher whose job depends on making a profit for the company that hired him. The fan, in his more optimistic moments, sometimes has visions of making his subzine break even (not counting, of course, the value of the time he spends in producing it.)

Still, so widespread are the cases of fanzines which come nowhere near paying for themselves, that in recent years it has become quite common for fanpublisher to abandon the notion of financial return entirely, and simply give their zines away to anyone who writes for a copy.

This, I feel, is a mistake.

Publishing a subscription fanzine can be a valuable experience to any fan with aspirations toward a career in the literary business, either as a writer or in the more lucrative production end. The most effective teacher in the world is experience, and as a fanzine publisher you have an unparalleled opportunity to make mistakes and learn from them, with nothing more serious than your budding ego to be damaged in the process.

But to do so, you've got to have your mistakes (and your achievements) called to your attention—and if you sell your fanzine you automatically provide yourself with a sensitive barometer to indicate whether your journalistic efforts are successful or not. If they are, you'll get a steady trickle of subscribers among people who have seen an issue of your zine and are willing to pay hard cash for more of the same, or from those who have been told by their friends that the rag you publish is worth the price. And when you succeed in building up a fair-sized circulation, you can even sell an occasional advertisement to help with your expenses.

It's not an automatic sequence of events by any means; you have to go 'way into the red at the beginning, because until you show that you can publish a readable and entertaining zine, few people will invest their money in a subscription to it. But if you don't have enough faith in your ability to set a price on your publishing effort, and then try to make it worth that price, who else is going to have much regard for your zine?

Oh sure, they'll write for copies of your free publication, and even pass the word along to their friends, so they can get in on the gravy train. And if you get tired of mailing zines out into a great silent vacuum, and announce that a letter of comment is required to get future issues, most of your readers will even take time to dash off a note or postcard. Tsk, in the mundane world there are lots of people who clip all the coupons they run across and mail them in, just for the lure of something FREE.

But what does all that tell you about whether you're doing a good editorial job or not? Unless you're an obvious psychopath, even people who shudder when they read your zine won't bother to tell you to stop sending it; they'll simply ignore it.

Now, if on the other hand you SELL your product, you are assuming an obligation toward your audience, and if they don't feel you are living up to it they'll damn well let you know! This includes such things as keeping to your announced schedule, maintaining, if not improving, the quality of your format and contents as you gain experience as an editor, and last but not least, keeping at least enough of a record so you don't forget to mail your zines to the people who have paid in advance for them.

Sure, this is added work—but unlike the actual publishing of the zine, which you might as well regard as a labor of love, since you wouldn't be doing it in



the first place unless you found it an interesting pastime, your subscribers will reward you for running your zine on a businesslike basis by contributing toward the financial burden you are investing in your publishing hobby.

Let's assume you have the necessary typer, mimeo and other nonexpendable accessories, and figure out what a zine might cost you in the way of running expenses. We'll say it's a 10-page, 100-copy edition, and that your supplies are obtained from one of the dealers who isn't outrageous in his prices (you may have to hunt for him, but he's available if you look.)

Well, 10 pages means 5 sheets of paper per zine, or one ream for a 100-copy edition. You'll need 10 stencils, and 100 postage stamps:

Paper	\$2.50
Stencils	1.50
Stamps	5.00
Ink, etc.	2.00
	<u>10.00</u>

In other words, you could sell your zine for 10¢ and break even, more or less, even with 10 copies set aside for contributors, file, and so on. (Then, of course, there are your exchange copies to other fanpublishers, but to be fair about this you have to regard them as bringing in their worth in other fanzines.)

Now this is your basic goal, to get up near 100 paid subscribers to your zine. You won't do it for several issues (unless you are a greater publishing genius than has cropped up in fandom for several years.) But once you do, you don't sit back with a satisfied smirk; you raise your sights.

For example, if your subscriptions pour in, maybe you can raise your circulation to 150. Now this doesn't increase your cost for stencils, and the allowance of 2.00 for miscellaneous expenses will easily stretch to cover it, so your total costs go up, not to 15.50 as you might expect, but only to 11.75. And dividing this by 150 shows that your cost per page-line has dropped from 9¢ to 8¢—more profits for you, bhoy!

On the other hand, with your basic 100-copy circulation, maybe you can talk some huckster into buying a full-page ad in your zine for \$1.00. This is much less than it would cost him to mail out 100 flyers himself, not to mention that a sales message in a zine with the exalted reputation of yours gets more careful attention from the reader than a mere circular would—at least, that's what you say to prospective buyers. O. K., to run this guy's ad you use 50¢ more paper, and to mimeo it on both sides takes another couple of stencils, value 50¢. But look, not only are you already charging him 20¢ more than it's costing you, but you're getting an extra page to fill with editorial copy! And your satisfied customers are getting a 12-page fanzine instead of the usual 10-page one!

Well, all this is like the theory in the Economics books you read in school; it sounds good, but seldom works out in practice. However, let me dig back into history and tell you about how I brainwashed the National Fantasy Fan Federation into subsidizing a zine I planned to launch, way back in October, 1949. This was to be a monthly letterzine called POSTALRP, and I planned on having 10-page issues. The NFF had somewhat over 400 members in those days and, paid for the first issue, in an edition of 500 copies. (Prices were lower then, and the total cost was 20.00) This was sent, free, to the membership, who were invited to subscribe at 10¢ per copy, or 6/50¢.

The sample mailing netted about 25 subscribers—incidentally, this was probably not on its own merits, but rather because I was publishing another subzine at the time, which had established my reputation as a publisher whose monthly zines would come out monthly. For the next couple of months things moved slowly—I'd figured 50 subscribers was the break-even point, but it seemed we'd never get there. I was now sinking my own dough into the zine, and since I was going to college on the G. I. Bill at the time, I had precious little excess dough to spare. (And that is one reason why I kept such careful track of the finances of POSTALRP; I liked the zine myself, but I was resolved to fold it after a reasonable trial period if it didn't start paying for itself.)

Then, at about its third or fourth issue, the thing suddenly came to life;



the letterwriters had hit upon a batch of topics upon which they had vast differences of opinion, and had sized each other up well enough to feel like plunging into battle. Apparently each time they wrote a letter to POSTWARP they also wrote to all their friends and urged them to subscribe so as to help gloat at their demolishing of the opposition, or something. In the April '50 issue I was able to report that I had 40 subscribers, and that the overall deficit had not only ceased to grow larger, but had actually been reduced to \$11.52.

Well, I hate to end on an anticlimactic note, but the following month I was forced by personal circumstances to turn the editorship of POSTWARP over to another fan, so I never did learn if it eventually paid for itself. I do know that it amply repaid the BSF for their investment in favorable publicity alone--and since it is still in existence (currently published by Al Lewis, 4550 Maple Road, Birmingham, Michigan--plug!) I presume the BSF agrees.

In short, so long as freedom of speech exists in this portion of the Galaxy, anyone can spread his opinions on a stencil and distribute them to his fellow-citizens with a publication they are willing to dig into their pockets and pay for calls for skill in writing, duplication techniques, a nodding acquaintance with practical psychology and postal regulations, a devotion to crifanac above and beyond the call of duty, and mainly, you gotta have rocks in yer head!

VARIOUS THINGS ((from pg 10)) pose of this Bulletin is to inform you of what is happening with respect to the I.E.S. and to help you get started toward a working group in your own area.... In "Going Our Way", it asks for info on similar groups & mentions the "Information Resources Research Institute" & "Harvard Speculative Soc", & other articles are "How To Form an I.E.S. Chapter", "Wanted: A New Name" (they hint that the BIS protested the similarity of names, say that they would like a more appropriate one, & give the reasons for rejecting the ones suggested), "No Age Limit", "Groups Already Organized" (mentioning only the 2 groups organized at the Museum), "Write Your Requests" (saying that the "national" group will gladly give info on contacting other members, etc. But the New England group complains in its "Letter Forum" (see below) of getting very little cooperation) & "Journal Subscriptions Past Half-Way Mark".

And this is the last I've heard from the national group.

I would guess that Mr. Campbell has lost interest in this brainchild, either voluntarily or at the request of Street & Smith. I say this because, altho his initial plugs have (supposedly) brought in more than half the required number of "55 fish", I doubt that there was any mention of the Journal in Astounding during the last year. Perhaps the offer to publish the journal has been withdrawn--but if that is the case, why hasn't the subscription money been returned?

About this time I was quite disgusted with the whole group, &, after my experiences with the NY chapter, was afraid that the Journal would turn out to be a companion of ASF, namely A Psience Fiction. I was just about to write & ask for my money back, when I got the second N'apa mailing which had a copy of a meeting notice of the New England (Boston) chapter put in by Alma Hill.

A little later I received directly their "Bulletin # 10 the LETTER FORUM", & was convinced they really have a good group going. Alma Hill (the address is simply "Lee, Maine") sends this out free to anyone who expresses interest, & sends out a few extra sample copies of each issue (which is how I received #10). However, a number of readers have sent in contributions to help defray costs without such being suggested anywhere in the magazine.

I won't say any more about the New England Chapter because you can read about it in Letter Forum (while I believe the above is new to print) & I've already spent too much space in a Science Fiction fanzine on this borderline topic.

However, should I get any more information between now & the next issue, & if too many people don't jump on me for printing this stuff, I'll print it next time around.

Also, I think I'll have a larger lettercol next time, devoted to this & ((pg19))



## THE DREAM

I had a dream last night,  
In that dream I saw the earth,  
The good, green earth,  
I saw man conquer that earth.

In that dream I saw the moon,  
A white disk etched on the bleak canopy of space.  
I saw man conquer that moon.

In that dream I saw the planets,  
Multicolored spheres in the emptiness of space.  
I saw man conquer those planets.

In that dream I saw a star, a hundred stars, a  
hundred times a hundred stars,  
Thousands upon countless thousands of stars,  
Cold points of light that suddenly became a  
hundred different personalities,  
A thousand homes for man.

In that dream I saw a galaxy,  
Then more, countless more, stretching  
to the ends of space.  
I saw man conquer those galaxies,  
Galaxies in which man planted his seed.

In that dream I saw the universe.  
I saw man conquer that universe,  
But I have yet to see man conquer himself.

—Mike Barnes







FROM

POLARODE # 2  
Edmund R. Reskys  
723A, 45 St.  
Brooklyn 20, NY

TO:

Bradford M. Day  
7804 Jamaica Ave.  
Woodhaven 21, N.Y.



PRINTED MATTER ONLY

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED  
AIR-MAILED

-----JMO-----  
You are being afflicted with this piece of trash because:

- ( ) You said, you fool you!!! ( ) You commented on the last issue
- ( ) You contributed, for which thanks a ain
- ( ) Review (please send an extra copy of the page on which the review appeared for a special file--Thank(ie, for non M'apa reviews).)
- ( ) Please send a sample copy of \_\_\_\_\_, which was reviewed in/recommended by \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) We trade regularly ( ) Would you care to trade re ul?
- ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ might be of special interest to you.
- ( ) Sample \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Don't ask me why; don't know myself.
- ( ) M'APA \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) You are going to receive the next \_\_\_\_\_ issues no matter what you do. You're SURE!
- ( ) You will NOT receive the next issue unless I get some response out of you.

coverage of other localities is, understandably, weak & subject to inaccuracies. For instance, there are numerous important clubs which were neglected--The Hydra Club, the N.Y.S.F. Circle (which had some 70 members & an average attendance of more than 50 before the Newyorkon, but fell upon lean times & finally expired about 1 1/2 years back), the Lunarians, & the Fanvets with their Fanvet Cons. (Of course, one can't expect coverage of such minor groups as "The S.F. Club of NY" ((from about 5 years back)) & the recent Retrofen.) Also The article on the USFL implies that it is still a strong club, but it expired some 10 years ago after a major fued. I was disappointed that it didn't mention "Waldo", "Fullin", a Coslot", under yearbooks, the very good one put out by Taurasi a few years ago.

Also, I dont think the letter explaining the point system (pp 125-6) appeared in Spaceway, but in Astounding (there is a slight difference between the 2 magazines).

And some completely irrelevant complaints--on my copy, pg 46 is upside down, & pp 163-4 is punched on both edges of the page.

Mr. Eney will undoubtedly get many corrections & pieces of additional information, & I hope he uses them to put out a suppliment to make Fancy even more usefull.

I started to read Donald Tuck's Handbook of SF with the intention of making similar corrections & comments, but haven't had the time to finish. Mr Tuck has already published one page of corrections himself. Incidentally, I've heard in round-about ways that the agent, Howard de Vore of Detroit, is returning the money of those who order copies because the book is already sold out. However, I don't know for sure, & if you're interested, you can write him, & check.

I hope to pub my comments in the next issue.

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ALL POLARODE BILLS ARE OUT STRIPPIES ON THE HELL-POLARODE LYING IN THE INVARIABLE PLANE!!!