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FAN SPEAK

by

ARTHUR H. RAPP

1952 EDITION

EDITED BY

LEE HOFFMAN

AND

REDD BOGGS

INTRODUCTION

This glossary of fannish slang and technical terms is designed, first, to brief new fans on the most vital information they need to understand what other fans are talking about, and second, to pin down the differences between similar terms which are often incorrectly used even by oldtime fans.

In the interests of brevity obsolete, self-explanatory, and individual usages have been pruned away, as have names of fan clubs, fanzines, and fan nicknames.

The first edition of Fanspeak was edited by Arthur H. Rapp, assisted by Ed Cox, C. Stewart Metchette, Rick Sneary, and Redd Boggs, and completed just before Rapp enlisted in the army in the summer of 1950. Through a succession of foulups, it never received a wide circulation, though some copies were distributed by the National Fantasy Fan Federation as WelCom Leaflet #5.

This new edition was edited by Lee Hoffman and Redd Boggs. Many new terms have been added, including a number from the vocabulary of dianetics which have become current in fandom, and the old ones have been modernized where necessary. Some terms that have gone out of currency since the first edition have been omitted entirely. Despite the various changes and additions, Fanspeak is still basically Art Rapp's work and should be considered his project.

As before, the editors must acknowledge the help and inspiration they received from Jack Speer's Fancyclopedia (1944) and the NFFF pamphlet What Is Science Fiction Fandom?, also issued in 1944.

Any suggestions or criticisms concerning Fanspeak should be sent to the present editors whose addresses are listed below, or to Arthur H. Rapp, in care of one of these editors.

LEE HOFFMAN
101 Wagner street
Savannah, Georgia

REDD BOGGS
2215 Benjamin street N.E.
Minneapolis 18, Minnesota

FANSPEAK

Ackermanese. (After Forrest J Ackerman, its popularizer). Peculiar writing style which includes use of scientific combinations, phonetic or Esperanto spelling (e.g., Bradburyam; spelng; Cali4nia; Morojo; Fojack), nonstopparagrafing; and other practices.

actifan; passifan. The two classes of genus fan. Distinct criteria have never been drawn. The prefixes derive from "active" and "passive."

Activity Party. An NFFF political faction which, gaining power in 1949, caused a stir by proposing the ARP.

"Alpaugh is Ghod." The sole law of SAPS at the time Lloyd Alpaugh Jr was OE, circa 1948.

Anglofan. British fan.

ann-ish. Anniversary issue of a fanzine, usually marked by increased size and contributions from BNFs and pros.

army of goons. Phrase used by Robert Bloch to designate juvenile fans.

ARP. Activity Requirement Plan. Proposed amendment to NFFF constitution which would have required each member to maintain certain minimum levels of activity in fandom. Never passed.

aSF. The prozine Astounding Science Fiction. Practice of using a lower-case "a" began when editor John W. Campbell began de-emphasizing the "Astounding" portion of the title in 1946.

atomigeddon. Term coined by Ackerman after Hiroshima to designate the atomic war that will destroy civilization.

auditor. A dianetics-trained person who treats a patient.

Aussiefen; Auslans. Fans in Australia. The latter is a coined word which they sometimes use to designate themselves.

autoanalyses. Articles in which the fan writer takes himself apart psychologically, trying to explain why he is what he is. A once-popular pastime in FAPA of Speer, Rothman, Perdue, etc.

avoidism. A philosophy expounded in Roger Price's In One Head and Out the Other, adopted by many fans at the Nolacon and adapted to a fannish philosophy by correlation with Eric Frank Russell's "And Then There Were None." The avoidists' amateur press association, myob, has so far managed to avoid being very active.

ayjay; ajay; a-i. Amateur journalism, the field of which fan publishing is nominally a subclass. Non-fantasy amateur journalism (as in NAPA, UAPA, etc.) is often termed "mundane ayjay."

bacover. Last page of a publication. In prozines it usually consists of an ad for the Linguaphone Institute; in fanzines, usually the mailing wrapper.

beanie brigade. Bob Tucker's term for the juvenile fan contingent, probably inspired by the Michifen's wearing of helicopter beanies during the Torcon.

"Beer Is The Only True Ghod." Popular slogan just after WWII, and occasionally revived. Believers in the sentiment contend that beer is supreme because, given enough beer, one wants nothing more. Opponents, shouting "Money Is The Only True Ghod," point out that with money one can buy beer.

bem. Bug-eyed monster, such as found on promag covers. Term was coined by Martin E. Alger in the early 1940's.

blitzkrieg. Speer defines it as "an extraordinary exertion by some fen to overcome the failure of others to do their duty." The most famous blitzes took place in 1940 when two different FAPA mailings had to be rescued from delinquent officers. A more recent

blitz was that carried out by the Los Angeles Insurgents to rescue the summer 1947 FAPA mailing from the indolent OE.

Blowup. The explosion of a bomb which shattered the windows of Art Rapp's home at Saginaw in 1949, bringing the police to the scene, and splitting up the MSFS. Michifandom was never the same afterward. Term was adopted from Kuttner's "Baldy" series in aSF.

BNF. Big Name Fan; one who is famous in fandom.

BRE. British Reprint Edition of an American prozine.

broad mental horizons. Something fans are supposed to have, according to Margaret St Clair in a 1947 Writer's Digest article. Some people question whether it's a fannish characteristic.

burned out. The condition reached by new fans, and some older ones, who plunge into crifanac with more enthusiasm than moderation.

Canfan. Fan from the land of the Maple Leaf.

CCF. Crusade to Clean Up Fandom. Campaign for fanzine censorship, launched in 1951 by Russell Watkins. Principal targets were anti-religious and pro-sex items, which were to be stamped out by boycott and censure. Since the movement's opponents were more vociferous than its advocates, and since Watkins joined the air force and folded his fanmag, the Crusade faded away.

Chicon. The second annual world science fiction convention at Chicago, Labor Day, 1940. Fandom tried to dub the 1952 convention at Chicago the Chicon II, but the committee wouldn't have it.

Cinvention. The seventh annual world science fiction convention at Cincinnati, Ohio, Labor Day, 1949.

clear. In dianetics jargon, this means a completely rational person, one fully "cured" by dianetic therapy.

combozine. Publication formed by binding together two or more complete mags to make up one issue. Cosmag/Science Fiction Digest is an example. An administrative merger, where one fanzine is issued under a composite title (Sky Hook combined with Chronoscope) is not a combozine.

con; convention. Strictly speaking, the term "convention" should be reserved for the annual national gathering. Regional or local fangatherings should be termed conferences or conclaves.

cortico - thalamic pause. (Sometimes termed "semantic pause"). A mental discipline of General Semantics, much ridiculed by opponents.

Cosmic Circle. A notorious fan club organized by Claude Degler, which rose and fell circa 1943. Principal tenet was that fans are the star-begotten -- the master race of slans who are to inherit the solar system. Program included setting up a myriad local organizations (mostly mythical), publishing uncountable illegible fanzines, and establishing an Ozark rest camp for vacationing "cosmen."

crifanac. "Critical fan activity." Term originally descriptive of fan activity indulged in by fans to raise their relative standing in the top ten. Now taken to mean any and all fanactivity.

crud. Worthless or undesirable material such as Cosmic Circle fanzines. Adj. cruddy.

Cthulhu. Leading figure of an intricate mythology created by H. P. Lovecraft and followed to some degree by the weird tales of August Derleth, Donald Wandrei, and others of the Lovecraft circle. Nobody but HPL could pronounce it properly.

Denvention. The third annual world science fiction convention, at Denver, Colo., Independence Day, 1941.

dero; deroes. A malign, cave-dwelling race which meddles in human affairs, according to Richard S. Shaver.

dianetics. A technique for increasing mental efficiency, conceived by L. Ron Hubbard, and announced in aSF for May 1950.

directorate. Five members of the NFFF elected annually to supervise the club officers and administration.

Disclave. A regional conference held at Washington, D. C. Name is derived from "District of Columbia Conclave."

Ditto. A trade name generally used in fandom to designate any sort of spirit (or direct) process duplicator. About 300 copies can be made from one master set, which is clamped to the rotary drum of the machine. Because purple ink is most often used, people confuse Dittography for hektography, but it's a more advanced method of duplication.

Dittorium. The Laneyesque name for the Coslet duplicator establishment. But Coslet's "Ditto" machine is a Wolber.

"Down in the bar!" A gagline, from Bob Tucker's battle cry at the Nolacon.

dummy. A preliminary page layout, which assures the fanpublisher that there is room for everything on the page and enables him to justify typed matter, etc. Most fanpublishers skip this step, apparently.

egoboo. Boosting of the ego, the force that impells fans in their tireless activity. The term is most often used to indicate the source of fannish publicity: for instance, this pamphlet is egoboo for the editors.

engram. A mental block in the subconscious mind which causes functional difficulties, according to dianetics. Fans once said, "You're semantically confused." Now they say, "You've got an engram."

Esperanto. An artificial language devised for international use. Once advocated by Ackerman, it had a vogue in fandom, but of late even Fojack has deserted the cause.

eyetracks. When you read a new book you get eyetracks all over it. Then it isn't mint anymore.

fan. Someone interested in fantasy and/or science fiction for other than professional reasons. A fan usually buys and sometimes reads the prozines, publishes a fanzine, or at least contributes or subscribes to one, and attends fannish club meetings or gatherings. The plural of "fan" is "fans," though "fen" is an alternate form.

Fancyclopedia. A marvelously ambitious publication of Jack Speer, issued in 1944. Covering some 100 pages of fan information, it is perhaps the most important reference book on fandom so far produced. Needless to say, this glossary owes much to Cy.

Fan-Dango awards. Certificates for conspicuous fuggheadedness presented by Fan-Dango, F. Towner Laney's fapazine. They are supposed to be suitable for framing and are personally signed by ftl.

"Fandom is a way of life." Slogan used apologetically, cynically, resignedly, or scathingly, depending upon one's attitude.

fanne. A femfan. Use of the term is frowned on by some fannes — according to Eva Firestone. Instead of pronouncing it correctly as "fan," some people must be pronouncing it in two syllables.

fanspeak. The language, typography, and clichés of fandom. Term is derived from "newspeak," the language of the future, in George Orwell's 1984.

fanzine. An amateur publication published by and intended for fans. Almost any publication from a big subscription mag like Quandry to a one-page personal fapazine qualifies as a fanzine. "Fanmag" is another common term. Abbreviations: fnz, fmz, and fm.

FAPA ("FAP-uh"). The Fantasy Amateur Press Association, an organization for

mutual exchange of its members' fanzines. Founded in 1937, it is the oldest national fan club, and there is usually a waiting list for its 65 memberships. Information about joining may be obtained by contacting one of Fanspeak's editors.

fapans; fapates; faps. Members of FAPA. The first term is most commonly used.

fapazine. Some circulate outside FAPA, too.

femfan; femmefan. The female of the fannish species. A fanne.

feud. A quarrel between two fans or groups of fans in which each side spreads propaganda and otherwise tries to drive the other out of fandom or at least out of prominence in the microcosm. The term is often incorrectly applied to arguments of a lesser nature. Some fans even labelled a debate staged by one fanzine a "feud."

FFM. The prozine Famous Fantastic Mysteries.

FooFoo. A fannish ghod first acknowledged in 1938 as the savior of fankind from the purple doomnation of ghughuism. The Sacred Order of FooFoo not only opposes the monstrous followers of ghughu but in recent times has crusaded against the heathen religion known as Roscoism. FooFoo's greatest weapon against the foe is the Poo.

Fortean phenomena. Inexplicable events such as flying saucers, of the type recorded by the late Charles Fort in his books Lo!, Wild Talents, New Lands and The Book of the Damned.

fout. Usually an exclamation of annoyance ("Oh, fout!"), though in another context it may indicate derision: "This is a fouty fanzine."

fsy. Abbreviation for "fantasy."

fugghead. F. Towner Laney's bowdlerized term for a stupid person or serious constructive fan.

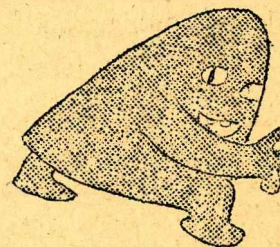
gafia. An attack of the doldrums which hits all fans now and then. Term derives from "get away from it all."

gay deceiver. A book with a fantastic-sounding title that is advertised and sold by fantasy book dealers and kept on library shelves (unread) by various fsy collectors, which is not a fantasy at all.

ghod. Fans usually spell it with an "h" when referring to fannish ghods. This seems to be the only authentic superstitious taboo ever developed in the microcosm.

ghughu. FooFoo's arch-rival, this deity's worship began in 1935, and was fandom's orthodox ghod till 1938 and the Call of FooFoo to form the Sacred Order. All ghughuists have purple souls, the dye being almost as permanent (according to ghughuists) as hekto stains on the fingers. They also have a gholy ghible and a special ghughuist calendar.

globlies. Creatures which look like lumps of dough, used in a series of cartoons by Ray Nelson.



Goshwowboyoboy! Phrase expressive of youthful enthusiasm for things fannish or scientifictional. It first appeared in Time's Nycon writeup in 1939.

"Hang from the ceiling and drip green." Phrase adopted from Richard Matheson's "Born of Man and Woman" (MoF&SF, summer 1950). Its precise meaning depends on context, but approximates "Go jump in the lake."

heesh. He or she.

hekto; hecto. A messy multicolor duplication process involving a pan or film

of gelatin upon which the master carbon is laid face down. Because it requires little outlay for equipment, the hekto is much favored by beginning fan publishers, but hardly anyone ever uses one when they can afford better. The hekto (contraction of "hekto-graph") is theoretically capable of producing 100 copies, but only an expert can peel more than 17 copies off the malign gelatin.

HIAISM Mimeo. Short form devised by Bill Venable for Art Rapp's Hit-It-Again-It's-Still-Moving Mimeograf.

hiser. His or her.

Hoffman Nothing Inc. An industry inspired by TuckeResearch, devoted to mass producing nothing. Among its subsidiaries are Proxyboo Ltd., Rebel Yeast Co., Vernon McCain Inc., Shhhh Boo Inc., and several others.

house name. Pseudonym shared in turn by any number of writers for stories published in a given magazine. Examples: "Alexander Blade" in Ziff-Davis zines, and "Brett Sterling" in Standard mags.

Hydra Club. A New York club composed of past and present professionals in the science fiction field.

illio; illo. Illustration; a pic.

indivdzine. A one-man fanzine, usually distributed in FAPA or SAPS, in which the contents are mostly by the editor. The aim is to reflect as accurately as possible the personality and opinions of the editor.

inner circle. The active members of fandom, as opposed to passifans. It also may refer to the ruling clique of any fan organization.

Insurgents. Originally a splinter group of the LASFS, of which Charles Burbee and F. Towner Laney are the leading lights. The term was adopted by other fan groups and now refers to any fans who break from another group and then battle with the parent club. Insur-

gents are known for their attitude of antagonism toward serious constructiveness and fannish fuggheadedness in general, but somebody gave Life magazine a biased definition of Insurgentism for its article on fandom.

interlineations. One-line fillers set off from the rest of the text by over- and underlines, or lines of dashes or dots. They are used to separate items in a column, to form an ornamental border, or merely to break up the monotony of a page of type. Often the spaces between words are omitted or the message is reiterated so that the interlineation ends flush with the righthand margin.

thisisaninterlineationthisisaninterlinea

ish. An issue of a publication.

jam. Of a book, mint with dust-jacket.

justify. To adjust the spacing between words in a published text so as to produce an even righthand margin. This glossary is justified (at least in this sense).

laureate awards. Annual certificates in recognition of excellence presented to outstanding fans by the NFFF. The annual FAPA poll is sometimes said to name laureate winners, but actual FAPA laureate awards haven't been given for many years.

letterhack. A fan who seeks egoboo by writing numerous letters to the pro-zines.

mailing. The bursting envelopeful of magazines distributed to each member of FAPA or SAPS by the official editor. Each member gets an identical bundle. FAPA's mailing dates fall in February, May, August, and November; and SAPS' in March, June, September, and December.

mapa. Mundane amateur press association.

masterset. The master copy used for spirit process. The text is typed or

drawn on the front of the set and transferred to the back of the same sheet by a carbon which faces forward. Thus, the master copy is always a mirror image of the original.

Michicon. Heap big fan powwows held in Michigan around 1943 and '44. Name is also applied to statewide meetings of the later Michigan fan group.

Michifen. Fans in Michigan, natchurly.

microcosm. Fandom is sometimes referred to as the "microcosm," as distinguished from the outside world, the "macrocosm."

mimeo. Fans seldom use the full word "mimeograph," and apply the term to all types of stencil duplicators. That's legitimate, now that the A. B. Dick people no longer own the trademark.

mint. Adjective meaning a book or magazine in brand-new condition.

Misfits. Members of the Michigan fan club. They bestowed the name on themselves.

MoF&SF. The prozine Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction.

Morgan Botts. One of the leading figures of the fan world in the last half of the twentieth century, according to the way he tells it in 2000 A. D. Central character in a fan fiction series by Arthur H. Rapp.

MssBu. Abbreviation for the NFFF Manuscript Bureau, a service which places manuscripts written by members with fan editors who need material.

Myob. Mind your own business. Expression from Eric Frank Russell's "And Then There Were None" (aSF, June 1951) which has achieved a certain fannish popularity.

Necronomicon. A mythical book written by the equally mythical mad Arab, Al-hazred. Reading its dark secrets

proves the undoing of many a pale young scholar in weird fiction of the Lovecraft school.

neofan. A newcomer to fandom.

NFFF, N3F. Pronounced "neff," "N-three-F," or "N-triple-F." The National Fantasy Fan Federation. Attempts to shorten the name or change it to one more in accord with the club's international membership have failed.

Nolacon. The ninth annual world science fiction convention at New Orleans, La., Labor Day, 1951.

nonstoparafraping. Space-saving practice of starting a new paragraph one line below the point where the preceding one ends.

This line is nonstoparafraped as an example.

Norwescon. The eighth annual world science fiction convention, at Portland, Oregon, Labor Day, 1950. Term was also used to designate previous regional conferences at Portland.

Null-A, A. Non-Aristotelian logic, as expounded by Alfred Korzybski in Science and Sanity. Term also designates various extrapolations found in A. E. van Vogt's "World of A" and "Players of A."

N. W. T. in '53! Slogan of Bill Morse's campaign to take the 1953 convention to Tuktoyakuk in North West Territory, Canada. He promises whale blubber lamps in every igloo.

Nycon. The first annual world science fiction convention, at New York City, Independence Day, 1939.

Oblique House. Sort of a publishing house name. It's the Slanted-like-the-Dickens residence of Walt Willis.

obliterine. An Aussie term for stencil correction fluid, adopted by fans.

official editor. Abbreviated "OE." In FAPA, the official editor is the man

who assembles and posts the quarterly mailings. He also publishes ballots and the OO. In SAPS, the OE is the officer in general charge of the club, being the president, secretary - treasurer, and mailer all in one. In the NFFF, the official editor's main job is issuing the regular official organ.

old guard. The oldtimers in fandom.

102% N3Fer. One who is convinced that the NFFF is a way of life and its status quo must be preserved forever.

one-shot. A publication put out for one issue only, by intention. A one-shot is usually published for some specific purpose such as for distributing at a convention or collecting under one cover all the material on a particular subject. The most famous one-shots are those put out at a one-shot session.

one-shot session. A writing-stencilling and often mimeoing session held for the purpose of putting out a one-shot fanzine, usually of the humorous type. The most famous magazine published in this manner is Wild Hair.

on-stencil. The fannish equivalent of "composing in the stick" -- the time-saving device of writing what you have to say directly on the stencil or master set instead of typing out a rough draft first and then revising.

OO. The official organ: the publication by which a club posts its members on administrative matters.

Ootwa. The late prozine Out of This World Adventures (plus color fantasy section).

open letter. Proclamation addressed to a fan or group of fans, but also intended to reach the eyes of others.

Operation Fantast. A bookselling deal designed to facilitate trade between British and American fans. There are many other services connected with the venture. Ken Slater is its mastermind.

O-R-T. Official Round Table letter, a round-robin communication by which the N3F directorate transacts business.

pb. Abbreviation of "paperback" or "pocketbook." Any book in a format similar to that of Pocket Books.

p-card. Abbreviation of "postcard."

Philcon. The fifth annual world science fiction convention, at Philadelphia, Pa., Labor Day, 1947. The term is also applied to regional conferences at Philly, also called "Philcos."

photolith. Term used in fandom to designate any of the lithographic duplication processes.

Floor. A planet figuring in Doc Smith's Lensmen stories. Used as an exclamation or as a synonym for any far-away place like Savannah, Ga.

potsarcd. An Irish critter similar to a postcard except that whereas you address one side of a postcard and write on the other, you write on one side of a potsarcd and address on the other.

Pogo. A handsome young possum, inhabiting the Okefenokee swamp and newspaper comic sections, not to mention various comic books and the Simon & Schuster paperback, Pogo. Though read and collected by Burbee, Rotsler, Perdue, etc., as early as 1949, Pogo didn't become a fan fad till 1951. Fans nowadays quote Pogo, write about him, and collect Pogo stuff more avidly than they collect aSF or Cartier originals. Pogo is the creation of Walt Kelly, and is not to be confused with the Pogo whose real name was Mary Corrine Gray. She used "Pogo" as her fan nickname around 1942.

Poo. It's mightier than the yobber.

pro. A professional author, editor, artist, or publisher. The term is also applied to professional magazines.

Proxyboo Ltd. The fabulous (very) organization operated by Walt Willis which

features fan activity by proxy. For a small fee any fan's crifanac is taken over and performed by Proxyboo's highly trained experts. There is a similar organization, Vernon McCain Inc., which does the same type of work and handles the activity of both fans and pros with the initials R. B.

prozine; promag. Professional magazine. The exact line between promags and fanzines has never been settled. For that matter, neither has the line between science fiction and fantasy.

pulp. A magazine printed on newsprint-type paper, as opposed to the "slicks" like Satevepost. Since newsstand sale accounts for the bulk of their income, the pulps usually sport a lurid cover to attract attention.

quasi-quotes. "Quotation-marks with a hyphen under them" indicating that the quoted material has been altered slightly in grammar or sentence construction to fit the context. The substantial meaning of the quote must remain the same.

Quish. The first anniversary issue of Lee Hoffman's Quandry, a gigantic 100-page affair you can recognize by the cover done in multicolored ink.

qunq. Short title for "Quote--Unquote," the letter department in Sky Hook. It should be pronounced, says Lee Hoffman, to sound like a frog hopping on a lily pad.

QX. Expression meaning "O.K.," adopted from E. E. Smith's stories. Sneary often uses the variant "QS." Another variation is "All X."

release. A person to whom dianetic therapy has brought improvement. It's just another term in the special dianetics vocabulary.

round robin serial. A story in which each instalment is by a different writer. The gimmick is usually to leave things in such a predicament at the end of your instalment that it takes

brainwork on the part of the succeeding author to solve the problem and get on with the story. Some of the famous round robins in fandom were "If I Werewolf" in Spaceways and "Stf Broadcasts Again!" in Spacewarp. Fantasy Magazine had "Cosmos," written by such pros as Doc Smith and A. Merritt.

Roscoe. Another fannish ghod, this one in the form of Roscoe, an invisible beaver, opposed by Oscar, the Malevolent Muskrat. Roscoism was launched by Art Rapp in 1949 through Spacewarp, and won a certain following among the more naive fans.

SAPS. The Spectator Amateur Press Association, founded early in 1947. It is an organization similar to FAPA, except that SAPS has only 35 members, and has no written constitution.

scientificombination. The Ackermanese practice of grafting words to form compounds like scientificombination. It's not necessary to underline the letters that serve double duty, unless the meaning otherwise is unclear.

scientifilm. Stf movies, not including fantasy or horror films. "Things to Come" and "Destination Moon" are the classic examples.

semantics. The science of the meaning of words. General Semantics is a special branch thereof which has had great impact upon fandom because of its inspiration of A. E. van Vogt to write his famous null-A yarns.

semi-pro publishers. Fans who take a fling at book publishing, usually temporarily and often unprofitably.

sensitive fannish face. The best way to recognize a fan is to look for his sensitive fannish face and the strange wild look thereon, according to Burbee.

Sgt. Saturn. Character who edited the letter columns in TWS and Startling during the war, answering letters with "space lingo." Mercifully liquidated about 1946 or so.

serious constructive fan. One who thinks fan activity is less of a hobby than a means of advancing mankind toward the utopias described in science fiction. Serious constructiveness also extends to advocacy of the N3F as a fan government, and of publishing "high-minded" fanzines in order to impress and recruit outsiders. The CCF was a recent example of serious constructiveness. There's a little bit of serious constructiveness in every good little fan.

servifan. Fan in the armed forces.

770. Room 770 of the St Charles hotel, New Orleans, the location of a party of various 1951 convention - goers, lasting slightly over two days, noted for the tremendous quantities of gin and creme d'menthe disposed of, and the amount of noise filtering from the room through the ventilating system.

sexocracy. A socio-political theory plugged by Ray Nelson around 1949. Its tenets are about what you'd expect.

Shaver Mystery. The occult theories and fiction of Richard S. Shaver, fostered by Amazing Stories from 1945 to 1948.

Shhhhh Boo Inc. An organization, it says here, operated by Lee Hoffman which, for a small fee, will carry on any fan's crifanac but keep it all secret. Shhhhh Boo's operations are so secret that you probably never heard of it before.

Shonokins. The still-surviving pre-Indian race of North America, distinguished by a third finger longer than the middle finger, according to Manly Wade Wellman in Weird Tales.

slan. A genius or superman. Term was adopted from van Vogt's tale "Slan" in ASF, 1940, and used as a synonym for "fan," sometimes facetiously. Current users of the term insist that the connotation of "homo superior" has been removed so that "slan" means merely a person interested in sf.

slan shack. The original Slan Shack was a fan co-operative dwelling in Battle

Creek, Mich., later in Los Angeles. Now the term designates any similar enterprise.

smoke-filled room. Originally the term for behind-the-scenes activity concerning voting on the following year's convention site, it now designates any hotel room where fans gather during a convention to drink and discuss.

"South Gate in '58!" Slogan plugged by Rick Sneary, who foresightedly launched ten years ahead his campaign to bring the 1958 convention to his hometown, South Gate, Calif.

space opera. Horse opera with rocket ships.

star-begotten. Phrase adopted from one of H. G. Wells' works, used by serious constructive fans to describe themselves in the days before "slan" was invented. Nowadays it's used by Insurgents as a derisive label for persons who take fandom or themselves too seriously. The "star-begotten" in the book were "misunderstood, intuitive, brilliant people."

stf (Pronounced, and sometimes spelled, "stef.") Term means "science fiction," and derives from Gernsback's old scientificombination term for it: "scientifiction." The word has died out, but as an abbreviation the term lingers on to confound neofans. Slowly gaining popularity are the contractions "sf" or "s-f."

stfan; stefan. Fan who is primarily interested in science fiction and not in pure fantasy or weirds. The term is incorrectly used as a synonym for "fan," which is a general classification defined above.

stfnist; stefnist. Stfans plus the pros: anyone interested in stf. An older meaning: one primarily interested in fandom rather than in stf -- one who is a fan fan.

Super Science Fiction Special. Gin and ginger ale, with a dash of bitters. A drink invented around 1937 by fans for

fans. Have one on us at the next convention or conclave.

swamptalk. The things they say in the Okefenokee, according to Walt Kelly's "Pogo." Quotes like this are much favored by fans for interlineations: "A atom bomb can put everything all over nowhere -- nothin' to sweep up!"

swampside. Specifically used to refer to Savannah, Ga., but it can be used to refer to any part of Georgia. The swamp is the Okefenokee.

tendrilsession. A meeting of two or more fans. Tendrils are slannish organs found in the hair, by means of which one can communicate telepathically.

thud-and-blunder. Action stuff like in Planet Stories.

timebinding. The distinguishing characteristic of homo sapiens, according to Korzybski. It is the ability to pass accumulated knowledge and experience from one generation to another by oral and written records.

TNFF. The National Fantasy Fan, OO of the N3F.

Torcon. The sixth annual world science fiction convention at Toronto, Ontario, Independence Day, 1948.

twippledop. Miscellaneous notes and comments strung together to form a department or column. The title of the editorial page in Sky Hook.

Twonk's disease. A serious affliction of an esoteric type, possibly synonymous with falling of the armpits.

TWS. The prozine Thrilling Wonder Stories.

unifen. Fans in the uniform of the armed forces.

WelCom; Welcommittee. A group of NFFF members who contact new members and help them get acquainted with the club and its activities. Other fan clubs have similar committees.

Westercon. An annual Pacific coast regional conference, first held in 1948.

Whitcon. A large British fangathering held over Whitsunday in 1949.

Wheels of IF. The masterminds of Irish Fandom: Walt Willis, Bob Shaw, and James White. Leprechauns, each one.

Wild Hair session. A one-shot session held by the Los Angeles Insurgents for the purpose of writing and/or publishing their unofficial official organ, Wild Hair.

Xeno. (Pronounced "ZEE-no.") A potent beverage of exotic origin inanely discoursed upon by Sgt Saturn and his crew of juveniles.

yobber. A heathenish ghughuist term.

"Yngvi Is A Louse!" A fannish gagline, taken from the de Camp-Pratt Unknown novel "The Roaring Trumpet." No particular significance. Anyhow, everyone knows by now that Yngvi no longer is a louse.

zapgun. Ray-pistol of a character from the future which makes a "zap!" sound when fired, or beamed. Popularized in fandom by the Torcon news-story headlined: "Zap! Zap! Atomic Ray is Passe With Fiends!"

Z-ray. Symbolic of the mysterious radiations found in sf yarns.

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