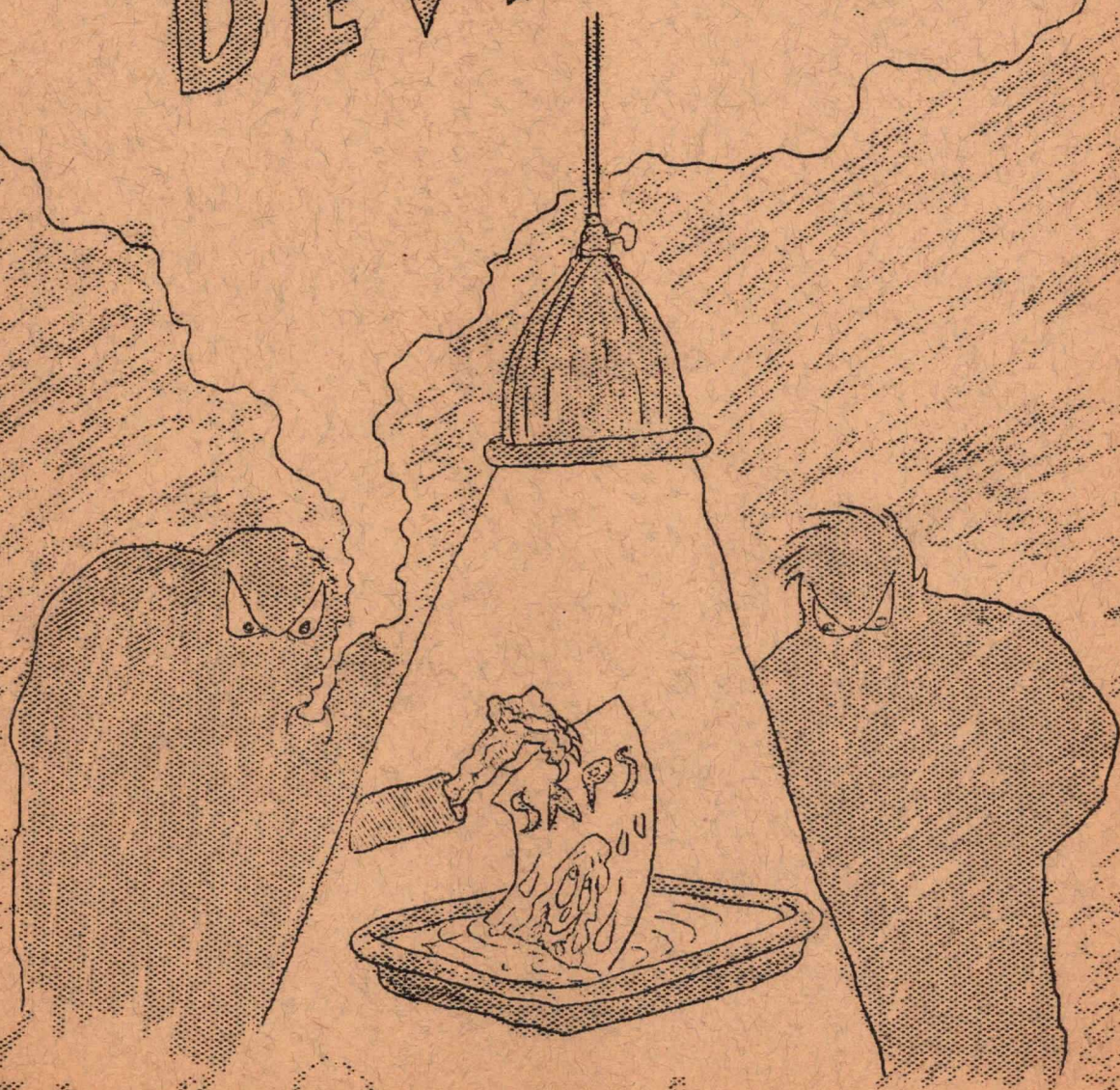


# REVOLTIN' DEVELOPMENT



Roy Nelson







# FANDOM IN THE HEADLINES

## OBSCENITY COUNT BRINGS FINE

G----- F-----, 34, of 50-- Maple---- St., was fined \$100 and placed on probation for a year for possessing obscene photographs. Recorder's Judge J----- A. G----- also referred F----- to the court's psychiatric clinic when F----- admitted collecting indecent pictures was a hobby.

( The above item is from a Detroit paper. Mr. F----- is an ex-big wheel of the DSFL steering committee. )

## DETROIT FANS QUESTIONED BY F.B.I. - THREATNING NOTE BRINGS INVESTIGATION!

FAN Ben Singer is a smooth, glib, talker. This is fortunate as he needed all his ability to explain why he wrote a threatening note to a Detroit who was working with the FBI on a case. It happened this-a-way! Norman Kossuth, old guard MSFS'er, was being visited by an agent of the FBI who was after information on someone Kossuth used to know. ( No connection with stf or the club.) Kossuth is a Shaver and Saucer fan and has the reputation of being credulous about such things. Ben Singer decided it would be great sport to send Kossuth a mystic threat, thinking he would blame Deros and go into a frenzy. So, Kossuth got a handprinted note accusing him of meddling and warning him not to contact the authorities.

Kossuth did not connect the note with stf-fen but thought it was connected with the other matter. The next time the FBI came, he showed the note to the agent, who took it and had it sent to Washington to the FBI lab.

A few weeks later at a MSFS meeting Singer, wondering why Kossuth wasn't in a mystic frenzy, tried to pump him. "Say, Norm, you being interested in saucers, you must get a lot of strange mail, don't you?" This went on in such an obvious way that Kossuth at once knew Singer was the author of the note. The next time the agent came, Kossuth told him he knew who sent the note and it was just a gag. The FBI is thorough, they wanted to know who sent it and why. The agent called on Ben Singer, during the questioning Singer mentioned the name of Bennett Sims, MSFS President. The FBI is thorough! The agent called on Sims. Sims didn't know about this note, so the interview went something like this-----



FBI "Do you write letters?"  
 Sims "Yes."  
 FBI "Do you write some you don't sign?"  
 Sims "No."  
 FBI "Do you know Ben Singer?"  
 Sims "Yes."  
 FBI "Do you know Norman Kossuth?"  
 Sims "Yes."  
 FBI "Kossuth got a threatening note from Singer, he says you helped write it."  
 Sims "I don't know anything about it."  
 FBI "Do you think Ben is the sort of fellow who would say you did if it isn't true?"  
 Sims "Frankly, yes!"  
 The agent went back to Singer and he admitted that perhaps Sims had "just been there when it was written" or something like that.  
 Sims took a dim view of the matter, his father took a dimmer view, Sims resigned from the MSFS.

## MSFS QUIZZED BY - POLICE -

### "ANY REDS OR RED-FRONTS?"

When I was publishing and mailing THE MICHIFAN, bulletin of the Michigan Science Fantasy Society, I was visited by the Royal Oak Chief of Police, who wanted to know-- "What is this Michigan Science Fantastic Society and do you think there are any Reds or Red-fronts operating in it?"

It seems the Detroit police hauled in an abandoned car in which they found a copy of THE MICHIFAN. During the routine of tracing the owner the bulletin was turned over to the department which checks on organizations. They had no dope on us, so they contacted the Royal Oak police to check with me, as my return address was on the bulletin. The Chief is an ex-stamp collector, so it wasn't too hard to give him a general idea of what fanning and collecting is all about. (Damn good thing the bulletin didn't contain the sort of stuff some fanzines feature or the whole club would have been sent to the court's psychiatric clinic! Again fandom escaped by a lucky break.)

Looking back over the last several years it seems that Michigan has been in the headlines as much as most fan groups. I guess you just about all know of "the bombing" in which Art Rapp's house had some windows blasted out by the bomb of a couple of MSFS members. That sure got in the headlines-- both in the fan-press and in Michigan papers. The Saginaw paper devoted at least half of the front page to the story, with a big photo. Also the same paper about a year later, mentioned the "explosion which was never satisfactorily explained" in an Events of the Past Year feature. The picture was also run in at least one Detroit paper, with a short article.

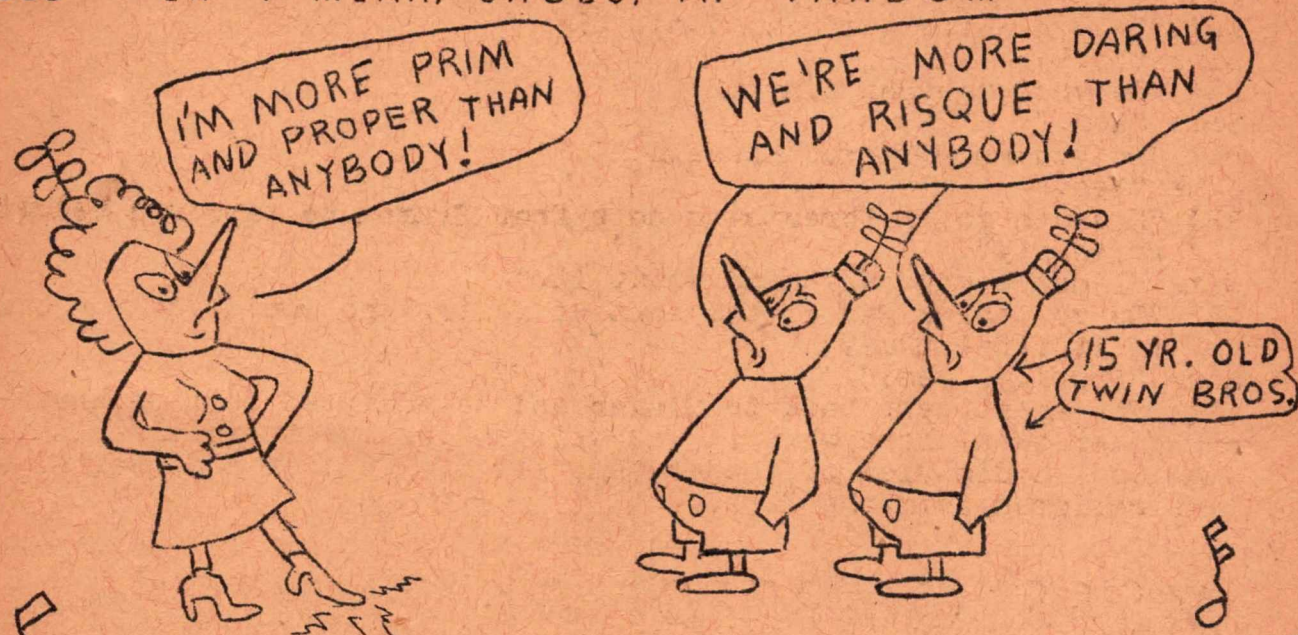
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RANDOM THOUGHT DEPT.

I wonder if Will Sykora suffers from Hydraphobia?



SLO --- ER - I MEAN, SNOBS, IN FANDOM ---



OH, THE COLES AND THE CARRS  
WERE FEUDIN' FIGHTIN' FANS --

I have noted with some amusement the feud shaping up between Mrs. Carr and the Coles. In this case it seems to me that the trouble is not so much a case of the views or remarks of one side irritating the other as it is of neither side having an understanding of the nature or -- ugh -- purpose, of fandom. This is not surprising as I understand both are fairly new to fandom and fanzines, though not to stf itself.

From their writing I'd say both suffer from the same fault, the idea that fandom can and should be improved, have its standards raised, etc. Them is noble thots but it don't work that way. Bend an ear, while Uncle Algy gives you the true fannish facts, as observed during my nigh on two decades of flitting around the fringe of fandom. First, we will have to classify fans into types. I know any such types will be arbitrary and overlap somewhat. But it can be done well enough for our purpose.

#### TYPE I

Type I fans are persons of well above average intelligence who like stf for the new ideas and mental stimulation. For the most part they are engaged in some scientific or creative field. Some are writers or publishers, either stf or non-stf, who find something enjoyable in fandom. Most Type I fans are not very active, compared with the average fan. They are a very small minority in fandom.



## TYPE II

At the other end of the scale we find the Type II fans. This group is composed of the outright mental cases, crackpots, sexual perverts and other odd folk attracted by the off-trail nature of fandom and stf in general. While more numerous than Type I fans, Type II fans are still a minority.

## TYPE III

The Type III fan is the young "eager-beaver" of fandom. As a rule he will be of late-highschool or early college age. He may be brilliant, and always is full of idealistic plans on how fandom and stf can promote scientific thought and lift humanity to the stars. These are pitiful cases as one of two things is bound to happen; either they grow up and see fandom in a true light, which smashes their illusions or they "burn out" and become Type IV fans. One fate is as bad as the other. Their numbers are few.

## TYPE IV

The Type IV fan may be of any age or occupation, though the average are in the 20 to 40 age group. There is just one common characteristic in this type. The Type IV fan is a person with just enough intelligence to think in a vague way about stf-ish concepts; scientific progress, social trends, the future of humanity, etc, but not intelligent enough to do anything about it. The Type IV fans make up the bulk of active fandom, at least 75%. They publish most of the fanzines, organize most fanclubs and similar projects.

With this background, we can proceed to see why the Carrs and Coles aren't going to raise the level of fandom very much. Type IV fans make up the bulk of fandom. Type IV fans are just smart enough to think a little about the problems of the world but not smart enough to do anything about them. So what happens? They create a little pseudo-world ( fandom ) in which the problems are so simple and the standards so low that they all can be big-shots. Naturally fans don't want the standards raised, if they were raised, most fans would no longer fit in fandom. This is the reason fans are always denouncing someone. If a fanzine runs high class, thought-provoking, material, fans sneer "Trying to be a 'little Astounding' eh?" If a fan tries to form a strong, effective national organization he is called a would-be dictator. As further examples we have the old line-- "The pros are trying to take over fandom", the kicking about the "Miss Stf" at the Cinvention and about the Hydra Club. After all, we don't want people with ability sneaking into fandom, do we?

So, take warning, Carrs and Coles! If by some fluke of luck you should be able to improve the standard of fandom, there could be only one result-- you would be run out by the Type IV fans who would hate your guts for spoiling their little pseudo-world for them.

However, don't let me discourage you. After all, your snorting at each other is more amusing than most fan-crud, why should I spoil a good thing? Let's you and them fight!

( The preceeding remarks are the personal opinions of Martin Alger, Type O Fan. )

\* \* \* \* \*

PUN DEPT.

Perhaps the reason the Coles don't like G.M.Carr is that they favor the Chrysler line?

MARTIN E. ALGER  
"THE PHOTO-FANATIC LENS MAN"  
Box 367  
Mackinaw City, Mich.



### Contax-pic by Alger

SPECIAL MEETING April 4th was also held at the home of Howard Devore. At this meeting the club membership was interviewed by Mr. Donald Wilson, Detroit correspondent of LIFE magazine. Mr. Wilson is gathering information on fandom in the Midwest, to be incorporated in a general article on stf-fandom which LIFE will publish in the near future. He spent about 4 hours getting the inside dope on such fannish matters as; fanzines, prozines, BEMs, Insurgents, fuggheads, "fandom is a way of life", Slan Shacks, The Cosmic Circle, conventions, conferences, "The Bombing", and egoboo.

( The above item is reprinted from THE MICHIFAN. )

Much of the information gathered at this MSFS meeting was used in the LIFE article titled "Through the Interstellar Looking-glass".

The picture shows Mr. Wilson interviewing the local fans. Yes, he is interviewing us, though the picture looks like he was getting the third-degree from George Young and Howard Devore.

REVOLTIN' DEVELOPMENT is the SAPS-FAPA zine of Martin E. Alger, Box 367, Mackinaw City, Mich. Published on the AHMF\$3.75 (Algeristic home-made for \$3.75) mimeo. Distributed thru SAPS, FAPA and to about twenty other miscellaneous fans and pros.

### Advertising Dept.

When Art Rapp went back in the army and sold his house I bought his collection. I still have about 500 of them for sale; mostly at 20¢ to 30¢ each for mags in the 1940 to 1949 period. They are stored in my place in Royal Oak and any of you who are interested should let me know about the last of November, when I expect to move back to Royal Oak for the winter. The Royal Oak address is; 118 n. Center St., Royal Oak, Mich.







