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DEP'T of DISTRESS, IRRITATION, INTOLERABLE SUFFERING, SHOCK, ODIOUSNESS, TERROR & REVULSION (For further details consult Roget, p. 829)

The can-you-take-it?-we-dare-you cycle has returned, and is going full blast. It began last August (according to a clipping from the Los Angeles Evening News of Nov. 12, forwarded by Morojo), when LA's Regina Theater first double-featured Universal's 1931 thrillers, "Dracula" & "Frankenstein," printed some "We Dare You" posters and, after three days, played to 24-hours-a-day capacity. The clipping neglected to mention that a third feature was "King Kong" (see NL #38). Ever since, the two pictures have been playing all over the country, on Fox, Warner & RKO chains, and at independents. It will soon move into Richmond Hill's RKO Keith's.

Rich Richmond Hill's New Garden Theatre, not to be outdone, sent out mimeographed letters with its programs, proclaiming: "You dare not disobey my commands--- I--Death--have my finger on you unless you revel with me at the New Garden Theatre on Nov 21 - 22. I shall reveal the secrets of THE DEATH KISS as you listen while THE BAT WHISPERS. Oh Mortal! Can you take it?" "The Double Thrill-Chill Horror Show" features Bela Lugosi in "The Death Kiss" & Chester Morris in Roland West's "The Bat Whispers." The Garden's lobby is appropriately decorated with skulls-and-crossbones and such. A sign reads: "For those who are afraid...

And those whose hearts are weak...

Fear no more...

These potions will protect you!" The potions (supplied by a local pharmacy) are labeled and numbered and arranged in bottles and retorts, bathed in weird lights. No. One is a Witch Tamer, No. 2 a Vampire Soother; 3, Ghost Dispeller; 4, for "Bats in Belfry"; 5, Frankenstein Controller; 6, Dracula Pacifier; 7, Horned Toad Bit Lotion; 8, Hair Restorer for Bat Bites; 9, Ghoul Humoror (a bottle of Blended Scotch Whisky.); 10, The Cure-All; 11, Evil Eye Killer; 12, Black Spider Sting Remover; and, 13, Werewolf Chaser. Our eagle eye also detected a black thread stretching from the stage, right, upward to who knows where and for what evil purpose. We'll be there to discover.

GOSSIP GALORE

The Futurian Society's meeting of Nov. 13 featured a debate between Donald A. Wollheim & Isaac Asimov, with Mr Wollheim resolving that the Martians, who landed in New Jersey on Halloween eve, should replace homo sapiens as inhabitants of Earth. Said he: "On October 30, 1938, Orson Welles broadcast 'The War of the Worlds,' which had half America gibbering with terror, believing that horrible Martians, equipped with heat-rays & invulnerability, were laying waste Jersey & New York. Later, coming to its senses, the U. S. reassured itself, calling the Martians figments of Mr Welles' imagination." This is not so, said Mr Wollheim. It is more likely that Mr Welles is a figment of the Martians' imaginations. As a matter of fact, the people of Mars, having lived so many eons longer than Tellurians, naturally have powers denied us. They knew the state the American mind was in, what with war scares and all, and foresaw just what would happen when "The War of the Worlds", which they also knew about, was broadcast. They took advantage of this, landing their

spaceships at Grover's Mill while the panic was at its height. (This is borne out by the many persons who saw them land.) (See your newspapers.) They immediately went into hiding and are now waiting for the excitement to die down so that they may emerge and take over the world.

Mr Wollheim then gave many reasons for the advisability of such an action. Mr Asimov then spoke, and, tho interrupted several times by raucous voices crying "What about the Martians?", made no mention of the, dwelling on the development of the Cro-magnon and the tortures of the Inquisition. One may readily see that Mr Wollheim won by a mile.

"Mars Attacks the World," Universal Flash Gordon cut-up, was to've been released as "Rocket Ship"--even before the Welles affair. . . . The Spring, 1939, issue of Air Stories features Tom O'Neill's "The War to End the World," a tale of the invasion of civilization's capitals by "Red madmen" (not, strangely enough, Russians) . . . Another of H. Bedford-Jones' Halfway House stories, "Cleopatra's Amulet," is to be found in Argosy for Nov. 19. The issue of Nov. 26 contains a fantasy by Wm. P. Templeton: "Nymphs, Professor." (These issues feature parts 4 & 5 of A. Merritt's "The Ship of Ishtar" . . . Milton A. Rothman mailed hectographed postals this week, advising of the new FAPA officers, as follows: Olon F. Wiggings, Pres.; Walter E. Marconette, VP; James V. Taurasi, Sec-Tr; & Rothman, Official Editor . . . "Esperanto will be used for the first time in the movies, in MGM's 'Idiot's Delight,' starring Norma Shearer & Clark Gable, as the alanguage of a mythical country (in the Robert Sherwood play the country is Italy) . . . 'The Tele-View' has long been a scientificcontraption; now Hollywood's newest newsreel theater will have that name." --fja. . . "Peter & Jackie, two of the London Zoo's best known chimpanzees, were taken to the movies to see the film, 'Monkey Into Man,' in which they starred. Close-ups and a dance provoked the most interest from the simians . . . Jews are blamed by the Nazis for the 'War of the Worlds' panic, in the Nazi organ, Voelkischer Boebachter . . . The year's weirdest job for a Hollywood property man was given Dick Bradnow of Paramount. He had to compose epitaphs for 42 gravestones in a prop cemetery used in 'Tom Sawyer, Detective.'" --dh

Louis Russell Chauvenet announces his intention to set a standard for fan magazines and their publishers. March the first there will go into the mails the first issue of Vanguard, a quarterly consisting of 40 hectographed pages of fiction, articles, verse & illustrations. Those who feel they are able to measure up to the magazine's requirements are invited to send material to the publisher, at 5 Reidesl Av., Cambridge, Mass.

FIRST ISSUES

Spaceways, Nov., 1938. 20 p., mimeographed, lg-size. Editor: Harry Warner, 311 Bryan Pl, Hagerstown, Md. Bi-monthly; 10¢.

Novae Terrae Supplement No. 1. 4 pages of O. J. Russell & A.G. Brown's "Paril from Ploop!"

OTHERS

Novae Terrae, Nov., 1938 (which features a hilarious cartoon-cover, depicting a B. I. S. rocket taking off for Outer Space. John V. Baltadonis once did the same sort of thing, with better success, tho, unfortunately, in india ink. It should be redone in hecto & reprinted somewhere.)

PSFS News, Nov. 8. (Vol. I, No. 11)

Fantasy News, Nov. 13 (aside to J. Speer, reporter for Sustaining Program: Statement for James V. Taufasi (unsigned): "FANTASY-NEWS or FANTASY NEWS is the correct spelling."), with which was mailed.

Current Fantasy, Nov., 1938 (Vol. I, No. 2).