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SOL

104



Picta lex



DRILL PRESS BORING PUBLICATION*

S O L I I I

DECEMBER

"The Poor Fans Almanac"

CONTENTS

COLUMNS

OF FANDOM'S PAST.....Lee Hoffman.....	4
...AND WHETHER PIGS HAVE WINGS..H.Gibbs....	8
SHELBY VICK.....Anonymous.....	11
EGOBOO...(The new letter column).....	12

ARTICLE

ON POGO.....Thelma J. Kelly.....	6
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DEPARTMENTS

SOLitude.....	2
BOOK REVIEW.....G.M.CARR.....	9
BOLOGNA...(yod's last words).....	23

COVER BY KIRS

Contents masthead, Kirs, and
editorial masthead by R.Z. Ward.

KIBITZINGS

SOL IS DISCARDED EVERY OTHER MONTH TO FANS
EITHER WILLING TO TRADE THEIR FANSINES, OR
PART WITH A THIN DIME. YEARLY SUBS ARE 50¢.
THIS IS A DRILL PRESS PUBLICATION, 27 OLD
SALMOND ROAD, RIDGEWOOD, N.J. EDITING AND
PUBLISHING THIS BI-MONTHLY PERIODICAL IS
DAVID ISH.



DRAWN OUT THIS MONTH, is SOL III. You've got a silk-screened cover as promised, but "Exile" was omitted. This was because of two reasons: 1) If we ran it this issue it would be mimeed with a very good mimeed illo by R.Z. Ward. 2) If we ran it next issue it would be point ed with a photo-offset illo. So, we decided to wait and draw you in its best form. For this reason, SOL III will be a little thin. ^{How} However, you still have your columnists. Many of you commented on Harvey Gibbs' last issue as a good columnist. We agree, and hope you like him this issue! Also, our new columnist Lee Hoffman, has thrown in some li'l people which should add to the color of her column. Speaking of color, how do you like it? I mean the red ink of course. How sheik! How gay!

WAS MY INK RED when I discovered after my last editorial in which I mentioned that we had not received reply or trade from FAN-FARE that we were reviewed by that fanzine! My apologies to Paul Ganley and his fine fiction zine.

POGO, THE RAGE OF SOUTHERN FANDOM is contagious up here in "the mosquitocinfested marshes of New Jersey" as Paul Cox calls it. My mother is a Pogo fan from w-a-y back. If you have any intrest in Pogo at all (and who hasn't?) be sure to read ON POGO by my mother in this issue.

PERHEPS AN EDITORIAL is not the proper place to discuss fellow fanzines. However I would like to point out a project ~~is~~ is starting. Today, November 13, that this writing, I received Fv. 13, the last Fv. to be dubbed. I was sorry to see it go, because in its thirt-
een issues, save for a few off-color moments, it was, in my opinion, one of the best fanzines published in my brief association with fandom. Howsomever, Max says he'll edit

OPUS, a zine, and that Bill Venable will put out another zine called PENDLUM. He also plans to start an organization called ENTERPRISE INC. A club devoted to the various enterprises of fen. Members of ENTERPRISES who get a brain wave are backed morally and financially. An organization with no red tape, and few rules, ENTERPRISE INC. should prove to be an active NFFF. Keasler says, "I suppose all this talk makes me sound like a gosh-wow-boy-o-boy-fan out of me. But I admit it and have one thing to say, its fun." Mr. Keasler, may a fellow gosh-wow-boy-oh-boy-fan join your ranks of ENTERPRISES INC. Lets hope ENTERPRISES INC. pans out!

AS OF THIS ISSUE we are inaugurating a filler policy. We hope to present to you humorous space-takers based on the same type the "New Yorker" uses. Try one and see. Also, send them in if you like.

LAST NIGHT I saw THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL, and I wasn't comment on it, as Jan's column hasn't come in yet, and he may devote his time to tearing it apart. - I can only say that it was a good picture, and asile from DESTINATION MOEN; about the best to come out of Hollywood. Reports say that WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE is supposedly better, as science fiction goes. AS you watch THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL, you get that feeling that it could happen anyday. It's more or less human nature than science-fiction. Not that it isn't science fiction, it's merely more science fiction than SCIENCE FICTION, science FICTION, or SCIENCE FICTION.

I wonder what happened to Gluade Dogler?

AND SO ENDS another editorial. Next issue will be out the first week in February and will contain at long last, EXILE, the regular columns, and whatever happens to be around at the time.

Incidentally yours,
yeditor

OF FANDOMS PAST...

Lee Hoffman

Probably no one fan has done more to record the trials, tribulations and antics of fandom for posterity than Jack Speer. Jack has had his thumb on the pulse of fandom since the mid-thirties. In those early days he instituted one of the first fan-polls, The Oklahoma Institute of Private Opinion. The IPO consisted of post card questionnaires sent out with Olen Wiggins' SCIENCE FICTION FAN, which at that time reached a fairly representative cross-section of fandom.

In 1939 Jack's IPO professional author Laureate poll gave the honors to Campbell-Stuart with deCamp running a close second. As to fanzines, SFfan and Spaceways took the top two places. And Jack's own fanzine, Sustaining Program, was the only FANazine to win a vote in that poll.

Many people consider the FANCYCLOPEDIA to be the greatest single faneffort. It is cited as the ultimate authority on fan subjects. This monumental work, which was compiled by Jack and published by Perry Ackerman and the NSF in 1944, is relatively rare now as only 350 copies were published and the fan who owns a copy now is seldom willing to part with it.

In the FANCYCLOPEDIA Jack analysed trends in fandom and set up chronological divisions based on those trends: First Fandom, First transition, Second Fandom, etc. This pattern is followed by many fanhistorians.

Jack was always interested in trends in fandom. He studied his poll results and analyses and back in 1938 he made some very interesting predictions concerning fandom.

In an article titled AFTER 1939 - WHAT? written in August of 1938 for IMAGINATION he predicted that after the convention the following were likely:

"A degree of fusion between the inner circle and the pro mag audience in general;

a movement toward the literary and away from the spontaneous;

a relaxation of heated controversy."

He stated: "The central idea of pre-fandom was science (the Gernsback influence).

"The First Fandom discussed fiction and authors.

"The 2nd Fandom interest centers around the fan personality.

"The basis for the 3rd Fandom may well be no more than "fraternity"."

Half a dozen years later Jack was able to look back on the Third Fandom: in the Fancyclopedia he tells us that the 3rd Fandom began in 1940.

"Warring factions in fandom healed their differences or were less in evidence, with the passing of feuds; the underlying fraternity of fandom came more into evidence, and a broad balance was found between matters scientificfictional and other things that fans were interested in."

Unlike many fans who were active in the '30's and early '40's Jack is still active in fandom to some degree. He is a member of FAPA and attended the Nolacon in New Orleans. He also took time in 1951 to get married, which is probably more important to Jack himself than to fandom in general.

Jack's fanactivity has not all been the serious business of conducting polls and compiling reference books. In 1936 he began the careful construction of John A. Bristol. Bristol was a distinct personality with attitudes that differed from those of Speer. He had a different address and even different personal grammatical habits. Not until the Nycon was the fact that Speer and Bristol were one revealed.

And it was in 1938 that Jack and Pogo created the Sacred Order of FooFoo to "save its adherents from the purple doomination of ghughu." This order still has a strong following among fandom's less literate members.

And as president of FAPA in the Dec. 1941 FA he perpetrated one of the greatest one-line fillers ever written:

"Chop. Chop-chop. Chop-chop-chop. Or don't you speak semaphore

.

ON POGO

Thelma J. Kelly

It is possible that I am not qualified to do an article on Pogo, because I haven't made a serious study of the subject. However, my perusal of Pogo's activities goes back to the days when the comic was named Albert the alligator and he (Albert) suffered somewhat from a proclivity to eating his fellow swamp-dwellers; a tendency which I notice he has since overcome.

When your editor was a tiny lisping, sweaty-palmed thing, and couldn't read, he craved to be read to, naturally, any colored pictures accompanied by text. As this involved putting out my hard-earned money for comic-books which I would later be compelled to read aloud, I soon balked at the nauseating, bloody, bullet-ridden things laughably called comics. Donald Duck and a few other animal books were stomachable because of their lack of gore, but they were seldom funny, and reading them aloud was a chore.

Stumbling on Albert the Alligator was a delightful experience for me, and for Dave. Here was a deep-south accent to try my histrionic talents, against a background of colorful, outlandish scenery - trees knee-deep in swamp water - spanish moss-- housboats - houses on stilts - and cat fishin'.

As I read copy after copy I came to realize these above mentioned surface attributes did not only account for the charm. Even while Albert had that trouble of his, the stories themselves were fables of human foibles, with an uplifting tone in that these "cute li'l folks" (to quote Pogo) dwelt in happiness and understanding together, in spite of their fantastic physical differences. A chile, be it possum, racoon, owl, skunk, or bug, is still a chile, and treated as such, read to, comforted, put to bed. That's the understanding part; the fact

that he's being fed all the wrong things and and put to bed at the wrong time in the wrong place is what makes it humanly fallible. All species group together to fight a common danger - usually imaginary. The lessons and morals in these stories are legion. A spirit of kindness, helpfulness and understanding shines beautifully through their fumbling efforts to straighten out someone's mess; the little asides from small worms, birds, and other fauna sometimes point out to the participants how ridiculous they are being. Human-like, they never see the comments in their true light, and must go on until either a smashing climax is reached or suddenly see the futility themselves, and drop the entire project in order to go cat fishin'.

Technically, I suppose, a great deal of the magazines appeal could be ascribed to the clever drawing which can make a possum with a snub-nose so completely loveable to look at. Still, Walt Disney's little animals have this same physical lovableness, Pogo's is deeper, Pogo has personality. He is frank about his own defects and limitations, and observing enough to see that all others, in spite of their occasional delusions of grandeur are also limited, therefore, our Pogo has no crippling inferiority complex, so prevalent among us today. This tends to ease all his relationships with the others and make him in a modest sense a leader.

Pogo the possum is not merely a comic book, it is a periodic lesson in manners and relationships, and carries into our lives a soft and living humor, not based on pratfalls and disparagement.

...AND WHETHER PIGS HAVE WINGS

Harvey Gibbs

Somebody wrote an editorial the other day (I think it was Gold) which pointed out that magazines like AMAZING STORIES do perform a definite and valuable function -- that of enlisting future GALAXY Buyers into the ranks of science fiction. This revelation must have come as a surprise to the bulk of our heavy critics, who devote so much of their valuable time to exhausting their limited supply of adjectives every month in showing the how sophisticated they are. "Bad. Very bad. Juvenile!" they brightly exclaim, pointing to the latest PLANET or AMAZING with eager fingers. And then they launch into laudatory elegy on the worthiness of FANTASY AND SCIENCE-FICTION. And we in the gallery approvingly pat our hands together -- that is, as well as the cocktail glasses, cigarette holders, and copies of GALAXY -- all alike -- nodding wisely to those about us.

Indeed, for the sake of variety it is a pity that some of these mature, intelligent fans do not find occasion to review Thornton Burgess' Peter Cottontail stories -- perhaps not strictly science fiction, but animals endowed with the graces of which would certainly appear to be at least in the fantasy category. And upon my word, what perfectly juvenile rubbish!

Fie, fie. It is a pity that an explanatory editorial should be necessary.

BASKING IMPRESSIONS DEPARTMENT
(Brightpark division)

"This is:
Brightpark. I was trying to reach
Brightpark. But this is not the
Brightpark I know."

-From "To the Stars" in ASF
Obviously has an engram loose.

THE LADY FROM VENUS, by Garnett Radcliffe, published in 1947 by Macdonald and Co. Ltd., 19 Ludgate Hill, E.C. 4, London.

This delightful fantasy about a spoiled darling of a rich man's brat and her adventure "in the wilds of darkest Urth..." is a confused combination of science fiction (complete with gadgets, extra-terrestrial beings, gravitation 'rays' etc., etc.,) bathroom humor, uninhibited levelife, and a triple-barreled satire on humanity in general. It derives most of its humor from the old device of transposing known behavior habits into unknown settings; and, conversely, commenting on known settings as though seen through the eyes of one totally unfamiliar. The most obvious satire pokes fun of lady explorers (of both sexes) who return from the wilds of Africa, Siam, Borneo or the headwaters of the Amazon replete with blood tingling tales of the hardships and terrors suffered on the expedition. It takes a further gentle poke at persons who, like the heroine, persist in twisting events to suit their own interpretations of them. But most of all, it pokes fun at stuffiness and conventional dignity by a teasing shaft of make believe, and mocks the importance of the dollar (or, in this case the 'ound) by making the medium of the Venusian exchange the humble hen-fruit --an egg.

The plot is simple enough, the treatment that blend of alcoholic sex-and-whimsy so well indicated by the adjective "thorne-smithish". A rich man's daughter, spoiled and pampered, tires of her life of luxury in her father's palace (and I do mean Palace!) and decides to go fortune-hunting for eggs with her most recent 'boy friend' on a little-known planet called 'Urth'... capable of sustaining gallinaceous life, another expedition is being secretly readied to go egg-hunting, too. Since the rival expedition in addition to being deadly in earnest about their fortune-hunting contains a social rival in the form of her dearest (?) school friend, a brunette as beautiful in her own way as the angelic blonde heroine Lady Sharron, the game gets rather rough once they land on Urth. The Lady Sharron is stranded on a haunted moor in the wilds of England, not only penniless and friendless, but naked too!

BOOK REVIEWS

After an unexplained interval of about 20 years (presumably she found a quite cave and took a nap) our heroine makes her way into the rude huts of natives and proceeds to do the best she can. Which is very good! She casually visits London's ritziest restaurants,, tosses a tomato at a Duchess, bongs a headwaiter over the head with a lobster, casually collects a "boy" to be her manservant (a visiting Rajah, no less..) and breaks up the dignity and decorum no end... but, as might be supposed, she finally makes contact with the rest of the expedition and returns triumphant with a load of smuggled eggs.

Throughout this wacky roistering, runs a thread of tenderness in the form of a love story between a blinded, pain maddened veteran and the mousy English girl who loves him. A slight psychic element is hinted at in the dual identity of Lady Sharron and Fleicity, the English girl who is as pure and conservative as Lady Sharron is fecklessly wanton.

At the end, boy gets girl -- or rather boys get girls and vice versa for even the Rajah makes out pretty well, considering -- and all ends happily. By all means try to get a copy complete with dust-wrapper, because not the least of the charm of this book is the delightful illustration by Broom Lynne.

-G.M. CARR

***** **

OUR BUSY PUBLISHERS
(Street and Standard Division)

Number Nine, copyright 1950 by
Street and Smith, from the "February
raury 1950 Thrilling Wonder Stories"

-From the
Acknowledgement page of-"Great Stories
of Science Fiction.

Wonder when they're going to revive "Unknown?"



In the words of Q. Morton Haverslump: "But I like salt on my biscuits." ...but maybe you never heard of Q. Morton Haverslump.

Who has?

Anyway, it was a very astute observation, with which I whole-heartedly concur.

Which proves he was a very aesthetic soul. This should be a lesson to fanzine editors.

"Wanna buy a duck?"

Then there's the fable of the peg-legged aardvark who was madly in love with Betty Grable. For years, he rented every film La Grable made and ran them over and over again on his home projector. (He had tried to see the films at the theatre, but the manager -- doubtless prejudiced against peg-legged aardvarks -- wouldn't let him in.) Inevitably, Betty Grable found out about her ardent aardvark admirer, and had an idea. She told her agent, and he agreed. It would, he said, be great publicity for her. So, a few days later, the aardvark had a guest. Yep -- Miss Grable, in person.

The peg-legged aardvark looked her up and down.

"Who're you?" he asked coldly.

La Grable was rather surprised.

"Why, darling," she cooed, "I'm Betty Grable."

The aardvark looked at her, looked speculatively at his small home movie screen and then eyed her again. Forthwith, he clubbed her with his peg-leg and tossed her out the door.

"Dog-blamed imposter," he muttered. "She never could fit on that screen. Bet she isn't even a female."

And he tiddled away. (He had to tiddle. It's impossible to toddle, on a peg leg.)

That wouldn't have happened if it'd been me.

--I know a woman when I see one!

Somewhere tangled up in that, there might be a moral. But it's too hopelessly enmeshed for me to extricate it.

...well, that oughta be enough for this year. Maybe too much... Like the salt said to the pepper:

Season's greetings!

(Please don't kick the mackeral.)

LETTERS WE NEVER FINISH READING

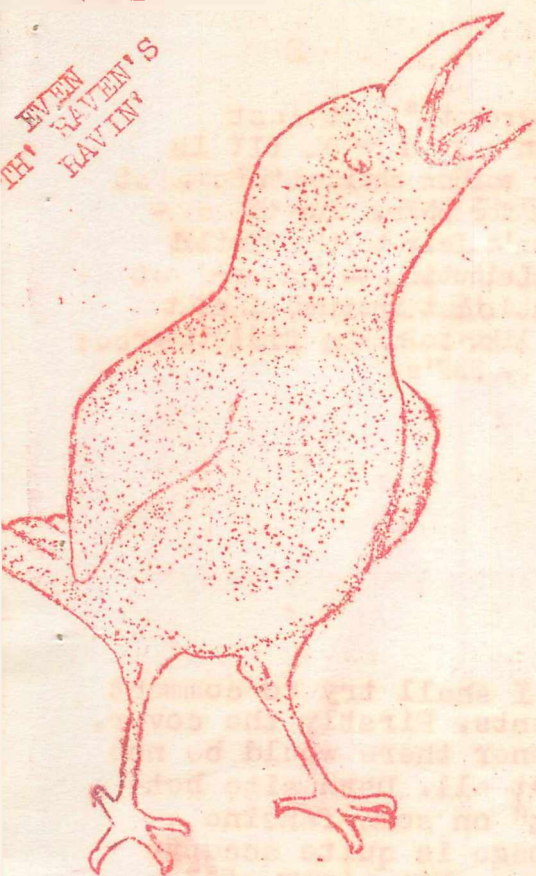
Mercury Pub. Corp. 570 Lexington Ave. NY. 22 N.Y.

Dear Sirs:

This is a test. Send us one dollar-

QUOTH THE RAVEN:

EVERY
TH' RAVEN'S
HAVIN'



I READ
CON
FUSION
!

Edditer:
Tommy Lee Tracy
937 Florida Ave
Lynn Haven, Fla

(Sf III I I)

In our first issue, we got Vernon McCain, Joe Green, Johnny Henderson, Richard Logan, and Shelby Vick. COMIN' SOON: A Willis column!

E G O B * O O L A E

T. J. "Where BNFs congregat" at last
reached the SOL III is
almost through the letter column changes makes at
least be first in a column for BNFs. For those -
washed in random that it isn't fair to the little
fan, we find a few little fine contributions to letter - at
column in way. I have decided that instead of a
column of normal letters, we'd like to have a letter co-
a column of it's own. A column by BNF's.

Lee Hoffman
101 W. 4th Street
Savannah Ga.

SOL Da .
The Poor Fan's Almanac

Dear Dave,

SOL received today. I shall try to comment
fully on it and its contents. Firstly the cover.
If the lettering were even there would be no
objection to this cover at all. Darn site bet-
ter than some of the "art" on some fanzine
covers today. Contents page is quite accept-
able. Liked the Drill Press bit. (WAV will
love me for that.) Solitude was running off
the top of the page in my copy. Good deal
with Gerry. Take his advise and you'll be pub-
lishing a leading zine before you know it.

Next time you cut your art on a stencil,
hold it up to a light and see if all the lines
are deep and even, without the fibers being
torn, before you run it. Then maybe it'll
print better. Same for page numbering. In
fact I suggest you type the page numbers.

If you know before you type them up,
which a stencil will be, an odd or even num-
bered page, try leaving more margin on the
spine side. I had to unstaple my copy to read
the hidden print. And unless you are terribly

Hoffman Hobbles on!

pressed for room, try leaving a little more margin on both sides. A couple of pages ran right off the paper.

When typing stencils don't hit punctuation (except ?) so hard. Makes a messy looking page.

Actual duplication is good.††The pages are legible, but messy. Guess a little practice will cure that. Looks like you might not let your obliterator dry before ~~typing~~ over it.

Aside from technical problems, your ~~worst~~†† fault will probably be pointed out by Gerry. It wasn't to long ago that he advised me to stop sticking my double parenthesis in everywhere, and to keep my editorial comments in the editorial or at the bottom of the letters they comment on on. ((I know Lee, but some times the temptation is unbearable))

Your continued comments to Fog Phillips call attention to the comments made about him, and also insult his integrity by inferring that his fanzine reviews are based on personal prejudices rather than an attempt to be objective. I don't think Fog would hold any comments about himself against the zine when he reviewed it, but I do think he'd be hurt to find that you thought he would.

I don't think that this price raising on the par of JWC and Gold is profiteering. These men are in the professional publishing field. They have to show a profit or lose their jobs. Ten cents more a copy is a lot of money and may lose them some of their poorer readers, but it will add up on the tally sheet. You, as a fanzine publisher, know what paper and stencils cost nowadays. Change that to paper and printing. Toss in a couple of railway strikes and subsequently raised railway rates, plus the high cost of bread and margarine and accloser-to-living wage for pro-writers and it adds up. I

ED NOBLE

don't know the figures involved, but I suppose both these gentlemen either had to raise prices or loose money.

On Avoiding: Shelby has confused terms, and as Avoidism is an actual science based on the best of philosophy ever devised (see IN ONE HEAD AND OUT THE OTHER by Roger Price - Simon and Schuster \$2.50 cloth-bound - \$1.00 paperbound) these terms should be set straight in the minds of your readers. There are three types of Practical Avoiding. (1) Pure, (2) applied and (3) Active. In pure Avoiding one avoids everything except eating, breathing, etc. In Applied avoiding, one avoids as many things as possible. Bus Drivers are very good at Applied Avoiding. Like avoiding people waiting at bus stops. Active avoidism isn't really avoidism and is only practiced to publicize the cause and as an exercise in avoiding. Under Active avoiding there is the subgroup, Counter Avoiding. To counter-avoid vegetarianism, for instance, one eats meat.

One last word on Avoidism. I had one grunch but the egg-plant over there.

Who did write...AND WHETHER PIGS HAVE WINGS ? It is a very good column. One of the sanest and most intelligent bits of comment on ALICE IN WONDERLAND I have read.

I am enclosing the column I promised. If you use the column, a copy of this issue should go to Juffus. His address, at last report, was "Jack Speer -North Bend, Washington." If I hear of it change before Dec. I'll let you know.

Yours,
Lee.

[illegible]

Dear Dave,

Excuse, plizz, the card, but time is a sort of a premium - SOL arrived while we-uns were enjoying the Hoing-monaten, and on a quick-like sort of scanningm it's a muchly improved mag --- hope you may contrive to get yourself

WALTER WILLIS

bunch of subscribers in the coming months -- will plug it again in the next issue of EXP ---

You're getting some good BNF fro the columns of your magazine - 'tis intrasting to watch how a fanz. grows from issue to issue-

Yours

W. J. WILLIS ED

WALTER WILLIS, Trade
170 Upper Newtonwards Road,
Belfast, North Ireland

Dear Dave, Dave,

About SOL 2. I suppose you've got to have a cover, but you don't have to have pictures on it. Why not save paper and wear and tear on people's nerves by just putting the contents page there just like UNKNOWN used to just before it went out of business. Oh, on second thought maybe it isn't such a good idea. Editorial fine, but what are realitives? I know you have them, outside of, Chicago, in real estate I suppose, but is the rest of your family imaginary or something? I see you take a swing at Gold for saying his mag. is good. Well, it IS good, ((Girr!)) and I prefer a bloke to make a fuss about his mag. rather than throwing it at you month after month and spending his working hours plug ing Hubbards halfbaked handbook for halfwits.

There is but one god Hubbard and Dianetics is his profit!!

I think this man Romanoff has very sound idea. I don't suppose you were serious in putting in those interjections about Phillips giving you a lousy review on account of Romanoff's panning AS. I hope not. I mean, we must preserve our integrity and independence mustn't we? We must beustantwesechanpions of the truth and mustn't we? Just between ourselves, though it is of course known that pro reviewers judge fanzines on their intrinsic merits alone, by a very curious coincidence SLANT used to get lousy reviews from Marwin, even being put on the B list once when we panned his mag. Only when we tried the experiment of omitting the hostile material from the copy we sent him did we come out along the elite. I commend this policy to you.

Re your editorial, glad to see you're going to try to stick to a strict schedule. It will be tough but you should be able to swim it.

I could toss in something here about certain editors (fan) who insist on using ad lib all over certain columns -but I won't.

Thought de la Ree's fiction piece "From the Mount-
ain", very good. In fact it, and to others, are about
the only worthwhile fan fiction I've ever read - and
Eve read plenty. ((Jan. do want us to steer clear of
this type of fan fiction and print crud?))

Wick's column very entertaining in an unexplainable sort of way.

- Nice letter, column too. You even snagged Willis!

Best to you.

Jan

TJST JSTWST JST JSTWSTWSTJSTWSTWSTJSTWST \$TWSI JSTWSTWSTJS

W. Max Keasler.
Box 24
Washington U.
St. Louis 5,
Mo.

Dear Dave,

Well, you came along a little with SOL II, the micrographing is much better. By the time you reach the average fans age you should really be doing one swell job. Your young, fresh, and yet unmarred personality seems to be the real spark of SOL. Just remember thats what it takes to make a new fanzine, and don't bank it all on material.

It's a good policy to print what your ~~writer's~~ have to say without cutting it to suit your opinions. But for heaven's sake don't sugar-coat Rog so much, he

MAX KEASLER

doesn't mind what you say about him. As a matter of fact he seems to like a fanzine with spunk. Rog is really a swell guy and has done more for getting fanzine's started than any other pro. If it hadn't been for him, Fv wouldn't have the circulation it does now.

de la Ree's story did have it's moment's, but I think he still missed the mood he was trying to capture. It's very hard to do something like that in such a short space.

Vick is trying a little too hard to put over the light air-Willis writes with. He's a little too breathless in his approach to get everything down in as little space as possible and saying as little at the same time. He must be suffering from no-space-a-wasta-la-monala, which is very common in fans, and can be cured.

Since I'm not a collector, I didn't read collector's items. Well, it's an excuse!

Like most fanzines, the letter section is one of the brighter stars of Sol. ((hows that again?)) might edit the letters just a little though, and take out some of the dribble.

Since you are going to appear regularly, I'll trade with you. You should be getting no. 13 of Fv by now; I mailed it a couple of days ago. As you no doubt read this will be the last issue of Fv. What do you think of all the ideas for OPUS? I'm afraid it's a little too active for the average reader, but it's worth a try, I was getting a little tired.

Oh heavens yes, what do you think of ENTERPRISES? Like to have y u join if you want. I kind of went off in a tangent over it, I hope I didn't set of a bomb. I seem to have a talent for that.

ever lovin yers,

Neal Clark Reynolds,
704 North Spadra
Fullerton,, California

Dear Dave,

t

Thank for Sol II, am commenting on it.

Columns, stories, and articles were all fair, "From the Mountain" being exceptionally good.

The entire mag. was pretty good except for that portion of SOLitude that said "Talking so damn much about this crudzine". That phrase had no business in that column. First, the use of the word damn was out of place with the rest of the editorial. "Damn" didn't add a thing. Thus, you were only showing how smart you thought you were. Same goes for crudzine. If you considered it as such, you wouldn't publish it. Thus, the use of the word was not humorous, did not criticize anything had no reason for being. AND---it was extremely insulting to everyone who contributed to the zine.

If the above paragraph seems harsh, I'm sorry, but I meant it just the same. True, your zine isn't the only one that loves to show how many words they know, but why don't you be different?

By the way I did enjoy the mag. enough to enclose \$24 for a sub, meaning I will remain a paying customer.

Yours,

Neal.

(Always willing to learn, that's us. We have considered your point of view, and frankly, we agree with you, although others may wish to argue. There will be from this time forth no more using the words "this damn crudzine in SOL. Authors, please take note. -Yed))

((Our letter column ends here, for lack of more space. Sorry, but we had to cut out some real fine letters, including one by Fred Hatfield. He mentioned at the end of it that his new address is 716 Dauphine Street, New Orleans, Lou. Hope we have room for more letters next time))

DOOOPS!

((That something was wrong, I lost a stencil. Anyway, I've got room for Fred Hatfield's letter. Here it is.))

Fred Hatfield

716 Dauphine Street

New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Dave:

Hooray! Sol #2 came out! Hurrahhhhh! But -- er -- what happened to Sol 1? That is unnerving to me -- to receive a fanzine -- a new one that is -- with all these references to previous issues that I know nothing about. Oh, well, I suppose we must all bear our own burdens, and I guess ~~we~~ ~~just~~ have to trudge wearily through life without having read Sol #1. ((Relax, Fred, don't kill yourself! We have on hand eleven copies of SOL I one of which we'll be glad to unload upon you for a dime and to any other fan wanting to buy it. You see, all is not lost!))

Mimeo work could be improved tremendously -- I had to hold page five up to a mirror to read it -- and then discovered it was offset from page 61! Anyway, poor mimeo work can be done away with very easily in most cases and I'm sure you realize that. Jan Romanoff's section was fair, although it was the part I had to stumble through the most to read.. Gerry de la Ree goes above my head I suppose -- I won't pass any comment on the article in this issue... I'm surprised at Shelby 'ick... sending you that column(?) ..he can do better than that. He can even fill up space better than that. ((Mr. Vick are you prepared to accept that challenge?)) Collector's items was interesting. I'm always interested in old SF maps and research. Harvey Gibbs has a good point on Alice in Wonderland. Incidentally, if any fans happen to see the "Alice and Wonderland" series of cartoons that will be released next year as advertisements for GE appliances, ("Cinderella" this year) may be interested to know that the animation and production were done by two rabid fans-- Berni Weist and myself.. They will follow the original Tenny illustrations. We insist they are not Disneyized.

Well, that's about it. You can do me a favor by mentioning my new address, and that I'm no longer in the printing business. Good luck with Sol III!

Fred Hatfield

BOLOGNA

SO MUCH TO SAY NOW, and so little space. First off, we want to apologize for the absence of ~~NOTHING MUCH~~. I, didn't get it at all, and its fate of existence rests in the hands of Mr. Romansoff. Hope he brings it out next issue!

~~I WAS IN NEW YORK THE OTHER DAY~~, and stopped in on Jerry Bixby, co-editor of Startling. We talked for a while not particularly about stf., but about other forms of literature, in which we found our taste to be very similar. Of interest to you readers; he plans to attend the Chicon, and also sometime in the near future either TIS or SS (most probably SS) will release a short story parody of Captain Future. A parody! Been not more than a few months since they were palming off the Captain as good space opera! Now there holding him a rock-funeral! Anyway, I enjoyed meeting him!

SIMON AND SCHULTER are out with a dollar version of POGO worth the price, there now in their third printing and the book has been out only a little less than a month it's selling like mad. Don't fail to get a copy.

ELESBERRY'S HOAX ARTICLE in Ev. 13 seems to be stirring up quite a bit of trouble. Fantasy Times 142 states, "That was a misstatement!" Personally, I can't see getting excited over it. Hoaxes are fun, and generally not intended to get anyone in trouble. However, in the ranks of fandom there are hot-heads bent on seeking out every story to its final source, checking and rechecking information just to be sure, just to kill a rumor, or confirm it for their own personal glory. They believe fandom to be a serious crusade, in comparison to the majority who enter it for a hobby. Hoaxes, are forbidden, rumors must be squashed. Don't we all somehow like to believe hoaxes, or at the ridiculous parades? wonder seriously about Campbell's resignation, Hubbards mental afflictions and physical health, we laugh at the announcement in SPACESHIP That Galaxy will publish a Rock serial. But all in all, it doesn't matter. To the vast majority we feel a brief concern for Campbell or Hubbard but it passes away to other things. But not to the crusader who must track it down to the last bit of fragmentary truth!

contrib

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