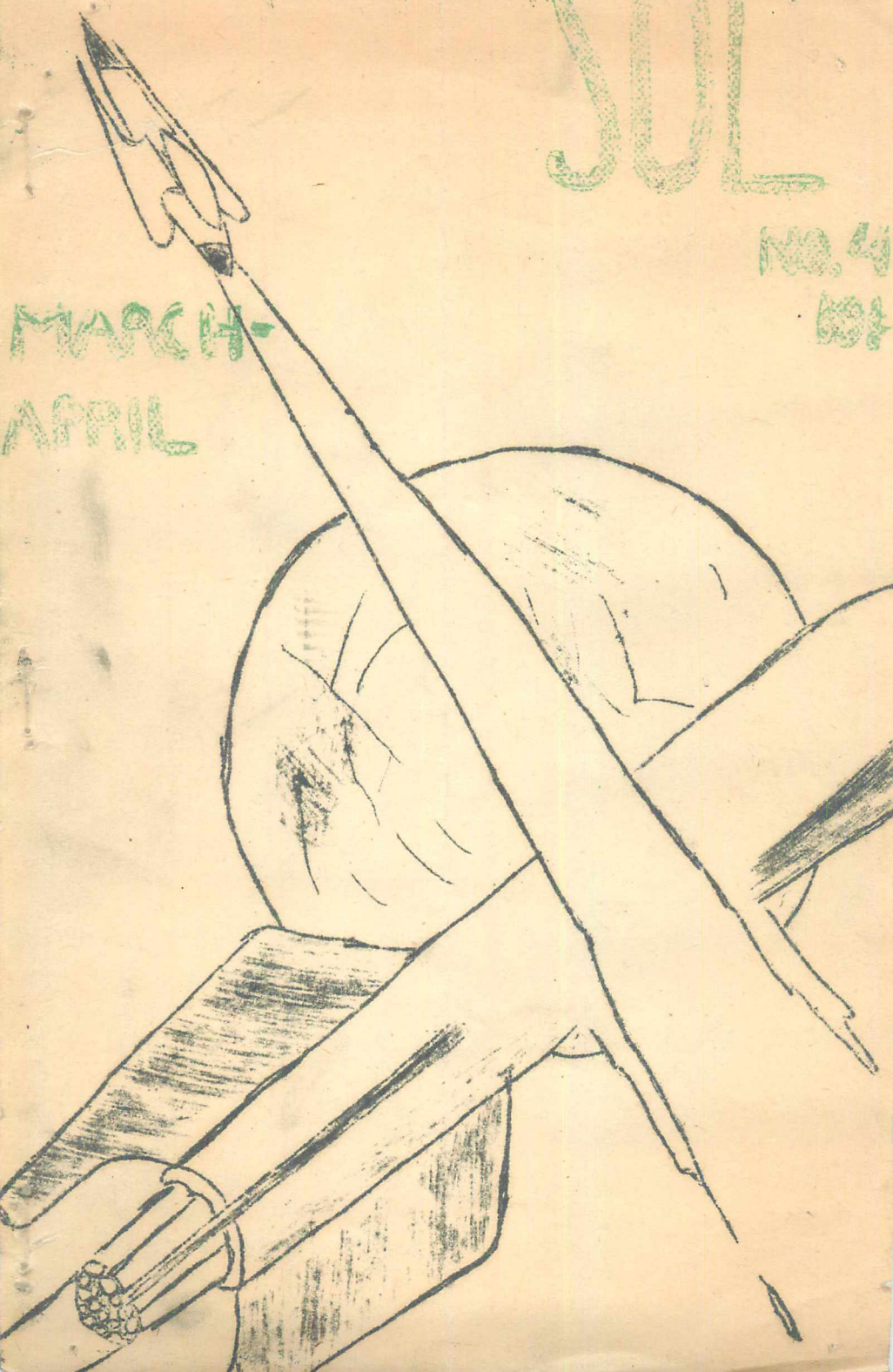


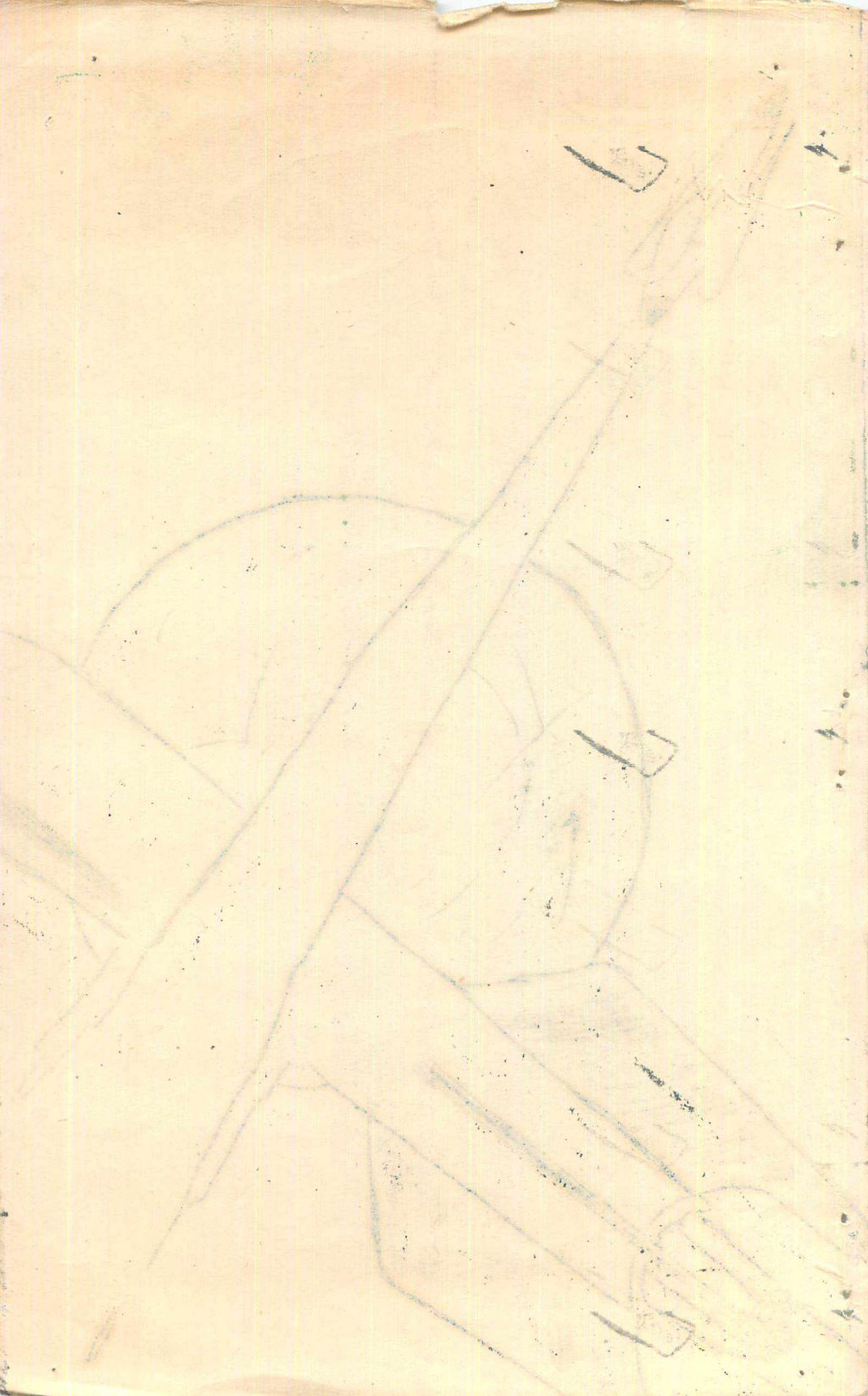
SOL

NO. 4

1914

MARCH-
APRIL





SOL

SOL IV

MARCH*APRIL

DRILL PRESS PUBLICATION # 1

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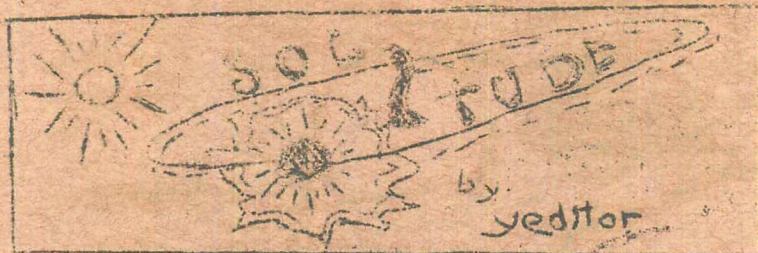
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Cover by KIRS

SOL IS PUBLISHED ON JE, THE MACHINE, BY
DRILL PRESS PUBLICATIONS, at 914 HAMMOND
ROAD, RIDGEWOOD, N.J. BY DAVE ISH. THIS
AND B.L.C.K. ISSUES MAY BE LENT FOR A DILE,
BUT WE ARE ASKING 15¢ FOR THE NEXT TWO
SPECIAL ISSUES. ALL INTERESTED PARTIES MAY
RECEIVE 6 ISSUES OF THIS BI-MONTHLY PUBLICA-
TION FOR ONE YEAR AND 50¢. ALL CONTRIBUTIONS
(EXCEPT FICTION AND BOMBS) ARE READ AND
ONE MAY FEEL FREE TO SEND MATERIAL WITH-
OUT FEAR OF IT BEING PUBLISHED. OPIONS EX-
RESSED HEREIN ARE STRICTLY THOSE OF THE
WRITERS AND NOT THOSE OF THE EDITOR, HIS
STAFF, MEGAPHONE MACHINE, B.B.O.G.A. GRINDER,
OR THEIR FAMILIES.



Hello.

We are late again. This time very late. Be schedule we have skipped an issue, and be actuality about a month and a half behind, as the "December" issue went out the first week in January. This we hesitantly call the March-April issue, thought in all probability many of you will not get it until April. However, the columns do not appear dated, fortunatly.

THINGS WE HAVEN'T HEARD LATELY: WE haven't heard a thing about Jan Romanoff except what Shelby has mentioned in his column. We thought he was dead or an ex-fan or something. Anyway, he is no longer a columnist unless he writes us and tells us something. Anyway, I'd take a look at FANTASTIC WORLDS if I were you.

THINGS WE HAVE HEARD LATELY. There is a new fanzine coming out in June. This is not spectacular but worth mentioning. It will be half size, contain about 24 to 30 mimeod pagges and be titled COLET. It is put out on my old mimeograph which was bought unsuspectingly from me. So if you want to see what the Great Cataclysmic Destroyer can do in the hands of antother fan, write to KARL OLESON RFD 2 Ellendale N.J. for a sample copy. and him a dire tee. Line up for the first issue is a photo-offset cover by Whinchell Graft; an article on Oz Books, a column by Roger Dard, and one by yours truly titled VIEWS and REVIEWS. Altogether it should be a fine'zine. A good doughnation would give his circulation a shot in the arm too.

WE HAVE A NEW mimeograph machine. Its a Little Monster, same size as the other but a lot neww. WE were going to name it Little Monster but s.'a not to get in trouble with TLA we have decided to name it otherwise. but OTHERWISE didn't appeal to us either so we searched again the blurbs of amazing to pick out another name as

we did with the first one. We found some pretty good
 like, THE LAST DEATH IN HER EMBRACE,
 AND AGAINST METAL IN A BIERD WORLD, DYNASTY OF THE DEVIL,
 and VENGEANCE OF THE GOLDEN GODS. However, we finally
 settled on WE, THE MACHINE. From now on everything published
 by Drill Press and Boring House comes off WE, THE MACHINE.

SPECTACULAR SPECULATIONS: We are so late with this
 issue the next one will be out practically a month after
 this. It is a special issue, the WILLISH dedicated to
 WAW with the Crew in '52. Will be about 30 or 35 pages,
 contain material about WAW and the WAW Campaign, a WAW
 reprint, perchance a WAW original article, an article
 about his stuff by TJK, and our columnists are asked to
 devote either all or part of their columns to the WAW
 campaign. This is an all WAW issue, which will be out in
 the first week in May. Will be fifteen cents or may
 be purchased with the SOLISH for 12½¢.

MORE SPECULATIONS: SOL VI will be the SOLISH.
 Hope to make it really good. Should be out by the third
 week in June at the latest. (It had better be, we'll
 be in Chicago by the fourth week!) Will run about 50 or
 60 pages we hope, and will have an ART Gallery, a Fan
 File section on as many fans as we can get our hands on,
 and several articles. Sells for 15¢ or may be purchased
 with the WALLISH for 12½¢. It is too early to say anything
 different, except that it will have Gerry de la Rue's
printed "Exile" which has been promised to you ever since
 the second issue. Will also have promised photo offset
 illustration. We may even break down the Sinister Barrier
 and allow some Slant type pro-type fiction to leak in here
 and there. However, since this is very hard to come by
 we'll take stuff written the way Dave English writes his
 stuff. Something like THE DREAMER in the QUANISH. English,
 as if you didn't know, is Bradbury's fan name. We need
plenty of material for this fanzine, mostly articles, and
 if you can write good poetry, that too. Send in what you
 have, and we'll see where we can place it. Also, little
 people if you can draw these. Cart ones, also. If you
 fancy yourself an artist, (all two of you) ask us about
 our ART GALLERY (as a matter of fact we'll ask you.) For
 more details see the editorial in SOL V which will tell
 you a little more than what you already know. It will
 be about the only thing in the Willish not about WAW. Any-
 way, its not too early to send in money for both special

issues, which is only one quarter. Since there isn't going to be much room for breaking even, a doughnation would be appreciated. Please specify if you are doughnating whoter it is f r the WALLISH or SOLISH because all WALLISH donations are being turned over to SHELVIK for the HAIFUASFC. (Import of said Irishien for use at Science Fiction Conventions). (Though I really shouldn't sayx "uS\$e" as the onlything we'll use about WAM is his jokes on non-fans.) All doughnations for the SOLISH will be used to by ink paper stencils stamps and staples for the SOLISH and partly for the WALLISH.

Another article by my mother this issue. Seems her artic,le placed first place in last issue s. I persuaded her t do nne this time. It may be the begining of a whole series of articles by her all starting with ON... This issues article ON TIME we hope will prove amusing to readers. Will be followed next issue by ON WILLIS for the WALLISH. It will be intrestin to see how long a non-fan can write intresting atticles for a fanzine.

I often wonder at the intelligence of fans. EVer since reading Tuckers article in SPACESHIP I wonder how many fans would be able to solve a first year algebra prebalen? It has got me thinking. Elosberry, who seems t be the supergenius among current fander today, might be able to solve the particular problem I have in mind. Just for the heck of it, I'm going to publish a problem b~~y~~ anybody whose gotten by first year algebra. If you can solve it, send me the answer, with algebraic reasoning showing how you arrived at the answer.

"A man once walked into a store with quite a few dollar bills and some pennies, and managed to spend just one-half his money. When he counted his change he noted the following facts; The number of dollars he had in the begining was equal to the number of pennies he had after the transaction, and the number of pennies he had at the begining was equal to twice the amount of dollars he had left. How much did he spend?"

If you're clever enough the problem should be solveable. The problems answer will be published next issue. Why not give it a try? Solitudes.

That's about all f r now. See you in Bologna!

REVIEWING THE REVIEWERS

by
Bob Silverberg

Up until 1939, the professional science fiction magazines took no notice of the few fanzines then alive, except for those who bothered to write out plugs for themselves and get them printed in letter departments. Then, in 1939, Mort Weisinger, ex-fan (now coining money as an editor in the Superman comics group) who had become editor of Thrilling Wonder Stories, inaugurated the first fanzine review column in his new magazine, Startling Stories.

The idea spread, and before long many of the short lived pulps of the period-- Science Fiction, Future Fiction, Astonishing Stories, Super Science, and others--were not only printing plugs for the fanzines but were reviewing them as well. This reviewing stimulated in great measure the growth of fan publishing in 1939, 1940, and 1941, and probably contributed to the growth of fandom itself to some extent.

Ten years later, at the peak of an other boom, there are now three--or, perhaps three-and-a-half--regular review columns in the magazines. I can safely say that one of them--Roe Phillips' Club House--is directly responsible for the formation of twenty new fanzines each year, and for the introduction of a hundred or two hundred new fanzine readers at a minimum. The others serve their purposes, too--let's consider them in order of creation.

The first one, or I should say one-and-a-half, is that conducted by Jerome Bixby in Startling, and occasionally in Thrilling Wonder Stories. Since one is monthly and one

is bimonthly, this resulted in some confusion-- but Bixby seems to have hit on a format whereby one month is in startling, while the next it is in TWS, while that month's SS has no review. This, in effect makes up for a single monthly review column in alternating magazines. Bixby, like his predecessor Merwin, is witty, well-informed, and knows the fan field. Unfortunately, also like Merwin, his reviews, no matter how extensive, have remarkable little pulling power when it comes down to getting subscriptions. I speak from experience on Merwin--his A listing review in the September Startling (1951) brought SPACESHIP some fifteen new subscribers, which is ten more than the combined total of subscribers I had gotten from eight previous reviews! I can't speak from experience on Bixby, for, to date (The April issue of his mags. are out) he has not reviewed SPACESHIP, nor, to be sure, has it been reviewed in eight months by him, although there have been three issues going on four, in that time. But despite his strange failure to review me, I've heard from others that his reviews rarely bring results.

Then, in 1948, Rog Phillips--also known as Roger P. Graham--was handed the difficult assignment of reviewing fanzines hostile to his host magazine, then embroiled in the Shaver mess. Though fans accused Palmer of instituting the Club House to pacify fandom, very much angered over Amazing's degeneration, they had no slight against Phillips and the fanzines poured in for review.

This has turned out to be the most successful fanzine review column of all time. Phillips is sincere, genuinely interested in having each fanzine break even, very much interested in the people who publish fanzines, and, despite remarks which sometimes are amazingly naive, is always encouraging and helpful. His rule-of-thumb in reviewing is "Say nothing which will hurt circulation," and though he sometimes does unintentionally (by revealing the editor of a fanzine is fourteen for example) he has proved the number-one circulation-booster.

He is given as much space as the other two reviewers combined, and his reviews are printed in large type--all of which is conducive to selling fanzines to readers of a magazine whose readers would not normally be interested in fanzines. I found from his brief review in the March.

REVIEWING THE REVIEWERS 3

Amazing--no more than fifteen lines, at the most--I had sold nearly twenty subscriptions to my fanzine, and the exchanges and letters were flocking in. I've had similar results from most of his reviews, and I might add that not only was his column the inspiration for publishing SPACESHIP, but many times it has been the sole financial reason for continuing it. I'd venture to say that 2/3 of my readership come from his reviewing.

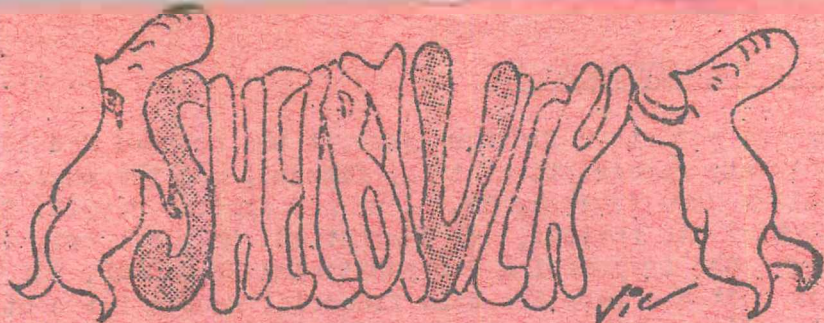
The newest reviewer is Mrs. Phillips, or Mrs. Graham if you prefer--"Gari Walf. She does her work in IMAGINATION, but has little space to work in, and most of that space seems to be a monopoly for one or two monthly or semi-monthly fanzines. As for results, this column is of unknown quantity to me--I sent in one issue of SPACESHIP which has not been reviewed.

To sum up, then, there are now three review columns, --one, friendly to the fans and fandom, encouraging to all, and vastly successful. One, viewing the fan field with some detachment, eloquently written, tongue-in-check at times, and of surprisingly small value when it comes to garnering subs, and one, written with enthusiasm when knowledge fails, and unproven field yet. The biggest surprise to me is that a review column in a magazine which enjoys the widest fan reading among the pulps should be met with such indifference by the guys who count the most --theses with the shekels.

--Bob Silverberg

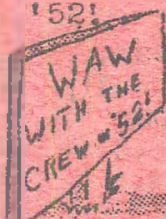
ADDS WE NEVER FINISHED READING

WIRED TALES
will have other stories.



In real gossip-column style --

It's said that LEE HOFFMAN is! And did you know that VERNON MCCAIN doesn't? As for WALT WILLIS; well, naturally! He's our boy for Chi and the Tasfic (Tenth Annual Science Fiction Convention.) If you don't believe it, ask MANNY BANISTER, or DAVID ENGLISH or JUST ANYBODY. They can tell you it's WAW with the crew in '52!



"I have seen that sign before."



BILL MORSE can tell you all about the WC, and if you want to know anything else, ask HENRY BURWELL, JR. Not that IAN MACAULEY or PAUL COX couldn't tell you as well. FRED HATFIELD ought to know, too. --And of course everybody agrees with RICK SNEARY, that it's South Gate in '58!

"...A world made of emerald green."

Some people... Quoted from a letter from Rich Elsberry: "Don't fold up on me like so many other fanzines."



Uh -- Rich; is your insurance paid?

What prominent faned, name of GREGG CALKINS,
edits what prominent fanzine whose initials are
OOPSLA?

And have you heard about DICK HYAN? MAD,
poor fellow...



"I have an engram."

*

JAN ROMANOFF is ass't ed. on a new fanzine,
FANTASTIC WORLDS, to have editorial offices at
1942 Telegraph Ave, Stockton, Calif. Seems
they're planning something nearly professional.
Don't let this get around, but -- THEY PAY! It
will be lithographed.

*

I did it with my little hatchet-face...

*

What's this we don't hear about DUGGIE FISHER,
JR? ...matter of fact, we haven't been hearing
it for quite a few months now.

Well, I'll have to admit it. I was trying
for some humor in the above, but I never quite
seemed to batch it.

Know why?

...I'm breathless. (*)

Aweel; maybe I can do better next time...

(*) See page 20, SOL III

(Good nite, lettuce.)

SOME BOOK REVIEWS

By G.M. Carr

THE UNFORTUNATE FURSEY & THE RETURN OF FURSEY, by Morwin Wall, published in the U.S.A. by Crown Publishers, 419 4th Avenue New York and in London by the Pilot Press, Ltd. are the story of the adventures of a timid Irish monk who accidentally becomes a wizard.

When the abbey at Clonmacnoise became infested with a plague of demons, the other monks were able by appropriate prayers to resist their wiles, but the unfortunate Furse, being afflicted with an acute lack of courage that deprived him of the use of his vocal powers when faced with trouble, had no such defense. Consequently, much to his helpless horror, the Demons took a liking to him and used his cell as a place of refuge. Furse finally managed to communicate his predicament to his Father Superior, who kindly turned him over to the local authorities for harboring evil spirits. In spite of his pleas, Furse was ejected from the monastery and compelled to seek his living in the wide world.

About the first thing that happened to him, innocent as he was, turned out to be a compulsory marriage to a witch; who, in the course of a feud with a neighboring sorcerer, expired within 24 hours of the wedding. Furse didn't mind this so much, she was hideously homely as well as old, but in her expiring breath she transmitted her witchcraft to him. Now, in addition to having a close acquaintanceship with various imps, ghouls, demons, locusts and fauns, to say nothing of His Satanic Majesty himself, Furse finds himself, to his own horror, also a sorcerer. And a very poor one at that. About the only trick he can really do is toss a rope over a beam and haul down food and drink.

His Familiar, Alford, also warned him that he had better remove himself as soon as possible from the vicinity of the

Sorcerer who had done his wife in, lest Cuthbert turn his fued on Furseoy as her natural heir. Furseoy, who by now has been so thoroughly frightened for so many times that nothing can scare him anymore, has gained the use of his voice, if not his wits, and attempts feebly to make use of his newfound gifts.

"My soul is lost," he told himself; but he didn't let his mind dwell on such a painful subject..." and he proceeded, with Albert's help, to outwit the wily Cuthbert who sought to outwit him. That he succeeded was less due to his own cleverness than to Cuthbert outsmarting himself, but Furseoy made his escape into the wide world and his adventures really began.

The charm of these books is less the adventures and troubles of Furseoy, than the charming commentary on Irish history, and the fascinating glimpses of the people he met: For instance, Bishop Flanagan, "whose reputation as a man of God was tremendous: Those who did not like the Bishop whispered of him that he was a man from whom every graceful attribute seemed to be withheld from him by Nature. He was spare and stringy, and his Adam's apple was in constant motion in his scraggy throat. His underlip was loose and twitched while he looked at you, but it was not from nervousness, for the way he held his head and the unrelenting gaze of his eyes, close placed above the long thin nose, betokened the pride in his exalted rank and his determination to exact from all the respect which was his due. The odor of sanctity was clearly discernable from his breath and person."

We find a description of the honorable Cormac Gilcon-beard, King of Cashol, "...an aged gentleman, a partly naked, sitting bolt upright in a species of ornamental bath set in the center of the earthen floor. The tub was so short that the old gentleman had of necessity his knees drawn up to his chin. An onyx silky, grey beard concealed most of his person. He was chortling, evidently in enjoyment of a stream of warm water which a serving man poured from a watering-can onto his bald head...."

Furseoy's utterly hilarious adventures, combined with the naive and outrageous claims of history, "...the hounds of war had been unleashed, and the whole fighting forces of Cashol had been flung into Thomond". "Cormac...master

BOOK REVIEWS

strategist..the only king in Ireland who maintains a standing army, and although the upkeep of those 24 men is a considerable burden on the state, they are well worth it.... make these books well worth owning to read and re-read for a good laugh. The London edition is illustrated by John Parsons' which adds considerably to the effect..

-G.M. GARR

GLOVIS by Michael Fessier, published by Dial Press New York, 1948. This is somewhat of a satirical fantasy about a super-parrot who becomes bored with his easy life with the last of the Von Lorners (who bred his ancestors for intelligence, and in the process lost their own), and walks off to find a purpose in life. During the course of his adventures he meets a beautiful che-parrot and discovers to his dismay, that although he can speak Latin, Greek, Hebrew, in the original, as well as practically all other contemporary languages, he does not know how to converse with another parrot. By the time he finds out how to talk to her, she finds out that all he is interested in is talk.... so Glóvis is on his way again.

His adventures bring him to a pet shop in New York, where he chooses his prospective customer by the simple device of insulting a suitable prospect. During the course of his journey, his super-intellect has been discovered by a cash-minded roustabout, who traces him to the home of the wealthy Honeybird Grovney whose unhappy life is due to being told by a physician that she is "barren and unresponsive to the other sex." Honeybird sees in the roustabout, Thad an excellent chance to prove she is not "unresponsive to the other sex," and does her damndest to convince him of it.... Much to Glóvis' dismay as he fell in love with her himself. This simple plot, is somewhat further complicated by four coniving relatives who seek to murder Honeybird for her money, and Glóvis' unquenchable desire to find some reason for his super-intellect. He thinks for awhile that he has found such a reason when he becomes the focal point of a revival by "Father Christmas" of the temple cult he had founded, and serves as the "Golden Bird of Prophecy" (with gilded feathers and a golden throne) very happily until August Van Lerner, the last of the Von Lorners, shows up to remonstrate him for wasting his talents and the results of several generations of Van Lorners efforts.

Just about this time, Honeybird makes rather disc-
o very, gets rid of her murder-minded relatives, and
awakens Cl via t the true nature of his destiny, which,
Cl v s finds, conveniently, on the last page of the story.

This book is delightfully illustrated by Carlotta
Petrino, and has a gold and green dust jacket with a
picture of the author on the back. Actually, the pictures
are probably as interesting as the text, which, though light
and humorous is nothing to look a stiff-headed awake at night.
If you like slightly sexy satire which takes fun at
philosophical pretensions, you will probably like this one.
If you like fairy tales where "everyone lived happily ever
after"ditto.

-G.L. CARR

The following is from "The Brickwall" ass in the Sept.
'51 ASF. OUR CHAIN-SMOKING AUTHORS.

(tobacco-speckled tongues division)

- *She picked at the food, not eating much and then lit a
cigarette-"Page 104
- "Lee lit another cigarette-" Page 106
- "Have a cigarette", Lee Offered" Page 107
- "Why", asked Lee, lighting another cigarette." Page 109.
- "Lee, picked a speck of tobacco off her tongue, and blew
out a trickle of smoke." Page 109.
- "You'll never learn will, you?" Lee asked blowing along
cloud of cigarette smoke on to the table top." Page 109
- "Lee shrugged, lit another cigarette." Page 110.
- "Lee nodded, lit another cigarette." Page 111.
- "Lee blew a cloud of acrid smoke in his face angrily." P11
- "She sat on one of the tables, leaned back against the
wall and lit a cigarette." Page 112.
- "He noticed her hands were shaking as she lit her cigarette
Page 114.
- * "She blew a long cloud of smoke at him" Page 115.
- "She studied smoke patterns, shuddered, crushed out her
cigarette." Page 115.
- "She threw the cigarette across the lab-" Page 115.
- "Have a cigarette-" Page 116.
- "Lee blew smoke in his face." Page 117.
- * "Lee studied her cigarette carefully, crushed it out"-117
- "Lee lit another cigarette-" Page 117.
- * "He let a whisper of smoke drift out with his words, picked
a speck of tobacco off his tongue." Page 117.
- "She didn't answer, just broke a cigarette in half, crushed
it, let it fall to the ground." Page 118.

caliope

by Lee Hoffman

This morning it came. I mean my membership card in the Chicon. With the card there was a bulletin. The first of them. It's a fine plano-ed booklet telling about the con-to-be, the hall, the hotel (singles \$5 up with a deluxe suite at \$75), the committeers, etc. The bulletin lists 228 members as of its printing.

And membership in this convention is well worth the dollar charged. You see, for your dollar you not only get a membership, bulletins, program, etc. but also a site on the moon. My "deed" reads as follows: "The Chicago Science Fiction Society assigns you exclusive colonization rights to the property on the Moon encompassed by the crater Herschel which is located in the Second Quadrant of said body. Valid in perpetuity." The deed is printed on the back of the membership card and each member gets his own private crater. No applications. I wonder who my neighbors are.

I do know that Paul Cox has a rather cheesy End Quad crater titled Krafft.

Wonder how DD Harriman (and others) will feel about this...

Well, if any of you want to write about moon colonies, Ol' Herschel can be hired at very reasonable rates.

Oh yes, the address: Science Fiction Convention - Box 1422 - Chicago 90, Ill.

AND DON'T FORGET to contact Shelby Vick at Box 493, Lynn Haven, Fla. about WAW with the Crew in '52. Just think of it: Walt Willis, the Harping Irishman, at a US Convention. Where you could meet him. And as Dave English so aptly put it, "It would be worthwhile to bring Willis to the con even if it were only so he would write a report on it." I concur. So write Shel at the above address. Any amount will be gleefully accepted.

World Calenders and others: Art Rapp writes on this subject from the wilderness of Korea. I quoted this bit in my own mag but I think it deserves a far wider circulation than

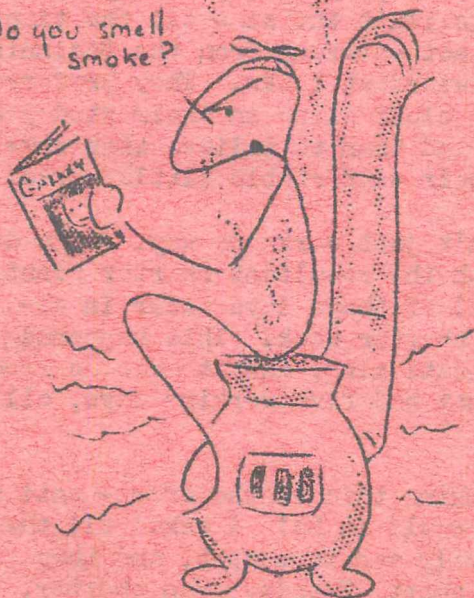


alone could give it, so here goes: "I have just been struck by a notion so revolutionary that it should have been thunk of long ago--and no doubt was. Look, if fandom would adopt this here new World Calender Association calender, not only would funnish reckoning be delightfully out of ~~tune~~ with mundane dates, but we'd have a brand new thirteenth month to name after some funnish hero. Think of the fouding which would arise as the NSF conducted a fun world-wide referendum to determine whether it would be the month of Roscoe or perhaps Reddocember or even Weinleintober. Then too, there are five (I think) extra days that don't fall in any month, days on which publishers of monthly zine could put out oneshots for limited circulation."

Well?

FANZINE REVIEW DEPT: The fanzine not being reviewed this installment is **CONFUSION** from the Armed Forces S-F, Inc. The address is c/o Jack Jardine, 111 Lamuse St., Biloxi, Mississippi. The first issue will be out soon and altho the club is especially for members of the Armed Forces, the **Mag** will be available to any fan willing to buy a copy. I don't know the price but Jack would probably be willing to confide this information to anyone who asks.

Do you smell
smoke?



MOVIE REVIEW DEPT: The movie not being reviewed this issue is **I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU**, a fantasy. I believe that this film is a rewrite of **THE HOUSE ON BERKLEY SQUARE** (or somethi to that effect). Died-in-the-wool **SF** fans will refuse to let this film be filed under science-fiction despite the time-warp explanation offered. After all, a time-warp alone isn't enough to make a film stf.

BOOK NEWS DEPT: Not being reveiwd this issue because hasn't been pubbed yet is Bob Tucker's new book. I'm afraid I can't give you the title ye

but I can assure you that it will have one. Don't miss this book. After all, you may be in it.

—Lee Hoffman

ON TIME

(The Kelly Time Theory)

by

Thelma J. Kelly

Did you ever notice about time, how different it is, at different times? I'm not speaking of psychological time, which depends, of course, on how interested one is in the task or pleasure at hand; the time whereof I speak has not been yet named. Some days the seconds are longer. This, of course, leads to longer minutes and longer hours. My theory is based on self-compiled statistics. Which means that on days when I noticed this phenomenon, I asked everyone didn't they think that the time was dragging, and, regardless of the interest involved in the task at hand, the percentage was too high for mere chance. Several times, when making this survey, I would propound my theory to the people I talked to; that time isn't the same all the time; that the whole business was set up wrong from the Beginning, and do you know? I got the wierdest looks. They preferred to take time for granted, to sluff along in their stodgy way; it was easier to believe me mad than to believe that anything could be wrong with their comfortable little world.

The thing is, it doesn't just work one way. Some days, the seconds are shorter, with the resultant shorter minutes and hours. Sometimes several of these days occur in sequence and then, you have a shorter week. This happened to me one time when I was vacationing, and it made me good and sore. The week after that had five working days, all long ones.

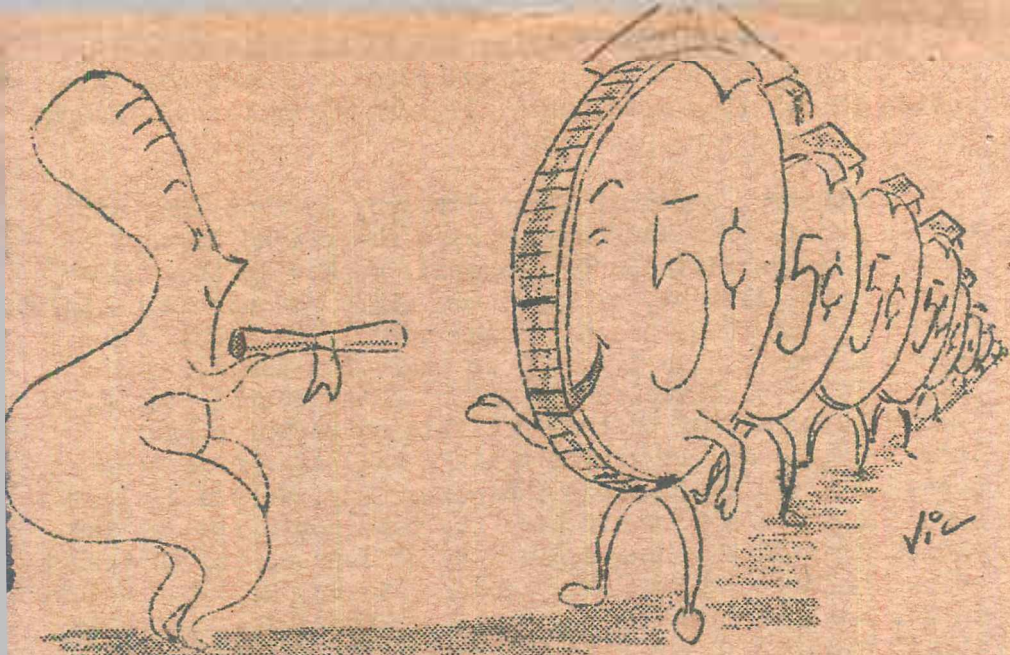
I see you are all thinking this is the afore-mentioned psychological time, but how could it be? I asked all the people around me at this lovely vacation spot, and they all agreed, that Monday was short, Tuesday even shorter, and here it was Saturday and they couldn't even remember

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; and by the same token, slack at work, when I asked those around me, busy and interested though they were, they all agreed, that they thought it would never come 'pay-day'.

My theory, based on these surveys, is that Time was set up wrong. How did they measure the second anyway? There is no subdivision to a second, so how do they know it's right? Allright, so there are sixty seconds in a minute. But how about those seconds? Ah! there's the rub! The only thing they have to go by is nths of a second, and obviously these divisions depend upon the second itself, and it is my belief that this little character varies. It's onerous. And it wouldn't be so bad, if one of them decided to be longer than the next, okay, we could allow that and maybe not even notice it, but- don't you see the viciousness of it? One decides to be longer, and that sort of pushes the next one out, and, so to speak, makes a dent in it, and the dent comes out on the other side, which in itself wouldn't be so bad either, but the second second doesn't like it, it looks around to see what's pushing, and darned if it isn't the first second trying to be longer than it should be, and the second second says, why should he last longer than me, who does he think he is, and the second second goes ahead and makes itself a little longer, making a bit of a dent in the third second and so on.

When it's the other way around, I believe it all starts with a lazy second. It gets tired, makes itself shorter, and there's that space that the second second has to jump into before it's quite ready, and that makes the second second a little tired and upset, so it makes itself shorter too. (This would corroborate the above, about vacation-time, when this frequently happens, you can see how a second would be likely a little lazier at such a time.)

And the bad part is, the reason that the average (or normal) does not notice these goings on is because they are done in such an underhanded fashion. Who notices a little second pushing a dent in the next one? No one notices a thing, until a couple of hours have become so swollen that everyone looks at the clock and says, "My God, is that all what time it is?" And then they go and blame it on themselves. This business is responsible for a lot of grief in the world. You take a young couple out for an evening's fun. It's one of those short nights, probably in the summertime, and all full of lazy seconds. The time just flies. Well, these two souls take a surprise gander at the clock and think why I must have had a wonderful time! And on that basis they live a life of swollen seconds ever after. -17-



the case of the

Educated Nickels...

In case you're wondering, there's a difference between just any nickel and Educated Nickels. One nickel doesn't count so much; matter of fact, it can't count past five. But that's an amazing thing -- ten nickels can count to 50 -- one hundred of the marvelous li'l critters are so smart, they can count to 500! -- That's child's play, natch; grammar school stuff. But those 20 mildly educated nickels that make a dollar, graduate when accompanied by lots of other dollars, and ten, twenty and fifty dollar bills. It's those college grads that'll shoot Walt across to Chi.

So buy the Willish -- but better yet, send the editor a nice doughnation to the Willis Campaign -- check or money order. You'll get a copy of the desired Willish just as quickly. So send now. Don't retard your money's education!

--Yes, and don't forget that issue's line up. A Willis reprint, an article on Willis called ON WILLIS By TJK, a Willish cover, and several other Willis-type things, and perhaps a Willis original article or something of the sort by WAW.

Harvey Gibbs

Fanfare. Entrance. Announcement:

The Annual Gibbs Science Fiction Awards --- 1951

Editor..... Anthony Boucher & J. Francis Mc Comas
Author..... George Paul Elliott
Artist..... R. Hubert Rogers
Fan Editor..... Jim Bradley & Malcolm Millits
Movie producer..... Robert L. Lippert
Special Award..... Bantam Books

The selection of FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION as the s-f mag of the year might not come as a complete surprise to some of you, but it does to me. For 3 reasons: (1) the price, (2) the absence of interior artwork ~~and~~ (3) of novels. But the price (unfortunately) is now almost standard and cannot be considered as a major point against the blighters any longer. However, the confining of all artwork to the cover lends a sort of monotonous air to the thing that even GALAXY shies away from (advocating, it would seem, a reversion to the Big Blotch days of "Mad Mark" Marchioni) and ASTOUNDING avoids entirely, leading the field with respect to artwork (it was on the basis of the Jan. 51 ASF cover that Rogers was awarded the coveted Gibbs Science Fiction Award for 1951) ; so score a point for ASF.

But Galaxy has its merits too; and when it comes to novels -- like SAKS CHILD -- they chalk up a big one. (I might add in spite of rather than because of the efforts of one Robt A. SatEvPost Hoinlein)

So where does PFSF come in? Well, not only are most of their stories good, but many are actually original as well; there's an air about 'em that's downright exhilarating. I hardly need mention Nathanson's stuff about dripping green on walls and all that, and W. J. M. MacClintock and Mr. George Elliott (The lucky winner of the 1951 Gibbs Annual Science Fiction Story Award for his hymenopterous classic THE HILL)

A special award was created in recognition of Bantam Books' issuance of Bradbury's MARTIAN CHRONICLES (This is what we mean by science-fiction!) which

to all the rest of the world. Heinlein we have lately been immersed in.

The majority of g-f films were accompanied in 51 by alot of La-De-Da advance reels which had the effect of making each of them a big disappointment. That is, with the exception of Lippert's SURETHING AND THE MOLE MEN, which I didn't expect much from anyway. I was pleasantly surprised: it is the earthmen and not the molemen who are the monsters and the pervading philosophy, while isolationistic is nonetheless superior to the Big Stick Imperialism guff that is so common in science-fiction today. And either through good judgement or budget restrictions, Lippert manages to keep corn & sensationalism at somewhat of a minimum.

So much for the pro's. The ESTERY 15th old DESTINY seems to be carrying on where FANCLANT left off, which is to say th y're at the top of the heap. Orchids and the Gibbs Award to Editors Bradley & Willits. Needless to say, the TORQUASIA TIMES provided the stiffest competition for Destiny. No Gibbs fan Author Award will be presented this year: it would be too difficult a task to choose one from that terrific triumvirate -- G. H. Arley, Retlaw Snevock, and G. W. Hill-kers.

Fanfare. Exeunt.

↓ Dig for the Dough... ↓
nation!

For, "WAW with the Gen in 52!"

Send that \$ to (you can keep the

Baby Vick

Box 493

Lynn Haven

Fla

Needless to mention the
TASFIC

Box 1422 Chicago 90,
ILL.

EGOB00

Before we start off the letter column this issue, I think I should make an attempt to explain what that garbled glob of red ink was over the letter column of last issue. It was a statement (written over another one, but the correction fluid failed) with the fact that EGOB00 wasn't an ordinary letter column. It is dedicated to those BNF's who cry they haven't the time to write us material but send us very long--sometimes nice, sometimes witty-- letters for publication. So we may safely say that EGOB00 is a column by BNF's. That doesn't mean we don't want letters from LNF's. It's just that this isn't an ordinary letter column. See? Now to the first letter.

THE MINNEST

REDD BOGGS

2215 Benjamin Street
Minneapolis 18, Minn.

Dear Dave:

SO I arrived and before filing it away I think I should comment briefly on it.

The silk screen cover was a good idea but it was kind of sloppy. The rest of the artwork was almost as bad. ((what rest?)) In fact, some of it was worse. And nincoging in red ink was surely a step backward. ((do thought you'd be flattered)) What allied you? My god, the half letter size is bad enough but when it's sloppily nincographed to boot, it is almost too much!

Lee Hoffman's "Of Fandom's Past" (which would have been ruined as a title if it were Of Fandom's Past) proved to be interesting, though it was stuff I knew already. Lee is turning out to be a pretty good fan writer. But I shall send her a bomb for saying FooFoo's followers are "among fandom's less literary members." Foo, to put it mildly.

I enjoyed POGO, though a history of Pogo and his fame in fandom must still be written. I've seen some of the animal comics in which the strip was labeled "Albert and Pogo," but I doubt he that Albert once had the strip named after himself. I'm not quite sure she put her finger on the reason for Pogo's popularity. But I'm not a really rabid admirer of the comic, though I like it, despite the fact that Disney ruined the talking-animal comic for me. "Pogo's" humor is very elusive. Despite the fad for quoting comments from it, I've never seen anything that I think is memorable, like some of the lines from Crazy Kat, for instance. As your mother writes its much subtler than gag-line humor (like Bob Hope specializes in). It is more like Chaplin's humor in full-length features like "City Lights." It is humor and pathos wrapped together and intermingled.

Harvey Gibbs' piece left me wondering whether he believes that Amazing does perform the function of enlisting future Galaxy buyers into the ranks of sf. I don't follow his line of reasoning anyway. The theory itself is an old one, which I've heard hundreds of times, but it is not entirely valid, I don't believe. It certainly hasn't proved that the presentday science fiction boom is due to reading comicbooks in the 1940s. I don't think it is necessary to be acquainted with trashier forms of sf in order to grow into an appreciation for Galaxy. ((Personally, I feel that as I grow away from trashier forms of sf, I also grow away from Galaxy)) Most fans, myself included grew up on OZ BOOKS, ERB, and Duck Rogers, but is our present day pre-occupation with sf the result of that, or is it caused by the same anese or desire which underlay our enjoyment of Oz in the first place.

God, G.M. Carr chose an unlikely book for her to review, but she did a better job than I expected.

Shelby Vick is remarkably unfunny.

Your so-called NEW Yorker type fillers aren't as clever as those used by Joe Kennedy a few years ago, but there's a certain amount of genius in the comment "Wonder when they're going to revive Unknown after that credit line mistake from Great Stories of Science Fiction."

Enclosed is a dime for the next issue,

Redd

THE EAST

BOB SILVERBERG
760 Montgomery Street
Brooklyn 13, N.Y.

Dear Dave:

I might as well start off with a complaint... SOL III stands out in my mind as the most godawful mimeography I've ever seen, with the possible exclusion of some of the issues of ODD. Most ink of course is a one-shot affair...after your first experience with it, you'll never use it again, least ways not to print an entire mag. with. But among other things, your

not letting your oblithetine dry before typing over it, or else your not rubbing out the error thoroughly enough before typing over it. I haven't used oblithetine in ages, and I just try to avoid mistakes. I will do. As for the mimeographing job itself, there are a couple of things you could have done.

First, you could have sold the machine (and you did). As I recall, in my two and a half years of owning the machine which you used for your first three issues of SOL, the only description possible of it was rendered by A. Bertrac Chandler in that magnificent punchline for LADY DOG in ASP in 1945 or 1946--

"She was Ever a bitch."

But if your going to use the same type paper you used in III you ^{will} have to slip sheet. ((never!)) This is a damnable nuisance which triples mimeographing time, because you have to un-slip sheet when your done...and unless you have three arms or something, its a tricky business. But it pays off in the end...the only way I get heavy mimeographing in Schip is to be heavy on the ink and let the excess blot off onto the slip sheets. Without the slip sheets, the ink blots into the back of the next page, which makes can fusion for reading.

As for your material, it might have been more. Richard Z. Ward is a fine artist, but the way you rendered --rounded is a better word--his work you wouldn't know it. You're now verloaded with columns...Dick is probably an enthusiastic and likeable guy, but I'll hope he'll pardon me when I say he can't write a column. This isn't an un-

pardonable sin unless your writing for four or five mags. as Vick is.

Gibbs did a good job, but I think that's the shortest column on record...100 words at the most.

As for la Hoffman, no doubt she's a good fan writer, and she handled the Spoor topic well...but if you want someone to write on fandom's past why not get someone who has a first hand knowledge of the field? Lee, despite her vast file of old fanzines, has been a fan way back since 1950! ((We disagree, she has merely been active, since 1950!))

Other material, such as I could read, I liked. Things I didn't like: your use of thinner paper for mailing wrapper. Seems to me it's more logical to use the same stock or thicker paper for the wrapper. ((all stock used in SOL III was 20lb. substance)))

Guess that's about enough. It had better be, because I don't intend to write more!

EOB

ACROSS THE POND

CHUCK HARRIS

"C-rolin"

Lake Avenue, Rainham, Essex,
England.

Dear Dave,

Thanks for SOL,-- will send something as trade, say the next Authentic S/F Monthly when it comes out (This should be the long-awaited issue with Walt Willis as the hero) ((I have yet to read a S/F mag. American or English where someone is "here" of the magazine. God what customs you must have!))

Best in SOL III was la Hoffman's digest of "The Immortal Storm". I dunno how the girl does it. She never seems to hit a poor patch; her stuff varies between good and excellent.

"On Page" was nice. It's only recently that I've stumble across the swamp folks. Walt Willis MSG, is the British authority on critters and just recently, he sent his whole Page collection to the Epicentrics on loan. I went up to the epicentre ostensibly to learn fanzine publishing from their evening class, but instead the whole evening was devoted to swamp lore. I never saw the duplicators and got home five hours late muttering "You know what this swamp is like?"

The cover didn't appeal to me much,--why not get Keasler to do one. I got the spaceship part okay but this bloke in a balacava helmet has me puzzled. It would have been much better without him.

I don't think that filler from "To the Stars" was fair. I know that it's the fashion nowadays to swing at Hubbard but there are lots of opportunities to do this without ripping pieces from a fairly involved story and expecting them to stand by themselves. This quotation was from a character who had just had an enormous emotional shock on finding that the world aged decades in what was apparently a few weeks. It would have made more sense to you if you had quoted the rest of the paragraph. And Grrr to you too, Ish! ((This sounds all nice and defensive Chuck, and what you say is true. However I was not taking a swing at Hubbard or "To the Stars". It is considered an oddity in printing when two words appear one right under the other. The typesetter goes out of his way to avoid this. When Three words appear under each other it is a rarity. This causes unusual accent upon the words and breaks up ones train of thought. Because it was an oddity I put it in as a filler, and that "ongra" bit was just as innocent!))

The letter column was good. With Jeff, WAM and Max Keasler it should be. Neal Renvolls seems to get awful hot up over very little,-- I didn't see the shocking phrase though, so I can't comment on it. People are funny.

That covers all except for a tactful praise for the editorial. The red ink is OK but it seems to have a tendency to produce offsets.

I've just bought a duplicator. Maybe you'll see MY idea of the world's finest fanzine later this year. Maybe.

Ever Thine,

Chuck

Dear Dave,

Has Ray Higgo learned you his postwarps or something? SOL III materialised in my hall yesterday, without either stamp or postmark. All I can say is there's a distortion creeping into your transmission somewhere, cos it looks a hell of a mess of your hirography. ((I wouldn't take the credit for a postwarp, but somethin' a up. Another English fan reported the same thing. Maybe I'm driving them mad, as I send my everseas fns. First class for quicker travel, and this confuses the British PO.))

If you don't chuck callin' yourself Drill Processes Berlin Publication you'll have to brace yourself for a bit of criticism. That man Rongelli's, (funny name) will boxacuse you of insulting your contributors again. Listen Dave, pay no attention to him. Go ahead and call your zine a crudzine if you like. When fan o's start takin' their zine's seriously it's a sign of fatty degeneration of the head. And use that foul language of yours, ((Mine!)) all you like, we can take it.

What happened to Heffmans little people? They are a little I can't find them. ((Look on the page edge))

Didn't you hear? Claude Daxler changed his name and came to Ireland where he's join' under the name of Bob Shaw.

Your mother's article on Pao was one of the best I have ever read in fanzines, and I say this though she ruined an article about Pao. I was about to write myself. She took the words right out of my mouth, and tell her not to do it again—it's very insensitry. Seriously, she also said all that had never occurred to me and I'm grateful for her very sensitive and illuminatin' appreciation of Kelly's work. Don't let this contributor get away from you Dave. She's good.

About Gibbs' defense of AMAZING—I suppose that's what it is—I'd like to say as much for the people I suppose he's gettin' at, that I've never criticised the worst stories in AMAZING and juvenile. There can be good

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ignorant of proper spelling anyhow. We try to be different, gay, and original (like a certain fanned who spells QUANDARY QUANDRY) and we is severely criticized. Besides any full-blooded Yankee critter knows that a "chic" is a full-blooded female yankee critter.))

Glaudo Degler was last reported in WILD HAIR as last seen in Los Angeles at the Van Couvering residence, headed north.

ON POGO was enjoyed, mainly for the background it offered. I understand the West Coasters were the first to bring Pogo into prominence in fandom.

Harvey Gibbs is one of my favorite writers. I consider him one of the sanest writers I've come across, that that's probably why I agree with him. That seems to be the main basis of criticism nowadays. Nonetheless it is pleasant to find a writer I agree with.

Re the book report: What happened to this egg-money when it ached a bit?

SHELVICK's column is something, but I'm not sure what. Sort of a crunch but the complaint over there. Or as we say in the swamp country, a bird in the hand can be embarrassing.

EGOB00 is an enjoyable column but it needs a bit of judicious editing. It's not bad editing to run a bit literary advise on cutting stencils, as long as you have room for it, but the last paragraph, about the letter column and Juffus wasn't at all pertinent, and I feel it should have not been in the letter column. Strictly business.

Glad to see you cutting down on those double parentheses is.

Work on neatness of duplication, Dave. ((Work? we've slaved!)) And how about changing back to the black ink or a more legible color like dark blue, or brown. Your paper isn't good stock but it'll do if it's the best you can get. ((This too, sounds like sheer reasoning)) After working with 201b white similar to the stuff you use, I would trade the pulp for it for the same price.

The pulp stock Q is printed on is absorbant, and hardly ever offsets. Dries almost immediately. Takes ink well. Handles easier, and seems to be easier to keep from getting smeared. ((Is it miller?))

Best always,
Loc

SHELBY VICK
Box 493
Lynn Haven, Florida

Well Dave --

THE EARTH Was a fine fanzine. Too bad there will be only one issue.. But I'll be looking forward to MARS. (Sol IV of course) ((We have considered labeling SOL the way Shelby did, but we were afraid we'd fold by the time we got to ELUTO or else get reprimanded for using someone elses title)). and all the rest. It shall be trans-Pluto I hope? ((So do we))

However, I'll have to qualify the above statement. The contents were fine. Hoffwomans column, everythin -- including that dabbling by this anonymous character were readable. --Whoa! I shoulda said all worth reading. If they hada been readable SOL would hve rated highly. Hasn't Gerry explained the facts of life to you? You know-- important things like how to avoid over-inking, how to clean your roller, and (MOST important of all) that wonderful invention, that marvelous formula referred to as Correction Fluid...

The cover was intresting, in an amatureish sort of way. Much better than the other two. Slik... wonder what I could do with that in Confusion?

On the contents page you finnally got some good stencil art. (Since I cut the stencils for the puffin's and the raven I won't criticize them.)

It is my opinion that THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL, was better as an example of blending stf with Hollywood than either DESTINATION MOON or WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE. The latter two were technicolor extravaganzas, with emphasis on props and effect. THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL had a

story to tell-- and told it. Those three words explain the difference.

Your mother has an interesting writing style; I liked ON POGO. It served as a steady influence on the road to SOL III. BUT -- What's this "Thelma Kelly" stuff? Her maiden name? ((No.)) Any chance she's akin to Walt Kelly proud Papa of Albert and Pogo? ((If you believe in evolution; no.)) I don't remember the comic when it was strictly Albert, but there was a time when it was ALBERT & POGO Comics -- prewar I think. 't would be a natural assumption that ALBERT was just a step before that. ((Many people have written us remembering the strip to be ALBERT & POGO but never ALBERT THE ALLIGATOR. I chocked with my mother and she says that at one time the comic was definitely tagged ALBERT THE ALLIGATOR. Do any of you fans remember a time in the comic when Albert as my mother said, "suffered a proclivity to eating his fellow swamp dwellers"?))

Gibbs should have a pleasant future as a columnist, but couldn't you get maybe another page out of him. ((No try but Gibbs seems to be suffering from something that all good writers suffer from. They chose the right words to say the right thing, therefore he can't pad.)) (In CONFUSION the trouble was keeping 'em down; -- 'nd your columnists seem to gravitate that way.)) ((We welcome the trouble you have))

Glad to see you will have little people next ish. Ish. Y' need artwork scattered through the zine -- 'nd I don't think you could get anything more popular.

Oh; I just thought of a bright comment. See where Mack Keaslar says Willis writes with a light air. I dunno, Max, all his letters to me were on a typewriter.

If you ever correct your lineo technique, Dave, you oughta have a top notcher on your hands. Keep at it; your's improving.

Look,

Shelby.

BOLOGNA

Well, here we sit at the Bologna grinder, with the last page to be ground.

WE find it rather tedious to find humorous fillers, and they may have a tendency to get dull. If you can find any humorous fillers similar to the type we use, send them in and receive either a dime or complimentary copy or both.

WOULD ALSO like to mention in this last minute, last word that we are not alone in putting out a WALLISH. OOPSLA and MAD both intend to publish one soon. MAD, (Dick Ryan, 224 Broad Street, Newark, Ohio) is going to going to have it's WALLISH in July, and is going to be according to its editor "a rainbow issue." Good Luck!

How do you like our cover this issue? We don't know yet. At this typin, it hasn't been run off yet. This is because it is three-color, and we are saving the worst for last. Anyway I would appreciate some favorable comments or any comments on it for that matter. It is the first time we have tried anything of this type. Hope we are successful.

WE have just received the latest SPACESHIP. Looks as if Silverberg has finally made SPACESHIP into a leading friz. Best reproduction Bob has turned out in many a moon.. Would not hesitate sending him a subscription.

HAVE JUST gotten a quick glance at the new Ziff-Davis magazine. Looks pretty good--at a glance. Time will tell however. This pessimistic editor forecasts the folding of IF before it sees a year of publication.....

WILL ALSO BE looking forward to seeing some of you fans at the VETCON this April. I am going to do a coverage of it and send it to some mag. in hopes of it being published. If I see you there, you can recognize me, I'll have a bundle of SOL's under my arm...

Next issue will be out first week in May. See you then. or perhaps at the RIDGEWOODCON.

DAI

Chief editor and bolognagrinder

Your getting
SOL For:

Money

Barter

Review

Subscribing

being overseas

a sample

contributing

"The fanzine with the stamp in the middle"

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New York



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Ridgewood, N.Y.

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