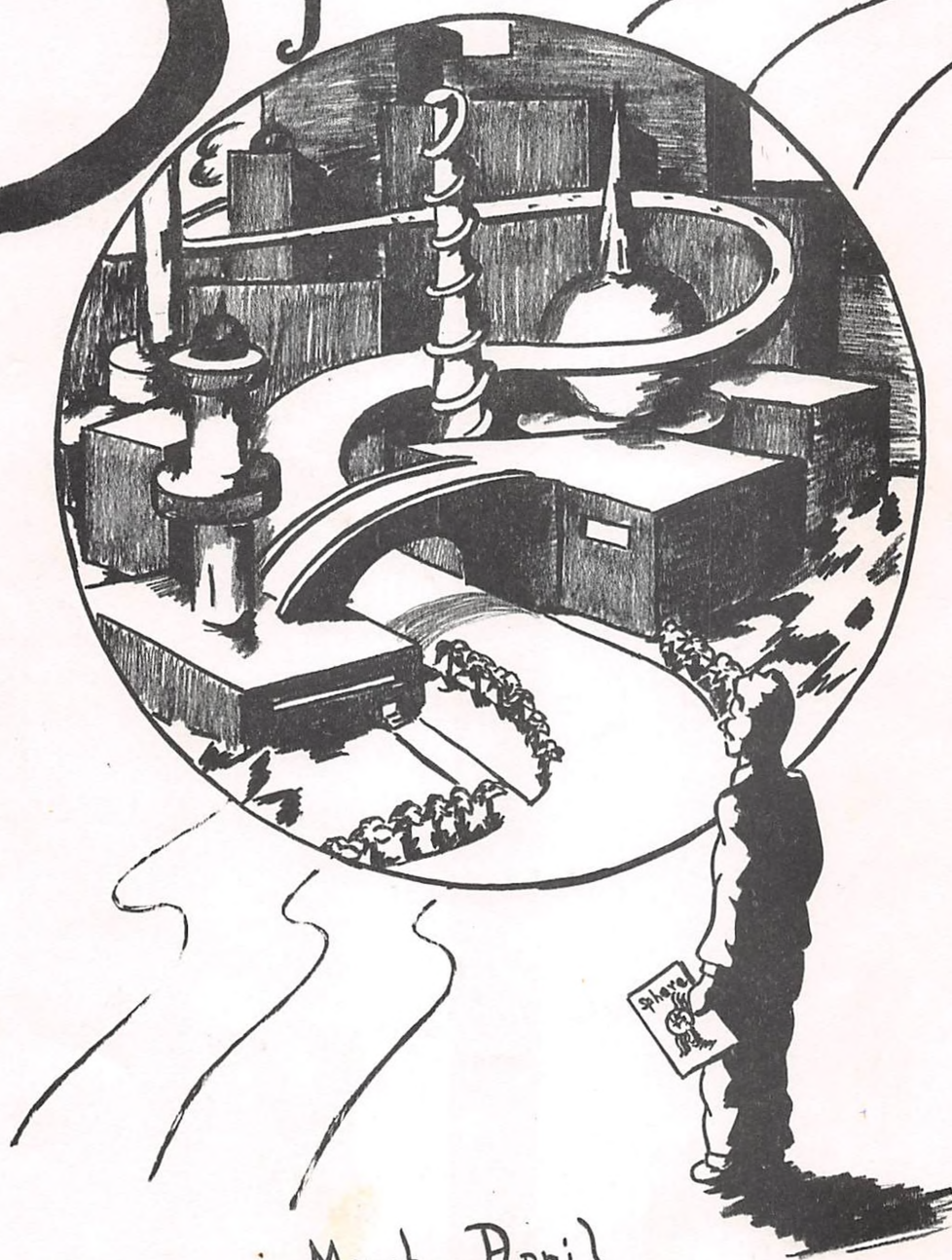
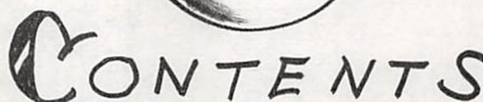


Sphere



March - April
1958



○○

Headings and Decorations (?)
by Tony Allen.

[illegible]

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-BRIGHT STAR-

-by Edward Chamberlain

The moon rose big and full over the distant hills, starting its upward climb to join the myriad stars that blazed in the sky above. Thousands of fireflies flitted about the little farm, across the new-mown lawn, tangling in the tall grass beyond, flying over the nearby vegetable garden, and soaring to the topmost branches of the maple trees that lined the well-kept country road. In the front yard, beneath the butter-nut tree that grew next to the white clapboard house, Jimmy and his Uncle Luke sat in silence on white wooden lawn chairs.

Jimmy felt clean and comfortable in the freshly ironed playclothes he had worn since suppertime, after the day's work was done, when they had had all sorts of good things to eat, and he had made a wish and with a great big breath he had blown out the nine pink candles on his big white birthday cake, and he had opened the birthday presents that he had not seen earlier that day. A few feet from him, Uncle Luke leaned back in his chair, hands clasped behind his neck, drawing long, slow drags from the pipe that hung in a corner of his mouth. A man in his late thirties, Uncle Luke was still a batchelor, and worked a farm a couple miles away. He had come to help his brother put in the first of his hay today, and would not have missed being here for Jimmy's birthday for the world.

"I wonder what it's really like up on the moon," Jimmy thought out loud. "Well," said Uncle Luke in a very serious tone, "I've always been told it was made of green cheese, although nobody has ever explained to me why it looks yellow from here. You know, I do believe it is made out of yellow cheese, instead of green." The boy, laughing at his foolish answer, went along with the joke. "All that cheese must be for the man in the moon, I guess. But what really makes those dark places on the moon that makes it look like sort of a face?" Placing his jokes aside, Luke told the boy all about the mountain ranges on the moon, and how they were visible from the earth. He told him about the mysterious dark spots on the moon's surface, that no one knows exactly what they are, and the unseen dark side of the moon, that was always turned away from the earth. "...And the strange thing is that the surface of the moon never changes much, because there isn't any air or water on it. And without air and water, there isn't anything to wear away the landscape. So it stays the same all the time." The boy reflected on this awhile, staring up at the bright twinkling stars. His uncle had told him all about those stars - how they were all separate suns, some with other worlds spinning around them, pretty much like our own sun, and how maybe some of these worlds might have life on them, even creatures who could think and build civilizations, like ourselves.

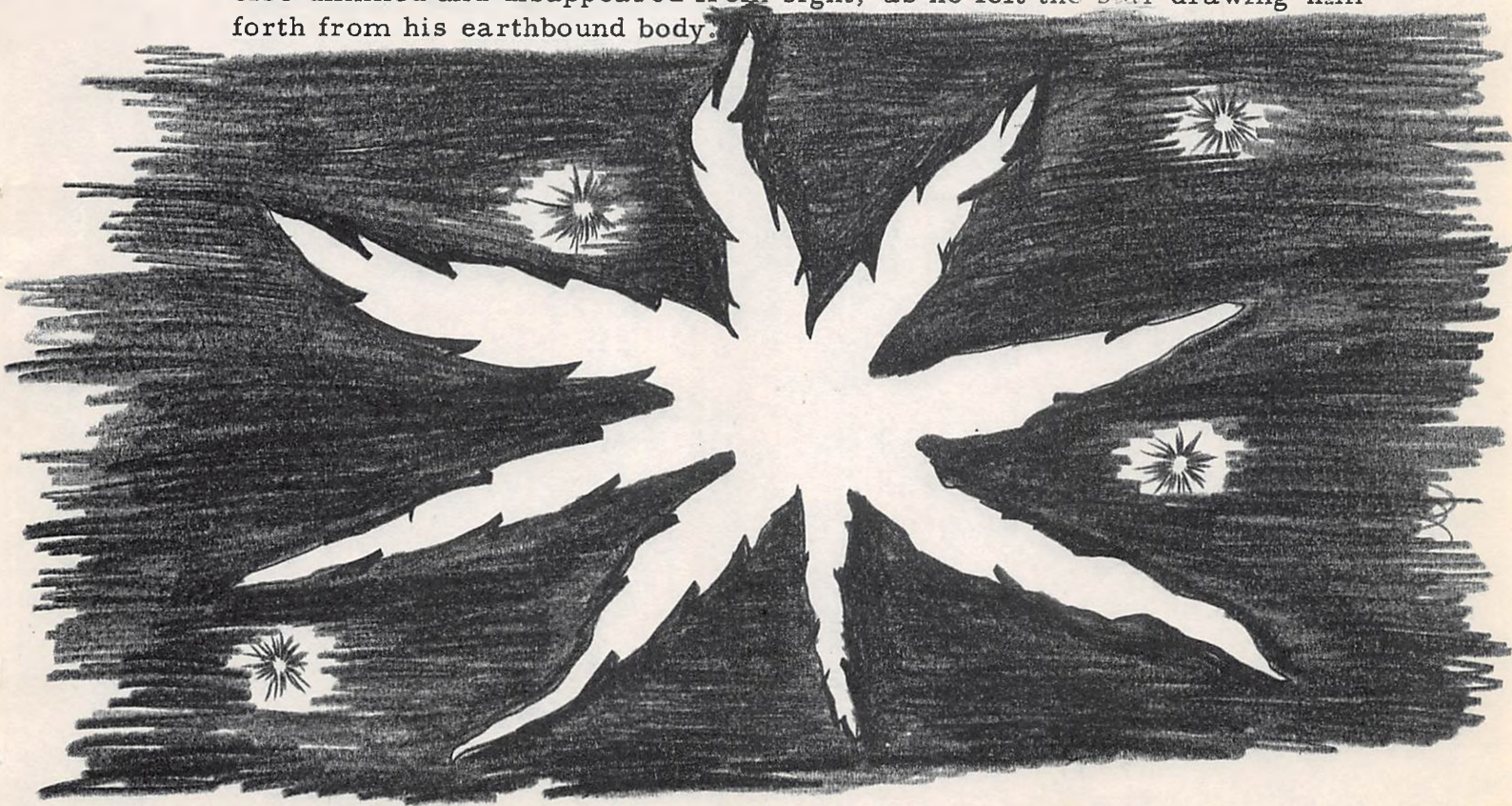
He liked to pick out a particularly bright star in the heavens and rivet his attention on it. As he watched, everything around him and even the other stars would gradually fade from his consciousness, leaving only the bright star to look upon. At such times he almost felt free of earth, and identified himself with that one lone star in outer space. In the middle of one of these trance-like meditations, he interrupted it with a question. "Uncle Luke, how far away are the stars?"

"Well, Jimmy, if you could travel as fast as light travels, it would take you four years and four months to get to the nearest one of them. And that's millions of millions of miles away. And the distance between is a complete vacuum, with no air at all, and colder than anything on earth. And, as far as we know, the stars just keep going on through space, much farther than we can ever see, on to infinity."

"What's infinity?"

"Well, infinity is when there isn't any end to it. You could keep traveling through space forever, even with the speed of light, and never find the end of it, because there isn't any end. And, no matter how far you went, you would still find stars."

Jimmy looked at the stars and could almost feel the coldness of interstellar space between them. For the first time in his young life, he sensed the meaning of space, and time, and eternity. With his newfound understanding, he focused his attention once more on his bright star. Everything else dimmed and disappeared from sight, as he felt the star drawing him forth from his earthbound body.



FF FANZINES-1957 JJ

Advance orders are now being sold at 25¢ each. After publication the price will be 35¢, so save and order now. Delivery in May.

The Best of 1957

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BOISE, I D A H O.

Every Page Readable, easily, or
your money back!

•••••

SPHERE #8.....By B. Broussard
SPHERE #7.....By B. Broussard
SPHERE #9.....By H. Snyder

-5-

Hemi Spheres

We must have given some indication in past issues that this Department would serve a dual purpose. Sometimes just news bits not too far removed from the s-f field. At other times, sort of an editorial. Therefore this (this issue: to the neophyte) HEMISPHERES,(Unlimited)is a combination of the two. Sort of a catch-all. Hope it will catch a bit of your interest as a result.

"It's too bad that mankind isn't, freeways aren't, and diehards don't."-Harold Coffin.

[illegible]

LIFE, March 24: "We start with a futuristic design and pull it back to reality. You don't get anywhere adding to a realistic design". George Romney, of American Motors, has this to say about new cars. This might be equally applied to other than the automotive field. The science-fiction field perhaps? -----See in same issue: Weird Woodwork of Lunar World. Sculptor Louise Nevelson has created wooden landscape collection which she calls The Moon Garden. (Border-line fanish) Still in same issue of Life, the Scientific Look At Old Lore should prove interesting. A test is being made at Michigan State University to determine the truth of the old maxim: "An apple a day keeps the doctor away."

[illegible]

"Good and Evil are monstrously mixed up in man" - Dostoevsky "The Brothers"

Karamazovs"

[illegible]

"How's your wife's pneumonia, Lord Godiva?"

[illegible]

FORTUNE, March, '58: Francis Bello presents a brilliant article on the second decade of super-sonic flight, describing how the aircraft industry, paradoxically, is trying to devise machines that can stand still while flying. Objective: to come out with new and revolutionary VTOL: Vertical Take-off and Landing. A giant double-page painting by Gschwind depicts thirteen aircraft that might easily have been drawn by our own Frank R. Paul at least 25 years ago.

[illegible]

A boy usually reaches the age of reason at seven. How long he keeps it depends on how soon he gets interested in girls. - Homer Phillips.

[illegible]

"You look a little pale, Socrates. Better take a drink of this wine."

[illegible]

US NEW & WORLD REPORT, Jan.17,'58: Big lunar (green) cover with the bold yellow question:"Why Go to the Moon?" Eight top ranking scientists give their various views and reasons. Here are some of the replies:- Dr. H.C.Urey-----"I don't think it worthwhile." Krafft Ehricke-----"I believe that we can attempt lunar landings in the first 2 or 3 years following 1965." Dr. H.J.Stewart----"The moon is just a starting point. The long-term significance of their ability to move into free space on the history of mankind is impossible to see in any detail, but it can hardly help but be of major importance."

To the question: How long might it take to pu a man on the Moon?

Dr. I. I. Rabi-----"If we want to spend the money, I think we can do it inside five years."

K. W. Gatland. British Interplanetary Society:-----"By the end of the century."

Dr. S. F. Singer, physicist, University of Maryland:-----"We should be prepared for other 'firsts' by Russia."

Dr. I.M. Levit:-----"Cities on the Moon? That is inevitable. I don't think we'll have a full-scale space station circling the earth for perhaps 20 years."

Gaetano A. Crocco, at University of Rome: ----- "The Russians will get there first. The U.S. looks for perfect solutions, while the Russians look for practical ones. Russian methods sometimes are crude, but practicality pays off."

Isadora Duncan, the great dancer, once wrote to George Bernard Shaw and suggested, or so the wits say: "We two ought to have a child, so it could inherit my beauty and your brains." Shaw reportedly wrote back: "Madam, I am flattered---but suppose it turned out to have my beauty and your brains?"--(Perma Books.)

A visitor once commented to Niels Bohr, the famous atom scientist and Nobel prize winner: "I'm surprised to see that you have a horseshoe hanging over your door. Do you, a man dedicated to science, believe in that superstition?" "Of course not," smiled Bohr, "but I've been told that it's supposed to be lucky whether you believe in it or not." -"QUOTE"

[illegible]

"The characteristic fear of our generation is our horror of finding ourselves ludicrous."

-THE UNSILENT GENERATION,
Otto Butz.

Psychologist: a man who watches everybody else when a pretty girl enters the room.

A meek little man in a restaurant timidly touched the arm of a customer who was putting on a coat.

"Pardon me," he said, "but do you happen to be Mr. Jim Jones of Miami?"

"No, I'm not," the man answered.

"I was afraid that was the case," apologized the meek little man. "You see, I am, and that's his coat you're putting on."

The important thing to remember about fans is that it is important to make them feel important.

The measure of a man's real character is what he would do if he knew he would never be found out. -Macaulay.

((SHORT Editorial - Eds.Etc.)):

Many times in our short life of publication we have thought about writing an article on the trials and toils of the mechanics of getting a fanzine out---regularly. We wonder how many of our readers have the faintest idea of how much work it really is? How sad and disgusted it is to have material promised, only to see that as the dead-line date arrives no word has been received. No nothing!

Then if all does go well - how little time there is for typing, duplicating, assembling, and mailing the completed issue. Fan-eds in our midst are well aware of it all we know; but you regular readers, particularly you silent ones who never write, we would like to tell you sometime the whole process of fanpubing. Better still, we would like to invite and solicit you other fan magazine editors to submit an article giving the whole story of getting up, say your current or last issue of your 'zine. It would be interesting to compare views.

Another need in this field would be a regular listing of Fan Magazines. Considering the limited circulation of most publications of this type many would-be readers never get the opportunity to read all that they would like. During what period did the largest number of Fan Magazine titles appear? What is the average number any given year? Is there a periodic rise and fall in this number of publications? What sort of barometer is this of Fanac? These and other questions would make a good article. What say?

Summertime is indeed a beautiful time of the year. A time of high spirits, of carefree fun, and of course, romance.

She stands there among the flowers. Warm, vibrant and beautiful — truly a living Venus. She awaits him with eager expectancy and excitement. He will soon come, approach her, and then inevitably this romance will be consummated.

She can sense his approach now, as if on a misty cloud, swiftly and surely. As he approaches nearer still, take note of his strength, the easy movement, the overwhelming attraction of her allure.

They are aware of each other and he is drawn to her. Intoxicating perfume fills the air — her perfume. The sensuous movements of this lovely creation are indeed exciting. Her colouring is exquisite. She is irresistible beyond his wildest dreams.

He approaches her now, in eager expectancy of touching her velvety skin and of his kiss which will fill him with the nectar of her sweet lips. They are together now, and the fulfillment of their destiny will take place, but wait, what is happening?

Too late he realizes the folly of his desires. He is hers completely. All is silent now except for the sounds of his futile protests and his struggles to get out of her grasp. It is all over now. The kiss for him was the kiss of death.

Yes, he is dead, but why not?

He was but a hapless fly embraced within her clasp of death. He had not been able to reason the danger and folly of his actions. Truly she is a Venus, beautiful beyond description. She has no arms, but she is deadly. As deadly as a loaded gun, a set trap, or a hidden dagger poised to strike.

What is her name, you ask?

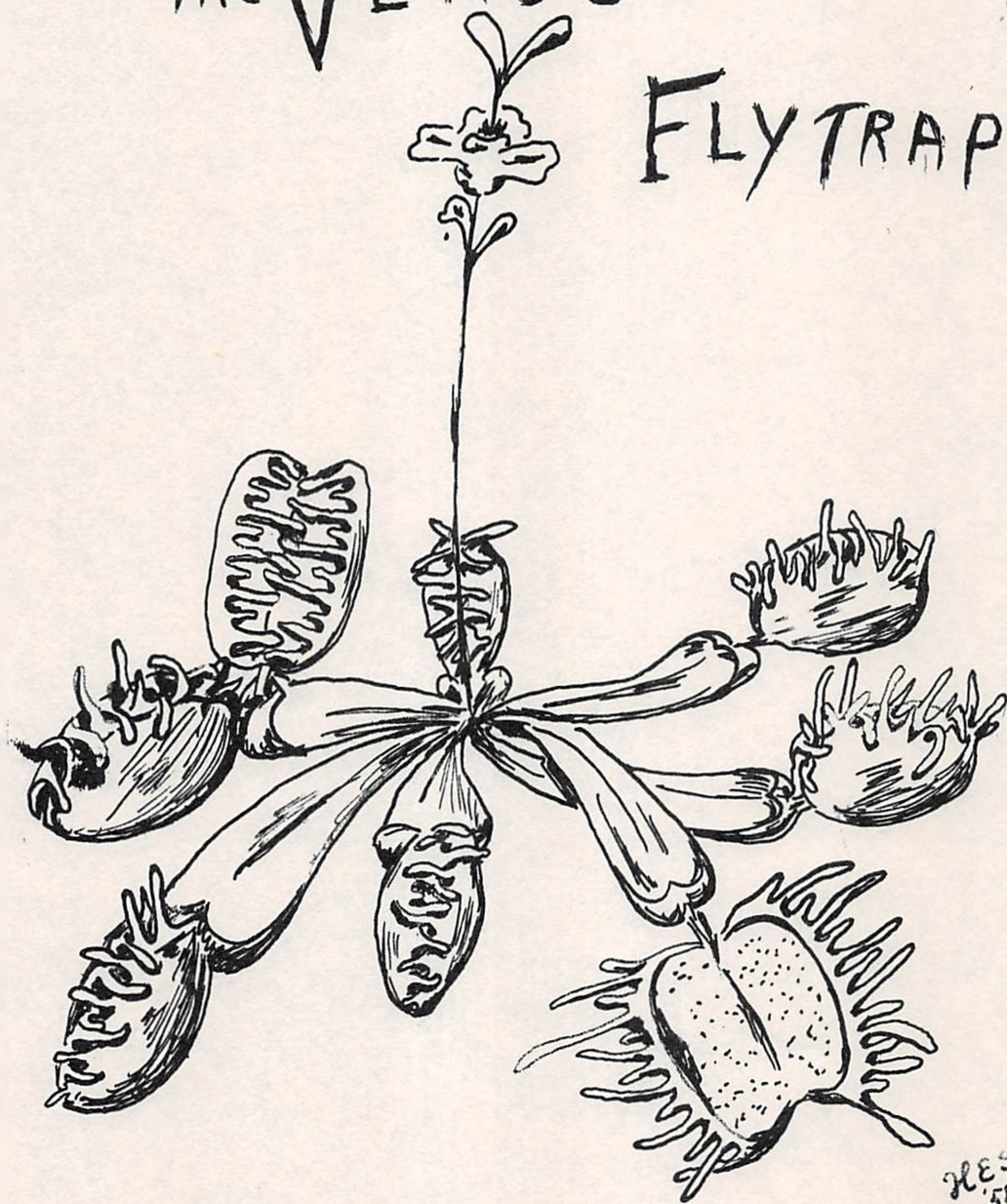
She has the beautiful, classical name of Dionea. Yet many call her by her more common name —



By- Hugh E. Snyder

the VENUS

FLYTRAP!





FANZINE

Quotes

AND COMMENTS

ProFANity #1 - March, 1958
15¢ 2/25¢
Box 3255 University Station
Gainesville, Florida

"Greetings!! and hallucinations."

With a four-color print job on a smart jet black front cover, this unique fan magazine makes its initial appearance this month to add to the growing total for our SUNshine State. One of the best

first issues you will probably ever see. The only note we dislike is the vague outlook for future issues. But this is no doubt only a different approach to see how much interest will be shown on the opener. We like! Very! The Bibliography of Henry Kuttner is an article of lasting worth and represents much research and effort in its compilation. Adrian Archer offers a meaningful "The Definition of 'Meaning' ". He says, and we quote: "If I call my desk lamp 'Beer', I am violating the meaningful relationship between the symbol 'desk lamp' and its referent (or object)."

This shows, of course, that he is a true fan. What other convenient object would come to mind other than that which is right at hand, to a true fan, i.e. Bheer! The Society of Gimlet-Eye Snobs points out two anachronisms in the movie RAINTREE COUNTY:...."The crowd celebrating the first election of Lincoln sang 'The Battle Hymn of the Republic', although the words were not written until after Bull Run." Also-"Stephen Foster's 'Why No One to Love' was used as dance music in the New Orleans scenes (late 1850's) although it wasn't written until 1862." Tap Reklaw, Alien, has all the qualifications of being one of Earth's Better Fan Reviewers. We say: "Keep him busy" Also: "Dig this one. One of the most promising fanzines to appear." Need we say the last two are our quotes. Should we say more? Get with it, Fen.

ETERNITY #2"(Despite the way it's spelled on the cover)"
Rich Brown. "ETERNITY costs you nothing."
127 Roberts St., Pasadena 3, California.

40 pages of interesting, faaanish material. The mimeo-results on this issues are a bit off-register with some pages almost entirely illegible. Yet, what we could read was interesting. Too bad that more time was not spent in making it a smaller issue, the results might have been better. The Fan Magazine review department, "Drawn & Stappled" is long and covers most of the popular zines appearing regularly, we would like to suggest larger department headings. A good letter section and a big assortment of illustrations and fiction round out this number. And as Lars Bourne says, and we re-quote: "----'I suggest you slop(?) sheet like hell,dad.'----". This zine shows much enthusiasm and we hope to see it improve its appearance.

PHANTASY PRESS #18 (FAPA #82) Daniel McPhail, Editor.
Vol.5, Number 2 /Jan., 1958/
1806 Dearborn, Lawton, Oklahoma.

Issued quarterly for each mailing of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. A card or letter addressed direct to the editor of this publication should bring info on how you can get an introductory copy even tho you may not know how to go about the FAPA business. This issue features a fascinating full photo cover of one of Morris Dollens' compositions. 16 pages of neat mimeography, with "Looking 'Em Over", a comprehensive review and evaluation of the 81st FAPA Mailing being of top interest. "Fragments", The Editor's Dept of Odds & Ends makes very good reading and we wish to quote an item that especially moved our heads in the positive affirmative:

"Maybe I'm different, but I just don't dig these reviews that never seem to have a word to say except criticism. They can take a good-sized fanzine & pass up every interesting article and devote their entire review to lambasting some minor point. Never a thought to the long hours of planning & hard work that went into the magazine. I think a pat on the back is more encouraging to your fellow publisher/writer than a kick in the pants." Understatement of the year (sic): We agree!

-FANZINE QUOTES, and Comments-
(Continued)

CRY of the Nameless #112 (Feb.1958)
Box 92, 920 3rd Ave.,
Seattle 4, Washington. (Price -?)

The Contents Page to this issue (consisting of 40 pages of clear, mimeographed material) is off to a good start with its faaanish ("short novel"), ("novella"), and ("short libel") humorous notations. The unauthorized Editorial gives us sneak preview into the inner operations of getting the issue up, which we like. "Remember: Otto P. Feifer sells protection ((all in caps.)) - Why Be Half-Safe??" See some interesting "Quotes" in "Digging the Fanzines". The WEBER FAAN POLL is mirthsome. We would have sent in our executed copy, except we failed to qualify on one of the questions: "Give three titles in order of preference for this issue's cover ('Out of Dramamine' will be considered unoriginal.) That was our first reaction as well as title. Second being: "Out of Petrol", with "Out" bringing up the rear. That should be clear, however.

Bill Meyers offers a worthwhile review of the s-f prozines, which we hope will be a regular feature each issue. We don't like everything, that should have been a quote but "Perhaps it's just as well." But we do like CRY for many reasons. We think you will like it too, so why not send for a copy. In our haste to get this out on time we could not seem to locate a price. There must be one, at any rate, two dimes inside an envelope saying: "I'd like to try one" should bring a CRY of "Thanks! A copy's on its way!", or at least that's what happens SPHEREside.

METROFAN (New Series) /Jan.1958/

"Faneds can get it by exchange, and others for 50¢ a year" Any way you look at it that's a bargain.

From: David Mac-Donald, 39 East Fourth Street, New York 3, N.Y.

Neat, sharp mimeoed reproduction on full bleached white stock make for easyreading. The cover illustration, by Jukovsky, although only simple line-drawing has an "other-worldness" to it that makes it especially attractive. This fanzine is keen in its Statement of Ownership as required by the Act of Congress...etc....etc.and....ETC....METROFAN just comes out and says, and we think quite adequately: "This magazine is owned". That should clear all doubt of copyright or anything else for that matter. Installment #2 of "The Tragedy of Sam Moskowitz"/ A Parallel Time-Track Adventure by K. Beale and D. MacDonald gains momentum we are eagerly awaiting next issue's installment. This is a smart and sophisticated fan magazine. We wouldn't miss an issue if at all possible.

FANAC "A newsletter-type-thing published frequently by Ron Ellik and Terry Carr, both of whom live at Barrington Hall, 2315 Dwight Way, Berkeley 4, Calif."

"All the News fit to print", is a current quote, and we think a very good statement of policy as well. The TAFF Ballots are out now-----see-----and Heed.

RUR This is put out by David Rike, 2431, one block up from above, and mailed along with FANAC. No statement of policy.

RETRIBUTION #9 John Berry, 31 Cambell Park Ave., AND: Arthur Thompson
Belmont, Belfast, Northern Ireland. 17 Brockham House, B.H.Dr.,
.."a quarterly publication and London, S. W. 2.
can be obtained for the cost of
15¢ or 1/- or anything else that is being currently used."

And no matter what medium of exchange be, GET IT, and Get It going today for your copy if you have not yet met the Official Organ of the G.D.A. A MUST!
You will melt with mirth over the Atom cartoon front & back cover story. Wish this one came out monthly.

-*FANZINE QUOTES, and Comments*-

(Continued)

? NAMN - EFTERLYSES! 1-1-58

SF UNION SKANDINAVIEN,

BOX #19, Tumba, SWEDEN

Sub-rates: 12 issues for \$2.00 (?) And exchange.

"This Fanzine is sent By Sputnik!" 21 pages mimeoed, clever art cuts, cover by what appears to be multilith or some variation of half-tone process. We could try to quote more but would probably be misquoting since it's all Swedish to us. Carl H. Bierbaum, head editor would like to exchange fanzines with other faneds. An announcement was made that in the future it will contain a section in English.

SATA Illustrated #9 Quarterly by Bill Pearson

4516 East Glenrose Ave, Phoenix, Arizona.

25¢ Per copy.

41 Pages of clear-cut, beautifully reproduced ditto in colors, plus front and back covers of out-of-this-fractured-world-fascination. Truly the most beautiful fan magazine to come our way yet. Everything is assembled with exceptional care; even the staples are inserted along a color border-line so that at first sight they do not appear. So much for the appearance. No more quotes about the Henry Fonda playing this time - we're not that sick. And we are dead serious when we say: SATA is real great!

READER' DIGESTED #3 Brooklyn, 26, New York

A clever little digest-size zine consisting of 21 or so mimeographed pages of news and views on the pros-f front. Film reviews, book reviews, faaaanish fiction, and a personals department round out what should turn into an interesting little zine. No address is given above since the trade copy we sent of SPHERE came limping in after making a no-delivery run to the address appearing on RD. Possibly the Eds are in process of changing publishing address. We hope to hear from them again. Interesting quote: "We can't do it all by ourselves, and we would appreciate and acknowledge any help we get." So whenever we are sure of the address why not drop a note and a dime to take a look? We shall.

GROUND ZERO #1 March 17, 1958

Eds: B.C.Dietz, G.N.Raybin, F.M.Dietz, Jr.

3 or more times a year

15¢ copy, 10 issues -\$1.00

A great big welcome is in order for this new Fanzine that is off to a good start with an introduction of its three Editors. Then follows TAFF nomination, Roberta Wild and an enlightening article by Sam Moskowitz on The World S F Society Corporation and Fandom. From this we quote: "Any individual making a regular salary, having any savings or owning any property who permits his name to be listed on the committee of a major science fiction convention that is presented by an unincorporated body is a fool. He is pledging more than his name and his time, he is also risking his good hard cash." Worth repeating, is still another quote from the same Moskowitz article: "The very many years in which world science fiction conventions always showed a profit have lulled fans into a false sense of security. Things have changed. Both the New York and London conventions lost money." Then, there's a "paid advertisement" which says in effect: "Incorporation is too Restrictive.".....("We Rob While They Sleep" Federation. " Etc.) An informative History of the W.S.F.S. together with a listing of the sixteen Conventions to date and announcement of Coming Attractions give some idea of the wide scope of this first issue which should appear more frequently.

-FANZINE QUOTES, and Comments*-
(Concluded)

PAUCITY #1 Spring, 1958

Published occasionally, by Paucity House
891 Lee St., WHITE ROCK, B. C. CANADA

Combined with FAMILY-PAUCITY ---"Five complete novels, and often more.." Twenty-odd pages of Faaaanish material with "Blurbatrocity"...."(how droll)".. taking the lead. Other items will be of particular interest to the well initiated fan. For a first issue, and until some policy materialized, we suspend judgment, however, we can say right now it shows much promise. The inherent satire should develop this into an enjoyable humour-zine within a short time.
"This issue is dedicated to the war against illiteracy in neofanzines. Guess whose side we're on?" See what we mean? Way out, dad!

HORIZON #2 Editors: Russel Brown and Charles Dryer, 3313 Calumet, HOUSTON, TEXAS.
10¢ per copy. Trade. Fourteen pages of dittoed material between heavy weight beige covers. Neat logo on the front cover with a monstrous bird (eagle?)

Advice to girls who want to keep their youth: Don't introduce him to anybody.

clutching the Earth. We may be wrong, but, with such a grasp the winged thing seems to have wrenched the Western Hemisphere (Copyrighted) several degrees to the right. Otherwise the longitude and meridian lines are stretched out of shape. This, of course is nothing more than hair-splitting, of the finest variety. As there is a fine array of material inside this new zine to meet most any fan's expectations no more fine-tooth-combing to find any flaws. Send for a copy. And you'll do as we did. You'll enjoy it to the point of forgetting the minor shortcomings. In the highly original style of review column, "Calculated Risk", under paragraph reviewing this publication on the one-side-of-the-page-printing-deal wonder is expressed: ----"HOW IN GHU DO THEY ((WE)) GET AWAY WITH IT?...Oh,well."

Subtlety is the art of saying what you think and getting out of range before it is understood.

It's your zine, men. Just go ahead and do it! You can if you want, you're in the editorial chair. There is NO law that says you can't use just one side of the page, is there? It's a calculated risk, sure, but then you have an interesting publication and there isn't much risk as long as you entertain. If you use clay bricks, marble tablets, papyrus, parchment, or even papier-mâché....one, or both sides, we still like. That "Oh,well" attitude is one of resignation. Do what you want with your zine-----we do!

VAMPIRE TRADER Vol.1, No.2 (March-1958)

Box 1102, Rt #1. GRANTS PASS, OREGON.

And we quote: "V.T. ((VT, you understand, not that other thing, nor to be confused with JD, either. You understand.)) is published for two reasons: One to allow fen

Women can keep a secret just as well as men, but it usually takes more of them to do it.

to buy, sell &/or trade Si-Fi and Fantasy with each other. The other is to let it be known the mags I have to sell or trade.....Anyone can advertise absolutely free in VT and receive free copies...." Published monthly, contact S.B.Barnes at above address for details.

Will end-QUOTES for this issue see U later.

This comes as a last-minute dead line announcement. The three pages which were scheduled to be where this single page now is, would have carried a special article of Faanish interest. But we did not receive it in time. So, if this issue seems to appear a bit padded --it's only because it's true.

Another last-minute change is our own schedule of publication. We have kept up the regular pace of bi-monthly publication into our third year now. We have to devote a little time now to a transfer of prime base of operations. We shall be late in coming out with our next issue. Number 11 will possibly appear from a new address. We enjoyed very much our Florida location, but due to circumstances beyond our control a change must be made. In the past your letters have always been requested. Now, we ask that you hold up on any correspondence addressed to our present Contents-Page listing until you receive your next copy of SPHERE. The new location will then be given at which time we hope to resume our regularity. All subscriptions holders: Please be assured that we keep strict records and you will receive all copies due. In no way do we wish to sound the panic button. No, nothing like that! Just a change of base. Two months---not too much longer, then everything will be back in orbit.

Two great fanzines just arrived. Too late to get into "Fanzine Quotes". TWIG with what appears the best issue yet sports a brilliant cover. CRIFANAC has a front and back cover that tops anything we've seen lately. Both zines look very good. Hope it's not too late to review them next issue.

We already have in our files for early publication three good stories and illustrations: THE GENTLE MONSTERS
PLANET FALL
and
SATELLITE

They will appear very soon.

Will start packing the space ship now. Will probably remain on Earth for a while.

In the vastness of space, man will have an infinite choice of flight paths. Survival will depend on selecting the correct one. (Depend on Douglas, first in Aviation) NEWSWEEK

UNDER: "Cinema" in TIME Magazine did you see.....

An article giving a review on "Peyton Place" among other things has this to say:
 "For the first time in memory, a New England town is filmed with neither the
 whales-and-ale quaintness of a picture postcard nor the brooding gloom of an
 H. P. Lovecraft horror story."
 We liked the reference. The memory of HPL remains ever fresh with us.

[illegible]

When you'll admit you have a lot to learn,
You've learned a lot.

Many of our Readers read this Department First.
That's as good a reason as any to call this section -

The Last Word

First we have a letter from:

Stony Barnes, Grants Pass, Oregon. - VAMPIRE PUBLICATIONS

".....Thanks very muc for a bloody good issue of SPHERE, as usual. Enclosed is the #2-3 issue of my new monthly fmz, VAMPIRE TRADER which needs much egoboo and readers/contributors.....RETRIBUTION was a very good story for its type,as good as anything you read in the pro-zines today. It's a wonder that TWIG isn't a pro himself, by now. But then, all good fans hate the dirty pros don't they? ((Watch your language! -Eds)) The illo for RET however, looks like something Broussard did with with his left hoof. ((He did, only it was Tony Allen, and he did it with his right hoof. Righthoofed, ya know.-Eds)) By the way, did he also do the cover?It's much better.....((Thanks, Stony, no Cover #9 was by H.Snyder. See "Sphere Cover Acknowledgments", this issue. -Eds)) The results of the Art Poll were well worth the time you spent on it, at least to me. I find but one of the covers I voted for on the list; but that's the only one I have anyway.....
.....Most of the letters were of high interest.....your answer to Lynn Hickman's letter was by far, the most interesting, if I do over work that adjective. Thanks again, slaves....."

((And slaves we are when it come to turning out SPHEREs. It's so difficult to get each one perfectly round, etc., soon as we detect any squarishness creeping in we quickly re-tool and haul out the rounderupper to see that everyone /issues,i.e./ is un-squared-away. It's swell to be appreciated. We'll slave harder than ever now! - Slave Ed #47649 $\frac{1}{2}$..)) ((OOOps! Got two letters from you this issue. Page 19 was typed last issue, we just now found it, so You'll know we are working too hard))

FROM: George W. Fields, Fan Publicist: SOLACON Montebello, California.

A News-Flash on the World Con doings:

RICHARD MATHESON, Guest of Honor.

ANTHONY BOUCHER, Toast Master

Auction material of special interest: A Finley cover painting and some interior illos by same.

Send memberships to: Rick Sneary, Treasurer. 2962 Santa Ana St., South Gate, Calif.

\$1.00 Membership, \$1.00 entrance fee (both may be paid at one time if you plan to attend) Membership gives you card, progress reports and bulletins.

LASFS to put on Future Fashion Show.

And that's the story until now."

FROM: Dr. Raymond Wallace, Bellefonte, Penn.-

".....I sent for your magazine and a dozen others, intending to put out one of my own and wishing to see what other people had done in the same line. I contemplate having an article on copyright in my first issue, and will send you a copy. While we are on the subject, you might ask Larry Kent what he meant in his story in the anniversary issue ((OUR DEAR DEPARTED)) by the expressions 'milli-sun-cycles' and 'deci-cycles'. From the context, 'sun-cycle' seems to mean a day. 'Milli' actually means a thousandth, and 'deci' means a tenth. Five milli-cycles, then, would mean five thousandths days, something that doesn't fit the story. Five thousand days doesn't seem to fit too well, either; it would indicate that the women were a hell of a long time making up their minds---almost fifteen of our years.

"If you happen to have seen any of my letter in various magazines lately, you will know that it is just this sort of ignorant carelessness I am campaigning against in current science-fiction."

((Help! Is there another Doctor in the house?

Seriously, Dr. Wallace, we do appreciate your suggestions on copyright as well as your careful analysis of our fiction. Although we have not had time to hear from Larry Kent as to what he meant on the "cycle" business, we seem to have had no difficulty when we read... the manuscript nor the final re-reading in print. Don't you suppose he meant just that: The women were a hell of a long time making up their minds--they usually are, so why not on Venus? Just for the record we checked:-MIL-LI: (mille, thousand), a combining form meaning: /2nd meaning/ 2. One thousand, as in milli-fold. FURTHER: MILLION: A thousand thousands; 1,000,000. 2. A million monetary units, etc., 3. An indefinite but very large number; very many. WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD DICTIONARY 1954 and 1953 - Copyright. We need more readers like you, Doctor Wallace, you offer us a challenge to produce more and better fiction; and this we will try to do. One year for Venus would be equal to 225 days on Earth. Some authorities seem to think their day might be of the same length since its period of rotation is not exactly known. Below such a thick blanket of atmosphere it is no small wonder that its inhabitants had such a hazy method of keeping time. -Eds))

FROM: Lynn Hickman, Mt. Vernon, Illinois. - JD, SCURVY, ARGASSY, and Others.

"Enjoyed SPHERE #9 very much but can't take time out to really comment on it. March, April, May and June are my busiest months.....Am going to run off ARGASSY this week-end. JD will be a month or so late, am planning to combine it with SCURVY a little later....."

((Would like to have your comments, Lynn. Know what you mean about having little time. Somehow we still manage to keep our schedule up, however. Will get copies of those pics to you sometime soon.-----we promise. -Eds))

FROM: Jean (et Annie) Linard, Vesoul, Haute-Saone, France.

"I'm very sorry about another of those hand-typos of mine, that showed up in the latest SPHERE ((LAST WORD, Dept.)).....Never in my life (and I'm still inside it) I'd have accepted under any circumstances to write such things as: "We could write much clever things, too." It should have read "We wish we could write much clever things, too." I bet the "wish we" slipped either out of my mind, or off the typer---don't recall whether the letter was typed or longhanded, (and we like'em even longer,-this one wasn't long enough.-Eds)) We regret the fault of ours resulted in sounding disagreeable, and in particular towards Cookie, MD.....Naturally, for SPHERE best wishes and kindest thoughts. Remember, --NEVER FORGET AND NEVER ALLOW PEOPLE TO SAY NEVER TO YOU. P.S. - By the way, WHO IN THE WORLD could it have been who wrote that "Vesoul---Or---~~Censored~~?????" ((We are sure that no one interpreted your unique expression to mean anything derogatory---and particularly Cookie. Do you know of any other fans there who would like to receive an introductory copy of our fan magazine? If so let us know. -Eds))

FROM: Ed Chamberlain, Youngstown, Ohio. -

".....I just received the latest copy of SPHERE, so will comment now on the last two issues. Nov-Dec '57: Two questions - In "Vesoul, or Censored" what in the hell was the censored word? ((CENSORED, man! C E N S O R E D, you know how it is, couldn't clear it for publication. -Eds)) Also, who is Cookie, MD? Anyone I know? ((Yep)). "The Space Bridge" was one of Mocabee's best poems. "IN HIS OWN TIME" was good, but I didn't like the ending."((How else could it have ended? You like happy endings? Gives for good variety to have some sad, poignant endings once in a while-Eds))

FROM: Stony Barnes, Grants Pass, Oregon.-

"Received my copy of SPHERE #8 just yesterday, (Jan.18th)and have already given it a review in VAMPIRE. Also, somehow I've managed enough time to read it. Fandom travels at such a rate of speed these days, you have to give up such non-essentials as eating, sleeping, school, girls, etc., in order to keep up.

"Anyhow, thanks very much for SPHERE and for giving VAMPIRE a review.....in "Fanzine Quotes". This column is not only DIFFERENT but revolutionary. Most fanzines use the average, run-of-the-mill "fanzine reviews"; but SPHERE has come up with a real gem. Wish I had thought of it first. ((Thanks, Stony, we blush! Within the last month now we have noted several zines using this same basic idea. -Eds)) By the way, you have VAMPIRE priced at 5¢, I realize that many different prices mentioned were confusing, but we have now come out with 10¢ as stated in the second issue of same. When I speak of "we" I mean a new fan who is a school buddy of mine, and now the managing editor of VAMP. It's not that I'm trying to plug....((But natch of course not! You could use, however, and to good advantage the once popular song directions for proper accompaniment: and we q-u-o-t-e: "Vamp, until ready" - See? Another free plug, yet. NOW, come on now and get with it for more regular issues, you are off to a good start....and,...when you say "we" you mean more than we do at times. That sounds a bit vague, but then it is a bit difficult for more than one editor to type out a reply. Have you ever tried it? Not much fun, we say. Unless of course, but then we won't go into that, it would take us way out to say the most.-Eds)) "The repro is mostly excellent in your zine. I've never seen a multilith. Are they very expensive to acquire and operate? ((Yes, and especially yes, to operate-Eds)) More than a hecto or mimeo, I suppose.....Who does the illustrations? Is it A. J. Allen? He's the only guy mentioned along that line.....The cover on #8 was kinda out of shape, don't you think? I mean, it looks like her----they----sort of up instead -----Ahhhh, well. It's not bad.....((Just like we liked! Of course any gal

Short Joke Dept.

A young married woman worked in one of the Southern railroad offices. She was extremely bashful, as the story goes, so just when it came time for her to don a maternity dress she was so upset that she was on the verge of quitting her job even though her salary was needed. Finally, after talking it over with the other 30 girls in her office, explaining how conspicuous she'd feel as the only one wearing a maternity dress, the entire feminine contingent agreed to wear similar garments to make her feel at ease. On the very first morning, the chief clerk walked in and dropped dead!

would be under a strain holding up a big ball - we could have said SPHERE, see? - such as the little Miss was doing on #8. That was drawn by Bruce Broussard. Tony Allen did the fini-piece for "BRIGHT STAR" in this issue. Now back to your letter, we've enjoyed this two-talkie-letter muchly.-Eds)) How come you don't print the complete addresses of your correspondents in THE LAST WORD ?....I got a big kick out of the bit: "Besides, we have the EDSEL, don't we?" in HemiSPHERES, on the sputnik once-over.....Yours in a nut- SPHERE (shell, that is.)....." ((No addresses, most of the writers (do) not even want to have their names on the letters they write. A sort of policy we adopted from our earliest issues.-Eds))

-THE LAST WORD-

FROM: Jean Tidwell, Seattle, Washington.-

"Thank you for having introduced me to a very interesting and, to me, completely different type magazine. I don't know how this kind of periodical had escaped me in the past.

"While reading through the November-December issue of SPHERE, I had the feeling of shedding my skin and slipping off into a different period of time and space. It was a stimulating experience. We get so hide-bound in our little worlds! Your publication is certainly suited to this post sputnik era.....Leslyn MacDonald Mocabee's "The Space Bridge" communicated a universal feeling. It is Beautiful. I also particularly liked "IN HIS OWN TIME" by Eric Danvers. It set the spherical tone for the magazine and reveals Danvers as a sensitive, imaginative writer.....My only suggestion for improvement of your publication would be to give more attention to its appearance. The cover is attractive and appropriate, but the inside pages show too much frugality with white space. Wider margins together with additional drawings would brighten it.....Again, many thanks for having sent a copy along my way. I am looking forward to reading future issues."

((We are pleased to have a new reader always, but especially when we feel that it means your first contact with science-fiction fandom. Your appreciation of the introductory issue together with your suggestions for SPHERE's improvement mean very much to us. The fact that you are a successful professional editor yourself adds weight to your letter and views. After you have become better acquainted in this field perhaps we may be fortunate in securing a short story or article from you. Bigger and better issues are planned for the future---let us know how we are progressing. -Eds))

FROM: C. B. Culp, Chicago, Illinois.-

"I just finished reading the Jan-Feb issue of SPHERE, and as usual enjoyed it very much. Especially the art work done on my poem ("Fantasy"). The only thing I could see wrong, was in the 5th line of said poem. It should be "Suddenly it ends at once," not "Suddenly it ends as once,". Otherwise it was a very great issue. I will look forward to next issue to read Mr. Chamberlain's story "BRIGHT STAR". Keep up the good work----and I know it is-----".

((We GOOFED! AND we apologize. What we need----in addition to a good 5¢ cigar----is a good proof-reader. Send us some more material, please. Give us another chance.EDS))

FROM: Barbara W. Lex, Clarence, New York.- BARBARIAN.

".....Enjoyed TWIG'S story a lot. Didn't care too much for the poetry, but the art was better thish. Your Goodhousekeeping seal surprised me. "Fanzine Quotes": me-thinks that "Yandro" is the name of a mountain in a folk song, the Coulsons being folk song fanciers, no doubt this is the source. I'm not sure of the name of the song, but I think that the lyrics go: "Look away, look awaaaaay over Yandro," or something like that. The song was sung on TV a while back and I thot "So THAT'S what it is!" Speaking of Fanzines and titles, BARBARIAN, my namesake and fanzine will be ready in a few weeks, so how about a trade? ((It's a deal!-Eds)) BARB has articles and columns by such fans as Ron Ellik, Alan Dodd, Guy Terwilleger, Lars Bourne, and Roger Horrocks. If I left anybody out it is my own poor memory, not their lack of merit. ((Sounds great. Will this be a solo-project, or do you have others there to help you?-Eds)) SPHERE is a DIFFERENT fmz-----but, I'll be hanged if I can pin it down to just how and why it is different. I'll just keep reading SPHERE as often as they keep coming and keep trying to figure out what it is about it that I like."

((Barb, we think that is a GREAT Compliment! Nevermind trying to figure it out, we just hope that you will continue to enjoy reading this "zine". A few more testimonials like yours and we'll come out with some by-lines----watch and see! Meanwhile, we will be watching for BARBARIAN. You have already been given a plug above opposite your name as we do for all Fanzine Editors when letters are published here. -Eds))

-THE LAST WORD-

FROM:Len Moffatt, Downey, California.-

"Thank you for sending me SPHERE, for putting a plug for SOLACON in same, for writing me and for joining the SOLACON! I did plan to write you re SPHERE and the SOLACON before your letter arrived but as you can imagine, helping to plan and prepare a Convention (as well as personal biz) has really cut into my so-called spare time. Nevertheless, I am more than happy to take a lil' time to say I DO like your mag. I like it because it is neat, easy to read and contains interesting material. Items I liked best in #8 were "Vesoul.. .." which I presume was written by one of my faithful SFP readers..... (Who else could "Cookie,MD" be ????) The "Fanzine Quotes" I like, and from glancing thru "The Last Word" I suspect I would enjoy that too, as letter depts. have always been favorite items with me. Ah me, come 1959 I will turn SFP over to some eager fan editor and publisher and be content to issue an occasional one-shot, and thus have more spare time to read the fanzines I get, and be able to make more intelligent comment on them. (SFP is currently suspended so I'll have more time to make like a convention secretary...) Will keep you posted on SOLACON news as it shows up..... Again, many thanks for your interest and co-operation and you ARE to be congratulated for bringing out a mag on a regular bi-monthly schedule. (I started SFP that way, but had to go quarterly, and now..not at all....) Hoping to se you in "South Gate in '58!"....."

((Thanks, Len, for the thoughtful views. Hope you don't decide to give up SFP. If you do, however, we would be happy to have you as one of our West Coast Corresponding Editors for new & views over there. What do you say? -Eds))

FROM:Stephen F. Schultheis, Warren, Ohio.-

".....I have some pix of the Costume Ball at the 1956 Newyorcon.....but they are in a jumble somewhere in the attic. I will get them sorted out one of these days soon and send you copies, or let you pick for yourself at the Solacon. Were you planning to be there? Hope to see you come Summer....."

((Thanks, Steve, we would like very much to have copies of them all. Possibly we can arrange to have some of them reproduced on a metal master and use them in coming issues of SPHERE. It would be much better if you sent them the first chance you get. Mainly because we do plan to get out to the Solacon and would like to spend more time actually "shooting new pics", rather than miss out like we have in the past. Of course we can depend upon you to have your usual battery of photo equipment. It would no doubt be much wiser just to ask you to take on the additional duties of being our ace photographer at large to cover the Con for us. It's five months away----but we've got the old spirit up strong already. We've been told that there usually is much spirit(s) at these World Cons. You new readers-----why not give the Solacon a try this year? You'll NEVER regret it! ----Let's see now, we got carried away, and like that....The Eds, of course.))

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LETTERS FROM THE FOLLOWING WHICH BECAUSE OF TIME AND SPACE (sounds like s-f?) DID NOT MAKE THIS ISSUE. BUT WE DO WISH TO MAKE ACKNOWLEDGMENT, AND IN SOME RESPECTS HAVE ANSWERED DIRECT TO THEM ALREADY..... THANKS:

Guy Terwilleger, K. Martin Carlson, Jean Linard, Tom Reamy, Hugh Snyder, Colin Keith, Dan McPhail, John Koning, Stony Barnes, David McCarroll, Ron Ellik, Lynn Hickman, Barbara Morgan, Mary Dz,etc., and others that we have not yet put in the letter file. We like the Readers' Department of all publications, and it irritates us like crazy when there is a shortage----of letters----OR, the space (there's that s-f word again, which recently has come into its own)in which to print them. We are looking forward to next issue. Let us know what you think of this one. See you in May-June.