

stellar 16

is published at the sign of the bearded QWERTYUIOPress, and, for the most part, written by Ted E. White, who receives his mail at 1014 N. Tuckahoe St., Falls Church, Virginia.

COMBINED WITH GAFIA #12 & DIMENSIONS-----

YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT, but S is still being published weekly. The reason why you won't believe it is that it doesn't seem to be mailed weekly. As you know, S rides piggy-back on Magnus' RUMBLE, and right now John seems to have a block on cutting stencils, although--or perhaps because--he has over seventeen pages of letters on hand. So, White-zines have been accumulating hither and yon, until this will make the fourth zine on hand and unmailed. If RUMBLE isn't completed soon, I'll mail these zines on without it...

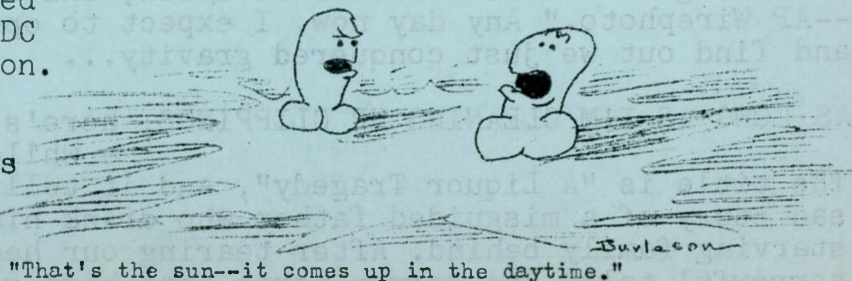
THE OTHER DAY John found a box filled to the brim with such goodies as SKYHOOK #1, old SFB's, Seventh Fandom zines, VULCAN, CONFUSION, and a large number of his own zines, SF and SATURDAY MORNING GAZETTE. "Smug", as the last-named was known, was begun in 1953 as a weekly, usually one sheet long. It probably ranks as the pioneer of the modern weekly fanzines. It was fun to read those old issues over again and to recapture the mood of fandom as I knew it then, through slightly deeper-hued rose glasses. It was also interesting to compare the paragons of 6th and 7th fandoms with the latter-day leaders. CONFUSION was one of the neatest, and it was sloppy, showing no forethought in layout. VULCAN contained a number of underinked pages, several so faint as to be unreadable. Even OPUS rarely contained more than one good feature an issue: Harry Warner's ALL OUR YESTERDAYS (which was recently revived for INNUENDO). Nowadays we have our GRUE's, HYPHEN's, COPSLSA's, all of which feature a much higher level of both material and presentation. Sad but true, all too often the Good Old Days exist only through the sufference of nostalgia...

GALAXY has initiated a radical change: namely, it dropped the words "Science Fiction" from its title, and replaced them with "Magazine". When you consider that the GSF Novels were recently revamped into pocket-book form, it seems obvious that GALAXY is undergoing a tremendous upheaval. What will happen next?

THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION's first issue under Robert Mills will be out shortly.

It is obvious that F&SF is undergoing more than a temporary change of editors, as this issue features new logotype, a VENTUREish cover by Emsh, and revamped interior title typography. The printing and layout seems poorer too, as title pages are started too low in places, and endings are crowded in others. I shouldn't think the substitution of Mills as editor should have such an effect, but it seems to have. I hope things will straighten out soon.

CONVENTIONALITIES: As I mentioned last issue, DC is bidding for the '60 convention. (so, it seems, is Philly. Go DC!) As we've kicked tentative programs around in bull sessions on the subject, we've agreed emphatically on one thing: the convention will stress, in its



"That's the sun--it comes up in the daytime."

formal programing only science fiction and science fiction fandom.

It is really amazing when you stop to consider it: how many convention programs have featured dull, grade school type, expositions on science; presented from articles rejected, no doubt, by SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN and destined for MECHANIX ILLUSTRATED; or obtuse dissertations on the relative properties of isotopes 61 and 62 of B.A.R.F.

I remember the NyCon program as being particularly dull in this respect. Among the other dragging reports on Mankind's Next Step, we heard a man speak on the importance of science fiction stressing the need for more engineers. We pressingly need more and more engineers to build bigger and better weapons, he said. (He then gave a brief run-down on some of the super-weapons our Glorious Engineers had prepared for the process of exterminating the human race.) It was the duty of science fiction to glorify the slaughter of human beings by American-Engineer-built weapons, he said. I got up and walked out.

Whoever was responsible for scheduling that numbskull to speak at a science fiction convention should have been shot.

Not only is it rather insulting to assume that the average fan or reader is interested in science qua science--and force him to sit through three or four boring hours if he wants to take in the formal session--it also seems to hold true, with the exception of stf based speakers such as Ley or deCamp, that the science speakers hold stf fans and readers in mild contempt. There is usually a condescending air about them as they acknowledge stf's little trophies of prediction, and then go on to show how far off the beam stf was the rest of the time. There seems to be a tacit understanding among such speakers that stf really exists only to popularize science to those who could not otherwise understand it, and that anyone stupid enough to attend a convention of this nature must be humored until the men in the white coats arrive.

At any rate, the DC Convention will soft-pedal science in favor of what the convention's really all about: science fiction and fandom. Novel idea, what?

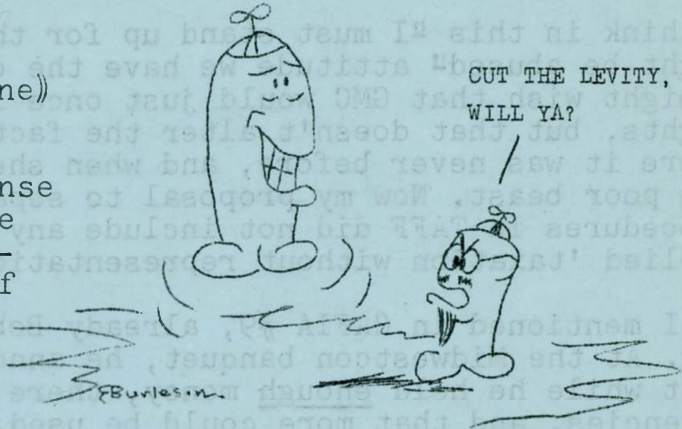
REMEMBER BUCK ROGERS' FLYING BELT? Well, it's nearly a reality. I wish I could print the photo accompanying the clipping I have here from the Washington EVENING STAR of June 19, but I'll just have to quote the caption. Imagine a man clad in what looks like a combat uniform, crash helmet, with a tank on his back, suspended about four feet off of the ground. Caption: "JUMPER GOES UP IN SMOKE-- Smoke envelopes Ed Kurczewski in demonstration leap with rocket powered jump belt strapped to his back. Belt is designed to boost mobility of troops in future battles. Mr. Kurczewski's unit, fabricated to establish proof of jump belt principle, enabled him to leap distances up to 20 feet, according to Reaction Motors Division, Thiokol Corp., of Danville, N.J. --AP Wirephoto." Any day now, I expect to open a paper to an inside page and find out we just conquered gravity...

AS LONG AS I'M CLEANING UP CLIPPINGS, here's a delightful tract I found a while ago, which bears quotation. The title is "A Liquor Tragedy", and it tells, in broken English, the sad story of a misguided father who drank himself to death and left a starving family behind. After tearing our hearts into shreds with this sorrowful tale, the sermon moves into high gear: "You can vote liquor

for money, make liquor for money, sell liquor wholesale and retail for money, blight human beings for money, but, remember, you are on your way to judgement and doom. Death is not going to change your wicked, selfish money-loving soul. The teachings of our Lord Jesus compel us to believe that Hell is a fearful place of torment, and that ETERNITY is such a LONG TIME. (!) When you awake in that HORRIBLE PLACE and spend MILLIONS OF YEARS there, will you think you got the worth of your liquor money?

"Reader, do you know that Christ has already taken the punishment of your sins, so that you can escape the damnation of hell? But unless you come to Him as a poor, lost sinner and put your trust in Him, all that He suffered for you will only increase your eternal misery. (Underlines mine) Oh, turn to Christ from sin now."

If I were a Christian I'd take offense at the bullying manner of this piece of very unChristian trash. As a non-Christian, I just get a laugh out of such phrases as "ETERNITY is such a LONG TIME" and the other juicy bits scattered throughout. The thing was published by the Pilgrim Tract Soc. Inc, Randleman, N.C. They advise that many more may be had for the postage "as the Lord supplies the means." Not, I'll bet, if He knows about it...



THIS TIES INTO RATHER NEATLY JACK VANCE'S "PARAPSYCHE" which is the featured "novel" in the latest AMAZING. I read it, not hoping for much, since Vance's recent novels (such as the one in SATELLITE) haven't been so hot. Actually, "Parapsyche" is not terribly good as a story, but its theme is red-hot. It details the decision of a man and his wife to search into psychic phenomena and the afterlife. The wife's brother is a fighting exangelist with about the philosophy expressed in the above-quoted tract. He builds up quite a following, and vows death to his sister and her husband for meddling in things which Should Not Be Known. In the end, he kills the hero, and then is himself killed. The spirit of the hero fights his spirit, and the hero wins and returns himself to earth as a living human. Pretty thin as a story, and not well developed. But the attacks upon the mentality that calls itself Christian and which thinks in terms like those expressed in the tract are violent and worth the time taken to read the story. Vance has neatly captured and caricatured this type of person in Hugh Bonney. I suspect the story will turn up a bit of controversy. Vance prefaced the story with the statement that it is not an attack upon Christianity, but I doubt it will stop some readers from denouncing him as an atheist. Personally, I didn't think AMAZING had the guts to print such a story. It is reassuring to note though that it still hasn't printed any good stories in the past eight or so years...

GERTRUDE M. CARR writes: "Re TAFF, I think MZB's suggestion of a closed group of fans, with a definite membership on a semi-permanent basis (somewhat like the present apas) wherein the members can make up their own rules of eligibility both of membership and candidacy, raising all the money themselves and, consequently, having all the say-so about it, is even better than the previous suggestion to separate the voting

from the money-raising. Much more practical too. My main beef with regard to the previous set-up, was the implied snobbishness of one group of fans trying to tell another group, "You can't play with us--you're not faaans!" while at the same time taking their money but refusing them recognition. In a closed group with a definite membership, this implication does not exist. Nobody's feelings need be hurt by any implied rejection--at least not any more than is incurred when a person is refused membership to any other limited or exclusive group. If ampubbers want to secure TAFF to themselves enough to pay dues for the privilage of voting in it--that's an entirely different matter. I'd go along with that quite peaceably."

I think in this "I must stand up for the poor non-pubbers whose rights might be abused" attitude we have the crux of GMC's battle against TAFF. I might wish that GMC would just once let others look out for their own rights, but that doesn't alter the fact that she can find an underdog where it was never before, and when she does, she all-too-noisily defends the poor beast. Now my proposal to separate the voting and money-raising procedures in TAFF did not include any implied snobbishness, nor the implied 'taxation without representation' when GMC seems to find in it.

As I mentioned in GAFIA #9, already Bob Madle has started the ball rolling. At the Midwestcon banquet, he announced that voting was over, but that while he held enough money, there wasn't much to take care of emergencies, and that more could be used. He then said that contributions would be welcome--he would hand out a ballot to anyone interested in contributing, but the space for voting must be blank when the ballot was returned with the money. In other words, the money would be a flat donation, and the doners would get no "say" on who would be elected. Later on that evening, a number of mss. and original illustrations were auctioned off for TAFF.

The people who contributed outright, and those who bought auctioned items had not the least "say-so" about TAFF, and I didn't notice any complaints. If an auction of the same type were put on at every regional convention, and at the World Con as well, it is certain that TAFF could meet all expenses that way alone. However, I doubt such an all-out scheme would be practical. Nevertheless, used in conjunction with raffles, outright charity-soliciting, and other schemes of a similar nature, I think the money could be easily raised.

As to the voting, it would be simple to have a TAFF booth at the big Con, where the interested could fill out ballots, and extra ballots could be circulated through the fanzines as they are now. This would insure that everyone who is interested in voting, will be able to, and should appreciably cut the "stuffing" which has gone on in the past.

I'm sure that GMC will find a new unrepresented underdog in the above, but I'm damned if I can. How about you?

JOHN MAGNUS AND I have some startling new plans underway which, if they come through, should shock fandom to its very core. Don't you wish you knew what they are?

