

Speer's

△ SUSTAINING PROGRAM △

WINTER/46



Get yourself
to Philadelphia!

GEORGE ET CELIA

We have just received notice of the NJF election results, and are considerably heartened thereby. (Though Tucker would have had a precedent for counting and announcing the constitutional voting results also.) The election of Widner in spite of circumstances reflecting adversely on him at the moment of voting, looks like a mandate to throw the chicken out. On the Directorate, the large vote for Elsie Janda is surprising; I didn't know she was well known. Would have liked to see Spencer and Kadet on the Board, but it seems strong enough anyway. Now if we can clear the constitutional decks, we may be able to start accomplishing something. (PS: I move the Directorate to reconsider and annul the choice of an emblem, for reasons sufficiently stated by Sneary in the last National Fantasy Fan.)

Thanks to all who sent me Christmas cards. I think nearly all of you were on my card list too. Some few were bumped from my list because the number of cards were (read was) limited, and after filling up the number I thought of someone else who, perhaps for political reasons, mustn't be missed. Tucker, for instance. He being the #1 Face, I had to pretend to affirm friendship or he'd run me out of fandom.

We hight Jack Speer; we dwell at 4518 16th NE, Seattle 5 Wn

REMARKS ON THE THIRTY-SEVENTH MAILING

Pp 1, 2, 3, 4

How nice to have a mailing small enough to review comfortably in four pages!

QUOTEWORTHY QUOTES

P 5

My interests seem to have contracted to the art of thinking.

MAN SAGT

Pp 6, 7, 8, 9,
10, 11, 12, 13

There was also a word of comment from Bill Evans.

REJECTED: SHANGRI-LA!

P 13

The supply of stuff like this is limitless.

ITEMS FROM MY SCRAPBOOKS

P 14

If that poster weren't pasted so fast, I'd like to have a copy of it in my scrapbook too.

LAST STOP TO LIMBO

P 14

The draft is rather poorly worded.

HUSBANDRY

P 15

After this there's a gap in my files.

CATCHING UP WITH CAMPBELL

Pp 16, 17, 18
and below

Caught.

(Continued from p 13) One of the chief interests the story had for me was the fumbling attempts of the author to use idiomatic American (frequently he came up with bad slang instead), and unconscious intrusions of Anglicisms like "Not likely". "Time Enough 34.5 was pretty well written but of minor interest. "Hand of the Gods 41/36.6 for the first time gives us a little history of the Linn civilization, and makes certain what was not before, that the locale is in the future. "As to Brass Tacks, I should like to be the first to point out to reader Speer that Edwards did not propose to spell hate hait; as is obvious from the title of the article, "long a" is spelled ei. But Edwards himself at one point slipped on this spelling. "Ley's letter shows that he hasn't yet mastered English perfectly. "succeeded to land" for "succeeded in landing", the comma where a semicolon is called for, and other minute evidences. But Campbell has done well with him. I remember how broken his English was in an old Geomology.

REMARKS ON THE THIRTY-SEVENTH MAILING

According to my micrometer, Micron comes from a point a millimeter west of Seattle, so we'll lead off with it. Anyway, it'll go into the Friaco folder, which comes ahead of Setlah in my cabinet. "Are you now named the Golden Gate Futurian Society? The terminological meanderings of the club are a bit difficult to follow. "Having skipped the second edition introduction to SAS, and being yet short of Part VII (in which i fondly hope all will become clear), i'm not certain what multiordinality means, but as i get all the multiordinal meanings have a particular order, and therefore "multiordinal terms" does not mean words which have different meanings in different fields such as literature, mechanics, society,. Am i wrong? The movie rattlesnake is probably a good example of confusion of orders of abstraction, but i hope that null-A training won't deprive people of the power to enjoy a spine-chiller. "Wholly reject or wholly accept" i don't get at all. "Your example of seeking definitions in order to discover the un-speakable level differs seriously from K's. His idea was that after you've tried to define a word, you should try to define the undefined words you've used in the definition, and then try to define at least the key words used in those definitions and so on, till you start repeating yourself. Thus "inject" means "put in". "Put" means "change the location of in a direction away from the actor". "In" can be described in terms of structure. "Change" and "location" and "direction away" are defined in terms of space and time. Newtonians would stop there, but nonaristotelians go on to define space-time in terms of structure. Probably this is not the only bedrock that one might work down to, but it's the one that Korzybski seems to prefer. "Invalidation of observer-observed elementalism inject uncertainty principle into everything? Not if the act of observing does not affect the aspect of the object that you're interested in. If you want to know the smell of a rose, just sample some of the odor it's putting out all the time. Unless you rub your nose in the flower, you haven't interfered with its usual condition. "Cartoon is clever. "The name of Harry's individualism is Horizons, Riggs, even if the dept heading "Memories from Manila" is more prominently displayed. "I read everyone's reviews, indeed every word in every fanzine i get, and i think there are a few other such dopes. "Your comment on the Solution Unsatisfactory ending of Slaves of the Lamp sounds like you hadn't read the last few paragraphs. "What's the "Culture Series"? You should have used somewhat more care with the punctuation in the dialog on Astounding. Either use quotemarks all the way thru, and 'single quotes' on titles (if you must set them off), or indicate the change of speaker by a prefixed abbreviation, e.g. K. Hon.: "Will they point and focus the telescope for you? Night after the meteor shower last summer i went over to our little observatory, but the astronomer had the scope aimed at a double star and i got the impression twouldn't have done any good to ask him to change it. (I have no idea whether i expected to focus the telescope on a meteorite!)

There were probably some remarks i wanted to make here on the last Sustaining Program, but if so they've slipped my mind.

One thing i do have to say about Matters of Opinion: The chap whose suggestion of Nov Feb May Aug mailing days i so warmly received was nobody but me. At the time i wrote, though, this somehow slipped my mind, and dat's de lawd's truth. Perhaps it's difficult for us to see ourselves as anonymous statistics. I might add here another objection i have to the January date (and much the same reasons apply to December): I get back from a yuletide trip at the last minute before classes start, and when i should be getting a good start on the books for this quarter, and attending to other beginning-of-quarter special duties, i find publications to be made up, or at least completed, for the January deadline. Don't say i could avoid this by doing them in December; i'm tied up in studying for exams until the last possible minute before taking off on a holiday. Anybody else in the same boat?

I see that Moonshine's paper is gray rather than brown. Anyway, the red ink stands out very poorly on it. And I can hardly read my marginal notations. One says that the meter of the poem is ragged, and it is that. Meter is such a simple thing to understand that ignoring it seems inexcusable. "OUTR'E SPACE" is a new one. I've often seen the word spelled "outr'e", though. I think we should pronounce it and spell it "outr'e", or spell and pronounce it "ootray", or better yet use an English word instead. "Two clicks for Dumaire's 'unmindful of he who watched'".

Fantasy Amateur: My reply to Warner in current Man Sagt would have been more appropriate here addressed to Rothman's suggestion about points for writing and editing. "Wesson says that outsiders are likely to think erroneously that NAPA campaigns are bitter, when actually they're talking that way in fun, as is proved by behind-the-scenes co-operation."

Weird Tales Want List does not inspire extensive comment.

Would have liked more Walt in Walt's Wramblings. Or why not revive Chanzi-clear? "Ladd is probably a very nice guy, but his style of writing rather irritates me. It's not just leisurely; it's damn wordy, and for some reason (whether because of the indirect way of saying things, or from the tendency for attention to wander) requires undue effort to read. Maybe I just don't go for book reviews. But as to the style, if I could think of Ladd as writing in good 19th-century tradition, I might forgive the lack of terseness; but such a thought is prevented by the presence of many garden variety errors in grammar and mistakes in diction, most of which can't be dismissed as possibly misprints. "A further thought on book reviews of this type: Their present passing value could be greatly enhanced if a book review index were being made of them all along, and going back into past fanzines too. I suggest this project for the next newcomer who wants to do something, instead of a new fanzine. At least, book reviews should be shown on the cards of the Great Bib."

Supplement to Guteto: Tut, Mrrt, do you pronounce it "Polland"? Algiers is not a country. Why U.S.N.A.? And why identify Switzerland's poetic name, Helvetia? "What kind of material would interest FAPA members and still be suitable for Guteto? In my opinion, none. Assuming that it must remain an Esperanto proselyting organ, that is. Is that about your unfamiliarity with the English language a joke? "From Lancy's review of the negro newspaper, it seems to me that it is the matter, not the manner, of the paper's reporting that attracted his attention. The "gossipy and informal style" if applied to news with no scandalous tinge would probably not make an interesting journal, particularly for a community of many thousand in which people in the news are not known personally to many. "Banding together of persons of the same extraction? At least in the United States, I'd say it's a bad thing. Perhaps 'tis just my background of the Saxon Southwest that makes me hostile to "Little Italy", "Little Poland", etc, but it would not appear that people in such places lead as good a life as America offers them."

Fan-Dango: Hah, you think jukebox castoffs at 24c each are a bargain? How'd you like to get 20 for \$1.50? That's grab-bag; but I took the few I didn't want and traded them two for one at a 2dhand mag&record shop. I think two for 25c was a fairly common price here last summer, and you could take your choice. "I imagine that the recent change in your domestic affairs has prompted a second thought on sterilization. Life is much too uncertain to take such a drastic irrevocable step (and the 50% chance that it's not irrevocable doesn't change the picture). Heck, you may be raising a new family in a wilderness cave before you're forty. Anyway Lazarus Long, who made no plans for growing old or dying, wouldn't have considered such a thing. "Time on their hands isn't a specially fanish phenomenon, of course; yet its presence at the Pacificon distressed me, because I didn't remember anything of the sort at past conventions. We always found plenty to do or talk about, even if we were marking time. "Willmorth should have been quietly blackjacked from behind. Was Liebecher really made nervous? "Would be interested to hear some of Bloch's sidelights on Ziff-Davis. "The flatness of the costume party '00 was unusual in my experience of conventions. I don't think you should go too far in considering the Pacificon typical. "Opportunities for self-expression in real (i.e., mundane) life are beset with obstacles? Not

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for extroverts, who always have some cronies around them who'll give part of their time to listening. As to the wideness of the field for self-expression, little argument is possible, because wideness can only be measured by individual impressions of it, which vary greatly. " This issue of Fan-Dango was interesting for capturing a short time in midyear when Laney was feeling friendly toward Daugherty and hostile to Ashley. How about bringing us up to date?

Gloom: As I recall, The Hazy Horde was forced upon Imagination! subscribers beginning the second or third issue of Madge. Also as I recall, it stank. " The obit booklets idea may be a good one. What's the purpose of such booklets, anyway?

My reactions to trivial time-consumers are similar to those described in Horizons. Perhaps an explanation is that we, being always somewhat pressed for time, put a high value on it and resent having to spend fifteen minutes for something that should take only one. " I wonder if V-2 had some other source from which he got that idea of posterior and anterior lobes, and endocrine reserve? " Doggone it, Harry, please give us an idea what you're commenting on instead of saying "concluding paragraph on page 6", etc. I mean "six". Though the rules on writing out numbers seem silly. I haven't made any statistical survey to determine whether newspapers underplay settlement of disputes, but I can cite two recent examples. The day the coal strike was ended, the headline story in at least two of our three local papers was the Atlanta hotel fire. And the eternally important news of the Soviet Union's change of policy toward disarmament inspection came out, it was given only secondary headlines. " What significance can we attach to the dots and dashes interlineations? " In publishing such things like the classics PocketBooks started with, a publisher may rightly be asked to take only a small profit above publication cost. But publishers who put out new books take terrific losses on many that don't pan out (consider the expense of the publicity given Lest Darkness Fall, for instance), and have to offset them with multiple markups on books which are successful. But bindings are an inordinate part of the cost of books--compare prices of the Britannica in different bindings--and such bindings on fiction or other books which are simply to be read thru, are unjustified. " I believe I've already expressed my intense dislike of presentday Buck Rogers, good prophet or not. Perhaps the record of the experts does not prove them worse men than we or Buck. Outside of Oswald Spengler, I don't know of any man, expert or amateur, who's worth a tinker's dam as a prophet over a period of years. If everyone on earth were feeble-minded, we would not expect the morons to make any better record at predictions than the imbeciles and idiots. I think that's about the situation; compared to the problem of prediction, we are all feeble-minded. " H L Gardner's article sounds like a good one, but I have no experience by which to check it. I do doubt that Planet's letter dept is better than the Thrilling group's, and dissent from the view that discontinuing Science Discussions weakened Brass Tacks. " How was Nelson Eddy turned into a duet, trio, and chorus in Make Mine Music? Seemingly he could not become a chorus by rerunning the same recording of his voice; yet the chorus at the end seemed to have many voices more than the number of times it seems plausible he would resing. " Are there any experts on hypnotism in the audience? I've heard of the cataleptic prowess of hypnotics; how would they be at track events? " Harry, most Unitarians believe that man is essentially good, that only a bad civilization holds him back. This is almost the essential belief of liberalism. And yet the local Unitarian preacher had the courage to call this dogma into question, and chided some colleagues who published a book in which they scolded would-be liberals who lacked that faith. Because there is no question of good or bad will, strong or weak character, involved; it is simply a question of what are the facts (or, the same thing, what would really happen under given conditions). And so I reject your denunciation of those who think science-fiction may run out of new things, and challenge you to recast "El Dorado" along strictly semantic lines, stating all the evidence you wish, of whatever form, which supports your thesis, and displaying the induction of principles therefrom, and how you deduce from those principles that what has been true of

science and imagination in the past must always be so. " Further on Make Mine Music, i was not so disappointed as you. The alternate songs which required little labor on pictures (Blue Bayou, et al) were not a successful experiment, but can be excused when you realize the financial difficulties Disney's up against, and the need of padding the picture out to feature length. The only animated song i didn't especially care for was Johnny Fedora. Of course, don't know nuthin about music, but i know what i like. " Thunder on the Left was best applied as a story heading in Time, in which Claude Pepper complained to FDR, "You'd think we lost the election." " I second the motion for a ten-year FAPAnthology, and will make some nominations; but who'll publish it?

Plenum's editor has to publish my comments on it, yuk yuk.

The same goes for Gruzak, i hope.

Venai: The story of asphalted New York is a neat little novelty. No reaction to the poetry. Whose penname is Mallory Kent?

Reader and Collector: Oh, foocy, Koenig, there's nothing wrong with saying "most unique" (i assume that the presence of "absolutely" was not important to your correction). Of course lots of words like "perfect", "equal", "unique" are not comparable theoretically. But there's no harm in so treating them, and we can thereby dispense with an extra word, "nearly". " Your typist is still fouling things up. On one of the p 27 gasps, she failed to close the quotation marks, and at 34 she used apostrophe s for a plural. " Wilstach wrote Ten-Cent Ivory Tower, a novel for Fantastic Adventures, and serials for an astrology mag. Not much recommendation. And i have a notation opposite the middle paragraph, "This says virtually nothing". Perhaps it's just another example of a writer putting his impressions of something on paper without bothering to try to communicate with the reader. " I liked Leiber's letter passing well. His remark about ERB living in southern California assumes that he lived there at the time he started the John Carter series. Is so? " Rimel's letter i also liked, but did not so thoroughly agree with. He may rebel at dissection of stories, but the origin and function of the props is worth showing.

Bill's autobiographical notes in Devil's Advocate were welcome. What meant you by "physically impossible to eat any of it"?

Jabberwocky makes me suspect that England's pure food and drug laws are less stringent than ours. I recall a lot of ads in British journals that wouldn't get by here. There was the famous case of the Carbolic Smoke Ball which was guaranteed to prevent influenza. A private citizen cashed in by establishing a unilateral contract with the terms of the guarantee included in it, but apparently the government gave no protection. " In fairness to Trudy, you should have put your explanation before instead of after her "article". I was about to light the fuse when it turned out that the piece was a passage from a letter. " The ad for Hinkalyan is really no different from hundreds of American advertisements, quotes from which occasionally turn up in the New Yorker,. But because it's in a different lingo we notice it. " The old letter in The Re-Reader Speaks is better than most attempts to look at s-f from a future viewpoint (remember The Return of Tyme, for instance, and how little different the forecast s-f of the future was), but it is still too much chained to the ideas of the particular year in which it appeared--thoughtvariants, superhypersupercolossal (-1) stuff.

And Fan-Tode comments will be sent to the editor of that journal.

"If you take hyphens seriously you will surely go mad." --Manuscript and Proof

QUOTE WORTHY QUOTES

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"I do not think that we need to trouble ourselves with the thought that my view depends upon differences of degree. The whole law does so as soon as it is civilized."

--Holmes, in 232 US 340

"The principle of organicity can be stated in two ways which are not exactly equivalent but which converge in the end upon the same fact. According to the first statement, an organic whole is such a system that every element within it implies every other. According to the second, it is such a system that an alteration or removal of any element would alter every other element or even destroy the whole system."

--World Hypotheses

"The word is heard on many lips, yes; but is in few minds. And this is understandable, for sensitiveness as understood by modernist painters and intellectuals does not exist in painting; it is the invention of the modern critics who, having no clear and interesting ideas to express, have created a complete special vocabulary which in actual fact has no meaning at all, but which has been picked up in all innocence and weakly adopted by so many persons desirous of appearing shrewd and subtle art connoisseurs."

--Beryl Egan per Jul 44 Horizon

"No theoretical question of any kind can be posed with adequate clarity if one is motivated by fear of making mistakes. And both sides of this controversy in New Masses reveal, behind some strong and bold and even violent language, that they are fearful of making mistakes."

--James T Farrell in The Nation

"His work, in other words, is one of those in which a concept is made to struggle with an opposite concept, ... unrefreshed by considerations of degree. It is either, or. It does not recognize what all political leaders recognize (if they are fanatic, then to their bitter disappointment): that mankind has a most damnable capacity for quarter, half, and three-quarter measures. Mankind never goes the whole hog ... ⁸ He contrasts our operative systems by hostile concepts."

--Herman Finer, "Critics of 'Bureaucracy'", Pol Sci Quarterly

"The view which follows is submitted for what it is worth, if anything. It sometimes takes the form of 'ipse dixit', because it becomes tiresome constantly to repeat the words 'It is submitted'. In every such case, however, these words are to be presumed."

--G. O'Connor, Free Speech

"The mere fact that a proposed theory is confirmed factually in every one of its deductive consequences does not establish that it is the only theory which can meet this test. Thus it may very well be the case--and history has in fact often shown it to be the case--that some other theory will also take care of all the known evidence. Furthermore, there is nothing in the method to guarantee that tomorrow some new facts may not arise, with which the proposed theory, when developed logically, is incompatible."

--The Meeting of East and West, per Time

"what we call a fact is after all an hypothesis so generally accepted that no one questions it".

--Cunningham, Textbook of Logic

"facts do not speak for themselves;... the facts speak the language that our interests, quickened by a fertile imagination enriched by intimate contact, bring to them. ... ⁷ Actually the stating of facts involves a mental process of selecting from among observed phenomena those which are important in view of our particular purpose, and interpreting them in the light of that purpose."

--Clark on Code Pleading



Of course WJD has made no Pacificon financial report as yet. A while ago his wife left him again and it was during this period that FTL and I began asking about the report in meetings. Nobody knew anything. One day Acky said that he'd talked to WJD and WJD had said that right now he was unable to work on the report because he was a man who did things by enthusiasm and he couldn't somehow seem to work up the necessary compf. Said he'd tried to drive himself but no luck. So things dragged on. Then, just about a month ago, FTL, after a discussion in the LASFS mtg, suggested that we give the boy a time limit and then, if he hadn't produced, to appoint a committee to get the report out. This, for some astounding reason, carried. The deadline set was 1 Oct, and naturally WJD did not even utter a peep. So at the mtg of 3 Oct, FTL, Hart, and I were appointed as the committee, to get together 8 Oct to see about it. So last night, 8 Oct, we went over to the Half World, Townner and I, and Dale Hart, the chairman of our committee, wasn't there. We finally called Ackerman and he told us that WJD had said that he disapproved of FTL and Burbee being on the committee, that he would keep the stuff "under lock and key" as long as we were on the comm. He suggested (WJD) that the committee (if any such had to exist) consist of Evans, Hodgkins, Willmorth, Ackerman, ...

Just 5 minutes ago Dale Hart called up and said he'd gone to bed immediately upon returning from school last night. He told me substantially what Acky'd told us, adding that WJD had said he was sort of surprized that the club would crowd him and rush him on the matter. Said he had some money tied up at North American. (Pcon money, of course). Said he expected to be financially better off by the middle of the month. Said that by 1 Nov he ought to have everything cleaned up. Said maybe some people were suspicious, but those who had faith in him would find their faith vindicated. ...

Of course all this info is second-hand stuff, so quotes are practically impossible. But it seems to some of us that WJD has had plenty of time--3 months--and it's really time for a financial report.

Oh, an item that escaped me---Hart said that WJD said that he (WJD) thought the club had no right whatever to ask him for anything about the Pcon, not to mention checking his accounts on the thing. ...

That Thursday at the club meeting, Laney and I brought up the Pcon financial report business again. Laney gave the report since (the committee report) Dale Hart didn't show up. Then Hodgkins said (or maybe it was Acky) that they'd spoken to WJD and he said he'd have the report out in about a week, that he already had it half finished. Hodgkins then wished to move to other business, but Laney and I made such remarks as--"He'll never make that report. He's made his touch and he won't be back." "I suggest we pass the hat around for Daugherty; he hasn't gotten any money out of the club for 2 weeks now and it must be breaking his heart." Laney also reminded the members that WJD had gotten \$10 from the Treasury plus \$10 from the Fancyclopedia fund for his big fan census and then had said it was never understood he was going to publish it--the money was for the census its lf and he'd never said he was going to publish it. This did not sit well with some people. After a few more remarks anent the honesty and reliability of dear old WJD, FTL said, "You know, it seems that someone in here is about to lose his pose of saintly patience." And EEE spoke up in great heat "You'd make anybody lose his patience, you bastard." ... Hodgkins immediately jumped in and shouted them down.

I can't understand what has gotten into EEE. Just because people make remarks about his "pose of saintly patience" he seems to get upset. His eyes blaze and he breathes sort of hard. I just cannot understand it.

So, it seems that WJD will have his own way about the Pcon money and will

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either not make any report at all or will make one at his leisure and will permit no one to check his tabulations unless he is a bedmate or friend of that particular person. ...

... in regard to your idea regarding reviews, the obvious objection is that few members publish regularly enough for such a procedure to catch hold. About the only ones I can think of are: yourself, Stanley, Laney, Warner, Ashley, maybe one or two others. Obviously, a guy isn't going to send his comments to an editor without being reasonably sure that they'll be printed. If you get the regular publishers to do it, there'll be maybe half-a-dozen brief reviews eliminated, but the review column would still remain. E'en so, I guess it'd clear up some of the confusion, and I'll probably hop onto the bandwagon after I've begun publishing regularly.

... Was particularly impressed by the milkshake and Thoo Thitty Thoo interlineations on page 10. Yours remain the best in FAPA, which seems rather mystifying, since one would expect that before long you'd run out of inspiration.

Post-
mailing before last,
I should have said.

Orchids to the latest SusPro, particularly for the Utopia-rejected personalities column and the bacover illustration, which was mahv'lous, simply mahv'lous.

A couple of strong objections to your proposed new system for commenting occur to me. The principal one is that it would just double the burden on the FAPA publisher. He'd have to take time to write letters to the various people in order to disseminate his own remarks, then stencil the remarks of others for publication in his own magazine. Other difficulties: When I feel strongly enough moved by something to want to comment on it in Horizons, I think it's important enough that I want to be sure it gets into print soon. But only four of us--you, Stanley, Ashley, and I--manage to put comments on every item into practically every mailing, and several publishers don't like to run reviews of reviews at all. There is also the difficulty of editing. The comments would probably run to greater length if in the form of letters--if I go to the trouble of writing a letter at all, I usually fill at least one page--and someone who has published unusually controversial stuff may find himself deluged with enough replies to fill two normal-sized issues of his publication. ...

Though I still want to stick to the old commenting system, I might mention here that the proposed new FAPA constitution published in the latest Mopsy reads to me like an excellent job. There are a few changes which I still would like to see incorporated, but none of them even come close to being strong enough to make me want to vote against the document, in case it comes up for final decision in this form. I still don't like the idea of requiring a vote for maintenance of membership, though possibly a compromise might be worked out whereby it would count a few points toward fulfilling activity credits--if as someone suggested 16 points were needed for activity, with one point per page given to people who just produce, two per page for those who write, edit and produce, the point total might be hiked to 25, with nine granted for voting but permissible to fulfill through editing and publishing. All of which is very academic, since it would needlessly complicate the whole procedure. And why not change the fifth section to require at least 68 copies of each FAPA publication? As long as it's

optional, no member has assurance that a mailing lost in transit can be replaced, and even though few are lost that way, a little compulsory insurance would come in handy to save headaches when the offed accidentally sticks two copies of a publication in one envelope, or if the publisher misses an accurate count of the number of copies he's sending. In general, there seems to be a little too much superfluous stuff in this constitution draft, but it isn't important enough to make much difference.

ED: Presumably we're going to be writing letters to each other anyway. The proposed system obviates the problem of which comments, if any, to put in personal letters instead of publish. Since the publisher can omit to publish trivial or personal parts of comments, the proposed system somewhat supplies the pre-drafting that few of us have Stanley's fortitude for. Several new individuals are coming along which should have review sections; and people who don't like reviews of reviews won't write us letters of comment.

Now's the time to get in any objections at all to the draft constitution. As explicated whileback, the requirement of vote for maintenance of membership is not for the purpose of terminating anyone's membership, but to drag in larger votes every year. Any activist who fails to vote can probably avail himself of the (more annoying) alternative of explaining why he didn't, thus saving his membership. Suggestions of giving more credit to writing our publishing save to overlook this: Either you refuse by half (to merely four pages, say) the annual activity required of writer-publishers, or you require of non-publishing members the enormous activity of, to take a percent measure, thirteen pages of manuscripts, which must be placed against the limited and invaluable demand of publishing members. Suggestion of mandatory 68 copies sounds good. And we should undoubtedly hint that copies greatly in excess of this are a burden on the surplusstockstodian. Possibly the impression of superfluous stuff in the draft constitution is due to its design to make unnecessary a separate sheet introducing NAFL to strangers.

Quote from Grant 1944, for the record, in confirming Swisher's ballot count:

... Bob didn't include quite all the comments which members wrote in on their ballots, but the commissions seem all to have been legitimate. One amendment: 23 voters, not 22, approved of 7b.

Stanley reads some ten pages of comments, and I cut and cut, though it's like pulling teeth:

... The thing which appeals to me about this business, though, is that it encourages more personal correspondence, since I've found that where I've been using Revista as a sort of open letter, I've correspondingly allowed my personal letter writing pretty much to go to pot. ...

So I'm ready to give your proposal a try, and will reciprocate with all others who'll send their comments on Efty to me for publication. Of course, if what I want to say runs out to too much stencilage I'll publish it myself, ...

What was "The Morning Before"? (Put that pistol down!) I don't associate the title sharply with anything, though it sound like it might fit that convention playlet you had a while back. That I remember quite well.

forthwith becomes our favorite fox. I'd been meaning to inquire if the character, Swanley, therein had any association with the dealer of Velva, North Dakota, against whom I believe harsh words have been said in the past. What they were I don't know—it was before my time, I guess. But I had some dealings with him about a year ago and had no cause to complain.

in Allegory. The harsh words apparently were in 1940 history report, copy of which Van Soljan received from Swanson with the offending pages razored out.

... On to you on Phanteur now. (Did I say thrs. the summer Suspro I'm caviling over here?) What mean you by "integrated living", as in the olddays?

Self-sufficient? Take a social unit bigger than the family and the adjective should be "unintegrated".

And are you sure people were so much more decent back then?

I wonder if there wasn't quite a bit of physical cruelty and bestiality in those days, acts which went unnoticed or were accepted as part of a harsh environment. I don't know whether drunkenness was more prevalent then than now, though I suspect it was; certainly it didn't arouse the censure it now does. And it goes without saying that the inferior position which women occupied in the social setup was a bad thing by and large. There are so many angles to the question of sexual morality that it's not easy to say whether the morals of our ancestors were better than our own in this respect. Perhaps from the standpoint of results accomplished they were better. There was probably less promiscuity with "respectable" women, and couples usually stayed married and produced large families, which were an economic asset. But the married woman was pretty much at the mercy of whatever sexual cruelties her Lord and Master might, unwittingly or otherwise, impose upon her. Remember the husband's "conjugal rights" were (and maybe still are--how about this, Jack?) legal rights, to which the wife could be forced to submit.

I could also hazard a guess that, with the autonomy of the family in those times and the dictatorial position of the old man within it, certain sexual crimes, such as incest were of greater incidence then than now. Brreak to the godays!

I believe the third grade grad in the L'Inconnu poll must've been Tanner. Creighton Buck, who's a personal friend of his, mentioned this fact at our meeting at Swisher's a couple of years ago. Buck seemed to have a great deal of respect for Tanner's learning, though, and assessed him, I took it, as possessing the equivalent of a liberal arts education, all from self-instruction and voluminous reading. He was particularly impressed by the fact that Tanner had read and assimilated the complete version of Frazer's "The Golden Bough". It may also be noted that despite his lack of formal education Tanner holds down a position in the research lab. of a large plastics manufacturer. All of which seems an excellent demonstration of what a good mind can do with unfavorable circumstances.

I suppose my ignorance of orthodox economics is showing here, but I don't follow at all this idea of yours about corporation profits being practically withdrawn from circulation. Can you give examples? I've a feeling that discussions of these things fall down because of a tendency to identify wealth with credit/currency. At any rate your argument sounds like one for "velocity dollars" or free silver or something. But I dunno. I wish the International Non-Aristotelian Library would get busy and publish that book on null-A credit analysis.

Your misquotation from "The Last Evolution" makes the force-beings out as awful ingrates. Which does them injustice, as their command, which was "Go, and do not return.", was addressed to the invaders who had destroyed mankind only to be in turn defeated by the superior beings man had created.

... I have it just one stage removed from the horse's mouth that Van Lorne was generally regarded in the S&S office to be a pseudonym for Tremaine, but that nevertheless the checks for the stories were made out to Warner van Lorne and were mailed to an outside address. ... I'm unsure, but would guess that "Norman L. Knight" is Norman L. Knight. He's said to be a chemist by profession, doing work of some sort in chemical journalism. I've never encountered him anywhere in recent journals, but Swisher's scrapbooks contain some cartoons clipped from Baker's "Chemist-Analyst" of about fifteen years ago, and these were the work of one "Norman L. Knight."

WOT,
NO
WHITE
SPACE

... I keep wondering whether Russell would've ever dug the meaning of your interlineation, "Thoo Thitty Theo". I remember how he once praised one of Moffatt's parodies without being aware that it was derived from a popular song of the day.

... Moon-or-bust Farnsworth's moniker is Robert, ain't it? "Richard Farnsworth" was the intrepid space explorer who figured in two or three DeCamp Peezees.

[Ouch! I was thinking of Mahope and SP on R S Shaver!]

What should be done about the US Patent System?

That's all on the summer Suspro. And now these small, but nonetheless readable, morsels: Almost readable, that is. How about a translation of The Neutron, for those of us who don't know the the langue shandly? The S-F Reactionary I have already commented on elsewhere. The AMOD was worth the trouble. It had amusement value. The One-Shot Fanzine reminds me of how we sat and sat and thunk and thunk at Swisher's "Boskone" two years ago and couldn't think of a thing to pass a resolution on. Is there something about fan gatherings that paralyzes the creative faculty?

Leave us shuffle on to the fall mailing,...

[A schoolmate clown] used to read my a-f magazines avidly, too. I recall that some - loaned him came back with the illustrations embellished with crayon coloring. The effect wasn't too bad, either, though I could never forgive him for also coloring the full-page ads entitled "Love and Sex News" that were to be found in Amazing at that time! ...

Coal? Yeah. We have twelve trillion dollars worth. It's far and away the largest item entering into the value of this continent. Hydrogenation of coal to make motor fuels has been quite extensively studied in this country by the Bureau of Mines, who have carried it into the pilot plant stage. It's entirely practical, though somewhat more costly than petroleum refining. Not wood alcohol, Jack, but ethyl alcohol--which can also be made from wood, as is now being done, I believe, out in Rosco Wright's country. Oddly enough, the production of ethyl alcohol from wood is likely to increase, while nowadays only about 10% of our "wood alcohol" is still made from wood and this is decreasing in favor of direct synthesis by hydrogenation of carbon monoxide, which brings us back to coal again! Like the chemurgists have been telling us for years, C_2H_5OH can be made very cheaply from all sorts of farm wastes (we've a plant here in Maine that turns out oceans of it, using cull potatoes), if it is relieved from the heavy taxation imposed on it. ...

Whenever I read these solemn Fortean reports of "Abnormal noon darkness" usw., I always think of the items some writer cited dramatically in a letter to Astounding. He quoted, as I recall, some news item about a ring of light encircling the sun being observed in Rockland, Maine. As I had seen the phenomenon referred to, I was duly unimpressed. There was nothing extraordinary about it at all, and I've seen dozens of such effects, which are supposed to be due to ice crystals in the atmosphere producing a rainbow-like effect. They're usually to be seen around the moon; only when exceptionally brilliant do they show up against the sunlit sky.

The Skylark's crew checked each other to nineteen decimals, as did also the Spacehounds. ...

... Standards' popular circular on inks ... explained something I'd been curious about for a long time. That is why there's no such thing as black hectograph ink. Seems that hecto ink dyes must be water-soluble, and there are no really black water-soluble dyes; in dilute solution the so-called "black" dyes, like nigrosine, are blue or purplish. Used in a hecto ink they give only one or two black copies and after that a dingy purplish gray. Black ink can be made by mixing other colored dyes in the right proportions, but they are never absorbed by the hecto gel or the sheets of paper in the same proportions, so that again no black copies after the first one or two can be pulled. Reason for the prevalence of purple in hecto work is simply that purple or blue dyes have been found the most effective for yielding the greatest number of copies of satisfactory intensity. ...

Another interesting note is that the compounding of mimeograph inks is an exacting process, so that the proper recommendation for the fan who wishes to make

his own ink is "Don't". Hecto inks, though, are quite easily made. ...

Chauvenet ... his attitude, as expressed to me, on his July 1945 visit, was not that of being out of sympathy altogether, but simply the common story of greater interest in other things, so that he begrudged the time required for fanning. He also voiced the very understandable complaint that his work in Sardonyx brought scant return in comment or discussion. The final straw, he revealed, was a remark, by a fan who shall be nameless, that his interlined "Advt."s were the best feature of the magazine. When he thought of the toil he'd put into the serious content of the magazine, to have it all dismissed like that, he threw in the sponge... Also I recall how Jane chided Russ for making his stated rejection of fanzines so sweeping, and asserted that there was no reason for his eschewing all fanzine reading, though she was gratified that he was going to give up publishing. She, herself, had little or no interest in fanzines, and considered fan behavior in general childish (an after-math, I imagine, of the antics she encountered through the Futurian secession and the subsequent LRC-sponsored dinner.) She's a good kid, though, and good for Russell, too. Moderate and very sensible, an excellent counterbalance for the somewhat mercurial Chauvenet temperament.

'Analog' had its usual, nonmathematical, meaning, in my discussion of the Davis article. Thus the triangle, the tetrahedron, and the five-cell are analogus, because of their morphological similarity; they're all simplexes. Perhaps 'homolog' would've been the better term, but I followed Somerville (eschewing only his terminal -us) and stuck to analog. 'Reciprocal', however, does have a special geometrical meaning, which I neglected to clarify. It's easy to get at, though. Morphologically, the reciprocal of a polytope in N dimensions is another N -dimensional polytope, which has a vertex corresponding to each $N-1$ face of the original, a 2-boundary for each $N-2$ boundary, and so. Thus if you take a cube and draw the lines connecting the centers of each of its faces with the centers of all adjacent faces you construct the reciprocal of the cube, which is the octahedron. The cube is bounded by 6 squares, 12 edges, and 8 vertices (6, 12, 8), and the octahedron by 8 triangles, 12 edges, and 6 vertices (8, 12, 6). ... See how reciprocity inverts the number order?

Ralph Milne Farley had an article on hyperspace in The Scientific American several years ago, and used the word 'tesseract' for the 4-cube, and 'pentact' for the 5-cube. Other than this I don't recall ever seeing the word outside the stefworld. Dr. Breuer, who was somewhat of a stickler for technicalities, used the word 'tesseracoid', once in a story ("The Book of Worlds"), which he wrote as a sort of protest at the Olsen treatment of 4-space. ...

Was it your comments on Drygulch Doc's worthless orientation that were supposed to dispose of emergence? I dinna ken hoo. 'Fraid I can't agree that the notion is mere verbalism. Certainly it exists on the un-speakable observational level; novelty's as much a property as color., nicht wahr? And I think it goes deeper than that; it seems implicit in the Λ postulation of the absolute individuality of events, and of non-linearity.

"Husbandry" seems like a good idea, but John o' Bristol had better watch his step. A temponaut would have to know his adopted age pretty thoroughly before he would dare venture into prominence.

There must be a lot of habits and ideas we have which seem perfectly innocent to us, but which might be dynamite in some other age. On that time-track I understand the secretary held his office but a sixmonth before he was forced to flee for Ireland, in order to maintain his head on his shoulders. Embittered, and thereafter violently anti-British, he there sired the turbulent O'Bristol clan, which remains staunchly Roman Catholic to this day.

thing. Though it must be confessed that the O'Hanlonian dog is trained on 42, rather than 43.

I'm afraid Don Bratton's otherwise commendable enthusiasm is causing him to bandy around A language somewhat loosely. I can't agree that spelling according to the dictionary is a "good example of the pathological reversed order of abstracting". Nothing of the sort! The dictionary is pooled experience, and the reduction by the individual of abstractions on the public level to his individual verbal and inferential levels is neither pathological (since it's essential to survival) nor reversed order, since the dictionary itself is on the objective level. ...

Wonder if vV's "Child of the Gods" series is supposed to be a development of the history of the "Wizards of Linn" he hinted at in "Recruiting Station"? I see, though, on looking it up, that it was "lin" in that story, and there were other divergencies, which could, however, be overlooked without straining things greatly.

That covers it, I think. The Claytindex I've already found use for; the proposed constitution is all x--some things, like required voting, I don't like, but will tag along with the majority preference--oh, I've just noticed, too, that failure to vote and no excuse terminates the membership before the next mailing; this, however, might come in the middle of the member's current annual membership. Would he forfeit his already-paid-up dues for the unfulfilled membership, or have them prorated and be refunded accordingly? *Forfeited.*

And to wind it up, a comment in passing by Doc Lowndes:

Incidentally, I've been meaning to drop you a note for some time to the effect that I enjoyed seeing your anti-Michelist Omnibus dummy; there is not much in it with which I disagree these days, having graduated from anti-fascism to anti-totalitarianism, which includes all shades and stripes of Marxists as well as various brands of fascism.

Copy. Forgot this from J Chandler.

I must object to your "outdo Degler" campaign. There's no excuse for-- & I quote-- "crudding up the mailings" --especially when it's done by an oldtimer as emulated & emulable as Specr.

SusPro Summer/46: Liked your retort to Frater VIII's ANALOGY pretty well, but I don't think you did a complete job by any means, & the long Merriam-Webster definition of "analogy" was beside the point.... To maintain so stoutly "that America is great militarily" is aimless flagwaving, just as maintaining the reverse is aimless mudslinging. Most of your right-or-wrong-my-country bombast is utterly unimportant in 1946.... Answering your remarks on NON CREDO: Some of your criticisms I'll have to accept. The article would not be likely to convert anyone; that wasn't really intended. Wilty's characterization of the piece as an "exposition of scientific materialism" accords with my intent. I concede, too, that Occam's Razor is open to some question; but interpreted as follows it seems a useful criterion: Consider the structural nature of the pictures associated with the theories under examination; judge to be faulty that theory which contains "fewer" structural features of the phenomena being "explained;" but also (Occam's Razor) judge to be faulty that theory which contains "more" structural features not recognizable in the phenomena.... I didn't mean to "brush aside" the God of the Uncertainty Principle, but to toss the idea out to the filosofically-minded fapans. It's a cute notion. But I think it can be disposed of by much the same arguments that take care of other omnipotent gods. I may go into the subject further another time.... The ethical point you pounced on so adroitly is indeed a fascinating one. Is it "murder" to practise abortion, & if not then why is it "murder" to drown week-old babies? I think my answer still stands: the emotional attachments of the parents are stronger in the latter

REJECTED: SHANGRI-LA!

This was a letter of comment on the issue of Shangri-l'Affaire edited by Joquel. If he had not failed to put out even the first issue of the Shangri-LA he was supposed to edit, he could have omitted this from it. I'm only running it here because my stock of rejected mss is practically nonexistent. However, I have some prospects out or in preparation. The letter:

... Foo forbid that atomic power ever result in the reduction of the whole continent to a Southern California climate. Hasn't Van Vogt read Mainsprings of Civilization, Climate and Man, or any of the other books pointing out the debilitating effects of such a clime? To me, the annual migration to Florida and other meridional regions, growing larger each winter, augurs ill for the future of the race. "Is a psychological defence against a-bombs practicable? The nice thing about a physical defence against something is that it works indifferently of the character of the attacking parties. But the problem with a physically irresistible weapon such as the Bomb is a problem of morality that has never been solved: If there are ninety and nine honest men, and one thief, the honesty of the many does not secure them against victimization by the one thief. Hence the necessity of police.

Cleator's hymn is as good as ever; and his justification by subsequent events has taken some of the bitterness out of the satire. Professor Low's note sounds like something by the NAM at one point. Perhaps few worthwhile inventions have come out of government laboratories--The Bomb is an obvious exception--but it seems quite likely that capitalistic pressure has prevented government laboratories from undertaking the kind of research that results (without further development by commercial institutions) in new products, rather restricting them to testing and similar activities.

Your review of If was very interesting to me. This is a branch of fantasy that I've suspected is much more extensive than the contents of our magazines indicate.

A suggestion to Tigrina: To indicate a play upon words by supplying an element in parentheses, as "Sergeant of (ch)arms" is about as obvious as placing a parenthesized questionmark after an ironical statement. If the pun is any good, it should explain itself, e.g.: "Sergeant of charms".

Hal-LA-ween is a bit sticky in places, but it reads like a very enjoyable affair. Wonder how much of the account is made out of whole cloth.

... Boff's statement that "no editor will waste \$5.00 to lithe a lousy pic" is obviously the result of deductive rather than inductive reasoning.

Evabody loves a fat man.

case. Our society still has many features of the Rousseau contrat social; adults are what we might call subscribers to the contract, while children are less & less so the younger they are. This isn't a complete discussion, but is perhaps adequate. ... "Items from My Scrapbooks" has crossed the dividing line, where I am concerned. I now find it too boring to read even hastily.... Oh, but textbook writers have realized that air-compression rather than friction causes combustion of meteors. Maybe you read the wrong textbooks.

ITEMS FROM MY SCRAPBOOKS

In my conduct of the great religious war the hily magnifyd woggle-bug was for some reason not present. By any normal standards of recordkeeping the paperwork on the administrative end was unbelievably sloppy, and i shouldn't be surprised to find several cases of duplications of serial numbers on the certificates or cards given to FooFooists. Though i have carbon copies of the letters of transmittal, neither number nor title are indicated on many of them, and they are scattered all thru my files. The nearest thing to a list of members is something scribbled on the back of a tablet cover, based on a draft of the FooFooist calendar, whose months were to be named after officers.

Remembering the enormous value that philatelists attach to defective stamps, i'm carefully saving two Pacificon stickers on which the two color plates were not well lined up.

The LASFS has calling cards printed on half a dozen different paper stocks, with address and meeting time indicated after the name.

Furlough from Heaven has probably been noted in various places by now, but i'm not sure. A plug for it which was on the flap of the Conklin anthology's jacket (?) says it concerns a visit to New York by Leonardo da Vinci.

Bill from the Hotel Mayfair (has Lucas's name on it) amounts to some twelve and a half, and somebody owes us 11¢ for a phone call.

Everett's kid sister, Little Annie Rooney, does some troubled meditating for a couple of panels: "Old folks are kinda slow--they think the best place to be is where they are--they think sittin' down under a shady tree is more fun--than you kin have riding in a rocket plane to visit a lot of strangers who live on the moon--I can't figger out which way is the right way--"

"The sky was the limit" proclaim Navy recruiting posters with a Lunaward-zooming ship

LAST STOP TO LIMBO

If the NFFF president had permitted the proposed panel to be set up on the Speer-Dunkelberger feud, i intended to present desired forms for the decision if it should be in my favor. One suggested form was: "While there is the normal kind of give and take on both sides, the existence of a bitter feud in this case is entirely the responsibility of Walter Dunkelberger. It is due to his willingness to rely on faulty memory of defective impressions as to what was said and done, his inability to handle abstract and general words and ideas accurately, and his emotional unpredictability." If the panel was unwilling to go so far, i would ask that the decision say, "After examining the evidence and hearing the arguments we are satisfied that justice in this matter is definitely in favor of Speer and against Dunkelberger."

In one of the earliest drafts of Up to Now, i wandered away from anything i would think seriously of publishing, and noted the origin of the TPO idea: I was taking an interest in the ages of fen, and, probably not truly, remarked in a letter that i was trying to find the average. The idea stuck around, and one bright day in September--i noted the exact place--came the idea of sending out a good number of letters just asking that question, or perhaps that and other questions.

Drafted, but discarded with the thought that it wouldn't be in good taste, is an Sal-type parallel of two guys. One is a sympathizer with the downtrodden, who belonged to an organization that was going to do great things for them after the Revolution. He's a sub-editor of the Saturday Evening Post (you've a right to earn a living), and lives with his small family in a snazzy suburb. The other, the scum, is a Fascist--he said so himself once--at least, people say he did. He works, in a foreign city which i named and described the worse aspects of, for an agency whose job was to build up local agriculture for the feeding of liberated Europe, so that some Slavs, Frenchmen, might have a better chance.

A PUBLICATION OF HIS MAJESTY'S SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE, JOHN OF BRISTOL, WHOSE OFFICES ARE IN FLEET STREET, LONDON. OBTAINABLE MONTHLY FROM YOUR LOCAL SHERIFF.
#2 OCTOBER 1485

EDITORIAL

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH WILLIAM CAXTON, WE ARE ENABLED TO HAVE THIS PERIODICAL PRINTED IN UNLIMITED QUANTITIES TO MEET THE DEMAND. MOREOVER, THE ECONOMY OF SPACE IN PRINTING MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO PRESENT SEVERAL TIMES AS MANY WORDS ON A SINGLE PAGE.

USES

FROM PERSONS GATHERING FOR THE CORONATION IT IS LEARNED THAT OVER HALF OF THE LAND IN ENGLAND IS NOW HELD TO USES, IN PLACES WHERE THE USE HAS BEEN UTILIZED, NEARLY ALL THE LAND IS SO HELD, BUT IN SOME SECTIONS THIS DEVICE SEEMS TO BE UNKNOWN.

A, THE OWNER OF LAND, TRANSFERS IT TO B, THE TRUSTEE, FOR THE USE OF C, GESTUIQUE TRUST. C MAY THEN USE THE LAND AND DERIVE THE PROFITS FROM IT, AND THE EQUITY COURT WILL ENFORCE ON B HIS PROMISE TO PERMIT C SO TO USE IT. EQUITY WILL ALSO PREVENT THE LANDLORD FROM ENFORCING FEUDAL INCIDENTS AGAINST B, THE LEGAL OWNER, WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN TERMINATING B'S TITLE AND C'S RIGHTS.

BY THIS MEANS THE LAND IS LARGELY FREED OF INCIDENTS WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN JUST IN ANCIENT TIMES, BUT HAVE LITTLE RELEVANCY FOR MODERN CONDITIONS, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE DYING OUT OF SO MUCH OF THE NOBLE CLASSES IN THE WARS OF THE ROSES. USE AND OCCUPANCY ARE THE BASIS OF RIGHTS TO LAND, AND IF ANYONE BUT THE ACTUAL TILLER IS TO CLAIM A SHARE IN THE LAND'S PROCEEDS, IT MUST BE BY VIRTUE OF SOME SERVICE RENDERED TO THE LAND, AS DEFENDING IT OR DIRECTING ITS EMPLOYMENT.

IT IS A SAD REFLECTION UPON THE STATE OF THE LAW, AND UPON THOSE WHO PERPETUATE AN OLD PROHIBITION AGAINST THE MODIFICATION OF THE LAW TO MEET CHANGING CONDITIONS, THAT RESORT MUST BE HAD TO AN EXTRAORDINARY COURT, THE CHANCELLOR'S, AND TO THE CUMBERSOME DEVICE OF USES, IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE JUSTICE IN OUR AGRICULTURAL TENURES.

ONCE IN PERSIA REIGNED A KING
WHO UPON HIS SIGNET RING

ADVERTISEMENTS

WILLIAM CAXTON, PRINTER, AT THE SIGN OF THE RED PALE IN THE ALMONRY AT WESTMINSTER, ANNOUNCES THE AVAILABILITY FOR GENERAL SALE OF

LE MORTE D'ARTHUR

BY SIR THOMAS MALORY, KNIGHT
A COMPILATION, TRANSLATED INTO ELEGANT ENGLISH, FROM VARIOUS FRENCH SOURCES, GIVING A COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE GREAT LEGENDARY FOUNDER OF CHIVALRY, AND HIS KNIGHTS OF THE TABLE ROUND

FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT OF LORDS, LADIES, AND GENTLEFOLK

ONE POUND AND SIX PER COPY

THE EDITOR WISHES TO OBTAIN AUTHENTIC TRANSCRIPTIONS OF NORSE SAGAS TELLING OF VINLAND, THE COUNTRY SOUTH OF GREENLAND AND WEST OF THE ATLANTIC.

GENETICS

THE SAME MATHEMATICAL FORMULAS WHICH DESCRIBE THE TRANSMISSION OF CHARACTERISTICS BY PLANTS APPLY ALSO TO ANIMALS. SINCE ANIMALS HAVE FEWER OFFSPRING THAN PLANTS, THE PROPORTIONS ARE NOT SO OBVIOUS. (THE EDITOR WILL BE PLEASED TO CORRESPOND WITH ANYONE INTERESTED ABOUT THE VARIATION FROM AVERAGE WHICH MAY BE EXPECTED IN SMALL SAMPLES.)

WITH THIS UNDERSTOOD, LET US CONSIDER A CASE OF THE MATING OF CERTAIN WHITE BREEDS OF CATTLE WITH BLACK. A FOURTH OF SUCH OFFSPRING WILL BE WHITE, AND A FOURTH BLACK, AND HALF WILL BE ROAN.

THE OFFSPRING OF THE ROANS WILL BE WHITE, BLACK, AND ROAN IN THE 1, 1, 2 RATIO JUST DESCRIBED.

NEXT MONTH WE WILL COMPARE THE RESULTS OF THIS EXPERIMENT WITH THE RESULTS OF THE EXPERIMENT WITH PEAS PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED, ACCOUNT FOR THE DIFFERENCE, AND CONSIDER THE REASON THEREFOR.

GRAVED A MAXIM TRUE AND WISE
WHICH IF HELD BEFORE HIS EYES
GAVE HIM COUNSEL AT A GLANCE
FIT FOR EVERY CHANGE OR CHANCE.
SOLEMN WORDS, AND THESE ARE THEY:
"EVEN THIS SHALL PASS AWAY."

I had finished reviewing the June 1946 Astounding, but wanted to make some remarks on the Argentine's letter and Campbell's comment. Senor Loeffler objected that men of the future were shown as still reacting according to present-day codes and morals; and Campbell replied that the author couldn't construct a new technical background and still have time to develop an entirely new social system also, and that censorship would interfere with the use of a really different different code. The latter remark seems to stem from the vulgar confounding of morals and sexual morality. Innumerable permutations and innovations in the field of morals and ethics are possible without any risk of censor's wrath. I have already mentioned that I think most of the straitjacketing of new economic ideologies in Astounding's stories is imposed by publisher and editor; there's no law against them. The argument that there's not space enuf to build new backgrounds in both technological and social fields won't stand up, first, because that's no reason why some stories should not concentrate on the latter; and second, because some stories, such as Beyond This Horizon, Veiled Island, Revolt of the Scientists, Island of the Individualists, Unto Us a Child Is Born., have expressly or by implication used variant social systems, with or without at the same time filling in the mechanical background. Those are novels; in a short story, not even the technology of the time is shown in large, and it would be as easy to make a passing reference to changed standards of conduct as to advanced scientific knowledge. Such casual references, I think, would often do a great deal to maintain interest in a story, and to keep the reader thinking of it afterward. I don't want to use this department for an essay, or I'd go into this matter more fully.

July 1946: Denatured Atoms 36.61A. You never can tell from the title of a Campbell editorial what he's going to end up talking about. The suggested shift of viewpoint from "criminal nations" to the individuals who do the criminal acts is certainly a good one. " Rain Check I've already classified and commented on in Stefnave. " Ditto Trouble. But I might add that I think the two stories add up to a childishly didactical conclusion: That both engineers and physicists are needed in the world. " The Blindness is not up to N-Day. " Portrait of a Voice is very good. I hope this has come to Chauvenet's attention. " Film Library is more than unsatisfactory. The scientific basis of the story is about as plausible as a short from Amazing. The only interest the plot has is, first, exemplifying the obtuseness of some people before a miracle, second, pleasing us with the discomfiture of the villainous teacher. It doesn't seem to me reason enuf to write a story. " Campbell's headnote to Duryea's letter about the supposed inherent instability of stern-driven rockets doesn't acknowledge that he was in error. Richardson's letter taking "Lathan" to task was amusing.

Aug 46: Sensory Equipment 32.5/37.4-U gives some information new to me, re: senses. The psych book I had about five years ago listed some fifteen senses, as I recall. No definite number can be settled on, not only because our physiological knowledge is incomplete, but also because senses are not differentiated into discrete bundles: Is the sense of muscle tension only a subdivision of the sense of bodily position? You can call it that if you like. " My main objection to Slaves of the Lamp 41.4/34.1-UK is its adoption of that meaningless but mischievous dogma that you can't change fundamental human nature. Other objections are to the justification of the very type of secret armament and mutual distrust between states which is most likely to cause World War III, and to the Aristotelian idea that it's possible to create beings who are absolutely free of environmental influences. There are some implausibilities, too, in the development of the action, which have now slipped my mind. But it's still a good story, and the final solution, ruthless publicity of high-level policy and transactions, is about the best that can be found. " Carter's The Last Objective 41K/31.7 suffered by being a short-story with many characteristics of a novel. It was overloaded with characters, for instance. The unstable Clark, for example, with his ego-boosting beard, was killed before he had any role in the plot commensurable with his buildup. Nor did Carson the android amount to anything. The acknowledgment of his nature at the end seemed an inappropriate way to close the tale. " The Cat and the King 44.2 was childish. The only surprise in the story was not

that the cat was the cause of the villain's troubles, but that the cat should be anything as simple as a visiphone recorder. " Bankruptcy Proceedings 45.7. It is always difficult to remember the plot of a story by Van Vogt or Hull. In reading this one, I remember being troubled by wondering why Blord, with all his perspicacity, should have blundered into whatever pickle he was in, but a rescanning of the story doesn't bring it back. These Blord stories are set up like mysteries which you should be able to solve if you're clever enuf. But when the characters themselves--even Artur Blord--stay for hours or days in a peril from which a gadget such as an eldophone or oxygen and energy detector capsules could have extricated them at any time, you feel that the authoress has dealt unfairly with you when she finally uses one of the gadgets. " I liked Child of the Gods 41/34.41-44.4K. The idea of a superman who displays his powers only by accurately guessing what people will do, thinking of a military use, in a certain situation, for a familiar atomic effect, and foreseeing to the letter the effect thereof, is more attractive than the common picture of supermen with ESP and other powers. " I think exception may be taken to the axiomatic quality of at least one of Stevenson's axiomatic principles of civilized living, to wit, the fundamental right of every citizen to believe in and preach and practice any way of life, however cockeyed, that does not actively menace the welfare of his fellows. Is not public education an interference with this right? It permanently closes the doors upon many ways of life, such as barbarism and peasantry, which might easily be preferred to more advanced conditions. But I heartily second his motions for school instruction in logic and sophistry, and for an article in Astounding on general semantics. " Stanton says motive and emotion are, for practical purposes, identical. Such has been my position in the past, but Don Lockman and the Columbia Encyclopedia indicate otherwise. Can anyone offer clarification?

44.9/

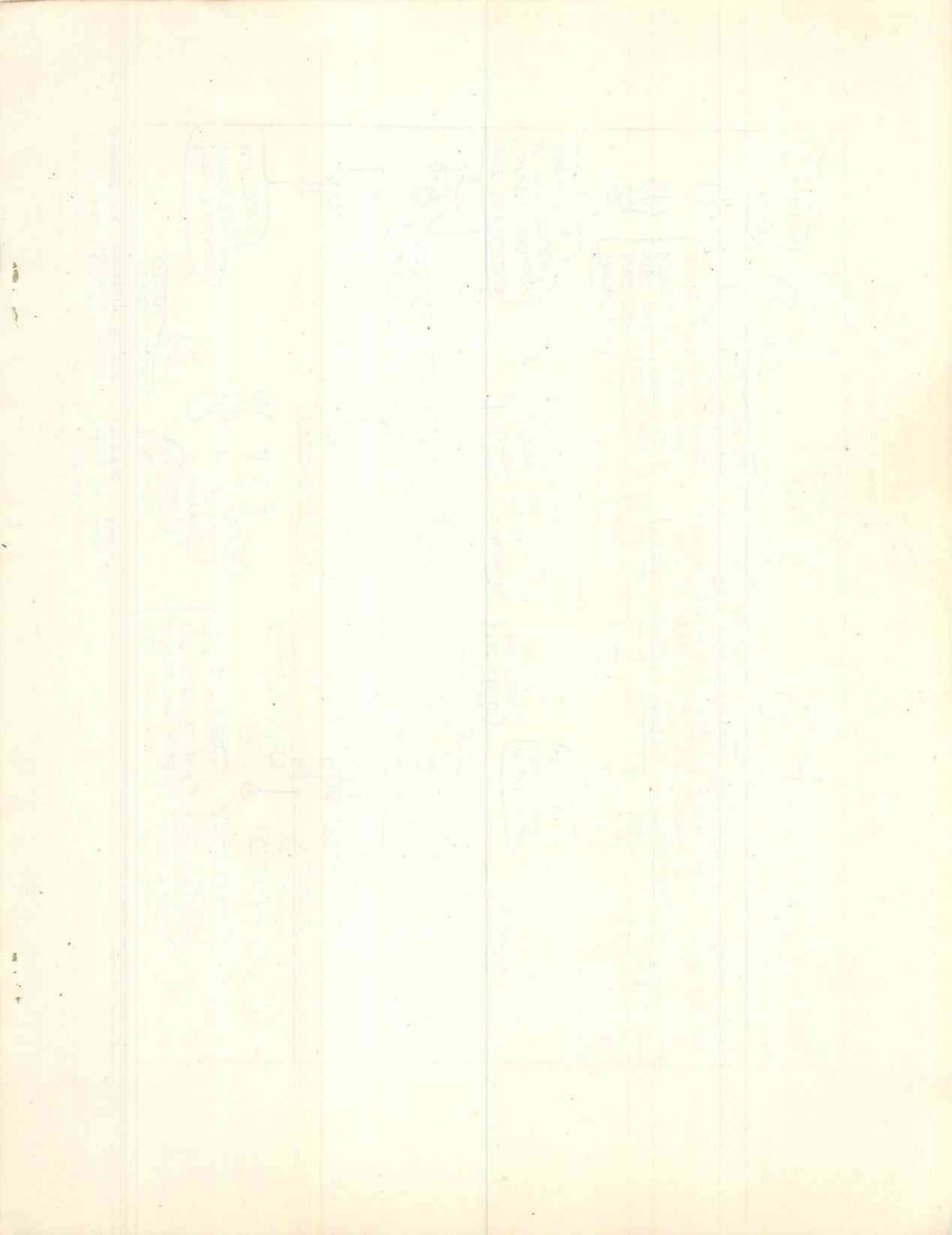
September brings The ToyMaker 34.3 and disappointment. The explanation of what the imagines really were was so ordinary and mechanical! One good point may be salvaged from the story: that aggressors seldom consider at length the possibility of defeat. " The glimpses of the future's marvelous culture and technology were the most interesting part of Vintage Season 63. " Evidence 41/36.13 had no great reason to be written. " Swenson's illustration of the cell in the catacombs, for Slaves of the Lamp, is a particularly flagrant example of his inaccuracy, inability to understand the author's description. Probably the duty of drawing for every story in the issue forces him to skim thru them hastily.

October ASF: The Lead Curtain 36.6-AU: If these implications of the amended act were presented to Congress before they passed the control bill, it's a sad reflection on Congress. " The Chronicler 32.3 was good enuf reading to hold the interest, and the Sight Without Glasses propaganda added some substance. The scientific explanation, that merely by changing one's mental attitude one can slip over into another plane of existence, is indefensible. Usual vV characteristics are present, notably the guy forced to act on practically no information. Even so, he deduced a lot more about the relationship of ship and city than naturally followed from the data given at first. In one detail AE unjustifiably misled us: He described Lear on her first appearance in hostile terms which necessarily signified that she was not to be a heroine in the story. Illustrations were outrageous, particular those depicting the "wheel machine". And that will be about all I have to say. " Speaking of awful illustrations, that one on page 58 takes the prize. " We have an unusual array of titles for the article this time. The name on the contents page is The Atomic Pile 81.35. In the text the title is strung out onto three different pages. Anyway, the photos, and JVC's deductions from them, are of great interest. " Alien 34. was too trivial to deserve space in A Science Fiction. " Classifying False Dawn 54/42.8-18.2 presents some interesting problems. I'm rather annoyed by the effort put forth to make names and incidents agree with the Biblical account; it would have been better to use only the Atlantis theme, if indeed any legendary background was necessary. Annoying too is the attempt to tie atomics to the craters of the moon. It is a mistake to go so far in trying to capitalize on interest in atomistics that we pretend things such as the lunar craters are mysteries when they aren't. Incidentally, AEC neglected to mention that the Atlanteans' eyesight was far better than their barbarous descendants', though this must have been so, considering the detail that the former could see on

the moon's surface with the naked eye. The glimpses of the attractive civilization of Atlantis were a good feature of the story. "I've commented to Chan on To Still the Drums; when I come to classify it, I'm tempted to call it 91. The time does not seem to be anything beyond the present, and there are no scientific extrapolations involved. The only imaginative element is the location of a lab in Colorado. This makes the story doubly frightening. "The letter from Joe Spivins is rather remarkable. It's probably illegal to publish anything that could be considered a direct incitement to illegal violence, but I think we might discuss as an intellectual or philosophical question the potentialities of direct action. If, for example, scattered individuals firmly devoted to the cause of a better world order should patiently set out to work their way into places of confidence in great financial institutions or autocratic governments, they might change the course of history with some well-timed filching and publication of papers, sabotage of office routine,. Or people with less patience, but not overly fond of life, might plant dynamite and incendiaries in enuf of the right places at a critical time, or resort to old-fashioned assassination, with a clearer view of the key men, and produce great changes; whether those intended by them or not, is another question. Greasy said assassination has never changed the course of history, but Greasy had a rather Aristotelian outlook on things. I hasten to add that I am not fanatic enuf to do any of these things if there is much chance of getting caught; but with Spivins the situation is different.

Nov 46: Atomic Engines 36.61K shatters my hope of being reasonably safe by picking out a moderately small city to live in. Maybe the boys who are hitting out for the hills have the only solution after all. " Mewhu's Jet 44.3 has a clever trick, and unlike the vV-Hull type of mysteries, this was one we could have doped out if we'd been sharp enuf. The rapid healing of the bone, however, was not a real clue, but only a suggestion that Mewhu was a child, since he healed much more rapidly than a child would. I know; I was in splints for six weeks and more. Kolliker's illustrations, it becomes monotonous to say, are in utter disagreement with the story: He shows a bungalow with merely a hole in the sloping roof; in the story the house had had its second floor torn off and the hole was the top of the stair well. " Hobbies 41.9/35.13-/35.3 is a good story taken by itself, but considered as an installment in the City serial, represents a recession. For one thing, we are told at the outset that the hope with which Paradise ended has proved false, and the Juwain philosophy has resulted in the destruction of huzankind. And Hobbies ends with an abject retreat such as I have never liked, and which leaves the Earth a doubly dark place. "It took me three tries to read Tower of Darkness 44.9, for I appeared to have gotten trapped into the monthly space opera. As it turned out, the story has considerable significance, highlighting the eternal difference between those to whom Now suffices, and those to whom it does not. Contrary to an implication which may be drawn from the story, your Frenchman would not make a good colonizer of bleak worlds; he is too fond of the "good things of life". But there are other species of the Now genus, the peasant, the adventurer, and others, who could combat the philosophy of despair as easily as a hedonist. I see I have confused two things here, as has LeClerc: The personality needed to meet the Darshan philosophy has little to do with the requirements for a bleak outpost.

Murray for the new cover artist on December 46. "I notice Campbell capitalizing Science Fiction in his editorial. I suppose this is connected in some way with the title change, but it reminds me unpleasantly of the capitalization of Fan thru-out the Welcom booklet. " Metamorphosite 44.9/34.4 would have been better if the hero had been left a solitary man fighting an empire with only the advantages of the intelligence, knowledge, and poise that were revealed at the start. The revelation of more and more powers smells of d v-2, and the culminating change in form is not easy to square with incidents earlier in the story. The connection between Terra and the imperials was no surprise, but the means of establishing it are implausible. Considering the great changes in a language in 600 years, from 1000 to 1600, it is fantastic to suppose that Terran and imperial language would be so much alike. Nor can it be believed that the exact rules of chess would be preserved thru such vicissitudes as are alleged to have occurred. (This will be finished on the ifcover.)



RIP VAN McPHAIL
CARNELL McPHAIL

HARRY PORRY
CHINESE SAVANT (NOW PASSE)
GRAMMA GERT
HISTORIAN
MOSKOWITZ

DOCTOR SEARLES
RETIRED
GRADER

FATHER
WIDNER

"HARD LUCK" GRONER
JUFFES THE
TERRIBLE
RAYN THE
ROVER

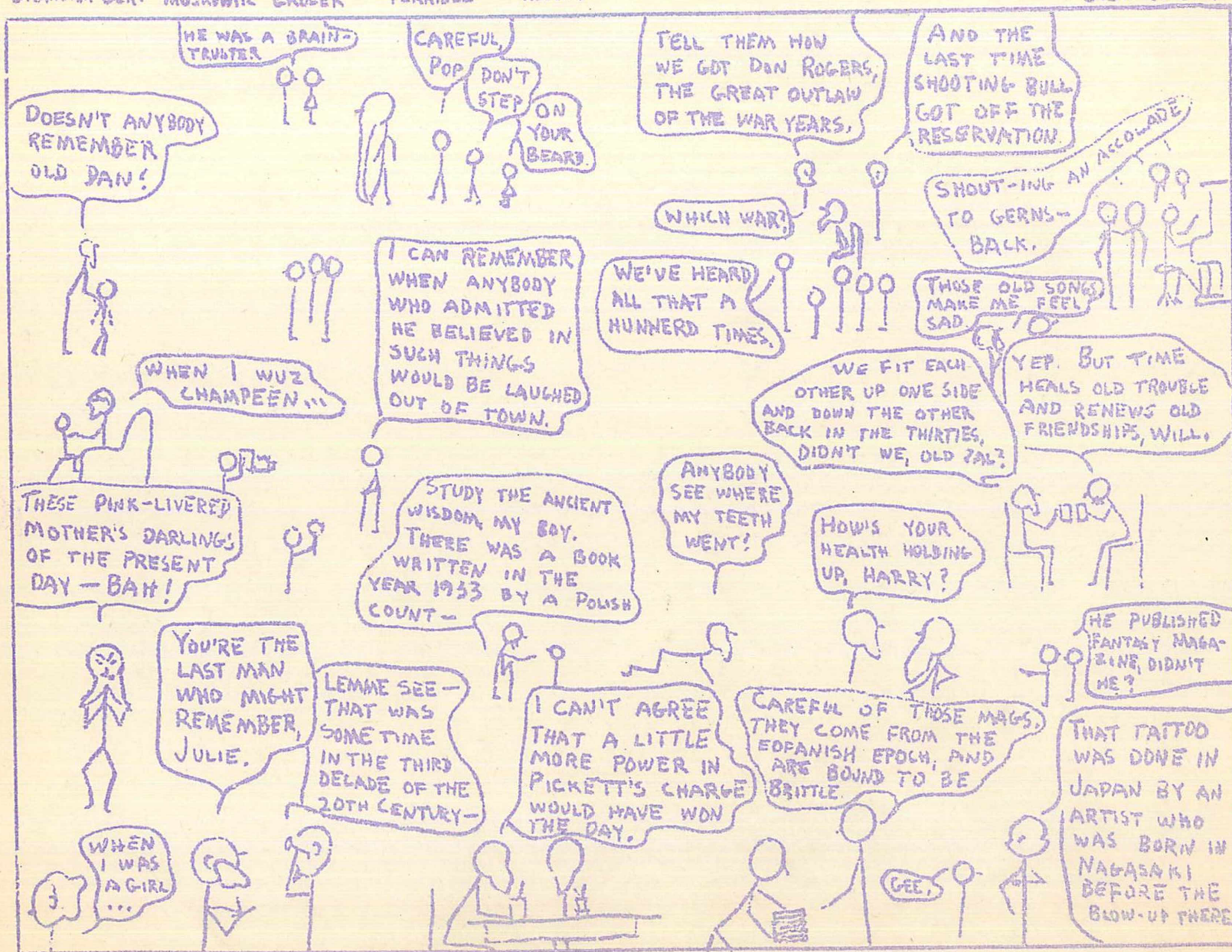
WHIRLING DERVISH
GAFFER EVANS

AA: 94

LARRY THE LUTFUL

OLD SOAK PERDUE
MARSHAL ROTHMAN
OLD SOLDIER
DITTO
GYKORA
WILLHEIM
ELDER WARNER

BOSIN GOLBERT



OLD-TIMERS AT THE PHILLCON