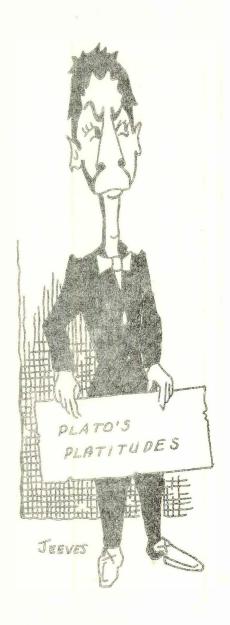


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Tim Marion Has asked me to put out T.H.U.M.B. while he is in Florida, and being a sweet loveable old man, I agreed to do it.My problem will be in finding the time to do this with all the holiday festivities that will soon be upon us, plus the fact that I really don't know many, if any, of the people on the mailing list. So not really knowing where to start, I guess the best thing is to introduce myself. I am one of the Jones boys you are always hearing about. Plato, to be exact. If any of you are old enough to have read the old zines. you have probably seen my cartoons sprinkled through them. I can't remember all of them I have drawn for, but I do remember doing work for John Magnus' SF, Harlan Ellison's Science-Fantasy Bulletin and Dimensions, Richard Geis' Psycotic and Science Fiction Review (the old ones), Lynn Hickman's TIMA, The Little Corpuscie, Argassy, JD, Scurvy, Conversation, JD-Argassy, The Bullfrog Bugle, OB, Stf Trends, and others. Also work for Earl Kemp, Dean Grennell, Nancy and Marie-Louise Share, Nan Gerding, George Young, Howard DeVore, and probably a lot of others that I have forgotten. This

was in the fifties and sixties mostly. Since then, the small amount of work that I have done has been in the

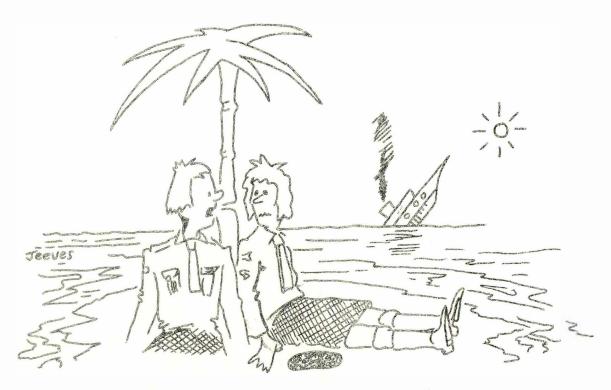
Pulp Era.

I am in my mid-forties and have been a sciencefiction fan since I was a toddling little boy. Besides
art, I like most sports, and of course like all sweet
loveable old men, am an invertant girl watcher. My best
sport is pool, which I play with either hand equally well.
I can also drink beer with either hand which comes in
handy as I have spent many pleasant hours with a pool
cue in one hand and a beer in the other. My favorite
is Toby Ale with Greentree Frog Beer coming in a close
second. My favorite whiskies are Jack Daniels and Wild
Turkey. In women, I prefer blondes, brunettes and red
heads.

Like all artists who could never make a living doing what they like best, I have done many things. It reads like the back of a book jacket about the author of a best seller. Salesman (peanut pickers), dishwasher, hops picker, movie projectionist, doorman, taxi driver, printers devil, short order cook, clerk in a clothing store, farm hand, potato sorter, chicken sexer, truck driver, silo stomper, etc. At the present time I am chief taster for the Chief Wauseon Gooseberry Wine Co. Inc. Now that you know all about me except for the

mole on my hip, lets hear from you. OK? As far as I know, Tim runs THUMB something like an APA. In other words, if you want the next issue of THUMB, you must respond with either a letter of comment, an article or some artwork or you will be dropped from the mailing list. However, while I am putting it out, I'll be a little easier on you. You must respond to at least every other issue or you will be dropped. When Tim gets back he can go back to his own ways. Another reason I am doing it this way is that I know I am going to be late in getting this issue out so will be following it almost immediately so that many of you might not have time to get articles in. AND, since I am expanding the mailing list, I expect to get more letters and material in than I can use in one issue and still keep this to the size that one can put out comfortably once a month.

(continued on page 15)



" HOW ABOUT A GAME OF HIDE AND SEEK?"

This is the Crimson Chronicles, coming to you from the worn out pen of Tim C. Marion in his new abode in Key West, Florida.

In Charlotte, we stopped, on the lukewarm day of Oct. 9, 1971. I reached the peak in fannish excitement when I realized Mike Dobson and Ed Smith were coming over to my uncle's house in Charlotte to visit me.

Out onto the back patio we fled, and we became hotly

engrossed in a grade A fannish conversation.

Ed Smith jotted down a few notes and told me this golden interview with me was going into the next issue of his fanzine (if there is one) and in his next Slan-Apa mailing.

We would have gone book store hopping and would have perhaps produced a one-shot, but circumstances beyond our control (my parents) prevented us from doing so.

I gave them both a copy of T.H.U.M.B. and they want

to be put on the mailing list.

We all had a grand time talking, reciting fannish jokes such as Ed Smith's "Rot Beer" and laughing.

Gahan Wilson Dept:

Gahan Wilson had come down from Conn. Oct. 2nd to Charlotte to speak at a banquet. After that Mike Dobson and Ed Smith talked with him til about 2:00 in the morning. (Oct. 7th) Ed said to me: "Gahan Wilson was here last week and you're here this week. I wonder what we can come up with next week to top that".

So when I came down tere in Key West, I looked him up in the phone book, and he lives right here in Key West Towers where I do! But alas, as fate would have

it, he had moved to Miami.

After Charlotte, we went to the Okefenokee Swamps

in Georgia, and they are mostly overated.

Later we found ourselves in Silver Springs, Fla., and we took a trip on the famous glass bottom boats so we could see all the different springs and everything. A lot of tv shows were made down there like Sea Hunt and I Spy, etc. We then took a jungle cruise in which we visited a couple of tribes of Old World Monkeys.

After that, we went to Cypress Gardens where we saw a group of girls in bikinis performing on waterskis. I was extremely fortunate to have in my possession a pair of binoculars so I fairly feasted my eyes. Later we went into the gardens where some "southern Belles" were wearing some low-cut on the bosom dresses posing

for photographs.

So here I am in Key West and I don't care if I do leave a big blank space at the bottom of the page be-

cause I don't want to be paranoid like Ned Brooks about leaving a big blank space so I don't care if I leave a big blank space and I'm not going to make a big rectangle tunnel to where you have to turn the paper sideways to read it like Ned did and I'm not going to be trapped in a tunnel with a group of Slans nor T.H.U.M.B.er's so there!

If anybody wishes to contact A streyball me,:

Tim C. Marion 607A Key West Towers Key West, Florida 33040

((Tim, I guess I'm paranoid like Ned, but as long as I am putting this bulletin out for you, I will not leave a big blank space.))



FROM THE TIP O THE THUMB .. a readers column of sorts

George W. Beahm 1867-D Jefferson Ct. LAFB, Va. 23365

I've been meaning to write a meaty loc on THUMB #1-4 but never got the time to sit down and actually commit myself to spending the time to the typer. Well I promise you I won't praise THUMB to the stars but I'll try to present some honest criticism so that all might benefit from it.

LOC on Issue #1: Out of the 6 pages, there was a short 2 page short-story; 2 pages on personal topics; a for sale list; and 2 full page illoes. Glen Brock's piece was very nice -- detailed and all but the "Fraymate of the Month" just didn't blow my mind. An obvious takeoff on "Playmate of the Month" and a rather rotund girl at that. As to the first page, it made interesting reading except it seemed to be thrown together with little pre-planning. The colophon was extremely short and had no date of publication nor did it have frequency of publication, etc. But this is all

nit-picking.

The second page would have blown over easily if it didn't have an erronous address for me and a very vague sentence "George Beahm plans to go to the New York con and buy the last volume and TALON there" and "Doc Savage paperbacks are going to be stopped because James Bama quit." I know I told you about both of those items over the phone but I wish to make it perfectly clear that both the 2nd volume of HISTORY OF COMICS and TALON were evidently not going to be at the con. My statement was more like "I hope that they will be at the con... " And Doc Savage paperbacks will not be dropped because Bama quit. True, Bama did resign but Bantam sure as hell won't stop printing them because there is an interest! Last I heard, Bantam has a backlog of Bama stuff which they will be using. Peter Carras has a style much like Bama and they could easily switch to him without losing too much for Doc Savage fans. for Jeff Jones doing the covers...oh Lordy! Don't you realize that Jeff's style is very different from Bama's? Jeff is more of a contemporary artist, following the works of NC Wyeth rather than a "realistic" artist like Bama who achieves a photographic effect in his art. Boy, are your dreams strange... I rather liked "All books must go! They're taking up too much valuable space" in your sales list but since I already read that off one of Ned Brook's sales list about 4 months ago ... The short story "What Had Been A Man" had so many verb shifts, confusing sentences, faulty parallelism that it was very difficult to read. Still, taking into

account that the writer is 12 years old, it was a fairly decent story (for a twelve year old). I consider the Glen Brock illoes as the highlights of the issue. Glen has a unique, different style and really impresses me with much of his stuff. His detailed illustrations are much better than 80% of the fan art produced today and a helluva lot better than the stuff produced in great volumes by Dan Osterman, Navarro and that ilk. Not a bad first issue -- lots of room for improvement tho.

LOC on Issue #2: I'm glad it had a cover -- that made it look more like a fanzine. The illustration was good -- the shadow detail was right fine. The only fault I could find was that the hand seemed to be a little out of proportion -- but again, merely nit-pick-

ing.

I see you are still typing your title logo "THUMB" by using that weird, hard to read method of making the "T" out of many little"t's", etc. Again, the colephon was difficult to follow as there was no date of publi-

cation, ordering info, etc.

The first page was a page of personal ramblings -rather disjointed. It is difficult to read of "this
terrible typing" and then he goes into a series of 3
classified ads and then switches over to your "reading
of Conan the Bucanneer". The illo at the bottom of the
page of Ned was delightful. I really liked it:

The letters page was interesting but Victor's latter was too choppy and after he cut down the entire issue, he had the gall to ask for a favor... Your reply to his letter was more interesting than the actual letter. If you do write better non-fannish stories than your fannish ones, why not publish them in THUMB? I'm sure

readers would welcome the change!

Your short section of personal ramblings made interesting reading but was difficult to follow as you ran all the sentences in one long, unrelated paragraph. Also, you made statements that would leave a majority of fans in the dark as to what actually happened. You stated "I bought RED SHADOWS". The uninitiated REH fan wouldn't have the foggiest notion what RED SHADOWS was! Perhaps you could have said "I recently bought a copy of RED SHADOWS, in the 2nd edition, which was written by Robert E Howard. It is a beautiful hardback printed by Donald M. Grant (of Rhode Island) who prints many Robert Howard Books and is also a book-dealer in the fantasy and SF field. Red Shadows is a collection of all the Solomon Kane material that has ever been published. Solomon Kane is, of course, a dour loth century Puritan who went around the world righting wrongs..." Get the message?

My want list was sort of interesting reading but it was too bad it was used as a mere filler. It was some what of a waste to even put it in the issue as the small

circulation would hardly guarantee any response, I would highly recommend making a meaty 10-20 page fanzine which would be readable and print, maybe, about 100 copies and send review copies to faneds, put classified ads in TBG. RB-CC or whatever. This way, you could get a better response/feedback and possibly some ego-boo (ego boosting) rather than settling for the repitious letters from the small clique of friends that presently receive THUMB. As it is now, THUMB is more of a one man apa rather than anything else. One sore point about the zine is that you give it out free -- charging nothing for postage. If you charged for postage and nothing else, you could boost your circulation and possibly break even. (The printing doesn't cost you a thing but the postage does.)

The autobiography of you made interesting reading. The only complaint I could find (besides the usual grammatical errors) was that it wasn't detailed enough. You hardly didn't even mention fandom or the effect it had on you. You didn't even go into any sort of depth as to the effect Ned Brooks had on you. (I know Ned has influenced me considerably -- probably more than any

other fan!)

The poems page was fair but 2 poems on one page?
You should have done some spot illoes or double spaced

the poems so it occupied more room.

The all around single worst feature this issue was the illo of God-knows-what on the last page. The illo was poor and the caption "Right next to me -- Parkview, Va 23605" made no sense whatsoever. A waste of space and paper! Let's see this sort of slopiness eliminated.

LOC on Issue #3: The usual fine Glen Brock cover I see. This issue was probably the best of the 4 issues I've seen. The illo on page one was rather abstract -and interesting. The con report was much too filled with poor, distasteful "humor". It gave very little insight on the actual proceedings but dealt with your prejudices against certain people ... Not to mention it was so filled with grammatical errors that I had a very difficult time what you were referring to. (ie -- "I ambled in to Ned's Volvo" which made it seem like you ran into Ned's car by accident). The repetition was trite, boring, ad naseum. To quote: "staircase after staircase" and "comics and comics". Not to mention you used "staircase after staircase" twice: Once is forgivable, twice is a sin! I did attend the con and found that many of your statements lacking authenticity. If the con report was supposed to be a parody or lampoon of sorts, you should have let the readers know about it. And also, I didnot go up for 2nds, much less 3rds, 4ths, etc. I suppose the most sincerest form of flattery is when you lift verbatim, a phrase that someone else used before. (i.e. I said in my con report "The Lost World

was a comedy of sorts" and you quoted me on that -- without giving due credit and making it sound as if you said it, -- for shame! Plaigerist! Up against the wall:: As for the fannish singing, well, it wasn't in the kitchen -- it was in the downstairs romper room. Kitchen indeed ... The biggest mistake of all was saying that Ed Murray stood up on a table and announced the next mini-Firstly, it was Mike Dobson who told of the con and secondly, neither Edwin nor Mike stood on the table. Puh-leese get the facts straight! The grammar was disconcerting, as you said "the next mini-con would have to charge a fee" -- huh? I thought people charged the fee! The all around unforgivable blunder (of which there were many in this con report) was lifting my statement I used in my con report about "the neo sat in the back seat, sitting quietly, getting sober, recovering from the stuptifying effects of root beer" or something like that. Really Tim, must you so blatantly lift my very words out of my mouth?

I am apalled that you said, quote, "George wanted me to spend gads of money to print a Roy Krenkel piece". Hell no, I merely said that I had a piece you could print if it was possible -- but I knew the photo offset would have been expensive. I didn't give a tinkerer's damn whether or not you printed it. Really Tim, try to

get the facts straight!

Oh, on that comment you made about my article on the first impression I had of you, where in God's name did I say I "treasured those memories."? I cannot recall making such a faux pas either verbally or via printed word. And as for me being a comics fan at the time of the article, I thought I explained in detail during that very phone conversation that I was selling all my comics so why would I even care about comics? Much less be a comics fan! You were the comics nut at that time -you wanted me to give you A listing of the ones for sale -- you were the one who frequently visited the bookshops for Marvel and DC comics. As for that bit you knowing REH before I did, well, I knew of Howard around the summer of '69 when I read a REH tale in a pulp. When I met you, you did have a little bit of knowledge about REH -- but it was so little knowledge! You thought REH only wrote of Conan the barbarian. think I was the one to enlighten you on all the REH hardbacks like Skullface & Others, Red Shadows, Gent From Bear Creek, etc. You didn't even know that REH composed stories of Breckinridge Elkins, Bran Mak Morn, Solomon Kane, Steve Costigan and the many other characters that REH wrote. Heck, you didn't even know about The Howard Collector or Amra until I told you about them! (And I think I know what I'm talking about here as I had a complete set of THC and a near complete set

of Amra before you even knew of either one existing!) Oh, your little "fun of George's poem" made little sense. Not only did you copy me again "Chapter XXX, page 1341, Circa.. " ad naseum; but your poem said when you heard the phone, you stamped the doom ... what does that mean?

Your 2 reviews were fair -- nothing to get excited about. Again your sentences were often too short, (i.e. "Grave Undertaking terribly terrible.") Not only repltitious but confusing! I liked that phrase "The story left me crawling on the floor writhing in my own blood" -- it sounded like the floor was writhing in blood -not you writhing -- and also it would be a spectacle to see you writhe

The Savage Tales review was fairly good. No conplaints here except the equating of "Black Brother" not being fannish. I'm sure the editors didn't have fans in mind when they wrote it. That last sentence on the page, "ruined by Ned Brooks" didn't make sense either. How did he ruin it? You typed it (which wasn't saying much...) and he only printed the issue! (Which is the only singularly outstanding thing each issue ...)

The rest of the zine was composed of want lists. sales lists, etc. Not bad but again, filler material I fear. The only professional thing in the zine was the PHANTASMAGORIA ready sheet. Luckily, I had enough to give you for the zine and it did make an attractive part of the zine -- tho it would have been better as a front cover or a back cover.

LOC on Issue #4: Well, 6 pages this issue printed on 8 sheets...the cover by Glen was good as usual.

complaint there.

Oh, one big complaint: You didn't give me a copy of the zine and then took great liberties at taking potshots at me -- knowing full well I didn't even know the issue was printed! I had to borrow Ned's copy ... This issue was the nadir of all the four. If #3 is the best then #4 was definately the worst.

Your very first sentence says "August Derleth, who published Skullface died July 4th of a heart attack; at the age of 62". Wow. First, the way the sentence stands it makes it appear that August Derleth only published one book, Skullface, and secondly, without punctuation after Skullface, you made it seem like the book, Skullface, died of a heart attack at 62 years of age ...

Your comments on Frierson and Murray were so filled with mistakes that I will completely bypass them...not wishing to seem too critical. As for that crap about HAROSFA, the con is only tentative and the only people on the tentative committee is Ned & I. We have no such thing as an "assistant chairman". Not to mention that you refer to MAROSFA as HAROFSA...an unforgivable blunder ... As for the GoH being Kelly Freas -- that was only an idea -- not a definate statement that was gospel truth. (Tho you made it a definate one.) Again, I quote, "We'll be inviting all the pro sf artists." I cannot recall ever making a broad, generalized statement like that! Freas was only a tentative selection -- not even definate! If we are inviting all the pro sf artists, this con should be something! Gee, just think: Jeff Jones can fly in from NYC, Bode can fly in from Syracuse, Tim Kirk can fly in from San Francisco, and the dozens of other sf pro artists can drive here!

Nothing wrong with the statement about the Bode Collectors except that it is not 20¢ per copy for BB

but rather 10¢.

I liked that comment about Stan's WE. I quote, "an honest dealer form called a WSA form with a SASE" Gee,

I thought it was just called a WSA form ...

Another great booboo was, quote, "GEORGE reviews every fanzine ever published!" No, Tim, it only reviews the current fanzines. There were thousands upon thousands of fanzines published -- are you telling us GEORGE reviews them all? Hardly...

As for the Howard Collector "having poems, stories, and articles by the late Robert E. Howard", well, I'm glad he is writing "articles" -- considering he is dead, that is quite an achievement! Not to mention the poems and stories that he also writes -- being dead yet! The articles are not written by him at all -- but are written by close friends. Oh Mi Gawd! The blunders!

Hey, you actually did a decent colophon! Wow. Get my smelling salts! I liked the letters page, Daryl Matthews raised a moot point: "Beahm's article was campy". Was it? It surely wasn't intended to be campy but rather a very sarcastic, biting satire. Well, Daryl, you should know by now that the PHANTASMAGORIA ready sheets got in there via me -- since Tim didn't tell you the answer, I suppose someone should. I especially enjoyed Tim's reply to his letter. He says that the letters to his typer are "small and fat" while Ned's is "big and thin". Tim, don't you mean to say that your typer has an elite typeface and Ned's has a pica typeface? Hmm, as for Glen Brock not working for Witchcraft and Sorcery because he is too busy -- I doubt that very seriously. Firstly, since Witchcraft and Sorcery originates from San Francisco, the editor (not the official editor) could not logically live in Georgia. Secondly, Glen's work is SF oriented -- not horror or supernatural oriented like W&S is. Victor Lim's letter was much better written than his first letter. I'm glad he improved: the only thing that I was somewhat amused about was that Victor went ahead and tried to come on, in my impression, as a reviewer for GEORGE. He even ends with "Everything can stand some improvement and THUMB is no exception. Very ambitious publication but it doesn't quite make it." I disagree that everything can stand improvement -- look at Squa-Tront #3 or #4. I cannot see how either issue could have been improved!!!! Look at Phantasmagoria, it would have been impossible to improve that zine! Many things can stand improvement, Victor, but not everything! Also I was amused at the way he ended the loc. He used precisely the same words used by a reviewer in GEORGE. "Very ambitious publication but it doesn't quite make it." I think Strnad was the one who used it but since he makes straight A8s in all his classes and is a senior in college majoring in English, he used it in proper context but Victor seemed to use it out of content.

I noticed that Tim got peeved somewhat when Victor said "Doesn't quite make it" Tim sarcastically says things like "How would you like to make it? Color covers? Offset? Pro art? etc...

The reviews were the lousiest reviews that Itve ever had the misfortune to read. Not only did Tim miss the point concerning BLACKHAWK but he tried to incorporate REH into it...a neo-cious thing to do indeed! As for his review of "in The Days of the Mob", Tim tries to relate everything in the zine to fandom. An obvious blunder. Why does everything Tim reviews have to be relevant to fandom? I especially enjoyed his sentence that, quote, "I enjoyed the dancing girls tremendously in Bullets for Al" Oh really Tim? You enjoyed the dancing girls, eh? How did you enjoy them? Did they enjoy you?

The biggest faux pas (spelled by Tim as "fox paws") in any issue of Thumb ever was his "review" of my apazine, Pathless Trails. To quote him: "George worries about if he is still yet a neo to go ahead to take the time and effort to produce a 30 page personalzine. answer is: no George, you are not a neo, but you still are in the sense that you have a swelled head to boost your ego because you have become a big fan so quickly. You were not prepared for the shock, therefore, you have become a big braggard. Good Grief! .. Firstly Tim, I never said I was a big fan -- YOU say I'm a big fan. Don't you know a big fan is someone like GB Love or Jan Strnad? How can you blatantly make these statements about me when your basic premise (i.e. George is a bnf) is erronous! I'm not a BNF so how can you conclude conclusions from a faulty premise? It can't be done. As for me not being prepared for the shock...how can I prepare for the shock when I was never a BNF? You say that because I'm a BNF, I wasn't prepared for the shock. Since I'm not a BNF I don't need to ajust for a shock that obviously, doesn't apply to me. As for me being a snob, braggart, etc -- that is your personal opinion and why try to broadcast it for all the world to see? I could easily sue you for slander (defamation of 13 character) if I wished. Don't you realize, Tim, that when you print anything you are liable for what you print? I'm not going to let this get blown out of proportion (as you have done in your zine about me) but another fan might take this as an insult -- collectively and individually. If he sued you, because you printed something defaming to his character, you have nobody to blame but yourself! Since you obviously consider me a "braggart" and we all know that braggarts are not people to associate with, why did you even take the time to call the "braggart" 3 times on the phone -- after he even wouldn't talk to you* -- and write to the "braggart"? Well, I'm not going to get into this more deeply as this loc is already too long...

They say that imitation is the most sincerest form of flattery so I should be flattered to death by Tim's copying my "Why You Got This Issue" from my NAPAzine. Not only did Tim copy each of the comments but he included an illo (as did I) and he even added: "And before I forget, let me say this:" which was a part of my NAPAzine and he finally boxed off a section of the page for the comment -- which I originally did. Enough on this.

I'm typing this on the 9th of November -- it's taken me a couple of hours but at least if Plato Jones print's this in its' entirity, it will have served the purpose of "dissecting" the heart of THUMB #1-4.

*because he was busy.

((WOWEE!! I'm almost afraid to send this zine to George for dissecting, but since the major part will be George's letter, maybe I'll be safe. In a way this letter reminds me of when fans like Ted White and Harlan Ellison were young and would get mad and write a letter in haste. But then, I guess I'm old and tired and don't like so much controversy. Plato Jones))

At least, George, you get at least one wish. I cannot see printing a fanzine in an edition of less than at least 50, so I have added some names on to the list Tim gave me and this issue will be read by more people. I have only read THUMB #3 and #4, but from that and this letter, I would suggest that you both decide -- "what-the-hell, let's make up, shake hands and be friends again."

from Plato's Platitudes Chapter 7, page 32.

I hope next issue, to see more letters. That is the whole basis of THUMB (I guess). I hope to publish this close to monthly until Tim returns from Fla., so get those letters in. P.J.



I don't know whether
Tim published names and
addresses of the members
(or who this is sent to)
or not. So I'll put it up
to you. Do you want a
membership list published
a couple of times a year?
I will need over a 60%
yes vote to do this.

Now, to some of the type of material that I want to see in THUMB.
Again, I've only seen a couple of issues so don't know what all Tim has been running, but I want more and better artwork, comments on the zine, articles of interest to a wide group of fans (not just sf or comics) and

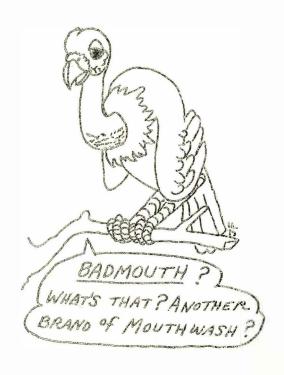
tomments on each others letters, more or less as if you were writing personal letters to the other members. We do not want letters or articles or artwork in bad taste. By that I mean that I imagine some of you are my age and that we should remember that there are also teenage fans on the mailing list that have parents (such as I am) who might read this sine. I want

nothing is it that would cause a parent to make his son or daughter quit fandom because of ill-advised material.

Since this time is being published on a friends equipment, I feel I should put in a plug for his zines. The first one is BADMOUTH (quarterly--\$1.25 a year) the 2nd is THE PULP ERA (quarterly--\$3.00 a year) the third is THE PULP MAGAZINE AND DIME NOVEL REVIEW (quarterly--\$5.00 a year).

Artwork this issue is by Plato Jones, Terry Jeeves, and Jackie Franke. Written material is by Plato Jones, Tim Marion and George Beahm.

The address for subscribing to any of the above zines is Plato Jones 413 Ottokee Street Waaseon, Ohio 43567.



Until next issue, BEST.

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