

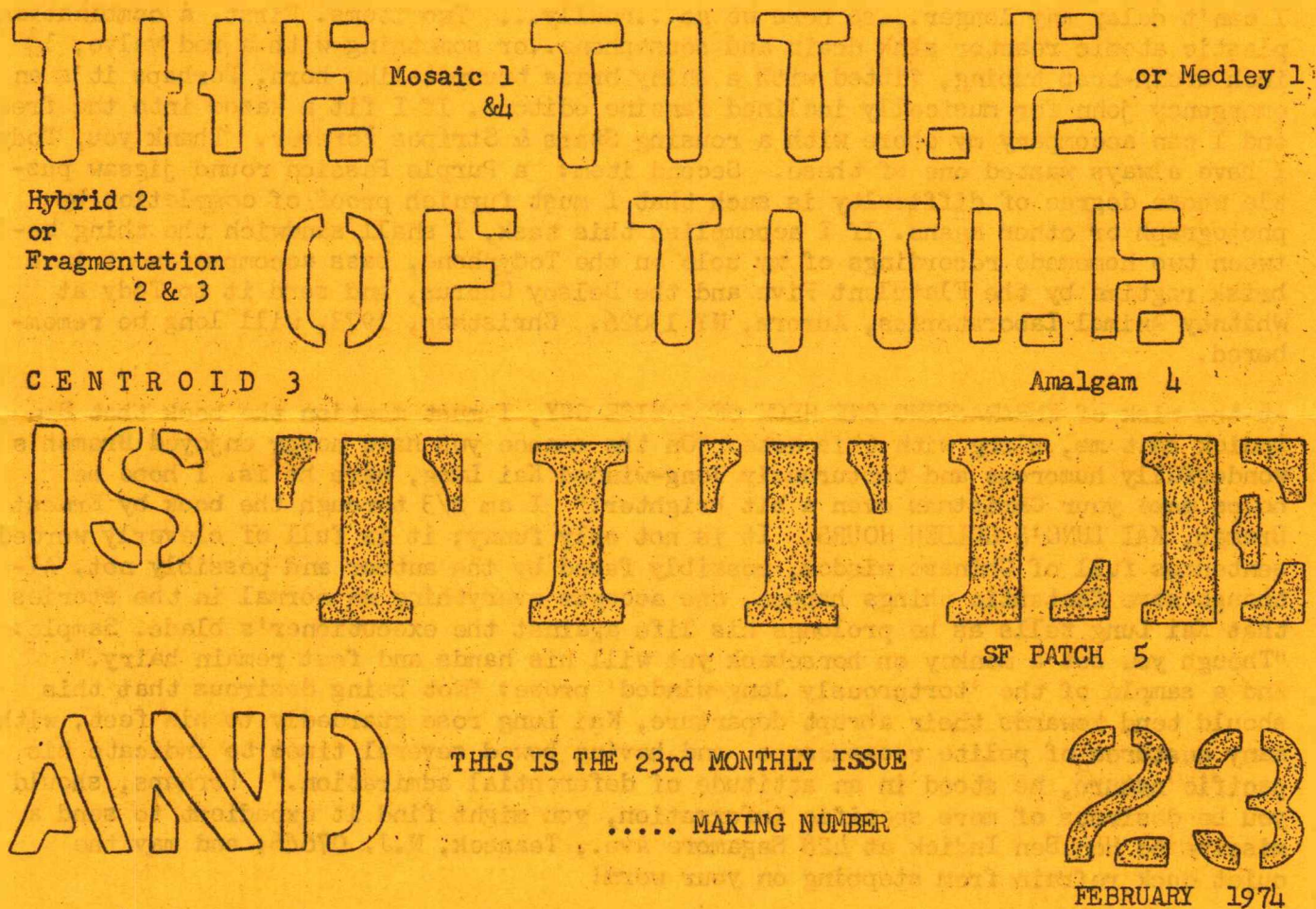
"Keep Knocking 'em dead! You old sock, you!" -- David 'Dash' Shank 12/17/73

"Ben Indick and Fred Wertham would be my choice of the most consistently interesting people in TITLE. Furthermore, I think Ben, Ed Cagle, Harry Warner, Jr., and Rose Hogue would have to be credited for giving TITLE its special flavoring!" --
Loay Hall 12/18/73

"What did Irvin Koch mean by 'Karen Burgett-- yes!'" -- Karen Burgett 12/15/73
((Your editor wondered about that, too; I think he likes your name..uh, yes..))

"Actually, Donn, I thot T 2l was excellent but I didn't see enough of me Me ME!"
Anonymous 12-15-73

"After I heard that you would take on the Manuscript Bureau, I smiled."
((I now have the ms from Robert 'Argee' Gersman, and am now contemplating Stan's smile....)) -- Stan Woolston 12/11/73



Keep it TITLE, says Denis Quane, Jodie Offutt, Dorothy Jones, Ben Indick, Hank Jewel, Bill Breiding, Jim Meadows, Alma Hill, Eric Mayer, David Shank, Loay Hall, and the following advised retention but liked other names coded as follows: Jackie Franke 1, Karen Burgett 2, John Carl 4, and Chris Hulse 5. Bruce D. Arthurs liked Fragmentation (3) but after a page of lyrical analysis devised one that George Fergus did not suggest -- CENTROID. The word, according to Bruce, has three connotations: 1) 100 for T's circulation 2) the center of things ((I blush)), and 3) the 'oid' a sort of scientific suffix that suggests android.

"Good Guy of the Issue Award: Ben Indick." -- Eric Mayer 12/15/73
((Ben is a good guy, period; but happy to see someone else appreciates that pill-rolling red-head of the improbable Teaneck, N.J.))

"Dear dopey title editor:" -- salutation from Richard S. Shaver 12/17/73

IT IS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19 and Des Peres, the Barbecue Pit of St. Louis, is getting one of the deepest snowfalls in many a year. Because of my long experience of driving in the ordinary 8 inch snowfalls of Wisconsin, I started out for work. After an hour of battling, not the snow but slipping cars, I had covered three miles and had eight more to go before deciding to turn around and go home. Being, thus, in the jolly Christmas spirit, I thank all T-readers who sent me cards, and I am now prepared to open the large box that came yesterday from Tody Kenyon. I say 'prepared' because it takes courage to open a box from Tody Kenyon...but here we go!

FIRST OF ALL, THE KENYON PACKAGE is marked with conflicting THIS SIDE UP directions, and arrows pointing in both directions, and after reaching one side, you read GO BACK YOU ARE GOING THE WRONG WAY. The mailman, unfortunately, saw fit to complain about this and wondered how come I was the recipient of a box marked CONTENTS: MISSING TAPES #2,3; NON-EXISTENT TAPE #14; MASKING TAPE; SCOTCH TAPE; WORM, TAPE. Well, folks, I can't delay any longer...so here we go...really... Two items. First, a combination plastic atomic reactor sink drain and sousaphone..or something with a red valve, 1½ inch drain-trap tubing, fitted with a shiny brass trumpet-like horn. Perhaps it's an emergency john for musically inclined fanzine editors. If I fit a kazoo into the free end I can accompany my chore with a rousing Stars & Stripes Forever. Thank you, Tody, I have always wanted one of these. Second item: a Purple Passion round jigsaw puzzle whose degree of difficulty is such that I must furnish proof of completion by photograph or other means. If I accomplish this task, I shall sandwich the thing between two homemade recordings of my solo on the Todyphone, bass accompaniment in a brisk ragtime by the Flatulent Five and the Delsey Chorus, and send it to Tody at Whitney Animal Laboratories, Aurora, NY 13026. Christmas, 1973, will long be remembered.

At the risk of EMBARRASSING ONE HECK OF A NICE GUY, I must mention the book that Ben Indick sent me, along with this note: "On the chance you have never enjoyed Bramah's wonderfully humorous and torturously long-winded Kai Lung, here he is. I hope he helps make your Christmas even a bit brighter!" I am 2/3 through the book by Ernest Bramah, KAI LUNG'S GOLDEN HOURS. It is not only funny; it is full of cleverly worded sentences full of Chinese wisdom, possibly faked by the author and possibly not. Although some fantastic things happen, one accepts everything as normal in the stories that Kai Lung tells as he prolongs his life against the executioner's blade. Sample: "Though you set a monkey on horseback yet will his hands and feet remain hairy." And a sample of the 'torturously long-winded' prose: "Not being desirous that this should tend towards their abrupt departure, Kai Lung rose guardedly to his feet, with many gestures of polite reassurance, and having bowed several times to indicate his pacific nature, he stood in an attitude of deferential admiration." Perhaps, should you be desirous of more specific information, you might find it expedient to send a missive to Hon. Ben Indick at 428 Sagamore Ave., Teaneck, N.J. 07666; and may the quiet duck refrain from stepping on your worm!

JUST ARRIVED, THE SIXTH ISSUE OF VERTEX noting the Al Jackson 'Tiny Black Hole' idea and a review of RENDEZVOUS WITH RAMA. Also included, stories by Walt Liebscher and Greg Benford and eight authors unknown to me. Joanna Russ has an article "The Image of Women in Science Fiction." All I've read so far is the interview of Philip K. Dick -- highly interesting! In addition to sf and personal info, Dick has some very important things to say about drug addiction. VERTEX is offering for sale bound volumes of its first year, i.e. six issues, in a limited edition at \$16.95 and standard at \$12.95.

Mail TO DAVE SZUREK at 4417 Second, Apt. B-2, Detroit has been returned to me. Anyone have any information? Alma Hill at 78 Summer St, Natick, Mass. 01760 is undergoing chemotherapy for metastatic sarcoma and has resigned from the NFFF Writer's Exchange. She has an article coming up in COLLEGE ENGLISH called "Hamlet as an Undergraduate." "It counteracts the idea that Hamlet is a middle-aged esthete & recondite philosopher"

PEOPLE ARE DOING STRANGE THINGS TO TITLE... John Robinson 7/25/73 says, "TITLE makes excellent reading under black light." And Eric Mayer 12/15/73 says, "I carefully detached the cover of T 21 and proceeded to soak it in a solution of H2O. In a few minutes the mimeo ink began to disappear and was replaced by...well, Donn, you know very well.. Suffice it to say that TITLE is, in reality, an explicitly rendered portfolio of erotic art!" Eric then goes on to detail his further research into the pages of TITLE. Ha! This all came about because I discovered that the goldenrod paper will take DRY SOAP writing and drawing, and will not become visible until the paper is sponged with water. Thereupon, the invisible marks made by the dry soap will turn rather bright red! I confess I doctored up a few such pages, but nothing as fancy as erotic art; after all, have you ever tried drawing with a sharpened bar of soap? I have passed through T a number of little 'codes' which, of course since no one was looking, were strictly my own chuckles; as Poe, or someone said, the best code is the unsuspected. So, now that you suspect, you'll all be looking..no?

THIS IS STRAIGHT FROM SHAVER... He says, 12/17/73, that the deros do not stop me from printing anti-dero interests is "You would notice if they stopped you and then you would know that they don't want you to know that they exist." This means that because I am not stopped and Shaver tells the world about them without being stopped that they exist. Since we know that, then they ought to stop us to mislead us. But then... Eric Mayer asks, "Isn't it obvious why the deros allowed you to print Shaver's article? Your printing it seems to contradict it, thereby convincing people that Shaver is a crackpot and deros don't exist. One might wonder why I am being allowed to point this plot out to you. If deros did exist they wouldn't let me. Unless, by allowing me to do this they might convince people that..uh...forget it." Bruce D. Arthurs has this idea: "Shaver really doesn't believe in deros, and he's written to you many times, saying, 'There ain't no deros, Donn!' However, the deros always intercept these letters and change them to read, 'There is too deros, Donn!' So you print it up and ask why the deros don't interfere with your publication of his words. Shaver, naturally, is upset and writes back to ask, 'Why did you misquote me, Donn?' Except, of course, the deros intercept that letter and change it into another, 'Yes, there are deros' thing, and then you print it, and..."

TWO VIEWS... "Title 21 leaves me somewhat uninspired. Really it does." --

Mike Gorra

"T is consistently good. Quite unbelievable." -- Bill Breiding

AFTER THE RECENT DEATH OF HIS WIFE, ART JOQUEL was absent from these pages for a spell, but 12/12/73, he came back with a long letter that cleared up a point. He wrote: "Clear back in TITLE #10 John Leavitt wrote: 'The founder of Cal Tech, Jack Parsons, was a disciple of Crowley and a friend and collaborator in magic with L. Ron Hubbard. Ain't that a surprise?' Yes, it was a surprise -- because I knew it never happened. Parsons was a disciple of Crowley and probably knew Hubbard, but Cal Tech was founded in the 1890's -- before Parsons was born. How had Leavitt gotten such inaccurate information? About a month afterward I ran across his source, in The Rites of Modern Occult Magic by Francis King. King says: '...Jack Parsons, a brilliant American physical chemist who had been largely responsible for the foundation of the now famous Cal Tech, and had been a follower of Crowley since 1939.' Well, you might expect a Britisher to be vague about Parsons and Caltech, but not that vague. Where had King's information come from? Then I reached out an arm about two feet and took down my copy of Research and Development at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, GALCIT, not dated but probably published in 1946. And there it all came out. The Guggenheim Aeronautical Laboratory, California Institute of Technology (GALCIT) had in 1936 instituted, 'more or less informally' a rocket research project. The original research group was (in order as given): Frank J. Malina, Hsue-Shen Tsien, A.M.O.Smith, John W. Parsons, Edward S. Forman and Weld Arnold. The project lasted about two years. In 1939 an Army Air Corps research project was initiated, and Parsons was one of the three original members selected to start the new project. Thus endeth, so far as I can find out, Parson's connection with Caltech in any way. His name does not appear any further in the GALCIT report, nor in the personnel who taught a class in Jet Propulsion later on. But it is a long, long way from being a

member of two research projects in a Caltech subsidiary (GALCIT) to being 'the founder of Cal Tech.' Sloppy research on the part of those who should have taken the trouble to check up? Maybe, but I'm sure that my explication will never catch up with the original error. I expect to keep finding it throughout occult literature ad infinitum: 'Cal Tech (sic) founded by Crowley disciple.'"

"Can tell you one thing, Donn, I'd rather have a 5 page issue of Title than a 20 page issue of 'just fill-em-up-pages'." -- Dorothy Jones. Dorothy...this issue may have x-number of pages; how classified? I have decided to sit down at this Royal manual machine and do stencils a la perszine, no articles or format layout; my left elbow, sore for three months now, cannot stand a concentrated typing period and so I thought this a good time to do a semi-chrono 'It Comes in the Mail' sort of zine. Just leave the stencil in the machine and work into the mail and thoughts as they surface...

ANYONE WANT A THICK BIGGEE ISSUE OF TITLE? Number 16 is available, 48 pages - has a Sheryl Birkhead offset cover and lots of the same stuff. Worth 25¢ to help with the postage? I probably have a dozen of that issue remaining; 2-5 copies of some others.

MY FAVORITE THINGS
by Frank Balazs

Goodfriends, Tea, Libraries with open stacks, Forests, 'Soproni Kepek' (Pictures from Sopron), Koala bears, Castles, Fanzines, Cat Stevens, Autumn, Impressionism, Bumper cars, Middle-Earth, Stationary, Cheese, Old buildings, Jack Vance, 'Hungarian Rhapsody #2', Unicorns, Bookstores, Road-runners cartoons, Barsoom, and Dinosaurs.

"Astonished and pleased to find Roger Sween's article on Hunt. Just not something one would expect in Title, but glad to find it there." -- Ed Lesko, Jr.

THIS NOTE IS INTERESTING FROM TWO VIEWPOINTS...says Hank Jewel: "A list of available by mail re-runs of old radio programs (on 33 1/3 rpm records) may be obtained from THE RADIOLOA CO., Box 11, Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y. 10520." Will you check that out Balazs/Schneck?

ROSE HOGUE ((sprinkle lightly to taste)) ENJOYED THE TRIO IDEA, which, if Ed Cagle comes through as per our phone conversation before he semi-gafiated, will have a somewhat different slant in T 24, and Rose says: "I really enjoyed B.D.A.'s contribution to the last Trio. Perhaps you could include Tony Cvetko, Mike Glycer, and Elaine White in the next one." ((I haven't heard from Elaine since October 13.))

ON LIBRARIES by Ken Faig, Jr.

...poor preservation of so many important source materials, and the underdeveloped system of interlibrary sharing. The library system ought to have the aim of being able to provide any interested reader with a copy of any book available in any institutional library in the USA - ideally the world. I dunno -- this isn't likely to happen soon, but perhaps some future-generation computer will be able to store each book in memory and provide print-outs (or screenings or vocalizations or whatever) for a fee. Lovers of old books would probably miss something in such a set-up; but I think it would by no means kill the collecting of old books (or the special printing of collector's books for aesthetic reasons). It would certainly provide a more ideal method for the dissemination of knowledge. Ideally, I suppose, the central memory installation would be federally funded; and the local repositories locally funded. Of Course, I really have no good idea of the memory capacity of today's computers, so it's kind of ridiculous for me to speculate about the capacities of tomorrow's." ((You just blew Balazs' favorite thing: open stacks!))

HOW LONG DOES THE MEMORY OF A NIGHTMARE LAST? The one I just wrote up today for HPL Supplement #3 for Meade Frierson III lasted 37 years already; a nightmare that occurred the night after I heard HPL had died, and the first time I've told anyone about it. HPL S #3 is supposed to be ready for January 1974; HPL: A Tribute came out in March 1972, and Sup #1 and #2 followed in Oct. 72 and July 73. Meade lives in Birmingham, Alabama & gets his mail out of Box 9032, 35213.

The person who sent me a small jar of jelly should send me a large jar! Wow, it's delicious; of what it's made I cannot tell. Rich red-purple like the skin of a ripe cherry, but tastes more like tart crab-apple. This young lady -- I know who it is from a DNQ cue in a letter -- may not want me to let the world know she makes super jelly...so MAKE MORE! ((See, Norm Hochberg, no joke about wild pickles; aren't you happy? You see, folks, Norm said he'd die if he read one more pickle joke.))

Doug Leingang says he has gone into gaffiation. Too bad; he writes stuff like the two items that follow:

"I want a girl
Just like the girl
That married de'r o' Dad..."

"One of the many ideas running through my ears is the well-known adage that man is the only mammal that kills its own kind. That may or may not be true. Only Darwin insists that man is an animal. Bees kill each other for the honor and glory of the hive (I had hives the other day). Now, it is my impression that Darwin is wrong, and man is not an animal, but a bee, sociologically speaking. The other animals rely on 'survival of the fittest', and do not hang around and build cities. Ever hear of a dog on welfare? We build honeycombs and let the King (Richard the Watergate) command us. We have drones (white collar workers) and workers (the blue-collars). We even call each other 'honey'. "

ONE OF THE NICEST CHRISTMAS PRESENTS JUST ARRIVED...A photograph of Lord Jim Kennedy being arrested on the streets of Mesa, Arizona, by a short-sleeved policeman. Mesa is a nice town -- I was there last summer for breakfast, and Jim was working at his school so I didn't get to meet him; however, I met Mesa. The photo shows Jim in his black hood, cape, boots, and a machete. It was the latter that brought the cops after some disturbed citizens had begun to worry. Jim was costumed for a daemon in one of his amateur movies and was either going to or from a Herbangelist Ritual. The policeman in the photo is smiling; he is also writing out a ticket; why else would he be smiling? Jim's downcast head seems to be contemplating a pentagram in the street. Jim says, "For this, I have been declared a 'Herbangelist Martyr'". Well, another celebrity to count amongst T-readers!

HARRY WARNER is going to START ON HIS HISTORY OF FANDOM IN THE '50's -- has started by the time you read this. His letter today, 12/20, is about as interesting a letter as any faned could ever hope for; and it's no wonder he's so widely printed and so well-acclaimed. After his first paragraph to let me know he'll not be locking much anymore "for the first four months of the new year" ((And, by the way, we Bagelbash people in St. Louis will send Harry every zine loc or no loc)) he was happy about the Comet Kohoutek facts and that it gave him an idea for a newspaper column. Third: he thinks around 1980 we'll be as tired of reading sf about stagnated futures resulting from zero population growth as we are now about sf based on population explosion. Then comments on the Wertham book. I quote: "My reaction came in two parts. First, relief that the author hadn't seen some fanzines that might cause him to revise his opinion of the field; then astonishment that he took such a genial attitude toward fanzines. Even though it isn't the comprehensive book which is needed to describe fanzines to the world of letters, it is an ideal book for another purpose. I can't think of a better way for a neofan to convince his parents that those crazy fanzines won't hurt him than to tell them to read this book by this famous authority on child behavior." Then Harry agrees that Paul Walker's WhoGos would serve a good purpose.

Then Harry goes into a gripe against the telephone company for their backwardness; he comes up with some sfish things. Like, "Why can't the dial tone be pitched at 440 hertz, as it is in Austria, for the benefit of musicians? Why can't they reduce the type size in directories so the given names of both husband and wife could be included, ending all the problems you encounter when you want to contact a woman and don't know her husband's first name? It would cost nothing to revise emergency numbers for faster dialing. Seconds count. Here in Hagerstown, the city police number is 797-6000." Well, I learned something: "Bob Tucker was probably the first grandfather to be publishing a fanzine." Then, he was amused at Dave Szurek's magazine selling job, and ended with this on 'names': "Mrs. Lester Bange used to be pianist for a local music club. Her name was ideal for her pianism."

HANK JEWEL sent me a newspaper adv. for WEST WORLD, supposedly a sf film with a cowboy touch, written and directed by Michael Crichton. Anyone see it?

NORMAN HOCHBERG recommends "to all aspiring writers THOSE WHO CAN: A SCIENCE FICTION READER edited by Robin Scott Wilson. It is twelve stories by sf writers (Ellison, LeGuin, Silverberg, Delany, Pohl, Gunn, Keyes, Knight, Russ, Wilhelm, Williamson and Wilson) followed by essays by each author on writing that story. The book covers plot, character, setting, theme, point of view, and style. Quite valuable." I agree and I had already bought the book: A MENTOR BOOK, \$1.50. I might clarify a bit: for each section (plot, character, etc.) there are about 4 stories. It's interesting to see which authors were selected to demonstrate what. Plot: Williamson and Delany. Character: Ellison and Keyes. Style: Gunn and Pohl. Etc.

Al Jackson's Siberian theory sure got mileage. I mentioned it was in VERTEX. Now, Robert Smoot wrote to say he had seen it in SCIENCE WORLD. Ahem, TITLE scooped both of them. Got any more ideas, Al? And the Smoot fellow, 12/13, won his high school Voice of Democracy contest and \$25, and is now putting it on tape for statewide competition - the speech not the \$25. Good luck and more \$!

THE GREENING OF G'UNGY by L.W.

G'ungy wiped a dust mote off his glim and tested its edge. Ah! Sharp as a plame feather. Off to his left, another novice nodded in honor of his locating the quarry. Just to be on the safe side, G'ungy unslung his flose and notched the string -- no sense in taking any chances that the plame might escape.

Up ahead the magnificent plame raised its head, swiveled two ears in the neophyte's direction and poised, delicately balanced for flight. Standing roughly one-third the height of a p'ymy, the hexapod was the most coveted small ungulate in the woodlands and sought out in the coming of age ceremony.

G'ungy realized the plame had figured something unusual was happening and took a chance. He rushed headlong at the beast, tripped over a root, fell ignominiously on top the plame, squashing it flat.

Even though he was a brilliant green in embarrassment, G'ungy hauled the carcass up triumphantly -- he had his trophy, he was a 'man'.

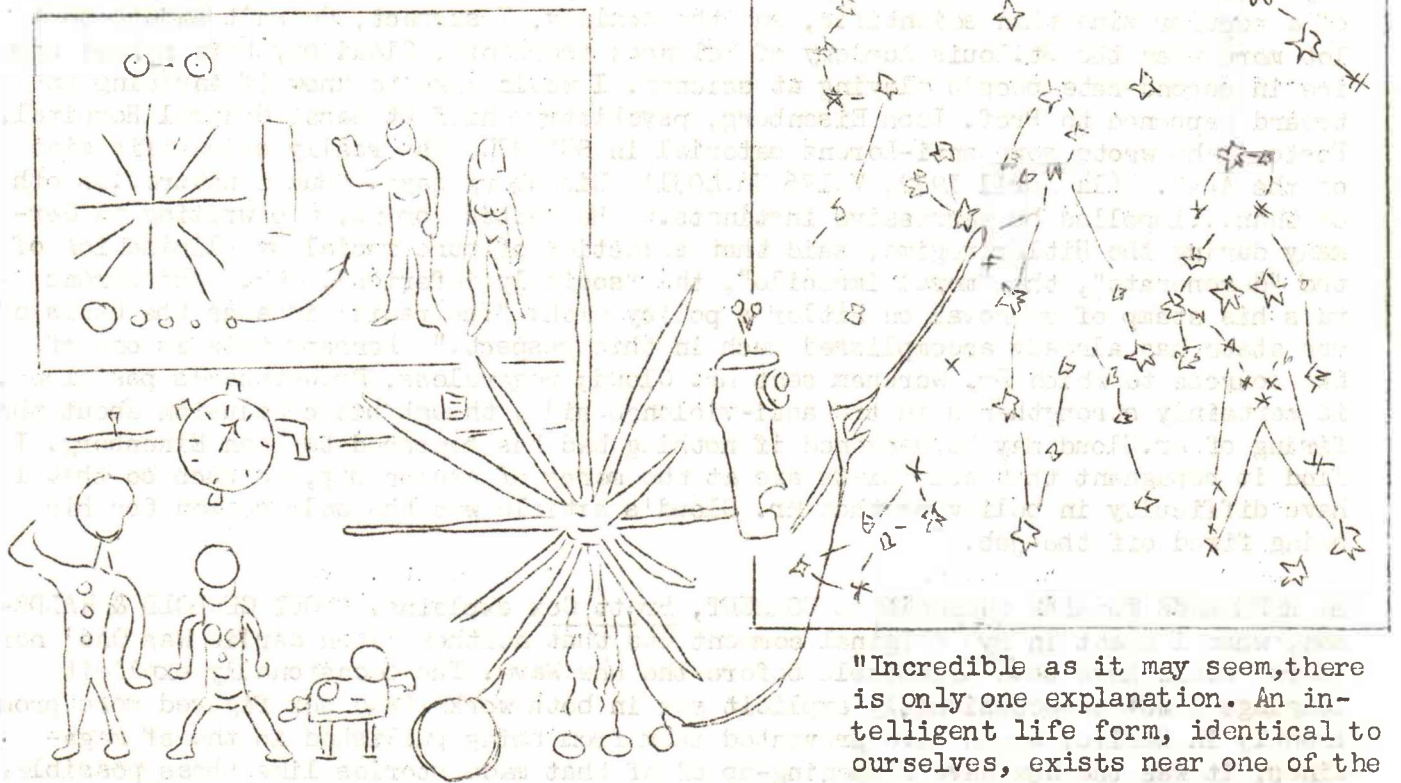
A snicker from behind brought him around indignantly.

He looked at the group of neos gathered around him and, trying to feel the bravado he voiced, called loudly --

"It's not whether you glim or flose, but if you slay the plame that counts."

"IF KOHOUTEK turns out to be Rama," Steve Beatty writes, "then we can watch it on TV right away instead of waiting for Kubrick to make a movie out of it. Rendezvous with Rama is the same kind of plotless thing that 2001 was. Neither of them really ended; they just died. Paul Walker's idea for awards for good fiction by unknown writers is DEFINITELY a good idea. If I didn't know Tim C. Marion, his list of favorite things would be dreadfully boring. Is Richard Shaver serious? ((From several letters I think it's about time to let Shaver explain the basics of his theory which he feels explains almost everything -- maybe everything. In issue T-24?))

PIONEER CONTEST



This is Eric Mayer's entry for the Pioneer 10 Contest of T-21 and he says: "Obviously, I can't follow directions. Also, even my cartoons are verbose. Deros made me do it."

And just for that you don't win the prize!

Dr. Fredric Wertham says he was pleased with my review of his book in T22, but from the quote below I think I missed his main point in bemoaning the lack of psychological analysis of 'fanzinology'. Verbatim:

"To my mind the most important aspect of my book is my indication (e.g. in the chapter 'Salient Characteristics') that fanzines can help us to realize how much in the non-fanzine world of communication is surreptitiously but ruthlessly manipulated, controlled and censored. Here is the latest example of the blatant interference with freedom of speech in the scientific field.

Some time ago I was called up by Mr. Wallace Cloud, senior staff writer of the magazine *The Sciences*, official journal of the New York Academy of Sciences. He said he was writing an article on the Nobel prize and had learned that my psychiatric and sociological studies had led me to a view of human violence opposite to that of Konrad Lorenz, the recent Nobel prize winner. I told him that was true, that according to my researches human violence is always due to remedial and preventable negative factors and is not therefore our ineradicable heritage. Lorenz, on the other hand, constantly propounds the theory that human violence is due to a 'spontaneous instinctive drive'.

Cloud asked me why that is important practically, and I told him that in 1940 Lorenz had advocated as a measure of 'race-hygienic defense' the 'extermination of ethnically inferior people'. Soon afterwards he was appointed full professor of psychology at the Nazified University of Königsberg. Cloud asked me for the exact reference for this and other similar statements by Lorenz. I gave them to him and he checked them at Columbia University and found them correct. At the end of our conversation I told him that Lorenz being so firmly accepted by the intellectual establishment, Cloud was taking a risk in telling the truth about him. He wrote a sober and factual article for the magazine *THE SCIENCES* (XIII (10) Dec.1973). Soon afterwards he phoned me: he said 'You were right. I've just been fired from my job because I wrote that article.'

Dr. Wertham's story about Mr. Cloud could have happened, and I have no reason to cast any doubt because the N.Y. Academy of Science & their journal, THE SCIENCES, is more of a popular zine than scientific, and the Academy, I suspect, doesn't amount to a lot more than the St. Louis Academy of Science; therefore, Cloud may have raised some ire in second-rate people playing at science. I would like to know if anything untoward happened to Prof. Leon Eisenberg, psychiatry chief at Mass. General Hospital, Boston, who wrote some anti-Lorenz material in SCIENCE, the really scientific zine of the AAAS. (14 April 1972, V 176 No. 4031) Eisenberg says: "Human nature...is other than...impelled by aggressive instincts." He quotes Lorenz, who writing in Germany during the Hitler regime, said that selection of pure racial by elimination of the "degenerate", the "moral imbecile", the "socially inferior", etc. And Lorenz puts his stamp of approval on Hitler's policy with: "The racial idea as the basis of our state has already accomplished much in this respect." Perhaps this is one of the sources to which Dr. Wertham sent Mr. Cloud; regardless, Dr. Wertham's position is certainly strengthened in the anti-violence side, though his conclusion about the firing of Mr. Cloud may be weakened if nothing bad has happened to Leon Eisenberg. I find it repugnant that scientists are at the mercy of censorship, so much so that I have difficulty in believing that Mr. Cloud's article was the only reason for his being fired off the job.

"IN REFERENCE TO MIKE SHOEMAKER'S COMMENT, Brett Cox explains, ABOUT GERROLD & HALDEMAN, what I meant in my original comment was that neither 'When Harlie Was One' nor 'Hero' would have been acceptable before the New Wave. The occasionally explicit language & not-so-occasionally explicit sex in both works (tho sex figured more prominently in Harlie) would have prevented them from being published in the sf magazines. It was the New Wave's opening-up of sf that made stories like those possible. I don't find the idea at all laughable." ((See Shoemaker #22 & Cox #20))

JUXTAPOSING MAE STREIKOV AND RICHARD SHAVER (now don't get that wrong!) I was thinking of Mae's hektograph color work in TINK, delightful, flowing, moody colors; at the same time I was thinking of Shaver's rock pictures. I have just spent over an hour fooling around with the idea I am about to tell you, but because I have no ditto paper on hand I will have to save the master until later to see how my experiment came out. See, I had this idea that Shaver sees pictures in rocks (certain rocks that is) and I was thinking this could be so because of the integration of small natural lines and forms into larger gestalts to comprise a 'whole' that looked like something if one blocked away in his mind the extraneous 'non-parts'. Thus, I cut out of paper a handful of small curves, etc. and dropped them on a paper, randomly. The paper was a ditto carbon, purple. I then placed a clean sheet over this and rubbed with a pencil, transferring some purple shapes (reverse of the cut-outs) to the clean sheet, henceforth to be called the master. I dropped the cut-outs on a blue carbon and did the pencil rubbing on the same master. Same with a red master. I now have a 'picture' which is awaiting application to my ditto machine. What will turn out? Will I see some 'rock pictures'? Will I have a work of art? Tune in next month... By the way I discovered that when a mimeo plastic BACKING SHEET No. 34-5500 is placed on a rug and rubbed briskly with the hand, so much static is generated that the sheet feels heavy to pick up and when done so crackles in electrical glee. Small bits of paper will cling to the sheet's surface; and by placing a finger under the sheet, the bit of paper will jump and fly like an insect, returning to its sheet in another spot. Try this on a dry, cold night. Friends, I LOVE these little unexpected phenomena. I imagine a cute little toy could be constructed with this idea. Didn't I once tell you one of my ambitions was to invent toys in a 'crazy' toy factory?

JIM MEADOWS, way back in July, sent me a postcard with a 3-D picture of an Apollo on it; he suggested TITLE tell how this third-dimension effect was obtained. He used the word Xograph, a name I couldn't find anywhere. Rose Hogue also sent me a similar spacecraft scene in Xography, if that's what it is. Jim & Rose, I have been working on this, and recently received a large packet from Detroit -- from a display company that makes window signs with the system (like beer, etc.) They sent lenticulated plastic sheets, color prints, loose & completed; but no technical info. All I have to

do is figure out the optics. All, he says! Anyone to help?

Speaking of ART -- got some from Marci Helms! On one sheet in large black letters she printed THE MAGE and typed underneath a message, which, in my conceit, I am taking personally! "THE MAGE or The Magician, or the Juggler, or then again L'Bateleur. Mainly he is the Questioner. He seeks knowledge and then makes use of it. Those who have not reached his level of study call his works magic. He does not. He is the creative element of the deck, and thus, he comes to you. He gives the courage to ask in order to obtain the knowledge that is needed to responsibly create." On a separate card Marci drew in vivid colors a Vaughn Bode wizard (for which she gave apology) with some symbolism: a butterfly, a musical note, a dagger (?), a stunted sunflower, a footstool (?), a ball, and a cup or mug (undoubtedly to hold wild pic...oh, go ahead and scream Norm Hochberg.. kle juice.)

First, Marci reminds me of an excellent book: THE QUESTIONERS: Physicists and the Quantum Theory by Barbara Lovett Cline, Crowell Co., 1965. The book is basically biographical, men & idea from Rutherford to Einstein. I do question; but, in my own heart, I feel I have not made use of any knowledge so derived. Depends what one has in mind, for in joy of learning and pleasure of teaching, I have succeeded; but this is a contribution to myself, a selfish satisfaction. I have given St. Louis a science museum, for in 1959 when I arrived from Milwaukee there was none. My staff and I have filled two old mansions with some nice exhibits in natural history & science, but everything in that whole thing seems but a drop in the bucket to the galleries and rooms in my head. For 11 years in Milwaukee I was on TV, producing and doing a show of science, which young kids called magic, which I called demonstrations of the world with household and homemade equipment; every week, then twice a week, then adding three shows a week for 30 minutes each on straight biology. All of this got me nowhere -- except I had to learn a lot, and forget more. Marci, Marci, you've made me think of all that...and last night, once again on TV, I saw the brave strong man who had a cement tile broken by a sledge hammer while the tile rested on his stomach. I used to put a common brick on my hand, then whack the brick with a hammer; the brick breaks, and the hand is unhurt. Strength? Magic? A great thing? No. Simple inertial mechanics....Geez, I'm yakking about myself, excuse me. Maybe sometime I'll do a Dick Geis, and try to show you how much fun it is to be uncircumscribed -- except you always feel lonely, for there's no one to talk to. Oh, there's bound to be lots of people to talk to, but where do you find them? I've found them in fandom. So, I hope you excuse the preceding conceits...

AT CHAMBANACON GENE WOLFE, HIS WIFE, AND I SHARED A DRINK AT THE BAR...A card from Loren MacGregor reports, 12/19, that: "Gene Wolfe informed me that the Title you gave him at Chambanac was full of staples while the drink you provided wasn't..." In reference to my new Javelin's role as a spaceship, Loren says: "I depend on busses (more nearly spaceship-sized) rather than Javelins - more fun than you can shake a spear at!"

PATTI SOBRERO (10121 Phar Lap Dr., Cupertino, Cal, 95014) says: "I certainly do not agree with Denis Quane when he says in T 20 that reason #1 is only a minor point. Nothing makes me madder than sending someone money & not getting a fanzine in return. It also bothers me when I have to wait 4 months for a fanzine after paying for it." Then Patti says, after noting the fanzine review section in T 20: "I went to the store, changed my money into quarters (the people at the store still haven't figured out what a person can do with that many quarters) and I was about to write my first letter asking for a fanzine when I noticed that there were no addresses." ((I'll not leave out the addresses in the future; it was a judgement error. Patti, listen, you sent 50¢ for DORIC and you may have a long wait; who knows? All the fiction was selected for #1 and the pub date was just before Thanksgiving; then Christmas; when now? I am not in control of the zine; everything depends on Rick Wilber's printing pal and perhaps something's gone haywire already. Much more delay will convince me it is a bad, bad sign, and I will return all sub money; then attempt to convince the authors of the shorter stories that publication in TITLE might suffice.))

YOU KNOW, THIS IS A SORT OF LETTER SUBSTITUTE...something needed badly from this end because, as of 12/22 I have received since Jan.1, 1973 1,164 pieces of first class mail (sf only) and not counting advertisements, fanzines, & packages. Ten came in today, making 82 for December. You see it is impossible for me to reply to all mail as I used to. With 5 more mail days in December I'll probably add about 20 more to that 82. The record, by the way, was 135 received last July.

A few more title suggestions are in since the data on the cover. George Beahm, Chet Clingan, and Chris Sherman say KEEP as is. Ann Chamberlain, Tony Cvetko, Robert Smoot say KEEP, but if you have to, they suggest, respectively: JOT & TITTLE, Evisceration, and Piecemeal. Steve Beatty recommends, in order: Mosaic, Album, Hybrid, or Mingle. Rose Hogue likes, in order: Morsels, Mosaic, and her own Munch. Mike Shoemaker prefers Scrapbook. ((You may not know this -- now you do -- I have now in my file some good ideas for department titles! Ha...))

AH, WELL... by Chris Sherman 12/22

Well, now that I'm a bit more used to TITTLE,
Loccing it is not quite so frightful.

And upon seeing Kevin Williams epic poem,
I decided to write my own.

But gave up soon for lack of time,
Awful pun, and terrible rhyme.

A bookmark, with a yellow tassel (my favorite color, yellow) came today from Rose Hogue as an adjunct to her Christmas card with letter enclosed. The bookmark was carefully selected, for it is decorated with mushrooms and a butterfly (two of my favorite beings) and says: "For every shadow, I have seen a hundred rays of light." As all T-readers know, I am a sun-worshipper. And, now, because there are several T-readers who vote Rose the most likable BNF alive, by my unofficial count, I quote some things from her letter of 12/22. "Didn't know that John Carl is an artist as well as a fan pubber and neo-Neffers too! Quite a talented fellow he be!....I like the in-ness of TITTLE but Norm Hochberg's right, you'll need new blood now and then for to keep things fresh...just don't thin me out of the vein of comments please!... Are you sure Donn you ain't a Hoax of the Good Dr. A????...I enjoy Claire Beck..so why didn't you type his backwards letter for us?... Just heard from Joan Bower and the Mae Strelkov Fubd now stands at \$1200 some odd, pretty darn good and may reach \$1300 yet!...Do blonds have more fun? This is reaction to Kevin Williams' suggestion to bleach out titles and reuse the paper. I have an idea. Why not just send Kevin a bunch of loosely stapled clean sheets of paper? ((Think I'll do that tonight!))

THIS IS FAST! A loc from Ken Ozanne, Australia, on T-22! Took 5 days to get to him and he wrote his letter 12/12 which took 10 days to arrive here. He says, though, a Jackie Franke non-airmail letter set a record one time of 5 days. As yet neither T20 or T21 had arrived by boat. Ken agrees that I am a 'gray-haired adolescent'; well, I'm not an old bull lying in the shade of a weeping willow tree! He says in answer to the 'moment of fear' question: "Most of my moments of great fear came when in various crazy situations while rockclimbing. Many is the time I've vowed to give the thing away if only I got out of this predicament."

"Being relatively new to fandom," writes Chet Clingan, I don't know many of the people mentioned in TITTLE #21. I would love to hear from any of them that would care to write me. If they would like something to comment on, they might read FANTASY & TERROR #4 or Issue #2 of Chris Sherman's new zine ANTITHESIS. Both of these zines carry stories by me. I have one goal in mind, and that is to become a pro sf writer." Chet lives at 1254 Leah Court, Oroville, Cal, 95965.

Fred Wertham writes, 12/22: "Two questions I am most frequently asked nowadays:

- 1) What is your personal opinion about pornography? My answer: Sex should be heard but not obscene.
- 2) What are fanzines? The questioners will not listen to any real explanation, but want a full reply in a short sentence. So I tell them: Well, I'll summarize how it is -- if you drink too much you get the fanzines.

If plans do not fall awry, maybe I tink I'll probe Robert Smoot in a Composite Compost; that's for T-24; I could do several pages on his upper-right-hand-corner return info, ergo & yandro: "That Dumbfounded One, Robert Of Smoot, Mumbler Ad Nauseum and Ever-wondering Wanderer of the TriChurch, Herein Time/Space Interim WV-26765 of Dec.'s 19 in '73." He bemoans: "Mine reply to ish 21 was discarded unto you Monday last, the 17th. No sooner had I sighed with relief than --smash-- ish 22 came throwing itself thru the front door. I grovelled, I begged, I pleaded, I swore, I blasphemed; in no way was T22 willing to surrender non-repliance. So now (curse you, Big D) I peck and peck, mumbling and Ad Nauseuming as the fanged T22 eagerly and threateningly paces to my right."

Speaking of T24. The format will return to that, my 2nd annish, of revolting familiarity. I shall try to have at least one page of all the old departments, but all new material, of course. C lipjoint, SF Patch, Hooked, Mundaniac, Vectors, etc. And a Robert Smoot Composite Compost to accompany other BS material.

George W. Beahm asks me: "Do you believe in dopplegangers? Last year I was in a local department store looking for camera equipment. I found the section, spent all my time there, then saw my older sister, who had a befuddled expression on her face. Seems she saw my 'exact double' who was wearing a brown outfit (as I was), and who refused to leave with her. She remarked about the voice being different from mine, but other than that, the resemblance was photographic in accuracy." I've had some people tell me about my 'double' who wanders in startling places like East St. Louis. And there's always some woman calling up my wife to let her know I was eating lunch with a beautiful blonde in a fancy restaurant. One time, and I've thrown out the calculations now, I set up a permutation of facial variables and calculated how large world's population would have to be before it might be very common to have a near-duplicate based on the permutations that our genetic material would give. As I calculated the thing, the population would have to increase maybe double, triple, or so before duplicates would begin appearing with some frequency. But don't quote me.

Ann Chamberlain mentions sending me an article or something about TEENY...I didn't get it. This reminds me to tell you all that perhaps you sent me a contrib or money or something, and, due to the mails at this season, it may have become lost. I know that some T21s did not arrive as scheduled; so, let me know if you start getting worried.

Because my wife is a mystery fan I bought her THE MURDER BOOK, AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE DETECTIVE STORY. I have just looked through the index, specifically for the names of Robert Bloch and Fredric Brown; they're both there. On p.100: "...while Robert Bloch, in 'Yours Truly, Jack the Ripper (1945), tried to present a really original solution to the problem." On p.179 under the appendix called 'More crime books worth reading' is a photo of Brown and the caption: "USA. Thrillers - with splendid short stories in the collection THE SHAGGY DOG - and novels such as MURDER CAN BE FUN, THE SCREAMING MIMI and THE WENCH IS DEAD." Other items you might check from the index include: Amis, Kingsley alias Markham, Robert; Blackwood, Algernon; Bramah, Ernest; Bulwer-Lytton; Capek, Karel; DRACULA; Hodgson, William Hope; McGivern, William P.; Science-Fictional Sherlock Holmes; Stoker, Bram; Wells, H.G. The book is by Tage la Cour and Harald Mogensen, Herder & Herder, 1971, \$9.95.

ROY TACKETT writes: "Ha! Denis Quane gives seven good reasons for not being a fan. I can give him one good one....it is fun."

BILL BREIDING says STAR-FIRE #1 should be out by February, and he's now active again at 2240 Bush St., San Francisco, Cal 94115. He wanted me to let people know.

In July John Carl was asking how to go about getting on the waiting list for FAPA and in September he has been asked to become OE of ValAPA. What is ValAPA? And did John Carl accept? And, if he still wants to know, how does one get on the waiting list for FAPA?

ANN CHAMBERLAIN writes: "Do you know what Transactional Analysis is, and what connection it has with 'I'm OK, You're OK'? ((No.)) On first glance it appears to be an educational self-help mumbo-jumbo technique for 'getting on top of the problem'. Certainly there is need for some method of bringing the mental eye to focus upon the lower levels of our actions to 'see ourselves as others see us'. As soon as there is a realization that something IS out of context, then it becomes a natural thing to want to change it, to bring it into line. It must be admitted when things are made ridiculously obvious, the short-sighted person need not remain a short-sighted person. Transactional Pubs, 3155 College Ave, Berkely Cal 94705, will send you a booklist/order blank on request, and then you can see what you've gotten yourself into. It is my opinion that this is a more satisfying and less expensive measuring stick than you can find at your psychiatrist's."

"Donn, PLEASE, answer that sonofabitch woman whom Irvin mentions. Otherwise, I shall and t'won't be pleasant. I'll tell her I'm a Black Jew, and a few other things as well. I might even insult her good by telling her I'm a better Christian than she ever was or will be, and it is TRUE! He was one of our boys and a teacher at that, and never said a bad thing in his life...What a man he must have been! (I've skipped the capitals, no offense, but it would be a courteous hypocrisy on my part.) --- Ben Indick. ((That Nazi woman is too stupid to relate to anything like an insult.))

The preceding tribute to Christ was typed on Christmas Eve day, and here it is Dec. 27; Christmas over, with its gifts and good cheer. I received two books in my stocking: MUSIC IS MY MISTRESS by Duke Ellington and WRITING POPULAR FICTION by Dean R. Koontz. The first mentioned bears little relationship to sf, yet there is one line I'd like to give you that ties in with the thing Indick started about names. The



THIS IS A FAN....

by Ken Gammage, Jr.

Duke writes, p.9: "My piano teacher, Mrs. Clink-scales (that was really her name)..." Now the latter book...On Dec.26 Chris Sherman's second issue of ANTITHESIS arrived with a long critique of Koontz's BEASTCHILD, and a mention by Chris of the WPF book, especially pages 48-55, which specifically dissects the same story as Koontz himself planned and wrote it. Chris recommends the entire book; so do I, since I've read it already at one sitting (226 pages). Dean starts out with the basic formula for 'category' or genre stories, and then devotes separate chapters to SF & Fantasy, Suspense, Mysteries, Gothic, Westerns, and Erotica. Then follows question & answers helpful to beginning writers, both in writing and selling. Koontz warns that his book will be helpful but will not guarantee a sale. An 'experienced' beginner will realize this. Don Thompson in DON-o-SAUR #27, which arrived today, discusses some writing problems in connection with the Heinlein guest-editorial in ANALOG for Jan.1974. Don quotes Heinlein's 5 rules for selling a story, a violation of any single one of which will mean failure. Briefly: write, finish it, don't rewrite except by editorial order, put it in the market, keep it there until sold. Easy? Hard as hell!

Saturday, Dec.29..see how much I can do before the Missouri football game comes on TV (I watch football no matter who's playing!).

Did I mention the cover artist of T 22? Don't think so. The style was a give away; it was by Shari Hulse, and done for me on stencil. By the way, I had a certain plan for the cover of T24 (already offset) but the other day, as a surprise, I received two sets of 125 each silk-screened covers in what I would call modern design and bright color. A mundane artist -- calls herself Maggie, though her real first name is Magenta. Last name, Hayes. I shall use one of the two designs for annish #24.

Jackie Franke-- "Didn't care too much for the splitting of the early pages of T22 into a skinny little strip of column and a wider one. However, it was an interesting failure." The Dero-design experiment I mentioned earlier in this ish was about a 90% failure; I'll be using the results as the reverse side of letters. Another experiment was a 100% flop. Not having any ditto ink or colored pencils, I thought, why not cut up some colored carbons and soak them in a little methanol, then use the fluid as ink? The fluid was intense on the paper, but it did not duplicate itself when I used it as a master; evidently the dye was not as concentrated as it appeared to the eye. I was trying to get ink so I could paint some pretty ditto pictures like those coming from the hands of Mae Strelkov in her TINK.

Jackie Franke also mentions that Wertham's book neglects the area of fandom itself. She says, "Many fmz mention nothing about his 'three pillars', even remotely." Perhaps that is what I was thinking of when I mentioned that Wertham didn't say much of anything about mundane fanac.

Bob Stein sent me the pb THE FIFTY-MINUTE HOUR by Robert Lindner with this note inside the cover: "Don't know if you ever read 'The Jet Propelled Couch' - if not, do so - page 157." After I read the story, perhaps I'll know why I should read it because Bob didn't say. Wonder if it has anything to do with a Javelin rocketship?

Doug Leingang is not 100% gafiated because a letter reached me Dec.29 and contained the usually difficult thoughts expressed in such a way that multi-interpretations are possible. Samples: "I am not saying I like everybody, and most people I hate..because they step on my head." "You get Gillespie in your grasp and you talk about fandom and sf. Christ." "John Carl praised me, so I'll praise him. He's got a good cover. But will the dopeheads find him out?" "Were you interested in Paul Walker and Ben Indick? Your sentence in Review Notes ((T21)) set me to thinking whether anyone would be interested in them. ((I referred in T21 to Doug's two interviews as printed in Ed Connor's SFECHO #18.)) No, no one could care why Paul doesn't write more fiction or the pleasure Ben received from his plays. No one cares."

Ann Chamberlain says "Paul Walker's idea to award someone unaccustomed to awards isn't new...LASFS has been giving an award to members who have made their first sale in the current year, never having sold before, either stories or art work. I believe George Barr was the first to receive an award for space drawings. That was many years back, now."

I'm so happy that Kevin Williams' letter arrived before the old year was out; I am so hoping the New Year will start out well. To give you the gist of this letter: it is headed PUBLIC ENEMA #1, and from thereon it gets worse. Like, he's worried he's too sercon! Like, he says an amoeba with black net stockings is a Venusian hooker! Like the Martian equivalent of the 69 is a thirty-three! And a Brillo pad with foam rubber melted over it is a Martian cheeseburger! I'm going to give all of you Kevin Williams' address to get him off my back: 2331 S. 6th, Springfield, Ill, 62703. I hope Ken Gammage writes him a letter!

Malcolm Graham has a CoA: 513 Lewis #144, San Antonio, Tex 78212. He has been forced into semi-gafia because of his failure in finding someone to read his fannish mail to him. He'll be getting a new magnifier from the State Commission for the Blind in January which might work. Let's send him a round-robin cassette tape??? I'll start.

One of the inevitable consequences of fanpubbing (or any increased fanac) is a decline in some other activity. In my case, it has been a decided drop in reading. Before TITLE, 1971, I read 52 books that year. In 1972 this total had dropped to 34. Now, 1973, the total number of books read is only 15. (I count or record only books, both hardcover & pb; do not record magazines, etc.) The 1973 total is so small, I am going to list them: A SIGN FOR CAIN, GRAY MATTERS, THE CRACK IN THE COSMIC EGG, JONATHAN LIVINGSTON SEAGULL, THE MULLER-FOKKER EFFECT, THE ICE PEOPLE, CAN YOU FEEL ANYTHING WHEN I DO THIS, THE SHAPE OF FURTHER THINGS, CEMETARY WORLD, NIGHT-WORLD, RENDEZVOUS WITH RAMA, THE WORLD OF FANZINES, FUTURE SHOCK, KAI LUNG'S GOLDEN HOURS, and WRITING POPULAR FICTION. There were a number of books started, and put aside.... too dull or too inept; and there are some by my bedside I'm still reading and won't be counted until I finish them.

Claire Beck writes: "As far as 'sci-fi' is concerned (Tim C. Marion) I think Jack Williamson said it all: 'Those who call it sci-fi don't know what it is.' Who could have said it better? And who could be better qualified than Jack Williamson?" Claire then mentions the Weinbaum Memorial Volume pubbed long ago by Conrad H. Ruppert, and since I'm from Milwaukee originally, whether I could say anything about it or the Milwaukee Fictioneers. All I can say is that I owned the book at one time, and wish I still had it; and that I attended one meeting of the Fictioneers and remember hardly anything of it because I was so bloody excited that people looked like red apples! I did get a funny contrib from Ralph Milne Farley for my fmz FRONTIER, which resulted in a really funny contrib from Bob Tucker. Oh, and the meeting resulted in an invitation from Don Wilcox (is that right?) to visit his writing office in Chicago which several fans, myself included, took advantage of. All I recall from that is the old black overcoat the author used as a mattress on the floor when he felt in need of a nap after a long writing session.

Tony Cvetko bought himself a used portable electric organ for \$200. He says, "Maybe one of these days I'll record some songs that our group plays, and send it to you." Yes, do, Tony. My twin boys (drum & base guitar) would like to hear it, too. Tony also found my mistake in the Comet Kohoutek article; I goofed in the comparison of the comet's size with Earth. The comet is seven times the size of earth, not twice. Tony disagrees with Jackie Franke's reason as to why sf readers don't take to fandom. He says, from his experience, that most readers don't know about fandom. He read sf 7 years before finding out about it. In fact, it was about 3 years before he even knew about prozines, and then it took about 2 years before he read about fandom in AMAZING's 'The Clubhouse'.

December 31 -- another big snow here in St. Louis, and, except for two janitors and a contract electrician at work, I am the only one here, and, obviously, I'm not working.

Bruce Townley writes & draws on a 5x8 card, and I'm glad I've got his name for sure, because I've called him 'Brute' and 'Tornley' & 'Tounley'. He says, "Ed Cagle said once that 'I think I'm Bruce Townley' or words to that effect. And let us not forget what Frank Denton has so aptly pointed out: 'You can't fuel all of the people all of the time, Dick.'" Then, Bruce launches into a tale of woe about trying to cast a bust in concrete, and since I couldn't make any sense out of it, and the thermal underwear I wore today is so damn hot now that I'm in my office, I'm going to skip it.

Dorothy Jones, inspired by the highclass Chinese community in Bakersfield, Cal., says: "Confucius said (in answer to a question asked by Tsze-Kung 'is there one word which may serve as a practice for all one's life?') 'Is not reciprocity such a word? What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others.'" What a nice base to form a New Years resolution on, Dorothy! Thank you.

Loay Hall writes: "Perhaps this is an admittance of my own stupidity, but has Jodie Offutt written any sci-fi? (I prefer sci-fi to just 'sf' or 'stf'.) If not, she should; she'd be terrific! I can't quite decide, tho, which is the most talented writer in the Offutt household -- Andy or Jodie; it'd be a close match!"

Dave Szurek writes: "Mike Shoemaker's proposition to submit 'moments of fear' sounds a little bizarre. Fear is the sort of thing that arises when armed rip-off men break into one's home while he's there (as I reported in a past TITLE). Or when you try to report a kidnapping/attempted rape, currently in progress, but the cops think it's a drug hallucination because you're a bit high (in this case, alcohol only). Fear is looking out your window during a gala dope-smoking party and seeing a cop car sitting out in front. I've had a few rather frightening experiences during my experiments with the occult, and, less often, drugs. Fear is opening a letter from your case worker after neglecting to pay your rent. Fear is riding in a car with a guy who not only drives the wrong way down a one-way street, but tries sharing an expressway lane with a gasoline truck. Fear is passing handbills and suddenly finding a beforehand hidden, now snarling German Shephard leaping at you. One night I went to visit friends who, it turned out, had moved. My friends always preferred visitors to knock at the window, and when I knocked it fell out. The new resident took this as breaking and entering, ran outside and smashed me in the head with a hammer, repeatedly. Then he flung me in the house, where he exchanged the hammer for a gun. He informed me he wasn't going to bother with the 'pigs' but instead was going to blow my head off. He left me alone, and like any red-blooded American or lily-livered coward, I got the hell out of there."

"I hate to tell you this, Donn," Bruce Arthurs writes, "but I consider hood ornaments to be one of 'the good things of days gone by.' I really hate those blank, featureless hoods on most cars. Ornaments are distinctive. Plus, many of them were rocket-like shapes, just the sort of thing for a young sf reader to drool over, wishing it were a hundred times bigger, with working rocket engines so he could climb in and take off to Mars. I think Oldsmobiles and Studebakers always had about the most interesting ornaments. It wouldn't surprise me to learn there's a sub-subfandom that collects old hood ornaments."

Chris Hulse saw a notice in his local paper (Eugene, Ore.) that Harlan Ellison would speak and show film clips. Chris says, "I went prepared for just about anything, but was expecting a somewhat formalized presentation. I was surprised so many people came to hear Ellison speak. He appeared at the outset of the 2¹/₂ hours to be somewhat disorganized -- no podium, no plug-in for his recorder, no water, etc. His main talk was essentially just a played-by-ear rap session, in which he discussed THE STARLOST; he is completely down on it and did a 15 minute number on how stupid the producers are. He said it should be removed from the air. He talked of many, many subjects, including a fan publication of his bibliography. But there was no film clip. He had brought an Outer Limits show, 'The Demon with the Glass Hand', but he didn't want to show it. He had a 'question-and-answer' period in which he dismissed offhand just about every serious question about his works. It was really an amazing experience. He can get off on the longest of tangents, and yet pick up his train of thought -- if you can call it that -- when he needs to get back to the subject at hand. He did read a new story of his, 'The Cat Man' written for an upcoming anthology, the theme of which is the very ultimate in sf stories. Ellison's story was the ultimate sf sex story; others do the ultimate time-travel story, etc. Very good, and long (1 hour to read). Harlan is a very good reader. Good quote from Ellison about the Starlost series: 'Anyone who watches Star Lost is a chimpanzee and ought to be eating guava nuts.'"

Bill Breiding's room caught fire, and these are the thoughts that rushed through his mind:

- 1) They would think he was crying 'wolf'.

- 2) HIS FANZINES!!

- 3) The beauty of the fire

- 4) Then fear that the whole house would go

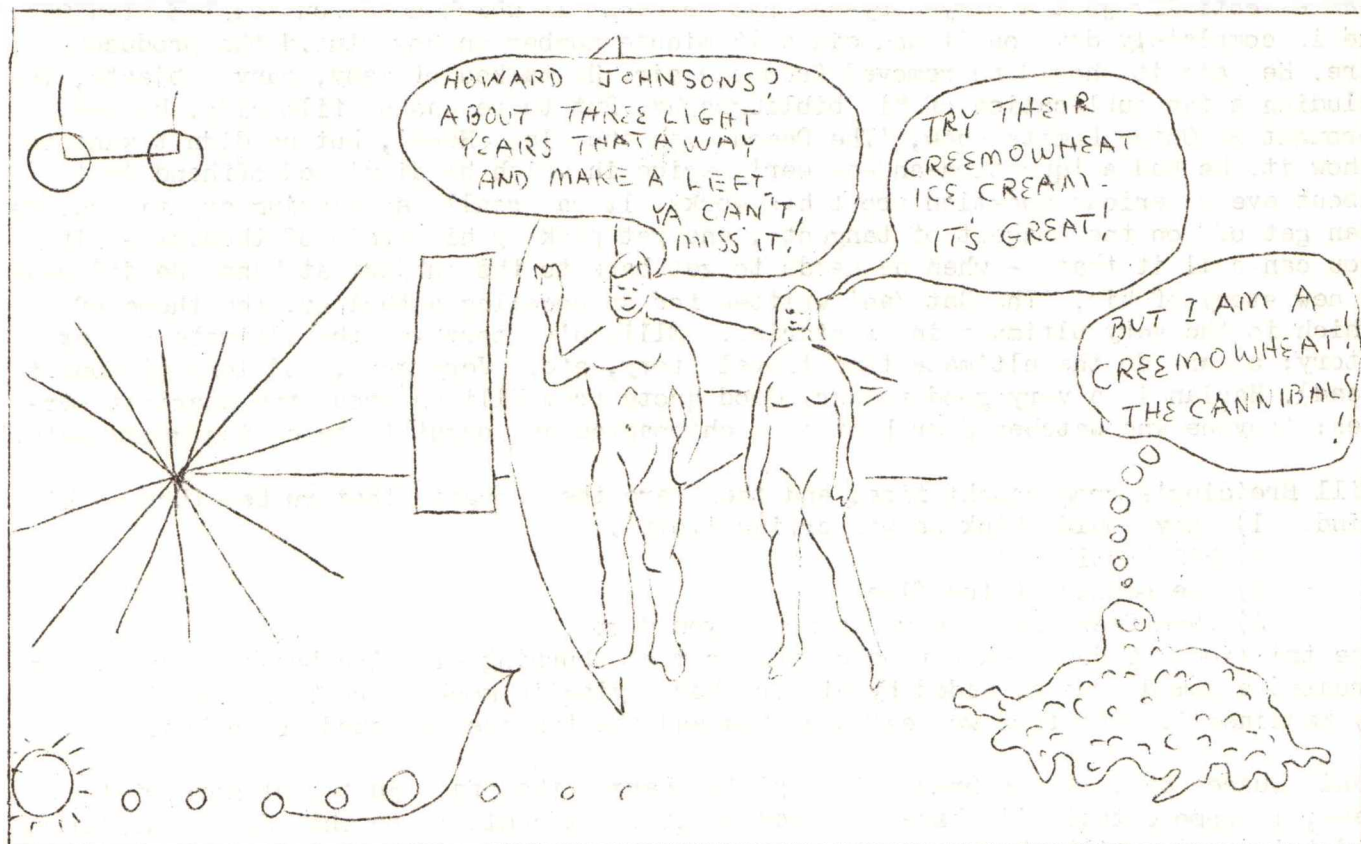
The trillions of duck feathers escaping from his burning sleeping bag and the hosing created a comedy scene, aided by his brother crying in mock terror: 'My fanzines! My Fanzines!'. The fire was extinguished and the fanzines escaped unscathed.

Denis Quane says: "As to Bruce Gillespie's charges that fans just want more of the same, I suppose that I'll have to plead guilty. But could it be that Heinlein, Clarke, and Asimov are still the best writers around?"

Gary Grady is in Keflavik, Iceland, and in case I gave a wrong address before, it is Box 25 AFRTS, FPO New York, NY, 09571. Gray sends a whole list of 'Noted-in-Passing' one of the features of his Navy suspended zine WAREHOUSE. Gary has a knack of spotting highly interesting things from many different sources; so I'd like to give a few of them. Did you know that the most recent set of Skylab astronauts were astounded to find the space station already occupied when they got there? By 3 homemade dummies, one sitting on the john!...Armstrong says TANG did not go to the moon on Apollo 11... Harry Truman in his autobiography said: 'Nixon is a shifty-eyed, goddam liar, and people knew it. I can't figure out how he came so close to getting elected President in 1960. I can't see how the son of a bitch carried one state.'...The returning signal from Pioneer 10 is so weak, if collected for 19,000,000 years the energy would only light a 7½ watt bulb for a thousandth of a second!... Most senility is psychosomatic.... An official Polish tourist brochure says, 'As for the tripe served you at the Metropol Hotel, you will sing its praises to your grandchildren as you lie on your deathbed.' ... Dr. Alice Chase, author of NUTRITION AND HEALTH, died in London of malnutrition. ...The US Secret Service has seized and destroyed 2000 coffee mugs bearing the likeness of Nixon on a \$3 bill, citing counterfeiting laws.

Jim Meadows chides me: "You say that AMAZING & FANTASTIC's ability to communicate have made them popular. Are they that popular? FANTASTIC's circulation for '72 put it at about 25,000. I don't have AMAZING's, but I would guess about 30,000. If they are so popular, how come they come nowhere near ANALOG's 117,000 or F&SF's 43,000. The latter doesn't even have a lettercol." I stand corrected. Perhaps I was thinking in terms of popularity with a large segment of the sf readers in fandom, more than actual circulation figures.... Oho, Tim C. Marion doesn't see why we hate 'sci-fi'? Not always, but the term is used by people who think they know all about sf. Sci-fi is a smug, condescending, sometimes snotty term, reeking of 'oh, you mean like Vonnegut and Arthur C. Clarke?' Publications on the mass order of TV GUIDE and TIME always use the term sci-fi; it seems a chronic habit. Maybe it's not logical, but after such treatment, the word sci-fi has a grating effect on one's ears, like finger nails on a chalkboard."

From Ed Lesko, Jr.:



NEW YEARS DAY & A LOOK AT THE 1973 USA FANZINE SCENE... Some of the big battleships keep on steaming along: Buck Coulson's YANDRO with #218 thru #223; Ruth Berman's NO with #12 thru #14; Victor Boruta's TAMLAHT with #16 thru #18; Ed Connor's MOEBIUS TRIP with #16 thru #18; Ed Cagle's KWALHIOQUA with #3 thru #10 on an almost monthly schedule; Roy Tackett's DYNATRON with #52 thru #56; Irvin Koch's MAYBE with #23 thru #33 on a monthly schedule; Jerry Lapidus with TMORROW AND #8 and #9; Mike Glycer's PREHENSILE #7 thru #10; Hank and Lesleigh Luttrell's STARLING #24 thru #26; Dave Locke's AWRY #4 thru #6; and probably LOCUS and THE ALIEN CRITIC, which I don't get; Bill Bower's OUTWORLDS #15 thru #17.

Some unpretentious perszines like Ned Brooks' IT COMES IN THE MAIL (#3-7) and Railee Bothman and Leigh Couch's B.C. (#4-5) continued through the year. And a whole flock of WSFA's from Don Miller, the first of which #91 I got in June and #118 in December. Actually the previous is the Son of WSFA, and is a newszine; WSFA I don't get.

Several changes in format were news in 1973: the remarkable pocketbook style of Ed Connor's MT, also called ECHO, now, since its change at #17 to resemble a prozine paperback; the reduced offset & reduced zine size of PREHENSILE and THE ALIEN CRITIC. Mae Strelkov began to point the way to a ditto artform in her TINKUN, a highly individualized perszine that had about 11 issues in the year. Several OXYTOCICs from Mike Shoemaker showed skill with the difficult ditto medium. Most fanzines were still produced by mimeograph, though many had offset covers.

Frank Balazs & Matthew Schneck went separate ways to college, which may have stopped THE ANYTHING THING with its #6 issue; however, Frank started a perszine, PARENTHESIS, which saw six issues since May. Though Bruce D. Arthurs joined the military he continued various zines & started others: GODLESS #3-5, RAVING PARANOID FASCIST #1, POWERMAD #1-4. After a rather promising start, John Carl discontinued ADRENALIN after its #2 issue. The Hugo winning ENERGUMEN from Mike Glicksohn ceased publication with #15 in May, an event that caused more discussion than most other fanzine happenings of 1973. Frank Denton continued ASHWING but began a more frequent perszine in May, BY OWL LIGHT, which is up to #6 in December. Harry Morris came out with NYCTALOPS #8 featuring HPL material. ALGOL from Andy Porter came out twice during the year, as promised, and looks and feels like a semi-prozine. SIRRUIISH from the staff at the Bothman House put out #10 and #11.

What new zines appeared in 1973? Brett Cox and Ken Gammage co-edited two issues of LOCOMOTIVE. Tony Cvetko had three issues of DIEHARD, though the first ish in August had the title THIS IS A ?. Jackie Franke put out three issues of her perszine DILEMMA. Warren Johnson's PERCEPTIONS appeared in July and reached #3 in November; in December he came out with ZINE REVIEW #1. In September John Robinson mailed out a dittoed fan fiction & poetry zine called SENSAWONDA. Robert Larson reprinted his ROBERT BLOCH FANZINE in offset. Richard Brandt hit my mailbox on the last day of December with VORPAL #1. Mike Gorra issued 5 STAR TRIPEs and a sixth with a name change to BANSHEE #6.

There's probably a lot more I should have mentioned, and I'll hear about it! Counting various APazines sent to me, free-lance, I received 333 fanzines, which is about 7 per week. Looking at the list I see already I should have mentioned: Bowers' IN-WORLDS, Hochberg's NUMBER, Stooker's MUNDAC, MacGregor's TALKING STOCK, Chris Sherman's ANTITHESIS, John Ayotte's KALLIKANZAROS, Glycer's ORGANLEGGER, the NFFF TIGHT-BEAM, David Singer's DEFENESTRATION, Sharon White's ZINE-YA, Devra Langsam's MASI-FORM D, Frank Lumney's SYNDROME, Steve Beaty's PHOTRON, Denis Quane's NOTES FROM THE CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT, Jeff May's KOSMIC CITY KAPERS, and Don Cochran's DECAL, and many others -- all appreciated.

FANZINES RECEIVED LATELY (since Dec.8) ESPECIALLY THOSE NEVER MENTIONED BEFORE.....

VORPAL #1 Richard Brandt, 4013 Sierra Dr., Mobile, Ala. 36609. Offset cover & inside front cover- fc by Canfield, excellent. Long article by Perry Chapdelaine which is a book review of Robert Kaufman's INSIDE SCIENTOLOGY. Several fiction pieces & film reviews. 24 pages; 35¢ or 3/\$1 and the usual. Excellent first issue.

ANTITHESIS #2 Chris Sherman, 700 Parkview Terrace, Minneapolis, Minn 55416. Offset fc & bc in blue; colorful & clear ditto inside. Gzine with an article by Roger Sween & Loren MacGregor that analyzes sf; fiction; long critique of Koontz's BEAST-CHILD; lettercol. Sample 25¢ and then the usual. Worth trying.

DON-O-SAUR COPROLITES (see further for title system of this zine) Don Thompson, 7498 Canosa Ct., Westminster, CO 80030. Vol.III No.2 issued in November (#26) was available through D'APA and also for 25¢ & the usual. Vol.III No.3 (#27) is a split-off from the apazine, to be called Don-o-Saur COPROLITES, and the genzine to be called DON-O-SAUR Coprolites, which is the one I have on hand. Wonder what havoc this will cause in someone's fanzine catalog system? Anyway, 20 pps of good mimeo, a touching Christmas story by Don, and a long lettercol. Wish I had been getting this sooner, but I didn't know about it until Sheryl Birkhead sent me an extra copy. Comes out monthly and may be had for \$2.50 per year (12 issues).

NOTES FROM THE CHEMISTRY DEPT. #1 Denis Quane, Box CC, East Texas Sta., Commerce, Texas 75428. A 10 p mimeo zine of review & opinion; judging from the caliber of the editor (and the professional sketches of Nancy Wallace) this zine has great promise for content of a serious nature and sticking close to the line of sf, and the science behind sf. 25¢ or the usual. Excellent first issue.

KOSMIC CITY KAPERS #2 Jeff May, Box 68, Liberty, Mo. 64068. 38 pps of mimeo; a genzine at 40¢ and probably the usual which Jeff "craves". Articles on "Slanguage", a long D-Con report by Waldrop, and a lettercol. Since my preference is for other things besides conreports, I didn't have enough to read in this issue; but Howard Waldrop is one of the best fanwriters and makes things come alive.

ZINE REVIEW #1 Warren Johnson, 131 Harrison St., Geneva, Ill 60134. Four pages of dittoed fmzrevs - about 20 of them disposed of in short paragraphs. Apparently Warren is pubbing this as a separate mailing, taking fmzrevs out of his genzine PERCEPTIONS. He says this is available for the usual. Good thing for neofans who want to order fmz.

BIG MAC #41 Norman Hochberg, 89-07 209th St., Queens Village, NY 11427. Really an apazine, but this devoted to fmzrevs, also short, but with more trenchant remarks from the editor who's a pretty outspoken ol' pickle. About 40 fmz in 10 dittoed pages. Not only useful for the neo, but fun for the MNF.

DIEHARD #3 Tony Cvetko, 29415 Parkwood Dr, Wickliffe, Ohio 44092. 36 pages, mimeo, genzine. A bargain at 25¢ with lots of reviews, articles, letters, but Tony prefers the usual. Watch this zine; the editor shows excellent promise! Denis Quane has a serious scientific piece about the chances for spatial neighbors - worthwhile.

DECAL #4 Donald E. Cochran, 151 Valley St, Jackson, Miss 39209. A mimeo fiction zine-- maybe it's offset. The cover by SF is offset and is an excellent portrait of dark-haired beauty. 20 pps. 35¢ per or \$1 for 3 issues.

Other zines received recently: TABEBUIAN #10 Mardee Sue Jenrette, Box 374 Grove, Miami, Fla 33133; IT COMES IN THE MAIL #7 Ned Brooks, 713 Paul St, Newport News, VA 23605; SON OF THE WSFA JOURNAL #117, 118 Don Miller, 12315 Judson Rd, Wheaton, Md 20906; OUR GOAL (a hoaxzine) Mike Shoemaker, 2123 N. Early St, Alexandria, Va 22302; KISMET #1 John Carl, 3750 Green Lane, Butte, Mont. 59701; CHECKPOINT #43 Peter Roberts, Flat 4, 6 Westbourne Park Villas, London W2, UK; WARREN J. JOHNSON #4,5,6 from the same address as ZINE REVIEW; ERG #45 Terry Jeeves, 230 Bannerdale Rd, Sheffield S11 9FE, U.K.; ALGOL #21 Andy Porter, P.O.Box 4175, NY, NY 10017; BY OWL LIGHT #6 Frank Denton, 14654 8th Ave. SW, Seattle, Wash 98166; T.N.F.F. The Dec.73 ish from NFFF, Joanne Burger, 55 Blue Bonnet Ct, Lake Jackson, Tex 77566; GRANFALLOON #18, Linda & Ron Bushyager, 1614 Evans Ave, Prospect Park, Pa. 19076; YANDRO #224 Buck Coulson, Rt 3, Hartford City, Ind. 47348. The two last zines just got here (Jan.2) and of course they are both giants in the business with great reputations.

January 3 and 2 more zines in; the last I'll report in this issue. From Bill Breiding comes 1 sheet, both sides, which is called STAR FIRE 3/4, and toots the horn for STAR Fire #1 due in February. Since this was tooted in SF 1/2 as well (in October) I am expecting A REALLY BIG SHEW. From Mae Strelkov THE TINKUNAKU EVENT -- what a marvelous experience to open fluttering pages and to examine such wonderful drawings in hekto ink! The one I like best uses the white paper for the waterfalls! GREAT.

TONIGHT, BEING DEPRESSED, I HAVE COME TO CONCLUSION...the only happiness is to be in a state of control. The workaday world is full of 'bosses', either real or assumptive; one may be in charge, and yet someone higher, and usually more remote from an understanding of the problems, is higher in authority. I do not mean that one has to be independent and alone, for one can be part of a team, but in that team one has his part, he knows what it is, and he does it. An orchestra is like that, as well as any sort of athletic team. However, what can beat the independent "in charge" feeling of putting out a fanzine, especially if the product has no subscribers, no advertisers, no books that have to be reviewed, etc. The paradise where anything the editor wants to do, he does -- for better or worse! I'm sure that this explains many things: the quiet day fishing on a lake, the tramp through the woods, the bicycle trip to the ice cream shop, or just sitting in front of the fireplace to watch the logs burn. Is not this part of my phobia against the RING-RING of a telephone? Oh, well, so much for this armchair lecture on the joys of being free, AND IN CONTROL.

MY FAVORITE THINGS by Jodie Offutt 12/73

Writing letters...swimming...driving...cons...one-to-one conversations...
going to movies...getting letters...fanzines...mixing drinks...juxtapositions...sleeping late...mayonnaise...The Moody Blues...long, live-with novels...hardware stores...country music on the radio...baseball...
books about WW II...psychology...long hot baths...beards...fires (in the fireplace)...chasing firetrucks...crunchy peanut butter...sweet wine...
looking at greeting cards...anticipating...trying on dark glasses...men...
making party snacks...running the vac...fixing things...riding a bike...
trains...making an omelet...popcorn...finding time on a parking meter...
trees....

Chris Hulse writes: "Hey, I saw a picture of you in Sirruish, and elderly you are not! Now, I'm only 22 so I gotta know what I'm talking about! And is it the way you were sitting, or do you have only one arm? Maybe a dumb question but could be possible; I couldn't tell. If anything, you gotta have three arms, just to keep up with TITLE!" ((I got out the photo, and sure looks like my left arm is gone all right! With this damn sore elbow, perhaps the camera, by a bit of magic, has foretold the future; however, a more reasonable explanation is that I cleverly slipped that arm around Leigh Couch 's shoulder while her mind was otherwise occupied. You will note I hold a liquid-filled glass in the visible arm, rather, the hand of that arm.)) Chris also wants to know if the Ed Connor and the Gene Wolfe mentioned in recent TITLES are the ed. of MOEBIUS TRIP and the sf author, respectively. Yes, to the Ed Connor question. As for Gene Wolfe..he does write and sell stories, but mainly he sends me odd things to read.

Now and then certain readers seem mystified by my return address, jumping as it does between St.Louis and Des Peres. Ought I clear that up? No. Perhaps it's no more odd that a non-elderly (sic, Chris Hulse) fellow should claim to have been a fan in 1935, and claims also that Ben Indick has shocks of red hair, that Ed Cagle really exists, and that he witnessed Rose Hogue in the mundane act of scrubbing a new floor.

Did you read that John Cage produced a musical composition with a silent period running for 4 minutes 33 seconds? I day dreamed about that! I was in attendance, I dreamed, and after 2 minutes and 12 seconds I whipped out my chromatic harmonica and played two choruses of Honeysuckle Rose! Then the lady with the cherries on her hat who sat behind me, she not just the hat, struck me with her purse, and I shouted, "Fools!", ran up on the stage and did a soft shoe to Sweet Sue. Damn, I had fun! And Gene Wolfe dashed home and wrote a sf story about my spirited deed. So, if you really do this, Gene, I'll be mighty and muchly grateful.

"Went to that Hardware store that I told you about and I found that they had given up selling pool tables years ago." -- Bruce Townley.

DO YOU LIKE RIDICULOUS, TONGUE-IN-CHEEK spoofs about science? Get THE JOURNAL OF IRREPRODUCIBLE RESULTS, P.O.Box 234, Chicago Heights, Ill 60411 for 1 year (4 issues) at \$3.00. I received the Dec.ish some weeks ago, and thoroughly enjoy this offset prozine of 32 pages. There's an illustrated job-opportunity guide for out-of-work Astronomers, "The Politics of Superwoman", a full page analysis of "bullshit" (sic), and among a lot more things a report on the firefly that developed a laser beam!

"Neofanizm is a difficult stage of life.." -- William Wilson Goodson Jr.

Eric Lindsay, from Australia, grumbles: "Hell, for Pete's sake Donn. This is the January 1974 TITLE I'm trying to LOC. The 22nd issue. TITLE 20 arrived yesterday - days after 22, and I don't remember 21. What in the hell are you trying to do to me. Stop mucking around with your time machine..." - ((By the way, Eric is having trouble getting paper...maybe none available until March or April, and he's aching to amaze us all with 850 words per page (!) with his new 'Helda tall micro-elite' - a type-writer, I would guess.

A POEM USING TITLE AND THE JOE WOODARD SYSTEM by Eric Mayer

Therefore, wolves tackling at insanity!
Fandom System guilty.

The following is a book review... A CURE FOR CANCER, a Jerry Cornelius Novel, by Michael Moorcock, with dust wrapper sporting Michael's portrait on the back, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1971, \$6.95.. I paid \$1.00 for it, remaindered. As a curiosity it is worth \$1; as sf, about 10¢. If somebody will send \$1 I'll send the book, post-paid. There are a couple of good lines in it, but I couldn't make head or tail out of the story, even with the explanation on the dust wrapper.

Warren Johnson says: "I liked Randall Larson's review of THE WORLD OF FANZINES much better than yours, Donn. I just think that Randall probably has had more experience at that sort of thing." ((Right on! I don't write reviews, and my review of the book was more editorializing than reviewing. Incidentally, Linda Bushyager says in her review of the same book in GRANFAL 18 something similar to what I said about the psychology of fanzinepubbing, and she asked the question WHY in more depth than I did. I'd love Dr. Wertham to answer that aspect in TITLE; there's got to be an answer to why sf & fantasy stimulates fanzine pubbing. I suspect its answer lies in the kind of personality who can be interested in sf & fantasy and some aspect of ego gratification and/or creativity. But I don't know.

SEVERAL QUOTES FROM GEORGE FERGUS

If we are all Titlers, who is the Titlee?

Isn't it comforting to know that the Enterprise's matter transporter also works on anti-matter?

Next time you want to constern somebody, ask if he has ever picked a 'bastard toadflax'.

LIQUID-O-RING #101 sounds like an issue of a long-running fanzine.

46% of the people believe there is intelligent life on other planets.

I expect there is an increase in the number of people who believe that there is no intelligent life on Earth.

Who would want a copy of Cap Kennedy #1?

Do you realize you dedicated two issues in a row to Ken Ozanne? You'll be giving those Aussies swelled heads. Next thing you know they'll be wanting to put on a worldcon!

Howcum the "Former Belview Patient" can't even spell Bellevue? Don't our institutions teach people anything anymore?

Dear Grandpa Barbek, (the Feebly Inflamed?)

-koad neffirw tettef a'beeb erise G'isre boy enojne why bnaterebnu t'nsa I
wards 't's slliv! .abrsaw

Dear Donn -

TITLE 21 & Jim Meadows III's letter. How many errors can a dude get into one paragraph?

- (1) Weissmuller's 1st film was not TARZAN OF THE APES. T.O.A. was made in 1917 & starred Elmo Lincoln.
- (2) The first talking Tarzan pic was not Weissmuller's. It was the 1929 serial TARZAN THE TIGER, with Frank Merrill, who did his own yell.
- (3) There were 5 Tarzans before J.W., not 2 as Meadows sez - Elmo Lincoln, Gene Pollar, P.Dempsey Tabler, James H. Pierce, and Frank Merrill.
- (4) Weissmuller's 1st pic was TARZAN THE APE MAN.

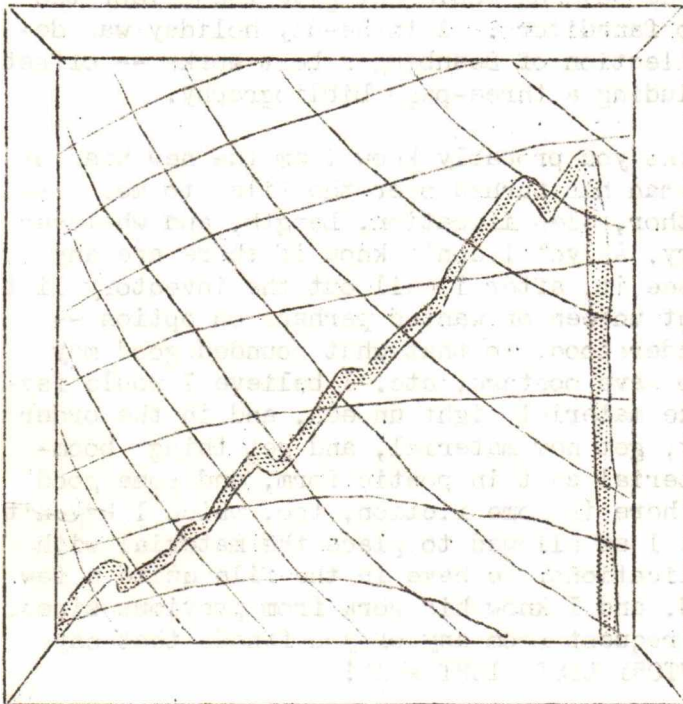
Etc.

Eldon Everett

1106 1/2 Pike St., Seattle, Wash. 98101

And that's enough about Tarzan!

Anyone want to argue, write Eldon direct



HE WHO GRAPHS LAST
ORIGINAL ART BY FRED MOSS
CRITIQUE BY NODHAM BARBEK

Fred Moss establishes a grid that pre-ordains a certain order of elements within it. Some see in this work a remembrance of the artist's sojourn in the Cincinnati Hilton. However, the title suggests birth, maturity, and death in the larger sense, but perhaps Neoish, MNF, and BNF in the limited sense. The distorted, skewed grid lends credence to the latter view since it reflects the bizarre imagination of Fandom, but at the same time, it may reflect the confused irrationality of the mundane world.

TEN TOP FANDOM STORIES OF 1973 AS ONLY title WOULD PRINT.....

1. Des Peres. After modifying his car in accordance with rocketship directions he published in TITLE, and well fortified with several beers and shots of bourbon, Nod Barbek took off down the street and over the next overpass. Upon alighting and stepping from his car, he was immediately arrested for being high.

2. Los Angeles. Person or persons unknown broke into Woody Hackerman's home and stole three large boxes of stills from the historic Bela Lugosi Dracula film, and a framed photograph of Captain S.P.Meek. A reward has been offered for the return of the frame.

3. Leon. On the very same day that Sned Kaygull's pet toad disappeared, Sned noticed a squeaking noise in his mimeo. Unable to locate the cause of the squeak, he called a repairman who found the trouble by unscrewing the sideplate and locating a rusty gear.

4. Queens. Sick and tired of wild pickle jokes, Maury Hackenhick had threatened to scream if he read one more. While dining on soda crackers, he tried to scream and found himself unable to do so. Luckily for him, he was not reading TITLE at the time.

5. Toronto. Celebrating their honeymoon at the Worldcon, Mr. & Mrs. Sam Snark were up all night watching the sf & horror film shows. When interviewed later, Mr. Snark replied: "I was disappointed."

6. Mesa. At a meeting of the Aardvark Society, several members complained that the editor of the club organ was neglecting

ing aardvarks by running too many articles about wombats. He squelched all opposition by arguing: "I suppose you guys are the kind who want science fiction in a science

fiction magazine."

Chillicothe

7. Inventor fan Will Siss hooked up a windmill to turn the crank of his manual mimeo machine. While it was cranking out what was to be 200 pages of a Rick Snaver piece for Willy's fanzine, a tornado struck suddenly. Fearful that the mimeograph would print more than 200 copies, Willy disconnected the coupling.

8. Instigating posthumous Hugo awards to giants in the early sf field, Hugo Gernsback failed to be nominated. Hugo actually wasn't the one who instigated the idea, and he didn't really care anyway.

9. Disappointed that he did not win the coveted "Most Genial Faned" award, Chuck Snarlson startled fandom by announcing that YONDER would continue publication indefinitely, even without fandom's consent.

10. Doug Beanbang announced his gaffiation. He said he would not give the celebrated Beanbang guarantee on anything submitted to faneditors. A three-day holiday was declared and R.D. Parson began a four-page collection of Beanbang's best works -- offset cover and profusely illustrated -- and including a three-page bibliography.

WELL, THAT SHOULD TAKE CARE OF LAST YEAR...As you probably know I am the new head of the NFFF Ms Bureau, and Robert 'Argee' Gersman has turned over the files to me. I am going to prepare an inventory by Title, Author, Classification, Length, and whatever space is left I hope to give a brief summary. As yet I don't know if there are any regulations to be followed, but the way I see it, after I mail out the inventory list to faneds, certain items may be wanted sight unseen or wanted perhaps on option -- though I think an option might always be understood, so that what sounded good may be returned if I have mislead an editor. To save postage, etc. I believe I would favor an editor who is desperate enough to take material sight unseen, and in the order of request. Hopefully, I can clear the deck, get new material, and get things booming. There is quite a bit of poetry or material cast in poetic form, and some good stuff, but the file is short of articles; there is some fiction, too, which I haven't had a chance to read yet. I'm assuming that I am allowed to place the material with anyone, including my own or associated publications. We have in the file quite a few good pieces from Andrew Darlington, England, and I know his work from previous zines. I'd take it as a promising sign if I get a request from any of you faneds that says something like this: YES, SEND ME THE INVENTORY LIST RIGHT AWAY!

There will be a DORIC; just this minute (jan.4) talked to Rick Wilber who now has all the copy typed for the printer, and this Sunday he & I'll get together to go over format, illos, cover, and editorial guff needed. However, the printer will need some time...and collating & mailing...uh, maybe it'll come shortly after you read this!

I have no idea to whom the Offutt Christmas letter was mailed, so in case you didn't see one, here's some news. Andy's latest novel -- and first hardback -- THE GALACTIC REJECTS is out from Lothrop, Lee & Shephard. He's now at work on the third book of THE CRUSADER, a series for Grove Press. The first one will be on the stands in about April. Andy (same guy as andy) is Treasurer of the Science Fiction Writers of America, also Membership Chairman. Jodie's taking a science/environmental course and says she never heard of photosynthesis before. Jodie, Jodie, that's part of the birds and bees lecture!

It's a thrill to find someone again -- Nesha Kovalick -- after mail has been returned with 'no forwarding address'. Her address is 1950 Goss St., Apt 210, Boulder, Col 80302, and she's still in the University there. Apparently there is a non-cooperative spirit between the Boulder sf group and the Denver one, a state of affairs she seems to find depressive. She is involved with a group 'starting a straight literary quarterly'. She also says: "Jeff's article ((on the Milehicon in Denver, T22)) forces me to truly appreciate what I missed, darn him! It didn't bother me that much before!"

"TITLE 22 was so short - Boo!!!" -- Marci Helms.

James A. Hall says: "That was rather sharp of George Fergus to intimate that I would be starting a Famous Poet's School. However, it is actually a famous fan-poet's school. I hope to be able to convince some leading fan poets (such as Bill Breiding, Aljo Svoboda, Kevin Williams, etc.) to act as advisors and provide testimonials. If you would allow me the advertising space I will send a prepared ditto master. All in the spirit of good fun. ((Maybe we need one??)) Seems to me you have been pubbing less art lately. I, for one, would like to see more, especially from Jackie Franke, Sheryl Birkhead, and Dave Shank. Put 'em to work."

Dave Szurek's address is exactly as I have it, and exactly as I addressed his T21 which was returned (costing me an extra 10¢). I dispatched a first-class letter and got the explanation back: a rather non-bright mailman who gets confused by all the apartment numbers and the difficulty of correlating Dave's B-2 on the address with B-2 on the apartment mailbox. Maybe color coding would work better. Anyway, you can reach Dave at 4417 Second, Apt. B-2, Detroit, Michigan, 48201 -- some of the time. Dave says the same thing happened to a letter from Jim Kennedy.

Roy Tackett takes exception to a quote from Georges Beau in the Robert Moore Williams' article which postulates that the Chinese benefitted from a heritage left them by a lost, ancient civilization. "Beau makes the all too common mistake of comparing old China with Western Europe. Certainly China's knowledge was ahead of that of Western Europe. But I would question an assumption that China was further advanced than Rome, for example. The civilization that gave China its impetus is well known; it is the same civilization that gave us all the same push: ancient Mesopotamia. Civilization came into existence in the Land Between the Rivers at least two millennia before the Chinese broke through. Certainly the Chinese went their own way but the seeds for that civilization drifted east, across the years and the miles, from Sumer."

"Kohoutek," says Randall D. Larson, "seems to be bringing all the lunatics out of their cubbyholes. End of the World? Building a rocketship to save a town? Shades of WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE, eh? Yeah, right. Did this happen when Halley's came by in the early century? Were people really that weird back then, too. Yeah, I guess so. Humanity has always been full of lunatics. Why, take faneds, for example!" ((Randy may say faneds are lunatics, because he is one -- faned, that is!))

Pre-Torcon I had a nice visit from Paul Anderson and Eric Lindsay, both of Australia, and both have dutifully sent their thank-yous. Paul returned in time to get Aussie sunshine after a lot of rain there while he was gone. Since one of his hobbies is raising cymbidium orchids, he was worried. "The flower spikes mature during our winter and need as much sun as they can get to color up the flowers. Many plants can bear two spikes of flowers that are almost completely different from one another if one gets enough sun and the other does not. I have seen one spike with bright yellow flowers and one with some pretty pastel green flowers merely because of the difference in available sunlight during the vital coloring up period."

SEA BELOW by Kevin Williams

Twisted shapes

tumbling blindly through harsh vacuum

Gleaming metal

shrouded in crimson clouds

Battered hulk

flying through space, dragging its entrails behind

and they fall toward eternity, and fail

and they feel the breath of Earth

and warm to its touch

and slow to its caress

and fall

and the sea below calls home her children

Don Ayressays there's a new fannish slogan: "Krumplehaney has been about." Your ed has seen it once, and has forgotten where. All you Krumplehaney's can write Don at Stevenson Arms 221, 600 W. Mill St., Carbondale, Ill. 62901; he's an excellent, lengthy loccer. Referring to Wertham's book, Don says: "I'm glad he finds the practice of fanzines healthy (Professor Hillegas informed me of the conclusions of the book.)" Then, always joking, Don adds: "He wouldn't find yours healthy, if you had one!"

"There's only one species of mammal that can't jump, and that's the elephant," advises Don Markstein. Might be good to know, Sheryl!

Pvt. Joe Woodard, 40th Supply & Service Co., Fort Carson, Col. 80913 has discovered a truth, but let him tell you about it. "The sight of a book must arouse hostility in the barely literate. This is my hypothesis to explain why some NCO's rush to find something for me to do when they see me reading a book. There is not that all much to do in the motor pool, and I have never mastered the art of looking busy without actually being busy. If I sit or stand doing nothing, or if I drink coffee, it is a long time before anyone seems to notice. But if I start reading, some sergeant will fall all over himself to find something for me to do. Even if I'm reading a technical manual..." ((Always carry a broom!)) My favorite part of T 20 was Dr. Wertham's letter. He does have a sense of humor. This is quite at variance with the image of an ogre he has with most of fandom because of SEDUCTION OF THE INNOCENT. I am currently engaged in reading A SIGN FOR CAIN, and a sense of humor can also be seen in this grim book."

Chester Cuthbert says, "Although Quane and Walker bear rather heavily on fandom's faults, their interest seems to confirm the fascination, and in many cases the therapeutic and inspirational value of a common pursuit not shared by the general public. Books like Warner's ALL OUR YESTERDAYS and Moskowitz' THE IMMORTAL STORM are not inspired without cause; and the popularity of TITLE is a clue to the benefits of a shared enthusiasm. I'm sure Denis Quane and Paul Walker would enjoy reading AH! SWEET IDIOCY: The Fan Memoirs of Francis T. Laney, probably the most outspoken revelation of its kind." ((Where can Laney's 'revelation' be obtained?))

"Why don't you ever print letters intact?" -- Randall D. Larson. ((I do sometimes, at least nearly so; but usually I think a piece from a 100-each is better than 10 wholes and 90 WAHF's. I could be wrong.))

Some time ago Ed Cagle supplied the last sentence to a round robin, which went like this: The Elder God picked up the shovel and jumped down the mineshaft, whistling. Now keeping that last line in mind here are two entries, the first from Gene Wolfe, the second from Loren MacGregor.

The beautiful younger goddess divided like a meeba turning into a ladydog topside while her bottom turned into a frisky donkey-mare -- alas the donkeymare, lasciviously wriggling, fell into the mine shaft, and, eagerly barking, the ladydog jumped after her.

"You have achieved your true growth, old egg eater," he said, sibilantly.

Ned Brooks recommended that I send Cagle's last line to someone, including a mailing route for the round robin; and when it all returned he said, "You could write the first sentence and have something really weird, as opposed to the medium weird stuff you now have. You could publish in TITLE." Perhaps the two lines above could be -- MacGregor, 2nd last; Wolfe, 3rd last (or reverse). Anyway, who wants to make a 4th last? Has a story ever been written line by line from the end?;

"The first fanzine I got was ALGOL. I sent for it because it was 'a magazine about SF'. That was my original object in getting into Fandom - to read about SF. But for some strange reason my favorite fanzines are now the ones that often have little or nothing to do with SF. I'll have to speculate on that in one of my LoCs someday. It must mean something..." -- Eric Mayer.

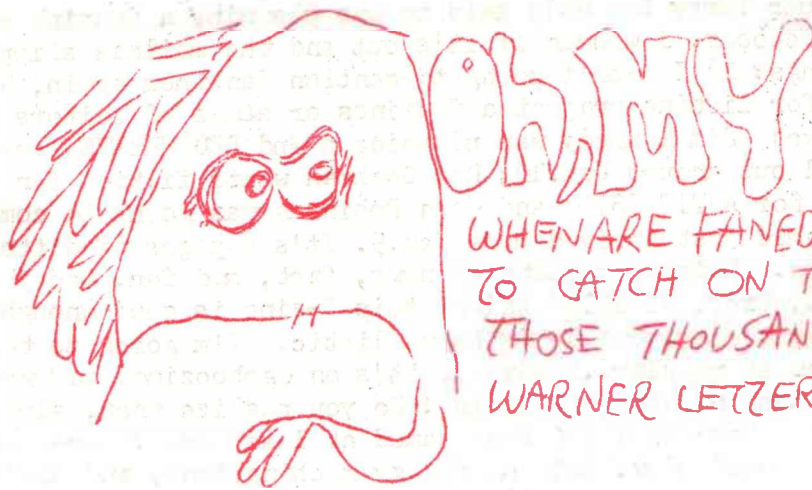
Back near the end of September Terry Lee Dale said he was planning a fanzine called ENCORE to come out late in October. I wonder if it's out and the mailman slipped up? This reminded me of two things: 1) I wasn't going to mention fanzines again, & 2) I have a page in my notebook for listing projected fanzines or names of editors who want material. Have a note or two: Jim Kennedy was planning a 2nd DEGENERATE; Loay Hall was going to bring VISHNU #1 out around Jan.10; Don Cochran wants fiction for DECAL; Chris Sherman wants fiction for ANTITHESIS; and John Robinson was going to come out with MOPERY #1. The last named just arrived here Jan.5. It's 8 pages of ditto pers-zine plus some other contribs. Quite a variety of news, fact, and fun. And that insane resident of 1 - 101 St., Troy, NY 12180 thinks this T-zine is good enough for Hugo consideration! Very flattering, but let's be realistic. I'm going to tell you --everyone -- why this T-zine is popular..ready?... it's an egoboozine, and was planned to please by the simple ruse of NAME mentioning. Do you realize that, already to this page in this issue, there have been 130 fans named at least once? And many of the 130 have been named 2-5 times? Now, hate me for my machinations, and don't let your warm feelings (because you saw your name!) overwhelm your logic, your good judgement. My Ghod, think of the sweat if T won a Hugo - each month fretting over doubts as to whether T would, this month, measure up! Think how hesitant I'd be about changing format like I did with this issue. Think of all the offsetting, great art, THREE STAPLES (count 'em!) each issue...misery.... Getting back on the track-- send for MOPERY

Michael Gorra reports: "Cy Chauvin tells me that someone is putting together a massive Torcon report composed of snippets from various people's reports, all done in a STAND ON ZANZIBAR type fashion. It sounds interesting." Anyone know more about it?

Another depression hit me - just a combination of work, home, weather, car - for about four or five days, and finished reading two books and working on a fandom word game so that I might fall asleep. Two books were BRAIN WAVE (Poul Anderson) and AND WALK NOW GENTLY THROUGH THE FIRE (ed, Roger Elwood). I enjoyed the rural character in Poul Anderson's novel, and was sorry that there wasn't more of him in it. Now, the game is idiotic, but what a mind-sticker. I set rules: in a 5x5 square I had to work in as many 5-letter last names as possible from TITLE's readers. No letters can double back on themselves, but a letter may be used in more than one name. The route may take any path as long as the letters in order are contiguous. After trying different names I worked my best score up to 10 last names, with Sheryl popping up unexpectedly. Can you beat my best? These are the names used: Cagle, Ayres, Helms, Hulse, Quane, Hogue, Lesko, Mayer, Beahm, Glyer. I have indicated "CAGLE" to show you one path. Finding the names is easy; but can you work more than 10 into such a square? Use other 5-letter names if you wish.

C	A	Y	R	H
M	L	G	E	S
G	U	B	L	M
H	O	E	H	U
K	S	N	A	Q

The mail has been light, but good. A terrific letter from Norm Hochberg who doesn't mind saying yes to things and well-sprinkled with well-said no's. Contrary to what I had imagined, Norm liked the "editorial" in T 21. He says: "I don't know what an editorial is supposed to be anymore than I know what a fanzine is supposed to be. They are what they are, that's all I know. I like what I like." First card from Ray Bowie, Jr. showing a warm pool of water, and making me HATE this snow here. Always fine, a letter from Ben Indick and an article on PORN that may stir up an argument or two -- oh, yes! A typically short, but sf newsy letter from Hank Jewel. The usual, rather complex letter from Ed Cagle that raises more questions than it answers; naturally, he loved Tody Kenyon's sunbathing-guage device, and ends with this advice for me: "Keep your happy supple." See? Is happy the adjective or the noun? The same for supple. And Marci Helms with Walker comment -- man, do I have Walker comments for T 24! And the usual lovely letter from Sheryl Birkhead, full of animal-love, and altruistic, family/fandom love. How can I be depressed? Who knows?



As everyone will recognize, the above is a Bill Rotsler, but it came to me via the generosity of Randall Larson.

Gary Grady sent me a reprint of a reprint of some 4th grade students' responses to questions on a first aid quiz. To wit:

For head colds: "Use an gonzier to spray the nose until it drops in the throat."

For fainting: "Rub the person's chest, or if it is a lady, rub her arm above the hand."

For asphyxiation: "Apply artificial resperation until the victim's dead."

(And from the longer list, Gary wanted the following one printed last instead of being buried in the middle..)

For snakebite: "Bleed the wound and rape the victim in a blanket for shock."

Elst Weinstein, 7001 Park Manor Ave., North Hollywood, CA 91605, wants you to write him about these three apas if one or more catches your fancy:

1. APA-H, the apa for Hoaxes, monthly. You get two (count 'em) free copies as a speculation member.
2. For the religious nuts: The APA for the Herbangelist Babble Society, with its Holy Babble. Free to members, or for 25¢ plus postage for non-members. It costs nothing to join!
3. For those people who like to write SF: The Galactic Lens, monthly fiction writers apa with a good reputation. Sample copy on request.

No TITLE is complete without some thought from the fertile mind of Richard S. Shaver, a portion of whose letter follows:

"One thing that has always puzzled me about the dyed-in-the-wool sf fan is his lack of interest in any genuine science. When H.G.Wells puts a man on the moon in science fiction, it was hardly fiction to anyone alive who could read the signs as well as Wells. He was writing future fact. When Wells wrote about 'the Time Machine' and the Eloi who couldn't read their own books, nor realize they were preyed upon and eaten by a hidden race underground, he was not writing fiction, either.

"When Shaver tries to tell them about hidden races underground, about rock books that contain the science of a great race of the past, they act as if I'd stolen their wallets. It has to be fiction. They can't ever accept the real, the true, the actual, the NOW of life and the need for it."

A TOM SWIFTY or two from Sheryl Birkhead:

"His bark is worse than his bite," Tom said doggedly...with a growl.

"Get a BIGGGG broom," Tom said sweepingly.

"Watch out for the bull!" Tom called, thoroughly cowed.

If anyone hankers to fill in blank spots in their collection of F&SF, let it be known that I will sell at 50¢ each, postage included, the following mint copies-- mint in the sense the zines have been read through one time:

1964 Sept, Oct, Nov Dec
1965 Jan
1966 complete year
1967 complete except no Oct
1968-1971 complete years
1972 all but Oct, Nov, Dec
- - - - -

Already I'm getting the shakes. A quarter for a sample copy from Stuart Gilson of Winnipeg came the same day as two zines from John Carl. And I'm getting leery about sending out TITLE to fans who may be reading the guff about this zine's Hugo possibilities. These sample people are going to expect so much! They're going to expect a zine like OUTWORLDS, ALGOL, PRE-HENSILE, MOEBIUS TRIP, YANDRO. You know the kind of zine I mean. People who've been with TITLE for a time, perhaps imprinted with a pleasant first contact, can like this zine for what it is -- a bull, a rap, a jam -- and can enter the fun. But as a ZINE?? Forget it! Please, John Carl and John Robinson, knock off the Hugo trumpeting, though I appreciate your good intentions. I'm in fandom to escape mundane responsibilities; don't add a fandom load to my shoulders. Does everyone understand? And, Stuart Gilson if and when you get a copy of TITLE #23, will you understand? I'm not being modest about this since I will admit full-faced that I enjoy paging through fanzine reviews looking for TITLE's name, and I feel a pang of disappointment when the reviewer says something like 'Donn doesn't want too many readers, so I won't say much about his zine.' I'd love 1000 readers; and so the conflict between desire and available time and funds. So, say good things if you feel inclined, you reviewers, but don't start the Hugo bit. Okay?

I want to say more about John Carl's two zines which may be obtained from 3750 Green Lane, Butte, MT 59701. CREOSOTE #1 is an 8-page dittozine of fmzrevs - 100 or so short revs. RETICULUM is a change in content, yet a continuation of his ADRENALIN. The content has moved from more of a silly axis to a humor/sercon one in a faanish sort of way. (Guess that pins it down, eh?) 24 pages and cover in excellent to fair ditto repro in my copy. I say 'my copy' because with ditto it's difficult to maintain consistent legibility throughout a run. I'm afraid that my three-at-a-time appearance in ADRENALIN #2 was what caused the change to a better content, for in RET #1 John has material by Hochberg, Indick, Patten, Lesko, Glicksohn, Strelkov, and a reprint of a Marion Z. Bradley piece from 1958 SPECTRE #3. And, of course, Carl himself has written some good things. Norman Hochberg's 'How to Loc a Fanzine' is funny piece more to be appreciated by an MNF than a NEO, for whom, of course, it was not intended. Glicksohn writes a long piece about NERG and Hugo awards -- as fascinating as the Hochberg piece. Perhaps these two things appeal to me because I am basically a fanzine fan, and both deal with the subject, one from the reader's view, the other from the editor's view. Mae Strelkov writes about EGOBOO and fandom, and there's hope for every aspiring NEO: "Neos soon become BNFs, they all do; I've watched them!", she so kindly says. Then there's a great letter section. My next paragraph was prompted by a loc from Eric Mayer which resulted from something I must have said in ADRENALIN #2, to which I'll have to refer right now.

Well, what I said is true: "I tend to associate long hair, especially in pictures, with the female gender..." You see, the gestalt of male/female has been building in me for 57 years; and it can't be rearranged in a few years. I said "especially in pictures" because in a picture many of the pieces are missing. However, long hair is not missing from a picture. And, I have mistaken some women with short hair and certain kinds of clothing as male. In the 'live' such things as gestures, speech, walk, breasts, hips must be sized up and a decision made for male or female. I tend to put breasts with female, and skinny hips with male; perhaps an obvious error. In dim light and viewed from the rear, a couple walking in the street fifty feet ahead of me, and both of whom have long hair and nearly identical clothing, tend to resemble females. I hope you accept my objectivity of observation. I am not implying that long hair tends to make a male morefeminine. But even that statement may endear me to many of my readers, because the fact is that in male & female approaching 'person' in doing away with traditional differences, male is becoming more female, and vice versa. What in hell is wrong with perpetuating two sexes?

Well, heck, since I got started on fanzines again, I may as well as mention three others of recent arrival. I got INGE #30 from Darroll & Rosemary Pardoe, 24 Othello Close, Hartford, Huntington, PE 18 7SU, England. This is 10 pps offset with cover, and zine reduced to 8x6" in size. It's a kind of perszine with review opinions of Novacon, Jesus Christ Superstar, Alan Garner's RED SHIFT, and the fanzine BLUNT #2. Neat, attractive, but doesn't tell how to get it. From Sharon White, 628 W. 10 St., Long Beach, CA 90813 comes ZINE-YA #3 which is 9 pages of mimeo and a spray-can thru stencil cover in gold. The pages are mimeod on just one side, which hints at mimeo trouble. There's a humor story by Betty Knight about Dr. Xenophon Q. Smackleteeth, which gives you an idea right there. Then a report of Filmcon 2, some recommended books, films, & fanzines, and a lettercol. I think some of the pages were Xerox copied or something. MOPERY is from John Robinson whose address is given elsewhere. It is a dittoed perszine, but has material from others, such as reviews. Forgive me if I've reviewed this zine before; it all sounds so familiar to me, and I can't check because the first 27 pages of this ish are at my office. 16 pages of odds and ends like this ish of T.

On the blank reverse side of an adv for V-CON III, held in Vancouver, Feb, 22-24 with GoH Frank Herbert, Pauline Palmer writes a letter. Another issue of WILD FENNEL is in the mails, she says, and Ed Cagle is back in KS from Oklahoma which prompts Pauline to say: "Hope Oklahoma is still intact." She says about our Comet Kohoutek that it's been renamed, for obvious reasons, Edsel. Pauline has a daughter whom I have quoted in T before; here's a new one. "One day my daughter, looking up wistfully from the fish ponds we were admiring, said, 'I think I'm the only one who believes in water talking.'"

Don't forget --and I am reminded by a card from William Wilson Goodson Jr.-- to send your list of favorite horror stories (maximum 25) to Mike Shoemaker, 2123 N. Early St., Alexandria, Va 22302. Though complying with Shoemaker's request for horror favorites, William Goodson has this to say: "I cannot agree with Mr. Shoemaker about Gerrold. With the exception of 'The Trouble with Tribbles' all of his stories that I know about have been in the worst of the 'New Wave' -- deliberately vague, over-sexed, word trickery rather than characterization."

SP4 Hubert C. Dixon (Buzz) is still in Korea; address HHC 4th MSL COMD, PIO, APO 96208. He says: "Yours truly is getting married. The lucky girl is Miss Lee Soon-ok, a Catholic college girl attending Dankook University in Seoul. She is five foot two, brown haired, brown eyed, pretty, very intelligent, speaks fluent English, and is incredibly sexy. We love each other very much and plan to return to America while I'm on leave and marry stateside. Once we get married we will return to Korea and I will endeavor to get transfered to either Camp Coiner or Yongsan Garrison, as both are located in Seoul and near Dankook University. I was really surprised to hear that people actually give a damn about where I am. It touched me deeply."

I indent this paragraph so you won't miss it...For an 'experimenter' my face is red; I did not discover until this late date (Jan. 14) that there already is a kazoo built into the 'Todyphone'. Excuse: I had been trying to get trumpet sounds out of it to no avail when accidentally speaking into it I heard the kazoo sounds - eureka! If you're reading this before page 2 you won't know what I'm talking about -- all but Tody Kenyon, that is. My first selection was of course The Stars & Stripes Forever!

Sheryl Birkhead writes: "I've been experimenting with saving energy by using a kerosene lamp and have (so far) come to the conclusion that Abe Lincoln was just dad-burned lucky that he didn't go blind before adulthood!" ((Computation: how much electricity would have been produced by the kerosene you burned had it fired a dynamo and would you have saved energy or wasted it? Just asking...))

Raymond J. Bowie (by letter this time) recommends Agatha Christie's ELEPHANTS CAN REMEMBER. How many sf fans, I wonder, also read many mysteries?

Bob Stein, my old buddy from Milwaukee, sent me three paperbacks reprinted in 1928 from an original 1910 publication series called THE SEXUAL EDUCATION SERIES. The author is Dr. David H. Keller. Anyone remember his sf stories? The one of the three which I find especially pertinent to my situation is DISEASES AND PROBLEMS OF OLD AGE! I would imagine these three little books might be collector's items...?

A 12-page letter from Dave Szurek is an interesting document, starting out placidly neat and ending up emotionally scribbly as he had "in his guts", medically prescribed, two dilantin, two mysoline and three phenobarbitals, all while drinking some Wild Irish Rose. His beginning theme is on names, pointing out Szurek is pronounced 'Shurwreck' -- which he says describes him rather well, though he's got a ways to go before he's a 'certain-wreck'. He notes the clergymen he's known with appropriate names: Rev. Parson, Rev. Scripture, and Father Parrish. He knew a kid in school who was always getting paddled you-know-where. His name? Ronnie Butts. His final theme is an angry one directed against personality testers who go by color preference, handwriting, gestures, breast lovers versus ass lovers, etc. in the style of Joyce Brothers. He says: "Shaver makes more sense! Not really putting him down either for as a fan who's experienced quite a bit along the occult nature, I can't call him a liar. He does make more sense than these face-readers and all, but who the heck doesn't?"

Murray Moore says he is developing such an interest in apas that he has no time for TITLE, and would rather I sent his copy to someone else. Okay. And thanks to Murray for being honest, and for letting me know...only he won't be reading this. I'll write him a letter.

Patti Sobrero writes: "I really liked 'Through Darkest Kansas'. I like to read about all the cons that I can't go to. Right now I'm saving all my money for the next Westercon, which will be my first. It seems that lately, everything I've done or bought has had something to do with SF. See what fandom does to people?" ((Well, yes, I'd say you've got it...insidious, isn't it?))

Patti, listen to this...a letter from Frank Balazs..."Attention! John Robinson has gafiated. Hard as it may be to believe, for an entire hour on the night of Dec. 12, 1973, John Robinson did not partake of any fanac nor did thoughts of same cross his mind. He was not asleep. It is a bit scary to think that things like that happen..I mean, the stability of fandom must be examined if such a stalwart as JR gafiates for however short a time!"

Ned Brooks says: "Elaine White seems to have gafiated, or maybe she's busy with school. I did get a Christmas card from her." ((See, Patti, no matter how hard you catch the disease -- and Elaine appeared to be in deep -- there's always hope! Frankly, I miss Elaine's nicely decorated letters, but she won't be reading this either.))

Sir Ed Cagle always catches my typos, to wit: "Did Kingsley Amis write 'THE GREE MAN' ??? Is that a goo boo? Reall! Gos!" He goes on to say, "If Eric Mayer can mention Kafka's METAMORPHOSIS, I can mention another fine yarn, GOGOL'S WIFE. It concerns a man who builds himself a wife of rubber fabric, inflates her through an orifice which is located in an unusual place, and who then finds to his dismay that she is socially inept, and is given to making untoward remarks in mixed company, such as 'I've got to poopoo.' Good man, Kafka. Sometimes. If we could have cross-bred him with Will Cuppy we might have had something."

Marci Helms (and some others) liked the POST 21 and POST 20 intro to the main body of those TITLES they were in. "It gives each writer," she says, "more space for comment, thus letting us readers get to know them better. But alas, I am a lazy writer and will never get in. Perhaps a plus for your readers...It does seem that the same people will be included each time though." ((This ish is practically a whole POST-X idea, but without lengthy excerpts. Anyway, who knows what next month will bring, and as long as I am editor, who says the same writers will get in -- even if they are first to reply? One must never trust a flaming Barbek! And, Marci, how about putting enough postage on those clippings you keep sending me??))

If you drop a line to THE PLAIN TRUTH, 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, Calif 91123 you'll get the zine free. You can overlook the Fundamentalist Bible slant to much of it, and enjoy the color, layout, and now-and-then a pretty good article. The Jan. ish has a 'Is There Life Out There?' piece; conclusion, no. Also a sort of anti-space-program piece and an interview with Dr. Fletcher, NASA head.

And for the S&S writer looking for some background material, a conclusion to a 3-part series on the German Empire of the Dark Ages. For free, it's a bargain....

You know, that Andy Porter is some kind of nice guy! I got ALGOL #21 that had a few mismatched pages - a printer's error, I guess -- and when I chided him a bit, he unexpectedly sent me another copy, in perfect condition. It's a great zine! It costs \$1, but worth it. Even the ads are interesting! And contributors.! Try this on for size: Heinlein, Bester, Lupoff, Brunner, Williamson, Benford, White, and Ballard! Did I mention LeGuin, Barbour? See address elsewhere in here.

Well, I've got to end this issue..and

that's a problem -- in my mind, maybe not in yours. It reminds me of two things: some contemporary music and New Wave. In the past few years there have been many songs that seem to have no end....they simply repeat, repeat, fainter and fainter until the engineer closes the switch. No intro, no development, no wrap-it-up. No problem, no obstacles, no solution. No structure. New Wave.

And so you now have an experiment in this issue, rather, a departure from the usual loosely structured, at least, TITLE. And I have a sense of incompleteness, a feeling that I have not created, but simply rambled in a welter of words. Well, if the sun comes up tomorrow, so will your reaction.

And when it comes up I'll be working on T 24. Ha! I've already started.

However, it is now about 11 pm on Jan.15, and for the rest of the night, before picking up Ellington's MUSIC IS MY MISTRESS, I shall try out an adlib chorus of "Rosetta" on the incomparable Todyphone! My dog, a music lover, is howling...

FROM: Donn Brazier
1455 Fawnvalley Dr.
St. Louis, Mo. 63131

TITLE #23
February, 1974



TO:

Eric Lindsay
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Faulconbridge NSW 2776
Australia

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