

title 57



editorial reply

NOWHERE TO WALK TO SHORE

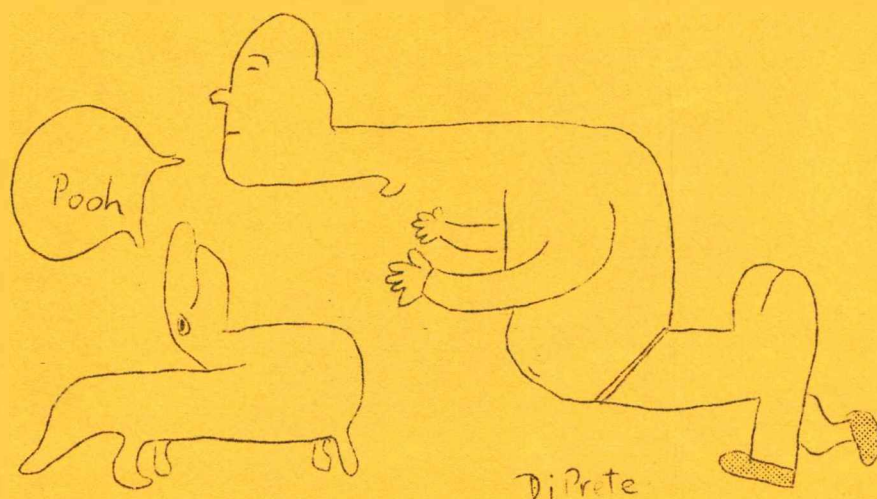
While the owls fly with no complaint
I sit in my room because I can't walk.
Can't walk right anyway.
And since I can't walk right,
I'm not supposed to walk at all.
Still, I'll be told to walk.
It's because if I walk long enough
While I'm not supposed to,
Then maybe I'll decide to walk right.

What the hell could I call this?
What the hell could I dare call this,
Without the Fox King and the lion thing
Bearing down upon me for what I haven't done,
And complaining in silence of what I have?
So I guess I'll have to lie down
Within my room,
Not venture on outside,
Nor let them know I'm here.

The owl shall fly,
The moon may rise.
The transistor might be turned on.
But they won't know...
Not consciously.

Nor will they know
Of me.

-- Dave Szurek

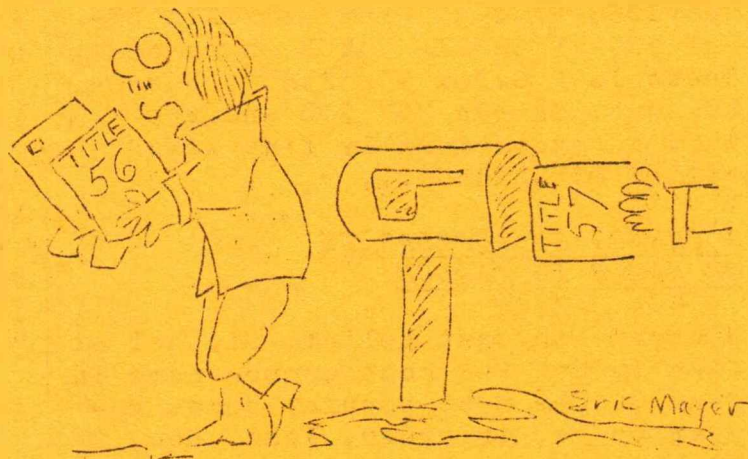


TITLE 57

DECEMBER 76

A pause
for applause
because
Pa's cause
is Santa Claus

-- Fred Moss



Who says a fanzine must change to maintain interest and readership?
That's strange.

The only way to change a fanzine is to change editors.
Bowers is a perfect example.

Through years of convulsive effort to change OUTWORLDS, Bill has
managed to keep it exactly the same as it was,
barring a few minor flourishes with paper and ink.

TITLE is another;

it remains almost the same as when it started.
Only a few of the names are changed.

-- ED CAGLE

Camp Garland

Star Route South Box 80
Locust Grove, OK 74352

FAIR TO MIDDLING NEW NAMES ARE:

Neil Ballantyne, 3214 Spruce Ave, Burlington, Ontario, Canada L7N 1J2

Alan Bosco, 915 Phay Ave., Canon City, CO 81212

Robert Briggs, Box 32 Pine Terrace MHP, US 41, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

David Cohen, 43 Golden Hill Ave, Goshen, NY 10924

Ian Covell, 2 Copgrove Close, Berwick Hills, Middlesbrough, Cleveland,
England TS3 7BP

Keith Curtis, 26 Undercliffe Rd, Earlwood, NSW 2206 Australia

John Di Prete, 45 Vale Ave, Cranston, RI 02910

Brendan, DuBois, 283 Dover Point Rd, Dover, NH 03820

Linda Emery, 17307 NE 4th Plain St, Vancouver, WA 98662

Randy Fuller, 603 E. Vine St., Fulton, Mo. 65251

Larson E. Glicksohn (Reciprocal Agreement with Canada/USA/Mexico does
not permit publication of certain restricted addresses. Larson E. is
permitted to inhale in USA and exhale in Canada, a sub-section of the
Anti-Pollution Agreement.)

David R. Haugh, 828 Loyalton Dr., Campbell CA 95008 (CoA in December)

Shakrallah C. Jabre, 20 N. Main St., Newmarket, NH 03857

Fred Jakobcic, 113 W. Ohio St., Apt 4, Marquette, MI 49855

Burt Libe, PO Box 1196, Los Altos, CA 94022

Tom Morley, Dept of Math, Univ of Ill, Urbana, Ill 61801

Karen Pearlston, 132 Hove St, Downsview, Ont., Canada M3H 4Z7

Fam Sneed, NU SIGMA NU, 420 Market St, Galveston, TX 77550

John Thiel, 30 N. 19 St, Lafayette, Ind 47904

Bob Webber, 204-20 Graydon Hall Dr, Don Mills, Ont, Canada M3A 2Z9

Gail White, 7724 Cohn St, New Orleans, La 70118

SPEAKING OF NAMES, AS I WAS ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE, I RECEIVED THIS ESSAY FROM VICTORIA VAYNE whose address is P.O.Box 156 Stn D, Toronto, Ont. Canada M6P 3J8 and who publishes an exceptionally fine zine called SIMULACRUM...

A SURVEY OF POPULARITY
OF NAMES IN FANDOM

Contrary to most belief, Michael or Mike is not the most common name in fandom. The most popular names appear to be, in order, John, Don, Michael, Dave, Richard, and Bill.

The following summary is drawn from my mailing list and card file, with a few names added by memory. My mailing list is by no means complete, being very skimpy on older fans, but as far as a list of names goes, is probably as random a statistical sampling as a column in the phone book. Common names in fandom are likely reflected in frequency of names in mundania.

Here we go:

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13 - John | (Alderson, Ayotte, Bangsund, Benson, Berry, Boardman, Brosnan, Douglas, Inouye, Robinson, Millard, Singer, Thiel) |
| 11 - Mike | (Bailey, Blake, Carlson, Bracken, Glicksohn, Glycer, Gora, Harper, Meara, Resnick, Shoemaker) |
| 11 - Dave | (Gorman, Griffin, Jenrette, Kirby, Kirkbride, Locke, Merkel, Piper, Romm, Rowe, Singer) |
| 10 - Don (n) | (Brazier, D'Amassa, Ayres, Thompson--A,B, & C--, Cochran, Lundry, Markstein, Miller) |
| 9 - Richard | (Bartucci, Brandt, Coad, Dey, Doxator, Geis, Harter, Labonte, Patten) |



Following the suggestions of LoC writing in BONFIRE ONE, T-55, Brendan DuBois' three LoCs and one PoC.... here's the first:

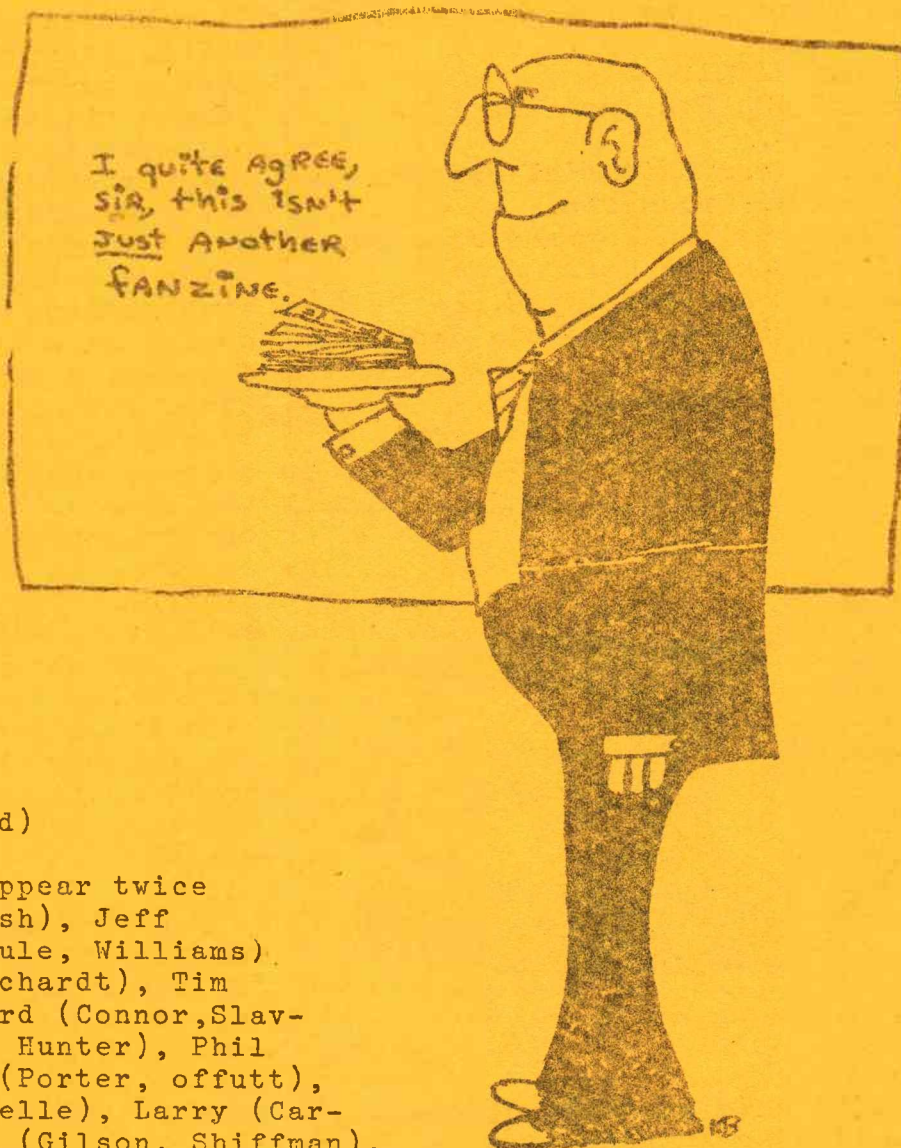
Don D'Amassa: "If it takes a single sentence..."

Dear Donn: Thank you for TITLE; I liked it.

(signed) Brendan

- | | |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8- Bill | (Bliss, Bowers, Breiding, Bridget, Brummer, Kunkel, Mallardi, Rotsler) |
| 6- Bob | (Wilson, Tucker, Vardeman, Whitaker, Webber, Ruben) |
| 4- Bruce | (Arthurs, Coulson, Pelz, Townley) |
| 4- Fred | (Croft, Goldstein, Haskell, Miller)
<i>What about Moss & Wertham?</i> |
| 4- Wayne | (Taral, Hooks, Martin, Jones) |
| 4- Steve | (Beatty, Dorneman, Hughes, McDonald) |
| 4- Harry | (Warner, Bell, Morris, Andruschak) |
| 4- Eric | (Bentcliffe, Lindsay, Larsen, Mayer) |

- 4- Terry (Floyd,
Hughes,
Jeeves,
Whittier)
- 4- Paul (Novitski,
Walker,
Skelton,
Ryan)
- 4- Alan (Bostick,
Hanna,
Jones,
Stewart)
- 3- Frank (Balazs,
Denton,
Lunney)
- 3- Peter (Gill,
Presford,
Roberts)
- 3- James (Shull,
Kennedy,
Freund)
- 3- Hank (Davis,
Luttrell,
Heath)
- 3- Ron (Bushyager,
Rogers,
Clarke)
- 3- Gary (Farber,
Grady, Hubbard)



The following names appear twice only: Tom (Reamy, Walsh), Jeff (May, Smith), Ian (Maule, Williams), Randy (Bathhurst, Reichardt), Tim (Kyger, Marion), Edward (Connor, Slavinski), Barry (McKay, Hunter), Phil (Paine, Payne), Andy (Porter, offutt), Jerry (Kaufman, Pournelle), Larry (Carmody, Downes), Stuart (Gilson, Shiffman), Denny (Bowden, Lien), Mark (Sharpe, McGarry), Brian (Brown, McCarthy), Chris (Hoth, Sherman), Graham (Charnock, Poole).

The rest have unique names, as far as I can tell. ((I've omitted the listing because you know who you are, Sam, Brad, Buck, Gil, Ben, Ken, Arnie, Reed, Ned, Tony, Garth, etc.))

It might be interesting to have someone either add to this list or do the same type of survey with a more extensive list. Also, I have confined this list to male fen only-- female fans are in the minority, there is considerably less duplication of names, and at any rate that part is left as an exercise for the reader.

Don D'Amassa: "A little bit of humor never hurts."

Dear Donn: Do you wanna hear a dirty joke? Two white horses fell in the mud. All the best,

(signed) Brendan DuBois

P.S. I liked TITLE.

Ben: "....likes or dislikes it."

Dear Donn: Thank you for sending me TITLE.

I liked AITOI.

I liked The Fan from the Time Machine.

I liked Best Editorial Briefs.

I liked Bathroom Con.

I liked the letter from Jessica.

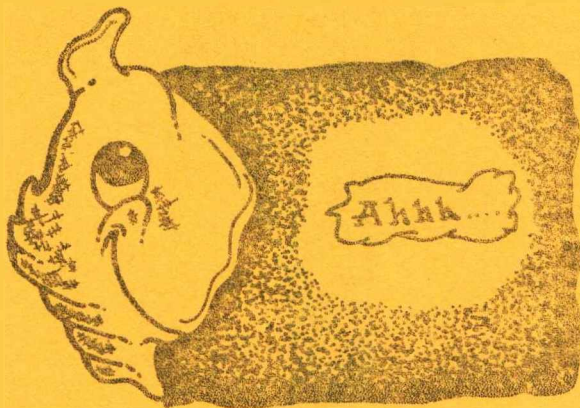
I liked Bonfire One.

I liked your FARRAGO ad.

I liked Mike Glicksohn's Snaaaaap-shots.

I disliked nothing.

All the best,
(signed) Brendan



She also said nice things about the T-page: "You do TITLE with such free-flowing spirit; it's fun to read." I explained the facts of life about T and turned down the plug, but instead offered to do a brief fanzine scene with a mention of such fanzines produced in large circ and for SF readers. We'll see what Julie says to that. Meanwhile you might like to know that the December NSI NEWSLETTER will stress e-t life -- uh, maybe Santa Claus??

For over a year now I have saved some Santa Claus material-- all I have to do is find it in the vaunted vault....

Stuart Gilson (December 27, 1975): "It's an interesting coincidence you happened to run those questions on our reactions to burglars when you did, since I just experienced something closely akin to your theoretical situation. Just a couple of days ago, in fact, I was awakened during the night only to see through half-shut eyes some fat, heavily bearded character stealthily slipping through the bedroom window (I live on the upper floor of a two-story house). Ignoring the fear of physical harm, I bravely dispatched the villain with a baseball bat which I keep under my pillow. Evidently he had been making all the local rounds on this particular night, for sitting beside the battered form on the floor was a massive sack containing a surprising variety of toys and brightly packaged boxes. It's fortunate indeed that I reacted as prudently as I did."

One name around these parts is Nils-- odd for these parts, and Nils Hardin, publisher of XENOPHILE, goes by "Tony". Just this month, hearing from a Sherlock Holmes friend that Tony was going to speak at a meeting of the St.L. Chapter of the Society for Technical Communication, I attended and heard Tony's review of the early pulps and the outgrowth of SF in that medium. From Tony's stock of collector's items (some for sale, I think) I saw zines before my time, and as a former collector my time went back to 1926. Tony's show-and-tell pieces went back to the 1800's. Fascinating lecture/demonstration.

XENOPHILE is a must if you are a collector, either buying or selling, for the thrust of the thick, offsetzine is advertising. But each issue has a theme (mystery, SF, fantasy, Doc Savage, etc) with great critiques and bibliographies. Address: Box 9660, St.Louis, Mo., 63122.

In T-56 I plugged the NEWSLETTER of the NATIONAL SPACE INSTITUTE, and for their information sent them just that page. Got a thank-you back from editor Julie Forbush who wanted to plug T for me in return.

Sam: "...a few words on a card..." 9/26/76

B. DuBois
283 Dover Pt.Rd.
Dover, NH 03820

Dear Donn:

Thank you for TITLE: I really liked it.

All the best,

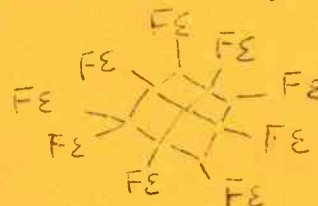
Brendan

From Paul Walker (January 20, 1975): "Dr. Wertham: I don't think I ever really believed in Santa Claus. I do remember asking my mother if there was one or not, but as I recall, the skeptical tone of my voice made it easy for her to say, 'No, but you mustn't tell the other children.' They had to be protected. To tell a child there's no Santa, no Easter Bunny, no Tinker Bell is considered cruel. For whom? Would it really matter that much to the children if their gifts came from Daddy and Mommy instead of some strange spirit? Or would it be more cruel to the parents? Would it violate their equally fantastical sentimentalization of their children? After all, their waiting up, their leaving cookies for old Santa is so cute. And it is-- I'm not being cynical. But I do wonder if it is not just another part of our victimization of the young that inevitably backfires in adolescence. Kids are so filled with fantasy sworn-by-as-fact by their parents and teachers and clergymen. Growing up is learning how much of what you have been taught is all lies. Lies designed not to educate the mind but discipline the soul to accept authority.

How bitter the realization of so many kids when they intellectually awaken to the 'real world'! How often they become chronic disbelievers in everything. The most pernicious fantasy that can be fostered in the minds of the young is that life was, is, or can ever be 'nice'. Some kids never grow out of that fantasy. They believe the key to the good life lies in the acceptance of a creed or a code or ideology that simplifies human experience and human choices between right and wrong-- a prescribed list of do's and don't's. They believe that it is their moral, their spiritual, duty to preserve the myth of 'niceness' in all their views. Skepticism, cynicism is a sin. The spiritual ideal of 'niceness' requires, in Saul Bellow's words, 'duplicity with honor'."

MARK SHARPE sends the sketch at the right and wants to know if you can identify it.

(Answer = XXX = reverse wheel)



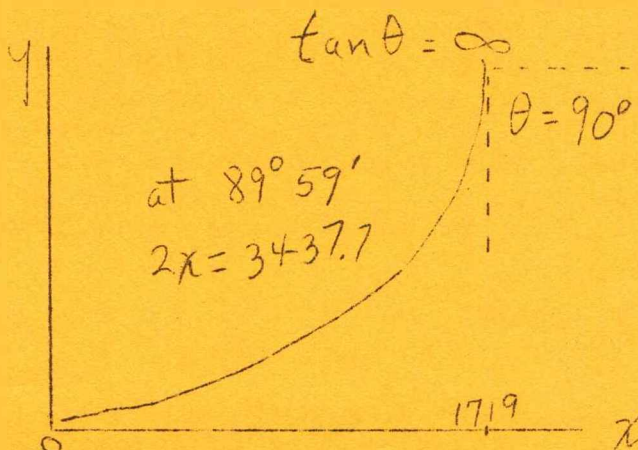
The editor of TITLE is generally mild-mannered, and rarely gets angry at mundane news. However, this past week he read something that caused him to leap from the chair and pace madly around the house shaking his fist.

The newspaper piece announced that the Kirkwood School District (my district) was going to shift the two Junior Highs to Middle Schools (grades 6 through 8) and that the 9th graders would now attend the high school. So far, all right... I read on to find out the educational justification for this major upheaval. It worries me that 9th graders are now to be low dogs in a pack of 'sophisticated' upperclassmen, and that blossoming 8th graders will now be 'overlords'. So when I reached the big reason for this change, I hit the roof. Dr. James Fox said: "The prime factor in consideration of middle school plans is the maintenance as much as possible of equal or nearly equal minority-majority ratios at each middle school." In my opinion, this is a lousy reason.

Somewhere around the year 3400-3500 the world (if it hasn't gone into a New Dark Age already) will reach a mysterious point which, so far anyway, defies my analysis. What happens when something reaches that point called infinity? Let me explain...

Science and technological advances are proceeding at a rate most closely matched by an exponential curve. A curve such as that finally passes into infinity, when the tangent of the curve calculated for 90° is given as infinity. If we let the y-axis be advances, and the x-axis be time marked off in years, the slope at any point is $2x$. The angle formed by the horizontal with the vertical grows slowly at first but accelerates to 90° at infinity.

The tangent of $89^\circ 59'$ equals 3437.7 years equals $2x$. Thus x equals half of that number of years, or 1719. Depending on the year in which we assume the science/technology curve had its origin, we need add 1719 to that point to discover the year in which infinity is reached. If we imagine that progress began, say, in 1700, the end is 3419 A.D. If we begin with an earlier period, say, right after the first Dark Ages, our endpoint comes sooner. Anybody want to hazard an explanation as to the meaning of reaching infinity in this context?



Roddenberry and StarTrek struck out this weekend at the St. Louis Arena. The sound system malfunctioned so bad that neither Gene nor the film track could be understood. Several thousand people gradually wandered out and away, and picked up ticket and parking refunds. Odd that our vaunted technology failed in dealing with the modern 'Gulliver Travels'.... deros??

Dear Donn: Seriously, folks. Well, those four 'locs' ahead of you were an exercise in futility, I guess. I am quite aware that I don't write amusing, exceptional, or concise locs. I do try, though.

I think TITLE is great, Donn, and it is not that confusing. But I think I had better reserve judgement on that until I get the next few issues. I enjoyed every one of the features, and I hope that there will be a BONFIRE 2.

All the best,
(signed) Brendan

YOU KNOW HOW THINGS STACK UP... I've got a stack of past letters, all marked up with QQ, Artiloc, etc. Some may go back to last year--I've got to wipe out the stack....

WIPING OUT THE STACK

Jane Fisher: "I'm one of those people who need the margins in life-- the white spaces around the action. Occasionally I get these maniac bursts of energy and go out and do everything in a whirlwind, then settle back in a rut. Not exactly stable, but sometimes interesting. Hang in there."

Gail White: "One thing I don't quite understand is why a true fan in fiawol reads no science fiction; but I suppose it's as it is with literary scholars -- eventually you reach the point where you don't read the poets, but just the comments & criticisms on the poets. That, however, is a point at which I think one has gone to far."

D.Gary Grady: "Bill Bliss suggests that a planet might stink too terribly for people to stand it. The human sense of smell fatigues rapidly and after a while is no longer capable of detecting even a violently repulsive odor. Perhaps the Earth already stinks like a skunk works and we just can't smell it because we grew up here. (The Music of the Spheres was supposed to be inaudible for the same reason.)"

Stu Gilson: "As the pace of change about us is accelerated, it seems to me that man shall inevitably divide into two distinct 'species': one with an ability to adjust, the other incapable of coping and developing a loathing for change. These two casts will slowly become isolated, and by a process of natural selection the adapters will thrive, utilizing change to their advantage to become the empire builders."

Wayne Hooks: "About a year ago in S.Carolina a husband, wife, and best friend were arrested and convicted of first degree murder in an insurance swindle. The friend picked up a hitchhiker and shot him in the back of the head with a pistol. He then put the body in the car, ran it off the road and set it afire. In the meantime, the husband hid in the cellar while the bereaved 'widow' identified the body as her husband and claimed the insurance. The police became suspicious when the coroner's report revealed the bullet wound. Where did these three people get the idea for the murder-swindle? From the previous week's episode of 'Barnaby Jones'. It sounds fantastic but it's true. I thought Dr. Wertham might be interested. TV is all pervasive in our society."

Richard Brandt: "Whereas the modern man looks to the heavens and sees a blackness stretching forever into the night, broken occasionally by stars, the Medieval man gazed up into the Heavens, a warm dark cloth wrapped lovingly around the world and speckled with twinkling points of light. This point is vital to our concept of outer space, totally alien to Medieval man. When an astronaut in 2001 (the movie) is cut off from his ship and hurled into the night, we share the sinking feeling that he will drift off forever into a never-ending dark. A Medieval man would expect him to sooner or later fall back to ground, Nature's proper place for him, and make a comfortable landing. It's a difference in views of the Universe."

Gil Gaier: "Tonight ((Feb.9,'76)) the PTA did a nice thing: they gave me an award. Basically it is due, I'm sure, to my publishing efforts and the PROJECT. At least the presenter kept waving a copy of GUYING GYRE around and saying nice things about me. Upon examining the list of previous recipients, I noticed that most are administrators, either retired or deceased. Now I am worried." ((Though I have great respect for TITLE readers and fans in general, I would be embarrassed to have my museum overlords know about both my hobbies-- jazz & fandom/fanzine pubbing. The defensiveness generated in me in the '30's is still with me. That SF is a proper subject to teach in high schools and colleges still boggles my mind. I freely admit my interests to strangers, but I'm pretty close-lipped with my Board of Trustees.))

Michael T. Shoemaker: "The idea of compressing 3 minutes of music into 3 seconds reminds me of something. Ezra Pound in the Treatise on Harmony pointed out that harmonic effects vary with time, and that no one had explored this aspect of music. Now of course the concept of harmonic rhythm is well-known and explored, but that's not quite what Pound meant. How much time is needed to assimilate various chord changes?

Is there a hierarchy of values in harmonic rhythm as in harmony? Do linear factors mitigate the factors of harmonic rhythm, and if so, precisely how? Can we build up a theoretical system. The point is that the tempo of music is an important factor, just like harmony and rhythm. The effect of a piece of music at a different tempo is not the same; it is a factor intrinsic in the nature of music. A well-known fact, yet as far as I know there's never been any systematic exploration of it." ((For new readers, I had mentioned that by crossback recording between reel & cartridge, plus altering the turntable speed, I had experimented in compressing music from 3 minutes down to 3 seconds. In the process (long before that severe compression was reached) I learned that selections did seem to take on different attributes, but I developed no theory about the whole thing.))

Eric Mayer: "In regard to your fan activity ratings of 1975, why don't you compile the ratings on a monthly basis, then we could all wait for the monthly 'Braziers'? Or how about taking after the College Football Ratings and having a TITLE TOP TEN? Imagine the tension. It's the last month of the season. Glicksohn and D'Amassa are tied for first. Meanwhile Harry Warner waits to see if enough of his remaining 35 locs are printed before the deadline to pull him into first place. Brazier, in 4th place, plots to pub FARRAGO and TITLE one page at a time, with a different issue number for each page. Mayer, well down the list, mails out all 104 of his old newspaper columns, but unaccountably, many fans don't want to print diatribes against Nixon. Sirosis is busy mailing out postcards, with covers drawn on the backs and Jodie Offutt is reduced to writing about washing the dishes, devoting one article to each dish." ((Eric Mayer, the comic!))

Victoria Vayne: "Here we have a society, a world, in which every day every person plays his part, doing what he has to do, and the whole thing functions smoothly. Just think of the chaos that would result if many people decided they were not going to pursue their normal routine, would do instead something completely unexpected. But the fact is, this does not happen, for the most part. We are, after all, supposedly free people. It strikes me as quite remarkable that society actually functions. It is a striking thing."

Carolyn "C.D." Doyle: "How many, when they sit in a rocking chair or even a chair with one wobbly leg, unconsciously start going back and forth. I've asked a few people at school and the answer has been a 'Yes, I..guess so, yeah, I think I do. Why do you ask?' The rocking movement is comforting, a nice, gentle, steady feeling. I think most of us rocked when we were in the womb, and were rocked when small. Could rocking a crying child be an attempt to calm ourselves, as well as the baby?" ((In the early days of T, we had a similar discussion (Jackie Franke, I think, started it.) about the effect, soothing and otherwise, on a person in a swing.))

Roy Tackett: "Imbeds are used in almost all pictorial advertising. After I read SUB-LIMINAL SEDUCTION I began paying closer attention to all sorts of advertising. Consider an ad for Hart, Shafner (?) and Marx suits. A well-dressed (obviously) young man stands facing the viewer, left arm dangling, right arm across his body. The folds in the right sleeve of the coat spell very plainly 'F--K'. Once you have become aware of it the technique becomes so obvious that you wonder why you haven't seen it all along."

Dave Romm: "I disagree with Wertham once again. Santa Claus is a rather pleasant myth, but I do not believe he should be forced onto little kids. They should be told the truth, gently perhaps, but the truth. Wertham continues to decide what is 'in-offensive in contrast' to the exclusion of others. Nixon undoubtedly thought Watergate was 'inoffensive in contrast' to his being chosen again. Fantasy should be encouraged, but it should be made clear that it is fantasy."

YES TV IS PERVASIVE... the following is a composition written by Julie Heath, 9-year old daughter of Hank.

Hurry busy kitchen slaves! It's allready time to go at your super-market. The greatest floor cleaner in history of scrubbing. Throw that horse and buggy cleaner out and try MAD, the angry floor cleaner. Gets out of that dirty kitchen early and gives you plenty of time to cook for that hungry husband.

Small size, twenty cents. Large size, fifty cents.

Harry Warner, Jr.: "I question if future shock affects people today as much as it did early in this century. My grandmother was born just over a century ago, almost exactly fifty years before my birth. In her first fifty years, the public really had future shock: the first automobiles, movies, powered flight, world wars, electricity in the home, surgery other than amputations, labor unions as a major social force, phonograph records, equal rights for women, and other equally stunning things. The things that came during my first fifty years didn't affect everyday life as strongly. Radio and TV did. But atomic power, space travel, lasers and such things haven't hit home sufficiently to cause the general disorientation that Toffler finds. I could cite additional proof. In my grandmother's youth there was a song hit called 'Will You Love Me in December as You Do in May?' What song with an equal stress on future shock has gained as much popularity in the past half-century?"

Gene Wolfe: "Commenting on wordy writing, I once had an editor of Scribners tell me that the English Department ((of colleges)) was the only one from which publishers never received acceptable manuscripts. English teachers are notoriously poor writers.... To keep from writing this kind of junk ((in the nominal style)), make sure that only scattered sentences have forms of is as their only verb."

Brett Cox: "Gary Grady, like a lot of other people, writes about Esperanto. But I have yet to see anyone write in Esperanto. Perhaps Gary or someone else might give us an annotated sample of the language?" ((Challenge..! Are there enough Esperanto words to do something with SF jargon?))

Don Ayres: ((Don writes of 3 incidents in his life which caused a complex fear/awe reaction in him. Paul Anderson's contrib to TITLE about the incident at Hanging Rock did the following to Don...)) "The physical symptoms: a sudden intense sinus activity of very fluid mucus, eyes water heavily though only a single tear escapes, the jaw muscles distort back as they would in the initial phases of a sneeze, hairs on arms strongly erect. It's been going on for ten minutes now; I can't seem to shake it. To borrow the phrase from 'Quatermass and the Pit', I've got the feeling of being in the presence of 'grave spiritual evil'. Mostly I desire more information than is given. The other two incidents: one a fragment of my own imagination, the other in a book STRANGELY ENOUGH by Colby. The latter concerned a woman whose dog changed color when she happened to pass a crossroad traversed by one of the assassins of Samuel Beckett on an anniversary of that event. The other was a fabrication of a cloaked spectre which turned out to be a seven foot skeleton with flaming red hair and beard, starkly illuminated by lightning, laughing as it began to swing a giant double-bladed axe at my head... That last ought to scare anybody. Part of my reaction is to Paul's particular method of understatement.. ((I've tried to find Paul Anderson's comment but have just given up---somewhere around the Sept-Nov 1975 ish))

Jeff Hecht: "Few fans mention the presence of children in their homes between ages, say, 1 to 10 -- when they require and deserve much attention. Donn, you were in Pandemonium circa 1940-50, then out, then returned much later. Raising children?"

AN EMBARRASSING EXPERIENCE --Stu Gilson

One of my favorite foods has always been the dill pickle. We grow our own, and so I have access to an endless supply of really tasty home-made delicacies. Sometimes, however, I find the really large, four-inch pickles tend to develop internal cavities which fill up with pickle juice.

One day I chose for my lunch a particularly meaty, large pickle. Biting into it, however, I discovered a cavity like that mentioned above. Since pickle juice spilling out of pickles has proved messy on other occasions, I decided to squeeze the excess fluid out before attempting to eat it. At the time, I was right beside the washroom. So I stepped over to the open toilet seat where I grasped the rigid object firmly in my hand and began to squeeze out the juice which sprayed out in a thin stream. At that moment, my mother entered to be confronted by the scene....

Believe me, she was almost literally floored before the true situation dawned on her.

((The Wilde Pickle Press, publishers of TITLE & FARRAGO will look kindly on further pickle stories.))

((A four-inch pickle is not worth bragging about....))

POST 56

The Fawnvalley Mailbox
Derby

Win, Place and Show

Gail White 10/19: "Mae Strelkov's account of her son Danny is enough to break one's heart-- yet so brave & accepting. I hope I could be like that, if need be. I wonder how many fans have read Jung's essay on Flying Saucers? For that matter, how many have read Jung at all? I find his MEMORIES, DREAMS & REFLECTIONS a fascinating book-- full of his psychic experiences, fantasies, etc. ((Not counting anything I may have read in college, I've only read Jung's MAN & HIS SYMBOLS which includes chapters by other people trying to explain Jung or amplifying his ideas-- & are pretentious mish-mashes when compared to the beautiful clarity of Jung's own words. Just today I ordered, through the Smithsonian, a traveling exhibit devoted to the story of Jung-- for the museum of course.))

Tony Cvetko 10/20: "I'm taking a few minutes off my busy schedule to loc your quaint zine. The KNIGHTS bit by Brett was well done, but I think I've seen a very similar version somewhere before. Hmmm? ((At the moment I forgot where I read Brett Cox's fine reviews, but I asked him if he'd maintain the same tone and expand his in-depth review of KNIGHTS for TITLE.)) Could your Mystery Fan #2 possibly be...Dave Szurek? Don't know why, but I just get that feeling. Take me home country roads."

Richard Brandt 10/20: "How about photos of Fred Jakobcic's paintings? ((They'd never be the same in black & white.)) Phil Shreffler-- Excellent! Fannish even! A newsman who understands! ((Phil is really into fantasy (HFL & all) as a hobby in addition to his professional capabilities to write on the subject.)) Glicksohn's column is excellent, again. There is a CB operator (no bull) named Rick Shaw, whose handle is Chinese Taxi. Please allow me to make an arrangement with Karen Pearston so that when we become Great Directors we'll make movies in alternate years so as not to beat each other out for the Academy Awards. Wayne Jones likes SPACE: 1999 and Gerald Ford-- I don't know whether to laugh or cry."

Alyson L. Abramowitz 10/20: "BONFIRE didn't put me on the defensive as Hank seems to have reacted. Put downs are one thing, but I want constructive criticism from loccers to improve my zine. ((AL VEGA)) Stuart Gilson is right about T giving insight about other fans. Often little things, but enough to get a real idea of 'the person behind the fan'. It makes me feel good sometimes. Like the colouring book I gave to Jodie Offutt because of her mention in T about liking to color. At MAC andy (who hadn't said more than a few words to me before and I didn't think even knew who I was) came up and thanked me. Seems he has stolen Jodie's book and loves it. The joy that gave me can't be measured. You're right about Tom Morley. Got his doctorate from Carnegie-Mellon Univ. in math last spring. He's a fine teacher. The students at U. of Illinois are lucky. Jodie sums up most of my ((good)) feelings on MAC quite well. I heard quite a few people say MAC seemed more like a regional than a worldcon. I'd have to agree."

Jane Fisher 10/20: "Devoured T-56 at lunch today along with my pumpernickle bagel. ((That's one way to keep fanzines from piling up!)) Sad to hear of Danny Strelkov's death; his cover was striking, and rather reminiscent of Aztec or Mayan murals I've seen. Immensely enjoyed the article on World Con by Shreffler. Very refreshing to read some good publicity about SF cons for a change, and to have someone report the honest truth. Article on Bracken and insightful review ranked next, closely followed by Larson (any kin to Michael?) Glicksohn's fmz reviews. Your editing, as always, remains superb if rather sloppy. I must admit I like it that way." ((Larson E is Mike's ophidian alterego characterized by certain upper teeth modified into hollow containers for storing Scotch.)) ((Don Ayres will argue this point.))

Mike Bracken 10/20: "Jeez, you'd think I was some sort of celebrity with all the pages about me. Brett wrote a nice article. ((You're right up there, in Brett's book & mine.)) Jane Fisher's comments about 'locker-check' has

been taken to court. Locker-checks are perfectly legal and constitutional, but only if they are conducted by school or school system authorities. The school system owns those lockers. Students are allowed to use them on a temporary basis. Students do not own or rent them. Because of the 'in loco parentis' law, a school official can open a student's locker, in exactly the same way a parent can enter a child's room. Do you ask your mother for a search warrant? However, should a police officer come to the school and ask to open a locker, he must present a search warrant."

Brett Cox 10/20: "Mae's letter was one of the most amazing and moving things I think I've ever read. ((Wish you could have read all of her words-- your reaction tells me that my drastic condensation conveyed the essence which dispels my worry about its possible inadequacy.)) Fred, I find your tastes in SF rather distressing-- you really weren't able to finish THE MOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS, one of the greatest SF novels ever written. Amazing. And I must disagree with Burt Libe's description of Gerrold as a 'one-hit' writer. Gerrold turned out a very good teleplay (THE TROUBLE WITH TRIBBLES), and excellent novel (WHEN HARLIE WAS ONE), a pretty good novel (THE MAN WHO FOLDED HIMSELF). Perhaps this isn't enough to put him with the all-time Greats, but surely more than enough to belie the stigma of being a 'one-hit' artist. Everybody doesn't hate Panshin, either. Indeed, I'll always remember with a great deal of gratitude Alexei's writing a very friendly and helpful loc to the 2nd issue of LOCOMOTIVE in response to something I said about him in that issue's editorial. Migod, a loc excerpt from Leah Zeldes. Will wonders never cease? Last week she informed me she was reading science fiction! Next thing you know she'll develop a sense of humor, and then we'll be in trouble.... KNIGHTS named for Damon Knight?!? Since when? Mike? ((Mike doesn't really know how that?!? information got into the interview.)) Gil, I like your zines just the way they are. I really liked Bliss' CB article--I've been waiting for someone to point out the similarities between CBers and fans. I was glad to hear that Wayne Jones is 14, as I'm always happy to see new young blood enter the fold ~~only to be expelled at a later date~~, but SPACE:1999 and Gerry Ford? *Sob* Please, Wayne, say it isn't so!"

Wilum Pugmire 10/21: "I just wrote a wee letter to Walt Liebscher, as one of yr loc-cers suggested. It's good to support the old fans andpros-- the people who have given us so much already, and to do so without greedy intentions. ((For anyone unfamiliar with Wilum's letters, they're like illustrated fanzines for Dracula and Frankenstein fans--hope Walt Liebscher will have fun and feel better.)) The repro for TITLE is excellent; is it a homemade zine, or do you have someone crank it out for you? ((I'm the sole boss/slave from raw material to delivered product.))

Tim C. Marion 10/21: "The only reason I write locs nowadays is to stay on a person's mailing list. As a result, most of my locs are extremely uninspired. In a way, it is a mild form of writer's block. Am I alone in this? Or am I treading the lonely road to gafia again?"

Ben Indick 10/21: "I was happy to see the tribute to Danny Strelkov and to his mother. Danny's whimsical cover has the feeling of a dream-collage. I was also gratified by your praise of the controversial Brute Tornely, whom I describes as the Resident Madman of Fandom. To me, he is an insightful artist with genuine draftsmanship ability; his invention never flags. Well, Little Willie Pugmire is all wet. All wet. Not only do I not care whether my locs get pubbed, and I'll bet the other Bonfirefolks feel the same way, but I can add I do not even ave zines with my locs unless something else in theissue is important. Your article stated precisely why I loc. Now to chuckle! Burt Libe-- have you ever misinterpreted Paul Walker! His polls are incisive, not cynical. He is a warm, modest, friendly person!"

Wayne Hooks 10/21: "You should expand the number of pages in TITLE-- a touch of variety into my mundane lifestyle...."

Alan Lankin 10/21: "Whatever happened to all the little comments and brief things that are my favorite part of T? I found Bonfire One quite interesting-- I could almost believe the conversation was real. I decided to use Sam's postcard loc idea. Now I only have to learn to say something significant."

Don D'Ammassa 10/22: "It never ceases to amaze me the number of people who classify THE MOON IS a HARSH MISTRESS with Heinlein's recent flops rather

than as the dying breath of his creative period. I have long thought MOON to be probably his best single novel... The format for Bonfire was pretty good. When I was a Boy Scout, I really did take a flashlight, extra batteries, and a stack of books along on camping trips. I recall one day I absentmindedly dropped a paperback into a pot of chicken noodle soup. Ah, those were the days..."

Gary Deindorfer 10/22: "Your zine seems to have a comfortable atmosphere and openness about it. But somehow it isn't what I thought it was. I had been lead to believe by a review that it was essentially a discussionzine, and was hoping to be able to letterhack with a long, speculative letter-- idea tripping, with some humor thrown in. But I get the feeling instead of having walked in on a friendly gathering to which I haven't been invited. The readership seems to be a well established circle of friends, and that's fine. But this leaves me kind of out of it when it comes to a loc, since I'm not too good at small talk. At least with people I don't know."((Takes about 3 issues, so I've been told morethan once, before the water feels just right. Maybe some TITLERS will give you a personal welcome-- Gary lives at 447 Bellevue Ave., Trenton, NJ 08618.))

Stephen H. Dorneman 10/22: "Red Jakobcic, how can you say you like the old Heinlein better than the new (as I do) and yet have not finished reading THE MOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS. I consider MOON Heinlein at his very best, having reached the stage where he shows you the future society rather than telling you about it, and having not yet reached the stage where his characters preach that peculiar Heinleinesque rather than live it."

K. Allen Bjorke 10/22: "I think I like MUNDANIAC better than any other 'regular' (you know what I mean) part of T-- we see people not as loccers and faneds but as people. Thus T's readership seems like a family, albeit a damn big one. I am surprised and pleased that in an up-to-date letter/generalzine like T that there has been no big debate over the upcoming election." ((Nobody has written much about it, and I wouldn't have used much of it anyway. For too many years to mention I have considered Republicans & Democrats as two views of the same basic ideas, differing by so little as to be unworthy of debate.))

Hank Heath 10/26: "I loved the cover by Danny Strelkov. And was more than a little disturbed at the story that went with it. Your phrase: 'He died at the end of a rope attached to pegs he'd driven into the side of a mountain' make his death sound like suicide. But in context, that doesn't make sense."((Definitely not suicide, for as you properly discerned in context, Danny was full of life; his heart failed him.)) "If you base your decisions on 'random' devices, Steve Dorneman, on what do you base the decision of using that device for a particular day? There is quite a bit in a good fanzine like yours that I can't comment on --yet they are appreciated very much. I just expect them to be there and take 'em for granted. But I just happened to think how it would be if they were missing. You know, I kinda hope TITLE is female, because I gotta crush on her." ((She has long, wavy blonde hair-- in the sunlight; in a jazzjoint she's got raven shortcut with auburn highlights.))

Linda Emery 10/26: "The piece by Mae about Danny was beautiful and touching. I felt like crying at the end because there was another person I was never going to meet. Will there ever be time enough in this life for all the undone things? Philip Shreffler presented fandom to the world in such a good way. Enjoyed the column by Gil Gaier. I have long tried to figure out just why the man has so many zines and now I know. CB fandom; if only I could get my husband to read this and see that his fandom is not so awfully different than mine. How about a section in TITLE for those whose spouses are not fans and what they do to cope with it. We need to band together for encouragement..or something! I really enjoyed Jodie's conreport-- gave me a good picture of MAC."

John DiPrete 10/26: "Don't ever quit sending TITLE. I became imprinted on it as a neo, now I'm attached to it. I like to see Titler's thoughts on writing-- a guy can pick up a lot of tips. A forum on topics like writing can enable us to share each other's insights. The review column by Mike Glicksohn is the best feature. It makes a good shopping list for a borderline neo like myself. Tell him to keep it up-- in spite of his football coaching." ((I'll do my damndest!))

"Space: 1999"

Cast: Stellar

Future: Shaky

By Michael Munzell

THE MOON WAS ABLE TO blast out of the earth's orbit and skyrocket off into uncharted galaxies but "Space: 1999" just can't seem to get off the ground.

It has all the ingredients for success:

—There's Martin Landau, a thoroughly professional and sometimes captivating actor.

—There's luscious Barbara Bain, his real-life wife and a three-time Emmy award winner. She's an actress of immense appeal who brings a rare element to any role she plays — class.

Together they sparked the success that kept "Mission: Impossible" possible for 80 episodes.

—There's a realistic and dazzling set (Moonbase Alpha), open-ended potential in the moon's journey through space and special effects that can only be labeled staggering.

—And there's a ready-made audience of sci-fi aficionados. Among them are "Trekkies" who mourn the demise of "Star Trek" so much that they support boutiques hawking Trekkie memorabilia and they gather in great numbers for conventions. "Star Trek" reruns are perennial.

Why, then, is "Space: 1999" barely hanging on to its place in the sun?

Scripts for one thing. They're banal.

Relationships for another. They're cardboard. Sci-fi freaks will suspend disbelief for the most improbable spacial phenomena but they demand their heroes be human.

"Star Trek's" Captain Kirk regularly fell in love, whether with a guest star member of his crew or some lovely creature from a newly discovered planet. It made him vulnerable.

He was admired for his courage and strength but he was adored for his foibles.

If it wasn't Kirk's week for an affair, one of the second-in-command triumvirate — Spock, Dr. McCoy or Scottie — was cast into a consuming passion. Love never triumphed (not in marriage anyway) but it managed to touch viewers hearts while the action tantalized their imaginations.

The Landau-Bain chemistry is kept over a low flame and love interest is generally given lip service only by secondary players.

The cohesiveness and drive that made some "Star Trek" episodes the best science fiction yet filmed (some were dogs, too) are lacking in "Space:

1999." Too often the tension generated is more like an anxiety attack than a dramatic thrust.

"Space: 1999" has borrowed heavily but not always wisely from "Star Trek." Obviously the formula works but the quantity and quality of the ingredients are crucial.

In a second season "sneak preview" scheduled for airing tonight at 10 o'clock on Channel 4, Moonbase Alpha gets its Mr. Spock. Or, more correctly, Ms. Spock.

Someone apparently got to the

producer and convinced him a resident alien with super powers was the spice missing from the stew.

So in an encounter with a volcanic planet, the space travelers acquire a young lady who has the power of "molecular transformation" along with a computer brain. That means she can change herself into anything she wants and in the first episode, she does a romp through the zoo.

If she has half the smarts she's supposed to have, the first thing she'll do is transform the makeup man into a toad. Her upswung eyebrows, a la Spock, look as if they're made out of warts. And what he did with an eye-shadow brush borders on the criminal.

Next she'll do something interesting (maybe something with fins) to the scriptwriter and she'll finish off by turning the costumer into a hairless chihuahua.

Imagine walzing around a volcanic planet in a beaded Marlene Dietrich gown flounced with ostrich boas. She'd go up like a fuel depot in four seconds flat.

Catherine Schell, who plays this unusual character, name of Maya, is going to be a regular — for better or for worse. The introductory episode falls into the latter category but there's always hope.

Miss Schell, a lovely lady out of

costume, had a lot going against her and her performance is somewhere in the C-minus category. Hopefully she'll check into Alpha's beauty salon and get rid of the phony sideburns, widow's peak and warts.

Then with some intelligent scripts and a critical flaw (nobody's perfect) she may just fill the Spock spot.

When the season officially begins Sept. 25 (at 7 p.m. on Channel 4) Tony Anholt, co-star of "The Protectors"

series, will be introduced as a key member of the Moonbase Alpha staff.

He didn't appear in the preview.

With all its potential, "Space: 1999" deserves to be a winner. If it fails, it will be a blow to sci-fi fans everywhere.

It will make networks and independent producers very leery of placing millions of dollars on a shaky "future."

Saturday, August 21, 1976-7

PENINSULA LIVING

AS A TRIBUTE TO RICHARD S. SHAVER,
HEREWITH, EVERETT'S LETTER INTACT

3-17-3

3-12-76

DEAR DONN -

I'M STILL BAKEN UP OVER THE NEWS OF RICHARD SHAVER'S DEATH. I CORRESPONDED WITH DICK OFF + ON SINCE AROUND 1948, + I FEEL THAT I KNEW HIM PRETTY WELL.

YOUNGER FEN CAN HAVE NO IDEA OF THE INFLUENCE OF SHAVER ON S-F BACK DURING THE '40'S. AMAZING STORIES WAS THE BEST-SELLING PULP OF THE DECADE WITH MILLIONS OF READERS.

THROUGHOUT HISTORY PARANOIA HAS MANIFESTED ITSELF IN TERMS OF IT'S TECHNICAL ERA. A COUPLE OF HUNDRED YEARS AGO, PEOPLE WERE PERSECUTED BY WITCHES + DEMONS. TODAY, A VISIT TO ANY MENTAL HOSPITAL WILL SHOW YOU PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY ARE PERSECUTED BY "RAY MACHINES" + UFOS. (AND THERE ARE MANY SUCH PEOPLE RUNNING AROUND LOOSE, TOO.)

IT WOULD BE GLIB TO SAY THAT DICK KNEW THIS + CAPITALIZED ON IT IN HIS "SHAVER MYSTERY" MYTHOS. PERSONALLY, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THIS WAS TRUE. I THINK THERE ARE "DERIS" + CAVES + RAYS. I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE, + DICK COULD BE MADDENING. ("ELDON, THERE ARE CAVES UNDER EVERY CITY, EVEN THE SMALLEST!")

(RAY PALMER CAN BE JUST AS FRUSTRATING! HE SAYS THE CAVES EXIST IN AN INVISIBLE CITY LOCATED 150 MILES ABOVE DULUTH, MINN.!))

SO I BELIEVE THERE WERE TITANS WHO LEFT THIS PLANET WHEN THE SUN'S RADIATION CHANGED, + THAT THEY LEFT BEHIND THEIR CAVE CITIES + MIRACULOUS MACHINES, NOW USED BY THE DEGENERATE DESCENDANTS OF THOSE LEFT BEHIND.

BUT I'LL BE GOD-DAMNED IF I'LL BELIEVE IN THE ROCK-PICTURES! I FEEL GUILTY ABOUT THIS! DICK WAS AN HONEST MAN, + A TEACHER OF GREAT + ARCAINE KNOWLEDGE, + HE SAW PICTURES. I CAN'T RESOLVE THIS IN MY MIND + IT REALLY BUGS ME.

WELL, DICK FINALLY WENT + DID IT. HIS TITANS LIVED FOREVER, BUT WHEN THEY GOT KILLED IN SPACE-BATTLES, THAT WAS IT. NO RESURRECTION. NO REINCARNATION. WHEN YOU'RE DEAD, YOU'RE DEAD. SO WE WON'T SHAKE HIS HAND AT THE PEARLY GATES, OR SHOVEL COAL WITH HIM IN HELL. HE WAS NOT REBORN AS A BABY BOY IN BENARES LAST THURSDAY.

HE'S GONE. AND I AM GOING TO MISS HIM, DONN. I'M GOING TO MISS HIM LIKE CRAZY!

COA: THE ROXBOROUGH

1720 DENNY WAY E.
SEATTLE, WASH. 98122

BEST-

Eldon K. Everett

1615 8TH AVE.
SEATTLE, WA.

10/12/76

Burt Libe
P.O. Box 1196
Los Altos, Ca. 94022

AN OPEN LETTER TO ISAAC ASIMOV by Burt Libe

Re: Nightfall and Other Stories (Fawcett Crest, Q2442, \$1.50)

Dear Dr. Asimov --

~~You made two comments in your story intros: one on STYLE~~
which you left unexplained, the other on "LOVABLE WRITERS" which reeks of gross inaccuracy.

Regarding STYLE (p.229), I encountered an experience quite similar to yours. A female SF writer (Well, anyway, she sells a few SF stories here and there and spends much time generating SF fanzines. Some don't consider her a writer; I do.) wrote and said I had no "style". I fired back requesting she elaborate, receiving, in return, a surrealistic evasion. Intellectual bullshit, put in down-to-earth terms. Stupid question, she implies; don't have the time to waste explaining it to you, and all that. Scratch points for intellectual females. Well, Doc, at least I did you one better -- I got an answer even if it wasn't an answer. Seems this "style" business has a high level of female sensitivity.

Once bitten, I don't give up easily. I'd have my answer no matter how long it took, no matter how many shrugs, intellectual B.S., or 'I don't know' comments. What is style? I kept asking myself over and over. I kept asking everyone else, also. Yeah, they were sure they knew what it was, but couldn't put it into words and all that. Not good enough! My intellectual friend had her reasons. She saw SOMETHING, or lack of it. So I started comparing the words of every author I could lay hands upon, trying to find something....anything. Then it dawned on me. So simple. Why hadn't I realized it before? There ain't no such thing as STYLE!! That's right. CRAFT is the correct word. Writing CRAFT!! Building with words, combining words in structures to produce overtones of shaded colorings unique to each "architect". Word building in a conglomeration of concepts. In wave theory (from my training in Physics and Classical Piano) we have fundamental frequencies which, combined with other fundamental frequencies, can produce overtones of harmony or dissonance depending on the combination. Word structuring can drive or hinder a story. It can paint a picture. It can create imagery and power. It can arouse and destroy. It can capture or repel a reader. Technically speaking, a "stylist" is an architect and craftsman who has given thorough study to word combinations and structuring (not simply storytelling). The non-stylist completely ignores crafting in favor of pedestrian, unmemorable sentences. Someone should probably tell aspiring writers: "If you're tired of hearing 'you have no style', try studying "architecture".

"....writers in general are such lovable people and are a joy to all who know them," repeating your quote (p.250). I sense no irony in that statement. Niceness of being a writer? No frustration buildups to dangerous levels, you say? Oh, Gawsh. Harlan Ellison, are you listening? How about Contemptuous Foster and Egoboo Gerrold of Trekkie fame? Arrogant Spinrad?

Sorry, Doc, I must oppose your contentions that writers are able to release frustrations and annoyances on paper, rendering them lovable and normal. I find good writers an

endless reservoir of driving frustration which seems to regenerate to greater levels upon any release whatsoever. The achievement of a good writer (and, unfortunately, anti-achievement of some bad writers like the Trekkie pros) ~~increases in inverse proportion to tolerability. Aspiring good writers can measure success levels by gauging tolerability~~ of acquaintances. The more people you seem to irritate, the better your writing. Simple, yes. Now I'm not knocking you, Doc. I believe you're lovable and normal and a joy. Which means either you're the nicest guy in the world, not a writer, a writer with atypical temperament, or a writer with divergent perception of other writers.

Seriously, though, I place you in the upper echelons because of diversity, consistency, and advanced educational training which you have successfully combined in technical and fictional concepts.

Burt Libe 10/12/76



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PARAPSYCHOLOGY

LOUISA E. RHINE, Ph.D.

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Clairvoyance, telepathy, precognition, psychokinesis—four aspects of one human faculty—PSI. The study of psi is called parapsychology, although certain aspects of its investigation can now be found under such titles as "psychophysics," "psychoenergetics," or "psychotronics." Psi is involved in all of these names, even though psychology may not be.

The term parapsychology indicates the investigation of mental phenomena "outside" of what is conventionally termed psychology, but it also includes the study of extra-physical effects. Psi phenomena involve an information exchange that is extra-sensorimotor, meaning that it cannot be explained in terms of any of the senses or the voluntary or involuntary action of the muscles of the body. The phenomena are often enough experienced by human beings to have formed a focus of philosophical and religious systems for thousands of years.

The investigation of psi phenomena has allowed for certain basic assumptions about the nature of humankind: (1) that it is somehow a combination of "mind" and "body"; and (2) that our experience is an interaction of the physical and mental. This dichotomy has been dealt with in two ways: by theorizing and by controlled experimentation. The first method is as old as time, the second only as old as the quantitative sciences.

HOW IT HAPPENS

If you have never experienced a spontaneous psi event, then it would be necessary to refer to the parapsychological literature, particularly to the analyses by Dr. L. E. Rhine in the *Journal of Parapsychology* and elsewhere, in order to appreciate the forms of such events.

But briefly, an instance of what might be termed spontaneous clairvoyance would be the following: a construction worker "sees" a fellow worker located on the other side of a building attached to a life line that is ready to break; he may be able to warn him. An example of spontaneous precognition: a woman dreams she is driving in her car and passes a man in a straw hat leading a donkey cart with shiny pots attached; several weeks

later this occurs exactly as in the dream. An instance of spontaneous telepathy (which cannot be experimentally dissociated from clairvoyance) might be: a woman "feels" her friend is calling her name (or may actually "hear" her name called in the voice of the friend), makes a note that it is 12:45 a.m., and later calls the friend long distance to discover that she was being discussed in conversation at that exact time. Spontaneous psychokinesis, a bit more difficult to exemplify, can involve something like the following: a picture inexplicably falls off a wall or a glass vase inexplicably cracks in half at the time of a crisis of a distant person.

For reasons obvious to the reader, evaluation of such experiences is extremely difficult. For in order to determine that psi is responsible for an effect, all other possible explanations must be ruled out. Verification of spontaneous case material can be accomplished up to a point, but, even at the best, other explanations (especially that of coincidence) cannot be ruled out.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SCIENTIFIC METHODS

It wasn't until the early 1930s that investigators of psychic phenomena were able to go further than collecting, notarizing, and performing comparisons on reports of these unusual experiences. The methodology of mod-

ern parapsychology was conceived at Duke University in Durham, N. C. by Dr. J. B. Rhine and associates. Experiments were performed with cards to test for extrasensory perception. It was thought there might be a way to induce the elusive ability that seemed to be involved in the spontaneous cases to manifest itself under the strictest of laboratory conditions. These would be experiments to which, in addition, statistical analyses could be applied, thereby substituting for unreliable human testimony "after the fact" the exactness of statistical evaluations as they are respected by science in general.

In these card tests, a deck of twenty-five cards, five cards each of five geometric symbols, were employed. The symbols, black on a white background (star, square, wavy lines, circle, and plus sign), were chosen for their simplicity and neutrality (Fig. 1). According to mathematical probability, with this deck one fifth or five out of 25 "targets" should be guessed correctly by anyone by chance alone when the deck is thoroughly shuffled or "randomized."

Clairvoyance was tested in a number of subjects by having them guess "down through" the deck. Highly significant extra-chance results were secured (Rhine and Pratt, 1957). The discovery that clairvoyance could in fact be produced and measured in the laboratory was revolutionary.

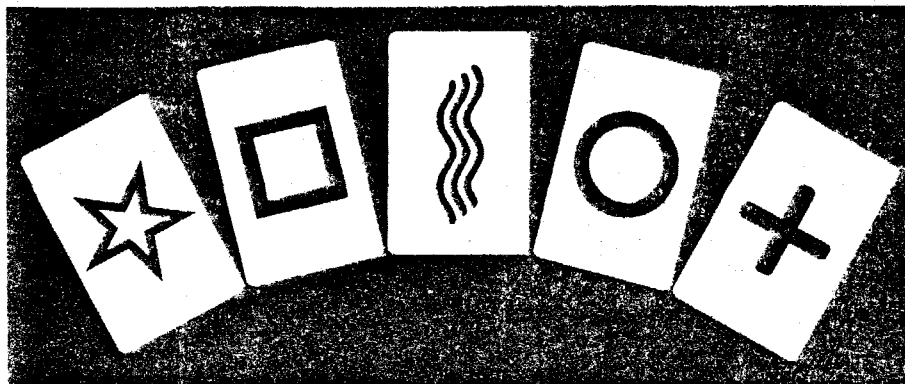


FIGURE 1 ESP test cards.

Heretofore, most "paranormal" events had been attributed by "believers" to the intervention of discarnate personalities or "spirits," and by disbelievers to "coincidence," "hallucination," or "imagination." The ESP experiments established for the first time an alternative hypothesis, that of psi ability.

The same kind of objective testing was eventually applied to precognition. For the first time it was proven that knowledge of future events can occur and in fact does occur under scientifically controlled conditions. It must be kept in mind, however, that the measured effects of laboratory clairvoyance, precognition, and even telepathy are usually in terms of small deviations from chance expectation. They therefore must be measured statistically. The psi ability, probably present in everyone to some degree or another (Rhine, 1975), is erratic and inconsistent, seemingly dependent on an unknown number of physical and psychological variables. How reliable, then, for example, are the predictions of popular "seers"? Not very.

Research on psychokinesis began sometime after the first ESP results were brought to public attention. Psychokinesis was first measured by borrowing an implement of the casino—dice. Once it was established that the fall of dice can be influenced by "volition" or "will power" probably consciously and unconsciously (Rhine, 1970), it became possible to hypothesize further that when the vase breaks in two just at the moment the man is cursing his dead relative, it is not the "ghost" of the relative who is "giving the man a sign of his displeasure," but very likely the man himself who has caused this effect. Poltergeist (the word means "boisterous spirit") phenomena are now generally thought of in terms of psychokinesis on the part of a living person.

WHAT NOW?

Quantitative experiments to investigate psi phenomena have now been going on for over fifty years. The original Parapsychology Laboratory of Duke University is now the Institute for Parapsychology of the Foundation for Research on the Nature of Man. In addition, five other major parapsychological research centers in the United States have been established, along with numerous locations where part-time work is carried out.

The Parapsychological Association (P.A.) is an affiliate of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The Parapsychology Foundation of New York (P.F.) sponsors annual international conferences which draw, as does the annual convention of the P.A., many participants from laboratories around the world where parapsychology is being pursued on a serious basis. The topic for last year's P.F. Conference was "Education in Parapsychology."

Enough about psi phenomena has been learned through parapsychological research to create even more awareness of how much is still not known. One of the purposes of including a project in psi investigation in a school or college science curriculum would be

to provide an opportunity to discuss just that, as well as to be able to draw separating lines between parapsychology's legitimate efforts and the fringe areas of the occult.

Up-to-date information on research can be obtained through reading the two major American journals of the field—the *Journal of Parapsychology* and the *Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research*. Although these journals would probably be too sophisticated for the high school student, the teacher could abstract information from them without too much difficulty. Some of the more recent trends in parapsychological research include the investigation of possible psi in animals, the measuring of physiological parameters in human subjects in relation to various psi tasks, and computerization of and introduction of sophisticated electronic equipment into the experimental setting.

Parapsychology has potential implications for all of the science fields, including biology, chemistry, physics, and medicine as well as psychology. Although in its nascent stage, the study of psi phenomena could eventually provide some valuable clues about the nature of life itself and about people as well as other organisms as they interact on our planet.

FURTHER READING

- Beloff, John. *New Directions in Parapsychology*. Scarecrow Press, Metuchen, N.J., 1974.
 Rhine, J. B., and Pratt, J. G., *Parapsychology*, C. C. Thomas, Springfield, Ill., 1957.*
 Rhine, L. E., *ESP in Life and Lab*, Macmillan, New York, 1969.*
 Rhine, L. E., *Mind over Matter*, Macmillan, New York, 1970.*
 Rhine, L. E., *Psi, What is It?*, Harper and Row, New York, 1975.*
 VanOver, R. (editor), *Psychology and Extrasensory Perception*, New American Library, New York, 1972.*

*This book may be ordered directly from the Institute for Parapsychology, College Station, Durham, N. C. 27708.

PSYCHIC PHENOMENA TEST KITS

45-1225 Psychic Phenomena Test Kit. For two students. Contains materials and instructions by which psychic phenomena (extrasensory perception, psychokinesis, precognition, etc.) can be scientifically investigated. The tests employed have been adapted from those developed by Dr. J. B. Rhine and associates at the Institute for Parapsychology. Extra Student Guides and Data Sheets are included for reuse of kit.

Deck ESP Cards
 2 Dice
 Cup
 30 Student Guides
 30 Data Sheets
 Teacher's Manual
Manual for Introductory Experiments in Parapsychology by Louisa E. Rhine

Per kit...\$7.85

45-1226 Psychic Phenomena Test Kit. For 12 students. Same as 45-1225, but includes 6 decks ESP cards, 12 dice, 6 cups, 60 Student Guides, and 60 Data Sheets.

Per kit...\$18.75

45-1227 Psychic Phenomena Test Kit. For 24 students. Same as 45-1225, but includes 12 decks ESP cards, 24 dice, 12 cups, 120 Student Guides, and 120 Data Sheets.

Per kit...\$32.50

45-1228 Replacement Set. For Psychic Phenomena Test Kits. Contains pad of 30 Student Guides and pad of 30 Data Sheets.

Per set...\$3.00

WHY I REPRINTED THIS..

First, I thought it was a concise summary of psi, with a little history of the research as an added bonus; and any of the frontiers grab my interest and hopefully yours as well.

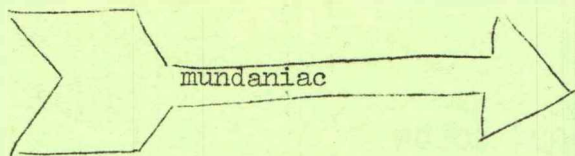
Second, it reminded me of the years 1938-40 when, as a requirement for college graduation in secondary ed, I had to write a lecture, illustrate it with some kind of visuals, and go tripping around to various groups, clubs, and schools in Wisconsin to deliver my lecture.

My title was TELEPATHY AND CLAIRVOYANCE: FACT OR FABLE? My visuals consisted of a deck of those cards, charts of Rhine's statistics, and charts of Upton Sinclair experiments with telepathic transference of simple drawings to his wife. All I did was tell the story of this brand new work by Dr. J.B. Rhine; but I am a little more doubtful of it all now than I was then.

MAE STRELKOV ART
IS EXCELLENT EVEN WITHOUT COLOR

Legendary Maque Mawan,
"Mother of the Kiowa" (Quachuan
Mazyan river)





John DiPrete: "My writing desk is adjacent to my wastepaper basket, which is adjacent to my filing cabinet, which is adjacent to my mini-pool table, which is adjacent to the cellar stairs. My living quarters are in my basement, for that's where my fanac is. But I sleep upstairs in my bedroom. I don't want to give the impression that my whole life centers around fandom-- for recreation, I play chess once a week at the local YMCA. I also have a book review column in the local paper--no pay, but plenty of egoboo."

Bruce D. Arthurs: "I've dropped out of school and have been looking for work for the past month. I'm not eligible for unemployment or other benefits, so my income at the moment is zero. Hopefully something will show its head in the near future; I figure I can get by for another three months before my savings are exhausted. I don't know what I'd do after that."

Hank Heath: "You wouldn't believe it! I don't believe it! I'm actually working as a teacher! Full time! I'm waiting for some one to wake me up... Some federal money went to Buffalo to set up learning labs in an integrated setting to help slow learners. That's where I'm at. Setting up a math lab in a K-8 school. I have until next Monday to discover how to set up a lab and get it operating. Do I sound discouraged? Hell, no! What a challenge! What a ball! My family is still in Cassadaga while up here in Buffalo during the week. The apartment I live in is about 15 min stroll from Canada (across the Peace Bridge). Toronto fen, look out!"

Linda Emery: "Instead of loccing I should be canning carrots from our garden, feeding the pigs and watering the cow. Also I should be cleaning up the mess I made last night putting up turnips. I spent an hour picking the turnips from between the weeds in the almost defunct garden. Then I cleaned them, cut off the ends, and boiled them to make peeling easier. By the time all the rotten and wormy parts were cut out, I had about three quarts total. Three hours of back breaking work for three quarts-- it simply wasn't worth it. My husband said anything that could feed us was worth it." ((Linda, to me 3 quarts of turnips is 3 quarts too many.))

Alyson L. Abramowitz: "I was looking at my book cases and the plants on them. Are there any other plant lovers among T-readers? This is a new hobby for me, not quite a year old. But already I've got 'William Michael Corflu Jones', 'Eric', 'Ericson' (a cutting of Eric), 'Robert Donald Bell' (Rob for short--a Gannet plant I suppose though he does remind me of Don Thompson- Colorado- a lot), and one unnamed plant (definitely a female-- any name suggestions?) As you can see, these are fannish plants."

David Moyer: "This school term has turned out to be a bit too time consuming for me. My fanac has come to a grinding halt. It leaves a bad feeling inside me to say these words, but I must set my priorities -- school must come first. So it goes." ((Dave'll be working on BIOYA #3 during the term break-- he hopes...))

Robert J. Whitaker: "I bought a bookshelf recently. For that I'm throwing a party. I do that every time I buy a bookshelf. I theorize I've got about ten good parties left in my collection. A friend looked at my apartment and said, 'Gee, Robert, you have the first apartment I've seen done in contemporary hardcover.' To say I own a few books is an understatement. A few thousand, yes...."

Stephen H. Dorneman: "Age 21 (Oct22), 6' tall, but only 155 pounds. Hair- brown; eyes-blue, with wire-rimmed glasses. Moustache, no distinguishing scars or tattoos. College senior, majoring in biology. Other interests, Dungeons& Dragons, writing ha!, bridge, chess, poker, most games, heterosexuality, books of all types (not just SF), backpacking, swimming, racquetball, music, heraldry, computer programming, general science, and photography. I've been an Explorer Scout for the last nine years (now am an Associate Advisor of the Post. On last weekend's outing I had T-bone steak with mushrooms, poached eggs and bagels, Welsh rarebit, asparagus salad, and prepared everything over a normal campfire. It takes time to go there from hot dogs on a stick."

Buck Coulson: "Our library is in 3 places both in the same house: Big library, the little library, and the office. Next to SF our library is mostly history and biography (over 100 of each) with Juanita's religion/philosophy section next. In science, 28 books on space travel, 25 on archeology and about 40 on zoology/ecology. Some math and chemistry and physics."

IFMIZ

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Some October arrivals:

THE HUNTING OF THE SHARK #10 - R.J. Whitaker, POBox 7649, Newark Del 19711, offset, 56pp, R.A. Lafferty issue (typos by Mike Bracken's dog), \$1 or usual.

DILEMMA 13, Jackie Franke, CoA %Derek Carter, 719 Yonge St, Suite 201, Toronto, Can. M4Y 2B5, mimeo, 34pp, fannish genzine, the usual or some postage stamps.

MAD SCIENTIST'S DIGEST, 'Thrilling First Issue, Brian Earl Brown, 55521 Elder Rd., Mishawaka, Ind 46544, mimeo, 64pp, genzine, \$1 or usual.

TIGHTBEAM (Sept), Lynne Holdom, POBox 5, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442, mimeo, 30pp, genzine & loczine of the National Fan Federation (NEFF), for members or trade.

HARBINGER 4, Reed S. Andrus, 226 E. 4800 S. Murray, Utah 84107, offset, 54pp, literary genzine, \$1.25 or usual.

SWOON 6, Joyce & Arnie Katz, 59 Livingston St, Apt 6B, Brooklyn, NY 11201, mimeo, 14pp, special loc-issue, \$1 or 6/\$5 or usual. When not a special ish, SWOON is a humor/fannish genzine.

Read French? Try REQUIEM, Norbert Spehner, 1085 Saint-Jean, Longueuil, Quebec, Can. J4H 2Z3, offset, 28pp, genzine, \$1 or 6/\$5, trade.

XENOPHILE V3N3, Nils Hardin, Box 9660, St. Louis, Mo 63122, offset, 50pp, adzine, \$1 or various subrates according to method mailed to you. Accepts art, articles, and indices as well as advertisements.

SHADOW 61, 62, Eric L. Larsen, Box 16369, NCSU, Raleigh, NC 27607, mimeo, 36pp, genzine, 35¢ or 3/\$1

WELTANSCHAUUNG #4 is delayed from Stephen H. Dorneman as a 17 October offset explanation tells us-- short on finances.

Michael T. Shoemaker sounded a little bit worn out with fandom by saying: "Doug Leingang was right to gaffiate. The more time that passes, the more I realize this. Fandom is a terrible, never-ending distraction. One can never get 'Caught-Up' in

loccing, believe me, I've tried. I've come very near to pulling a Leingang myself, but fandom retains one hold on me: it is the last bastion of articulate intellect." ((Whether that last is so or not, Mike worried me by loc-dropoff to T, but then in October arrived his perzine, THE SHADOW-LINE #4. Maybe all is not lost!))

Randall D. Larson writes: "One of the joys of fanzines is that one can view a great variety of creative expression, with each kind of fanzine neither better than the other in itself, for each is doing something different..."

Linda Emery sings praises because of the arrival of lots of fanzines in rapid order. She concludes: "Well, I must say I am stuck on fandom and fandom's stuck with me. If it is only a quarter as pleased with me as I am with it and the lovely and delightful people in it, then I am happy. How neat it is!"

An offset note from David Moyer (in the same groove as Dorneman) informs us that BIOYA 3 is late and might be done during the term break. His excuse is not cash, but college book-cracking.

As you know Bruce D. Arthurs is producing a FANTHOLOGY of the year 1975. (I think!) Anyway the field is open for 1976 as BDA writes: "Print more from Bill Bliss. If I were doing a FANTHOLGY '76 I'd keep him in mind."

Jane Fisher writes about SHADOW: "Our publishing schedule is even more grueling than yours. We come out every four weeks exactly. That's 13 times a year." ((But you have lots of help- I'm a one-nut operation!))

"Remember the remark you made, Donn, about 'knowing as much about contact lenses as wooden legs' in a loc on ALVEGA #1? And Mike Glicksohn's remark about Terry Hughes having the best wooden leg collection in the world? I handed a copy of AV #3 to Terry at MAC; the next day he told me he would try to do an article on his wooden leg collection for AV. He's done it and it turned out cute." -- from ALVEGA's editor, Alyson L. Abramowitz, 4921 Forbes Ave, Apt 205E, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

Paula Smith writes, "Concerning the Wertham note, some of those 200 trekzines include some whose editors have gone West and haven't pubbed in 5 years. And a lot of these 'zines' are one or two page newsletters. Still, there are a mess of them."

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TITLE #57

December, 1976

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

Available for LoC or contrib made any time during a 3-month period; or trade; or subscription 2/\$1.00. TITLE comes out monthly, and is more fandom oriented than SF-oriented. The Wilde Pickle Press also turns out FARRAGO, analmost quarterly available for 75¢ or accepted contrib. FARRAGO has art, stories, articles, and lettercol, and #3 is 100% Xerox of 60 pages.

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FINAL ANALYSIS

Cover-- Brad Parks (Not by Robert J. Whitaker!)

Mail Delivery-- Eric Mayer

Walking to Shore -- John DiPrete

Why Me? & Not Just Another Fanzine --
Mike Bracken

Ahhhh- Sheryl Birkhead

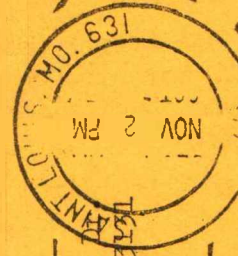
I've Been Quiet... - This cartoon definately by Robert J. Whitaker

Mountain Steam -- Mae Strelkov

I apologize for the heavy ink bands on Burt Libe's letter-- the Xerox was sick. Sorry, no Glicksohn 'Snaapshots' this ish because I didn't get any; Mike is no doubt preparing funny stuff for ICON II coming up next weekend in Iowa City where I'll be able to listen to Mike do his GoH speech. My wife & I are driving up early Sat morning, returning Sunday. I hope to talk to Frank Herbert while there and pick up some of his savvy about the future of technology for a lecture I'm giving on Wednesday at Meramec College.

I volunteered to do a short article about fanzines for the National Space Institute Newsletter. The editor says there is not enough space available for fact, let alone fiction. She suggested that she might list my name as an 'authority' and people could write to me for information. Now, I'd like to plug excellent fmz but I don't want to give my time and cash, so I nixed her idea. Incidentally, Dr. von Braun is recuperating from his illness at his home and is in touch with the NSI by telephone only.

I've hit the mundane media again with a book review in THE EXPLORER, Fall '76, and a TV interview on 'The Ghost of the Science Museum.'



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USA



Eric Lindsay
6 Hillcrest Ave
Fairclimb
NSW 2776
Australia

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Gary Grady writes that the mystery fan pictured in TITLE 54 is "most emphatically NOT me, and my attorneys (Arcot, Wade, and Morey, Discount Legal Help While-U-Wait) will be contacting you as soon as I can raise their bail. Perhaps it's Victoria Wayne's distant cousin, the Viscount Van Alka-Seltzer?" Okay, Gary, but it's your word against my secret informant. I suggest that you send me a photo of yourself for my independent determination.. Any number of fans keep insisting that the mystery fan in issue 56 is Dave Szurek! While Dave writes that Mystery Fan #2 is "a distinguished looking fellow whoever he is. A dashing romantic figure, a suave sophisticate and a real cool dude."

Isaac Asimov will be the keynote speaker at the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) international conference in Philadelphia Nov. 4. As I'm a member, I could have gone, but it would have interfered with my trip to Iowa City. And I'll take Glicksohn/Tucker/Herbert over Dr. Asimov.

Gail White sends a small booklet ON SMALL PRESS AS CLASS STRUGGLE by Merritt Clifton. On p.7 the author says fanzines support the publishing establishment. (!)