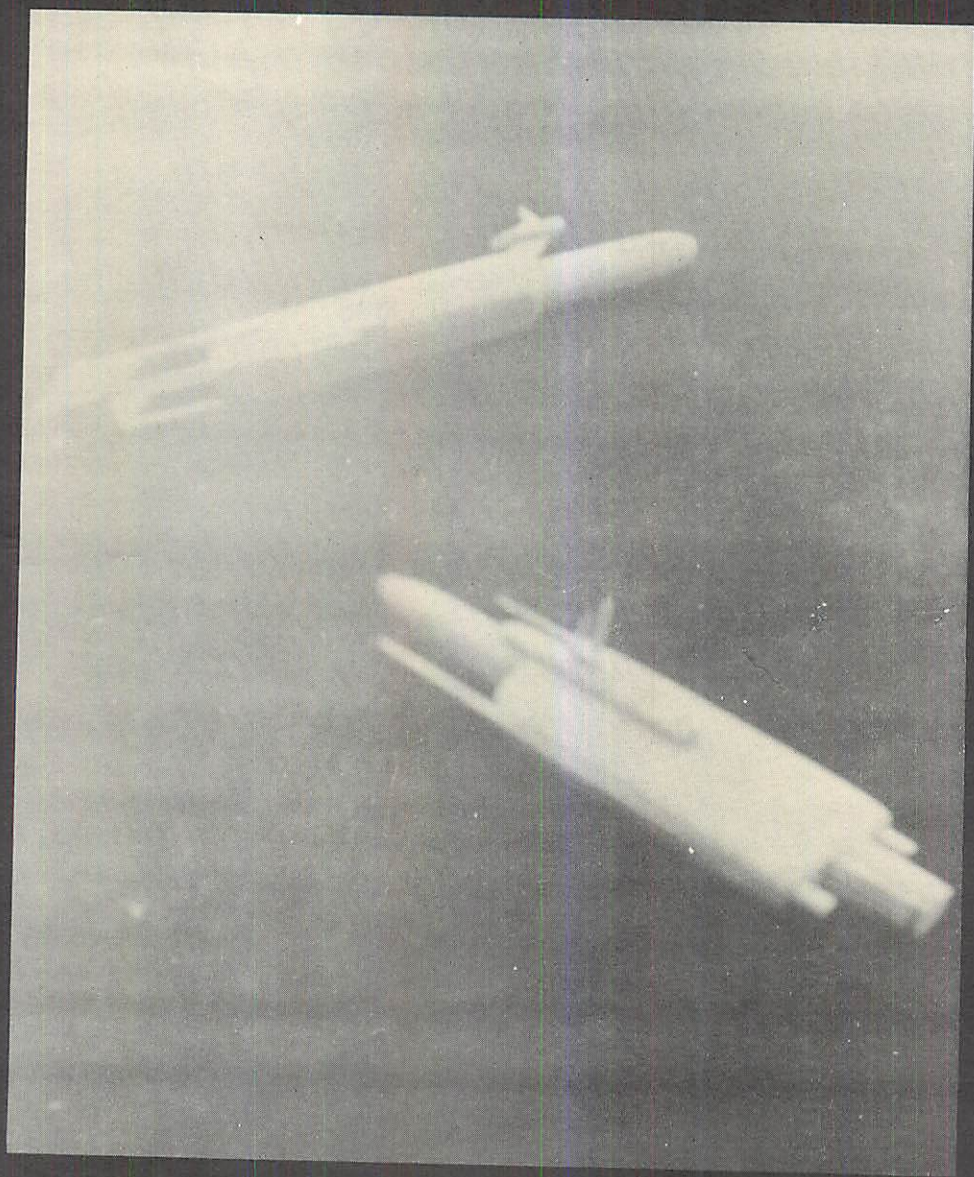


50
YANDRO



YANDRO

MARCH 1957

VOL. V - NO. 3

- TAFF ISSUE -

issue # 50

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The green paper this issue is in honor of St. Patrick, Walt Willis, and the I.R.A. It is also a compromise between the opinions of the readers, who liked the blue paper last issue, and the editors, who didn't. It may or may not become a regular thing, depending on how you -- and we -- like it. All extra copies of this issue go to Don Ford for distribution.



For several issues now, I've been intending to mention this, but it always slipped up somewhere - out of habit I save the originals of all the illos I use and stuff them in a large envelope so labeled, and now this li'l envelope is sort of overflowing...I don't know exactly what to do with these, and I'm a bit loathe to throw them out....so if Lars, or Gilbert, or Adkins and so forth want any of these back, yell, and soon, huh?.....DeWeese is the

type that thinks of those outrageous puns that seem so obvious once uttered...we were recounting a rather trite type Western we'd seen recently (mainly due to my desire to see Jan Merlin) - one of these things with the cattlemen and the farmers and the nasty railroad agent and the hired gunman (Merlin) and the preacher who wanders around trying to halt 'all this needless bloodshed'. The preacher, by the way, is the hero, and he quite literally wanders around from one faction and scene to another - and this description prompted Gene to remark deadpan - "Oh, the Preacher Walks Among Us, huh?".....which ended that particular line of conversation:.....Rusty Jenrette, besides defending her husband's good name, remarks that all my girls look so mean (Buck is less polite; he says they all look like they're going to bite the viewer)...so especially for them is the girl on page 12....who looks sort of syrupy to me.....on the candidates, I of course know Eddie and heartily underline Buck's plug for him....of the other candidates I've met, Ackerman, Raybin, Madle, Hoffman....Mr. Hoffman made the most pleasant impression, as "that nice man who likes Eric Frank Russell"....I met Mr. Hoffman while he was hawking the UNKNOWN Index and we both gushed over EFR.....the kind of encounter that is pleasantly remembered.....and one of less pleasant memories (more than one, actually) makes me wonder if I am constitutionally "right" in fandom....perhaps I'm just not built for the business.....why?....because I detest fueds - or, specifically, differences of opinion which end up, or frequently, even start, with personalities.....perhaps it's a masculine trait or something, this fueding passion....most femmes who stay in the field seem to have an attitude of "This is my opinion and that's yours and that's that.".....whereas the male fan usually ends up with "I'm right and since you don't agree with me you're not only wrong, you're a stupid, egomaniacal unmentionable..."....which attitude to me is intolerant and rather infantile...surely, a difference of opinion should be allowed without the name-calling??...but apparently not.....In the same line, it's always fascinating to meet some of these scathing letter and editorial writers in person.....an amazing percentage of them seem the absolute opposite of their writings...the shy, quiet, inoffensive type, afraid of stepping on someone's toes...not all are this way, of course,.....it's been disconcerting to me several times to have an unmet correspondent wander up to me at a con while I'm chattering away and say, "You're Juanita, aren't you? You talk exactly like your letters.".....?.....JWC



This is the first (and probably the last) "theme" issue of YANDRO. Even with fine co-operation, this sort of thing is a headache, and we aren't entirely responsible for its late appearance.

I'd like to thank the writers of the articles this time -- and especially Dean Grennell, who did two, one of them under a last-minute "get it done this week or don't bother" deadline. Also thanks to those who did not want to write the articles, but who found individuals who would do

them; Ron Ellik, Howard Lyons, Bob Bloch -- and particularly Dick Ellington, who arranged for the Landis and Macauley articles.

In case you wonder about the variety of writing styles in the articles on the candidates, the only requirements we set were that the authors were to write a one-page article. Anything else went -- and as a matter of fact, several authors exceeded the one-page limit, which is one reason this issue is bigger than usual. Most but not all of the writers got their material in ahead of our deadline -- the Willis article arrived via airmail, in an envelope looking like a stamp collector's nightmare. Don't they sell stamps larger than tuppence in Ireland?

I think we've presented all sides of the voting question. Personally, I don't think it makes much sense to change the method of voting -- or counting -- in the middle of an election. However, I think something should be worked out before the next election. Either specifically exclude voting more than once for one candidate, or reduce the ballot to a single, one-point vote per voter. You voters can take advantage of the chance to vote 3 times for one candidate this year, and it's perfectly legal as far as things are now set up. But I'd like to urge you not to, particularly if you only know one or two (or none) of the candidates.

Despite the fact that YANDRO is 100% back of McNulty's campaign, we've tried to keep this issue impartial -- I hope we've succeeded.

A ballot is included in each copy of this fanzine -- use it. If you don't think you're "known to fandom", check Juanita or I as references. We'll vouch for any regular reader of YANDRO. We also have more ballots, in case your kid brother or cousin or concubine wants to vote....but they'll have to find someone else to vouch for them, unless they've sent in letters of comment or otherwise come to our attention.

Recently received a copy of AUTHENTIC SCIENCE FICTION (#77) from England. In "Child's Play" by Ken Bulmer, the hero is named Yandro. ??? Sort of startling.

Marion Zimmer Bradley's column, scheduled for the March issue, will be held over until April, and the fanzine reviews held until May. Dodd's column will be back whenever we get another batch from him. Speaking of fanzines, however, I want to highly recommend THE HARP STATESIDE, obtainable from Walt Willis, 170 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland, for a paltry 35¢. This account of the 1952 Willis odyssey is by far the finest thing to come from a fannish mimeo since I've been in fandom. At the price, it's a far better buy than the average prozine.

THE LIFE OF TAFF

by — WALT WILLIS —

Like so many things in fandom, it all started with Forry Ackerman. He was not, as some people think, the first person to conceive the idea of bringing a fan across the Atlantic, but it started with him all the same. As far as I know, it was like this.

British fandom, once strong and highly organized, was in a bad way during the war. Fans, in service or bombed out, had lost touch with one another; there was virtually no native stuff being published and supplies from America were cut off; duplicating paper, ink and stencils were scarce; collections were being handed over as scrap paper or burned, by landladies or the Luftwaffe. British fandom might have been obliterated altogether if it hadn't been for two fans -- Mike Rosenblum of Leeds and Forry Ackerman of Los Angeles. Through the worst days of the war Mike kept publishing his FUTURIAN WAR DIGEST and Forry helped him, and other fans, with unsolicited gifts of prozines, fanzines, stencils and even paper. And his own fanzine, VOM, was a vital link between British fans in the forces and their friends.

Forry's services to British fans were so remarkable that it became a tradition in British fandom, one that has only recently been forgotten, that his name should be included in all lists of British fans, and that he should be an honorary subscriber to all British fanzines and a charter member of all British fan organizations. Toward the end of the war, some British fans suggested that their gratitude should be shown in some more concrete way -- to wit, by bringing Forry over to England after the war.

Whether from diffidence or from knowledge of the comparative poverty of most British fans, Forry declined the offer before it came to anything, and when he did make his visit in 1951, it was at his own expense. But the idea must have taken root with him, because shortly after the end of the war, Forry himself started a movement, which he called the Big Pond Fund, to bring an English fan to the States. He devoted an immense amount of time and trouble to this project, but despite all his efforts, all the Fund amounted to after 3 years was a mere \$127, much of it contributed by Forry himself under assumed names. Basically, the trouble was that American fandom in general was not really interested in British fans. None of them had made any real impact on US fandom, and the two fandoms were more or less self contained. Ted Carnell did attend the Cinvention in 1950, but he had to pay most of the cost himself.

And this, I suppose, is where I come in. At the

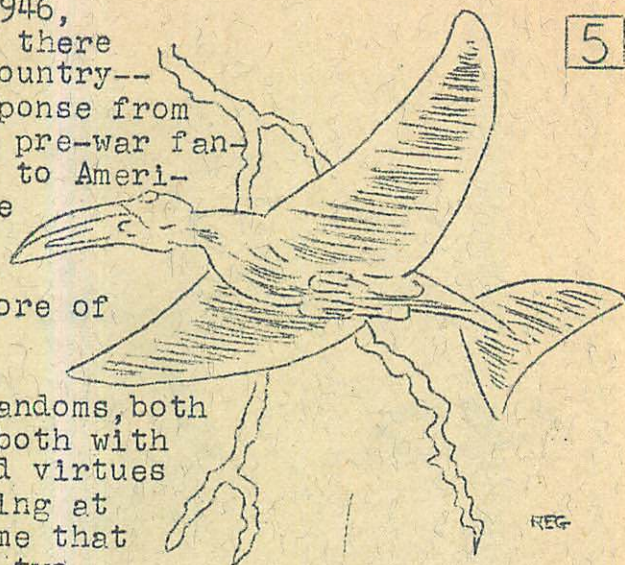


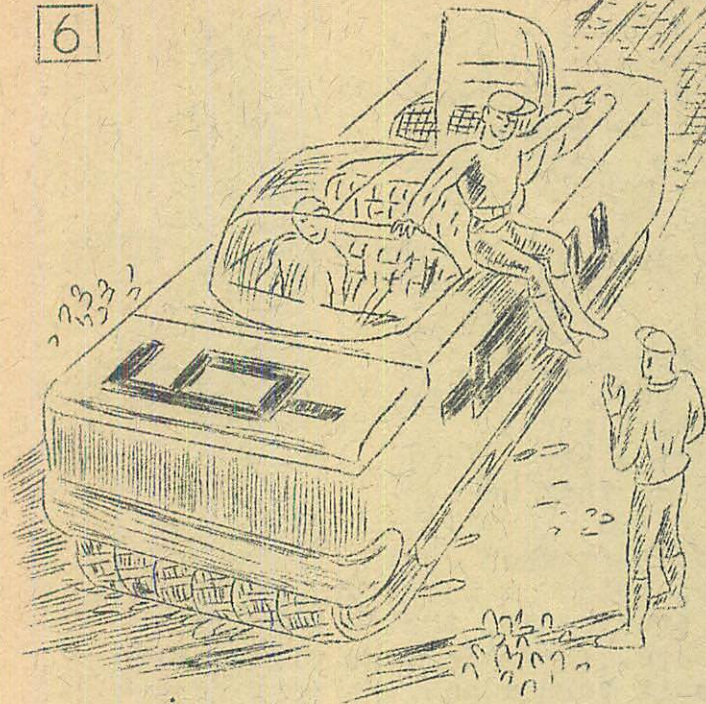
time I entered fandom, at the end of 1946, British fandom was practically dead -- there were only 2 active fans in the whole country-- and it was very hard to arouse any response from the scattered survivors of wartime and pre-war fandom. I found myself increasingly drawn to American fandom and in a year or so the zine I was publishing at the time, SLANT, had a much bigger circulation in America than in Britain. I was in effect more of an American fan than an English one.

The position had its problems. From where I sat I could see two separate fandoms, both full of things the other would enjoy; both with defects that the other could remedy and virtues that could compliment each other. Looking at the situation like this, it seemed to me that it would be better for everyone if the two fandoms were brought more together, so that each could re-inforce the other and everyone have twice as much fun. If there's been one constant aim in my fan life ever since, that's been it.

I tried to further it in several ways... pushing the circulation of US fanzines in Britain, etc....but as it turned out the most momentous step I took was offering to write a monthly column for the new US fanzine, QUANDRY. I started an odd practice of writing up British conventions and fan doings in this column ("The Harp That Once Or Twice") with the double idea of interesting Americans in British fandom and encouraging British fans to subscribe to QUANDRY, if only to see their own names. The column was a big success, so much so that by the publication of QUANDRY 13, Shelby Vick had started an abortive movement to bring me over for the Nolacon, in 1951. The con was only a few weeks away by that time, and of course the scheme had no chance. I wrote it off as a bit of fannish nonsense, a generous but impractical gesture. I thought the same when Shelby revived his scheme after the Nolacon, this time to bring me to the Chicon in 1952. But after a few months it seemed that money was actually being contributed and that most of the active fans of the day were helping, by publishing special issues in aid of the Fund, etc. As I suppose most of you know, Shelby's fund actually succeeded; enough money was raised to pay my fare both ways, the Chicon Committee offered me free accomodation during the convention, and I actually did go to America. The full story of that wonderful trip is told in THE HARP STATESIDE, just published.

When I got back I was of course silently resolved to try and pay back fandom's generosity by helping other fans to have the same wonderful experience. It seemed to me that if this opportunity was known to be available as a sort of Ultimate Award, it would be a terrific incentive to good fanactivity, an inspiration to every neofan. And unlike an ordinary Award, it would give pleasure not only to the recipient, but to the people who made it possible, for they could share his experience by reading his accounts of it. And, of course, since anyone who wanted to go would have to make himself known on both sides of the Atlantic, it would encourage the integration of British and American fandom, which I wanted to see.





The opportunity came at the next British convention, in May 1953. A letter had been received from Don Ford and the Cincinnati Group saying that they had raised some money to help bring over a British fan, Norman Ashfield, who was a friend of theirs. Norman hadn't been able to come, so Ford's group had sportingly offered the money to any other British fan we cared to name.

During the next interval, I convened an informal meeting of about a dozen leading English fans. Having sounded a few possibilities, we agreed it wasn't practicable to send anyone over that year. I then proposed that, subject to the approval of the Cincinnati Group, the money be made the nucleus of a Two-Way Transatlantic Fan Fund which would be used not only to send British fans to America, but to bring American fans over to

Britain. This proposal was unanimously agreed upon, and I was delegated the job of arranging the administrative details, elections, etc., as far as the British end was concerned.

The fund was introduced to fandom at large in HYPHEN #4, and in that and the following issues I put my proposals before fandom for approval, so that the election procedure would be agreed upon before the voting started. The proposals were principally that minimum qualifications should be laid down for voters, including that they should have made a certain minimum contribution to the Fund, that fans on both sides of the Atlantic should be entitled to vote, and that each voter should be allowed to give alternate preferences, to prevent split votes and confusion should candidates withdraw in the course of the election, but only one vote per person, etc., etc.

All these proposals were agreed to more or less unanimously, and the first election was held for a British fan to go to San Francisco in 1955. Privately I didn't think that enough money would be contributed in the time, but I figured the election would bring publicity and do no harm. As it turned out, quite a large sum was collected, but the winner of the election, Vinç Clarke, couldn't go for private reasons and the runner-up, James White, decided to forego the opportunity and let the Fund be carried over until next year. I had added a questionnaire to the ballot form to find out the wishes of the contributors in event of a situation like this, and the voted as follows:

Vote again for a British fan to attend the next US con.....244

Bring a US fan to the next British Convention.....243

Offer the money to Candidate #3.....190

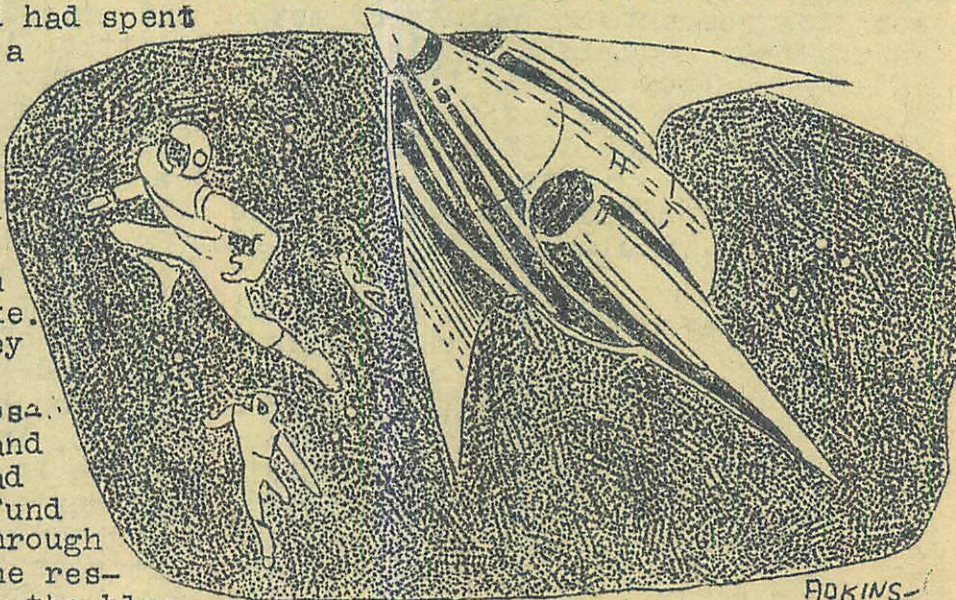
(Incidentally, the overwhelming majority of the voters in this election were British fans.)

As you can see, this was virtually a tie between the first 2 alter-

natives, so I made the next election an open one; that is, fans on either side of the Atlantic could be nominated. As it happened, however, only British candidates were put forward, the Americans evidently feeling that the Britishers shouldn't be done out of their turn. This election was won easily by Ken Bulmer; there was now enough money in the Fund for the two-way boat fare; and we started to try and arrange a passage.

We ran into tremendous difficulties, and in the end all Ken could get was a berth on a cargo boat with an uncertain sailing schedule. So uncertain, in fact, that in July Ken got a telegram that the sailing date had been advanced to the 25th of that month. The Bulmers rose to the occasion and travelled overnight to Dublin. Madeleine and I and Chuck Harris, who was staying with us at the time, took the train down to Dublin to see them off and took photographs of the historic occasion. Then we went back to Belfast and airmailed a hastily mimeographed appeal to a dozen or so prominent East Coast fans. It was headed URGENT, and read: "On Monday evening, the 25th July, the dream of the Transatlantic Fan Fund became a reality. The successful candidate, Ken Bulmer, along with his wife Pamela, sailed for America on a tramp steamer, the 'm.v. Inishowen Head'...belonging to the 'Head Line' of Belfast. The ship sailed from Dublin and Madeleine and ourselves went down there for the day to see them off. We all lolled about St. Stephen's Green for awhile after lunch and then went down to the docks, a confusion of cranes, trucks, shouting seamen and seagulls. We holed up in the Bulmers' cabin talking for a couple of hours...probably the largest number of fans ever in the same boat...while they changed hawsers in mid-scream, and then we had to get off. ("Ask that man in the peaked cap if he knows a good place to stow away." -crh) Later, in the warm calm of a summer evening in Dublin, the ship sailed out on its long journey round the Irish coast and across the Atlantic.

It's just an ordinary tramp steamer with accomodation for perhaps half a dozen passengers -- half a dozen small passengers -- but the Bulmers' cabin seemed nice and the ship looked as if it might last out the voyage. The Bulmers were happy and excited, but naturally a bit tired and worried. They'd had to leave London on a few hours notice and travel overnight, and had spent the last few days in a hectic rush to get ready. This was because the sailing date of the ship was suddenly brought forward by more than 2 weeks on account of a large scale dockstrike. They knew that if they missed this sailing, there'd be little prospect of another one, and that it would be a bad blow to the Transfanfund if everything fell through at this stage. But the result of this bolt from the blue



from the shipping company is that through no fault of their own Ken and Pamela will be arriving in the States three weeks early, with very little money, no arrangements made for their accomodation until the Convention, and possibly even no one to meet them when they arrive in Baltimore.

That's why we're writing this. We're airmailing it to representative fans in Baltimore and the surrounding area in the hope that we might find somebody who will be able to help -- perhaps by meeting the boat, or offering accomodation for a night or two, or helping with transport or something. It's pretty rough landing in a strange country where you know nobody, and we are hoping that fans will rally round and help them both to Cleveland. The Bulmers have done all they can...they're probably the only tourists who ever brought tinned food to America...but they're not rich (both of them gave up their jobs to make this trip) and the Transfanfund only covers the trip to the States."

As it turned out, the only problem the Bulmers had was which invitation to accept. Their visit was an immense success, and a fine advertisement for TAFF.

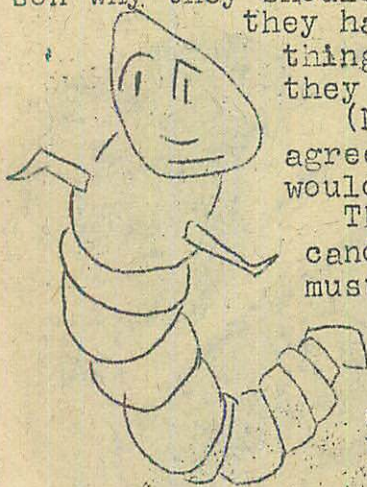
Seeing Ken and Pamela in that little boat in Dublin ready to sail for America had been a great moment for me, but my real ultimate ambition was to see an American fan brought over to a British convention. There was no doubt that this must be the next item on the TAFF program. I made the preliminary arrangements for the election, and then handed over to Don Ford. The election for 1956 was won by Lee Hoffman, but she got married to Larry Shaw before the polling closed and the newly married couple made the trip at their own expense. The runner-up, Forry Ackerman, also waived his right to the money and it was carried over to 1957. This election is now in progress.

I myself resigned from the TAFF administration early this year, and handed over to Ken Bulmer. Among other reasons, it seemed to me a good idea to set the precedent that each successful TAFF candidate should prepare the way for his successor. TAFF is now as firmly established as any fan organization is likely to be, and while there have recently been disagreements on points of method and procedure, there is no reason why they shouldn't be discussed and settled in a friendly manner as they have in the past. None of those concerned have any-

thing but the best interests of fandom at heart, and all they differ about is the best way TAFF can serve them.

(Note: I'm adding here a note of just what these disagreements are, in case Bob feels the readers in general would like to know.) /Bob does feel they would. RSC/

The first concerns the qualifications of voters and candidates. One school of thought believes that there must be a verifiable definition of a fan for TAFF purposes, to prevent frauds and abuses, and that this definition must be based on evidence of some participation, however slight, in fanzines. The argument is that TAFF's purpose is to encourage more and better fanactivity, and fanzines are the only link between fans separated geographically: a person who has not sufficient interest in fandom as a whole to have ever written a letter of comment to a fan-



zine cannot have the knowledge of fans outside his own group to vote properly nor the qualifications to represent them. The other school of thought, however, says that this attitude is too legalistic and that many people who have no interest in fanzines are good fans and shouldn't be disfranchised.

The other is about the counting of votes. The method in the elections held by me had been to allow each voter to name first, second, and third preferences, to give a more accurate reflection of opinion, but to permit a voter to "plump" for a candidate by not using his second and third votes. Don Ford evidently misunderstood this and allowed people to vote one candidate in first, second and third places, thereby in practice accepting two votes for the same candidate from the same voter. This didn't come to light until he published his own ballot form, the one used in previous elections having been drafted by me. Don now feels that having used this method of counting in the last election and having announced he was going to use it in this one, he cannot very well change it now. Against this his opponents argue that he is not being asked to change the method of voting, only the method of counting; and that the method he proposes to use is wrong and will upset the balance of the election by tending to give more weight to the votes of those who only know one candidate than to those who are discriminating.



9

The CANDIDATES

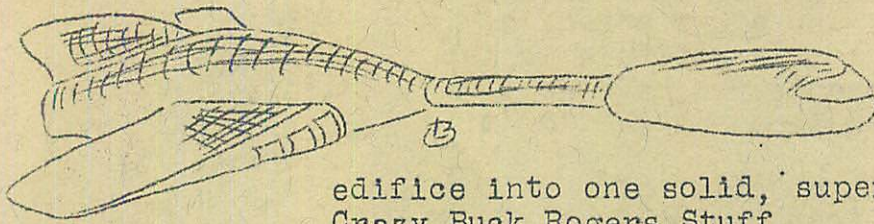
I. - STUART HOFFMAN

— by — DEAN GRENNELL

Stuart S. Hoffman -- called "Stu" by his friends -- is a nice guy, interesting and likeable. He is a True Fan and, like all Truefans, is absorbed and enmeshed in science-fiction to a depth and degree difficult for a fakefan like the writer to understand.

As nearly as I can make out, he has twice built up a creditable collection of s-f and fantasy, then sold or given it away. Apparently he has taken a solemn oath on all he holds sacred that this shall not happen again.

To this end he has acquired a huge, pleasantly charlesaddamsy house



in the placid little hamlet with the mildly sinister name of Black Earth, Wisconsin. He is currently engaged in turning the entire third story of this rambling

edifice into one solid, supersaturated clot of That Crazy Buck Rogers Stuff.

Stu Hoffman is a Completist Collector in the most alarming sense of the term. He lives with a constant gnawing fear that in some remote reach of the world -- Cambodia, Canberra, Patagonia, Weyauwega -- somebody may publish a science fiction magazine which he won't hear about and won't get for his collection. He buys every single issue of every single prozine and s-f pocketbook he can find and constantly scours about for those he hasn't found.

I can give no more graphic example of his attitude toward s-f than to mention that, to the best of my knowledge, he has even gone so far as to buy copies of SPACEWAY right off the stands, paying the full list price for them. Staggers one, doesn't it?

To keep himself in newsstand money he punches a linotype for one of the Madison newspapers -- I'd guess the CAPITOL TIMES, but not for sure -- and commutes between Madison and Black Earth via thumb. Like Ray Bradbury, Robert Bloch, Bob Silverberg, and numerous other lights in the stefnal firmament, he is for rockets and spacewarps but has no brief for their humble ancestor, the automobile.

I have never seen Stu in the actual process of hitch-hiking but I have seen him in full regalia and I like to think that, despite my strict policy of never picking up hitch-hikers, even if I'd never met the man, I'd be strongly tempted to give him a lift if I chanced to encounter him on some road.

Imagine a figure just under average height with an enormous barrel chest -- 48 inches around, I think he said -- topped by an alert, friendly face topped with an immaculate homberg. A neat military salt-and-pepper moustache and steel-rimmed glasses decorate the face and one hand carries a smart tan pig-skin briefcase. The last time I saw the latter it turned out to be full of old CAPTAIN FUTURE magazines brought up to fill gaps in my own modest accumulation.

Stu is one of those unusual people I encounter all too rarely: I would rather keep quiet and listen to him talk than talk myself. He's got a million yarns, each one more absorbing; thousands of the funniest stories you ever dislocated a jaw over, poems, limericks, and a wife (who deserves a page of her own) capable of holding up her end even in the thick of a Belfast punfest. He is a member of the Masons and the N3F. He compiled the exhaustive and valuable UNKNOWN Index. He is a Good Man.

I understand that the shipping firms of the world are honoring International Fandom. A specific part of each ship has been designated as the TAFFrail. Appropriate location, too.

II. -GEORGE NIMS RAYBIN

— by — IAN T. MACAULEY

Long an active fan and always a highly congenial and friendly fellow, George Nims Raybin is a logical and advantageous choice for this year's TAFF election. He is a man well-known, well-admired and well-liked throughout the circle of science fiction fandom. Easy to chat with and easy to laugh with, he is a person embodied with the spirit of this country's s-f fandom.

He is quick at wit and heart, and even more responsive in striking up friendships at the drop of a hat. He is responsible and readily and energetically carries out duties delegated to him. In short, he would be warmly and enthusiastically received by British fans -- many of whom are already personally acquainted with him.

Legally-trained, George is an attorney, practicing in the state of New York. He is mature, thoughtful and an entirely intellectual and intelligent gentleman. Other professional positions include the chairmanship of the law reform committee of Bronx County (New York) Bar Association and the post of Bronx County Judge Advocate of Veterans of Foreign Wars.

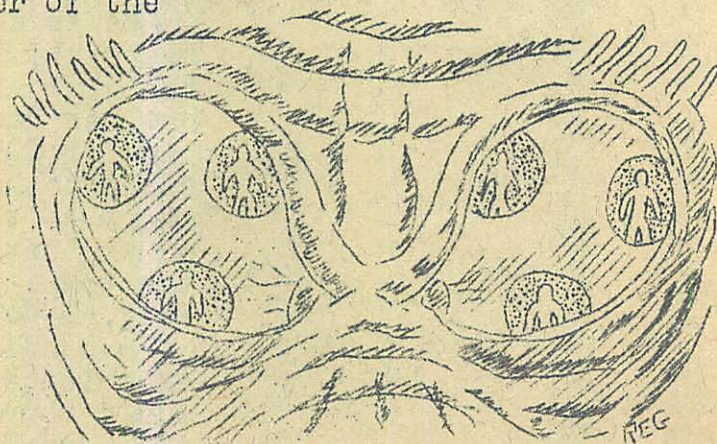
Sandy-haired, affable, in his mid-thirties, George first entered fandom in the early 1940s. He was at that time a member of the Queens County (New York) Science-Fiction Society. Since that time, he has served as director and legal officer of many fantasy fan groups.

He has attended the Philadelphia, Cleveland, and New York World Conventions, and has proven the attributes listed above to the many persons he met there. Regional conventions -- including the Midwestcons, the Fanvetcons, and the Metrocon -- would seem not quite the same without him. He is a member of the Eastern S-F Association, the New York Science Fiction Circle, the New York S-F Society; a past director of the Circle, president of the S-F Council of New York (sponsoring body of the Metrocon) and legal officer of the World Science Fiction Society.

Both qualitatively and personally, he is your choice for election.

Join the N3F, one of fandom's leading Serious Constrictive Organizations.....J. Champion

A jet-car! A jet-car! My progressive socialist dictatorship for a jet-car!..B. Gordon



III.- ED McNULTY

— by — ROBERT COULSON

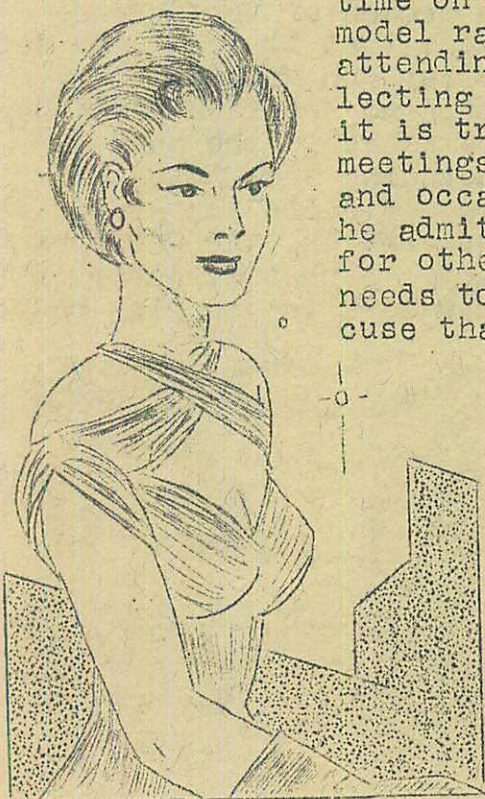
Ed McNulty is the only Indiana fan who is on speaking terms with every other Indiana fan. This may not seem like much of a boast, but I can assure you from experience that keeping on friendly terms with all the various facets of Indifandom requires incredible charm.

Ed began his fannish career in May, 1952 (4 months ahead of me) by joining the old Indiana Science Fantasy Association; a shattering experience. He survived, however, and several years later, when the club had changed its name to the Galactic Glee, Perloo and Science Fiction Society and was pursuing a policy of business meetings and general wrangling, Ed became one of the founders of the present Indiana Science Fiction Association, devoted to discussion and enjoyment.

Ed and Bob Adair launched the fanzine ISFA early in 1954. It has seen 11 issues to date (a 12th may or may not be out by the time you read this), with Ed taking over as sole editor last year.

Ed is not a well-known fan. Somehow, he can't seem to find much time for fan activities. Since all he is doing is attending college, working 40 hours a week, combating parents who dislike fandom, spending some time on other hobbies (such as ancient history and model railroading), serving on the Butler debate team, attending an occasional lecture or concert, and collecting classical records, this seems incredible, but it is true. He does manage to attend bi-weekly ISFA meetings -- he has been club president for two years -- and occasionally put out an issue of his fanzine, but he admittedly doesn't do much letterhacking or writing for other fanzines. I keep telling him that all he needs to do is quit sleeping, but he has the weak excuse that he quit that last year, and it doesn't help.

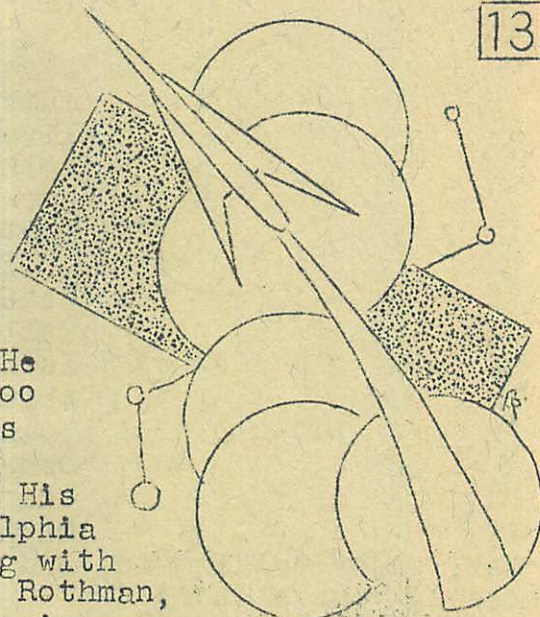
He is undoubtedly the best-liked fan in the club. (And when you consider that I'm in the club, too.....) I believe that everyone who has had any contact with him will support him for TAFF. Club members have actively refused to hold elections since he became president -- they don't want to change officers, so why bother with an election? While he has the totally un-fannish characteristic of modesty, I don't believe this would be too much of a handicap in London -- and his debating experience would stand him in good stead. He would represent US fandom; not prodom or BNF-dom. And I think he would represent it well.



IV - ROBERT MADLE

—by—BOB PAVLAT

13



Writing a sketch of Bob Madle and What He Has Done For (or To) Fandom would not be too different from writing a sketch of What Has Happened In Fandom. Madle Was There.

Madle dates back to mid-1935 in fandom. His name is intimately linked with the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society, in which he, along with such other fans of the period as Milton A. Rothman, Jack Agnew, John V. Baltadonis and Ossie Train, was a guiding spirit for many years. He was from the beginning one of the more active members of the group, was editor of its first two publications (IMAGINATIVE FICTION and FANTASY FICTION TELEGRAM), and at various times served in every office of the club.

There is little need to dwell extensively on Bob's pre-war activities. As well as being active in the PSFS, he was present at every major pre-war convention -- Philadelphia (1936, '37, '38 and '39), New York (1937 and '39), Newark ('38), Chicago ('40), and Denver ('41). He was also among the first ten members of FAPA.

After his discharge from the Army in 1946, Bob returned to Philadelphia and the PSFS, and edited the progress reports, program booklet and other publications for the World Convention in Philadelphia in '47. At the second World Con in Philly, in 1953, Bob was Treasurer, despite his move to Charlotte, N.C., shortly before the convention. Five months after moving to Charlotte, Bob had organized the Charlotte S F Society, which held its first meeting in January 1954. He served as president of this group, as Publicity Director for the first Secon in Atlanta in '55, and as chairman on the second Secon, held in Charlotte in 1956.

Bob was married in 1943 while he was still in the Army. He's still married, and is the father of two boys, 11 years and 15 months, and a girl of four months.

One fan, backing another TAFF candidate, recently made the claim that Madle was a professional, not a fan. Madle writes a column, "Inside Science Fiction", for Lowndes, and he gets paid for it. Those of you who have read "Inside Science Fiction" know that it's a column centering around various aspects of science fiction fandom; fan groups, fanzines past and present, personalities, etc. To round out the column, fanzine reviews and/or book review are included. To say that writing a fan column makes Bob a professional is as silly as saying that reading science fiction makes me a scientist. It just ain't so.

I met Bob back in 1947, at the first Philcon. Our paths have crossed several times since then, particularly at Cleveland in '55 and New York



in '56. In October of 1956 Bob landed a job in Washington and stayed with me until he could move his family up in December. He works in the same office I do, we eat lunch together, and live only about four miles from each other. I bring this up because I want to stress that I know Bob, and have known him for years. And I want to endorse him for TAFF.

I feel that we should consider a TAFF candidate's qualifications carefully. Is his name well known not only in America but in England? Is he in the main-stream of fandom? Is he capable of standing on his own two feet, without being in any way stand-offish or a stuffed shirt? Does he have at least a speaking knowledge of the present and past in both fandom and the sci magazines? Is he, in short, a fan you'd want to

meet, enjoy talking to, and even trust around your mother and (within reason) your sister?

Walt Willis was one good choice. Ken Bulmer was another. Lee Hoffman, the almost-TAFF representative was a third. In fact, I'd trust Lee around my sister without reservation, which I can't quite say for the first two, or for Bob Madle. I can say that Bob is outstandingly qualified, and has my unreserved endorsement.

V. - FORREST J. ACKERMAN

—by— RICK SNEARY

I helped nominate Forrest J. Ackerman not only because he is one of my oldest friends, but because I feel that he would be the best possible choice in light of all the conditions.

Looking at it from the viewpoint of North American fandom, this is a very important selection we are about to make. For the first time the World Convention has moved across the Atlantic, and we are to select one of our number as a representative to that convention. To me, Forry has always represented the finer things in fandom. His friendliness, his wit, his love of science fiction, create a personality that has won him more friends than probably anyone else in our field.

A few years ago, Forry was Number One Face, the most popular actifan in the country. He isn't so directly active in fandom nowadays; other names appear more often in fanzines. Yet he has done more for fandom than anyone else. No one will ever know the number of neo-fans that have been encouraged by him by letters and gifts of magazines and books. Or the fannish projects he has helped with money and advice. And no one will ever be able to tell how much this one man has done all by himself to lift science-fiction and fandom to the level it is today.

Forrest J. Ackerman is now "Mr. Science-Fiction", friend of editors,

producers, as well as Big Name Writers. Yet, at fan gatherings he is just as apt to be in the center of a group of teen-age fans, as off in the corner with the pros. I know from personal experience that he is among the first to come and the last to go. And always with the same wide smile. He is a real fan, and I say we couldn't have a better representative.

From the English point of view, I think the same applies. I'm sure all the candidates are known to all the active Anglofans. Most of them are maybe known to most ordinary fans, too. But I feel sure that Ackerman is one name that is known to all fandom and readers alike. And unless things are very different there, English conventions are partly made up of non-active readers. Thus, I would say there are more people who would like to see Forry than anyone else. Some British actifans might be keener to see their newer American counterparts, but I suspect they would be less disappointed in Ackerman than in some of the Bright New Faces.

As for the Convention Committee, Forry certainly would be looked on as the answer to a Chairman's prayer. As an experienced speaker he can take part in the programs, both formal and informal. With his contacts in the pro-field he will have a vast store of information and reports that will be of interest to everyone. Who else is there so versatile at everything from swapping puns to being a science fiction pundit? Yet less apt to spend all his time with a small clique of friends.

Thus I feel that Forry Ackerman, as the most widely known and liked person in fandom, is the logical choice for the TAFF Fund. Let's send Forry to London in '57, so he can place the bid for South Gate in '58!

VI. - BOYD RAE BURN

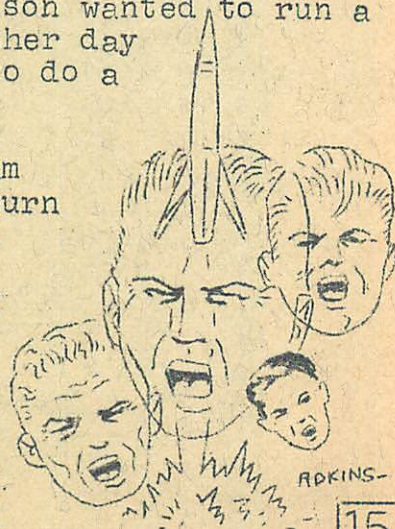
—by— GER STEWARD

A few weeks ago, I was informed that Bob Coulson wanted to run a Taff plug for Boyd Raeburn in his fanzine. The other day Howard Lyons phoned me and asked "Are you going to do a biography of Raeburn for Coulson?"

To which I replied, naturally, "WHAAA???"

So Howard clued me in on the facts. Since I am the unofficial campaign manager for the "Get Raeburn Out Of The Country" movement, I had been selected to do the article for this Taff issue.

Well, I suppose I should start off by telling you something about Boyd Raeburn. I could mention, as you are probably unaware of this fact, that fannish-type Raeburns are not indigenous to North America. No, Boyd spent his early life in a far off country of mystery and intrigue deep in the South Pacific, where he was gainfully employed in a number of occupations.....gun-running,



dope peddling, barnacle scraping, and junior partner in a gaming ~~house~~ establishment.

However, I am sure you are not interested in these intimate and sordid details about Boyd, and I am also sure that he does not want this sort of information passed around. After all, he came here to escape his past, and found that the best way to do this was to immerse himself in fandom. He laid his plans well in advance and joined the NZF, which at that time was a powerful international organization. /Raeburn must have had a horrible effect on it...RSO/ However this was merely to insure his entry into this country, and after arriving, dropped out of the club to devote his energies to fandom in general.

Shortly after arriving in Toronto, he became an important part of the feared Derelict Insurgents. He took over the editorial reins of A' BAS, originally a one-shot, and is responsible for the fact that A' BAS is one of the most popular fanzines of the day, ranking along with GRUE, HYPHEN, and OBLIQUE. Aside from his fanzine, Boyd is an active member of Fapa and has engaged in extensive tapespondence with fans in both the United States and Great Britain. These activities plus voluminous letter-correspondence and attendance at conventions have resulted in the name Boyd Raeburn becoming a household word around the fannish breakfast-table.

Truly and seriously, Boyd has become a well-known, well-respected fan, one who is welcomed in all fannish circles, a fan with a background and knowledge of fannish lore which makes him an ideal person to represent North America at the world con in London.

I respectfully submit the name Boyd Raeburn for your consideration, and trust that you will come to the logical conclusion that Boyd Raeburn is the only candidate worthy of your vote.

You there. Get on the Ball!! Vote Boyd Raeburn. Do it now.

The cry has been, "Snog in the Fog." I reply, "Let a Faaan do it."

"You ask for proof of the gigantism of ancient days. There is proof all around you! You have only to look at Mount Fujiyama, which as any fool kin plainly see is a petrified anthill. What size were men when ants built hills like that?!"
.....from "Cave At M-Tor", the great unwritten classic by Remington Shaver.

".....Ron is going into the Mariés."
--- line from TWIG #3: Which ones, though...Windsor, McDonald, or...?



VII. - DICK ELLINGTON

— by — RUTH LANDIS

In presenting our reasons for nominating Richard Ellington as TAFF representative no exaggerating slogans or empty boasts are necessary. We believe Dick deserves to be the American TAFF representative to the London Convention this year because he truly represents the American Fan.

His activities are numerous and varied. They include corresponding with fans all over the world, representing foreign fanzines in America, writing for fanzines and actively participating in the 14th. World Science Fiction Convention.

Dick is noted for his intense and sincere interest in fan activities. His articles have always reflected such interest -- and they have been not merely entertaining, but often illuminating commentaries on fandom.

Above all, though, he's a good friend to most all those who have met him. He will be just such a person to our English friends -- a representative from the U.S.A. we can be confident in and proud of.

I hope you will choose Dick Ellington as your TAFF representative. He will be an excellent choice -- for American Fandom -- and for you.



VIII. - RICHARD ENEY

/Ed. Note: The first section of the following article was supplied by Eney himself, after various fruitless attempts had been made to get his nominators to say something about him. No author was named. After receipt, the address was forwarded to Dean Grennell -- A Good Man -- for additional comment, if any was thought necessary.RSC/

Dick Eney is a faaan of eleven years' standing (so you can see he has the stamina for the trip); he's been active in various fan clubs for the past 8 years. At different times he's served on the Conclave committees for the 1st and 2nd Disclaves (in Washington, D.C.); held office as trustee, librarian and vice-president of the Washington Science Fiction Society; been Official Editor of the Spectator Amateur Press Society;

and -- very briefly (one month, if you insist) -- acted as chairman of the N3F WelCommittee. All these organizations survived the experience, but that doesn't mean that his present term as Official Editor of FAPA may not be the Kiss of Death for that group. Publishing under the house name of Operation Crifanac, Dick has produced ninety-odd fanzines, /100 even, now...RC/some of them good; they include what may be the longest long-distance zine on record, published in Pennsylvania by remote control from Northern Japan. He believes that Bloch is not Ghod, merely one divinely inspired.

--
Thus runs the nominating speech for Richard Harris Eney and, as far as it goes, it is quite accurate. It serves as credentials to prove he has the background to make a very worthy TAFF emissary in that he has been exposed to fandom. It says relatively little as to whether or not he has caught anything from it.

Eney is -- somehow, paradoxically -- a fabulous fannish character and at the same time a gentle soul, soft-voiced, solidly poised, possessed of great composure, placid with no attendant suggestion of bovinity. He appreciates the power of understatement. Briefly, it is good to have him around.

A further consideration: while he could hardly produce an Odyssean equivalent to THE HARP STATESIDE -- none save Willis could -- his account of his peregrinations in ROCK AROUND THE CONUS shows that, of all the contestants, he is the one from whom we are most apt to get a lively and interesting account of the trip so that we may have a spot of vicarious experience for our contributions. To me, this is a factor.

As a house-guest he is without flaw or fault...a statement, it should be hastily added, equally true of Boyd Raeburn and Stuart Hoffman, to restrict comment to those with whom we are personally acquainted. A certain amount of visiting in private homes is usual in such an operation as this so the point is definitely relevant.

In addition to the qualifications enumerated above, he is a devout and evangelical Roscoist and a charter member of the Kteic Society, innermost inner circle of North American fandom. I trust I am betraying no confidences in revealing that one of the great driving ambitions of his life is to become the first person to mix a Nuclear Fizz in free-fall.

TAFF

— as seen by — Don Ford

Any history of the inception of TAFF should go back to 1947, maybe even 1946, and Forry Ackerman. Forry had his "Big Pond Fund", and went about raising money for a U.S. trip for Ted Carnell & Walter Gillings. At the Torcon in 1948 he raffled off some cover originals and made a

report on the fund. He then announced that he hoped to bring them over for the next convention. Space was at a premium and there was room for only one person on the available shipping. So, Carnell made the trip, solo, to the Cinvention of 1949.

In 1951 Shelby Vick spark-plugged a campaign to bring Walt Willis to the 1952 Convention at Chicago. Shelby was assisted by Henry Burwell, Lee Hoffman, Manly Bannister and others. Walt is better able to tell about than I. The trip has been written up in its entirety under the title; THE HARP STATESIDE and may be purchased from Walt for 35¢./The best bargain in recent fan publishing, too. RC/

Following the Chicago convention, I decided to try to assist a long-time British correspondent, Norman Ashfield, to the Philcon II in 1953. Receiving pledges from several of the members of the Cincinnati Fantasy Group, we got some originals from OTHER WORLDS and proceeded to sell raffle tickets with the drawing to be held at the convention. These were mailed out to various fan clubs throughout the U.S. and we planned to promote ticket sales at the Midwestcon as well as at Philadelphia. Then the axe fell. We were notified by Norman that personal problems would delay things a bit and that the Philcon trip would have to be postponed.

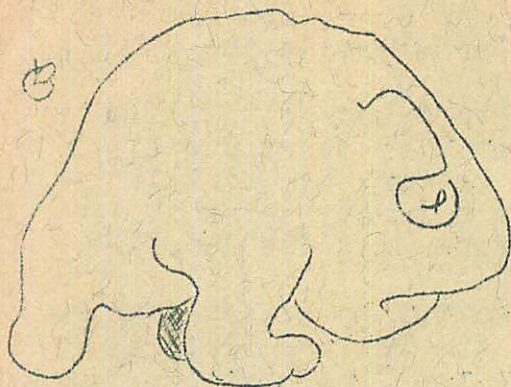
We had the ball in motion and didn't know how to stop it -- or if we should. Bea Mahaffey told us she was going to the Coronation and would also attend the Coroncon while over there. I mailed Ted Carnell some raffle tickets and we gave additional ones to Bea to take along, telling her to use her powers of persuasion on Walt Willis and a few others to make salesmen out of them. These tickets bore the imprint, "British Fan Fund". In addition, Ted was asked to announce at the con gathering that anyone from England who intended coming to the Philcon should notify us and we'd be happy to turn our fund over to him.

The Coroncon voted to set up a permanent organization to encourage travel between the fans in the U.S. & England. This organization, named the Transatlantic Fan Fund, had Ted Carnell and Walt Willis as European representatives, with Don Ford for the U.S. An election was scheduled to select the fan to go to the 1954 con at San Francisco, with the money being raised in 1953 to be held over for the following year. The eventual goal was set as the sending of one fan from each country over to the other side each year. Until it got built up the trips would alternate between the two countries.

Vincent Clarke won this election but when it came time to go had to cancel out. Walt felt that it should go to the U.S. next and they should send a fan over to England in 1955. I held out against this, feeling that the original intention was to bring over a British fan and we should go through with this first and then follow up with the U.S.

A new election was held in 1955, starting from scratch again, and this was won by H. Ken Bulmer. Ken brought his wife, Pamela, along and Cleveland finally saw the first fan brought across the Atlantic under the TAFF banner.

We'd had another raffle in 1954 and that money was carried over, along with that from 1953, to 1955. Three years to get the first fan over. We had 5 covers in 1954 & one curious fact remains from that raffle. When I was notified who the winners were in the drawing held in San Francisco, I notified all of them. One person, Lyle Kessler of Philadelphia, has never replied to my numerous letters telling him he had a cover original



awaiting him if he'd just verify his address. I still have that cover waiting for him if he'll ever contact me.

Campaign activity now shifted to the U.S. side of the Atlantic. At first there was difficulty in getting fans to believe in TAFF. I finally had to extend the nominating deadline in order to get a slate of candidates. That year TAFF was roundly criticised for not having enough publicity. I think it was really the fault of the fans, themselves. They'd been hearing about it for years, but it just didn't penetrate. All of a sudden

fandom woke up to the fact that here was a project that was actually going to pay transportation of a U.S. fan to England.

Lee Hoffman won the 1956 election and Larry Shaw at the same time. They decided to go to Europe on their honeymoon and Lee turned down the TAFF sponsorship, feeling she'd rather go as a private individual. The #2 winner was Forry Ackerman, who declined due to the late notification date. The U.S. now had to undergo a fresh election and had a carry-over of \$182.00 in the U.S. & about \$80.00 in England.

The 1957 campaign is now picking up speed and the Midwestcon should see the final politicking on behalf of the 8 candidates. Soon after July 4th the results should be known. That will leave ample time for the winner to prepare for the Labor Day journey. The fund is building up and there is \$260 on hand, here, and about \$85 - \$90 in England; enough to pay a round trip passage by boat. This is a good place to state that so far there has been only 1 charge for expenses in the U.S. That was in 1954, when I had 2,000 raffle tickets printed. Two figures stick in my memory; \$7 and \$12. It was one of those two. Since then, I've used the strip tickets which have duplicate numbers and are torn in two, with the winners matching the stub. Other than the 1954 tickets all money received by me has gone into TAFF.

Ted Carnell has gradually eased out of the more active TAFF picture in England. The pressure of editing two magazines and an occasional anthology left him little time to spare. He is always ready to help whenever called upon and has contributed time and material (cover originals) towards our various money raising projects.

Walt Willis assumed the work load for Europe and I'd like to go on record here, praising Walt's efforts, time and money contributed to TAFF. Without the tremendous amount of ground work and planning done by Walt I do not think the TAFF program would be half as far advanced as it is today. Through his energies and enthusiasm, the imaginations of other fans were sufficiently sparked to cause them to take up the torch and spread the cause of TAFF. Certainly no one has worked harder or contributed more than Walt; he deserves all the credit he can get for this.

In 1955 after Ken Bulmer won the election and made the journey to Cleveland, Walt resigned from active duty in TAFF and turned it over to Ken to see through. He suggested the possibility that Ken might want to turn it over to the next TAFF delegate from England and so on down the line in future years. He said he'd always be available should TAFF require assistance, but he felt that those who won such a trip should be

prepared to work a year or so for TAFF for the next election. This, I think, is a good idea for the U.S. side of TAFF to emulate.

Currently, a discussion has arisen over the method of voting. This was brought up by Jan Jansen of Belgium, publisher of CONTACT. In issue #4 one side of the question was presented and readers were asked to protest the method of TAFF voting.

The 1954 ballot was a PR method whereby you were asked to vote your preference of 7 candidates by writing a number from 1 to 7 after each of their names. In 1955 the ballot form was changed and the voter was asked to write his 1st, 2nd & 3rd choices in the spaces provided. It was stated that you could "plump" for a candidate by not using your 2nd or 3rd choices. This same form was followed on the 1956 ballot.

The ballots started coming in marked for 1 candidate's name in all 3 choices. All candidates' names were involved and it happened all during the campaign. I could see no wording on the ballot form specifically denying this, so I counted them as they were marked. Jansen says I should have counted only the first place votes in cases where the same name appeared in all 3 spaces; that failure to do so meant that I counted illegal votes last year. If they'd been counted by the Jansen method, the end results would have been the same. There would have been a difference in the point totals, but the same ratio would have held as all candidates were receiving votes in a similar manner.

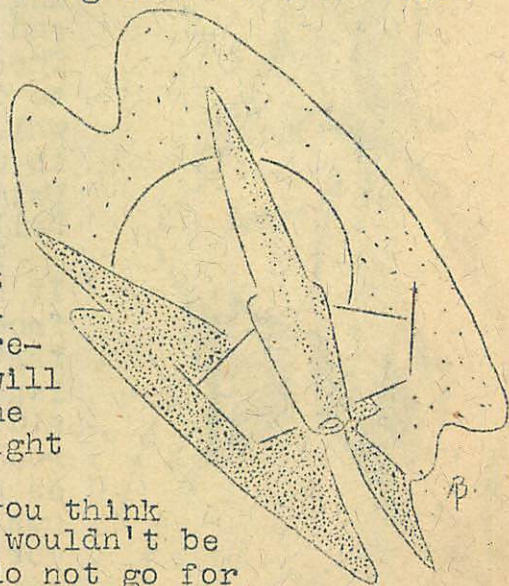
This year I cut the stencils for the ballot forms, myself, and added the notation about boosting your favorite candidate by voting for him in all 3 places. Thus the blame (if it is such a crime) goes to me.

Then the criticism began. The strange part about all of it is the fact that all protests have come from Europe. None from the U.S., Canada, or from any of the candidates. So far 5 have said they felt it is unfair.

Some of the phrasing used in the CONTACT article is quite revealing: "This will destroy the whole purpose of allowing people to express 1st, 2nd & 3rd preferences, and reduce the election to the primitive form of one vote for one candidate." Actually this is the form I'd like to see. It's served this primitive country very well throughout its history. If you're going to have PR then the method of writing numbers after each candidate's name is less confusing to the voter. The open blank spaces marked 1st, 2nd & 3rd choice are open invitations to write one name in all 3 spaces.

"Sensible voters will be forced to "plump" for a candidate who they think has the best chance, to keep out someone whose election they might think to be a disaster, even though he might not have had their first choice if they had been free to express themselves. Candidates, especially those who represent what some people call "fanzine fandom", will feel forced to withdraw to avoid splitting the fanzine fandom vote...and people like this might well be the most deserving candidates."

So what's wrong with voting for someone you think has the best chance? /Well, for one thing, I wouldn't be voting for the candidate I nominated. RC/ I do not go for this voting against a candidate. I think TAFF should be a



positive thing, not a negative one. I can not buy this statement about it being a disaster if a certain candidate should win. I think that any one of the 8 candidates can go to England and be a credit to this area of world fandom as their delegate. /Right! RC/

"Don Ford has refused to lay down any criterion of those qualified to vote except that if they're not known in fandom they may give reference to a "club"; so anyone can call his friends a "club", and the double votes of a couple of dozen of these strawmen, obtained for the outlay of a few dollars, will outweigh those of discriminating fans who try to place the candidates in order of merit for long service to fandom."

I say on the ballot if you are not a known fan, give reference to one/club. That means another fan or some club you may belong to. I am not going to split hairs over who is a fan and who isn't. If each voter can show me some sort of activity prior to November 1956 his vote will be counted. After all, each one of us had to start sometime.

As for the actual counting of the 1957 votes, I personally do not care which method is used. When approached by Walt to change, I had 1500 ballots in the channels of distribution plus whatever copies various fan editors and the candidates themselves would make. I felt it was too late to make any change. Walt put a notice in the last HYPHEN asking voters to register their opinions when they sent their ballots in. This I feel is the most sensible approach to the situation; not by an attempt at sensational journalism.

I will count the ballots any way the fans want me to. However, I do not feel that the opinions of 5 people constitutes any majority; especially when no one in the U.S. or Canada has voiced his approval or disapproval. I've merely stated on the 1957 ballot form what the preponderance of voting in 1956 showed that the U.S. fans desired.

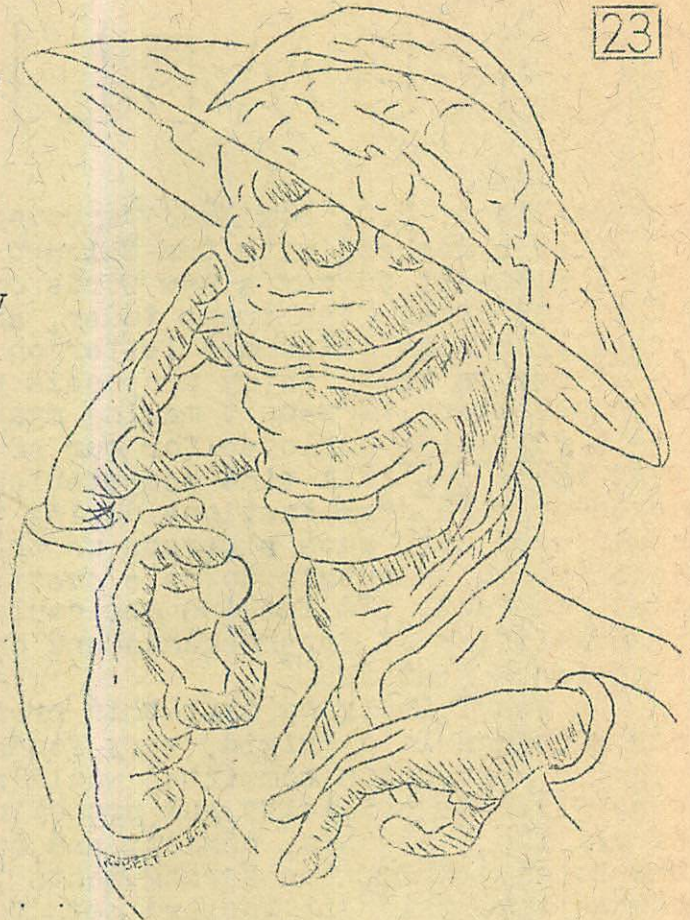
I think it is bad policy to change in the midst of the election campaign and intend counting the ballots as announced on the form this year, unless I get a majority wanting otherwise. My own suggestion is to set up a definite ruling for future elections in the U.S. & Canada and let this one go by under the present setup. The forthcoming Midwestcon would be a good place to discuss this and vote upon any proposals while such a large group of fans are together in one spot. Those not attending can follow Walt's suggestion and note their desire on the ballot form.

TAFF has been a fan project all the way thru. It has been conceived & executed by fans for fans. While this article may give the impression that 2 or 3 fans have done all the work, this isn't true. The convention committees on both sides have stood by with offers of free hotel rooms, banquet tickets, etc., and have served as co-ordinating points channelling the numerous offers of meals, drinks, lodgings and transportation from many individual fans who have offered helping hands.



The pro mags have donated cover originals and I think right now is a good place to name names: NEW WORLDS, SCIENCE FANTASY, NEBULA and OTHER WORLDS have all contributed covers. In addition, OTHER WORLDS made a cash donation of \$25. Thus the U.S. promags are far behind the British when it comes to assisting TAFF. I'm prejudiced, but I'd like to see every U.S. promag contribute at least \$10 to TAFF as a good will gesture. This as an annual membership, like a club or professional society.

In conclusion I'd like to say that TAFF has done something to fandom that will be quite lasting even if TAFF should fold tomorrow. It has brought out the best in the fans themselves. In England there is a lot of anti-American feeling in the newspapers, radio and on the general political scene. The same holds true in the U.S., against the British. On the fan level I detect none of this. In 1955 a lot of fans who would be classified as "typically American" went out of their way to make sure that the British delegate and his wife were having a good time in the U.S. These are all accomplished deeds; not just wistful fancies. TAFF is still in its infancy...think what it will accomplish in 1967!



/Ed. note: I'd like to quote one of Gem Carr's statements from GEMZINE 4/14 (without permission, I might add -- don't get sore, Gem). This seems to me to be one of the few sensible statements made on the entire voting-nominating question./

"It seems to me that all this trouble could have been avoided by sticking to the idea first advanced...(at least, that was the impression I got at the time)...that US candidates be chosen by the Overseas fen, and Overseas candidates be nominated by US fen. There wouldn't be any question of 'Is you eligible, or is you ain't?'. The only question would be 'Have the fans over the water ever heard of you?'."

/So why can't we restrict nominations -- not voting -- to those fans who are going to get to meet the elected representative? RC/

"Quit holding God responsible for every bit of crud that people ascribe to Him; haven't you ever been misquoted?"F.M. Busby

"Never send a monster to do the work of an evil scientist." Bugs Bunny, via Florence Mittelman

GRUMBLINGS

Robert Bloch, P.O. Box 362, Weyauwega, Wisconsin

After a weekend with the Chicago gang I'm hardly in any shape to write, but I did want to say a few words concerning the new YANDRO, which arrived in its usual fine shape today, and most particularly wished to comment briefly on Nick Falasca's letter on Conventions.

It may be that, in my proposals regarding a paid professional convention secretary, I wasn't making myself entirely clear. I wasn't proposing a full-time employee for our sf convention alone: merely pointing out that there are full-time secretaries who take on not one, but perhaps a dozen or more organizations during the course of a year: our sf group could work with such a person on this basis. Seems to me such a professional would undertake to do a pretty good job for a lot less than \$15 a head. In fact, I'd imagine one could be located who'd take on the responsibilities of arrangements and carrying through negotiations and planning for a flat fee.

Nor was I implying that this professional would have any power to turn our meetings into "rigid, very formal affairs": my notion is that the regular convention committee would still handle the program as always, supervise the publicity and promotion, etc. But be relieved, meanwhile, of all the headaches, anxiety and extra work attendant upon dealing with the hotel, making the arrangements to set up the physical details, and contacting, which in the end seem to result in having the schedule disrupted and the committee distracted. To know that all this legwork and negotiation is in competent hands should be a great relief to any committee, and leave them more free time to concentrate upon the actual program (and, incidentally, have a little fun and rest themselves).

My Guess (and frankly, it is a guess) is that we could secure such representation for about \$1000. Now this bald figure may wring cries of horror from many, until one stops to consider that even with a 500 registration, it amounts to \$2 a head. I agree with Nick that our present \$2 fee has brought some "opposition" -- but I'm inclined to believe it comes largely from those who are congenitally opposed to paying anything; they just want to come and be entertained. /You mean there are other kinds of fans? RC/ The bulk of fandom, I'm sure, would gladly see the present \$2 fee raised to \$4 or even \$5, if it meant they were virtually guaranteed a good, smooth-running convention. Certainly they'd rather pay \$2 or \$3 more to the committee than to be victimized as they often are under present circumstances -- promised rooms at \$7 a day and end up paying \$10 or \$12; expecting a \$5 banquet and getting one at several dollars more, etc. Over the course of the weekend, a seasoned convention-goer now realizes that he can expect to lay out a lot more than a couple of extra bucks; and he has no assurance that he'll get value received. A professional secretary would tie up a hotel so that such last-minute extortion was eliminated. And yes, even 500 people constitute "big business" to an average hotel; considering meals, banquet, room-rent, etc. over a three or four day period.

Actually, I'm not attempting to disagree with Nick, merely presenting an alternate viewpoint. In fact I'm very glad he came up with his letter; my sole purpose in making the original proposal was to stimulate some discussion so that fans in general would be aware that a problem does exist and try to work out some solution -- not necessarily mine, but anyone's idea, as long as it works. As Nick knows, I feel the average committee has too great a load to carry -- anything done to alleviate it would be a blessing.

/ Any more comments? Nick? It would seem that the next step might possibly be prodding the WSFS officers into earning their titles by making inquiry as to just how much a part-time pro secretary would cost. Perhaps the registration fee should be raised, after which each committee could decide for itself whether it wanted to follow Nick's idea of being able to do things themselves without money worries, or whether it preferred a convention secretary. We'll be especially glad to hear from other members of past Worldcon committees on this. RC/

Rusty Jenrette, No. 2, The Lodge, E. Raynham, Norfolk, England

At last. At last! My ambition is realized. I have finally found something in a magazine...fanzine...that is libelous.....are you responsible for what your columnists write? /Heaven's, no! Neither are they, at times....RC/ I refer to Alan Dodd's column. I must defend my husband's good name and reputation for good taste (?). Dave positively did not have on a red and black striped blazer jacket. Of course, I will defend to the death any one else's husband's right to wear a red and black striped blazer, but not my husband's. To set the matter straight, it was a very muted shade of charcoal grey and black stripes. Very Ivy League. Metal buttons and all that. /Ugh?/ Now anyone will admit there is quite a difference in red and black stripes and gray and black stripes. That Alan Dodd...obviously no regard for the FACTS. Of course it did make better reading as a red and black striped blazer..but what's that to my husband's good name? /Well-l-l-l-l.....RC/

We really liked your annish.....The cover was super-terrific.

No, really, Coulson's..do you write pornography on the sly and try to sneak it into decent literature? I refer to page 12, line 9. Hmph!

/If anyone who has a copy of the annish can figure out what she's talking about there, would they please tell us? I'm confused! RC/

"Willard Brain -- no relation to that fellow Donovan, I suppose?" (Dodd)

Marvin Bryer, 1396 Hamilton, Apt. 7, St. Louis 12, Missouri

Who is this damn Jerry Greene, anyway? He actually eats YANDROs? My cover, too? Damn! Think of all our fannish type efforts going down his gulping gullet. I hope he chokes on the paint. Personally, my favorite tasting color is Alizure Crimson. It's good in opaque water color and tempera but in oil paint it tends to be a bit sluggish and loses much of its flavor.

I was born with a dull, sickening thud.

Bob Farnham, 506 2nd. Ave., Dalton, Georgia

I noticed a 'lineation to send McNulty a broad. Is he over there already? Seems to me it would cost a lot less if he would pick a British one, rather than to send him one from over here. /It's a sort of consolation prize. RC/

Hal Annas story I liked, muchly. If I could write as well I'd be at it day and night and have a new typewriter in two weeks.....

I'm inclined to side with Nick Falasca regarding the question of having paid pros put on a convention. This would make a con too cut and dried and BORING.

I found a notice in the Atlanta Journal where a Sheriff had found a big cache of moonshine in a hog wallow....which explained fully to me why that liquor I drank at Chicon 2 smelled so familiar...Henry Burwell and 5 other fen sneaked a gallon of mule clean across five states --- all dry --- to the Morrison Louse Cage.

Robert E. Gilbert, 509 W. Main St., Jonesboro, Tennessee

That cover on the Feb. YANDRO is either an optical illusion, or else I'm stupid, whichever seems more probable. /Well-l-l..../ I thought the plane was flying through strange vegetation or rocks until I happened to look at the cover while upside down, or while the cover was upside down, and I realized the projections were actually a giant hand.

I've noticed several billboards proclaiming, "Where there's life, there's Budweiser." This, I assume, means that beer has taken the place of hope.

Did Alex Raymond invent flying saucers? In the early days of "Flash Gordon" the Lion Men flew ships like saucers. Then, in an early issue of SCIENCE FICTION, the Sphinx Women, or somebody, had ships of a similar type. Perhaps the LITTLE GREEN MEN read those papers? /Anyone else get fooled by our last cover? I thought the projections were seaweed, for two days.....I must try reading some of those early issues of SCIENCE FICTION sometime. RC/

Ron Parker, 714 W. 4th. St., Tulsa 7, Oklahoma

The OklaCon comes around in July or August, and is supposed to be in Enid this year. Maybe, if it comes at a nice time, you can make it down here. Always a few laffs to be had, and fun and drinks for all. If you pass out, they shove you under the bhed so you won't get stepped on. Thas what they did with Kent Corey last year. /Him, they should have let get stepped on. RC/ Seriously, I'm trying to drum up a nice out-of-town attendance of some fairly good sized fen. /Get Don Ford; he's the largest size fan I know of./

Why in the world have the committees let the World Cons grow to such expensive proportions? Some idiot decided it'd be nice to have the con in the Biltmore! Why not the Waldorf-Astoria? Or we could rent Times Square for a gigantic brawl. /You think you're kidding --- Kyle tried to get the Waldorf. Cons are bound to get more expensive, though; everything is getting more expensive. Conventions at 1940 prices are no more possible than steak at 1940 prices, or 15¢ prozines./

I don't know how many calendars there are in fandom besides yours, but next year they'll have stiff competition. In late November, a 4 or 5 color 1953 calendar will make its first appearance, and I hope it appears every year afterwards as well. It is the brand new FANDOM cal-

endar. This creation, which will be composed and mimeoed by yours truly, will list all important fannish dates. Birthdays of fans and pros, marriages, 1958 meetings and cons to come, founding of organizations, etc. Anything of fannish importance. So far, only Forry Ackerman and Ron Ellik have aided in info, but then, I'm just getting started. This has become quite a big project.

/Anybody wanting his name on a calendar, like Marilyn Monroe, send in the vital statistics to Ron./

A/3c Harley R. Billings, AF 25002274, Hq. Sq. 52nd. FITGRU, Suffolk County A.F.B., New York

In #49, Marty Fleischman reviews "Weird Theatre" in such a way that it gags me. So far I've seen only one film in this series that is even faintly good. The rest have been real stinkeroos. However, last December I saw "The Shape Of Things To Come" on another channel and found it one of the best S-F films I've ever witnessed.

Alan Dodd's column was enjoyable. Reminds me of the last time I was home on leave. Lying on a sofa watching TV, trying to get all thoughts of the military out of my mind, and who do I see with Arthur Godfrey? My base commander -- for 30 full minutes, no less. Now he's got big-headed and expects everybody to salute him. Such is life.

Hal Annas, Virginia

I think the primary reason for not shooting females is primary. /?/ Sometime or other the species must have been limited in number. The tendency to hesitate before pulling the trigger when a female comes under the muzzle of the gun is no doubt a holdover from the instincts of early man. Highly civilized man should shoot the female. There are too many in existence.

In the foregoing paragraph, I don't think I'm referring to humans. /Shucks./ I think I had something else on my mind. It may've been those deer and pheasants you mentioned.

The white man tried to excuse his butchery of the Indians by alluding to "The Great Massacre" of whites along the Nansemond river. I have searched and searched through records and find that the date of the so-called massacre conflicts with other records when Indians and palefaces were trading peacefully. More, there is no mention of casualties in the massacre, a ridiculous thing. One record reads like this: "several whites were said to have been killed." There is evidence to indicate the followers of Captain John Smith needed the rich grainland and the livestock of the Indians and they took same.

Pocahontas made a mistake when she interceded with Powhatan and saved his life. Another reason why it is wise to shoot females.

/Who says fanzines aren't educational?/

Jerry Greene, 482 East 20th. St., Hialeah, Florida

Oh, where has it gone? I wonder where the yellow went. I remember you mentioning that there might be a change sometime in the future, but still it was a slight shock to see a slightly pale blue YANDRO. After I got over the shock I must admit I like it better. Actually the reason I was a little sad was because that feverish yellow had a slightly exciting nasty taste to it, while the blue is more domesticated.

/We'll try to get some Alizure Crimson for you to sample./

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