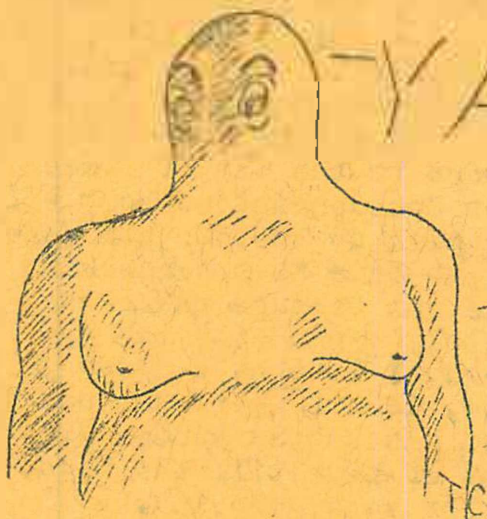


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YANDRO-#92

september '60

VOL. VII

NO. 9

Published monthly by Robert and Juanita
Coulson, Route 3, Wabash, Indiana, USA
British agent, Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd.,
Hoddesdon, Herts., England.
Price, USA & Canada, 20¢ or 12 for \$2.00.
Price, England, 15d or 12 for 12/0
Price, elsewhere, 2 for 45¢ or 12 for \$2.25

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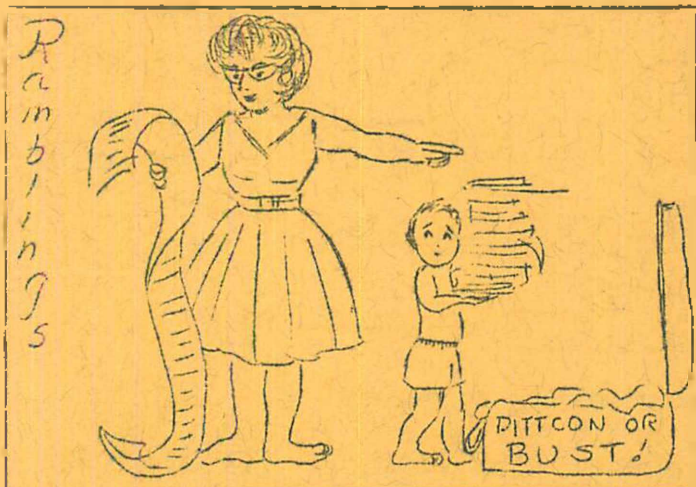
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Page 1	Terry Carr	Page 13	Dan Adkins
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Page 9	Robert E. Gilbert	Page 7	Dave Prosser

Apologies for getting Prosser's credit out of order, but I overlooked it until all the rest had been typed.

Tucker's column is reprinted from our FAPazine, VANDY (as will be, probably, all future installments.) This should make no difference to 90% of our readers and I probably won't mention reprinting on the future installments -- or maybe I will. Kerry's poem is also reprinted, but I don't know where from. She said it had been published by one of the "little magazines", but she didn't recall which one. At any rate, I doubt if our readers have seen it before.

Got some more comments from Nirenberg on stf and newsdealers today; they will probably be in the next issue.



Bah! Once again I must apologize for the repro - this time it's the ink. There will be an inordinate amount of show-through on this issue because the Roneo ink is gone and I had to resort to the can of frozen or whatever Speedoprint economy - I managed to pick up another can (after having to come to a screeching halt on the run because the frozen ink completely gunked the ink pad and drum - ugh! is that a messy job) but it, too, is not up to the usual quality and has a bad tendency to

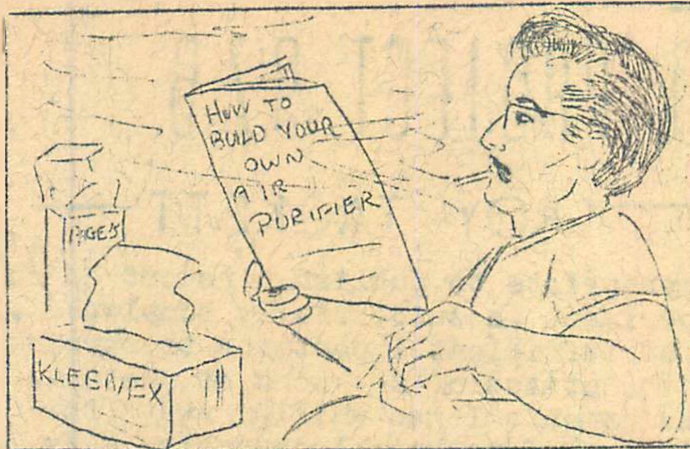
separate. Oh well, there will be a fair amount of time till the October issue comes out, and maybe I can scout around for some good ink.

Kerry entitled her poem (in this issue) "Dans le Village", but that was before she got in fandom. I think she will find her poem is a fair description of a certain type of fan party, too. It's not a sort of party I enjoy attending, because I don't enjoy myself amongst people making fools of themselves as a result of liquor (if they want to be fools without the aid of the liquor, that's another situation). Perhaps my intolerance is due to the fact that I don't care for the strong stuff - being a weirdo who won't drink if I don't like the taste of something, and my taste runs to wine, beer, and sloe gin - just a sissy, that's me. But I agree with Buck's statement last month, that it can't be much of a party if you have to get drunk to enjoy it.

Well, it is now Monday, with only four more days to go till Pittcon time, and this is the last stencil to be typed, with two stencils (counting this one) yet to be run, and ahead lies the appalling task of assembling 170 copies of this thing, - and my feet hurt. High arches hurt just as much as fallen ones, or at least I imagine they do; I have extremely high arches and a lot of foot trouble as a result. It'll all seem fine by Friday afternoon when we actually take off, but right now I wouldn't have the energy to attend a con.

This is going to be a fannish week, I see. DeWeeses are on their vacation, and Saturday we got together with bev and Gene and James Adams (bev and I listened to rhythm and blues tapes from Les Nirenberg and the male fans played Kriegspiel.). Then Sunday we (the four of us) went to Culver, Indiana, to visit the most fannish non-fan we know, a character named Denver Crozier, having a ball listening to his outrageous yarns (I suspect if we could get him down on paper, he would rapidly become a hoosier Burbee). And there have been phone calls from fans in prodigious amounts....mostly with the sad news about people we hoped to see at Pitt. Kerry informs me neither she nor Mez Bradley will be making Pittsburgh, and today Joe Sanders called about some reprint rights on Yanart and gave me the additional blow that he won't be coming. It's all some nefarious plot, I'm sure.

We'll be leaving Anderson, Indiana about 5:15 Friday, and we have vague hopes of getting to Pitt in time to attend a late party, but these are very vague hopes (so we find out US 40 is detoured along our entire route).....but for all of those we hope to meet there, and for all of those we wish we could meet there, luck and milidio.....JWC



Those perceptive souls who read every bit of the issue will have noticed the price increase. We are not filthy capitalists, squeezing the earnings of poor but honest (?) fans, but we are running 170 copies of this issue, and paying out somewhat more money than we're taking in. (I don't object to losing money on YANDRO, within limits, but the limit has just been reached.) Also, the circulation has been increasing by leaps and bounds, and I want to

slow it down. The traditional way of cutting circulation is to refuse new subscriptions, unless they come from friends, or friends of friends, but YANDRO has traditionally been edited for fringe-fans, and I don't want to prevent interested newcomers from getting a copy. Readers who are really interested in it will keep on getting it, even if it does cost more; the ones who weren't as interested will drop off. At the same time, I'm getting tougher with fanzine trades; this will be the last issue for several of you. Those who publish well, but infrequently, will not get another YANDRO until I see another copy of your zine; those who publish frequently but not very well may be dropped altogether. Incidentally, subs will be accepted at the \$1.50 rate for a time from those who have been receiving the mag regularly in the past, whether they had a sub or were buying it an issue or two at a time. I'm trying not to discourage anyone who really wants the mag, but I'm going to shake loose the dead-wood; if 20¢ doesn't do it I'll charge more.

I'm hoping to see a lot of you at Pittsburgh. A note to those of you whom I don't know by sight -- if you happen to notice me, come up and introduce yourself, because I'll probably never notice you. (For those who have met me before, wait until I walk by you without speaking before hailing me; I might recognize you, though it's doubtful.) I'm giving advance warning this time -- in other years I've been accused of snubbing people, while the truth is that faces just don't register on me. I can stand 6 feet from someone I've known for years and not see him -- in fact, I did this in a local grocery last week, which is what reminded me to write this. I was just standing there, minding my own business, when an old friend -- hell, I went to school with the guy -- got tired of being ignored and shoved a package of frozen fish against my bare arm. (If you happen to be carrying any frozen fish at the con, you have an ideal method of being recognized -- I guarantee it to startle anyone, even me, into an awareness of his surroundings.) At any rate, you have now been warned; if you see me at the con and I don't speak to you, you have only yourself to blame.

Hay fever season is in full swing. So far I've missed little work, though some of the time I might as well have been home. Of course, there is an inducement for me to go, no matter how bad I feel; the office is air conditioned, and our house isn't. Right now, though, I'm waiting anxiously for frost, and wondering why I continue to live in Indiana. (My co-workers are waiting anxiously for frost, too, because then I'll stop smoking my vile asthma cigarettes. I've often wondered why the companies don't promote those things for "cures" for smoking; in addition to the horrible taste, once you've smoked a lot of them a regular cigarette has no taste whatsoever, and no appeal.)

RSC

PROGRESS REPORT ON PROJECT 976

by ROY TACKETT

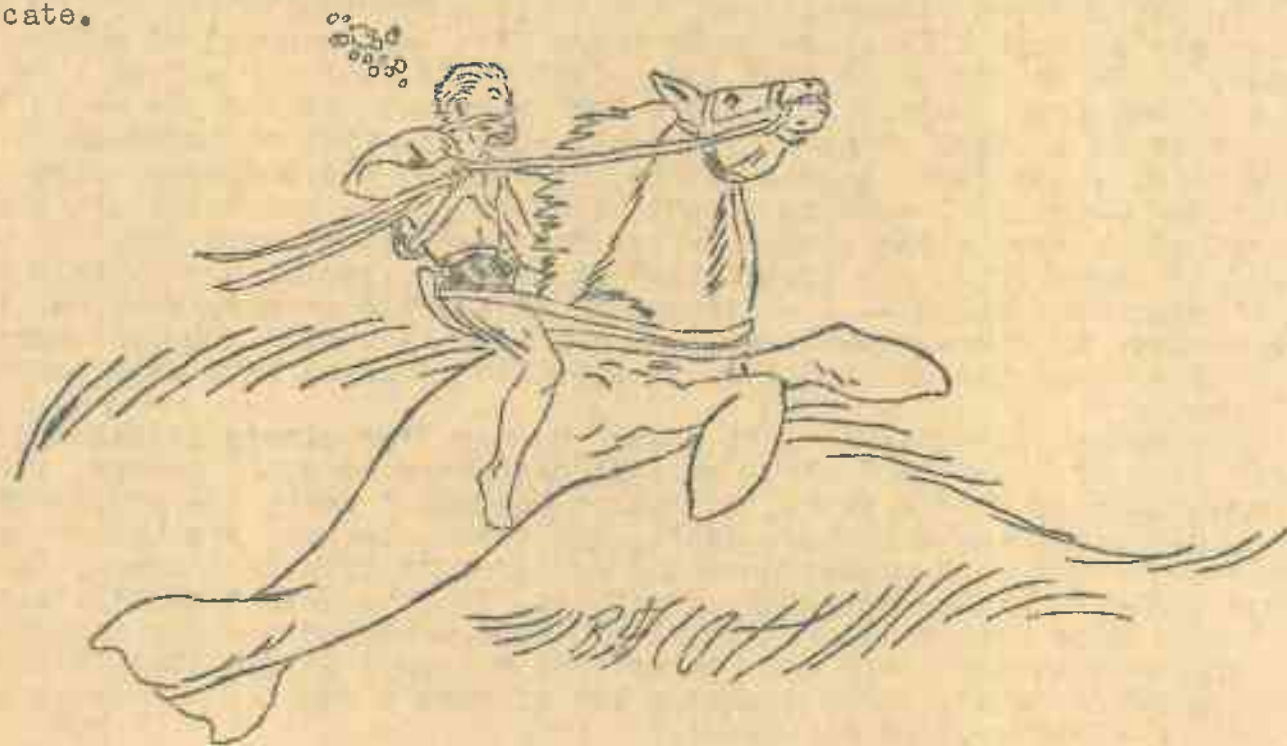
I realize that it is somewhat inappropriate to publish a report on an experiment prior to the time that experiment is successfully completed. I feel, however, that Project 976 is of sufficient importance to warrant the issuance of a progress report on the status of the work at present.

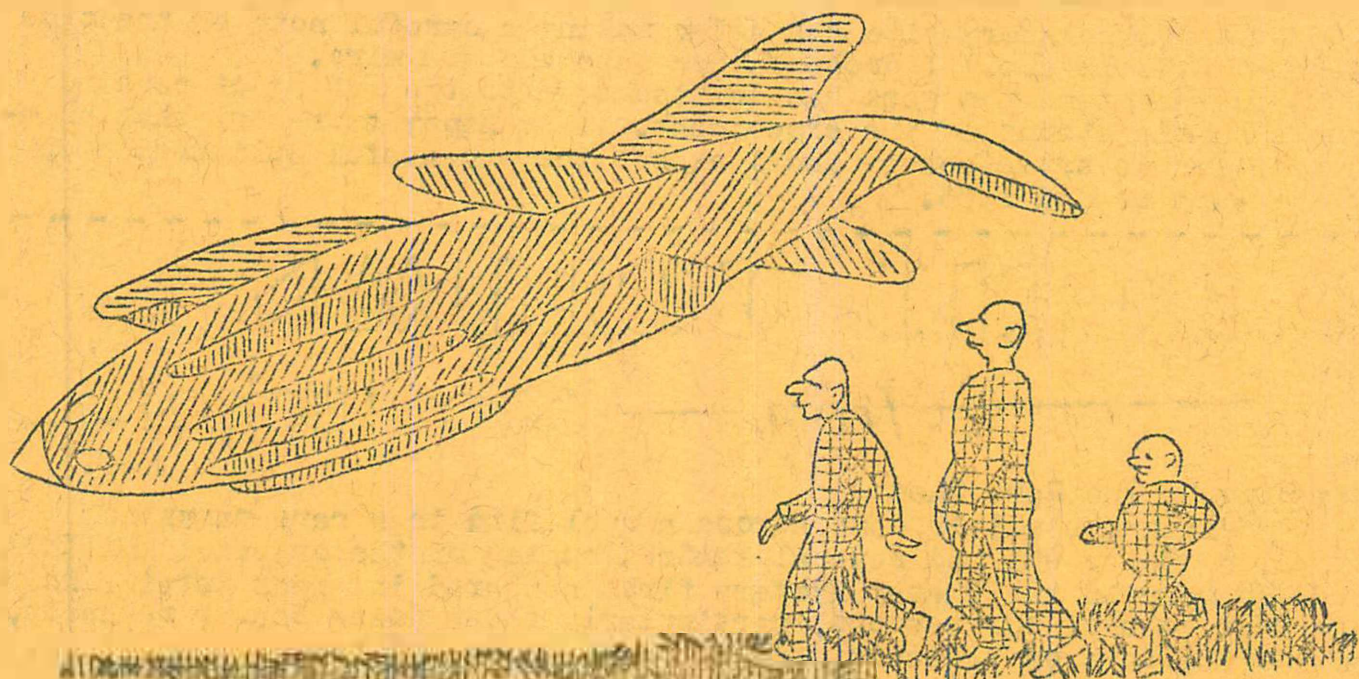
Several years ago while between assignments I was whiling away the hours perusing one of the popular illustrated technical journals. My interest was caught by a rather obscure article concerning the accidental and natural creation of a Heap.

For those unfamiliar with the species I shall explain that a Heap is a hulking, animated mass of semi-sentient adipocere and sphagnum. The appearance and odor of a Heap is quite revolting and likely to induce nausea in the unscientific layman but these are minor to the true scientist.

According to the article the original Heap was formed by accident when a World War I German flyer, whose name was, no doubt, Kurt von Something-or-other, crashed in one of those impenetrable swamps so essential to the tales and myths of Central Europe. After several years of decaying, luxuriating, bubbling, changing chemically, and simmering over a slow burner, the downed German flyer emerged from the bog as a Heap.

The article fascinated me. I was fired with gin and the spirit of creativity, which, as Freud explains, can take strange turns. I was inspired to make a heap thereby determining to prove once again that, through the triumph of science, what nature could create man could duplicate.





As in any great scientific experiment much basic research was necessary. First it was essential to become well informed on the subject of swamps. I consulted the works of such experts as Francis Marion and Redd Boggs. At last I felt that I knew enough about swamp conditions to commence the experiment.

Duplicating these necessary conditions in the laboratory proved to be an exceedingly difficult and expensive procedure. The vast quantities of water required for the aquatic plants; the addition of the proper animal life and bacteria along with the problem of maintaining the proper temperature to induce optimum decay; all these were hardships of the first order. Several times I felt that I was on the verge of success when the experiment had to be abandoned because some anti-scientific busybody complained to the Board of Health.

The first real breakthrough in the project came when I came to the South Carolina Low Country. I found that here I could do without the bulky and expensive laboratory equipment needed in other climes as natural conditions are most favorable for this type of project.

Having carefully selected my laboratory site, a picturesque patch of quagmire nestled amid bull gators and Venus Fly Traps, I turned next to the problem of obtaining the nucleus of a Heap -- a downed German flyer. This problem seemed almost insurmountable when a rare stroke of luck came my way. I received through the mail a catalog from a New York import house advertising the close-out of a limited number of downed flyers imported from the Soligen region of West Germany at the special price of \$1.98 each, plus a few cents for handling and shipping. I was elated at this turn of good fortune and immediately sent off an order for three. You can imagine how eagerly I awaited the shipment. This was to be the final step in the great experiment that had occupied my time for so many years.

The package finally arrived. I checked the contents carefully to make sure that these were genuine down German flyers and not some cheap far Eastern imitation. They proved up to specification so I removed

6
them to the laboratory site and after making a careful note of the time (it was 10:03:15 a.m.) I dropped them into the quagmire.

Since that time the work has settled down to the making of routine checks on the status of the experiment. I am happy to report that progress so far is satisfactory and I expect the successful culmination of the project around 1985.

A DORIC COLUMN

— from — bob tucker —

Snapping Up The Rare Ones:

"Recently the editor came across a real find in a rare magazine store, a dealer who had several hundred copies of the original AMAZING STORIES wherein the Shaver Mystery first appeared in great detail. Knowing that some of our readers, particularly those doing Shaver research, would like some of these original issues, we bought the entire lot ... at a price which would still allow readers to afford buying them. The price is only \$1.00 each and we will pick out the best issues for the first persons ..." (Gray Barker, in The Saucerian Bulletin #21)

The Stars Are Ours:

In my spare time (in between push-buttons) I'm working up a real jim-dandy science fiction piece about authors and editors who choose names of stars to put into story titles. I mean, using star names in actual titles. For example, seven stories used Sirius in their titles — only seven out of the thousands upon thousands of titles listed in Don Day's Index. And from what I can discover so far, only about a dozen stars have been named in all the twenty-five years covered by the Index. It seems incredible for a pack of science fiction people. I croggle at our authors: untold thousands of stars, untold thousands of stories, and they make use of perhaps twelve names.

Science Fiction Times, Thou Art Incomparable:

"Ted Carnell announced that Nova Novels will be revived in the New Year ... He wants to publish the classics of science fiction — the kind that have not been in hardcovers or paperbacks. One which is planned is THE WEAPON MAKERS." (Taurasi-?? in issue #327)

The Weapon Makers (hardcover): Hadley Publishing Co., 1947

One Against Eternity (TWM retitled, paperback): Ace books, 1955

Editorial comment: Wilson (Bob) Tucker has written and had published at least 5 stf novels and over a dozen short stories (I don't have a Day Index to check, so I go by memory) and in not one of them does the title of a star appear.

Favorite Fan Misspellings: by Don Franson

The word for this month is competent. People who can't spell competent are not incompetent, so they should be able to keep the ants out of their tents.

dans le village

People grasping
Cocktail glasses
Stand in gasping,
Teeming masses.
People smoking,
People drinking,
Coughing, choking,
Getting stinking.
Some discreetly
Boiled or fried,
Some completely
Ossified.
Liquor spilling,
Trousers sopping,
Steady swilling,
Bodies dropping.
Glasses falling
On the floor,
People calling,
"Drop some more."
Bodies steaming,
Morals stretching,
Women screaming,
One man retching,
Heavy smoking,
Air gets thicker.
Someone croaking,
"No more liquor..."
What? What?
No
More
Liquor...
People snicker,
Unbelieving,
No more liquor?
Let's be leaving.
No more drinking?
Groans and hisses!
What a stinking
Party this is.

KERRY

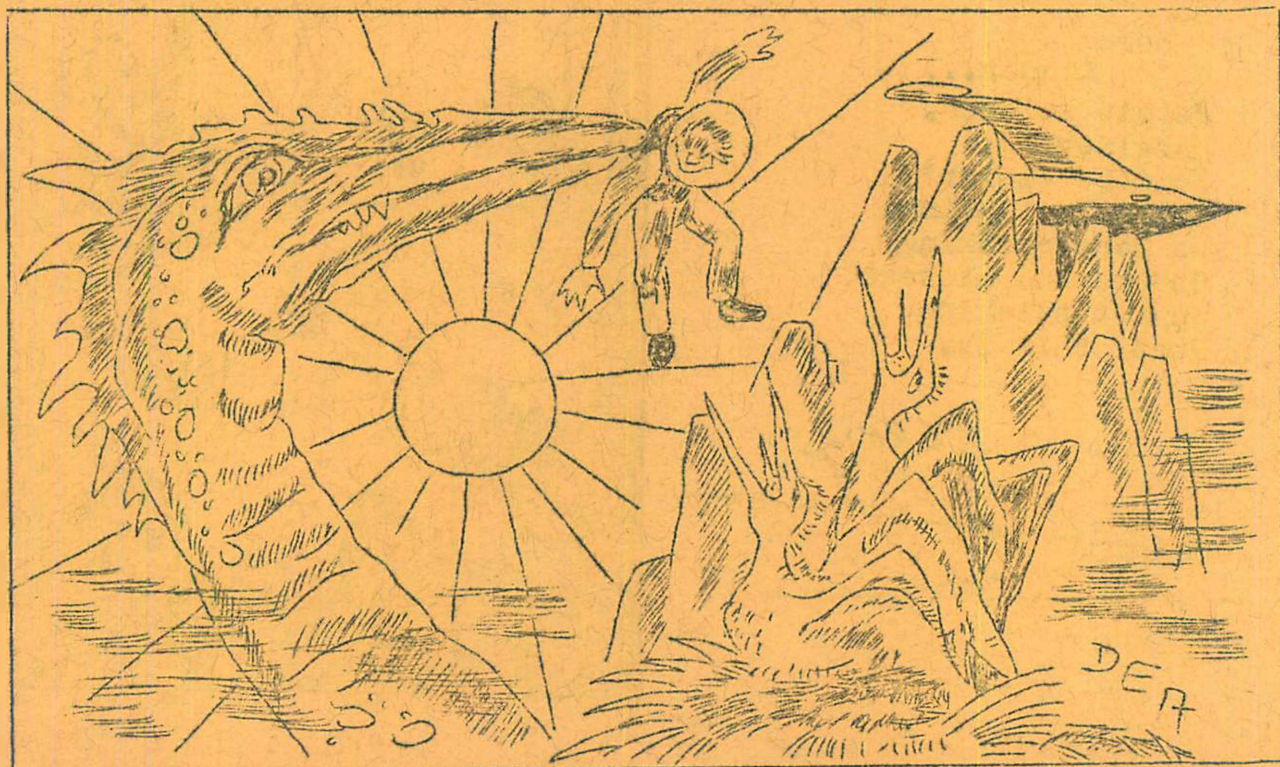


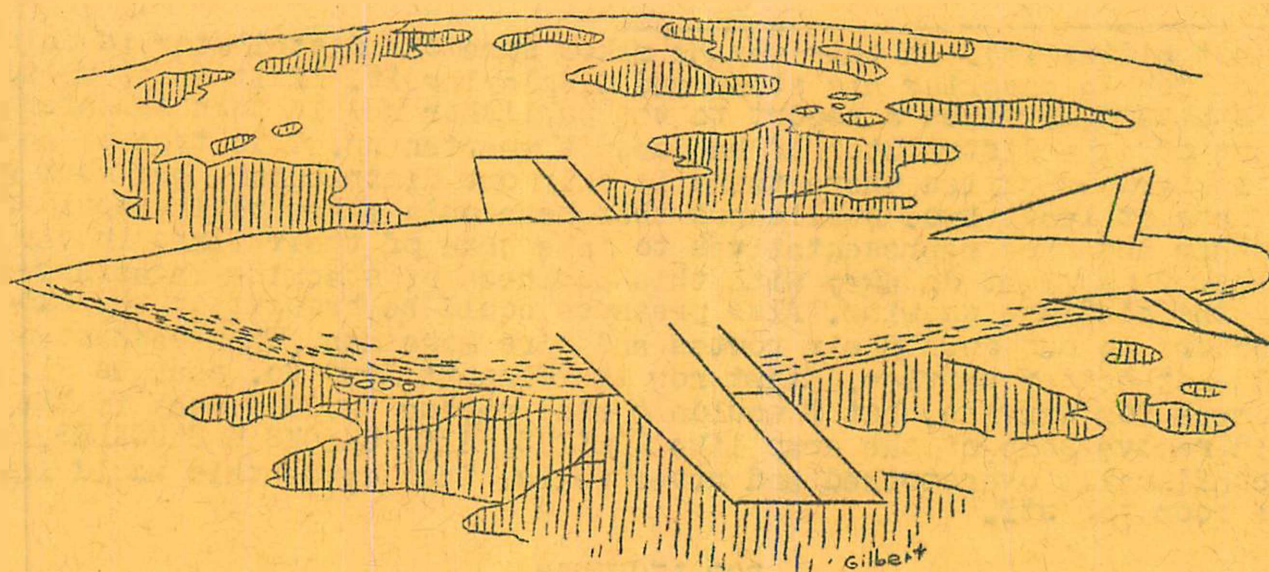
THE DEATH (WAIL) OF SCIENCE FICTION

Being Instructive and Edifying Commentary by various and sundry Good People, pertaining to the recent Commendable Article by Ted White on "The Death Of (magazine) Science Fiction". We begin with the well-known Canadian cartoonist, bon vivant, and proprietor of the Co-Existence Candy Store:

LES NIRENBERG

Ten years ago there were four distribution companies in Toronto. Today there are only two. The bulk of magazines, novels and other publications is handled by the Sinnot News Co. This company has become so large, having absorbed the titles formerly handled by the defunct companies, that they have become, and are daily becoming more dictatorial. Fortunately they are not quite as dictatorial as the American distributors. In many cities in the U.S., retailers are told which titles they will give full cover display to and which titles they will place on the top shelves. New accounts in the States are also told that they must devote a certain amount (depending on the distributor) of floor space to magazines or no dice. Retailers are more or less forced to bow to their demands or they don't handle magazines. This, I feel, is one of the problems facing not only the publisher of stf, but the distributor and retailer also. There are so many titles on the racks today, due not only to the exit of wholesalers but to the tremendous increase of magazines in general in the last ten years, that the distributors have a terrific job keeping track of them. One of the jobs of the distributor is a daily call on each rack in which he checks all magazines, taking inventory and bringing in any magazines which are sold out or low in stock. The increase in titles has made this "checkup" almost impossible. I have at this moment no less than 200 titles on my mag rack alone. To do a proper checkup of all magazines on the rack would be impossible, since the job would take upwards of an hour or so. The drivers couldn't





possibly cover all their accounts in one day, because most routes have 50 or more accounts on them. To further complicate things many racks are usually in disarray. As a result the drivers can only do their checkups twice a week and if they're lucky three times a week. Then they can only check the weeklies and the faster selling monthlies.

With 200 titles on my rack (which measures 8', the minimum allowed by the distributor), I can't be expected to give full cover display to all magazines. The only ones which get full cover are the fast-selling weeklies. Other than this it couldn't be done. An overlapping display is about the only thing which is possible, and even then I often have to send a few titles back because I can't get them on the rack (don't worry, it's not stf I send back but stuff like UNCENSORED, HUSH-HUSH, etc.) Nevertheless, many stores do send stf mags back almost immediately without giving them a chance on the stand. The biggest offenders are drug-stores. Since the druggist feels he "must protect the interests of his customers" he proclaims himself censor and sends back whatever he feels like sending back. Science fiction is not the only sufferer here; PLAYBOY, ROGUE and many other mags have been sent back immediately. This type of censorship is one thing that might have killed stf mag pubbing.

The bastard size of many stf mags also accounts for loss in sales. They, as well as such small zines as ALFRED HITCHCOCK and HANHUNT are just damned hard to display. But the tremendous popularity of the latter two has forced the distributor to take good care of them, giving them full cover and proper checkup. The size also has a lot to do with the impression made on customers. Many of them refuse to pay 35¢ for a 1/2-size mag when they can buy a copy of MAD for a quarter. I know these people are all clods but let's face it you have to sell to them to make money, and money is what the publisher wants.

I feel the whole problem is in distribution and display. At the moment this is handled solely by the distributor and it's evident that he isn't handling it very well. With the great mass of titles now in distribution he couldn't possibly be expected to do a better job. What to do? Dell Pubs. seems to have a fairly workable system with their pocket books. A publisher's representative visits stores regularly (approx. every six weeks) and makes sure that his titles are well represented and well stocked. He re-arranges the display and cleans up the rack (but still taking into consideration the other publisher's stuff,

and not hiding it). In this way he makes sure the distributor is doing a good job in checking his stuff and displaying it. If it's not up to his standard he files a report to the publisher who in turn threatens to cut off the distributor if he doesn't smarten up. This type of action is hard in cities where there is only one distributor, but most cities have at least two. Publishers that have only a few titles could band together and hire representatives to take care of their lines in various cities. This might do away with this business of stacking magazines with only the bindings showing. Also pressure could be brought on the distributors to cut down their routes and hire more men. Then each stand would get better service. Right now the Sinnott News Co. charges \$1.00 per week for service, but I wouldn't mind paying \$2.00 a week if they could remove some of the crap like FOLLIES, EYE, CHICKS & CHUCKLES, which is continually overstocked and never sells. Then maybe this would leave some room for stf.

BOB LIGHTMAN

White's idea for a paperback magazine is a good one, but I believe that already something similar to this was tried in stf some years ago when the British AUTHENTIC or some other British title was appearing in a thick paperback. I don't have any of these in my collection -- I just saw and leafed through one at a magazine store -- so I can't say what the organization was, but Ted's ideas on this line are sound enough.

DON FRANSON

"The Death of Magazine Science Fiction" is one of the best stf articles I've seen in any fanzine to date. I don't like Ted's pocket-book idea too well, possibly because of the necessity to lie to the public; there is too much of that done in stf, and it always offended me, whether it was done by Palmer or Gernsback. If sf mags get so small in size that they can't carry reader's comments, why not an ad on the back page for a separate magazine of commentary? Something like a fanzine, it could contain all letters and suggestions for improvement of the magazine, without taking up space in the book itself. Seems as if I remember a precedent for this, but can't place it.

White here says a truth which very few who have been talking about the decline of magazine sf have said or even realized: that sf must follow in the footsteps of other mundane magazines. It is true that sf has suffered a setback beyond this, however, for some still undecided reason. Dealers are reluctant to handle sf magazines because they don't sell, not the other way around, although it is a vicious circle. But why doesn't sf appeal? Now we are getting somewhere, and the more discussion the better, with an eye to improvement. I don't believe that this hard core of a half-dozen sf mags will dwindle further, though it would be foolish for anyone to start a new mag now.

I missed commenting on YANDRO #82 and wish to go back and pick up Scithers' article. I wish there were more series and sequels in sf, with likable characters, like Hawk Carse (oh, let's not go back that far), Captain Future (not that far either?), or Old Doc Methuselah (still too far?) The limiting factor is about half a dozen stories -- naturally it shouldn't be carried to soap opera lengths. Though real people are changed by events if they are unusual to them, the best series concern events which are logically a part of the life of the hero, like, say, the adventures of a fireman would be. Note all the series listed in Don Day's Index, if you have it. I haven't seen many sf series recently, or

if I have they didn't impress me enough to realize they were series. Maybe that's what's Wrong With Science Fiction Today -- and the next author to hit with a powerful series character might do the field a world of good. After all, that crazy Buck Rogers stuff needs a Buck Rogers, doesn't it? Doc Savage and his ilk sold entire magazines, and the TV westerns of today are best known for their main characters, mostly. I don't mean the hero should be a Campbell-type superman, but only that the reader should get to know him better, then he will want to read about him again, and buy the mag with his name on the cover.

GEORGE WILLOCK

Re Ted White's article in #89. The line about disguising a paperback "anthology" to keep the distributor in the dark. Calling the letter-column "readers' testimonials". Ha! That made my entire day worth living. That couldn't fool a rabid rat. And besides even if some field had the strength to convert to pbs (which SF doesn't have) I'm sure there would be no possible consideration of a letter column. After all, isn't it just so much egoboo?

Personally I think that the tripe printed in PLANET and its ilk is what caused the lack of an SF market. Blaming distribution is just shoving the bull. If there is a demand, it will be met by the distributor. After all, selling mags puts shirts on his back. If PLANET had folded a year or so later than it did the field would probably only have three zines instead of six. Now I'm not saying that the distribution of INFINITY was anything better than terrible. But when that worthy mag hit the market the damage had been done. May I quote Rod Serling; "The audience demands not only original stories and ideas. It demands variety and originality in the presentation. It does not want to recognize the trap-pings in which an idea -- even a new one -- is presented." And that's the whole thing. SF writers and especially the editors drove the audience away.

For God's sake, we have a field that covers the ends of the universe and turn out less readable material than the cowboy writers do and they only have desert, horse, and gun to work with. It's sickening!

EMILE GREENLEAF, Jr.

I am in no position to comment on the intricacies of magazine distribution, but from my efforts in past years to find prozines at the local drugstore, and even at the larger newsstands, I find myself in agreement with Ted's remarks on the subject. But I took a simple way out of the rat-race of looking out for the magazines to appear; I subscribe to the ones I like. Which, from conversations I have had with fans, seems to be a rare procedure. At least, it was rare back before 1950. The argument was that you were often stuck with a copy which had received some degree of mistreatment in the mails, and said copy looked like hell in one's collection. But since I no longer collect, I care not a hoot, so long as all of the pages are there, what the zine looks like when I get it.

I think the idea of a pseudo-anthology is well worth considering. But I know that a lot of people are going to sit on their fannies and say "it won't work!" But the day the last magazine folds, and Campbell tries to find a job with his dowsing rod, there had better be something at least in the planning stage to fill the gap. Ted, want to be the Campbell of the next era? After all, it's your idea!

NORM METCALF



White: If you're going to make corollaries between this and that, chew on this one for awhile. "Every prozine that paid attention to the fans has folded." (This with the exception of those that ceased paying attention, AMAZING and ASF.)

And why do you expect the zines to keep dwindling? With 9 zines, 5 of them monthlies, the field might have reached the leveling off point. As Tucker pointed out, he finds a field with more than 3 titles overcrowded.

And another item is this feeling that fandom can't continue without zines. Certainly, they help, but they're not essential. Recruiting would be more of a problem but not that much more.

And I'd like to challenge your figures on the amount of fiction obtainable from the various zines. Taking the latest issues of each magazine, we find: ASTOUNDING (Jun) 56,000 words of fiction for 25¢ to 50¢ (depending on subs, etc.)

AMAZING (Jul) 53,000 words for 27¢ to 35¢

FANTASTIC (Jul) 47,000 words for 27¢ to 35¢

F&SF (Jul) 52,000 words for 22¢ to 40¢

GALAXY (Aug) 58,000 words for 29¢ to 50¢

IF (Jul) 46,000 words for 25¢ to 35¢

NEW WORLDS (Jun) 46,000 words for 39.7¢ to 50¢

SCIENCE FANTASY (Jun) 40,000 words for 32.7 to 41.7

S F ADVENTURE (Jul) 46,000 words for 32.7¢ to 41.7¢

At the present time the average sf paperback is offering about 60,000 words for 35¢.

But this is for fiction alone and in a magazine we get much more. Articles, artwork, letters, reviews, etc. To assume that each magazine had nothing but fiction; no artwork, etc., they would rank as follows:

88,000 words ASF

77,000 words GALAXY

60,000 words F&SF

57,000 words AMAZING

57,000 words FANTASTIC

{ This is assuming the use of their large type throughout, the small would boost it to 70,000, and also assuming 144 pages, which varies

56,000 words IF

55,000 words NEW WORLDS

48,000 words SCIENCE FANTASY and SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES

And Ted, "original" doesn't mean anything more to Ace than it does to Ballantine. I take that back, it means a slight bit more to Ace. At least they say "First Book Publication" instead of their former "An Ace Original".

But in general I agree with your conclusions. The magazine seems to be heading for a secondary spot on the newsstands. It is significant that neither ASF nor EQMM will reveal their circulation, which they were formerly quite willing to do. In contrast the total combined circulation of AMAZING and FANTASTIC is slightly over 104,000. Offhand, I'd say that at least one of them is pretty close to the folding point.

And "Stephen Marlowe" isn't Evan Hunter, it's Milton Lesser.

CLAUDE HALL

Had Mr. White wanted to check on magazine circulation, a telephone call to the Audit Bureau of Circulations would have offered him some facts -- which he needed rather badly.

Of course, even if White had all the facts he needed, I doubt that he could have done much with them. As an example, analyze this sentence: "A magazine just about has to sell at least 50% of the copies printed to break even, and many stf mags today run under that break-even mark, if not as phenominally low as INFINITY did."

This statement would lead to the logical conclusion that a magazine shouldn't have such a large run. Why, an editor could have only 10 copies printed, sell 5 of them, and break even.

Let me say here, however, that MAD has never come close to distributing (or printing) 3,000,000 copies...a printing run that LIFE hasn't been under in several years. In fact, since I happen to know some people on LIFE, I happen to know their circulation is rising. While all magazines strive to increase circulation, money from readers doesn't have much to do with it. These magazines could safely charge much less -- as long as circulation went up. The reason, of course, is that (based upon circulation rates) a magazine can demand more for advertising. The top senior editor of READER'S DIGEST told me once that SAT EVE POST could give away copies and still make money. Charles also said that RD could manage to exist without a price increase above 25¢ per copy; however, the publisher wanted to pay writers more. RD, you know, shells out money for material that never sees print. They paid the expenses of a friend of mine, \$1300, tipped him four or five hundred dollars for his trouble (two weeks' work) and decided not to use the article.

/From a later letter/ I learned the other day that LIFE has maintained a circulation above 5,000,000 for several years, this being what they guarantee advertisers. MAD, on the other hand, hangs around 1½ million.

SOME EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE PRECEDING MATERIAL

I've given Willick my opinion that PLANET, on the average, published better material than INFINITY. Subscribing is all right if you can afford to have the mag fold and take your money with it. Or if you have faith in its continuance. Price range on the British mags may not be exact. Norm gave only the high figure; I assume that he subscribes. I get them from a British news dealer, so I used the price I pay as the low figure. (British mags charge more for subscriptions than they do for newsstand copies.) And I included postage rates in my figures, too. Has any fandom continued after the original reason for its existence has become extinct? I doubt it. As Jerry Page pointed out last issue, advertising revenue plays a very minute part in stfmag income. Ted was the first to point out that you have to sell a percentage as well as a specified number of copies.



STRANGE FRUIT

Reviewed by
P.S.C.

SL-FAN #1 (Jerry Page, 193 Battery Place, NE, Atlanta 7, Georgia - 15¢ - irregular?) Southern fandom rises again, with a fanzine composed of new material, material left in the files of the old ASFO, and an article by Bob Bloch reprinted from ABSTRACT, which makes it new to most present-day fans. (Just my luck, though; I only got one issue of ABSTRACT, but I remembered Bloch's article.) It isn't one of his best articles, but it isn't bad. A fantasy story by J.F. Streinz goes nowhere rather pompously. One of the big defects of fan fiction is that the characters never converse; they make explanatory speeches. Mostly this is the result of trying to condense a short-story plot into 3 or 4 pages, but I'm not too sure what Streinz' reason was; the amount of plotting he did was barely enough to cover the story length. (The editor comments that the story is different from most fan fiction -- it's different, all right, but unfortunately it isn't any better.) Jerry Burge reviews fanzines and comments on "all-time favorite anthologies"; a good gimmick to draw comment. The editor comments on the present issue and future possibilities of the zine, Bob Farnham gets in a plug for the Southern Fandom Group, and Bernie Wermers opens what I think is a column on the old pulp mags -- with the chief fault that he covers both THE SPIDER and G-8 AND HIS BATTLE ACES in about 1 page worth of typing. Like, you can't say much in that length. Artwork is good to horrible, with Burge doing all the good work and some of the bad. Reproduction is mediocre.

Rating.....4

SPACE CASE #6 (Lee Anne Tremper, 3858 Forest Grove Dr., Apt. A-3, Indianapolis 5, Indiana - monthly - 10¢ per, or 75¢ a year) I dunno; I liked Jerry Hunter's column better than anything else in the issue, but I'm not sure how well it would go over with fans who aren't up on the local jokes of Indifandom. Joe Sanders takes an issue of FEAR apart nicely, but since the mag has folded the dissection doesn't have too much point left. Sam Fath (?) produces a rarity; an enjoyable serious fantasy story. Mike Deckinger writes fan-fiction -- not good, not bad. Jay Crackel has part one of "Fantasy In Outline"; the biggest fault of this is that it's been done so often before, by both fans and pros, and the biggest virtue is that he points out firmly that science-fiction is a branch of fantasy and not the separate tree that some fans seem to think it is. Lee has a fascinating editorial and there are other items like a feghoot and one of Les Gerber's filk songs and a letter column. Fair artwork, good reproduction.

Rating.....5

RETROGRADE #5 (Redd Boggs, 2209 Highland Place, NE, Minneapolis 21, Minnesota - monthly - free for trade or comment) Most of this issue is devoted to Jim Harmon's article on "I Love A Mystery". Maybe my nostalgia is showing, or something, but I thoroughly enjoyed the article; it covered some of the same ground as Noreen Shaw's article in a not-too-recent SPECTRUM and I didn't care a bit. There is a long (for RETROGRADE, that is) lettercolumn, which leaves Redd only a couple of pages to explain a past article that readers seem to have misunderstood and nostalgize about WILD WEST WEEKLY.

Rating.....4

MONDAY EVENING GHOST #5 & 6 (Bob Jennings, 3819 Chambers Dr., Nashville 11, Tennessee - 6-weekly - 15¢ or 12 for \$1.50) In #5, there is a poem by Ray Nelson which was obtained thru the NZF Manuscript Bureau. In #6, the editor comments that Nelson protested that he didn't write it. Whether he did or not, I don't blame him for trying to disclaim it; it's pretty bad. ("Not a bird made a cheep when the shadows did leep..." strictly sic.) The editorial and Clay Hamlin's column on "Forgotten Classics" are usually the best parts of the issue; unfortunately the latter is absent from #6. I never agree with Hamlin, but I enjoy reading his opinions. Mike Deckinger's column manages to be pleasantly varied. The editor's "Writings Of A Confirmed Cynic", absent from #5, center in #6 on the idea that a magazine must have Personality in order to survive. (Like STARTLING, UNKNOWN, OTHER WORLDS -- you might not have liked the personality of OW, but brother it was sure there! -- and other such well-known mags, I suppose.) There are other, primarily serious, articles; not outstanding but not bad at all. The editor's fanzine reviews are, to use one of his own overworked phrases (4 times in 2 pages in #6), worthless. It isn't just that it doesn't sit well when the editor of a mediocre fanzine is hypercritical of other mags; it's mostly that I have very little respect for Jennings' judgement. Rating.....1

GUMBIE #2 (S & V Schultheis, c/o Roycroft, 5407 Del Loma, San Gabriel, Calif. - free for comment - irregular) A small zine, put out to (a) present the editors' new address, (b) quiet the complaints of people who wondered where #2 was and (c) present a reprint from GALAC-TICKS which was funnier when it could be compared to the dead seriousness of the rest of the mag. And on page 2 they say not to review it because they don't have any extras...using all that correction fluid is too much work, so I'll leave the review in. Just don't ask for a copy of #2; ask for #3, instead. (Everybody ask for #3 and run their circulation up to 200. Make me feel foolish, will they.....mutter, mutter, mutter)

STYMIE #1 (Rog Ebert, 410 E. Washington, Urbana, Illinois - irregular - free for comment) This is mostly the editor writing what he darned well enjoys writing; "mood" pieces -- both prose and poetry, political comment, a eulogy on Thomas Wolfe, etc. Since he intends to hold his circulation to 35, you might not be able to get a copy, but it's worth trying. A non-fan friend gives a derogatory opinion of fandom; haven't I seen this before, somewhere? I like STYMIE, but then I like what I know of Ebert (which isn't too much, now that I consider it).

SCANSION #1 & 2, Third Series (P.E. Burke, Box 1170, G.P.O., Sydney, Australia - monthly - free?) This is, by George, a serious fanzine. No fiction, no letters, no artwork, and so far no evidence of humor. Articles are primarily on science fiction, but one on jazz creeps into #2. Poetry (1 per issue) is serious, modern in style, full of meaning and slightly dull. And I seem to have overlooked a perfectly fascinating limerick in #2 which is the best thing in either issue; there is an evidence of humor in the mag. And on second reading the article by Royce Williams in #1 is a sort of dead-pan humor; quite good. Most of the serious stuff comes under the heading of "not-another-article-on-that-again!", but Doug Nicholson's commentary on Buck Rogers is good, though additional length would have improved it. Determinedly serious science-fiction fanzines usually have poor beginnings; with a few more issues SCANSION could develop into an excellent magazine. Rating...3

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REALM OF FANTASY #1 (Jack Cascio, 401 E. Central, Bensd, Illinois - irregular - 25¢) Apparently the reader reaction to INSIGHT prompted the editor to start over again from the beginning. It's an improvement, but.

.... Mike Deckinger starts the issue off with "The Decline And Fall Of Ray Palmer". I could quibble over some of Mike's opinions (such as that until 1951 Palmer "knew just how to coax out the best stories from top writers" -- that's the pulp AMAZING he's talking about, in case you didn't recognize it from the description). And the ending rather peters out ("FLYING SAUCERS may or may not be published today" -- you'd think Mike could have sent a postcard to someone to find out, if he's writing an article on the editor), but it isn't a bad article. The editorial comments that Cascio was accused of distributing filth and pornography in INSIGHT -- at least I didn't accuse you of that, Jack; just of distributing extremely bad writing. He also comments that he would like to put out REALM in a comic book format, and follows up with 3 pages of cartoon strip which I hope isn't a preview of future issues, because it's pretty bad. Allen Baes contributes a couple of poems, one of which only needs some syrupy music to become something which might come blaring from your local disc jockey show. (Someone should write music to it; I can see it now -- "Number 23 on your Hit Parade, 'Lone Maple Hill' by the Thundermugs".) A short letter column proves that at least the editor can take criticism; a good sign. Mike Deckinger contributes a 13-page sf story that's a bit light on plot, but I've read worse. Reproduction is still good. Rating.....2 1/2

PSI-PHI #6 (Bob Lichtman, 6137 So. Croft Ave., Los Angeles 56, Calif. - irregular - 25¢ - coeditor, Arv Underman) This issue is just full of controversy. Rog Ebert says sf isn't literature and never will be, Ben Singer says that fans are emotional adolescents who can't compete in the "normal" world, and Jack Speer intimates that the only good thing about science-fiction is that it, almost alone in Western literature, refuses to bow to the dictum that "love makes the world go round". Then Harry Warner writes of a previously unknown -- to me, anyway -- early French sf mag and its editor, and Ted Johnstone concludes his con report and continues his column on his pet movie project. Rating.....7

STUNK #4 & 5 (Dieter Braeg, 32/35 Schönbургstraße, Vienna 4, Austria) In #5 the editor and his partner in crime Wilhelm von Olbrich change from an all-German-language fanzine to a combination of German and English. If you want a sample of Austrian-German fandom, here it is.

SF-NYTT #13 (Sam Lundwall, Box 409, Hågersten 4, Stockholm, Sweden - bi-monthly - 10¢) Another issue of this Swedish-English fanzine, with the English part being contributed by Lundwall and Alan Dodd.

TERROR #1 (Larry Byrd, Box 714, Costa Mesa, Calif. - irregular - 20¢) The first publication that I've seen of monster-fandom. Reviews of horror-story anthologies, a rather bad piece of fiction by Larry Williams, an equally poor scientific article by Ted Brooke, a movie review, fair cartoon, an article on Boris Karloff featuring an odd sort of sepia-toned photo reproduction, an advertising section and letters (one of them from Acherman, the Campbell of monster-fandom). I can't say that the thought of a fandom devoted to FAMOUS MONSTERS and Hollywood "horror" movies enthralled me, but TERROR has probably achieved what it set out to do and should be considered successful. Special Interest

SICK ELEPHANT #13 (George Wells, Box 486, Riverhead, N. Y. - irregular - price, 2 bottle caps) George has been reproved before for publishing his fanzines on the backs of other people's throwaway sheets. This issue is published on the back of a county agricultural bulletin. George will get panned unmercifully for this, but I enjoy his independent attitude. There isn't much to this issue (3 pages, unless you want to read about fertilizing fruit trees) but what there is is funnier than usual. There are several good gags in the "table of contents" (particularly "The Hand of Fu Manchu -- Fu Manchu shows you how to improve your bridge game". So okay, so I like bad jokes...so shoot me.) Rating.....?

Q (Scotty Tapscott, 353 1/2 E. 13th., Eugene, Oregon - one-shot - free) Published for no better reason than the average one-shot, but it comes out more entertaining than average. Maybe because Tapscott is a better writer than average? Anyway, I enjoyed it.

WHOTH THE WALRUS #9 (Ralph Holland, 2520 4th. St., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio - quarterly - free to anyone who can talk Holland out of a copy) Also distributed in N'APA, now that the organization has been formed. Strictly editor-written, except for a fair poem by Judy Glad. (Nice meter and rhyme, but I got pretty sick of that "my lads" stuff on every other line.) Once again, a writer with whom I don't always agree, but one who can make his opinions interesting. Rating....5

QUELQUECHOSE #1 (Jerry Knight, 6220 Damask Ave., Los Angeles 56, Calif - irregular - free for comment) The writing is the writing of Knight, but the pale mimeoing is the work of Lichtman. Part of the writing is Lichtman, too; he contributes a column. The editor and Raymond Everett handle the rest, except for an Art Rapp reprint. Nothing extra, but keep an eye on this one; the first PSI-PHI was nothing extra, either, and now...well, keep an eye on QUELQUECHOSE anyway. It looks promising.

FEMIZINE #14 (Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Ave., Surbiton, Surrey, England - US Agent, Betty Kujawa, 2819 Caroline, South Bend 14, Ind. - quarterly - 15¢) Ethel lays down the law to her female reader-contributors in the editorial; show some interest, or else! I for one would hate to see FEZ fold; the articles are still too short, but some of them are quite good. Virginia Schultheis has the best in this issue, "exposing" the myth about Steve's well-dressed appearance. Other contributors include Janey Johnson, Ejo Wells, one anonymous one and, last but not least -- not to me, anyway -- Juanita. Us poor stupid males are allowed to participate in the letter-column. Rating....5

FOOP #1 (Ivor Mayne, 33 Chadworth House, Anwell Court, Green Lanes, London N.4, England - irregular - free for comment) The editor comments that this has been "years in the making", literally. Some of the material is a bit dated as a result, but on the other hand you have the fascinating spectacle of Laurence Sandfield and Vinç Clarke in the same fanzine, which you can't hardly get no more. Sandfield's article on jazz isn't dated, but since I don't like jazz I barely skimmed it. "Penelope Fandergaste's" book reviews are dated, but still interesting. John Berry manages to make his comments on a trans-Atlantic phone call which was never completed sound funnier than Jack Douglas. Ken Bulmer writes on the London Circle -- dated, again -- and Roberta Wild contributes some atomic nursery rhymes which are very good. Rating.....5

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 SHANGRI-L'AFFAIRES #51 (John Trimble, 980½ White Knoll Dr., Los Angeles 12, Calif. - bi-monthly - 25¢) The editor announces that any unsolicited manuscripts that can't be used will be sent to Rike's Fanzine Material Pool unless return postage is enclosed. I don't know whether this is intended to be retroactive or not, but by God, Trimble, if you aren't going to use that last review I sent you, send it back and I'll send you a stamp. I'm not about to contribute to any Fanzine Material Pool and I might as well take the time now to repeat to YANDRO readers that any unused contributions sent to this magazine will be returned to the writers unless otherwise specified by the author when it's sent in. And I think fanzine editors have a gall to ask for return postage for free contributions and I won't do it. Three very good items in this issue; Ellik's "Squirrel Cage" column, Sid Coleman's review of "New Maps Of Hell", and Dick Eney's comments on the necessity of the much-maligned atomizing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (the latter partly spoiled by having it mimeoed in black on top of a red-mimeoed illustration. This is affected by fans who think it's simply great layout, ignoring the fact that really good layout doesn't interfere with readability.) There are various other items of fannish interest; a history of the Westercon, other book reviews, fanzine reviews, letters, a filk song, Ejo's account of the Lasfs participation in a hobby show, and Larry Gurney's space-opera parody. A thick one; 42 pages. Good reproduction. Rating.....8

NORTHLIGHT #10 (Alan Burns, Goldspink House, 6 Goldspink Lane, Newcastle-on-Tyne 2, England - bi-monthly? - free for comment) Big item here is a long article by Dick Schultz on the problems and environment of the Negro in the north. Well done, and a subject largely ignored by a population primarily interested in the Southern Race Question. Klaus Eylmann, Horst Margeit and Michel Ehrwein write on Continental European fandom, making more sense than Eylmann did last issue. Terry Jeeves writes on his favorite science fiction stories and the editor contributes his letter/fanzine review column, "In-Tray". Very poor reproduction; one page of the Schultz article was almost illegible. Rating.....6

ESOTERIC #2 (Bruce Henstell, 815 Tigertail Rd., Los Angeles 49, Calif - irregular - 15¢ - co-editor, Milton Stevens) Largely letters, but also contains Don Franson's fiction, "Hoaxmaster of Fandom", a short serious story, anonymously written and not bad, and a liberal sprinkling of short editorials by various staff members. Rating...3

POT POURRI #12 (John Berry, 31 Campbell Park Ave., Belmont, Belfast, Northern Ireland - irregular) This is distributed in SAPS; outsiders can get it by trading, which is how we came by it. Write Berry if you wish to discuss other methods. This, of course, is entirely editor-written. We have Berry on the British aviation industry, Berry on canasta, Berry on Klaus Eylmann (no, no, Marion, I didn't mean it that way). I should say, Berry writes about Eylmann's visit. He also writes about the Giant's Causeway, sticks in a couple of pieces of fiction for good measure, and winds up with 4 pages of comment on the last SAPS mailing. All in all, a thrilling performance. There are several photos in the issue -- of fans, mostly, but including one fascinating shot of the Giant's Causeway. Incidentally, Klaus Eylmann looks like a giant economy size version of Joe Sanders. Impeccable reproduction. Rating...8

 The American public ate almost 16 million pounds of aspirin last year.

CONVERSATION #2 (Lynn Hickman, 224 Dement Ave., Dixon, Illinois - irregular - sent to people he feels would appreciate it) This is strictly devoted to letters, Lynn's comments, and a few news notes. It's enlivened by the very good artwork of Gene Duplantier (Lynn has a talent for nosing out artists who can draw sexy babes) and one of Gregg Trend's typical illustrations, with his odd women and Moorish-looking men. One item worth repeating is that Joe Hensley's first novel, "The Color of Hate", will be out this month as Ace D-452. It's a detective story, but what the heck; I bought "Rumble" just because I know Harlan, so I can do no less for a fellow Hoosier. Besides, Joe's novel will be better than Harlan's teenage crap. Go out and buy a copy.

BUDDHA'S BULLETIN #1 and CRITIQUE #2 (Paul Shingleton, Jr., 320 26th St., Dunbar, West Virginia - irregular? - 15¢ for BB, 10¢ for C) CRITIQUE is a 2-pager this time; strictly editorial comments. BB has 12 pages of editorial, fanzine reviews, and letters. Not much to review in either one; aimed primarily at the younger fans. (All right, Gerber; younger neofans, then.)

THE VILLAGE IDIOT #1 (Tom Milton, 6215 East Gate Rd., Huntington, West Virginia - irregular? - no price listed; try 10¢ -- if CRITIQUE is worth 10¢, this one certainly is) A small mag, featuring "humor" -- some of which is actually funny. Several other fanzines of the same type are "saterized" rather well; possibly Milton has a better eye for humor than he does for spelling. All in all, Tom's humor reminds me strongly of the humorous material of George Wells (which should manage to alienate everyone, particularly Milton and Wells). Frankly, TVI is, in the parlance, a crudzine -- but one which (in direct contrast to the first INSIGHT, for example) makes no boasts about its quality, or attempts to interest older, veteran fans. It's published for its own circle of admirers, and I wouldn't judge it on regular fanzine standards any more than I would TERROR or THE SAUCERIAN REVIEW. The same comments apply pretty much to the Shingleton zines, above.

Short once-overs of various special zines: ROVER #9 (Editor, Alma Hill, publisher, Art Hayes, R.R. 3, Bancroft, Ont., Canada) seems to be an NZF letterzine and is notable mostly for comments by Dave Prosser and Hannes Bok on artwork in general and their own techniques. A FANZINE FOR BJOHN consists of about (I may have miscounted) 54 pages of comments and congratulations to Bjo and John Trimble on their wedding. If you want a copy, you might try Bruce Pelz, the publisher; I wouldn't know if any are left. A very fannish souvenir, and John and Bjo can ignore what Juanita said in VANDY about our not getting a copy; one showed up after the mag was completed. FANTOCINI #25 (Leslie Norris, Box 3442, Los Angeles 54, Calif.) Mostly comments on the SAPS mailing, which won't mean much to anyone outside the organization. One fair poem and one funny cartoon, in addition. SAFARI #6 (Earl Kemp, 2019 No. Whipple, Chicago 47, Illinois) After saying he absolutely would not publish any follow-up of his celebrated "Who Killed Science Fiction?", Earl includes 8 pages of letters on the subject in this issue, plus 2 pages of letter from Avram Davidson on the subject of fanzines in general. (He doesn't like them.) Get this, if at all possible. WARHOON #3 (Richard Bergeron, 110 Bank St., New York City 14, N.Y.) Another SAPS publication, although happily for outsiders, more concerned with editorial ramblings than with mailing comments. But why, when the editor is an artist, aren't there any illustrations in the mag?

GRUMB LINGS

MAGGIE CURTIS, Fountain House, RD#2, Saegertown, Pa. - Kurtzman apparently likes LoCs; I sent him one on "Help!" and got an answer from Harv. If he's so desperate for LoCs that he'll answer them, he deserves to get them. He also deserves to have people buy the mag.

I read the SEP article on Wm. Castle; they did call him "Master of Movie Horror", as I recall, but that doesn't mean they approved of him.

I don't dig Ed Wood. If only he wouldn't splutter in print! And (referring to the first paragraph in the article) Don says that Bradbury had at least three stories in Astounding.

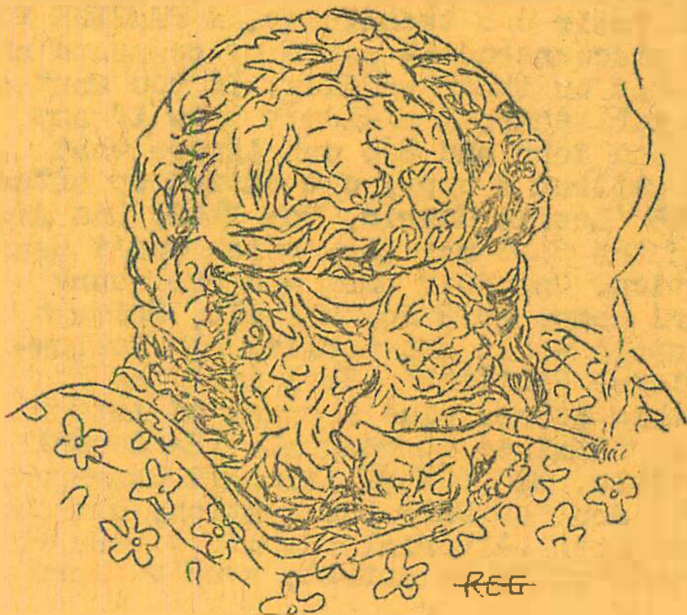
I did not vote Barr so high because of art he had in other imzs. It happened that I thought his pic was superb and I wanted to see more of his work in Yandro. So, I voted him high. I haven't seen much of his other work, as a matter of fact.

I liked the Adams article, "Golden Minutes", "FFII", and the article on Renard.

/You're the sort of reader I enjoy publishing for. So apologies to you and Barr for any implied disrespect. Two of Bradbury's ASF stories were in the "Probability Zero" column, which was Campbell's nearest approach to a fan feature. (Just looking them over, and in one issue the first two names in the column are William Danner and Stanley Woolston.) Oh, there were plenty of pro authors included, but it was strictly a tall tale department, not connected with Campbell's then-current "serious extrapolation" kick. As far as I'm concerned, no editor "deserves" to have his mag purchased, except for the usual reason that one feels the mag is worth the money. RSC/

KEN CHESLIN, 16 New Farm Rd., Stourbridge, Worcs., England - Thank you Jimmy Adams, a most interesting & enlightening article; at last I understand what is meant by "family ties", obviously this was one way of saying that the whole family anchored themselves together when traveling in the pre-invention of gravity world.

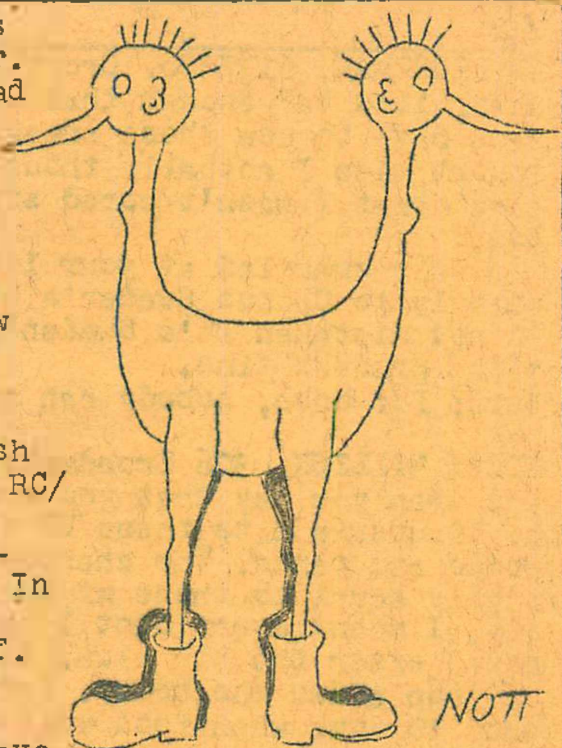
/Ken also disliked the Gilbert cover, saying that Gilbert seemed to be "a morbid type" -- how about it, Robert?/



CLAUDE HALL, 20-65 31st. St., Astoria 5, N.Y. - We tried getting SATA in an avant-garde magazine place and the character in there wouldn't take it. Evidently, SATA is just dirty enough to get refused by a printer, but not filthy enough to warrant being displayed with other publications concerning dope, queers, and beatnikism.

Dick Schultz, in this letter column, discusses something of topical interest...a subject that has come up more than once in casual car and bar conversations. I, too, am proficient with throwing knife and bow

and arrow, and would rather take my chances in the open instead of in a fallout shelter. But just a couple of weeks or so ago, I read where a man took his family into the wilds of California and tried to live off the land and failed miserably. Of course, I fancy that, being a Texan, I'm somewhat more sturdy than a Californian. /You'd better get back to Texas before the bombs start falling, tho; where you are now you wouldn't have a chance of even getting to the open. Clod had quite a bit more to say, but most of it was on Ted White, and I'm too sensible (or too chicken) to publish it. In general, he disliked Ted's article. RC/



CHRIS MILLER, 12 Wheatclose Rd., Barrow-in-Furness, Lancs., ENGLAND - The "Milestones In Science" was Great! More, please.

I hope Ted's wrong. I love mag-type stf. (Even tho I'm a newcomer to S-F -- only 10 years of it -- I've seen many of those fan columns in FUTURE, etc., in BRE's, which gave me the impression that fandom existed. Could a Co. like Nova be formed to carry out his suggestion, or is it too costly for fen to do??

I love Alan Dodd's columns wherever I see them. He seems to do them everywhere.

/Any publishers in the readership know how expensive it would be to operate a company to publish a paperback/magazine combo? Earl? Forry?/

RANDY SCOTT, RR 2, Watts, Oklahoma - I let my father read the first 3 pages of this letter, and he commented on several parts of it. He said that when he was in his teens, there was a report of a man building a "ray" that would knock out a motor several miles away, and the "big-shots", whose products would be endangered by the invention's existence, bought the thing and hid it away. Dad said that that story pops up again every few years. He said that there was also a report of a man who developed a "pill", or something, that would turn water into a super fuel. This was supposedly bought up by the fuel companies and the inventor kept practically a prisoner.

When he read the part about the illustrations, he said he wished that there had been fanzines around and available to him, when he was a boy, that he could have contributed to. However, he did contribute covers and cartoons to CCC magazines, college magazines, Coast Guard magazines and such. He would write things, but with nothing to publish them in, he would just pass them around, the guys would read them and get a laugh out of them, and then the stories would just be torn up. /Maybe it was a dirty trick to ignore the letter and publish the post script, but I'm always anxious to get evidence of the worth of fanzines into print. There's so little of it.... Anyway, if your Dad ever gets an urge to his his opinions or artwork in print, we don't discriminate against the aged; we even publish the work of doddering old grandfathers like Tucker. An account of the "fuel pill" is given in "Forgotten Mysteries: True Stories of the Supernatural" by R. DeWitt Miller. (After all, if you can turn water into wine, why not into gasoline?) RSC/

BOB LICHTMAN, 6137 So. Croft Ave., Los Angeles 56, Calif. - Oh for pity's sakes, it's bad enough that we have to read Feghoot stories, but does Adams have to use those sneaky approaches to get his jokes across. For a short time I actually thought it was a serious article and was surprised that I wasn't bored stiff, but oh how disillusioned I ended up being!

Fair croggled at your line at the conclusion of the Cactus review. Not only is Cactus Sweden's best English-language fanzine, Buck, but if I'm not mistaken it's Sweden's ONLY English-language fanzine, at least at the present time.

/Sure; for once, nobody can argue with my review. RSC/

GEORGE WILLICK, 306 Broadway, Madison, Ind. - Are you pulling the fans' legs when you say that you are saving dough to buy a cannon? You must be. If Russia hits these US they won't be coming around with invasion troops and tanks. The chances of your home being invaded by tanks are roughly equal to those of seeing the Queen Mary on the Wabash. Personally, I spend every cent I can muster on thick steaks. They won't be around after the big blow. I can take anything I need out of the local gun shop after the bombs. And if you're afraid of the dog eat dog that's bound to come when food runs out then why not just get a Magnum. That will stop any car or truck trying to crash your pad. Plus it's portable. And to anyone of you people that are thinking what's this guy know about what Russia is going to do. May I say that I just finished four years in Air Force Intelligence and have better information than the editorials of certain Christian fanzines.

/Oh, I'm not getting that anti-tank gun for use on Russians. You see, they're raising taxes around here again, and..... Incidentally, concerning your comment on the Queen Mary, does anyone know where I could get a good used submarine? In a later letter, George explains that in referring to "Christian fanzines" he didn't mean SF zines, he meant Christ zines. Such as THE PLAIN TRUTH, maybe? (And here I thought he meant ERB-dom....) RSC/

And to Dick Schultz who says tha the can do fair with the bow and arrow; I think he's got the right idea if he plans on starting a dynasty but for this generation there are more than enough bullets to last us even after we wipe one another off the face of the globe. For example, near Omaha there exists an ammunition dump that is 20 miles long and as far as you can see deep. If Dick cares to, we can meet halfway and give Coulson a scare. After that threat you made on Dick's life in #60 I think you deserve a scare.

/Never try to scare people who are naturally jumpy, like me. It can be fatal. (Like, I wouldn't stop to assess the situation; I'd shoot first.) Anyway, why don't we all meet at the Naval ammunition depot at Crane?/

BOB SMITH, 1 Timor St., Puckapunyal, Victoria, Australia - No doubt this matter of survival after Atomigeddon is discussed more widely by the public since "On The Beach" and other movies with a similar theme hit the screens, but most fans or pure sf readers probably have it figured out down to the last can of soup! I imagine the average US citizen, who has never had to consider a "bomb-shelter" home away from home, would find talk of such things distasteful, but the average Englishman would be on familiar ground. The first couple of years of my teens were spent almost constantly in the "back-garden" type of shelter that littered London during the war. No doubt the modern atomic-style shelter would be

a far cry from those small, damp tin-and-earth affairs, but I never want to find out.

NORM METCALF, Hd. Co., USA Range Command, Camp Perry, Ohio (address good until Aug. 24, he says) - Wood: In addition to "Doodad" Bradbury had two Probability Zero shortshorts. But the main idea behind Campbell's move seems sound enough. He has enough subscribers who won't care as long as the contents remain unchanged. Newsstand sales are low enough that with the gradual fading of the title no one should have any trouble following the evolution and be aware of the event. For after all, ASF isn't being edited for the fan, it's being edited for the sf reading segment of the public. Now what I'm about to say has been said several times before but bears repeating. To the average person sf is a word to despise. And if Campbell can avoid the labels and prejudices that accompany these labels then more power to him.

/I'm gradually coming over to the opinion that the name-change may be a good thing. I still think ANALOG is a stupid title, and since ASTOUNDING was the first stimag I read I'm sorry to see the title go -- but I'm willing to admit that Campbell knows more about editing than I do. RSC/

Calkins: You've pretty well summed up my sentiments with regard to FU's Omnibus. But still the best review of it seems to have been Redd Boggs' in RETROGRADE. Redd managed to be hilarious and critical at the same time.

Bob: One reason for not selling military experiences while you're in is the fact that with national publication embarrassing questions might be asked by the brass and the serviceman would be faced with some unpleasant duty. Of course, after discharge then you're fairly free to do as you please. And most of these supposedly funny books about the service don't ring true at all, the authors keep slipping up on details which are easily checkable.

You didn't look very closely at George Locke's minutes in Shaggy or are you letting your sense of humor run away with you?

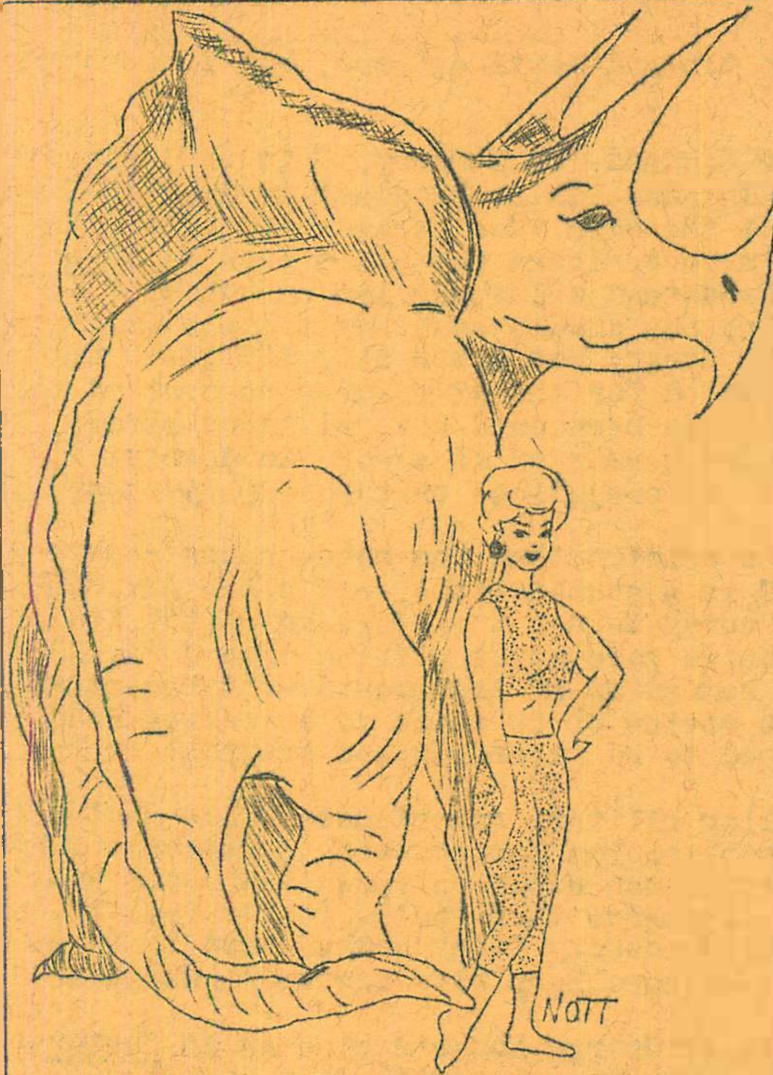
/Well, they sounded as plausible as Weber's in CRY. I didn't mean that Locke should rush to a book publisher with his military experiences immediately, but surely there are enough ex-servicemen among fandom's humorists to provide material for several books. Probably the authors have my idea about humor; don't let a few facts spoil a good story. RC/

And who gives a hoot who's reviewing what, Evans or Eney? On second thought perhaps you do because you know them from other writings and wish to make comparisons and relate their reviews to the rest of their writings. So my question is answered prior to its asking. But a review is a review and should be able to stand on its own two feet and not have the reader prejudiced by the name of the reviewer. Many of Knight's reviews, for example, seem to be appreciated because they're by Knight. And he's quite inconsistent in his reviewing. Go back in time a few years and compare the original reviews with the versions in "In Search of Wonder" and then from there go on to the watered stuff in F&SF.

And on this BALLAST which Don Thompson is it?

Donaho: Gardner also proved that he doesn't know much about radio when he asserted that these tales of people picking up WLW with false teeth, etc., are false. Under the right conditions the false teeth would form a diode, the body would act as antenna and bone conduction would carry it to the ears -- or the mastoids or whatever the proper aural conductor is behind the ears.

Ebert: The main thing I've got against the NRA is the National



Rifle-Pistol Matches and here the fault lies not with them but with the Army and their hare-brained ideas on how to treat airmen in their clutches. If you read "Beetle Bailey" you know what goes on here. /I have yet to read a review, fan or pro, which "stood on its own two feet". The only way of getting any benefit from a review is to figure out how your prejudices stack up with those of the reviewer. Which you can't do when the reviewer keeps changing identity. I didn't know there were two Don Thompsons. This is the Pennsylvania one, if that helps. RSC/

JOHN BAXTER, 29 Gordon Rd., Bowral, N.S.W., Australia - I was looking forward to seeing "Sex In History". But if Sidney Coleman's review is any indication of this book's content, I'll pass, thank you. The stodgy and unpolished style don't help one's opinion of book or article either. Was this supposed to be published? If so, I'm not impressed with Mr. Coleman's writing ability. If, as I suspect, he meant this

item to be extracted from rather than printed in full - a view which is borne out by his terminal remarks - then its low quality is understandable. With re-writing, and perhaps a little simplification, this could have been interesting critical work, whereas it comes out like so much treacle - murky, sticky and slow.

/Sid's article was sent in as a letter, which is why the P.S. As for your other comments, it wasn't a review, it was a commentary, as stated in the title. Aimed primarily at people who had already read the book. And it didn't need re-writing. RSC/

Adams' little vignette was possibly the best item in Y89 - this says little for the rest of the contents, because "The Story Of Gravity" is no masterpiece, but it got a laugh.

What? "Whither Science Fiction" AGAIN? Oh, well, like Boy Meets Girl, it's a subject that never palls. I wish somebody would think up a new target for loquacious fan, though. What about "Whither the READER'S DIGEST?" Or "Why I Think John W. Campbell Should Be Elected President?" Both provide unlimited opportunity for imaginative extrapolation - both require very little factual background on the part of the writer - and both are as pointless and sterile as the sort of thing that Ted White is offering here. Does anybody really care whether ASTOUNDING, er, I mean ANALOG (hard to get used to, isn't it?) folds? Assuming for a

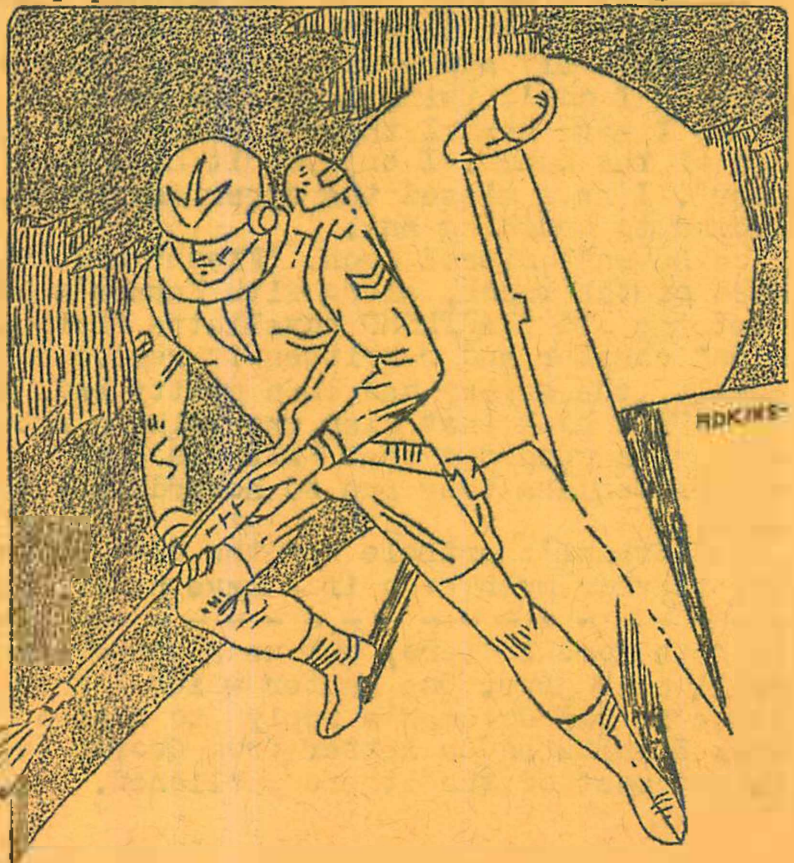
moment that some keen fans do, is their collective opinion even one hundredth of the power required to make sure that this magazine continues to appear? I doubt it. The combined wrath of many, many people did not stop JWC from switching titles - will the same minority action have any effect on a field as big as magazine sf? Again, it's a moot point. Certainly, writing long and tedious articles in a magazine with YANDRO's relatively limited circulation isn't going to contribute much. /No article in a fanzine is going to influence any important segment of the population, and what of it? Should we all just quit publishing, on that account? As for tedious, you and Claude Hall are a minority of two. I've no objection to you having your opinions, but I don't agree with them. RSC/

DON FRANSON, 6543 Babcock Ave., No. Hollywood, Calif. - Looking a gift horse in the mouth (Forry gave me a copy), I can't say much for HELP! I got only a few laughs out of it. FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND has much funnier jokes. Maybe it's because Forry writes them. I wouldn't say that Ackerman has created a new fandom. Actually FMOF is itself a fan magazine -- of monster movies. The fandom is not of FMOF, but of the movies, and the monsters in them.

/But the mag is looked up to, and imitated, in the amateur zines, in much the same way that early sf fanzines contained serious fiction and science articles patterned after the promags of their time. The second issue of HELP! is better than the first, though it's still no competition for MAD in my estimation. RSC/

I don't see why someone always brings up SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN whenever discussing popular science articles in science fiction magazines, since the articles in SA are not popular, they're deep. In fact, too deep for me. I read SCIENCE DIGEST. The articles are readable by the laymen (and even scientists are laymen in some other field) and are a gold mine of new ideas. The best popular science writer appearing in SF magazines is Asimov, and his articles are often reprinted in SD. Does this mean that F&SF has gone fact on us? I don't mind one or two science articles in sf magazines, we have had them from the beginning and now I see by SF TIMES that AMAZING will have a fact article or two. I only hope this is not a symptom of illness, as have been changes to fact in other prozines, but merely an effort to dignify the magazine.

/SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN is written for laymen; just for more advanced laymen than SCIENCE DIGEST. I don't buy it, because they usually have only one article per issue that I'm interested in, but I can't say that I've ever had any trouble understanding those articles that I did read.



And the series of "Scientific American Books", which were composed of reprinted magazine articles grouped by subject, were excellent. I'll take Ley over Asimov, but that's because I'm more interested in what he writes about. RSC/

DON ANDERSON, 141 Shady Creek Rd., Rochester 23, N.Y. - I'm trying to figure what Dick Schultz is figuring to do with that throwing knife. Like, knock over a little small game, maybe, but small animals are mighty tough targets. As far as self defense goes, I have never heard of a single instance of a person being killed by a thrown knife, movies and tv notwithstanding.

LESLIE SAMPLE, 2735 Willingham Dr., Columbia, So. Carolina - Seems to me that Campbell's change of the name from ASTOUNDING to ANALOG doesn't really make much difference. When the new amendment to the US Post Office Rules is passed (and I fear it will be, in spite of the protests of indignant fen) the mag is doomed anyway. So why quibble over a title? /Maybe that's why Campbell is interested in the Dean Drive -- he figures on delivering the mag without using the Post office. RSC/

PHIL HARRELL, 2632 Vincent Ave., Norfolk 9, Va. - This was the most fabulous ish of YANDRO (#90) that I've yet seen. I could tell it was going to be even before I opened the holding staples to reveal the Magnificent Dollens (ahhh, Memories of Detention) cover which I have since framed, YANDRO and all.This ish was so magnificent that I can't say enough Good things about it. /There's more, but we're modest. Why don't all of you readers write a letter like this, at least once a year? Makes a publisher feel good./

CRAIG COCHRAN, 467 W. 1st. St., Scottsdale, Arizona - Wood was interesting but I gather from his article that he didn't enjoy "Flesh" very much and thought it set a bad example of the new science fiction. I don't entirely agree with him. If the Beacon books are the new science fiction I don't think that I am going to like it but of the Beacon books I have read I thought Phil's was the most different and interesting of the bunch. I enjoyed it more than "Virgin Planet" or "Troubled Star". I have missed the other ones because I just haven't gotten around to ordering any. /You haven't missed much. "Flesh" and "Virgin Planet" are probably the best of the bunch, along with Farmer's new "A Woman A Day" -- which is just the old STARTLING novellette "Moth And Rust" spiced up with a new first chapter and rewritten to remove the connections with "The Lovers". Mostly, the series has been pretty bad. RSC/

This book that Alan was talking about seems to be made up of those strange happenings that FATE was always printing. I never did like the things because they are so absurd that they made me sick when I read them.

Giovanni's article was the best thing in this ish. I enjoyed reading it very much even if I have never heard of Maurice Renard.

We have more letters, but we also have a paid advertisement, so I guess we'll quit here. One letter which I know will be held over until next issue is Sid Coleman's reply to Donaho. Then we have several pages from Dick Schultz and a letter from George Wells, and....what do you know? We got most of the others published. See you in Pittsburgh. RSC

SATA

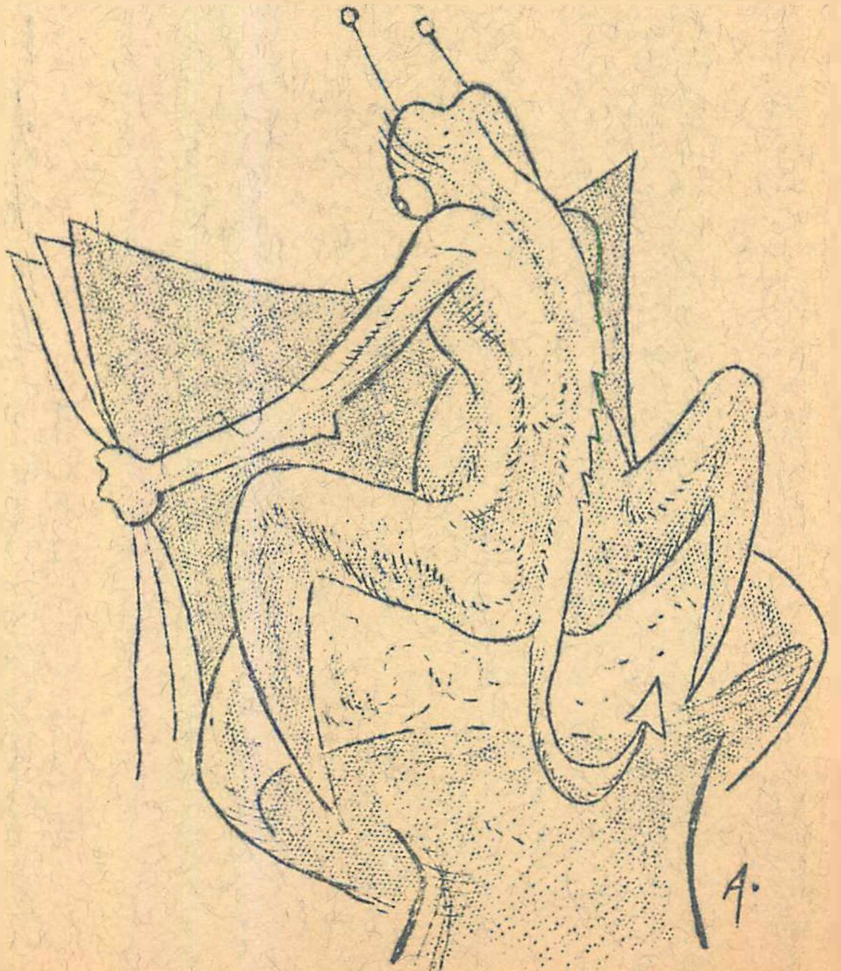
For the Satanical minded...SATA provides humor off the beaten track—in fact, the type of humor you have to track down. In this issue, #12, the infamous bullfiddle player is back...but hidden so well even the astute will have difficulty digging him up.

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