

FANTASY-NEWS

SUPPLEMENT

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REPRINT
DEPARTMENT

IN DEFENSE OF TIME TRAVEL

By Dale Tarr

LUNAR ASTRONOMERS
by Robert G. Thompson

Reprinted from TESSERACT, May, 1936

Once two astronomers looked at the
Earth
And both of them were of Lunar
birth

Quote one with a face like a knife:
"Of course that Earth can bear no
life;

With those gases sprinkled every-
where,

Of course that Earth no life can
bear."

"Yes," gravely replied the other,
"Altho the Earth really is our
mother

Things on her surface weigh like
lead,

So consequently she is dead."

The moral is this, sisters and
brothers:

What on one planet the need for
life covers

Could not be stood on many others.

.....
ANOTHER REPRINT IN OUR NEXT ISSUE.
HAVE YOU A FAVORATE STORY OR POEM
YOU'D LIKE TO SEE REPRINTED HERE?
WRITE AND LET US KNOW! (ED).....

I feel that there should be
some introductory to this Defense
but perhaps that is only the voice
of precedent, so let's take a
cold plunge. Today there are sev-
eral controversial issues in the
scientific field which have not
been unraveled. What is the matter?
Haven't we any logicians, men who
can gather a few facts and from
them deduce the real truth? Or per-
haps there are not enough facts
known? I contend that the facts about
time which are known at present are
insufficient to permit either the
denial or affirmation of the possi-
bility of time travel. Since there
is no evidence for the affirmative,
we cannot accept its possibility--
--but since there is no evidence
against it neither can we deny it.
No evidence against it? I believe
not. In this Defense I shall en-
deavor to overthrow all opposition
to the possibility of time travel.
Admittedly, I am not showing any-
thing in its favor but the fact
that there is nothing against it.

I

Contradictories are two state-
ments, such that if one is true the

other must be false or vice versa. Armed with this sensible weapon I shall attack the well known grandfather paradox, which is: 'If you invented a time machine you could go back and kill your grandpa before - well before it was possible for you to be born later! This idea may be split into two assumptions or statements. One: You invented a time machine. Two: You went back and killed your grandpa at such a time as to forestall your own birth.

It is observed that these statements are contradictory and only one can be true. If the first statement is taken to be true to make the argument possible, the second statement automatically becomes false and there is no argument. Besides, who would want to kill their grandpa? A sane man or a man desiring to make the experiment? Suffice it that he did not succeed, perhaps thru the effort of the hero of the story.

II

Question of the existence of a time machine before it is built. Supposing you made one in '39 and slipped back to '37. Isn't that a contradictory? I should say not. The materials with which the time machine was later built are at different points thruout the earth at that particular instant of '37. The question here is: Should the time machine exist as itself in '37 or as the materials from which it was made which latter are scattered hither and yon? If the latter alternative is accepted the materials of the time ship from '39 must occupy the exact places occupied by

the materials in '37 and those materials are already there. This is contradictory, so.

III

Law of conservation of mass-energy. This law is a premise so far upheld by the limitations of our measurements and location. I might here cite the Irrelevant and the odd gain in mass experienced by electrons under increased velocities. Finally I might say that the modern universe is a space time continuum and the law only holds true for the whole of space and time. Any addition of energy from any present time to any other time merely results in an uneven distribution of energy in time and there is an analogous situation of energy in space! (Perhaps time and space both have uneven distributions of energy and the universe will die when both have stabilized. How's that for a theory?)

IV

Elapse of time in the ordinary universe as compared with that of the time machine. The objection has been raised that a year and hour cannot elapse in the same interval because they are different intervals by definition. That is not the issue and in fact there is no issue. The time machine was built to travel thru time at either a slower or faster rate than the universe. In other words it possessed its own time as differing from that of the universe. The terms involved are simply used for comparison.

Suppose that you and I are on a sphere, standing at 'A' and you decide to walk over the surface to 'B' a distance of ten yards. I drop thru a tunnel starting at 'A' and emerge at 'B' having covered a distance of ten feet. Will you deny that I got to 'B' first because by definition ten feet are less than ten yards, and that therefore I could not be there?

V

There is no record, mythical, leg-

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endary or historical that can be interpreted as the appearance of a time traveller. Now just who waded thru all these records and who interpreted them. Couldn't there have been a few missed? Is the interpreters infallible? Unless the time traveller expressly stated that he had time travelled, how would his observers know that he had? They would probably have ascribed to him magical powers such as invisibility. Lastly, if a time machine is built it will probably be so far futureward that the few thousand years covered by our histories will offer no attraction to the traveller.

VI

dx/dt expresses the rate of change of x with respect to t where x is any quantity and t is the time. It has been said that since traveling in time makes the variable x become representative of time or t also, the statement dx/dt becomes dt/dt . So since the derivative of the variable t with respect to itself is one, the rate of change is one unit per unit change in time which is only ordinary existence therefore making time travel impossible. Bah!

The basic idea behind the time machine is that its rate of change in time varies from the rate of change of the universe in time. This may be interpreted as an expression of the different times involved. The variable x representing the time SHIP's time rate is not the variable t representing the time rate OF the universe.

VII

In my rather wide range of reading I have encountered no authority who ventured more than a hesitant opinion upon the possibility of time travel. As someone has said, "An opinion is merely ignorance of facts. Where there are facts there can be no opinion."

THE TERRIBLE TANNER by DALE TARR in the APRIL issue of FANTASY SCOUT

HE CAME AND WENT

Into the world came a sage,
A man of wisdom unequalled.
He knew not fear, hate, or rage:
His godliness was unsequaled.

And e'en though he was now gone,
Passed from the sight of man,
He left his mark the world on,
The world of a sun quite warm.

He was not the God of Old---
Or so did say the Sons of God.
But he was of unhuman mold,
A mold cast not from earthly clod.

They say he was sent from without
To give us a final chance,
To let man dispell all the doubt
As to his firm Life Stance.

But he found Evil not at a dearth;
For Man could not prove his own worth,
So the Sage did leave the sphere
Where Man-beasts did at Wisdom leer.

---By A, Hretic, descendant of Dale Hart. Being the saga of another reformer who came to Earth a half-million years after the crucifixion of his predecessor.

.....

DIFFERENT

A stonr has life--of that I'm sure,
For who's not moved by their lure?
Their life is merely unlike ours;
As, unlike life: Men and Flowers.

---I. Discern

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WRITE IN YOUR LETTERS NOW !!

READERS'
DEPARTMENT
for FANTASY-NEWS and
all SUPPLEMENTS

HARRY, PLEASE NOTE!

Dear Editor:

I don't mind having half a page in FN filled up each issue with pro ratings, because I'm never able to read all the titles anyway. But don't you think that Harry rates his stories much too highly? For instance, 100% would be just about perfect, and yet he gives many stories ratings in the 80's and 90's. Obviously this would lead to complications at those rare times when a story turns up that is head and shoulders above the rest. If he gives the IMPOSSIBLE WORLD 90%, what would THE BLACK FLAME rate in proportion to that? From this I think you can see how fallible his ratings are; he's like the newspaper editor who uses his whole front page to advertise an athlete's sore hand, and then is lost when a president dies!! Would it be asking too much of him to have him cut down on his figures a bit?

JIM AVERY

(Well, Jim, since we have nothing to do with the ratings but publish them we turn you right over to Harry Warner. Answer thru your column, Harry. Ed)

SHORT AND TO THE POINT

Dear Editor:

Personally I favor more amateur and pro magazine news and reviews... less movie and radio stuff, but don't let that bother you.

ROBERT D SWISHER

(Thanks for your "likes", Bob, you'll find all the pro & fan mag news you can digest in the pages of FN, most of the readers like SCIENTI-FILMS & Radio news, so they stay in. In fact, we've just made WALTER SULLIVAN our Radio Editor-Ed)

RE: SPEER'S ARTICLE IN OUR JANUARY '39 ISSUE OF 'SCOUT'

Dear Editor:

The SCOUT, I am glad to see, has been enlarged. While I'm speaking of the SCOUT let me make a few comments on Speer's article you published in that mag. Altho Speer could, and did, draw a parallel between the history of STF and that of the world, he really hit the nail on the head when he said that science fiction had really seen two distinct eras. Those, in my opinion, differ somewhat from Speer's notion of them. In the first era, I would say, the old pros were predominant and the 2nd and present era belongs to the fans with their various mags and activities.

RAY PAULEY

(Your comments on Speer's article are very interesting, I myself would have placed the parallel differently then you and Speer did, but let us hope that Speer comes back from his "exile" and write us a letter commenting on yours. How's about it Speer?--Ed.)

MORE LETTERS IN OUR NEXT ISSUE OF SCOUT. WRITE IN YOUR COMMENTS, GOOD OR BAD. WE NEED BOTH TO IMPROVE OUR MAGS.

We would just like to state that both FANTASY-NEWS and FANTASY-SCOUT are 100% in back of NEW FANDOM in their fine work in helping the fan world and staging the coming WORLD STF CONVENTION (Taurasi-Ed)