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504
220
4470

Speer's

▲ SUSTAINING PROGRAM ▲

FALL/F45

CENTRAL CBLA

The review department this time is even longer than I expected. I promise not to do it again. Anyway, now you know what a full length article is.

Since we have a little space here: Widner reports these latest Armed Service Editions: The Golden Rooms (dawnman story) by Vardis Fisher; Wells' Island of Dr Moreau; HPL's Dunwich Horror and Other Weird Tales. 26 Oct "Suspense" broadcast Dunwich Horror, Ronald Colman sounding bored and ineffectual as Dr Armitage. PM panned Wollheim's Novels of Science, save Wells and Stapledon. The Enchanted Forest is a grade C technicolor with a little fantasy. Art uses adjectives "corny", "punk", and "maudlin" on it.

Jack Speer

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SEATTLE 5, WASHINGTON
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

REMARKS ON THE THIRTY-SECOND MAILING

Pp 1 - 15

With very large clunks of the Thirtieth and others

PEAK-PEAKID

P 15

Ne plus ultra

REJECTED: TYCHO

P 16

The Hilly Magnifyd Woggle-Bug gets scorched

ITEMS FROM MY SCRAPBOOKS

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The atomic idea domesticated, and other things

LAST STOP TO LIMBO

P 17

The idea's free to any sucker who wants to try it

ARS QUOTEWORTHY

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Timely

(continued from page 18)

an end unquestionably successful. But the people's will had long since ceased to act on the slower violence, and against the nine years' peril, the future's, nothing was being done--or would be done.

Doubtless this would look like pure and limpid comedy if one could get far enough from it, as far, say, as Betelgeuse. From intergalactic space one could read those dissonant headlines--victory over disaster, acquiescence in war, courteous acceptance of the nation's deterioration--with no feeling except a dispassionate admiration for the ingenuity of Almighty God, who made man as he is. But here on this inconsiderable planet the irony was intolerable, the paradox too painful to be borne. On this planet it was a shattering shock to perceive at one time an aroused determination to defeat catastrophe and a universal acceptance of extinction. From Betelgeuse all lines would run the same way and look alike and nothing would matter either way. But even on Betelgeuse there must still be, beyond the air and ice, some appreciation of the wild, the paradoxical knowledge that one carried over for a moment from the hurricane to the greater death: the knowledge that this proved it need not be.

REMARKS ON THE THIRTY-SECOND MAILING ~

I know that this department this time is going to be longer than ever before, and I'm not going to try to hold it down on this occasion, there being much more than one mailing to review.

First, there are a few remarks on the Twenty-seventh mailing, marginally marked but not remembered at the time this dept reviewed said mailing from memory....

Thanny: Besides full length articles, there are those written to fit a cramped space, like Stefnews's editorials, and also articles in which the writer imposes some check upon himself in the way of length--not so Fla....

En Garie's satire on legal terminology and phraseology is like a lot of satires: He makes the thing ridiculous by instancing the giving of an orange, but completely fails to touch situations in which such language might actually be used. As for the orange, one would not even have to say "Have an orange", if your actions made your meaning clear. But when you're giving something like a piece of land, there are a lot of things to be considered, that the layman doesn't think of. Because of its permanence, land can have time-segments given to different people which are valuable enuf to worry about, even though they aren't complete ownership. If you say "To A and his heirs", does the land have to go to his heirs (if any), or can he sell it? and if his heirs had a future right in it, could A be restrained from cutting down all the trees on it and letting the topsoil wash away? The gobble-dygoon is often overdone, but there's a reason to use more words than "The farm is yours"....

Tale of the 'Evans: "instantaneous sub-conscious evaluation of all the available data" may be responsible for more good hunches that psychic fanatics are willing to grant. And as to others, coincidence may explain more than you think probable. You say you've often had hunches that certain persons or letters would be at home when you got there, and sure enuf, they were. Well, I've often had the same hunches, and sure enuf, they weren't. Balance my surplus of misses against your surplus of hits, and it may average out. The argument about possibility of imagination in a being with complete knowledge, is due to failure to get clear what you mean by knowledge. Knowledge ordinarily refers to facts, things that exist or have happened. Sometimes it also includes understanding of principles of natural law. From these you might be able to deduce what would happen if certain objects should come together, as they never have; but there is nothing in the proper meaning of "knowledge" which refers to imaginary or future events. The omniscient being's imagination would be free....

Sardony: Listening Post: So people after a certain age do have their minds made up about the nature of things. A flat refusal to face a contradicting phenomenon is bad, but I think a strong reluctance is excusable. I find something rather foolish in the HGWells who two years earlier said that any sane man who found himself at the controls of a bomber in war would turn it around and fly it back home, saying in 1940 in substance, "whoopee! Let's blast hell out of the dirty Nazis!" Some stability of opinion is desirable, even of opinions that we believe wrong....

Agenthite of Inwit says prohibition laws can't stop drinking, you must remove the causes of the drinking urge (and he makes an analogy to pacifism). We had a similar topic up in law school recently; sure, somebody said, the poorer classes aren't getting the legal service they need, and lawyers mainly serve the moneyed interests, but that's the fault of the economic system, not of the lawyers. Rather than shift the responsibility around from place to place (of course, Doc has his own idea of the one field in which the roots of all evils lie), I think a frontal attack on symptoms has much to commend it....

How do you get that Yhos format without special typer carriage, art? Is it half a regalength stencil divided horizontally? Surely if you folded up one end of a stencil to put it in wideways, the creases would ruin half of it.... Blitherings: So the non-union laborer does benefit sometimes from organized labor. Natheless methinks the principles of the situation are such that laborites should be very, very sure of their rectitude before enforcing closed shops. If a man helps me push my car to get it started, that's fine, and I'm grateful to him; but if he then demands that I go several blocks out of my way to tow his car to a filling station, I may wish he'd left me to start my car by myself.

and before I forget, in case future fen use this department to check on the contents of PAA mailings, be it noted that Yngvi-1944 was apparently intended as a pre-Mailing last fall.

So we come to the monstrous Mailing 30-B, copy of which I finally got on swap from Gerry de la Ree.

Number One: Gad! I thot Yerke was the only one to spell "covers" "covours". ' ' Nobody's being "forced to vote against his wishes" if voting is made a requirement for maintaining membership. Any more than he's forced to contribute anything to the mailings. ' ' You keep on saying "tourjours gai", William, and people will start thinking you don't know any better.... The Bedside Fassbeinder could easily have been pretentiously sophisticated junk, but wasn't. The style might be accused of being too derivative, but I don't suppose there's any good reason to let Esquire have a monopoly on it.

Outlandi: It should be "Le Nouvel ackerman", or perhaps "Le Neuf ackerman" (no, not nine of him!), unless PTL was mimicking bleery French. Some of the comes herein actually do attain the enigmatic attractiveness of some of those from the diablerist Press, and when they don't, the burlesk is usually pretty good.... Fan-Dango requires no comment.... Fen has rather nice artwork on the front, and the shading-screen work on the back continues to puzzle me. How? ' ' I wonder how livable life in the communist Utopia would be without that Bourgeois bushwa about fidelity to pledged word, etc. "Distribution according to contribution" and "distribution according to need" are both unsatisfactory for establishing a ratio for the division of goods. How can you possibly measure the relative "contribution" of such dissimilar factors as risk-taking, capital, labor, etc; and how can a man's need for a mimeograph, camera, or anything else above the bare necessities of life, be measured against others'? and does "equality of opportunity" mean equally good conditions of upbringing, too--do you propose to put all children in state-run nurseries till they come of age? (These questions are all apostrophized at McNutt)... Toward Tomorrow: I had thot that a martyr was someone who accepts death in preference to renunciation of a faith, cause, or principle. Does Bigger Thomas meet that definition? ' ' Your "rather primary discourse on metaphysics" actually deals with an entirely different branch of philosophy, ethics. ' ' About the things you favor: The Senate is the one place left in our government, where a minority can stand up on its hind legs and speak out as much as it wishes. Isn't it preferable to endure some abuse of that privilege, than to abolish it? The good points of social security may be outweighed by the evil of making it impossible for small establishments to operate at a profit, if you impose on them the paperwork that this and similar laws entail. You may be in favor of hastening the downfall of capitalism by encouraging its abuses and eliminating its better aspects; seems like a perilous proposition to me. as for federal control of education: with

the present differences of opinion over what and how to teach (and also the relative merits of long education and early entry into practical affairs), I think a lot of freedom for experiment should be left to our forty-eight test units. One Kepner working for better educational laws in California or New York or Texas might accomplish more good than one Kepner working for better educational laws against the tremendous inertia and countervaleances of the whole United States. And would you like to have a Federal News Service under a republican administration? I check you 100% on abolishing the electoral college. "In a Matter of Shades, we find such question-begging (i.e., conclusions implied in the terms) statements as, "it is a question of whether all men shall be treated as men", dubious remarks like "This war claims basic human freedom as its chief issue" (semanticists, to horse!), an erroneous definition of dolichocephalic as roundhead (page 5), and the jousting at a straw man in the person of the dogmatic lady he met. This may sound like quibbling and avoiding the issue, Jim, but these are faults you should correct if you hope to be a good persuader. On page four, the assertion that the enemy is "every man, anywhere, who favors the continued unjust oppression of any race, class, or ideological group" is weakened by the inclusion of the interpretable "unjust", but you seemed to feel the qualifier was necessary. I don't see the point of your remark about the "instinctively repulsive odors". I don't remember saying anything about that; indeed, the first I heard of it was from Widner in 1943. And what are you maintaining in connection with Washington DC--that southerners out of the goodness of their hearts have refused to pass segregative laws for the District? Do I indeed hold up the lowest type of uncultured negro beside the highest type of white? What about the Army tests that put 4/5 of them in the class with the lowest 1/5 of whites? You must establish your defence lines somewhere else. I was much interested in the autobiographical note. "As I understand the story of little Pat (which incidentally seems a mighty poor reason to give for not believing in churches), she was not born out of wedlock." Let man revert to the natural state of savagery? What kind of summum bonum do you entertain, sir? "Maybe the floors of some temples are less beautiful than grass, but I've seen plenty that laid over most any weedy grassplot I've ever seen. A good-looking lawn is as artificial as a tile floor." To be effective, the simplification of spelling must be systematic? Why so? Isn't it in the nature of language to be unsystematic? Methinks that reforms aimed at specific practical objectives have more chance here, as in most things relating to human life. "Yes, the Supreme Court justified Ulysses, out on the grounds that its sincere artistry justified the use of the w.k. four-letter Anglo-Saxon words. See how dangerous, then, is your conclusion that they "should be fairly good enough for the rest of us to use without apology". You aren't Shakespeare nor James Joyce, chum. "Yipe. I finally found out that "aka" isn't Espranto, but "owka" beats me." The Sappho cover was intended as a so-subtle suggestion that Ozymandias could apply to Hitler, that's all. "You seem to be exaggerating in saying that no religionist can doubt that his faith is absolutely right. I've known plenty of members of quasi-fundamentalist as well as modernist churches who privately expressed doubts about the creeds, and had worked out their own ideas." Since your cryptogram following Yhos doesn't seem to be either transposition or simple substitution (the letter q standing alone being of very low frequency), I decline to take the time to try to crack it. "Bovard back in La? I'd supposed she disappeared into Alaska.

That for La. rhanny: I think it a pity that you decided

not to try to define "economic democracy". It's not snuf to point at the USSR and say "like that", because we can't tell what in the USSR you're pointing at. I get a little impatient with all these attempts to hang the word "democracy" onto various desirable ideas, just because "democracy" is now a word with good connotations. Demos kratos properly means rule by the people, and the only justification for hanging the word on anything nonpolitical is that it's a necessary adjunct to the continuance of such rule. Thus, civil liberties may properly be spoken of as "democratic rights", along with respect for minorities, independent thinking, etc. and the two-party system may be called more democratic than multi- or uni- systems, because democracy survives better under it. And since social prestige and economic power sometimes outvotes the majority, we have found that "social and economic democracy" are also desirable. (By "outvotes the majority", I mean circumvents the intention of the voters, or misleads them as to their best interests.) ' ' Seems like the class of Independent Voters must be larger than you imply, from the considerable fluctuations in popular votes in national, state, and local elections from year to year. Or else different proportions of straight party voters stay home on different occasions (if I couldn't bring myself to vote for Roosevelt, I'd stay home too!) ' ' It's not just a question of the progressive favoring change in order to avoid "stagnation and eventual decadence". Change may be necessary to escape galloping catastrophe. Wealth continues to be concentrated into fewer hands, machines reduce the number of workers necessary to supply necessities for all, and the atomic bomb waits for no man. ' ' Well, what's the difference between logic-tight compartmentalization and poor cross-indexing in the mental files? I suppose the former implies some degree of positive reaction against a mixing of the irreconcilable concepts, but in a lot of people what is called ltc is really just pci, I'll bet. ' ' There are some present-day mental measuring rods that might do justice to your prodigy, even if IQ didn't. Speed of reading, memorization, recall, physical coordination, and other supermannish characteristics can be measured directly. ' ' My dictionary sez "manuscripts" includes mss typewritten. Of course, you never know on these t-f tests whether they're going to hold out for the original meaning of a word like that. ' ' A single character for "ch", as a single sound? That's a controversial question. But if you abandon the idea of being strictly phonetic, and simply pick the handiest symbols for common sounds, "ch" might merit one of its own. ' ' Various persons' references to the existence of white "blood" in the negroes, as if it proved something, overlook the belief common today, and much more so in the past, that illegitimate children don't count as far as the father is concerned.

The Precipitant gives us an example of invoking word-magic by denying that there's any feud between Ashley and Lowndes, when practically all the usual elements of feuding are present. Lowndes invokes it, too. ' ' Hm. And if Inauguration Day should be changed back to 4 March, would the country be presidentless between 30 January and that date?... En Garde: Tanner's theory sounds very exciting, but I begin to wonder if he's saying anything more than follows from the finite velocity of light. His theory would have some meaning if we discovered that telescopes reaching 1,360,000,000 light-years away would see at exactly that distance the image of Sol (or of Sol's parent) at the moment of "creation", having taken that long to get around the fourth dimension to us. But even then it wouldn't involve any violation of our usual "time stream" concept to see the past. If you could go thru subspace instantaneously to the source of this light, you might be present at

Creation, but you'd have already smashed Einsteinian physics. " So quality is a matter of opinion. So is the suitability of a person for membership. Both can be settled by a democratic vote. " Glassen's licking Germany is a classic.... Evans really oughta use quasi-quotes when he's not copying a quotation direct. Many of the quotes in this Time-Binder are inaccurate. " If you and other common men saw the impending war "so accurately", say you, why didn't our leaders? Two answers: 1. How accurately did you see it? Did you know what year it would start in, what country would be invaded first, what Russia would do, how weak France was? Or did you just say "I'll bet there's a war coming"? 2. So you expected a war and a war came. Thousands of people expected a war because of prophecies in the Bible, or by astrology, and lo and behold war came. Are the bases of your expectation any more certain to be right next time than the biblical and astrological predictions? " The belief that there is a sinister group behind the scenes which manipulates world events to suit their own purposes was most clearly dramatized in Karpis the Jew. I think it's a survival of anthropomorphism, which tended to see malignant purpose in all the misfortunes of external and human nature. Some basis for it, of course; how much, is a matter that might well be thrown open to discussion: To what extent can the Sixty Families impose their will on America regardless of the people's preference for New Deal democracy? " If the Golden Rule and Inasmuch are the fundamentals of all Truth, you must have a different idea of Truth than the physicist or chemist who subscribes to the scientific ethics that someone quoted, that the truth shall be told at all times. " How can you say that the "little amount of bad is so far overshadowed by the great areas of good" in people? Who can measure the relative importance of different characteristics in a man? In a given situation you can say which is more important--honesty, say, or charity--but you cannot generalize for a whole lifetime for even one man. And as between different men-- a farmer may be good in every way except in his political and economic creeds, and you can say the good overshadows the bad, but how if the same complex is put into the person of Colonel McCormick? (They say he's very kind to people he knows personally.) " Proverbs have stood the Test of what Time? Thrift was a great virtue for centuries, but in this one, it precipitates financial panics and prolongs depressions. It is enough if some proverbs are found no longer applicable, to relieve us of any duty to believe in any proverb until our experience has proved it--after which the proverb is only useful as a neat summary of what our experience has taught us. " The supposition that what will not matter ten years from now is not worth fretting about today seems silly. " As for helping the panhandler as you suggest, I'll bet social workers tear their hair over such amateurish efforts, doubly damaging in diversion of money from competent agencies and in harm to the supposed beneficiary. " To say something constructive for a change, Everett, these well-worn truths deserve re-statement, but restatement, not repetition in the same old phrases and examples which the mind slips over inattentively from having heard them so often before. " A saying not too worn to be debatable is "When a new idea is about to be born, nothing under heaven can stop it." I believe the emptiness of this is betrayed by the remark further on that "while Greek democracy was a long way from what we call democracy now, it was still on the side of the future." whichever side, whichever system, triumphs, writes histories showing how its roots existed before the great transformation, and as the situation developed the victory of right became inevitable. What does this mean, except that what happened, happened? How can we, before the event, tell when an idea's time has come?

Many men in the 19th Century probably remarked how inevitable the victory of laissez-faire was from the Mercantile Age on. In the 1920s, it was widely believed by intellectuals and others that laissez-faire was obsolete and collectivism was the idea whose day had come--and when the 1930s broke, they were sure of it. But what does the vanguard say of collectivism today? " Ouch on the single six-year term for president, followed by senatorship for life. Most presidents modernly are worn out by the time they've finished that job. Those in the past who weren't did sometimes return to the Senate (Adams, Johnson) or other public service (Taft). The rest were probably glad to retire. It seems that if the politicking involved by the possibility of re-election is bad for the president, it should be bad also for the congressmen who go back for five or ten terms. I don't think abolishing that evil is sufficient compensation for having to give up a good president after six years, nor for being saddled with a Hoover for that long. " And I think it right, aside from the spoils system, that appointments to policy-making posts should come from the party in power. Note that the British, who're probably better at that sort of thing than we, put an entirely new cabinet in power with an election overturn. The common man simply cannot track down the individual responsibility for various acts of government, nor consider the special qualifications and record of every man he is called upon to vote for. Better that he should vote for the party which, in general, seems to do a better job, than that he should vote at random or not at all. A straight-ticket vote is better than no vote. If you keep the Democrats in long enuf, unsatisfactory as they are in many ways, the Republicans will have to hustle up and compete with them on more advanced ground. It is essential, therefore, that a party should express a consistent governmental policy, and that can only be done by appointing men, from the party, who will practice that policy. " Why so insistent that students should not be trained in "practical politics" in the course of Civics? It seems like the best way to make the subject come alive. " I strongly object to the consideration of governmental matters in terms of "business".... In A Tale of the Evans, Azathoth is well worth reprinting.... Walt's Wramblings: Now I know why I was so blank as Walt frantically explained the "coffee and tool" misprint. I hadn't read the article then. " Very glad to hear that Disney will do The Sword in the Stone. Sort of a new field (save The Reluctant Dragon?) that would be good for him and he would be good for (grammarians to the rescue! Should I have added an "it" at the end?)

Stf Comment: Do they have a theory now which overcomes the objection stated in astounding a year or so ago, which allegedly left us with no theory of planet formation? " Yes, most people do fall into two different types: My type, and others. " The religious article was good. This has been hashed over with Ollie personally by now.

Inspiration: I don't think you get a good cross-section, relative to military service, by considering the present membership roll. Sure, servifen (overseas) can continue membership now despite inactivity, but several don't. and nearly all the recruitment of late has had to come from civilians. " Is that song "I Love Me" the one that says, "I love to hold my hand so tight, I take myself straight home at nite"?--No, that's "I'm Wild About Myself", me-thinks. " Under anarchy, each man is entitled to do exactly as he pleases so far as it doesn't interfere with any of the rights or privileges of others. You're talking about a utopia now, bud. In actual practice it's never worked that way, and all the power of a strong government has been necessary to enforce anything like the freedom you describe. I don't think there's any historical basis for your statement

that the time needed to reach a decision is the chief deterrent to wider prevalence of republicanism. Every country in Christendom, and some outside, has a republican setup; the absence of true republicanism is due to the unpreparedness of the people, the desire and ability of the rulers to hold power, and other such factors. But does a democracy almost invariably reach the right decision? Not in the Peloponnesian War (Athens), nor in many other democracies now discontinued. Neither, I am sure, in our own American democracies so far (and in the case of some decisions, the chance to reach a right answer is past). Nor does the improvement in mass communications seem to have resulted in a strong desire of the people to make their own laws. The problems of government are generally too complex for the man in the street to cope with; and I have not heard of any new states adopting the initiative and referendum lately. In your tying of progressivism to capitalism because of the latter being a step toward newer systems, you seem to have your eyes too exclusively on the economic aspect. If the security of collectivism makes it possible for men to pursue new modes of living in many different fields, social, literary, educational, entertainment(al?), then collectivism may prove more forward-looking than capitalism, though its economy hark back to earlier days. There is such a thing as being on the wrong trail and having to backtrack, and rugged individualism looks like the wrong trail to me. A few paragraphs below, you interpret "opportunity" in purely economic terms. How much opportunity for anything else does the economic underdog have? And it seems to me that the alternative of getting a different employer or of going to work for himself is a very harsh one, in the face of which a man might feel forced to remain in an undesirable job. While you're talking about the equalitarianism of labor unions being a throwback to the stone age and the medieval serfs who all received the same wages (cite authority?), I'd like to remind you that unequal compensation is a pretty hoary practice, too. The Eric Johnston expanding-economy tune seems to have caught on with a lot of people. There is, unfortunately for stable prosperity, a great difference between an economy which expanded extensively and one which expands intensively. The former grew by supplying necessities to more and more people. The latter must grow by supplying comforts and luxuries to a set number (or even decreasing number, if population curves turn down) of people. The thing about necessities is that, come fair weather or foul, just about the same amount has to be consumed, so the economy is pretty stable basically. Not so the things we can do without; and the multiplication of automobile and other non-necessitous industries was probably one reason that the fall of '29 was so severe. "Industry and invention thrive on the stimulus of competition and the longing to do a better job than the other fellow."

Time for a white space.

ADVANCE, FRIEND,
AND GIVE THE
PASSWORD.

"PACIFICON"

IF ELECTED, I
PROMISE A HARMONIOUS
ADMINISTRATION....



Lynn, aren't you closing your eyes to a lot of things you've learned about monopolies splitting markets, high-pressure advertisers foisting unneeded and even dangerous products on the consumer, companies beating others out not because they produce something better, but because they spend more money on advertising or carry out more unscrupulous stock manipulations, and many other things? ' ' The funniest thing about the "project for every fan" remark in connection with the fanish ~~was~~ is that Dunkelberger has just announced that policy in his platform. Couldn't an individual issue such a magazine as you propose, about as well as an organization (in the person of its official editor) could? ' ' As for the auto companies financing a spaceship at the prewar cost, do you know what a battleship costs?

Science-Ficti vant: Yes, there may be some detectable balance of right or wrong ' ' ry issue, but in some it's so slight that the right is lost by pursuing the subject too long (a vice of which I've often been guilty).

Horizons: Perhaps the tendency to drop the definite article in "the ~~FARA~~" is due to hypostatization, encouraged by the tendency to pronounce it as a word instead of as initials. And also plain laziness. ' ' Yes, what was project M, Laney? Can't have any unsolved mysteries like that lying around. Another mystery also remains despite Harry's (unanswered) question: Was it Bill or EE Evans who got the vote? ' ' Harry has the right approach on the question of majority-of-majorityvote approval. He doesn't try to hang the tag "democratic" on his preference, like our two gladiators both did. ' ' The reference to Skewe's number reminds me of an apparent fallacy in World of non-A. Van Vogt concludes that since the number of possible combinations among the total number of brain cells (at least in his superman) is greater than the number of electrons in the universe, said superman's brain can handle any amount of stuff. In the first place, it is not simple cognizance of individual particles that the brain must handle, but different combinations of the same particles; moreover, most of the neurones are probably used up in making connections between key neurones; certainly not every cell is directly connectible to every other. And in the second place, it is not just the particles at a particular moment that the brain needs to memorize, but the particles separating and recombining endlessly thru several decades. I think the human brain definitely has a limit. (Cf conversation between Lazarus Long and Slipstick Libbey.) ' ' But "The Sphinx" is generally included in collections of Poe's tales, Harry. ' ' Thanks for your study of the 4F question; very valuable. addenda: Dan McHail is in the Marines (?) now; he still corresponds with Ted Carnell. I'm almost certain that Singleton was deferred only because of his indispensability at the Navy Yard; do we know of any reason why he wouldn't have passed muster? Swisher was probably deferred for having a wife and children, being over thirty, and doing important work. Julius Schwartz is likely over age, too. Rubinson is not on the RSNY's 1943 membership roll, which suggests that he isn't in service. The Thompson you refer to being Robert G, there's little reason to doubt that he's 4F. Kuslan is in the same classification. And Train. No reason, for this purpose, to differentiate between physical and psychological reasons for deferment. I think with the figures modified as indicated above, the case against Fancyclopedia's assumption is even stronger. Of course, some of the 3½ million who had been classified 4F by 1942 were later inducted.

Beowulf: Gerry should watch his declensions closer. "thou wast", "thou still remain", "thou do", "thou speak", and suddenly

"you may". (Should be thou wert, thou speakest, etc.) And the use of "just" in the sense of "merely" is an anachronism here. " Nay, cursest thou human nature? But man, were't not for human nature, whence wouldst thou derive values? Know that there is no good nor bad on land or sea, save as it is measured by man's mind and aspirations. Aye, there is that in human nature which thwarteth the higher aspirations of the same oft-times, but curse that only, and not man entire.

Sardonyx: Did the Boundbrookon come off? " Thoo is hilarious. You might have done better on rendering some of the words, though. For instance, you translate "share" "thare", which could also indicate "sare". Wouldn't "thyare" be more accurate? " I'm far from being convinced that the essential element of fantasy is the transcending of realized limitations. It may provide a key to the persistent separation of science-fiction and weird. " There are some people who even reject "the natural human desire to see the condition of man and the world he lives in improved to the maximum possible extent". Those who sneer at "do-gooders" are not far from such nihilism. " You use the word "deserve" in sentencing the Japanese and German atrocity-committers to death. It suggests that your reason for the sentence is not so much deterrence, elimination, etc, but vengeance. ? " I forget whether anybody else caught it, but it wasn't Lazarus Long who invented super pinball machines. Felix Hamilton. " Hurray for Lasker's quote.

Devil Take the Hindmost was good, and I regret to note its absence of late.... in Agendite of Inwit, Madam Emden's sneering superiority and pointless intricacies of style and meaning lead one to hope that she will confine her efforts to V&A now. " Correction, Lowndes: The obscenity portion of the proposed amendment did not in any way limit expression more than it was already limited by the law of the land, to which F&A is necessarily subject. " "the large vote favoring the proposed amendments to the constitution prove that they were pertinent and proposed in an acceptable manner." Oh, my god. "So long as proposals, no matter how startling, can only be adopted by an approving majority, there can be no question of any one person trying to impose his or her ideas upon the organization, or steamrolling legislation through against their consent." How big a fool are you, Doc? Do you see nothing wrong in denying the opposition a chance to present its arguments before taking a vote? "If a body of people cannot be trusted to reject bad proposals for law, then they cannot be trusted to govern themselves at all, and we may as well dispense with the idea of democracy". You'd better dispense with it, then, because I know of plenty of cases where such trust would have been sadly misplaced. " How do you think you were making the proposers of the amendment presented in January squirm? By calling a special election on a proposal that they didn't intend to be put up at a special election? " I don't think much of your "one criteria" for judging the extent of democracy. As I said a few pages back, the machinery for republican government exists in every important country, but if there is any place today where a minority doesn't feel free to try to become a majority, it is Spain and eastern Europe. It's not enuf that a majority accept the government now in power; this is nearly always true, and both before and after revolutions. " Hum. With a little help

This page is supposed to be typed in two colors, blue and purple. You guys with normal eyesight tell me if you see any difference in color.

from the author, Kubilius and his pals obliterated the Comet crew without any losses to themselves. Looks like the Boston boys will have to organize a posse to take care of the remnants of the Green Guna gang.

"If any member feels that he or she has been deprived or abused by receiving one more mailing than his year's dues legally said he was entitled to" --I suppose it makes no difference that the OE expected said mailing to be paid for out of such dues, and the consideration of regularity of publication of standard Fanzines has no weight.... Chartreuse & Shocking Pink's style-imitation isn't as good as Degler often did. But gad's fishhooks, where have all these dopes gotten the idea that the NRP is a menace to individualism?... In the Fantasy Amateur, I note that one man's credentials are listed as having appeared in Fantasia, Southern Star and diablerie, which looks like the secy had forgotten that credentials must have been published within a year of admission.... Mcnoyi's Bulletin exemplifies the outraged innocence of the virgin feeder. By the way, the "Mc" classification is not listed separately in many files in the war Department and elsewhere, particularly not files that I've had much to do with. I have a hazy recollection that in the first year of the FA some one who was the only candidate listed didn't make a campaign and lost to a write-in candidate. Anybody want to prove me wrong on this? Look at the map, dummy. Of course Battle Creek is in the East, considering the country as divided into East and West. It's east of the little Mississippi, an eastern stream; it's even east of the center of population.... The FA Index was a very praiseworthy and valuable piece of work. On corrections I have to offer: I don't believe The Zenith Foundation went out with the Second Mailing; it was probably postmailed. And the suspro in the 27th Mailing must have been Spring/F44, not F43. And I don't believe Black & White carried any date.... In ugh we have sneers and jeers also, but in this case they're delivered with a winsome gusto that I rather enjoyed. ' ' Yah, I would say that editorship is substantial work in the publication of a fanzine. There is a point at which mere financing would probably not be enuf. ' ' You're too hard on people who ask if this train goes to South Ferry when there's a sign right before them. Usually there are two or three different destinations listed on those signs. And anyway a guy that puts his faith in signs (which assume familiarity that he doesn't have) won't get far on the New York subways.... Phantographs: Petaj meter stumbles in places. In Doc's Wimerick, I'm amused to find "swirled" rimed with "boiled". Kornbluth's poem is not as smooth as his word-symphe in Escape, but the pulsation of the meaning adds something. Runic in Shopping District is amazing for the slightness of the change from normal which is sufficient to make a nice little fantasy sketch.... Phantasphere: Simplicity may prove the essence of all things, but unless the direction of modern physics is wrong, it is simplicity in terms very different from those to which the mind is accustomed and to comprehend which the mind has to evolve very complicated tools. Crackpots like to imagine that it is otherwise.... The Twenty-First Factory: I will wonder at the exe's significance of the title, and censor out the other comment I had typed here.

because of circumstances: ... you have a name for your camera? Mine is Duquesne III. Surely other fan must have named their cameras, since they've named their mimeos and even typewriters. ' ' Ouch, now a Y-con.

a: Sorry, Doc, I can't supply a list of my fanzine files.

all mine are or will be filed in with the incoming and outgoing-carbons correspondence. This is the first I ever heard of the three-stage rule. Can you cite PL&R section on it? " Automatic promotion might be an incentive for people to run for Sectreas and O&C, but Trexy and VP theoretically call for different abilities from those for which an ideal sectreas or OE would be picked. " Sed Iquitur is a scream; I didn't get it until I read the shorttype. Wonder what the forms would actually mean in Latin.... Yhos nicely dresses up the story about the Pope going to heaven, but that ain't the way I heered it. The way I heered it, he talked first to the boss, then to Junior, and finally to Shadow; and if you readed your Bible like Christianfan tells you to, you'd know that it's the last-named who is reputed to've had improper relations with the Catholics' chief deity. " Breux quoted that Costak and Doshes thing from The meaning of Meaning, but milty says Ogden and Richards quoted it from a yet earlier, unidentified, source. " Well, Gardner, you make the discovery manufacture of which will provide the economic basis for the corporation, and I'll serve as legal counsel. " The Constitution recognizes the right of revolution? aren't you thinking of the Declaration of Independence?... Blitherings: Can you give us an example of labor merely prolonging rather than delaying the introduction of labor-saving methods? With the accelerating speed at which things change, it seems like a perilous policy. " About geography becoming of less importance than function in determining the divisions of governments: Isn't it rather likely that as technology increases economic self-sufficiency (cf synthetic rubber, British food production, plastics), world trade as a unifying factor will be weakened? Nations have never divided from each other on economic grounds. And thus far the international proletariat, the international Karol, etc, have proved weaker than nationalism when it came to the test. Within countries, the only nation that organized its legislature on occupational rather than geographical groupings (Italy) made a very poor showing. Possibly it is better for the compromises of classes to be fought out in the elections rather than in the legislature. Has there been any extension of minority representation voting devices lately? " "the majority of blacks have the same economic interests as the majority of whites, & these interests can be furthered by unity between the groups." You'll have to go into more detail on that. " I'm not asking that white children should have a "head-start" over their negro contemporaries; I'm asking that they not even run in the same race. " Your fillers are swell.

Beyond: Well, I hope the kiddies, poppas, and mommas enjoyed the play. I can't figure out the intent of the fables of Amerk.... Fan-Tods: I forget. Is Meghisto the type-writer or the mimeo? " Heigh ho, I keep rapping people's knuckles for misusing the word "metaphysics". Here, too. I'm afraid Triple Standard is attempting a task as impossible as determining the number of angels that can dance on the point of a needle. Consciously or not, Chan is writing from the viewpoint of a scientist, only one of the infinity of possible viewpoints, each with its own validity. " I've wondered sometimes why scientists make up those jawbreaking names for chemical compounds, when it's so much easier just to speak the formula. " "how vastly men's thought processes may differ". On some scales, yes; judged by other standards, no. Is there any standard with a claim to pre-eminent validity? " "Let's distribute what we have more efficiently, and take an extra day off." You sound like a European, Worm. Shall we compromise, and take an extra half-day off and have more goods and services with which to enjoy it? " Is multicolor mimeoing from one crank-turning done by using a new ink pad? " Oh, there must have been a march 1938 astounding. " I almost wish you hadn't quoted that last stanza of the Planet Prince's quatrain.

Phew! That takes care of that; and frankly, chums, I hope the mailings never get so large again. And now we turn hastily to the July 45 mailing:

Fantasy Amateur: The changed format of the membership list is abominable. Added to the occasional errors in arrangement, it means that one must look at practically every line to determine whether someone is still a member, or to locate an address. "Is there anything in the philology of the (if "philology" is the wrong word, substitute "etymology") word "optimist" that makes everyone want to spell it "optomist"?... Twilight Echoes: Once fully enslaved, no state ever afterwards resumes its liberty? I never knew Walt Whitman was a looker-back-to-the-golden-age. But on the modern view, enslaved peoples always precede free ones.

Suspros and Mopsys: I'll probably hafta explain that Spring cover. For one thing, the decimal classification given is from a version that will never be distributed. For another, the Confederate flag in the drawing is so small as to be hardly identifiable even by experts. Besides which, so many southern states have the stars and bars in their state flags that the sight of such an ensign flying before Huey Long's skyscraper capital isn't very fantastic-looking.

Fantasticonglomeration: I heartily second Parr's praise of They Came to a City. Don't miss it if you get a chance to see it.

The Mag Without a Name: I'm sick of these guys that stretch the word "tolerance" to include condoning things like Lemurianism. Maybe Palmer believes in the tripe--which I doubt--but when he publishes it to thousands of impressionable kids, I'd be in favor of suing him if there were a law to sue under. Of course we aren't sure Lemurianism is wrong. Neither are we sure that sweatshops, Fundamentalism, and many other things are wrong. But the fact that some people sincerely believe in them is no reason for us to spare to strike them if we get a chance.

Blitherings is solid on duodecimanias.

I'd like to see an answer on the question of why people like music, but fear it will come in terms beyond my understanding.

Timebinder's translation of "All men are created equal" probably explains what many people mean by the expression, but it seems to me a far cry from the strict meaning of the words. "Helen Weeson, in discussing Conscientious Objectors, seems to have embraced that wartime fiction that every man and woman in the armed forces joined voluntarily, out of only the purest patriotic motives, and has been in heroic front-line action overseas." Gleep, another guy who thinks the Constitution guarantees life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I remember out at Gaithersburg a speaker said that, and then, with just a suggestion of doubt in his voice, asked rhetorically, "Doesn't the Constitution say that?" "Nope," I spoke up from the audience, "Steederalish vindependas", and another fellow, also speaking spontaneously, said "He's right." The post-Utilitarians make a valuable distinction between happiness and pleasure, that later critics would do well to note. Does it really comfort old people any to say that A has not died, it is only his body that has died, his contribution to mankind and his spirit still live? Hog darn it, if "dead" means anything, it means bodily death. Why try to remove the word from the vocabulary?... Tale of the 'Evans: No comment beyond that in Stefnews's review of the Mailing. Happy that: Perhaps we can shorten this department while Stefnews carries part of the load....

Walt's Wramblings: "La New Books". Oooh! (with a pained accentuation.) The jokes are not as funny as the dressing Liebacher adds to them in the telling.... An Garde, Brazier. It's just a question of what people are

used to, and if 4/5 of the fans are used to somewhat simplified spelling, your objections are largely nullified. Moreover, to the fanish type of mini, there is a pleasure conveyed by some experimenting around with the means of communication, that'll keep them reading thru a book review or article which, in Fantasy Commentator style, would be forbid-
 dingly dull. "The Lawsonist: "Truth is simple and easily understood, but falsity is complicated and misleading." See what I mean, Donald? "The curious thing about his suction-pressure analysis of physics is that it's not necessarily untrue to actual conditions. The structure of reality can be divided up any number of ways. Another screwball whose "Cellular Cosmogony" Dick Wilson has just sent me a copy of, says that Form is the fundamental property of existence; limitation is a property of form; also that nothing exists without motion. Others may say that the basic categories are chaos, cosmos, and becoming; or Matter and Spirit; or time and space (the mind has a strong tendency to dualism rather than pluralism). The proper answer to all of these is, "So what?" Can you build a safe bridge with less material by the use of these concepts, or predict an eclipse with a minimum of figuring and a maximum of accuracy; or can you figure out a means to provide economic security without deadening ambition, or halt the declining birth rate? The test of compatibility with the facts is not sufficient to pick out the best metaphysics or the best physics; the question is, what can you do with the concepts? "The Lepidoptera and the Bard Shark are best in the Fanographic section; some of the paragraphs are pretty sad. "Is the die-cut mimeoing done by rubbing the stencil placed over a cut? I believe Tucker has done that with half-tone photographs. Same principle as the shading screen.

Light: I'm told I missed nothing by getting only pages 23 and 24 of this.... The Voice: Well, well, the Canadian sexperimenter in stf comes out in defence of salvation army girls. Saari gets religion. Tucker opposes Degler publications for reasons of obscenity. What kind of strange mechanism is at work in fandom? "As to the Starvation Army, though, Les, I question that it does as much good as harm. It tends to reinforce the old evangelical type of Christianity which has long stood in the way of a really humanized religion, without contributing anything of importance to the ethical betterment of mankind. One night on the ship coming back, one of the crew members had a few of us down for Bible study. After picking over most of the suggestive passages in the Book (I thot they were going to miss the virgin birth, but sure enuf they didn't), the crewman began to urge one of the cadets to give up his sin. Later, in our cabin, I protested the narrow idea of "sin" that is common in evangelical Protestantism today, urging instead that indifference to national politics, the welfare of foreigners, etc, were far more serious things. But the two cadets, brot up in the old ideas which the Salvation Army represents, couldn't see that those were matters of religion at all. "Boots and saddles, semanticists. what do we mean by saying that Marconi was or was not the "inventor" of radio? Who "invented" the automobile?

I've already written Beak inre CanFan.

Fiction Savant and Plaintive Numbers: No comment here.

Science-

Horizons: somebody sent the War Department some stereoscopic pictures in which the two views were printed intermingled on the card, and the spectacles thru which they were to be viewed were not of different colors. I think it must have been polarization of some kind, and perhaps the thing to be viewed can't be projected onto a screen as easily as it can be printed in the folder such as you saw years ago. "The Japanese Fruit-thief is very good.

Before I forget, in the San Francisco paragraph should also have been mention of the FARA Ballot. We who returned ours now have no record of who were running for what, because the OE failed to follow the practice of including a void copy in the official organ. and I would have especially liked to have a file copy of that ballot on which ^{will be} put the write-in blank above my name rather than below.

Decimal Classification for Stef was originally published on a folded sheet ala larger stencuses. I could cheerfully wring Suddsy's neck for this.... austaining program is thoroly snafued. I think the cover was restenciled by Suddsy. There was a page of quoteworthy quotes in the proper place in this set of stencils, and when I said "save the world Hypotheses quotes for another time, Suddsy", I was referring to a stencil which had been prepared before my departure and sent him with the mimeo. But he omits the non-WH quotes that were intended for this issue, and moves page 7 over to the inside back cover. Better he should be under bridges.... Cry in the Night: No opinion.... Fantasy Commentator: I think Langley is thoroly unfair to Wells, simply because Langley doesn't like sociological fiction. The doom overhanging the country of the blind was not a mere allegorical punishment that wells was meting out to the world because it refused to adopt his blueprint for utopia. It was a flat prediction of disaster to come, which the events of last August and subsequently fully justify. "Moskowitz wasn't the only one who thot that marvel science stories was Crawford's magazine. after reading it, I moved that the Newark Convention organize a lynching bee for W.H.C." Forgotten Creators of Ghosts: Jack the Ripper? "has anyone ever found out what "Conquest of the Planets (Mother World)" was supposed to signify? "Merritt, of course, was not defining fantasy, he was describing it. Intension rather than extension.

a gives the perfect answer to Wellheim's denunciation of the FARA. It simply repeats what he said, each point in a paragraph by itself, and numbered. The result is unaccountably effective. "Far be it from me to take exception to any attack on Rap, and I don't doubt he did pad his figures as your analysis indicates, but I think your figures for the improbability of such things happening by chance are a bit too high. Taking one month's results by itself, isn't there rather a probability that they will have some number for a common divisor, or have some other mathematical trait in common (such as all being squares, or factorials, or something)? The collection on Anthony Gilmore probably doesn't intend to be complete. Le Zombie resurrected the question, I believe, and Rob Madle said he couldn't cite his authority, but lots of people knew that it was Bates and Hall.

Beyond: The Pen Hand is good. Remember when Bud Fisher used to be prevailed upon by Jeff to draw Mutt small?... Is Fan-Tods's cover by you, Norm? Good. "Palmer was editor of AS in 1938, wasn't he? But he passed right by a potential Lemurian in that M-yrs quote of yours. "Centrifoods ad lovely. "When going thru your Wonders of Non-accumulation I put my finger on process (4) as the place where you substituted the rabbit for the wristwatch, but don't remember now what I thot was wrong. Perhaps you were slaunchindicularly dividing by zero, a favorite trick of mathematical magicians. "Seems odd to say it's essential for stability that society take care of its failures. "The trouble with large accumulations of money is that they seek profitable investment, which often means turning out goods for which there's no need, or being engaged in manipulations to acquire control of still more economic power, if not lying idle in slack times. You may say that there are a small number only of very rich men, but the concentration

of money, and more particularly of control of money, is well proven. I haven't abandoned my practice of reviewing the pros. Warner, how about you? Is there a constitutional requirement that ballots be included in inactive members' mailings? If so, a void copy incorporated in the official organ should satisfy it. To my knowledge, COs get nothing for their labor. They or their churches must pay their living expenses out of other funds. Freedom from unnecessary grammatical fixtures need not mean phonetic irregularity for English. Our written language has hardly any more grammar than the spoken. It's Tippecanoe. Check to your interlineation criticizing van Loon. (And before I end this department, I would announce that we're consciously violating the rule in beginning "van" with a small letter when not preceded by the givenname.)

Good grief; good nine!

PEAK - PEAKID

October and environs this year have been more active for me fanistically than any previous time, even June 1938. If I retain reason, I'm not likely to ever surpass the present. Ofcourse I knew what I was getting into when I got two official editorships, but I didn't altogether anticipate the increase of other activity that came with them.

Late in September I hitchhiked back from Shangri-la (incidentally, reaching Seattle without carfare out to University Way!) and found a load of mail awaiting reading and, often, immediate answer. It also involved getting out one of the larger Stefnewses.

The first of October the fall term in law school started, in which I had piously promised myself I'd keep up in my studies. Superfluous to say what happened to that oath. I soon pledged a legal fraternity, which thereafter required some time, and among the entering law students found some to run around with. From one of these I wangled an invitation to a Young Democratic luncheon, at which we were asked to start a club on campus, but so far not much time has been spent on that. With the end of October, however, the main part of the University got under way, with affairs that I felt I should attend. *Heh heh!* A slave to duty!

Meanwhile, Stefnews was being cranked out every week on or about Sunday, and each time several letters were to be written to go with some copies; the remainder must be folded and addressed in five operations. The National Fantasy Fan went out as close to the required deadline as the co-operation of others made reasonable, and that was an issue that involved nights of map-drawing. Somewhat to my surprise, a number of newfies began writing to me, some requesting Stefnews, others just wanting to chat; and with the political situation what it was, I cheerfully chatted. Not so easy to meet were a number of requests for manuscripts unusual to a confirmed *farate* like myself.

Material for the *FaFa* Mailing gradually accumulated on my floor, and as every weekend approached, I expected to have to spend it rushing my *FaFazines* to completion, turning out a Fantasy amateur, and preparing the envelopes. But the list of mailies hasn't come yet.

Other things, too. Time magazine to be read (less time-consuming than daily papers); the almost-due Vomthology recommendations; and the prozines, fanzines etc. that are everfan's duty, but particularly heavy on me because I'm both a slow reader and a fritterer of time. With *foofoo's* aid I'll come thru this *stuf* intact, but I solemnly swear: Never again!

REJECTED - TYCHO

Written early in 1943 and accepted for the soon-deceased Gergen magazine. The war being over and I a continent away from Washington, there seems little danger of exactly these events occurring now.

Their first raid on Washington, many of the bombs fell in the suburbs. An incendiary landed in Western Avenue, and before I knew it, the front porch was on fire.

We were up to watch the show, of course, and immediately the fire started, began to collect our most cherished possessions and try to get them out of the house. Since the place was on fire, there was no reason not to turn on the lite to assist in looking around for what I wanted to try to save.

My correspondence files, of course, both incoming and carbons of outgoings, had A-1 priority, and I tossed them on the bedspread, not pausing to separate the fan files from the mundane correspondence. On top of that stack of miscellaneous laundry boxes and file boxes, I threw the folders containing notes for future issues of this and that, and the wooden box of unanswered correspondence, then gathered the bedspread over it and tied a knot to try to hold it all together, flung up the window and screen, and hurled the bundle out into the back yard.

A large box containing the typewritten diary of several years and other very personal stuff hit my eye next, and I felt I must save it. I also picked up the two foto albums and the scrap book. Grabbed the unfiled correspondence out of the bureau drawer, and wrapped everything up in the blanket on the bed and tossed them out.

The owner and his family were being forced out of their bedroom by now by the smoke, and called to me that I'd better get away before the fire got too near the stairs. I hesitated a minute, then started pulling the fanzine files down from the shelf in the closet /this was before I adopted my present filing practices/ and throwing them out by the handfuls, hoping to gather them up as soon as I got downstairs. But mention of the stair reminded me of the attic, where I had stored several boxes of extremely valuable items which I didn't need to refer to very often.

I could feel the heat thru the wall of the front bedroom as I went out into the hall, and the firemen had arrived, judging from the sounds. I stumbled twice on the junk that littered the attic stairs, then got up there and found myself in darkness. Fumbled about for the things I wanted to carry down. Suddenly the garret was lighted by flames breaking in from the front. I picked up a couple of things and stumbled toward the window at the back. It refused to open, but I broke the glass and throw the things out. Too far to jump, though, of course. I started down the stairs again, but one wall of it was on fire, and the door at the bottom stayed stuck for a little too long.

At that, tho, I saved quite a bit of myself. I hope fandom will appoint a sympathetic editor for the papers of one who died for its sake.

ITEMS FROM MY SCRAPBOOKS

Among the things I digged up this month is a piece of paper whereon are written, one above another, "one pair", "two pair", "three of a kind", "straight-----5 in row", "flush-----one suit", etc. Part of that tuition I was paying on last issue's back cover. Ashley made the tabulation for me.

Here is the work-sheet on my cryptogram. An English stenographer was very puzzled when she happened upon my typewriter with this in it, the letters and lines spaced wide apart. Hardly wide enuf, however, for the figures I inked in in encoding it were so small that sometimes I read them wrong, thus producing the half-a-dozen errors that worried Wilner so.

Clipping from Time of a year ago in which they quote (with tongue in cheek, I believe) the British memorandum on "officialese" language in government papers. I also have Maverick's characteristically American memo on gobbledygook, and some amusing editorial comment thereon by the Washington Post.

and here's a copy of that church paper mentioned in Bus Pro some years back, without any reaction from unappreciative fanates. The item reprinted from Sweetness and Light is their Composite picture of the editors.

The night before the Huskies' heartbreaking upset at the hands of Bill Evans's college, UW held a gala rally with all the collegiate fixings, the first such since the war. Tossed among the mob were printed handbills reading "'Husky' Atomic Stock 1 share preferred -Seattle Broker S. A. Epsilon". Alpha Tau Omega also capitalized on the atom with a float in the parade the sign on which said something about "ATO-mic power".

~~We're marching round the globe, w m f i l. World Forces have used this day~~

LAST STOP TO LIMBO

Well, it was a nice idea anyhow.

It would have made a swell wall decoration for a fan den. I even, in my innocence, thought that by proper folding of a 4x sheet, it could be duplicated and distributed thru fan clubs perhaps.

The original idea was just to have a bar graph of all fanzines. But since some fanzines were not published over long periods of time, a fairer picture would be presented by marking the date of each issue and perhaps connecting the dots with a line to make a bar graph. By the time I got a pad of large bookkeeping paper, I thought of indicating lots of other things, such as means of duplication, by color of the lines, position in the space, etc. By the time I got down to drafting the first page, I was looking for means to show, in symbols, all the information about the fanzine which the S & F Check-list gave.

When I had finished penciling one page, it became apparent that such a project, completed, would take up the paper in several bookkeeping pads, and would probably paper a room. So I quietly laid the pad away on my closet shelf.

~~There's a little something about the world, w m f i l. World Forces have used this day~~

ARS QUOTEWORTHY

Bernard de Voto, after the New England hurricane of September 1938:

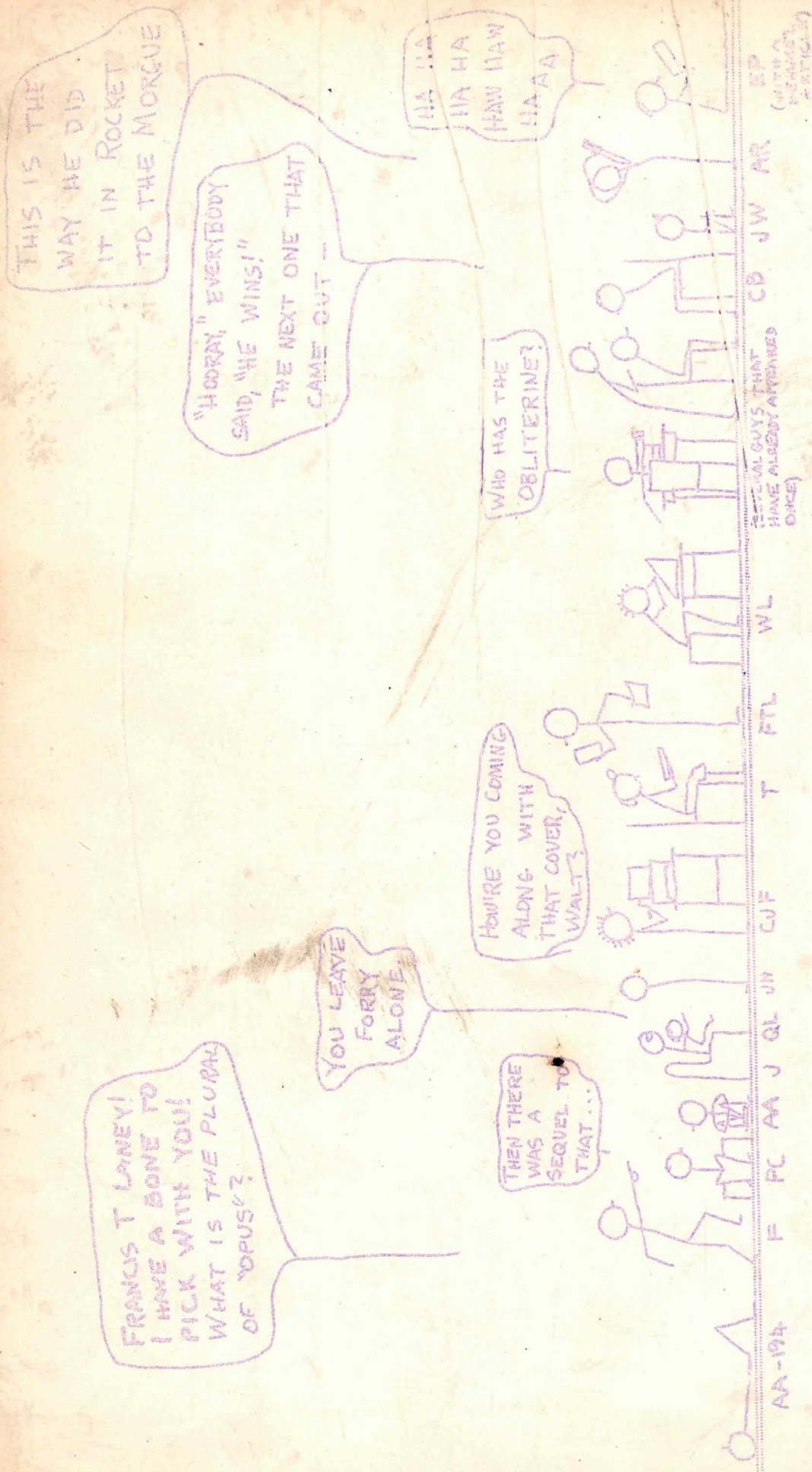
... Next morning we drove to Cambridge without difficulty. It was a tragic drive. The face of New England had been changed forever. It takes two hundred years to grow an elm, the characteristic New England tree, and the elms were down everywhere. But it was not this ended loveliness that one mourned most. All pine groves looked as if a gigantic lawn-mower had gone over them, the maples that had produced the section's second largest crop were decimated, the orchards were uprooted or, where some still leaned or even stood, were stripped of fruit. With timber, sugar, syrup, and fruit gone, what would the farmers do, how could they survive? Well, one had seen them intending to survive, and the farms fell away behind and we came to increasingly industrialized districts with their more terrible wreckage. It was at last clear that this had been the most destructive storm that had ever struck a wide industrial area. How would these mills and factories ever be rebuilt? How many of them would not open again? How many would reopen in the South or the Middle West? What would happen to their employees, to their stockholders, to the financial and economic and social systems of which they had been a part?... What happens after bombardment?

But one had seen, had listened in darkness, had realized the community rallying. The storm had struck and at once all the implements and resources of civilization had acted to repair catastrophe. Why, yes, as the picture rounded out, there had been looting and pillage, there had been and would be hideous graft, the conversion of suffering and loss to private profit and political expediency. But also there had been, there remained, the energies of a people polarized to restore the stricken section. They would suffice. The damage was immeasurable, the suffering beyond comprehension, the loss incalculable--but the end was sure. For the human will had been awakened and concentrated on human need.

There were newspapers now and in their back pages one found reports from abroad. The bombs were not yet falling; not to-day, not to-morrow, and finally not this year. But eventually they would fall and nothing could be done about that, nothing whatever. Victory over hurricane and flood had been assured in the midst of a world helplessness which would make the victory mere irony. The human will had repulsed destruction by fire and wind and water but it acquiesced in world war; though it might mourn it could not act, it had only sadness and a little folding of the hands to sleep.

And as the days passed the hurricane stories moved to the back pages, the front pages resumed their familiar aspect. Under stress of hurricane one had forgotten the less spectacular destruction of America, the millions made homeless by other causes than storm, who had lived for nine years and would live their lives out on emergency rations which had been imposed by no tempest blowing in. A sudden natural violence had made one forget the gradual settling of the nation toward entropy; effective response to a limited disaster had made one forget the erosion of the national will by universal disaster. Here for a moment the people had been fused together by sudden peril and effective action was being taken toward

(continued on inside front cover)



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