

July 43

MERGER

MERGER is published for the Fantasy Amateur Press Association by Don Wilson and Howard Miller. This issue, #1, is for the May 1948 mailing. Wilson's address, as can be seen by looking at the roster, is 495 N. Third St., Banning, California. Miller's is 1421 West George St., Banning, California. Neither of us necessarily agree with opinions expressed by the other herein, or with opinions expressed by anyone else who happens to have material published herein. No copies are for sale to outsiders. Roger Graham and S. Merwin Jr. are hereby commanded to refrain from mentioning this magazine anywhere but in the review of the FAPA mailing specifically designated as such, and to refrain from mentioning the publishers' addresses in connection with reviews of the publication. ###

With that out of the way, I can quit using my good typer and devolve to this old wreck. Object of using this ancient LCSMITH is to save space (it is elite) and save my Underwood portable from getting beat up even worse than it is now. 'Merger was conceived for reasons of conservation. It conserves staples, which is one reason; it's easier to plan one mag than two mags; and it seemed like a good solution to our difficulties. You may not save it again. As this part of it is stencilled, I cannot say what will be in it, but for certain it will contain my mailing comments and some Ackerman and Ferrans stuff. Until further notice, activity credit is to go to me (Wilson). When Miller's portion of the mag is reached you will be told, in order that he may gain his necessary credit.

THE REACTION-ARY, which follows, is mailing comments by me, as any fool can plainly see, and if that rhymes it is unintentional; besides, it does not scan properly, which eliminates the possibility of its being a poem.

FEBRUARY 1948 FAPA MAILING

NEW TESTAMENT -- Not of much fanish interest that I can see. It will be interesting to know how many fans toss it into the wastebasket, and how many file it with their fanzines in the same manner they would file anything else that came via the FAPA mailing. By the way, this violates the rule against allowing stuff by nonmembers to go thru the mailings; but as long as it is modified only to let thru good stuff, I can see no grounds for complaint. 'Let's not have too much of this sort of thing, however. Snuf is snuf.

FANTASY AMAT JR. It is interesting how much more legible Perdue's report is than the rest of the stuff. He must have access to better stencils. The lousy stenciling job done by FTL is inexcusable. 'Stevenson raises an interesting point in his discussion of the review matter. They had reason on their side. It must be remembered that we have a safeguard -- the entrance requirement. People with no previous acquaintance with fandom cannot meet this requirement. The lack of response to Graham's plug further annihilated Speer's and Stevenson's arguments. 'A point: Graham's column is to publicize fandom to nonfans; Merwin's is to review fanzines. There is a world of difference. I should think that sending them to the Merwin column will meet with no opposition; egobee is the main result of that column. As far as publicity is concerned, the main amount of subscriptions gained thru it are from borderline fans who sub to many fanzines, but who await a recommendation from Merwin before buying. Eventually, the Amazing column will devolve into a similar function, though now, at the outset, it does gain new recruits for fandom itself.

I saw meaning in the Perdue report. Maybe I have a semantic unblock. "' An Open Letter to Dunkelberger" is well-taken. For my part, having been guilty of the perpetration of some pretty low stuff, I make no accusations. But more Phanteurs and less Yellums will drag up our standards, no doubt of that. "' There is too much nonFAPAProduced stuff being put in the mailings, but as long as it is interesting it is worthwhile.

MOONSHINE: Nice cover. Aside to Burb --- I haven't pulled the moon off yet. "' Of the innards, Woolston's article was outstanding-sounding on first reading; I'm not in the mood to pore over it, but it is definitely up to standard. "Electra" I enjoyed. The rest of the stuff duly noted. Black mimeo ink would help this publication tremendously. So would a little more care with artwork, makeup, and other physicalities. Oh, well, it looked nice from the outside.

ONE FAN'S OUTLOOK --- Format notes on Moony apply here also. Interesting reading, however. "' I doubt if a Wester con could be made as worthwhile to attendees as, say, an Atlanticon sponsored by ASFA or a similar gathering; for my own part, of course, I wish for a pacificoast gathering to which I could go, but if it were true that I could attend a con anywhere in the country, I'd very definitely plug for it to be held in the New York - Newark area.

PHANTEUR --- very easy on the eyes after Moffatt's messyography. I liked the covers. "' Can't say much, for I have nothing to say. Everything interested me but the political discussion. Mailing comments are particularly fine.

OLD AND RARE: Nice cover, though it is awfully obscure. "' There is no excuse for the sloppy makeup, numerous typos, etc, in this magazine. In all actuality, there was little excuse for the mag at all. Apologies are due to Evans for parts of it, so go ahead, Elliott and Miller, and apologize to the man.

PLENUM: "The Crackpot and the Scientist": I better leave arguing against it to Graham. I cannot but agree with the general conclusions about dilettantes. "' The comment on Halflength Articles echoes my sentiments. We must fight against outsiders who attempt to hurt FAPA. If Burb's piece was the way deemed best advisable, why, then, so let it be.

EGO BEAST --- not bad. Certainly not worth more than a line of comment.

DREAMLAND OPINIONATOR: Worthwhile.

RATING OF FOCKET FUELS ?? Oh Lord --- let's try again: FUELS --- . There, that's better. I didn't read the folder.

FAPASNIX --- no reason for the reprint that I could see. "' The index was, as are all indexes, worth the space it took. "' "Hybby's Hobby" was interesting. It was surprisingly erudite; how much of it did you rewrite, Coswal?

FANDANGO: Bombdestruction, R. I. P. Concrete accomplishment of a change in attitude by governmental authorities by us is so near impossible that the amounts of space devoted to discussing it seem wasted. Can you comprehend that sentence? "' The affair of the Lasfs clubroom is chuckle-provoking. The antics of the LASFS are always good for a variet reaction, --- sneer, chuckle, puke, --- to fit the occasion. "' I agree with your critique of the Beard, Fran. Actually, fandom is full of all kinds of interest, of course, and if Gus prefers the spirit of the thing, why, then let him prefer it! Ayjay is, after all, rather secondary to fandom itself. I won't launch off into a discussion of fan philosophy, for God's sake; but I do feel that enjoyment is the root of worthwhileness, and enjoyment is probably the only reason

any of us, even the randomisawayoffifers, keep hanging around. " I lack enthusiasm, or liking, of tolerance, for jazz. " One needs an emetic after reading of the Perdues. Ugh. " The '48 quote was chuckle-provoking. Rather an egocentric attitude it expresses, but in itself. " I think I know the fansine referred to in the conflag with AA194, but maybe not. Al Ashley is a burro. Burros are allwise; they are the true dominant race of this planet. They are galactic observers. They chuckle at humans' amusing antics. Al Ashley is a burro, " Fandango is a nice mag, but it is badly mimeoed. Rotten stencils, arthritis, or bad mimeoing, it came out poor.

JABBARTOCKY -- I'm uninspired.

HORIZONS -- Doubleamdoubletoilandtrouble seems to be nearing the end of its journey, judging from the looks of this. " Disney stuff I think on the beam, tho I am scarcely an authority on Disney. " Lensman -- you mean there was a final conflict? Lord. " Such indelicate topics as "RAP's Most Fantastic Adventure" are better left entirely alone. He might get sore and revive the Shaver mystery, you know, not that it is or was dead. " Rest noted and enjoyed. An excellent zine. We need more like it.

HWC JR and H-1661 didn't interest me particularly.

MI SKRIBAS -- Index worthwhile. I gave my views on indexes (should it be \$ "indices"?) above. " If I ever get to the stage where young fans "neal" before me, pick, I'll turn them over to YF, never fear. But by that time you'll be doing the same thing.

SOIPDALGRIIF -- urr, ahh, forget it.

THE FANTASY ANTHOLOGY INDEX: Here we go again. Indexes. " Why doesn't someone explode the myths of Grand Old Men of this and that? Any hack would be a grand old man if he kept writing for a dozen years, even a Shaver. It must be nice to be able to show up at conventions and meet your circle of worshippers.

LIGHT. Interesting. Nice cover; I learned some things about the mimeoing process, of which I had had no idea heretofore. Should have separated the last sentence into 2, I see.

A VISIT FROM GRAHAM -- no use arguing with him; his "arguments" are irrefutable.

Oh hell, I forgot YELLUM. On second thot, maybe I should have said "Praises be". What a stinker of a mag! Don't get drunk at any more oneshot sessions, guys. PLEASE. Seriously, it is a discredit to FAPA and to those whose names appear in it.

GLOM: "TO WHOM..." hilarious. I guess Burb made it funny. " Ackerman stuff and book reviews interesting enuf. " Evans' mailing comments are fairly interesting, and I even agree with some of them. But I do not share RRR's enthusiasm for the niceties of life, or whatever it is, as it applies to the Perdues. Perdue came damn near killing FAPA. Why mumble about the decencies of life while the club goes phoo? " If Ackerman ever misses a chance to sell a book I'll revive Yellum.

MATHRMATICS and the film sheet -- foocy.

MASQUE was mighty fine. As usual, Burb's piece is outstanding. " Some day I'm going to read "Art". " The rest of the stuff gives a scrapbooky impression, but it was all entertaining. Let's see Masque more often, Bill.

SKY HOOK -- here's another credit to the mailing. What was the idea of the titles on the cover? " I might agree vociferously with your conclusion anent anthologies, but I'm not in the mood, so I'll agree passively. " "The Road from Edw to Geo" is amusing -- one of the high spots of the mailing, in fact. " "Contentment" -- an obvious

duplication. " " Mailing comments among the more outstanding ones. " Shaver seemed a rather appalling thing to waste so much space on, even in the presence of so interesting an quality. " "There Is Also Today" ought to hit most of us where it hurts. So true!

SPAPX: This is no place to comment on a generalzine. " The Weird Shadow Over Innsmouth (Bart House) had no introduction at all, not even the cover blurb. THREE EYE -- served its meager purpose, I suppose.

LONG INDIAN FRATERNITY -- some of these days I'm going to sit down and puzzle out just what the hell this guy is offering us!

ICHOP: Two covers on my copy. Anybody want to buy one? " I particularly liked "The Dead: A Partial List." " Still the best poetry in fandom, for whatever poetry in fandom is worth. I guess it can stand alongside such mags as Full Tide and other amateur poetry magazines, with no fannish or fantasy connection.

GOSTAE: Worth it. About alongside Egobeast, nothwre near Horizons or Plenum.

BURBLINGS -- got two copies of this. Anybody want to buy one? " Watson's article raises my ire as a loyal Fan. He has torn down our standards, defied the only true Way of Life. In all seriousness, it speaks ill that he could find any grounds for such a blast. " "The Ethics of Electronics" is the funniest thing I've read in years, in or out of fandom. The ending was a masterpiece.

BYLAW -- hell with it. (Miller disagrees with this comment.) I would not even consider signing it.

SYNAPSE ?? There we go again. SYNAPSE -- there, that's better. I read it, and I imagine I managed to digest at least 5% of it. The cover drawings seemed rather pointless to me, in my godling art critic capacity. " The mailing commentary is easily the best, though I don't believe I voted thusly on Laney's poll, which, by the way, was worthwhile, as I should have mentioned earlier in this ponderous mass of commentary. " One facet of Spear's writing that I imagine annoys many is his failure to decide "yes" or "no" on a question. His reams of commentary and lack of conclusion must frustrate some. I might as well admit I'm unserantical. " "Was the BRASF ille for Trouble Times Two was the same as in Campbell's SF,.." -- come now, Jack. That sort of thing is inexcusable. " I've noticed a deterioration in ASF typesetting standards too. In fact, it has increased till it becomes faintly annoying. " Name the "reputable commercial magazines", will you? Underlining mine. " Many people who are admitted to Fapa who are legitimate fans are below standard; as an example, if I had published Yellum outside of Fapa and circulated it to twenty fans, I'd be eligible to membership. Would I be an uptopar member? Ha. I'm laughing. So it goes. What gives you the idea that the nuts might be interested enuf to even investigate FAPA?? " Pages 10-11 I found little of interest in. "the weariness of Europeans; the suspicion of Russians,..." sounds a lot like Glittering Generalities or something akin to them. " No comment on the wallace thing. I'm not even a liberal. " Don't forget, in your listing of crud, all the Arkham House stuff, various cards announcing one thing and another (such as the suspension of Fandom Speaks), poll sheets, bylaws, and other such trash. " Didn't you read "The Dreamers"? You etta. I agree about Andisnotyet. And the Glans series, " "Aesop ... is the best of the City series." is (sic!) an objectionable statement, I think you'll admit. Whaddaya mean by this rank heresy? How are you so sure it is the "best", what qualifies it so, etc? You mean you liked it best. I prefer "Hobbies" and "Desertion" myself. " Enuf.

A PROMOTION OF DISASTER -- what can you say about it?

ORACLE --- the thing that impressed me most about this beautifully mimeographed publication was the extremely braintrust air about it -- I'd pass it off as a well-done attempt to outSpeer Speer, but this does not seem to be the case. Anyway, it is amazing that anyone with so short a contact with fandom &c could manage to capture the air of extreme oldoldguard so expertly. "Pronunciamento" is beautifully presented, and I can find little fault with his conclusions. I don't happen to agree with him, but (I hope I'm not sounding Evansish) this is obviously no cause for condemnation. I fear that no method of being really selective, short of the Vanguard invitation idea, can ever keep low-grade material out of FAPA. And I have more backing me there than a mere consideration of the ethics of unselectivity and democracy in admitting any fanzine publisher no matter if his fanzine is a panhektoed Ludowits single-sheeter. For it is totally impossible to mold FAPA to suit a certain sort of member, as Vanguard has done. At the present moment, the main interest is for very serious deepthinkers, not necessarily oldguarders but principally so. However, there is enough interest to attract such members as Sneary, Schaumburger, Maddox, and others of the younger set, such as members as Rotsler, who is principally an artist, etc. It remains the FANTASY Amateur Press Association -- an apa for fantasts -- and presumably its coverage should be broad enuf to interest any and all fantasts. As long as it remains in theory dedicated to this purpose, no selectivity will be even possible. When selectivity becomes the policy, the theoretical aim will have to be altered, and the stated scope narrowed. Which would leave about ten members. It would forever eliminate the possibility of excellent but not deep that mags like Masque or Burlings appearing in the mailings. I'll refrain from calling you a "fan", Stevie, if you so wish. The mailing comments are among the more interesting ones. As a point of oddity, I agree with the listing of "Maturity" as top 25th story of the year, even in competition with "A for Effort", which is so near #1 that much cogitation is necessary before giving TS the decision. I find "E" inexplicably absent from your list, CBS. How come? "The End Is Not Yet" is characterized perfectly. "After All..." -- the tendency to paint all fans black referred to is a sort of tendency similar to the fandomisawayoflife philosophy -- just as unreasonable. It is a sort of namecalling habit, similar to the current hysteria that has resulted on "communist" being judged a slanderous term to apply to anyone. Fans are people, before they are fans, in spite of it all, and as people they must be judged. Labeling all fans as low characters because a large number of them have been found to be so is an example of a type of reasoning that has come in for a good deal of deserved criticism. Well, no, sublines can't contain the individual type of rambling discussion found in FAPA: it's not their aim, and if you prefer that sort of thing don't sub to them at all. Let's see more of Oracle. It was a high spot of the mailing, even from a fannish (o horrors) standpoint.

LETHE -- cover is a nice idea, but rather crudely executed, I think. I might remark here to Mr Moffatt that Lethe is a model after which to copy his multicolored mimeography. "Lovecraftiana" interesting. Liber Ivonis is the same as Book of Eibon. It is the Phakotic Manuscripts -- plural. Index nice, How It Began stank. FANTASY AMATEUR JRS. You might mention that Dreamland Opinionator 2pp appeared in the Feb mlg. You handled the distressing influence of the crackpots nicely, Burb.

ASP AND HALFASP : You are lowering yourself, Burb. Adolescent eyes, indeed. I ~~xxx~~ can't even spell it. Don't believe Bill had much luck with his new venture.

BORFAST -- my gosh. Amusing, I think. ABOB AND BORED -- I certainly am. As for the rest of the miniature mailing, I enjoyed it all but can't say much on it, and as for the other postmailing, Dunk's letter served its purpose and Scarab stank. Not that it was bad -- just completely inconsequential. This is all.

R G O B R A S T
(Wilson's crud page)

To begin with, the rate for subscription to Dream Quest in the ad in this issue is wrong. The price has risen. It is now 15¢, 2/25¢, etc. The ad was run off for KayMar Trader some time ago, and the extras have been lying among my junk for several weeks, months, maybe.

Merger may appear again and it may not. It may be that Celephais will become an independent entity in future mailings, but don't count on it. Perhaps Merger will continue to carry all of Miller and Wilson's fapish efforts. At this writing it is remotely possible that some Art Widner stuff will appear in this issue. If not, it is due to circumstances beyond my control, since I have offered to publish Art's Fapa stuff in return for material for Dream Quest.

The Ackerman and Evans pieces in this issue were obtained more or less under false pretenses. Ackerman and Evans were under the impression, when they submitted their material, that Celephais was to be an independent, subscription fanzine. Well, let's hope that they are not too disappointed by this alteration in plans. The Ackerman piece is not to be reviewed by Graham, of course, and perhaps none of Celephais should be reviewed by Graham. But leave that up to Miller, who has a page of crud of his own in this issue someplace.

Let me make a general remark about the last FAPA mailing. The general impression I got was of quality. Nearly all of the material in the mailing could be read with interest and enjoyment, and left with a feeling of satisfaction and of time well spent. For instance, to name a few of the more outstanding mags -- Sky Hook, Synapse, Oracle, FanDango, Masque, Phanteur -- all easy on the eyes, readable, outstanding. There was a lot of stuff that was up to standard, but had no particularly outstanding merit -- Fapasnix, Moonshine, and the like. And there were some magazines the mailing would have been much better off without -- Old and Rare and Yellum are the cases I had in mind. Yellum was, in all sincerity, a disgrace to the mailing. On the whole, however, reading the stuff was time very well spent. Best thing in the mailing (that word should be "thing") was Burbee's "The Ethics of Electronics", the funniest thing I've seen in fandom to date, and one of the top humor items to appear in or out of the professional humor columns. If you want to reprint some of Burb's stuff in your fan column, Graham, reprint this item. It is a masterpiece, without a doubt.

Unknown annual out July 15th is a test case to decide whether or not it is practical to revive Unknown. Let's show them that we want it back by getting several copies and deluging them with letters. And let's show Popular that we appreciate seeing Fantastic Novels again.

Who has a Flash stapler? I have some Flash staples left over from when my Flash stapler fell apart. Free to the first person to ask for them. Two boxes, one full and the other almost full. 2000 in each box.

Has a poll ever been taken to determine the top science fiction or fantasy character of all time?

This seems to bring me near the end of the page and also the end of my thots. Foo knows what I'll have in the next fapa mailing. By August, anything can happen, maybe even my withdrawal from fandom. Look how fast it hit REWARD!

Don Wilson

It is a 3-way merger, after all

HALL OF MIRRORS

-- OR --

Widner reviews the 42th mailing

DREAMLAND OPINIONATOR Sorry, lads, but i didnt think my ballot wd b worth much, since i only read aSF in th pro field, & can hardly keep up with fapazines let alone the horde of others. ((If I slip from this simplifd spelng, Art, it's habit, so don't jump on my neck too hard. --Wilson)) Twil b a great strain if i finish this revu. Lessee, todays th 28 March. Ill have to get it done by about 14 April in order for it to make the May mailing. Good basis for a lottery. How many zines will i get done by then? I originally intended to do the 41th mlg also, but pro-dence (love that gal) bids me forget it. ((Thanks. U mite tax my generosity.))

SOIPDALGEIF I liked this. "The Universe of E" was a nice takeoff on somebody but i cant remember who. ((Whom.)) Maybe some of the more florid passages from Merritt-Lovecraft-CA Smith.

HORIZONS It does me widdle ego no end of good to have somebody-who-obviously-knows-whereof-he-speaks come out & say things ive been thinking all along but didnt quite dare becoz i didnt think i knew enuf about the subject to sound off. Music, f'rinstance, & "attentive listening" in particular. (How come i sound off on other subjects about which i know even less? Y'got me there. Besides, i havent sounded off on anything for about a year, so i figure i can be permitted a few pages of drivel just this once) To get back, Harry says "If you allow the rough impression of the sounds to intoxicate the ear, you rush out & buy the records. Later, you regret the enthusiasm." Oh my, but i sure did. Now i have 8 sides of Liszt, (12") & a dozen or two of other assorted composers who sit there in the cabinet & irritate me by jibing "Nyaaah! Dontcha wish we were Beethoven, or Brahms? Serves ya @*#! well right for getting tired of us!" Strange to say, however, i still can capture that breathless excitement of boyhood when i first heard "William Tell Overture" ground out on a piano with an old silent western. ((And I am still stirred by the concludng passages of "Les Preludes". dw)) The Victor waxing i have, incidentally (4 10" sides in an album -- Toscanini-NBC orch) is the finest interpretation ive ever heard. Arturo's iron-control of pace, plus a field day for the sound technicians which makes even my wheezy old combo sound like Boston Symphony Hall, is a combination that really rocks me out of my sox. My kids like it, too...

Which brings me to something else fapans might find interesting. I remember that some time ago in vapa somebody was grousing about the lack of classical music for chillun. First place, unless the child is musically gifted, tis nothing to worry about. They wont dig much of it anyway. But heres an idea fan, parents might like to try if they want to awaken an interest in "higher" music in their offspring. Take any piece of good music,

listen to it closely, and make up a story to go with it, then tell it to the kids along with the music a la "Peter and the Wolf" which is a pretty good album for kids by the way, & adults too, for that matter. I like the Rathbone narration, by the way, personally. Sale sounds too much like a queer. Here are two examples that worked out pretty well with my kids. 1. Bach's Toccata & Fugue in D Minor. I couldn't get away from the Fantasia symbols at first, but along about the "caterpillars under the carpet" section it shifted to the Rockies and the story of an exciting plane flight coast-to-coast fitted impeccably. With storms, the mountains themselves, ice-on-the-wings, the desperate battle to clear the peaks, to the final, triumphant landing at LA. Then there's another which fits in to the first chapter of "Wizard of Oz", like a nut fits a bolt (or vice versa) altho i fear i may be soundly tromped for mentioning it in the category of "good" music. I refer to Morton Gould's arrangement in plush of "Dark Eyes". His handling of strings and horns is to me particularly evocative of the approaching cyclone. Dorothy's troubles in locating Toto, Toto's falling thru the trapdoor after the house is in the air, the descent, and the destruction of the Wicked Witch of the East. You don't have to be parents either, come to think of it. You might cry it out on yourself just for the fun of it.

Just in case you get the idea that my own listening is on this basis, i want to make it plain that that is not so. I think i have ~~xxx~~ "progressed" to the point where i enjoy music for its own sake. The above is what i used to do, however, & i still think its a good approach for beginners. Program notes are also a help in the early stages if not too stuffy, altho they now give me the pip. Incidentally, a lot of the above goes for jazz too, but i'll take that up when & if i get to Fan-Dango. It is now April 3, & i'm just recovering from the most terrific cold i ever had.

I agree with Harry that Palmer's actions must be viewed in the light of the idea that Rap has a severe neurosis connected with stf & fandom, if not a full-blown psychosis, altho i have analyzed it somewhat differently. The eminent Dr. Widner's opinion is that Rap is suffering from paranoid delusions, & feelings of inferiority & insecurity that have their roots even deeper than fandom. His experiences with fandom have only served to intensify his mental troubles. First & foremost is his deformity. Many people with deformities far smaller than Palmer's develop inferiority feelings for which they overcompensate in various ways. Van Loon has noted this in his biographies in commenting on how history might have been changed if a certain king had not had ulcers, or Napoleon had been a tall man. Inferiority feelings have driven many handicapped people to tremendous lengths in order to show the world & themselves that they were really superior after all. Glenn Cunningham is an example on the positive side.

At first Rap channeled this drive properly by becoming an important "name" in fandom, & acquiring considerable skill at bowling. However, as Harry says, upon the breakup of the First Fandom, he had to find something to fill the aching void in his personality. Then came his big chance to be editor of the best prozine, & no doubt his hopes soared, for here was egoboo to surpass anything in fandom. But unfortunately, ZD did not let him follow the course he originally planned for a magazine that would pull in the juvenile fan & gradually lead to him an appreciation of the better type of stf, similar to the current evolution of TWS. His first steps with Amazing, after the stagnation into which it had drifted, were so sensationally successful commercially that ZD made him stop right there. That was bad, for

then Campbell forged ahead, at least as far as quality is concerned. Palmer was trapped. Bowling was a help, but not enuf, for his need was great. He could not resign, for that would be still worse. He couldn't try to beat Campbell at his own game, not only becoz ZD wished to leave well enuf alone, but becoz they probably estimated correctly that there was room for only one zine of ASF's type in the field. Palmer's only recourse was to rationalize by interpreting commercial success as "Success, Absolute", by considering the opinion of fandom, "the experts", as of no value (& note this -- not becoz they didn't have the qualifications, or good arguments--but becoz they were small in number!) & by considering the opinions of those who praised him as correct. Since these were juveniles & crackpots for the most part, it naturally followed that Kap could continue to "progress" (for he still had drive & intelligence) --but only along this line. And the ultimate crackpots are religious fanatics, so to this sad end the poor fellow's hunger for approval & admiration led him. Let us not condemn him too greatly, for we are all the same basically, ~~my~~ but do not have his obstacles to overcome. Rather let us mourn for a fellow-fan who is dead. ((It would help more to give him the respect he wants---help both him and us. We could get what we want from AS a lot more easily that way.))

PLENUM The main trouble with this is that Milty is such a solid citizen that he seldom leaves any room for disagreement, or even loose strings to tie up. This being so, i'll pass up the last issue with a hearty "well done!" & a couple of minor comments, & hark back to #5, in which Milty tries to educate us in math. First, what means "the year of the turning"? 2nd, add stf stories in which negro(es) have a prominent part: "The Menace" by Dr. Keller was an anti-Negro story, with "Black" replacing "Yellow" preceding "Peril". Even tho i had no liberal tendencies at the time, i faintly recall that it left a rather bad taste in my mouth at the time. Nowadays, i would probably get up in arms about it. I can't remember the issue or even the publication except it was large-size Amazing or Wonder & was later reprinted in a quarterly. Another faintly remembered tale was one by Eli Colter in WT, which concerned a negro who became a paranoiac from race prejudice. He was also a brilliant scientist, & was going to blow up the world to get even, or something like that. The characterization was very good, i remember, & somewhat sympathetic. After foiling the "plot" the narrator-hero (who was really much more of a puppet) tsks about the sad fate of what might have been a fine mind & a leader of his race & even all mankind. I think it was also probably the only "mad-scientist" yarn that explained convincingly how the m-s got that way.

Now for the math issue. The main fault, or lack, which was apparent to me, was the absence of examples to illustrate the various principles. I went over it twice, & think i got most of it, altho i'd hate to take a quiz on it. I think if some actual problems in electricity, engineering, etc, had been thrown in it would be that much clearer. And milty will probably have guys in his classes who are no brighter than i am, altho mayhap not as rusty on the general subject. Another complaint was that some of the more advanced symbols were not explained. "θ" for example. Oops, i just discovered that θ means "angle". I guess i better knock off now, as Toscanini is conducting Beethoven's 9th, & i don't get to hear that very often. ((Me neither. Shall I tell you how I missed the first 15 minutes of it?)) Add titles for the "Negro in Fantasy Literature"(Hey, SDR, that might make an interesting project for you & us.), "Song of the Slaves", another

Weird Tale, which recounts how a blackbirder dumped his cargo of blacks over the side on the approach of a govt ship, & how said cargo blimbed back over the side the next night & evened the score but good. Brrrr! Wellman was the author; i think....

EGO BEAST Caldwell will have to make the bait a little juicier for this old trout to rise. Knocking aSF just to create a fuss is getting to be old hat. If Jawge would dig in & come up with a few details instead of merely flat statements of his preferences, i might become interested. ASF has been tops for such a long time the burden of the proof lies with its detractors. It could be improved, but i haven't noticed any great deterioration lately. As to the aSF type, such as it is, ((No, that's wrong. It should be, "As for background & characterization, i find it easier to "fit myself in" to the aSF type, such as it is...)) than with the cardboard cutouts appearing in most of the rest of the field. Could it be that Jawge lacks the imagination or the mental energy to go along with anything other than simple thud & blunder?

"Pro-Phile" sounds like a good idea to me. I'm all for it, since it will help to spot reading i wouldn't want to miss, & still not have to wade thru a lot of crap.

THE RATING OF ROCKET FUELS Interesting, but unfortunately i'm unable to make any intelligent comment, or even a bluff at it, so i'll keep my big mouth shut & wait for Rothman & Davis to do the honors.

FAN-DANGO Eaker's words don't comfort me at all. Reading between the lines, it seems to me that the powers-that-be in this country are itching for a chance to hop on Russia, to serve the double purpose of defeating the only outside threat to their reign, & of distracting the attention of their subjects (us) from ~~xxxxxxx~~ their (ptb's) shortcomings. 'Twas ever thus. All thru history, whenever the position of a given ruler, or group of rulers, became endangered thru their own malfunctions, the tried-and-true gag is to say, "Look at that bunch of so&sos, they are snakes-in-the-grass/. They want to destroy our fair country. Let's you & them fight!" & so all the poor jerks went off & fought.... to keep the real snakes on top a little longer.

My point is this: If Russia is capable of trading even a couple of haymakers with us -- alles kaput! If not, why all the furore in the daily press & radio? Personally, i don't think Ivan will be any push-over even in his present state, so leave us not lull ourselves with rationalizations. The first sock is half the battle, & often the whole battle, but a lot of guys have got up off the floor to make things very tough indeed for the party of the first part. There's a very good chance for it in almost any situation. Fatalism is not realism.....

Relished the remarks to Willmorth, to Dunkelberger (previous ish) review of the Mezzrow book, in fact, the whole issue was highly interesting.

At this point i would like to hark back to #15 in which Fran gets goeey over Louis. Now i consider myself a jazz "lover", but i can't seem to absorb the cultist viewpoint, or "fan attitude" which Laney deplores in stfandom, but which he seems to think ok in relation to jazz.

Now i wouldn't have a face for talkin'*, if i hadn't heard this same group Fran rapturizes about, in Boston/. As in LA, the piano & bass were more or less blanks, altho Arvell Shaw on bass was interesting to watch when he knocked himself out & tried to crawl inside of his instrument. He's just a kid apparently, & may develop later. But there was Catlett on drums, Bigard clarinet, Teagarden trombone, & Louis. There was also Velma Middleton, who, altho no Bessie Smith, did a couple of good numbers, & real killer of a duet with Louis. Now don't get me wrong, coz i liked it, even tho i had to pay \$4.80 for the frau & me to get in, but when F Towner starts spouting "warm & rich & compelling" it sounds like a lot of Panassie's guff. Neither can i see all the awe for Jackson's & Louis's vocalizing. Both can do a passable job, but are much better sticking to their instruments. Gravel-throat & clever ad-libbing doesn't make a singer in my book. In fact, i'll have to hear a lot more jazz vocals before i ~~can~~ find anybody who can do it the way i'd like to hear it. Fran will no doubt say i'd better hear a lot more jazz. period, but then, i hate to see him palpitating away all by his lonesome on the subject in Fapa, so i figure my opinions will at least be better than the frenzied disinterest shown thus far by the other members.

But to get back to the band. Perhaps i should've heard it at Billy Berg's instead of Symphony Hall, but i couldn't hear anybody but Satchmo. Teagarden, while unquestionably the better man, seemed pitifully weak after listening to George Brunis rattle the statues in their niches clear up in the 2nd balcony nearly 200 ft from home plate. The same goes between Bechet & Bigard, & Sidney takes a back seat to nobody. & while max Kaminsky & Wild Bill Davison both together couldn't polish Louis' horn, Davison being generally sloppy, either will get over his head occasionally, & let go a hair-raiser that will life you right out of your shoes. ((I hope you all love this--wilson))

You may have gathered by this time that i'm comparing this Super-combo (according to FTL), with Eddie Condon's outfit, which i had heard earlier in the same hall, & that EC is not suffering too badly from the comparison. Davey Tough, i'd say, was about Big Sid's equal.

Now i'm partial to the rough&tumble stuff, but i'll say this. The best isn't much good if you can't hear it, & second best is really fine when you can.

Oh yes, one more thing. I heard Bigard pull that same break on "Tea for Two" that sent Fran away away, so evidently it wasn't a "once-in-five-years" thing after all, altho i must admit that i got a terrifickick out of it too....//

JABBERWOCKY was ok; i simply wasn't provoked by anything.

HAROLD W CHENEY JR The title of this is a dilly. I get a kick every time i see it. Where are you going to find "an easily defensible" spot in a rich farm belt? Them's all flat, ain't they? Cherry Valley, maybe? Who's going to build the castle & when? Finally, better we hand it back to the insects altogether, than revert to feudalism. I've got a story in the works called "Operation Phoenix" which plugs for something quite different, even tho on a primitive scale. But i'll take that up in my review of

H - 1 6 6 1 Hooray for a man with some guts to face the future, instead of trying to ignore it, or bleating about "hardships". I've been thinking about bomb-dodging (also bacteria-dodging) a lot in the past couple of years, & my conclusions parallel Rusty's quite closely.

I agree with his thots on preliminary preparations, & am taking steps in that direction. However i think it is feaseble to go even farther. ~~Ex~~ we had a very interesting discussion of this subject one evening at the Stranger Club, & Chan Davis & some of the others were definitely interested.

The first item is location. When traveling thru the Sierras just west of Donner Summit on my way to the Pacificon in '46, i was favorably impressed by that area as a site. It is remote from the big centers of population, but not too remote. I think people with willingness & adaptability could find decent livelihoods without commuting a great distance. The climate is neither harsh nor enervating, an important factor. I've heard the soil is not ideal, but small scale farming & herding could ~~bx~~ be carried on without great difficulty. There are steep hills & abandoned mines for defense purposes. Plenty of timber for construction. In short, it seems to have an optimum number of varied survival factors that have to be taken into consideration.

Secondly is organization. Four or five years ago when the Slan Center discussion was going on, i suggested that those interested, if they weren't just talking, to start saving as much as they could for the down payment on a piece of land & the construction of homes thereon. Since then i have joined a co-operative & have delved deeper into the problems of co-op housing & living. The encouraging thing is the fact that it has been done successfully. There are quite a few of these projects, from small high-income groups, to low-income groups who slowly & painfully saved their money & built their homes with their own hands in their spare time, but who are now far better off than their city brethren who lacked the faith & courage to sacrifice a few comforts for a couple of years. Even a group as small as ten can start, & that is how i think we could do. The beauty of it is that even if by some miracle the Collapse is staved off, we've still attained something useful & beneficial. The advantages of cooperative living have been gone over before, so i won't go into that angle unless necessary.

Thirdly, is acquisition. Not only tools & equipment, & a stockpile of food, but numerous skills & handicrafts. To mention a few: farming & care of livestock, butchering & preserving meat, weaving, tanning & leatherwork, blacksmithing & metal working, carpentry, pottery & possibly glass work, well-digging, sanitation, first aid & dentistry, archery & bow-making....

Personally, i will be in California about the time you read this, & have spent the last two years learning a trade which will up my income somewhat. Besides that, i have acquired the above mentioned co-op knowledge, and thru taking part in various community activities have learned something of organizational & administrative techniques. Incidentally, that is mainly why Papa has suffered during my tenure of office. I hope you'll forgive me for considering the above work more important when a choice had to be made.

PS -- I am also bringing up three sons,

Where did you get the title --H-1661?

PPS -- It is neither necessary or desirable that our survival group consist 100% of fans. I've said that before.

O D D I T E M S No, don't get excited, this isn't a fanzine you missed in your mailing. I merely wanted to dispose of a few things that don't come under any particular heading.

1. A note on a mailing envelope about a Haydn opera written or performed in 1779 called "Il Monde della Luna" -- "The World on the Moon".

You'd never know it from listening to the music. The plot could have concerned a distant, unknown country just as well. 2. In a recent Collier's, the lead editorial & Fitzpatrick cartoon dealt with some Russian's theory that the object which dealt Terra a tremendous wallop on June 30, 1908, & dug a tremendous crater, was not an oversize meteor, but a spaceship from Mars! 3. A note i overlooked in Fan-Dango, anent a justification for Speer's & others' attitude toward the Ziff-Davis twins. I share the attitude, & my justification is that i simply don't care to be connected even remotely with anything as screwball as the Z-D publications. Fandom itself is bad enuf. ((You can say that again)) Now will somebody tell me why anyone with a modicum of intelligence should want anything to do with such an outfit? ((Do I have your antecedent/referent for "such an outfit" right?))

MI SKRIBAS, & Sneary..you are wonderful. I hereby nominate
 a VISIT FROM GRAHAM "FAPA....where old fans go to die" as the bon
 mot of the year & further submit that it should be ensirined on the masthead of the Fantasy Amateur. In fact, you have made me feel so good, that i'm egging to do you a favor, & i hope you will look upon it in that light.

Your spelling, as you doubtless know, is like the wather. Everybody talks about it, but nobody does anything. Therefore, i present you with this free spelling lesson. I have gone thru your sheets & made a list of misspelled words therein. Beside them you will find the correct spelling. I have tried to overlook obvious type lice, but if any are included, i crave your pardon.

INCORRECT	CORRECT	INCORRECT	CORRECT
speek	speak	were	where
neals	kneels	supprised	surprised
add	ad(vertisement)	wast	waste
anaual	annual	nave	naive
recruting	recruiting	buch	bunch
beginers	beginners	kine	kind
horrrable	horrible	brage	brag
nearly	merely	mater	matter
neaver	never	tryed	tried
reather	rather	likeable	likable
desided	decided	wonderfull	wonderful
replys	replies	elce	else
admitadly	admittedly	detrack	detract
feild	field	contenual contensual	continual
stupidey	stupidity	ment	meant
eather	either	lieing	lying
lier	liar	finely	finally
belive	believe	deceatfull	deceitful
wild	while	number	number
		doubtfull	doubtful

I wantto assure you at this point that my purpose is not to ridicule, as so many of the older fen are wont to do, but to help. I think you are in a miniscule minority among the junior fen, in that you can see some of your own shortcomings & make an honest effort to improve. Your spelling is improving, & i merely wish to give you a little moral support in overcoming your defects. Also wangle an introduction to Mr. Webster. He's the best friend an aspiring writer could have. Good reading & writing, & clear ether, Rick.

M A S Q U E A bit of all right. Best airbrush i've seen since the demise of the late lamented En Garde. Mimeo technique is also good. However, you've made enuf primitive war masques to last me quite a while. Let's see some genuine fantasy work.

S K Y H O O K I'd suggest, Redd, that you try some of the more formal verse forms, before you return to free verse. Practice at the former will tend to improve the latter, which, with your present handling, is really only lined prose. "There is Also Today" had some merit.

S P A R X A generalized fanzine such as this is a distinct refresher after wading thru such a pile of personalized stuff. One or two of these is just what we need to offset the effect which gave rise to the title of this column. Here's hoping you don't get bored with it all very soon, & that Sparx continues to wave as high, wide, & handsomely as at present. "Cold War" & "Recall" both good. I think Sparx is setting some sort of a record in the consistently high level of its amateur fiction. I've read literally thousands of fanzines, & can't recall anything to beat it. I wouldn't go as far as Speer, & make such a statement without qualifications. I would say that our cultural matrix is not much good, & think I ((excuse me..i)) mean essentially the same thing as he does. A few changes in the gods (ideas) we worship, would make quite a difference/ in people. I hold that personality is primarily the product of environment. NO?

S Y N A P S E "...the Northman is indisputably capable of intenser feelings than the Mediterranean." Yhos disputes it, pal, so tell me more about it. ((Mean abstract emotions like pathos & grief, or the more obvious kind like anger, love, etc?))

"Signpainters have always been an illiterate class." Go foah yore shootin' arn, stranguh; an resents that.

Speer expresses the philosophy of expediency (of which i grow more & more tired & disgusted with every day) in opposing Wallace. Poor means to a good end seldom work. Countenancing evil tends to weaken, & even destroys the noblest purpose. "If you believe in a set of principles, support them! Equivocation is the enemy's entering wedge." I was a delegate at the founding convention of the third party in Massachusetts, & i am by no means convinced that "the protest vote will be a flat failure." I think the sentiment aroused is already accomplishing some good. Witness the Stassen victory in the Wisconsin primaries. "Nor am i convinced that Truman&Co offer X a "perceptibly better chance". Harry has several times gone the Republicans one better on suppressive & war measures. & in the light of recent events Taft/Dewey does not seem to be the only alternative." Also, the continued bungling of Truman has, in my mind & in the minds of a great many others, practically assured his defeat. & even a last-minute break with tradition by the nomination of a more acceptable candidate such as Douglas will be too late for a Democratic victory. "So i consider your attitude unsound on all points. I intend to work for Wallace, vote for Wallace, & i urge every fan with hopes of a better future for mankind to do the same. # # #

My apologies to the publishers of zines not reviewed in this column, but i'm afraid if i don't wind it up & get it off to Wilson right now, i'm liable to miss the mailing altogether. Some of course didn't interest me at all, & others i simply didn't get to. Notably Oracle, Gostak, Ichor, Burblings, & Phanteur. mayhap when i get settled in Calif, Yhos will appear again.

NATIONAL FAN CONVENTIONS

by E. EVERETT EVANS

AS one who has attended four major Fan Conventions, who plans to go to Toronto this July, and who hopes to attend all other National conventions for the next thirty or forty years, I feel that I have a right to urge all fans everywhere to make plans whenever possible to do likewise. I am sure that you will find, as I and hundreds of other fans have found, that it will be one of the biggest thrills and grandest experiences of your fan life.

When you've been reading science fiction and fantasy for many years, you naturally get to feel that you almost know the writers, editors, and artists personally, even if you've never met them. Then, when you do go to a convention, and actually meet them, you have that great lift of spirits that you get when you meet a well-known and well-loved friend. It's a joy that hardly anything else can equal.

You have a chance to bat the breeze with them about the ones of their stories you like best; to go to the mat with them on the ones you thought were stinkers. You'll find -- almost without a single exception--that they're glad to talk with you; to give you additional highlights on how or why they wrote thus and so; to explain little points that may not have been too clear to you. They're all grand fellows and gals; they really get as big a bang out of gabbing with you about their stuff as you will. That's why they go to those conventions themselves.

I've met so many dozens of them, and all of them have had something of real interest to give me. Dr. Keller, for instance, explained several points that had been disturbing me about his "Life Everlasting" and "The Devil and the Doctor". These stories, always favorites of mine, are now more than doubly so. I've talked with people like Heinlein, Van Vogt, Smith, Campbell, De Camp, Bradbury, Rocklynne, Binder, del Rey, C. L. Moore, Wily Ley, and many, many others. These people have "soaring" minds; you cannot help but be lifted high into that fantasy realm that is our hobby-life when you talk to them.

I've talked with editors like Campbell, Merwin, Gaedinger, Palmer, Heinlein, and others, and have learned many of their problems, as well as their trials and tribulations in trying to give us the sort of magazines they know we want. And believe me, it isn't all a bed of roses, being an editor.

I've chatted about their pics with men like Rogers, Schneeman, and a number of others. They all told interesting stories of their work, and their dealings with editors and authors.

And I've met the fans with whom I've been corresponding for years; with those whose fanzines I've read and enjoyed; with those of whom I've heard but had never before personally contacted. I've had a chance to argue personally with them about the various questions and problems we've talked about in our letters and fanzines. It's been wonderfully stimulating.

And each time I've gone I've had enough material memories from the convention to last me for succeeding years -- the most happy and inspirational sort of memories of grand people who talk my language. I've come to the firm conclusion that these conventions are worth every single bit of the sacrifice and goings-without that I have no practice during all the rest of the year in order to be able to attend them.

WILL I SEE YOU AT TORONTO THIS COMING JULY? I HOPE SO!

MANANA IS GOOD ENUF FOR ME
por Senor Acker-hombre

Would you like to live in a patriarchy where all the girls wore even less than the Old Look, and the Queen was a brunet Betty Grable? I have just seen such a prophecy picturized. It is called EL SEÑO FUERTE--The Strong Sex--a highly amusing futuristic film made in Mexico.

There was a foreword which presumably explained where and when this picture was taking place, but as my knowledge of Spanish exceeds only my knowledge of Sanskrit, I regret I was unable to translate it. All I could get was the last 2 words, Atomic Era.

The picture opened in an Atomic Eraplane, equipped with magnaview televisor. What this short shot had to do with the rest of the plot, I don't know, but presently we saw a couple chaps on a raft on an ocean. They did not appear to be ship- or plane-wrecked, but rather seemed to be enjoying a holiday. One was having a siesta, the other was fishing.

The fisherman catches a Spanish Esther Williams!

The swimming siren disengages herself from the line and swims back to shore. In the background we see a great flashgordian city, autos whizzing along elevated roadways at about 500 mph!

In short order a half dozen amphibious females swim out to the raft with military precision, and capture the 2 men.

The males, prodded by buckrogerish-looking weapons, are escorted into the presence of Eva XLV. As someone once asked before, how do you whistle on paper? This doll could give Betty Grable nink and saddle, and win a beauty contest in a gunny-sack. Reina Eva (played by Napy Cortes) sports a wardrobe of pyrotechnicostumes, and a stratosphericoiffure. In fact, all the señoritas in her queendom are garbed a la Things To Come (and none of the brief little playsuits come anywhere near covering the subjects).

In this woman's world the men (who all wear long beards) have reversed positions and are seen in such occupations as tele(video)phone operators and manicurists. In social circles they sit and knit while the women gamble with something resembling dominoes.

Intoxicating drinks are created by dropping champagne pills, etc., in plain water. Every room has a large televisor on its wall. In nite clubs, the male dancing partner bears the brunt of the ruff-stuff in floor-show apache dances.

Without a knowledge of Spanish you miss out, of course, on a lot of the fun, and I only vaguely understood what was happening about the introduction of razor blades, the formation of a masculinist movement, etc. One could have wished that, after the model makers had gone to the trouble to create the super city of the patriarchs, the director had shown it on the screen oftener and longer. But the picture, in its running time of 75 minutes, has much, visually, to recommend it to fans who like films with scientific fictional trap-pings.

Hi-lite in hilarity was the auction block sequence, when

the 2 men were sold as slaves, with the auctioneer exciting bidding among women by displaying and eulogizing the men's fine physiques, handsome features, etc.

Needless to say, Queen Eva XLV falls in love with the handsomest of the 2 hombres; in fact, the way time flies, there may be a nubile Princess Eva XLVI by now....

(Editor's Note: The manuscript broke off at this point. Altho the sudden disappearance from fandom of FJA has never been successfully explained, we are in receipt of a message which may shed some light on the mystery: A cryptic telegram, in green/ink, delivered by carrier pigeon, reading: "Heading south of the border in search of Queen's Land. Signed, Bosque." Linguistic experts tell us that bosque is Spanish for a wood, or, possibly, a Forest.)

((WILL YOU DUMMY YOUR NEXT PIECE FOR A 70sp LINE, ACKERMAN?? HUH?))

Activity credit for the Ackerman and EEEvans pieces--2 1/3pp credit for Miller, 1p for EEEvans, 1 1/3pp for Ackerman. Art Widner, of course, gets 8pp credit, thus enabling him to remain a member of our exalted organization.

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This is Wilson speaking.

Being as how as it is nearing deadline time and I have only read one aSF since my last review appeared (elsewhere), I can't compose a detailed review of aSF. And I am not in the mood to review in great detail TWS, SS, and the crudzines. Therefore I shall compose a piece on the current status of prozines, in hopes that it will benefit you. Harry Warner Jr did it not long ago, but Harry had as his basis, representative issues picked up at random. I'm a regular reader of all the prozines, and I think that this enables me to have a slightly better perspective than that of one who hadn't read a copy of a prozine for years. In all sincerity, this is not a slur at Warner -- it's an objective consideration.

TWS and SS are, of course, the best prozines now available in the pulp world. aSF is eliminated from this discussion. This decision is shared by many others who are more or less general readers, and I doubt if many will disagree much with it. Both are large; both give you a lot for the money; Merwin is sympathetic to fan attitudes; stories are generally of a high grade. However, they are very definitely far from perfect. And they suffer by comparison with aSF. They lack trimmed edges, semislick paper, and the other refined qualities of the Campbellzine. Their covers are rotten. They have lettering all over the covers, thoro juvenile blurbs, juvenile letter columns, and the like. Merwin caters to fans, in a sense; but his only vocal audience consists of young fans. And thus he is allowing his letter columns -- forcedly -- to become a vehicle for youngfan humor. This is bad. But, as I say, the 2 magazines have many good points, and their stories are fine, considering the drawbacks (topbrass-dictated policy regarding length, etc). And they are still on a steady pgrade. Merwin deserves more encouragement from the more mature fans; if anything ever happened to aSF, his 2 mags would be the only remaining hope of stf.

We still have some drawing cards for the juvenile readers -- those who may become fans in 10 years or so. The drawing cards to which I refer are Planet and Fantastic Adventures. It has been my experience that both occasionally

run top stories. For instance, a recent Planet featured Ray Bradbury's "Pillar of Fire", which is pretty generally agreed to have been a classic; and last year sometime, FA's "Forever is Too Long", by Chester S. Geier, was topnotch. But these top stories are mighty few and far between, and are certainly infrequent enough to make it true that the mags aren't worth reading. Their necessary function is to recruit new juvenile readers from Planet Comics, and this they do creditably. "Amazing" used to do the same as the 2 mags ~~xxx~~ mentioned. But no more. If anything, it frightens away the juveniles. It does convert occultists to stef, true, but occultists are not worthwhile stefnists, while juveniles can develop into such. Now that the Shaver Mystery ~~is~~ is, at least in name, banished, perhaps AS will revert to its former function. Let's hope ~~xxx~~ so. It is conceivable that AS might turn into a worthwhile magazine, but I'm not betting on it. All I'd plug for right now is the removal of the corpse of the Shaver Mystery, now that it is supposed to be dead. I don't like zombies.

FFM and its newly revived companion mag need little mention. They fulfill a necessary place in the prozine ranks, and both are pretty excellent as they stand. FFM does pass off some high old stinkers occasionally, but oftener its yarns are really worth it. FN, which reprints Munseyarns, bids fair to beat out its sister zine, and take a high place on the polls next year.

Derleth can keep Weird Tales, for my money.

Avon Fantasy Reader's deteriorated format have killed its cultured appearance, and the cruddy makeup and high price lower its standing vastly. If they lower its price to 25¢, it's okay. But till then, it's not worth it/all.

The same holds for Fantasy Book, which is really more of a semipro than pro. Little can be said that is definite about this publication, however, until more issues have come out.

Now that that's out of the way, I can begin to think about a detailed prozine review mag in future FAPA mailings. This time, the crud caught up to me before I knew what was happening, and as a result my prozine comments had to be confined to this brief survey. But I think I can predict something better next time. We'll see. In the meantime, you'll have to be contented with "Keeping Up with Campbell", which is pretty excellent as a substitute, at that.

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STATEMENT: HEAR YE, HEAR YE, ETC

Greeting, fellow fapams. I am truly delighted to have become a member of such an ancient (fanrishly speaking) organization ((sic)) as the Fapa. I shall stay as long as possible in this haven of good fellow and endeavor to become a worthwhile addition to its ranks, a person worthy of the deepest respect of his associates. In time I will no doubt find myself the very ideal of all the fan virtues, greatly admired by everyone who doesn't have the good fortune ((sic)) to know me personally ((sic)). ((Here this narrative breaks off. Maybe it was soaked in ball point pen ink and rendered illegible. At any rate, no more can be translated.))

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This Fapish merger is hereby rendered null, void, dissolved. Witnesseth.....