

CONFAB

Oct. 18, 1954

7

Bob Pentrawsky

Box 634

Norfolk, Nebr.

Let's get right into the letters this time, hmmm? I'll probably fill in a little at the end if space permits. And now...

STAN WOOLSTON, 12832 West Ave., Garden Grove, Calif.

(line 19) Now I might start this out--

I am a nufan who just loves ray bradbury because he writes the cutest things and Shaver because he's so scary--

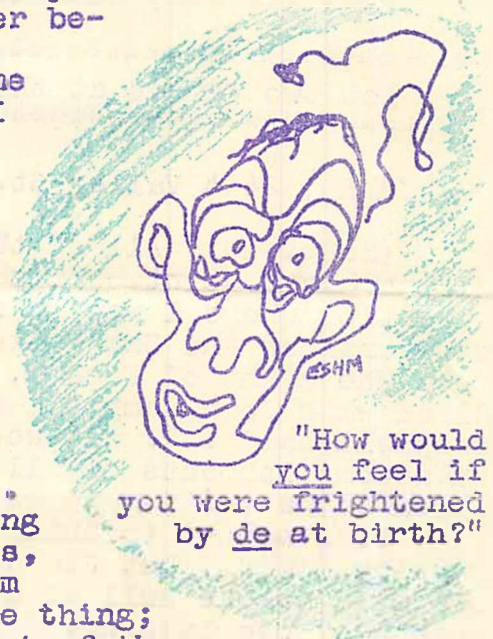
But I won't. Instead, I'll say a dime is enclosed for CONFAB. Confabidentially, I saw review of your mag in Gertrude Carr's Garrzine. I'm on lookout for fanzines to scan, as Warren Dunn asked me to write a fancolumn including reviews for his forthcoming SPACE & TIME. So if your zine is continuing here's a chance for a little publicity.

Also, the column needs stuffing in form of anecdotes of a biographical nature --experiences in the fanfield that might be humorous or even helpful to others (how I met my first two-headed fanzine editor)... gripes or something that you feel like saying that's quotable in a few words. This sounds, now that I look over the paragraph, like I'm trying to collect material for a FILLER-type thing; actually I didn't have this in mind, but part of the column will be made up of small items.

For another purpose, I would like to find the source for certain fanterms or words. Some time ago I started accumulating these, with the idea of someday putting out a sort of source-dictionary. It seems to me last time I mentioned this, to a Canadian named Browne, he said it gave him an idea for a fanzine...

That SOURCE publication might have a history-of-fan section, too; if you have anything to suggest under title (or terms) or history, I'll be glad to receive it. Have you invented any fantype thing (a perpetual-commotion machine for background-noise at a con, for example, or a phrase like Sneary did "Where Old Fans Go To Die," informal motto of FAPA)?

Please tell me if you put out any other publications that I should sub to (oneshotly, to coin a term). A oneshotsub--sounds like a suicide sea-weapon like the Japanese might have piloted during



"How would you feel if you were frightened by de at birth?"

a not-inherent war. (Maybe I should invent the answer to Russian roulette: Fannish roulette, where you send a rolled-up fanzine through the mail. A one-shot, of course.)

We need a word to rhyme with "science-fiction"--
That isn't so low-down as "dereliction"...

I believe that VOM and GRIPES AND GROANS were the first letterzines I've seen. Perhaps VOM was already defunct, and Rick Sneary's was just about. But I liked, and still like, letterzines. Probably I might comment on the items and extend my subscription after reading an issue. (Subscription? Nothing could be subber than a single ish.)

Idea for an APA: the nonfanzine apa (NONapa), made up of parts of fanzines. I have parts of one printed around the place but no time now to finish it. If someone else had an unnumbered zine partially printed out APA would be gun. The oneshot nonapa.

((CONFAB has been sent and the dime returned too, as no cash subscriptions are accepted. Don't know if I can help you out with any of those other items but nice to hear from you anyway, and fire away with the comments if you feel inclined.

"Not two femmes at the Con---they never heard of Burbe@.."

I WESARS, 2444 Valley St., Berkeley 2, Calif.

(Sept. 10) All of the letters are interesting, but Gregg Perkins has a point. It's even of more interest to me since the convention where I was in on a discussion--as a silent partner--with Pete Vorzimer and Sam Moskowitz. Vorzimer was asking Sam's advice for a Who's Who of Fandom, like Gregg. I gathered that Pete had also talked with John Campbell about the subject, too, for he mentioned "Campbell said...". It would be photo-offset, and contain the names and accomplishments of all fans from 1st through 7th--or whatever fandom we're in!

Pete seemed to think it would be better to just have the index covering fandom, but Sam defended both pros and fans, because he said it'd be one hell of a job trying to break down the two classes because of overlapping.

For instance Sam mentioned that Doc Smith is more of a fan at heart than Pete would ever be--and who can say no? I don't think Pete could.

And I don't think Pete's the one to put out something of that importance. I wouldn't want to tackle it, and I've got a fair amount of self-confidence. If one of the newer fans took it on, everybody would be just sitting around waiting for something to pop, and they wouldn't cooperate as much as if we had someone like Boggs or Willis doing it.

((I'm inclined to agree with your thinking about the fannish Who's Who. Not that I have anything against Vorzimer, but I do believe that someone who has been around fandom somewhat longer would be more successful in tackling such a project. But don't get me wrong---I don't want the job either. Tennis, anyone?))

"It's just an ol' letterzine, simple full of con-tro-ver-see."

RICHARD GEIS, 2631 North Mississippi, Portland 12, Oregon

(Sept. 10) Is CONFAB dead or is it merely an extended period of gafia?

Or are you dead? Don't bother to answer if the latter.

((No comment.))

".the American Sons of BNFs---a Fapatriotic group.."

ED COX, 15 Avenue 36 (apt. 14), Venice, Calif.

(Sept. 12) ...As you and Bloch mentioned, it is indeed the fans, not the topics that change. Essentially, the matter contained in this issue was the same sort of stuff I read in letterzines back in 1948-50 only by different people now with slight variations of opinions.

One thing especially, in George Wetzel's letter, struck me as being rather ridiculous though. This matter of fantasy being under discrimination. If fans don't particularly care for fantasy, they sure aren't going to go to any great lengths to discuss it in any way. As far as that goes, the trend seems to be not to discuss even science-fiction. Most of the current subzines I've seen recently are more concerned with fandom. Which is only natural. The fad these days is to claim complete abstinence from the reading of prozines. Or so it seems.

Again, on the subject of topics to be discussed in letterzines, or anywhere, nobody can say or direct in any way what people are going to discuss. People are notoriously hard-headed about these things it seems. In fact, they fight wars to be able to say what they think where and when they want to. It is silly on anybody's part to even suggest that discussion be limited to such and such a thing or to suggest that some topics ought not be discussed.

As for the matter of sending mss to fanzine eds only to never more hear of said mss...that is crying over spilt milk. I doubt in most cases that the editor in question is deliberately raking in fan-manuscripts and laughing fiendishly over the months as letter after letter comes plopping into his mailbox demanding to know the whereabouts of the mss. There can be any number of reasons. In some cases, there may be so many people to write to, they just can't help missing one or two. Especially if they happen to be moving or going into the army. On the other hand, are these manuscripts so important? So they are never heard from again. There is such a thing as making carbon copies. Sub-money is something different, of course. There isn't much you can do about that. However, I doubt if this is wide-spread in practice. What's more, there is always the fact that you can exercise caution and not subscribe unless you know that the zine and its editor are long-time and dependable publishers.

So it may sound easy for me to write all of the above. To do away with Mr. Wetzel's arguments to that effect, I'll mention that shortly before I joined the army in early 1951, I had over half a dozen manuscripts out to different faneds. One of them, I heard about two years later, was published in a zine. The others just disappeared in the maw of fandom. Only recently, I sent a sub, a small one, to a fanzine editor here in LA. I've never heard from although I understand he's ceased publication. If I felt that the small sum would break me, I could always drive over to where he lives and demand an accounting. But why bother? It won't break me and I will know in the future not to depend on him should he start activities again. (If anybody's wondering who he is, see the fan-file department of the 3rd DEVIANT.)

G. A. Carr writes a very well thought out letter. I agree with her in re both the "religionists" and the world political subjects. But I won't add anything to this waning discussion.

Geis also had a very interesting letter. It seems to be a very logical explanation as to the sudden change of heart.

Once again a fan-directory is in the wind. I wish the perpetrators luck but if I may, I'll insert a pessimistic note to the proceedings which might help lessen the final disappointment. The deciding factor of the theoretical fan-directory is that there is no way to get the fans to send in the darn questionnaires. Take the case of the Fan-Directory that was co-sponsored back in 1948 or 49 by the NFFF and the Fantasy Foundation. At least two thousand forms were sent out. The FANTASY ADVERTISER (now known as the SCIENCE FICTION ADVERTISER or has it changed titles again?) sent them out to its mailing list of well over a thousand, all existing organizations had copies sent to the memberships and the prozine letter-columns were culled for more names. At that time, there were a lot more letter-columns existing and they were a lot larger than those today. Despite this and the prospect of a printed directory (which it was), I don't think there were three-hundred returns. This after an extended deadline too. Only the most active element in fandom, along with the few by-standers who always subscribe to a few fanzines with never a comment otherwise, will respond.

But go to it, it will be fun doing, maybe!

I was going to mention earlier in this letter that there is no really burning issues in fandom these days. The 7th fandom business never did achieve that designation and it's burned out anyway. But from the San Francisco convention, there is just possibly one big item that will make for hot controversy if indications are correct. The matter of the Convention Suite, paid for out of Convention funds and intended for use by all attendees. It seems that officials of the convention made semi-restricted use of it and plenty of people are burned up about it. Since I wasn't there and despite the fact that about as reliable a source as you could want (but who must remain nameless now) told me, I won't mention names or details. But fireworks may break.

((You've brought up one angle on this Fan Directory publishing business that I hadn't considered before---how to get the fans to return the questionnaires. I wonder how many of

the current prospective publishers of directories have considered this angle.))

"CONFAB might be another VOM, but who wants to be another Ackerman?"

LARRY ANDERSON, 2716 Smoky Lane, Billings, Montana

(Sept. 13) At last comes the laggard CONFAB. I was about to forget you even existed. I sorta wondered what had happened to you, but I'm a little gafia this last summer, myself.

As for Gem Carr's discussion upon religion, I will let her discuss with the others. I'm not a religious person, and don't intend to argue about it. Why doesn't someone introduce to Gerty that old problem of how many angels could dance on the head of a pin? That ought to keep her quiet for a goodly while, while she works with calipers, decimal tabulation, an electric comptometer, and other similar aids, we'll sit back and chuckle through our collective beards. By the time she finds out, we'll be sure to have beards.

I'm glad to see COPSIA back in fandom. I'm inclined to think that a new core will grow up about it. It's close contributors and more enthusiastic readers will get together and make another branch of fandom. They sorta died out the last time, you know.

((Yes, it was just my usual summertime gafia period that has been interfering with CONFAB. # I, too, am glad to see COPSIA making more regular appearances. It was one of the two first fanzines that I received back a couple of years ago....the other was QUANDRY, in case you're curious.))

"...I feel like writing, so I'll sign off..."

S/SGT. STEPHEN F. SCHULTHEIS, AF 15495905, Hq, 5750th AB Gp,
(change of address on top of page 7) Sheppard AFB, Texas

(July 8) ..Lupoff, in #3, and his remarks on stf and movie fandom: I agree. As much as I'd like to see the pleasures of fandom spread about as widely as possible, personal experience and observation have convinced me that fandom, expanded beyond a small, loosely-knit (but knit) group, is fandom ruined. So I've been again' a larger fandom, and in favor of a smaller. In the same line, I've been again' a larger World Convention, over-run with wide-eyed "readers" and split, through the necessity of finding someone whom you know, into cliques. Yes, I know the argument that you've got to attract the "readers" into fandom. Bosh! Wanna argue, anybody? --- Rich might be interested to know, by the way, that there is in existence today, at least one uncommercialized movie fan magazine. The name of it is FILMS IN REVIEW, and it should be available at any large magazine stand. It tends to discuss motion pictures as an art form, which, of course, they are, though most of the movie

fans and movie fan magazines carefully ignore the fact. I'd recommend FIR to anyone seriously interested in motion pictures.

Glad to find some other hardy souls who didn't particularly care for CHILDHOOD'S END. On the other hand, seems a shame that Gregg doesn't care for much of Clarke's work at all. In my humble opinion, Clarke is one of the best in the field. Agreed, that Clarke isn't so hot in handling alien races. The wild and woolly yonder is not for him. He is the master of the "conquest of space" school of science-fiction. His extrapolation is best when close to home, in time and space. Can anyone name books better in their field than SANDS OF MARS or PRELUDE TO SPACE? Real down-to-earth type stf. Just compare them with some of the crud that Murray Leinster has written on the same theme ("The Story of Red Cantrell" comes to mind) to appreciate how excellent they are. Don't get me wrong, I like extrapolation here, there, or yonder, but in this one field, Clarke just can't be beat, for my money. (And, let's face it, almost every stf author---I could probably think of an exception if I really tried---has one type of science-fiction in which he excels, while in everything else, if he does write it, he's at best an "also ran").

Naaman Peterson comments that 3-D is NOT on the way out. What a disappointment! At the risk of being a nasty old reactionary, may I go on record to the effect that I do NOT like either 3-D or Cinemascope. Of course, this runs in our family. My father claims that they ruined motion pictures when they started making them with sound, and can count on one hand the number of shows he's gone to since -- and one of them was "20,000 BC" where the only dialogue, for the most part, was Victor Mature's grunts. Me for the old, flat, square screen! I don't like paper spectacles perched on my nose, or things being heaved in my face by actors who, after all, I am paying to see. You'd think they'd be more polite than that, under the circumstances. And so what's so great about Cinemascope -- except the prices? Twice as much screen? So what? Twice as much (Stereophonic) sound? I'd rather have less. I will say that I don't mind technicolor, though. But, in the long run, when I go to a movie, I go to enjoy the one thing that 3-D and Cinemascope have apparently replaced: Good acting.

((I'm afraid that some of these so-called "comments" are beginning to sound a bit monotonous. All I seem to be doing this time is agreeing with most everything. Well, I can't spoil such a good record, so I may as well start agreeing with this letter. And I do too, as regards favoring a smaller, rather than a larger fandum...and it seems to working that way again after the recent "boom". # Don't know if I'd be quite as emphatic as you in regard to the 3-D and Cinemascope discussion. As a matter of fact, I'm somewhat neutral---I'm neither for nor against them. I've seen a few shows in both mediums and can take them or leave them. Actually, I'm not much of a movie fan anyway---and especially not now since that 17" hypnotic monster made its appearance here. Of course, the fact that I can no longer afford movies has nothing to do with the discussion. It ain't the money, it's the principle of the thing---I keep telling myself. # Oh, almost forgot to mention that I got a change-of-address card from Steve a few

days ago. Lessee, he says that his address is now "Stephen F. Schultheis, 238 Trumbull Ave. SE, Warren, Ohio". Sounds as if we might have another civilian in our midst.)

"I smuggle CONFAB in to a group of teen-agers."

ROBERT BLOCH, P. O. Box 362, Weyauwega, Wis.

(Sep. 13)...Glad to find my letter in such distinguished company this issue and would write another except that I've so much mail piled up here during my absence at the Convention. Had a real ball out there, and wonder if the general reaction will be as favorable as mine. Hotel was a stinker (but I didn't stay there, so that wasn't my problem) and I heard the usual rumors about youthful fen having their troubles with management. Fortunately, I just had a marvelous time, seeing all the sights like a tourist and a lot of things which tourists don't get to see. Some marvelous couples escorted a gang of us around the nightspots and thru the Bay Area by day: got to see the Redwoods, among other things. And I had fun at the Con itself, so my personal reaction is highly favorable, as I said. Now, back to work: it will take me a long time to catch up!

((I seem to have the same trouble---mail piling up---and I haven't been to any conventions either. Hmmm.))

CHINESE KIDNAPPING CORPORATION - "We Whiskey You Away"

RICHARD LUPOFF, 10100 W. Broadview Dr., Bay Harbor Islands,
Miami Beach, Florida

(Sep. 24)...Bloch certainly has a point when he says that fandom remains largely what it used to be and will probably not become much different in the future. But how about the pros? I'll copy a device used by Ikeimov in the book Modern Science Fiction and tell a little story below, leaving blanks for significant names and dates...

"In (1) there appeared a magazine of science fiction, edited by (2) and called (3). Some time later, in (4) it was decided to add a companion magazine, dealing partially or wholly with fantasy, and so (5) was started. In the first issue of the new fantastic magazine, editor (6) pointed out the relationship of science fiction and weird or fantasy fiction, the fact that they are sometimes indistinguishable, and the belief that the readers of his science fiction magazine would surely enjoy its new companion."

The blanks can be filled in as follows:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1) 1926 | 1) 1926 | 1) 1929 |
| 2) Hugo Gernsback | 2) Hugo Gernsback | 2) Hugo Gernsback |
| 3) AMAZING STORIES | 3) AMAZING STORIES | 3) WONDER STORIES |
| 4) 1938 | 4) 1952 | 4) 1939 |
| 5) FANTASTIC ADVENTURES | 5) FANTASTIC | 5) STRANGE STORIES |
| 6) Ray Palmer | 6) Howard Browne | 6) Mort Weisinger |

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1) 1930 | 1) 1930 | 1) 1949 |
| 2) Harry Bates | 2) Harry Bates | 2) Ray Palmer |
| 3) ASTOUNDING | 3) ASTOUNDING | 3) OTHER WORLDS |
| 4) 1931 | 4) 1930 | 4) 1950 |
| 5) STRANGE TALES | 5) UNKNOWN | 5) IMAGINATION |
| 6) Harry Bates | 6) John W. Campbell | 6) Ray Palmer |

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1) 1953 | 1) 1950 | 1) 1952 |
| 2) Ray Palmer | 2) H. L. Gold | 2) Lester Del Rey |
| 3) SCIENCE STORIES | 3) GALAXY | 3) SPACE SF |
| 4) 1953 | 4) 1953 | 4) 1953 |
| 5) MYSTIC | 5) BEYOND | 5) FANTASY Magazine |
| 6) Ray Palmer | 6) H. L. Gold | 6) Lester Del Rey |

Now for a quotation from one of those firstish editorials:

"It is with the greatest pleasure that we offer this new... magazine of weird fiction, _____, to the many lovers of fantastic and imaginative fiction everywhere. We have wanted to bring out a magazine of this type ever since _____, devoted to science fiction, made its successful appearance, ... ago. Weird fiction and science fiction are the natural divisions of the literature of fantasy.

"And now we have these twins, _____ and _____, true and fitting companion magazines.

"You'll like _____, especially if you enjoy science fiction. There are places where the line between super-science and the so-called supernatural is very slim indeed...such stories are universally popular; and you can expect to enjoy no end those we will buy under our now-famous policy of sparing no expense to secure the finest stories by the best authors.

"We have already been given most enthusiastic cooperation by writers, artists, and others interested in the weird fiction theme. We were surprised to learn how many well-known writers had weird stories, labors of love, tucked away against the day when they felt they could sell them for what they were worth.

"All this joy-labor, all this sincere writing, we bring to you.

"The list of authors who have so far contributed to _____ reads like America's Who's Who in fantastic fiction. Among them are (I select from this list...-Dick) Arthur J. Burks, Ray Cummings, Edmond Hamilton, and Jack Williamson.

"...write in and give us your criticisms, good and bad; we lean heavily on the advice you give us, and will need it to make _____ the top of all that is best.

----The Editor"

The cover of this first issue was painted by Jesso, and had a double-perspective painting that was really effective. When you look at it one way it is a snake. Yet refocus your eyes and it is a man. It illustrates a story by Arthur J. Burks, in which a man is changed to a snake by a Filipino witch.

The magazine is the September 1931 issue of STRANGE TALES of Mystery and Terror, companion magazine of ASTOUNDING STORIES of Super Science.

I rest my case.

However, fandom has stopped discussing trimmed vs. rough edges on the pulps. This, of course, is largely due to there being only

five gulps left, all quarterlies.

I thought that "wo50w" stood for "Workers of Fifty Worlds".
I had you down as pink, if not a red. Oh hell.

Ballantine has postponed "Of All Possible Worlds", which has
already been reviewed in GALAXY. So we'll twiddle our thumbs for a
while. However, the new STAR SF STORIES (3) is due in a few weeks.

((You seem to do a good job of showing that the pros
haven't changed much either, Dick. What can I say to that?))

"He belongs to the list of ancient-fon-acting-like-kids..."

JOHN HARRISS, Cochran Hall, Meadville, Pa.

(Sept. 13) ...About FAPA---altho why the subject should be
discussed outside of said organization and not inside it---basically,
it's right, but I have a few reservations on hand. Or reservations
margin, or whatever. There is a small group in FAPA which pub both
quality and quantity, reps. Grennell, Boggs, Danner, and I suppose
Gronter---and they include material on hi-fi, cars, even Smith and
Wesson guns -- even radio hamming (as if there
weren't enough hamming in the zines!). There's a second group: newer
fans, comparatively new, who pub a respectable number of pages per
month -- Rike, T. Carr, and the ilk. There is also a large loft
of overripe fans, such as Venable, Silverberg, and the such (I don't
mean rotten when I said overripe) who drift in at the head of their
flaming stem and disappear with little work done, such as Don Cantin,
Nydaal, et al. There is another group which will do a small amount
of pubbing but try to express themselves adequately (by small, I
mean smaller than the first group, possibly smaller than the second)
including Browne, me and others. There is a group of holdovers
who have prestige power such as Gem, Burbee, Rapp, who do or have
done good work but aren't today's leaders. Finally, there is the
influx of new blood, Magnus, Gerding and Ballard who will fit into
one of the other 5 groups. I think this is a clearer picture than
Galkins'. SAPS is much more active and friendly, but doesn't go in
for projects or grand-scheming.

Perhaps a final note about "Childhood's End" -- Poul Anderson's
BRAIN WAVE is written just as well, is much more believable, has more
human interest, is more founded in science, and has suspense-interest
all the way through to the climax. It also has more structural unity;
Poul really develops the idea of what happens when overnight the
reasoning power of humans quadruples -- along with the rest of mamalian
and vertebrate life! It's the latest Ballantine Book. P.S. I also
liked "Childhood's End" -- but "Brain Wave" was better.

Seems to me that you might be getting some stilted letters--
the type not done as a real letter, but with an eye to publication,
as mine was lasttime and thistime. I included some humor that might
have been left out but which I thought suitable for interlinos --
shall I make you a member of the Society to Call Interlineations
'linos? I wonder why that is the one word that we haven't abbr.
AND IT HAS SIX SYLLABLES! -- not that CONFAB is stilted, but I wondered

if you'd noticed that. Many letters become articles, some covering many subjects but articles nevertheless. Mine, of natch, are too rambling to serve as such without editing -- if I did them over, as I do most letters, it would be more compact -- but eventually I get down to what I want to say. Or is this the purpose of a letterzine?

About my analysis of FAPA, please to print also that I have a feeling it isn't 100% accurate in such a manner that people understand I'm not using rhetoric to be affirmative by being "a little in doubt".

And now may I make a loaded statement? I had occasion to take home for reading today from friend Venable QUANDRYs 29 and 21-25. I can only say that I would gladly swap my present position in 7th fandom for any visible point in 6TH FANDOM. Sounds like so much more fun and good crifanac.

And now for a plug. ONE TWO THREE...INFINITY (facts and speculations of science), 50¢. If you cannot find it at your pocket book dealers, ask him to order Mentor Selection 97. Would you like to understand why (p. 112) "Einstein came to the remarkable conclusion that (rest printed in italics in the book) the phenomenon of gravity is merely the effect of the curvature of space of the four-dimensional space-time world. We may now discard as inaccurate the old statement that the sun exercises a certain force that acts directly on the planets making them describe circular orbits around it. It would be more accurate to say that (italics) the mass of the sun curves the space-time world around it, and that the world line of the planets look the way they do (in fig. 30) only because they are geodesic lines running through the curved space."

You can understand the explanation of that statement, the meaning of relativity and the "curvature of space" as the author, George Gamow, explains it if you have any slight understanding of plane geometry -- and Gamow covers so many subjects, giving their historical development, that you hardly even need any previous science courses other than what you had.

I can think of no other book that should be so vital to the shelves of any fan's library. 1 2 3...Infinity is basic-basic for your collection. The book is written for the person who is a layman but who has any interest in science beyond what he sees in newspapers and magazine supplements. Repeat, GET IT, IT IS INDISPENSIBLE.

((Loaded statement, did you say? I'm inclined to agree with your statement regarding QUANDRY and 6th Fandom, but I didn't expect to hear something like that from a 7th Fandom member. I think that QUANDRY #18 was my first copy back when I was first working into fandom. Incidentally, there doesn't happen to be anyone who's willing to part with any copies of QUANDRY prior to #18. I don't suppose. No, I didn't suppose so. Well, I'm in the market, just in case---. Needless to say, Q ranks strictly #1 with me during the period of my acquaintance with fandom.))

So much for the letters this issue.

This CONFAB has been quite a time in the making....about a month, I believe, since I first started cutting masters to the present and I have yet to ditto the issue, assemble and mail it. Seems like some sort of remark about "the wages of gafia..." wouldn't be out of place here.

One of the current distractions around here that add to the hazards of pubbing a zine is the recent acquirement of a TV set. While the novelty of the thing has worn off to a certain extent, I still find it well nigh impossible to do any fanning within the general vicinity of the thing. Several times that I've tried it, I've had only a page or less to show for several hours of "typing". This evening I've moved typer and all back into the kids' bedroom-- which is about as far away from the TV as I can get and still stay in the trailer--and have so far been able to provide myself with sufficient quiet to at least start this page.

I'm trying a small experiment here---also on the bottom end of page 10. I picked up a plastic backing sheet at the office. They use them with the mimeo stencils to get sharper copy, so I'm trying one with this ditto master to see if I can get the same effect. Essentially, all it does is to provide a harder back-surface. Notice any difference between this page and the others?

I recently received notice that I was #1 on the SAPS waiting list and could become a member with the next mailing since several members were dropping out. Needless to say, I'm taking advantage of this. Well, the point of all this is that I'm swapping CONFAB with several sapszines and, since I'll soon be a member I'll be getting these mags through the regular mailings. Sooooo....those of you who have been sending me your SAPS zines can now save yourselves the extra copy. OK? CONFAB will continue to come your way same as always.

Several of the letters recently received have mentioned the idea of crediting the interlineations used in CONFAB. While there were a couple of perfectly valid reasons given (one simply wondered who had made the various remarks; another had had several remarks from his letters used as interlineations; and so on) I still don't favor the idea. I'm not trying to steal any egoboo from any of the persons who have interlineations taken from their letters; I freely admit that 99% of the interlineations in CONFAB come from letters written by the various contributors. Nor am I especially trying to keep anyone in the dark as to who made the various remarks. However, many of the interlineations as printed herein, are not taken exactly from the letters. Maybe its just a part of a sentence, or maybe I'll change a few words, or maybe it is taken word for word but loses its original meaning entirely when taken out of the original text. Some people might object to having their names linked with some of these instances. After all, some of the interlineations are a far cry from the original meaning in the letters, and there are people

who object strenuously to being misquoted. The simplest way to avoid any such complications is to simply print the interlineations and let the readers try to guess who said what. After all, would they be any better if you knew from whose letters each one was hacked? A reprint from another zine might be a case of the exception that proves the rule, though.

A few of the latest as received here --- Paul Mittelbuscher is reportedly dropping out of fandom. I don't have a personal confirmation on this however. # Dean Grennell was listed as dropping SAPS with the next mailing, but says he's reconsidered and is staying in. I'm personally glad to hear this. As I mentioned before, I'm getting into SAPS with the next mailing and Dean was reportedly dropping out simultaneously. I didn't like to consider the too-obvious inference there. # Larry Anderson's WAPA (Whimsical) is apparently underway, with the first mag recently mailed. It's distinction is that mags are mailed by members directly to the other members, without the intermediary in the form of the Official Editor, once each week. # Walt Willis announces the official folding of SLANT in the current (# 10) HYPHEN.

Recently heard on the Jackie Gleason TV show: "...get your home atom bomb kit. Be the first in your neighborhood to rule the world."

And, on that note, till next ish....

Bob Peatrowsky

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