

CROSSOID

INCREDIBLY, THIS IS CROSSOID #4, A PONDEROSS PUBLICATION INTENDED (GHOD WILLING) FOR THE 37TH APA-F OF FRIDAY, MARCH 19TH, 1965. IT IS CONJURED UP WITH DEMONIC INCANTATIONS BY ROSS CHAMBERLAIN AT DJUNG KEEP IN STATEN ISLAND— (73 ARLO RD, S.I., N.Y.; FONE YUGGOTH 1-9162)

ANY OF YOU MOVIE-GOERS REMEMBER A WOODY WOODPECKER CARTOON INVOLVING AN INVASION FROM OUTER SPACE OF SOME SORT OF MARTIAN OR VENUSIAN (OR IS THAT VENERIAN?...WELL...) WOODPECKERS? I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER IF THEY WERE BEATEN OFF AT THE END, BY WOODY OR OTHERWISE; WHAT I DO REMEMBER, VIVIDLY, WAS THE FANTASTIC SCENE OF THE ARRIVAL OF THEIR VAST FLEET OF SPACE SHIPS BLASTING DOWN THRU A ROARING RED SKY, A PERSPECTIVE SHOT THAT WAS TRULY AWE-INSPIRING AND POSSIBLY THE BEST AND MOST FRIGHTENING CINEMATIC INVASION SCENE I CAN RECALL. COME TO THINK OF IT, I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN A MASS SPACE-SHIP INVASION IN A MOVIE (OR ON TV) OTHER THAN THAT ONE, SO COMPARISONS ARE IMPOSSIBLE ("ODIOUS" DOES NOT APPLY HERE),

SAVE POSSIBLY WITH SOME SUCH SCENE AS THAT IN THE BODY SNATCHERS WHEN ONE FIRST SEES THE TREMENDOUS FIELDS OF PODS STRETCHING OUT OVER THE LANDSCAPE... AT ANY RATE, I CAN ONLY WISH THAT THAT MARVELOUS SPACE SHIP INVASION SCENE HAD NOT HAD TO BE, IN MY OPINION, WASTED ON A FERGHOSSAKE WOODY WOODPECKER CARTOON! I NEVER CARED MUCH FOR WOODY, WHO REPRESENTS (BAD BUT APPROPRIATE DIVISION OF THAT WORD) A TYPE OF CHARACTER I DETEST (NOW "ODIOUS" APPLIES!). I ALMOST INVARIABLY SYMPATHIZE WITH HIS OPPONENT. STRANGELY ENOUGH, BUGS BUNNY IS PRETTY MUCH THE SAME SORT OF CHARACTER AT TIMES, YET I'VE NEVER FELT QUITE AS ANTAGONISTIC TO HIM AS TO WOODY. WELL, I'VE NEVER LAID CLAIMS TO CONSISTENCY...AND BESIDES, LET'S FACE IT, THE PEOPLE WHO DEVELOP THE LOONY TUNES CAN, IN TERMS OF INTELLIGENCE AND CREATIVITY, BEAT THE BEWHISKERS OFFA THE WALTER LANTZ PEOPLE WITH ONE HAND TIED BEHIND THEIR BACKS. ONLY THE UPI BUNCH CAN EVEN HOLD A CANDLE TO THEM—I WON'T EVEN MENTION TERRYTOONS, FOR FEAR OF UPSETTING SOMEONE'S DIGESTION—AND WALT DISNEY DOESN'T COUNT, SINCE I'M ONLY SPEAKING OF TRAILER-CARTOONS (OH, OCCASIONALLY HE STILL PUTS THEM OUT, I THINK, BUT IT'S TOO LONG SINCE I'VE SEEN ONE TO OFFER ANY COMPARISONS; THOSE I HAVE SEEN, LIKE "TOOT, PLUNK AND BOOM", IF I'VE GOT THAT NAME RIGHT WHICH I DOUBT, ARE OF AN ALMOST ENTIRELY DIFFERENT CLASSIFICATION). SUDDENLY, AS I WRITE, A HORRIBLE DOUBT ASSAILS ME, AND A COMPLETE BLANK IN MY MEMORY. WHO DOES THE TOM AND JERRY CARTOONS? ARE THEY IN THE LOONY TUNES FAMILY? MGM... I DON'T REMEMBER. SOME OF THEM ARE GREATER THAN ANY OF THE OTHERS PUT TOGETHER. ENOUGH OF CARTOONS, TILL I CAN GET THAT STRAIGHTENED OUT.

I'LL STICK TO MOVIES GENERALLY THOUGH. I JUST SAW ON THE TELLY THE 1933 FILM CALLED "ISLAND OF LOST SOULS" WHICH WAS BASED ON WELLS' "THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU", AND STARRED CHARLES LAUGHTON AS DR. MOREAU. UNFORTUNATELY, I'VE NEVER COMPLETED THE BOOK, SO I CAN'T COMPARE THEM. THERE WAS A MORE RECENT PICTURE, THE NAME OF WHICH I DISREMEMBER, BUT WHICH HAD THE SAME BASIC THEME, INVOLVING THE MANIPULATION OF GLANDS, ETC., IN A BLACK LEOPARD IN ORDER TO TRANSFORM IT TO NEAR-HUMAN SHAPE AND MENTALITY. THE '33 PICTURE, OF COURSE, DEALT

A NOTE OF POLICY IN CROSSOID-- CROSSOID WILL NOT BE HAVING FORMAL MC'S. COMMENTS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE TEXT IN CONNECTION WITH THE TOPIC OR TOPICS UNDER DISCUSSION, AS A RULE. I EXPECT, IN THE FUTURE, I MAY WELL HAVE A COMMENTZINE, UNDER ANOTHER NAME, BUT IN THE MEANTIME, FOR CROSSOID, I THINK THAT I WILL MAKE SUCH COMMENTS AS I DO MAKE IN THE 3RD PERSON, RATHER THAN 2ND. WHILE THIS MAY CREATE AN AURA OF FORMALITY I WOULD OTHERWISE PREFER TO AVOID, MY FEELING IS THAT THIS WILL ACTUALLY TEND TO KEEP THE CONTINUITY OF THE WHOLE INTACT. I'M STILL WORKING THIS OUT—AFTER ALL, THIS IS ONLY MY 4TH ZINE OF ANY KIND—AND ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN, BUT AT LEAST FOR NOW THIS WILL BE MY WORKING POLICY.



WITH AN BEHIND-FULL ON SUSHI ONE-TIMER, INCLUDING A RATHER ATTRACTIVE—IN A "VAMPISH", EARLY 1930'S SORT OF WAY—GIRL-CREATURE, WHOM THE HERO KISSES BRIEFLY, ONLY STOPPING WHEN HER NAILS...OR CLAWS...DIGGING INTO HIS BACK APPRISE HIM OF HER TRUE NATURE. IT WAS RECEIVED SO EXECRABLY ON MY TELEVISION THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO CATCH WHAT WAS GOING ON AT ALL TIMES, BUT FROM WHAT I COULD SEE THE PHOTOGRAPHY AND DIRECTION SEEMED QUITE GOOD—CERTAINLY BY COMPARISON WITH MOST MORE RECENT PICTURES.

AT LAST FRIDAY'S FANOCLAST MEETING TED WHITE TOLD ME THAT MY DRAWING STYLE WAS REMINISCENT OF THE 1930'S. I WAS A LITTLE STARTLED, BUT ON REFLECTION NOT UNPLEASED. THERE IS MUCH OF THE ILLUSTRATION OF THAT PERIOD THAT I DON'T CARE FOR, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND THE ATTITUDE TOWARD ILLUSTRATION, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO FANTASY ILLUSTRATION, IS ONE I GREATLY ADMIRE. THE ROY KRENKEL, JR., AND FRANK FRAZETTA COVER ILLUSTRATIONS AND LINE-DRAWINGS FOR THE ACE ERB SERIES WERE A REAL PLEASURE TO BEHOLD, FOR AMONGST CURRENT ARTISTS THEY SEEM TO HAVE MORE OF THIS ATTITUDE THAN ANYONE ELSE I CAN THINK OF. I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DEFINE IT VERY WELL. TRUTH TO TELL, I AM ONE OF THOSE @X!# PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT ART BUT KNOW WHAT THEY LIKE SO EXCORIATED BY ARTISTS WHO KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING, LIKE STEVE STILES, AND I THINK RIGHTFULLY SO. I'VE NEVER STUDIED ART FORMALLY TO THE POINT WHERE I CAN SPEAK OF 'STYLE' KNOWLEDGEABLY, OR KNOW PRECISELY WHAT IT IS THAT SEPARATES A GREAT WORK FROM A MERELY GOOD ONE—OR, FOR THAT MATTER, WHAT IT IS THAT SEPARATES A CALENDAR LANDSCAPE FROM A GOOD ONE. I CAN SEE THERE IS A DIFFERENCE, BUT TO SAVE ME I CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT. I RECOGNIZE MY LACK IN THIS RESPECT, AND FOR THAT REASON I CANNOT CONSIDER MYSELF AN ARTIST WITH A CAPITAL 'A'. I HAVE A CERTAIN FACILITY FOR DRAWING, YES, BUT, TRULY, I AM EMBARRASSED BY PEOPLE WHO CALL ME AN ARTIST AND SAY THINGS LIKE "WHY ARE YOU WORKING IN A PLACE LIKE THAT WHEN YOU COULD BE MAKING BIG MONEY SOME PLACE?" IN THIS CONNECTION I MIGHT MENTION ANDY PORTER'S ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION OF SOME STUFF I BROUGHT IN TO THE FANOCLAST MEETING THE OTHER NIGHT. I CANNOT TRUTHFULLY SAY I DIDN'T ENJOY IT OR THAT I WAS NOT FLATTERED BY IT, BUT AFTER TED WHITE LOOKED AT IT AND LISTENED TO ANDY'S COMPARING ME TO STEVE STILES TO STEVE'S DETRIMENT, TED'S ELOQUENT SHRUG WAS LIKE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR! I APPRECIATE ANDY'S ENTHUSIASM, BUT I WOULD SUGGEST THAT A LITTLE REFLECTION WOULD SHOW THAT JUST IDEAS SET FORTH, WITH A FEW TRICKS TO MAKE THEM LOOK FAIRLY GOOD SHORT OF SCRUTINY, WILL NOT STAND UP AGAINST WORK SUCH AS STILES' OR OTHERS WHO HAVE THE BACKGROUND AND KNOWLEDGE I AS YET PARTIALLY LACK. I CERTAINLY HOPE—EXPECT—TO HAVE IT ONE DAY; INDEED, I THINK THE INFLUENCES OF THIS MARVELOUS WORLD OF FANDOM, WHICH SEEMS TO INCLUDE A STRATA OF INTELLIGENT HUMANITY I AM ONLY TO HAPPY TO HAVE BEEN WELCOMED INTO, WILL BE OF NO LITTLE HELP TO ME IN THIS RESPECT, AS FOR THAT MATTER IT HAS ALREADY.

RICHARD STRAUSS HAD A TIMEPIECE THAT WENT TICK TOCK TOCK TICK TOCK TOCK...NATURALLY HE PERHAPS, TO GET BACK TO THE EARLIER BUSINESS ANENT THE ART OF THE 30'S AND THE ATTITUDE TOWARD FANTASY ART OF THAT TIME, THE WHOLE THING BOILS DOWN TO THAT MUCH-VAUNTED "SENSE OF WONDER" I KEEP HEARING REFERENCES TO. I GOT ONTO THAT NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF TED WHITE'S COMMENT ABOUT MY STYLE, BUT BECAUSE OF THINKING ABOUT THIS BUSINESS OF THE EARLY FANTASY MOVIES. WITNESS FRITZ LANG'S THINGS..."METROPOLIS" AND...WHAT WAS THE TITLE? "GIRL ON THE MOON"? OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...RIGHT ON INTO THE FORTIES, WITH "STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN", "THE BISHOP'S WIFE", "PORTRAIT OF JENNIE", THE MR. JORDAN PICTURES..."ALIAS NICK BEAL" (WHICH I SAW ON TV A WEEK OR SO AGO). THERE WAS SOMETHING IN THE TREATMENT OF THOSE PICTURES...ALMOST AN AFFECTION FOR, OR DELIGHT IN, THE SPECIAL EFFECTS, A RESPECT FOR THE "SENSE OF WONDER", THAT DARN FEW MOVIE-MAKERS SHOW NOW. PERHAPS THE CLOSEST I'VE SEEN TO IT LATELY WAS IN "THE DAY THE EARTH CAUGHT FIRE". HAD "GOODBYE CHARLIE" BEEN DONE A DECADE AGO, IT MIGHT CONCEIVABLY HAVE GOTTEN SOMEWHERE...THE IDEA WAS THERE. NOT THAT THERE WEREN'T CLINKERS BEFORE, BUT...

CALLLED IT HIS WRIST-WALTZ.... ... (*WHEW* ALMOST FORGOT!)
WELL, FOLKS, I SEE OUR TIME IS RUNNING OUT...IT'S THURSDAY NIGHT, AND I'M DODDGLASTED IF I'M GONNA START ANOTHER COUPLA STENCILS JUST NOW. TUNE IN NEXT WEEK...

Ross C