

THE
FANZINE
FROM
KENTUCKY

Price 10¢

November Issue

Number 1

CONTENTS

NUMBER 1

NOVEMBER 1948

LETTERS.....2-11

ARTICLES

EVOLUTION OF POSTURE?? by Ray Rebel.....13
West Coast Conference, by E.E.Evans.....14-15

DEPARTMENTS

EDITORIAL by the Editor.....1
FANZINANIA BY Ed. Cox..... 16-18

Cover by RUSS WATKINS
Interior artwork by GROSSMAN, FRIED

DAWN is a letterzine for SCIENCE FICTION and FANTASY fans. It is published bi-monthly at 2050 Midland Louisville, 4 Ky. Free copies given for articles only, Opinions expressed by contributors and letter writers are their own and do not reflect the view of the Editors. SUBSCRIPTIONS 10¢ per copy, three issues for 25¢ or six for 50¢ ADDS 1.00 per page

TRADE

SAMPLE? how about a subs?

YOU have _____ more copies coming

EDITORIAL

While this issue is not what we expected it to be, we are presenting the best issue that we could put together under the circumstances. We intended this to be a letterzine, but due to the lack of response in the form of letters, we are filling in with other material that we feel that is just as interesting.

We feel that since Fandom Speaks has folded Fandom needs a good letterzine where Fans can discuss current problems in Fandom and out. The professional magazine while having good letter columns do not print letters dealing with Fan problems. I find that most of the letters in the current magazine from reader's mostly deal with praising of the stories of the editor's and the magazine. The only magazine which does print letters concerning Fandom and Fans is Planet Stories, but this doesn't do the Fans much good since P. S. comes out as a quarterly and since letters are picked to appear in the magazine two to three months before the magazine appears on the stands and when the magazine does appear the subject as far as Fandom is concerned is dead.

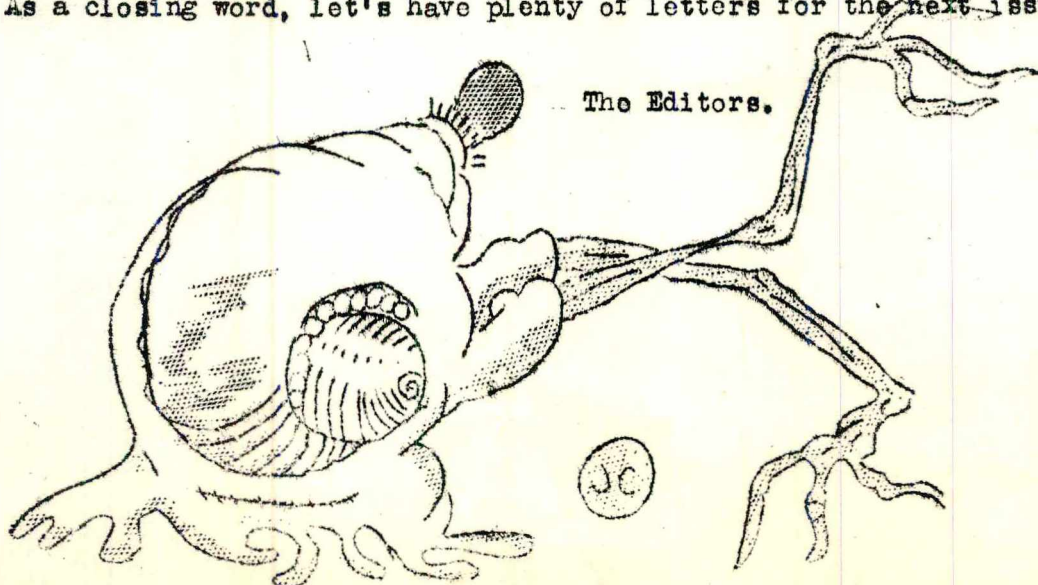
Since most of the circulation will go out to Fans free of charge we are rather in debt as far as printing equipment is concerned, so we are going to ask all of you Fans to pay for the first issue if you think the issue is worth it. When you send in your subscription, let us know if you want the first issue taken out of your subscription. If you don't think the issue is worth the dime charged, signify so and we won't charge you for the first issue.

We hope to be deluged with letters for a second issue and if enough letters come in we will go legal size as was Fandom Speaks. To encourage letters we will give for the best letter in the second issue a mint 1929 edition of "The Wonder Stick" by Stanton Coblenz. This offer is open to old Fans and new ones alike.

You will notice that the first letter in this issue is on the subject of race prejudice. We wish to state that the Editor's of DAWN are neutral as far as this letter is concerned and all other letters dealing on this subject, but we will publish some interesting letters which have to do with this subject, tho all letters in future issues will not be devoted to this subject.

The head-liner for the next issue will be a short story by David Keller, M. D. We also have a nice stack of interesting stories which we will present in future issues.

As a closing word, let's have plenty of letters for the next issue.



MAILBAG AND DAWN

Dear Lester,

I heard that you are putting out a letterzine and thought I'd kick in my two cents' worth of opinion. First, though, I'd like to wish you and DAWN all the luck in the world and I hope you have a very successful future.

Now to the business at hand. I have noticed in the last few letter columns of PLANET STORIES, some letters from two readers named Edwin Sigler and Paul Cox, which represent to me just the sort of thing the Communists must chortle with joy over. The criticism of the Negro and all other non-white races.

Now I don't claim to be a scientist who has read all the latest books on anthropology and I don't claim to know whether or not the Negro is even slightly less intelligent than the white. All I can do is believe---believe that the average Negro could do as much with his life as a white if he had the chance; believe that someday the Negro will rise above the obstacles thrown in his path by a few stupid, domineering whites who are afraid for their position of "superiority" should the colored race ever come into its own; and hope that someday people like Sigler and Cox will see all the trouble they have caused, are causing, and will cause by their unfair criticisms.

I would like to quote a paragraph from Mr. Sigler's last letter to PLANET as an example of mistaken reasoning and ask whoever might read this if they can actually believe that the white race with all its "geniuses" is doing right by the colored part of our population.

"The whole trouble arises from the fact that the readers think that because you should not persecute a person on account of his race or color that automatically elevates him to being your mental equal. It doesn't. Every race must stand on its own feet and develop its own leaders. It cannot advance by sitting in the sun and howling that it is being persecuted because it doesn't have any great leaders."

What race, Mr. Sigler, has denied the Negro right to a decent education in decent surroundings that is equal to the education its own people receive? Who has, by persecution (Yes, I said persecution) kept the Negro from rising to a position where he could be on the same financial level as the rest of American citizens and then kept the Negro from his lawful right to vote either by intimidation or poll tax?

(The former is still going strong, the latter has just about vanished, thank God.) What race has formed the Ku Klux Klan to terrorize helpless Negroes and whites who don't see eye to eye with the "populist" (?) view? Who knows how many great leaders the Negroes would have were they given a chance to advance? What are the great leaders of the white race doing to alter these horrible conditions Mr. Sigler? I haven't noticed any news of heated activity in that direction.

In school, I have always been taught that environment plays the major part in the development of people. Whites are raised in wealthier homes, get much better educations and greater opportunities than Negroes. The result is, naturally, that Negroes can't think quickly or as accurately as whites---they weren't raised so. But with education and decent health facilities, ah. I have a hunch that that would be another matter.

I would like to ask Mr. Sigler who the scientists are that believe dilution of white blood by Negro blood would cause the United States to fall apart. America has been called "the melting pot of the world". All races came here and all races are or will be absorbed in time. I haven't seen any sure signs of our falling apart yet. As a matter of fact, every year, thousands of Negroes pass over the "borderline" between the white and colored races and I believe the country is the better for it. Who are your scientists? How many of them say this? Where are your references? Until I find out, I won't believe anything you have said.

I don't believe a prozine science-fiction letter column is the place to express views on the race question. It is supposed to be a column where the fans can discuss stories and praise or criticize them according to how they see them.

I'd like to get cards or letters from fans telling me how they feel about this sort of thing. Where they agree with me (or disagree) and where I am wrong. How about it?

Sincerely,

Bob Strickler

Bob Strickler
6719 Chestnut ST.
Kansas City 5, Mo.

ED. NOTE. if it is at all possible we will print some of the best letters on this subject in the next issue. But! remember one thing, we the Editors will not express an opinion.

PREDICTIONS???

Dear Lester:

Good luck with your new publication. May this issue mark the first of a long line!

I was going to look into my crystal ball and predict your future, but I have given up predicting futures. It is too risky. Look at Willy Ley's attempt at prediction in the Sept. 43 astounding. On page 73, discussing rockets, he says:

"There is no future for war rockets, except for those minor applications which they are finding at present, like sending trailing wires up into the air to tangle dive bombers -- British -- or firing a dozen shells at very close range at one volley to confuse tank ...

commanders -- Russian."

If my memory is correct, V-1's began dropping on England about the time these words reached the newsstands -- at any rate, within six months thereafter. Now, if a world-recognized authority can make such a flub while speaking of his own specialty, r-tRapp deems it wise to keep his big trap shut.

Nevertheless, it would be interesting to attempt a prediction of fandom's future. With stf reaching a wider public every day, with actifandom including more members than ever before, with fanzines shooting up like sparks in a bonfire -- where will it all end?

Will fandom become respectable? Will Rotary Clubs and YMCA's and high-school chemistry teachers sponsor local chapters of the NEFF for the young people in their charge? Will the suns-and-skull emblem grace the wall of every American boy's room next to the Varga girl and the Boy Scout fleur-de-lis? Will we someday gaze rapturously at a double-page spread titled "LIFE goes to a fanclub"?

I refuse to predict.

Clear jets,



r-tRapp
2120 Bay Street
Saginaw, Michigan

Dear Les,

When I got your card, I thought here's yet another fanzine! And, thank heavens, a letter-zine.

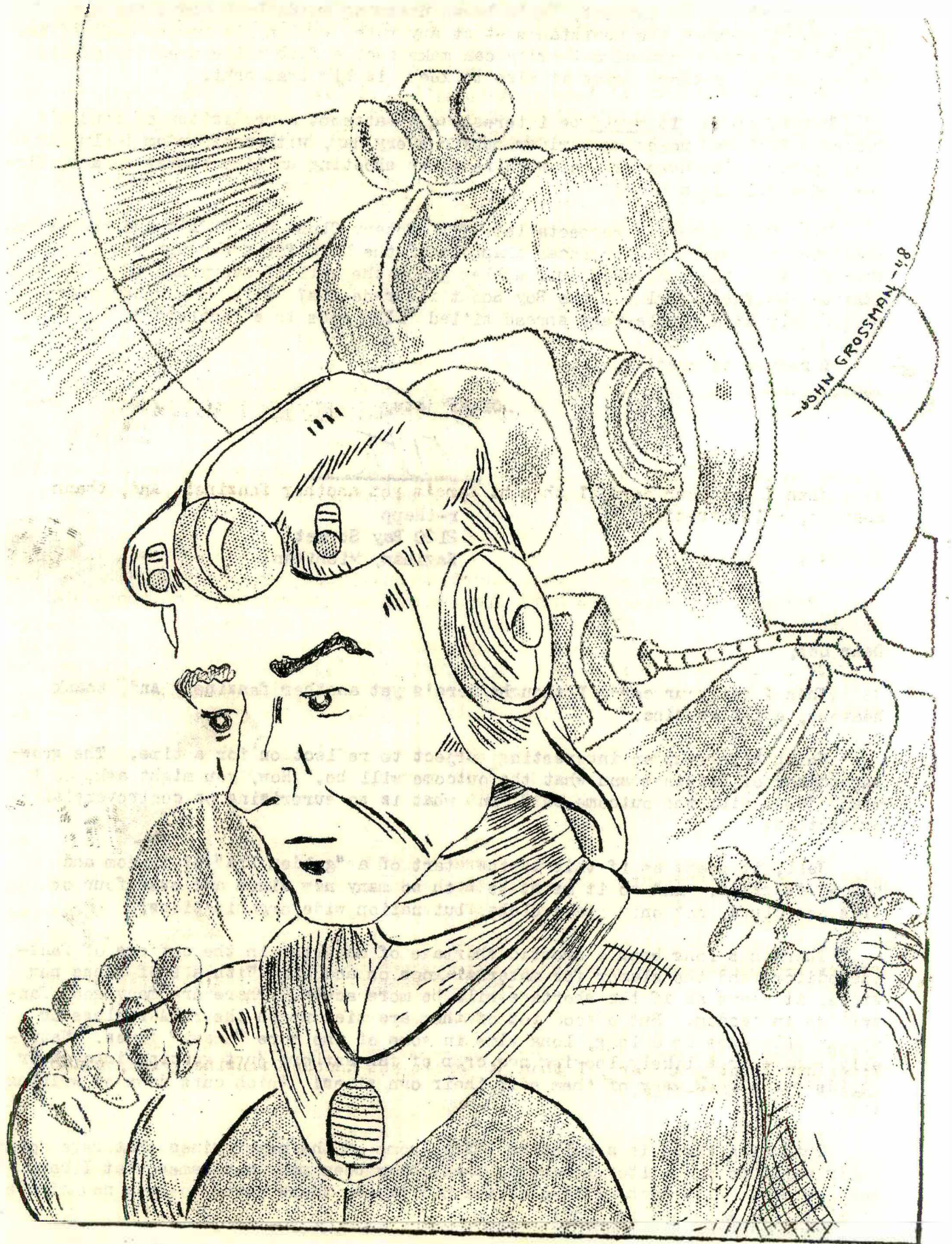
Which brings up an interesting subject to reflect on for a time. The growing number of fanzines and what the outcome will be. How, you might ask, do I mean, "what will the outcome be?" And what is so surprising or controversial about that?

Well, it seems as if this is the start of a "golden Era" of fandom and hence, fanzines. And so it might be with so many new zines and even four or five new clubs, not only state clubs, but nation wide organizations!

There has long been a drastic shortage of material in the coffers of fanzine editors and the clamor for material goes on and on. With all of these new zines, it seems as if the shortage will be more acute. There are many good fanwriters in fandom. But a good lot of them are tied up on the FAPA recluse or appear only once in a long, long time in some of the more "heavy" zines. Naturally, there is a likely looking new crop of fan authors just getting into their stride but a good many of them edit their own zines! Which cuts down on writing time.

But maybe there is a solution. With some of the newer zines that have found their way into my mailbox recently, their have been many new names that I haven't seen before. With each of some of the new zines, there seems to be a new circle of writers. And that is good!


Faint, mirrored text at the top of the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.



Now some of the less stable zines will either fold or go through a long metamorphosis towards the better, if they are to last. With the growing competition in the field, the fight for more material will be harder and harder unless a number of new fan writers in proportion to the number of new zines go into action! After the zine gets established more or less, a fairly regular number of writers will be assured with new ones every once in a while. That will assure the mag of a wider circulation and hence more possible writers from the readers! This thing can go on and on of course. The only catch is that in the start, it's a bit different!

And I might see you at the Concon next year at that! A number of us Maine fan are planning to attend.

Stfantastically yours,



Ed. Cox
4 Spring Street
Lubec, Maine

ARE THERE SOME FANS IN THE FIELD OF FANDOM, JUST IN IT FOR THE PROFIT

THEY CAN GET OUT OF IT ?????

Dear Les:

I think so, and so does a lot of others I know, think the same way I do. I can and do say that I'm in it for the fun and enjoyment I get out of it. I'm new in the active field of fandom, BUT not new to the type of fiction we read and collect for our hobby. I've been a reader of Science-Fiction and Fantasy since 1928. That is more years than some of the fans are of age. You guys that may read this letter, (and I hope you do) will see that twenty years is not a short time in our lives.

Since becoming active in the field of fandom (three years) I came in contact with many crooks. Some I met in person, some via the mails. Either way they are still out to take you over.

This letter concerns those that are newly arrived in fandom. As you get into fandom more and more you'll come across these jerks I'm speaking of. How many of the new fans sometime or other got taken for some book or mag? You see an ad in one of the zines quoting prices on books and mags. In this ad is maybe one or two books you would like to add to your small collection. The first thing you do is send off a letter with the price of the books in it. After waiting a month you set down and write another letter to the fellow, asking about your books that you ordered. He sends one in return telling you the books were sold by the time he got your money. Does he send you back your money? No he wants to sell you some other books he has. These books are not worth 1/4 the price he is asking for them. You are kind of tired by now, of sending back letters asking for this title or that one, SO you get the ones he tells you you can have, at a great profit to him, and a big lost to you.

All I can say is, if you see some titles advertized for sale, send a letter asking the dealer or fan to save those titles for you, and you will send a registered letter with the money for the titles. But DON'T send this registered letter till you hear from the seller. This way you will save the bother and trouble of sending letter after letter, asking for your titles or money.

I had this trick pulled on me but once. I actually had to send this SO-CALLED fan ten letters to get any action on the deal at all. All in all I came out on the losing end after it was finished.

This letter doesn't concern the real fans that make this their hobby, only those that try, and do pull this sort of stuff with all new fans. If any of the dealers that try this sort of thing reads this, they are the ones it refers to. And an old saying sure will fit them. IF THE SHOE FITS LET THEM PUT IT ON.

I'd like to try and get a poll started on how many fans were treated in this way. With the permission of the editors of this zine, I'd like all the fans to send in their names and addresses to either the editors or to me. Could be if we got started we could put a stop to this sort of dealings. Come on fans get on the bandwagon and get the ball rolling.

Yours,

Bill

Bill Butts
2058 e. Atlantic St.
Phila. 34, Pa.

ED. NOTE. all fans who have been taken in this way send a card or letter to me and in the next issue I will publish the results, and some letters on the subject.

Dear Dawn,

It is heartening to see other fans pick up the reins and carry on some unfinished or vital work. With "VOM" and "Fandom Speaks" gone, but not forgotten, I was wondering who would be next to fill in that big gap. A letterzine always has been popular. "VOM" carried on for many years. Fandom should try to keep one letterzine alive amongst all the generalzines that we now have.

My main purpose in writing now is to lament over the un-necessary stepping on the other fellows toes. Why not try to see his side too and at least give him a chance to voice his argument also. There are two sides to all arguments and sometimes both are right. It's a matter of viewpoint.

We could be more helpful in our relations with other groups. They have their side of the question also. We hear so much about the Negro and the South, Japs and the West, etc. It would seem to me that the people who have these problems right in their front yards would be better able to cope with it than some outsiders who do not really understand the problem involved. I have many fan-friends all over the states and Canada and I hear comments on the various letters in promags. Many seem to think that NFFF can soft-pedal some of the outbursts but we are not a governing body. As stated in our preamble we aim to help each other in the promoting of STF interests.

The Lord has placed us all on this earth so we must try and get along with each other. The problem is no small one and has become greater since our World War II. It now is a battle of nerves. "Cold War" may be the newspaper name for it but it is still too close for me to real war.

Let's have many letters for next issue.

Martin

K. Martin Carlson
1028 - 3rd Avenue South
Moorhead, Minnesota

ED. NOTE. we editors agree wth you. We will try not to print anything that will un-necessarily step on the other fellows toes. Fans, what's your view on this matter?

Dear Les,

It's indeed a pleasure to note that Fandom Speaks is to be replaced by a regular letterzine; I feel that a mag composed of letters is something pretty hard for fandom and fantasy to be without. We've been minus one for almost a full year now; and this has be no means caused any real lack of activity on our part. It has put a very real damper on our loud-mouthed activities. I certainly hope that we're out of our difficulties now, and that you will manage to put out a magazine the equal of FS. "And I also trust that you will copy the old reliable letterzine features--legal size Vom-ish introduction to letters." Many people object to legal size, but there is a certain association about it that has gone with letterzines in the past. Also hope you will manage to get all of the old reliables, Speer, Laney, Warner, Ackerman, Sneary, Boggs, Kennedy, etc., to cooperate with you.

You may be wondering how to start off a fuss that will fill up space interesting, as the Graham-Ackerman feud did F. S. I wonder ? F. S. had the most amazing piece of luck in feud-starting of all time-----the open letters of Ackerman and Graham that were the famous supplement to #2, and which formed the opening shot of the most recent of the great space-consuming fannish tempests in teapots. Perhaps you can land something similar? Something that will stir up everyone to fever pitch in nothing flat?

What the hell can people talk about, now that we have lost our major feuding basis, the Great Shaver War? Proazines? Maybe someone will have a little to say on the literary quality of the new Amazing, variations in format, editors, the soon-to-come increase in paper size of Astounding, for the coming revival of Super Science and founding of Select Science Fiction, and the like. Politics is always a likely subject; utopias, Technocracy, Wallace. Race prejudice still is talked about a lot; bombdogging, either drift, semantics, economics, sex, religion, atom war, the fanzine field, pro art, fan art, fan clubs and politics. Derleth, literature, sf vs fsy, Weird Tales. -----

I indeed hope that you have managed to get plenty of interesting material for your first issue, and that I'll be seeing it soon; you can bet your bottom dollar that I'll be a regular contributor to the mag if it's anyway near as good as FS was.

Best!

Don

Don Wilson
495 North Third St.
Banning California

Dear Editors:

Wow! Zamm! Yowee! Ya man! What a fanzine! The best I've seen in moons! The artwork by Finley is terrific. Lawrence is stupendous and Marchionni is Marchionni! And those trimmed edges! Boy what a mag! That 16 point type! So readable! And those 36 pages of letters to the editors are just right for any mag. Let's have more, eh? Hey, ed. you've got a good thing in 'LAWN', don't fall asleep on the job.

Regardless of the foregoing flippancy, if you can call it that, I'm glad to hear that such new members to fandom are putting together a mag without any beforehand experience, from what I hear. So-o-o-o-o, therefore as a co-editor of a mag that has run two whole issues I feel a little advise is needed to mere babes-in-the-wood! (Ed. Ha, Ha.)

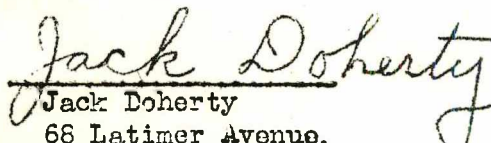
The first thing that may arise in your mind is what to charge for the mag. This I have always felt is a rather ticklish job. If you put the mag out for nothing or even several cents, fen might get the idea, "Gad, only two cents--no sir not much good, I'll buy Gorgon and pay 20¢." Now if you want to charge twenty cents people will get the idea, "What! Twenty cents for a mere fanpub. Not me. It's probably hectored with only four pages." So you see either way your stuck. The best thing to do is to suffer a complete loss and sink into the red by sending all the more famous members of fandom a copy free and ask them to advertise same to others.

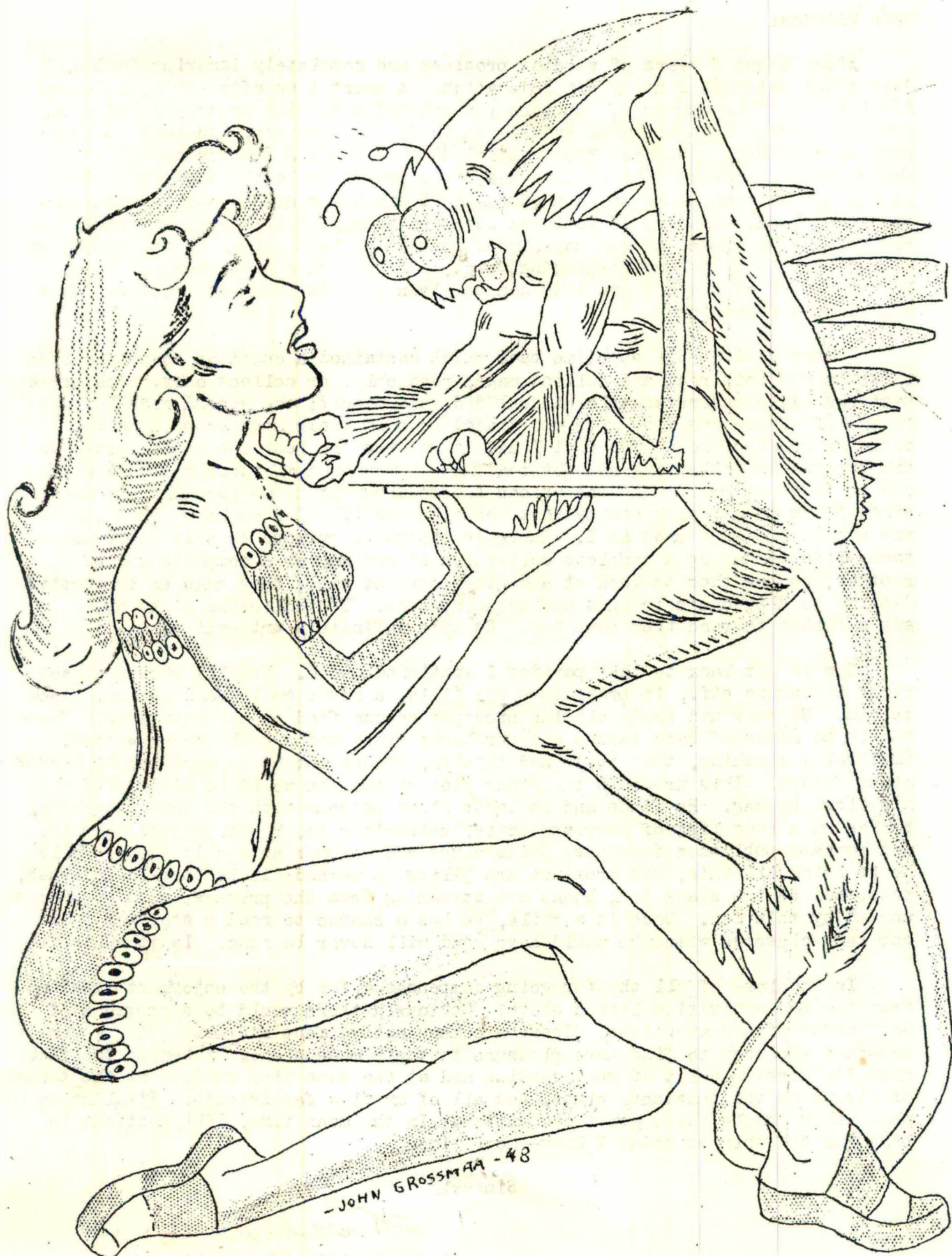
If you have any thoughts of making a profit (ha ha ha) you may dispel that pleasant thought before you even start to rent your Underwood. As far as I know only two fan mags confess rather proudly that they make a profit: the Capitalists. After you have bought a squire of stencils, a tube or two of ink, (taking for granted you already possess a mimeograph), stylus, paper, stamps, staples and various other accessories you are pretty much in debt, and you'd have to sell your hundred or two hundred odd copies rather expensively to make any profit or just to break even. It's a hobby and nothing more.

Getting the issues out on time may at first be a constant cloud of worry over your editorial head. But after the first issue or the second you develop a state of nonchalance about the whole matter. So what if it isn't out on time this month, there's plenty of time. By this time most of the subscribers have forgotten all about it or else figured they've lost a quarter for a good cause.

Regarding the mag itself, it is always good to have a large readers column, even tho you may write half the letters yourself. It gives the reader the feeling that maybe the mag is much better than he thought. And what's he got to say about when Ackerman, and Kennedy consider it the best they've ever read? Another point to consider is artwork; plenty of it. With lots of drawings and picture bedecking your pages the poor literary value of the mag itself is not noticed. All the readers can say is, "Gadzooks! Such wonderful artwork. Almost second Joe Kennedy's."

I'm sure that after you've followed all the foregoing very carefully, digested each tidbit of information and carefully weighed it against your better judgement and finally accepting my months of experience I'm sure you'll have one of the worst fan publications since L'Oxygen.


Jack Doherty
68 Latimer Avenue,
Toronto 12, Ont. Canada



-JOHN GROSSMAN - 48

Dear Editors:

After about 3 years of reading prozines and completely ignoring fandom, I joined the National Fantasy Fan Federation. A short time after this, a fellow fan told me, "The number of fanzines you subscribe to will gradually increase, you will become more and more interested in fanish matters, and soon will derive as much enjoyment from these as you do from reading the pro mags," or words to that effect. All of this has since proved to be all too true. What he did not mention, however, and something I did not realize, was the time element involved. Fandom, if followed conscientiously, i.e. buying and reading a representative number of fan mags, contributing to them fairly often, taking an active part in clubs, corresponding, etc., can take up a great deal of time. In fact, most of one's spare time can be given over to these activities. Thus a paradox is presented.

I once read a poll sometime back which contained a question something like this: Do you both read and collect mags, read only, or collect only. The first part was quite understandable since I did this myself; the second was also conceivable. There could be guys who traded or sold their mags as soon as they finished reading them. The part I didn't get was the last one. What would be the purpose in collecting and not reading? I wondered if there would be anyone in this category! The answer has become apparent to me recently, however, since I now practically occupy that position myself. I even know other guys who are in the same spot as I. There is thought a purpose to this. One can take pride in having a complete collection of one mag or a complete run of another; he has them to look at and gloat over at will; they make an impressive display to show one's friends and acquaintances. The collector might even get a chance to read them some day. So it's definitely worth-while.

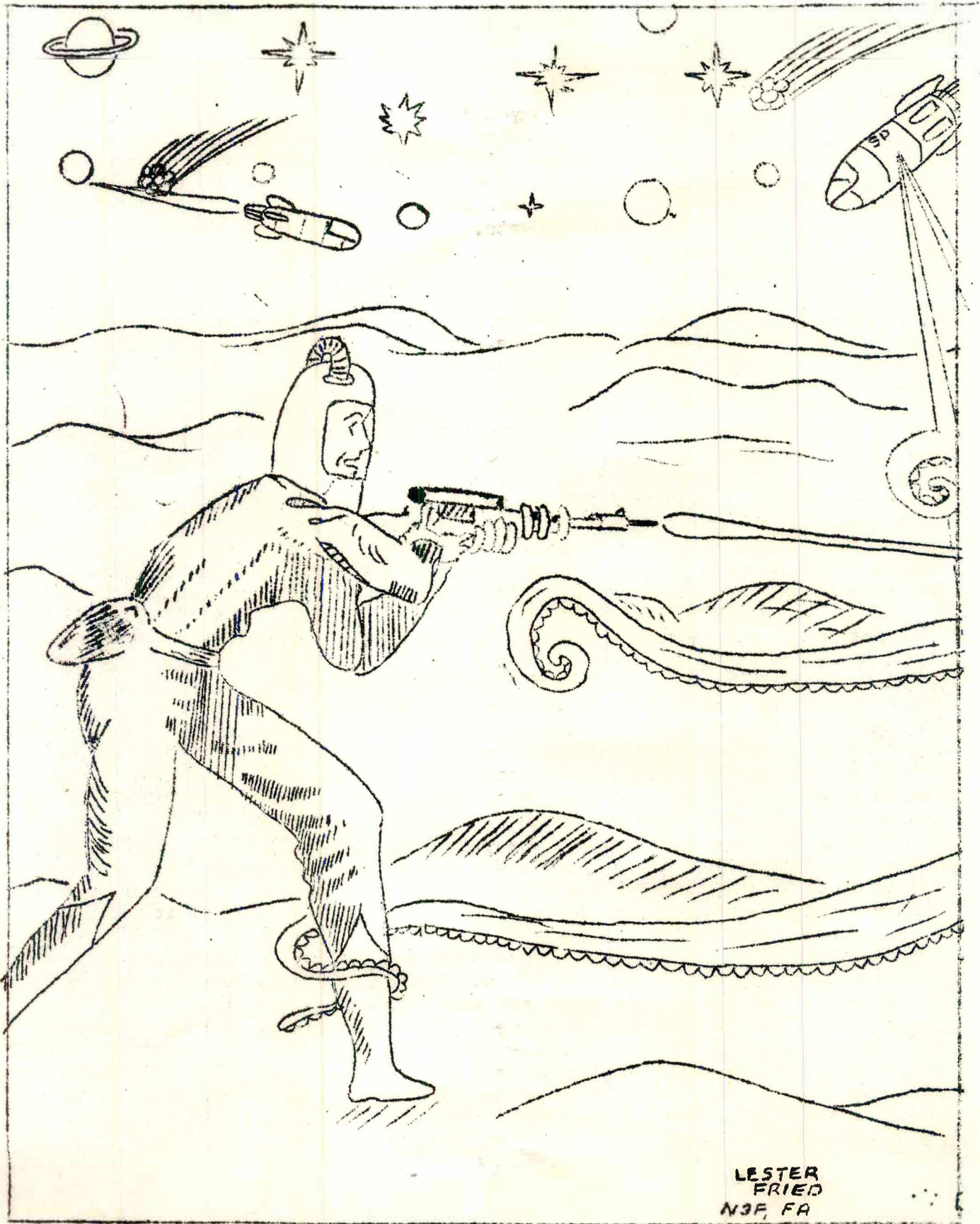
Now to get back to that paradox I mentioned above. Usually when a person first discovers stf., it presents a new field, a novel world, and unusual ideas to him. He buys and reads all the prozines he can find on the newsstands. Eventually he hears of back issues and purchases these and eagerly devours them. (Literally speaking, that is.) And finally, by one method or another, he learns about fandom. This presents the other side of the new world he discovered with his first promag. He finds and contacts other persons with the same interests, builds up a long list of correspondents, subscribes to, reads, contributes to, and perhaps publishes fanzines, joins clubs and becomes active in them. While he is doing all this, his prozines are piling up unread; if he buys back issues, these add to the stack too; books are streaming from the presses, most of them unread by this fan. Once in a while, he has a chance to read a story or book but many classics which he would have read will never be read. Is it worth it?

Is the loss of all the foregoing compensated for by the enjoyment obtained from the fan activities listed above? Obviously there would be supporters of both sides of the questions. There are many active fans and also quite a few non-fans who seem to find more pleasure in their mags alone. I bemoan the fact that I'm missing a lot of good reading and at the same time shudder at the thought of giving up the fanzines, clubs, and all of my fine fan friends. I'd like to hear what other people think about the matter. In the mean time, I'll continue to pray for the only solution I know--more time.

Sincerely

Leslie

.....
Leslie Hudson
Roseland Virginia



LESTER
FRIED
N3F, FA

EVOLUTION OF POSTURE
by
RAY REBEL

Long, long ago, Primitive Man walked like this. It was good he did. Else he'd have kept bumping his head as he crawled in and out of caves.



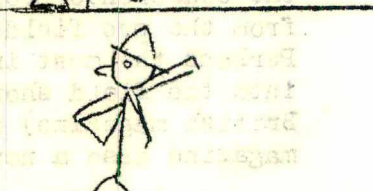
Then came the dawn of Recorded History. Just why Man decided that history was worth recording is a question. All the same, he hunched up on his knees to chip historic dates on stone tablets.



With the age of Agriculture, Man's posture improved just a little. By using longer and longer hoe handles, Man was able to stand almost erect.



Once in a vertical position, Man soon found his two legs could get him to many interesting places. So he went. Thus began the Era of Exploration. Away he went to conquer new worlds, straight as a soldier. In fact, he had become a soldier.



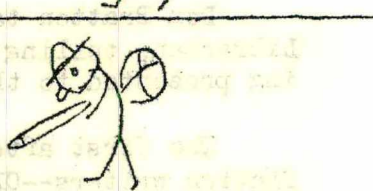
After the Industrial Revolution, Man decided to relax. Little by little, he leaned over backward until he learned to sit down. This was a major discovery. Later, he invented the Chair, and for a long time Man just sat around. From a sitting position, he found he could sell real estate sub-divisions, develop ulcers, drive to the coast. Then suddenly.....



.....
the call of World War II! Only a few Brass-Hatted Men could stay seated. Everyone else was on his feet again, JUP, two, three, four....HUP...



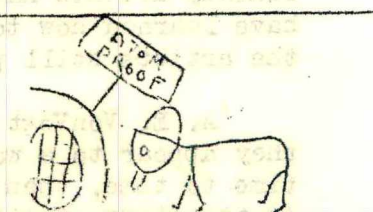
The weight of his Army pack began to hump him forward again. His posture started to droop.



At last the shooting was over. Only, before he could straighten up again, Man was knocked to his knees by TAXES. The new income tax forms were a far cry from Man's old stone tablets. But were just as difficult to fill out.



Then the Atomic Age--swollen by inflation and focked by explosions? The cycle is complete. Man is back on all fours again. He is looking for his old cave. But this time he needn't worry about bumping his head. It is too late to worry. It's too late to matter.



WEST COASTERS HOLD CONFERENCE

BY

E. E. Evans

The L.A.S.F.S. sponsored a Conference of West Coast fans and authors on Labor Day, Sunday, September 5, 1948. Seventy-seven were in attendance, including ten pros. It is hoped to make this a yearly affair from now on.

In accordance with their announced policy, the committee under the Chairmanship of E. Everett Evans kept the expenses to a minimum. No one had to spend a cent during the meetings, although there were books and magazines to be bought if desired, and an auction to pay the small expenses, which were thus met.

Some splendid talks were given, although a combination of circumstances several announced speakers could not be present.

At the morning session, after an hour or so spend gabbing and autographing the Conference program booklets, Forrest J. Ackerman told about the latest news from the pro fields, from information specially gathered for the occasion. Perhaps the most interesting of this is that several new magazines are coming into the field shortly. "Super-Science" and "New Worlds" (the latter being a British magazine) are being revived; the editors of "Fate" plan a new STF magazine also a new Canadian mag is planned.

The auction in the morning was of the "gag" variety with prices kept extremely low, and a lot of fun and gags pulled to keep it interesting. Just as a for-instance; a fanzine editor bid in--for 45¢--a complete story already stenciled and mimeod in over 200 copies, covering six pages, which meant 90¢ worth of stencils and \$2.00 worth of paper besides to work and the writing of the story. Other prices were the same. The auctioneer--Walter J. Daugherty--suddenly offered 25¢ for the first person who brought forward a copy of Amazing with the first Shaver story. Guess who had it on hand? Yep, Ackerman! (P.S. That was a prepared gag--no reflection on 4sJ.)

After a luncheon break the regular auction was held, when some splendid illustrations and books were sold at prices ranging up to \$8.00--and well worth it.

Don Bratton talked for some minutes about the foundation, of which he is Librarian, telling us of some of the splendid books and magazines that are being presented to the Foundation.

The first afternoon speaker was the first of the great women science fiction writers--Clare Wingor Harris. She gave a splendid talk about her early experiences, and some high-lights into the backgrounds of her various stories.

Guy Gifford, noted STF cartoonist whose "Ringer Family" pictures in Planet are well remembered, gave us a hilariously funny talk about many things, and some serious discussion of fantasy art as well. He stressed the fact that the fantasy artists have not kept pace with the authors--that whereas the authors have learned how to paint with words "out of this world" scenes and characters, the artists still paint in terms of mundane things.

A. E. VonVogt was the last afternoon speaker, and talked of fan things as they appear to a woman, basing his points on things he has heard women say from time to time, then more or less explaining them from the man-fan's viewpoint. At the close of his talk he asked if there were any questions--and found himself suddenly transformed into a "Dorothy Dix" of Fandom.

It was really funny---but some splendid points were brought out and discussed pro and con. Mr. VonVogt "filled in" for his wife, E. Mayne Hull, who had been ill and unable to prepare the talk she had promised.

There was a supper interlude them of nearly two hours, with the fans drifting back after they had filled up, to continue the fan-gab which is the greatest delight of fans at such shindigs.

We were greatly disappointed in one thing at the Conference. Dr. Eric Temple Bell, well-known to us all as John Taine, had promised to come and speak to us. But a phone call stated that someone very near to him had just passed away very unexpectedly, and he would have to be excused. Another missing speaker was L. Ron Hubbard, suddenly called to New York on business, just two days before the meeting.

But another well-known STF author, John Scott Campbell, stepped into the breach on a couple of hours' notice, and gave us the first talk of the evening. He talked about the problems of a writer trying to keep within reason in his stories and yet give an interesting plot and action. He used as an illustration the type of stories where a man becomes very large, or very small. He presented some unusual figures to show the actual problems such a man would face--that growth is not just in simple multiples, but in geometric ones; a man growing from 6 to 60 feet tall would find his area multiplied not ten times but 10^2 , his volume multiplied not 10 times, but 10^3 , and so on. He spoke of what light rays would appear like to the "Big man," and to the "small man". It was extremely interesting.

The final talk of the evening was by Dr. Robert C. Richardson, whose articles on Astronomy in ASF are well known, as are his many stories under the pen-name of Phillip Latham.

His theme was what the telescope means to science fiction--how the theories about the planets held as short a time ago as twenty years are now being radically changed by new developments and discoveries through the use of the newer and larger telescopes. As, for instance, that Venus is not a land of lush jungles, but an arid desert worse than those believed to exist on Mars. That Jupiter is not hot, and an almost-sun, but a very cold planet. That even yet astronomers are not certain as to not only what the "canals" of Mars are, but whether or not there really are such things; stating in this connection that because of atmospheric conditions on Earth here it is almost impossible to see them with any regularity, and that many astronomers have never been able to see them at all with even the best of telescopes.

All in all it was a very successful Conference, and it is to be hoped that the West Coast fans will want to make it a yearly affair, especially in years when the National Convention is held in the East and so few can afford to attend. This Conference and those in the future are not intended to in any way whatsoever conflict with those National get-togethers, but to give those otherwise unable to attend such meetings a chance to gather with other fans and pros and have an enjoyable day.

THE END

FANZINANIA

BY
ED. COX

In the past three months, the fanzine field has had a boom and now there are nearly sixty general fanzines of many types burdening the overloaded postman. Some of these are the old-timers of long standing and of established quality. Some are comparatively new and already near the top. Some need to go a ways yet to get into the comfortable top bracket and others are just starting out, some good, some fair and some bad. These still are in the beginning stage and too soon to come to a definite rating. And still they keep on coming. Too many to keep track of and too many to try to keep getting all at once. Over fifty fanzines is a lot!

In this column, we will try to keep up to date on fanzines, new ones coming, old ones dying, hints and news and anything we can find. We hope it is at least interesting reading.

In some cases, the name and address of the publisher and the subscription rates will be omitted due to any number of things such as continued publication being doubted, the zine is already well-known, circulation limit reached, etc.

Here is the second issue of PEON issued by Charles Lee Riddle of the USN. Since he'll be aboard ship somewhere by this time, letters should be addressed to his home at: 2116 Edsall Court, Alameda, Calif. His wife will forward them to him. This zine started out free but due to raising costs, can be had for a bargain price of 25¢ a year. (It's bi-monthly.)

In this 2nd issue is the letter-column which promises to develop into a small-sized "Fandom Speaks" if supported, fiction by Donn Brazier and Jim Love, good art-work and the editor's page. Column by H. H. Ramsey about fantasy music records is interesting.

IF! is another zine that has come out recently. Con Pederson of 705 W. Kelso, Inglewood, Calif. is editor publisher of this zine which will soon see its fourth issue. Number three features Keller, Wilson, Hutchison and Kennedy with art and story by Con. Well worth its price of 10¢ or three for 25¢. Half size and lit-toed, it is handy and quite readable. The fourth issue will be large and will have material by Ackerman, Kennedy, Keller and Wilson. This zine is steadily climbing.

Here is the first issue of an all-letter zine which will try to take up in some way the gap left by FANDOM SPEAKS and other letter-zines. The new DAWN, SIN and PEON all have long letter departments which go towards filling the gap and OPEN STIFFIRE! is intended to fill in the need for an all-letter zine. The first issue starts as a letter-section for TRITON but the next will devote but a few pages in this capacity, the rest (maybe 30) for general fan-discussion.

Well duplicated by Walter Coslet, it is very readable and is a companion zine to TRITON. No copies will be distributed separately unless plans change.

With all this talk of long, special letter-columns, don't forget DAWN's! We need letters here too. Open controversy and to write and tell fandom about your ideas. Nothing like conversation by letter in an open forum to straighten out arguments, feuds and discussions!

Next is Arthur Rapp's popular SPACEWARP. It can be had by sending a fifteen cent-piece for an issue (or 2/25¢ or a bargain, 9 for \$1.00) from Art at 2120 Bay Street, Saginaw, Mich.