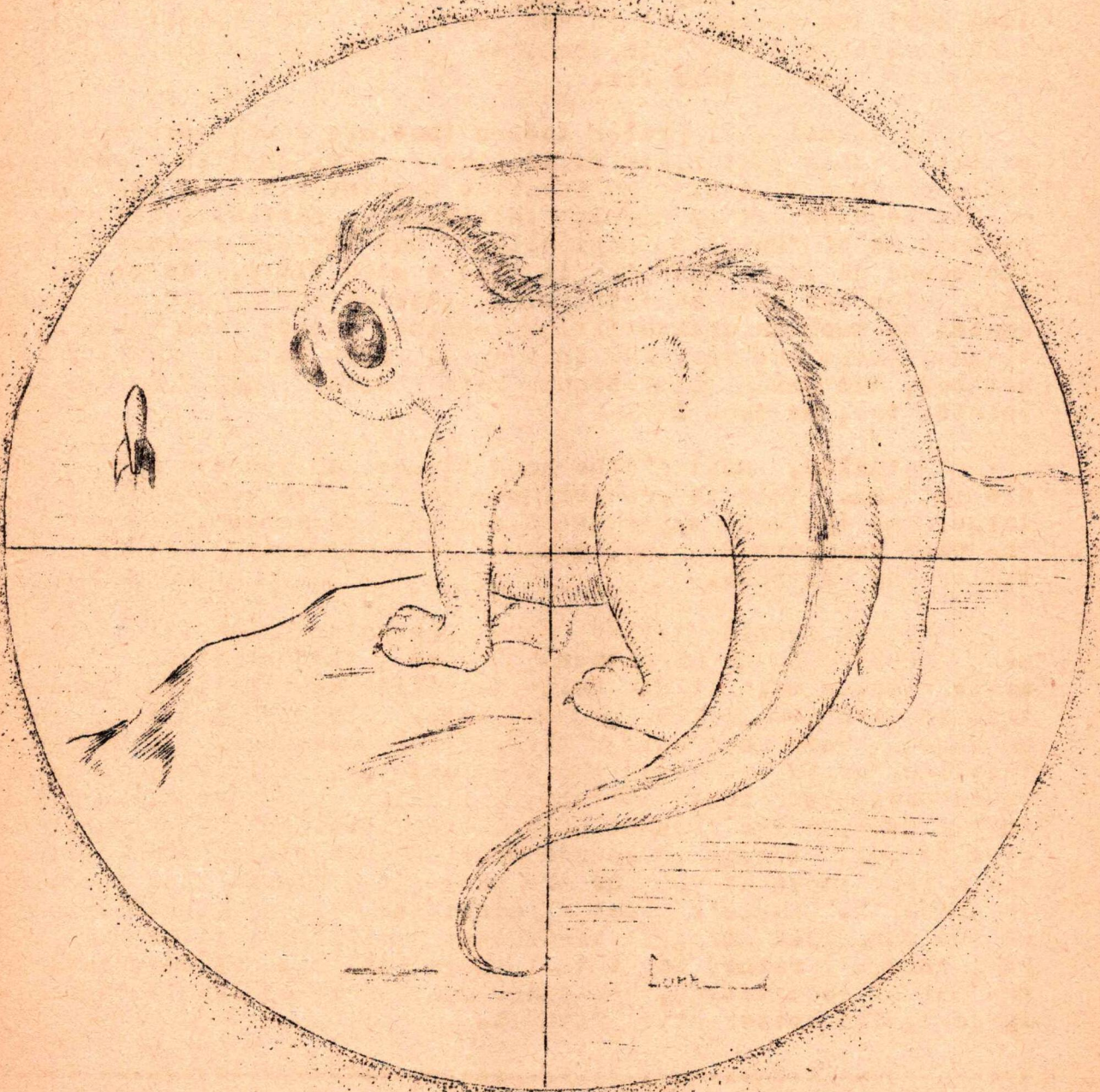


DIASPAR

No. 2

FAPA 68



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DIASPARAGING

REMARKS

HOWEVER UNIMPORTANT they may be when you come right down to it, I still think that a good fanzine title is a definite asset. For one thing, the general personality of a fanzine can often be seen just by looking at its title. Such a title as STAR ROCKETS is not only a clumsy title, but also conveys the idea that the editor is rather juvenile. The inevitable fanzine titles with "FAN" in them, as pointed out by the venerable Dean, are also of this ilk.

Personally, I prefer titles that are a bit more obscure, or titles that just plain sound nice -- VANATIONS is a good example of what I mean. My favorite fanzine title is BIRDSWITH, mainly because it is highly intriguing, partially because it reminds me of "Built Up Logically," and largely because I like the sound of it. SKYHOOK is also a good title, as is WOPPLE KIT. Too bad such an intriguing title as WOPPLE KIT had to be wasted on such an uninteresting fanzine. Aside from these four titles, there are very few that appeal much to me. HORIZONS is not bad, and DREAM QUEST sounds rather nice. MAELSTROM has its points, too, as does DEVIANT.

Actually, most of the good titles, as you can see above, are in WAPA. This is probably because WAPA is composed, by and large, of the more experienced element of fandom, those fans who have been around long enough to distinguish between good titles and bad ones.

My own fanzine titles have been rather unsatisfactory to me. LOOKING BACKWARD pleased me when I thought it up, and it still pleases me. It has definite stfish connotations and also ties in with the mailing comment idea. THE BEN & I and LA VIE EN FANDOM were good enough titles for one-shots. Other than that they would have been too long and their initial catchyness would have been lost quickly. ATOMICA was a horrible title that I used in the absense of a better idea. DIASPAR isn't too good either, though it sounds nice and has stfish connotations again (for those of you who are wondering, Diaspar was the city in Arthur C. Clarke's great "Against the Fall of Night"). Don't be too surprised if next issue sees a different title on DIASPAR, though I rather doubt that there will be. I seem to have run out of good titles, and since DIASPAR is at least moderately good, I'd better stick with it.

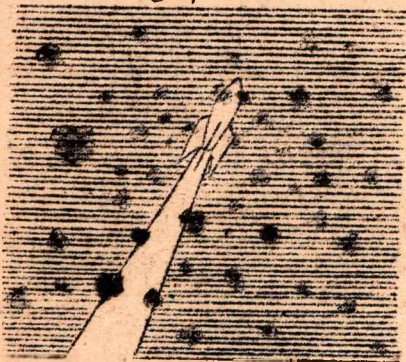
I had one grunch but...MY GHOD, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE EGGPLANT?

It has occurred to me that Harry Warner might be interested to know that there is not only a prozine now named SPACE-

WAYS, but a fanzine as well. Oddly, the prozine and fanzine both come from the Los Angeles area. The fanzine is crud, tho it is promising of better things (well, the editor said there'd be a change in the future and I took it for granted that it would have to be for the better).

Listen to all the interlineations.

I wonder how many fen actually know as much about fandom as they sometimes let on. You'll often see a fan rattle off names and incidents as though they were common knowledge, although they are actually not too well-known. In this way he gives the impression of Knowing All ... which he certainly does not. Actually, a fan who has a good working knowledge of fandom can give the impression of being of the Old Guard if he can play his chips right (the chips in this case being grains of knowledge).



For instance, Frank McElroy, a local fan who has read only a few fanzines emanating from outside the Bay Area, can keep up with the conversations going around at the GGWS meetings between Boob, Pete, Dav, and the rest of us. These convos generally concern such subjects as Willis, Leeh, 7th Fandom, Ellison, egoboo, FAPA, and lots of other things. McElroy stays right there and keeps right up with us. It constantly surprises me at how fast he has picked up his knowledge of things fannish from the GGWS crowd.

Let's find a mirage and sneak up on it.

I was reading along the other night in HYPHEN #8 when a phrase casually tossed off by VinClarke suddenly jumped off the page at me. Said he: "...anyone wishing to write a thesis for their BNFmanship degree could do worse than to compile a history of one-shots." Aha, said I, that's a good idea, and has vast possibilities. Accordingly, I scrounged around, looked through my fanzine collection, did a little research, and if you'll turn to page 7 you won't find the result, because I never did write the thing.

I may be tall and thin, but I never gangle!

Another fannish institution that interests me is the interlineation. Though there have been some variations on the theme (i. e. McCainterlineations, verticalineations a la Willis, etc.), the established rule is one line of typewritten matter between two dividing lines, generally either the underscore or the hyphen (which reminds me: why does Willis use verticalineations when the normal kind would be more suitable

to the title of his fanzine? Oh, BNF's move in strange and mysterious ways their blunders to perform...). The greatest variety in interlineations to be found in fanzines pertain to the text.

The Hoffman-type interlineation is generally merely a line chosen at random from a private conversation....she uses them merely to arouse the curiosity of the readers. Other faneds try to make puns or tell jokes in one line....often with miserable results.

Personally, I prefer a sort of combination of the two: I like my interlineations clever and yet possibly a bit obscure. The second interlineation above is a good example of what I mean. I get many of my interlineations from conversation, and many just pop into my head. The one in question above was culled from a King Aroo comic strip.

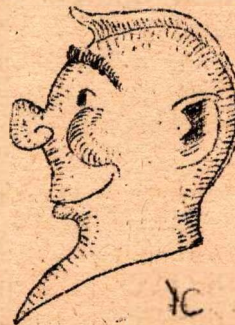
Tell me, what type do you like? Or are you one of those people who think that an interlineation's sole function in type is to "break the monotony" of a page of typewritten matter?

They should put wheels on this ball so we could roll it.

True to my word, there won't be any post-atomic vignette in this DIASPAR. There will, however, be a bit of free verse for your (dis)pleasure, and some face critturs (and thanks to Carol McKinney for the idea I used for them this time). I had planned on printing "Homecoming," that other crazy mixed-up story I mentioned last issue in connection with "The Old Man and the Sea," just as soon as it was rejected from whichever fanzine to which it had been sent. Unfortunately, Rich Geis upset the applecart by accepting the thing for Psi ... after it --or its brother, "The Old Man and the Sea"--had been rejected five or six times previously. Aweel, such is life in the far, far west (and how much farther west do you get than San Francisco?).

I read a couple chapters in my latest Rike letter last night.

Boob Stewart and I have curtailed our fannish activities a lot recently in order to devote more time to writing fiction---with the idea in mind of selling it. Not that it's very likely that you'll be seeing our bylines in the pros very soon, but at least we're working toward that goal. Boob seems to have more proish energy than I have, since he turns out about three or four stories a week, whereas I have an average of two. Boob has stuff out to quite a few markets right now, though the names of most escape me. I have four out, myself, to Fantastic Universe, Imagination, Cor, and Startling. You know, collecting rejection slips would be such a nice hobby...



STARING BLANKLY

Ye Olde Mailing Commentes

LOOKWARD: My recent readings include Street's "Civil War" (terrific!), "The Pogo Stepmother Goose," "By The Dawn's Ugly Light" (an indispensable book for fen...and about the funniest discussion of the hangover you'll ever see), "Crittenden" by John Fox, jr. (a minor work by the author of "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine"), "Ethan Frome" (my second reading of this very moving tragedy), and a vain attempt at reading "Look Homeward, Angel". After reading a short story of Wolfe's recently, I decided that I'd like to sample one of his novelistic efforts. Too bad, but the book simply bored me. I didn't finish the second chapter. In the way of listenings, the main classical one would be Beethoven's Emperor Concerto. Aside from that it's been mostly pop and jazz. My tastes run mostly to swing (particularly Artie Shaw), though I can enjoy jazz or classical types too, depending mostly upon my mood at the time. # I had planned a stunning coup de gras when I mentioned the name change in VEGA. This was brought on by a statement made by G. Carr in UNASKED OPINION three or four mailings ago which absolutely sickened me. Something about the fact that she delighted in "throwing out gentle tidbits for the FAPA wolves to go into a rage over." When I went to explain this in DIASPORA #1, tho, I couldn't find the comment in question and decided to hell with it. # I like your double columning, Pete. It looks good with your elite typer; with a pica typeface, tho, I'm afraid it wouldn't look half as good. # What's wrong with SKYHOOK for showing to friends and relations? Or SPACESHIP? Or STAR ROCKETS? Don't answer that. # Boob doesn't give fandom a masculine title... # Why shouldn't it be nom de guerre? In some cases that could be synonymous for a byline, considering the fact that some people delight in starting feuds. # You forget that WIRE SCULPTURE was the work of Rotsler, and was paid for by him, whereas OUTER SPACE was not Rike's effort. I READ YOUR OLD MAGAZINE: Not even nice paper.

IT CAME FROM BOX 203: I imagine the Faps will be awestruck at the True Rike Style. In VULCAN and ICTB203 #1 I rewrote and changed most of the grammatical and structural errors of Rike's writings. This, however, is True Rike (aware of trumpets, clash of phallic cymbals, Boston cheer, etc.). # The fillies were enjoyable, but they ruined your format, Dav. Try typing your comments first, leaving squares free for the fillers. # The Big Surprise that Boob and I had cooked up was THE STPmag, which got to Burbee too late for FAPA 67. Great, huh? Goshgeewhizwowboyoetc!

PAMPHREY: I'm afraid complications would arise if you were OE, Walt. The money would be fine, but think of the time element: there'd be extra time for the mailing to get to us and we'd have to mail the mags to you sooner. Considering the fact that the deadlines creep up so fast as it is, I shudder to think of what we'd do if we had to send the mags all the way to Ireland!

Cuddlypets, Cuddlypets,
Look at these new Cuddlypets:
Cuddlypuffins, cuddlyboobs,
And cuddlyphallicsymboltubes!

Which reminds me: has anyone else been singing the Cuddlypet ditties to the tune of the Regal Pale commercial? Come to think of it, the Regal Pale (beer) comm. is sung to the tune of Pony Boy.

FANTASY AMATEUR: I just noticed that nowhere in the constitution does it say that the Vice President is to conduct the annual FAPA poll. How did this start, then? Was it sanctioned by some past VP resident and just continued since then or what? # I've decided not to run for VP after all. Trouble is, he has to do a little work, and I don't particularly care for the idea at the moment.

SKYHOOK: Egad, there are typos all through this issue, Redd. Am I becoming more observant or is SKYHOOK becoming Imperfect? Page six, for instance, has four typos. What's wrong with your correction fluid? And speaking of Imperfection, I notice that your crooked lines of hyphens in interlineations are still with you. What's happening to you, Redd? Are you getting Gafia? Have you come to FAPA to die slowly, like they say? Oh tell us it is not so, pray do! # I fail to see where "science fictioner" qualifies as a good term for "a work of science fiction". It seems to me "science fiction" has served quite well up to now. # The more I read Atheling's column the more I think it must be your penname, Redd, which you use to stimulate controversy by printing controversial--and often downright asinine--opinions.

MOREEN MUMBLINGS: You should have used THE PLAID DRAINPIPE for your title. I don't see why you needed a drawing to go with it. # OPERATION CRIP NAC, as Wells pointed out, was the wrong title; the right one was KEEBIRD. # Speaking of the initials of TARGET: FAPA and TARGET: NEW TRIER, I wonder who will be the first person to publish a zine called TARGET: SAPS, whose initials would be different, if not appropriate. # Much better than the "Crazy Mixed-Up Song" (which is ancient) is "I've Got You Under My Skin," by someone whose name escapes me at the moment. It ends thusly: "...But each time I do, just the thought of you makes me stop--" and that's all there is.

EGAD!: Sports I enjoy include ice-skating, which I do very poorly; tennis, at which I am horribly out of practice and never was very good in the first place; baseball, ditoo; basketball, my all-time favorite and the one at which I am most proficient; and bowling, my current favorite, which I've been playing for about two months now (average: 120) and finding out that it's terrifically expensive. I enjoy other sports to some degree too, but these are the best as far as I'm concerned.

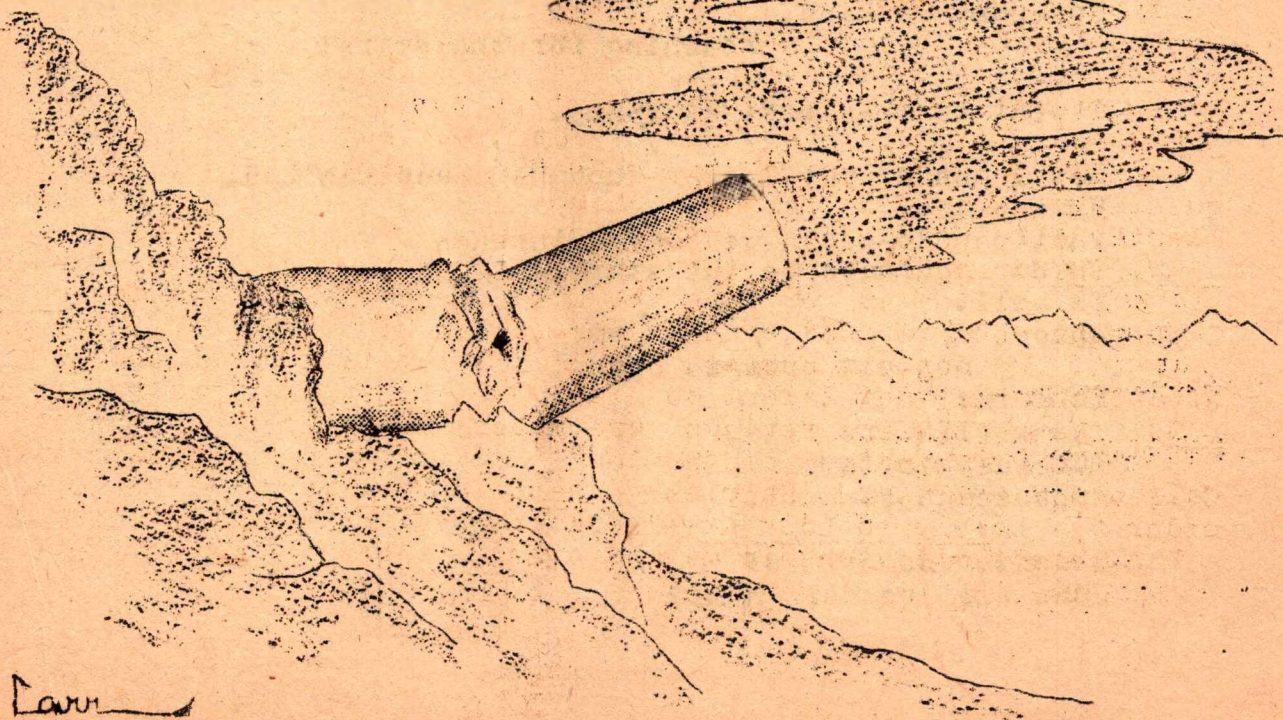
GRUE: So, like the fugghead I act like when I'm sober, I didn't take notes while reading this monstrous thing, and consequently have nothing to say, except that Little Willy makes me violently ill, always has, and always will.

VIEWPOINTS: A good job, through and through. # MiGhu, you mean to say you like the crud Ashman turns out for Galaxy? I thought you had good eyes! Admittedly, his early stuff was pretty good, but not his current junk. My favorite right now is Kelly Preas, the best new talent to hit the field in many years, sez I.

LARK: Your one-line reviews are often hilarious, at least to me. They remind me of the movie reviews in the University of California PELICAN. Samples: Belle of New York -- "Belle out of order." Lovely to Look At -- "Possibly, but horrible to watch." # A benevolent dictatorship may be nice in theory, but it won't work

very well in practice. Aside from the fact that, as you pointed out, "it doesn't stay benevolent long," there are also the drawbacks of man's own mortality. First, what man is wise enough to know what's best all the time--or even a major portion thereof--no matter how much he may want to do the right thing? It would entail knowing all the information pertaining to every decision and every alternative and its outcome. A dictator, no matter how well-meaning he may be, is still setting himself up as God, and no mortal man should do that. Secondly, after said benevolent dictator dies, who rules next? If another dictator, then is he going to be benevolent too? Dictatorship of any kind is too likely to lead to revolt, which will undo all the good accomplished!

FIENDETTA: I dislike your definition of science fiction. As you say, it includes space opera and allied types, and it is because of this that I dislike it. I see no reason why transplanted westerns, mysteries, love stories, et al should be labelled science fiction. The final judge of any definition is how it holds up in extreme cases, and yours doesn't even hold up in normal ones. Besides, it's overlong. About the best I've heard was the second one you quoted and underlined, though I feel that setting should be replaced with situation, because in extreme cases I don't think it would hold up otherwise. # I hate misspellings and mispronunciations. # Mighu, but this is a hodgepodge! Your comments would be a lot better if you didn't compose on stencil, Chas. Some people have a spontaneous style that is pleasing, but yours is far from it. # Beale could put out the fire on his tongue by pouring Bheer on it--and don't you dare say that's inhumane! # You seem to have the idea that I work in the main library of San Fran, which is mistaken (the impression, not the library). Actually, I work in a branch of it--a small branch, I might add--which accounts for the small stfts section. # My system of reviews? I have none, though I usually take notes, and consequently the first few zines I finish reading are generally the first reviewed. # According to Publisher's Weekly, science fiction pocketbooks sell quickly at first, then stop selling at all, and hardbound science fiction sells in a steady trickle over the years.



Larr

HYPERSPACE

I remember
When I was young
The spacemen,
The brave, gallant spacemen,
Used to tell of how bad it was
Out in space,
The worlds,
 they'd say,
Were cold and heartless,
 hostile to man.
They had poisonous gases for atmospheres
Or none at all.
They were blazing hot
Or freezing cold.
Space was no place for man,
They said.

I grew up.
I became a spaceman.

They were right:
Space is hell:
It's cold and heartless
And the worlds are hostile.
I don't know why I stayed in space;
Maybe I was attracted
By the repulsive.

Eventually
They built the Borgman Drive
To take us to the stars.
Beat the drums!
Sound the trumpets!
Blast out a fanfare
For puny mankind,
 reaching for the stars!

I went on the first star-hop.

Now I wonder why I ever thought space was bad.
Hyperspace,
That psuedo-world we travel through
On our journeys to the stars,
Is hell.
Space,
 normal, prosaic space,
Is warm;
The worlds are wild,
But easy to tame.
Hyperspace is hell.

I wonder sometimes:
What will be hell next?



NEO
HI I'M JOHN WEOFHAN,
AND I WAS JUST PASSING
THROUGH TOWN ON MY
VACATION, AND I SAW
SOME OF YOUR LETTERS...

WOULDN'T YOU
COME IN?

NEO
...IN THE S-T-F "MAGS"
AND I DECIDED TO DROP
IN AND SEE YOUR UGLY PUS...

ONE
OH?

WHERE'D THE FOOD?
...SO HERE I AM!

ONE
OH?
WHY SO LATE?

NEO
OH, HERE'S THE STEAL!
ANYWAY, I CAN ONLY STAY
TILL TOMORROW MORNING...

ONE
WELL, I HAVE TO
CATCH A TRAIN TOMORROW,
BUT I DID WANT TO...

tenny carr's
FACE CRITTIURS
fannish visit

NEO
OH, IS THIS YOUR
ROOM IN HERE?

ONE
YES, BUT DON'T GO -

NEO
GODDAMN, WHAT A MESS!
DON'T YOU EVER CLEAN THIS
DUMP? WHERE AM I GONNA
SLEEP? THERE'S ONLY
ONE BED!

ONE
- IN!
I HADN'T PLANNED ON -

NEO
THAT'S OKAY, WE CAN
SLEEP TOGETHER.
AFTER ALL, WE'RE
BROTHERS UNDER THE
SKIN, WHY NOT UNDER
THE COVER?

ONE I WOULDN'T SLEEP WITH YOU IF —

ONE BOB STEWART SAYS —

ONE NO, DON'T —

ONE I SAID DON'T —

ONE NOW SEE HERE —

ONE HEY!!!

B A M!!!

ONE OF COURSE, IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE CROWDED, BUT THAT'S OKAY WITH ME — ANY PORT IN A STORM, YOU KNOW!

ONE OH, SOME SPACE MAGAZINES! MIND IF I LOOK AT THEM?

ONE WHAT'S THIS, YOUR "COLLECTION"?

ONE GEE, A "CAPTAIN FUTURE" MAGAZINE! CAN I HAVE IT? THANKS!

ONE WHAT'S THIS "UNKNOWN" THING? NO COVER! BO! IS THIS LOUSY!

ONE I ALWAYS WANTED TO TEAR UP A SPACE BOOK, BUT ALL MINE ARE TOO GOOD...

ONE THEY SAY YOU'RE NOT A REAL FAN UNTIL YOU'VE TORN ONE UP...

ONE UNFRIENDLY CRAFT!

ONE LET'S SEE, WHAT OTHER "SIT F SEANS" LIVE IN THIS TOWN...