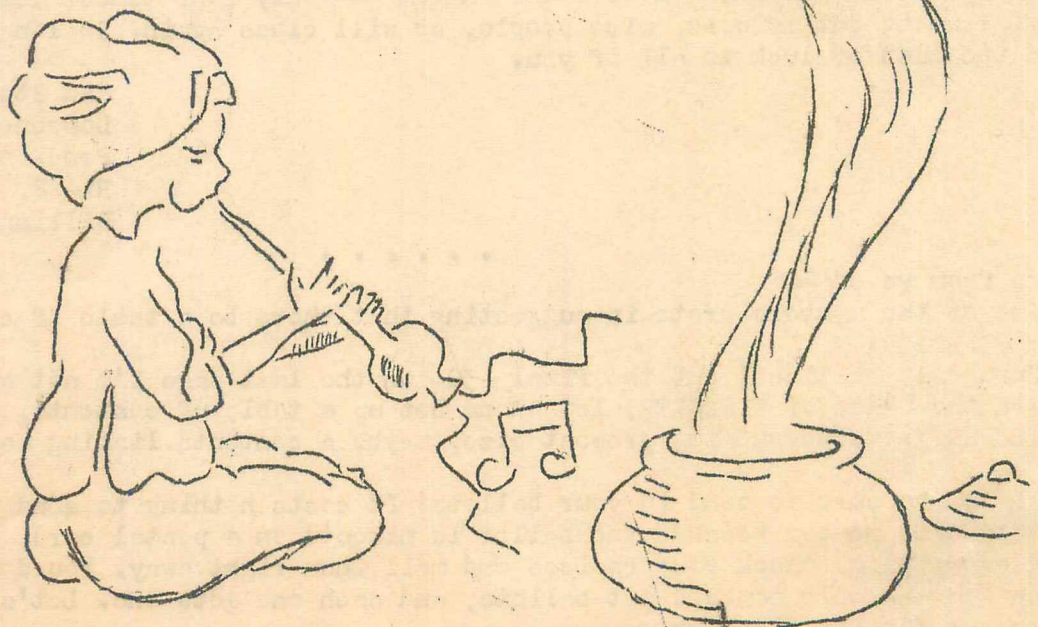


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PHOTOGRAPHY

Oct ~ Nov
1950

Ad Stellas



→ M J C

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THE EXPLORER

Published by, and for the I.S.F.C.C.

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EDITORIAL

* It isn't often that I use much space in
* voicing my views on things, but once in
* awhile things crop up, such as reviews
* of s-f radio shows and s-f films.
* It seems that the one sent out to re-
* view a program such as Dimension X or a
* film presentation as Destination Moon
* manages to be one whose ken of s-f goes
* as high as reading Flash Gordon or Buck
* Rogers in the comics, but no higher --
* ergo, to the reviewer, all s-f becomes
* comic book material.

* * * * * Reviewer Donald Kirkley of the Balti-
more Sun writes of Heinlein's story as filmed: The writing of Robert Heinlein....
never rises above the comic book level. (end quote) How much higher than the comic
book level is the reviewer's knowledge of s-f might be a logical question.
Baltimore could do a lot better than just sending a film reviewer to cover such
a film as Destination Moon. Baltimore has a lot of aviation and propulsion experts
who might have seen over the levels of Flash Gordon or Buck Rogers or Brick Bradford.

* * * * *

From Larry ---

Dear Members of the ISFCC -

Our October issue will be our election issue of EXPLORER. For several weeks I
had the feeling that we would have only enough candidates to run for half of the
offices. But the results have proved more gratifying than that, as you will notice
from the ballot accompanying EXPLORER or from the listing of candidates (page 15).

Marvin Sigel is now the chairman of the Welcoming Committee. The rest of the
members of this committee are: Mrs. Janie Lamb, Phyllis Klein, Dot Keller, Walter
Cole, Ben Bugaley, Bruce Lane, and, of course, Marvin.

Yvonne Worth has come up with an idea for holding a chess tournament, since
a number of you have chess listed as a hobby. If you are interested, read her arti-
cle on this in the following pages.

My vacation comes due the 15th of October. It's just an odd coincidence that
deer season opens on that day, too. I figure on staying up in the hills until I
get one. It's getting chilly these nights, so better I take along a coal heater -
not I'll be going alone, so maybe my cooking will get rid of some of that excess
poundage. Tried chinning myself last night --- only four times! Terrible!

Time to get to work, nice people, so will close again. So long for this time
and the best of luck to all of you.

"Ad Stollas"
Lawrence Kiehlbauch
Pres. of ISFCC
Rt. 2, Box 223
Billings, Montana

* * * * *

More from you --

One of the members wrote in suggesting that there be a table of contents listed
for EXPLORER.

Up until the time I put the final -30- on the last page I'm not sure what's to
be in the pages of EXPLORER, let alone set up a table of contents, although, if
EXPLORER grows beyond its present size, maybe a contents listing may be helpful.

PLEASE be sure to send in your ballots! It costs nothing to send them if you're
a state-side member because the ballot is mimeo'd on a postal card, all addressed
and everything. Check your choices and mail them right away. You don't have to
sign 'em --- only members get ballots, and each one gets one. Let's make it a 100%
turn-out for the election.

Eye (SFCC) View of Norwescon

(NORWESCON time and vacation time came together for Vernon McCain, fitting in well with the hope of having an ISFCC report of the convention. Last issue we covered the Hydra-ESFA meeting. This time it's the BIG one of the year --- take it over, Mac---)

While the convention did not officially start until Friday evening, a large number of those attending arrived around noon and registered. A visit to the local planetarium was scheduled as a pro-convention opener, but attendance was light, many fans taking advantage of the time to get acquainted or re-acquainted with correspondents and friends.

Friday night, Sept. 1, Melvin Korshak (of Shasta Publishers - and, incidentally the only person besides Forrie Ackerman to attend all eight conventions) officiated, introducing each person by name. Ackerman showed four movie shorts, two of which had been made by fan groups, the other two being reclaimed fragments of unreleased films. This portion of the entertainment was almost strictly for laughs. Then some transcriptions from "Dimension X" were played. Whenever an empty spot came along anywhere during the convention one of these transcriptions would be thrown in to fill the gap.

Saturday afternoon Anthony Boucher was heard from, leading the speakers as the guest of honor. He spoke on the growing acceptance by the general public of science-fiction, particularly in the book field. Mr. Boucher, Howard Browne of AMAZING and Bea Mahaffey of OTHER WORLDS each revealed coming plans for their magazines.

Saturday night brought the auction. This is the most financially rewarding part of all conventions. Over \$500 was taken in, which put the NORWESCON nicely in the black, leaving an amount over to start off next year's convention.

Surprise of the evening was an unlisted Bonestell original which went for the amazingly low bid of \$20. Highest bid of the evening was \$34, by Franklin Dietz, for the DEAR DEVIL cover painting from the May OW. Yours truly picked up the only Gallo auctioned off, and one of the three Finlays.

Kenneth Arnold of Boise, Idaho, the first man to see a flying saucer, put in an impromptu appearance late Saturday night and came back again Sunday afternoon to speak again for those interested.

Sunday morning was the fanzine session, with speeches on the difficulties and advantages of the various available processes - photolith, printing, hecto, mimeo, etc.

Sunday afternoon featured brief talks by the various pro authors present, including guest of honor Boucher, Howard Browne, Dr. E. E. Smith, Rog Phillips, Mack Reynolds, John and Dorothy DeCourcey, Theodore Sturgeon, Bob Tucker, E. Everett Evans, Forrest Ackerman and others whose names evade the memory.

Sunday evening was divided into two parts. First, John deCourcey demonstrated his invention, the matter radio (the greatest discovery since fire, and greater than the wheel or the arch -- to quote Mr. DeCourcey). This was a well-planned interlude, complete with the transmitter itself, the gadget to end all gadgets, complete in every detail down to its bathroom faucets for controls and a midget television screen. From the standpoint of this viewer, this demonstration was a comparative failure. It succeeded in producing only one lady en deshabille, among the various flotsam it raked up. Last year, at the Little Norwescon it produced TWO!

The second half of the evening drew a tremendous crowd, the largest of the convention. Many of those were not registered as fans, coming strictly to hear Ackerman's talk on Dianetics. The latter half of this period was taken up by

Theodore Sturgeon on the same topic. There were a great many questions directed at both speakers by the audience. I might add that Sturgeon is one of the most fascinating speakers I have ever heard. He would make a wonderful showman or politician as he seemingly can hold any audience in the palm of his hand. It was with considerable reluctance on the part of most that this session broke up at midnight. But it was necessary, because special arrangements had been made with the Guild Theatre, 12 blocks away, to present a special screening of "Destination Moon" for the fans attending the convention. The film had not played Portland previously. There were about 500 at this showing, the largest fan group at any session.

Monday morning the various national clubs met. As far as I know I was the only ISFCC'er there (Dietz was there -- Sneery -- maybe others), so this club held no meeting. Since it was 6 AM before I had finally got to bed I was just as happy.

Monday afternoon was the business session. A proposal to condemn the ESFA - Hydra sponsored New York convention was voted down. Another to have the NFFF poll fans for the sites of future conventions was also voted down. After some debate it was voted to send letters of appreciation to the producers of "Dimension X" and "2000 Plus". The producers of "Destination Moon" also received such a letter. In addition, it was voted to despatch a letter to opera composer Joseph Menotti, enclosing a transcription of the "Dimension X" program, "Green Hills of Earth", requesting that he listen to it, and suggesting the story as a suitable vehicle for his talents.

Will Sykora and Melvin Korshak submitted convention bids for New York and Detroit, but it was a landslide vote in favor of giving the 1951 convention to Harry Moore for New Orleans.

A banquet was held Monday evening, after which a "Meet the Press" style discussion featuring Anthony Boucher was tape recorded for later release on a local radio station. A masked ball followed the banquet and concluded the NOWESCON.

From a personal standpoint I found the convention a little disappointing as it didn't live up to advance billing. Not that I regret attending. Like everyone else I had a wonderful time and will probably come close to breaking a leg trying to attend the Nolecon. The convention was wonderful. It just wasn't as wonderful as predicted. Advance ballyhoo for these affairs is a little too high-powered. But any fan who deliberately misses one is nuts.

Easily the most popular person at the convention (the attendance was predominantly male) was Bea Mahaffey, managing editor of OTHER WORLDS. Miss Mahaffey is just like a Bergoy girl (though she doesn't dress like one) and, delightfully, has a brain and personality of equal attraction. This Miss Mahaffey is not to be confused with the slightly awful illustration accompanying the OW story, MAHAFFEY'S MYSTERY. I might add that almost without exception the professionals and well-known fans couldn't have been more friendly, and while there may have been a little tendency toward a few cliques these were confined to people whose names wouldn't be recognized if they were listed.

Vernon McCain
Rt. 3
Nampa, Idaho

.....

S-F from the SLICKS for S-FICIANADOS

If we're not strong on quantity this issue we're at least very potent with that other part, quality.

For those of you who are interested in Astronomy and particularly the Big Eye at Mt. Palomar, there's a fine article in the current NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC on the big one and its companion, the Schmidt.

And the current Pageant has a 21 page book condensation of a top book on the Flying Saucers.

Both of these are good. Lots of pictures in the Geographic, naturally.

Little Mehuman

A SCIENCE-FICTION WEIRD FANTASY SERIAL
Part Two

Jack Cuthbert

(For synopsis of preceding chapter -- see preceding chapter.)

(Editor's note - Now THAT'S a brilliant suggestion.) (Author's note -- Oh, I'm just full of brilliant suggestions.) (Ed. note -- That isn't what I would say you were full of.) (Author's note -- Humph!)

1.

High in a tower room of the many turreted Calabash Castle, poring over a Pocket Book edition of the Necronomicon, sat Noel Dracula, guardian, teacher, mentor, and keeper of Little Mehuman. He smiled saturninely as he came across a particularly evil passage, and his bloodless, cadaverous face gleamed pallidly in the flickering rays of a corpse-candle, his favorite means of illumination. He leaned back in his ornate chair and the skin-like cover crackled delightfully. (In fact, it WAS skin, if you must know -- human, that is.) An aura of retrospection flitted across his piercing, jet black eyes, like bedbugs across a pillow case, as he thought for a moment of his homeland, Hungary, a land from which he had been forced to flee, due to his getting into some unmentionable trouble with the Union to which he belonged, the BAPCOWVSGEPGAP. (The Benevolent and Protective Order of Werewolves, Vampires, Succubi, Gnomes, Elves, Pixies, Ghouls, and (Pardon the Expression) Fairies.) His father, the Count, had ordered him away from Dracula Castle, warning him never to splatter blood on the door again, so, accompanied by his rosewood casket and innumerable obscure and obscene books, he had sailed for America, as he had heard that it was a land of free enterprise.

The Calabashes, hearing from certain underground sources of his arrival, decided that he would be an ideal instructor for Little Mehuman - one who might bring his hidden talents to the front - a horrible thought. Understandably, Little Mehuman's parents absented themselves from the castle as much as possible, as his habits gave them nausea, mal de mer, stomach ulcers, and assorted ailments, not to mention dandruff. So, accordingly, most of the time Noel Dracula was in full charge of the menage, or menagerie as it was sometimes called, and its staff - and no small job it was.

To return to Noel. (Editor's note - And about time.) (Author's note - Impetuous boy - and I call you boy because of the libel laws.) He was roused from his meditations by a piercing scream seeming to emanate from the castle grounds below. Rising, he glided over to the casement window and peered down. Far below, in the gathering dusk, he saw the recumbent form of Druscida, shadowed by the mis-shapen presences of Little Mehuman and Calvin who were poised atop the high fence. (See Part I of this charming idyll in a previous issue.) (Ed. Note - I WILL not!) (Author's Note - O K. - so remain ignorant, you bum!)

With a leap they bounded down off the fence and Noel stared fixedly for a few moments at the ensuing scene and then turned slowly from the window.

"H-mm-mm," he reflected, as he slowly put away his book, "We lose more nurses that way."

Reaching up to a hook which projected from the stone wall, he took down his whip and a selection of chains, deciding that he might as well proceed to the unpleasant task of bringing Little Mehuman back to the castle. Sighing nostalgically, for the scene he had just witnessed had reminded him of certain bloody orgies in which he had participated back in his native land, he glided down the many flights of stairs and proceeded through the gloomy halls of the castle.

Throwing back the various bolts, bars, chains, and locks on the huge iron door, he drew it back creakingly, and hurried down to where Little Mehuman and Calvin were fighting over the choicest morsels.

"Hi - ho, Hi - ho, Male Train," shouted Dracula, snapping his whip and wing-bones in anger. "Gerrouda there!" he added, dropping the chains for a moment and picking up a shinbone of the late Druselida to belabor Calvin over the head. "Must you make from yourself a hog, you hog?" he hissed at Little Mehuman as he grabbed him by the back of the neck, sending his blue bonnet into a pool of blood and toe bones.

"Gloop - glump!" protested Mehuman, his four little hairy arms beating frantically in the air as he flourished assorted bones and choice cuts.

"Little pest!" snorted Noel, giving Little Mehuman a cut across the bottom with his whip and letting out a roar of mirth as Mehuman's mouths howled in rage. Holding his charge at arm's length, for he was well acquainted with Little Mehuman's habits, he strode up to the castle, giving an occasional kick at Calvin, who snarled at his heels, and now and then attempted to take a hunk out of Noel's right thigh.

"No dinnaire for you tonight, little monster," Noel growled as he slammed the castle door in Calvin's faces. "Bretwurst, schlemiel - duamkopf -- goyim," he continued haranguing Little Mehuman, who hung limply in Noel's grip, remaining mute in angry silence. "You -- you are more trouble than my father," and, he added, remembering his early childhood and the escapades of his well-known parent, "and you have such charming parents, too. Sherrup!" This, as Mehuman bared his fangs in a futile attempt to retort in his own language.

Reaching the end of a long corridor, Noel opened a heavily barred door and hurled Little Mehuman into a dark, dank cell where he lit upon a casket-like cot in the corner, accompanied by sundry remarks which fortunately were not understood by his guardian. After hanging a wreath of garlic on the door, Noel shut it with a clang, which he had taken from his pocket, and strode angrily away, leaving Little Mehuman alone to brood and ponder over his evil deeds.

Author's Note - These things ----- indicate a lapse of several hours.

Ed. Note - I will grant there is a lapse, but I don't know about the time.

Author's Note - Always flapping his big mouth!

----- (Same)

Little Mehuman brooded for some time in his lonely cell, his assorted limbs waving phrenetically, like those of an overturned beetle, and his two heads glowering at the injustices heaped upon them. His varicolored eyes lit up like a Wurlitzer Juke Box when he became cognizant of the fact that his beloved guardian had neglected to chain him to the floor as was usually the custom.

"Google, Google, Ghoop!" chortled Mehuman, leaping to the floor like a giant spider, or a miniature Kraken. "Gahoo," he added, giving a bound and alighting on the window sill which was high above his cot. His bony little eyes peered closely at the protecting iron bars over the window, and he tentatively shook them with no result. "Gle - gfoo - gpoop!" Little Mehuman ejaculated in annoyance, and giving a two-toned whistle, he peered anxiously at the grounds below. He followed this with a weird cry, reminiscent of Tarzan with a hangover, and was rewarded by the sight of Calvin, his erstwhile companion, creeping slowly across the tombstone studded lawn, his slock, grossy body reflecting the sickly rays of the moon which had just emerged from behind a twelve story outhouse.

"Ghoop. Ghiop!" hissed Mehuman, as Calvin paused under the window, a dripping bone in one of his mouths.

"Duh?" replied Calvin, his red eyes staring up unblinkingly.

"Ghogfla gftagn greezle, glinppquot," said Mehuman, glancing anxiously around to assure himself that one of the guards were about. (Translation - Go get me a file, dear beast.)

"Duh?" questioned Calvin. (Translation - Huh?)

"Gafflen greezle, ghouplohaupt, greezle!" (Translation - I said a file, bucket-head, a file.) Mehuman jumped impatiently up and down in ecstacy of ill humor.

"Duh - Hokay," said Calvin imperturbably, and, spitting out a fingernail, he trotted out of sight.

Mehuman again jerked at the bars and peered again at the door, shuddering as he saw the garlic wreath through the bars.

"Geezoot, glump! (Trans. - Wise guy, huh!)" sneered Little Mehuman as he figuratively thumbed his little turned up and down noses in Dracula's general direction.

Perching on the sill, while he waited Calvin's return, he chewed meditatively on an old tonsil he had found in his sporran, and wished he had his bagpipe with him - or even an old bag, to while away the time. After some time, and after Mehuman had just about decided Calvin had got lost and half hoped that he had, his little eyes saw something slinking through the skull orchard. Ah, yes - it was Calvin, and he had something in one of his mouths - a rather sizeable, floppy article.

"Glxyzup gplee gzoomp?" muttered Mehuman, squinting several of his eyes. (Trans. - What the hell has he got?)

He snorted and pressed his left face against the bars as Calvin proudly dropped his burden which, after a moonbeam gave light, appeared to be a deceased chicken.

"Glxyzup gplee gzozylyp?" hiss Mehuman fiercely down to the upturned heads of Calvin. (Trans. - What the hell is THAT?)

"Duh - hensickle, glzz, gunlazth glimpet groozle galumpt." (Trans. - A chicken, boss; you sedda bring a fowl, so I thought---)

"%#####....." howled Mehuman. (Trans.- Due to certain postal laws and regulations we shall not translate these remarks.)

In the next two hours Calvin returned several times, bringing, in succession, one bass viol, one file of Weird Tales for 1939, one bunch of violets, a vile copy of Forever Amber, a vial of Canal-Goo # 5, and finally a small nail-file -- and, not without some groaning and straining, Little Mehuman pried a brick loose from the sill and dropped it squarely and with great satisfaction on Calvin's right head. The, with a pleased smile and a sigh of resignation, Little Mehuman leaped from the sill and settled on his cot, and soon was lulled to sleep by Calvin's protesting howls which filled the silent splendor of the ebon night.

End of Part II

DO NOT MISS THE NEXT THRILL PACKED EPISODE IN WHICH MEHUMAN LEARNS TO TALK -- !

(Editor's Note - Eecccc - Good Gad - there's MORE?) (Author's Note - But certainly!)
 (Ed. Note - It shall appear over my dead body.) (Author's note - O.K.- shall we take a vote on it?) (Author's note - Also, you will remember that is is a TRUE story - and while I have used other names, unless sufficiently bribed, I shall reveal the REAL names of the characters in this prose poem.) (Ed. Note - Hey, it wasn't your turn!) (Author's note - Anyhow, I guess that will shut you up!)
 (Ed. Note - Oh, I guess it won't.) (Author's Note - Oh, got lost!)

* * * *

AMAZING'S "CLUB-HOUSE" TREATS US FINE -

The pro-mag review columns maintain their respective attitudes anent the value of EXPLORER. Not just because we got a good review from the Club-House this time, but because the November Club-House has a lot of good stuff in it about the part-time editing, be sure to read what Rog has to say. There's quite a commentary on the efforts of the non-professional publishing.

Very few fan-zine editors expect to become rich through their efforts - as far as EXPLORER goes, it's published for a club, and it stands on its own feet now, but many have no backing such as ISFCC, and a lot of 'em rate backing, not only because of the effort involved, but the material presented.

Long live Club-House!

Z// ISFCC BOOK AUCTION # 3 ///

Well, fellow members, the bidding in the 2nd auction was just about fair -- but it did jump about 99% compared with the first auction.

There are so few books left for the next auction I'm sort of astounded that Ed will even want to print the list. I've asked the members to donate (you'll see that word plenty in this column) books for this auctions and some of them did send books in. I know of one member sending in an order to a bookstore to send me a few books for the auction. I don't ask you to go that far, but maybe you do have a book, s-f or fantasy or off-trail adventure, which you have read and would be willing to donate for a drive toward club-funds. This time I'm begging you members to send in donations for the next auction. Remember, every cent, less postage for shipping the books, goes to the club's treasury.

I've been asked by a few members to list names of members who donate books, but I can't see it that way. If a member can't donate, it's not his or her fault. Some can't afford it. I will say this, that only a few have donated books so far, one member contributing as high as five. The point is that we can't expect the auction to continue if only a few contribute, so, if you can PLEASE send in a book or two. For the benefit of the newer members, these are the types of books we want for the auction - SF..FANTASY..OFF-TRAIL..HORROR..or WEIRD.

Listed under a special heading are books that I just can't afford to donate completely to the club. These books must have a bid of 35¢ or more, but any bid of more than 35¢ will find the surplus going to the club. These are from my own collection, Maybe they will bring in more contributions.

Remember, in sending in your bids, enclose a self-addressed postal card. Mark on the card the date you submitted your bid. This date will be used in selecting the earliest of bids in case there are duplicate bids for the same book. In this last auction there were a number of bids of the same amount.

In the next issue of EXPLORER I'll list the amount of money taken in, the costs of postage, and the amount sent to the treasurer.

BOOKS AT AUCTION

ANIMAL FARM	G. Orwell	good cond.
THERE NEEDS NO GHOST	R. Adam	fair
THE GHOST	A. Bennett	good
ROCKET TO THE MOON	B. Peril	good
E A POE'S POEMS	E. A. Poe	fair
(The following must have bids starting at 35¢ - all over 35¢ goes to club)		
THE STRANGE VISITATION	M. Corelli	fair
EARTH STOPPED	T. H. White	fair
WORLD UNDER SNOW	C. Forester	fair
ZOROASTER	F. M. Crawford	good
THE GREEN CURVE	Ole Luk-oie	good
THE NIGHT BORN	J. London	good
MORNING STAR	H. R. Haggard	fair
SUGAR IN THE AIR	E. C. Large	fair
THE FLYING SUBMARINE	P. F. Westerman	fair
SECRET OF THE MOON GOD	E. S. Rice	fair to good
THE GOLDEN FLUID	M. B. Dix	good
1957	H. Blair	fair
THE MAN FROM UP THERE	M. Lincoln	fair
THE GUARDIAN DEMONS	W. Dawson	fair
WHEN GHOST MEETS GHOST	W. de Morgan	fair
MEDITERRANEAN NIGHTS	D. Wheatley	good
MR. ABSOLOM	A. Sullivan	good
EQUALITY	E. Bellamy	good

SEND BIDS TO YOUR AUCTIONEER,

W. C. BUTTS, 2058 E. Atlantic, Philadelphia, Pa.

THRILLS INCORPORATED - The First AUSTRALIAN PROMAG -- A review of the first four issues, introducing Nick Solntseff of 184 Girraween Rd., Girraween, N.S.W., Australia. Nick puts out his own 'zine, and if you'd like a copy, send him a US promag for a subscription swap.

In April of this year, without previous warning, THRILLS INCORPORATED appeared on the newsstands. For the first time Australia had a professional s-f magazine. Since then five issues have been printed.

The first issue featured a cross between a jetplane and a spaceship flashing across the cover. The occupants, clad in transparent space suits to show off the girl's latest swim suit, are leaning out of the ship and firing at a helicopter. There are three stories in this 50 page magazine, and CASTAWAY PLANET by E. V. Zinna takes the booby prize. It is nothing less than a slightly condensed version of Tenn's THE IONIAN CYCLE which appeared in a '48 TWS. Next comes Belli Luigi's SPACE RACE. It is a hodge-podge of rocket building, sabotage, a trip to the moon, which, incidentally, is occupied by animated mushrooms, battles between rival professors and between earthmen and selenites; in short, a none too original epic. The other award for lack of originality goes to Wolfe Herscholt, whose ASTEROID ADVENTURE could have been renamed PIRATE LOOT. In this tale, Space Pirates first outwit a couple of asteroid prospectors and capture their ship, but right triumphs and they are out-tricked in turn. The trick is neat, but not the story.

The second issue is similar to the first, with a slight variation to the cover. The gal has no space suit but is Bergey-ish. Herscholt's PLANET OF FIRE continues the adventures of the two space prospectors who are now filthy rich, riding in their luxury yacht, playing cat and mouse with elephantine BEM's on another asteroid. METHOD FOR MURDER by Otto Kensch could have been from DIME MYSTERY. JET-WHEEL-JOCKEY is of the fortunes of two jetcar jockeys of the future, while the last tale is about a matter-eating vapour which an over-zealous scientist lets loose on an unsuspecting world. It is ESCAPED ESSENCE by Herscholt.

Issue # 3 is somewhat better. TIME'S PERMUTATION by Ron Conway has several redeeming features. The fairly original time-disturbance theme is good, and people get duplicated occasionally. THROUGH VENUSIAN MISTS by Ace Carter is reminiscent of PLANET; Earthmen on Venus harvesting chlorophyll and exploiting Venusians make a bearable story. ROGUE ROBOT by Luigi tells of a destructively minded robot who escapes from the Martian workshops for a one-robot attack on Earth. Shades of Asimov!

The fourth issue continues in a like manner. The brief-clad girl theme on the cover continues, too. REVOLT ON VENUS continues the Venusian series with a well earned revolt of the Venusians. The villain is killed by taking a plane which he had previously ordered sabotaged. DEATH BY ATMOSPHERE features an alien in the form of a blob of protoplasm which kills by thought. THOUGHT THIEF concerns an illegal organization, stolen inventions, and ESP. Ron Conway's THE CRIMELESS LAND has an intentionally bred throwback loose in a Utopia, the throwback in an age when violence is unknown tries to grab the reins of the country.

On the whole the stories are not up to the US pro standards. Plot development and use of plots lacking a vein of originality make the stories suffer in comparison. It is understood in Sydney that, for all the names on the contents pages, one, or perhaps two, write all the stories for every issue of TI.

It is still to be seen whether the magazine will remain on the market for any length of time, but it does have the chance to develop into a worth-while prozine.
Nick Solntseff

.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US --- ISFCC is TWO this month

EXPLORER will start its second year with the next issue

THAT is a hint to look around for another 50¢ when your sub runs out, and some of 'em will, soon.

V AND GRANDPA

by Bruce Lane

1630 Old Shakopee Rd.
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Ever see an X-ray burn? -- or maybe pictures of Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors. They are radiation burns, son, and they're far, far worse than any heat burns. In sufficient concentration gamma rays are much worse than an acetylene torch as far as burning powers are concerned. You at least know you're being "cooked" by the torch, but there's no physical sensation connected with radiation burns -- at the time! Later sensations are extremely unpleasant, to say the least. Too, heat burn generally stops at the surface, while radiation usually does a thorough job by going right on through.

Have you seen the latest styles in radiation burns? Some are a lovely shade of black or brown, while some are the most fascinating shades of livid pink! But for some odd reason, the owners are displeased with them! Maybe you've heard of the healthy 29 year old Japanese woman who was brought into an emergency hospital at Hiroshima. She had one small burn -- three weeks later she went out, foot first, a wasted, bloodless corpse. Diagnosis: Acute anemia, due to destruction of red blood marrow, caused by gamma radiation. -- or maybe the Jap boy who was brought in because he "felt strange"; several days after that it was noticed that his skin had an odd patchy red tinge. A finger pressed against the skin made the blood fly about under it like bird-shot. He had severe nose-bleed, and efforts to stop it were useless. A blood coagulant had to be injected, and that helped only partly. Another few days went by and the sub-dermal hemorrhages became more apparent; his hair began to fall out and his teeth to loosen. A little later and he looked like he'd been under a king-size sun lamp too long -- about a week too long. The skin was falling away in patches -- but he didn't care -- he kept a "stiff upper lip", at least after rigor mortis set in. There were others, too -- some raised crops of cancers. These, the more "fortunate", lasted as long as three months. Just think -- three whole months of dragging your tumor-riddled self around, making bets with yourself as to which cancer will kill you first. Some bet!

Now don't think everyone who was touched with the loving caresses of elements 92 and 93 died -- oh, no! There are some who will think of the bomb as just a big noise -- until they get a look at their descendants -- Junior may be so different -- of course, he may not be very smart (microcephalitics seldom are) but he does have a handsomely pointed head -- and he's quite clever with his hands -- all three of them. Too bad he can't walk, though -- no leg bones.

But, to get away from hypothetical heredity, and back to more immediate radiation effects -- about the delightful sensations of breathing radioactive dust. Again, there's no immediate physical sensation; this stuff can be turned out in colloid form, finer than dust motes. In this size it can really spread! And, unless there's a Geiger counter around, or a similar detector, no one will know it's there. But then, it doesn't really matter -- by the time it's discovered "it's later than you think" -- MUCH later. As an example, I refer you to MIST OF DEATH OVER NEW YORK from a '47 issue of Reader's Digest. However, when dust is used, the air is a far more efficient radiation carrier than aerosol H₂O

Locations for the above ramblings need not be confined to Japan, in speculation but --- we hope.

In furtherance of the subject, I'd suggest that those who waded this far read "No Place to Hide" -- a very fitting title.

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CHALLENGE

The startling mimeo'd magazine devoted entirely to S-F and Fantasy Poetry, and representing the finest writers in the field, as well as many widely published poets. Please read CHALLENGE before submitting. Editor: Lilith Lorraine; Associates, Stanton Coblenz and Evelyn Thorno. Copy 30¢; year -- \$1.00
Rogers, Arkansas

"-- P to K4 - Kt to B3 - B to B4 - Ch. D! (Both castle on) B takes P -
P takes Q. D.! D.! --"

from AND NOW ALL THIS

(This one knows that there are several members of ISFCC who have planned, if not started, chess by mail -- perhaps there are others, since chess is one of the oldest and roughest of wig-matching games. At this time a chess tourney by mail has been proposed -- EXPLORER lets the gal speak for herself -- Ed.)

CHESS TOURNAMENT BY MAIL

by Yvonne K. Worth

I have discussed the idea of a tournament with Lawrence Kishlbauch, and he thinks that the chess playing members of the club will go for it. How about it, fans? The winner of the tournament may get only the glory of winning, but then again, I am trying to see that the winner may get an appropriate reward.

Along with its being fun and experience for all who take part, the tournament will help give them mastery of the board, and they will learn how to write out the moves, and, for many players, this may be the first tournament in which they've played. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link, and a club is only as strong as its members - active members make a good club. I think such a tournament may bring the members closer together and arouse real interest and the spirit of competition.

The playing of a Chess Tournament on a small scale is relatively simple, but when you play a tournament by mail you run into a few difficulties, so I will attempt to iron them out for you.

First of all is the question of players. Any member of the club, who can play a reasonable game, can enter. Remember, even if you aren't a very advanced player you still have a good chance because there's the possibility that none of us are the players we'd like to be. I shall attempt to explain some of the needed items to know, and if you wish to be in the tournament send me your name and address and I shall attempt to match you against your first partner.

PLAYING A GAME BY MAIL

When we attempt to play a game by mail there are a few things we must know and understand. The first of these is the moves of the men and how to write out your move so that your opponent knows what move has been made.

Assuming that you know the moves of the men, here is how to write the moves:

ABBREVIATIONS

P Pawn	Q Queen
R Rook	K King
Kt Knight	C - Kc castles King side
B Bishop	C - Qc castles Queen side
X captures	- (a dash) moves

So, if I had the white men my first move would be P - K4; that is, the pawn in front of the King moves to the King's fourth rank. In case you don't know or have forgotten the terms of rank and file, the ranks are the horizontal lines of squares, and the files are the vertical rows. When you write out a play the last number is the rank the piece will be in. The whites count their ranks from the row closest them, and the blacks closest them.

At the beginning of the game it is rather simple to figure out the moves in this way, but as the game comes to its final stages it sometimes becomes a little hard to figure out. Sometimes you will run into the case where two men of the same kind can move into the same square. Then we show which man is intended to be moved (1) by showing which side of the board he is now on. Example: Both Knights can move to K4 from where they now stand, so you write QKt-K4 or KKT - K4, showing that the Knight stands, prior to the move, on the Queen side or the King side of the board. Another way of showing which piece you are to move is (2) by stating where he now stands. Ex: Kkt3-K4, if the piece was a Bishop we would say B on

(Chess tourney - cont.)

Kkt2-K4. Confused already? Well, remember that the plays are called by the set-up of the board at the beginning of the game, and the squares that the pieces occupy are always named by those pieces.

Now, in an actual Chess Tournament the moves are always recorded, so that in case of a stalemate more than three times, the judges can declare the winner by points or on the merits of the moves. In our case a record of the moves should be turned in so that we may be sure of a winner, and to be sure that all moves are legal moves. As an aid to yourself, it would be advisable that you keep a list of the moves and set up your board accordingly each time, instead of leaving it set-up; as we know, it can easily be upset, and it takes up room.

Another thing I should mention before giving you the pattern of the tournament is that the whites always list the number of the move (since they are the first to move). By this I mean, white's first move should be recorded as: 1. P-K4; in return, blacks send their move as: 1. P-K4. Whites second move could be: 2. Kkt-B3, and so on. I hope I have made this clear. If not, write to me and ask any questions.

THE TOURNAMENT

I have already given you a part of the rules, but there are many more, and because there are so many actual rules in regards to moving of men, etc., that if you do not already know them I would suggest you go to the library and look in any Chess book or read the American Chess Code. Our tournament will be as follows:

Assuming that there will be sixteen players, there will be four tiers of games. Each player will play for elimination. Therefore, as soon as you lose a game you are out of the tournament, unless you are on the last four games.

Since the rules of the game state that once you take your hand off a piece that move is made, we will say that once you mail a move to your opponent you cannot withdraw the move (unless it is an illegal move). So that the game may move faster, it would be simpler if you sent your moves by postcard, and the following be used as a rule: Your opponent's move should get to you within 12 days. This should allow time for your move to get to him, give him a day or so to decide on his move, and time for it to get back to you. If you do not receive the move from him, then you win by forced withdrawal.

If you want to be in the tournament, please notify me at once, as I would like to get the contest started as soon as possible.

Miss Yvonne K. Worth
302 S. Highland Ave.
Aurora, Illinois

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ODD RETRIBUTION

Lone victim, still alive, impaled by one
Great spike upon a board, was found by those
Locating his escape release ship; none
Could reason who possessed such fiendish foes;
His limbs were tied adroitly to accrue
Most pain, without permitting him to die;
The stake had been expertly driven through,
His skewered torture thus to amplify.

They nursed him tenderly, and wondered how
A man so gentle earned such enemies;
He convalesced enough he could allow
The answers to their curiosities.
This lepidopterist caught butterflies
Where they were worshipped Gods from Outer Skies.

--Orna McCormick

KOLLEKTOR'S KORNER - Kondukted by Bea Glass
 57 Baker St.
 Dover, N. Jersey

A wide variety this time, and a pleasant one. Remember, this is your corner and whenever you want to use it, write in to me. If you've been listed once, you can be listed again.

CHUCK BAIRD, 161 Albemarle St., Springfield, Massachusetts - Is one of our newer members, but he has our usual hobby. In his estimation S-F ranks first, with chemistry an unused second since he started stf. Collects Startlings, TWS, and Cap Future. Needs a few Startlings prior to '44, TWS prior to '45, and a few of C. F. Will explain in detail to correspondents.

DIANE POTTER, 44 Governors Ave., Milford, Connecticut - Another welcome addition to our rapidly growing membership. She's a rarity - her hobby is not S-F, but everything Chinese. Runs the range of reading matter to objets d'art. Diane, I suggest you acquire earlier editions of Kollektor's Korner from Ed Noble. I know there are a few other collectors of China listed. OK?

Mrs. DORIS HARLOW - 50 W. St. Clair, Cincinnati 19, Ohio. - These ever welcome folks are coming in fast, aren't they? This young lady belongs to the ranks of stamp collectors. She dabbles in astronomy and has even made her own 6" reflector. (Note to Walter Cole -- here's an astronomer) It looks as though she is the only licensed pilot among us, too, taking her solo at 20. Her newest hobby is Tropical Fishes (one of mine, too, Doris) Also likes hunting and fishing. Welcomes any correspondence on any or all of above mentioned subjects.

MURANA AKANBI, 8 Sogunro Rd., Lagos, Nigeria, British West Africa - Here's a young fellow of fifteen who wants to swap letters in the states, and would like to swap native goods for things made here. He lists the following as some of the African items: Bags, slippers, or purse of Snake skin or Crocodile skin; hand-carved ebony of miniature elephant, paper-knife, or shoe-horn; native dagger; raffia bag; native headwear, etc. His penmanship is beautifully clear and neat.

Mrs. ROSALIE WARNER, 6042 N. Oakley Ave., Chicago 45, Illinois - We again extend the welcome mat. Similar to myself, Rosalie reads everything except love stories (ugh!). Partial to novels with historical backgrounds. (A suggestion - BRIEF GAUDY HOUR) She has also done a bit of lapidary work (working with silver and gems) Enjoys corresponding very much and finds it stimulating. Has read S-F for 25 years, but prefers to send her copies overseas. She is now going to try fencing with her left hand. En garde!

SAMUEL OLINHAUSEN, 824 Chester Ave., East Liverpool, Ohio - Has a small collection of S-F but specializes in books on moving pictures, preferably illustrated and printed before 1926. Is willing to pay a reasonable sum for them.

MARIAN COX, 51 Cedar Lane, Hilton Village, Virginia - Collects books by her favorite authors, namely Bond Merritt, Haggard and North. Enjoys corresponding and collecting pictures of pen-pals. Belongs to another S-F Club, too - a local club that meets every two weeks. (What's the name, Marian?) Other hobbies are photography and collecting discs of Nelson Eddy. Almost forgot - she has a collection of porcelain butterflies, too.

KEN PARTIN, Rte 1, Box 39, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan - Collects S-F mags and material, stamps, Lincoln pennies and books by Mulford and Zane Grey. Welcomes all pen pals and wishes all members regardless of hobby to contact him.

BOB BRINEY, 561 W. Western Ave., Muskegon, Michigan - His abiding passion is, of course, s-f, particularly interested in stories by Sax Rohmer and R. E. Howard. Collected stamps before s-f, specializing in post-war Austrian Pictorials, Polish air-mails, British Colonials of high values, first covers, and 19th century Jap postal stationery. Has several thousand stamps which he'd like to sell or trade. Another hobby was photography and record collecting with the stress on the classic and gypsy and oriental music. At the present he's studying to be a Latin teacher.

Kollektor's Korner (kont.)

JEAN CARROL, 233 W. 42nd St., New York City 18, N. Y. (Rm. 303) - Welcome to the fold! She does not collect S-F! Has no collections of any kind. Her hobbies are reading s-f and Fantasy, dancing, swimming and sewing. Makes all her own clothes (a good catch, fellas) and has been working on a tapestry for the past few years. She welcomes correspondence and will try to be as prompt as possible, but can't promise.

WALTER COLE - 307 Nowkirk Ave., Brooklyn 30, N. Y. - His hobbies include reading and collecting back issues of mags in s-f and astronomy. Photographer. Likes psychology and science writing.

JEROME WENKER, 2331 Gordon Ave., St. Paul 8, Minnesota - Collects S-F mags and ERB's books in G&D publication. Of the latter he'd like to contact anyone who has THE MONSTER MEN, WAR CHIEF, MAD KING, LAND THAT TIME FORGOT, PELLUCIDAR, TANOR of PELLUCIDAR, TARZAN the INVINCIBLE, TARZAN and the LION MEN, TARZAN and the LEOPARD MEN, TARZAN in the FORBIDDEN CITY, TARZAN'S QUEST, and TARZAN, the MAGNIFICENT. Would also like to acquire the Mars and Venus series. Collects S-F mags and has about 450 dating back as far as 1929.

ROBERT E. MARGROFF, Rte 3, Elgin, Iowa - Welcome, Bob! He isn't really serious about collecting, but wouldn't mind getting (at reasonable rates) Astounding for 1950 - Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr and May. Thanks, Bob, for them kind words!

ALLEN NEWTON, Jr - 114 E. 25th St., Baltimore 18, Maryland - Hasn't any particular hobbies or collections, but wishes a favor from anyone who reads EXP -- He has a lovely friend (feminine) in So. Africa who'd like some correspondents so won't some of you drop a card or a letter to her and show her some ISFCC hospitality - in her early twenties - likes swimming and aviation. The name: THEA GERSBACH; the address: c/o ROYAL INSURANCE CO., 87a St. GEORGE'S ST, CAPETOWN, SOUTH AFRICA.

SID GLUCK, 1047 Louisa St., Elizabeth, N. J. - Needs FFM Dec. '49 and Unknowns for June '40, Feb and June '41, and Aug '42 to complete his collections. To anyone interested, he has PRESENTING MOONSHINE, SOMEONE IN THE DARK, BEYOND THE WALL OF SLEEP, LEST DARKNESS FALL and original illos by pro-artists to sell or trade. Wants SLAN and TOUCH OF NUTMEG.

That's all for this time, gentle people --- hope to hear from a lot of you for the next Kollektor's Korner.

Ben

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TRADING CORN...ERR

----- (indicates a lapse of time) (Now, let's not get into that again!) (Elaborry's Note -- You and Cuthbert SHADDAP!! Because there's to be an election this time, and because I'm getting a whoop-to-doo column all set up for my successor so he can take over next issue, Trading Corn...err is non-existent this issue. The material on hand will be turned over to my successor, and I hope he has all kinds of good luck in the coming year or years.)

Rich Elsberry
413 E 18th St.
Minneapolis, Minnesota

EXPLORER after ONE YEAR

Financially speaking, EXPLORER is much better off than when the 'zine had its start with the Dec.-Jan. issue. By the time this issue reaches you there shall remain in the cash-box approximately fifteen dollars. At this writing there is a total of \$17.40. The only expense incurred in this issue will be the postage, so that the funds will be around \$15.00, depending on what subscriptions come in between now and the time you get this. A part of the subs have been for two years, so that much must be figured out in the coming year's expenses, but we're pretty well off, figuring that we started on the well-known shoestring. we have paper and stencils on hand, plus plenty of ink.

Y'r ed, Ed

Sec'y Column - Sec'y W. Paul Ganley, 119 Ward Rd., North Tonawanda, N. Y.

This time I have the results of the voting on amendments which were proposed in the June issue of EXPLORER. Every one of them was passed by you, the membership. Here are the results: I (a) 23 pro, 2 con; (b) 24 pro; 1 con; II (a) 22 pro, 5 con; (b) 24 pro, 1 con; III (a) 22 pro, 3 con; (b) 21 pro, 4 con; (c) 16 pro, 9 con; (IV) (a) 24 pro, 1 con; (b) 24 pro, 1 con; (c) 24 pro, 1 con; (d) 23 pro; 2 con; (e) 21 pro, 4 con; V (a) 23 pro, 2 con; (b) 23 pro, 3 con; (c) 22 pro, 2 con, 1 undecided; (d) 20 pro, 5 con; VI (a) 16 pro, 9 con; (b) 16 pro, 9 con; (c) 15 pro, 10 con; (d) 23 pro, 2 con; (e) 19 pro, 6 con; (f) 19 pro, 5 con; (g) 25 pro, 0 con

Here is where I must admit to something that gives my racial complexion a reddish tinge. Nobody noticed it, but it shouldn't be allowed to pass. Amendment VI, (a) contradicts (b) completely. As an excuse for this oversight I offer the following: I had a very short time to rewrite the amendments and to print them; Ed Noble had misplaced the original (I found it about a week after the things were printed --- apologia, Ed)---thus the slip. But, since you people have shown a great deal of confidence in me, as shown by the instance that the only two sections carried unanimously referred certain powers to me as Sec'y, I'm going to be a bit high-handed and cut out (b), so that suspension will be depend on a $\frac{3}{4}$ ballot of the members. Both of these sections carried an identical vote.

The elections this time show a greater choice, although there are two offices running unopposed, Larry and Bea. This is not our fault; all you have to do to be considered a candidate is to let Ed Noble or the secretary or the president know of your intention -- let's have even more competition next time.

I have been very pleased by the steadily increasing activity among members of the ISFOC, and we --- I speak for the club --- intend to show the N3F hasn't a patent on fanactivity -- we grow.

Let's have some more bidding on this auction scheme now; there are quite a few good books available, and you may get them at quite reasonable bids. At least put in a bid -- you might be lucky.

In closing this, my last secretary's report for this term, I'm not going to say much about the coming election; if you think another can do better in this position it is all for the better. But I have enjoyed this year in the ISFOC -- which has seen it grow and develop from a fledgling ideal to a healthy and established organization -- very much.

Your Secretary,
Paul Ganley

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FAN-MAG Reviews, those that come here between issues --

Rather than be so formal about listing by name, etc., maybe it's better I should compile the whole thing into regular paragraph form --- we'll try it, anyhow. Starting off with SHAGGY (Shengri-La) of the LASFS -- Shaggy # 22 goes pro in a big way with discussions on the condition of the world in 2150 -- a baker's dozen of writers are served up in the issue -- available to LASFS and LASFS associate members, otherwise 15¢ per copy, address, 1305 W. Ingraham, La, Calif-- Stan Serxner's SIRIUS came in a few days ago and had a wonderful cover, but there are places where it's hard to read the material inside due to misce work -- it hurts but does not detract from the material too much --- if y' look close it's readable in the rougher spots -- maybe m' copy just happened to be one of those -- hope so --- write Stan Serxner at 1308 Hoe Ave., Bronx, N. Y. -- Stan Crouch has come out with another Science & Culture, and a continued improvement all the way -- the best of the several done so far -- write to Stan for SCIENCE & CULTURE at Holly Circle, Sterling, Virginia --- arriving some time ago, but late for the August write-up, was Michael de Angelis' GARGOYLE, a neatly done printed job that's a good one --- for info, contact him at 302 East 38th St., New York, NY. Saw parts of the coming FAN-FARE done by Paul Ganley (his address is at the top of this page) and it looks like it's getting better all the time -- it's 15¢ a copy -- try one. IN FACT, TRY 'EM ALL --

QUICK QUIZ - Questioned by Larry Saunders

176 Washington Ave., Stamford, Conn.

Magic and sorcery date back considerable centuries, as told by peasant and historian, yet the inhabitants of these dark and nefarious worlds change little with age and custom. Vampires and werewolves are among the later additions. They are, so to speak, the neophytes of the darker forms of evil.

So, existing with us today are creatures and practices that were dated with dust when Christendom entered this worldly scene. Their names are basically the same. You have read of them. Let's see if you can name their deeds and practices correctly. Match 'em up.

- | | | |
|----------------|-----|--|
| 1. Salamanders | () | Used to inflict injury and harm |
| 2. Gnomes | () | Something used to excite wonder and esteem |
| 3. Familiar | () | An elemental of water |
| 4. Sorcery | () | A guardian spirit to some |
| 5. Sylphs | () | An elemental of fire |
| 6. Naiads | () | An attendant spirit |
| 7. Daemon | () | An elemental that may shrink or expand |
| 8. Magic | () | An elemental of air. |

(Answers - Page 16)

Rating: Eight correct - excellent; Six - fair; Below -- well, good try

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MOSTLY Stuff Like Dat Dere ---

There are things to talk about this time, and then, there's not too much -- First off, didn't review Walt Willis' SLANT # 4 in the review column, and it's worth a review --- SLANT is published at 170 Upper Newtownards Rd., Belfast, in Northern Ireland and one can get copies by sending a pro-zine worth two-bits to Willis in return for two issues of SLANT --- this one has a story by Manly Bannister -- beautiful cover -- also has an EXPLORER reprint -- you'll find it one of the best. Walt seeks subs to US prozines and has some good bargaining stuff for getting 'em, including the first five issues of UNKNOWN --- school is getting back into the general swing of things for a lot of ISFCC'ers, student and teacher alike....A number of proposed 'zines are set for future production, from what we hear .. Rich Elsberry is coming out with SNULBUG .. maybe by this time BIZARRE will be in production, as done by Tom Covington and Stan Crouch .. the 'zine seeks material, and send it to Tom Covington, 315 Dawson, Wilmington, N. C.... Bob Hoskins and Vernon McCain both have plans outlined for 'zines and here's a long-promised and so-far unfulfilled item: The Loprosum, Nassau, Bahamas, B. West Indies would be glad to get any magazines you can spare---a life of isolation is not pleasant, so if y' have something y' can send - mags, books, candy, anything -- they'd sure like it....the coming issue of Shangri-La is to be the work of associate members of LASFS, edited by Helene Mears....EXPLORER really goes everywhere -- letters have come in from Nigeria saying they've seen copies of it ... Murana Akanbi is full-fledged subscriber ... if any of ISFCC like to collect oddities, the hand-carved ebony from Nigeria is really nice...this one was pretty well floored when the NY Public Library requested a copy for review..

The artist for this month's cover is Jim Maneval, 89 Ontario, Corning, N. Y. ..Jim is a Milt Caniff follower and has done a good job on this cover...Jack Cuthbert, script-man for Little Mehuman, has convinced his family of the cultural advantages of TV, so he's just in time for the World Serious, which'll probably be between the Phils and Yanks, by the looks of things at this moment -- predictions on the Serious always go wrong, but maybe this'n will go -- how about the Whiz Kids? Wouldn't it be nice to have somebody else besides the Yanks for a change -- just once?...ABC has a 'space opera' program two-three times a week at 5:30 in the afternoons --- Jack Armstrong in rockets and jets - Space Patrol - "Lights Out" comes through with a hunk of fantasy once in awhile on TV I hear

tell...typing stencils and lookin' at TV just don't mix too well....one of the classics of retort may be found in Manly Bannister's pamphlet of EGOBOO, a slap at them who directed fault-finding at the faultless Nekromantikon --- maybe you can get a copy yet from Manly at 1905 Spruce Avenue, Kansas City 1, Missouri... Edith Lorraine, editrix or whatever y' call it of CHALLENGE, down Mexico way in October....MARVEL Science is out again ... GALACTIC S-F is a new one and well worth the investment --- also has a book reprint out that is pretty good - OOTWA out and sez s-f fon like its comics...FFM adds Steele Savage to its artist family ...sometimes he out-Finlay's Finlay ...that was quite an eerie extra couple hours of night-time we had in parts of the US on a Sunday afternoon ... unscheduled arc-light games in baseball and football as it was really dark at two PM ... BIG EYE now in p-b's. Enough --- I sharrop ---

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CANDIDATES for ELECTION:

All state-side members are getting postal-card ballots which are to be sent to Larry Kichlbauch, but since we don't have international postal-cards we can't send 'em out to overseas or Canadian members, though we'd like to. If you want to vote, here's the ballot:

- President: Lawrence Kichlbauch (unopposed)
- V-Pres. - Rick Snary
Rich Elsberry
Tom Covington
- Sec'y - Paul Ganley
Walter Cole
- Treas. - Bea Glass (unopposed)
- Trailing Manager - Larry Gage
Kon Parkin
- Correspondence Mgr. - Bob Hoskins
Bruce Lane
Chuck Baird

Voting is both a right and a privilege, whether in an ISFCC election or any type of election -- if eligible to vote in November, f' cryin' out loud, get out and cast your ballot, regardless of what party y' belong to.

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NEW ISFCC'ers - lots of 'em

- John R. Green - 139 Altadona Drive, Pittsburgh 16, Penna.
 - Phyllis Dawson - 114 Washington St., Hamilton, Ohio
 - Ludmila Mikrot - Hotel Sheridan Plaza, Sheridan at Wilson Ave., Chicago 40, Ill.
(Rm. 422)
 - Robert E. Margroff - Rte 3, Elgin, Iowa
 - Karon Kurz - 204 4th St., Belle Vernon, Penna.
 - Yvonne K. Worth - 1110 N. Cooper Ave., Colorado Springs, Colorado
 - Katie Liberty, 530 Highland, Alma, Michigan
 - Lawrence R. Campbell - 43 Tremont St., Malden 48, Massachusetts
 - Bill Venable - 32 Park Place, R D 4, Pittsburgh 8, Penna.
 - A. Charles Catania - 620 W. 182nd St., New York 33, N. Y.
 - Murana Akanbi - 8 Sogunro St., Lagos, Nigeria, British West Africa
 - Norris H. Hoyt, Jr. - 56 Florence Ave., Arlington Heights 74, Massachusetts
 - John A Northrop - Box 354, Centerville, S. Dakota
- Welcome, guys and gals --- let's be ISFCC'in' you ---

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STOP PRESSES ... FLASH ... NEWS BULLETIN...

S-F in Slicks for S-Ficcionados: - Satevepost - 23 Sept'50: Ray Bradbury - THE WORLD THE CHILDREN MADE - S-ficionados will like the beautiful colored illustration by Al Parker showing the functional and lovely children's nursery of the future. Well worth looking up ---

BOOK COMMENTARY -

INTEG FLUTONIAN DEPTHS - by Stanton A. Coblentz. 25¢ from most p-b dealers or Avon Pub. Co., 119 W. 57th St., NYC - add 5¢ for postage.

Lovers of the good old days of s-f will find this reprint of a magazine story of 1932 an interesting, low price addition to their collections. The author takes our heroes to the limits of the solar system via a space ship operating by means of a gravity shield - a dodge more popular in those days before the V2 rockets and atomic power than at present. Arrived at this dark planet, they find a humanoid race which, very logically, lives in the center of the planet, thereby benefiting from the internal heat. So highly developed are these humanoids that our heroes fall in love with one of the feminine sex who is a real beauty, despite the head-light growing out of the head to serve as a source of illumination. After many misadventures our heroes return to Earth to make the next trip and to renew their most interesting acquaintance. As such, it is an "open end" story. This reviewer was struck by the beauty of the cover girl despite her strange headpiece, and could not help but think that if a cross-breed with a terrestrial were possible it would be wonderful if the self-luminous light would shift location from the top of the central nervous system to the sacro-iliac area, thereby producing what might be a very desirable pedestrian type. ---- Allen Newton

BIOGRAPHY OF THE EARTH - by George Gamow; 35¢ at most p-b dealers or from the publisher, New American Library, 245 Fifth Ave., New York 16, NY

Dwellers on ex-sol III (nutalk for 3rd planet from the sun) who are curious as to how our Earth was created - how it may have developed - and how it may develop will find this low-priced paper bound book an excellent source of knowledge presented in layman's language and in an interesting manner.

They who have some knowledge of certain aspects of our terrestrial history will appreciate the methodology employed by Mr. Gamow. The well known author of BIRTH AND DEATH OF THE SUN uses the genetic approach and surveys the development of early theories into the light of present knowledge. This method gives a framework of reference into which a person with incomplete information can fit his knowledge.

Long range governmental planning agencies may be interested in drawing up plans to stave off incipient inflation and speculation when they learn from this book that Boston, Massachusetts will have a climate similar to that of Miami, Florida sometime around 20,000 AD. Devotees of the long lost cavern races will find the tracks in photoplate XI proof positive of the historic past of high civilizations. Though the tracks are attributed to worms crawling across wet sand in the Cambrian period about 400,000,000 BC, any cavern enthusiast can plainly see that they are half-track tracks left by warring deros. --- Allen Newton

1984 - George Orwell - 25¢ from most p-b dealers.

This one just shows to go you how stupid people are willing to be if they have guns at the backs of their heads to persuade. Eastasia, Eurasia, and Oceania are the three nations of the world. Then there's Big Brother ---- oh, brother! If only the book were illustrated by Abner Dean's caricatures done when LIFE reviewed this some time ago. ---- Effan

THAT'S MY BABY - Popular Pub's --- 25¢ at p-b dealers.

This isn't s-f, but one of the most hilarious volumes of photography since Simon & Schuster came out with THE BABY. If you don't get dozens of laughs out of it you hate people. --- Effan

THE MAN WITH MY FACE - Pocket Books - 25¢ at p-b dealers

One of the most fantastic and suspenseful of who-dunnits in many and many a moon. The guy goes home and finds himself already there -- in duplicate! And then he's on the dodge for a two-million bond theft --- one of the most different of thrill-packed "who-dunnits". --- Effan

(Temporarily this is still page 16 until we get the answers down to the quiz --- the above page number is erroneous until after this item.)
Answers to Quiz - (4) (8) (6) (7) (1) (3) (2) (5)

You may now begin to consider this as page 17

AN UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT

by W. R. Cole

(The following article arrived by special-delivery air-mail and is accredited to Science Fiction Weekly of New Enterprize Pub's., Box 83, Gravesend Sta., B'klyn.)

Although fandom is unaware of it at the time of this writing, a new secret underground organization consisting of fifty members, five of whom live outside the U.S., is positively working toward a goal set upon a specific date in 1951. That date is April 15. The time, anytime. The places, two cities; one - New York; two - a city three thousand miles away. No one will see any connection between these two great cities, but let me assure you that without these two cities that which is going to happen will not happen.

Let me make a few predictions as to what will happen on April 15, 1951:

To begin with, I predict that on April 15, 1951 the facts and figures will prove that active fandom has doubled in size, and that certain individuals connected with this underground organization, whether they are aware of it or not, will rise to fandom's hall of fame.

I further predict that this underground movement will never come out in the open, but will cease to exist on April 15, 1951.

I also predict that an international organization will be formed as a protection for fandom by April 15, 1951. This organization will have individuals as representatives who will, by mail or in person, settle any of fandom's disputes.

My last prediction at this time is that an unknown bulletin will be published by this secret movement which will be sent to top fans from various locations in the world telling these fans what to do to improve (or ruin) fandom.

Now for a bit of information known to me through considerable research and prying:

Four members of the group, the "ringleaders", or I should say the "never-to-be-sung heroes or heroines", had their birthplace in a small town called New York.

One of these four is a female married to one of the remaining individuals, who is a veteran. The other is on active duty with the US Armed Forces, and the fourth is a big name fan residing in New York at the present time.

One other town is part of the organization and this town is known as SAN. Quite a number of people who belong to this organization live in this town.

Other individuals, making a total of thirty nine Americans, counting our four originals, are scattered throughout the country. At least half of them are well-known fans, I might add.

Six other members of this organization get their bread and butter from it. Two others live in a neighboring country, and still three others are living many thousands of miles apart, and find it impossible to send capital to the U.S., also belong. That makes a grand total of fifty members, scattered over the globe.

Monetary transactions have been completed, though, between these members. I hastily add, however, that these were legal transactions. Although by this time they will have made quite a bit of money due to fandom, none of this money will come about as any fan transaction, and none of this money will come from fandom as a whole. The money that has been made in the past and any that will be future earnings is and will be perfectly legal, though underground in fashion.

What they are doing for fandom they do not have TO DO IN ORDER TO MAKE THEIR MONEY. Perhaps they are doing it only because they, basically fans, are willing to help fandom while along their secret routes of success, and do so, at monetary loss to any fan whatsoever.

Their transactions have NO RELATION to Science-Fiction or Fantasy whatsoever in itself.

Although I am convinced, and have been presented with documentary proof, that this organization and its fifty members does exist, I do not definitely know the identities of the members to support my beliefs or claims.

The source of my information cannot be mentioned by name due to personal reasons. However, I will stake my reputation as an honest fan that this information has been presented to me in an honest and orderly fashion; it was also presented, as I said previously, with legal proof.

How this can be done I am not at liberty to divulge. I would like to bring out the names of all persons involved, however, whether they like it or not, just in the event this organization may tear apart the reputations of a steadily growing and honorable name of fandom.

A few of the following questions are addressed to any and all of the previously mentioned people who might read this article: Why all the secrecy? What possible reason can you people have to keep your names silent? Is this merely a front presented to me as a medium and to fans as un-true information - also illegal information - since it is officially documented in one of these forty-eight states. Is this merely an attempt to overthrow fandom? To gain power for certain individuals? To keep certain people out of power? OR TO PERHAPS WIPE OUT FANDOM altogether?

Can fandom chance this? It is steadily growing. Why support a move which we cannot support since we do not know what it is?...see what I mean - how silly the first part of this sentence sounds? Why all this official news?

Is it not better to force these individuals to work in the open, or not at all, rather than ruin fandom? What personal gains they might accomplish we can only guess at!

The editor of SCIENCE FICTION WEEKLY joins me in this "crusade for fandom." I have on hand several clues, aside from the ones mentioned in this article, as to their identities, but more are needed before I can confirm my suspicions.

All information as to the identities of any or all individuals concerned will be greatly appreciated. Whether in fact or theory, please send to me all information possible regarding the organization or any people concerned with the movement, or plans to learn the identities of the people immediately.

To show just how far I am willing to go to obtain information concerning this movement I offer a TEN DOLLAR (\$10) REWARD (OR IN CASE OF FOREIGN INFORMATION AN EQUAL AMOUNT IN THEIR CURRENCY) TO ANYONE WHO PRESENTS ME WITH INFORMATION LEADING TO UNQUESTIONABLE PROOF AS TO THE IDENTITY OF ANY SINGULAR MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZATION. If anyone has information please send it to the writer: W. R. Cole, 307 Newkirk Ave., Brooklyn 30, New York.

My predictions may yet come true...but the campaign may go in reverse....

Will April 15, 1951 be the turning point of a new and better fandom, or will it mark the beginning of a dark age for fandom?

I assure my readers that this article is no hoax. In the event sufficient proof is not disclosed within the coming months April 15, 1951 will tell whether or not I speak the truth.

One thing is for certain, though - bells will toll on that date. Will they be ringing with sweet notes or toll a death knell? That remains to be seen....

W. R. Cole

. . . .

More Stuff Like Dat Dere ----

Since typing the stencil containing the original col'n -- the October National Geographic has another top s-f article, particularly for rocketeers --- The Earth From Eighty Miles Up --- pictures taken by the cameras sent up with the V-2 rockets that blast off from New Mexico. And Duggie Fisher's ODD came in the other day, one of the best issues he's put out yet -- with an Arfstrom cover --- nice looking job. To get copies of ODD write to Duggie Fisher, 1302 Lester St., Poplar Bluff, Missouri. Bob Hoskins reports that his prospected fanzine is temporarily, at least, in the realms of inactivity ... Bruce Lane is planning one, which takes up the slack ---

** THE EXPLORER **

...from the way the Series starts out how can the Phils do it if the Yank pitchers are so stingy with base-hits?....Konstanty allows four hits and loses 1-0 because Raschi only doles out two.....is this one too fantastic? Michigan State to give Notre Dame an awful run for its money when the Spartans invade South Bend ... the Staters dumped Michigan but terrifically (more than score read) while ND just snuck by North Carolina a re-print job, FANTASY, or senep'n like that, has two terrific stories in its second issue: Brother of the Swampcats by Irvin S. Cobb, and Her Love Was Jungle Gold ---

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THE CITY BENEATH THE SEA

A beam of moonlight trickled from the clouds
And cleaved a pathway to the ocean's floor,
And showed a mighty city resting there,
Dispelling for an instant darkness' shrouds
And lighting up a place of some lost lore
Whose spires at one time towered into air.

It shows stupendous structures, does this ray,
And other marvels none shall ever see:
Great monoliths and monuments there lay ---
Insensate playthings shall they always be
For fish which swim where children used to play.

So softly gloom obscures the city; then---
With patience greater than an hundred men--
It waits the time when it shall rise again!

-----Toby Duane

LIFE

The lights are low and there
Is music, scented and ironing.
The past has come and we have
Watched it go, moaning,
For the Future is the Past
And we have no ideas that are new;
Our passions are flames of cold
Breezes, fanned with the depths
Of tomorrow, which are due.

--Larry Saunders

RAY REBEL

Ram Leads Parade of Animal Stars

The idea of a starry zoo, or zodiac filled with imaginary animals sculptured by the stars, was carried from ancient Babylon to Greece and thence to the rest of the world. The idea was further expanded, so we have a lot of new animals in our constellations. These include Big and Little Bear; Orion, the giant hunter; the great Dog, etc.

The ancients invented some ingenious stories or myths as to how warthly creatures got up into the sky.

Aries, the first sign of the zodiac, is the story of the Ram. It involves the tale of Phrixus and Helle, who escaped a bad step-mother by mounting into the air on a jet-propulsion ram with golden fleece, a gift of their mother. Helle fell off over what is now called the Hellespont, but Phrixus got safely to Colchis where he sacrificed the Ram to Zeus. The chief God in turn placed the Ram in the heavens as the constellation Aries. The fleece of the ram was hung in an oak grove. This was the object of a great search by Jason and his Argonauts.

Ray Rebel - Cont.

TAURUS Stars are Famous in Second Sign

Taurus, the Bull, second sign of the zodiac, features three myths associated with constituent stars of the constellation. The Bull itself is said to be the gorgeous white creature which bore Europa across the seas to Crete, Zeus himself fell in love with the lovely Europa and employed the bull to transport her to Crete, where he made love to her under a plane-tree. The bull was later raised to the heavens by Zeus in the form of the constellation.

Two star clusters in Taurus, a constellation of great antiquity, honor the daughters of Atlas. By one wife he had seven daughters named the Hyades, all of whom died of grief upon the death of their brother Hyas. A sympathetic Jupiter transformed them into stars.

Another bunch of sob-sisters, seven daughters of Atlas by an ocean nymph, died of grief when he was changed into a mountain (Atlas). They were placed among the stars as the Pleiades.

Aldebaran, brightest star of Taurus, is mentioned by Hesiod and Homer.

(More Ray Rebel and the Stars next issue)

There you have the October-November issue, guys and gals --- we're a little late --- didn't want to be, but somehow there are only so many hours in a day and so many minutes to each hour, and that can be cut down into seconds, but I don't think I'll bother --- be sure to send in your ballots --- this makes one full year of EXPLORER --- I hope it has many more birthdays--- a happy Thanksgiving to y'all and may there be plenty to be thankful for ---

P. S. - S-F in Slicks - October "Blue Book has a Nelson Bond story.

LIFE - Oct. 9th - The Universe, Finite or Infinite - an astronomy MUST.
How the Schmidt and the BIG EYE bring the heavens closer.

(This stencil completed (with P3) at 1843 hours EST - 5 October --)

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