

EXPLORER

FEB - MARCH 1951

"AD STELLAS"



"Paging Earle
Bergey---"

HOFFER

EDITORIAL

THE EXPLORER
Published for and by the International
Science Fiction Club

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Here we go again with another issue of The Explorer. We are wondering what it will look like as we employ a typer that is different. The acquisition of this new machine brings up the question of the future size of the club's 'zine.

We can make The Explorer of bulletin size if you wish, because this is a wide carriage machine capable of taking a stencil for bulletin size, that is, with the pages one half the present size, and more like regular magazine format.

We're sorry that we're late with the issue again --- there are quite a number of reasons for being late, and most of

them are concerned with the increasing lack of spare time. Bein' a character who must work for a living, this one finds a schedule of six days per week in lieu of the former five days per week. We've been typing stencils at odd hours whenever time will permit.

There's another reason, too, for being late. But with this Fall perhaps it shall mean that the 'zine will be coming out much more on time. (I can hear Cuthbert snort from here!) Last Fall, (all in the interests of s-f fandom, no doubt) one Rog Phillips located an aide to help get out his CLUB-HOUSE column in AMAZING -- and this coming October the EXPLORER shall have an addition to the staff in an expert typist who will undoubtedly be able to put out a stencil much better than I - we've sorta been house-hunting and have been successful - the gal said "yes" this New Year's and this one is still somewhere out around Arcturus or Sirius ---- the name is Jo, and whenever there's a spare week-end this one prefers to forget the EXPLORER in favor of a trip to Pittsburgh.

We hope you like the cover this time! It's done by another fan-zine editor (and a fellow ISFCC'er), Leo Hoffman, who puts out an elegant effort known as QUANDRY - we're looking forward to other covers by Leo.

The coming months will be a sort of a test of the lasting power of EXPLORER as subscriptions start running out. We're hoping you like the 'zine well enough to renew whenever it's time to come through with another 50¢ to get it for another year. As things stand we won't need to increase that any, for at least one more year because we managed to get a very good 'buy' in paper that should last us for quite awhile. As with so many things (or maybe everything), prices of paper have made that upward surge. We don't like it, and hope things don't get too rough, but we'll hang on to our subscription rate as long as we can. We've grown up a lot in the past year, having increased in page size more than 100% and in number of copies by a considerable number. Once in awhile we carry an ad or so, which helps the financial end somewhat.

Guess that about takes care of things from this end of the line for this time. There are other things to be read in these pages, and rather than bore you with stuff coming from this tripetyper, I'll shaddap! May the coming weeks look kindly upon all of you, and until another issue rolls around, I remain,

Ye Ed,

Ed

* * * * *

TALK I.S.F.C.C. TO YOUR FRIENDS

IT'S ONE OF THE TOP FAN CLUBS

REALLY WORLD-WIDE MEMBERSHIP

For S-FICIONADOS EVERYWHERE

ISFCC

The

"AD STELLAS"

VOL II

EXPLORER

No. 2

To You from Larry --

Dear Members:

The months certainly roll by quickly, don't they? Seems like just the other day I started writing the first of these letters to the club, and here I am doing one for another year!

It has been suggested by Rich Elsberry, and some others, that we should have membership cards for those who belong to ISFCC.

There has been a profit from the auction of books that was ably conducted by W. C. Butts, and perhaps these funds could be directed toward having membership cards put out.

By this writing we hope that the transferring of the club library from Milwaukee to New York has been completed. Stan Serxner has accepted the Librarian position, and we hope the books, etc. have been shipped to Stan. The address of the Librarian is: Stan Serxner, 1308 Hoe Ave., Bronx, N. Y.

Mehuman! Mehuman! Mehuman!! Say, Jack, did you eat spinach with hamburgers plus onions the night you "dreamed up" that story? Have been enjoying it all the way. Hope you may be able to write thirty parts to it. (Editor's Note - Will you kindly keep your \$\$\$'s & %\$# opinions to yourself?) (Author's Note - Let him go on - continue, dear Larry -- I love you like a brother, an ISFCC brother, that is.)

Some of the members from the United Kingdom have been asking if DIMENSION X might be heard overseas, and so we wrote to NBC about this matter. The program is not on the air, but it is a good idea to write to NBC and suggest that the show return -- NBC answered, for the benefit of the overseas members, that unless the show were carried on the Armed Forces Radio Service, it has not been available by short wave. It is hoped that DIMENSION X will return to NBC -- write in to the network and let 'em know that s-fandom likes the show and would like it back.

I have picked up a few more hours of work each week as a cook's helper. It makes a rugged schedule, but I believe I can keep it up, and maintain the writing to members.

When I take my vacation for this year I plan to take off an extra week so that we can do a little driving. There are some relatives in Ohio to visit, and while we're at it we hope to drive to Canada for some fishing, and then make a tour of New York and Chicago and a few other places. While on the way I'd like to stop by and see as as many ISFCC'ers as possible, if only for a few minutes.

I don't know how many of you I may be able to see, but I'll try to cram in as many visits as two weeks will allow. There's a lot of driving to be done, but I think we can get in quite a few short stops.

If your subscription to EXPLORER expires with this issue, remember that it's only fifty cents for another year, and we hope you'll like it enough to renew. That's about enough for this time, nice members, so better it is that I should close --

"Ad Stellas"

Lawrence Kishlbauch, Pres., ISFCC
Rt. 2, Box 223, Billings, Montana

EX-SOL III BOOK NOTES

Science News # 17 and New Biology # 9 have been released by the Penguin people (35¢ ea. thru Allen Lane, 3300 Clipper Mill Rd., Baltimore, Md.) in further continuation of those excellent series of periodicals. The lead articles in the Science number are devoted to the philosophy of science and written by Max Born and Albert Einstein. The Biology number features an article concerning the present status of our knowledge concerning the causes of cancer and contains a statement on race issues by the UNESCO. Many people might consider these lead articles worth the price of admission without taking into consideration the other excellent articles....Delvers into the realms of ESP and psychokinetics will be interested to learn that J. B. Rhine's FRONTIERS OF THE MIND has made its appearance between paper covers. Published by Penguin at Harmondsworth, Middlesex, England at 1/6, it is not for distribution in the US and Canada. Stateside fan desirous of obtaining this vade mecum, long widely discussed and read, will probably find many sterling area fan glad to swap. A must for those interested in a possible scientific answer to certain aspects of psychical research...another English house has re-issued their paper-back LOST WORLD by Conan Doyle, published by Pan Books at 8 Headford Pl., London SW 1 for 2/ or about 42¢--it is a nice addition to the off-trail adventure section of the bookcase..S-Ficionados unfamiliar with this work from several generations back will find in style, plot, and wording an interesting comparison with current offerings. The author, who is the creator of the famous Sherlock Holmes, will not suffer by the comparison..especially when one realizes the paleontological research he put in this study of an extant prehistoric culture in the wilds of South America...Century Publications of 139 N. Clark St., Chicago 2, Ill. have issued a 25¢ edition of George C. Smith's OPERATION INTERSTELLAR...like their recently popular WORLDS WITHIN and TIME TRAP, this is science-fiction and they are to be commended for keeping within the limits of the genre...concerned with the misadventures of a communications expert who hopes to unite the earth colonies beyond the solar system by instantaneous radio transmission, the book is cosmic in scope and sets a fast pace..in the smashing climax are overtones of the Gettysburg address....as C. S. Lewis informs us that none of the characters in PERELANDRA (Avon Books--25¢--119 W. 57th, NYC) is allegorical we can only say that it is fantasy in a philosophical key with a Venusian locale...'tis impossible to say that the conflict 'tween hero and villain is symbolic of the age-old conflict between good and evil which has so concerned theologians and philosophers lo these many years....Recommended seeing--KING SOLOMON'S Mines, for the technicolor of this off-trail adventure, story based on a Haggard theme...don't feel too badly if you miss FLYING MISSILE...few scientitims and s-ficionados enthused by publicity to effect that this is first time Dep't of Defence has permitted release of such pictures will be disappointed to see some shots of V-1 rockets and the landing of a plane by remote control device..which same is familiar to kids who fly their own powered models by remote control....

Allen Newton

....And More Reviews by our pseudonymic Mike Phillips--

We shall start out this business with the four published books of Nelson Bond. Anyone who wants to argue about my reviews, just drop Ed Noble a card and he'll give you my name and address--

MR. MERGENTHWIRKER'S LOBLIES - and Other Fantastic Tales---Coward McCann, 1946 - The first and best of all of the versatile Mr. Bond's offerings. Contains 13 tales, all of them well-worth reading; most of them worth remembering. My Favorite of this lot happens to be UNION in GEHENNA, the tale of a labor leader in Hell. Total contents: Mr. Mergenthwirker's Loblies; The Magic Staircase; The Remarkable Talent of Egbert Haw; Johnny Gortwright's Camera; The Master of Cotswold; The Einstein Inshoot; The Fountain; Dr. Fuddle's Fingers; Conqueror's Isle; Socrates of the South Forty; The Bacular Clock; Union in Gehenna; and the Bookshop. This title is now out of print, but with a bit of luck you might be able to pick up a copy. Mine's autographed!

(continued on page 7)

"Great Ghuwo!" exclaimed Noel, "He's gone gooberatious."

(Author's Note - Nuts.) (Editor's Note - Nuts to you, too.) (Author's Note - Look, Doll, and I call you 'Doll' because I suspect your head is stuffed with sawdust--'gooberatious' means NUTS. SEEE--and keep your big yap out of this!) (Ed. Note - Oh.)

However, when a full color picture of Hopalong Cassidy, pursued by Fran, Ollie, and Uncle Miltie flashed across Mehuman's little chest, Noel dashed over and began throwing switches and ripping out wires. There was a slight explosion and one of Mehuman's horns flew off and sailed past his guardian's head. Twelve fuses blew out and the uproar ceased suddenly.

"Someone," proclaimed Noel, gazing at Little Mehuman with not unreasonable suspicion, "has been monkeying with the abbaratussizz."

"It was not I, dear lovable guardian," replied Mehuman, in semi-perfect English, "I theenk--"

"You certainly do," agreed Dracula, staring at his protege with amazement mingled with disbelief.

"Aha - a witticism!" said Mehuman's left head.

"Ah, yes -- bully, bully, bully," agreed his right head.

"Be quiet," directed Noel, turning from one to the other rapidly and then seating himself on a petrified gremlin which was nearby. He pondered for awhile and then addressed Little Mehuman. "Now listen, Little Monster, if I release you from your bonds (from the clothing store of the same name--adv.) will you promise to behave--and make no more with the biting with the kicking?"

"Oh, I assure you, dear guardian," said Mehuman's two heads in perfect three-point harmony, "should you see fit to remove these unseemly fetters from my shapely limbs, I, as well as we, shall promise to be the epitome of gentility, perspecuity, not to forget to mention angelisity."

Little Mehuman beamed. Noel picked up a loose bottle cap and inserted it in his eye to gaze benignly at Dracula.

"GAD!!" he gadded. "What have I created?"

END of PART FOUR

ALSO END of BOOK ONE

Editor's Note--Also end of Books Two-Three-Four-Five-Six and Seven.

Author's Note - You seem to be laboring under a misapprehension. In the above book we have shown one of the most important steps in Little Mehuman's life--accordingly other important steps will be delineated in other books, in the near future.

Editor's Note - HAW!!!

Author's Note - I do not like your attitude.

Editor's Note - I do not like your writings.

Author's Note - You'll get nasty letters from readers.

Editor's Note - I already GOT nasty letters from readers - wanna read 'em?

Author's Note - No, I think not.

Editor's Note - Coward!

Author's Note - Am not!

Kiehlbauch's Note - Will you two Katzenjammers get lost. This is a high class club and paper.

Author's Note - Yeah? How did YOU get in?

Kiehlbauch's Note - YOU, my recalcitrant jughead, may consider yourself expelled.

Author's Note - I refused to be expelled. I am revolting!

Kiehlbauch's Note - You certainly are.

Editor's Note -- Hear-hear. A Good Thing!

Kiehlbauch's Note - YOU shut up, too.

Readers' Note - Why don't you ALL shut up?

Mailman's Note - And I gotta break my back carrying stuff like THIS!

Reviews---cont. from page 4

The THIRTY FIRST OF FEBRUARY -- Gnome Press, N.Y. (1949) 272 pp - \$3 -- Called thirteen flights of fantasy by the publishers. These stories range from the humorous to the serious without a break in pace. One tale doesn't seem to belong there---The Sportsman. Best of them are The Enchanted Pencil and The Gripes of Wraith. All are calculated to give the reader much pleasure. The prefacing octave is by James Branch Cabell..others in the book are Mask of Medusa, My Nephew Norvell, The Ring, The Cunning of the Beast, the Five Lives of Robert Jordan, Take My Drum to England, Saint Mulligan, The Monster from Nowhere, The Man Who Walked Through Glass, and Pilgrimage. Get it, by all means (or any)---

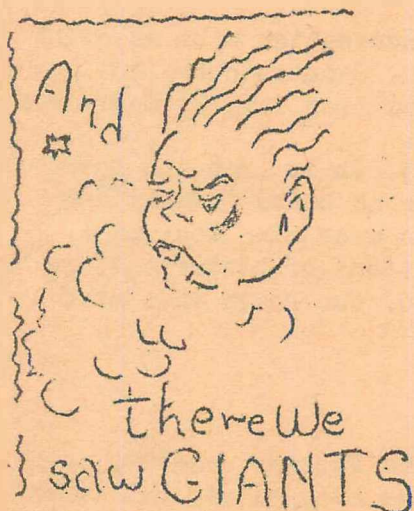
EXILES OF TIME, a Novel, Prime Press, Phila., 1949 - 183 pp at \$2.50---is Mr. Bond's first published novel. It may seem somewhat corny to the more experienced reader, but it still brings back fond memories. Originally it appeared in BLUE BOOK circa 1940, engrossing, and holding the interest, though somewhat weak in characterization, it still has excellent writing. This is a product of the time when Bond was still developing a style. As is known to most, he finally settled upon the humorous type; this is somewhat heavier. An unusual type-size adds to the inner appearance.

The Remarkable Exploits of LANCELOT BIGGS, SPACEMAN - Doubleday and Co., Inc., Garden City, NY - 1950 - 224 pp at \$2.50 -- To date this is not the best Bond book, although it's still good. Many of you undoubtedly remember this series when it first appeared in AMZ, FA, and WT from 1939 to 1943. The author has taken a dozen of the best and tightened up the sequential order to make for more interesting reading. The best portion is Chapter 16, which originally appeared in the Sept. '42 AS under the title of "The Love Song of Lancelot Biggs." The attractive jacket illustrates this tale---

In the near future Mr. Bond's fifth book will be released. It will probably be called NIGHTMARES and DAYDREAMS and will be a third collection of his short fantasies. At this time nothing more is certain of the volume.

I had planned to carry this thing on, perhaps as long as friend Cuthbert's Little Mehuman epic. (Auth. Note -- NYAH! I do too have a friend -- he even sez so right out in print.) (Get back over to page 5 & 6 --- Ed. Note) (Reviewer's Note--- Will you kindly let me finish?) But I have just been struck by a recurring fit of extreme laziness, and so I shall now say farewell to my long-suffering fellow members. HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE NEW YEAR YET?

---Mike Phillips



--by Peter King

" And There We Saw Giants, the Sons of Anak, Which came of the Giants, and We were in our Sight as Grasshoppers and so were we in their Sight. " Numbers XIII, 33

Folklore and legends of all lands teem with terrifying and forbidding monsters -- the werewolf, the seaserpent, the dragon, the krakon, the niuhi of Easter Island, and many others. Yet most fascinating of all is the one in man's own image--the giant. Does the giant belong merely in tale and legend? Or have there been, in the literal words of the Bible "giants on the earth" ?

In searching for an answer to such absorbing question we need not tarry with Atlas, who bears on his shoulders the weight of the earth; Typhon, whose head "nodded against the stars"; and Og, King of Bashan, who survived the Deluge because the water reached only up to his knees - 'he was accustomed to drink water direct from the clouds.' Giants, yes, but giants whose very hugeness puts them at once beyond belief.

So too with many of the giants who ravaged Europe during the Age of Chivalry and Romance. In fact, it seems that the main reason for the existence of such colossi was to provide adequate measure of a knight's prowess.

The Moorish giant Ferragus is described by Tarpin's Chronicle as being 20' 6" tall - in addition to which he possessed the strength of twenty men, lived in an invulnerable castle of shining metal, and was served by a dwarf, an adept necromancer who built for his master a wooden horse that would carry him through the air. Despite such abundant and varied resources, Ferragus was slain by the redoubtable Roland who learned by a trick the secret of the giant's invulnerability.

No band of heroes has ever been assembled to match King Arthur's immortal Knights of the Round Table, and only their lord, the King himself, could have overcome the fearsome cannibal 'Giant of St. Michael's Mount'. 'Over 30 feet tall, skin like a frog, arms like oak branches, fat as a hog, full terrible he looked..' says the unknown chronicler of the Lorte d'Arthur.

In Penrith churchyard in the Cumberland county of England may still be seen what is called the 'Giant's Grave.' A pair of twelve-foot stone pillars stand fifteen feet apart, eloquent testimony to the size of the giant Tarquin who lies there, and to the bravery of Sir Lancelot du Lac, who killed him in hand to hand combat.

So much for legend. But history, reasonably well authenticated, has its giants too. Gabbara, brought from Arabia by Emperor Claudius, was 9' 9". Harold Hardrada, Viking rover and King of Norway, is said to have been over ten feet. Maximinus, in turn shepherd, gladiator, and Emperor of Rome, was over 8 feet (and Capitolineus alleges) drank six gallons of wine and ate forty pounds of meat a day. The Emperor Maximilian of Germany was 9 feet tall, and the son of Anak, Goliath, who was slain by David, was almost ten feet tall. His brazen breastplate weighed more than an average man and head of his spear weighed over 25 pounds. But we are unable to measure such giants of history and these figures must be accepted with caution, for they may be exaggerations.

Of modern times, the tallest man ever seems to be an Englishman, still living, and measured at 9 feet, 3 1/2 inches. Other famous real giants of recent times include Ben Hicks, the 'Denver Steeple'; Marie Elizabeth Wendo, known as the Queen of the Amazons and a music-hall beauty; Anna Swan of Nova Scotia; Patrick Byrne, 'the Irish Giant'; and Machnow the Russian, all of whom were certainly over eight feet. Machnow was only 5'2" at the age of fifteen but grew to well over 9 feet by the time he had reached the age of twenty-three.

Mark Twain relates how his friend Trichell got into conversation with an eight foot giant in a cheap show in a miserable shed at Hartford, Connecticut. The giant had been a colonel in one of the Turkish regiments that had been largely destroyed during the famed charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava.

Such are our modern giants. Disappointing, aren't they? Is it that the human race is evolving smaller people? This seems unlikely, for no bones (really authentic ones) have ever been discovered indicating owners over nine feet tall.

So, despite the ancient chroniclers and the best intentions of historians, we are fairly safe in making the observation that no member of the human race ever grew over ten feet tall.

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 material. Editor: Milith Lorraine;

Associates: Stanton Coblentz and Evelyn Thorne. Copy - 30¢; year - \$1.00

Address: DUFFIELD T. ROGERS, Arkansas

AND LET'S GET THOSE PERENNIAL SUBSCRIBERS INTO EXPLORER, TOO!
FOR MANY OF YOU, A YEAR HAS BEEN COMPLETED -- IT'S FIFTY CENTS A YEAR -- !

The response to the printing of magazine indices was very gratifying - and so we are going to continue them with each issue until we run out, or the compiler, Bob Hoskins of Lyons Falls runs out. This time we give you the indices for PLANET and OTHER WORLDS --

Author Index to PLANET STORIES - 1950

Abernathy, Robert - Strange Exodus, short story, Fall
 Anderson, Paul - Star Ship - novelet - Fall
 Beck - Clyde - Collision Orbit - novelet - Summer
 Bennett, Keith - The Rocketeers Have Shaggy Ears - novelet - Spring
 Bradbury, Ray - Death-By-Raid - short story - Summer
 Death-Wish, short story - Fall
 Forever and the Earth - short story - Spring
 Brown, Fredric - Mitkey Rides Again - novelet - Nov.
 Coppel, Alfred - The First Man on the Moon - short story - Spring
 The Last Two Alive - novelet - Nov.
 The Rebel of the Valkyr - novelet - Fall
 Warrior Maid of Mars - novelet - Summer
 Davis, Charles H - Who Goes There? - short story - Spring
 Dee, Roger - Ultimatum - short story - Spring
 Unwelcome Tenant - short story - Summer
 Drexel, Jay B - Cargo to Callisto - short story - Nov.
 The Crowded Colony - short story - Fall
 Fennel, Erik - Madmen of Mars - short story - Spring
 Graber, Edwin L - Flame-Jewel of the Ancients - novelet - Spring
 Holden, Fox B - Sidewinders from Sirius - short story - Nov.
 Lang, Allen K - Machine of Klamurga - short story - Nov.
 Liddell - C. H. - Carry Me Home - novelet - Nov.
 The Sky is Falling - novelet - Fall
 MacDonald, John D - Final Mission - short story - Nov.
 Maxwell, Alfred E. - Alpha Say, Beta Do - short story - Summer
 McDowell, Emmett - Moon of Treason - novelet - Summer
 Mullen, Stanley - Suicide Command - short story - Summer
 Oberfield, William - The Enormous Word - short story - Summer
 Shedenhelm, William - Patch - short story - Fall
 St. Clair, Margaret - Flowering Evil - short story - Summer
 Meem - short story - Fall

Author Index to OTHER WORLDS - 1950

Ackerman, Forrest J - Atomic Error - short-short - July
 The Mute Question - short-short - Sept.
 Amherst, Wes - Sons of the Serpent - short novel - Jan.
 Ashby - Richard - The Merchant of Venus - short story - Nov.
 Benson, Edwin - Marai's Wife - short story - March
 Beynon, John - The Living Lies - novelet - November
 Bixby, Jerome - And All For One - short story - May
 Bradbury, Ray - Punishment Without Crime - short story - March
 Way In The Middle Of The Air - short story - July
 Brown, Fredric - The Frownzly Florgels - short story - Oct.
 Browning, Craig - Bubastis of Egypt - novelet - Nov.
 Live In an Orbit and Love It! - short story - March
 Byrne, S. J. - Colossus - novel - May
 Colossus II - novelet - July
 Colossus III - short novel - Sept.
 Cooke, Millen - Descent from Mera - novelet - Jan.
 Edmund Lattimer's Milking Machine - short story - May
 DeCourcy, John and Dorothy - Captain Ham - short story - Oct.

(cont. on page 10)

Author Index to OTHER WORLDS - cont.

- Dexter, Peter - The Gamin - novelet - March
 Palace of Darkness - short novel - Sept.
- Evans, E. Everett - Little Miss Ignorance - short story - Sept.
- Gordon, David - By the Rules - novelet - Oct.
- Harness, Charles - Even Steven - short story - Nov.
- Hasse, Henry - Survival - short story - March
- Highstone - H A - Millions In It - short story - Nov.
- Hill, Alma - Norte Americanos, You Are Doomed! - short story - March
- Irwin, G. H. - The Justice of Martin Brand - novel - July
- Jackson, Clive - The Swordsmen of Varnis - short-short - Sept.
- Jones, Raymond F. - Portrait of Narcissus - short story - May
- Meyrinck, Gustavus - The Fatal Word - short story - Jan.
- Patton, Frank - Mahaffey's Mystery - short story - March
- Phillips, Rog - The Fatal Technicality - short story - March
 Holes in My Head - short story - Oct.
 Rescue Beacon - short story - Nov.
 This Time - short story - Jan.
- Reeds, F. Anton - The Wee Bonnie Poupon - short story - March
- Rogers, Melva - To Give Them Welcome - novelet - Jan.
- Russell, Eric Frank - Dear Devil - novelet - May
- Shaver, Richard S. - Lady - short story - March
- Shirley, Vivian - Out of Tomorrow - short story - Nov.
- Steber, A. R. - A Man Named Mars - short novel - Oct.
- Tanner, Charles R. - Johnny Goodturn - short story - Nov.
 Mr. Garfinkel and the Lepra-Cohen - short story - Sept.
- Temple, William F - Forget-Me-Not - short story - Sept.
 Wisher Takes All - short-short - July
- van Vogt, A. E. - Automaton - short story - Sept.
 Enchanted Village - short story - July
 War of Nerves - short story - May
- Wallrich, William - The Scissors - short story - May
- Wells, H. G. - Earth Can Be Fair - conclusion - Oct.
- Wiley, John - Venus Trouble - novelet - Oct.
- Winsel, Hodge - The Starting Over - Pct.

Compiled by Bob Hoskins, Lyons Falls, NY

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" KOLLEKTOR'S KORNER "

Our column is very short this time, folks - how 'bout writing in to list your wants and such in the hobby line? It's one of the services of the club, costs you only the stamp to write a letter, and may help you find others with the same hobbies - here we go with what's on hand:-

BILL VENABLE, 32 Park Pl., RD 4, Pittsburgh 9, Penna. - Bill is a student at Carnegie Tech and is very busy at present, with not too much time for correspondence. His one hobby is publishing a fanzine, and a good one - ALEPH-NULL. In connection with this latter he welcomes articles and correspondence.

PETER KING, 603 Bronson St., Streator, Illinois - Chief hobby at the moment is acquiring and reading all S-F material to make up for time spent out of the U. S. His main wants are "The Ghost Kings" by H. Rider Haggard; "Legion of Space" by Jack Williamson; "Devil and the Doctor" by D. Keller; "Iron Star" by Taine, and "Ship of Ishtar" by Merritt. Along with S-F, his other interests are amateur dramatics, travel, and discussions of everything, whether verbally or by the swapping of letters. Welcome to the club, and here's hoping you find the reading material you want.

BEN F. LOUDON, Sheridan Rd. Trailer Court, Sheridan Rd., RD 13, Fort Wayne, Indiana — this is a new address, so please note carefully. Ben's a little busy getting settled to devote too much time at present to S-F and correspondence but promises to try more in the future.

Pvt. MARGARET (Sue) CHAPWICK, AA830607B, 3741st WAF Trng. Sqdn., Lakeland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas — She's an old member, but has a new hobby as you can see by her new address. She would like as much correspondence as possible. So let's get busy and start sendin' those letters to San Antone --

Korner Konduktor,
Bea Glass
97 Baker St.
Dover, New Jersey

TRADING CORNER!

By LARRY GAGE

Again, not much this time. Come on, each ISFCC'er — send in your want list, or what you have to sell or trade! We want to make this a B-I-G CORNER!

Gary C. Clifton (Orchard, Nebraska) * ~~WANTS~~ ~~Bert~~ A. Merritt books, and also (SI)
SHADES OF TOFFEE.

Ken Parkin (Rt. 1, Box 39, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan) — has for trade or sale certain FFM's dated from 1945 to the present, including all 1949 and 1950 issues.

Richard Elsberry (413 E. 18th St., Minneapolis, Minnesota) — has for trade and/or sale various issues of the following magazines: aSF, FFM, FN, AS, Amazing, FA, also books by Burroughs.

WANTS books by Leslie Charteris and new s-f books

Larry Gage (Rt. 4, Paris Texas) — Has for trade or sale the following books: Nada, the Lily — Haggard (mint); SHE and ALLAN — Haggard (1st Ed.); Montezuma's Daughter — Haggard; Tarzan and the Lion Man — Burroughs

Bea Glass (97 Baker St., Dover, N. J.) --Wants information and addresses of those who raise lovebirds and hamsters.

That's it ---- let's make it l-o-n-g next ish --

Y&R Trading Manager
Larry Gage
Route 4
Paris, Texas

THE WINDS

Wailing, howling, the winds rise above the tawdry tenements, flow and glide beyond the clutch of mill and vane; coursing, shrieking, they sweep to bleak hyperborean hells of frozen waterfalls and frigid moon light; whispering, drifting, the waft the scented pollen of the leprous fungi through red-lit twilight of the Atlantean forests, riffle the green waters that stretch for fathoms above the sunken continents of antiquity. Bearing scents of rare spices, of human bodies, of filth and corruption, of potent liquors and pungent drugs, the winds whine through mystic, far places. Then they sweep back to the tenements, to the fitful in sleep who groan in the heavy heat of crowded room or still, star-lit roof, and fan a dreamer's brow. Michael de Angelis (SI)

b y

Richard Elsberry

In the Oct.-Nov. issue of the Explorer there appeared an article called "An Underground Movement" by Walter Cole. After reading the article once I decided that it was so full of holes that even a 12-year old could find flaws in its logic. And so I expectantly awaited until the next issue of the Explorer to see the members of ISFCC pick it to pieces. But, much to my surprise, no such thing happened. Nobody bothered to write a countering article. Then I saw a column of SF Ramblings in which I noted more news about the "underground movement." This was more than I could take, and so if you'll dig up that issue of the EXP (I am sure that most ISFCC'ers still have it) and follow it as you read this article, you'll see Cole's "Underground Movement" come down around his head.

We'll take it paragraph by paragraph so that there will be no mixup. The first paragraph is very cryptic. It is evident that Cole knows who are the people involved since he is sure that there are exactly 50 members and that five of them live outside this country. Then, too, in his peculiar style he states that one of the cities is New York and that the other is 3000 miles away. Why didn't you come out and say that it was on the Pacific coast, Cole?

Next Cole states that he is going to make like Drew Pearson. You can't very well predict unless you know something about which you are predicting. Cole's first statement can't be proved or disproved. How does anyone know if active fandom has doubled? Is there a listing of acti-fans that can be compared with some other time? --and it's doubled since when? There must be a time element. In order to double something you must have a certain number to start with. And what is a definition of an acti-fan? One who reads the promags and writes to two other fans?

I didn't know that fandom had a Hall of Fame. What is fandom anyway, a baseball organization? It would be pretty hard for someone to rise to the Hall of Fame without his knowing it.

Since the "Underground Movement" will never come out in the open how can it be proven that it ever existed? We need some tangible evidence - not predictions.

Next, Cole predicts that an international organization will be formed to protect fandom. Protect it from what, Walter? Itself? It certainly seems to me that fandom needs a lot of protecting. And they are going to settle our disputes for us. Oh, joy! Just like the United Nations!

An unknown bulletin, Walter, is one that nobody knows about. Yet you say it is going to be sent to the top fans and so therefore it can't be unknown. And just who are the top fans? What distinguishes them from other fans? If I don't get one of those bulletins I am going to feel insulted. And what good does it do to send them out from various parts of the world? Why not just from NYC? With so many fans there no one would know who did it. And besides, the more placings you have for mailing out these bulletins the more people you have in on the deal and the more chance there is of someone spilling the beans.

And you say, Cole, that these bulletins will tell the fans how to improve or ruin fandom. If fandom could be improved it would have been done so long ago. NSF has tried everything possible and fandom is in a very pleasant rut and will probably stay there. And just how does one go about ruining fandom anyhow? Shoot all the fanzine editors? Fandom has been nearly ruined several times by such people as Dogler and Friedman but still fandom was not seriously hurt and only a small majority of fans were affected anyway. Nope, I don't think it will be so easy to ruin fandom, Walt.

Your description of these four fans could have been confined to their names instead of all this bulldoggerol. Two of the names sound like Frances and Will Sykora (I'm not afraid to name names), but it is your idea to have people guess. You then mention that the other town is known as SAN. Why beat around the bush like that --- come right out and say San Francisco and stop playing games.

Cole Slaw - cont.

The next two paragraphs are again written in such a way as to say nothing outright but to imply the meaning. It boils down that six of the members are authors, two live in Canada, and the others live in the United Kingdom. So, I can figure out clues!

In the next paragraph you state: "...they will have made quite a bit of money due to fandom." And then two paragraphs after that you say: "Their transactions have NO RESEMBLANCE to Science-Fiction or Fantasy whatsoever in itself." Perhaps you should preface what you write.

And you also write: "What they are doing for fandom they do not have TO DO IN ORDER TO MAKE THEIR MONEY." Which implies that they are making money from fandom although that contradicts that above mentioned statement.

Well, to get away from the money matters of the "Underground Movement" we next find out that you have documentary proof that the organization does exist. I would say that in order to have documentary proof of the existence of the organization one should have at least a partial membership list, which you do not seem to have. It is a good thing, though, that there is proof that the organization does exist, because when it ceases to exist in April we'll know it all wasn't a hoax, I hope.

You next state that you can't mention your informant because of personal reasons. I guess that is one way of getting out of it.

You also say that there is legal proof besides documentary proof. I would say that legal proof of an organization of a club would be a constitution signed by the charter members. So don't tell me you don't know who the people are. Either that or you don't have the legal proof that you claim you have.

Next you say: "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...fandom." I thought you said you didn't know who the membership was? And you didn't bring out the names of the people as you said you would above. How come?

Now we get to your question sections. You must think that some of the members of the ISFCC also belong to this secret organization. This is, of course, impossible since all members of ISFCC are fine upstanding fans and wouldn't stoop to anything so low as the "Underground Movement." Therefore I can't see why you had the article printed in the EXP.

I might throw your opening question back at you. Why all the secrecy? I think that all ISFCC'ers might read the third question quite closely - the first part will be sufficient - and see what you think about the article. I laugh at your next: "Is this an attempt to overthrow fandom?" If fandom is overthrown I will personally push a peanut from here to Washington, D. C., with my nose!

And I love that last dramatic question: "OR TO PERHAPS WIPE OUT FANDOM ALTOGETHER?" Wouldn't that be awful! We'd have to read our prozines under the bedcovers secretly at night, I suppose. Oh, I just can't stand to think what would happen if fandom were wiped out -- people would be taxed to death building new mental asylums to meet the sudden increase in mental morons running loose across the land.

And that next dramatic question: "Can fandom chance this?" Well now, I don't know. We might have a chance.

Al, now you come out that fandom will be ruined if these individuals don't come out in the open. I gasp!

The next paragraph is a dilly: "...this 'crusade for fandom?' " The tears run down my cheeks. Come on, Walter, how corny can one get in two pages anyway? You say you have several clues - why weren't they presented? Are you sure you have any clues?

Then comes the big offer. --- ten bucks! It adds the crowning touch and makes everything seem so realistic. I might add here, ISFCC'ers, that I wrote a long letter to Cole giving him "unquestionable" proof that Redd Boggs was one of the members of this "underground" organization shortly after I had the article. And I never heard from Cole! Perhaps he didn't want to pay me the \$10. And why didn't he check my report if he were so interested in finding out about this organization.

(14)

* THE EXPLORER *

Cole Slaw - conc.

I carefully wrote this letter so that there were no flaws in it — Cole couldn't know that Boggs wasn't a member of the organization since he didn't know who the members of the organization were — or so he said. Something smells. I also know that CT Beck demanded the reward, saying that he was the head of the organization. Cole didn't pay him, although I am quite sure that Beck can prove he is a member of this organization. He's been trying to ruin fandom for years.

Cole then says that April 15, 1951 may be the beginning of a dark age for fandom. If I have to read many more articles like this one of Cole's I'd be tempted to say that we are already in this so-called Dark Age. Cole then sez that April 15th will tell whether or not he speaks the truth. I don't see how it can, since the organization will dissolve on that day and no one will ever know that it exists!

The bells that will be tolling on that day are the ones in Cole's head.

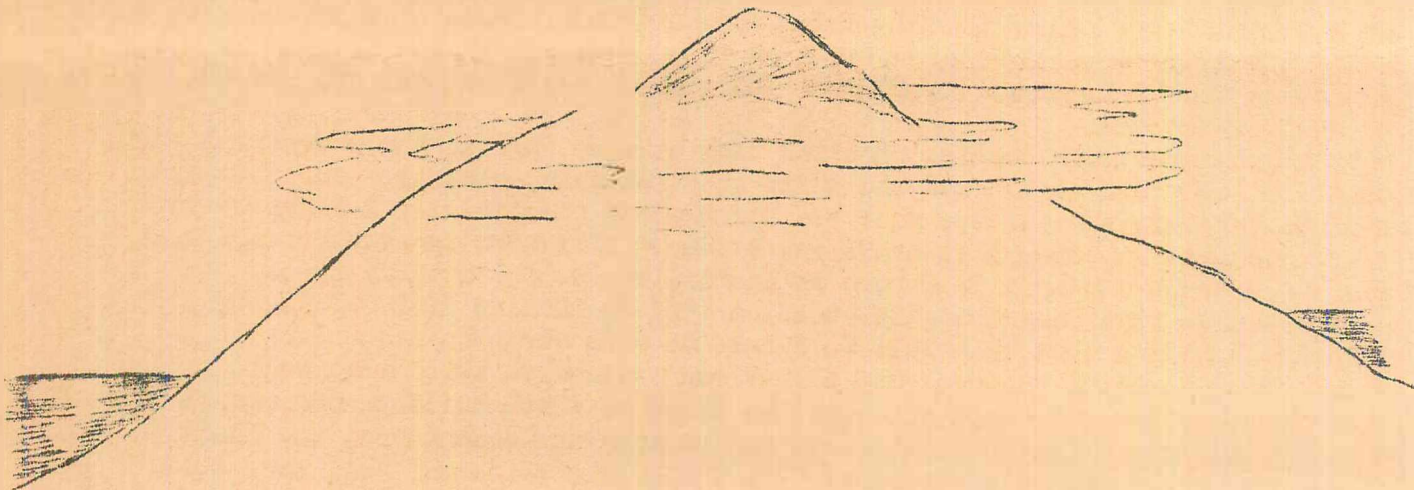
THE END

Post-scriptum: In the last EXP Cole had more on his "Underground Movement." He starts out by saying that "...many fans have stated their ideas as to who..." and a little later he sez "...only two fans have written me since this article appeared." It doesn't jive too well.

And I haven't received any of the bulletins that Cole sez are being sent. Have any of you members? If any ISFCC member will forward me a copy of the bulletin I will pay him 25¢ for his trouble and after reading it will return it to him.

I sort of consider myself an active fan, Walt. I belong to SAPS and FAPA, for which I publish my own 'zine; am Veep of ISFCC; and co-edit one of the better 'zines, ODD. Do you think you can fix it for me to get these forthcoming bulletins?

THE END #2



(31)

THULE

In lands of dim renown,
Next Ocean's far domain,
The Hill of Dreamers looketh down
Upon a flat and level plain

This is the Land of Dreams,
Where Death is far away,
And every hour seems
A new and shining day.

-- Michael de Angelis

New Members of the ISFCC

Gerald Hibbs, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota
 David Wilson, 809 N. El Paso, El Paso, Texas
 Gary C. Clifton, Box 164, Orchard, Nebraska
 Gregg Calkins, c/o CAA, Panguitch, Utah
 David Rike, Esq., Box 203, Rodeo, California
 Pat Eaton, c/o Otis Cafe, Otis, Oregon
 Fred Chappell, Box 182, Canton, North Carolina

Welcome to the Club, folks!

Address Changes - Make Note of Them if you're swapping Letters -

Marian Cox, 51 Cedar Lane, Hilton Village, Virginia (moved back again)
 Lynn Hickman, 408 W. Bell St., Statesville, North Carolina
 Michael de Angelis, 1526 E. 23rd St., Brooklyn 10, N. Y.
 Frank E. McNamar, 1128 Ridge St., Keokuk, Iowa

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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 material. Editor: Lilith Lorraine; Associates: Stanton Coblenz and Evelyn Thorne. Copy - 30¢; year - \$1.00
 address: DIFFERENT!, Rogers, Arkansas

* * * * *

Mostly Stuff Like Dat Dere ---

We won't be quite as late with this issue as we were with the last one, which is something, anyhow -- for one thing, while the mercury hovers close to the zero mark, there's no big drift to dig out in the driveway...there's some stuff to report, but not an awful lot...Tom Covington, one of the members of the club and editor of the first issue of USCO's BIZARRE has up and joined the Coast Guard...from other sources it is reported that Bruce Lane will take up where Tom left off with BIZARRE, but can't verify for the moment...Stan Crouch has a new Multigraph for his two 'zines and it will come out in its new format shortly.

Bill Butts writes in that it looks like the Book Auction has passed into history...no other books were sent in and only a couple of bids sent in on those he had listed in the last issue...Bill is also on the look-out for a mimeograph so that he can enlarge his trade-rag, ad-o-zine.

Response to the idea of the round-robin letters among members has been fair so far .. some have written here and others have written to Larry expressing their willingness to take part, so look for r-r's to be started up as a method of knitting the club a little more closely together... 'tis good to hear such praise of ISFCC as has come from Katie Liberty of Alma, Michigan --- and John Green, who's now at Kiski School in Saltsburg, Penna., wants to know if there are any teenagers about 16-17 (mainly of the gal group) who'd like to swap letters and such - let's go, s-ficionadas --- Frank McNamar, who had been in Granger, Missouri, says that I should let it be known that he is still alive and that he'll be back in the letter swapping sessions again, but this time from Keokuk, Iowa --- the new address is listed at the top half of this page ..

Lately somebody's been suggesting to other members that certain names be banned from the pages of EXPLORER... so far we haven't banned anybody from these pages and while we put out the 'zine we ain't gonna... there's no sense in promoting individual dislikes... 'nough said.

Does anyone know the present address of Bill Johnson of Walnut Creek, California? His copy came back with address unknown ...

If any of y'all would like a print of this month's cover, I ran off several extras -- it's a sort of a classic of s-f satire .. will send it for a dime to cover the cost of envelope and postage --- 'nough --- I shaddap ---

EXPLORER Looks At Its Contemporaries

Not too many fan-mags came this way this time, but there were good ones in the group that made the post-office box in Girard. Biggest issue of them all was Paul Ganley's anniversary issue of Fan-Fare. While every issue of FAN-FARE is not as huge as this Annish, it is a growing affair that's worth looking into -- send in 15¢ to Paul Ganley at 119 Ward Rd., North Tonawanda, N. Y. for a sample, or 65¢ will get you a year's sub. Co-editor is Bob Briney of Muskegon, Michigan, also an ISFCC'er.

Another job rolling in was Duggie Fisher's and Rich Elsberry's ODD -- this time there was a thing with it initialed PPTOWFFF, a horrible one-shot (we hope) thing that doesn't detract too much from the rest of the 'zine -- you can get ODD from Duggie Fisher, 1302 Lester St., Poplar Bluff, Missouri at 15¢ ea; two for two bits; eight for a buck --- and a good deal. ODD is starting a drive to get some of the top fan-atics to write for 'em.

Still continuing as one of this one's favorites, because of the small characters who wander through its pages, is QUANDRY, done by Lee Hoffman of 101 Wagner St., Savannah, Georgia --- the Thurber-esque quality is good --- willing to bet that a dime would be sending a copy your way if you sent ten cents to Lee for a copy.

SNULBUG, the first issue of a FAPA-zine put out by Rich Elsberry, arrived for lookin' over --- and 'tis a nice appearing sort of a thing, dwelling muchly on the life and works of one Stan Kenton. Easy to read and interesting. Elsberry dwells at 413 E 18th St., Minneapolis, Minnesota.

SAPSIDES, a bulletin size job put out by Wm. N. Austin, 3317 W 67th St. in Seattle, Wash. and Royal H. Drummond, 5266-41st St. SW of the same city, is a well printed affair --- reviews on lots of SAPS mailings -- other material of general interest -- 12¢ to those who aren't in SAPS -- published quarterly (or less often, it says.)

SCIENCE-FANTASY POLL 1950 - also done by Bill Austin - arrived but today, and is a poll of favorite authors, novels, novelettes, short stories, and s-f 'zines for the year of 1950 --- a well-rounded group of writers and stories from which to make a choice, plus blanks for listing others you'd like to list.

CHALLENGE, put out by Lilith Lorraine of Rogers, Arkansas, is Poetry of the Atomic Age - a quarterly at 30¢ a copy or a dollar a year. It's for those who are poetry minded and who like science-fantasy poetry.

What looks like it came out only as a one-shotter, but an excellent one and one of which we'd like to see more, is Alan Pesetsky's Science-Fiction Weekly -- It was a good one ---

If I've left out any of them that were sent in, innumerable apologies -- STAR ROVER, Rog Dard's Australian 'zine, is dropped for the time being, we hear -- Bill Butts says that his trade mag AD-O-ZINE is expected to get larger in a few months when he gets a new mimeograph -- AD-O-Zine is 5¢ a copy or a quarter a year, and a fan trading magazine that's loaded with ads ---

* * * * *

One of the Tops in FANTASY --

In these days of high prices and approaching higher taxes and such, there is, of course, the feud as to who's going to pay for all the stuff....a number of Saturdays ago, on CBS, an NAM speaker made one of the top statements of fantasy of the year: - that two-thirds of the working man's wages are in the non-taxable category!

* * * * *

S-F in SLICKS for S-Ficionados -

Esquire continues to run s-f a la Bradbury every once in awhile.

A serial by Wyndham on the Triffids has just been completed in Collier's, a five part job that is a good yarn.

For those who like fantasy in music, the Met came through with Die Walkure and Siegfried on successive Saturdays.

STARS and THEIR NAMES -

- RAY REBEL

(This is the concluding series, unless Ray Rebel comes through with more material - it's the last on hand - we hope you've liked this series --)

Constellation Names Reflect Devotion

Gemini, the Twins, and third sign of the Zodiac, is a constellation symbolized in Greek mythology by Castor and Pollux, sons of Zeus, one mortal and the other immortal. They became a legend of fraternal devotion. When his brother died, Pollux begged Zeus to let him die also. Zeus solved this dilemma, according to the myth, by setting them both in the sky as a constellation, as a reward of love for brother to brother.

As a matter of fact, all signs of constellations of the Zodiac are seasonal in origin, from Babylonian times. The myths were later evolved to fit the particular animal in the starry zoo. All the Spring signs, the Ram, the Bull, and the Twins, mark the time of bringing forth of young by the flocks and herds. In ancient Egypt, for example, the constellation Gemini was symbolized by a couple of young kids. The Greeks altered the symbol to two children.

The rest of the twelve constellations in the Zodiac are symbolized as creatures sculptured by the stars and also probably represent the progress of the seasons.

Cancer, the Crab, the fourth sign, marks the time when the sun appears to move backward toward the Equator, beginning June 21st, symbolized by the retrograde action of the crab.

Leo, the Lion (July 22) is emblematic of the fierce heat of Summer.

Virgo, the Virgin (Aug. 23), gleaning corn is a symbol of the harvest.

Libra, the Balance (Sept. 23), is night and day balancing each other at the time of the autumnal equinox.

Scorpio, The Scorpion, (Oct. 23) signifies the presence of snakes in October.

Sagittarius, the Archer, (Nov. 22) the season of hunting.

Capricornus, (Dec. 21) the Goat, starts the return of the sun to the north from the Tropic of Capricorn or southern hemisphere.

Aquarius, the Water-bearer (Jan. 20) symbolized the winter rains of Asia Minor.

Pisces, the Fishes (Feb. 19), symbolized the fishing season. You must remember that the originators of these symbols lived in warmer climes, thus the seasonal set-up can be easily different.

These constellations, like the planets, have Latin names or origins. Although the Zodiac is probably of Babylonian origin, and was carried to Greece, where they were adopted by the Latins, just as the planets, first named by Babylonian or Sumerians, were absorbed into Latin.

On each side of the twelve zodiacal constellations are other star-carved figures, twenty-eight northern constellations and forty-eight southern.

Many reflect ancient Greek myths, which had probably come from legend of earlier or similar civilizations, many from the Mesopotamian "cradle" of the Tigris-Euphrates valley.

Take the first, Andromeda. The pretty maiden was rescued from the sea-monster by Perseus, when the gal was chained there after her mother, Cassiopeia, bragged that she was more beautiful than the Nereids. This is simply the old Babylonian legend of the battle of Bel-Marduk with the dragon of darkness, in which he saved the white moon goddess Ishtar (Astarte, Mylittis, Aphrodite, Venus) from the dragon. It is basically a dramatic re-enactment of a lunar eclipse.

Andromeda, her mother, father, and husband were also placed among the stars.

Other northern constellations include Boötes, the plowman; Cygnus, the swan; Draco, the dragon; Hercules, the Charles Atlas of mythology; Pegasus, the winged horse of the Muses; Lyra, the lyre of Hermes; and the two most well known of all northern constellations, Ursa Major and Minor, the Big Bear and the Little Bear, or the two Dippers.

"Ad Stellas"

-Ray Rebel

(18)

* THE EXPLORER *

Well, guys and gals, this is something of an example of what EXPLORER could be like if we were to go to bulletin size. Maybe you wouldn't like it that way, and I leave it completely up to y'all. I have the machine that is capable of putting out the zine in this fashion and it can be that way.

In the shape of things to come, we have several stories that may be of interest to you. There's stuff by Larry Saunders, Vernon McCain, Mort Paley, and some others. In an effort to get the 'zine out more on time for the next issue I'm going to start typing up future stencils just as soon as I can get this issue into the mails.

If we've been owing any of you letters, we apologize - and we'll try to get letters out in response just as soon as possible.

Remember that if you'd like to have DIMENSION X back on the air, one of the best methods is to write letters to NBC asking for the show to return.

That just about takes care of everything for this 'n. Hope you've liked the issue and that there are not too many typing errors. Regards to everybody everywhere.

This is the February-March issue of THE EXPLORER of the I.S.F.C.S.

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