

FAN-DANGO

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Whole No. 6

ON THE FRITZ

Robert F. Stebbins

--oOo--

Readers well acquainted with my articles in other amateur fantasy magazines may leap to the conclusion that this is yet another in the perennial saga--if the terms be not mutually exclusive--of the Fritz surnamed Lang. As long as I can milk another pun out of the venerable name of that cream of fantasy film directors, it seems I will have something further to write about the man responsible for Metro-polis, Liliom, usw.

Let me hasten to disabuse the suspicious, then, and inform the merely curious: The surname around which this article is built is our famous author...Leiber. Fritz Leiber Jr.

Author Leiber and I recently spent a very pleasant evening at "fran shack", the king-size den which also serves as a mattress and mailing address for your genial editor, Mr. Francis Towner Laney. Alas for my naivety, to trust this out-o-Towner*, for, figuratively speaking, after entertaining me royally, he gave me the royal business: I was required to record the happenings of that evening!

O, that sly and calculating Laney, that most exceedingly misleading, deaf-ear-to-my-pleading, "I beseech you not to breach your undoubtedly good breeding", ghoulish-feeding printer of good reading who an article is needing--in short, that not so zany Laney!

Alright, I give up. I started to take my pun in hand, then take myself in hand instead. Read on at your own peril. I am reporting what transpired that necromantic nite--idle Interpolation: Does a (rose)budding fanne, with a Weird Tale, neck romantic?--after a lapse of several weeks. So it's in the lapse of the Gods. I compose under the handicap of not having made mental notes for a planned account. Later, I may decompose.

As a reader of the late Unknown Worlds you would perhaps remember Leiber for Conjure Wife; as a reader of Astounding Science-fiction, for Gather, Darkness!; as a reader of Weird Tales, I could not say, being more of a collector of this particular periodical than a peruser, but I believe he has had stories in its pages.

This was not my first meeting with Leiber. It was he, I believe, who first visited me; some years ago, before he became a fantasy writer. He came seeking, as I recall, information about certain stories by either Lovecraft or Howard. Shortly after, I seem to remember seeing him a second time, at a meeting of fantasy writers and fans at Henry Kuttner's one-time Beverly Hills apartment.

I believe, now, it was Howard that Leiber came to see me about; for I remember Fritz had moved to Chicago by the time we published REH's The Hyborian Age (see footnote on page 2), and sent a

* formerly of Clarkston, Washington.

letter from that city praising the production. Let's see, the booklet was published in 1938. By 1939 he was writing, because I went to the First World Science Fiction Convention and obtained at the auction the Isip original illustration for his Two Sought Adventure.

So six years had passed since I saw him last; but he did not appear appreciably changed. Still a towering man, about six feet four, I should judge, with the build to go with his unusual height. Dark, handsome devil, and strongly resembling Leiber Sr., the cinemactor.

[There has just crossed my mind at this moment the veriest mote of a memory of having seen Leiber Jr briefly about a lustrum ago in a short motion picture subject. Was he playing golf with Bing Crosby in a Screen Snapshots..?

The evening at Laney's, Leiber interested himself, as what true fantasy fan would not, in browsing thru the remarkable library, removing now this, now that volume, from a heaven laden shelf, to examine it, perhaps comment on it. Let me see if I can remember any longer the titles that came to his attention or received mention: There was a Bram Stoker's Jewel of the Seven Stars, I should say; Dracula's Guest; a work of Oliver Onions; two enormous English horror anthologies; S. Fowler Wright's Deluge (a Laney favorite); Darkness and the Light, W. Olaf Stapledon's Latest (mentioned only); and Leiber supplied quite a few facts on Algernon Blackwood. This author, Leiber revealed, related of himself in an autobiography (Things Before Thirty . . .ftl) that he had an affinity for bad lots of humanity. He was continually befriending riffraff. At first they would sponge on him, then come to steal from him. At last Blackwood would rebel and turn them over to the law; then, in a fit of remorse, do everything possible to prevent justice from taking its course! Neurotic, no doubt. Leiber also said that AB's reaction to the Big City was an odd one: New York seemed to be a huge, frightening, awesome, overwhelming, alien complexity to him. Leiber commented that Lovecraft gave evidence of being similarly affected.

FL (no, that abbreviation won't work so well--I meant it for Fritz Leiber but realized the monet I typed it that it could stand equally easily for Fran Laney)--Leiber also talked at length about this author or that whose writings were derived from dreams, and had a definite dreamlike quality about them. He told of a book credited as being almost completely a transcription of a dream. If FTL remembers the title of this unique work, I myself should be grateful for its inclusion at this point. (FTL regrets that his mind is a complete blank on this point, among many others.)

At one time in the evening a remark was made about the English post-war plan for a scientific fantasy magazine to be a kind of combination of Astounding and Unknown. Leiber was immediately interested and a copy of the bi-weekly New Jersey s-f newsheet, Fantasy Times, was produced, from which he read the details and copied the address of potential editor Walter Gillings.

Leiber theorized that many fantasy writers, finding the field too limited for a lucrative living, adapt part of their talents to science fiction, so called. The standards of the day being far less strict than in the Gernsback era of science-steeped writers like Breuer, Verrill, Olsen, Keller, Wells, and Campbell, writers with only a library gleaning of a subject may hash together saleable pseudo-scientific stories--and (too?) often do.

Fritz had brought with him a box of manuscripts for Acolyte consideration, and finally FTL could restrain himself no longer from

(footnote from p. 1) A 28-page memorial volume including a chronological account of Conan's career, map of Hyperborea, and an introduction by HPL. Available from Box 6475 Metro Stn., LA 55, Cal., at \$1 per copy.)

sneaking thru his treasure trove with unrepressed exclamations of joy. Laney also made a frustrating search for a copy of Leaves, a quality collectors' item featuring off-trail works by Wandrei, Moore, Lovecraft, Merritt, Howard and others, in which a poem by Leiber had once appeared. Fritz had previously been unaware of the verse's publication. The title has since been discovered to be The Demons of the Upper Air.

I took the invaluable opportunity of asking Leiber what he thought of Weird Woman, the Universal picture adapted from his Conjure Wife. I remembered that Merritt had seen the picturization of Seven Footprints to Satan--and wept. I wondered if Conjure Wife had also been so butchered. I was handicapped by not yet having seen it myself. However, I was under the impression it had originally been intended as an "A" picture--high-class cast, director, settings, etc., even, I believe, in technicolor--and wound up as one of the Inner Sanctum quickies. Leiber revealed that the original script, he having written it, had pretty faithfully followed the story. Then the studio had gotten the idea the property could be used, with "suitable alterations", for one of the Chaney series. It was given a "treatment". The treatment in turn was treated--or, mistreated, if you will. At any rate, in the end, the emasculated product emerged.

Now much more than the mere tid-bits I have related foregoing must have transpired, but I'll be a son of a Shoggoth if I can recall just what all else. Curse that Laney for exposing my inadequate memory! But I'll get even with him: Some day I'll invite him, and, say, Cleve Cartmill over to my flat; a week later, call on him at the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society meeting to give a half hour's extemporaneous talk about what transpired. Cleave-r of me, eh?

Leiber Gott!

AN EXPERIMENT IN LOCAL FAN ORGANIZATION

Out of the great mass of stupidities arising from the late fan feud in Los Angeles, there remains a slight residue of worthwhile experience. While of course the bulk of the actions on both sides were of a depth of stupidity not to be imagined by one not on the scene, the experiences of The Outsiders should be preserved in the archives of fandom for the benefit of ensuing local clubs. I should not take the space in FAPA for this purpose had it not been for the large amount of Futurian organizational material in the 28th mailing. As it is, I do not feel that this article is quite so out of place.

When the group seceded from the LASFS, all twelve or thirteen of us wished to form some sort of fantasy society--we did not know for certain what we did want, except that we wished to stress informality and accomplishment at the expense of formal business meetings and constitutional quibblings. Until late in the career of The Outsiders, the group did not even have a constitution, but it was finally found necessary--so T. Bruce Yerke (author of at least two different constitutions for the LASFS) was delegated to draw up the one published later in this issue. Our first meetings were nothing more than discussion gatherings held either at the Carolina Pines or at Fran Shack. Much to my surprise, the individual members respected each other's rights quite well; the discussions were carried on very successfully without benefit of presiding officer or parliamentary law. As the group began to get under way, it was decided that it should function largely as a publishing organization; and the back room at Fran Shack was fitted up for this purpose. (Equipment consisted of two mimeographs (Bronson's and Laney's), stylii, stapler, trimming board, and slip

sheets.) I decided to hold open house twice a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) and for several months the group published vigorously.

In actual practise, these sessions were no end of fun. There were usually two crews mimeographing (crank-turner and slipsheeter), and generally two or three idle hands, who variously read, played records, or otherwise lent moral support to the laborers. By default, I took charge of these sessions; deciding whose stencils would be run when, whip-cracking at delinquent stencil cutters, and in general strawbossing the deal. It worked beautifully, though I fear many of the kiddies decided that my mother must have been scared by Simon Legree.

Other activities of the group (aside from the feuding) revolved largely around the weekly dinner meetings Saturday nights, and informal get-togethers on other occasions. While in the earlier days of The Outsiders, far too much attention was paid to bickering with the LASFS, or in holding hate sessions; after a month, most of the members had settled down to the pursuit of life, liberty, rosebud, and fan activity. The productivity of the group may be judged by the 106 pages of material in the 28th mailing.

The casual reader may perhaps be wondering why The Outsiders failed as a club. The group had the seeds of its own early decease in its very nature, or rather, in the very nature of its members. The majority of Outsiders were older fans who had largely lost their interest in the field--thus, the group obviously needed new blood. These same members were adamantly opposed to letting any newer, more enthusiastic fans associate with them. Thus, the group was foredoomed to failure.

But our experiences with cooperative publishing, with informal meetings utterly without constitutional quibbling, with unorganized individuals acting in cooperative harmony without the stultification of formal laws and precedents--all these things point along the lines that any permanently successful local fan club must follow. The members of fandom are, generally speaking, far more interested in fantasy-weird-stf, fan publishing, and intelligent discussion than in the squabbles which will invariably arise when they allow themselves to be yoked with constitution, by-laws, officers, and all the rest of the paraphernalia of the average DAR chapter. And the best fan club is the one which provides heavily of activity in which each member can participate personally.

From experience, I would say that if the group has one or two members of an aggressive type as leaders, it can rise to great heights without once going through the misery of a formal meeting. We, at least, found this to be so.

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THE CONSTITUTION OF THE OUTSIDERS

CONSTRUCTION:

The Outsiders is a loosely knit body of persons professing an interest and inclination in that form of literature known as fantasy and/or science fiction, as represented in pulp news-stand magazines and/or better and lesser known literary books of this nature.

In addition, there is a predominate interest on the part of the group in amateur printing, writing, and editing. For this purpose, various individual members maintain reproducing equipment, and from time to time issue amateur magazines.

The OFFICERS of The Outsiders shall consist of a Regulator, whose duties differ from that of a constitutional president or chairman in that he functions according to neither Robert's parliamentary procedure nor any similar local document, but regulates the order of business and

discussion by the application of well known principles of common-sense logic. The Regulator shall be elected by a simple majority and serve until such time as a simple majority deems it desirable to replace him, or until such time as he himself desires to resign;

and a Secretary-Treasurer, whose duties will be (a) to be the official correspondent for the group with other groups and parties and (b) to receive and account for whatsoever funds the group raises or receives

MEMBERSHIP:

The Outsiders is a closed organization, membership being obtainable through invitation and acclaim. As this group is endeavouring to function on democratic principles, the great emphasis is laid on personal and individual integrity on the part of the members and their attitude towards the club, their own group behavior, and towards the consideration of new members as proposed by any member in good standing.

All persons who are members shall pay one dollar per month to the Secretary-Treasurer, due at the beginning of each month. This money shall be established as a holding fund, disbursements to be controlled by a three-fourths majority vote.

From this group such persons as are willing and able to contribute to Project M shall be recruited. Project M, though a project of The Outsiders, is not to be construed as the primary purpose of this group nor is participation in this project to be construed as requisite for membership in the group.

MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES:

It should be emphasized again that The Outsiders is not constructed along parliamentary or constitutional lines. The group is informal at all times. Meetings shall be called on any regular or irregular date. However, to assure fair-play, any meeting at which large amounts of money are to be disbursed or whereat major policy changes are to be considered, must be announced within ten days of the time of said meeting. Unusual situations shall be acted on by those present, and it is presumed intelligent consideration will be given to all aspects of any such situation.

To facilitate the presentation of proposals to the group, those persons interested should meet in committee sessions at some date prior to the meeting and work out their proposal so as to clarify it among themselves before occupying the members' time with it.

In consideration of the fact that the membership is to be selected with the utmost consideration, it is felt that further regulations will be more of a technical morass than an assistance; and it is further assumed that the intelligence of the individuals concerned will be sufficient and ample to overcome unusual situations, which no amount of written jurisprudence can completely foresee.

It is hoped that this system of acclaim and consideration will prove successful; inasmuch as parliamentary procedure has in the past proven impractical with a group of this nature.

FILLER: Several of the members seem to have missed the point of my various remarks in previous Fan-Dangos anent adultery, free-love, and the like. I definitely do NOT hold that adultery, per se, is a necessary accomplishment of the well-rounded individual. What I have been trying to get at is this: fans, generally, are very poorly (or should I say purely?) adjusted to sex. A little good clean adultery is far more acceptable to me personally than the spectral of young adult males whose sex life is largely characterized by its absence. Either an adulterer or a celibate is probably sexually maladjusted.

REVIEW OF THE 28TH MAILING

...which might be subtitled: Intrigue on the Lower Level, by Joye Thing Long. As is customary, we shall start our intriguing with the by now well-known (I hope) index of activity. For the benefit of newcomers, I might say that these figures are derived by dividing the number of members into the number of items in the mailing to present a percentage of activity which is then expressed in decimal form. In the case of the current mailing, I could not find the heart to list the 10 items emanating from the dung dispensery at Newcastle; Thus the 53 items (oh NO!) enumerated in the FA are cut to 43, plus the one contribution from Friar Tuck. This figure, so far as I am concerned, is the official standing of this mailing; however, I append an alternative listing for the benefit of those who like the late Mr. Rogers-Degler.

24th Mailing.	35 papers from 51 members.	.690
25th Mailing.	26 papers from 65 members.	.400
26th Mailing.	48 papers from 65 members.	.737
27th Mailing.	31 papers from 65 members.	.477
28th Mailing.	44 papers from 65 members.	.677
(or, if you insist.....		
28th Mailing.	54 papers from 65 members.	.831

.....Here we go again!

----ooOoo----

THE FANTASY CRITIC. The remarks of official critic Speer on my remarks on free love "mite" have been amusing had they not reflected Mr. Speer's well-known and offensive pruriency. As is a matter of record, The Okie believes that a woman need do no more than to smoke a casual cigarette, and she is a fallen damsel of the gutters.

Furthermore, I do not feel that it is the province of a purportedly "official" critic to take up space justifying the existence of one of his own publications; as Speer does in the case of the S-F Democrat.

----ooOoo----

FAN-DANGO. This issue contained many rather biting remarks directed personally at both Forrie Ackerman and the LASFS. These remarks were more than a little outdated by the unavoidable lapse of time between the production of Fan-Dango and its appearance in the mailing. At the time it was written, the local feud was at its height; by the time it was circulated, the feud was over--everybody loved everybody, and the perspiring editor had considerable explanations to dig from nowhere. I suggest, for the sake of keeping things straight, that F-D II-1 be considered as a postmailing to the 27th mailing.

Also, in the course of this issue, I neglected to credit RAHoffman for the lone illustration--which also appeared in #6 Acolyte.

----ooOoo----

FUTURIA. As an example of ego-boosting--phooey. As an example of fantasy bibliographical information--bravo.

----ooOoo----

FAN-TODS. I like the subtle way in which NFS calls me a worm! Neat, chum, neat. As to completely normal people, I perhaps have not used the precise language I should have. Obviously "completely normal" is something that one seldom meets in real life. The "completely normal" individual is no more than the theoretical being made up of a vast number of averages; to find one in the flesh is a coincidence of an infrequency which Norm is far better equipped than I to express mathmatically. However, though obviously you and I have met different groups of fans, I feel that as a group the ones I have met are further from the norm than any other group of people I have known.

Degler not a detraction to the quality of FAPA? My dear fellow!

DEGLER CORRUPTION. Inasmuch as Degler is, for all practical purposes, a nonmember of FAPA; and inasmuch as this stuff is no more than a rehash of the same old dung, I shall refrain from comment. Besides, FAN-DANGO no longer uses words of Anglo-Saxon derivation. The one containing the material written and stencilled by our member, Raymond Washington, is of somewhat different nature. Inasmuch as Washington is a member of this society, I shall attempt to discuss his contribution to the mailing, even though it does sail under the wrong flag.

Washington's "Director's Report" strikes me as being the same old "Cosmic" nonsense better written and stencilled. Perhaps the Cosmic Circle may, under Washington's guidance, rise to new heights (!), but the credo has not changed, the aims of the organization have not changed, and the CC still offers absolutely nothing of even passing interest to the true fan of fantasy, weird, and scientificfiction. Worse, it tags fandom with the label of crackpotism; the sentence: "We are moving forward into a new era; and in the vanguard, I feel, are those readers and writers of science-fiction who for years...etc. blah...blah."--can only serve to drag fandom into disrepute with any people of reasonable intelligence and maturity who might happen to pick up a copy of Washington's report. In this same line, I invite your attention to the last two paragraphs of this same report. Verbiage, my friends.

As is fairly well known in FAPA, Raymond Washington is one of the few fans I actively dislike. The reasons for this dislike stem back to the first month or so I was in fandom, and need not be gone into here. However, I am well aware that anything I write about or at Mr. Washington are likely to be taken as mere prejudice, though I do hope that FAPA members will not be blinded by prejudice and fail to fight this Cosmic Circle until it is completely wiped out. This movement is a menace to fandom.

-----ooOoo-----

AT THIS POINT, I should like to interject an apology for the wavering lines on this and other pages. Long use as a medium of stencilling completely ruins a typewriter's guide rollers and platen; mine is fast becoming that way.

-----ooOoo-----

FAPA VARIETY. Miracle! I actually remember to comment on a post-mailed item! However, this one was really pre-mailed, as I received it a full week ahead of the rest of the mailing.

Friar Tuck's mention of binding of stuff 'n' things interests me hugely. Just for the fun of it, I've learned how to do creditable bookbinding--all processes from sewing the signatures together up thru applying the lettering in gold leaf. One of the items I have bound is Duane Rimel's set of Fantasy Fan. I wonder how many other bound volumes of this exist. As a rule, however, fanzine binding is beyond me; separate sheets require to be overcast, and it is very difficult to do this solidly without certain heavy and expensive machinery.

I like your binding arrangements very much, except that I question the advisability of binding FAPA mailings by years instead of by publishers. I realize, of course, that it would be very hard to bind them in series by publishers, what with so many different ones and such small quantities of each; however, imagine what a lovely volume a complete set of about five years of En Garde would make.

On the question of Laureate Awards, I differ with you strongly. If I personally were ever to win one of these, I would want either a book or an original, appropriately inscribed to me. Such an award would be something I'd cherish; whereas stencils would just be used up and forgotten. Besides, I seem to manage to buy my own anyway.

And, as you will notice, Fan-Dango is having more and more original creative material.

PHANNY. An excellent issue. I particularly liked the poetry, with Tryst taking highest honors. I'd have used this one in Acolyte.

-----ooOoo-----

LIGHT. I definitely should like to see the column, Unscientificacts, abolished! The worst feature lightly and politely Crouch has used. The issue otherwise is up to par, though I should like to see improvement in its mimeography.

-----ooOoo-----

ECCENTRIC'S ORBIT. (Michigan edition) It is chappies like Don Umbilicus de Cordova aka Johan Sebastian Fout aka Cornelius Julius Fernius aka Ferdinand the Fout aka Rosebud Q. Overlap aka Paddus Mimeographus foutiensis aka Squiggles the Squeech aka... (whew)... Anyway, it is guys like Mike who make people like RDSwisher turn grey before their time. You all realise, no doubt, that this mailing contained three... yes, three... different and distinct issues of this magazine, EACH of which was labelled Volume I Number 1.... The diet at Slan Shack sounds simply LOATHESOME! Haltingly, I wonder--what does LIEBSCHER eat?

-----ooOoo-----

INSPIRATION. Lynn gets both censure and approbation this time. I honestly feel, sir, (and from a very similar work-life to yours) that even a rotten union is better than none at all. Furthermore, with so many different interests doing their best to pound down the laboring man forever, each attempt to bat down bad unions will also recoil on the good ones. I'm inclined to believe that the best thing would be to condone anything a union wishes to do until we are in such position that we can clean house without its backfiring on labor generally.

Your statements on the extermination of the Japanese race simply amaze me beyond words. Realistic and cold-blooded thinking is so rare a phenomenon in fandom that I marvel to find even one of us who is capable of it. Congratulations.

Your remarks titled: The Im and Imagidom provides about as good a summation of this discussion as could be asked for. From the sound of your own habits, you are a fan in a million (or rather, I should say, in 500!). I certainly hope that I am able to meet you personally at some time or another--you sound like my type of fan and then some.

-----ooOoo-----

THE NEW HIEROGLYPH. A valuable addition to my permanent collection; thanks, DAW.

-----ooOoo-----

AGENBITE OF INWIT. The take-off on HPL was highly delightful, and I have no doubt that Lovedraft himself would have gotten a terrific kick out of it.

-----ooOoo-----

INVESTIGATION IN NEWCASTLE. Between this, and the outpouring of Rogersiana.... well, if petition #2 fails, I shall no longer take any pride in remaining a member of this organization. I shall remain, obviously; I'm not one to cut off my nose to spite my face, but the opinion I would have of my fellow members in such a case would be, to put it mildly, unprintable.

-----ooOoo-----

TAKE-OFF. This might well be the subject of the second issue of TBYerke's magazine entitled: "PUQUE.. (which is not pronounced puck!"

-----ooOoo-----

EMERGENCY FLARE. Nothing particularly comment-worthy (meaning thereby that I'm not supposed to argue with the gentleman). But who published this? I believe that all FAPAazines should be distinctly labelled with the name of the publisher, for cataloging purposes if for no other reason. I realise that I've not always shown my name on Fan-Dango in an obvious place, but it has always been there.

THE WORKS. Wow! Lowndes' remarks anent the NFFF strike a highly responsive chord. I feel, however, that the NFFF is a dead duck less because of the degeneration of scientifiotion than because of the inherent pointlessness of any national fan organization. While grandiose plans may be talked about, the only actual accomplishments of any national organizations todate have been, to put it mildly, laughable. Whether it be the Cosmic Circle with its illiterate ravings, or the NFFF with its stupidly titled bulletin full of Chamber of Commerce style pep talks; there is nothing in such an organization for the real fan of weird, fantasy, and scientifiotion. I consider that EEEvans is a sincere individual, working for what he believes to be the good of fandom; however, I regret my inability to say a like thing about the other NFFF officers whom I have met personally. To them, NFFF is no more than a vehicle for the boosting of their little egos---me, I'd rather join Liebscher in boosting roosters.

When I declaim against national fan organizations, I do not wish it to be taken as a denunciation of FAPA. FAPA differs from such groups in that it is less a fan organization than an amateur journalism society made up of fans and former fans. Furthermore, a group such as FAPA, which offers both active participation and worthwhile collecting and reading material to all of its members, is far more likely to succeed than a group whose membership are expected to spend their time admiring the antics of their Pacific Coast organizer.

When may I have my second saucer of cream?

-----ooOoo-----

MILTY'S MAG. Milty's remarks anent his delirious visions prompt me to inquire if any of the rest of you have shared my experiences with vodka? Perhaps it was due to the baseness of the product (cheap Mexican rotgut), but my two experiences with the stuff led to most fantastic dreams and waking visions. On neither occasion was I drunk, but upon going to bed I immediately fell into a troubled slumber, a slumber filled with dreams of an almost unbelievable clarity and reality. Much of the time I was semi-awake, with my eyes open; I could see every detail of my room insofar as the street lamps would show it--yet at the same time the visions persisted. I did not seem actually to be taking part in them so much as I was an interested spectator. I had no volition over them, but at the same time I didn't seem to care much what came next--much as though I were attending the cinema.

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SO SAARI! Your comment on Fan-Dango leads me to inquire if persons need be either introverted or extroverted. I was under the impression that extreme extroversion was considered as much a maladjustment as extreme introversion.

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THE STUMP. Subversive! These "fascists" are everywhere!

-----ooOoo-----

TOWARD TOMORROW. Yerke's statement that members of NAPA, Quill & Scroll, etc. produce far better presented and thought out material than fandom is certainly open to question. I am familiar enough with NAPA (I've belonged to it longer than I have to FAPA) to state emphatically that our average is far superior to theirs. Aside from a limited few publications NAPazines are not as good as the typical Vulcan publication. And in the days I belonged to Quill and Scroll, I picked up no impressions of the group particularly calculated to give me a high opinion of it. Otherwise, Bruce shows a commonsense approach which is distressingly uncommon in fan circles....Kepner's own article on Fandom and Ethics leaves much to be desired. It rambles around too much, and furthermore, states few if any conclusions. I doubt if any reader of it has any idea as to what Kepner himself believes of this subject.

...Karden's story is very good; despite a few rather obvious weaknesses I liked it far better than the average prozine yard of the present day. ...The book review is most excellent; I believe that reviewing is perhaps Jimmy's strongest point as a fan writer, and should like to see many more from his hand. In connection with this particular page of TT, I cannot resist relating a bit of its history. Mel Brown was doing his usual myopic job of crank turning for The Outsiders, and was proudly operating the Bronson mimeograph. This machine is a diabolic thing; it requires to be inked with a brush. So...Mel put on the stencil and commenced fouting around with it. He'd run a page, lift up the stencil, smear ink, replace the stencil, the while swearing continually. This went on for some time. At length he gave vent to a bellow of triumph; he had a perfectly inked page. About that time, someone noticed that the stencil was on hind-side-to-fore! Oh joy!

Jimmy's comments on Milty's Mag are, I believe, a type of thing from which FAPAns should refrain. We all have our doubts of this and that--obviously--but I believe that this paragraph comes perilously near to being seditious, and for that reason is as out of the place in the mailings as obscenity. After all, there are postal inspectors. All in all, however, I enjoyed the issue; and should like to see one in every mailing.

----ooOoo----

FAN SLANTS. Any FAPAn interested in the previous, non-FAPA issue of this magazine may obtain a copy by sending 15¢ to Mel Brown, 628 So. Bixel, Los Angeles 14, Calif. It is a massive, 64 page affair. (This plug should, I hope, relieve Mel of the 30 or 40 copies he has left.)

DAW's stressing of fandom's independence of the prozines is just another facet of our offandoms most interesting and annoying attitudes.

I refer, of course, to the amazing indifference to book fantasy, and to the unwarranted preoccupation with the pulps. To me, the real fan is interested primarily in fantastic literature, rather than in the hooey and bilge of "professional" fandom. (And notice the way Mel's strangely individual typing style has affected my own? tsK.)

Since I composed my column, Tryout Smith has distributed a new issue of his magazine...his 370th!

Kepner's article on the late local feud is a fairly good presentation. The only criticism I can make is that it fails to stress sufficiently the extreme childishness displayed by all those participating in it. His last paragraph is rather frustrating; inasmuch as the reunion had taken place before FAPA mailings had been distributed; however, that's fandom for you! I do object most emphatically to his statement that any of the Lazar letter was apologised for by any of the Outsiders. This unfortunate letter was written by an individual member as an individual; however much we regretted its publication, we did not apologise for it, since that would be a tacit admission of its official standing. What we did do was to disavow it completely, and point out that it represented no more than the views of one individual of us.

Mike's portion of this mag is excellent, particularly the attitude towards Degler, but at the moment I think of no comments.

----ooOoo----

VARIOUS PERDUE MATERIAL. Good enough, though I thought the tear-jerking story more than a little corny.

----ooOoo----

ARCADIA. This is truly delightful. Ah Willie, what a woin you is to do such a thing to the innocent fervor of HHonig. Up until now, I thought I was catty. ...Incidentally, don't you just love the way Harry digs into our feud; just as though he knew what he was talking about? And the letter to DAW! Wheep! Come again, Honig; you're a better humorist than Tucker, even though you are unconscious about it.

BLITHERINGS. I see that the DAR of FAPA has been augmented by one. I suggest that perhaps Messrs. Speer and Davis might find much of satisfaction in a monastery? Seedy's remarks on Slan Center show that he would be a constant nuisance around any such establishment. He evidently would be in the forefront of any movement designed to inhibit the activities of the more fun loving members. His peculiar distrust of catching the public "ey" makes me wonder what makes him feel so hyperly important. (I am commenting on par. 4, p. 7, if you wish to see what set me off.)

Further along in Blitherings certain remarks prompt me to clarify my attitude towards "midVictorian fen" (ooo, there's that horrid word!) I have no objection whatever to fans leading any sort of stupid and repressed lives they may feel happy in following. I do object violently to any attempts of theirs either to suppress the rest of us or to hold their own lack of development before us as an ideal to follow. Sure, I'm hoi polloi--it's fun. At the same time, I play a good average game of chess; I probably read fully as much and as variedly as Mr. Davis. I just don't care to limit my own life to these tiny facets of human existence; further, I dislike to see other fans frittering their lives away in futile frustration. (FTLaniac, reformer!)

"Also amusing is Laney's deduc-n that free editing of fan articles is OK from the fact Laney does it". Phooey! One of the first fan articles I ever read was by Bob Tucker, stating that he not only edited but re-wrote nearly everything that had appeared in LeZombie up to that time. (LeZombie, for your information, Mr. Davis, is #1 fanzine at present, and has been for a long time.) My editorial policy has borne fruit too, despite Mr. Davis' dislike for it, The Acolyte stands #3 according to the recent Beowulf poll; and, I daresay, numbers more big names in its list of subscribers and contributors than any other currently published fanzine. ... You really ought to try publishing a magazine for a change, Mr. Davis; instead of a fouty rag like Fan-Dango or Blitherings!

Lest my comments seem to deal too largely with myself, I should point out that while my natural ego compelled my wading through Mr. Davis' adolescent misspellings of the items dealing with me, I read nothing else in his submission to the mailing.

-----ooOoo-----

MEMOIRS OF A SUPERFLUOUS FAN. Thoroughly interesting and worthwhile.

-----ooOoo-----

EN GARDE. Typographically, one of the very best to date... I regret to be so changeable, but I am again ready to modify my views on Slan Center. (As far as that goes, one's views on such a subject can hardly be expected to remain static; inasmuch as one miggles with more and more fans and reads more and more on the topic.) In any event, Al's remarks on the subject (p.7) show an approach worthy of serious consideration. Obviously, the nucleus should be a "tight little group"; not necessarily married, but at least old enough to have some solidity. Congeniality must be a prime requisite, and if the members are not willing to be thoroughly tolerant of each others' foibles, the venture is doomed to complete failure. As I have said before, however, I question strongly that the venture be limited to fans per se (congenial persons would be a better term to use), and I still feel that it would be better for one of us to take the deal over as a completely un sentimental business venture. However, I have come more to believe that the group can succeed, if they make an effort to keep from seeing so much of each other that they begin to wear out their friendships.

Throwing it open to all fandom eventually, as Al suggests, does not sound feasible. I feel that this group should be exclusive as possible, with election of new members subject to a unanimous vote.

HORIZONS. Nice issue; at least, it is very comment-worthy this time. For your information, this "no known railroad in the United States" has reference to the deal in which I took over the Chauvenet prozine collection. I lived in Clarkston at the time, but our center was Lewiston, Idaho. Though I made much of my living dealing with freight shipments, I was so excited about getting the mags that I forgot to give a freight address. This resulted in a most frustrating extra trip to the deopt on the part of Mr. Chauvenet Sr.

Xenon, though a very good magazine, is scarcely any reason for us to rush into NAPA. I am in my second year of membership in this organization, and fail to see much in it for the average fan. There are, however, a number of thoroughly worthwhile contacts to be made therein; if enough of you are interested to drop me a postal requesting it, I'll very gladly make up a list of their addresses, together with suitable comments about them, and include it in the next Fan-Dango.

"Poor town for labor" does refer to unions, and I question Harry's underlying attitude as reflected here. But I've stated my views on this subject through FAPA already; they are unlikely to change; so I shall move on to greener pastures.

The article on education came as a welcome surprise. It will interest you, Harry, to know that my own article on the subject was originally intended to highlight this issue; however, the combination of a lack of time and the acquisition of the excellent article by FJA caused me to postpone the final revision. It's coming soon, though.

----ooOoo----

CALIBAN. I am bitterly disappointed in Larry's "Statement". No possible reason can exist for Shaw's disqualifying himself on this fine opportunity to take a decided stand on a matter of interest to all fandom. Larry must have an opinion on Degler one way or the other; to my mind it is his duty to express it through the use of his ballot. The fact that he published the Speer paper has no more bearing on the case than the fact that the name of Shaw was at one time rather freely bandied around in various CC publications.

----ooOoo----

BLACK AND WHITE is well worthwhile; my previous FD set forth so thoroughly my views and convictions on the matter of racial prejudice that I do not wish to comment further on the subject until I see what response I may elicit in the next mailing.

----ooOoo----

WALT'S WRAMBLINGS. The cover is utterly utter. It is one of the most forncly pluebliating items ever to gladden the Laney orb's of vision. Air-brush, take a back seat! ... The reprinting of Vincent Starrrett and other top-flight critics is a thoroughly worthy venture, and makes Waddy even more worthwhile than ever.

----ooOoo----

READER AND COLLECTOR. Nothing else in the mailing came even close to this masterpiece. The only thing I didn't approve of 100% was the fact that this material didn't land in The Acolyte, and after all the main thing is to get it published. If any succeeding FAPazine tops this one, it too will probably be published by HCK.

----ooOoo----

BANSHEE. A very excellent effort. More, please.

----ooOoo----

STAR-STUNG. Hyper, even though I dislike blank verse and tend towards being very conservative along poetical lines. This pamphlet is, however, a worthy companion to the excellent stuff once published by Joquel, and is easily #2 item in this mailing.

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